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Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

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Big Sky

March 31 - April 13, 2017
Volume 8 // Issue #7

**'Penny for Housing'
dies on senate floor**

Tourists, locals make most of March melt

Business profile: Healing Hands Chiropractic

Yellowstone bikers enjoy car-free roads

Plus: Special wedding guide



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ON THE COVER: Big Sky Resort Ski Patroller Paul Heffernan and Big Sky firefighter Adam DuComb enjoy early spring runoff March 28 on the Gallatin River.
PHOTO BY WES OVERVOLD

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“Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children’s children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.” - Theodore Roosevelt



Big Sky Resort recently announced their season pass sales for the 2017-2018 season, with more affordable options that include service to all lifts other than the Lone Peak Tram. PHOTO BY DONITA FATLAND

Do you want to see your photography in the pages of EBS? Submit a maximum of three images via email to carie@outlaw.partners or use #explorebigsky on social media to be eligible. One photo per issue will be chosen for the opening shot.

CORRECTION: In the story “Big Sky PBR named finalist for Montana Tourism Event of the Year,” published in the March 17 issue of EBS, it was reported that concerts July 28 and 29 following the bull riding will be free. Admittance to the show will be free for Big Sky PBR attendees and additional tickets will be sold exclusively for the music, available June 1 at bigskypbr.com.



Big Sky Resort hires new vice president of business development

BIG SKY RESORT

Big Sky Resort hired Bob Stinchcomb as its new vice president of business development beginning April 10.

Stinchcomb has worked 20 years in the ski industry with most of that time at Vail Resorts, recently serving as Vail's vice president of business development. Stinchcomb brings with him a variety of knowledge and experience in business development, particularly in the areas of international marketing, channel management, strategic partnerships, contact center management and sales.

Stinchcomb also served as president of RGS Consulting, whose clients include Squaw Valley and Ski USA Vacations. He served several years on the Colorado Tourism Office Board of Directors, and stepped in to serve as the organization's interim director for a time.

"We are thrilled to bring Bob's expertise in business development to Big Sky Resort," said Taylor Middleton, Big Sky Resort general manager. "We're excited to utilize his skills and bring another voice to the table to help Big Sky Resort grow effectively and responsibly."

In August, Big Sky Resort announced "Big Sky 2025," a 10-year vision to invest \$150 million in on-mountain improvements. Stinchcomb's experience leading transformative resort growth and activating innovative sales strategies during major capital expansions will be a significant asset in helping execute Big Sky 2025.

"I am very excited to join Big Sky and Boyne Resorts," Stinchcomb said. "It is clear to me that Big Sky has a tremendous opportunity to continue its premier position in the market, and provide one of the best ski resort experiences in North America. The recently announced 2025 capital improvement plan is a strong commitment in making Big Sky a market leader, and I look forward to joining the team in this renaissance."

Stinchcomb will oversee Big Sky Resort's sales and marketing departments and additionally support business development initiatives at Boyne's 12 other resort properties.

Big Brothers Big Sisters recruiting mentors in Big Sky

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Gallatin County is currently working on a campaign to recruit new mentors in Big Sky. The agency recruits, screens and matches caring adult mentors, called Big Brothers and Big Sisters or "Bigs," with children facing adversity, called Little Brothers and Little Sisters or "Littles."

The goal of this recruitment campaign is to reach at least five new Bigs in Big Sky, enrolling them in the program and matching them very carefully and conscientiously with a child.

Bigs and Littles spend one to two hours a week together, doing activities they both enjoy. BBBS staff support matches with regular phone calls, activity ideas and optional monthly outings.

"Some weeks, a Big and Little might go to the park and kick a soccer ball around. Another week, they might get ice cream together. It really depends on their own interests," said Megan Cummings, chief operating officer of BBBS.

Matches are long-term, professionally-supported, one-to-one mentoring relationships that pair adults with children facing many different forms of adversity.

"Nationwide, there's a misperception that BBBS focuses only on low-income children, or only on children with a specific background," Cummings said. "The reality is that some of our Littles do face particularly intense adversity, but there are no income qualifiers to enroll, and the kids in our program come from all walks of life. Each one needs another caring adult in his or her life. We used a tagline a couple years back: 'We need all kinds of Bigs for all kinds of Kids.' That is absolutely still the case."

To learn more about Big Brothers Big Sisters, call (406) 855-6544 or visit bbbs-gc.org.

Self-driving cars and eclipse balloons at Museum of the Rockies

MSU NEWS SERVICE

Astronomy and Aerospace Day, an afternoon of astronomy- and aerospace-related events for kids and adults, will be held from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, April 9, at the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman.

The event will include talks by the head of the Montana Space Grant Consortium and a former NASA engineer currently working on a self-driving car initiative. Both are alumni of Montana State University.

Angela Des Jardins, director of Montana Space Grant Consortium, will begin the afternoon presentations at 1 p.m. in the Hager Auditorium. Des Jardins will talk about the National Eclipse Ballooning Project, which will launch high-altitude balloons on Aug. 21 as the solar eclipse crosses North America. Des Jardins noted that never before has live video been streamed from near space during an eclipse.

At 3 p.m., Jaime Waydo, a 2000 graduate of the MSU College of Engineering who formerly worked on NASA's Curiosity Rover that went to Mars, will discuss her current work on Waymo's self-driving car program. The project uses technology developed in Google's labs to reshape some of the 10 trillion miles that motor vehicles travel around the world every year, with safer, more efficient and more accessible forms of transport.

Exhibits in the main lobby will feature activities and exhibits from the Extreme Gravity Institute, Helena's ExplorationWorks and the Montana Department of Aviation, as well as other businesses, clubs and organizations. Kids' activities and planetarium shows will take place throughout the afternoon.

Visit eu.montana.edu/astronomyday for more information.

Four Ophir sixth-graders nominated for national science competition

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – Two teams of Ophir sixth-grade students have been nominated to apply to a Broadcom MASTERS (Math, Applied Science, Technology and Engineering for Rising Stars) program, a national science competition based in Washington D.C.

"Less than 10 percent of the middle school science projects in the country get nominated to apply for Broadcom, so just getting nominated is kind of a big deal," said Ben Saad's mother Laura Sacchi.

Saad and his partner Max Romney took their project to the state science fair in Missoula on March 27, where they took home first place. Their project focused on the effect of natural light versus LED light for plant growth.

They found green bean plants exposed to LED light grew faster than those growing in natural light. "We think it's because [with] the LED light, plants get the perfect amount of light that they need to grow," Romney said.

He said the project was inspired by the horticulture endeavors of Jeff Saad, Ben's father. "He wanted to know if LED really affected a plant's growth because he was about to start using LED lights [for the greenhouse in his home]," Romney said.

Another sixth-grade team was nominated for participation in the Broadcom competition. Maddie Cohn and Skylar Manka's science teacher Kate Eisele said their project focused on how cell phones interfere with avalanche beacon searches.

Eisele said they found that the closer a person's beacon is to their cell phone, the greater interference there was from the phone, and the longer a beacon search took.



March brought unseasonably warm temperatures to Big Sky. **How has an early spring affected you personally or professionally?**



Andrew Schreiner
Co-owner, Grizzly Outfitters

“Ski sales have slowed down a little bit, but that’s understandable; it’s the end of the season. The warmth has jump-started people getting excited about golf and biking and trail running and camping and all of the fun things that [people do in warmer weather].”



Amy Langmaid
Owner, Rhinestone Cowgirl

“Personally, it has let me get outside more and start running and walking, which is awesome, but it has cut down on my ski time. Business has dropped off more quickly than in previous years but that could also be because last year Easter fell in late March and this year it falls mid-April.”



Tim Drain
General Manager, Vacation Big Sky

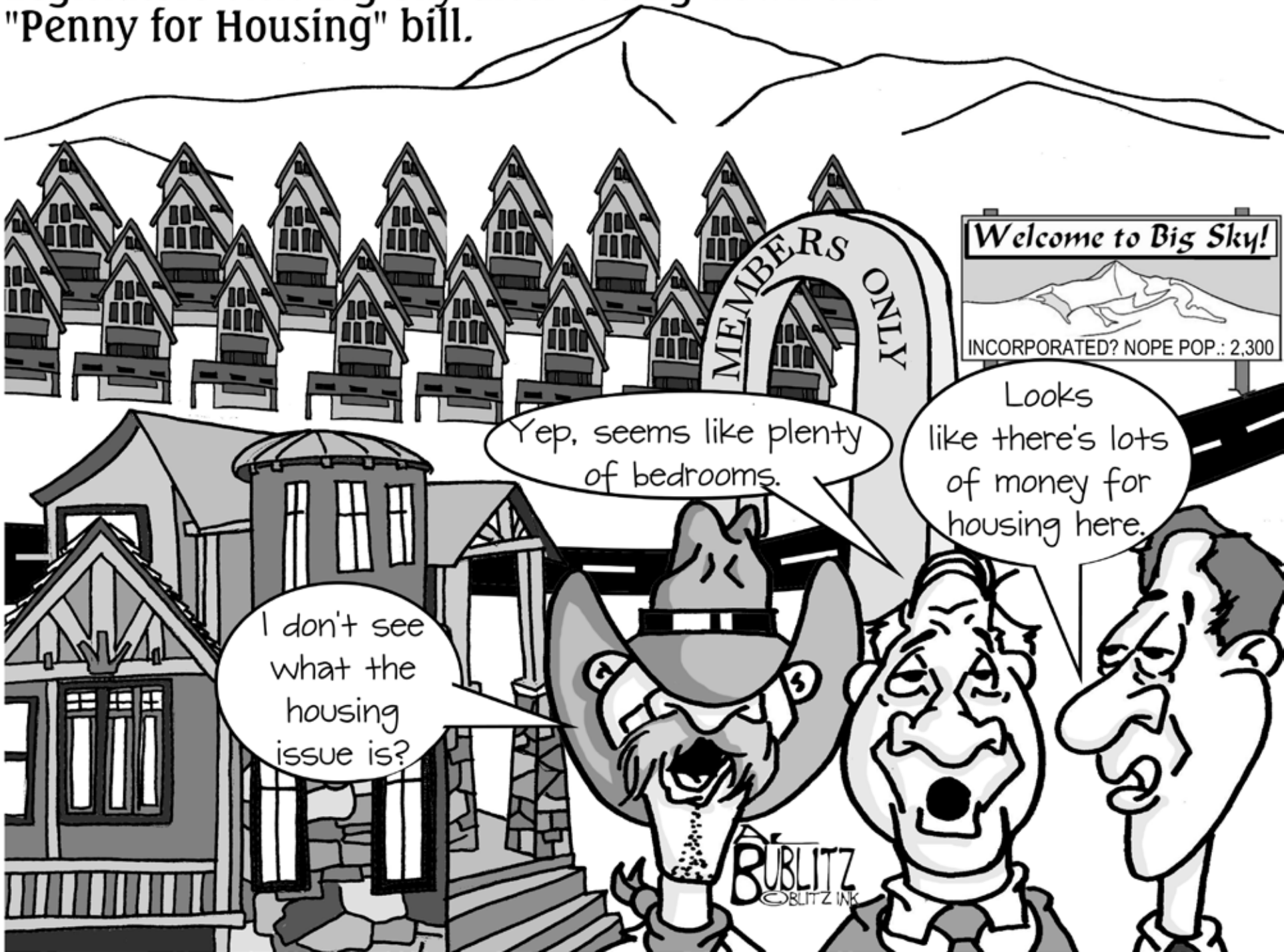
“Honestly, our bookings right now haven’t slowed down too much because a lot of our bookings are made well in advance. [People] are still [staying in Big Sky]. It’s just basically filling that extra time with whatever other adventures we can find for them.”



Sally Fisher
Co-owner, Lone Peak Cinema

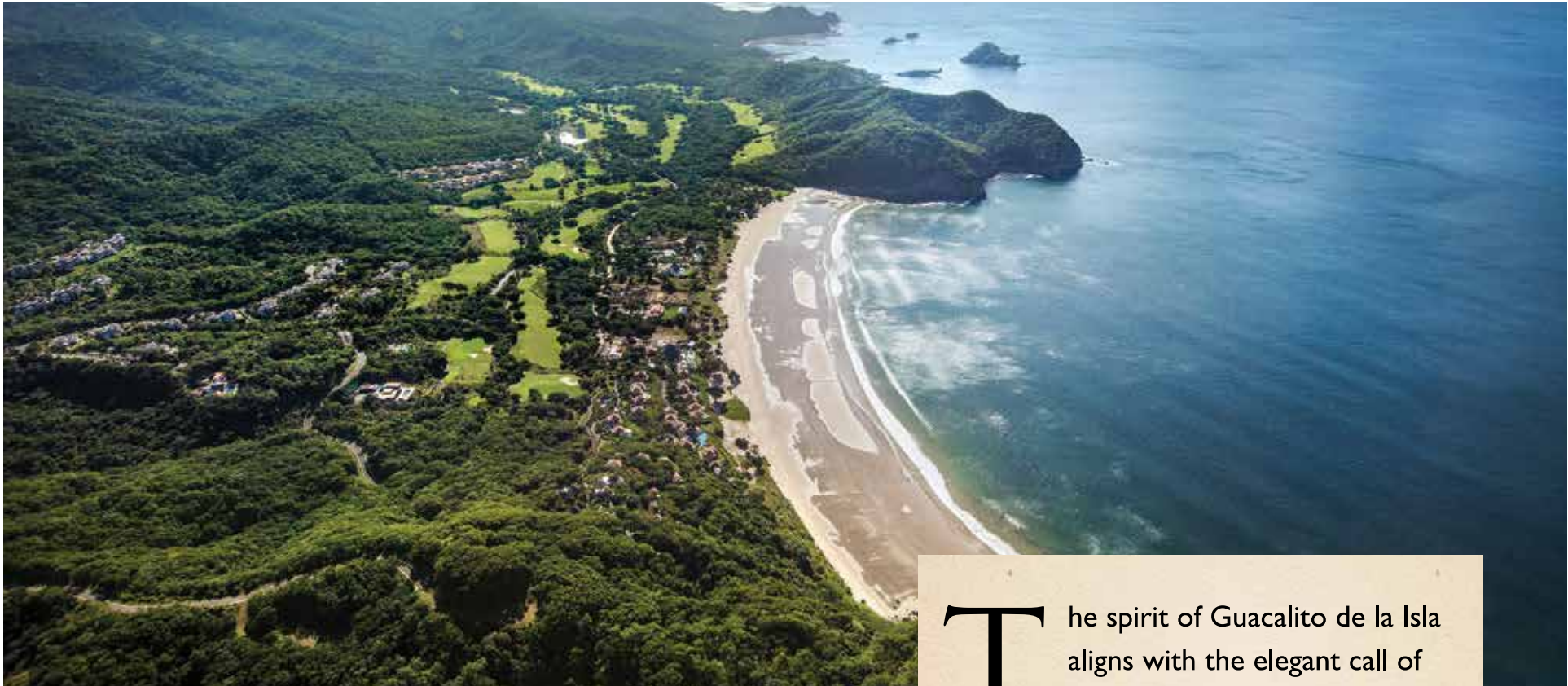
“It’s helped our business. More people are seeing movies because skiing hasn’t been as good. Personally, I wish winter would return, and return now rather than in June.”

Legislators visit Big Sky after voting down the "Penny for Housing" bill.



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Op-Ed: Lawmakers deregulate clean water while locals defend it

BY CHARLES WOLF DRIMAL

One recent afternoon while driving up the Gallatin Canyon, I realized that the spring equinox, the day of the year that marks an equal amount of daylight and darkness, had come and gone without much fanfare. While some calendars prefer to describe it as the first day of spring, Montanans know better. This year's equinox delivered 3 inches of cream to Bridger Bowl and 2 inches up at Big Sky. Although work commitments prevented me from heading for the hills, my skier's appreciation for the fresh snow veered into reverence for the liquid element those flakes would soon become: water.

We all need water. We drink it, we grow food with it and in Montana, we pay close attention to how much of it we have in our rivers, creeks and reservoirs. Water is the life force of our existence.

Water is again in the spotlight these days, especially clean water. At the national level, some Washington D.C. lawmakers are having a heyday with the "deregulation" mantra, wielding it like a sword and slashing away with vengeance at past executive rules intended to protect human health and the environment.

In February, President Donald Trump signed an executive order to roll back the Clean Water Rule. This safeguard protects millions of miles of streams from pollution. It also gives the federal government authority to limit pollution in 60 percent of U.S. major bodies of water, including rivers, streams and wetlands.

Weeks later, Congress voted to kill the Stream Protection Rule, another relic from an era when clean water was esteemed. This reasonable protection requires coal companies to clean up waste from mountaintop removal mining and prevent it from going into local waterways.

For the vast majority of Americans, protecting clean water is commonsense; politicians pandering to polluters is egregious. Fortunately, here in Montana we are taking the meaning of clean water protection seriously. More and

more locals are rolling up their sleeves and working together to protect this precious resource. Big Sky alone has three community-based, homegrown clean water projects worth shedding light on.

The Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum is a group of your neighbors working collaboratively to address wastewater issues, clean water supply and ecological health. Picture a sewer manager rubbing elbows with an environmental lawyer, next to developers, bankers, realtors, county commissioners, irrigators, homeowner association members and conservationists.

Elsewhere, community efforts by Montanans for Healthy Rivers continue to demonstrate that iconic streams like the Gallatin River and Taylor Fork should be protected under the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act to maintain their free-flowing nature and remarkable values. Supported by scores of businesses such as Bucks T-4, Lone Mountain Ranch, Gallatin Alpine Sports, Gallatin River Guides and the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, Montanans for Healthy Rivers is an example of guest ranches and guide shops, anglers and agriculture producers, recreationalists and conservationists working together to protect clean water and wild, free-flowing rivers.

And on the ground, the Gallatin River Task Force is making your experience at Gallatin River access sites better by stabilizing banks and planting native plants to improve fish habitat.

Want to learn more about what your neighbors are doing for clean water and your experience on local rivers? Come to the Wild Rivers Film Tour that kicks off in Big Sky at Lone Peak Brewery on April 6. There's no better time than April— when daylight continues to grow, and our snow starts turning into precious water—to join your friends and neighbors in protecting the future of clean water across the region.

Charles Wolf Drimal is a water conservation associate with the Greater Yellowstone Coalition in Bozeman.

Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



Welcome to spring in Montana where both weather and fishing conditions fluctuate as frequently as the temperament of a pubescent teenager. Warmer daytime highs have led to low elevation snowmelt, which in turn means off-colored water on many of our local rivers.

What does this mean for fishing? Many inexperienced fishermen don't realize that some of our best fishing happens when the water is off-color. You just need to know what to look for to help you gauge whether or not it's a good day to be out on the water. It is not uncommon to hear of people running to the water above the Taylor's Fork when the river in the canyon is green. Don't find yourself caught in this trap! On the Gallatin it is usually a safe assumption that fishing can still be good or even great when there is a green tinge to the water. However, if you scoop up a glassful of water and it looks like chocolate milk it's probably best to look for some better water to fish.

Something more measurable is inches of visibility. You'll often hear people say 'there were 2" of vis', which implies that you can see into the river about 2". On the Gallatin we can still have great fishing with as little as 6" of visibility, but you have to know where the fish are hanging out and get the flies right in front of them. Don't be afraid to get all up in their grill!

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Tourists, businesses make most of March melt

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – Although a winter storm watch was in effect for southwest Montana at EBS press time on March 29, the majority of the month brought unseasonably warm temperatures. The March weather triggered rapid snowmelt and a deteriorating snowpack, but members of the Big Sky business community remained optimistic.

Operations that rely on snow, such as Lone Mountain Ranch, felt the effects of little snowfall and warm temps the most, but many business owners and managers interviewed by EBS generally maintained a positive, adaptive attitude.

“We’ve clearly been losing snow faster than normal,” said Denise Wade, director of guest operations at Lone Mountain Ranch. “But skiing up high has still been great. The impression is that since the golf course [trails are] not open any more that there’s no good skiing, but there is.”

Despite selling fewer trail passes and lessons, Lone Mountain Ranch is booked with lodging guests through April 15—ski vacations are typically reserved far in advance and rarely cancelled—and aims to continue grooming their trail system until April 7, or longer if there is ample snowfall.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the Gallatin River was running 506 cubic feet per second March 29, just 6 percent shy of its 86-year maximum flow for the same date. Though surrounding watersheds such as the Madison and Upper Yellowstone were sitting above 100 percent of average, the Gallatin held 91 percent of its snow water equivalent average on March 29.

Snowfall totals for Big Sky Resort, as reported by On the Snow, cited a March accumulation of 30 inches at press time on the morning of March 29, compared to 70 inches in the same period last year.

Chelsi Moy, Big Sky Resort public relations manager, did not have precise skier counts but said that the resort hasn’t seen a decline in those numbers.

Ski conditions were spring-like, Moy said on March 23, but pointed to Big Sky’s historically snowy late March and early April. “There’s snow in the forecast, so I’m still optimistic.”

Moy did confirm an increase in zipline tour business, likely due to warmer conditions.

The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce corroborated a spike in interest in recreational activities other than skiing, and an increase in the number of tourists stopping at the visitor center for recreation ideas in the region.

“The skiing has been slushy and icy because of the weather, so we’re getting a lot of people asking about fly fishing,” said Visitor Services Liaison Kristina DeVries on March 23.

DeVries sends tourists inquiring about fly-fishing to the shops and outfitters along Highway 191.

“What’s bad news for the skiers is good news for the fisherman,” said J.D. Bingman, owner of Wild Trout Outfitters since 1988. Like Andrew Schreiner, owner of Grizzly Outfitters, who has seen ski sales slow and bike sales pick up with the spring-like weather, Bingman has seen an influx of early fly-fishing business.

“If given the choice I would rather winter continue and save our spring melt for when it’s supposed to happen,” said Bingman, a Big Sky resident since 1973 who has been around the wheel of seasons here enough to take the long view.

He said if one is looking back 30 or 40 years, the warm March temperatures are not normal. “But on the short term is this unusual? I don’t think so.” he said.

Bingman also knows winter isn’t over until it’s over and said he wouldn’t be surprised if Big Sky received another 2 to 3 feet of snow before winter takes its leave.

“It’s a little too soon to panic,” he said. “Anytime between now and April 15, winter can come back with a vengeance. Just take your snow tires off and see what happens.”

In the food and beverage arena, both the owners of By Word of Mouth (BYWOM) and Alberto’s Mexican Cuisine, said their local business keeps them steady even when the snow isn’t falling.

“We get a lot of local people who are here no matter what, so we don’t feel it too much,” said BYWOM owner Pam Flach. She’s run the restaurant for 20 years and will keep BYWOM open for lunch and dinner through the offseason. She was surprised by how busy the last week of March had begun, despite the lack of snow.

“The resort does a good job of drawing people to Big Sky even when snow conditions aren’t ideal,” she said.

Brenda Godoy, co-owner of Alberto’s Mexican Cuisine, now in their third winter, said the first week of March was great, but as soon as the warmer weather hit, she noticed a slowdown in business.

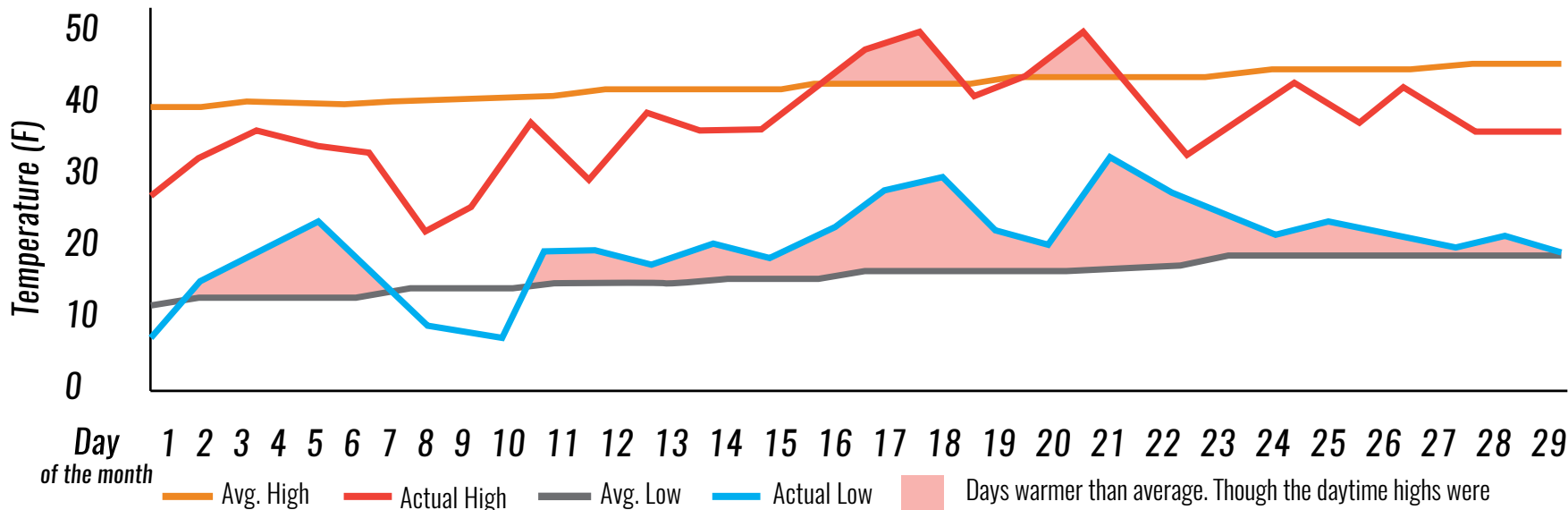
“We’re still busier than offseason, but not as busy as it could’ve been if the snow was falling,” Godoy said.

She did say that snow or no snow, happy hour is always hopping and it’s mostly locals who keep it that way.

“If you have a good local base you might not kill it, but you’ll survive,” she said.

Senior Editor Amanda Eggert contributed to reporting for this story.

March Temperature Comparison: Big Sky



Snowpack

Lone Mountain's snowpack was 89 percent of average as of March 28.



Early runoff

The Gallatin River near Gallatin Gateway was running at 506 cubic feet per second on March 29, which was just 6% lower than its 86-year max flow rate for this date.

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*Yellowstone Club membership upon invitation

Tell me, Tallie

Where are the canine hot spots in Big Sky?



BY TALLIE LANCEY
EBS COLUMNIST

Some of our best friends have four legs. They run between our strides on trails, they heroically find people who have been buried in avalanches, and they love us no matter what.

One of my first reader-submitted questions related to Big Sky’s relationship with its pets. Where can we play with our doggies on- and off-leash? Why is it so difficult to find a long-term rental that allows people and pets to cohabitate? Let’s find out!

Houses are great options for renters, as long as the individual homeowners acquiesce. And all condominium associations within Big Sky permit owners to have dogs, though some restrict the quantity. Nonetheless, owners rule even when their dogs drool. It gets tricky, however, with long-term renters and condominium covenants.

Attendees at local housing forums often inquire about whether they can rent with their pets. To help them find a suitable home, I’ve compiled a list of places where pet owners—who are not property owners—should begin their search.

Condominium HOAs that permit renters to have dogs are: Hidden Village, Tamarack, Town Center, Broadwater, Elevation 6000, Essentia, Cottonwood, Deer Run, Pine Ridge and Madison Court. Currently, there are other HOAs reconsidering their policies. With many renters pushing the limits of “service animal” protections, property managers, tenants and landlords are struggling with pet permissions and deposits. It’s tough out there for all parties involved.

When I asked some local doggies about the issues facing them today, they mostly smiled and asked for a belly rub. Their owners said that this time of year, the spring thaw reveals a significant amount of decaying doggy refuse. So remember, “leave no trace” ethics pertain to your furry friends too.

Since Yellowstone National Park doesn’t allow dogs on trails, your best bet for a hike with your hound is in our national forests, Bureau of Land Management lands and wilderness areas. The official word is that your pet needs be on a leash or under direct voice control to protect yourself and wildlife. The Big Sky Community Organization is currently working on a Parks and Trails Master Plan, so if you’d like to make your voice heard in a favor a puppy park, call the BSCO office.

Cross-country skiing up Moose Creek is a great option to run your dogs in the winter, and in the summer, the sights and smells of the Hummocks, Uplands, and the Middle Fork trails will make tails wag.

They say if you’re lucky enough to live in Montana, you’re lucky enough. I’ll take it a step further and submit that if you’re lucky enough to live in Big Sky, you’re one lucky dog.

Are you wondering why something is particularly unique to our community? You want to know and I’m eager to learn. This column commits to answering your burning questions about why Big Sky exists the way it does. Ask me at tallie@reallybig-sky.com.

Tallie Lancey is a broker with Big Sky Sotheby’s International Realty and serves on the boards of Big Sky Community Organization, Top Shelf Toastmasters, and the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.

More than \$70,000 raised at annual PTO Pie Auction

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – While official numbers aren’t in yet, at least \$70,000 was raised for the Big Sky School District at the annual Big Sky PTO Pie Auction, a tradition that started 37 years ago with families baking and buying each other’s treats to support the school.

A total of 114 donated silent auction items dotted tables set up along the periphery of the Montana Room of Buck’s T-4, including everything from growlers and gift certificates to cruiser bikes and skis.

Big Sky students donated their expertise as well—members of the Lone Peak volleyball team volunteered their time for a volleyball clinic and LPHS student Evan Redmon offered up piano lessons.

The center table contained 37 pies ranging from structurally ornate gourmet creations to classic homemade pies. By the evening’s close, \$3,570 had been raised from locals’ kitchen creations and live auction items brought in another \$16,400.

A jersey bearing New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady’s No. 12, with two tickets to a Patriots game, was one of the leading live auction items. Shana Seelye, president of the Big Sky PTO, said the package went for \$5,500.

Old-fashioned, rear-entry ski boots anchoring LED lights served as table centerpieces for the “Retro Snowball” themed affair, and some attendees donned old ski attire and 80s sunglasses for the occasion.

Kirsten King said she has three kids in school and she’s been supporting the PTO Pie Auction since her family moved to Big Sky eight years ago. King said she appreciates the small and tight-knit nature of Big Sky’s schools. “It’s a little like a homeschool environment because kids accept each other for their quirks.”

The Big Sky PTO supports programming that gives kids in Big Sky schools an opportunity to find their niche. From weekly ski trips in the winter and opportunities to work with artists who perform at WMPAC, to a recent student volunteer trip to Nepal, Big Sky students are exposed to a number of unique offerings—especially for a small Class C school in a rural state.

King said she’s especially appreciative of the Expedition Yellowstone program available to fourth-graders. “A lot of kids around the country would love to go to that program, and they’ve gotten to go every year.” She said she’s used the chaperoned overnight trip in Yellowstone National Park as a kind of “proving ground” to determine if her kids are ready for summer camp.

In 2010, Lone Peak High School’s first year in existence, there were 195 students enrolled in the school district. Now there are more than 360 students—a significant increase for a seven-year period. Former Big Sky School District superintendant Anne Marie Mistretta said the addition of the high school has made Big Sky more attractive to families.

At least one Pie Auction attendee said she’s contemplating a move to Big Sky as her young daughter approaches school age.

Sun Park, who’s visited Big Sky frequently the past four years but does not live here full-time, said that now that her daughter is almost 3 years old, she and her husband are talking about a move to Big Sky.



The theme for the 2017 Big Sky PTO Pie Auction was “retro snowball.” Individuals and businesses who support the PTO donated 144 silent and live auction items and 44 pies. PHOTO BY AMANDA EGGERT



Inside the Big Sky

By Derek Lennon

Give wildlife a brake in Big Sky Country

BY DEREK LENNON
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

In Big Sky, we share our backyard with an abundance of wildlife. From elk, moose and bighorn sheep, to grizzly bears, coyotes and birds of prey, wild animals are spotted in and around our mountain town all of the time.

These animals are lucky that their habitat is relatively road free, but when individuals are traveling from point A to point B, sometimes they have to cross a road. When you drive around Big Sky long enough, you're bound to see a wide variety of animals that wander into the road.

Defensive driving is a must when you're traveling in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem—or anywhere else for that matter.

Wildlife collisions are possible all year long and while some accidents are unavoidable, it's your job to drive defensively and avoid hitting animals. A collision can be incredibly dangerous to both the animals and occupants in the car.

Here are a handful of eye-opening stats about wildlife collisions in the U.S. from dmv.org:

- A collision with some form of wildlife occurs, on average, every 39 minutes.
- One out of every 17 vehicle collisions involves wandering wildlife.
- 89 percent of all wildlife collisions occur on roads with two lanes.
- 84 percent of all wildlife collisions occur in good weather, on dry roads.
- The average repair cost of a car-deer collision is \$2,800.
- Approximately 200 motorists die in the United States each year from car-wildlife collisions.

Whether you're driving in Gallatin Canyon for an early morning fly-fishing session, cruising up the spur road for a day at Big Sky Resort, or heading south through Yellowstone National Park, you need to be on full animal alert at all times. Slow down and be alert, it can save your life and the animal's life. Plus, it can prevent costly damage to your vehicle.

Animal-car collisions are scary things that everyone wants to avoid. Here are a few defensive driving tips that can help you avoid hitting wildlife in Big Sky Country:

- Follow the speed limit and read the warning signs.
- Constantly scan the sides of the roads while driving.
- Remember that dusk and dawn are prime time for animals to be active.
- Drive with your bright lights on to help spot animals on the road, but be sure to dim them for oncoming traffic!
- Wear your seatbelt.
- Use extra caution on snowy and/or icy roads.
- Never litter as it can attract animals to the roadway.

If you see an animal:

- Slow down and honk your horn.
- Flash your lights to alert oncoming traffic of the potential hazard.
- Often when you spot one animal, there will be other animals in the vicinity.



A herd of Spanish Peaks bighorn sheep gather on Highway 64 in Big Sky in May 2016.
PHOTO BY WES OVERVOLD

A large animal that is injured can be incredibly dangerous. Call 911 and alert the authorities to any injured animals or road kills. If necessary, stay in your car and use flashing lights or flares to alert other drivers of the incident.

Being defensive behind the wheel can save your life and an animal's life.

Derek Lennon is a skier and writer who lives, works, and plays in the mountains of the world. He is based in Big Sky, Montana, where he lives with his wife Mia and two dogs.

A version of this story was originally published on the Visit Big Sky blog at <https://visitbigskymt.com/wildlife-collisions-big-sky/>. Read more interesting content about the area on Visit Big Sky's blog at <https://visitbigskymt.com/category/blog/>.

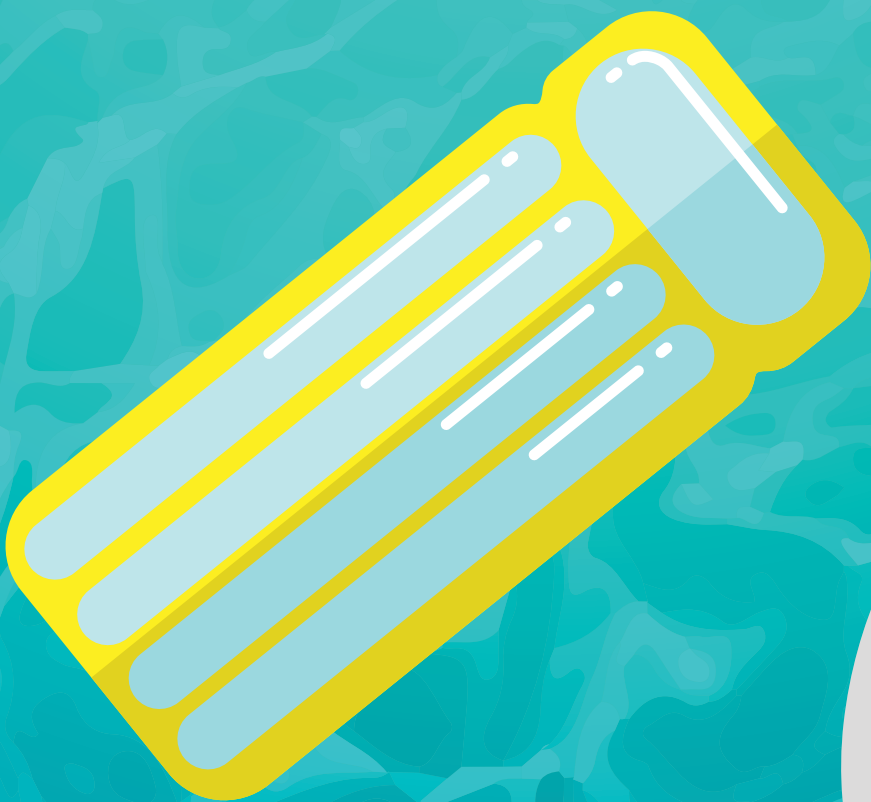


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Affordable housing dealt another blow with failure of ‘Penny for Housing’ bill

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY— The affordable housing effort in Big Sky hit another rough patch March 27 when the Montana Senate voted 25-25 on the “Penny for Housing” bill. A simple majority was necessary to move the bill to the House of Representatives.

Senate Bill 343 would have allowed resort tax communities to vote on a 1-percent increase on collections for affordable housing, raising the resort tax rate from 3 percent to up to 4 percent if approved by local voters. During the legislative process, the bill was amended to specify that collections could also be applied to infrastructure instead of community development, as an earlier version stated.

About a month before the March 14 public hearing on the bill, Big Sky Resort Area District tax board member Kevin Germain predicted that the “Penny for Housing” bill had a 50/50 chance of passing the Montana Legislature. One more “yes” vote on March 27 would have sent the bill to the House, but 50 percent was not enough to pass it and the measure is likely dead given how little time is left in the 2017 Legislative session.

Proponents of the bill adopted a frustrated and defeated tone in response to the vote, while opponents breathed a sigh of relief.

Wendy Miller, who traveled to Helena for the public hearing, said she’s confounded by opposition to the bill. Miller, who is a front desk manager at a golf club in Big Sky, said she moved to Big Sky from the Bay Area of California, where there’s a sales tax of nearly 10 percent. “For me, [up to 1 percent] is very doable,” she said.

Miller said that she’s found it more difficult to secure affordable long-term housing in Big Sky than it is in the Bay Area, a part of the country notorious for out-of-reach rent.

“I’ve contemplated moving since I got here because I’ve consistently had to worry about where I’m living,” Miller said. “It’s definitely gotten to the point where my whole season [of employment] depends on if I can even find housing.”

After two-and-a-half years in Big Sky punctuated by frequent and undesired moves at the whim of her landlords, Miller decided she’d reached the end of her rope. She was preparing to return to California when the general manager of the company she works for offered her subsidized housing.

“I’m really fortunate,” she said. “Not everybody’s that lucky.”

Opponents like Big Sky resident Alan Shaw have argued that Big Sky’s employers should develop their own housing solutions instead of counting on publicly subsidized housing. They point to Big Sky Resort as one company doing that.

“That’s something that, as a local, really upset me,” Miller said. “If you look at Big Sky Resort’s housing situation, it’s absolutely disgusting—nobody should have to live there. ... [The Golden Eagle apartment building] is called ‘the dirty bird’ for a reason.”

In January, Big Sky Resort announced the addition of two new employee housing projects, one in Mountain Village and the other near Golden Eagle, that are reported to be shovel-ready for construction this summer. When complete, they’ll add 200 pillows for Big Sky Resort employees.

Shaw, who spoke in opposition to the bill at the public hearing, said in a March 29 phone interview, “I think people come to Big Sky knowing what it costs to live and work here and I don’t think it’s our obligation to support them.” He said it’s nice to have teachers and firefighters living in Big Sky, but they chose this area for a reason and if they can’t afford it, they can live in Gallatin Gateway or Belgrade. “They don’t have to live here,” he said.

Big Sky Fire Department Chief William Farhat said his deputy is allowed to commute from the Bozeman/Belgrade area, but all of the other firefighters on staff are required to live in Big Sky so they can quickly respond to large or multiple incidents.

He added that the cost of living here presents a recruiting challenge. “The Bozeman and Central Valley [Fire Departments] have to turn away applicants; we struggle to find qualified applicants.”



New residential properties are under construction in Big Sky Town Center, and in one new development nearby, three-bedroom units are renting from \$2,400 to \$2,600.
PHOTO BY WES OVERVOLD

Anne Marie Mistretta said the housing issue was so challenging when she was superintendant of Big Sky School District from 2005-2010 that on two occasions she put up teachers in her own home.

“People I talk to say, ‘I had no idea it was that bad,’” she said, adding that since she left the position six years ago, 75 percent of the school’s faculty has left.

“I’m devastated,” she said with a sigh in response to the bill failure.

Although emotions tend to flare at the mention of funding affordable housing in Big Sky, for some people the central issue is more about properly executed taxation than housing.

“We must be aware that increasing taxes has consequences including making our businesses less competitive,” replied Big Sky Resort General Manager Taylor Middleton in a text message response to an EBS phone call. “Many of us in the community, and Montana Legislators, believe that a better approach than raising taxes is collecting tax more effectively within the existing law, and prioritizing allocation of existing collections.

“Higher taxes impact locals’ pocketbooks, too,” Middleton added.

Nearly 60 people attended the March 14 Senate Taxation Committee public hearing in Helena.

Among those who signed the visitor register, 50 people checked that they supported the bill and seven people indicated that they were opposed to it. According to BSRAD tax board members Mike Scholz and Kevin Germain, proponents sent approximately 140 letters in support of the measure to the Legislature and there were 10 or 11 letters of opposition.

As late as Saturday, March 25, it looked like the measure would narrowly make it to the House. Twenty-six senators were in favor during the second hearing, with one person absent and 23 legislators opposed.

Two legislators, including Nels Swandal of Gardiner, one of the resort communities that would have been directly impacted by the bill, changed their vote to one of opposition two days later for the third—and most important—reading of the bill.

“I found it strange,” Scholz said in response to Swandal’s flipped vote. “It was a bill that could really help his own community.” Germain points out that not just Big Sky is impacted by the bill’s failure; the nine other resort communities in the state are also affected. He said he’d seen strong support for the measure from each of those nine communities.

Proponents of SB 343 stressed that it would not have automatically resulted in a 1-percent increase; instead it would have allowed residents to vote for or against it.

“I’m disappointed for everybody in Big Sky that once again we can’t vote on something,” Mistretta said. “But I’m particularly disappointed for the people who need affordable housing that we can’t seem to come to grips with this as a community.”

Megan McLean, a Big Sky resident who’s spent two seasons working in member services at a local club, said attending meetings in Big Sky about affordable housing made her realize how much undeveloped potential there is in this community. “It has the potential to be a really cool, thriving community, but without affordable housing there’s no way that they can keep people here.”

“Long-time Big Sky residents are reluctant to make friends or establish long-term relationships because they don’t know how long people will be here,” McLean continued. “That’s what makes a strong community, and that’s what Big Sky needs.”

McLean has made the decision to move at the end of the ski season because she can no longer afford to put nearly half of her income into housing. She’s thinking about moving to Portland, Oregon, “somewhere I know I could see myself having a future,” she said.

Auction for the Arts raises \$75,000 for Arts Council of Big Sky



On March 23, a crowd of 200 people gathered at Moonlight Basin Lodge for the sold-out fifth annual Auction for the Arts, the Arts Council of Big Sky’s largest fundraising event of the year. The auction raised over \$75,000 for the Arts Council, a record for the event and a 50 percent increase from last year. Billings artist Carol Hagan’s ‘Totem Bear’ was the highest selling piece of artwork at \$17,000, 75 percent of which Hagan donated to the council. Monies raised will help the Arts Council fund its year-round events and programs, particularly new educational initiatives. PHOTOS BY DAVE PECUNIES

Republicans look to wrest public lands issue from Democrats

BY BOBBY CAINA CALVAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) - Montana Republicans are seeking to retake control of the discussion over public lands access by touting their legislative agenda on the subject.

During a Capitol briefing with reporters March 22, the party’s legislative leaders showcased five pieces of legislation that they hope will better position them with hunters, outdoor enthusiasts and voters concerned about public access.

Democrats said they welcomed the Republicans’ embrace of the issue that their own party has long championed.

While some six dozen environmental bills have been introduced during the current session, Republicans sought to bring attention to five proposals with GOP sponsors, including bills that would expand land available to hunters, improve wildlife habitat and widen cooperation with private landowners.

“These five bills, this package of bills, are conservative bills, yet they help protect and they expand access to public lands for everyone to enjoy,” said Senate Majority Leader Fred Thomas, a Republican from Stevensville.

Republicans were careful to cast the press availability as nonpolitical, but it was nevertheless an obvious attempt to recast themselves as being more sympathetic to the issue of public lands and providing access.

Public access is particularly important in a state with some of the country’s most expansive wildlands and most pristine rivers and lakes.

The subject is already a key talking point in the special congressional election underway, as it was last fall in the governor’s race.

“It is still the most robust issue in this building in terms of number of bills, emotions around bills and this diametrically opposed vision of how we manage wildlife,” said Ben Lamb, a lobbyist for the Montana Wildlife Federation.

The federation, he said, supports the majority of the proposals put forward by Republicans, although he said one proposal still being drafted could weaken the authority of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department by creating a new public lands access advocate.

“The first thing we need to do is thank the Republicans for finally buying into or adopting the Democratic platform of public lands access,” said Rep. Tom Jacobson of Great Falls, a leading voice among Democrats on public lands access issues.

Rep. Zach Brown, a Bozeman Democrat, said it was disingenuous for Republicans to carry the mantle of public lands access.

“I don’t want to take away anything from the bills they are promoting because I’m a co-sponsor of several of them—so they are good bipartisan bills,” Brown said.

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No easy solutions to Montana's opioid, heroin epidemic

BY MICHAEL SIEBERT
UM COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

HELENA - Liz Schwartz's brother overdosed in their parents' garage after sucking prescription opioids out of a used fentanyl patch. His mother found him on the floor and immediately called an ambulance. He made it to the hospital in time and survived.

But within a year, Schwartz's father overdosed the same way. He, too, survived.

"You think the addict is getting clean, or they're on the right track to getting there, and there's setbacks like that," Schwartz said. "It's terrifying."

While Montana's drug of choice for decades has been methamphetamine, the use of heroin and opioids like fentanyl and oxycodone is significant. The Montana State Crime Lab, which tests drugs found during arrests, reports it has seen a 475 percent increase in heroin since 2013.

Overdose deaths were at their lowest in nearly 15 years in 2015. But, the Office of Epidemiology reported that 181 Montanans died of prescription opioid deaths between 2012 and 2015.

In an effort to prevent more overdoses, state lawmakers are currently debating two bills that would allow for easier access to naloxone, a drug that reverses the effects of overdose.

House Bill 333, introduced by Rep. Frank Garner, R-Kalispell, is also known as the Help Save Lives from Overdose Act. It allows for naloxone to be prescribed to organizations as well as individuals, meaning police departments and schools would be able to have it on hand in the event of an overdose.

The bill also requires pharmacists to provide basic training for use of naloxone, and gives legal and civil immunity to people who administer the drug.

House Bill 323, introduced by Rep. Gordon Pierson, D-Deer Lodge, allows schools to administer naloxone to students or non-students they believe are overdosing. Garner's bill also allows for administration of the medication in a school setting.

"This is proven to save lives, and will prove to save lives in the state as we see an increase in opioid use and abuse," Garner said.

Both bills have received broad support in both the House and Senate. HB 323 passed the House on a 95-3 vote, and passed the Senate last week unanimously. HB 333 passed the House unanimously, and is set to be read by the entire Senate.

Use and abuse

Overdose is just one part of the bigger addiction picture in Montana.

Montana still has a problem with meth. Despite a dip in the mid-2000s, meth usage is once again on the rise, with more meth recovered by law enforcement in the first six months of 2016 than all of 2015.

But prescription abuse is an entirely different problem. Oftentimes, addicts become addicted after first being prescribed opioids for legitimate pain needs.

Liz Schwartz's father was prescribed fentanyl after having back surgery to treat degenerative disc disease.

Evan Cozad, a cook now living in Kalispell, became addicted to opioids after having multiple surgeries to treat Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, a disease that results in unstable joints.

Cozad said he was consistently taking prescription opioids for two to three years before his doctor stopped prescribing them. By that point, Cozad was already in the throes of addiction, and began selling painkillers to support his own habit.

In 2005, Cozad overdosed.

"It was a type of morphine I had never even dealt with before," Cozad said. "It was actually made for pets. It was a veterinary morphine."

Cozad called a friend when the effects became too powerful, and survived after being taken to the hospital. He eventually quit using opioids, and has been clean for five years.

Other addicts are not as successful. The prescription drug registry has successfully made opioids like oxycodone more difficult and expensive to obtain. But the addiction remains, often making heroin the new, sometimes cheaper alternative.

"We've already established a customer base, if you will, for heroin," said Officer Clint Houston of the Great Falls Police Department.

Houston said Great Falls has always struggled with prescription drug use. But now, heroin is being sold "hand-in-hand" with meth.

Heroin is not as popular in rural areas, but 9th District Judge Robert Olson said he deals with oxycodone addicts, along with meth users and alcoholics, "virtually each and every day" in his Shelby drug court.

"We see [prescription drug abuse] not only in criminal law, but in neglect cases, where parents have kids removed from their home," Olson said.

Solutions

Finding solutions to the opiate and opioid crisis, as well as Montana's drug problem at large, has proven extremely difficult. The state has been battling its meth crisis since the early 2000s, and has seen little in the way of progress.

Garner said his bill is a different approach to curbing the problem. As a former police officer he was part of a drug task force in Kalispell.

"There are elements of the criminal justice system that are effective, but for some people all of the consequences, all of the interventions, don't work until they get to a certain point," Garner said.

Garner said his bill gives addicts who overdose another opportunity to see how far their addiction has progressed.

Pierson said educating the public on the dangers of prescription and heroin abuse is a big part of the battle. He said families need to be aware of the need to keep their prescriptions locked up, and of the "horrible effects" of addiction.

Schwartz also said there needs to be greater education not just on the effects of addiction, but on what addiction actually is. And, both she and Cozad say Montana needs expanded treatment options for addicts.

"We also really need to take a serious look at treatment and rehabilitation in Montana," Schwartz said. "My brother has been to almost every treatment program in the state of Montana, ordered by the Department of Corrections and by private rehabilitation programs. Nothing's worked. The only thing keeping him sober right now is being in prison."

Michael Siebert is a reporter with the UM Community News Service, a partnership of the University of Montana School of Journalism and the Montana Newspaper Association.



Clint Houston, an officer with the Great Falls Police Department, says his department has recovered more than 10 ounces of heroin in the last two months. Houston testified on Monday, March 20 on House Bill 333. Houston said the department was ready to get overdose medication, but realized they had no legislative backing to do so. PHOTO BY FREDDY MONARES/COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE



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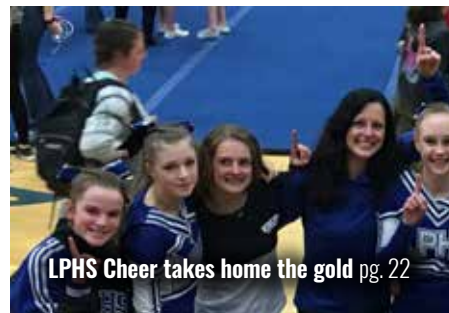
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Section 2: ENVIRONMENT, SPORTS, HEALTH & DINING



The New West: What happens when 'wildlife photography' masquerades as something it's not?



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

With each passing day, it seems, we learn more about the insidious impact of “fake news”—how politicians, companies, governments and operatives with hidden agendas exploit the gullibility of the public to believe almost anything.

Does a fake news parallel exist in wildlife photography?

A few months ago, two paragons of the British tabloid press, The Sun and Daily Mail, published “stories” featuring photographs purported to be of a wild Montana grizzly bear tangling with a pack of wild wolves over a deer carcass.

Blaring above The Sun’s story was this click-bait headline: “Brawl of the Wild: Dramatic moment 600lb bear takes on pack of wolves over a deer carcass is captured by British tourist in the Rocky Mountains.” A corresponding subhead read, “Pictures show the wolves attempt to fight back but one by one they are swatted away by the grizzly’s giant paws.”

The photos were the work of Tom Littlejohns, described as a 75-year-old logistics consultant and nature photographer from Guildford in Surrey, England. “In these particular images, I saw the change from relatively docile and almost large cuddly wolves become unbelievably ferocious both with each other and prepared to take on a fully grown grizzly,” Littlejohns allegedly told one reporter.

The predator-on-predator encounter, said to have taken place in Montana’s Crazy Mountains east of Bozeman—in the middle of winter no less and where there are no documented grizzlies—aroused immediate attention among locals in our region.

Steve Primm, whose day job is serving as founding partner of People and Carnivores, a Bozeman-based nonprofit devoted to resolving conflicts between humans and predators, called the alleged real-life scenes horse pucky.

As Littlejohns’ photos circulated virally on Facebook, they came under more intense scrutiny from American wildlife photographers and conservationists who noted they were actually staged using captive animals allegedly rented out by Animals of Montana, a game farm located outside of Bozeman.

Personal confession: Over the years I have penned books and magazine stories that have been illustrated with images taken at game farms, though I had no involvement in the photo selection. I also have close wildlife-artist friends who routinely frequent game farms to study animals for paintings and sculptures.

Animals of Montana, which as a “wildlife menagerie,” is permitted by Montana FWP, has been under close scrutiny for years following dozens of alleged violations, including an incident in which an animal keeper was killed by a bear.

Animals of Montana has often refuted the allegations.

Littlejohns, when pressed to explain how he got such remarkable shots, boasted on social media that he did indeed employ the services of Animals of Montana; still, huge numbers of readers who saw his photos were likely duped. I reached out to The Sun and Daily Mail in January, requesting an interview with their reporters and asking the newspapers to put me in touch with Littlejohns, but received no reply.

Does it matter that the media and photographer were less than transparent? Melissa Groo, an award-winning nature photographer who writes a popular column on ethics for Outdoor Photographer magazine, is among a handful of shooters, including Jackson Hole photographer Thomas Mangelsen, who said yes, absolutely, it does.

The use of captive game farm animals has long been a divisive subject within the world of professional wildlife photography and it’s one of the reasons why the International League of Conservation Photographers was formed.

Groo says using captive animals as working models (grizzlies, wolves, African lions and Siberian tigers, among others, rent out for \$500 per one-hour session at Animals of Montana); forcing them to pose on command for food rewards; and keeping them confined most of their lives to smallish pens compared to huge natural home ranges in the wild, raise a number of ethical questions.

While defenders claim commercial game farms serve a valuable purpose such as allowing wildlife artists to gather reference material, Groo and others point to deception: Some photographers have exploited game farms to take shortcuts in building portfolios and many media outlets they sell pictures to routinely fail to disclose that the shots were manufactured. It’s unknown how much Littlejohns made from selling his bear/wolf photos.

“As a photographer who spends a ton of time in Yellowstone, I see the side effect of captive animal shoots very often,” said Josh Able from Bobs Creek Photography. “People see pictures online and expect that they are going to be able to stand 30 feet from a wild animal to photograph it. In my view wildlife photography is capturing a true representation of nature. Wildlife photography needs to be honest.”

Another photographer, Tom Carlisle, along with Groo and Able, pointed me to a conundrum created by Littlejohns, the media and game farms.

If the “wild” scenes are fake, then Littlejohns and the newspapers should acknowledge it, they say; if the stories represent accurate depictions of what actually happened on the shoot—a grizzly and wolves being forced to “battle” over a deer carcass—does it then represent a possible violation of animal welfare laws, the same kind that forbid dog and cockfighting?

Andrea Jones, chief spokesperson with the FWP regional office in Bozeman, said the department is aware of the issues and currently looking into them.

Demetri Price, the lead trainer at Animals of Montana, told me he had neither seen Littlejohns’ photos nor how the shoot was portrayed in print. He suggested that both the Internet and social media are places where distortion of the truth is rife.

“Keep in mind our business has been brought into disputes over and over again by people who shout very loudly with no information and others who make us out to be the bad guy,” Price said.

Animals of Montana does re-create animal interactions to simulate natural events that actually happen in the wild, he said. Indeed, it’s true that one can observe real wild grizzlies and wild wolves tussling over carcasses in Yellowstone’s Lamar Valley.

Price doesn’t see game farms, at least the well-run ones, suffering from ethical issues. And he refutes charges that captive animals are merely being exploited for profit.

“We live this [responsible treatment of animals] every single day and we are committed to the welfare of our animals,” Price said. “If we were beating our animals or treating them badly, you wouldn’t find happy and content animals [here that are] easy to work with.”

Todd Wilkinson is an award-winning journalist who has been writing about the West for more than 30 years and his column the New West has been widely read in the Greater Yellowstone region for nearly as long. He writes his column every week, and it’s published on explorebigsky.com on EBS off weeks. You can also read his latest book, “Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek,” a story about famous Greater Yellowstone grizzly 399 featuring photographs by Thomas Mangelsen.

Congress backs bill to lift Obama-era bill on hunting bears and wolves in Alaska

BY MATTHEW DALY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)- Congress has approved a bill that would allow aerial hunting of grizzly bears and killing of bears and wolves near dens on federal lands in Alaska.

The Senate gave final legislative approval Tuesday to a measure that repeals an Obama-era rule on hunting on Alaska’s 16 national wildlife refuges. The Fish and Wildlife Service said last year the rule would promote ethical hunting practices while maintaining sustainable populations of bears, wolves and coyotes.

Alaska’s three Republican lawmakers said the rule undermines the state’s ability to manage fish and wildlife on refuge lands—one-fifth of Alaska’s land mass. Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, said the rule fundamentally changes Alaska’s relationship with the Fish and Wildlife Service “from one of cooperation to subservience.”

The Senate approved the measure, 52-47, sending it to the president. The House approved the measure last month.

Democrats and environmental groups protested the action, saying Congress was sanctioning inhumane treatment of animals.

“This isn’t about states’ rights,” said Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash. “It’s not about prohibiting hunting. ... It’s about how we can manage these wildlife refuges to the degree that agencies believe are necessary for the preservation of these wildlife heritage areas.”

Visitors to Alaska don’t “want to see the inhumane killing of cub bears in a den,” Cantwell said. “They like to see the bear and fishing activity that exists in so many of these beautiful areas.”

But Sullivan said the rule “undercuts meaningful public participation in refuge management decisions (and) utterly disregards the legal protections and rights given to the state in the Alaska Statehood Act.”

He said Cantwell and other out-of-state critics were misinformed.

“This rule is about Alaska,” he said. “Ask people who have to live off the land and need the food” whether the Obama-era rule is needed. “Tell them this is not subsistence” hunting, Sullivan said.

Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States, said the bill would allow “the worst wildlife management practices introduced in the last century,” including shooting hibernating bears with their cubs; using airplanes to scout and shoot grizzly bears; and baiting and trapping bears with steel-jawed, leg-hold traps and wire snares.

Allowing Alaska to overturn federal management of federal lands is nonsensical—and has little to do with states’ rights, Pacelle said.

The Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service have for decades directly controlled the management of wildlife on federal land dedicated to species preservation, he said. Doing away with that tradition would mean it’s only “a matter of time for the state of Wyoming to open hunting seasons on grizzly bears and wolves within the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park,” Pacelle said.



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EYE ON THE BALL

Russell Westbrook’s historic season



BY BRANDON NILES
EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

In 1962, Oscar Robertson finished the season averaging 30.8 points, 11.4 assists, and 12.5 rebounds. It was only his second season in the NBA and at the age of 23, he became the first person to ever average a triple-double over the course of an entire season.

Robertson came close to repeating that feat in each of the following three seasons, but little did he know at the time that he would still be the only player to accomplish this feat more than 50 years later.

Much like Wilt Chamberlain’s 100 points scored in a single game, Robertson’s 1961-1962 season has long been considered one of the most unbreakable records in sports. Most people would argue that the game has changed too much for anyone to average a triple-double over the course of a season. Most people would’ve said this as recently as last summer.

As of this writing, Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook is averaging 31.2 points, 10.4 assists, and 10.5 rebounds per game with a mere 11 games left in the regular season.

Westbrook, 28, has long been considered one of the best players in the NBA. His explosive athleticism combined with court awareness and ability to score effectively from mid-range make him a matchup nightmare, and has allowed him to lead the Thunder to a likely playoff berth despite losing fellow All-Pro Kevin Durant last summer to the Golden State Warriors.

Some argue that Westbrook is just chasing statistics. While there may be a level of truth in that, it’s hard to argue with the results. Through 71 games the Thunder won 29 of the 35 games where Westbrook finished the game with a triple-double. Meanwhile, they’ve won only 13 of the 36 games when

Westbrook falls short. It’s easy to criticize a player for chasing statistics, but when the team wins as a result, the criticism is less warranted.

The Thunder may not be vying for one of the top seeds in the Western Conference, and it seems unlikely that they could challenge the Warriors in the playoffs. But they should be pretty well locked into the sixth seed, remaining competitive in what could’ve been a lost season following Durant’s departure. Credit Westbrook, who signed an extension earlier this year to remain in Oklahoma City, for putting the team on his back and willing them to contention.

While Houston Rockets guard James Harden is also having a phenomenal year, averaging 29.4 points, a league-leading 11.2 assists, and 8.1 rebounds per game, if Westbrook finishes the season as the second player in NBA history to average a triple-double, he should run away with the MVP award. Harden would be deserving in any other year, but this season has been historic for Westbrook, and Harden has a stronger supporting cast and is in the most point guard friendly system ever created.

If the season ended today, as of this writing, these two players would face each other in the first round of the playoffs. Hopefully NBA fans will have the opportunity to see that matchup and watch these two incredible talents face off in a seven-game series.

Westbrook still has a long career ahead of him, and if the Thunder can replenish the team with additional star power in the next couple of years, he’s the kind of player that can lead a team to a championship. Meanwhile, one of the greatest feats in NBA history might be repeated, giving the final games of the regular season some additional drama for fans to revel in.

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.

ACT PREPARATION WORKSHOP & PRACTICE TEST

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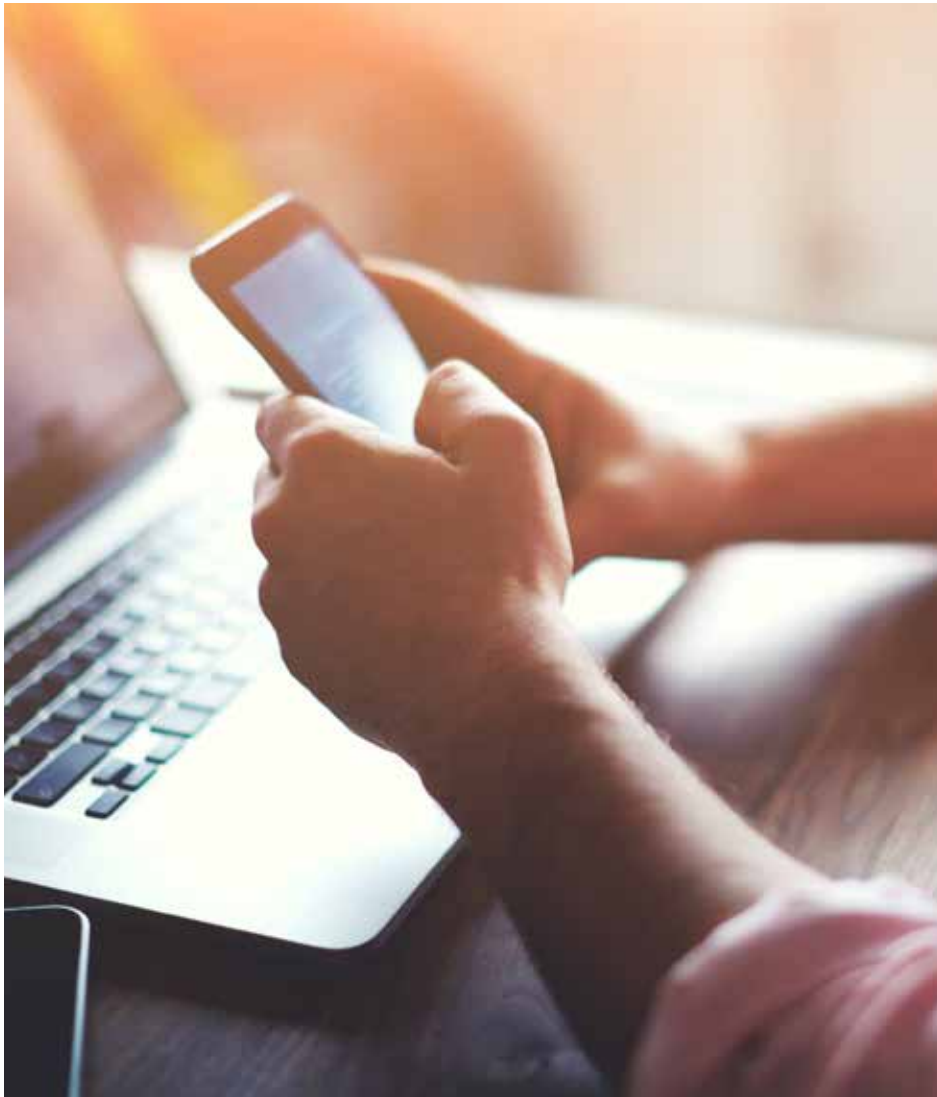


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SPORTS

Explore Big Sky

MSU's Engineers Without Borders hosts 5K fundraising run

MSU NEWS SERVICE

On April 7, the Montana State University chapter of Engineers Without Borders will host a 5-kilometer run to raise funds for sanitation and clean water projects in Kenya.

The Bozeman Engineers Without Borders 5K run will take place on trails at Burke Park (Peets Hill), and will be followed by an awards ceremony at Zocalo Café in downtown Bozeman, where there will be T-shirts and other prizes, live music by a local band and Montana beer.

Proceeds from the event will help MSU's Engineers Without Borders implement a biogas latrine and a water well at two primary schools in the Khwisero region of Kenya this summer. The latrine is designed to decrease the transfer of communicable disease into the groundwater, and the well is designed to provide clean and safe drinking water.

Approximately 20 students and five professional mentors from MSU's Engineers Without Borders are scheduled to participate in the Kenya projects this summer.

MSU's Engineers Without Borders has been active for 12 years, and has completed 33 projects in the Khwisero region of Kenya, including 14 water well projects, 15 sanitation projects, a water pipeline and two rainwater catchment systems. According to the organization, an estimated 100,000 people have benefited from the projects.

The Engineers Without Borders race begins at 6 p.m. and will be professionally timed, with individual and team categories. The cost is \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and individuals on teams of four or more. For more details and to register, visit runsignup.com/Race/MT/Bozeman/EWBMSUKenyaWaterRun.



MSU's Engineers Without Borders has been active for 12 years, and has completed 33 projects in the Khwisero region of Kenya. On April 7 the organization will host a 5-k run to raise funds for additional projects in Kenya. PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROLYN EGERVARY

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An entertainer like no other

PBR's Flint Rasmussen leaves crowds in stitches every time he steps on the dirt

BY KACIE ALBERT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

CHOTEAU, Mont. – Fans attending Professional Bull Riders events are not only treated to the high-adrenaline, cowboy tough action courtesy of the world's best bull riders and bucking bulls, they also see a captivating figure strutting about the arena leaving fans in fits of laughter—PBR's official entertainer Flint Rasmussen.

"The goal of my job is to try and make a person's day a little better," Rasmussen says. "How great is that to do? I never take that for granted."

His is a unique role duplicated in no other sport. Rasmussen uses a combination of one-line zingers and groovy dance moves, all the while dodging a 2,000-pound bovine upwards of 40 times per night. There is never a dull moment for the crowd.

"Flint Rasmussen is the consummate entertainer," PBR CEO Sean Gleason said. "I would rate him with any top entertainer, in any other capacity, anywhere in the world."

And Rasmussen has proven himself the consummate family man whether he's performing in busy, crowded cities or towns surrounded by farms and ranches. He incites raucous laughs from sold-out crowds in arenas spanning from New York City's Madison Square Garden to Billings, Montana's Rimrock Arena.

"I wish I had a real deep, 'Well here's how I research material,' but I just try to be completely open and clicking," Rasmussen said. "I watch the people, I watch the bull riders, I listen to the announcers and I hope for something to set my mind in motion."

Part of his success can be credited to his willingness to experiment.

"The great thing about my job is I can throw something out there and if it doesn't work, I can screw up and make it look like it's part of the job," he said.

Others credit his lack of hesitation to improvise for his uncanny ability to leave fans in stitches.

"Flint is not a scripted guy," PBR Live announcer Brandon Bates said. "He goes off whatever is happening in front of him. He may find something funny one week that isn't funny for another eight months. You just never know."

While he makes it look easy, it's because he understands what is appealing to each market the PBR visits.

"You cannot use the same material you use in Billings, Montana, that you use in New York City," Rasmussen said. "In Billings I'm using local humor and rural Montana humor. In New York City, it's more about audience participation and high energy, making them feel like they are part of what's going on."

While cracking jokes and moonwalking atop the "shark cage," Rasmussen never allows the center of his act to deviate from focusing the crowd's attention on the riders.

Matt Merritt, entertainer for the Real Time Pain Relief Velocity Tour, credits Rasmussen with breaking the mold of this important role in Western sports.

"It's almost like he's a late night television host or morning radio DJ with his own brand of comedy," Merritt said.

In light of his natural ease in the arena, it comes to the surprise of many that Rasmussen's career began as a result of a dare—albeit one that allowed him to pursue a career doing what he loved, entertaining.

From a young age, Rasmussen was always drawn to performing.

"As a kid I would dream about entertaining people," he said. "I'd take a tennis racket and turn on some music and play it like a guitar."

He remembers sneaking down the stairs as a child to listen to Johnny Carson while his parents watched on television, wanting nothing more than to be like Carson.

"I loved stand-up comedians," he said. "I looked at people, believe it or not, like Howie Mandell. He used to do the greatest stand-up act ever, and I watched a lot of comedians."

But it wasn't until age 19, while attending a local rodeo with family, that he found his calling.



Flint Rasmussen performs during the Built Ford Tough Series stop at the Honda Center in Anaheim, California, on Jan. 31, 2016. PHOTO BY MATT BRENNEMAN/BULL STOCK MEDIA

At the event, Rasmussen poked fun at the clowns non-stop, saying he could do a better job. He was given the opportunity to do just that and has been on the dirt ever since.

"Most people don't get to do what they dreamed of doing as a child," Rasmussen said. "I feel lucky that I grew up to live my dreams. This kind of work actually doesn't feel like working at all."

While he may not have come to the profession until his teens, Rasmussen already had a deep understanding for the Western lifestyle.

"People may not realize that, but I grew up a cowboy in a cowboy family so I've been able to take the comedy I love and the entertainment I love, the dancing ability that I love and combine it," he said.

Through his parents' involvement in the Western and ranching communities, Rasmussen grew up behind the chutes, constantly surrounded by livestock, developing an in-depth knowledge for the timing of the sport.

"I understand livestock," he said. "I understand when a guy is ready to nod and come out of the chutes, and I understand when they're not."

Now, more than 30 years into his career, Rasmussen still has the same zest for the work he did as a child, establishing himself as a legend along the way.

"Hey, I'm 49 years old and still get introduced with the starting lineup."

Throughout his career, Rasmussen has had one of the best seats in the house to see the evolution of bull riding. Bull riding was part of the rodeo when he began. It's now a standalone sport that just wrapped up one of its most successful seasons in history, setting 13 local event attendance records and experiencing a 12-percent increase in TV viewership on CBS Sports.

"In 1996 we were an extension of rodeo," he said. "The biggest thing I've seen is the PBR has its own identity."

His act may be all jokes, but Rasmussen hopes that his wealth of experiences can make him someone the younger guys can turn to for advice in areas such as media and sponsors.

"I want to be a mentor for the younger guys," he said. "I hope they respect me enough to do that."

Despite all of the hours spent dodging bulls, telling jokes and leading the crowd in song, Rasmussen still gets nervous before each performance. Yet he believes some butterflies are necessary.

And when the PBR visits Billings, Montana, April 7-9, those nerves will be heightened because he will be performing to a hometown crowd.

"If you don't have a little nervousness or excitement, you should be doing something else," Rasmussen said. "If that goes away, it just becomes like a normal job."

Kacie Albert is on the corporate communications team at WME | IMG, a leading global sports, entertainment and fashion agency. Prior to attending the University of North Carolina, she showed horses in a variety of disciplines across the country.

Lone Peak takes first place in statewide cheerleading competition

BY EMERY MILLER
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Have you ever been held up in the air on someone’s hands, only to be thrown higher, relying completely on the people below to catch you? On March 17 and 18, Lone Peak High School cheerleaders participated in CheerFest, a statewide cheerleading competition in Lewistown, Montana. The girls went up against fifteen different cheer, dance and stunt teams from across Montana.

The original team of 11 girls started practicing their routine in January, not expecting to lose any girls. However, the team lost one girl due to a torn hamstring and another to a storm on the East Coast that delayed her return from Puerto Rico. The nine remaining girls regrouped, recruited another member and reworked their routine.

Lone Peak’s cheer coach Karen Maybee and Paige Deibert, an MSU cheerleader who assisted this season, helped the girls bring home a first place class C trophy. This is the first competition Lone Peak’s cheerleaders participated in, and the girls also placed second overall, scoring just four fewer points than first place.

Maybee, a former NFL Buffalo Bills cheerleader, brought her expertise to the coaching position, highlighting each participant’s strengths.

CheerFest competition official Jennifer Pfau said, “I was very impressed with the performance by Lone Peak High School ... They had the tightest motions of any team at the competition and their routine was so sharp and fun to watch.



Lone Peak’s cheerleading team took home first place in the Class C CheerFest competition held March 17 and 18 in Lewiston, Montana. PHOTO BY CORKY MILLER

“The judges obviously agreed, as not only did they win first place in their division, but they took second overall in the competition. This is a rare feat for a team attending the competition for the first time, especially for such a young team like Lone Peak. These girls were outstanding and I can’t wait to watch them again next year!”

Emery Miller is a Lone Peak High School cheerleader.

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March 31-April 2

Friday March, 31st, 5:30-8:00pm - *Movement awareness*

Saturday April 1st, 9:00-11:30am - *Hip openers and introduction to arm balances*

Sunday April 2nd, 10:00-12:30pm - *Sustainable backbending*

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8:00-9:00pm Candlelit Yin	4:30-5:30pm Apres Ski Yoga	9:30-10:45am Vinyasa Flow (all Levels)	9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga	9:30-10:30am All Levels Yoga	11:00-12:00pm Restorative Yoga	
	5:45-7:00pm Heated Vinyasa Flow	6:30-7:45pm All Levels Yoga	11:00-12:30pm The Practice Level II-III Yoga	6:30-7:45pm All Levels Yoga	3:15-4:00pm Kids Yoga, 3rd-5th	
					4:15-4:45pm Kids Yoga, K-2nd	

Big Sky’s Caliber Coffee is up for sale

BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS MANAGING EDITOR

BIG SKY – After a successful year as Big Sky’s morning meeting place, Caliber Coffee, Inc. is set to change hands.

Opie Jahn, and his wife Annie Burd, have been advertising word-of-mouth that the business is for sale since late January, and currently have approximately 10 non-disclosure agreements out to potential buyers but no offers yet, according to Jahn.

“We built a successful business in Big Sky over the past year, but our personal lives are not where they should be,” said Jahn, who began roasting coffee in 2014, in a warehouse off of Highway 191. “When I started, I saw an opportunity in Big Sky. I took it and I was passionate about coffee.”

After selling the beans wholesale for a year-and-a-half, they opened the coffee-house at 80 Snowy Mountain Circle in February of last year. Burd and Jahn lease the space Caliber occupies, but they’re selling the roasting and shop equipment, as well as the Caliber branding.

Burd said she’s moving back to McCall, Idaho, for the summer—the couple moved back here from McCall in October 2013—and then will probably be “avoiding the snow” after the summer is over and move to a warmer climate. Jahn is planning to move into his 4x4 Mercedes Sprinter van full-time, but remain in the Big Sky area.

“Both Annie and I have run multiple businesses in food and beverage, and it’s too much,” he said. “I’m going to go back to ski patrolling and get my commercial pilot’s license.” Jahn has worked as a ski patroller at Idaho’s Tamarack Resort, guided at Ski Arpa in Chile and was a volunteer patroller at Big Sky Resort for one season.



Caliber Coffee, Inc., Big Sky’s only coffeehouse, is for sale but remains open five days a week in the meantime. PHOTO BY TYLER ALLEN

When asked whether either partner considered buying the other out, Jahn said, “I don’t think it would work without both of us. ... I don’t think I could do it without her.”

Until they find a buyer, Caliber remains open Tuesday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., offering hot beverages, sweet and savory treats and a meeting place for the Big Sky community.

Healing Hands offers therapeutic touch

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – Since moving to Big Sky four years ago, Dr. Andrea Wick has been using her hands and chiropractic knowledge to heal Big Sky locals. Whether patients are suffering from physical ailments like ski injuries or mental maladies like headaches, Wick is confident in her ability to help patients heal, or refer them to a health professional who can.

After visiting Yellowstone National Park and skiing Big Sky Resort with her father at the age of 14, Wick said she fell in love with this part of the country. “I had a picture of Lone Peak in my locker in high school,” the Big Bend, Wisconsin, native said. When looking for a place to practice her craft, Big Sky was on top of her list.

After operating out of Santosha Wellness Center, Wick opened her own shop, Healing Hands Chiropractic in the Meadow Village in December. She combines her background in chiropractic studies with functional applied kinesiology, a form of muscle testing that identifies the root cause of patients’ diseases and dysfunctions.

“With chiropractic or kinesiology, what we learn is that we are not treating a symptom or disease, we are treating the cause of the symptoms or disease,” says Wick about her holistic approach.

As an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, having issues with her own immune system, Wick found herself on a regimen of different medications with no clear diagnosis. “My mom and dad are both in the medical field ... Finally my mom said, ‘Let’s try something else.’ And I went to see an applied kinesiologist,” she said.



Dr. Andrea Wick has established herself as part of the Big Sky healthcare community during four years of practicing chiropractic. PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREA WICK

After seeing a dramatic improvement in her health, Wick decided to change her career path from pharmacology to chiropractic. Chiropractors try to find the underlying cause of “subluxation” by analyzing the structural integrity of the spine. Although the field is considered by some as an “alternative” form of medicine, Wick is quick to note that recent studies have given chiropractors much more credibility in the medical world.

According to at least one of Wick’s patients, she has a uniquely healing touch.

“Unlike other chiropractors I’ve seen, [Wick] does more than structural realignment, which can be a temporary fix. She looks at all factors that can contribute to your individual problems—diet, allergies, emotions—treating the problem from the inside out,” said Jill McNamara, a patient who affectionately refers to her as “Dr. Dre.”

With a broad arsenal of naturopathic cures on hand and chiropractic skills learned from leaders in the field, Wick says her techniques have alleviated pain and inflammation, digestive issues, depression, ADHD, anxiety, hormonal imbalances, skin disorders, headaches, fatigue and other problems without prescription drugs.

Wick recommends realignments about every six weeks in order to prevent illness and help the body function at an optimal level. While there is a misperception that realignments might be painful or scary, patient-by-patient, Wick tries to show people that chiropractors can be gentle and offer immediate relief to a host of health problems.

Healthy Hands Chiropractic is located at 145 Center Lane, Unit B in Big Sky’s Meadow Village Center.

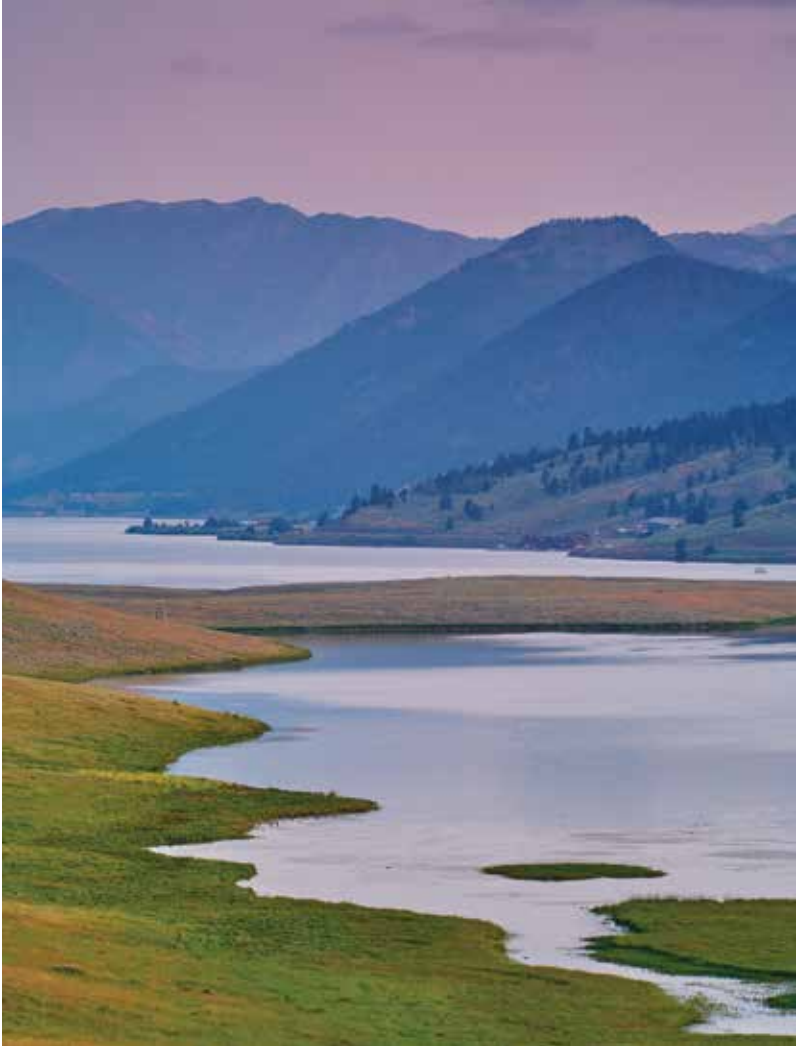
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From Jackie *with love* The power of purpose



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

Several years ago, my stepfather took his own life. Hearing it flooded me with rage, sorrow and love, all at the same time. He was smart and witty but lived an isolated and disengaged life. He refused to take care of his health and seemed to not love himself. Clearly, he believed he had no reason to live, no purpose for being on this planet.

On March 21, I gave a talk on the power of finding one’s purpose. I made the case that this simple act leads to a more engaging life and a natural desire to take better care of ourselves and those around us. Clinical studies have proven that strengthening one’s sense of purpose has the potential to alleviate depression and even prevent suicide.

After the presentation, a dear friend texted to let me know that her ex-husband killed himself. My heart ached for her and her sons. When I arrived home, another friend stopped by and told me about a teenage family member who seemingly has it all, and yet has tried to kill herself twice. A few hours later, my husband rushed into the house to call 911. He reported that he had just come across an unknown young man in the highway, and he was concerned that this young man was trying to commit suicide by walking into traffic.

What are we to do? How do we help others and ourselves slay the inner demons that come up and say: “There’s no way out,” “Life’s not worth living,” “I’m all alone,” “I’m not lovable”?

I believe one way is to get clear about our personal purpose for being on this planet. When we have a clear sense of our purpose, life becomes richer and more meaningful.

But we don’t have to be suicidal or depressed to seek our purpose. This exercise is effective for every gender, race, age, income and education level. I believe it makes a great life even better.

There are many paths to clarifying our purpose. A Google search on why and how to do it brings up TED talks, books, podcasts and blogs. There’s an incredible amount of helpful and free information to guide us on this journey.

I recommend answering these simple questions:

1. What are my core talents? What do people thank me for doing? What do people ask me for help with?
2. What am I passionate about?
3. What causes or issues do I feel strongly about?
4. What values matter to me most?
5. What is worth striving for?
6. How could my talents, passions and values be used to serve others, causes I care about, or the planet?

After answering these questions, pull out the most compelling words and phrases and create your own simple and succinct personal purpose statement. Your personal purpose can change over time, so I recommend that you revisit and adjust it when necessary.

Clarifying your purpose is powerful. If you don’t already know your purpose, please give this exercise a try and let me know how it goes.

Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach, culture consultant and public speaker. Contact her at jackie@corehealthmt.com.





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DOCTOR'S NOTE

The science of altitude sickness



BY DR. JEFF DANIELS
EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

For most people visiting from other parts of America, Big Sky's altitude is pretty high. We're not as high as some places in Colorado and certainly far from the heights trekkers in the Himalaya reach, but we're far enough above sea level to induce several types of medical problems in people who are susceptible to the effects of altitude.

Oxygen is the key player in all of this. We all need the right amount of oxygen to enter our bloodstream through the lungs in order to ensure normal function of the brain, heart and other vital organs. There is less oxygen in the air as you go higher in elevation. The air gets thinner, which basically means that there are less air molecules to breathe in. Air is basically made up of oxygen and nitrogen, with much smaller amounts of water vapor, carbon dioxide and other, rarer gases.

At sea level, the air is 21 percent oxygen. In Big Sky, the percentage of oxygen doesn't change in relation to nitrogen and other gases; there's just less molecules of everything! So we have to adjust.

Everybody who comes to Big Sky from a lower elevation goes through the same physiological changes that help their body absorb the right amount of oxygen. Simply put, people start to breathe a little faster from the time they get off the plane in Bozeman, drive up the Canyon, and arrive in Meadow Village or Mountain Village.

Breathing involves intaking oxygen and expelling water vapor and carbon dioxide. Breathing faster is also called hyperventilating. For most, it's imperceptible. With each extra breath, the body gains the right amount of oxygen from the thinner air. However, there's a price to pay for all of this: each extra breath makes the body lose more water vapor and carbon dioxide than it would at sea level.

Water loss will immediately trigger a thirst mechanism, and most of us can keep up with that and drink the proper amount of water to prevent dehydration. Carbon dioxide loss is a different story, and this is what causes symptoms of altitude adjustment like headache, nausea, irritability and fitful sleep in some susceptible individuals.

Carbon dioxide is very important in the body as a regulator of the amount of acid required for normal bodily functions. Wherever you are, your rate of breathing is constantly regulating the amount of carbon dioxide entering or leaving the body so that the acidity in the fluid surrounding the brain, usually referred to as the pH, stays constant.

When you change your normal environment by coming to higher elevation, the brain overrides the need to regulate carbon dioxide because of the more dire need to get enough oxygen. In doing so, the pH rises slightly. Most people don't feel a thing, but some do suffer from the symptoms of this adjustment.

It takes months to be able to slow down the hyperventilation induced by high altitude. We do this by building up more red blood cells, which absorb more oxygen. The increase in red blood cells is accompanied by other physiological changes that make it easier for oxygen to leave red blood cells and move into the muscles, heart and brain.

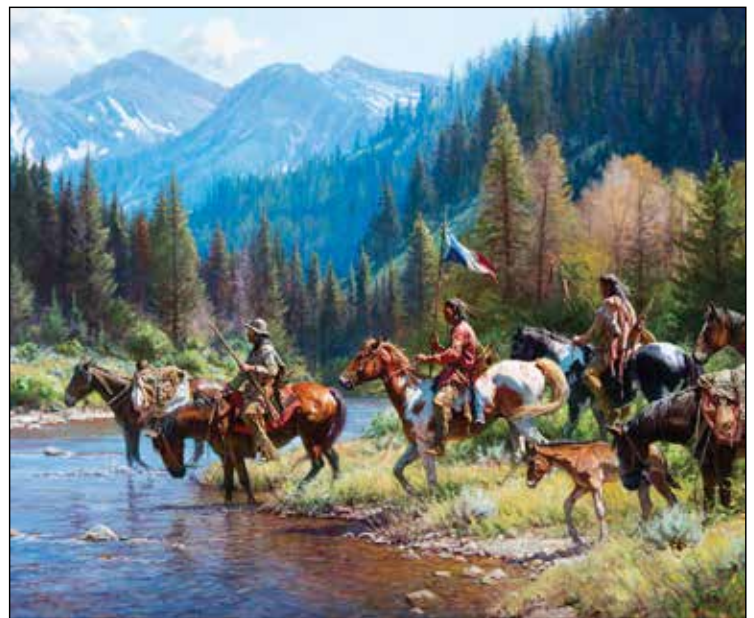
Even though the body immediately makes adjustments to correct the pH change, it takes about a week before they're truly effective. By that time, you're flying back to sea level!

The medication Diamox speeds up the process, and can both treat and prevent altitude adjustment symptoms.

Dr. Jeff Daniels was the recipient of the 2016 Big Sky Chamber of Commerce Chet Huntley Lifetime Achievement Award and 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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AMUSE-BOUCHE

Amuse-bouche refers to an appetizer, and by French translation means, “to entertain the mouth.” It offers a glimpse into what you should expect from a meal. Also it’s free, compliments of the chef.

There’s never anything to eat



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

I once wrote about what is in the average chef’s refrigerator. If you recall, it usually isn’t much. Yes, its contents can be kooky, exotic or rare, but it’s usually somewhat barren.

Contrary to a chef’s icebox of limited treasures, the typical household’s refrigerator is filled with all manner of things: every condiment known to man, crispers full of produce, an entire shelf of Tupperware devoted exclusively to leftovers, and a freezer that needs to have one hand ready to catch an item that falls out because it’s so full.

And yet, what do we do? We open the fridge, stare inside as if hypnotized, and say or think to ourselves, “There is nothing to eat.” Water everywhere and not a drop to drink.

I was the master of this as a child and teenager. “There’s plenty to eat. You just have to put forth a little effort,” my mother would say. “A hot meal on a plate isn’t going to just jump out at you if that’s what your waiting for.” Well yes, I know, but what pre-food TV adolescent or teenager wants to actually cook a meal? I certainly didn’t.

A few weeks ago, I was about to start my morning workout at the gym and in walked Bob Thompson, a friend I’ve shared many life and food conversations with—mostly at the gym. He said it would be helpful if I included a recipe in this column from time to time. We then shifted gears slightly and began discussing the challenge of how he, a very good home cook, sometimes considers his refrigerator and sees nothing to prepare, while knowing full well there are plenty of options.

We had a great laugh on the subject, and through the entirety of my following workout, I couldn’t stop thinking about how I could help Bob and others like him.

While I’m not offering up any recipes (this time), I will lay out different and creative ways of looking in your refrigerator, and at the way you eat, to think about a meal. In other words, think outside the (ice)box.

Rather than identifying specific items, like a baked sweet potato, some leftover carrots, salad greens, a cooked chicken breast, or leftover cooked pasta as individual items, look at them in terms of doing something different with them than you did the first time.

For example, why do you need to eat that pasta hot or those salad greens cold?

Start with a little lightly heated, healthy oil of your choice in a pan—olive, coconut, sunflower and grape seed oils are some of my favorites. Gently wilt some salad greens. They make a great vegetable, especially if they are heartier like kale or Swiss chard.

A little cold pasta tossed with that diced chicken breast or leftover steak from the restaurant with whatever other vegetables, and one of the many salad dressings in the door, and you have a great lunch after your morning workout.

Break up that leftover cooked fish, combine it with a little yogurt, curry and garlic, and serve it over some rice. Chop up that tomato that is just begging to be used along with the just wilting cilantro and you’re in business.

Don’t be afraid of changing the temperature of your leftovers from how you originally cooked it, using vegetables and starches interchangeably, and mixing in a condiment or two from the door for some depth of flavor, some acid or just more flavor.

The next time you open that door, don’t see discouragement, see opportunity.

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.

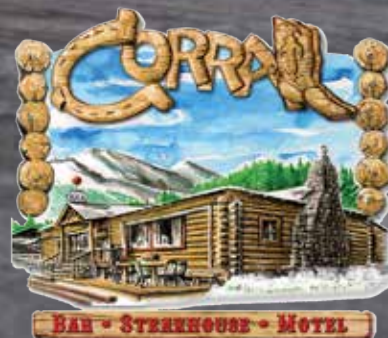
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Black garlic

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER
EBS STAFF

If you favor deep, earthy, slightly funky flavors, black garlic might be a unique ingredient you would enjoy. Its origins come from Korea, but it has been gaining popularity in the U.S. for the past 10 years.

Black Garlic, Ginger & Soy Marinade/Glaze

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 teaspoon fresh ginger root | 1 teaspoon sesame oil (optional) |
| 2 black garlic cloves | The juice of half of a lime |
| 2 tablespoons soy sauce | 1 tablespoon of a light flavored oil |
| 1 tablespoon honey | |

Place all ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth and the oil has emulsified. Alternatively, mince the ginger and garlic, and whisk all ingredients until emulsified—this will take a bit longer, though.

This glaze works great when paired with chicken, salmon or even vegetables. Split the mixture in half, using half to marinate the meat for an hour, and the other half to brush on periodically during the cooking process. The marinade will penetrate your main ingredient, while the glaze will become caramelized, creating a different flavor profile on the exterior.

Many assume black garlic simply grows with a darker pigment as a variety of the lighter-colored plant familiar to us. It’s actually the result of cooking a whole bulb of garlic in a covered, humid environment at 140 degrees for four to six weeks. It’s then left out to cure for an additional two weeks.

Because of this long, warm process, many argue that black garlic is fermented, but because there is no oxygen involved, there are no bacteria or yeast present to produce a true fermentation. Regardless of specific terminology, the end result is very similar to something that has been fermented.

In some cases a clove of raw garlic can be too potent for certain applications, and this is where black garlic can be a nice substitute. During its long cooking process, the garlic cloves’s sugar is slowly broken down and caramelized, creating that very deep brown or black color. The trademark pungency of a raw clove of garlic has been mellowed and you’re left with a sweeter and stickier version of the original.



CC PHOTO

You can make black garlic yourself if you have the patience and tools necessary. Many swear by preparing the garlic in a rice cooker because of the humid environment and ability to cook at a low enough temperature. The product is still gaining popularity in the average grocery store, but you can find it on the internet at a number of online shops.

If strongly flavored cheeses, mushrooms or miso paste are staples in your pantry, black garlic might be right up your alley. If not, start by thinking of black garlic as a spice or seasoning, and incorporate it in ways you might use normal garlic, such as a marinade for meat or an addition to a vinaigrette. Because of its origins, it lends itself particularly well to Asian applications.

If you’re looking for something special to make your dinner guests wonder what that unique but delicious flavor is, black garlic might be your candidate.



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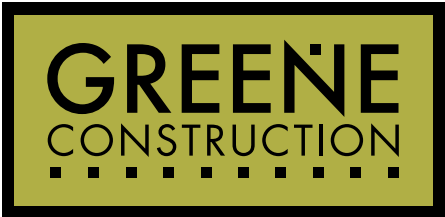
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GALLATIN CANYON/BIG SKY ADVISORY COMMITTEE VACANCY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Planning and Zoning Commission are accepting applications for the following:

Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Zoning District Advisory Committee

Applications can be picked up at the Gallatin County Planning Department, 311 W. Main, Room 108, Bozeman, MT 59715. Applications can also be found on our website at www.gallatin.mt.gov/planning.

For more information, please contact Gallatin County Planning Department, 311 W. Main, Room 108, Bozeman, MT 59715, 406-582-3130. Applications must be received in the Planning Office by 5:00 p.m. on April 5, 2017.

GALLATIN COUNTY

Notice of Meeting

The Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Zoning Advisory Committee ("BSAC") will consider the following items at its monthly meeting on Monday April 3, 2017 at 9:30 AM, at the Big Sky Water and Sewer District office, 561 Little Coyote Rd, Big Sky, MT. The BSAC is an advisory arm of the Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Planning and Zoning Commission and invites the Big Sky Community to attend meetings and participate in discussions concerning Big Sky planning matters.

1. Public Forum (items not on agenda)
2. Wismeyer/LaHue Accessory Structure Conditional Use Permit. Application for conditional use permit approval to allow for a 705 square foot accessory structure, which is larger than what is permitted by Section 31.1.a of the Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Zoning Regulation. The proposed accessory structure would be combined with a detached garage. The property is 1.07 acres in size, described as Lot 33, of the Parkview West Subdivision (Plat I-50), located in Section 1, Township 6 South, Range 4 East, Gallatin County Montana. In general, the property is addressed at 300 Karst Stage Loop in the Canyon area of Big Sky.
3. Wismeyer/LaHue Variance. Variance request from the General Development Standards of the Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Zoning Regulation. Section 31.1.b states that a detached garage must be located within 75 feet of the single-family dwelling unit. The Applicant is proposing locating the garage structure approximately 90 feet from the existing house. The property is 1.07 acres in size, described as Lot 33, of the Parkview West Subdivision (Plat I-50), located in Section 1, Township 6 South, Range 4 East, Gallatin County Montana. In general the property is addressed at 300 Karst Stage Loop in the Canyon area of Big Sky.

Questions and comments should be directed to the Gallatin County Planning Department, 406-582-3130 or e-mail to tim.skop@gallatin.mt.gov

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Section 3:
OUTDOORS, FUN
& BACK 40



Yellowstone on 2 wheels

Select park roads open to bicycle traffic

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Last year approximately 2.5 million vehicles rolled through Yellowstone National Park, in the form of tour busses, family cars, campers, park vehicles and more, often bumper to bumper during peak visitation periods. But for several weeks every April, and again in the fall, many of the park’s roads close to motorized vehicles and open for bicyclists.

Yellowstone opened for the first day of spring biking on March 27. The road from the park’s West Yellowstone entrance to Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyoming, is open to the public for non-motorized travel, although minimal traffic from Park employees is possible.

Spring biking in Yellowstone will last a little over three weeks this year, closing April 21, when motorized vehicles are again allowed in the park.

“It’s a really unique experience because you kind of get the whole park to yourself,” said Kelli Hart, co-owner of Freeheel and Wheel bicycle and ski shop in West Yellowstone. “There’s usually still snow on the sides of the road and it’s a great chance to see wildlife.”

“I’ve never had a close encounter, but I have had to wait for bison to move along before zipping past them,” said Big Sky local Morgen Ayres, who describes biking in the park as one of her favorite things to do.



Leaving from the West Entrance, cyclists may travel 49 miles to Mammoth Hot Springs, sighting wildlife and natural features along the way. The Park Service reminds cyclists that wildlife have the right-of-way and animals shouldn’t be approached or fed. PHOTO COURTESY OF MORGEN AYRES



Each spring the National Park Service closes the roads in Yellowstone to motorized use so that cyclists can tour the park. NPS PHOTO

“When you are pedaling through Yellowstone, the 360 degree views, the fresh spring air and the quiet peace is unforgettable,” Ayres said. “You can take your time and bike through all the pullouts to watch the herds of bison and elk or get a lot of miles in for a great workout.”

Beginning at the park’s West Entrance, cyclists can travel 14 miles east to Madison Junction and continue north to Mammoth Hot Springs, a 49-mile ride. Depending on snow removal efforts, cyclists might also be able to access the park from the East Entrance, traveling six miles into the east end of Sylvan Pass, and from the South Entrance to West Thumb Junction. The road from the North Entrance traveling to Cooke City is open to automobiles as well as cyclists all year, weather permitting.

In addition to dictating road closures, the weather also impacts bicycle travel.

“Watch out for the weather. It changes quickly. You can start off the ride in the sun and end up finishing in the snow. Bring your layers, gloves, hat and jacket,” Ayres said, adding, “Don’t forget your bear spray.”

During the spring bicycling period, internal services are closed in the Park and cyclists should be prepared with their own food and water. The National Park Service stresses that cell phone coverage is sparse and unreliable for communicating emergencies.

For road closure updates and information about spring biking in Yellowstone, call Freeheel and Wheel at (406) 646-7744 or visit nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/springbike.htm. Updated road information is available 24 hours a day at (307) 344-2117.

Select roads in Grand Teton National Park open to non-motorized traffic

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The Teton Park Road between the Taggart Lake Trailhead and Signal Mountain Lodge has been cleared of snow and is now open to non-motorized recreational uses such as walking, bicycling and rollerblading.

Recreationists should be alert for park vehicles that periodically travel this road for administrative purposes as spring opening operations continue. Road crews may be clearing auxiliary roads and wayside areas, and recreationists are cautioned that snow and ice may persist on some sections of the roadway creating slick conditions.

This 14-mile section of the Teton Park Road will open to public motor vehicle traffic on Monday, May 1. Antelope Flats Road is open to motor vehicles for the season. The paved multi-use pathways in the park are open whenever they are predominately free of snow and ice.

For the most up to date information on park roads, including their current status for recreational use, call (307) 739-3682 or visit <https://www.nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/roads.htm>.

Whitewater, wellness and total solar eclipse

Boundary Expeditions offers weeklong adventure retreat on Middle Fork of the Salmon

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – The stars will align Aug. 21 to make an already stellar whitewater experience on the Middle Fork of Idaho’s Salmon River even more special. In addition to riverside yoga, massage and transformative workshops, guests of Boundary Expeditions’ Aug. 21-27 rafting trip will be treated to optimal viewing conditions of a rare, total eclipse of the sun.

Visible from only a narrow corridor of the U.S., which serendipitously encompasses the pristine wilderness through which the Middle Fork flows, the Aug. 21 total solar eclipse will be the first of its kind visible from the lower 48 states since 1979.

While large-scale sky-watching celebrations are being organized across the country, the 15 guests of the Boundary Expeditions whitewater adventure retreat will be flown into the remote heart of the Frank Church Wilderness to enjoy the cosmic event from the riverside banks of the luxuriously rustic Middle Fork Lodge.

After enjoying the lodge’s five-star accommodations, the next day begins the on-river portion of the trip—a thrilling whitewater experience led by Boundary’s team of expert, personable guides and enhanced by the company of three diverse wellness practitioners who will lead daily yoga classes, soul-healing workshops and provide massage therapy.

Joining Callie Stolz of Big Sky’s Santosha Wellness Center, is mother and daughter team Carol and Ariel Mann from Jackson, Wyoming.

Ariel Mann, an award-winning instructor at Jackson’s Inversion Yoga, will be leading daily all-levels classes that fuse the strength- and heat-building aspects of Ashtanga yoga with the therapeutic elements of Iyengar yoga. Ariel is particularly excited to witness the eclipse outside of the crowds anticipated in Jackson on Aug. 21.

“I’m beyond excited about it,” she said. “It’s super exciting to be able to experience it in a pure, natural and relaxed setting rather than one that’s been hyped up.” She also said that adding a spiritual element to the river experience, with the added bonus of the eclipse, is a once-in-a-lifetime combination. “You’re getting the whole deal,” she said. “And it’s a big deal.”

Ariel’s mother, Carol, author of the Planet Jackson Hole column “Cosmic Café,” brings a soulful dimension to the trip. Throughout the week, Carol will lead mini-workshops on topics such as reincarnation and past lives;



Invigorate mind, body and soul on a special whitewater adventure retreat led by Boundary Expeditions Aug. 21-27 on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. PHOTO BY CAMERON SCOTT

the art and science of forgiveness; uncovering your life’s purpose; as well as karma and soul mates.

Carol uses guided meditation techniques, experiential exercises, as well as her psychic gifts and many years of life-coaching experience to encourage individuals to connect with their soul’s inner wisdom. She believes that eclipses offer a prime opportunity to look within.

“In the momentary darkness of an eclipse you’re invited to go in rather than focus on externals,” Carol said. “The combination of being unplugged from technology, of being in the magnificence of nature when the [eclipse] energy is inviting people to go inward and do inner work is a delicious opportunity.”

Stolz, a multifaceted wellness practitioner who specializes in Ayurvedic medicine, brings 20 years of experience in holistic healing to the trip in the form of yoga, body work and a wealth of wisdom about health and diet.

Joining forces, the unique gifts of these women will ensure a complete mind, body and spirit experience—all set against the backdrop of the Middle Fork’s awe-inspiring natural beauty.

In addition to healthy and satisfying meals, outdoor yoga, meditation, massage and spiritual workshops, guests will have plenty of leisure time to explore and reflect, fish, hike, soak in natural hot springs and reap all the benefits that full immersion in the splendor of the natural world has to offer.

For more information about the Aug. 21-27 solar eclipse whitewater adventure with Boundary Expeditions and to see a full schedule of 2017 trip dates, visit boundaryexpeditions.com or call (888) 948-4337.

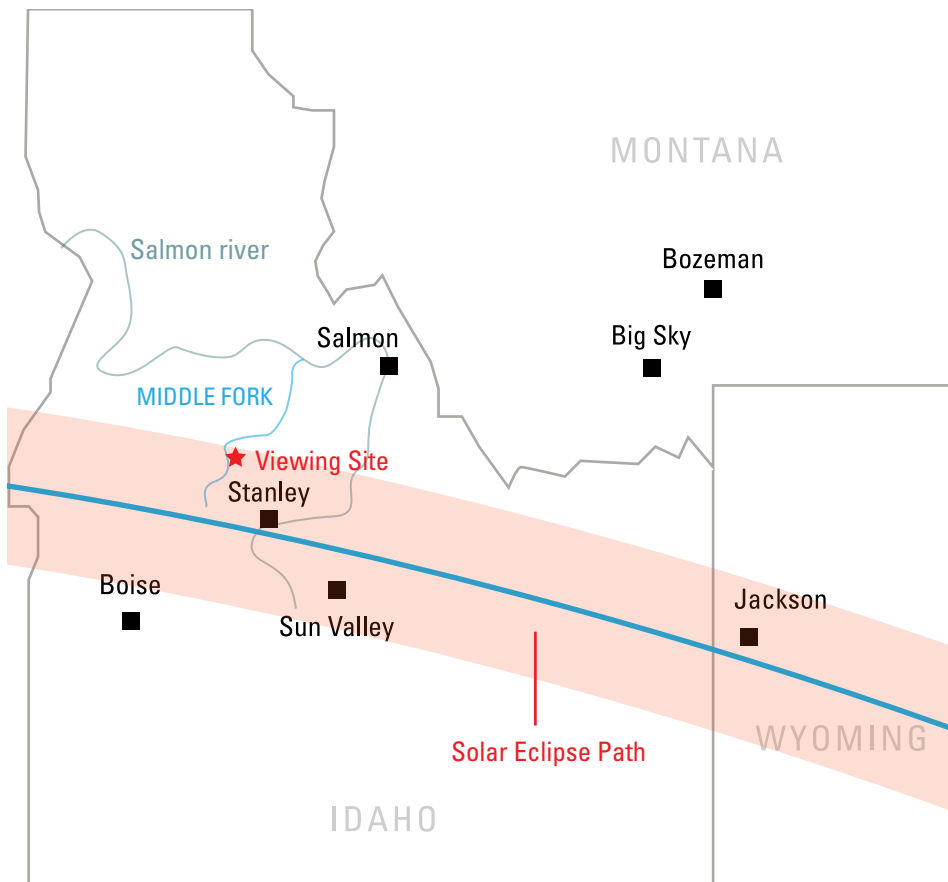


PHOTO COURTESY OF BOUNDARY EXPEDITIONS



On the Trail: Gallatin Canyon Trail

Explore local hiking, biking and equestrian trails with Big Sky Community Organization’s trail series.

BY CIARA WOLFE
BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Spending time on Big Sky’s trails during the spring can be tricky to plan for due to how quickly the weather changes. With recent wind and high temperatures, Big Sky’s snow is quickly dissipating. However, it’s likely that snow will be back at some point this spring, so flexibility in your outdoor plans is key. I’ve learned to take advantage of whatever conditions Mother Nature provides to ensure that nothing deters me from spending time on the trail.

Gallatin Canyon Trail is one of the first trails that clears of snow each spring due to the heat transfer from the dark asphalt surface and its east-facing orientation, which allows it to soak in the sun’s rays for much of the day. This 8-foot-wide asphalt trail follows Highway 191 on the opposite side of Gallatin River for 2.5 miles. The trail’s flat nature, non-muddy asphalt surface and moderate distance make it the perfect path to dust off your muddy running shoes or bike and transition to your favorite summertime trail activities.

As soon as the snow melts, this trail quickly becomes a favorite route for children biking to school as well as runners, dog-walkers and strollers out to enjoy some fresh air. Although the trail follows Highway 191, a major transportation route, it also provides excellent scenery of the Gallatin River and adjacent meadows. Plus, trail users are often treated to elk sightings since this is a favorite hangout of the large ungulates and their calves this time of year.

You can also connect Gallatin Canyon Trail to the northern terminus of Lone Peak Trail, which links Big Sky’s meadow area to Gallatin Canyon for an additional 3 miles of cycling, running or walking. At Gallatin Canyon Trail’s south end, you can walk down to the Porcupine Trailhead on the Custer Gallatin National Forest and explore further hiking and biking options from there.

Every trail has a season when it’s perfectly primed for recreation, and this is a great time of year to enjoy the Gallatin Canyon Trail.

For more information about Big Sky’s parks, trails and recreation programs, visit bscomt.org. The Big Sky Community Organization is a local nonprofit that connects people to recreational opportunities by acquiring, promoting and preserving sustainable places and programs for all.



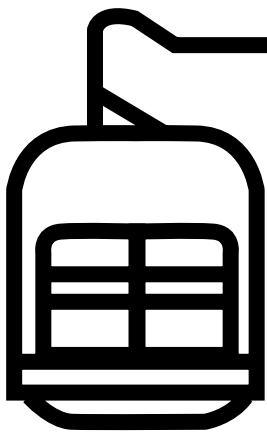
Liam Barker bikes the Gallatin Canyon Trail, a 2.5-mile path that connects Ophir Middle School to the Lone Peak Trail. PHOTO BY NICKY BARKER



TRAIL STATS

Distance	Uses	Difficulty	Elevation Gain	Surface
2.5 miles one way	Walk, run & bike	Easy	None	Paved

Directions: You can start at either end of the trail. The northern ends starts at the intersection of Lone Mountain Trail and Highway 191 and parking is available at the Conoco lot. The southern terminus is located at Ophir Elementary School located off Highway 191.



WORD FROM THE RESORTS



Giving you the news directly from the region's top ski resorts

BY CHELSI MOY
PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER AT BIG SKY RESORT

It's officially spring, which means corn snow, sunscreen, fewer layers and après outside. Let's wind down this winter season with a celebration! There are bunch of big events coming up at Big Sky Resort.



Get ready for the Sam Adams Big Air and Après Show April 1. It's the first time Big Sky Resort has hosted the event. Get ready for huge air, difficult tricks, fireworks, music and 3-D projections on the snow. Crews have been hard at work on the 40-foot jump for leading up to the event. This show is the definition of entertainment. The projections begins at 8:15 p.m., and it's free!

Everyone's favorite event is right around the corner: Pond Skim 2017! Start to assemble your costumes and water wings now. Hundreds of fans turn out each year, staking a spot on Ambush to cheer on the brave souls who attempt to skim across the pond, some in actual bathing attire. Skimming begins at 2 p.m., but the fun lasts all day.

Also, it's never too early to begin thinking about next year! Big Sky Resort launched all new pass products for next season. Don't wait to buy, because if you thought this season was great, just wait until the next one! As always, we enjoy seeing you on the slopes.

Visit bigskyresort.com for more information.

BY DAVID JOHNSON
MARKETING AT JACKSON HOLE MOUNTAIN RESORT



Spring has set in across the West and down here in Jackson we're enjoying some serious fun in the sun! After a historically snowy winter, many locals and visitors alike have been fond of the recently sunny days. The additional 3 inches or so that seems to be falling every evening does help to keep the mountain fresh, but spring skiing is underway! Our season-to-date totals for snowfall is currently at 556 inches and our base is the deepest it has ever been; it's not a bad way to experience Jackson Hole!

Following a largely successful Rendezvous Weekend with the Zac Brown Band and others, we are happy to continue our live music with our Music Under the Tram concerts. These run every Saturday and Sunday until the end of the season. They are largely comprised of local talent, but most acts have played on a larger stage. Don't miss an afternoon in the sun under the Tram, one of the best live music locations around!

Perhaps the most important note is that we have extended our Golden Ticket promotion until the resort closes on April 9. This promotion offers 40 percent off daily lift ticket rates to season pass holders from any resort in the world. Come down and enjoy a deep discount and some fun in the sun here at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. We've got the golden ticket!

Visit jacksonhole.com for more information.



Bridger Bowl closes for the season Monday, April 3, one day after its projected closing date. All chairlifts will run the final bonus day except the Alpine and Powder Park lifts, and food service will be available in Jim Bridger Lodge, with all of the other lodges closing April 2. All lift tickets will be sold at the half-day rate for Bridger's final day of operation.

In a March 27 email to season pass holders, Bridger reminded skiers and snowboarders that beginning April 4, backcountry conditions will exist inside the ski area boundaries, with no avalanche hazard reduction work or ski patrol available for rescues. – Tyler Allen

Visit bridgerbowl.com for more information.

BY JENNIE WHITE
GRAND TARGHEE MARKETING AND SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER



The season is winding down, but there's still time for one last escape. April at Grand Targhee Resort is packed with great events.

It's time to get your cardboard crafts ready for the 17th annual Cardboard Box Derby on April 8. There's even a cash purse for best craft! If you love beer, then you won't want to miss the Brewer's Dinner at the Branding Iron Grill on April 9, where you can enjoy a seven-course dinner paired with brews from Grand Teton Brewing. Join us for closing weekend and the pond skim on April 16.

But wait, there's one more weekend of fun—Bonus Weekend on April 22 and 23. Get up to Targhee for two more days of skiing off Dreamcatcher and the Crazy Horse Snowmobile Hill Climb.

Get ready for Americana, roots, rock and funk this summer during the 13th annual Targhee Fest, July 14-16. This year's lineup includes Michael Franti & Spearhead, North Mississippi Allstars and Anders Osborn Present N.M.O., Karl Denson's Tiny Universe, Galactic, Leftover Salmon, Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real, The Motet, Donna the Buffalo, The Record Company and many more.

We're celebrating 30 years of bluegrass in the Tetons with the Grand Targhee Bluegrass Festival on Aug. 11-13. This not-to-be-missed lineup includes The Infamous Stringdusters, the Sam Bush Band, Railroad Earth, Greensky Bluegrass, the Tim O'Brien Band, the Del McCoury Band, Peter Rowan with Jack Casady, Darrel Scott, the Travelin' McCourys and more. Tickets are on sale now.

It's been another incredible winter and we hope to see you one last time. It's time to break away.

Visit grandtarghee.com for more information.



BY DENISE WADE
LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH DIRECTOR OF GUEST OPERATIONS

Hello spring skiing and corn snow! These conditions make for terrific skate skiing in the morning and soft and controllable afternoon classic or skate skiing. It feels good to be getting a good healthy dose of Vitamin D from the sun after a winter of hats, buffs and winter jackets.

Thank you to all of you in the Big Sky community for making this winter one of the best yet with lots of skiers, snowshoers and fat bikers getting out to enjoy some of the best recreation Big Sky has to offer. Thank you also to all the businesses and racers for supporting our Town Center Discovery Academy Race Series and the Mad Wolf Winter Relay. Look for these fun events to grow bigger and better next year!

We are ending our winter lodging with a very special week. We're partnering with Yellowstone National Park and the Living with Wolves organization for an April 3-8 week of discovery called Wolf Week, which includes tours of Yellowstone with park biologists and special presentations by Jim and Jamie Dutcher from Living with Wolves and Yellowstone National Park wolf biologist Doug Smith. For additional information email reservations@lonemountainranch.com

As the ski season winds down, I start thinking about all of the other fun things to do at the ranch, or in Big Sky, and in Yellowstone: hiking, fishing, biking or simply enjoying a glass of wine on the veranda of Horn and Cantle. Robins, mountain bluebirds and red-tailed hawks are back, which tells me spring is here.

Getting outside and doing something different is the best medicine for spring fever and it's the perfect time of year to pull out your hiking boots and look for the first batch of blooming wildflowers. Look for glacier lilies as the snow melts, although be prepared—they're a bear's favorite salad and black bears and grizzlies have been spotted around Big Sky and Yellowstone. Don't forget to bear-proof your property: take down bird feeders, put garbage in bear-resistant containers and remove dog food from the porch. Check with BSCO and Big Sky Bear Aware for additional information.

LMR is open for cross-country skiing until April 7, conditions permitting, and we are always open for custom hiking, fishing, biking and Yellowstone tours.

Horn and Cantle will offer limited menus for lunch, dinner and après ski in the saloon through April 15, and again on May 17. Horn and Cantle will fully reopen on June 4.

Call (406) 995-4734 or email shop@lonemountainranch.com for more information.



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Pond skim: make an end-of-season splash on April 15

EBS STAFF

Big Sky Resort’s annual end-of-season shindig returns on Saturday, April 15. Pond Skim registration starts at 10 a.m. in front of the Basecamp building located in the base area, and the skimming will start at 2 p.m. on the Ambush Headwall.

Participation is capped at 100 registrants, but there’s no limit on the number of spectators who can watch costumed skiers and snowboarders skim across the resort’s manmade pond.

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EDDY Line



BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

Spring has sprung, snow is soft on the slopes, green grass is popping up in the valley, and drift boats are bobbling along our rivers. The other day I saw a few caddis bouncing around on the Yellowstone. Caddis on the Yellowstone in late March? That's not normal.

But as more and more anglers proclaim March is the new April, it's clear that our angling calendar has changed. Deniers of climate change are obviously not local anglers—with each passing year the first drift boat float of the season comes earlier than the last. So what is the new normal for anglers in southwest Montana? Here's a quick prediction based on my observations over the past twenty years on the water.

Consistently good spring fishing. The opportunities to fish are more frequent than ever this spring. As a kid growing up, late March and early April were more about powder days than matching hatches. Nostalgia aside, anglers can now realistically fish most of March and anticipate prime dry fly fishing in April.

Above-average springtime streamflows. A similar thing happened this time last year. Our snowpack looked good with most statewide numbers hovering around 90 to 100 percent of normal. But as spring temperatures rose, so did the flows on our rivers and streams. Last year our rivers flowed well above their long-term average through most of April. We were still able to fish despite these higher flows, but anglers used tactics more commonly employed during runoff-type conditions. Larger flies and deeper nymph rigs were required.

A possible repeat of spring 2016. A look at current stream flows illustrates another run of well-above-average levels. Heavy rain and warmer temperatures have resulted in a spike in flows. Compared to long-term levels, current streamflows are high. Of course it's still early, but if current trends continue, our considerable 2017 snowpack will continue to melt, which is not normal. The snowpack should dwindle in May, not now.

Late summer stream flows are a wild card. If stream flows are double normal now, summer flows will be lower than average. For our late summer angling to be consistent with my teenage years, we need several spring snowstorms to drop the temperatures and some snow. If that doesn't happen, expect higher flows and run-off like fishing conditions the next several weeks. Summer hatches will be sooner and late summer fishing will mean early morning fishing during the coolest time of the day.

Enjoy it while you can. Your idea of a day on the water may be T-shirts and flip-flops and casting large dry flies to hungry cutthroat trout. Those days can still happen, but if you want to maximize your angling, consider expanding your calendar. It may require purchasing a pair of quality waders and outerwear, but you will get to fish more. In case you've already forgotten, the Yellowstone was closed last year for over a month due to an invasive parasite whose effects were exacerbated by low flows and high water temperatures.

The new normal: Adapt to changing fishing conditions



Springtime fishing could be some of the best of the year. As the long-term angling calendar changes, our spring fishing resembles run-off more than winter fishing. NPS PHOTO

A colleague of mine who also owns a fly shop seemed quite surprised how good business was the past few weeks. "So many people are out fishing," he said. "And the fishing has been great."

I responded with a generalized comment along the lines of, "Wouldn't you rather be out fishing than sitting in the shop—especially in the warmer weather of late?" Ask yourself that same question. And if the answer is yes, you're one of us now—those admitting that normal is subjective in today's angling seasons. So get out there and enjoy the fishing now and be happy if you have to wear your extra layers.

Pat Straub is the co-founder of the Montana Fishing Guide School, the author of six books, including "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Fly Fishing." He and his wife own Gallatin River Guides in Big Sky and he co-owns Montana Fishing Outfitters.



PHOTO BY MATTHEW MILLMAN

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New board members named to nonprofit that oversees land between Big Sky and Ennis

THE JACK CREEK PRESERVE FOUNDATION

The Jack Creek Preserve Foundation, a nonprofit providing outdoor education, research and recreation opportunities on 4,500 acres between Big Sky and Ennis, announced the appointment of four new Board members who bring experience in business, education and wildlife.

David Barbisan, Michael Botha, Michael Fossel, and Robert Rowe are joining the Board of Directors of Jack Creek Preserve Foundation. “Each of these individuals bring unique talents and a passion for the mission of the Jack Creek Preserve Foundation,” said board co-chair and president Larry Holle.

David Barbisan, a resident, is a land and property investor and manager. He served on the Eagle Mount board for seven years and is on the board of the Southwest Chapter of Safari Club International, where he was chairman from 2010-2016. “I look forward to bringing my experience in guiding, [education], and property management along with my knowledge and passion for ecology, wildlife and wild places to the Preserve,” Barbisan said.

Michael Botha, a new resident of Big Sky, is an entrepreneur investor and is presently the CEO of Yellowstone Holdings LLC, a residential real estate investment company. He has a long history in invasive species management which will aid the Preserve in its conservation efforts.

Michael Fossel, of Ada, Michigan, continues and adds to the Fossel family tradition of engagement with the Jack Creek Preserve Foundation. He is President of Telocyte LLC, a biotech company focused on curing Alzheimer’s. Fossel, one of the world’s experts on aging, has published several published books on the topic. He has a wide variety of artistic talents and vast knowledge to assist the Preserve in expanding its programs and services.

Robert Rowe is the President and CEO of Northwestern Energy, which provides electric and natural gas infrastructure and service in Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska and Yellowstone Park and operates a hydroelectric system for nearby Hebgen and Madison dams. Rowe has been involved with the Preserve as a supporter and volunteer. In 2014, he assisted with the construction of the Preserve’s Low Pass Trail, which connected the South Jack Creek Trail and Spanish Peak Trail.

“I love this special part of Montana,” Rowe said. “I am eager to work with the Jack Creek Preserve board, staff and volunteers to help build its capacity and create a larger impact across the region. I’m looking forward to doing some trail work too!”

Jack Creek Preserve is located on Jack Creek Road between Ennis and Big Sky. Nestled between two sections of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness and private land to the east and west, it provides connectivity and a vital migratory corridor for wildlife along Jack Creek. The Preserve offers educational and conservation programs to connect wilderness, wildlife and people.

The public is invited to visit the Preserve to bike and camp, and participate in a variety of education and recreation programs year-round. Learn more at jackcreekpreserve.org.

Après ski show features 3-D graphics, fireworks and Olympic athletes

BIG SKY RESORT

The Sam Adams 3-D Air and Après Show Tour will stop at Big Sky Ski Resort on April 1. The show will combine high flying action, world-class ski and snowboard athletes and Hollywood quality 3-D mapping projection, creating an après ski party you won’t want to miss.

Combining the art of big air with high-tech 3-D projection, this event has to be seen to be believed. The event will feature athletes performing big air with an incredible light show and 3-D graphics being projected onto the jumps. Live music, fireworks and a variety of fresh Sam Adams beers will accompany the show.

The event kicks off at noon with a team demonstration, and the Sam Adams team will be on the snow with a photo booth, pouring beers and more at 3:30 p.m. Milton Menasco will perform and the 3-D projection show begins at 8:15 p.m. Following the show will be fireworks, an athlete meet-and-greet in the Mountain Mall and DJ M3DINV 3000 spinning tunes at the Montana Jack bar.

Scotty Lago, 2010 Olympic snowboarding bronze medalist will be one of the riders performing with the team. “I’m super pumped about our Big Sky big air show!” he said. “[We’ve] got some of the best riders and skiers in the world coming in to jump and put on a show like never before. The mix of the 3-D projections, jumping and fireworks will impress for sure.”

Skier Nick Goepper, 2014 Olympic slopestyle bronze medalist who is training to qualify for next year’s Olympic Games in South Korea, will jump in with the team at Big Sky. “I’m really excited to jump in front of a crowd. Skiing in front of screaming fans is the best feeling,” he said.

“The 3-D Air and Après Show is like nothing that’s ever come to Big Sky Resort,” said Chelsi Moy, Big Sky Resort’s Public public relations manager. “It’s a really unique, entertaining experience that people will be talking about for some time.”

Visit samueladams.com/3d-air-and-apres for more information.

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The perfect solution to complement your trusty hiking shoes has been created: Summit by YakTrax. These “Eye of the Tiger”- worthy bad boys will get you through even the sketchiest frozen terrain. With triangular spiked grips and an easy on-and-off patented closure system, the Summit grippers will make you the envy of those left in the dust ... ahem, ice.

-Alexis Deaton

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3. "Demons," Fenech-Soler
4. "1996," The Wombats
5. "Don't Need No Money feat. Blonde," Imani Williams, Sigala
6. "Punching In A Dream," The Naked and Famous
7. "Ritual," Marshmello
8. "You Don't Know Me," Jax Jones
9. "Clair De Lune," Flight Facilities
10. "My Window," Don Diablo

Visit explorebigsky.com/beats for a sampling of the playlist.

American Life in Poetry:

Column 627

How many Oak Grove Cemeteries can there be in America? There's one just a mile from my home. Here's another, with a poet, Don Thompson, to show us around. Poetry thrives on sounds as well as sense, and the vowel sounds in line eight are especially artfully collected. Thompson lives in California and his most recent book is "A Journal of the Drought Year" (Encircle Publications, 2016).

By Don Thompson

This place has been abandoned,
the old faith overgrown, confused
by brambles,
and in these hard times,
its upkeep cut from the budget.

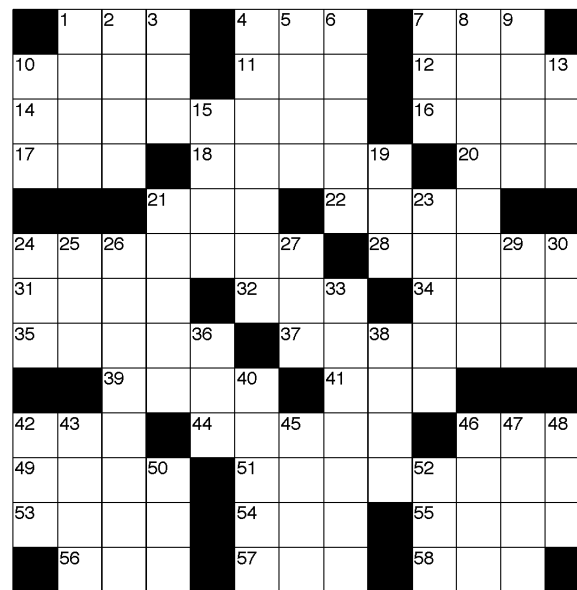
But we walk, soaked to the knees,
making our slow pilgrimage
among gravestones, speaking
blurred names back into the world.

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 Don Thompson, "Oak Grove Cemetery," from The Cortland Review, (Issue 66, 2016). Poem reprinted by permission of Don Thompson and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2017 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

- 1 FDR's dog
- 2 Alberta (abbr.)
- 3 Narrower than
AA
- 4 Naut. rope
- 5 Old Gr. coin
- 6 Fowl
- 7 Animal's foot

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A39



BACK40

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.

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

Puppies, kittens, babies and bears: The science behind cuteness

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Big, round eyes gaze up at you. The pup has those soft folds of extra skin around the base of his tender, floppy ears and his nose is short on his compact, oval face. It looks like he wears snowshoes—his oversized feet can surely carry him across any stretch of snow—but they give awkward thuds as he wobbles across the floor.

Puppies steal the show at most any event. They give us that eyebrow-raising, lower-lip quivering, unbearable desire to simply sit and watch, or even give the little guy a hug. As humans, we find these juvenile canines impossibly cute. But why?

Turns out this question emerged in the academic realm years ago. Since the 1940s, scientists and researchers have studied the traits humans identify as adorable. This set of physical features—coined baby schema or kinderschema by Austrian ethologist Konrad Lorenz—includes a round face and big forward-facing eyes, chubby cheeks and floppy limbs. This same criteria applies to pudgy human babies we can’t take our eyes off.

The actual science behind cuteness is rooted in evolutionary biology. According to Lorenz’s theory, these traits motivate us to care for and protect anything that exhibits those “cute” characteristics. As a species whose offspring are incredibly vulnerable, it makes sense we have evolved to be particularly sensitive to any indication of youthfulness and need. Humans don’t even distinguish between species, scientists say.



Have you ever wondered why we find small animals to be so irresistible? There’s a scientific answer and it’s rooted in evolutionary biology.



The U.S. pet industry is projected to pass \$90 billion by 2019.

Montana State University history grad Oliver Manning studied bears and the evolutionary psychology of cuteness for his 2015 undergraduate capstone project. A large part of his research consisted of reading journals of early travelers to the Yellowstone area.

“[The early accounts] revealed how people could view cuteness in something that could kill them,” Manning said, adding that travelers found the bears human-like, and some trapped cubs to take back East.

Manning suspects our attraction to pets is closely related to our early relationship with wolves. “They were deadly animals but we still saw something cute in them and we fostered that through domestication,” he said.

Timothy LeCain, an associate professor of history at MSU, added to Manning’s theory, referring to environmental historian Edmund Russell’s 2011 volume, *Evolutionary History*. In this book, Russell explains that genes controlling tame behavior also control the development of other adult traits. According to the historian, hundreds of years of unconscious selection for docile animals has led to increased juvenile—or cute—characteristics in our pets.

“You’re breeding these animals so in some sense they don’t grow-up ... it’s breeding for extended adolescence,” LeCain said.

Our attraction to all things cute helps explain why, in the U.S. alone, the pet industry surpassed \$60 billion in 2015 and why, according to the pet market research group Packaged Facts, the industry will surpass \$90 billion by 2019. Annual sales within the U.S. have more than doubled in the past 15 years, despite the economic downturn of the late 2000s.

Next time you see that puppy in the window that makes you gush, just remember: kinderschema is the science behind cuteness. And you’d better grab that pup before the drooling masses do.

This story first appeared in the winter 2017 issue of Mountain Outlaw magazine.

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Ellie Thompson

Adorning the fierce and the feminine

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY - When designer Ellie Thompson isn't in Chicago directing her team of skilled jewelry fabricators or touring the trails and galleries of the West on her mountain bike, she jokes that she is the artist-in-residence at Elkhorn Hot Springs.

Thompson spends about half of the year at the rustic Polaris, Montana resort, having fallen head-over-heels for the region when a reignited love affair with biking and skiing sent her careening through the woods of the West.

The look and feel of Thompson's high-end accessories encompass a range as dichotomous as the artist herself.

Her many collections of fine jewelry—necklaces, earrings, pendants and rings—include industrial, mathematically-inspired pieces encrusted with diamonds; poppy bright gemstones in rose gold; floral motifs and even an edgy series coated in black bike enamel. Her nature-inspired line of curvaceous silver belt buckles are indicative of Thompson's most recent departure from the expected.

Thompson's first silver buckle was her golden ticket into the world of western art. A stranger noticed the elegantly carved double rams' head adorning her buckle and suggested she submit it to The Great Western Living and Design Show, a juried exhibition held during Great Falls' annual Western Art Week.

Thompson soon realized that she and her art—both the urban and nature-inspired motifs—had a home in the West. In 2014, she started touring her favorite mountain towns, for biking and for business, and is now represented by galleries in Park City, Utah; Ketchum, Idaho; Jackson, Wyoming; Dillon, Montana; and in Big Sky, as Creighton Block Gallery's only jewelry artist.

This March marked the third year Thompson has had a presence at Western Art Week, and her second participating in the esteemed C.M. Russell Museum exhibition and sale.

She has since expanded her limited edition buckles to include bison, cutthroat trout, a serpent, wild roses and Midwestern prairie flowers that extend beyond the borders of an inlaid walnut frame. "Which is what wildflowers do," Thompson said, with a playful twinkle in her eye. "They can't be contained."

A large part of the allure of her buckles are their movement and multidimensionality—the serpent writhes in its stillness, the wild roses seem frozen in growth.



Inspired by math and nature, Thompson's accessories range from gem-encrusted geometrical designs to limited edition silver belt buckles incorporating earthy elements of the West. PHOTO BY ELLIE THOMPSON



Thompson, who splits her time between Polaris, Montana and Chicago, models her hand-carved silver serpent belt buckle. Other designs feature cutthroat trout, bison, rams and wildflowers. PHOTO BY ZAC ROSSER

Thompson runs her hand over soft curves that merge to form sharp points in the buckle's shiny face—a visual metaphor that shows up across her work and speaks to her evolving understanding of the feminine.

"It's a study of the balance between the fierce and finessed," Thompson said. "Women who are a little more mature and confident can begin to explore these aspects of the feminine—the idea of being super strong and also having that super soft side."

She further explores this duality in a series of earrings and pendants called "Primal Dreams." Creating a multitude of configurations based on the same fundamental shape, the series contains pieces that will appeal to a whole range of style-seekers—from punk to understated elegance.

A certified gemologist and appraiser, Thompson's scientific inclinations are readily apparent in series like "Theorem," which incorporates the numerology of the Fibonacci sequence into its geometric, spherical designs.

"There are math riddles hidden within it, as well as diamonds," Thompson said. Her belt buckles, on the other hand, are inspired by the natural world and imbued with what she describes as a romantic, magical realism.

"But math and nature are so related," she said. "Math relates to the things we see in nature and find to be beautiful."

Thompson credits timelessness with what elevates an accessory into the realm of fine art.

"I think that's the key," she said. "That it is not a trend—and that comes down to its aesthetic value, its craftsmanship, the existence of a conceptual element that transcends mere adornment and a connection between the piece and the person who wears it."

To see more of Thompson's work visit ellieco.com or Creighton Block Gallery in Big Sky Town Center.



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WE HAVE TWO 4X4 SPRINTERS IN STOCK AND READY TO BUILD

Montana's first mountain soap box derby to coincide with Livingston brew fest April 8

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

After cutting, shaping, fitting and welding over 200 pounds of steel, Mike Ries of Bozeman and four of his co-workers are beginning to see their idea take shape.

"It's going to be different," Ries said of his two-person gravity-powered soap box car. With a single fat bike tire in the front and four smaller BMX tires in the back, this racer is anything but classic. "It's actually a fairly simple idea, but [the design] allows the back to absorb bumps well," Ries said.

Ries and his co-workers are preparing for the Adult Mountain Soap Box Derby held April 8 in Livingston, in conjunction with the annual Tap into Montana Brew Fest. Teams will race in front of spectators down a quarter-mile of rocky, unpaved road, buckled into motor-less cars built by the participants. The fastest team will win \$250.

"It's the first ever adult mountain soapbox derby in Montana," said event producer Frank Gazella, Jr. "Most [derbies] are on a paved road. We wanted to do something different and a mountain derby incorporates what Montana is about: rugged and a challenge."

The course runs down an incline on Meyers Lane, south of Highway 191 in Livingston, and culminates in a turnout overlooking the Yellowstone River. Unlike most derbies, Gazella's incorporates bumpy terrain and turns, so contestants will need to think about suspension, brakes and steering.

Gazella is the founder of Creek to Peak Wear, a Bozeman-based outdoor apparel brand, and is passionate about the outdoors. His passion fuels a creativity which sparked the creation of his clothing line last fall and is fanning his vision for the future. According to Gazella, the soap box derby is a fun and creative way to advertise his brand, and he hopes it will grow into a Montana-wide soap box derby series.

Spectators are invited to line the course to watch and cheer on the teams, and Gazella will be asking for donations that will support Gallatin Valley Land Trust, a non-profit organization that works to make a difference in land conservation and trail building in southwest Montana.

"GVLTL is grateful to be receiving proceeds from the Soap Box Derby," said GVLTL Communications Director EJ Porth. "Creek to Peak adventure wear cares deeply about this special place and is committed to protecting



Bozeman's Team TowHaul's mountain derby car still in fabrication prior to the inaugural April 8 event in Livingston. Creek to Peak's Adult Mountain Soap Box Derby will benefit Gallatin Valley Land Trust and is in conjunction with Tap into Montana Brew Fest. PHOTO BY MIKE RIES



Tap into Montana is a weeklong celebration of craft beer in Montana, with the signature beer festival culminating the event April 8. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ERIK PETERSEN PHOTOGRAPHY



it for future generations. We're lucky to be partnering with them on a fun community event. Everyone wants to be a kid again and ride in a homemade race car, right?"

The derby comes at the tail end of Tap into Montana, a week-long brew fest in Livingston featuring over 25 craft breweries from around the state. This is the third annual event and encompasses a week of craft beer related events, such as beer pairing dinners, yoga at the brewery and beer trivia. Tap into Montana's signature event, the Brew Fest, is April 8 from 2 to 7 p.m.

Big Sky's Lone Peak Brewery is excited to be a part of Tap into Montana's Brew Fest for the first time this year, and will offer two nitro beers at the event. Co-owner Steve Nordahl expects to bring a growler or two of a more unique brew as well.

Net profits from Tap into Montana will benefit the non-profit Vision Livingston, an organization that supports the long-term development of the Livingston community.

For a complete schedule of Tap into Montana and to purchase tickets in advance, visit tapintomt.com. To learn more about Creek to Peak's first ever Adult Mountain Soap Box Derby, visit facebook.com/creektopeakderby.

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Zac Brown Band headlines Rendezvous Fest

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

JACKSON, Wyo. - On March 19, with the sun setting and thousands of fans gathered at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort's base area, the Zac Brown Band took the main stage to headline JHMR's fourth annual Rendezvous Spring Festival, for the second year in a row.

After a weekend of free musical acts in Teton Village and Town Square in Jackson, and an opening set by reggae outfit Iration, the energy in the packed venue was high from the start of the set and only seemed to wane momentarily for a somber, heartfelt rendition of "My Old Man."

Lead singer and guitar player Zac Brown was sporting a beaver fur hat and wool jacket despite the relatively warm evening. Brown had come down with the flu that morning, but told the audience that he decided to bundle up and put on a show for his fans, who were mostly dressed in spring attire and willing to sing along. At times, Brown was happy to let bandmates Jimmy De Martini on fiddle and Matt Mangano on bass take the lead on impressive solos.

With a mixture of songs from his latest album "Welcome Home," old favorites like "Homegrown" and "Knee Deep," and classic rock covers from The Who, Led Zeppelin, and Metallica, the Zac Brown Band did not disappoint and displayed their musical versatility in full view of the tram.

The country-rock mashup was undoubtedly a highlight of Jackson's increasingly popular Rendezvous Spring Festival. After performing his hit "Chicken Fried" as a finale, fireworks began to erupt in the sky as fans trickled out from the venue. JHMR has not announced the lineup for next year, but it will come as no surprise if the Zac Brown Band is invited back next year.



(ABOVE) Despite feeling under the weather and being overdressed for the warm weather, Zac Brown was all smiles during his headlining set. PHOTOS COURTESY OF JACKSON HOLE MOUNTAIN RESORT

(BELOW) Even on a powder day, you won't find the Teton Village in Jackson Hole as packed as it was for the Spring Rendezvous Fest.



Art inspired by Yellowstone National Park exhibited at Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings

YELLOWSTONE ART MUSEUM

This past March, the Yellowstone Art Museum unveiled a new installation by a Brazilian-born artist now based in Boulder, Colorado. The installation of "Archaea: Rosane Volchan O'Connor" is a fusion of artist Rosane O'Connor's interests in biology, music and the visual arts.

Educated at the Escola de Musica Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro and the Royal Academy of Music in Brussels, O'Connor moved to Boulder in 2011, drawn by the city's cultural, educational and outdoor offerings. "Archaea" alludes directly to the unique history of the Yellowstone Caldera's history and micro-biome. Archaea are microscopic organisms that survive in extreme environments. They were first studied in Yellowstone National Park, where they are responsible for the magnificent coloration of the famed Morning Glory hot spring.

O'Connor's installation draws from the biomorphic forms of this branch of scientific inquiry as well as the intense coloration of the geyser basins. Her immersive installation is suggestive of biological forms crawling off the walls, hanging crystalized in space, and mutating into clusters across the floor. Using welded metal wire, torch-bent glass and neon, acrylic, paper, Mylar, porcelain and other conventional and unconventional materials, O'Connor creates a miniature universe.

To stand within this installation is to discover a bustling, interconnected world of microorganisms existing independent of the laws of scientific reality. The environment is at once chaotic and harmonious, expansive, and intricate. O'Connor's prints, which underscore her Brazilian heritage, will also be featured. These works not only clarify the artist's sculptural vision, but draw from a long tradition of decorative forms that are imbued with intense color and bold compositions and design. The prints align the descriptive aspects of scientific drawing with the spirit of twenty-first century curiosity.



"Paracentrotus," a work by Rosane Volchan O'Connor on display at the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings, Montana, through Aug 6. PHOTO COURTESY OF ROSANE VOLCHAN O'CONNOR

O'Connor is not the first—and will not be the last—artist to be inspired by the profound beauty of Yellowstone National Park. However, her unique visual, musical and scientific interests blend into a visual symphony that is enigmatic, intriguing and beautiful to behold.

As an adjunct to the exhibition, the museum is privileged to exhibit three historic watercolors by Thomas Moran that stem from the Hayden Expedition of 1871. These works are on loan courtesy of the National Park Service. Visitors will have a unique opportunity to compare the differing approaches that these artists have taken when interpreting the subject of one of the nation's most beloved parks.

The English artist Thomas Moran (1837-1926) was the first professionally trained artist to paint extensively in what would become Yellowstone National Park. Moran signed on as expedition artist with Ferdinand Hayden's U.S. Geological Survey. Photographer William Henry Jackson also accompanied this expedition and the two of them created the first, and some of the most lasting, images of Yellowstone. Moran's intensely colored paintings and sketches were greeted in the East with skepticism, but eventually his work was credited with

helping to persuade the federal government to create the world's first national park in 1872.

O'Connor's installation and Thomas Moran's watercolors will be on view from March 23 through Aug. 6, and a public reception was held at the museum on March 23rd.

For more information about this and other current exhibitions, visit artmuseum.org, or call (406) 256-6804.

EVENTS CALENDAR

PLANNING AN EVENT? LET US KNOW! EMAIL MEDIA@THEOUTLAWPARTNERS.COM, AND WE'LL SPREAD THE WORD.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31 – THURSDAY, APRIL 13

***If your event falls between April 14 and April 27, please submit it by April 7**

Big Sky

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

Diamond
Montana Jacks, 4 p.m.

Matt Nunberg
Scissorbills, 4 p.m.

Benjamin Sears: Movement Awareness
Santosha, 5:30 p.m.

Lauren Jackson
Carabiner, 7 p.m.

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 7 p.m.

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Mike Haring
Carabiner, 8:30 p.m.

StayKation
Choppers, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

Sam Adams 3D Air & Apres
Big Sky Resort, all day

Benjamin Sears: Hip Openers & Intro
to Arms
Santosha, 9 a.m.

Kent Johnson
Scissorbills, 4 p.m.

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

The Grand Rescue Film
WMPAC, 6 p.m.

Fool's Gold
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

**M.O.T.H. and Digital Beat Down
Lone Peak Brewery Loft, 8 p.m.**

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Benjamin Sears: Sustainable
Back-bending
Santosha, 10 a.m.

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

Stumpy Sunday
Scissorbills, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

Community Learning Center
Big Sky Discovery Academy, 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

StayKation
Scissorbills, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

Community Learning Center
Big Sky Discovery Academy, 4 p.m.

Mark Davidson
Scissorbills, 4 p.m.

Fly Tying with GRG
Gallatin River Guides, 5 p.m.

Wild Rivers Film Tour
Lone Peak Brewery, 6 p.m.

Tom Marino
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Parvin
Scissorbills, 4 p.m.

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 7 p.m.

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

Telemark Tom
Scissorbills, 4 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

Stumpy Sunday
Scissorbills, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

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

Community Learning Center
Big Sky Discovery Academy, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

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

Women Owned Business Tour
Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, 12 p.m.

Community Learning Center
Big Sky Discovery Academy, 4 p.m.

Fly Tying with GRG
Gallatin River Guides, 5 p.m.

Business After Hours
Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, 5 p.m.

St. Joseph's Holy Thursday Service
Big Sky Chapel, 5:30 p.m.

All Saints Maundy Thursday Service
Big Sky Chapel, 7 p.m.

Bozeman

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

Pickleball
Hope Lutheran Church, 9 a.m.

Claudia Williams
Kountry Korner Café, 5:30 p.m.

IBU's
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

John Hanlon
Wild Joe's Coffee Spot, 6 p.m.

Everything Fitz: The Fitzgerald Family
Band
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Jeni Fleming Trio
Emerson's Crawford Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Random Acts of Improv
Verge Theatre, 8 p.m.

Chris Cunningham & Friends
Live From the Divide, 8 p.m.

Exit 288
American Legion, 9 p.m.

Mama Magnolia "Looking Left Tour"
Zebra Cocktail Lounge, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

50th Annual Garagarama
Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 8 a.m.

Bozeman Winter Farmers Market
Emerson Ballroom, 9 a.m.

13th Annual Bridal Walk
Downtown Bozeman, 11 a.m.

The Emperor's New Clothes
Verge Theater, 2 p.m.

Third Annual First Contact Party
Holiday Inn, 6 p.m.

The Cliff & Polly Vinyl Show
Wild Joe's Coffee Spot, 6 p.m.

Saturday Dance Social
The MAC, 7 p.m.

Teen Skate Party
Haynes Pavilion, 7 p.m.

Random Acts of Improv
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

**Carlos Nunez
The Ellen Theatre, 8 p.m.**

Exit 288
American Legion, 9 p.m.

The Last Revel with Crow & The
Canyon
The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

Wick-it the Instigator, Project Aspect
& Unlimited Gravity
Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 9 p.m.

Laney Lou & the Bird Dogs
Live From the Divide, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Juan Soria
Wild Joe's Coffee Spot, 9 a.m.

Immigration and Refugee Law and Equality
Emerson's Crawford Theatre, 4:30 p.m.

Dirk Alan
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Bridger Mountain Big Band
Eagles Lodge, 7 p.m.

Juan Soria
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Humor, Angst and Desire
Reynolds Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

American Pinup, Sleepless Elite, The
Permians, Prints
Zebra Cocktail Lounge, 9 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 3

Mule Mondays
Wildrye Distilling, 3 p.m.

Bozeman Forest Plan Revision Meeting
Hilton Garden Inn, 5:30 p.m.

Ballroom and Swing Dance Classes
The MAC, 6 p.m.

Jazz Night
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Spanish Class with Kristin ND Wolf
Lockhorn Cider House, 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

2017 Take the LEAD Series
Bozeman Chamber of Commerce, 8 a.m.

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

Bozeman Forest Plan Revision Meeting
Hilton Garden Inn, 1 p.m.

2-for-1 Tuesday
Wildrye Distilling, 3 p.m.

Lecture: Frances Lefcort
MSU Procrastinator Theater, 4 p.m.

Tommy Georges
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Larry Kiff
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

A Perennial Edible Forest of Food
Lockhorn Cider House, 7 p.m.

Smoker's Ball with Lil Debbie, Potluck,
Demrick
Zebra Cocktail Lounge, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

1 Million Cups
Red Tractor Pizza, 7:30 a.m.

Mathias
Outlaw Brewing, 6 p.m.

GoPro Editing Basics
REI, 6 p.m.

Edible backyards Series
Broken Ground, 6:30 p.m.

Bozeman's Original Pub Trivia
Pub 317, 7 p.m.

Marco Benevento
The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

PIR Theater Fun Days
Kaleidoscope Youth Theatre, 9 a.m.

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

The Vibe Quartet
406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

Celebrity Servers
Un-Knotted, 6 p.m.

Art on the Rocks: Pints & Prints
Rockin' R Bar, 6:30 p.m.

Aaron Williams
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**MSU Spring Rodeo
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse,
7 p.m.**

Satsang & World's Finest
The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

Take Back the Night 2017
The Baxter Hotel, 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Poverty & Policy Conference
MSU Procrastinator Theater, 8 a.m.

PIR Theater Fun Days
Kaleidoscope Youth Theater, 9 a.m.

Pickleball
Hope Lutheran Church, 9 a.m.

Dr. Paul Hessburg's Era of Megafires
Hilton Garden Inn, 4 p.m.

Montana: The Last Best Place
Old Main Gallery, 5 p.m.

Spring Fling 2017
Spire Climbing Center, 5 p.m.

Bozeman without Borders 5K'
Zocalo Coffee House, 5 p.m.

MSU Spring Rodeo
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7 p.m.

Jazz with Alex Robilotta
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Spring Awakening
MSU Black Box Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Mandolin Orange
The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

Cosmic Noise
American Legion, 9 p.m.

Sol Seed + Cole & The Thornes +
Halocene
Zebra Cocktail Lounge, 9 p.m.

Quiles & Cloud
Live from the Divide, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

Little Bear Antique Show
Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.

MSU Spring Rodeo
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 9 a.m.

TEDxBozeman 2017
The Commons at Baxter and Love

The Emperor's New Clohtes
Verge Theater, 2 p.m.

Caravan of GLAM takes over Bozeman
The Emerson, 3 p.m.

Cole & The Thornes
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

MSU Spring Rodeo
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7 p.m.

The Titan
Willson Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Spring Awakening
MSU Black Box Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Cosmic Noise
American Legion, 9 p.m.

Dodgy Mountain Men & Cascade Crescendo
The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

Peelander-Z
Zebra Cocktail Lounge, 9 p.m.

Sneaky Pete & The Secret Weapons
Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 9 p.m.

Zene Williams
Live From the Divide, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9
MSU Spring Rodeo
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 8 a.m.

Little Bear Antique Show
Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.

**Astronomy & Aerospace Day
Museum of the Rockies, 1 p.m.**

Spring Awakening
MSU Black Box Theater, 3:30 p.m.

Dustin Carter
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Alex Robliotta
Outlaw Brewing, 6 p.m.

Bridge Mountain Big Band
Eagles Lodge, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 10
Public Land and Water Association Pint Night
MAP Brewing, all day

Mule Mondays
Wildrye Distilling, 3 p.m.

2017 Plant the Seed
MSU SUB Ballroom, 5:30 p.m.

Weston Lewis
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Monday Night Blues Jam
The Filling Station, 7 p.m.

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

Spanish Class with Kristin ND Wolf
Lockhorn Cider House, 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 11
Montana Nutrition Conference
Best Western Grantree, 11 a.m.

2-for-1 Tuesday
Wildrye Distilling, 3 p.m.

Startup Business Pitch Competition
MSU SUB, 5 p.m.

E40
Emerson Ballroom, 5:30 p.m.

Russ Chapman
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Mike & Mike
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12
Montana Nutrition Conference
Best Western Grantree, 7 a.m.

Power Up: Business Planning
Foundant Technologies, 9 a.m.

2017 Bozeman Job Fair
Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 3 p.m.

Bozeman Craft Beer Week Schedule Release
Party
Bozeman Taphouse, 5 p.m.

Gallatin History Museum Lecture Series
Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Edible Backyard Series
Broken Ground, 6:30 p.m.

Bozeman’s Original Pub Trivia
Pub 317, 7 p.m.

A Birder’s Guide to Everything
The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Comedy Night
Red Tractor Pizza, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13
Strategies for a Healthier Community
Willson School, noon

The Vibe Quartet
406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

Indigenous Views of Health
Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Hands-On Bike Maintenance
REI, 6 p.m.

Outlaw Nation
The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

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

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

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

Karaoke
American Legion, Mondays, 9 p.m.

Cribbage Night
Eagles Lodge, Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Rockin’ R Bingo
Rockin’ R Bar, Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

Karaoke
Bar IX, Tuesdays, 9 p.m.

Music & Mussels
Bridger Brewing, Wednesdays, 5 p.m.

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

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

Bozeman’s Original Pub Trivia
Pub 317, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

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

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

Walk for the Health of It
Peet’s Hill, Fridays at noon

Livingston & Paradise Valley
FRIDAY, MARCH 31
St. Mary’s Fish Fry
St. Mary’s School, 4:30 p.m.

Shelly Besler & Tony Polecastro
Uncorked, 6 p.m.

Annual Soup to End the Silence Fundraiser
Livingston Depot Center, 6 p.m.

Country Dance: Sugar Daddies Band
Music Ranch, 7 p.m.

Gallatin Grass Project
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Justin Case
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1
Weston Lewis
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Matt Ridgeway
Uncorked, 6 p.m.

Ticket Sauce
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Justin Case
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2
Bingo Night
Pine Creek Lodge, 6 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 3
An American Forrest
The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5
Trivia Night
Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6
Jimmy Smith
The Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7
Bark & Wine
Small Dog Realty, 4 p.m.

Walcrik
Uncorked, 6 p.m.

Kitchen Dwellers
Pine Creek Lodge, 7:30 p.m.

Ryan Chrys & The Rough Cuts
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

The Strangeways
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8
Tap into Montana Craft Brew Fest
Livingston Depot Center, 2 p.m.

Hawthorne Roots
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

The Strangeways
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9
Bingo Night
Pine Creek Lodge, 6 p.m.

Livingston Film Series: The Big Short
Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 10
Russ Chapman
The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

Links for Learning Fundraiser
2nd Street Bistro, 5 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12
Katherine Taylor
The Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

Trivia Night
Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13
Ky Burt
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

West Yellowstone
SATURDAY, APRIL 1
Live Poker
The Buffalo Bar, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 3
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6
Knit Night
Stagecoach Inn, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8
Live Poker
The Buffalo Bar, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 10
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 11
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13
Knit Night
Stagecoach Inn, 6 p.m.

Ennis
FRIDAY, MARCH 31
Steve Ingram
Willie’s Distillery, 5:30 p.m.

Dan Dubuque
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1
Heather Lingle
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2
Tom Catmull
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5
Chamber Board Meeting
First Madison Valley Bank, 8 a.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6
Busniess After Hours
Berkshire Hathaway, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7
Aran Buzzas
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8
Amber Ikeman
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9
Gregory Rawlins
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 11
Cancer Support Group
Moonlight Basin Building, 6 p.m.

Wolf Week
April 3-7 at Lone Mountain Ranch
Learn about the complex community and lifestyle
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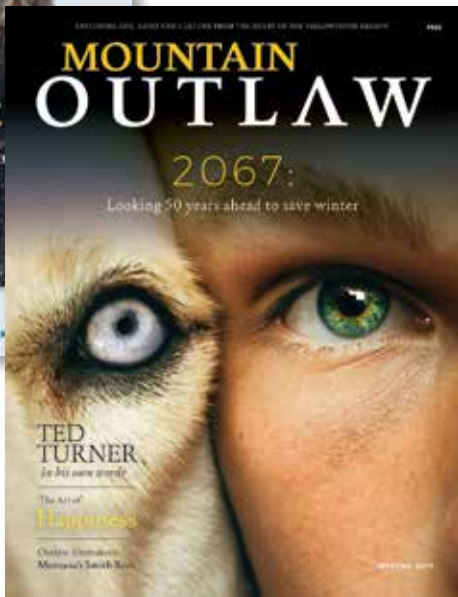
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'The Grand Rescue' screens at WMPAC

Meet members of the epic '67 Tetons rescue squad

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) presents a special film screening of "The Grand Rescue" on Saturday, April 1 at 7 p.m. at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.

The evening begins with a reception at 6 p.m. followed by a screening of the film, which shares the story of one of the greatest rescues in national park history. After the film, there will be a question and answer forum with two of the original rescuers—mountaineering legend Bob Irvine and Bozeman's own Rick Reese.

"The Grand Rescue" tells the story of a harrowing three-day rescue in Grand Teton National Park that became the stuff of legend. In 1967, seven climbing rangers responded to a call for help from a stranded climber on the feared North Face of the Grand Teton. Over the course of 72 hours, the rangers risked their lives to conduct a perilous rescue that pushed them to their limits.

After the screening, attendees will have the opportunity to hear firsthand recollections of the rescue from members of the rescue squad. Irvine had climbed in the range since his teens. Known for his precision and attention to detail, one of Irvine's major contributions to the rescue was his role as de facto "safety warden." His demonstration of leadership led Irvine to succeed fellow rescuer Pete Sinclair when he left the Tetons at the end of the 1967 season. Irvine remained a leader of the Grand Teton National Park for the next twenty-eight years, after which he went on to have a distinguished career as professor of mathematics at Weber State University in Utah.

Reese was recognized as the team's strongest climber. It was not only his ability to move quickly over mountain terrain that distinguished him, but also his unflappability when things got serious. His analytical skills were continually employed to solve problems and his cheerfulness reminded the team that the rescue was well within their capabilities. Reese has since devoted his life to conservation and higher education. He taught college in Montana, was the principal founder and first president of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, served as director of the Yellowstone Institute, chaired the Bonneville Shoreline Trail Committee for 20 years. He retired as director of community relations at the University of Utah.



Meet members of the 1967 epic Grand Tetons mountaineering rescue squad following a screening of the harrowing documentary 'The Grand Rescue' at WMPAC on April 1. PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

"Fifty years later, 'The Grand Rescue' serves as a reminder of the indomitable commitment of national park rangers," said Stephanie Adams, NPCA's Yellowstone program manager. "Protecting our national parks requires the dedicated efforts of tens of thousands of Park Service employees, from rangers who protect wildlife to maintenance staff that repair buildings to interpretive staff that greet and educate visitors. The film underscores the need for National Park Service staff to have the resources needed to continue to safeguard not only our treasured national parks, but also the millions of visitors who explore these places each year."

All proceeds from the screening event will benefit NPCA. Visit npca.org/grandrescue or warrenmillerpac.org for tickets.

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Bozeman Symphony ends season with a boom: violinist Stephanie Chase and ‘The Titan’

BOZEMAN SYMPHONY SOCIETY

The Bozeman Symphony presents performances of Gustav Mahler’s “The Titan” on Saturday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, April 9 at 2:30 p.m. at Willson Auditorium in downtown Bozeman.

The Symphony closes its 49th season with the monumental drama of Mahler’s first symphony, also known as “The Titan,” once described by the composer as “nature’s awakening from the long sleep of winter.” His vision for the scale and scope of what a symphony could achieve was colossal, and beyond what any other composer has attempted. With massive orchestral forces (including seven French horns), the sheer power of Mahler’s sound is almost overwhelming.

The Symphony also presents the Bozeman debut of esteemed violinist Stephanie Chase performing Max Bruch’s virtuosic “Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor.” Hailed as one of the violin greats of our era, Chase has performed with more than 170 orchestras in 25 countries with many of the world’s leading conductors. She is also a recent recipient of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant.

Born in Illinois, Chase was taught the violin by her mother and Sally Thomas, and she was renowned as a child prodigy through concert performances starting at age 2. She made her debut with the Chicago Symphony at 8 years old and began extensive national concert touring in her early teens. Following her Carnegie Hall debut at 18, she studied violin privately with Arthur Grumiaux and chamber music at the Marlboro Festival.

Chase often performs in the dual roles of violin soloist and conductor, and she is a favorite guest of chamber music festivals such as Bravo! Vail, Bargemusic, and Caramoor. Her violin was made in 1742 by Petrus Guarnerius of Venice, which she pairs with a bow made by Dominique Peccatte.

Join Maestro Matthew Savery, special guest Stephanie Chase and the orchestra for a reception immediately following each performance, Saturday at Starky’s Authentic Americana at 24 N. Tracy Ave.; and Sunday at the Legacy Gallery at 7 W. Main Street.

For tickets and more information visit bozemansymphony.org.

Wild Rivers Film Tour comes to Big Sky

GREATER YELLOWSTONE COALITION

As you begin preparing for your next run down the Gallatin’s Mad Mile or your next fishing adventure on the Madison, whet your appetite beforehand with eight movies showing at the Wild Rivers Film Tour. The tour kicks off April 6 at the Lone Peak Brewery in Big Sky.

American Rivers and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition will host the Wild Rivers Film Tour throughout Montana this spring, with the Big Sky showing followed by two screenings in Bozeman, one on April 10 and another on May 31.

Now in its second year, the Wild Rivers Film Tour celebrates clean water and free-flowing streams. Films show the stories of a wide variety of people who love rivers, from a New Mexico Native American, to a former U.S. president, to Montana river guides. Proceeds from the Wild Rivers Film Tour will benefit Montanans for Healthy Rivers, a coalition of businesses, sportsmen and conservation groups working together to designate new Wild and Scenic Rivers in Montana.

“Montanans are privileged with some of the most rugged and revered rivers in the country. Now we have a made-in-Montana film tour to match the scenery—filled with soul, serenity, hints of activism and the flavors of local brew to whet the appetite,” said Charles Wolf Drimal, Greater Yellowstone Coalition waters conservation associate.

“Next to paddling your boat or casting a fly, the Wild Rivers Film Tour brings us close to the heart of river recreation while enlivening our senses with stoke and sentiment,” said Michael Fiebig, associate director of American Rivers’ Northern Rockies office.

The Wild Rivers Film Tour will show at Big Sky’s Lone Peak Brewery April 6 and the Eagles Ballroom in Bozeman May 31, with doors opening at 6 p.m. and the showings beginning at 7 p.m. On April 10, the tour will be held at Montana State University’s Procrastinator Theater, with doors opening at 5 p.m. and the showing starting at 6 p.m.

To purchase tickets in advance, visit greateryellowstone.org/tix.

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BUS SCHEDULE

Town Center ↔ Mountain Village

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WHERE BIG SKY COMES TOGETHER

Town Center to Mountain Village Bus Schedule *Heading Up*

DEPARTING
TOWN CENTER

8:20a / 8:35a / 9:35a / 10:35a / 11:35a / 12:35p
1:35p / 2:35p / 3:35p / 4:35p / 5:35p / 6:35p
7:35p / 8:35p / 9:45p / 10:35p / 11:35p / 1:35a

ARRIVING
MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

8:35a / 9:00a / 10:00a / 10:55a / 12:00p / 12:55p
2:00p / 2:55p / 4:00p / 4:55p / 5:55p / 6:55p
7:55p / 8:55p / 10:15p / 10:55p / 11:55p / 1:55a

Mountain Village to Town Center Bus Schedule *Heading Down*

DEPARTING
MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

7:10a / 8:35a / 9:10a / 10:10a / 11:10a
12:10p / 1:10p / 2:10p / 3:10p / 4:10p
5:10p / 6:10p / 7:10p / 8:10p / 9:10p
10:15p / 11:15p / 12:15a / 2:15a

ARRIVING
TOWN CENTER

7:25a / 8:50a *w / 9:35a / 10:35 a / 11:35a / 12:35p
1:35p / 2:35p / 3:35p / 4:35p / 5:35p / 6:35p / 7:35p
8:35p / 9:35p / 10:35p / 11:35p / 12:35a / 2:35a

*w = whistle stop

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March 26 DJ Cut-La-Whut

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April 1 Canyon Kids

April 2 DJ Golden b

CASPER BEACH PARTY!

April 8 Misfit Moonshiners

April 9 Sneaky Pete & The Secret Weapons (Sunday Show)

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Photographers capture ‘The Last Best Place’

Juried exhibit opens at Old Main Gallery & Framing

EBS STAFF

Old Main Gallery & Framing in downtown Bozeman will host an opening reception for the 15 finalists of the first annual juried photography exhibition “Montana: The Last Best Place” on Friday, April 7 from 5 to 7 p.m. Steven B. Jackson, curator of art and photography for the Museum of the Rockies, will announce the winner of Best in Show and People’s Choice Award at 6:30 p.m.

As the title of the exhibit suggests, “Montana: The Last Best Place” is primarily a landscape exhibit featuring 15 artists and 17 photographs. Traditionally, landscape photography addresses nature in its pristine state with no human presence. There are however, works that express the historic culture of the West. Jackson pointed out that some of the submissions addressed contemporary issues in that they depict how the human relationship with the land can be political and cultural.

The winning photograph will contain a combination of the photographer’s unique interpretation of the theme “Montana: The Last Best Place,” and demonstrate a successful marriage of creative vision and subject matter.

A call for entries for “The Last Best Place” was sent out in December with a Feb. 4 submissions deadline. Thirty photographers from around the state and even one from California answered the call with a total of 104 submissions (each photographer was allowed up to five entries).

Jackson juried the entries and announced the 15 finalists on March 3.

The opening reception for the exhibition will be held at Old Main Gallery & Framing on Friday, April 7 from 5 to 7 p.m., with voting for the People’s Choice Award from 5 to 6 p.m. at the gallery. “Montana: The Last Best Place” will be on display through April and all photographs will be for sale. Old Main Gallery & Framing is located at 129 E. Main Street in downtown Bozeman.

For more information call (406) 587-8860 or visit oldmaingallery.com.



(ABOVE) “The sensual experience of changing seasons is one of the most notable features of living in ‘The Last Best Place,’” writes Belgrade-area photographer Tim Crawford. ‘Bridgers in Four Seasons,’ a finalist in a new exhibit at Old Town Gallery & Framing is a series that explores the same vantage point at different times of year. PHOTO BY TIM CRAWFORD



‘Winter Wonderland,’ a finalist in Old Main Gallery and Framing’s juried ‘Last Best Place’ exhibit was taken outside of West Yellowstone by a resident of Laguna Beach, California. PHOTO BY TRACIE SPENCE

‘Art Right Now’ showcases Montana student artists at the Emerson

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – This past February, the Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture in Bozeman hosted the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards’ “Art. Write. Now. Tour,” which featured the work of student artists, grades 7-12, from around the nation who had been recognized for their excellence in fine art and writing.

While the Emerson was proud to host this inspiring and innovative collection of creative work by teens from across the country for the first time, of the 320,000 student submissions to the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, zero came from the state of Montana.

In an effort to introduce this program to the public and increase Montana’s participation, the Emerson put out a call for art exclusively from regional high school students, grades 9-12.

They received 149 submissions from regional Montana high schools, from which 43 students and 50 works were chosen to hang in a month long exhibition that opened in the center’s Jessie Wilber Gallery on March 24. Bozeman, Belgrade, Ennis, Gardiner and Manhattan are among the communities represented.

“For many students this was the first time they submitted to a juried exhibit,” said Emerson Education Curator Alissa Popken. “We feel very honored to have been a part of this process for local students. The caliber of submissions is a testament to the high standards set in art classrooms around the state. We value the efforts of the instructors, students and public school system of Montana who keep the arts alive in the classroom.”

“Our Perspectives: Art Right Now” will be on display in the Emerson’s Jessie Wilber Gallery through April 28.

For more information visit theemerson.org.



The portrait ‘Harriet Jacobs’ is by Delaney Sigler of Bozeman High School. Sigler is one of 43 Montana student artists featured at the Emerson through the month of April. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE EMERSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS & CULTURE

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Jim Harrison: On the virtues of gluttony

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

Nearly a year after his death at the ripe age of 79, Grove Press has published Jim Harrison's first posthumous work, "A Really Big Lunch: The Roving Gourmand on Food and Life." This collection of Harrison's best culinary writings is ostensibly about the art of feasting, recounting meals with enough courses to last 10 hours and enough fine wine consumed to inebriate a small horse.

In many ways, this publication is a sequel to Harrison's "The Raw and Uncooked" (2001) which gained him a reputation as a renegade food writer. With a similar mixture of irreverence and exuberance, Harrison's latest unabashedly recommends a Bacchanalian lifestyle: "Any fool knows that red wine is the best energy drink if you keep it within two bottles."

In the introduction, written by master chef and longtime friend Mario Batali, we are reminded of Harrison's legendary, insatiable appetite for food, wine, hunting and fishing; women and raw life experience without mediation.

At times, some of this collection sounds like a manifesto for a modern version of Epicurean hedonism, while other selections are more of a standup routine—mocking teetotalers, wine snobs and the vagaries of American cuisine. It's always refreshing to read someone talk about fine dining and wine with unguarded enthusiasm and without the hint of pretense.

Whether he's ruminating about how to cook rattlesnakes, explaining his distaste for bland white wine, or recounting meals that would make Louis XIV blush, his salty wit, youthful curiosity, and mastery of the cadences of the English language are always coming up with sentences that only Harrison could have written:

"I have often thought that if I received an early warning that I would pass on sooner than later, I'd get myself to Lyon and eat for a solid month, after which they could tip me from a gurney into the blessed Rhone. Maybe I'd swim all the way downstream to Arles for my last supper."

Harrison's views on the visceral importance of eating and drinking well are indelibly tied together with his other idiosyncratic views about how to approach life. His discussions of food and drink, whether mundane, exotic or exquisite, always seem to meander into asides about art, politics, sexuality, mortality and religion.

It won't ruin the book to mention that for Harrison food and drink were a metaphor for life broadly construed. Whether you agree with him or not, it's hard not to appreciate his unapologetic gusto for his version of the good life.

Of course, gluttony has always been considered by many to be a vice. In the pieces written later in his career, and mostly previously unpublished, we find the beloved poet and novelist's body succumbing to shingles, diabetes, gout and the ailments of old age. The ravages of time and excess seem to have offered Harrison his last doubts about his own decadent lifestyle.

In the end, he puts to rest any regrets and offers a lesson, if cautionary tale, about comingling spirituality, food and drink without reservation.


Doug Hare is the Distribution Coordinator for Outlaw Partners. He studied philosophy and American literature at Princeton and Harvard Universities.

BIG SKY

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SHOSHONE CONDO #1942

\$315,000 | #218508 | Call Don

This 1br/1.5ba condo will sleep up to 6 people; beautiful views of Lone Mountain as well as the Spanish Peaks. Full service Shoshone Hotel offers pool, hot tub, exercise room, steam room, room service, valet, ski-in-ski-out! Hotel is scheduled for upgrading.



SUMMIT CONDO 405 & 406

\$315,000 | #217952 | Call Stacy or Eric

Slope facing luxurious ski/ in ski/out unit. Two queen beds, full bath and wet bar in Room 405. Connecting Room 406 has a Murphy bed plus sleeper sofa, fully equipped kitchen, full bath and gas fireplace. Full service building.



SUMMIT CONDO 826 & 827

\$275,000 | #218509 | Call Don

Full kitchen, two bath condo in the 4-star Summit Hotel with excellent views of the nearby Spanish Peaks! Connecting rooms to allow flexibility for renting and accommodates 6 to 8 people. Full service hotel, ski-in-ski-out.

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Wedding

SPECIAL SECTION

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Kokoro Flowers

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for every bride

Wedding Guest Activities

Entertainment for
your friends & family