

Explore

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

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Big Sky

April 28 - May 11, 2017
Volume 8 // Issue #9

**Morningstar expands
to meet Big Sky
daycare needs**

Yellowstone or bust!
4th graders explore park on annual trip

**Survey results guide Big Sky's
parks and trails plan**

Celebrate area brews during Craft Beer Week

Big Sky gets new highway patrol trooper



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PUBLISHER
Eric Ladd

EDITORIAL
MANAGING EDITOR
Tyler Allen

SENIOR EDITOR
Amanda Eggert

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Sarah Gianelli

CREATIVE
LEAD DESIGNER
Carie Birkmeier

VIDEO DIRECTOR
Wes Overvold

VIDEO EDITOR
Ryan Weaver

SALES AND OPERATIONS
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
Megan Paulson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SALES AND MARKETING
E.J. Daws

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
Alexis Deaton

MEDIA AND EVENTS DIRECTOR
Ersin Ozer

MARKETING COORDINATOR
Amy Delgrande

DISTRIBUTION DIRECTOR
Doug Hare

CONTRIBUTORS

Patricia Bauchman, Alan Bublitz, Grace Cavalieri, Jackie Rainford Corcoran, Jeff Daniels, Ashley Dodd, Justin Felisko, Jeremy Harder, Steve Horan, Sarah Keller, Ted Kooser, Jenny Ladd, Tallie Lancey, Derek Lennon, Scott Mechura, Brandon Niles, Michael Siebert, Patrick Straub, Taylor Todd, Matt Volz, Cody Whitmer, Todd Wilkinson, Ciara Wolfe, Jessianne Wright

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ON THE COVER: The newest member of a large Yellowstone bison herd grazes near its mother on the Yellowstone Ranch Preserve, near the shores of Hebgen Lake. PHOTO BY WES OVERVOLD

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OPENING SHOT

This cairn was arranged at the base of Big Sky's Ousel Falls, and according to the photographer, these rock sculptures symbolize places that you would like to return to someday. PHOTO BY PATRICIA BAUCHMAN

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 "Organizations defend funding at April 5 resort tax board meeting," published in the April 14 issue of EBS, Big Sky Resort Area District board member Mike Scholz was misquoted after reading from two 1992 letters to the BSRAD board. The letters were from Boyne Resorts' John Kircher (not Stephen, as reported) and Big Sky Resort's general manager Taylor Middleton. In reference to the "Penny for Housing" bill, Scholz said, "they aren't exactly for the 3 percent and they obviously were not for the 1 percent."



Lone Peak High School ranked No. 2 in state by national publication

EBS STAFF

The U.S. News & World Report listed Lone Peak High School as the second-best high school in Montana in their annual high school rankings.

As part of a national ranking process, the news organization orders high schools based on their performance on state-required tests and how well they prepare students for college.

The write-up on LPHS notes that 54 percent of its 77 students participated in Advanced Placement courses or exams during the 2014-2015 school year. The report also noted Lone Peak's 10-to-1 student-to-teacher ratio and its 92 percent graduation rate.

Based on state-established standards, 100 percent of LPHS students demonstrated proficiency in English, and 67 percent were proficient in math.

Lone Peak was one of seven high schools in Montana to receive a silver medal from U.S. News & World Report out of 168 ranked schools. Gardiner High School, which earned the No. 1 spot, was the only school in the state granted a gold medal.

"I'm really pleased with the result," said LPHS Principal Alex Ide. "It's really exciting for us to start putting ourselves on the map and tell our story."

Ide said the student body's SAT and ACT scores are steadily improving and he expects that to continue. He noted that last year the ACT scores of LPHS's juniors were the third highest in the state.

The integration of an International Baccalaureate program is building on Big Sky's commitment to academic excellence, Ide said.

Fix-It Clinic to reduce trash and teach skills held in Bozeman

GALLATIN COUNTY

Gallatin Solid Waste Management District and Bozeman City Sustainability are teaming up to organize the first ever free Fix-It Clinic for Gallatin County. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 6, Gallatin County residents may bring household items and clothing in need of minor repairs to Building 4 at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds where volunteers will offer guided assistance to bring these items back to life.

Everyone is welcome to attend this Fix-It Clinic, especially people who have never before attempted to disassemble—and then reassemble—their household items. Local businesses, nonprofits and individuals will be among the volunteer coaches to help patch clothes, fix zippers, stabilize chairs or get that old food processor spinning again. The Green Darner, The Bozeman Makerspace, The Bozeman Bike Kitchen and Owenhouse ACE Hardware will be on hand to share their knowledge and represent a small fraction of the repair resources in the area.

It is often easier to fix a broken item than expected, but even failed repairs have educational value for the owner.

"The average American sends 4.5 pounds of trash to the landfill every single day," said Rob Pudner, Recycling Outreach Educator with GSWMD. "We want to bring that average down while helping residents learn new skills."

Bring any parts, accessories or special tools that may be helpful and keep everything organized in a box or bag. Some tools will be provided. Repairs are limited to items that can be carried by one person and do not have an engine.

For complete information on the Gallatin Valley Fix-It Clinic visit gallatinsolidwaste.org/fixit. For information on volunteering contact Rod Pudner at rob.pudner@gallatin.mt.gov or call (406) 582-2493.

Tester introduces legislation to prevent mine expansion near Yellowstone National Park

OFFICE OF SENATOR JON TESTER

U.S. Senator Jon Tester introduced legislation on April 25 to protect Montana's outdoor economy and clean water near Yellowstone National Park.

Tester's Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act permanently withdraws federal mineral rights on 30,000 acres of public land in the Custer Gallatin National Forest adjacent to the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness and Yellowstone National Park, and it eliminates the ability for proposed mines to expand onto unclaimed public land.

"Hundreds of businesses and local residents support this collaborative legislation because it protects jobs and preserves our outdoor way of life," Tester said. "Responsible natural resource development plays an important role in Montana's economy, but there are simply some places where you just should not dig or drill, and the doorstep of Yellowstone Park is one of those places."

For two years, Tester has met with local residents and small-business owners to build collaborative legislation that prevents mines from expanding onto public land in the region. Mineral rights withdrawals will not impact public access or recreation on public land.

"Whether you are a rancher, a farmer, a fisherman or restaurant owner, the residents of Park County depend upon clean water for their livelihoods," said Dan Vermillion, owner of Sweetwater Travel Company in Livingston, Montana, and chairman of the District 2 Fish & Wildlife Commission.

"Agriculture and tourism represent a huge portion of Park County's economy, fueling small businesses and employing hundreds of people in Yellowstone's gateway. Industrial gold mining will threaten the clean water that is the foundation of our economy," Vermillion continued. "Montana's clean water is too important and too irreplaceable to be threatened by foreign investors looking to make a quick buck at our expense."

Nonprofits partner for annual Give Big event Lone Peak Cinema to host kickoff event

BIG SKY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Local Big Sky nonprofits are partnering for the annual Give Big Gallatin Valley event, which promotes and encourages philanthropy with a 24-hour fundraising campaign throughout Gallatin County. On May 4, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Lone Peak Cinema will host a kickoff event highlighting many local non-profit organizations, along with youth summer program options. Lone Peak Cinema will feature the legendary summer movie "Heavyweights," and children are welcome to attend.

The Bozeman Area Community Foundation's Give Big Gallatin Valley initiative is a 24-hour online and live celebration of giving. The goal is to inspire people to come together, show their pride in their communities, and contribute to support the work of local non-profit organizations in Gallatin County.

The entire Give Big Gallatin Valley event begins at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 4 and donations can be made online. There will be 24 hours to make donations, with all giving ending at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 5.

Participating Big Sky nonprofits include: Arts Council of Big Sky, Big Sky Community Organization, Big Sky Discovery Academy, Big Sky Ski Education Foundation, Gallatin Big Sky Weed Committee, Gallatin River Task Force, Jack Creek Preserve, Montana Land Alliance, Morningstar Learning Center, Thrive and Women in Action.

For more information, or to make a donation during the event, visit givebiggu.org. You may also call (406) 993-2112.



The results of an independent survey released by BSCO suggest that Big Sky residents would like to see a continued expansion and improvement of our walking and cycling trails, followed by a community recreation center, an amphitheater and increased river access.

Which of these would you most like to see in Big Sky and why?



Steven Abel
Big Sky, Montana

“Increased bike trails, city trails. I’d say that’s what attracts me most. A recreation center would be cool too.”



Will Green
Bozeman, Montana

“Definitely biking. Biking paths, biking everything. I’m probably biased because I don’t own a car, but Big Sky is big enough, it should have [biking trails].”



Sara Meredith
Big Sky, Montana

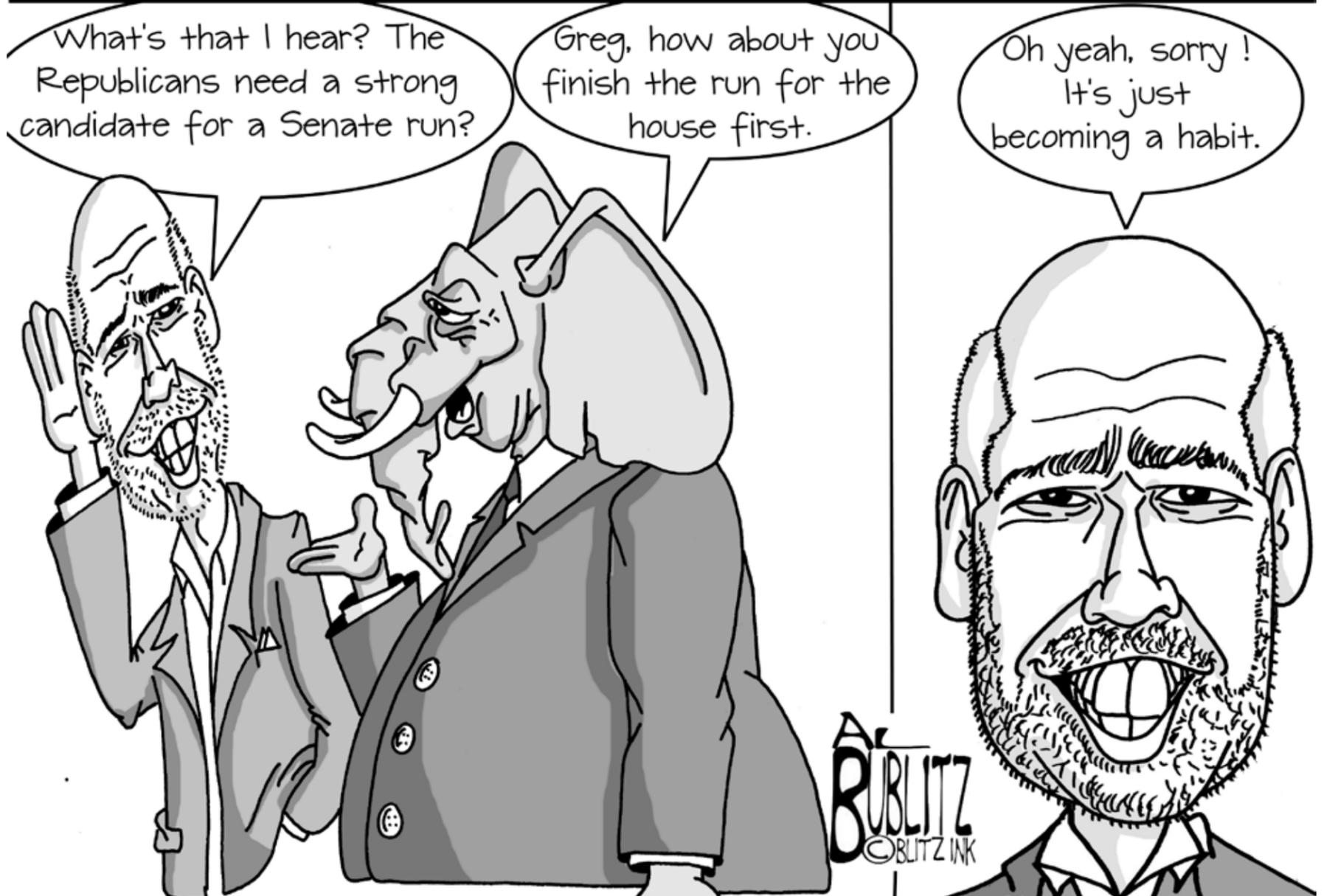
“A recreation center and a pool. I grew up swimming and think it’s a great exercise. Also, I think a lot of kids around here don’t know how to swim. ... You don’t want to grow up and not know how to swim.”



Kara Blodgett
Big Sky, Montana

“A swim center. I have kids that go to Ophir School and before one of their friends moved here they swam competitively. There’s really no place that they can do that here. I think that it is something that could be widely used for exercise and everything else.”

Tester reports \$3 million in the bank for his 2018 re-election campaign. While the Republicans have been scrambling to find a strong contender.



Trail system, rec center top priorities for Big Sky, survey shows

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – On March 29, the Big Sky Community Organization released the findings of a community needs assessment survey designed to inform a parks master plan currently being drafted by Peaks to Plains Design, a Billings-based civil engineering and parks planning firm.

The results—which above all emphasize the importance of the community’s trail system—were largely in accordance with feedback garnered in public town meetings and focus groups, said Peaks to Plains founder Jolene Rieck.

Although the primary purpose of the survey was to assess the community’s usage and rating of its parks and open spaces, the continued development of Big Sky’s multi-use trail system—especially increasing its interconnectivity—was a clear priority based on the responses of the 271 individuals who made up the sample for analysis.

Of those 271 individuals, 143 were classified as residents. Most were full-time residents, although eight respondents qualified as part-time. The sample also included 128 investors, or owners of at least one residential rental unit who do not spend at least six months per year in Big Sky themselves. The groups were also broken down into households with and without children.

Peaks to Plains found that 56 percent of Big Sky residents visit the community’s parks and open spaces more than twice a month. Households with children are most likely to be the most frequent users of these and other recreational amenities.

Trails saw the highest usage with 93 percent of respondents reporting they had used community trails in the previous 12 months, followed closely by trailhead amenities such as restrooms and parking areas. Athletic field and playground usage, boosted by households with children, showed strongly as well.

A chart that plotted usage against ratings of overall conditions suggested the dog-friendly area, golf course, park and trailhead restrooms and parking areas—which saw high use but average ratings—could be areas to invest in improvements.

Respondents also ranked their priorities for existing and additional recreational options, amenities and facilities.

Residents and investors had different criteria for rating. Residents were asked to choose which set of five options best and least met their household’s recreational needs. Investors ranked priorities according to which options would best and least enhance their property value.

For residents, multi-use trails took an overwhelming lead, followed by a multi-generational recreation center, an amphitheater and increased river access, in that order.

Although the numbers were slightly skewed, the same amenities and venues came out on top for investors—the only difference being increased river access ranked higher than the addition of an amphitheater.

Regarding the expressed interest in a multi-purpose recreation center, BSCO Executive Director Ciara Wolfe said the nonprofit has identified a couple of parcels that individuals are ready to donate when the community is ready.

“The data and big picture is not divergent from what we’ve heard from the community so it’s pretty reliable information,” said Rieck, who is on track to have the Big Sky Parks Master Plan ready for public review between the end of May and mid-June.

“A parks master plan is a tool for our community to ensure that as we continue to grow we include the desired recreation and parks amenities of this community in a strategic and thoughtful manner,” Wolfe said.

She added that adoption by both counties formalizes the plan and gives it leverage as a guiding document for future development proposals and public funding requests.

As a result of the public survey which identified trails as Big Sky’s highest priority and use, BSCO has started the process of updating the community’s current master trails plan, now more than a decade old.

With funding in place for an updated trails plan, which will focus specifically on the community’s trails and pathways, BSCO hopes to hire a firm in May and begin data collection in July, the same month the finalized parks plan, which tackles recreation in a broader sense, will be submitted to both county commissions for adoption.

“This process will entail a lot of community and public engagement,” Wolfe said. “We hope that between these two planning processes we develop a vision and project outline for our community that they can wrap their arms around, get excited [about] and involved with and ultimately feel ownership of the outcomes these plans will create.”

The complete results of the community needs assessment survey are available at bscomt.org and the next BSCO meeting will be held June 21.

BSCO Community Survey Highlights



45%

of residents visit trails more often than twice per month.



93%

of residents have used Big Sky trails in the past 12 months.



56%

of residents visit parks/open space more often than twice per month.



71%

of community members with children have used the playground in the past 12 months.



66%

of residents with children have used the athletic field in the past 12 months.



<1%

of residents have not used any of the recreational facilities and amenities.



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Morningstar Learning Center expands facility and staff

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Morningstar Learning Center, Big Sky’s only state-licensed, full-time day care, is planning to expand its facilities to accommodate the growing number of families who call Big Sky home.

“Morningstar was originally created to fill a gap in the community,” said board president Matt Dodd. “What we’ve found lately is that our wait list is getting longer and longer. People are getting on our wait list even before having a child ... there are lots of little ones in Big Sky these days.”

To respond to Big Sky’s growth, the daycare and preschool facility will construct an additional building specifically for infants, bringing infant enrollment from six to up to 16, said Executive Director Stephanie Kissell. Currently, approximately 50 children are enrolled at Morningstar.

Last year, the nonprofit raised \$40,000 and this February an anonymous donor matched the funds, bringing the total fundraising effort for the infant center to \$80,000. Morningstar is reviewing bids from local contractors and expects to break ground later this year. Redleaf Engineering in Big Sky and Huron Building Company of Michigan developed the renderings and models. If all goes as planned, the center will be in use sometime in 2018.

“We’ve designed it with infants in mind,” Dodd said. The building will include nap rooms, changing rooms and a full kitchen, and the building will open up to the existing play area.

Morningstar accepts children who are 6 months to 7 years old, so the infant area expansion could allow the day care to make more room for toddlers as well, Kissell said. She estimates the daycare will be able to accommodate a total of about 66 children once the expansion is complete.

In the last six months Morningstar has restructured the administrative team, adding an executive director, assistant director and executive teacher to the payroll. Also added during the restructure, employees can now choose a benefits package and earn higher wages.

Kissell took the executive director position in November as a part of this restructure. Kissell has lived in Big Sky for 11 years and taught kindergarten and



Morningstar Learning Center recently secured funding to begin construction of a new building that will allow the daycare and preschool center to nearly double its capacity. RENDERINGS COURTESY OF MORNINGSTAR LEARNING CENTER

first and second grades at Ophir Elementary School for eight. Faye Telios, the new executive teacher, has an extensive background in early childhood learning and is familiar with Montana’s rules and regulations regarding the running of a daycare.

The preschool and daycare facility is also managed by an eight-person board of volunteers.

Morningstar has been able to secure funding from the Big Sky Resort Area District tax since 2010, allowing the facility to discount tuition costs and offer tuition scholarships, Kissell said.

“We are currently in the process of scheduling a consultant to come do some strategic and long-term planning,” Kissell said. “We will be taking a critical look at our preschool program to determine what we can do to enrich our student experience to better prepare them to go to Ophir School.

“We are looking at creating an open, collaborative relationship with our local schools,” she added. “We are all here to serve families and to serve children, so our goal is really to identify what we can do to meet the needs of families in our area.”

Study: Highway 64 needs turn lanes Big Sky’s resident highway patrolman starts duty

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – A traffic study commissioned by the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce found protected turn lanes are warranted at multiple intersections along Highway 64, also known as Lone Mountain Trail.

The study, which is still in draft form, includes information on 12 intersections, starting with Highway 64’s intersection with Highway 191, and stretching west to the Moonlight Basin entrance.

Turn lanes are warranted by existing traffic volumes but have not been installed at Huntley Drive, Big Pine Drive, Big Sky Resort Road and Andesite Drive, said Danielle Scharf, a senior transportation engineer with Sanderson Stewart, the firm that prepared the study.

Between 2006 and 2016, 182 crashes occurred along the 10-mile stretch of highway. While those numbers are not high enough to warrant use of Montana Department of Transportation funds earmarked for safety improvements at high-crash locations, Scharf said she thinks MDT would be on board with the installation of turn bays—either protected left-turn lanes, or right turn bays—if alternative funding was secured.

According to crash data, 70 percent of the 182 accidents included in the report involved just one vehicle, and 40 percent of them occurred under clear weather conditions.

“It seemed a little bit counter-intuitive,” Scharf said of those findings, adding that animal crashes could be included in the single-vehicle statistic.

Gallatin County Sheriff Sgt. Brandon Kelly said the high rate of single vehicle accidents could point to cell phone use while driving, which is not illegal in Big Sky. “Distracted driving is an issue up here,” Kelly said.

Kelly said protected turn lanes are going to be essential with continued development, especially given the current speed limits of 35-50 mph on the 10-mile stretch, and the lack of a shoulder.

One significant change to Big Sky’s traffic enforcement was implemented in mid-April: the addition of a highway patrol trooper who lives in Big Sky. Montana State Highway Patrol Capt. Mark Wilfore said Tyler Brant started his assignment on April 15 and after a week of familiarization, he is now working here full-time.

Wilfore said a resident trooper was added to Big Sky to address increasing development and the deteriorating traffic conditions that accompany an increasing population. Brant is tasked with enforcement and accident investigation on Highways 191 and 64.

Brant will undoubtedly respond to crashes involving wildlife—25 of the crashes noted in the traffic study involved animals, although Scharf said there could be more that were not reported. The highest density of animal crashes occurred between 0.5-1.5 miles west of Highway 191. Kelly said bighorn sheep licking salt off the road or traveling down to the river for water pose a particular problem, as they tend not to move off the road when vehicles approach.

Scharf said a road ecologist from Western Transportation Institute will weigh in on the wildlife issue, and possible solutions, later in the process.

The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce will host a public meeting to discuss the findings of the Sanderson Stewart study at 5 p.m. on June 26 at the Big Sky Chapel.

Expedition Yellowstone: An adventure like no other

BY JEREMY HARDER
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Expedition Yellowstone, affectionately termed “EY” by our fourth graders in Big Sky, is a curriculum-based, residential, outdoor program offered by the National Park Service for students, teachers and chaperones. Each year, Ophir School’s fourth graders earn the right to call this expedition their own.

The program, originally guided by former fourth grade teacher Alec Nisbet, has been part of Ophir’s curriculum since 1998. I took the reins when I accepted the fourth-grade position in the fall of 2000, and I just completed my 16th trip to Yellowstone.

Starting in January, my co-teacher Renee Zimmerman and I prepared students by setting up weekly clan challenges. Clans are small groups of students who work together on learning activities, meal preparation and camp clean up. Each clan also performs a legendary skit the last night of their adventure. Weekly challenges stretch the students’ ability to problem solve, practice collaboration and compromise—necessary skills for the students’ time in Yellowstone.

A “typical day” on the expedition includes waking up early to prepare meals, sitting down together for breakfast, attending morning and evening classes, hiking through the park, researching pH levels of the hot springs, finding evidence of ecological niches and discovering the impact of humans throughout the centuries. I’ve found that the greatest lessons are learned as students clean up after each other, pack their own backpacks for the day, fill their water bottles, and otherwise develop a sense of personal responsibility without the over-indulgence of help from adults. When students realize they are a part of something larger than themselves, it’s really cool to watch. I like to term this human ecology.

The expedition does allow for chaperones or guides to attend the trip to help the students manage these life skills. Some of the most difficult choices Zimmerman and I must make center on choosing the right adult chaperones for the expedition. Luckily for us, Big Sky is filled with hundreds of qualified leaders.

Many of the guides are parents of students at Ophir, but not of students participating in EY that year. I adamantly support my stand on not bringing family members of current students, as it disturbs the natural dynamics of the group. Other chaperones include local business owners, avid outdoors people and, of course, adults who have strong managerial skills and are a positive influence on young students. My list becomes longer every year, as many local residents desire to go on this once-in-a-lifetime trip. Similar to the students’

reactions to the oddities of the natural world, I see the same “ah-ha!” moments in the adult guides.

One of the secrets behind such an amazing and seamless experience is the extraordinary assistant I’ve found in Lone Peak High social studies teacher Tony Coppola. He has attended more than a dozen times and plays a crucial role in the success of the trip.

Finally, this trip could never happen without generous community and family support with fundraisers and preparations. The financial component of this trip is mostly overseen by the Big Sky PTO, while the supplemental costs are raised by the students in various “FUN” fundraisers such as a bowl-a-thon, hat sale and read-a-thon.

It’s a community effort, and I’ve found it to be a life-changing event for our attendees. As our town grows, our school serves as one of those foundational forces we must keep alive and healthy, similar to those of a healthy Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.



Ophir’s fourth grade Expedition Yellowstone students use a surface-reading thermometer to test the temperature of Mammoth Hot Springs during a five-day fieldtrip that focuses on the geographic, historical, cultural, and scientific wonders of the world’s first national park. PHOTO BY ASHLEY DODD



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Obituary: Haley Louise Ramsey Tesar

Haley Louise Ramsey Tesar was born on April 9, 1990, to Debbie Ramsey. She had three older sisters, Amy, Ellen and Amber. When Haley was 5 years old she welcomed her fourth sister, Sydney, into her life. Haley excelled in school and graduated two years early from Riverwood High School in Sandy Springs, Georgia.

Determined to walk her own path, Haley began working in the bar industry where she shined her light on every soul she came into contact with. During her career she found her soul mate, best friends and the people she would carry with her on her journey for the rest of her life.



Haley moved to Tennessee and tried her hand at marriage. Two years later the freedom of the West beckoned her to a new beginning, and she drove overnight to Big Sky, Montana. She started working at The Corral and quickly became a huge part of the community. Everyone she came into contact with was awestruck and enjoyed being around her happy spirit.

Haley loved camping at Taylor Fork and going to the Gallatin RiverHouse Grill. Her time in Big Sky may have been short but she was family to everyone.

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Inside the Big Sky

By Derek Lennon

11 books about Big Sky you should read

BY DEREK LENNON
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

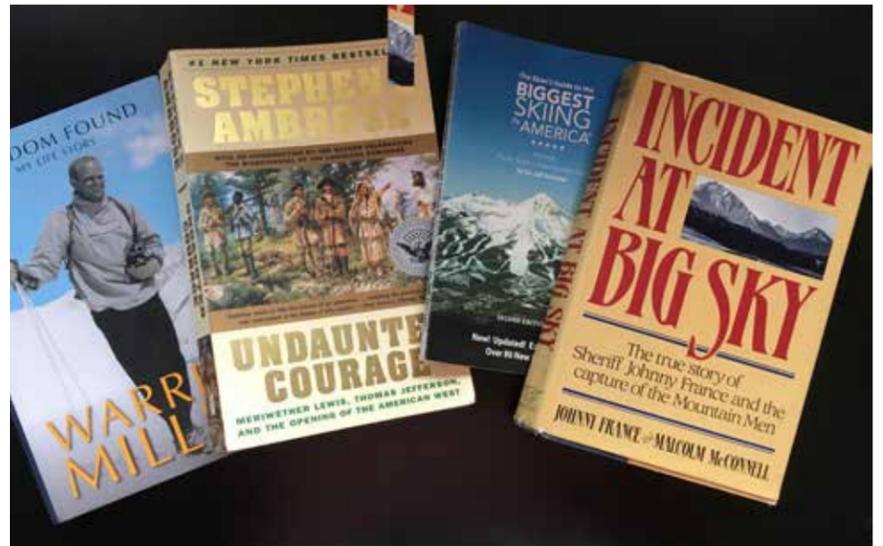
Big Sky is an inspiring place. The surrounding mountains of southwest Montana beckon both locals and visitors alike to get outside and play in Big Sky's backyard. But sometimes we all just need a down day or the weather, especially this time of year, dictates we take one. The next time you feel like kicking back and relaxing, why don't you pick up one of these books about Big Sky? I think you'll enjoy them.

Below I created a quick list of books about Big Sky and the surrounding region. For anyone who's a fan of Big Sky, you'll definitely enjoy reading these books. As you can imagine, there are plenty of wild tales involving our mountain town.

Tucked into the middle of the Madison Range on the northwest corner of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Big Sky has a rich history of cowboys, mountain men, ranchers, skiers, fishermen, celebrities, and of course national parks. These books of history, photography, local knowledge, geology, sports, and more will help you to see Big Sky in a whole new way.

Looking for a good book to read? Here's a selection of 11 books about Big Sky we think you'll enjoy:

1. "Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West" by Stephen Ambrose
2. "The Incident at Big Sky: The True Story of Sheriff Johnny France and the Capture of the Mountain Men" by Johnny France and Malcolm McConnell
3. "Empire of Shadows: The Epic Story of Yellowstone" by George Black
4. "Montana: Skiing the Last Best Place" by Brian Hurlbut with photos by Craig W. Herbert
5. "Freedom Found: My Life Story" by Warren Miller and Andy Bigford
6. "Roadside Geology of Montana" by David D. Alt
7. "Good Night, Chet: A Biography of Chet Huntley" by Lyle Johnston
8. "The Skier's Guide to the Biggest Skiing in America" by Jeff Strickler
9. "Big Sky Names: An Amble Through Western History and Ecology on the Roads, Streams, and Developments of Big Sky, Montana" by Jeff Strickler



Mud season is a great time to cozy up indoors with a book. If you haven't read any of these books about Big Sky and the surrounding region, why not study up now and enhance your summertime exploring. PHOTO BY DEREK LENNON

10. "A River Runs Through It" by Norman Maclean
11. "Images of America: Big Sky" by Jeff Strickler and Anne Marie Mistretta in cooperation with the Historic Trail Ranch Conservators

Are any of these books about Big Sky on your bookshelf already? Did we miss any books that you'd recommend? Please let us know and we'll update this list accordingly.

We fully encourage you to read these books about Big Sky. They will help you to see our mountain town in a whole new way and will hopefully give you a new appreciation for what Big Sky is really all about.

Read a book. It's good for you.

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/books-about-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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Tell me, Tallie

How does Big Sky discard its trash?



BY TALLIE LANCEY
EBS COLUMNIST

“I love this crummy weather,” Oscar the Grouch once reflected. “Gotta chill this hot chocolate down so it tastes good and yucky.” Oscar, the vaguely grumpy Muppet from Sesame Street, grew up in a curbside trashcan. Now his character inhabits a network of compost and recycle bins, illustrating the evolving ways we deal with our disposables.

Big Sky, like Sesame Street, is changing with the times of trash collection. About 23 years ago, residents and visitors simply threw away most of their unwanted items. Now we have a growing array of choices. Trash, like road signage, is another example of a typically municipal service that is the responsibility of individuals and homeowners associations.

For trash disposal, residents either use curbside pickup or their condominium HOA's shared receptacle. Until about a year ago, there was only one option for a service provider—Republic Services, an Arizona-based company. L&L Site Services, a locally owned and operated company, recently obtained a license from the state Public Service Commission to collect trash in Big Sky. The competition has been good for the consumer.

Short-term renters, campers and motor home users are often unsure of how to dispose of their garbage at the end of their Big Sky vacation. Without a conspicuous solution, they're prone to poach unlocked dumpsters. Local property managers field frequent calls from frustrated folks. “Where is the dump?” they want to know.

The dump is in Logan, Montana. Sixty miles north of Big Sky, you'll find the landfill that serves much of southwest Montana. It's an astounding (if not somewhat depressing) sight to see. A transfer station a few miles north of West Yellowstone is the closest location to discard debris.

Local public recycling is a moving target. For the time being, we have free recycling on a site sponsored by Hass Construction just south of the Exxon on Highway 191. Gallatin County pays a portion of the costs associated with that site. Four Corners Recycling accepts cardboard, steel and aluminum cans, #1 and #2 plastic, and paper there. Curbside recycling is available through Republic Services and L&L Site Services as an add-on to trash pick-up.

Glass recycling is another story. Because the closest facility is in Salt Lake City, few Montanans can justify the financial and environmental costs. Some local businesses, however, choose to have their used wine and beer bottles hauled to Utah. If individuals want to do so, they should contact Four Corners Recycling.

On the other hand, cardboard is about half as expensive to recycle as it is to throw away. I love a good incentive! Perhaps the most environmentally impactful trash tactic is to haul your e-waste (microwaves, printers, batteries) to Logan; they have a program that keeps your harmful products out of the landfill altogether. Reduce and re-use are good tactics too!

Composting is a great option for food waste if you have a bear-safe container at home. Or you can buy compost at the Big Sky County Water & Sewer District for gardening and landscaping. It costs \$25 per yard and is an excellent way to “shop local.” They even deliver!

Detritus is deleterious, especially in a spot where our natural beauty is our most valuable asset.

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@reallybigsky.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.

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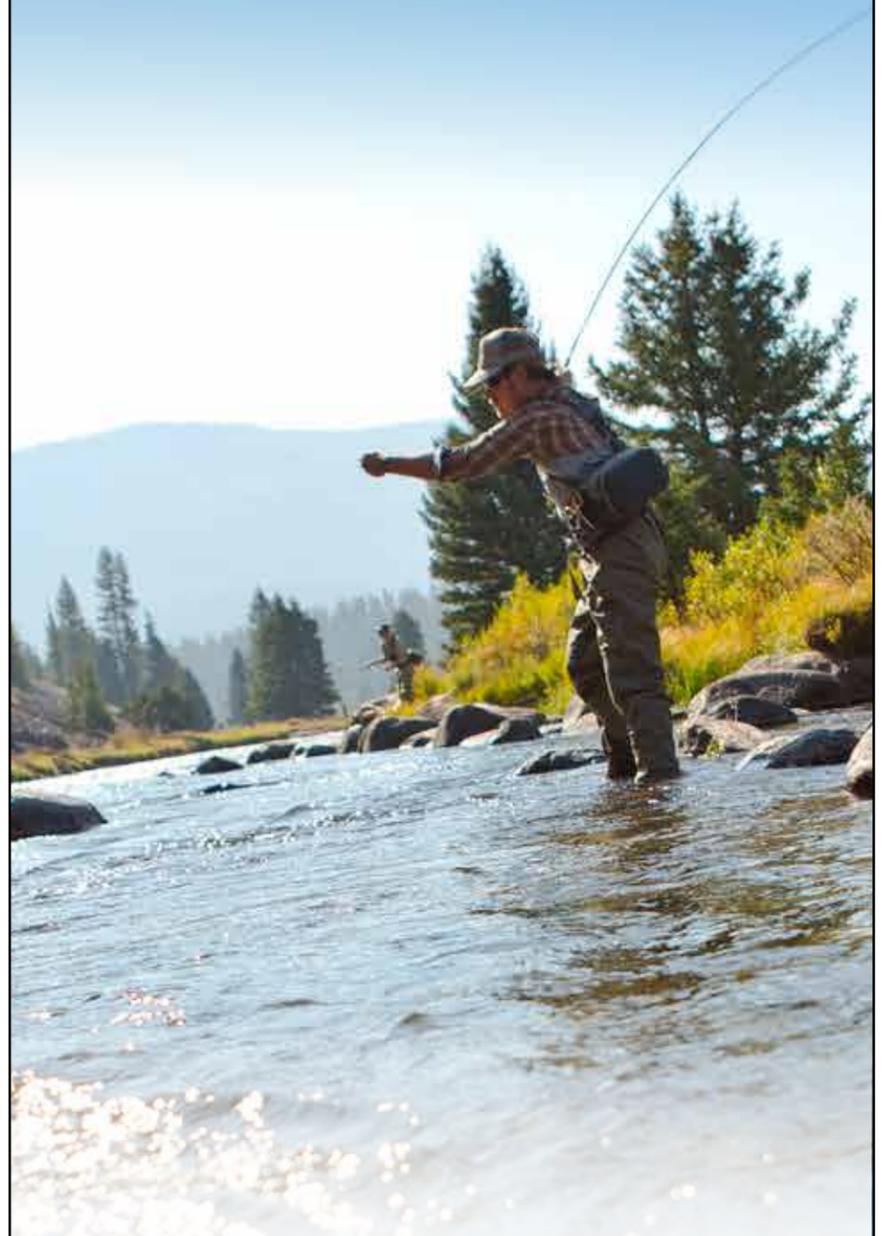
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As the 65th Montana Legislature winds down, a look at the big issues

BY MICHAEL SIEBERT
UM COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

HELENA - After nearly five months of rigorous debate, Montana's 65th Legislative session is coming to a close.

While lawmakers are only constitutionally required to draft and pass a two-year budget for the state's numerous offices and programs—which they did the week of April 17—legislators from all walks of life address the concerns of their constituents, as well as their own ideas in the other bills they bring.

Some of these bills were inspired by personal struggles, like Livingston Republican Rep. Alan Redfield's bill to establish eating disorder centers, brought in part because of a family member's struggle with the issue. Others sought to make big changes, like a failed bill from Kalispell Republican Rep. Derek Skees that would have put a ballot initiative before voters to amend the Montana constitution to outlaw abortions.

With 1,186 bills introduced it could prove difficult to keep track of everything. Here, then, are some of the session's most significant issues, divisive and otherwise.

Funding Infrastructure Projects

Both parties have repeatedly said advancing an infrastructure plan is a top priority.

Rep. Jenny Eck, D-Helena, said the success of the session hinges on whether or not these proposals make it to the governor's desk.

"It's frustrating to ... still not have an answer on that," Eck said. "If everyone could just come together, we could absolutely do it."

Perhaps the most significant infrastructure bill of the session, Kalispell Republican Frank Garner's House Bill 473, which passed both houses. The bill initially increased the gas tax by \$0.08, but the amount was lowered to \$0.045 by the Senate. It will eventually raise to \$0.06 by 2023.

Public Land and Water

Other bills focused on the administration of Montana's public lands.

"It wasn't just access but actual maintenance of the lands," said Rep. Adam Rosendale, R-Billings.

Senate Bill 363, introduced by Sen. Chas Vincent, R-Libby, allocated funds to help deal with the invasive mussels that could potentially wreak havoc on Montana's streams and rivers.

Sen. Jennifer Fielder, R-Thompson Falls, carried a bill to present a constitutional referendum to voters that would safeguard the right to hunt, fish and trap on public land. The bill passed both Houses, but failed when the House debated the Senate's amendments.

Ideological Divides

The majority of bills this session had to do with things like taxes and local government operations — and much of that still had to do with the budget. But several contentious social issues made their way onto the House and Senate floor.

"They played a very minor role," said Sen. Nels Swandal, R-Wilsall. "They get a lot of publicity. Probably unnecessarily so, because they're not a primary focus."

Still, several bills on social issues divided Republicans and Democrats.

Two bills would limit access to abortions. Senate Bills 282 and 329 would prevent women from having abortions at roughly 20 weeks. SB 282, introduced by Sen. Albert Olszewski, R-Kalispell, would prevent doctors from aborting "viable" fetuses, or those that can live outside the mother's womb. SB 329, introduced by Sen. Keith Regier, R-Kalispell, would restrict abortions to fetal development 19 weeks or less, or when it becomes "pain-capable." Both of these bills were passed by both Houses, but have yet to be signed or vetoed by Gov. Steve Bullock.

Others attempted to liberalize gun laws.

Two major gun bills — House Bills 246 and 262 — were vetoed by Gov. Bullock after they were passed by both houses.

HB 246, introduced by Rep. Randy Brodehl, R-Kalispell, would have allowed Montanans to carry firearms inside Post Offices, and would have allowed firearms to be stored in cars in Postal Service parking lots. HB 262, introduced by Rep. Bill Harris, R-Winnett, would have significantly loosened concealed carry laws, allowing anyone of age without felony convictions to conceal a handgun.

House Minority Leader Jenny Eck, D-Helena, said these bills weren't reflective of what the public was looking for from lawmakers.

"Folks sent us up here to deal with the economy, to work on creating jobs and [to get] things done that people really need," Eck said.

Meanwhile, a bill that would have created a statewide non-discrimination ordinance, House Bill 417, introduced by Rep. Kelly McCarthy, D-Billings, drew a particularly noteworthy committee hearing. Members of the public gave emotional testimony both in support of and against the bill, which would have extended anti-discrimination laws to LGBTQ-identifying Montanans. The bill was ultimately killed in the House.

Reforming laws, modifying criminal justice

While the ideologically driven issues divided lawmakers, a slew of bills from interim committees on sentencing and prosecution standards often brought them together.

"There's a whole series of bills that came out of the law and justice interim committee on sexual assault," Eck said.

Those bills updated existing sentencing guidelines for rape and sexual assault. Senate Bill 29, introduced by Sen. Diane Sands, D-Missoula, eliminated the requirement that rapists use physical force in order for their crime to be considered rape. That bill passed the Senate unanimously, and awaits signature or veto from Gov. Bullock.

"This session we did modernize our sexual assault statutes, which was sorely needed," Swandal said.

Swandal, a former judge and prosecutor, sponsored a Senate Bill 17 that would eliminate the requirement that minors register as sex offenders. While judges still have the ability to place individuals on the registry, they would have more discretion under the bill.

He said such reforms were necessary to reduce the public defender budget.

Swandal also requested a bill that eventually became House Bill 168, introduced by Rep. Zach Brown, D-Bozeman. HB 168 would allow individuals convicted of misdemeanor crimes to request the expungement of the crime from their record. The bill was signed by Gov. Bullock earlier this month.

Other bills sought to place checks and balances on law enforcement. Rep. Daniel Zolnikov, R-Billings, brought House Bills 147 and 148, which work in tandem to require police to obtain search warrants before searching electronic devices. He also sponsored House Bill 149, which would limit law enforcement's use of license plate readers. All three bills passed both houses.

A more civil session

Those were by no means the only major issues debated by the legislature. Legislation on everything from direct care worker wages to raw milk was proposed, approved and voted down.

In spite of debating such divisive issues, many legislators said the session was more civil and friendly than it has been in the past.

"I wasn't here last session, but from what I was told, Democrats and Republicans are working together pretty dang well this session," said Rep. Jacob Bachmeier, D-Havre.

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.



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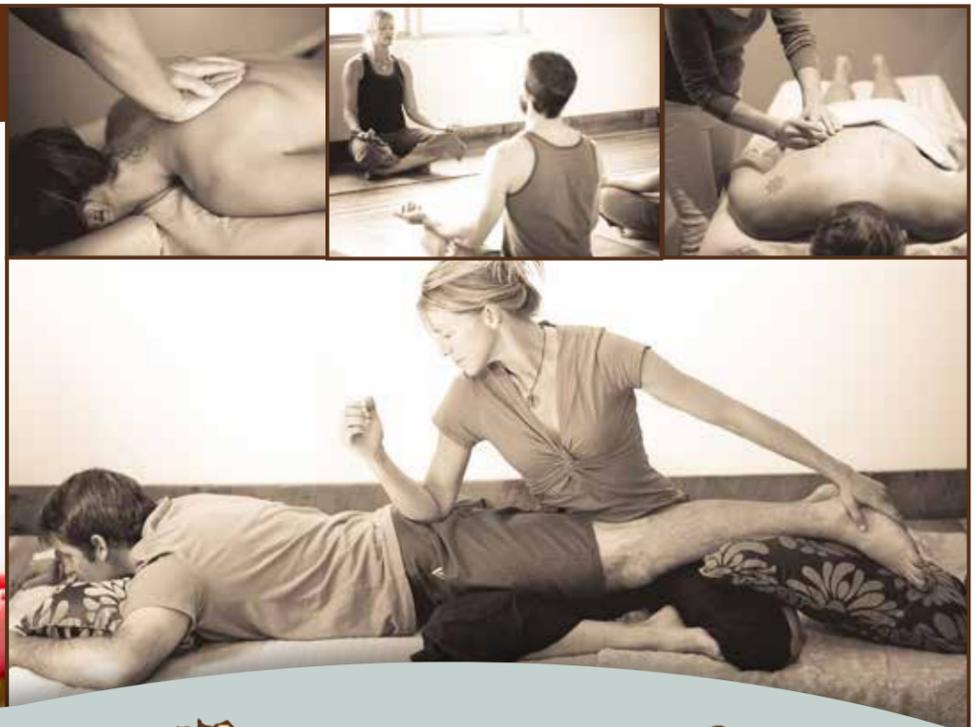
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Big Sky Resort sets another visitation record

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – With more than 478,000 skier visits during the 2016-2017 season, Big Sky Resort broke its previous visitation record set last year by approximately 1,000 visits.

The resort also set a single-day visitation record on Dec. 28, 2016, when a total of 8,392 people rode Big Sky's slopes. It was followed by another banner day Dec. 29, which surpassed 8,000 skier visits.

Although Big Sky didn't get hit by many of the storm cycles that regularly pounded ski areas to the south, the resort's public relations manager Chelsi Moy said the resort had an average total snowfall year.

According to a snowpack telemetry site on Lone Mountain, precipitation was 121 percent of average and the snow depth was 51 inches when the resort closed on April 16. The National Resource Conservation Service records and publishes data from that site, located at 8,800 feet.

Moy said the snow that fell had a higher concentration of water than typical seasons. "It was more of a wetter snow this year than in the past," she said. "It was almost like a coastal snowpack."

Moy attributes the resort's strong skier totals to investment in infrastructure like the new Powder Seeker and Challenger chairlifts, Big Sky Resort's rising exposure on a national scale, and population growth in the Bozeman area.

The April Pass, which allowed purchasers lift access from April 1 to April 16 for \$179, likely contributed to record skier visits as well, Moy said. The resort rolled out that pass option for the first time in early February.

"We've never done anything like that before, and we would consider that a success," Moy said.



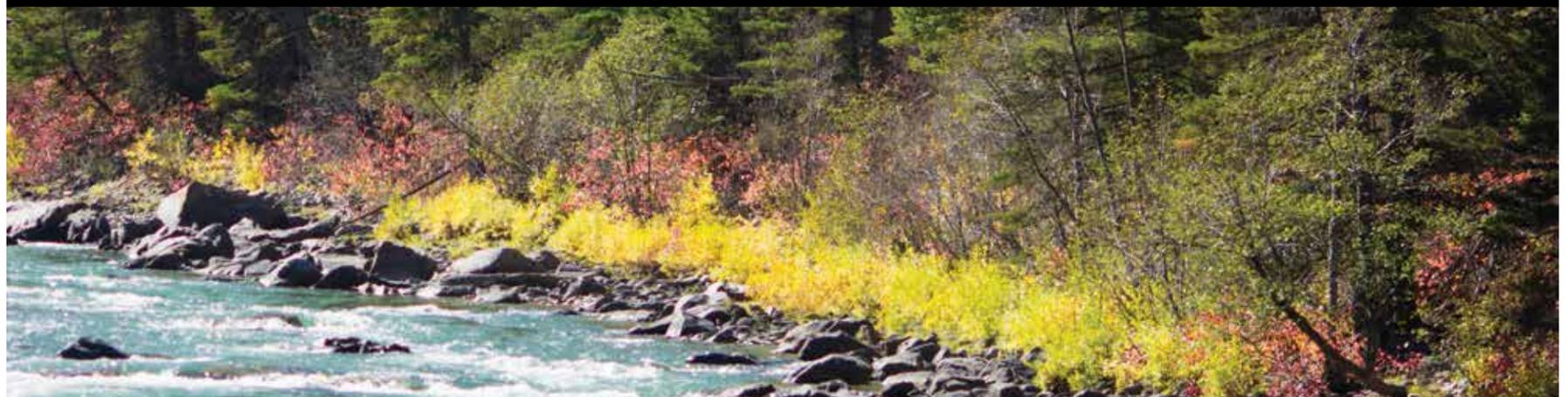
Eager skiers line up for the opening of the Challenger lift at Big Sky Resort on Dec. 15, 2016. The resort credits infrastructure improvements with spurring record skier visits during the 2016-2017 season. PHOTO BY CODY WHITMER

This spring, the resort unveiled eight different season pass options for the 2017-2018 season. The increase in pass offerings is part of an effort to connect consumers with options that will work for them, Moy said.

Big Sky skiers and riders can make their selection based on how much they're willing to pay, and when and where they plan to ski. The premium pass includes unlimited access to all lifts and the tram while the least expensive pass can be used for a total of 15 days of skiing, primarily during the early- and late-season.

The newest option is the Platinum Medallion Pass, an unlimited, transferrable season pass that's available through April 30. A limited number of these passes are available and it's marketed as a good option for businesses to share with their employees or clients.

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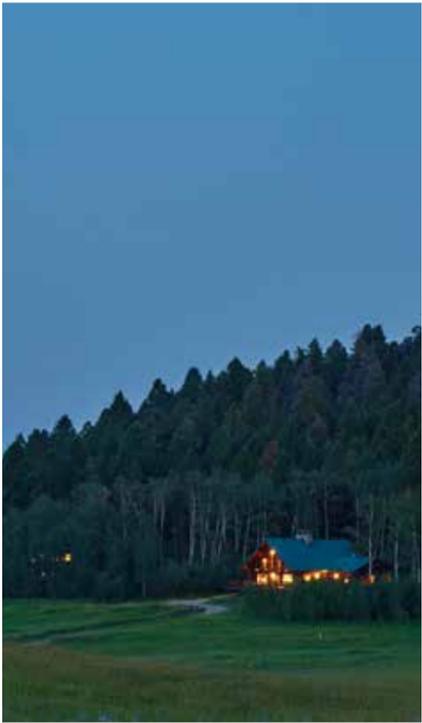
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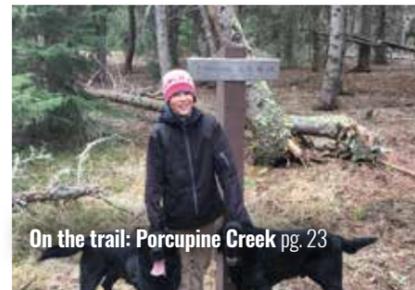
Section 2: OUTDOORS, ENVIRONMENT & SPORTS



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INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



New photography book pays tribute to the ‘People of Yellowstone’

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – There are countless books about Yellowstone National Park, the large majority of which focus on its trails and sights, history, wildlife, scientific intrigue or sublime beauty. Now they are joined by a book that celebrates an often-overlooked aspect of the park—the myriad individuals at its heart, for whom it also lies at theirs.

Through the black and white photography of Steve Horan and profiles written by Ruth W. Crocker, both of whom have relatives in the book, “People of Yellowstone” casts an egalitarian lens on the gamut of lives happily entangled in sustaining and preserving the park for past, present and future generations.

Among the 87 individuals embraced between its coffee-table book covers are the obvious park heroes—rangers, rescuers, scientists—creatives and resident eccentrics, but also the less glamorously employed, equally integral park players who work in hospitality, trail maintenance, retail and construction.

Touting a “range of people as wide as the park’s ecosystem,” one spread might introduce you to Suzanne Lewis, who retired as Yellowstone’s first female superintendent in 2011 after 34 years in the Park Service, and the next to John Salvato, grateful to have escaped New York nearly 30 years ago to become bell captain at the Old Faithful Inn and a snow coach driver.



Wildlife biologist, museum curator, director and educator Charles Preston is one of 87 ‘people of Yellowstone’ featured in a new book by photographer Steve Horan and writer Ruth W. Crocker. Here Preston is pictured with educational rescue bird Kateri, a golden eagle, in Cody, Wyoming. PHOTO BY STEVE HORAN

Flipping through “People of Yellowstone” you’ll become acquainted with the park’s official cellist, grizzly and wolf experts and conservationists as well as a transportation dispatcher, civil engineer, farrier, wrangler, backcountry chef, hunting guide, and U.S. magistrate judge at Mammoth Hot Springs.

Disparate as these individuals may seem, the tie that binds them is a shared sense of privilege to live, work and play within or just outside the gates of Yellowstone.

Horan’s thoughtful photography aims to capture his subjects in a natural habitat that conveys their personality and purpose. Through his leveling yet respectful eye, each individual exudes a distinct authenticity worthy of the spotlight.

Crocker’s brief biographies provide a written snapshot of each individual’s life and connection to Yellowstone, with a focus on illuminating a different facet of an insider’s view of the park.

In its diversity, “People of Yellowstone” is a delightfully refreshing addition to the tired tomes and glossy picture books that dominate park bookstores, and provides an inclusive, living history of the many different kinds of people and the many means by which they have forged a life-long connection to the world’s first national park.

Visit peopleofyellowstone.com for more information.

Economic impact of Yellowstone National Park tourism tops \$680 million

EBS STAFF

A record 4.25 million Yellowstone National Park visitors spent \$524 million in communities near the park last year, supporting 8,156 jobs and resulting in a total economic impact of \$680.4 million.

According to a National Park Service report, visitors to national parks across the country were responsible for \$18.4 billion of direct spending in communities within 60 miles of a national park. Total park visitation topped 330 million this year, and the cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy is estimated at nearly \$35 billion dollars.

The peer-reviewed spending analysis was conducted by economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas of the U.S. Geological Survey and Lynne Koontz of the National Park Service and is available at nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm.

Nationally, Yellowstone ranks No. 5 for the number of jobs it supports and No. 6 for visitor spending. Blue Ridge National Park tops both of those lists.

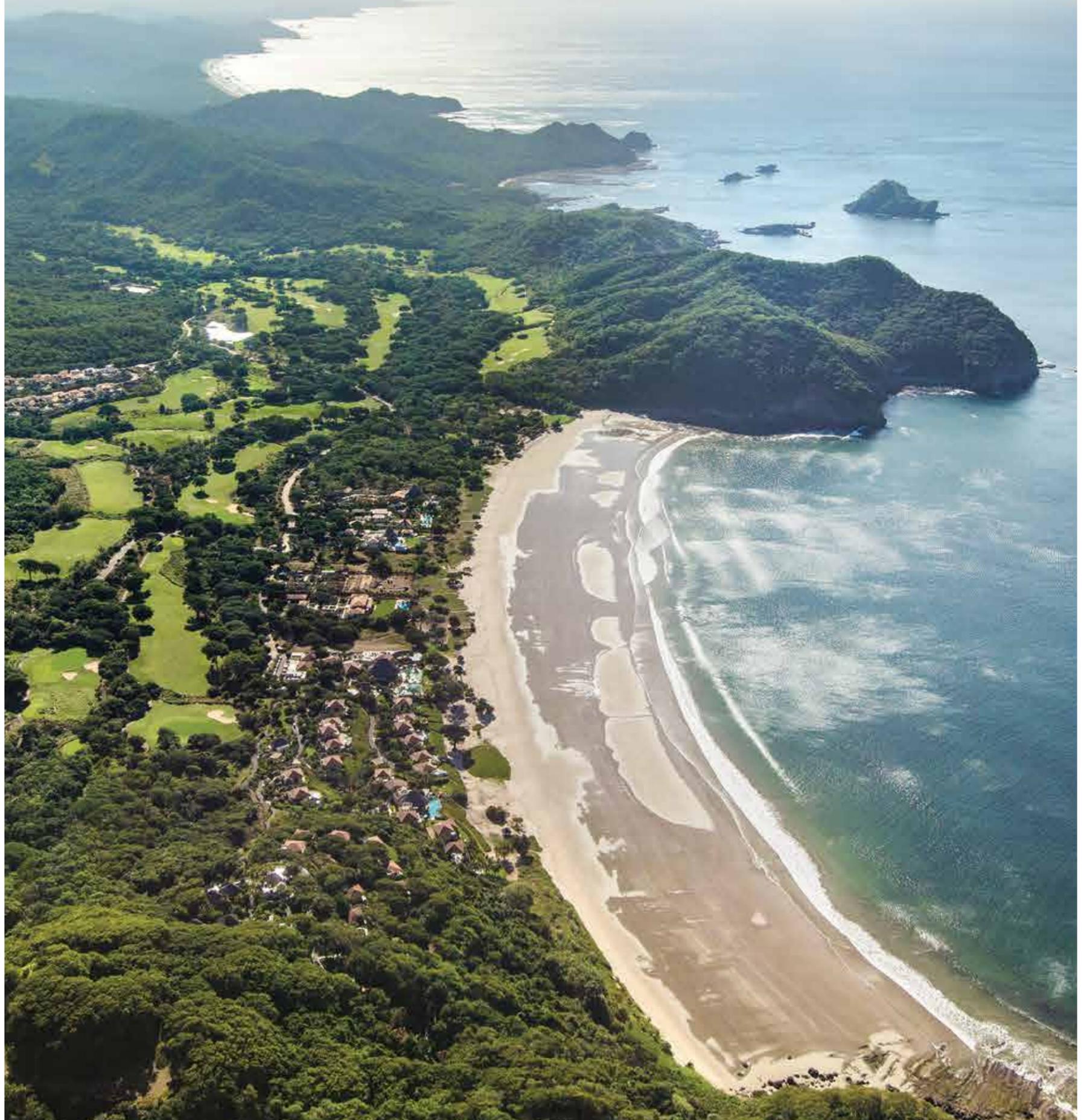
The largest portion of Yellowstone’s visitor spending, 33 percent, went toward hotels. Restaurants were second with \$85.6 million and recreation industries were third with \$59.8 million. Yellowstone’s economic impact has been rising significantly the past three years—the 2016 figure is 34 percent higher than 2013’s.

“Yellowstone attracts people from around the country and the world who contribute significantly to the local economies in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho,” said Superintendent Dan Wenk in a press release. “The economic benefits our neighbors enjoy are a direct result of preserving Yellowstone’s spectacular thermal features, abundant wildlife and dramatic scenery. As we look to the future, preservation has to be the key value we consider as we address increasing visitation. Protecting the park also protects the regional tourism economy.”



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Becoming an Outdoors-Woman horse packing workshop

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks' Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program is sponsoring a horse packing workshop May 6 near Whitefish.

Packing into the backcountry by horse can be fun and rewarding. Participants will learn about the variety of packing equipment available, defensive horse handling, how to pack a decker, sawbuck and riding saddles, and leave-no-trace camping.

"This class is a great opportunity for women who have horses or mules to learn about different packing systems they can use with their livestock," Montanan BOW Coordinator Liz Lodman said. "The instructors provide the stock and plenty of hands-on instruction during the class."

Lead instructor Andy Breland has been horse packing for over two decades. He is a founding member of the Backcountry Horsemen of North West Montana and works as a contract packer for Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the U.S. Forest Service.

The workshop, which is co-hosted by the Backcountry Horsemen of North West Montana and Trailhead Supply, will be held at an indoor arena. The registration fee includes a Dutch oven lunch prepared by an instructor and the use of all equipment and packing stock; participants don't need to bring their own horse or mule.

The mission of the BOW program is to provide opportunities for women to learn skills that enhance and encourage participation in hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. BOW is designed to introduce outdoor activities to women 18 years or older with little or no prior experience.

For more information contact Liz Lodman at llodman@mt.gov, or call (406) 444-9940. Registration forms are available at the Region 1 FWP office, or online at fwp.mt.gov/education/bow.



On May 6 Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks will co-host a horse packing workshop as a part of the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program. Held in Whitefish, this course will show female beginners the ins and outs of horse packing. PHOTO BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT

Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



Despite a warm February and March it looks like our snow water equivalents are looking great right now according to the USDA. And weather in late April has remained cool and wet. This bodes well for our rivers this spring and summer.

As we creep into May we can expect Mother's Day Caddis to hatch and rivers to swell. That being said there is usually a good two week window at the beginning of the month where most rivers remain fishable and we even get in some great dry fly fishing! But as the month progresses freestones like the Yellowstone and Gallatin Rivers will get to point where fishing them becomes a near futile exercise. Tailwaters like the Madison and Missouri

Rivers remain fishable all throughout runoff, but will also swell in size and their turbidity will increase.

Early in the month Mother's Day Caddis can be expected to blow up on the lower Madison and Yellowstone Rivers first then move on to the upper Madison and Gallatin Rivers. And at the same time hatches of midges, baetis and March Browns can also be taking place. Don't assume a fish is eating caddis just because there a thousands of caddis in the air. Observe the water and your surrounding before casting your flies to a feeding fish.

The temperatures that lead to the hatch of the Mother's Day Caddis are the same ones responsible for kicking off spring runoff. It is not uncommon to have only a day or two to fish the caddis hatch on the Gallatin or Yellowstone before they blow up and becomes unfishable. Unfishable is a loose term I use to describe conditions that most people are unwilling to fish. Fish are always there and continue feeding through runoff.

Because the Madison River is a tailwater fishing conditions remain more consistent during this hatch, but the lower is much more susceptible to muddy conditions than the upper.

Now if you don't have any interest in chasing down the caddis hatch and are looking for reliable and clear water you may want to head to the upper once rivers start to swell. Although the upper above West Fork will eventually get some color to it fishing remains consistent and the dirty water usually doesn't show up until mid or late May above the West Fork.

Hope to catch you on the water!



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EDDY Line

Paradise found: Local spring creeks offer clear water and angling challenges



BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

In case you need a refresher, what falls from the sky as snow eventually melts and flows into our rivers. We experience this every spring as many of our rivers become high and muddy with spring snowmelt. Several factors dictate how soon, how long, and how intense our runoff season will be, but when it really ramps up, the quest for clean water begins in earnest.

If hanging with the masses on the Missouri or Bighorn rivers isn't your idea of fly-fishing fun, consider the Paradise Valley spring creeks. They offer clear, cold water and are close to home, allowing you to fish and be back in time for happy hour or the kid's soccer practice. But these creeks come with a caveat: They are not always easy to fish and patience, or even a hired guide, ensures the best possible experience. Here's some guidance on fishing these gems.

Know the creeks. There are three spring creeks in Paradise Valley. The largest is DePuy's Spring Creek, followed by Armstrong's Spring Creek, and lastly Nelson's Spring Creek. The first two are located on the same creek but owned by different ranches. Armstrong's Spring Creek operates on the upper portion of the creek and DePuy's runs on the lower stretch. They both offer a variety of water features—riffles, pools, deep runs and flats. Nelson's is narrow and shallow, but over time the owners have added structure to the creek, creating some deeper holes and runs. Anglers can access the creek by paying a rod fee directly to the ranches operating on them.

Know your ability. Being an expert angler is not a prerequisite for fishing any of these creeks. But the more experienced angler you are, the more you will appreciate this unique style of fishing. If you can cast 30 feet relatively accurately, you can fish most situations. If you can easily see fish subsurface—and that starts with a quality pair of polarized sunglasses—you will enhance your experience.

The ability to work with smaller tippets and longer leaders is a must. But even if you lack experience with 5X, 6X and 7X tippet material and leaders longer than 12 feet, that's ok. What matters most is patience as you learn to work with them. If tying small flies on light tippets tries your patience, head to Craig or Fort Smith and fish big bugs on deep nymph rigs.



An angler releases a native Yellowstone Cutthroat trout on Armstrong's Spring Creek, one of three spring creeks in Paradise Valley. These creeks offer intimate, walking-and-wading fishing in a beautiful setting. PHOTO BY TAYLOR TODD

Excellent classrooms. Because these spring creeks are small and fished on foot, there are ample opportunities to learn. Add crystal-clear water to the mix and you may spend as much time watching the habits of spring creek trout as you do actually fishing for them. For the next few weeks, hatches of midges and Blue Winged Olive mayflies will occur. The behavior of trout will mimic that of the hatch. Fish will eat subsurface nymphs early in the day, getting more active as the nymphs begin to emerge. When the emerging nymphs break the surface and hatch into adults, the trout will eat the hatched adults on the water's surface. Clear water and close settings create a unique environment to watch actively feeding trout throughout the day.

Hire some help. If this still sounds intimidating, consider hiring a guide who knows the creeks and their trout well. We know southwest Montana is an epicenter of master fly-fishing guides. Many of these guides focus on certain waters, and several of us have gained an appreciation for spring creeks and the selective trout in them. If you do choose to spend a day on one of the Paradise Valley spring creeks with a guide who is passionate about them, bring along a note pad.

Consider gear adjustments. Waders and wading boots are essential. A rod with a slower casting action or soft tip-action will help you make more delicate presentations and protect light tippets. Fly selection will consist of midges and mayflies in various forms: nymphs, emergers and adults. Use a fine tippet and a long leader. If some of this sounds new to you, don't fret. But if you want to take your angling to a new level, spring creeks are an ideal classroom to do so.

My personal history with the creeks is over two decades long—way before the days of Facebook and Instagram—and their intimate nature of fishing suits my angling style these days. If you're an angler needing the instant gratification provided by social media, you might find spring creeks aren't for you; A spring creek trout doesn't come as easily as a like, share or hashtag.

For more information about Armstrong's Spring Creek, visit armstrongspringcreek.com. Information on DePuy's Spring Creek can be found at depuyspringcreek.com and visit nelsonspringcreek.com to learn more about Nelson's Spring Creek.

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.



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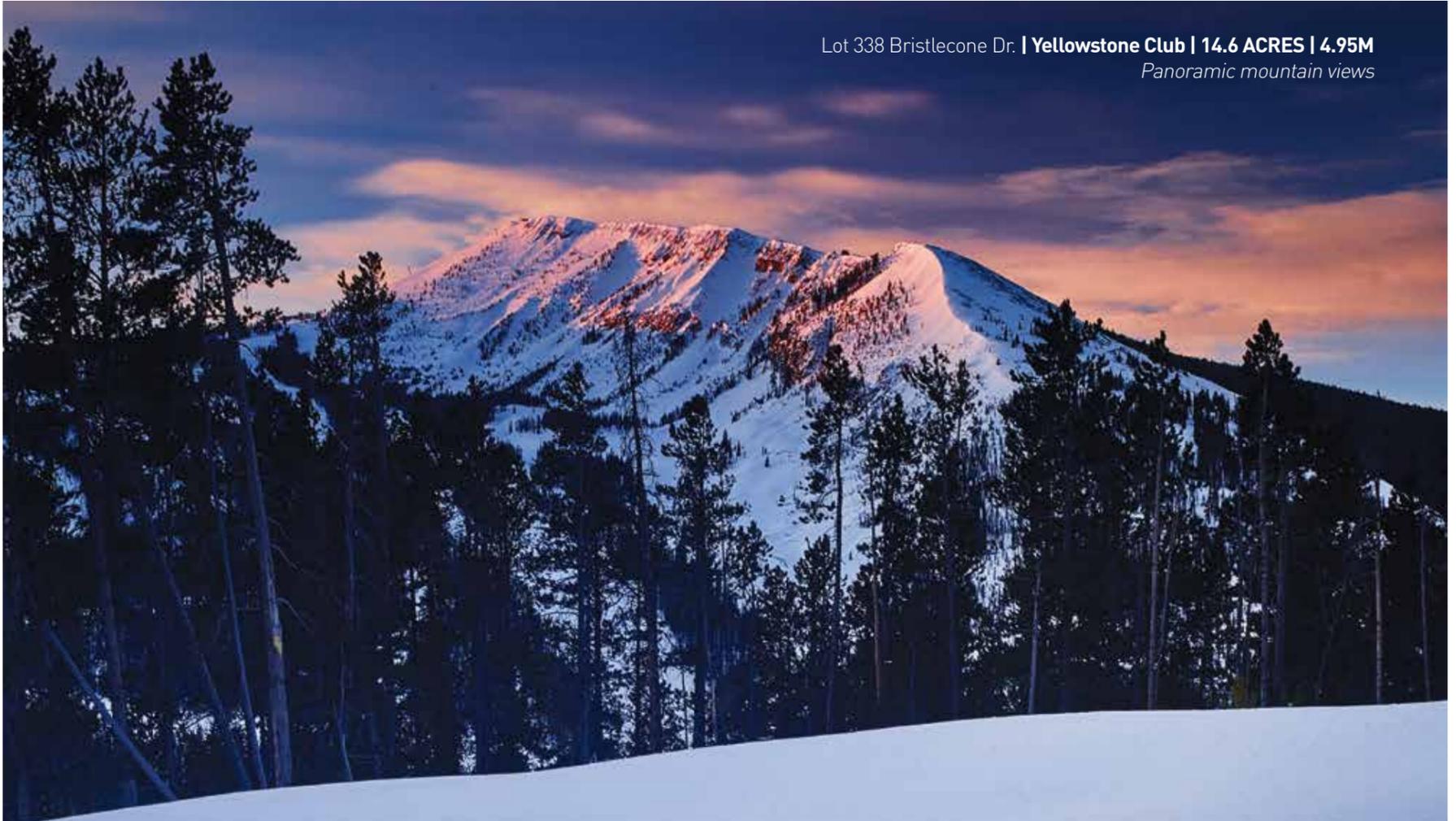
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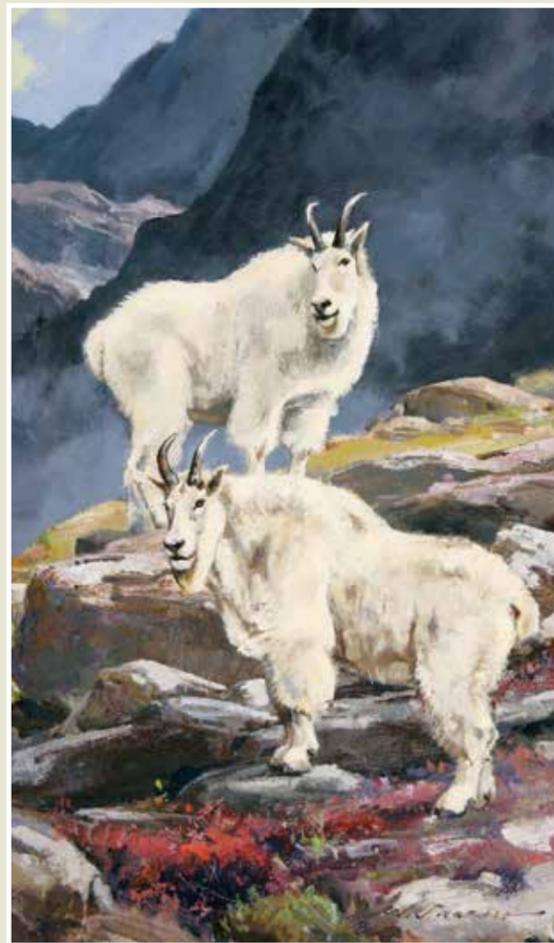
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On the Trail: Porcupine Creek Trail No. 34

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

BY CIARA WOLFE
BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As a hiker, spring is the best time of year to explore Porcupine Creek Trail due to the seasonal restrictions put forth by the Custer Gallatin National Forest. Its centrally-located trailhead in Gallatin Canyon and the vast access it opens to national forest make Porcupine Creek Trail a locals' favorite. It features connecting loops of varying distances open to a variety of uses.

When I first moved to Big Sky, the unclear user restrictions, wilderness study area designation and "Grizzly Loop" moniker kept me from exploring what I now like to think of as the national forest in Big Sky's backyard. Before sharing a brief description of the trail system's easiest loop, I would like to first clarify the unknowns about the area that originally kept me from exploring it.

User Restrictions:

- April 1-June 15: Trails are open to hikers only
- June 16: Trails open to mountain bikers and horseback riders
- July 16: Trails open to motorcycle use in addition to the above uses.

Wilderness Study Area (WSA):

The Porcupine Creek Trail is part of the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area. The Porcupine Creek drainage provides wintering grounds for the northern Yellowstone elk herd and is an ideal environment for elk calving. Wilderness study areas have many of the same characteristics as designated wilderness areas but have not been granted the same determination by Congress. They were a hot topic in the Montana Legislature this year and you will likely hear more about them as the Custer Gallatin National Forest continues with its forest plan revision, a multi-year process. Visit www.fs.usda.gov/main/custergallatin/ for more information on the Custer Gallatin National Forest or to get involved in the forest plan revision.

The Grizzly Loop

This trail got the nickname for a reason, however it shouldn't deter you from recreating on it with the right equipment and education. Visit bscomt.org/bear-smart to learn more about being bear smart while recreating.

Trail Description:

From the trailhead, cross over a small fork of Porcupine Creek and pass an old cabin on the left side of the trail. Cross Porcupine Creek and travel parallel



Sawyer Wolfe and his dogs Drifter and Junebug on a spring hike up Porcupine Creek Trail. PHOTO BY CIARA WOLFE

to the creek for a short distance until you begin to cross a hillside on an old dirt road directly above the creek. Just shy of 1 mile in, you'll come to a trail intersection, which is the beginning of the loop. I took a right, crossing over Porcupine Creek again, and took a left at the next intersection. Here I climbed a short hill to a ridge that provided excellent views. I then descended down the other side of the ridge into a scenic meadow and crossed a small stream to a junction that has a wooden post marking 1.5 miles. At this point, I chose the shorter loop (3.4 miles) and continued to the left. If you would like to extend your hike, go right at this intersection for a 6.5-mile loop. After taking a left, I looped back around to the original intersection and continued the remaining 0.8 miles back to the trailhead.

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.



TRAIL STATS

Distance	Uses	Difficulty	Elevation Gain	Surface
5 miles total	Hike, bike, run or horse	Easy	465 feet	Natural surface

Directions: Travel 2.7 miles past the stoplight near the Conoco on Highway 191. Immediately after you pass Lone Peak High School, you'll see a brown trailhead sign, where you'll turn left onto a dirt road. Cross over the river and continue approximately 1/2 of a mile to the trailhead.

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The New West: A big, happy 3-0 to the National Museum of Wildlife Art



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

As Greater Yellowstonians, there is much we take for granted, especially if one has never dwelled beyond the provincial bubble. We often forget that 99 percent of humanity does not have it as good as we do here.

Wealthy or poor, few remain against their will, which is not to say there isn't a lot of suffering and material inequality going on.

But in so many ways we're spoiled by an abundance of riches: Yellowstone and Grand Teton, crown jewel national parks, invite us from just beyond the figurative back door; an equally-inspiring tapestry of national forests and wildlife sanctuaries rim these parks; breathtaking peaks rise above unmarred pastoral river valleys; and migratory native animals, from bears and wolves to elk, bison and pronghorn, flow between these elements, moving across the landscape unlike anywhere else in the Lower 48.

The vast majority of the 22.5-million-acre ecosystem belongs to us, held in trust, as citizens; the rest, huge expanses of it, belongs to private ranchers and other entities, many of whom know they play pivotal roles in keeping the wildness of Greater Yellowstone intact.

But this is a column about another kind of national treasure, often overlooked, not only by the people dwelling here permanently, but by millions of travelers coming to snatch glimpses of lobos, grizzlies and geysers. World-class museums—we have a surprising diversity of them too.

Over in Cody, Wyoming, there's the Buffalo Bill Center of the West complex holding the Whitney Western Art Museum, Plains Indian Museum, Cody Firearms Museum and the Draper Museum of Natural History. Bozeman has the Museum of the Rockies with its astonishing trove of dinosaur bones and paleontological exhibits. A little further east in Billings, there's the Yellowstone Art Museum, which is showing a Yellowstone National Park-specific exhibit through early August. Down in Big Horn, Wyoming, the Brinton Museum often features works by the region's finest landscape painters.

Yet in a class by itself is the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson Hole. As many readers know, I've written extensively about "nature art" for three decades. On several occasions, I've also explored the role of art in advancing conservation.

Were it not for Thomas Moran's paintings and William Henry Jackson's photographs on display for Capitol Hill lawmakers, Yellowstone, America's first national park, might have never been set aside in 1872.

While some in the academic Ivory Tower evince a patronizing attitude toward "wildlife art"—equating it to bad duck and deer paintings—it has in fact been explored throughout human history and reflects an evolution in thinking about our species' place in the natural world that sustains us.

The National Museum of Wildlife Art, which on May 16 officially commences its 30th anniversary festivities with a public get-together, is the only museum of its kind in the world. It is unsurpassed in its assets—much like Yellowstone and Grand Teton are.

It still astounds me how little Greater Yellowstone's residents actually know about the museum, including the fact that people around the world make pilgrimages just to see the art, which includes pieces by some of the most famous painters and sculptors who ever lived.

It's been a great thrill to watch it attain global distinction, moving from its original location along the Jackson Town Square to its striking edifice north of town, with architecture that's equal parts ancient cliff dwelling and Scottish castle.

In a world otherwise dominated by digital distractions and throngs of summer crowds, the museum is a cathedral of quiet peaceful reprieve where you'll find priceless, historically-significant paintings and sculptures worthy of display at any fine art museum in the world, including the Louvre in Paris.

Just how relevant is wildlife art? "Wildlife art is embedded in this zeitgeist of this ecological age. Artists today are doing all kinds of things using animal imagery. It doesn't have to be a naturalistic portrayal," said museum curator Adam Harris. "You can make a political point or engage in humorous satire. Or it can make people think about our own role and what we're doing to nature and the environment. We are in an amazing era right now of worldwide concern for the earth. You see it being expressed in a multitude of ways."

Two new exhibitions are opening this summer. One features Pop art portrayals of endangered species by Andy Warhol and another titled "Exploring Wildlife Art" displays pieces in the museum's permanent collection dating from 2500 B.C. to the present. Visitors can savor works by Carl Rungius (widely considered the best painter of North American megafauna who ever lived) to pieces by Thomas Moran, Robert Bateman, John James Audubon and Georgia O'Keeffe.

There is no such thing as a bad day at the National Museum of Wildlife Art; in fact, if you're having a bad day and need an escape, you can find solace here and come home inspired by depictions of nature that have left others spellbound across the ages.

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 and get signed copies of his latest book, "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek," a story about famous Greater Yellowstone grizzly 399 featuring photographs by Thomas Mangelsen.

Judge in endangered fish lawsuit lifts hold on Montana dam

BY MATT VOLZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) — On April 19, a federal judge in Montana lifted his hold on a proposed irrigation dam and fish passage that U.S. officials say is the best hope to save an endangered ancient species of fish in the Yellowstone River.

U.S. District Judge Brian Morris allowed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation to proceed with the \$59 million project over arguments from wildlife and conservation groups that the new construction could make matters worse for the survival of the river's remaining pallid sturgeon.

"We feel that this approach is the best one for everyone affected, including the pallid sturgeon," Corps of Engineers spokeswoman Jamie Danesi said.

The Corps of Engineers issued a notice to its contractor to proceed with the project, though it will likely be months before construction begins, and two to three years for it to be completed, Danesi said.

A spokesman for a wildlife advocacy group that sued to stop the project said he doesn't believe the fish will use the bypass channel, and that his organization will continue to press for removing the dam altogether.

"We're disappointed in the judge's decision to lift the injunction, but we're going to continue to fight for pallid sturgeon and work for an open-river solution in the future," Defenders of Wildlife spokesman Aaron Hall said.

There are about 125 of the long-snouted fish in the Yellowstone, making it the largest existing population in the wild. The fish can grow up to 6 feet long and have been around since the time of dinosaurs, though their survival is in jeopardy because they haven't been able to swim downstream to their spawning grounds for decades.

An existing rock weir that diverts river water to an irrigation system for about 400 eastern Montana farms blocks the pallid sturgeons' passage. Defenders of Wildlife and Natural Resources Defense Council sued the federal agencies in 2015 to remove the weir, leading the agencies to propose building a new dam and a bypass channel for the fish.

The judge issued an order blocking that plan in November 2015, saying the agencies' environmental review didn't study whether the pallid sturgeon would be likely to use the new channel, and he ordered U.S. officials to conduct a more thorough analysis.

Attorneys for the U.S. Department of Justice asked the judge earlier this year to lift the injunction after that analysis was completed in 2016.

The wildlife and conservation groups contended that the new environmental analysis didn't actually answer the question of whether the pallid sturgeon would use the new bypass.

In the April 19 ruling, Morris wrote that he lifted the injunction because the Corps and the Bureau of Reclamation's new environmental review "attempted to address adequately pallid sturgeon recovery and probability of success of the bypass channel."

The judge was applauded by the irrigators who use the existing century-old rock weir that the dam will replace.

"The judge removing the injunction is a huge victory for the pallid sturgeon," said James Brower, the project manager for the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project. "If the injunction had stayed in place any longer, the fish would have become too old to reproduce and the species would have died out."

However, the judge also allowed Defenders of Wildlife and Natural Resources Defense Council to update their lawsuit to challenge the new environmental review. Hall said they plan to do so and seek another injunction before the dam is completed.

New era of western wildfire demands new ways of protecting people, ecosystems, says joint CU Boulder, MSU study

MSU NEWS SERVICE

Current wildfire policy can't adequately protect people, homes and ecosystems from the longer, hotter fire seasons climate change is causing, according to a new paper from the University of Colorado Boulder, Montana State University and other institutions.

Efforts to extinguish every blaze and reduce the buildup of dead wood and forest undergrowth are becoming increasingly inadequate on their own. Instead, the authors—a team of wildfire experts—urge policymakers and communities to embrace policy reform that will promote adaptation to increasing wildfire and warming.

"Wildfire is catching up to us," said lead author Tania Schoennagel, a research scientist at CU Boulder's Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research. "We're learning our old tools aren't enough and we need to approach wildfire differently."

This means accepting wildfire as an inevitable part of the landscape, states the new paper published April 17 in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The western U.S. has seen a 2-degrees-Celsius rise in annual average temperature and lengthening of the fire season by almost three months since the 1970s; both elements contribute to what the authors refer to as the "new era of western wildfires." This pattern of bigger, hotter fires, along with the influx of homes into fire-prone areas—more than 2 million since 1990—has made wildfire vastly more costly and dangerous.

"For a long time, we've thought that if we try harder and do better, we can get ahead of wildfire and reduce the risks," said Schoennagel, who also is an adjunct faculty member in CU Boulder's Geography Department. "We can no longer do that. This is bigger than us and we're going to have to adapt to wildfire rather than the other way around."

Cathy Whitlock, professor in the MSU Department of Earth Sciences in the College of Letters and Science and co-author on the paper, agrees.

"Fires are a natural part of our western ecosystems, but earlier springs and warmer summers are leading [to] more and more-severe fires than we've experienced in a long time," said Whitlock, who also serves as co-director of the Montana Institute on Ecosystems.

As part of this adaptation process, the authors advocate for actions that may be unpopular, such as allowing more fires to burn largely unimpeded in wildland areas and intentionally setting more fires, or "controlled burns," to reduce natural fuels like undergrowth in more developed areas. Both of these steps would reduce future risk and help ecosystems adapt to increasing wildfire and warming.

They also argue for reforming federal, state and local policies that have the unintended consequence of encouraging people to develop in fire-prone areas. Currently, federal taxpayers pick up the tab for preventing and fighting western wildfires—a cost that has averaged some \$2 billion a year in recent years. If states and counties were to bear more of that cost, it would provide incentive to adopt planning efforts and fire-resistant building codes that would reduce risk.

Re-targeting forest thinning efforts is another reform suggested by the authors. The federal government has spent some \$5 billion since 2006 on thinning dense forests and removing fuel from some 17 million acres of land, often in remote areas. But these widespread efforts have done little to reduce record-setting fires. Directing thinning projects to particularly high-risk areas, including communities in fire-prone regions and forests in particularly dry areas, would increase adaptation to wildfire, the authors said.

Additionally, as climate change forces species to move their ranges, some may vanish entirely, the authors said. Familiar landscapes will disappear, a fact that makes many people balk. But such changes, including those caused by wildfire, could be necessary for the environment in the long run, says Max Moritz, a fire scientist at the University of California Cooperative Extension and a co-author on the paper. "We need the foresight to help guide these ecosystems in a healthy direction now so they can adjust in pace with our changing climate," he said. "That means embracing some changes while we have a window to do so."

Critical to making a policy of adaptation successful, said Schoennagel, will be education and changing people's perception of wildfire. "We have to learn that wildfire is inevitable, in the same way that droughts and flooding are. We've tried to control fire, but it's not a control we can maintain. Like other natural disasters, we have to learn to adapt."



The Maple Fire in Yellowstone National Park burned more than 45,000 acres last year, the park's biggest fire season since 1988. A paper co-authored by an MSU professor suggests that residents of the West should adapt to "the new era of western wildfires." NPS PHOTO

PHOTO BY MATTHEW MILLMAN

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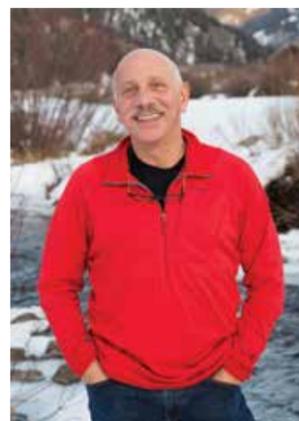
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EYE ON THE BALL

Chris Sale's early returns for the Red Sox



BY BRANDON NILES
EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

The Boston Red Sox acquired star pitcher Chris Sale from the Chicago White Sox last December for prospects Yoan Moncada and Michael Kopech, along with a pair of minor leaguers.

The acquisition of Sale, coming off five straight All-Star appearances, was a rare opportunity for the Red Sox to add another elite starting pitcher to an already potent rotation that features All-Star Steven Wright and two Cy Young winners in David Price and Rick Porcello. Sale, 28, is in the prime of his career and Boston was hoping he might be the key to another postseason run.

So far, so good.

Though Sale had only started four games as of this writing on April 21, he's been historically good. He led all of baseball with 42 strikeouts—10 more than Clayton Kershaw of the Dodgers who ranked second—and had a 0.91 ERA, ranked sixth.

Largely due to the strength of their pitching staff, the Red Sox are keeping pace with the red-hot Baltimore Orioles in the American League East division.

Meanwhile, the 21-year-old infield prospect Moncada is still working on finding his way out of the minors. While he was batting .292 for the Charlotte Knights on April 21, the Red Sox have to feel a bit relieved that the youngster hasn't made an immediate impact for the White Sox. Boston

assigned him to three different minor league teams last season after batting .211 in eight major league appearances.

Moncada is still an excellent prospect, but Boston made the right move sacrificing the future to firm up possibly the best pitching rotation in baseball. The Red Sox are built to compete right now, and waiting for Moncada to emerge as an All-Star player wasn't an option. With the fifth highest payroll in baseball at \$176.9 million, the Red Sox are determined to do better than last year, when the Cleveland Indians swept them in the American League Division Series.

It may be a small sample size, but Sale's early season success is already garnering national attention. It was the best start by a Red Sox pitcher since Pedro Martinez threw 44 strikeouts and had a 0.84 ERA in his first four games back in 1998. Sale even got the ultimate compliment from Martinez himself, who tweeted April 20, "If I am going to pay money to go see a pitcher right now it would be Chris Sale! The guy brings integrity to the game!"

Boston has a long way to go before they get a chance to avenge the shellacking they took from Cleveland in the playoffs last year, but with Sale returning dividends early in the season, steady production from young hitters Xander Bogaerts, Mookie Betts and Andrew Benintendi, it looks like it could be a magical season for the Red Sox.

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.



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Triplett's winning ways fueled by his father's passion

Columbia Falls native ties for No.7 in world standings

BY JUSTIN FELISKO
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

PUEBLO, Colo. – Matt Triplett lay helplessly on the ground inside the Denny Sanford Premier Center with his arms flailing in the air as Bottoms Up had come crashing to the ground during Triplett's ride attempt in round two of the First PREMIER Bank/PREMIER Bankcard Invitational in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, nearly crushing his knee to pieces in the process.

"It is an adrenaline rush," Triplett said. "I am just happy he didn't roll all the way over me. A 2,000-pound bull can roll all over me. Yeah, it is a little scary, but it is scary every time you nod your head. You just have to deal with it and move on."

It was also another reminder to Triplett, who went on to win the Built Ford Tough Series event 24 hours later, that his career—and life—can be over in milliseconds as a professional bull rider.

The close call reiterated what his father Pat had talked to him about prior to Matt packing his bags and heading to South Dakota.

Pat Triplett had called his son a few days after the Ak-Chin Invitational in Glendale, Arizona, to give some fatherly advice.

No, it wasn't pretty either.

Matt had just finished the event zero-for-two with buckoffs of 1.92 and 2.63 seconds, and Pat decided it was time for his son to hear some harsh criticism.

"I am very proud of him," the elder Triplett said. "I have always been proud of him, but it just came to a point where I had to tell him you can either be digging a ditch for \$10 an hour or you can keep your hand shut."

The always brutally honest father continued, "I told him, 'Dude you have to pull your head out of your ass. ... Where is the kid that grew up riding everything with hair? The want? The try? Where is it at? Where are you in your life you don't want to try so hard?' He didn't have a whole lot to say about it. I told him you are better than that. I told him the reality of bull riding. You can do what you are doing and get cut from tour and have to start over. There is a lot of money to be won."

Most of all, he reminded his son that a year ago his season was basically ended when he sustained a left shoulder injury in Sioux Falls that needed to be surgically fixed.

Therefore, he shouldn't take his career for granted.

"There may not be a next week," Pat said. "He may get hurt. That is what I was explaining. This deal could be done tomorrow. All of the bull riders know that. So why not take advantage of what you have to the fullest?"

Matt took his dad's advice to heart and went three-for-four in Sioux Falls to earn his first BFTS victory since February 2015 in Anaheim, California.

For the victory, he earned 625 points and was propelled to No. 9 in the world standings.

Heading to an April 7-9 event in his home state, the Stanley Performance in Action Invitational in Billings, Matt said, "I have to thank everything I have done this week to my dad.

"He really talked to me and pulled my head together. He was just pretty disgusted with me last weekend. I didn't even make it 4 seconds on two bulls. It really sunk in. I just love it that he is there to support me."

Pat said he was just doing what any other good dad would do.

"I don't care who he is. He is just my kid," Pat said. "It is just being a parent. At the end of the day, it is being a dad. There is nothing special about that."

Quite the contrary, his son countered.

Matt considers his dad one of his best friends and loves everything his dad has taught him in and out of the arena.



Matt Triplett rides Garber's Ghost for 84.75 points Jan. 29 during the third round of the Frontier Communications Sacramento Clash in Sacramento, California. PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDY WATSON/BULL STOCK MEDIA

Pat competed as a bull rider in local and pro rodeos for 15 years. He would travel sometimes 24 hours to compete for just the chance at winning \$1,000.

Matt can remember his dad bringing him to Rimrock Auto Arena for PBR events as a kid and those times where he would get grounded for "mouthing off" a little too much.

Then, of course, he will never forget the tears they both shed when he won his first of two Montana State High School Rodeo bull riding titles as a teenager.

"I love him and I appreciate everything he teaches me," Matt said while holding his Sioux Falls victory belt buckle. "My dad is my biggest supporter. He trains me mentally. He helps with my moves. He has been my supporter my whole life. I love it."

Pat, who also hauls bulls to select Built Ford Tough Series events, said he doesn't pull punches when it comes to giving fatherly advice.

It's something his father taught him, and it's something he has passed down to his son.

In Billings, with his dad watching, Matt finished seventh highlighted by a round two-winning 88.25-point ride aboard Red Sails in the Sunset. He earned 115 points and moved up one place in the world standings to No. 8.

After a one week break, Matt and the Built Ford Tough series traveled to Washington state where the Montanan finished 10th in the Tacoma Invitational presented by Cooper Tires, and second in the final 15/15 Bucking Battle of the first half of the season. With one event left before the summer break, Matt is now tied for No.7 in the world standings, but is questionable for the next event after spraining his wrist in round two in Tacoma.

The Built Ford Tough Series will next travel to Las Vegas, Nevada, for the Last Cowboy Standing at Helldorado Days, May 12-13, the third major of the season and final stop before the summer break. The two-day event offers increased world points and \$100,000 for the last cowboy standing in the unique "ride or go home" format. The action from Las Vegas will begin May 12 at 8:30 p.m. mountain time on PBR Live and the PBR Live app.

CBS Sports Network will also broadcast the opening rounds on May 12 beginning with the "Inside the PBR Majors" pre-show starting at 8:30 p.m. mountain time. The final rounds of Last Cowboy Standings can be seen on CBS starting at 2 p.m. mountain time on May 14.

Justin Felisko is Senior Writer/Editor for Professional Bull Riders, the world's premier bull riding organization. He has contributed to SiriusXM Radio, 120 Sports, The New York Times, USA Hockey, the Colorado Springs Gazette and the Emmy-nominated documentary series, "Fearless." He would name a bull "Caffeine-a-bolic" if he were given the chance.

Big Sky spring and summer sports roundup

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

As the temperatures get warmer and the sun shines late into the evening, the possibilities for outdoor recreational sports abound, even if the snow has stopped falling. Here's EBS's list of spring and summer recreational leagues and facilities in Big Sky to keep you active and entertained.

Co-ed softball

Thanks to the Big Sky Community Organization, the Big Sky Softball League is entering its 15th season, and might be the most popular group sporting activity in Big Sky during warm-weather months. Teams of up to 25 ballplayers compete throughout the summer in games that are equally competitive and fun. The season culminates in the Big Sky Softball League tournament in August, a three-day showdown to crown the league's top team.

Games are held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at either 6 or 7:15 p.m. Teams are required to sign-up by May 19, so don't hesitate to find a spot on a roster or start your own squad.

Frisbee golf

Big Sky boasts one 18-hole frisbee golf course and two nine-hole courses. The Bighorn Ridge course is located in the Big Sky Community Park near the skate park. The nine-hole courses are both located above Mountain Village. The easier one is located on Andesite near the Ramcharger chairlift, and the more difficult course is situated around the Explorer lift.

All three courses are free to play, but donations are welcomed. The Big Sky Resort courses can be accessed by purchasing a scenic lift ticket or by hiking up the Huckleberry Trail. Disc rentals are available at both basecamp and Everett's 8800.

Volleyball

The Gallatin RiverHouse Grill has a sand volleyball court nestled next to the Gallatin River with a backdrop that never disappoints. If volleyball isn't your



The Big Sky Softball League will get rolling as early as May 30 this year. The deadline for teams to sign up is May 19 and games take place Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings through August. PHOTO BY WES OVERVOLD

game, the RiverHouse also has horseshoes and cornhole set up to test your hand-eye coordination.

Other activities

There are plenty of opportunities to enjoy the spring season in good company if you know where to look. If you're on Facebook, I recommend joining the Big Sky Sporting Network group. On nice days, you can easily find out about an activity for exercise and entertainment. Other options in the area include pick-up soccer, tennis/pickleball and golf.

Don't be shy. If you're looking for a tennis, mountain biking or climbing partner, or if you want to suggest your own sporting activity for the evening, it's easy to find other locals who want to be outside and having fun.

For those who don't want to break a sweat, a leisurely stroll through Big Sky Community Park is a nice way to end the day and see some of the ways the locals like to spend time outside.

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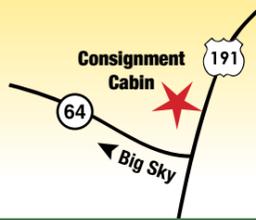


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BACK40

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”

Back 40: The birth of a foal

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT

EBS CONTRIBUTOR

My eyes opened wide in the haze of an early spring morning. In and out of an anxious sleep, I'd heard the sound of several gallons of water hit the ground. I was out of my sleeping bag in an instant and I gently swung the beam of a flashlight into the run-in stall. My mare stood in the corner, legs straddled and knees bent to lay down, and I knew she was beginning to give birth.

According to the most recent data available, a 2005 study by the American Horse Council Foundation, there are about 9.2 million horses across the nation, directly involving 4.6 million people in a \$102 billion industry. Horse enthusiasts can be found in every corner of the U.S.—how many people have heard of the Kentucky Derby? But how many know about how those horses got there?

I experienced 11 months of excitement and anticipation, waiting for that night to unfold. A mare's gestation averages 320 to 362 days, with most foaling between 330 and 345. Horses are seasonally polyestrous, meaning they naturally cycle from mid-spring to early fall. With nearly a year-long pregnancy, this seasonal fertility is nature's way of ensuring a baby will be born when the grass is green and the days are long and warm.

Once confirmed pregnant, for the first eight months a mare typically doesn't require a great deal more attention other than a watchful eye. Riding and exercise can usually continue during the first two trimesters and it isn't until the last that a mare needs extra feed to support the fetus, which does 60 percent of its growing during those last three months.

As the mare reaches term, the owner may notice subtle changes that indicate impending parturition. The mare's udder will develop milk and in the days prior to foaling the muscles will relax in her hind quarters. She may also become restless and her profile may change as the foal moves into position for birth.



April is the start of foaling time in Montana, just one small aspect of a \$102 billion industry that includes racing, showing, recreation and therapy.

About this time, an owner might begin night watch.

More often than not, a mare will foal during the nighttime hours when it is quiet and calm, and as a result, many horse births are unattended. The majority of the time a birth goes smoothly anyway and human intervention is not needed. Nevertheless, knowing this has never stopped me from doing my best to be there to welcome the new foal, as I have slept under the stars awaiting that moment on more than one occasion.

The typical birth takes around 20 minutes from the time the water breaks to the time the foal is actually delivered. After a brief calm, in those first quiet moments of the foal's life, mare and foal will stand. The mare will gently nicker and nuzzle and lick her new baby, stimulating blood flow and establishing the bond between mother and babe. The foal is typically on its feet within 30 minutes and will actively seek its mother to nurse.

At the encouragement of his mother, my new foal stood, stumbled, and stood again. With long legs and huge knees, he sprawled out, teeter-tottered, and like a little rocking horse he took his first steps. From a short distance away I watched my mare position herself to help the colt nurse. She continued to nicker, a barely audible sound in the air, meant for the ears of her new little one.

Horse owners vary in their stance on how to care for a foal once it has been delivered. Some begin interacting with the foal right away, acclimating it to the touch of a human. Still others may not contact the baby beyond what is necessary until the time comes for weaning several months down the road.

I suppose my philosophy rests somewhere between these two. I talk to the new baby and I handle it some, but treats and horseplay are not allowed. Giving the young horse time to just be a horse is invaluable, as the new baby learns about the world.

The foal will run for the very first time. It will experience rain. It will taste grasses and smell flowers and hear the birds. The early months spent watching the foal grow, spending brief periods of time in proximity, are fulfilling and exciting. The foal will feel your touch and hear your voice and in time it will come to know you, and you will come to know the foal.

April is the start of foaling time in Montana, so watch for those knobby-kneed critters this spring.

Jessianne Wright is a writer and devoted equestrian. She has raised several horses to maturity, conferring with a number of veterinarians and print resources along the way.

Section 3: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT, HEALTH & DINING



All 'Rapped' up in the magic of the mountains

Spreading inspiration through art

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY- Heather Rapp couldn't stay away from the mountains for long. The 32-year-old artist was born in Colorado Springs where she lived until her family relocated to Amsterdam, Montana, when she was 9. After graduating from high school, Rapp headed to Oregon. While earning a degree in graphic design from the Art Institute of Portland, her family ventured even further into the mountains of Big Sky.

After 9 years in Portland—the length of time she's lived everywhere, although Big Sky is poised to outlast that trend—Rapp was feeling the tug of Montana calling her home.

"The mountains are my most influential muse," said Rapp, who's called Big Sky home since 2012. "There's something captivating about them, grounding and spiritual. They make you feel small in an awe-inspiring way. ... I feel like they're kind of a part of me."

It's no wonder then that mountain-scapes, and the wildlife that inhabits them, are central in Rapp's colorful canvases and murals. Working in acrylics with brushes, a spray bottle and palette knife, Rapp's illustrative style incorporates abstract elements while retaining a recognizably Big Sky sense of place.

A wall-sized mural she created for the interior of Yoga Stone features one of her many abstracted renditions of Lone Peak, the definition of its contours segueing into dripping white paint against a fiery alpenglow sky and playfully stylized tree line. She has revisited this theme many a time on canvas, but each exudes its own feeling, time of day or season. One may incorporate speckles of snow splattered like stardust, another might be rendered in the full bloom of summer's palette, and others emanate dusky hues of pink and purple under a spiral moon.

As a child, Rapp was always drawing. In kindergarten, she drew a cup in a saucer as directed, but added steam coming out of it—a detail her parents were told demonstrated she was more artistically advanced than her peer group.

Although Rapp formally pursued graphic design and still takes the occasional freelance project, after four years of working predominantly in a digital medium, she was craving a more tactile creative process.

"After school I just dove into painting and never looked back," Rapp said.

When Rapp first moved to Big Sky to be closer to family and her beloved mountains, she held three jobs, which did not leave a lot of time for painting. But this past fall, Rapp took a big leap and left the position she'd had for four years as a pre-school teacher at Morningstar Learning Center to pursue her art full-time. Well, almost full-time—Rapp still works part-time at Beehive Basin Brewery where another of her public pieces, depicting the basin for which the brewery was named, enlivens an interior door.

Since creating more room in her life for art, Rapp has also painted interior murals for Caliber Coffee and Big Sky's newest breakfast place, Buttr. The second commission required her to "channel her inner Dali." Rapp riffed off owner Scott Hoeksema's desire for a "bacon fence," adding pancake foothills and a seriously syrupy Lake Lavinsky under over-easy egg clouds and, instead of melting clocks, melting waffles.

"I love working large," Rapp said about mural-making. "It's so much more freeing, being able to involve your whole body in the painting process. And I'm



Heather Rapp's paintings exude the vibrancy and joy she feels in the mountains, expressed through her bright palette, whimsical touch and abstracted illustrative style. PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI

so grateful that people have supported my work and let me paint on their walls and doors—that's just amazing."

Rapp's art has found its way into the community's heart in a number of ways. This past winter her work was featured in Big Sky Resort's Shedhorn Grill; her artwork is also currently on display at East Slope Outdoors and Lone Peak Caregivers. She has also participated in the silent auction component of the Arts Council of Big Sky's annual fundraising event, the Ophir School and Rotary Club auctions, and this year will be donating a piece to the Big Sky Community Organization's Parks and Trails Gala.

For the second year, Rapp will also have a booth at the Big Sky Farmers' Market, where she will sell originals and prints, as well as trucker hats and stickers emblazoned with her artwork.

"From the beginning it's been really important to me for my art to be accessible to everyone," Rapp said. "Including people like me who can't afford really expensive art."

Rapp's sweet spiritedness shines through her personality as it does her art. Indeed, people often tell her they find her work "happy"—something she sees as a natural translation of the joyous inspiration she finds in the outdoors, and especially in the mountains.

"Life and nature are so vibrant; they really feed my soul and I try to express that in my work," Rapp said. "In general, I feel like I'm a pretty colorful person, and in that way my work is an extension of myself. To bring a little more brightness and light into the world—that's not a bad thing."

Visit heatherrapp.com to see more of the artist's work.

Celebrate Bozeman brews during inaugural Craft Beer Week May 6-13

EBS STAFF

A grassroots collaboration a year and a half in the making, Bozeman Craft Beer Week will finally come to a frothy head Saturday, May 6 through Saturday, May 13. Organized by avid Bozeman homebrewers Jesse Bussard and Loy Maierhauser, the inaugural eight-day event is packed with more than 20 local beer-focused, multi-venue events involving all nine Bozeman and Belgrade breweries (and one cider house).

Special collaboration beers crafted for this maiden event include a coffee India pale ale, fruit infused gose, a lemongrass white India pale ale, a Scotch ale, a single malt pale ale, and a kölsch. These limited edition brews will be poured at four different events throughout the week, and on tap at the respective breweries.

Beer and food enthusiasts will have the opportunity to experience these collaboration beers alongside small-plate culinary creations during a pairing dinner at Montana Ale Works on Tuesday, May 9.

Craft Beer Week kicks off Saturday, May 6 with an opportunity to learn how to homebrew with the Bridger Brew Crew at Planet Natural, and a “Collaboration Beer Tap Takeover” at Red Chair Café & Bar.

On Sunday, join “Beer-lympics” at MAP Brewing, happy hour at Bar 3 Brewing and BBQ, and a “Beer-d and Mash-tache” competition at 406 Brewing Company.

Monday brings “Brews on the Fly Tying Competition” with Montana Troutfitters at White Dog Brewing, growler painting at Bunkhouse Brewery, a screening of “Strange Brew” at Bozeman Brewing Company and a burger and beer-pairing event at Copper Whiskey Bar and Grill.

Tuesday features a stein holding competition at Bridger Brewing, the collaboration beer pairing dinner at Montana Ale Works, and a ping-pong tournament with Blazing Paddles at MAP Brewing.

Get your midweek exercise in at the Brewery 5K on Wednesday, May 10 with Bozeman Running Company at Madison River Brewing Co., and treat yourself afterwards with cider tasting and tours at Lockhorn Cider House, collaborative beer pint night at Bozeman Taproom, and live music by Dan Dubuque at Outlaw Brewing.

Enjoy “Yappy Hour” with MAP Brewing and Happy Dog Beer Co. at Dee-O-Gee, bluegrass and beer with Bozeman Brewing at Red Tractor Pizza, and a sour beer seminar on Thursday. Friday, May 12 culminates with the Montana Brewers Association Spring Brewers Rendezvous at Haynes Pavilion at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds with an after-party at Bozeman Taproom.



Avid home brewers Loy Maierhauser and Jesse Bussard, and their fermentation-centric event company Fermentana, is throwing Bozeman's first ever Craft Beer Week, a grassroots effort featuring all nine area breweries and dozens of fun events and special beer happenings May 6-13. PHOTO BY SARAH KELLER

The morning of Saturday, May 13 sees a fitting end to the long week with a “Beers + Bacon = Brunch” event at MAP Brewing.

Throughout the week, enjoy beer trivia as you cruise the town on Gear Belly's pub bike or sip suds on a scavenger hunt on a tasting tour with Tour de Foam.

“Our community and the local beer scene are ripe for an event series like this,” said Fermentana founder and event organizer Bussard. “It offers an opportunity for locals and beer vacationers alike to enjoy our local beer scene in a more intimate way ... Through unique events and special release beers, this event highlights the best our craft breweries have to offer.”

To assist beer lovers on their weeklong journey, Fermentana has created an official Bozeman Craft Beer Week Passport. The pocket-sized guide contains a full schedule of events, special discounts and its purchase serves as entry into the Bozeman Craft Beer Week Giveaway which boasts more than \$2000 worth of prizes.

Passports are available for purchase at MAP Brewing, Dee-O-Gee, and the Bozeman Taproom and online at bozemancraftbeerweek.com where you can also view a complete schedule of events.

Intermountain Opera Bozeman presents Puccini's 'Tosca'

INTERMOUNTAIN OPERA BOZEMAN

Intermountain Opera Bozeman wraps up its 2016-2017 season with two performances of Giacomo Puccini's tragically endearing opera “Tosca” on May 12 and 14 at the Willson Auditorium.

“Tosca” follows the journey of ill-suited and ill-fated lovers through the dark and secretive halls and edges of cathedrals, palaces and prisons. Through Puccini's vibrant and mournful lyrical score, Director Linda Brovsky and Conductor Dean Williamson will carry the audience to the hauntingly beautiful hidden corners of Rome, where infatuation and devotion twist and twine in contention.

Featuring baritone Corey Crider as the iniquitous Baron Scarpia, tenor John Pickle as the doomed Cavaradossi, and soprano Kara Shay Thomson as the heart-rending, alluring Tosca, this story of an agonizing and devoted love-loss has long shattered the hearts of romantics and their cynics.

Bass-baritone Thomas Hammons joins the cast as Sacristan, along with Torrance Blaisdell as Spoletta, and returning Intermountain Opera favorite bass Branch Fields as Angelotti and Sciarone. With a chorus of local singers that includes a children's choir, this production of “Tosca” is poised to capture the hearts of its audience.



From left: Kara Shay Thomson will perform the role of Tosca; John Pickle the part of Cavaradossi; and Corey Crider that of Baron Scarpia in two performance production of Puccini's “Tosca” on May 12 and 14. PHOTOS COURTESY OF INTERMOUNTAIN OPERA BOZEMAN

“Tosca” will be performed at 7 p.m. Friday, May 12, and at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 14 at the Willson Auditorium, located at 404 W. Main Street in downtown Bozeman.

For tickets call (406) 587-2889 or visit intermountainopera.org.

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MSU students host Between the Lines music festival April 29

MSU NEWS SERVICE

Montana State University's Office of Student Engagement will host Between the Lines, a student-curated, end of the year music festival, on Saturday, April 29, on the MSU campus. The lineup for this year's inaugural festival includes 5 Star and Party Girl, both local acts; MADDs, an electronic DJ from Los Angeles; and Skizzy Mars, a hip-hop artist from New York City.

The event, which is open to the public, will take place in the South Hedges SB parking lot. Gates will open at 6 p.m., with the show beginning at 7 p.m.

"The goal is to host over 3,000 attendees, consisting of both student and community members," said Zen Wohlers, Office of Student Engagement student public relations director. "MSU is continuously growing, and its campus celebrations and events need continued growth as well."

Chelsey Wilson, MSU student engagement and leadership adviser, said that the Programming and Campus Events Board, or PACE, students have been working hard all year to make this event happen.

"The students are responsible for selecting and securing the artists, negotiating contracts, all concert logistics, including fencing, staging, lighting, sound, emergency response team, security, food and whatever else needs to be done," Wilson said. "I am so proud of (them) for making this event happen. It is truly an event by students. It is our priority to ensure that we are hosting a safe and engaging event and, most importantly, that we are positively giving back to the students of MSU."

A beer garden will be available inside the venue for those ages 21 and older. Vendor tents, interactive murals and food vendors will also be available.

In addition to the music festival, the Office of Student Engagement, Family and Graduate Housing and the Strand Union Rec Center will host a free alternative event in the Strand Union Building, offering family friendly movies in the Procrastinator Theater and free bowling and billiards in the Rec Center. All MSU students and local families are welcome.

For more information and to purchase tickets visit www.betweenbelinesmt.com.



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EVENTS

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Big Sky Convention and Visitor Bureau Request for Proposal

Big Sky Convention and Visitor Bureau, together with Visit Big Sky, Inc., form the official destination marketing organization for Big Sky, funded by the Montana Lodging Facility Use Tax, and is seeking proposals for Web Development Services. The mission of the organization is to promote Big Sky, Montana, as a year-round, world-class resort destination regionally, nationally and internationally. Potential service providers must submit an electronic copy of the proposal by 5:00 p.m. MDT, Wednesday, May 31, 2017 to Amelia Smith, Marketing Manager at amelia@bigskychamber.com. For questions and/or to request a copy of the RFP please contact Amelia Smith at 406-995-3000 or amelia@bigskychamber.com.

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Checking in with Callan Wink

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

Last month, Livingston author Callan Wink's first collection of short stories "Dog Run Moon" was shortlisted for the International Dylan Thomas Prize. Here is a brief Q&A with one of Montana's most promising literary talents.

Explore Big Sky: You are currently a Stegner fellow at Stanford. Are you working on any current projects? I heard you have a novel in the works.

Callan Wink: I am at Stanford until June at which point I'll come back to Livingston to start my guide season. My two years at Stanford have been great. I've actually been living in Santa Cruz and this has afforded me plenty of time to surf. I've managed to write a little as well. For the last year or so I've been mostly working on novel attempts. I say 'attempts' because I've had a couple failed projects. I'm cautiously optimistic that eventually I'll churn a decent one out. It is a much harder process for me than short story writing.

EBS: Do you have a routine for writing?

CW: It varies depending on the season and where I happen to be, but lately I try to get up at a decent hour, coffee up, and write a little, then go surf or go for a run. After that I'll write a little more until it's happy hour. I shoot for 1,000 words a day more days than not. My ideal schedule features some combination of the elements: writing, exercise and whiskey.

EBS: You were Jim Harrison's fishing guide toward the end of his life. Did Jim influence you as a writer?

CW: Jim influenced me in a number of ways and I miss his presence in my life for sure. Regarding writing specifically, we didn't talk about it all that much. That being said, I think I learned from Jim a way to go about living the writing life—basically, that you have to show up at the desk pretty much every day. Jim's eating and drinking habits were fairly legendary but his work ethic thing was the thing that always stood out to me the most. He wrote seriously almost every day and even when he was fishing, he was thinking about it. That dedication is something I aspire to.

EBS: Do you have any plans after finishing your fellowship? Are you still going to be a fishing guide half of the year? Do you want to stay in academia and teach?

CW: I'll definitely still be fishing guiding. I like the way my year is kind of split between writing and fishing. I don't think I'd ever want to do either one full-time, and in some ways each activity gets me excited to do the other.

At this point I don't have plans to teach. I've done a little teaching and have enjoyed it to a certain extent. Of course, it would be nice to have healthcare and the benefits that come with a university position, but when it comes down to it, I'm not willing to live in a place I don't love, just for a job. This fact pretty much cuts to zero the already scanty number of teaching gigs within my realm of possibility. Chances are I'll be rowing a boat for quite a while to come and I'm ok with that.

EBS: What advice do you have for a young writer?

CW: Read a lot.

EBS: What are you reading at the moment?

CW: I just finished "A Hillbilly Elegy" by J.D. Vance. [It's] a good, extremely timely memoir by a young guy from the Rust Belt, reflecting on his family. I'm also helping with the election process for the [National Endowment for the Arts] creative writing fellowships, so I have about 150 20-something-page short stories to read over the next couple months.



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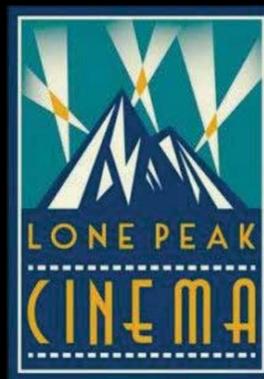
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EVENTS CALENDAR

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**FRIDAY, APRIL 28 –
THURSDAY, MAY 11**

***If your event falls between
May 12 and May 25, please
submit it by May 5**

Big Sky

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 1

Resort Tax Application Deadline
Resort Tax Office, 3 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 2

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

Bingo
Riverhouse Grill, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 4

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

**Give Big Gallatin Valley
Kickoff Party
Lone Peak Cinema, 6 p.m.**

FRIDAY, MAY 5

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 9

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

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

Bingo
Riverhouse Grill, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 11

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

Bozeman

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

Bobcat Fest on Main
Downtown Bozeman, 5 p.m.

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

Fox & Bones
Wild Joe's Coffee Spot, 6 p.m.

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

W.A.N.D.S. Anonymous
Kaleidoscope Youth Theatre, 7 p.m.

Harlem Globetrotters
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7 p.m.

Pinky and the Floyd
Emerson Cultural Center, 8 p.m.

Hillstomp with Tales from Ghost Town
The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

Brad Parsons
Live From the Divide, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

Hyalite Hill Climb
Grace Bible Church, 7:15 a.m.

Winter Farmers' Market
Emerson Cultural Center, 9 a.m.

Permaculture Design Series
Broken Ground, 9 a.m.

Bozeman Bead & Gem Show
Best Western Plus Grantree Inn, 10
a.m.

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

W.A.N.D.S. Anonymous
Kaleidoscope Youth Theatre, 2 p.m.

Brews for BOB
MAP Brewing, 4 p.m.

Between the Lines Music Festival
MSU South Hedges Parking Lot, 7 p.m.

Capstones and Steppingsones
MSU Reynolds Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Pinky and the Floyd
Emerson Cultural Center, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

2017 Dance Auditions
IndepenDANCE Community Dance
Project, 10 a.m.

Bozeman Bead & Gem Show
Best Western Plus Grantree Inn, 10
a.m.

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

Bastille – Wild, Wild World Tour
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7 p.m.

Lang Terms
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Capstones and Steppingsones
MSU Reynolds Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 1

Bozeman: Spring into Summer
MAP Brewing, 5 p.m.

Terry Guptill
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 2

Tails & Trails
Dee-O-Gee, 5 p.m.

First Ever Tuesday Night Trails
East Gallatin Recreation Area, 6 p.m.

Neltje: North of Crazy
Country Bookshelf, 7 p.m.

Madeline Hawthorne
Bozeman Taproom, 7 p.m.

Larry Kiff
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

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

Power Up: Create Your Business
Financial and Marketing Plan
MSU MMEC Building 2, 5:30 p.m.

Parenting in the Age of Disney
Journey Church, 6:30 p.m.

Wilderness and Conservation Politics
in 2017
Bozeman Public Library, 7 p.m.

Beneath a Scarlet Sky
Country Bookshelf, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 4

The Vibe Quartet
406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

Senior Photography Exhibition
The Baxter Hotel, 6 p.m.

Sip & Paint Party
Dry Hills Distillery, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 5
Coffee and Caddis with Warriors and
Quiet Waters
Bozeman Angler, 8 a.m.

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

Ian Thomas
Wild Joe's Coffee Spot, 6 p.m.

Grand Opening
Amelia Anne Photography, 6:30 p.m.

W.A.N.D.S. Anonymous
Kaleidoscope Youth Theatre, 7 p.m.

Tracy Awards 2017
The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Laney Lou & The Bird Dogs
Eagles Lounge, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 6

Bozeman Craft Beer Week
Gallatin Valley, all day

Mother's Day Ball
Meadowlark Elementary, 10 a.m.

Gallatin County Fix-It Clinic
Building 4, Gallatin County
Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.

Ben Mckee
Wild Joe's Coffee House, 6 p.m.

W.A.N.D.S. Anonymous
Kaleidoscope Youth Theatre, 7 p.m.

Brothers Gow & Dead Larry
The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 7

Bozeman Craft Beer Week
Gallatin Valley, all day

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

Leif Whittaker, My Old Man and the
Mountain
Country Bookshelf, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 8

Bozeman Craft Beer Week
Gallatin Valley, all day

Brewed on the Fly Tying Competition
White Dog Brewing, 6 p.m.

Growler Paint Nite
Bunkhouse Brewer, 6 p.m.

Neil Beddow
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 9

Bozeman Craft Beer Week
Gallatin Valley, all day

Collaboration Beer Pairing Dinner
Montana Ale Works, 5:30 p.m.

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

Ross and Travis
The Bacchus Pub, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

Bozeman Craft Beer Week
Gallatin Valley, all day

Power Up: Create Your Business
Financial and Marketing Plan
MSU MMEC Building 2, 5:30 p.m.

Dan Dubuque
Outlaw Brewing, 6 p.m.

Safety in Grizzly Country
REI, 6 p.m.

Science Inquiry Series
Museum of the Rockies, 7 p.m.

Exploring Ivan Doig
Country Bookshelf, 7 p.m.

Comedy Night
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Micky and the Motorcars
Live From the Divide, 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 11

Bozeman Craft Beer Week
Gallatin Valley, all day

Women's Circle of Excellence
Conference
MSU Jabs Hall, 8 a.m.

The Vibe Quartet
406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

SOUR BEER Seminar
Midtown Tavern, 6 p.m.

Beth Judy: Bold Women in Montana
History
Country Bookshelf, 6 p.m.

Bird Language Basics
Sacajawea Audubon Society, 6:30 p.m.

RECURRING EVENTS:
Remote Control Car Racing
Bozeman American Legion, Sundays
at 12 p.m.

Badminton
Hope Lutheran Church, Mondays at 9 a.m.

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

Trivia
Bacchus Pub, Mondays at 8 p.m.

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

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

Rocking R Bingo
Rocking R Bar, Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Free Dream Interpretation
Lockhorn Cider House, Tuesdays at
7 p.m.

Karaoke
Bar IX, Tuesdays at 9 p.m.

Music and Mussels
Bridger Brewing, Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Pickin' in the Parks
The Story Mansion, Wednesdays at
6:30 p.m.
Bozeman's Original Pub Trivia
Pub 317, Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Trivia Night
Rocking R Bar, Wednesdays at 8 p.m.

Bridger Creek Boys
Red Tractor Pizza, Thursdays at 7 p.m.

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

Pickelball
Hope Lutheran Church, Fridays at 9 a.m.

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

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

Jazz Night
Red Tractor Pizza, Fridays at 7 p.m.

SwingCats Dance
Romney Dance Studio, Saturdays at 7 p.m.

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

Livingston & Paradise Valley

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

Park High Senior Art Show
Livingston Center for Art and Culture,
11 a.m.

Shelly and Tony
Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar, 7 p.m.

The Teccas
Office Lounge, 8 p.m.

Swingley
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

DownTime Band
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

Depot Railroad Swap Meet
Livingston Depot Center, 9 a.m.

Delicate Balance taught by Betina
Johnson
Livingston Center for Art and Culture,
10 a.m.

Park High Senior Art Show
Livingston Center for Art and Culture,
11 a.m.

Crazy Horse Book Signing
The Shane Center, 1 p.m.

The IBUs
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Stephanie Jean
Neptune's Brewery, 5:30 p.m.

Walcrick
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

DownTime Band
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 1

Deception Past
The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, MAY 2

Park High Senior Art Show
Livingston Center for Art and Culture,
11 a.m.

Beer for a Cause
Katabatic Brewing, 12 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

Park High Senior Art Show
Livingston Center for Art and Culture,
11 a.m.

Knit Knight
Back Porch Quilts, 6 p.m.

Trivia Night
Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 4

Park High Senior Art Show
Livingston Center for Art and Culture,
11 a.m.

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

McNamer Sisters Book Reading
Elk River Books, 7 p.m.

Vinyl Night
The Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 5
Park High Senior Art Show
Livingston Center for Art and Culture, 11 a.m.

Bark & Wine
Small Dog Realty, 4 p.m.

South Pacific
The Dulcie Theatre, 8 p.m.

The Wench
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

Denny & The Resonators
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 6
Spare Change Open House
United in Light Draft Horse Sanctuary, 10 a.m.

Park High Senior Art Show
Livingston Center for Art and Culture, 11 a.m.

Scott Tecca
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

South Pacific
The Dulcie Theatre, 8 p.m.

The Wench
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

Erin & The Project
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 7
South Pacific
The Dulcie Theatre, 3 p.m.
MONDAY, MAY 8

Dan Bradner
The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, MAY 9
View from the Lens: Invitational
Photography Show
Livingston Center for Art and Culture, 11 a.m.

Beer for a Cause
Katabatic Brewing, 12 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10
View from the Lens: Invitational
Photography Show
Livingston Center for Art and Culture, 11 a.m.

Brian Dolzani
The Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 11
View from the Lens: Invitational
Photography Show
Livingston Center for Art and Culture, 11 a.m.

Beginning Knitting
Back Porch Quilts, 6 p.m.

Resilience Film Screening
The Dulcie Theatre, 6:30 p.m.

Micky and the Motorcars
The Attic, 6:30 p.m.

Johnny Dango & The Cornbread
Special
The Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

West Yellowstone

SATURDAY, APRIL 29
Live Poker
The Buffalo Bar, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 1
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 2
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 4
Knit Night
Stagecoach Inn, 6 p.m.
Game Night
Bullwinkles, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 5
Police Department's 3rd Law
Enforcement Torch Run
West Yellowstone Police Department, 9 a.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 6
Pygmy Boat's Paddling Rendezvous
and Test Paddle
Rainbow Point Campground,
Hebgen Lake, 12 p.m.

Live Poker
The Buffalo Bar, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 8
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 9
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 11
Annual Run for the Roses Derby
Party
Bullwinkles, all day

Knit Night
Stagecoach Inn, 6 p.m.

Game Night
Bullwinkles, 6 p.m.

Ennis

FRIDAY, APRIL 28
Logan Dudding
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29
Ennis Lions Club Auction
Ennis Rodeo Grounds, 9 a.m.

Kalyn Beasley
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Famous Friends - Favorite Poems
The Elling House, Virginia City,
7 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30
Ennis Lions Club Annual Poker
Tournament
Silver Dollar Saloon, 2 p.m.

Britchy
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 6
Fly Fishing Entomology Workshop
Madison Valley Public Library,
10 a.m.

Big Sky Resort
Season pass sale
ends April 30
bigskyresort.com/seasonpass

Grand Targhee Resort
Season pass sale
ends April 30
grandtarghee.com

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

Consider preventative treatment for your pets as tick season approaches

BY JENNY LADD
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

As the weather warms, it's time to consider the parasites, both internal and external, that can affect your pet. Ticks are one of the more noxious critters: Not only do they burrow into your dog's skin and draw blood, but they can also transmit diseases to you and your pup. If that's not disconcerting enough, there's one species that can even continue to reproduce in your home!

Despite these nefarious qualities, they are actually one of the least worrisome parasites in Montana. There are four major tick species in the U.S. that transmit diseases such as Lyme disease, Ehrlichiosis and Anaplasmosis by grasping on to your dog. Thankfully, all of these diseases are very rare in Montana, Gallatin County especially.

Prevention is always a good measure and there are many products on the market that will protect your animals from a variety of parasites. The correct product for your pup depends mainly on lifestyle.

Does your pup travel? If so, a heartworm preventative may be in order. Does he like to swim? In that case, an oral anti-parasitic is preferable to a topical one, as they do not lose efficacy in water. Does your dog frequently eat things he shouldn't? Perhaps a product with a monthly de-wormer is in order. Speak to your veterinarian about your pup's lifestyle and they can help find the right product.

If traveling is on your agenda, I recommend looking at the Companion Animal Parasite Council's website, petsandparasites.org. There are interactive maps that include parasite-related disease forecasts across the United States. If your pet is already on a flea and tick preventative then it is protected in that regard, but heartworm is a serious consideration. If you are traveling to a heartworm endemic area, it is important to switch to a flea and tick preventative that includes a heartworm component, or add a heartworm preventative such as Heartguard to your current protocol.

Despite all of the products on the market, it's possible you'll still find ticks latched onto your pet. Should this occur, it's important to remove the tick using a pair of tweezers or a tick remover. By starting at the base where it punctures your dog's skin, you are more likely to get the tick in its entirety.

Should the head of the tick be left behind in your dog's skin, it will likely cause some local irritation, and could lead to infection. Contact your veterinarian if you are unsure how to proceed. Some pets require additional medications to manage allergic responses and prevent infection.

Jenny Ladd is a veterinarian and certified veterinary acupuncturist and Chinese herbalist practicing in Burlington, Washington. She loves exploring the North Cascades with her husband Daniel, their 16-month-old daughter Riley and three dogs.



The approach of warmer weather means that many of your pet's favorite hangouts could be inhabited by ticks. Discuss preventative treatment options with your veterinarian to keep your dogs and cats tick-free.
PHOTO BY AMANDA EGGERT

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DOCTOR'S NOTE

Recovery options for knee injuries



BY DR. JEFF DANIELS
EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

When you park yourself in the Medical Clinic of Big Sky during ski season—as I have, all day, every day—and tally up knee injuries, you'd think that everybody who straps on a pair of skis inevitably is going to tear the anterior cruciate ligament in one or both knees, once, twice, or over and over!

Of course, that isn't the case. But we diagnose about 200 ACL injuries during the ski season and have been seeing those numbers for at least 20 years. My semi-scientific opinion is that once a more curved ski hit the market in the late '90s, ACL injuries increased. That might be related to the change in the radius of the turn created by the new skis, as compared to the turning radius of a straight ski. Either that, or I got better and better at diagnosing ACL injuries over the years.

Once I've made that diagnosis, I try to get as many patients as possible to send me follow-up information, either the results of an MRI (which is almost always ordered when an ACL tear is considered these days), or the notes from their orthopedic surgeon back home. I find that I'm right most of the time.

Now that we've finished the ski season, what do you do if you've torn your ACL? What are the options? How should you time your decision?

The most important thing to decide is whether or not you want to get the ACL surgically reconstructed. Up until the early '80s, ACL reconstruction wasn't considered for most people who weren't elite athletes. With the introduction of arthroscopic surgery, the various ACL reconstruction procedures have become very popular, with most people, young or old, opting for the surgery. Without surgery, it could take two or three months to feel completely recovered. The same could be said for most who opt for the surgery.

What did people do before the surgery became available? The stabilizing effects of the ACL eventually were provided by other muscles, tendons and ligaments in the knee. Physical therapy would hasten the process, but just using the knee, over time, would give most people a normal knee joint. A few would be left with a knee that could collapse with certain movements, often referred to as a "trick knee."

These days, the majority opt for arthroscopic surgery, which is almost never done until the swelling in the knee has had a chance to settle. Between the day of the injury and the day of the surgery (two to three weeks at the earliest, but often later), using the knee and exercising the leg is recommended. Wearing a brace that allows for full flexion and extension of the knee joint gives stability and prevents the knee from buckling. Using all the leg muscles and keeping them strong before surgery helps a patient get through the recovery after surgery.

Arthroscopic reconstruction of the ACL involves taking a piece of your own leg tissue and inserting it into the position of the ACL inside the knee joint. Most surgeons use a piece of hamstring tendon, although the older patella tendon technique is still preferred by some. Another option is the use of a cadaver's ACL.

Why won't the ACL grow back? We used to think that it was not possible, and that's why another piece of tissue would be used. However, recent research has shown that by using the patient's stem cells, a freshly-torn ACL can be coaxied to reattach its frayed ends. One study uses a sponge impregnated with stem cells to hold the ends of the ACL together. Another study used platelet-rich plasma injected into the knee after ACL injury.

Who knows! In the future, a simple injection of stem cells into any area of the body could lead to complete healing. In the meantime, all those whom I've diagnosed with a torn ACL will have to rely on their orthopedic surgeon, physical therapist or knee brace to get them back out onto the slopes with a normal-feeling knee.

Dr. Jeff Daniels was the recipient of the 2015 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 800 medical students and young doctors to train with the Medical Clinic of Big Sky.



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From Jackie *with love*

Don't miss the Food Revolution Summit



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

Do you want any of the following questions answered?

- Why is heart disease still the No. 1 killer when studies show that you can be virtually heart-attack proof without drugs, surgery or excessive exercise?
- Since scientists have linked 70-90 percent of all cancers to dietary and environmental factors, what foods should you eat every day to fight cancer?

- What's the truth about grass-fed beef and "humanely raised" animal products? Are they really better for you or are they overpriced hype?

- How can you be a positive influence on the people you love? How can you get your family to eat healthfully instead of looking at you like a nut?

- What foods cause weight loss without restrictive dieting?

- Why do some vegetarians thrive while others become sick?

If you want to get informed, please set time aside April 29 to May 7 to watch The Food Revolution Summit. Author John Robbins and his son Ocean have put together a powerful lineup of interviews with 24 thought leaders in the field of nutrition and well-being.

Throughout the summit, you can listen to several hours of presentations as they are broadcast, or tune in for the 21-hour replay. If this timing doesn't work for you, you can also purchase video of the presentations and watch them at your convenience.

My favorite guests and topics include William Li, M.D., who will discuss "How to Eat to Beat Cancer"; David Perlmutter, M.D., and his talk titled, "Stunning New Science on the Gut-Brain Connection"; and Susan Peirce Thompson, Ph.D., on "How to Get Happy, Thin, and Free."

According to the Food Revolution Summit team:

- Half of the people in the U.S. who reach the age of 85 develop Alzheimer's disease. Studies show the typical American diet triples your risk of developing Alzheimer's.

- Studies have linked genetically modified organisms to toxic and allergic reactions in people, sickness and sterility, and damage to virtually every organ studied in lab animals.

- Toxic pesticides developed as agents of war and linked to cancer, sterility and birth defects are routinely poured on farmland and traces of them wind up in the food you eat.

John Robbins' story is fascinating. He was heir to the Baskin-Robbins ice cream empire. After his uncle, Burt Baskin, died of a heart attack at age 54, Robbins' father told him it was time to start running the family business. Robbins, believing that Baskin-Robbins was hurting and not helping the health of Americans, declined the offer and any money that came with it. He and his wife made the conscious decision to create a life focused on health. He took it upon himself to share his story, expose the harmful practices of our current food supply, and teach others how to transform the health of our country. He is a hero in my book.

Please carve out time to watch as much of the summit as possible. These educational and inspirational interviews will strengthen the foundation of the rich, healthy life you deserve.

Visit foodrevolutionsummit.org to receive free access to the summit or to purchase videos of the presentations.

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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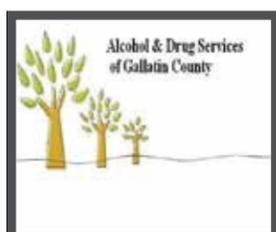
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AMUSE-BOUCHE

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.

Asparagus: The skinny vegetable that casts a big shadow



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

If you ask most people which food has the largest impact on our environment, be it in terms of carbon footprint or sustainable production, they would probably say beef. While beef is a food we need to pay close attention to, the question we should be asking, pun intended, is does your fruit fly?

With spring right around the corner—OK, maybe not exactly around the corner where we live—we start to get excited about fresh, flavorful and nutritious produce.

During this time of year, grocery stores begin to alter some of their offerings. But maybe you've noticed that most grocery stores have essentially the same produce. Naturally, there will be more variety in a Whole Foods located in California, south Florida, or Texas (its home store), but by and large, the bulk of produce available to us is the same everywhere. This is not a coincidence.

Produce is highly perishable, so retailers need to minimize the chance of spoilage. And one of the most economical ways to reduce spoilage is to stock products that have the longest shelf life.

But the scientific community looks at something else: climate impact. And this is where asparagus comes into play.

One of the things scientists and ecologists take into consideration is the total greenhouse gas emissions from production. While it can be challenging to quantify, they look at kilograms of CO₂ produced per kilogram of food. It seems common sense that beef products would be substantially higher, given their mass, but I was surprised to see asparagus come in so high: 8.9 kilograms of CO₂ per kilogram of food, according to a 2014 study published in the Journal of Industrial Ecology.

Asparagus produces more greenhouse gases than almost all other produce in your produce aisle. Per kilogram, it produces more than eggs, milk, chicken and pork. And it's not due to annual or seasonal planting, as asparagus is one of just a few perennial vegetables.

One of the things I didn't take into consideration was flight. Tender and delicate fruits and vegetables usually require air travel. Because they are time sensitive, they are shipped in relatively small shipments in fairly frequent intervals. Most produce boxes and crates state the country of origin. A little basic geography will tell you if it's been on an airplane.

It all sounds simple, right? Well, not really.

On the one hand, we're conditioning ourselves to shop locally—that supporting our own local and regional economy is paramount. It's something I've felt strongly about for a long time. But think about how far our dollar stretches when we buy a fruit or vegetable from a developing nation. And consider this: Is it better to buy a fruit or vegetable flown in a large quantity that feeds many, or to drive your Denali across a metropolitan city for that local tomato?

Perhaps we should eliminate the ability to see how much something costs until we reach the cash register. How many items would you keep and how many would you put back? The simple answer is: it's not that simple.

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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Early spring greens

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER
EBS STAFF

After a long winter of potatoes, squash and other resilient root vegetables, signs of spring have many looking forward to fresh, seasonal additions to their table. Aside from the spinach and kale we've all grown accustomed to—and sometimes sick of—there's a bounty of early spring greens to grab at the farmers' market, or add to your garden.

Arugula

A "love it or hate it" flavor, arugula is a pungent, bold but not bitter green that lends itself to raw or cooked applications. If you're not sure whether or not you like it, start with a baby variety, which has a more mild flavor, or mix it with an assortment of more mellow greens. Although its season starts in early spring, arugula grows through the summer and into early fall.

Sorrel

Given its lemony, tart flavor, it's no surprise that this green is closely related to rhubarb. Sorrel packs a punch that can brighten up your favorite spring dishes. Use it in moderation, similarly as you might an herb, or it could overpower your dish. Use sorrel early in the spring, as its flavors become more bitter as the plant grows.

Chard

This tall, leafy green produces white, yellow or bright-red stalks. The stalks can be eaten when the vegetable is young, but will become more fibrous and less palatable as it grows. The leaves are also more tender when young, and are better eaten raw at this stage. As chard matures, consider eating it wilted or cooked. The vegetable as a whole takes on a mildly earthy, beet-like flavor.

Watercress

This small, round-leafed green grows wildly near springs and streams, or can be grown in your garden. Its fresh, peppery flavor profile works well in salads, as a steamed vegetable, or wilted into soups. It also makes a great, more flavorful substitute for lettuce on your favorite sandwich. After purchasing or harvesting, be sure to store the plant with its stems in a container of water to extend its shelf life.



Named appropriately, the vibrant stalks of Rainbow Chard vary in color from yellow to bright red. CC PHOTO

Mixed Green Pesto

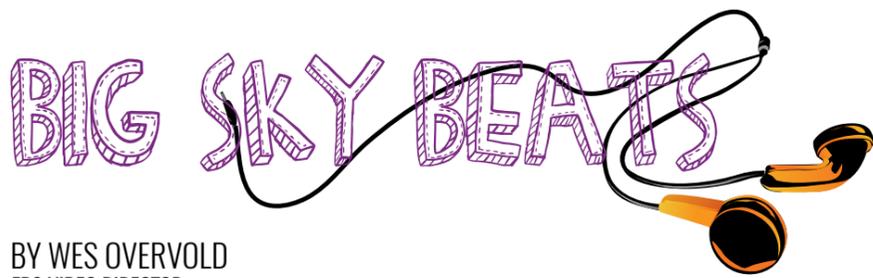
4 cups packed greens of your choice
2 tablespoons pine nuts or walnuts (optional)
2 garlic cloves
¼ cup grated parmesan cheese

The zest of ½ of a lemon
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1/3 cup olive oil
salt and pepper to taste

Place all ingredients except olive oil in a food processor. Pulse until ingredients are just combined. Slowly drizzle in olive oil while the food processor is running to emulsify.

To preserve the mixture, I like to divide the pesto into an ice cube tray, freeze, and then store in a freezer bag. Use a cube or two as desired – the pesto mixture keeps much longer this way, up to six months!

This is a great way to use up your greens when they get overgrown, and to preserve them to use throughout the fall and winter months.



BY WES OVERVOLD
EBS VIDEO DIRECTOR

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

On the night of April 7, seven more influential artists were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the Barclay's Center in Brooklyn, New York. Spanning several genres from hip-hop to arena rock, the seven inductees were recognized for their role in shaping American and global music cultures.

This issue's *Big Sky Beats* celebrates five of those immortalized artists and recognizes five more artists that are producing new music in 2017 and could very well join the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio, one day.

1. "Don't Bring Me Down," Electric Light Orchestra
2. "Faithfully," Journey
3. "Roundabout," Yes
4. "Even Flow," Pearl Jam
5. "So Many Tears," 2Pac
6. "We Used To Wait," Arcade Fire
7. "FEEL.," Kendrick Lamar
8. "Feel Good Inc.," Gorillaz
9. "Home," LCD Soundsystem
10. "Grown Ocean," Fleet Foxes

American Life in Poetry: Column 631

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

There are few writers who have done more to promote the work of other writers than Grace Cavalieri, who lives in the nation's capitol. She has a radio show, "The Poet and the Poem" from the Library of Congress, she writes book reviews and is a tireless advocate for poetry day in and day out. All this while writing her own poems and plays. Her most recent book of poems is "With" (Somondoco, 2016).

Wild Life

By Grace Cavalieri

Behind the silo, the Mother Rabbit hunches like a giant spider with strange calm:
six tiny babies beneath, each clamoring for a sweet syringe of milk. This may sound cute to you, reading from your pulpit of plenty, but one small one was left out of reach,
a knife of fur barging between the others.

I watched behind a turret of sand. If I could have cautioned the mother rabbit
I would. If I could summon the Bunnies to fit him in beneath the belly's swell

I would. But instead, I stood frozen, wishing for some equity. This must be why it's called "Wild Life" because of all the crazed emotions tangled up in the underbrush within us. Did I tell you how the smallest one, black and trembling, hopped behind the kudzu still filigreed with wanting?

Should we talk now of animal heritage, their species, creature development? And what do we say about form and focus—writing this when a stray goes hungry, and away.

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 Grace Cavalieri, "Wild Life," from *The Broadkill Review*, (Vol. 10, issue 2, 2016). Poem reprinted by permission of Grace Cavalieri 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

ACROSS

- 1 Son of Loki
- 5 Buddhist monk
- 9 Amer. Expeditionary Forces (abbr.)
- 12 Alpine mountain goat
- 13 King killed by Samuel
- 14 Recommended daily allowance (abbr.)
- 15 Lush
- 17 Adjusted gross income (abbr.)
- 18 Ahead
- 19 Two-man fight
- 20 Jazz style
- 23 Political action committee (abbr.)
- 24 Allusion
- 25 Blanch
- 30 Gelderland city
- 31 Stone chip
- 32 Revolver
- 33 Kind of gypsum

DOWN

- 35 Assistant
- 36 Wing
- 37 S. Afr. village
- 38 Handle
- 40 Asian mountains
- 43 Tattle
- 44 Aria (2 words)
- 48 No middle initial (abbr.)
- 49 Star facet
- 50 Afrikaans
- 51 Office of Economic Development (abbr.)
- 52 Shallow receptacle
- 53 S. Afr. fox

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

O	C	T	A	A	S	N	E	S	E	L
A	A	R	E	R	H	O	S	E	B	O
S	P	A	C	I	O	U	S	P	R	O
T	A	M	S	A	N	T	A	R	N	A
A	R	M	O	R	M	U	S	E	T	T
C	E	I	L	M	E	M	T	E	A	K
H	E	L	I	C	A	L	L	E	D	G
A	S	S	N	D	A	L	A	L	A	L
G	O	N	C	A	M	A	N	A	S	O
A	B	I	A	C	O	R	D	U	R	O
B	I	O	L	L	O	A	H	E	R	E
I	A	N	A	E	T	C	F	A	I	R



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