

Steve Daines delivers chamber awards keynote EBS Q&A with the senator

25 Town Center celebrates grand opening

A Billion Dollar Bet Big Sky's development history, part 2

Back 40: Tips for the downhill mountain biker

**Big Sky Art Auction returns to PBR week** 





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ON THE COVER: Tanya Simonson, who works at Big Sky's Brothel Bikes, hits a jump on the Blue Room trail at Big Sky Resort on June 27. PHOTO BY DOUG HARE

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

#### Section 1: News

| )pinion | 6  |
|---------|----|
| .ocal   |    |
| Aontana | 14 |

#### Section 2: Environment, Sports & Dining

| Environment |    |
|-------------|----|
| Sports      |    |
| Dining      | 26 |

#### Section 3: Business, Health & Back 40

| Business | .33 |
|----------|-----|
| Health   | 43  |
| Back 40  | .48 |

| Section 4 : Outdoors & Fun |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Outdoors                   | 49 |
| Fun                        | 63 |

#### Section 5 : Arts & Entertainment.....



#### **Steve Daines delivers** chamber awards keynote

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# A Billion Dollar Bet

Big Sky's development history, part 2





### **Big Sky Art Auction** returns to PBR week



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The Tetons in their spring glory captured on the morning of June 19, looking west from Antelope Flats Road between Mormon Row and Gros Ventre Campground in Grand Teton National Park. PHOTO BY MERLIN GRANT

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#### July is Montana Open Land Month

#### EBS STAFF

This July marks the third year of Montana Open Land Month, an initiative launched in 2015 to celebrate and recognize Montana's outdoor heritage.

"I think there will be many different ways people celebrate—a solo hike in the mountains, a gathering to celebrate our community food system, and other potential celebrations that people have set up that I don't even know about," said Kate Wright, the founding director of Open Land Month.

"We just think it's important that people just stop and pause and take a look around them and just appreciate the tremendous opportunities we have in Montana thanks to open land," said Glenn Marx, the executive director of the Montana Association of Land Trusts.

"As human beings, [we] tend to take things for granted and we tend to lose what we take for granted. We should not take the value of open land for Montana," Marx said. "Open land really does define the essence of Montana and the character of Montanans."

People who are interested in participating have a variety of other ways of doing so, including watching "On the Shoulders of Giants," a 21-minute film about the history of land conservation in Montana, and answering a one-question online survey: "What does open land mean to you?" Couples preparing to exchange vows can also register with Weddings for Open Land, which allows their guests to make a donation to a fund managed by the Montana Association of Land Trusts in lieu of a gift.

Visit openlandmt.org and weddingsforopenland.org for more information.

# Public commentary period closes July 10 for national monuments review

EBS STAFF

President Donald Trump signed Executive Order 13792 on April 26, directing Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to review the designation of select national monuments created after Jan. 1, 1996, which includes the Upper Missouri River Breaks in Montana, as well as Idaho's Craters of the Moon. As a part of this review, the Interior Department seeks public comment on specific national monument designations. Written comments must be submitted by July 10.

Executive Order 13792 covers land designated or expanded as a national

#### Traffic study findings presented at July 18 meeting

EBS STAFF

The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, with funding support from Gallatin County, Madison County and Big Sky Resort Tax, hired Bozeman planning and design firm Sanderson Stewart to complete a transportation study to evaluate traffic safety and operations along the Highway 64 corridor between Highway 191 and Big Sky Resort to assist with planning and prioritizing projects. The study commenced Feb. 1.

Sanderson Stewart will present their findings, along with future traffic projections at a public meeting on Tuesday, July 18. The presentation will include an overview of results from the analysis of existing conditions and will highlight key intersections that warrant turn lanes based on established traffic standards. The update will also include an overview of crash data, next steps in the analysis, and collaboration opportunities between counties, state and the local community to address issues.

A copy of the study's draft report will be available at bigskychamber.com beginning Friday, July 7 for community review and commentary. The final Big Sky Transportation Plan will be based on information gathered from residents, businesses, Gallatin County, Madison County and the Montana Department of Transportation via the public meeting and direct stakeholder engagement.

The Big Sky transportation study public meeting will be beld Tuesday, July 18, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Big Sky Water & Sewer District conference room located at 561 Little Coyote Road. Visit bigskychamber.com or call (406) 995-3000 for more information.

#### June climbing up despite voluntary ban at Devils Tower

DEVILS TOWER, Wyo. (AP) - The number of people who climb an unusual rock formation in northeast Wyoming during June is on the rise despite the concerns of American Indian tribes who hold the place sacred.

Devils Tower is nearly 900 feet tall from base to summit. Devils Tower National Monument was the first U.S. national monument and many know the volcanic feature for its role in the 1977 film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

Devils Tower is a popular target for climbers but also culturally significant to at least 25 tribes in the region. In the mid-1990s, climbers, the tribes and National Park Service officials agreed to a compromise that put the tower voluntarily off-limits to climbing during June.

The number of people climbing Devils Tower in June fell from 1,200 to just 167 in June 1995. Lately the number is back up, reaching 373 in June 2016, Wyoming Public Radio reported.

monument under the Antiquities Act of 1906. This act was signed by Theodore Roosevelt and gives the President the authority to create national monuments in order to protect significant natural, cultural or scientific features.

With more than 120 national monuments designated since 1906, Interior Secretary Zinke is directed to review those designations since 1996 that cover more than 100,000 acres, expansions of more than 100,000 acres, or where a designation was made without adequate public outreach and coordination with relevant stakeholders, as determined by Zinke.

Public comment is not required for monument designations under the Antiquities Act. According to a May press release from the Office of the Secretary, Zinke and Trump believe local input is critical to federal and land management.

Written comments can be made online at regulations.gov by entering DOI-2017-0002 in the search bar and clicking "search," or by mail to Monument Review, MS-1530, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240. Comments must be received by 11:59 p.m. EST on July 10.

A steady increase in June climbing over the past five years isn't tied to the growing number of people visiting Devils Tower, Monument Superintendent Tim Reid said.

"It's safe to say that largely, the bulk of June climbing is done by relatively local or regional climbers who for whatever reasons find it personally acceptable to climb in June," Reid said.

It's painful when climbers ignore the closure, said Waylon Black Crow Senior as he chaperoned Lakota youth from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

"We see them climbing up there," said Black Crow. "And all we can do is watch."

Recent June climbers included commercial guide and lodge owner Frank Sanders, who said he knew not everyone agreed with his decision to climb then.

"The tower's not for one person, or one group of people, or one month, or one day, or one week," said Sanders. "It's for all of us."



This summer, Luxe cupcake bakery, Compass Cafe, Bobcat mattress shop, SAV digital environment showroom, Moe's BBQ have opened or will open in Town Center.

What other businesses would you most like to see open in Big Sky?



**Kristine Hovey** Big Sky, Montana

"I wish we had some more holistic health stores, art studios and more for creative people in Big Sky. I also wish we could have a pool for kids; that would be awesome."



**Amy Wiezalis** Big Sky, Montana

"I would really like to see more opportunities for people to have fun. It would be great if we could get a bowling alley, or something for kids to do for recreation."



Dan Wade Big Sky, Montana

"There's a lot of business opportunities but it's tough to find dedicated housing for employees. That being said, if you start a business you should go all in."



Aiden Jones Big Sky, Montana

"I would like to see more formal restaurants besides [Big Sky Resort's]. It would be nice to go somewhere you could just get a really nice drink and a good meal."





CONTACT JOLENE CLARK FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO RSVP | JOLENE.CLARK@BBBS-GC.ORG | (406) 855-6544



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# **Letter:** Resort tax process reaffirms need for incorporation

The Big Sky resort tax appropriation process that took place on June 14 caused quite a stir among the community. With more funds available for distribution than applications submitted, the board actually cut the requests from some of the most valued and responsible entities serving the community: the fire department, Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, and the Big Sky Community Organization. Their reasoning for this as presented during the course of the meeting was bizarre and inconsistent to say the least.

Managing \$7 million on behalf of the community is a significant undertaking. Most communities that deal with funding at that scale are incorporated municipalities, with full-time staffs and a toolbox of statutory authorities to address that responsibility. Incorporated municipalities are also equipped to deal with continuous operations, and manage long-term investments on behalf of their constituents, both of which are absent from the limited legal charter of a resort area district board.

Any examination of the scale of Big Sky, whether the tax revenue collected and spent here, the infrastructure in place, or its population and growth, position this community near the top of the scale of cities in the state of Montana. Despite these simple facts, Big Sky limps along with incomplete management abilities and a virtually complete lack of political potency to manage itself, and cope with its challenges. Perhaps the cruelest aspect of this situation is a virtually complete absence of representation of local residents, and intimidation by employers in this company town directed toward any who show interest in engaging in the process.

This community desperately needs to take charge of its future, and manage itself, just like any other responsible community has done. It's neither the counties' nor the state's job—it's ours, and it's high time to get on with our future.

Steve Johnson Big Sky, Montana



Submit a letter to the editor at: media@outlaw.partners

Submissions must be: • 250 words or less • Should be respectful, ethical, and accurate • Include full name and phone number

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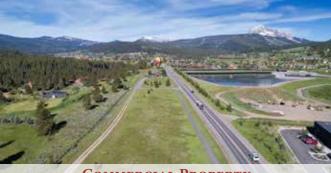
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Big Sky, Montana

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2016 WINNE

# Fire department seeks staffing, changes hiring policy

### BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY - The Big Sky Fire Department has seen a steep increase in emergency calls in recent years, leading the department to undertake hiring 13 more firefighters and change residency requirements for their employees. The first phase of this hiring process was recently considered by the Big Sky Resort Area District resort tax board and the request to fund the initial addition of three battalion chiefs at \$423,300 was not granted in full.

The full resort tax application included operational support maintained at \$526,100, funds to replace a 20-year-old engine for \$715,000, and the request to hire three more positions. The total came to \$1,664,400, the largest ask for the 2017/2018 fiscal year.

The resort tax board allotted \$1,520,430 to BSFD in a decision to supply funds for all but one battalion chief.

"Our request was a large thing to ask of [the board]," Fire Chief William Farhat said. "We still feel well supported, despite not getting the full funding."

Originally, BSFD intended to seek funding for 10 of the desired 13 firefighter positions via a mill levy vote in November, hoping the resort tax board would approve funds for the other three. Now, Farhat says they will ask voters to approve hiring 11 battalion chiefs this fall.

"We need more people to do our job," Farhat said, referring to Big Sky's explosive growth and the results of a 2015 survey by Emergency Services Consulting International. In order to help with future planning, BSFD contracted ESCI in 2015 to provide a master plan for the delivery of emergency services to Big Sky. The resulting 141-page document was made available at the beginning of 2016, and incremental fulltime staffing additions was one of the recommendations.

BSFD received an average of about 500 calls each year in the late 2000s, which has increased to 727 calls for service in 2016. Seventy percent of the services BSFD provides are for tourists and people that do not live in Big Sky, and on top of that, the last three years have consistently been record-breaking in the number of annual incidents.

The ESCI survey found that there are not enough Big Sky firefighters available to respond to incidents 41 percent of the time. BSFD is responsible for an 80-square-mile district, but with a lack of other emergency services in the area, the department responds to calls within and a 400-square-mile area.

"Operationally, we're kind of on an island ... we don't have a lot of neighbors to ask for assistance," Farhat said. Aid from the next closest fire station, the all-volunteer Gallatin Gateway Rural Fire District Station 1, could take upwards of 50 minutes to respond, he added.

"We have to be more self-sufficient here." Currently, BSFD employs 19 full-time staff, consisting of one office administrator, one administrative

assistant, one fire chief, one deputy fire chief, three captains and 12 firefighters. With a small staff that services such a vast and varied area, it takes longer than 15 minutes to respond to over 20 percent of the fire district's emergency incidents. The goal and industry standard is eight minutes, Farhat said.

"The question that needs to be answered is what are the service [delivery] needs of the community? ... What's considered to be an acceptable level of service for the community?" said Lane Wintermute, a senior associate with ESCI in a Jan. 21, 2016, presentation of ESCI's findings. "The other question is what can the community afford, what are they willing to pay for? ... It's a matter of community expectations and affordability."

The fire department is well-supported by resort tax...It enables the fire department to operate as well as they do," he added. "It's also a year-to-year allocation. The resort tax board can't make a longer-term allocation. That makes it challenging for the fire department because they don't know from one year to the next whether the funding for a particular initiative is going to change."

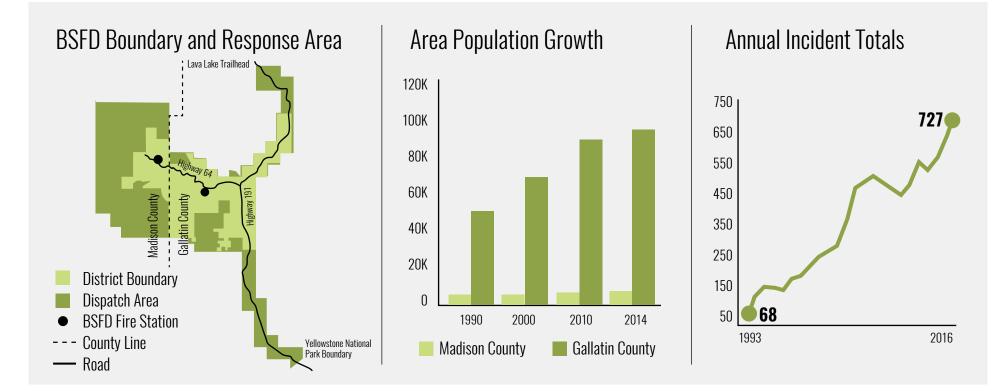
During a June 5 Q&A for resort tax applicants, resort tax board member Kevin Germain expressed concern that fully funding three positions this year would lead to an expectation of continued resort tax support for those positions in future years.

"The resort tax board can't obligate a subsequent resort tax board for funding [and] we're looking at a request to fund three positions that would be \$400,000-plus in perpetuity," Germain said. "If this board wills it this year, [applicants] would like that it's the will of the board next year and the will of the board after that."

Big Sky firefighters work 48-hour shifts, followed by 96 hours off, and are available to cover emergencies every hour of the day. Six years ago, when Farhat took his position as fire chief, the department maintained that firefighters needed to be residents of Big Sky. Faced with hiring challenges in recent years, BSFD changed this policy in April so firefighters may now live anywhere in Gallatin or Madison counties, within one hour of the fire district boundary.

"The reality is that we can't afford to pay our people enough to live here," Farhat said. "It was very hard for us to go through and discuss this." He said originally, the residency requirement was based on the idea that firefighters would have a better response time when they are off-duty because they live in the area they are being called to. But, due to limited cell phone reception in the area and generally active lifestyles, "even if [firefighters] are living in the Big Sky area, they may not be readily available anyway," he said.

By opening up the residency requirement, Farhat expects to see better recruitment opportunities as more qualified individuals will be able to apply. "It's very exciting for us to have that talented group of people to recruit from," he said.



# Sen. Daines talks public lands, healthcare and affordable housing

#### BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – Prior to delivering the keynote speech at the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce Awards and Dinner on June 25, Republican Sen. Steve Daines spoke with EBS about issues prominent in the West's political discourse.

During the interview, the nearly life-long Bozeman resident stressed his five-generations deep Montana roots, avid outdoorsmanship, and shared stories geared specifically for a Big Sky audience: skiing the resort in 1973; New Year's Eve celebrations at Buck's T-4 Lodge with the Mission Mountain Wood Band; and where he finds the best Big Sky powder today. His comments have been edited for brevity and clarity.

### **Explore Big Sky:** What do you see as Montana's greatest asset?

**Sen. Steve Daines:** Its people. ... Montanans, by their instincts, have a strong work ethic; they also are service-oriented; they take care of people; they've grown up learning to take care of their neighbors, and the importance of that when you live in a state that has a rural thread running through it.

I think second too, in Montana, is the outdoors. And the outdoor economy. You know our largest economic driver in Montana is agriculture. So that

kind of fits the culture we have in Montana, it's founded in ag. ... But then we have two national parks—Yellowstone, we've got Glacier, and people come from all over the world to see those parks.

**EBS:** According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Bozeman is the second-fastest growing municipality in the United States, and the Bozeman Micropolitan area, which spans the entire county, is the fastest in terms of absolute population gain. Big Sky is clearly a part of that equation, and as EBS has reported, we have an affordable bousing crisis. Can you provide any insight into the issue, or is there anything that can be done at the federal level to alleviate the problem? **S.D.:** I think this a decision that rests oftentimes with local and county officials as you look at zoning and the need to set aside lands where affordable housing can be built. There are federal programs and grants that can assist, but there has to be a master plan here in looking at where are the people going to live who aren't buying the large homes here. ... You cannot have an outdoor economy in Montana, in Big Sky, without having affordable housing [for] men and women who are going to live here year-round.

# **EBS:** What is your stance on President Donald Trump's desire to downsize or eliminate 24 national monuments, closest to home being the Upper Missouri Breaks?

**S.D.:** That's water under the bridge. I wouldn't change the existing national monuments in Montana. If there's a review to look at the process that is used, well you could review the process, but I would not recommend making any changes or downsizing. But I would look at the process going forward to allow the state to have a greater voice in the process.



Republican Senator Steve Daines touched upon hot local, regional and national topics during an interview with EBS prior to delivering the keynote speech at the 20th annual Chamber Awards and Dinner on June 25.

**EBS:** Do you think this bill, from what you've read so far, will do that?

**S.D.:** On preexisting conditions I do, very much so, it has to. It's important that we go back to the three important messages I've heard from Montanans: lower premiums, protect those with preexisting conditions, not just access but affordable healthcare, and make sure that we save Medicaid.

#### **EBS:** And you're going to stand by that and make sure it happens? **S.D.:** You bet. I will.

There are some complicated funding provisions in Medicaid, but the current Senate bill ... allows Medicaid expansion to go forward in perpetuity. ... One of the challenges we face right now is Medicaid expansion alone is estimated to add another [\$800 billion] to \$900 billion in that expansion alone over the next 10 years. Medicaid today is about \$600 billion, that's equal to our current defense budget, if you take the state and federal component, so we've got to take a look at how we turn the powers of Medicaid administration back to the states.

Right now it's a very D.C.-driven solution. A state like Montana, with rural healthcare challenges, would have different thoughts about how we would administer Medicaid

than a state like New York or California or Florida. So another big component of this bill is going to be turning a lot of these powers back to the state instead of the federal government.

# **EBS:** How do we balance protecting the natural beauty of this place that draws so many people to it, while accommodating population growth and the influx of tourism?

**S.D.:** We've got to deal with infrastructure challenges. I'm the chairman of the National Parks subcommittee in the U.S. Senate. You look at Yellowstone National Park, [it] had a record visitation year last year; Glacier National Park had record visitation last year. ... We'll probably break those records again this year, depending on the fire season a bit, it always does. So we have about [an] \$11 billion backlog in deferred maintenance right now in our national parks—that's a really important issue and we've got to highlight it.

Also, when you look at the people coming to Montana ... we've always been a state that has welcomed people. ... Sometimes the folks who want to shut the doors of Montana are the folks who just moved here. Growing up here, if you don't have a growing economy it's pretty tough to keep a job; it's pretty tough to keep food on the table.

**EBS:** With Trump's proposed cuts for the Department of Interior, which will trickle down to the National Park Service, how are we going to improve the infra-

**EBS:** Sen. Jon Tester said, "the GOP healthcare bill would rip away Medicaid from thousands of Montanans." You released a statement saying you would wait to hear from your constituents before taking an official stance, but what can you tell us about where you stand on the Republican health care plan? **S.D.:** When you look at where we're at, Montana's premiums for the individual market have gone up 133 percent since 2013—these are the Department of Health and Human Services stats. ... I hear stories from Montanans all over the state where they used to pay this amount for healthcare and now they have to choose between buying healthcare or a mortgage.

One-third of the counties right now across the nation are down to one insurance provider in an individual market—one. So you no longer have choice; that's a monopoly. There are several counties now that are down to zero providers and that's like having a bus ticket and no bus to ride. ... We're seeing dramatic further increases right now in premiums across the country, so something has to be done. structure to accommodate those numbers?

**S.D.:** I think there's been frankly, a lot of media bluster about the president's budget. ... I'm quite confident that the departments you just mentioned, because I'm on those appropriation committees, will not see the cuts that President Trump proposed.

**EBS:** You worked with Rep. Greg Gianforte in the early years at RightNow Technologies. Were you surprised that Gianforte got into a physically aggressive altercation with a reporter on the eve of the special election? **S.D.:** I was. I've known him for 23 years; it surprised me. ... We've spent a lot of time in the backcountry together, hunting and fishing together, building a business together. And it was not excusable; it surprised me.

### **EBS:** Do you prefer the steeps of Big Sky Resort or the private powder of the Yellowstone Club?

**S.D.:** Depends on where the best snow is [laughing]. If I've got a perfect day in Big Sky, I'm heading up and hitting the Dictator Chutes, to me, that's a great morning. I love the views up there too, so you have a combination, on a bluebird day, of great snow and just the magnificent views. It's maybe one of the best views in the world.

#### LOCAL

# **CrossHarbor, Daines speak to concerns about Big Sky growth** Jerry Scott receives Chet Huntley Lifetime Achievement Award at chamber dinner

**BIG SKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** 

### BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – On June 25, 160 members and friends of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce gathered in Big Sky Resort's Missouri Ballroom for the 20th annual Big Sky Chamber Awards and Dinner. The event highlights the work successes of the past fiscal year, looks to the year ahead, and recognizes the community's top-performing businesses and individuals.

Following chamber CEO Candace Carr Strauss' welcome address, in which she noted that the Big Sky chamber now has more than 450 members, representatives from presenting co-sponsors Karst Stage and CrossHarbor Capital Partners took the podium.

CrossHarbor principal Matt Kidd's tone took a more serious turn when he said he wanted to address grumblings in the community that Big Sky is experiencing growth that is "accelerated" or "explosive" beyond its capacity to accommodate.

Rattling off real estate and development statistics, he

said that if you disregard the \$500 million in sales and development the Yellowstone Club has averaged for the last several years, Big Sky growth has remained relatively consistent in recent years and is less significant, on a percentage basis, than it was in the early 2000s.

"Big Sky is growing, yes," Kidd said. "But in my opinion it is measured, and it is happening with wide levels of community involvement and partnership amongst the largest stakeholders in the area that was never seen in prior periods of Big Sky development, and if this community should remember from the past, continued growth is not assured and it won't happen without community leaders continuing to work together to make Big Sky the world-class community that it can be."

To be successful over the long term, Kidd said Big Sky will need to see more growth than has been realized to date, and one necessary piece of this is additional lodging.

Kidd concluded his speech by announcing that construction of the Hotel Wilson, a Marriot Residence Inn, will commence in Town Center in July. The 118,000-square-foot building will have 129 rooms, with approximately 6,000 square feet of ground floor commercial, including a full service restaurant, bar and lounge area. Michelle Denning, manager of Lone Perk Espresso, was named Outstanding Front Line Worker of the Year for the consistently sunny service she provides to all who pass through the drive-through coffee shop in the Conoco parking lot.

And finally, Jerry Scott received the Chet Huntley Lifetime Achievement Award, joining the ranks of past recipients Jeff Daniels, Taylor Middleton, Mike Scholz and Marne Hayes.

Scott, founder of Gallatin Partners realty, has held elected positions on the Ophir school board, Big Sky Water and Sewer District, and two separate appointments to the Big Sky Planning and Zoning Advisory Board since moving to Big Sky in 1993. Scott also formed and coached the first fastpitch softball team in Big Sky, and with help from Middleton cleared the sagebrush behind the elementary school to create a field to play in. Scott and his partner Al Malinowski donated the 20 acres that enabled the construction of Lone Peak High School.

U.S. Sen. Steve Daines closed out the night with a speech peppered heavily with nostalgic memories of Big Sky and anecdotes meant to drive home his Montana roots. Daines segued into the economic sphere—and circled back to Kidd's speech—by referencing Bozeman's position as the second fastest growing micropolitan area in the country per the U.S.



by Candace Carr Strauss and David O'Connor, was recognized for his many contributions to the Big Sky community since 1993. PHOTO COURTESY OF

Outside of the Yellowstone Club, Kidd said the Marriott will be the largest project in Big Sky since the Summit Hotel was built in the late 1990s and the first new hotel since the Lodge at Big Sky opened in 2008. It will be Big Sky's first branded hotel, and is estimated to generate nearly \$1 million in resort tax and lodging tax collections combined each year.

Chamber board of directors chair David O'Connor presented the annual awards. Business Person of the Year went to Dale and Gayle Palmer, owners of Nordic Hot Tub, and long-time philanthropists through their work with Rotary Club of Big Sky.

Business of the Year was awarded to Ace Hardware, still colloquially known as "The Merc," from its longstanding tenure as Mountain View Mercantile. Although the name and location have changed, owner Kevin Barton, and many of his staff, have remained the same. Census Bureau, and gave the crowd a kind but sobering count-yourblessings lecture.

"There are about 55 other counties [in Montana], maybe 54, that would give their eyeteeth to come to a chamber of commerce dinner like this tonight and talk about the fact that we have to be kind of worried about 'explosive growth' or 'growth at all.' Look at your numbers ... by every measure it's an incredible Montana success story," Daines said.

"You have to remember ... when you're managing a business you're either managing up—you have growth issues, strain, hiring people, infrastructure constraints—or you're managing down, with excess capacity, too many employees, and 'What are we going to do next?' And while both are headaches and challenges we are so thankful that in this community, in this county, we have [the challenges of] managing up."



# reasons to climb Lone Mountain this summer

BY DEREK LENNON **EBS CONTRIBUTOR** 

When people think about Big Sky, Montana they immediately picture the iconic Lone Mountain. At 11,166 feet, Lone Mountain is one of the highest peaks in the Madison Range and it's easily the most recognizable summit in Big Sky. Since you can see Lone Mountain from all over the region, it draws outdoor enthusiasts from near and far who want to climb it.

Lone Mountain is more than just a stunning pile of rocks. It's also home to Big Sky Resort. During the winter season, the Lone Peak Tram whisks skiers and riders to the summit for snowy descents. In the summer, one of the best ways to get the true Lone Mountain experience is on the old heeltoe express.

Did you know that a well-established trail meanders its way through the forests and rocks all the way to the top of the peak? From the base, follow Moose Tracks to the top of the Swift Current Chair. From there the trail climbs up through the Bone Crusher ski run and then follows the rocky and exposed southeast ridge all the way to 11,166 feet.

For some people, climbing Lone Mountain is a wild adventure and for others it's a typical training day in the mountains. Regardless of the reason you choose to climb Lone Mountain, it's an experience of a lifetime. The views of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem are astounding-just don't forget to bring your camera!

Here are nine reasons why you should climb Big Sky's Lone Mountain this summer:

- physical and mental challenge
- views from the top are mind-blowing
- experience the size of the mountains

- push your limits
- make friends
- bragging rights
- fun way to spend a day outside
- train for the Rut Mountain Runs
- because it's there

Everyone has their own reasons for climbing to the top of Lone Mountain. It's an activity that will appeal to both locals and visitors alike. Of course, if climbing is not your thing, don't worry. Anyone can enjoy the views from the top of Lone Mountain when they sign up for Big Sky Resort's Lone Peak Expedition.

People climb Lone Mountain regularly. Depending on your fitness, it may take a few hours or an entire day. The climb can be done safely with proper mountain knowledge and a bit of common sense.

Before you go, ask around for current conditions, check the weather, and be willing to turn around if the climb pushes your comfort zone. Always bring the gear you need to stay safe (sunscreen, water, bear spray, etc.).

If you climb Lone Mountain this summer, take photos and share them on social media with #visitbigsky. We always love to see the adventures people have in Big Sky's backyard!

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/climb-lone-mountain/. Read more interesting content about the area on Visit Big Sky's blog at https://visitbigskymt.com/ category/blog/.



The distance to the top of Big Sky Resort's Lone Mountain via the southeast ridge is 9 miles and is estimated to take anywhere from three to six hours. The trailhead begins at the Mountain Village base area and climbs 3,700 feet before reaching the summit at 11,116 feet. PHOTO BY DEREK LENNON

#### LOCAL

# **Lone Mountain Land Co. announces new retail café and office space** 25 Town Center grand opening July 21

#### LONE MOUNTAIN LAND COMPANY

Lone Mountain Land Company and The Big Sky Real Estate Co. are opening new headquarters in Big Sky Town Center and will host a grand opening Friday, July 21.

The ground floor of the building at 25 Town Center Avenue will serve as a community gathering place, which will include Montana Supply, a mountain lifestyle store; Compass Café by Sola; and a real estate sales and marketing center that will be open to the public.

The second floor of the new building will be the office space housing the LMLC development team and The Big Sky Real Estate Co. sales team.

"We are extremely excited for the opening of this unique and special building," said Mike Parker, director of sales and marketing for LMLC and The Big Sky Real Estate Co. "Not only is it an incredible addition to the Town Center area, but it will also be a gathering spot for locals and visitors of Big Sky."

The new building will feature outdoor dining, an outdoor fire pit sculpture, and an informational concierge service for Big Sky visitors.

The Compass Café will be owned and operated by the same team behind Sola Café and Market, a popular Bozeman establishment located neat Montana State University. says,

"I am so delighted to bring Sola's fresh offerings to Big Sky. With everything made from scratch, Compass Café by Sola will offer early onthe-go breakfasts, boxed lunches, and dine-in service during the day and evenings," said Sola cafe owner Tiffany Lach. "I look forward to being a part of this new gathering spot for the Big Sky community to fuel and refuel after their adventures."

The seasonal menu at Compass Café will offer soups, organic salads, various macaroni and cheese dishes, hot sandwiches and wraps, and a variety of gluten free, dairy free and vegan options, Lach said. The café will serve Bozeman's Treeline Coffee and, like their Bozeman location, there will also be a tap wall, with over a dozen fresh-brewed iced teas, lemonades and kombuchas.

Montana Supply will be managed by the founders of the local Big Sky lifestyle brand, High Country Goods and will be a continuation of what began at their former location in Town Center. Montana Supply will





Compass Café by Sola will anchor the ground floor of the new 25 Town Center Avenue building. PHOTOS BY LIAM KESHISHIAN

offer in-house design apparel, along with many new local, U.S. made, environmentally responsible vendors.

The new store will offer recreational equipment, clothing, footwear, and a selection of gifts and home décor that will blend modern design with Big Sky's mountain lifestyle.

"Montana Supply reflects our appreciation for Big Sky, its mountains, and the lifestyle they inspire," said Montana Supply owner Josh Tozier.

> "We live in an incredible community and we're thankful to be a part of it."

To celebrate the opening of the Lone Mountain Land Company and The Big Sky Real Estate Co. headquarters along with Montana Supply and Compass Café by Sola, there will be a grand opening block party celebration open to the public at 25 Town Center Avenue on Friday, July 21, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Lone Mountain Land Company and Big Sky Real Estate Co. will host a grand opening of their new headquarters at 25 Town Center Avenue on Friday, July 21.

The event will include live music with local band The Riot Act; family activities including a bouncy house, slide and face painting; a beer garden; and food from local restaurants and vendors including Compass Café, Moe's Original BBQ, Luxe Spirits and Sweets, Lotus Pad, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, Moonlight Club and Ousel and Spur.

# Fireworks and fun on the Fourth

The Big Sky community and visitors got after it during the Fourth of July holiday at organized festivities and spontaneous summer outings. Events pictured here include a sun-soaked kayak-jam at the Green Bridge swimming hole, the 3-on-3 basketball tournament, grilling and pyramid-building at Big Sky Community Organization's 4th of July Celebration at Big Sky Community Park, and the Tiny Band Fireworks and Funk concert at Center Stage in Town Center Park.

PHOTO CREDITS: LIAM KESHISHIAN (2, 3, 6, 7), GABE PRIESTLEY (5), DOUG HARE (4), AMANDA EGGERT (1)







# State audit: Benefits of state-run health clinics unclear

#### BY BOBBY CAINA CALVAN ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – Montana opened its first government-run health clinics five years ago. It was touted as a bold experiment and a possible national model in providing low-cost health care to government workers. State employees and their families have no co-pays or deductibles for checkups and routine services. There were big promises of huge financial savings.

But a scathing state audit asserts that the clinics have failed to document measurable improvements in the health of state workers. What's more, legislative auditors said there is no proof the clinics have saved the state any money—despite claims to the contrary by the governor's office partly because of inadequate record keeping that undermined the accuracy of any financial analysis.

"It didn't allow us to corroborate the cost savings advertised," said Nick Hill, a legislative analyst who was among the audit's authors.

The first of Montana's health centers opened in Helena in 2012 amid the national debate over revamping the country's health care system. The clinic, established under the administration of then-Gov. Brian Schweitzer, was heralded as the nation's first government-run health center.

Since then, five other states—Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, New Mexico and Missouri—have opened similar clinics.

As of August last year, Montana has spent more than \$26.1 million to run the clinics, according to the audit, which was conducted by the legislative division and presented to an interim legislative committee the last week of June.

The audit, conducted over a period of 20 months, noted "ongoing management challenges" and the absence of reliable data in which to assess the performance of the contractor hired by the state to oversee what

is now a network of six clinics stretching from Missoula to Miles City. The audit also faulted the clinics for its cumbersome electronic medical records system, which sometimes prevent seamless sharing of health information between the clinics and other health care providers.

The director of the Department of Administration, John Lewis, defended the health centers by arguing that the audit failed to take into account many intangibles-including the immeasurable benefits of preventive care for the 34,000 state workers and their dependents who are eligible to use the health centers.

"Preventive care is a big part of the answer to finding savings to health care," he told the Legislative Audit Committee. "It's very difficult to calculate what those savings are."

The clinics help provide so-called medical homes for government workers, which encourage continuity of care and stronger relationships between patients and their doctors, supporters said. Much of the clinics' focus is on preventative care to head off conditions that could later require expensive treatment and to keep chronic conditions from exploding into even more serious maladies.

"It was [a] very innovative idea at the time. And other states have followed," Lewis said, adding that "the state considers the clinics a success story."

Nevertheless, Lewis said, his agency will pursue the audit's key recommendations, including setting clearer goals and improving data collection to help establish measurable benchmarks not only in financial data but also health outcomes.

## Montana Supreme Court delays voter-approved victim's rights law

#### BY BOBBY CAINA CALVAN **ASSOCIATED PRESS**

The Montana Supreme Court issued a stay Friday on a voter-approved victim's rights law from going into effect.

The state's high court said there was good cause to delay the law, dubbed Marsy's Law, from being implemented as scheduled on Saturday. The law sought to give crime victims and their families the right to participate in judicial proceedings and be notified of key developments in a case. It would also expand their privacy rights.

The Attorney General's Office, which is defending the law on behalf of voters, said it supported the delay.

"As the Montana Supreme Court will decide this case in an expedited manner, it's in the state's best interest to put Marsy's Law on pause until the outcome of the litigation is final. It makes little sense to require cities and counties across the state to expend resources on Marsy's law implementation until the case against it is resolved," said the agency's spokesman, Eric Sell.

Voters approved the law as a constitutional amendment last fall, allowing Montana to become one of a handful of states to adopt the law.

The Montana Association of Counties, the American Civil Liberties Union and other critics filed suit earlier this month to block the law from going into effect, arguing that the initiative was wrongly presented to voters as a single measure. In light of the many changes it would make to the state constitution, they argued that voters should have considered multiple measures.

In its order Friday, the state court appeared focused on deciding the matter quickly. It ordered interested parties to file written legal arguments over the next six weeks.

Advocates for the law said they would vigorously fight to uphold the will of voters, of which 65 percent voted in favor Marsy's Law in November.

"Victims and criminal justice professionals have been anticipating and preparing for Marsy's Law to go into effect tomorrow," said Chuck Denowh, a spokesman for the Marsy's Law campaign in Montana. "This delay will create much confusion and ultimately deprive victims of the rights that an overwhelming majority chose to provide."

The law is named after Marsy Nicholas, a California college student who was killed by her ex-boyfriend in 1983. Her brother, Broadcom Corp. co-founder Henry Nicholas, campaigned to pass Marsy's Law first in California in 2008, then in the four other states and is now pushing to enact it in nine more.

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#### ENVIRONMENT

& DINING

**Section 2:** 

#### July 7 - July 20, 2017 **17**



# The New West: Cheney's views on climate clash with the US military



#### BY TODD WILKINSON **EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST**

In just nine words spoken last week on Capitol Hill, U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming offered another revealing window into how she interprets the world.

The Equality State's lone member of Congress, who sits on the House Armed Services Committee, opposed an amendment, attached to a defense-spending bill, that would have required the Pentagon to compile an annual report on national security threats posed by climate change.

Before casting her vote to defeat the amendment, drafted by Rhode Island Democrat Jim Langevin, Cheney, a part-time resident of Wilson, Wyoming, on the edge of the Tetons, declared "there is no evidence that climate change causes war."

Cheney's conclusion would be perfectly logical if it wasn't so thoroughly contradicted by reality.

Her claim conveniently ignores the record of human history and current world events. It reveals her inability to grasp cause-and-effect, including her willful ongoing denial of scientific evidence showing that the burning of fossil fuels by humans is generally warming the planet. Third, and maybe most telling, Cheney's opinions stand in sharp contrast with those of top U.S. military commanders going back 25 years.

On the latter, the Congresswoman's assertion stands squarely at odds with the thinking of retired Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis, who made the following observation during his Senate confirmation hearings to become President Donald Trump's Secretary of Defense. "Climate change can be a driver of instability," Mattis said, "and the Department of Defense must pay attention to potential adverse impacts generated by this phenomenon."

For years, dating back to the George H.W. Bush administration, senior leadership within the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines has collaborated with scientific experts from several federal agencies to examine the consequences of climate change as a serious ongoing national security risk.

would take the expert warnings seriously about coming climate-related water shortfalls.

Wyoming is the fifth-most arid state in the U.S. All one needs to do is examine the map prepared by the University of Wyoming showing the percentage of the state encompassed by varying degrees of drought from 2000 to 2016 and it serves as a wake-up call.

Add computer modeling predicting that much of Wyoming will be hotter and drier in decades to come and it isn't hard to imagine severe stress placed on agricultural producers, municipalities, outdoor recreation and, of course, wildlife and wild ecosystems.

If Cheney is remotely interested in educating herself on the link between environment, climate and human conflict, she could start this summer by reading a couple of primers on how those factors have shaped civilization: Jared Diamond's award-winning tomes, "Collapse" and "Guns, Germs and Steel."

If that isn't enough, she can pick up a copy of a memorandum titled "Implications for US National Security of Anticipated Climate Change" prepared by the National Intelligence Council and released in September 2016.

"Climate change is projected to produce more intense and frequent extreme weather events, multiple weather disturbances, along with broader climatological effects, such as sea level rise. These are almost certain to have significant direct and indirect social, economic, political, and security implications during the next 20 years," the report states.

"These effects will be especially pronounced as populations continue to concentrate in climate-vulnerable locales such as coastal areas, waterstressed regions, and ever-growing cities," it noted. "These effects are likely to pose significant national security challenges for the United States over the next two decades, though models forecast the most dramatic effects further into the future."

Given Cheney's assignment on the House Armed Services Committee, perhaps the best reference point might be the Quadrennial Defense Review prepared by the Defense Department, which also highlights

Climate-related droughts causing water and food shortages heighten human misery and can cause the kind of social instability that leads to terrorism. Rising seas create millions of environmental refugees. Other kinds of climate-related natural disasters can increase outbreaks of deadly diseases spreading to areas of the globe, including North America, where previously they had been absent.

But Cheney isn't buying it.

If she, as a former member of the U.S. State Department, is being honest in professing her knowledge of global affairs, then clearly she knows the current civil war in Syria and upheaval in expanses of Saharan Africa are owed to water scarcity, famine and unrest caused by drought. Many notable policy experts say this is a manifestation of climate change.

One might also think that in the American West, where the old expression "whisky is for drinking and water is for fighting over" lives large, she

climate change.

Retired Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni, who oversaw the military's Central Command, is someone Cheney should call to testify before her committee. "We will pay for this [climate change] one way or another," Zinni wrote in an analysis. "We will pay to reduce greenhouse gas emissions today, and we'll have to take an economic hit of some kind. Or we will pay the price later in military terms. And that will involve human lives."

Todd Wilkinson has been writing his award-winning column, The New West, for nearly 30 years. Living in Bozeman, he is author of "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek" about famous Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear 399 featuring 150 photographs by Tom Mangelsen, available only at mangelsen.com/grizzly. His profile of Montana politician Max Baucus appears in the summer 2017 issue of Mountain Outlaw and is now on newsstands.

# MSU research resets timeline for evolution of complex life forms in North America

#### BY SKIP ANDERSON *msu news service*

BOZEMAN – A Montana State University doctoral graduate discovered fossilized microorganisms in western Montana that predate by 200 million years fossils previously believed to be the oldest complex life forms in North America.

Zach Adam's research of the fossilized remains of a eukaryote called *Tappania* shows that Earth's first complex life forms reflect an actively growing state, rather than a dormant one as scientists previously suspected. A eukaryote is an organism with complex cellular anatomy and many are capable of changing their cellular shapes into complex structures.

The findings offer clues about the development of life on Earth and may contribute to the search for life forms on other planets.

Adam, who received his Ph.D. from MSU in 2014 and is now a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University, published his findings in the May 2017 edition of the scientific journal Geology. His research was primarily funded through a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship award that he received in 2011 while at MSU.

Adam discovered the fossilized remains of *Tappania*, a shape-shifting organism barely larger than the thickness of a human fingernail, in a clay outcrop near White Sulphur Springs. The site is part of a collection of rocks known as the Belt Supergroup that extends throughout much of western Montana.

The relatively sudden appearance of eukaryotes around 1.6 billion years ago marked an important turning point in the evolutionary timeline, said Adam, who conducted his research in MSU's Department of Earth Sciences, under advisers Mark Skidmore, associate professor of geology, and David Mogk, professor of geology.

For the 2 billion or so years prior to that, life on Earth consisted solely of simple microscopic organisms, Adam said.

"Microbial life dominated our planet for 2 billion years," he said. "Then, seemingly overnight, we had organisms show up that are complex. The appearance of eukaryotes showing up on our planet was a significant event. They eventually evolved into forms of life that dominate the planet today, from plants to trees, and from fungi to people. In other words, as far as we can tell, every organism that is complex today came from these organisms."

In addition to marking a critical step in the evolution of life on Earth, Adam said, eukaryotes are unique in having the remarkable ability to change their shape significantly, and seemingly at will, to include bulbs and trumpet-like protuberances extending from their otherwise spherical bodies. Adam explained that having dozens of intact fossils demonstrating this variability suggests to scientists that they were in an active state of their lifecycle, rather than a dormant one, when they died.

"What we found was that it was not only capable of changing its shape, but also independently directing the growth of multiple protuberances to do so," Adam said. "It would have an outer wall that could take on a shape while an inner wall could take on a different shape. What's remarkable is that we'd be hard pressed today to find many organisms that could do the same, in terms of taking on these shapes simultaneously."



Zach Adam at a shale outcrop in western Montana. Adam's discovery of ancient fossilized microorganisms that predate by 200 million years fossils previously believed to be the oldest complex life forms in North America has been published in the journal Geology. PHOTO COURTESY OF ZACH ADAM

"I could go into the field, look for samples with the right kind of texture and grain size, and dissolve them back in the lab at MSU and travel back to White Sulphur Springs the next day and resample as needed," he said.

He added that there are only four or five other known sites on Earth where the ancient organisms can be found and they are located in sparsely populated and very remote areas.

"So, if you want to study this intriguing organism, you previously had to travel to faraway places," Adam said. "It's helpful to find them really well preserved and

Mogk and Skidmore are co-authors of Adam's paper, "A Laurentian record of the earliest fossil eukaryotes," along with Nick Butterfield, a professor of paleobiology from the University of Cambridge, U.K., with whom Adam developed a research collaboration while a doctoral student at MSU.

The scientists theorize the protuberances possibly helped the organisms in reproduction and/or nutrient absorption.

The published findings are based on the extensive sample set collected near White Sulphur Springs, Skidmore said.

"Rather than having three quality samples, we have 40 or 50 quality samples," he said. "This adds depth to the research and is important to the impact of its findings."

Adam said that MSU's proximity to the fossil-bearing rocks helped progress his research because he was able to easily travel between the research site and the lab.

to make this kind of investigation accessible to researchers in North America."

Adam said there is application for his research to inform the upcoming Mars 2020 rover mission, which is specifically designed to look for evidence of past Martian habitability.

"Answering questions about the evolution of life on Earth can inform what to look for on Mars," Adam said. "The people in charge of Mars 2020 have said information regarding where and how to find fossils is directly relevant to their mission decisions."

Before coming to MSU, Adam, who is from Cashmere, Washington, earned his bachelor's degree in Earth and space sciences, and another in aeronautics and astronautics engineering from the University of Washington. He also earned a master's degree in aeronautics and astronautics engineering from UW.

He then worked for two years as a launch vehicle inspector for the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C., where he was part of the regulatory division that oversaw rocket technologies and designs developed by private enterprise.

# Zinke calls for fewer barriers to development on public land

### BY MEAD GRUVER ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHEYENNE, Wyo. - Removing bureaucratic obstacles to development on federal land can create jobs and offer hope to nearby communities, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said June 27 in hinting at long-term changes in store for federal agencies including the Interior Department.

Promising reorganization "on a scale of 100 years" but without offering specifics, Zinke said the Interior Department and other land management agencies need to better cooperate. Right now, agencies that evaluate the same project often end up providing conflicting opinions, he said at the Western Governors' Association annual meeting in his hometown of Whitefish, Montana.

"Jobs matter. There's a social cost of not having jobs. And we love environmental regulations fair and equitable, but it takes wealth to make sure that we can maintain those regulations and improve," Zinke said.

The Interior Department has begun reviewing its practice of requiring developers to offset the harm of their projects by paying for conservation elsewhere, he said.

"Some people would call it extortion. I call it un-American," Zinke said of that policy.

Zinke called for more offshore drilling, which he said can provide more than enough revenue to take care of an \$11.5 billion maintenance backlog in national parks. "There's a consequence when you put 94 percent of our offshore off limits. There's a consequence of not harvesting trees. There's a consequence of not using some of our public lands for creation of wealth and jobs," he said.

Large swaths of the West, including Alaska, belong to the federal government and are managed by agencies including the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

Zinke's remarks resonate with many of the association's 20 governors, 12 of whom are Republican.

"A lot of our public lands, you can use our public lands. Make sure that we do it right, make sure that a reclamation plan is in place. Make sure that communities living around those public lands have a chance, and a shot, at the American dream," Zinke said.

Zinke also spoke of making certain that U.S. energy production is sufficient to offset energy imports and reduce the risk of international conflict.

Environmentalists weren't buying it.

"Secretary Zinke's call for energy dominance is a rhetorical ploy to justify turning over as much of our publicly owned assets to special interests in the oil, gas and coal industries as possible," Nada Culver with The Wilderness Society said in a release.





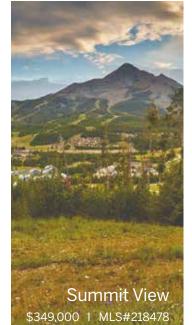




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# **Golf tips from a pro:** Use technology to your advantage

### BY MARK WEHRMAN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The golf industry is constantly changing. The one thing golfers can always count on is newer, advanced technology in equipment being introduced regularly. Every year, golf manufacturers make clubs easier to hit by spending millions of dollars on research and development.

Sweet spots are getting larger, which is making the clubs more forgiving during off-center hits. Clubheads are getting bigger, providing more visual confidence and clubs are getting lighter, helping to increase clubhead speed, which equates to more distance. Hybrids, which feature a lower center of gravity, take the place of those hard-to-hit long irons and make it easier to launch the ball in the air. As consumers, we need to use this technology to our advantage.

One of the most common questions I hear when teaching golf is, "How do I hit it farther?" Although I'm a firm believer that you can't buy a good golf game, I truly believe that you can buy distance. If you have a club in your golf bag that is more than six years old you are robbing yourself of more yardage.

With the advancements in technology taking place each year, any golf equipment that's seven years old or more is usually lacking the science needed to get the most out of your shot. For example, if you have a 10-year-old driver, you could probably pick up 5 additional yards on your drives by simply buying a new driver, without having to change your swing at all. The new club you purchase will be lighter, increasing your clubhead speed, it will have a larger sweet spot making off-center hits fly straighter, and it will have a bigger clubhead giving you more confidence.

These technology advancements don't just include clubs, it pertains to almost everything golf. Clothing now comes with SPF protection built into the material for sun protection. Golf shoes are still providing traction without sacrificing



Wearing golf apparel that's breathable and wicks moisture away from your body can make for a more comfortable day on the course. PHOTO BY MARK WEHRMAN

comfort. Golf club grips are not just designed to keep your hands from slipping, but also to help dampen the vibration felt through your arms. Shirts and hats are designed to be breathable and wick the moisture away from your body, making you less susceptible to the effects of heat and dehydration.

I could go on forever, but the point is that if you want to hit the ball farther and not be miserable wearing golf clothes on a hot day, you might want to think about investing some money in your equipment and wardrobe—the residual effect will be long lasting.

Mark Wehrman is the PGA Head Professional at the Big Sky Resort Golf Course.



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Gallatin-Big Sky Weed Committee is funded in part by resort tax funds.

# **EYEONTHE BALL** The end of 'Lob City' in Los Angeles



#### BY BRANDON NILES EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

When future Hall of Fame point guard Chris Paul was traded from the Los Angeles Clippers to the Houston Rockets on June 28, less than a week before NBA free agency officially began, it was not only a blockbuster deal featuring a star player, but it was also the end of an era.

Six years ago, the Clippers landed Paul in a trade with

the New Orleans Pelicans (then Hornets) after decades of mediocrity. Pairing Paul with young stars Blake Griffin at power forward and DeAndre Jordan at center birthed the term "Lob City," meant to describe the dazzling array of alley-oops that Paul would bring to the long maligned franchise.

Since Paul's arrival, along with the hiring of former Boston Celtics head coach Doc Rivers in 2013, expectations have been high for the Clippers. With those expectations have come harsh criticism and a myriad of drama.

From former owner Donald Sterling's racial epithets caught on video; to the infamous hotel shakedown of Jordan when he tried to sign with the Dallas Mavericks; to the supposed locker room discord; to the repeated injuries to Paul and Blake, derailing multiple post-seasons, the Clippers have been subject to harsh criticism throughout Paul's tenure.

However, as the Lob City era comes to a close, I'd offer a different interpretation of the last six Clipper seasons. The Clippers made the playoffs only four times, and won only one playoff series in the 34 years prior to Chris Paul's arrival. The franchise was a joke and the team name was used as a euphemism for general dysfunction and poor decision-making.

Paul led the Clippers to the playoffs in all six seasons he was in Los Angeles. While they never advanced past the second round, they won three playoff series, including a thrilling victory over the San Antonio Spurs in 2015, which led to a heartbreaking 4-3 defeat to the Houston Rockets in the Conference Semifinals.

While it's easy to look at the lack of Conference Finals appearances and consider the Lob City era a failure, that perspective fails to take into consideration the history of the Clippers franchise. This team went from being a mockery to a legitimate contender, and did so seemingly overnight due to the addition of Paul.

Additionally, considering the fact that the Clippers were faced with the prospect of losing Paul in free agency without receiving any compensation, working a signand-trade deal with the Rockets was a great move for the future of the franchise. They received several players in the trade, including starting point guard Patrick Beverley, young front court prospect Montrezl Harrell, and 2015 Sixth Man of the Year Lou Williams. Most importantly, they received a 2018 first-round draft pick to help with their rebuild.

Regardless of what the Clippers do moving forward, Paul was the identity of the team and the face of Lob City for the past six seasons, and the new iteration of this team will be starkly different without him.

Whatever his tenure lacked and whatever criticisms are thrown his way for the lack of deep playoff success as a Clipper, fans can hope that his presence and the six-year run of competitive play will have a lasting impression on the team. Prestige and perception of a franchise go a long way in attracting talented front office personnel and prospective free agents, and if Paul's impact can produce tangible improvements to the team's long-term credibility, then fans should be hopeful, instead of mourning the end of Lob City.

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-bost of the 2 Guys Podcast.



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|--------------------|----------|----------|------|
| Monday, July 10    | 6:00pm   | 4 vs. 3  | 5    |
|                    | 7:15pm   | 5 vs. 3  | 4    |
| Tuesday, July 11   | 6:00pm   | 7 vs. 2  | 13   |
|                    | 7:15pm   | 2 vs. 13 | 7    |
| Wednesday, July 12 | 6:00pm   | 9 vs. 13 | 14   |
|                    | 7:15pm   | 14 vs. 9 | 13   |
| Monday, July 17    | 6:00pm   | 8 vs. 9  | 10   |
|                    | 7:15pm   | 8 vs. 10 | 9    |
| Tuesday, July 18   | 6:00pm   | 11 vs. 4 | 12   |
|                    | 7:15pm   | 12 vs. 4 | 11   |
| Wednesday, July 19 | 6:00pm   | 14 vs. 6 | 3    |
|                    | 7:15pm   | 6 vs. 3  | 14   |

|                    | FIELD #2 | TEAMS U   | JMP. |
|--------------------|----------|-----------|------|
| Monday, July 10    | 6:00pm   | 8 vs. 11  | 12   |
|                    | 7:15pm   | 8 vs. 12  | 11   |
| Tuesday, July 11   | 6:00pm   | 14 vs. 15 | 16   |
|                    | 7:15pm   | 14 vs. 16 | 15   |
| Wednesday, July 12 | 6:00pm   | 1 vs. 6   | 7    |
|                    | 7:15pm   | 1 vs. 7   | 6    |
| Monday, July 17    | 6:00pm   | 11 vs. 12 | 13   |
|                    | 7:15pm   | 11 vs. 13 | 12   |
| Tuesday, July 18   | 6:00pm   | 9 vs. 5   | 10   |
|                    | 7:15pm   | 10 vs. 5  | 9    |
| Wednesday, July 19 | 6:00pm   | 1 vs. 4   | 5    |
|                    | 7:15pm   | 1 vs. 5   | 4    |



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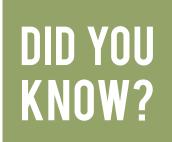
\* Explore Big Sky reserves the right to edit letters



## TEAMS

1 Huckers 2 LPC Golden Goats 3 Milkies Big Dogs 4 Broken Spoke 5 Sons of Pitches **6 LMLC Barnstormers** 7 Yeti Dogs 8 Bluemooners

9 Big Sky Ballers 10 GE Johnson/Jackson **11 Yellowstone Club** 12 Riverhouse 13 Cab Lizards 14 Cinema Bear 15 The Cave **16 Blue Collar Ballers** 



- 100 colonies estimated in 2015 in Yellowstone National Park

- One colony may support 2-14 beavers that are usually related. Six is considered average

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#### **SPORTS**

# **Golfing for a cause**





The 2016 Big Brothers Big Sisters Celebrity Golf Tournament (pictured) at the Big Sky Resort Golf Course raised approximately \$60,000 for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Gallatin County. Teams are full for this year's June 9 and 10 event, but sponsorship spots were still available as of July 4.

The celebrity lineup includes former NFL players LeRoy Irvin and Tom Newberry; Chris Kirkpatrick, a founding member of music group NSYNC; coaches and staff from Montana State University Bobcat athletics association; celebrated Western artist Tom Gilleon; The Weather Channel meteorologist Paul Goodloe; NFL coaches Jeff and Brandon Fisher; and Mike Van Diest, Carroll College's head football coach.

A Sunday, July 9, cocktail party at the Summit Hotel with a live and silent auction will accompany the golf tournament. All proceeds from the event will benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Gallatin Valley. Visit bbbs-gc.org for more information. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF GALLATIN COUNTY

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Attendees are invited to sample beers from up to 30 breweries from across Montana and the nation while enjoying live music by the Dusty Pockets, a bluegrass and country band out of Bozeman, and Erin and the Project out of neighboring Park County.

Breweries from Missoula, Billings, Boston and even Blue Point Brewing in Patchogue, New York, will be represented at the festival.

"Montana has some of the finest craft beers in the country," said Big Sky Resort Public Relations Manager Chelsi Moy. "It's an honor to host so many great breweries at the resort."

Kids can enjoy the free children's activities and a number of additional activities at the resort like the bungee jump trampoline, the climbing wall, mini golf, disc golf and more. Resort restaurants will offer off-menu specials and the retail stores will hold sidewalk sales.





Up to 30 breweries will be pouring their finest beers during Big Sky Resort's 14th annual brew fest. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BIG SKY RESORT

Brewfest attendees will vote for their favorite beer and the winning brewery will receive a custom-designed award produced by Montana Metal Art.

There's no better way to spend a summer afternoon in the sun. Join the hundreds of others who turn out each year for the event. Tasting is from 4 to 8 p.m.

Visit bigskyresort.com/brewfest for tickets and more information. Discounted lodging is available by calling central reservations at (800) 548-4486.





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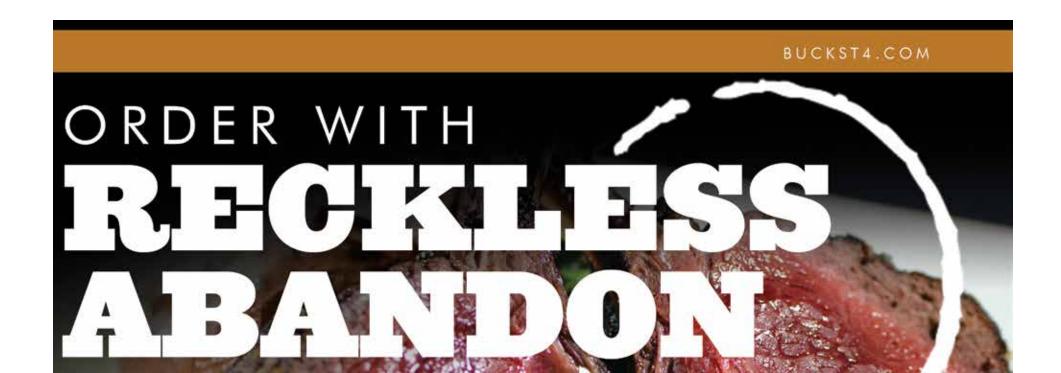


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# MSU biofilm researchers study ways to improve taste of beer

#### BY MARSHALL SWEARINGEN msu news service

BOZEMAN – In Darla Goeres' lab on the third floor of Barnard Hall at Montana State University, the beer on tap is Sierra Nevada Pale Ale. But when it comes out of the keg with a frosty head, it's not for drinking.

Instead, Goeres and her collaborators at the Standard Biofilm Methods Laboratory in MSU's Center for Biofilm Engineering use the brew to study how to improve the taste of beer everywhere, by finding ways to better remove taste-altering biofilms from the plastic lines that carry beer from keg to tap.

"When you get a beer and have a sip and think 'that doesn't taste right,' it's probably because of biofilm," said Goeres, an associate research professor in the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering in MSU's College of Engineering.

The biofilm forms when harmless bacteria, brewing yeast and other residual solids form a coating on the inside of draught lines, she said.

Currently, the Boulder, Colorado-based Brewers Association recommends that beer distributors clean draught lines biweekly by flushing them with disinfectant and water, Goeres said. But knowing how often to clean the lines, and judging the results, can be a challenge.

"[The brewing community] wants actual data to support their recommendations and ultimately to improve the cleaning regimen," she said. "The goal is to provide their customers with the highest quality beer possible."

To study the biofilm, Goeres and her team partnered with local beer distributors to construct a laboratory system that mimics the draught systems commonly found in bars, complete with long sections of tubing.

"They helped us get all the parts and ensured we assembled the laboratory system properly," she said. "They have also been great in troubleshooting any problems." microscope, allowing her to observe in detail the structure of the biofilm's different components.

"Using the microscope allows us to see how the bacteria and yeast are interacting and forming biofilm in the tubing," she said.

Kelli Buckingham-Meyer, a research assistant who earned her bachelor's in microbiology from MSU in 1997, agitates the other tubing samples in a sterile solution to remove the biofilm, then cultivates the biofilm bacteria on small plates by feeding them a beer-based food. When the bacteria grow and form colonies visible to the naked eye, she counts them.

"We can back-calculate the amount of biofilm in the tubing from that," she said.

Lorenz and Buckingham-Meyer will present the research at the Montana Biofilm Science and Technology Meeting, which will be held in Bozeman, July 18-20. The annual conference, hosted by the Center for Biofilm Engineering, brings members from the center's Industrial Associates program together with MSU faculty and invited speakers to discuss the latest biofilm research, both at MSU and at other labs.

Goeres' research is funded by the Brewers Association and is being conducted in partnership with NSF International, an organization specializing in the development of public health standards and certification programs. It's an example of the industry partnership that the Center for Biofilm Engineering is well known for, and that will be on display at the conference in July, said CBE Director Matthew Fields.

Within a year, Goeres and her team hope to publish their results, which could inform the development of new products or processes for cleaning draught lines.

"We're able to take something that's more complex than most people realize, bring it into the lab to understand what's going on, and develop tools so that companies can come up with solutions," she said.

The researchers then added specific strains of bacteria—those that commonly cause the beer biofilm to form—into the draught lines coming out of the keg of pale ale, which was donated by Sierra Nevada Brewing Company. In a bar or brewery setting, the bacteria are introduced when couplers or other equipment aren't totally clean when switching out kegs



or tap handles, Goeres said.

In recent weeks, the researchers periodically flushed the beer through multiple plastic lines of different sizes and materials. Then they closed the tap, unhooked the tubing and cut one-inch samples from each of the different tubing segments.

Lindsey Lorenz, who graduated from MSU in 2004 with a bachelor's in microbiology and now works with Goeres as a research assistant, applies a stain to the tubing samples. The stain causes the bacteria and yeast to light up under the laser of a specialized

Darla Goeres, associate research professor of chemical and biological engineering at Montana State University, helps Lindsey Lorenz, a research assistant, drain a beer draught line on June 1 in Bozeman, in preparation to test the tubing for biofilm build up. PHOTO BY ADRIAN SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ



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**30** July 7 - July 20, 2017

DINING



# An appetite for apricots

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER EBS STAFF

It's usually difficult for me to choose favorites when it comes to food, but apricots are undoubtedly in my top three favorite fruits. In addition to their attractive, pale orange color and sweet fragrance, they are a versatile fruit that plays well in both sweet and savory applications.

Apricots are related to peaches, and look similar with a velvety skin, soft flesh and smooth texture. Their light color and small size make them distinguishable from a peach, as well as their more tart flavor profile. The taste of an apricot is more similar to that of a plum, but their soft, but not juicy texture differentiates the two. They are harvested from apricot trees and belong to the drupe family. Like cherries, plums and olives, apricots contain a single pit in the center of the fruit.



This stone fruit is packed full of nutrients including high levels of beta carotene and lycopene, as well as vitamin

CC PHOTO

A, vitamin C and plenty of fiber. Despite being among the most nutritious fruits, the average apricot contains only 17 calories. This can be attributed to lower sugar levels.

The growing season of an apricot is quite short, so get the fresh variety while you can, from June into August. Dried and canned apricots, as well as apricot jam, are popular year-round, but be careful to look out for varieties with a lot of sugar added—this can detract from the delicate tartness of the fruit.

As with many fruits, the more locally sourced, the better. Because there will be less travel time after harvest, local apricots are able to tree ripen, rather than being picked early to ripen on the shelf. When a fruit is allowed to ripen on a tree, more sugars are able to develop, leading to a more flavorful product.

Given apricots' unique texture, be selective when shopping for the fruit. Softness is often confused with juiciness, and because this fruit isn't of the juicy variety, you may be selecting an over-ripened fruit by mistake. Look for apricots that are firm with just a slight give; fruits that are rock hard were likely picked early.

To me, the perfect way to enjoy an apricot is straight off the tree. Apricots also make a great foundation for desserts such as pies, tarts and crisps, especially for those who do not enjoy overly sweetened treats. Fresh, roasted, or poached apricots make for an unexpected addition to a salad or sweet and savory sauce for meat. The sauce below pairs especially well with duck, chicken and other poultry and can be used as a glaze for grilling, or as a finishing sauce.

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#### **Apricot Sauce**

2 fresh apricots, diced (or ½ cup apricot preserves) \* *If using fresh apricots, add* 1 *tablespoon honey* ¼ cup water 1 clove garlic, minced 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard 1 teaspoon soy sauce 1 tablespoon rice wine vinegar

Combine apricots, garlic and water in a saute pan, and cook until soft and the water is cooked down.

Add remaining ingredients to the pan and cook until reduced and the mixture coats the back of a spoon. If you like a smoother sauce, mash the apricots with the back of a fork.

# 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.

# Things only chefs notice in a restaurant

BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

We walk into a restaurant. Maybe it's our favorite regular establishment, or maybe we're on vacation. Either way it's usually the same: We don't really notice much about the inner workings of the business unless there is an egregious or obvious issue.

But there are many other little things that occur in the inner workings that many patrons may not notice. Dine with a chef, bartender, server or manager, and you'll have a multitude of these things pointed out to you.

**Staff.** One of the first things I observe is how many staff are on duty, and is it appropriate to the business? While I may not know the specific model of that restaurant, it's irrelevant if someone is simply standing around with no obvious task.

**Light bulbs.** I sit down and inevitably look up and around for burnt light bulbs. It's an easy thing to fix and if one is out, it could have happened that day and it may have been difficult to get to. But if there are multiple bulbs out nobody is looking up when they clean or set the room.

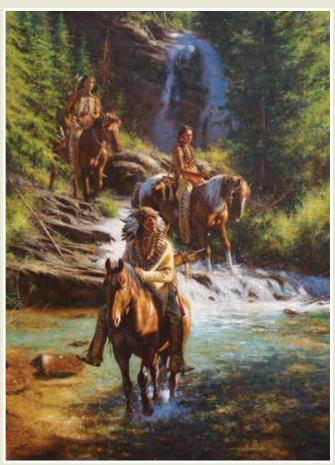
**Wobbly furniture.** The only thing worse than a wobbly table, chair or stool is one that is propped with a coaster, matchbook or paper napkin—and it's still wobbly! They make them with adjustable feet for a reason.

**Non-guest spaces.** The cleanliness of the entrance to the kitchen from the dining room is something I always look for. There was a Tex-Mex restaurant I frequented by my house in Austin that was fun, quick and always served good food. But the tiny area of the kitchen you could see from the dining room was so dirty that I wanted to see the rest of kitchen—yet, not see the rest of it.

**Attitude.** What is the attitude of the staff when they're together in their station and don't think anyone is watching? The attitudes, body language and facial expressions of the staff speak volumes about the culture.

**Complaints.** How do they react? What do they do first? Where do they go next? Who do they talk to next? Do they complain when they think they are out of sight or earshot? I can't tell you how many times I have seen servers appear completely sympathetic, only to turn the corner and vent to their fellow coworkers.

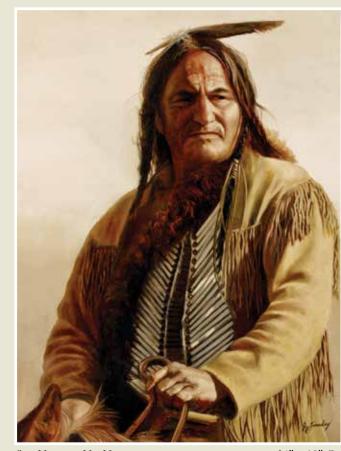
**Manager versus leader.** I once worked for a CEO of a company called Texas Star Brands and we were about to hire a general manager for our next property. He was great and he interviewed well. But when our CEO pulled a secret shopper and visited his current place of employment he wasn't there. When asked, an employee told him that he never worked at night and that "Sarah was really the manager anyway." Our CEO came in the next day and told us the candidate was



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off the table. He wanted what he called "aces in their places."

**Pace of service.** I can usually tell if a slow pace of service is due to the server or the kitchen. It's very frustrating to have one far off in timing from the other. If the kitchen is way behind, you'll hear the frustration in the servers' and bartenders' tone. When they're behind, they usually look straight ahead, blankly, although their minds are racing a mile a minute trying to keep up.

**Menu descriptions.** How does the staff describe a dish? Are they energetic, positive, knowledgeable and honest? As a patron listening to a bartender or server egregiously mis-describe a dish or ingredient that I know makes me jump up and down and scream on the inside.

**Guest reactions.** As a chef, I learn a lot by watching the reactions and eavesdropping on nearby tables as they receive and eat their dishes. With all due respect to the server's report back in the kitchen, there is no substitute for first-hand observation. As a diner, I'm a little obsessed with this one.

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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# **Schedule of Events**



#### **PBR Rider Relief Golf Tournament**

Moonlight RESERVE Golf Course, 12:30pm – Buy a team and be paired with a cowboy

18 teams of 4 plus a PBR cowboy will play a 9-hole, 5-person team scramble tournament with a shotgun start. All proceeds from the tournament will go to the Rider Relief Fund with the mission to provide financial assistance to athletes, bull riders and bullfighters, injured in the competitive sport of bull riding.

#### **Big Sky Community Barn Dance**

PBR Arena, 6pm free dance lessons, 7:30-10pm dance calls, FREE A free barn dance, live dance calling and fiddle music. This event is family friendly and you don't have to be a great dancer to attend, you'll learn the steps with your partner as they are called or can show up early for dance lessons.



#### **Big Sky Art Auction**

PBR Arena, 5-7pm, FREE bigskyartauction.com Whether you're a serious collector or just appreciate the arts, the Big Sky Art Auction will appeal to anyone with a zeal for the dramatic.

#### Music in the Mountains Big Sky PBR Kickoff Party Town Center Stage, 7pm, FREE

Big Sky PBR sponsors the free Thursday night Music in the Mountains performance by Turnpike Troubadours.



#### **Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 1**

PBR Arena, 5pm – Vendor Village opens, VIP gate open, 6pm – Calcutta auction in VIP tent / General Admission gates open, 7pm – Bull Riding Starts PBR's Velocity Tour returns to Big Sky with 40 of the world's best cowboys going head to head with world-class bulls.

#### **Big Sky PBR After Party featuring James McMurtry** SAV Stage, 9pm

Concert access included with Big Sky PBR tickets. Music-only tickets available at bigskypbr.com.



#### **Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 2**

PBR Arena, 5pm – Vendor Village opens, VIP gate open, 6pm – Calcutta auction in VIP tent / General Admission gates open, 7pm – Bull Riding Starts One cowboy will take home the bronze, the check, the guitar and the buckle during the championship night.

#### Big Sky PBR After Party featuring Jamie McLean Band

SAV Stage, 9pm

Concert access included with Big Sky PBR tickets. Music-only tickets available at bigskypbr.com.





#### **BUSINESS**



### Section 3: **BUSINESS, HEALTH** & BACK 40



Special series A billion dollar bet

#### Big Sky Resort, tucked among the wild peaks of southwest Montana, began with NBC News anchor Chet Huntley's dream of "if you build it, they will come" in 1973 and is now attracting visitors and second homeowners in droves. Today, Big Sky epitomizes the modern Wild West as developers are betting big money, to the tune of \$1 billion by some accounts, that it will be the world's next great destination resort community, while its full-time residents hang on for the ride.

In this five-part series, Jackson, Wyoming-based writer Brigid Mander and Explore Big Sky staff interviewed nearly 100 sources to chart the development history of a community that sprouted at the base of a ski area—unusual for Western resorts that typically began as mining or railroad towns where ski infrastructure followed.

This series will take readers through the unorthodox development history of Big Sky, from Huntley's big idea in the '70s; Boyne Resort's purchase of the resort after Huntley's untimely death; Tim Blixseth's acquisition of large swaths of land around Big Sky Resort and his founding of the private Yellowstone Club; financial ruin of three large resorts during the Great Recession and CrossHarbor Capital Partners' acquisition of them in bankruptcy court; and the explosive development, challenges and opportunities happening here today.

At the core of the community is an iconic, towering peak that's been drawing snow speculators for more than four decades. - EBS Staff

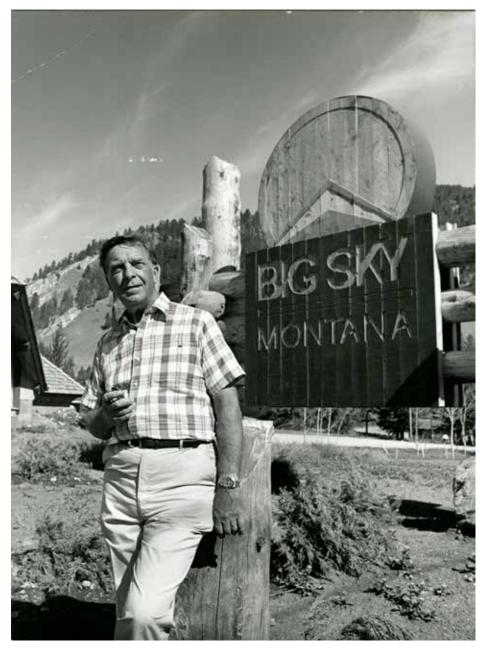
# Chet Huntley's dream is nearly extinguished, Boyne reignites torch with Lone Peak Tram

#### **BY BRIGID MANDER EBS CONTRIBUTOR**

Some people did, in fact, think Chet Huntley's original idea was a big deal. One of the first national headlines the future Big Sky garnered was in a 1971 article in The New York Times that read: "Resort Plan Sparks Montana Controversy."

The dispute was mainly focused on public land being sold to private companies, and carving a ski resort from what environmentalists and foresters of the day said were environmentally sensitive lands near Yellowstone National Park and designated wilderness areas. The parcels that were sold to the project were small and checkerboarded among existing private lands. The opposition made no inroads and the plan was approved.

In theory, Big Sky represented Chet Huntley's enthusiasm for showcasing his home state's beauty, and he was sure it could provide a skier's paradise to rival Sun Valley, Idaho, or Aspen, Colorado. Famously, he told lawmakers and the public that a rorld-class ski area could be the best thing that ever happened to Mon



"[Tourists] come and spend their money, leave a few tracks in the snow and go back home. What's so wrong with that?" Huntley reasoned with critics.

Born in Cardwell, Montana, in 1911 to a homesteading family, Huntley worked the land as a kid, rode, hunted and fished, long before his ascension to famed newsman. For him, there was more to his beloved Montana-state motto "Oro y Plata" (Gold and Silver)-than the extractive resources of logging, mining and oil, which often left a scarred and polluted landscape, such as the Berkeley Pit in Butte, Montana, a former open pit copper mine that's now a toxic federal Superfund site.

"His love of the land was very strong. It never left him, no matter where he lived or how famous he became," said his daughter Sharon Kahn. "He wanted to bring a clean industry and dollars [i.e., tourists] to Montana, and for people to come discover what he loved." Unfortunately, Huntley did not live to see, or have a say, in much of his dream: he died of cancer in March of 1974, four months after Big Sky Resort opened to skiers.

Continued on page 34.

Chet Huntley, a Montana native, famed NBC News anchor and visionary behind Big Sky Resort, died in March 1974, just four months after the resort opened to skiers. PHOTO COURTESY OF ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLEC-TIONS, MANSFIELD LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Continued from page 33.

#### **Boyne Resorts**

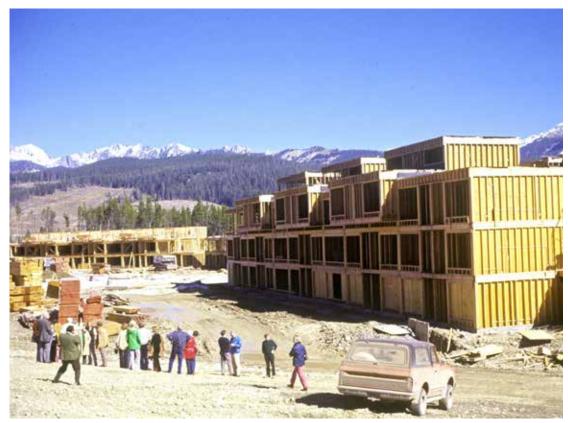
The consortium of businesses, led by Chrysler Realty—a wholly owned subsidiary of Chrysler Corporation—that Huntley put together to fund the new ski resort didn't have the patience to see the project out of its infancy. By the winter of 1975-1976 it was hemorrhaging money and on the market when Boyne Resorts, founded by Everett Kircher, bought the operation—which had seen about 70,000 skier visits a winter so far—for approximately \$8.5 million.

The ski area continued to lose money, but less so under the experienced resort operator, and skier visits kept increasing. A small community began to grow, attracted by recreation opportunities and employment with Big Sky Resort. Boyne, which owns about 10 other profitable resorts and ski areas around the country, was able to infuse their struggling outpost with cash lifelines to keep it going for years. Big Sky Resort broke even for the first time in 1980, and by 1990 the ski resort was in the black.

Boyne spent plenty of time and money over the first decade or so facing significant projects to clean up the hastily built base area, condo projects and general infrastructure. "There were a lot of challenges," says Stephen Kircher, Everett's son and current president of Boyne Resorts, noting the Deer Lodge condo complex that had to be destroyed and many lawsuits from original owners who bought from Chrysler Realty.

The water and sewer issues got so bad that in 1993 the Montana Department of Environmental Quality issued a sewer hook-up moratorium—effectively a building moratorium—that lasted about five years.

Boyne had to sort out murky water rights from the original developers, and invested \$13.6 million to build proper water and sewer infrastructure, which they then turned over as a public utility, the Big Sky Water and Sewer District. "We have some blood on our hands with those sewage issues," Kircher admits. "My father wasn't keen on the government telling him how to do stuff."



The Huntley Lodge under construction in summer 1972. PHOTO BY MIKE MCCULLEY

Measuring out improvements with money from its other resorts, Boyne catapulted the resort to a new realm in the ski world in the winter of 1995-1996, with the addition of a tram to the top of Lone Mountain that accessed legitimate expert terrain. Major media outlets and ski magazines began to take note, and welcome positive press rolled in for Big Sky.

Read the third installment in this series "The Great Recession hits Big Sky hard, CrossHarbor buys in for pennies on the dollar" in the July 21 edition of EBS.



The Lone Peak Tram opened for the 1995-1996 winter, putting Big Sky Resort on the map as a steep-skiing destination. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BIG SKY RESORT



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# Hair salon business is booming in Big Sky

### BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Nearly 2,800 people call Big Sky their fulltime home, according to the 2015 American Community Survey. Coupled with the number of visitors to the area—the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce estimates nearly 4,200 people came in June 2016 alone—it's no surprise a variety of new businesses are opening up shop. And one thing that everybody inevitably needs is a haircut.

Two newly opened hair salons are welcoming customers through their doors, with owners Hanna Powell and Sarah Matthews both excited to find their own niche among several already established salons.

"All of us have something different to offer," Powell said of her fellow cosmetologists. "In this kind of industry it's good to have different options."

Powell, who owns Tribe Salon located in Meadow Village, specializes in creative coloring and Balayage, a French coloring technique that leaves the hair looking natural and sun kissed, she said. She also offers razor cutting, and will use a feather razor to cut her client's hair in order give the style soft-looking, smooth layers.

Having received both her cosmetologist and barber licenses from the Cinta Aveda Institute in San Francisco, Powell plans to offer shaving soon, in addition to haircuts, styling and waxing.

Powell's product line features R+Co, an all-natural hair product formulated without parabens, sulfates, mineral oil or petrolatum. "I think we all need to be more aware of the chemicals we are putting on our skin and hair," Powell said.





Hair Shop of Big Sky owner Sarah Matthews is excited to be able to offer walk-in appointments to the residents and visitors of Big Sky. Matthews' salon opened two months ago and is located in Big Horn Center. PHOTO BY SYDNEY MACDONALD

Matthews is also excited about working with clients on color and doable hairstyles, she said. "A lot of Big Sky people are wake-up-and-go. They don't want to spend a lot of time doing their hair."

A therapy room is currently under construction at the Hair Shop space, which is located in the Big Horn Center off Highway 191, and Matthews looks forward to adding facials, massage and waxing to her list of services, which already includes haircuts, styling, manicures and pedicures, offered by Matthews and her two other stylists.

As a part of finding their own niche in Big Sky, each stylist has a business model that caters to different clientele.

"I just felt like Big Sky needed a walk-in location," Matthews said, speaking about haircuts as well as nails. She noted that it takes between 200 and 300 people to keep one stylist in a fulltime work position. "When you do the math, we definitely need a number of hair salons to keep up with this town."

Since reopening in April, the Hair Shop of Big Sky has kept busy. "We get more and more walk-ins every day," Matthews said.

While the Hair Shop of Big Sky takes many walk-in appointments, Powell's Tribe Salon has kept busy with bookings that can be made online. Many are with locals, she said. Powell opened her salon in February and she says she stayed busy even through the offseason. "That's when people finally have time to get their hair done," she said of her Big Sky clientele.

When it comes down to the bottom line, Matthews said, "[Hair] doesn't need to be competitive or overly priced. ... You don't need to drive all the

Hanna Powell, the owner of Tribe Salon in Meadow Village, has been busy since opening her hair salon in February. Powell offers online scheduling as well as appointments by phone. PHOTO BY LIAM KESHISHIAN

Owner of Hair Shop of Big Sky, Matthews is also offering all-natural products. In addition to carrying Living Proof hair products that avoid heavy silicones or stiff resins, Matthews will offer Nerd Skincare, a line of natural skin products designed to get rid of acne by promoting healthy skin bacteria and reducing acne-causing bacteria, without introducing harmful ingredients like parabens and phthalates to the face.

"I want to help people feel good about their hair and also their skin," Matthews said. About six years ago she came to Big Sky from Seattle and opened the original Hair Shop of Big Sky, operating by appointment only in a small space in the Westfork Village. Prior to becoming a cosmetologist, Matthews received certification as an esthetician "because I had acne," she said. "It felt good to make other people feel good." way to Bozeman anymore."

To learn more about Hanna Powell's Tribe Salon or to book an online appointment, visit tribesalonbigsky.com. For more on Sarah Matthews and the Hair Shop of Big Sky, visit the salon's Facebook page.

#### Other hair stylists in Big Sky: Monica's Salon (406) 995-2722 | bigskyhair.com Hair Ninja (406) 995-7510 | styleseat.com/hairninja Solace Spa

(406) 995-5803 | bigskyresort.com/things-to-do/solace-spa-and-salon

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# Mattress store opens in Big Sky

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – Bobcat Mattress, a Bozeman-based mattress supply company, opened for business on June 26 on Town Center Avenue, adjacent to Beehive Basin Brewery. Owner Alonzo Antonucci started the company with help from his brother Alden in the spring of 2008 while he was a junior at Montana State University pursuing a degree in global studies. Alden is now the owner of Xtreme Carpet Cleaning and Oba Brazilian Café in Bozeman.

As a college student, Alonzo knew the importance of getting a good night's rest and how good sleep helped boost productivity the next day. Following a debilitating back injury, he found himself having trouble sleeping, sometimes averaging only three hours of sleep per night. After upgrading his own mattress and noticing the improvements in his sleep schedule and the quality of his shuteye, he began to imagine how he could help other students achieve better rest cycles while bootstrapping his way to becoming a business owner.

The two brothers sold two mattresses out of the back of their truck and the rest of their story is a lesson in disruptive entrepreneurship. Their recognition that a small local business could out-compete national mattress chain stores in Bozeman proved to be prescient in finding a viable business opportunity, even if they were operating out of a construction site trailer with six part-time employees in the beginning.

Alonzo saw a demand for affordable mattresses and comfortable sleep amongst college students at MSU and eventually found a mattress supply company that allowed them to expand their selection and that they still use today.

Alonzo opened his flagship store on Huffine Lane, west of Bozeman, in 2011. "It's been years in the waiting for us to bring sleep to the Big Sky canyon," he said.

Bobcat Mattress prides themselves on the quality of their service and the affordability of their products. Currently, Bobcat Mattress offers sixty mattress options along with a large variety of furniture and bedding products. Their selection includes memory foam, organic latex, luxury pocketed coils, and even



After finding relief from a debilitating back injury with a mattress upgrade and improved sleep, Bobcat Mattress owner Alonzo Antonucci was inspired to open a mattress store. PHOTO BY AUSTIN STOWELL

organic wool mattresses. There will be set showroom hours, but appointments can be made to accommodate shoppers' schedules.

"We have designed our new showroom to have some of our best-selling products that can be picked up or delivered the same day," Alonzo said. "We want our services to be convenient for the hard working community...and not have [our customers] spend a whole day or weekend looking for sleep."

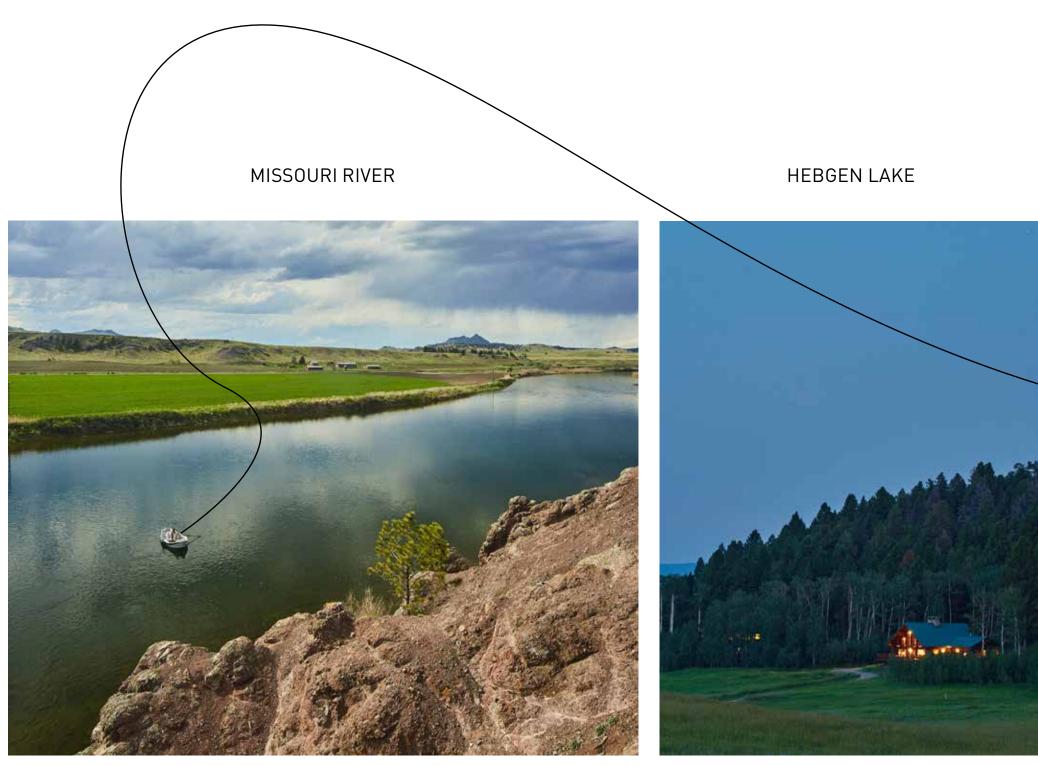
A recent study by a nonprofit foundation focusing on entrepreneurship and education ranked Bozeman 12th nationally for its per capita rate of business startups. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, between 2014 and 2016 Bozeman was the second-fastest growing micropolitan area in the country, compared to other cities with a core urban population of under 50,000 residents. Given the rapid population growth and healthy business ecosystem in the Gallatin Valley, the environment for entrepreneurs to pursue new ventures with innovation, creativity and a little hard work will continue to improve, even for recent college graduates.

With the new store open for business, the company's slogan: "Your Big Sky dreams start here" is now even more appropriate than ever.

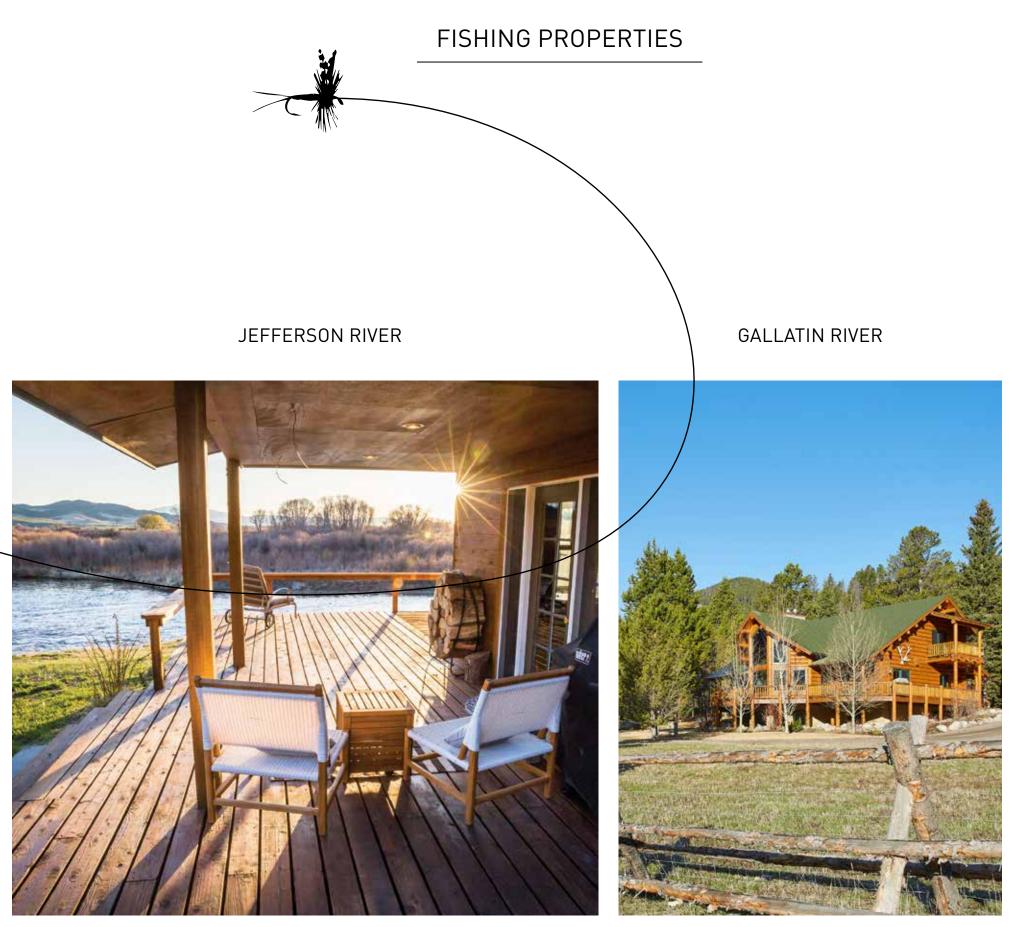


Bobcat Mattress, which has been selling mattresses to Bozeman residents since 2008, recently opened a location in Big Sky Town Center. PHOTO BY LIAM KESHISHIAN

At the end of the day, it's where you feel connected that matters most



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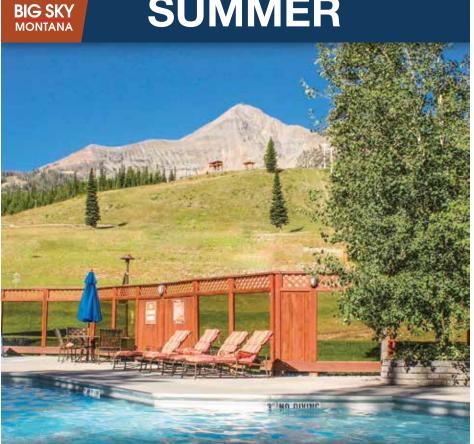


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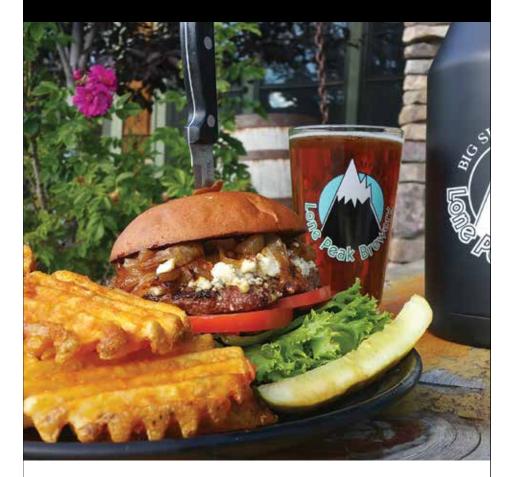
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# **Major Montana insurer reaches contract with air ambulance** Life Flight Network to base helicopter in Bozeman

HELENA (AP) – Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana and Life Flight Network have reached a network agreement to provide air ambulance service in southwestern Montana, the companies said June 29.

As part of the agreement, Life Flight Network will base one of its helicopters in Bozeman. The Oregon-based company already has a helicopter in Missoula and both a helicopter and a fixed-wing aircraft in Butte.

Blue Cross Blue Shield, which covers nearly 300,000 members in Montana, already had network contracts with hospital-based air ambulance services in Billings, Kalispell and Great Falls, as well as a cooperative in northeastern Montana.

The agreement is retroactive to April 1. It was reached after the 2017 Montana Legislature passed a bill that required health insurance and air ambulance companies to negotiate settlements of air ambulance bills, on a case-by-case basis if necessary, leaving patients responsible only for their copays and deductibles.

The legislation came out of a working group created to research the issue after Montana residents complained to state insurance regulators that they were getting hit with bills for tens of thousands of dollars for out-ofnetwork medical flights.

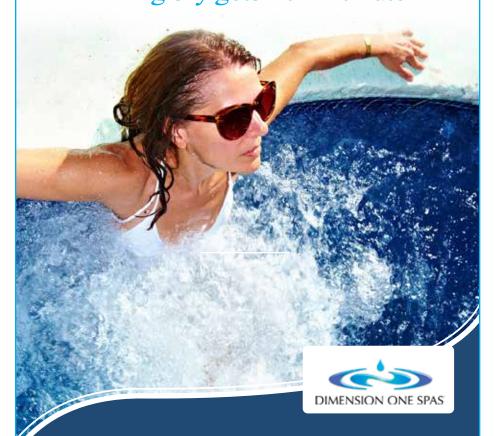
"This will substantially reduce the chances that our members will have to worry about the financial burden of a large bill during a health crisis," said Monica Berner, chief medical officer for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana.

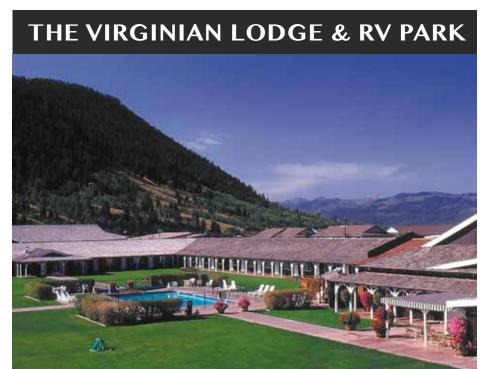
Insurers complained that private air ambulance companies would not negotiate in good faith or explain their rates. Air ambulance companies said insurers were making low "take-it-or-leave-it" contract offers. And patients were stuck in the middle with costly bills.

The federal Airline Deregulation Act does not allow states to regulate routes, services or prices of air carriers, and courts in several states have ruled that efforts to regulate air ambulance costs violated the act.

Earlier in June, Pacific Source Health Plans announced it had reached a network agreement with REACH Air Medical Services, which has aircraft based in Helena and Bozeman. Pacific Source previously had a network agreement with Life Flight.

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### BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

Most of us who live or vacation in southwest Montana know intuitively that spending time in nature is good for the mind, body and spirit. Now there's science to prove it, thanks to a cultural trend in Japan called Shinrin-yoku, which translates to "bathing in the medicine of the forest" or "forest bathing."

This does not involve soaking in a bath. Instead, it refers to soaking up the medicinal benefits of trees using all of your senses.

While the Japanese have revered the therapeutic effects of trees for centuries, forest bathing is not a traditional practice. In 1982, Tomohide Akiyama, director of Japan's Ministry of Forests at the time, created a marketing campaign encouraging visitors to experience Japan's many national forests, which are easily accessible and occupy 67 percent of the country.

In 1990, the Japanese public broadcasting network aired a documentary on the effects of 40-minute walks through the forest, specifically indicating a significant decrease in participants' cortisol, or stress levels.

Interest in forest bathing became so great, and scientific evidence so promising, that the Japanese government in 2012 designated 48 official forests for therapeutic walking and allocated \$4 million to continued research into its health benefits.

When we breathe the fresh air in forests we inhale phytoncides, which are airborne chemicals that plants emit to protect themselves from rotting and insects. These chemicals have a healing effect on our bodies and result in calming our nervous systems.

Studies on forest bathing subjects have demonstrated lowered blood pressure and decreased symptoms of mood disorders like seasonal affective disorder, anxiety

# Healing the body, mind and spirit in nature

and depression. The studies indicated patients slept better, had more energy, and showed a stronger immune response.

Researchers are still exploring whether exposure to forests can help prevent certain kinds of cancer. The practice seems to elevate a type of white blood cell called natural killer cells, which kill tumor- and virus-infected cells. While some results are promising, please note: forest bathing is currently prescribed for disease prevention, not treatment.

There's also good news for those living in cities: you can take a forest bath anywhere in the world where there is a decent patch of trees, generally defined as land with a tree canopy cover of more than 10 percent of the area.

While hard and fast rules don't seem to apply to how one plunges into forest bathing, here are some guidelines:

– Take a very slow walk in a wooded area. How slow? It's recommended to travel under 1 mile in 40 minutes. (That's really slow!)

- If going with friends, set aside quiet time.
- If you feel inclined, bring a book or journal.
- Take water or tea and leave the cell phone at home.
- If something raises your curiosity, stop and explore it closely.

- Most importantly, allow each of your senses to take in your surroundings. Invite yourself to become acutely aware of the smells, sites, tastes, sounds and tactile sensations.

For adrenaline junkies out there, this is a good "off day" activity. Interested in learning more? Check out "A Little Handbook of Shinrin-Yoku" by Amos Clifford.

This article first appeared in the Sept. 15, 2015, issue of Explore Big Sky and has been republished at the request of a Big Sky resident who was moved by it when it first ran. She asked that we share it again with our community and guests visiting this summer.

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





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### Explore Big Sky

#### HEALTH

July 7 - July 20, 2017 **45** 



# Vaccinations for pneumonia recommended for young and old



#### BY JEFF DANIELS EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Pneumonia is an infection of the tissue of the lungs. It's most commonly caused by a bacteria, but may also be caused by a virus or a fungus.

The lung tissue, normally filled with a lot of air and suffused with millions of tiny blood vessels, enables us to absorb oxygen into the bloodstream. When a segment or lobe of the lung becomes infected and inflamed

by an infectious agent, that section loses its ability to absorb oxygen. Plus, the immune response to a major infection often causes other uncomfortable symptoms like fever, fatigue and cough. Pneumonia can be deadly, even in the age of antibiotics.

There are many species of bacteria that can cause pneumonia. And of these different species, or types, there can be multiple subtypes, each of which can cause an infection, even if there's immunity to other members of the same type.

The major pneumonia-causing culprit is the bacteria known as Streptococcus pneumoniae, or pneumococcus. This bacteria is known to cause a myriad of other types of infections, especially in infants and children, where it is the main cause of severe ear infections and meningitis and can be deadly. It can also take advantage of adults who have compromised immune systems.

In adults, a select number of subtypes of pneumococcus are responsible for a majority of the cases of pneumonia that we see at the clinic. In 1983, a vaccine called Pneumovax 23 was released and has since then been recommended for people over 65 and any adult with diabetes, heart disease or a compromised immune system.

When it became apparent that Pneumovax 23 did not work well in infants and children under the age of 2, new formulations of the pneumococcal vaccine were created.

The first one was Prevnar 7, which works better in infants, even though it includes only seven serotypes of pneumococcus, versus 23 in the Pneumovax. With Prevnar 7's success in infants and children, Pfizer created Prevnar 13 in 2010, which included six more serotypes.

Prevnar 13 now is routinely administered in four doses to infants starting at 6 weeks old and spread out over the first 2 years. It is thought that if a high percentage of kids are vaccinated, it will lower the incidence of pneumococcal disease in adults, which is great news.

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The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Center for Disease Control recommends that everybody over the age of 65 receive both the Pneumovax 23 and the Prevnar 13. Some physicians disagree with this recommendation, and suggest getting only the Pneumovax 23, unless a patient has a history of smoking or chronic disease such as diabetes or emphysema.

If you've never received either pneumonia vaccine, the recommendation is to get the Prevnar 13 first, wait a year, and then get the Pneumovax 23. If you've already been administered Pneumovax 23, another shot is recommended at five-year intervals, so consider timing the Prevnar 13 a year before the next Pneumovax 23 is due. At this time, in a healthy, non-smoking adult, only one shot of Prevnar 13 is necessary.

Dr. Jeff Daniels was the recipient of the 2015 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. Artwork • Name Brand Clothing • Furniture & Lighting • Kitchen & Dining Antiques • Home Accents • Sporting Goods • And MUCH MORE!

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### HEALTH

# MSU doctoral student seeking a cure for her son's rare disorder wins fellowship

## BY DENISE HOEPFNER *msu news service*

BOZEMAN – A Montana State University doctoral student who is seeking a cure for her son's rare genetic disorder has won a fellowship that will allow her to quit the predawn paper route she took to make ends meet and concentrate fully on her research.

Elizabeth "Tess" Corbin, a doctoral student from Bozeman in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, has won a Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship that will give her \$25,000 over the next nine months and connect her with a network of other Ford Fellows and mentors. Corbin is one of 38 recipients of the fellowship, which supports the final year of dissertation writing and defense for individuals working toward a doctorate in science or philosophy.

Corbin said the fellowship came at a time when she didn't think she would be able to swing the money needed to complete her dissertation. The award, in addition to a tuition waiver from the MSU Graduate School, has also made it possible for her to quit the paper route that provided some financial relief but left her exhausted by midday.

"Getting up at four in the morning, six days a week, was hard, but I did it gratefully knowing it was what I had to do," said the single mother of two boys, ages 17 and 13. "But, to write and defend my dissertation I need to be able to focus."

Corbin earned her bachelor's degree in chemistry from MSU in 2009, but because her older son, Sean, has a rare genetic disorder called homocystinuria, she decided to pursue her doctorate in biochemistry and delve into stem cell research, despite having little academic background in either.

Homocystinuria affects one in 335,000 people, and is so rare because each parent has to carry the genetic mutation for it to occur, according to the National Institutes of Health. People with the disorder are unable to properly process methionine, one of 20 essential amino acids—the small molecules that make up proteins—which leads to build up of toxic products in the body and causes serious health problems.

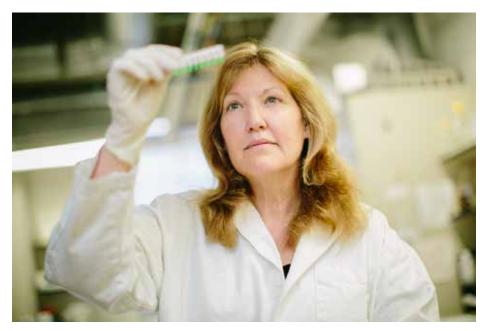
Since his diagnosis, Sean has had several major surgeries, including brain surgery to stop seizures and lens replacement on his eyes to correct his blindness. And, he needs another surgery soon.

Not finding any effective treatments for the disorder because of its rarity, Corbin decided to work on the problem herself after she determined stem cell research was the most promising avenue to a cure.

"I went back to school and I've concentrated on this because of Sean's problem," she said. "There wasn't any help for it, so what's a mom to do?"

Corbin conducts her research under the guidance of Edward Dratz, professor of biochemistry. In the Dratz Lab, she is working to produce fatty acid supplements that can be added to the media that is used to grow stem cells. She hopes to develop two supplements—one for stem cell maintenance and another that can be used to aid in reprogramming the stem cells.

The goal, Corbin said, is to make stem cells a more reliable testing agent for research, which could potentially lead to a cure for homocystinuria and other enzyme disorders by way of taking a person's own stem cells and genetically correcting them to produce the right enzymes.



Elizabeth "Tess" Corbin, a doctoral student in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Montana State University, was recently awarded a Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship. Corbin is researching fatty acid supplementation of stem cells in an effort to support a cure for a rare genetic disorder her son was diagnosed with in 2003. PHOTO BY ADRIAN SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ

"For a while there, I didn't even know what questions to ask, so I was making some errors and really struggling before they came along," Corbin said. "Since then, I've moved forward and we have gotten some results with adding my fatty acids to stem cells."

The next step, she said, is to quantify those results through cell counts, which is difficult because stem cells tend to clump and colonize making them hard to count without killing them.

"They are experts," Corbin said of Reijo Pera, Xia and Angulo. "They're helping me get those processes down and we'll get there."

"It has been an honor for us to have a role in development of Tess's research project," said Reijo Pera. "She is very determined to make a difference via science."

Corbin's journey into the world of biochemistry came in a roundabout way. While studying finance and opera at the University of Washington, she experienced some life-altering personal setbacks and left school. She then spent many years in the music business, playing in a band, belting out Pat Benatar songs as a professional karaoke singer, and running various businesses.

She was 41 and newly divorced with a young son when she moved back to Bozeman and enrolled at MSU to complete her finance degree. Needing a physical science course to graduate, she signed up for chemistry.

"I got an A-plus and fell in love with chemistry, so instead of finishing up, I changed my major," she said, not realizing the impact this choice would have on her and her son's life.

It was during the time Corbin was working in MSU Associate Professor Robert Szilagyi's physical chemistry lab that Sean began having seizures that doctors couldn't explain. Szilagyi noticed Corbin crying in the lab one day and asked her what was wrong. After she told him about the many brain scans and tests Sean had been through with no answers, Szilagyi referred her to an imaging center that performs magnetic resonance imaging at double the strength of a regular MRI and at 200 times the resolution.

"Personalized medicine is the future, and induced stem cell production and culture is the bedrock it is going to stand on," Corbin said. "This is right round the corner—being able to take a person's blood and reprogram their own blood cells into stem cells so there won't be any allergy issues and they won't be rejected. They can then be genetically corrected to produce the correct enzyme and be reintroduced into the body. If you can do that a couple of times on somebody, it's personalized medicine."

Corbin has worked on this project for the past six years—the first two were spent on coursework—but it wasn't until the arrival of Renee Reijo Pera, MSU Vice President of Research and Economic Development, that Corbin made significant strides.

An internationally recognized stem cell scientist, Reijo Pera, along with geneticists Ninuo Xia and Benjamin Angulo, both researchers in Reijo Pera's lab, were able to teach Corbin the molecular biology techniques she needed for her research so she could concentrate on her hypotheses and experiments. When the scan revealed three potential areas of the brain that could be causing her son's problems, Corbin turned to the University of California, San Francisco to perform the brain surgery that stopped his seizures.

"If I hadn't been in Dr. Szilagyi's lab when Sean was having problems, I believe he would be dead today," Corbin said.

As she spends the next nine months on her dissertation, Corbin is hopeful that her work will help to create better, more viable stem cells that can be used to develop therapies and cures for people who, like Sean, suffer from devastating disorders.

"I think that in the future I could be a part of making that happen and when the therapies are ready, I'll know," she said.



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BACK

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"

# For the love of downhill

BY SARAH MALONEY **EBS CONTRIBUTOR** 

The first day I threw on a full face helmet and went downhill mountain biking was tantamount to the day I met my husband. Even though skiing was my first love, mountain biking will be my last; and like anything worth loving it hasn't always been an easy path. Now, I make a living making it look easy and convincing people that they, or in fact anyone, can take a lift up a mountain and make it down safely on a bike.

Often when I watch people bike for the first time, subtly coaching and putting them at ease, I wonder what it would be like if I could go back in time and tell myself all the things I know now. You readers lucky enough to be rifling through the pages of this newspaper, now have the benefit of learning from my years of hard earned bruises and scrapes.

### This sport is not for everyone

The first lesson is a simple one: This sport is not for everyone. You spend the whole day dressed like road warrior, attached to a 40-pound Shake Weight careening down a mountainside. If you are worried about helmet hair and dust finding

its way into the most intimate of places, this is not the sport for you. For everyone else, there is only one way to truly find out whether you will enjoy down-hilling—just get out there and give it a try.

I am not suggesting you go buy the top-of-the-line carbon bike, invest \$300 in pads and take off. Instead, I encourage you to dip a toe in the water. Rent a bike and take a lesson. Renting is a lot more inexpensive than buying, and a coach will give you tips and make sure that you ride within your ability.

### Do not take lessons from your significant other

This brings me to the next no brainer: Do not take lessons from your significant other. I could tell you one of the multiple horror stories of husbands or girlfriends trying to push their personal biking beliefs on their soon-to-be ex-loved ones, but I only have 700 words for this article and no divorce is that simple.



Terraflow Trail Systems' Pete Costain tests out a jump on the new Ninja Marmot trail under the Swift Current lift at Big Sky Resort. PHOTO BY LIAM KESHISHIAN

The list is long, but here are my top three.

### Never ride alone

The first is to never ride alone. The age-old buddy system has proved itself time and time again. Being a lone wolf can be cool until you get stuck in a trap and have to chew your own paw off to get free.

### Be realistic about your ability level

Next, be realistic about your ability level and never let outside influences push you beyond your comfort zone.

### The general rule to bike-buying is this: cheap, light, tough; choose two

So, now you've taken a lesson and like many before you, have become enamored with the greatest sport ever invented. Now it's time to invest. You will need a bike, lots of pads and a season pass to your local mountain. The general rule to bike-buying is this: cheap, light, tough; chose two.

Pads are also very straight forward. The minimum requirement for new riders will always be a full face helmet (impact rated for biking), knee pads, elbow pads, gloves and eye protection. As for the pass, choose an area that allows you to start easy and progress in your riding. Nothing is more frustrating than starting on terrain that is too difficult or riding trails that provide no challenge.

There are some basic, but often ignored safety rules to lift access biking.

### Take care of your bike

The last rule, take care of your bike. Bicycles are simple machines and for me that is a part of their enduring appeal. But don't be fooled, your bike needs maintenance. Familiarize yourself with your bike's maintenance schedule (often dependent on usage) and how to maintain its particular components. Finally, check through your bike before every ride and wash it thoroughly after.

I never expected that the first day I padded up and loaded a rental bike on a lift that the rest of my life would naturally fall into place, but it did. I met my husband riding bikes; I supervise a bike shop for a living; and I spend every spare moment riding. Maybe what I've found in downhill biking isn't what everyone will find in the sport, but you'll never know until you give it a try.

Sarab Maloney is a supervisor at Different Spokes Bike Shop at Big Sky Resort. She lives in Big Sky with her husband and dog and has been downhill mountain biking for six years.

### Explore Big Sky

### **OUTDOORS**



# **National ecology project proposed in Yellowstone** Public comment deadline is July 18

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN - After an initial public proposal in 2014, the National Ecological Observatory Network once again is working with Yellowstone National Park on a proposed ecological observation facility that will be part of the largest long-term study of climate change and ecology in North America.

The park is taking public comments on the environmental assessment that determines the impacts associated with construction and operation of a NEON site that would study the impacts of climate change, land use change, and invasive species at locations near Blacktail Plateau Drive and Blacktail Deer Creek in the park. Key infrastructure and operations would include a tower with sensors, aquatic instrumentation, an annual aircraft flyover and regular field work.

"Ecology, in general, is done on a smaller scale," said Rick Farnsworth, senior program manager for NEON. "What NEON was envisioned to do was to have an entire continent of data, so you can look at changes on a continental scale."

NEON is proposing to collect a variety of standardized data sets from 81 different locations across the U.S., including Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. The \$60 million National Science Foundation project is operated by Battelle, a global research and development organization committed to science and technology. All data will be available to the public for free.

Since beginning site construction in 2012, 31 locations are fully

operational, including facilities in Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park, near Denali National Park in Healy, Alaska, and Guanica Forest in Puerto Rico. Each site will record data for 30 "The aquifers across the country are changing," Farnsworth said. "Things found in valleys are now being found higher on the mountain, bugs are now seen where they haven't been.

"It's going to change the world and how we look at climate change and ecology," he said about NEON.

Yellowstone National Park was chosen by NEON to represent the Northern Rockies ecological domain, which spans across the length of Idaho and western portions of Wyoming and Montana, in order to look at climate change in a pristine environment.

If the Yellowstone proposal is approved, Farnsworth said, "We're going to set [the Northern Rockies installation] up in a pristine wilderness site so it's going to be representing what's actually happening in the wilderness ... we're not setting it up right next to a highway and monitoring [emissions]."

Kathy Kirby, NEON project manager for the Yellowstone location, said they have worked closely with the park in order to minimize the impacts to the area.

An initial public meeting was held at the end of 2014 and a public comment period followed. This initial phase was intended to assist NEON and the park in preparing the environmental assessment that is now available. Kirby said major concerns at that time included tower height and terrestrial sampling.

Continued on page 50.



years.

Data sampling has been standardized at and across each location to ensure that data is comparable and representative, and will characterize the area's terrestrial and aquatic plants, animals, soil, water and atmosphere. Field work will include animal surveys and insect and fish collection, while a tower and soil array will monitor temperature, humidity, and air and soil composition. Aquatic instruments will record river flows.

Specifically, NEON will be looking at what climate change might mean for the future at various locations in the U.S.

Sunrise at Blacktail Pond, not far from Blacktail Plateau and the site proposed for a long-term national ecological study. The National Ecological Observatory Network has proposed 81 ecological data collection sites throughout the U.S., including Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. NPS PHOTO

#### Continued from page 49.

Speaking of the latter, she said part of the concern was trail development as field technicians return to the same location for sampling. According to the environmental assessment, "operational crews would be advised to tread lightly in and around existing vegetation taking care not to create social trails."

Kirby said the tower needs to extend above the tree canopy in order to get complete and accurate readings of the air. "When the vegetation is short, so is the tower," she said. "The Yellowstone tower is proposed at 70.5 feet with an alternative of 59 feet." It will also be powder-coated to blend in with its surroundings.

Doug Madsen, Yellowstone's outdoor recreation planner, has worked as the liaison between NEON and the park. "Most visitors probably won't even know this is going on," Madsen said. The most visible structures will be the aquatic instruments in Blacktail Deer Creek, he said. Visitors may also notice the tower from a distance at select spots on Grand Loop Road, he added.

"[The NEON site] is going to offer the park a very long-term data set," said Madsen, adding that in general, ecological surveys are short. "Five years is considered a long study." Having data collected over the span of 30 years, that is publicly available and comparable in the way it was gathered with other national sites, would be very valuable, Madsen said. "The park sees that as being a very useful thing going into the future."

If approved, groundbreaking could begin as early as August, Kirby said, with data available to the public starting in February 2018.

The environmental assessment may be viewed and comments submitted at parkplanning.nps.gov/ynpneon. Comments may also be hand delivered to the Albright Visitor Center or mailed to: Yellowstone National Park, Compliance Office, Attention: NEON Proposed Core Site Project, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190. Comments must be received by midnight on July 18.



NEON's tower in Rocky Mountain National Park resembles the proposed tower that would be installed in Yellowstone National Park. The tower, used to monitor air temperature, humidity, precipitation, air quality, soil chemistry and other data, is proposed at 70 feet tall, with an alternative height of 59 feet. It would be powder coated green. PHOTO COURTESY OF NEON







### Explore Big Sky

# **US officials to lift Yellowstone grizzly bear protections**

#### BY MATT VOLZ ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – Protections that have been in place for more than 40 years for grizzly bears in the Yellowstone National Park area will be lifted this summer after U.S. government officials ruled June 22 that the population is no longer threatened.

Grizzlies in all continental U.S. states except Alaska have been protected under the Endangered Species Act since 1975, when just 136 bears roamed in and around Yellowstone. There are now an estimated 700 grizzlies in the area that includes northwestern Wyoming, southwestern Montana and eastern Idaho, leading the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conclude that the population has recovered.

"This achievement stands as one of America's great conservation successes," Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said in a statement.

Grizzly bears once numbered about 50,000 and ranged over much of North America. Their population plummeted starting in the 1850s because of widespread hunting and trapping, and the bears now occupy only 2 percent of their original territory.

The final ruling by the Fish and Wildlife Service to remove Yellowstone grizzlies from the list of endangered and threatened species will give jurisdiction over the bears to Montana, Idaho and Wyoming by late July.

That will allow those states to plan limited bear hunts outside the park's boundaries as long as the overall bear population does not fall below 600 bears. Wyoming and Montana are unlikely to hold hunts this year, state officials said. Idaho officials said it is too early to discuss a possible hunting season.

"We are in no rush to move forward on hunting," said Laurie Wolf, spokeswoman for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. "Right now we are really focused still on the conservation of this species."

Hunting seasons for grizzlies would require approval by each state's wildlife commission after a public review process that "will be an opportunity to have a rich and robust discussion," said Brian Nesvik, wildlife division chief of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Hunting bears inside Yellowstone and nearby Grand Teton National Park would still be banned. The bears roam both inside and outside the parks, and their range has been expanding as their numbers have grown. "There's only one Yellowstone," he said. "We ought not to take an unjustified gamble with an iconic species of this region."

Matt Hogan, the deputy regional director for the Fish and Wildlife Service's Mountain-Prairie Region, said he is confident that the science behind the decision and the management plans the states will follow will withstand any lawsuit.

"We feel like this species is more than adequately protected in the absence of [Endangered Species Act] protections," Hogan said.

Wildlife officials in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming have been managing the bear population alongside federal government officials for decades. Those states will follow strict regulations to keep a viable population, Hogan said.

The federal agency's rule sets a minimum population of 500 bears for Yellowstone, and requires states to curb hunting if the population falls below 600.

Scientists also studied the effects of climate change on grizzly bears and their food sources, such as the nuts of whitebark pine trees, which are in decline.

"They found grizzly bears are extremely resilient, extremely flexible and adaptable," Hogan said.

That adaptation has meant switching to more of a meat-based diet. That carries the risk of bringing the bears into greater conflict with ranchers protecting livestock and hunters searching for elk and deer, said Andrea Santarsiere, an attorney for the wildlife advocacy group Center for Biological Diversity.

"Added to those threats will be trophy hunting," she said.

The federal agency will continue monitoring the grizzly population over the next five years, and certain factors would prompt a new federal review of the bears' status.

The ruling does not directly affect other populations of grizzlies that are still classified as threatened but which wildlife officials consider recovered, such as the estimated 1,000 bears in the Northern Continental Divide area of Montana and Idaho.

AP reporters Mead Gruver in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Keith Ridler in Boise, Idaho, contributed to this report.

The Obama administration first proposed removing grizzlies as a threatened species by issuing an initial ruling in March 2016. The 15 months that have passed since then have been used to by federal officials to evaluate states' grizzly management plans and respond to themes of concern generated by 650,000 comments from the public, including wildlife advocates and Native American tribal officials who are staunchly opposed to hunting grizzly bears.



Some 125 tribes have signed a treaty opposing trophy hunting grizzly bears, which Native Americans consider a sacred animal.

The June 22 ruling is certain to be challenged in court by conservation groups that argue the Yellowstone bears still face threats to their continued existence. Tim Preso, an attorney for environmental law firm Earthjustice, said his organization will look closely at the rule.

NPS PHOTO

# MSU team practices balloon launch for solar eclipse

#### BY MARSHALL SWEARINGEN msu news service

REXBURG, Idaho – When a half-dozen Montana State University engineering, computer science and physics students tromped off-trail in the foothills of the Teton Range in late June, they were one step closer to providing millions of people a unique view of August's rare solar eclipse.

They swatted mosquitoes as they searched for cameras, tracking devices and other equipment that had dangled beneath a parachute before landing on national forest land. Prior to that, the equipment had been hoisted by a large helium-filled balloon to an altitude of more than 80,000 feet.

The balloon launch was one of the final test flights for the MSU-led Eclipse Ballooning Project. During the Aug. 21 eclipse, 55 teams from across the country will live-stream aerial video footage showing the moon's shadow crossing North America, the curvature of the Earth and the blackness of space.

"The goal [with the test flight] is to get practice filling the balloons with helium and timing the launch so that the balloons reach altitude at the right time," said Randy Larimer, deputy director of the Montana Space Grant Consortium and an adjunct instructor in MSU's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

During the eclipse, timing will be paramount because the period of totality, when the moon entirely blocks the sun, will last only about two minutes. That's when the Eclipse Ballooning Project teams want to have their rapidly rising balloons at about 80,000 feet to capture the best view.

Most of the 15-person team had risen before 4 a.m. to make the 180-mile drive from Bozeman. In Rexburg, half of the team assembled dish-shaped radio receivers and other equipment for tracking the two balloons from a corner of the small Rexburg airport. The others loaded tanks of helium in a pickup and drove about 20 miles west to launch the balloons from the Camas National Wildlife Refuge.

Sara Stafford, a junior from Fairbanks, Alaska, who is majoring in electrical engineering, selected the launch site based on flight-path predictions she calculated from current wind data. "We don't want to land in the mountains or in the city," she said.

Around noon, the launch team readied each balloon's cargo, or payload—a trio of shoebox-sized enclosures connected with parachute cord—and unrolled the balloons on tarps to begin filling them with helium. The balloons, tugging on their ballast, grew to more than 8 feet tall.

"It's a little bit of an art getting the right amount of helium," Stafford said as she worked the valves on the tanks.

Then "10 ... nine ... eight ... " went the launch countdown, until the balloons shot skyward at a rate of more than 12 miles per hour.

"That went pretty smoothly," Stafford said.

The action shifted back to the Rexburg airport, where MSU engineering and computer science students crowded around laptops under a tent awning in what looked like an improvised NASA control center. As the balloons came into range of the receiver dishes, the team watched live video showing the Tetons and a patchwork of planted fields.

"Are you looking for UFOs or what?" said a man walking to a nearby aircraft hangar.



Montana State University students with the Eclipse Ballooning Project prepare high-altitude balloons for a test launch June 21 near Rexburg, Idaho. PHOTOS BY KELLY GORHAM

The team pointed to the balloons—visible specks even at 80,000 feet because they grow to roughly 50 times their original size in the stratosphere's low pressure—as they drifted slowly overhead.

As the specks continued east, the team tested the limits of the system that transmits the video. Using algorithms programmed by the students, the radio receivers automatically pointed at the balloons using GPS data from the balloon and the ground station in order to receive the signal.

"If we're only two or three degrees off, we lose half our signal strength," said David Schwehr, a senior from Billings who is majoring in computer science and who played a leading role in developing the balloon-tracking system.

Schwehr, watching the balloons' coordinates on a laptop, saw when the first, and then the second, popped at around 90,000 feet due to the low atmospheric pressure. In the event that the balloons didn't naturally pop, each was equipped with a backup system to mechanically release the payload in order to prevent the balloon from carrying it long distances.

### "Are you looking for UFOs or what?"

As the payloads dropped and the parachutes unfurled, the wind continued to carry them east, toward the Tetons.

The jet stream wind was proving to be stronger than predicted.

Schwehr saw one of the small balloon-shaped icons, charting a path on a Google map displayed on his laptop, turn green. A payload had landed on open ground west of the Tetons.

The other kept going. "We're almost into Wyoming," Schwehr said.

When the balloon finally landed, the team plotted a route on Forest Service roads to retrieve it.

"I'm happy with today's flight," Schwehr said as the team packed the equipment



MSU students, from left, Casey Coffman, Tristan Running Crane, Trevor Gahl, Garrett Hilton and Uciel Garcia with the Eclipse Ballooning Project monitor signals from high-altitude balloons during a test launch June 22 in Rexburg, Idaho. The MSU team is leading an effort to live-stream video of the total solar eclipse in August.

into crates. The timing of the launch to reach the desired altitude at a specified time went according to plan, he said. And the team verified that the radio transmission systems were working as they should.

About half the team drove toward the rugged, snow-capped peaks of the Tetons. Highway turned to narrow back roads threading through aspen forest.

That's where the mosquitoes entered the story, swarming the students as they hopped from the trucks and headed off-trail. Schwehr, with a hand-held GPS, guided the group toward the payload as the evening sun filtered through lodgepole pines.

"I found it!" one of them shouted. The small camera enclosures and other equipment lay tangled in parachute cord in the brush, but everything was mostly unscathed by the landing.

The hike to the trucks and the long drive back to Bozeman lay ahead, but the team seemed unfazed.

"It's incredibly rewarding ... to watch these students grow," Larimer said. "These students are going to have experiences that they can't replicate anywhere else.

"It's going to be the first live video from a balloon during a solar eclipse," he said. "That's way cool."

### WORKSHOPS & SPECIAL EVENTS

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|----------------------------------|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 10:00-11:15am<br>All Levels Yoga | 7:30-8:30am<br>Dance X   | 7:00-8:00am<br>All Levels Yoga                                    | 7:30-8:30am<br>Dance X                            | 7:00-8:00am<br>All Levels Mat Pilates | 9:00-10:15am<br>Level II Yoga      | 9:00-10:00am<br>All Levels Yoga                                     |
|                                  | 9:00-10:15am<br>All Levels Yoga  | 8:15-9:15am<br>All Levels Yoga                                    | 9:00-10:15am<br>All Levels Yoga                   | 8:15-9:15am<br>All Levels Yoga        | 11:00-Noon<br>Yin/Restorative Yoga | Check schedule online<br>(workshops may take<br>the place of class) |
|                                  | 11:00-Noon<br>(July-Labor Day)<br>Community Yoga for a<br>Cause (ALS)<br>(Outside in Town<br>Center) | 9:30-10:30am<br>All Levels Yoga<br>6:30-7:45pm<br>All Levels Yoga | 11:00-Noon<br>The Practice (Yoga<br>Level II-III) | 9:30-10:30am<br>All Levels Yoga       |                                    |   |



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#### BY PATRICK STRAUB EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

Runoff season is finally over and our local rivers are clear and in prime form. Along with plenty of smiles on the faces of local anglers, the trout in our rivers have been happy as well—big bug season gives them plenty of opportunities for wholesome meals.

For the next few weeks, local anglers need to brush up on their stonefly entomology. Stoneflies, class insecta and order lecoptera, have over 600 species worldwide and range in sizes from 3/8 of an inch to 3 inches. Of the 600 hundred species, your homework is easy as only three are important in our area this time of year. They are the salmon fly (*Pteronarcys californica*); golden stoneflies (family Perlidae); and Yellow Sally stoneflies (*Isoperla fulva* or *mormona*). Don't worry about the Latin nomenclature, I mainly included those because I found them on Google.

Here's some help to get the most out of fishing these exciting hatches.

**Stonefly lifecycle**. Stonefly nymphs are in our rivers year-round. Like their adult counterparts, their size varies. As rivers drop and clear after runoff, stonefly nymphs become more active and begin a migration to streamside structure to hatch. Fishing nymphs near and along streamside structure during this migration can be quite rewarding. The nymphs will hatch into adults out of the water and the evidence is left by a vacant exoskeleton. Adult stoneflies work to find a mate by either crawling or flying. Once a mate is found, females will then fly above the water and land, laying eggs as they land. It is during these mating and egg-laying timeframes that adults are readily available to hungry trout.

**Salmon flies.** These are the largest of the stoneflies and hatch immediately after runoff. The hatch moves upstream as water temperatures rise. Right now, the best place to find trout eating adult salmon flies will be the upper Gallatin south of Big Sky and the Yellowstone River in and around Yellowstone National Park. Their 2- to 3-inch, orange-colored bodies make them easy to identify.

# Understanding the stonefly trifecta

**Golden stoneflies.** Slightly smaller in size than salmon flies, "goldens" hatch a day or two after salmon flies. They can be found on the Lower and Upper Madison rivers, the Gallatin River and the Yellowstone River up to a week after salmon flies have hatched. A variety of golden stone species exist, but only be concerned with matching size and color—leave the Latin names for those anglers you'd leave off the party invite list anyway. Most golden stonefly adults will be around 2 inches long.

**Yellow sally stoneflies**. These are the smallest of the stonefly species, yet they hatch in the most abundance and the most frequently. Unlike salmon flies or golden stone flies that sees a hatch move through a stretch of river, Yellow sally stoneflies will hatch for days in the same section. Unlike salmon flies and stoneflies, Yellow sallies hatch more like mayflies and caddis as the nymphs emerge slowly through the water column and the hatched adults fly over the water's surface in dancing-like flights to mate and lay eggs. Adults range in size from hook sizes 10 to 18 with most being 10 to 14.

**Best fly patterns for each species**. For salmon and golden stonefly nymphs a Pat's Rubberlegs in sizes 8 through 12 is ideal. Color choice is debatable but choose a pattern with contrasting colors such as black and brown or brown and orange. For yellow sally nymphs, a size 14 and 16 Iron Sally is a local favorite and works year-round. For salmon and golden stonefly adults, a Chubby Chernobyl is a proven pattern and allows a larger nymph to be fished as a dropper. Choose the corresponding color and size if you are fishing salmon or golden stoneflies. Other successful salmon and golden stonefly dry flies are Fat Frank, Fluttering and Rouge Foam in sizes 4 through 8. For yellow sallies try Micro-Frank, Para-Sally, and Stimi Chew-Toy.

Stoneflies on our local rivers are the most anticipated hatches of the year. Perhaps that's because when they hatch runoff is over and it's back to fishing, or perhaps they are big bugs and trout rising to eat a large dry off the surface is visual and exhilarating. If you're angler looking to fish our waters, the reason shouldn't matter. Getting out and enjoying these large insects should.

Pat Straub is the author of six books, including "The Frugal Fly Fisher," "Montana On The Fly," and "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Fly Fishing." He and his wife own Gallatin River Guides in Big Sky. He also coowns Montana Fishing Outfitters and the Montana Fishing Guide School.



Yellow Sally stoneflies are hatching in abundance on the Gallatin River. Yellow Sallies are one of three species of stoneflies that inhabit our local rivers. Anglers should be prepared to see any of the three on any given day. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

## **Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides**

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



What a great time of year to be exploring the rivers of Montana! If you haven't already, dust off those dry fly rods and take advantage of some of the best dry fly fishing of the year!

So many places to go, bugs a plenty and about 15 hours of sunlight each day. In this time frame we'll see more hatches than we can list here, but PMDs, Yellow Sallies, Golden Stones, Green Drakes, tons of caddis and more will all be present at some point, somewhere. And we may even start to see a few spruce moths towards the end of July. Fishing should be great on all of our local rivers, small creeks and lakes. Between the Gallatin, Madison, Yellowstone Rivers and Yellowstone National Park it's hard to consider going anywhere else.

For best walk wade fishing hit up the Gallatin where the fishing scenes from A River Runs Through It were filmed years ago, the walk and wade section of the upper Madison or take a hike up just about any small creek in SW Montana or Yellowstone Park to find healthy and hungry trout. If you're looking for a more relaxing day in the boat both the Yellowstone and Madison Rivers will shine in the coming weeks.

In Yellowstone Park there are endless options, but the Madison, Gibbon, Lamar, Slough Creek, Soda Butte and Upper Yellowstone are some of the more popular rivers to hit up that should all be fishing great. Always good to keep an eye on weather as rains can really muddy up some rivers in the park, especially in the NE corner.

Hard to go wrong this time of year, but a little bit of planning and preparation can go a long way. Check the weather, get some recent reports and pack well for your trip. When heading out pack plenty of water, sunscreen, bug repellent and bear spray if you're heading into the backcountry. And of course don't forget your fishing gear! Or hire a local, knowledgeable fishing guide to show you around the area.

Have fun, treat others as you would like to be treated and keep your fish wet.











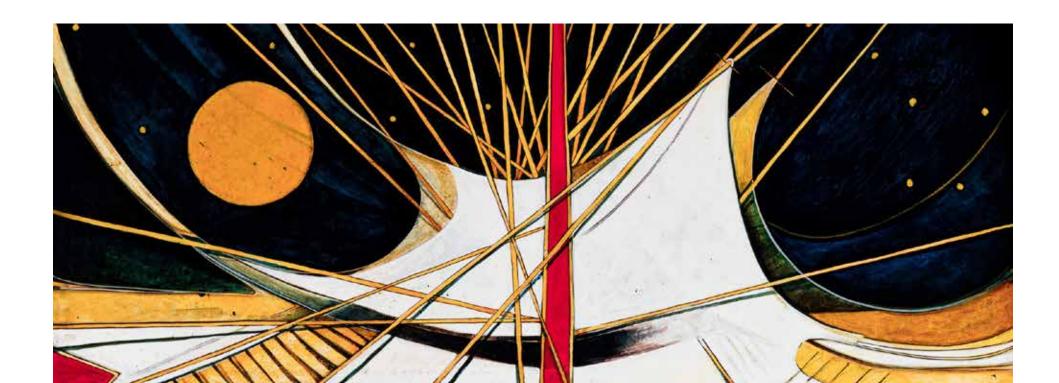


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# Fly-fishing festival draws community support for the Gallatin

## BY SYDNEY MACDONALD EBS EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

BIG SKY – This year's Gallatin River Fly Fishing Festival, June 30 to July 2, invited the Big Sky community to participate in a multi-day celebration of local rivers, fish and conservation.

The event aimed to connect community members back to the water, fish and habitats that are essential to Big Sky's fly-fishing industry. The proceeds from the festival will be allocated toward river restoration efforts, which are headed by the Gallatin River Task Force in the Upper Gallatin River Watershed.

Gallatin River Task Force Executive Director Kristen Gardner has been involved with organizing the festival for the past five years. "The amount of passion that exists for the river in our community is really inspiring for what we do to protect the river, especially when we have so many people that support us," Gardner said.

The weekend kicked off July 1 with the Pesca Fiesta, drawing fly-fishing enthusiasts to indulge in reduced prices on gear and a small cookout at the Gallatin River Guides store on Highway 191.

The festival continued to attract large crowds for Saturday's Pedal, Paddle, Run-Off, where teams of three or more biked, boated and ran in a relay-style competition. Winners of the relay race were the team consisting of Richard Sandza, Chris Corona and Adam Merkwan.

"Everyone was having the time of their lives. It was a great opportunity to help out, and draw the community's attention to the importance of our rivers," said Merkwan, a counselor at Camp Big Sky.

The weekend wrapped up on Sunday at the Gallatin Riverhouse Grill with the Hooked on the Gallatin Banquet and fundraiser. The evening was filled with acoustic music, delicious barbeque and a live and silent auction to benefit GRTF on the banks of the Gallatin River.

Gallatin River Task Force Education and Communications Coordinator Stephanie Lynn has been involved with the festival for the past three summers. "This has



Rhett Lapito practices his casting while his father Gabe looks on July 1 during the Gallatin River Fly Fishing Festival in Big Sky. PHOTOS BY LIAM KESHISHIAN

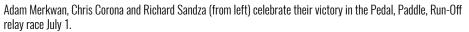
been our most successful year yet," Lynn said. "This is our biggest fundraiser, so it directly correlates to providing support for the Gallatin River."

According to Gardner, the 2016 Gallatin Fly Fishing Festival raised approximately \$23,000 for river restoration, and the numbers for this year's festival should be available in August. The money raised at this year's event will go towards funding the river access improvement plan, and river access sites.

Gardner says she considered this year's Gallatin River Fly Fishing Festival a huge success. "We're so grateful for the support and help that gets put into this event every year from the community."







Jeff Bellino and Lauren Jackson performed July 2 during the Hooked on the Gallatin Banquet at the Gallatin Riverhouse Grill. PHOTO BY SYDNEY MACDONALD



Ben Almy and Scott Fisher of Team Lone Peak Cinema Minions navigate the Gallatin during the Pedal, Paddle, Run-Off.

# WHEN YOU'RE READY TO HIT THE TRAIL

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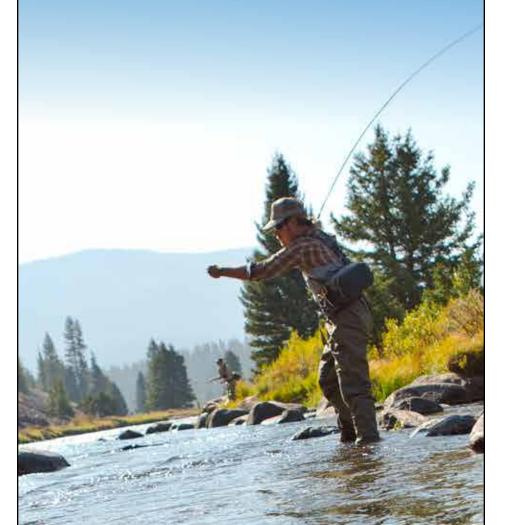
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### Explore Big Sky



BY CIARA WOLFE BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hang on for the ride of your life on this 6-mile downhill mountain bike flow trail. The Mountain to Meadow trail is designed for fast, smooth corners as it weaves through forest, meadows and across familiar ski runs from Big Sky Resort all the way down to Town Center.

This increasingly popular mountain bike trail is one of the trails putting Big Sky on the map for a world-class mountain biking experience. The trail, rated an advanced difficulty level, is definitely not for a novice biker, but is designed to afford all-levels of mountain bikers the experience of a true downhill trail.

Starting at the Big Sky Resort base area, near Ramcharger, follow signs for the Upper South Fork biking trail. The Upper South Fork trail begins with a gradual climb on an old roadbed turning to single track for approximately 2 miles. During this portion of the ride be aware of downhill bikers coming off of the new Snake Charmer trail that Big Sky Resort put in last summer. This trail can be lift-accessed off of Ramcharger and extend the Mountain to Meadow experience by two additional downhill bike trail miles.

During the climb you will cross under the poma lift at

Big Sky Resort and across the well-known ski run, War Dance. Once reaching the top of the 2-mile climb you will see a sign designating that you are leaving Big Sky Resort property and the downhill Mountain to Meadow Trail experience begins.

Hold on for the ride and enjoy the smooth, clean berms as you cruise back and forth through the forest for 4 miles, at the end of which you will reach a private dirt road. Following the signs, take a right on the dirt road until you reach paved Autumn Trail. Ride on Autumn Trail for one-third of a mile before turning right onto Andesite Road. Follow Andesite for approximately 1.5 miles until you reach Lone Mountain Trail (Highway 64).

Lone Mountain Trail will take you directly into Town Center, where you can catch the Skyline bus for a shuttle back up to your vehicle or another lap (summer schedule can be found at skylinebus.com) or stay in Town Center to grab a bite

# **On the Trail: Mountain to Meadow**

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

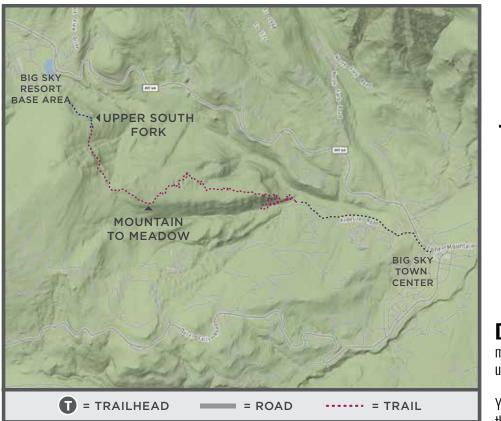


The 6-mile Mountain to Meadow Trail is a fast, smooth flow trail connecting Big Sky Resort and Town Center. PHOTO BY ADAM JOHNSON

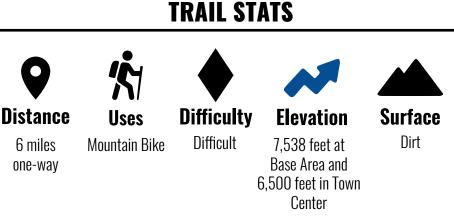
or hit one of your favorite watering holes for a post-bike ride brew.

Please respect signage throughout the trail and stay on designated trails. Your respect of private property will support the Big Sky Community Organization's efforts to secure trail easements on private land helping to connect this trail into our community trail system.

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.

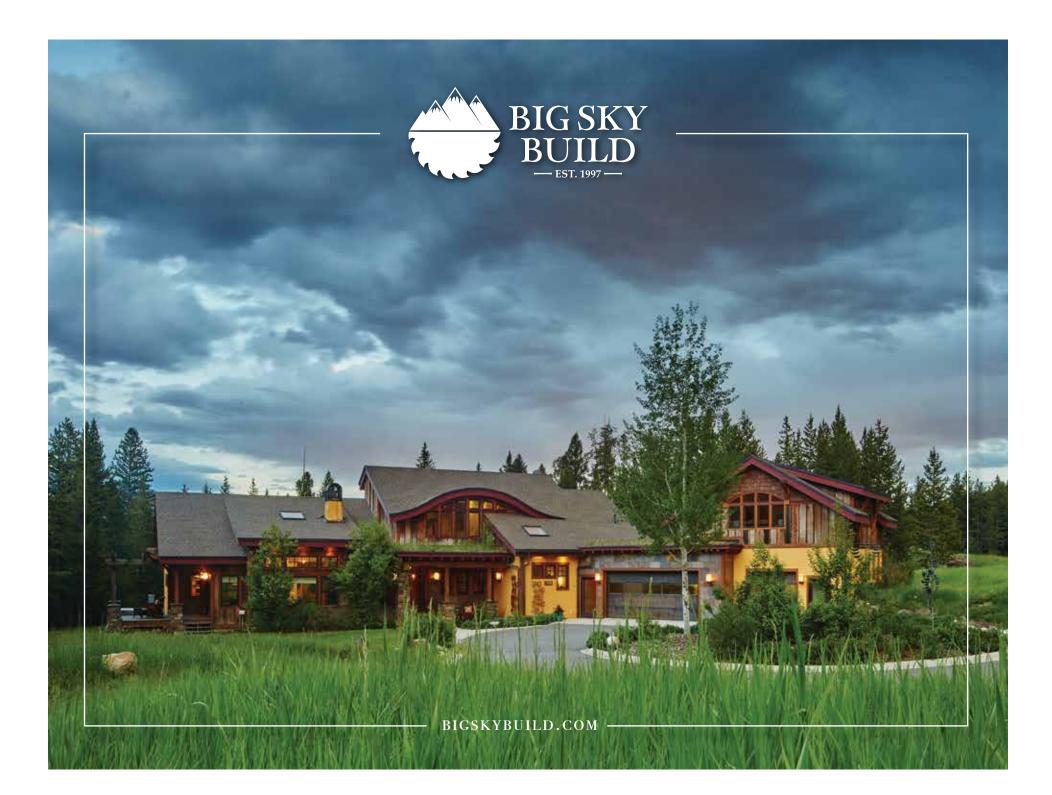






**Directions:** Turning off of Highway 191 onto Lone Mountain Trail, follow the signs 9 miles to Big Sky Resort. Turn left into the resort and follow the road up the hill staying left until you end at a free parking areas located at the base of the Mountain Mall.

You can also park in Town Center off of Ousel Falls Road (3 miles west on Lone Mountain Trail from the Highway 191 intersection and traffic light) and catch a free shuttle on the Skyline bus. The bus stop is located in Fire Pit Park on the right hand side after turning onto Ousel Falls Road off of Lone Mountain Trail. Bike shuttles fill up fast, so plan to be there plenty of time in advance.







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# Local lung cancer survivor pairs research launch with race

#### EBS STAFF

The Wortman Lung Cancer Foundation is celebrating the launch of a longterm lung health study with the Running Lungs Race in Big Sky on July 21.

The Longitudinal Lung Health Research Study focuses on the relationships between environment, genetics, lifestyle and fitness in respiratory health and the progression of lung disease. It's being conducted in coordination with the research lab of Dr. Bruce Johnson of Mayo Clinic.

"This is going to be the [study] kick-off, right here," said race organizer Linda Wortman, adding that she hopes to grow the race over time. "The goal is to have it every year [and] tie in the canyon businesses and the Meadow Village and Town Center."

Mayo Clinic research staff will be present at the race packet pick up on Friday, July 20, and at the race to answer questions and enroll interested participants.

"They're finding so much more out about our lungs that it's just mindboggling," Wortman said, adding that the study will focus on aspects of lung health upstream of lung disease. "There's growing evidence that diet and exercise can impact and modulate the immune system."

Johnson has another local link: He's worked with famed Bozeman-based climber Conrad Anker. In 2012, Anker participated in a cardiorespiratory study Johnson conducted on Mount Everest to gain insight into conditions related to a low oxygen state like heart disease, lung failure and sleep apnea. The Running Lungs Race will begin with a bang July 21 when participants blow up virtual balloons at the race as part of the "first to burst" lung challenge—a partnership with BreathResearch, a Walnut Creek, California-based research company that creates wearable technology for cardiorespiratory testing, prescription and coaching. BreathResearch will be on hand to demo MyBreath, an app designed to help users optimize and track their breathing.

After the first to burst lung challenge, the 10-kilometer run/walk will start at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center at 5 p.m., rain or shine. The 5-kilometer run/walk starting line is located near the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce at the intersection of highways 191 and 64.

Big Sky residents Jerry and Linda Wortman and BreathResearch CEO Nirinjan Yee will be at the race and invite people "to join them as they give a voice to lung cancer patients, family and survivors greater hope as WLCF strives to save lungs and lives with awareness and research," according to Wortman Lung Cancer Foundation press release.

Linda Wortman is a lung cancer survivor who spoke at the 2017 TEDxBigSky with a talk titled "Beating the Odds: Climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro with One Lung."

Visit wortmanlungcancerfoundation.com for more information about the race or the Longitudinal Lung Health Research Study.



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Find out what tunes we're bumping! In Big Sky Beats, Explore Big Sky staff suggests 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 summer trip, we've got you covered.

As much as I love music that comes out nowadays, there's something really great about a playlist featuring the oldies. They can hit you right in the soul and make it nearly impossible not to dance or sing along, even if you only know the chorus. Many oldies have a distinct sound that's hard to find in most modern-day music, at least in the mainstream. If you think you might be too cool to listen to songs from the '70s, '80s and '90s then you might want to think again. These songs are perfect for days on the water with your friends, road trips, or when you just want to get up and get down.

I've compiled some of my favorite classics if you don't already have them in your collection.

- 1. "Come on Eileen" Dexys Midnight Runners
- 2. "Mary Jane's Last Dance" Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers
- 3. "Sweet Talkin' Woman" Electric Light Orchestra
- 4. "Dancing in the Dark" Bruce Springsteen
- 5. "More Than a Feeling" Boston
- 6. "Goodbye Stranger" Supertramp
- 7. "You Can't Hurry Love" Phil Collins
- 8. "Hold on Loosely" 38 Special
- 9. "Take Me Home Tonight" Eddie Money
- 10. "Working for the Weekend" Loverboy

# **American Life in Poetry:** Column 639

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

We've used several of Elise Hempel's poems in this column, and this one is from her latest book from Able Muse Press, "Second Rain." To be a child, out for a fast ride in a boat with a father, well, that's a fine time. Elise Hempel lives in Illinois.

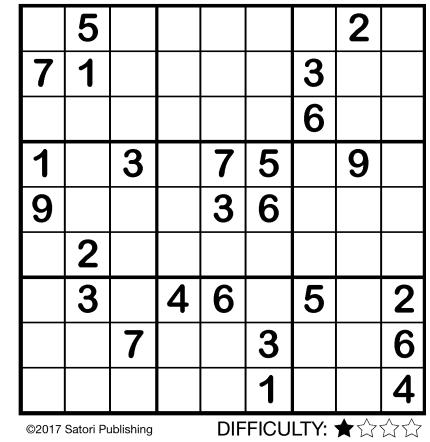
#### Outboard Motor

By Elise Hempel

After my father unhooded it, lugged it down the steep path to the boat and clamped it on, drew back the cord again and again like a pitch about to be thrown, grimacing with each whining refusal, and muttered, finally said She doesn't want to start, after it always did, and we shoved away from the pier, rowed out of the dense tangle of weeds and lily pads, not once did our resting oars uncross their feet, not even as we entered the shallow inlet between our lake and the next, just purring through the reeds in that narrow passage, over the billow of silt, the rocks, never getting stuck before we flew through the waves, his hand guiding the tiller.

# Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.





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### KEEBLER 😤

Age: 6 years old Breed: Pekepoo Owner: Hannah Gilley Likes: Stealing socks, hiking, playing catch & snuggling Dislikes: When Koda gets more attention & sprinklers Claim to fame: Even after being temporarily paralyzed, Keebler can still complete a 12-mile hike

### KODA 🙅

Age: 3 years old Breed: Siberian Huskey Owner: Hannah Gilley Likes: Rawhide bones, any activity outside, swimming, snow and belly rubs Dislikes: Fences, fireworks and riding with the windows up Claim to fame: He is a total chick magnet and can open any doors for himself and the ladies

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#### Explore Big Sky

### **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**





# **A pop aesthetic achieved through ancient technique** The art of Robert Ransom

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – There are two kinds of artists. Those who will pontificate about the meaning behind their work, and those who, despite all attempts to coax them to do so, will not provide any insight or commentary on the deeper significance of their creative process or the finished piece.

Sacramento, California-based painter Robert Ransom is among the latter. The artist, who has been called "the Andy Warhol of the American pastime" by Chicago Art Institute Curator Mark Pascal, would not waiver from his position that, "Those are just labels people put on my work; they're not mine." This, contrary to relentless prompting with words and phrases like "art-deco," and the "American Dream" that buzz throughout the lofty commentary on his work.

"Most artists are like that," he said. "When you get them aside they'll say, 'I don't know why I did that.' Then the art historians will make up stuff about what it means."

Such nonchalance can be infuriating when you're profoundly attracted to an artist's work—as I am to Ransom's sleek, stylized snapshots of Hollywood-era Americana. But it's a reminder that the host of associations a work of art can evoke are our own, and one function of art is to express that which eludes verbal interpretation. Ultimately, it forces our gaze back to the work itself, or toward other people who enjoy meaning-making as much as we do.

Colin Mathews, who represents Ransom at Big Sky's Creighton Block Gallery, said he was captivated by the artist's work the first time he laid eyes on a painting of a flame-decorated racecar zooming by a snow-capped mountain backdrop.

"To see the Wasatch Mountains and the Bonneville Salt Flats squished together in that compressed perspective brought up happy memories of childhood road trips," said Mathews, who's familiar with the long stretch of Utah highway between the two regions. "Ransom's paintings will engender those feelings in lots of viewers—whether it's a backyard barbecue and palm trees, longhorn steers or trout fishing."



Ransom's "Red Woman and Man" is one of 50 works of contemporary and traditional Western art up for sale in the Big Sky Art Auction on Thursday, July 27 from 5 to 7 p.m. The free event will take place in the Big Tent at the PBR arena in Big Sky Town Center. PHOTO COURTESY OF CREIGHTON BLOCK GALLERY

upbringing and the years he spent in the Southwest while earning an MFA at Northern Arizona University in the 1960s.

His Western motifs often feature cowboys on horseback, gunfights, desert-scapes and wide open spaces. One such piece, "Red Man and Woman," of a couple holding fast and low to the reigns of neck-and-neck horses, will be up for auction July 27 in the Big Sky Art Auction.

The rest of his work has a distinctly California aesthetic. These pieces are populated with retro diners, motorcycles, dapper golfers and lots of martinis. All of it has a whiff of historic Route 66 running through it, perhaps not surprisingly since the old highway connects the two regions that have been most influential in the artist's work.

Ransom would concede to talk basics. His subject matter can be split into two distinct categories that the artist says draw from his Southern California



Hailed as the "Andy Warhol of the American pastime," artist Robert Ransom depicts scenes of the American West with a contemporary, pop culture edge using ancient painterly techniques. PHOTO BY GREG KINDER

On the surface Ransom's work may appear deceptively simple. His lines are clean and angular, his figures blocky and often portrayed in profile, and engaged in mundane leisure activities like eating, boating, walking the dog, or having cocktails.

But beneath the almost comically exaggerated figures depicted in quintessentially American scenes, lies an ever-so-subtle narrative that each viewer is left to surmise—or not.

And while the work may have a pop culture aesthetic, which implies mass production, Ransom has adopted the time-consuming oil painting technique of the Flemish masters of the 15th and 16th centuries. He applies the Dutch style of glazing and layering to achieve a lustrous depth of color he found missing in the contemporary art of the 20th century.

"It's the best of both worlds," Ransom said. "Reaching back to the old masters gave me a means to develop the kind of style I wanted and the direction I wanted to go."

That direction continues to deliver paintings that are immensely delightful at face value, but that offer as many nuanced layers of depth to probe as one is inclined to find.

# **'WaterWorks' flows to the wetlands** Public art initiative continues with video installation at Dry Creek Schoolhouse

#### BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY - Mountain Time Arts, a public art organization based in Bozeman, continues its series "WaterWorks" with a multiscreen video installation at Belgrade's Dry Creek Schoolhouse, and accompanying tours of the nearby wetlands.

"Wetlands" opens Friday, July 21, and runs noon to 6 p.m. daily through July 30. It is the third in a series of four public art events that follow the flow of water through the Gallatin Valley. Taken together, the series is an educational and creative celebration of water—its availability, distribution, and how it has shaped the valley's history, culture and agriculture.

"Wetlands" follows "Upstream," a conglomeration of storefront window installations, interactive multi-media exhibits and tours concentrated in downtown Bozeman; and "Spring Thirst," two aerial dance performances at Bogert Park Pavilion. The first phase focused on spring runoff, municipal water systems and Bozeman Creek.

Mountain Time Arts commissioned Bently Spang, a multidisciplinary Northern Cheyenne artist, to produce a new work specifically for "Wetlands." Building on an existing series, "War Shirt #6: Water Ways" is a moving mosaic of images that explores the artist's relationship to water within the framework of an oversized war shirt made of welded steel.

The project, featuring 27 video and still screens, will be installed at Belgrade's historic one-room Dry Creek Schoolhouse.

"My intention is not to recreate an actual war shirt but, as in past work in this series, to use the conceptual framework of this form and expand the scale to signify the importance of our water to my homeland," Spang wrote in an artist statement about the piece.

"I've grown up with this water; I know where much of it begins and ends. My relatives in the past who sacrificed so much to secure our homeland for us made sure of that. ... They brilliantly embedded that knowledge in forms like the war shirt in a visual language that I have explored for years."

Daily tours of nearby wetlands led by naturalists will be offered in conjunction with the video installation. Linwood Tall Bull, a Northern



A video installation by multi-media artist Bently Spang opens July 21 at Belgrade's Dry Creek Schoolhouse as part of a summer-long public art initiative that creatively follows the flow of water through Gallatin Creek. The piece will build upon Spang's existing "Modern Warrior" series, one of which, "War Shirt #2," is pictured here. PHOTO COURTESY OF MOUNTAIN TIME ARTS

Cheyenne ethno-botanist, has collaborated with aquatic resource specialist Lynn Bacon and science educator Rose Vallor to provide both a Western and indigenous science perspective. Their insight will highlight the important role wetlands play in cleaning and storing water, and providing a rich environment of plants, wildlife and water life that a healthy wetland ecosystem supports.

"Water finds its way to us every day," Spang wrote. "It navigates the terrain, harnessing gravity and shaping and re-shaping certain places on the earth as it searches for us. I'm interested in how it finds us, why it keeps looking for us when some treat it so poorly and what happens on its journey. I want to learn its language and understand its shape. I've been taught by my elders ... that the better I know a place, both past and present, the more I will protect it and it will protect me."

"Wetlands," featuring the video installation "War Shirt #6: Water Ways" opens Friday, July 21, and runs noon to 6 p.m. daily through July 30. The exhibit is located at 101 Dry Creek School Road, north of Belgrade. Visit mountaintimearts.org for the wetlands tour schedule and to sign up. The event is free and open to the public.



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# **Contemporary and traditional Western art goes up for grabs** Big Sky Art Auction returns to PBR week

#### **OUTLAW PARTNERS PBR COVERAGE**

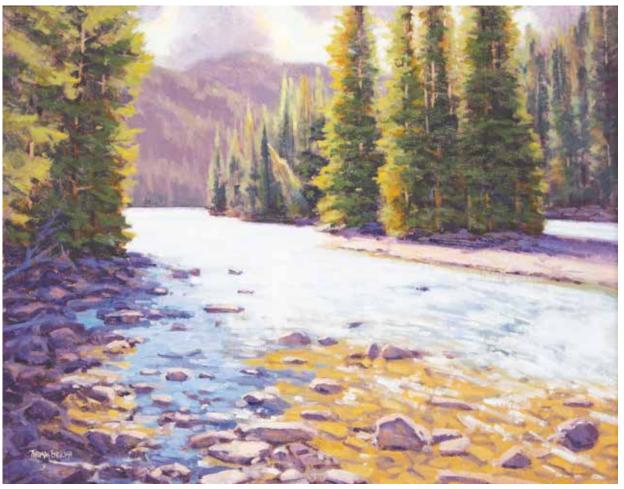
#### **BY SARAH GIANELLI** EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY - After the success of the inaugural Big Sky Art Auction, which kicked off last year's Big Sky PBR festivities, the Outlaw Partners (publisher of EBS) are again partnering with Colin Mathews of Creighton Block Gallery to present a high-caliber Western art auction under the Golden Buckle tent at the PBR arena on Thursday, July 27, from 5 to 7 p.m.

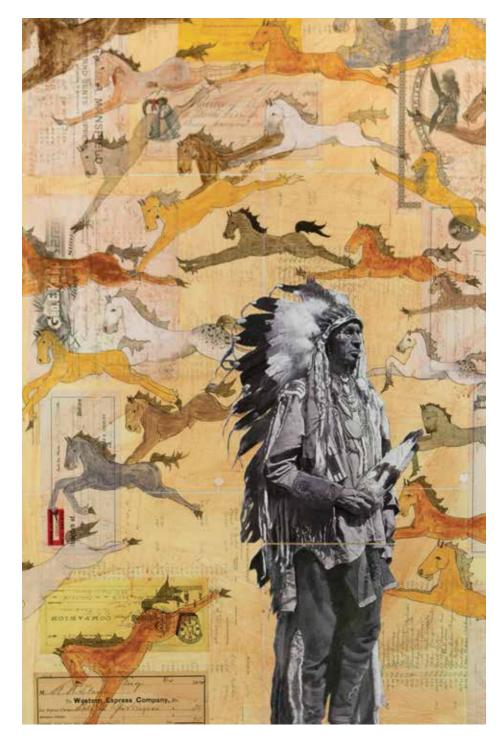
This year, the auction is expanding to include approximately 50 works of contemporary and traditional Western art from 30 regional artists, six of whom have been designated members of the C.M. Russell Museum Skull Society, an honor that places them securely among the finest living Western artists.

Among these heavy-hitters are R. Tom Gilleon who will have two Native American portraits in the auction; Kevin Red Star, a Crow Indian whose work is housed by the Smithsonian Institution; and landscape and historical scene painters Todd Connor, Frank Hagel and Laurie Stevens.

This year, in response to community interest, Mathews is introducing more contemporary art to the Big Sky



"Gallatin River" by Tom English is among the 50 works of traditional and contemporary Western art to be presented at the Big Sky Art Auction held at the PBR arena tent from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, July 27. PHOTOS COURTESY OF CREIGHTON BLOCK GALLERY



Art Auction. The unflinching multimedia explorations of race and culture by up-and-coming Crow artist Ben Pease will be represented. The auction will also include the stylized art-deco paintings of Robert Ransom, abstracted landscapes by Babbie Burrows, Brenna Tyler's spindly bronze equine sculpture, and work by Andrew Denman that juxtaposes vintage wallpaper patterns with realistic wildlife imagery.

"People want landscapes, Native American art, and Montana historical-themed work," Mathews said. "But people have also expressed an interest in abstract expressionist or other contemporary genre work. This event is unique because it offers a balance of both."

There will also be some one-of-a-kind home décor pieces like bronze trout door handles and a hand-painted deerskin.

Together there will be more than \$500,000 worth of paintings, sculpture, photography and decorative items available during the evening, with auction values ranging from an estimated \$2,500 to \$70,000 for individual pieces.

"Auctions are fun, entertaining and exciting," Mathews said. "And they present opportunities to purchase fine art for good value."

The second annual Big Sky Art Auction will feature a larger selection of contemporary offerings, including this multi-media piece by up-and-coming Crow artist Ben Pease, entitled "Wealth of a Nation.'

One piece that Mathews is particularly excited about is an 1866 etching by James Smillie of a famous 1863 painting by German-American artist Albert Bierstadt, who was renowned for his sweeping renditions of the American West. The original oil painting, "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak," currently resides in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Mathews has also acquired two understated, but exquisitely rendered paintings by wildlife artist David Maass depicting ruffed grouse in a snowy, aspen forest that after a few moments of contemplation seems to go on forever.

"That's going to mean something to somebody," Mathews said.

The second annual Big Sky Art Auction will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 27 in the Big Tent at the PBR arena in Big Sky Town Center. Light appetizers and a cash bar will be available. The event is free and open to the public.

Visit bigskyartauction.com to view the auction catalog. All items are subject to withdrawal or prior sale.

## BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – With the commencement of the Big Sky Conservatory on July 2, The Warren Miller Performing Arts Center is officially in the "create" component of its trifold mission to present, inspire and create.

WMPAC presents its world-class productions during the high winter season and while it could be said that the organization inspires year-round, it fulfills this aspect through pointed community engagement during the spring and fall. Their summer residency program, the Big Sky Conservatory, brings nationally and internationally acclaimed professionals in the performing arts to Big Sky, to create and develop new work while mentoring aspiring professionals and area youth in the genres of dance, music and theater.

Minneapolis' James Sewell Ballet, the company that launched WMPAC's debut winter season in 2013 and the original participant of Big Sky Conservatory, has returned to be professionals-in-residence for the Twin Sky Dance Intensive that runs through July 16. The two-week program offers high-altitude training and performance experience for aspiring young dancers along with a career development opportunity for professionals.

Since its inception in 2014, the conservatory has grown from a two-week dance intensive with four novice dancers to a summer-long program with a choral and theater component. This year the conservatory drew 102 applications, 52 of which were accepted, and 30 mentoring artists.



In culmination of the Twin Sky Dance Initiative, James Sewell Ballet will perform new work with musical accompaniment by the Ahn Trio at 7 p.m. Saturday, July 15 at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

"That's pretty exciting," said WMPAC Artistic Director John Zirkle. "We've turned people away. We have people coming in from all over the country professors and graduate students from institutions like Yale [University] and Juilliard who are paying to be fellows and work with award-winning professionals and leaders in the industry."

These working professionals—who come to Big Sky to develop and rehearse their own work-in-progress while providing high-level mentorship—also include the groundbreaking, international choral sensation The Crossing, and a collective of Broadway thespians workshopping a play by resident playwright Caroline McGraw, starring Tony Award-winner and actress-in-residence Michele Pawk.

"For a small little theater to act as an incubator and a producer, that is really how we really define world-class in my opinion," Zirkle said. "We're creating work that is being presented in the most respected cultural hubs in the country—that's New York and Minneapolis right there."

For Zirkle, who oozes passion for the theatrical arts, the fact that a little mountain town in Montana is attracting some of his creative heroes, and WMPAC is playing a part in productions that will grace the grandest of stages, may be enough. But at the end of each program, the public also gains the opportunity to get a sneak preview into the works developed here, and gets a chance to creatively interact with these top-level performers.

"The Big Sky community will get to see or experience a brand new piece of work at its inception point," Zirkle said. "At its headwaters ... before it heads downstream to be performed by the some of the world's most respected artists in the world."

On Saturday, July 15, at 7 p.m. the James Sewell Ballet will present new work with live musical accompaniment by the Ahn Trio. On Saturday, July 22, at 7 p.m. The Crossing will perform five new works written by the conservatory's Choral Initiative composers, including composer-in-residence Gavin Bryars.

That morning at 11 a.m., The Crossing will host a free workshop and community sing. Another concert with The Crossing, featuring conservatory conductors and different works, will be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 29. And on Tuesday, Aug. 8, at 11 a.m., the public is invited to participate in a free theater workshop with professional New York theater artists.

"We want to become a headwaters for performing arts in America," Zirkle said. "That's a really lofty concept and a really difficult thing to do, but we've made great progress in the last four years ... for example, we gave James [Sewell] a stage to develop ['Titicut Follies'] and now it's a huge success in New York. We helped bring that to life."

WMPAC is also advancing its role as a producer, and this year will produce two original plays, one of which will enjoy its world premiere on the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center stage in January 2018.

"It's kind of our style to move aggressively ahead," Zirkle said. "To really try to be a player on the national stage—or die trying."

Visit warrenmillerpac.org for more information and to purchase tickets.



# **Two nights of chamber music under the Big Sky** Dinner concert at 320 Ranch and riverside benefit for Montana Land Reliance

#### EBS STAFF

The Montana Chamber Music Society will bring two nights of powerful and inviting ensemble music to Big Sky this July as a part of the 29th annual Montana Chamber Music Festival. Members of the Grammy Award-winning Muir String Quartet will play under the accompaniment of three other internationally acclaimed musicians in different configurations and settings each night.

Friday, July 14, the musicians will perform the annual Strings Under the Big Sky chamber music dinner concert in the banquet hall at the 320 Ranch, following the festival's opening concert on July 13 at Montana State University's Reynolds Hall. This year, the Strings Under the Big Sky concert features more than just strings. Muir String Quartet violinists Peter Zazofsky and Lucia Lin will be joined by Bill Scharnberg on horn, Kathleen Reynolds on bassoon, and cellist Sara Stalnaker.

The musicians will perform a program featuring three works by composers Messaien, Danzi and Martinu. Hors d'oeuvres are at 5 p.m., with dinner following at 6 p.m. The concert will begin promptly at 7 p.m. Reservations are required. For more information visit stringsunderthebigsky.org.

The Muir String Quartet, long acknowledged as one of the world's most powerful and insightful ensembles, began making annual trips to Bozeman in 1990, ultimately initiating the Montana Chamber Music Festival. In 1997, the Big Sky Association for the Arts brought these musicians to Big Sky for the first time where, undaunted by cool weather, they performed in the Big Sky Community Park. They returned two years later in 1999 and again in 2005 after a successful fundraising concert event in 2001.

The now yearly chamber concerts in Big Sky were given the name Strings Under the Big Sky in 2008 and have repeatedly raised funds to support the music program at Ophir and Lone Peak High School, raising more than \$60,000 to support the arts at both schools.

Following the Strings Under the Big Sky performance, the Muir Quartet will perform in its entirety at Confluence: A Musical Celebration of Open Space on Saturday, July 15, as a special benefit event for MCMS and Montana Land Reliance. Held at the picturesque Kelly Ranch near Four Corners, this musical event celebrates the confluence of majestic open landscapes and fine music in Montana.

Confluence is the first of several events to commemorate MLR and celebrate the one million acres of conserved lands across the state this year.

The Muir String Quartet will play along the banks of the Gallatin River as guests enjoy fine food and beverages. The event will feature a live and silent auction, with items ranging from fishing packages on exclusive waters to fine art and music offerings. Other auction items include a private concert by Michael Reynolds of the Muir String Quartet, a Clyde Aspevig original painting and visit with the



Members of the Grammy Award-winning Muir String Quartet will perform three area concerts July 13-15 as part of the Montana Chamber Music Society's annual summer festival. Events include a dinner concert at the 320 Ranch and a fundraiser event for Montana Land Reliance on the bucolic Kelley Ranch near Four Corners. PHOTO COURTESY OF STRINGS UNDER THE BIG SKY

artist at his studio, "glamping" with Under Canvas near Glacier National Park, and participation in a women's fly fishing school and outfitting with Gallatin River Guides.

The evening begins at 4 p.m. with a cocktail hour and hors d'oeuvres followed by a live auction and the Muir String Quartet at 6 p.m.

The final performance for this year's Montana Chamber Music Festival will be held July 16, in partnership with St. Timothy's Summer Concerts in Georgetown Lake, Montana.

For more information about the MCMS Montana Chamber Music Festival and concerts, visit montanachambermusicsociety.org. To purchase tickets to Confluence call (406) 443-7027 or email kim@mtlandreliance.org.



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# Get down with Dirty Revival after the dust clears

#### EBS STAFF

BIG SKY - The next two Music in the Mountains concerts bring the classic rock sounds of Assembly of Dust on Thursday, July 13, and the energetic bouncing beats of Dirty Revival on Thursday, July 20. Music begins at 7 p.m. at Center Stage in Big Sky Town Center Park.

"Many people, especially those from the East Coast, may remember [Assembly of Dust frontman] Reid Genauer from the Vermont band Strangefolk," said Arts Council of Big Sky Executive Director Brian Hurlbut. "They're a great, five-piece band reminiscent of bands like The Band and Neil Young."

Drawing on those influences, Traffic and countless others, over the last 10 years

Assembly of Dust has taken that early '70s Americana swagger and put their own funky spin on it, marked by catchy melodies, poetic lyrics and skillful musicianship. They have been compared to alt-country icons Ryan Adams, Wilco and the indie outfit Mumford and Sons.

"As a child I can remember locking myself in my room with a big old set of headphones and listening to The Band's 'Music from Big Pink' album over and over again," said Genauer, the lead singer and founder of Assembly of Dust. "Besides loving the hell out of the music, I was intrigued with the production value in the recordings. As I listened I felt almost like I was there in the room with The Band at a moment of perfection. That intimate listening experience drew me in and is what inspired me to be a musician."

Genauer, whose songwriting skills have been praised by The New York Times as some of the most eloquent "to emerge in the long wake of the Grateful Dead," is



Portland, Oregon's soulful, funk and R&B-inspired Dirty Revival performs on Big Sky's Center Stage on July 20. PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

joined by Adam Terrell on lead guitar, bassist John Leccese, and newer bandmates Jason Crosby on piano and violin and drummer Dave Diamond. Assembly of Dust's 2012 album "Sun Shot" is laced with the influences Genauer recognized as a child—some are flashy and aloof, others bony and pale.

After playing in Big Sky on July 13, Assembly of Dust will perform at Targhee Fest in Alta, Wyoming the following weekend.

Led by the soulful vocals of Sarah Clarke, Dirty Revival has made their mark on the Pacific Northwest music scene, evolving from the confines of a Portland, Oregon, basement to performing in venues that range from dimly-lit dive bars, crowded concert halls and—as will be the case in Big Sky on July 20—under wide-open festival skies.

The dynamic, seven-piece soul outfit shines like their tenor saxophonist's horn, delivering powerful original tracks and cleverly arranged classics that resound with influences of the funk- and soul-infused icons of the past.

Dirty Revival has shared the stages with musical heavy-hitters Michael Franti, George Clinton and the Parliament Funkadelic, Sir Mix-A-Lot, Slick Rick, Nappy Roots and Gift of Gab.

The band has been actively touring since the release of their debut album "Dirty Revival" in September of 2015.

"As far as Dirty Revival, this will be a high-energy show from one of the West Coast's fastest rising bands," Hurlbut said. "Bring your dancing shoes!"

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### **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**



#### BY AMY HUNTER **BSSD ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER COORDINATOR**

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Come to the library to sign up and get your login information. You'll need an internet connection or the app on your phone to use the program at home. You can also come in to the library and use one of our computers. You'll need headphones with a microphone attached in order to do all of the activities and practice speaking.

Upcoming Big Sky Community Library events to check out are listed below. Events start at 4 p.m.

July 11: Montana Raptor Conservation Center July18: Lone Peak High School graduates speak about their trip to Nepal July 25: "Recycle Rob"

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# **MSU presents Ivan Doig exhibit at Big Sky Country State Fair**

#### **MSU NEWS SERVICE**

BOZEMAN - The Montana State University Library will create an Ivan Doig archive exhibit for the 2017 Big Sky Country State Fair in Bozeman, to be held July 19-23 at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds. "Ivan Doig: Voices and Vistas" will be an interactive learning experience that encourages the exploration of the celebrated Montana author's work, according to Jan Zauha, outreach librarian at the MSU Library.

Zauha said the exhibit will highlight the intertwined nature of reading, writing, research and lived experience by using components of the Ivan Doig Archive, which is housed physically at the MSU Library's Special Collections and online at ivandoig.montana.edu.

Doig, the son of a ranch foreman and sheep herder, was a third-generation Montanan born in White Sulphur Springs. Doig's first memoir, "This House of Sky," is a reminiscence about his childhood in Montana. Though Doig eventually left Montana, he continued to use the people and landscapes of Montana as the backdrop for many of his books

The library is collaborating with Mike Everts, a professor in the MSU School of Architecture, and MSU architecture students to conceptualize the exhibit. Additional students will work together with library staff to build certain aspects of the exhibit.

On Wednesday, July 19, there will be a grand opening of the exhibit at 5:30 p.m. in Exhibit Hall 1. A revolving set of programs is scheduled throughout the duration of the exhibit, and includes informational presentations on Montana sheep ranching from the MSU Wool Lab, wool demonstrations by LaVonne Stucky with Serenity Sheep Farm, as well as daily writing exercises. The MSU Wool Lab will also have real sheep fleeces, sheep shears and other products such as lanolin, in order to demonstrate the process of collecting raw wool and turning it into the final project.

In addition, Paul Lachapelle, associate professor in the Department of Political Science and an MSU Extension community development specialist, will be onsite to record interviews from individuals who wish to share stories about their life, community or impressions and thoughts on Doig's work. The interviews are part of the Montana Community Story Project, a collaborative effort between MSU Extension, MSU Library and StoryCorps, an organization that collects personal narratives from ordinary people, in order to preserve and share humanity's stories, according to the StoryCorps website.

"The project's goal is to educate citizens on the importance of documenting and preserving, archiving stories about the people and places that make their communities so special," said Lachapelle. "A secondary goal is to train community residents how to conduct interviews, record stories, preserve digital archives and create content to share online."

Lachapelle hopes to collect stories from communities across Montana and place them in a permanent archive for future generations, both at the MSU Library and at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. In conjunction with the exhibit, the Yellowstone Writing Project, housed in the MSU Department of English, has partnered with MSU Library to host a writing competition open to all writers. The prompt for the competition is "Tell us your Montana Story." "Voices and Vistas" will highlight the winners of the writing competition, and the Yellowstone Writing Project will coordinate activities for all ages throughout the fair.

Doig's books and other Montana-related titles will be available for purchase at the exhibit through the Country Bookshelf bookstore. The Bozeman Public Library will partner with the MSU Library during the exhibit to provide content and programs promoting reading, Montana-related literature and exploration of the new BPL bookmobile.

The Big Sky Country State Fair, formerly known as the Gallatin County Fair, will run from noon to 10 p.m. each day. "Ivan Doig: Voices and Vistas" will be open during fair hours and is included in the general entrance fee.

Visit ivandoig.montana.edu/projects/countyfair/ for more information or contact Jan Zauba at (406) 994-6554 or jzauba@montana.edu.



July 7 - July 20, 2017 73



The American West has produced some of the most thoughtful and moving literature in U.S. history. Read on and enjoy the Cowboy's Quill: insight into the best writers, books and poetry this side of the Mississippi.

# **Richard Brautigan:** Tortured prankster

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

Throughout his life, Richard Brautigan was a troubled soul. He rarely spoke about his childhood, but some of his close friends knew that he grew up in poverty near White Sulphur Springs, Montana, without knowing who his father was, often abandoned by his mother, trying to feed his younger sister and avoid getting abused.

After publishing the 1967 novel "Trout Fishing in America," Brautigan quickly went from an unknown Haight-Ashbury poet to an internationally known outdoors writer and prominent voice of 1960s counterculture. His ability to channel and give expression to the disillusionment that many in the hippie generation felt about the "American Dream" during the 60s gained him a certain amount of fame.

His two other novels from that decade, "A Confederate General in Big Sur" and "In Watermelon Sugar," cemented his status as a literary guru to the flower children.

Brautigan wasn't just a hippie. After becoming friends with Thomas McGuane in San Francisco, he would eventually visit Montana's Paradise Valley and end up buying a 40-acre ranch in Pine Creek, near Livingston. He loved to drink hard and shoot guns. Or maybe he was an alcoholic with a temper problem. The best way to learn about the man's psyche would be to read William "Gatz" Hjortsberg's biography called "Jubilee Hitchhiker."

My favorite writings by Brautigan are when he's talking about what drew him back to Montana from the West Coast. Drawing on the contrasts of Japanese culture and rural American life, from the hyper-urban to the rural, from East to West, "The Tokyo-Montana Express" is neither a novel nor a collection of short stories—it's somewhere in between.

The author described the book as 131 vignettes, each representing a station on a fictional train ride from Japan to Montana. I think it's actually best to pick this book up and read it piecemeal. It doesn't matter what order they're read, given that most sections come off as self-contained daydreams.

My favorite piece is an uproarious tale of revenge called "The Good Work of Chickens." Here is Brautigan doing what he did best: blending parody and dark comedy with his eccentric imagination to produce a high-wire act of satire and cutting commentary on human nature.



RECREATION - ART - WELLNESS - HISTORY ENVIRONMENT - KIDS ACTIVITIES

## Free guided hikes and activities throughout BSCO's Community Trail System

Tuesdays and Saturdays throughout the summer. See details below.

## **Bird Spotting and Identification**

Tuesday, July 11 - 10:00 a.m. South Fork Loop Trail with BSCO staff member Scott Hoeksema

## A Nature Walk with the WCS

Tuesday, July 11 – 5:30 p.m. Black Diamond Trail and Willow Way Trail with the Wildlife Conservation Society

## How to Navigate the Backcountry

Saturday, July 15 – 10:00 a.m. *Uplands Trail with Big Sky Search & Rescue* 

## **Climbing Boulders**

Tuesday, July 18 – 10:00 a.m. Community Park with Montana Alpine Guides

## **Mindfulness and Exploration Hike**

Tuesday, July 18 – 5:30 p.m. **Ousel Falls Trail with Angela Marie Patnode** 

Brautigan's life and legacy remind me of the plot of an Italian opera in which a man goes to his doctor complaining about depression and anxiety. The doctor tells him there just so happens to be a famous clown named Pagliacci in town, and if he goes and sees him he will laugh and feel more relaxed—to which the patient responds, "But doctor, I am Pagliacci!" Brautigan died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound at his home in San Francisco in 1984.

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

## **History Hike**

Tuesday, July 25 - 10:00 a.m. Crail Ranch Trail with Historic Crail Ranch Conservators

## Learn about Bear Habitats

Saturday, July 29 – 10:00 a.m. Black Diamond Trail and Willow Way with the United States Forest Service



For hike descriptions and to RSVP visit: **bscomt.org/hike-learn** 32 Town Center Avenue, Unit B1

## Explore Big Sky

# **EVENTS CALENDAR**

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

FRIDAY, JULY 7-**THURSDAY, JULY 20** 

\*If your event falls between July 21 and August 3, please submit it by July 14

## **Big Sky**

FRIDAY, JULY 7 **Kids Adventure Games** Big Sky Resort, 12 p.m.

Fish Fry BYWOM, all evening

Gallatin River Task Force Tuesday Talk Big Sky Landscaping Garden Center, 5:30 p.m.

Parks & Trails Gala Big Sky Community Park, 6 p.m.

Erin & The Project Gallatin Riverhouse Grill. 7 p.m.

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JULY 8** Kids Adventure Games Big Sky Resort, 8 a.m.

Weekly Golf Clinic Big Sky Resort Golf Course, 12 p.m.

Junior Weekly Golf Clinic Big Sky Resort Golf Course, 3 p.m.

Alabama Albert Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JULY 9** Kids Adventure Games Big Sky Resort, 8 a.m.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Celebrity Golf Tournament Cocktail Party Summit Hotel, 7 p.m.

Wyatt Hurts Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, JULY 10**

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Celebrity Golf Tournament Big Sky Resort Golf** Course, all day

Community Yoga for Cause Santosha, 11 a.m.

Wine Tuesdays Carabiner, all evening

Keith Scott Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12 **BBQ** and Wagon Rides 320 Guest Ranch, 5 p.m.

Farmers' Market Fire Pit Park, 5 p.m.

Lone Peak Anime Club Luminous A/V, 6 p.m.

Alabama Albert Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, JULY 13**

### Wildflower & Weed Hike Beehive Basin, 10 a.m.

Music in the Mountains: Assembly of Dust Town Center Stage, 7 p.m.

Keith Scott Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

Late Night Après Music Lotus Pad, 10:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 14 Strings Under the Big Sky 320 Guest Ranch, 5 p.m.

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JULY 15** Weekly Golf Clinic Big Sky Resort Golf Course, 12 p.m.

Junior Weekly Golf Clinic Big Sky Resort Golf Course, 3 p.m.

Confluence: A Musical Celebration of **Open Space** Kelly Ranch, Gallatin Gateway, 4 p.m.

**Rocky Mountain Pearls** Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JULY 16** Wilderness Walk Eaglehead Mountain and Windy Pass, all day

Wyatt Hurts Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

**MONDAY, JULY 17** Community Yoga for Cause Santosha, 11 a.m.

Brian Stumpf Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19 Children's Summer Reading: Build a Better Global World

Big Sky Community Library, 4 p.m.

**BBQ and Wagon Rides** 320 Guest Ranch, 5 p.m.

Farmers' Market Fire Pit Park, 5 p.m.

Lone Peak Anime Club Luminous A/V, 6 p.m.

### **THURSDAY, JULY 20**

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

**Business After Hours** Historic Crail Ranch, 5 p.m.

Mathias Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

Music in the Mountains: Dirty Revival Town Center Stage, 7 p.m.

## Bozeman

FRIDAY, JULY 7 Karen Smith: Designing Dance Bozeman Public Library, 8:15 a.m.

MSU Field Day Arthur H. Post Farm, 8:30 a.m.

Sommelier Richard Betts Book Signing Museum of the Rockies, 1 p.m.

Scooter Brown Band Live from the Divide, 9 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JULY 8** 16th Annual Wine & Culinary Classic Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JULY 9 Raptor Conservation** Montana Raptor Conservation Center, 3 p.m.

Mathias Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**MONDAY, JULY 10** Logan Tucker Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

**TUESDAY, JULY 11** Mike & Mike

**Once Upon a Mattress** Ellen Theatre, July 14-30 at 7:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Sundays

**SATURDAY, JULY 15** Brianna Moore Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JULY 16** Hawks Montana Raptor Conservation Center, 3 p.m.

Christy Hays Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Montana Chamber Music Society Concert Reynolds Recital Hall, MSU, 7:30 p.m.

**MONDAY, JULY 17** Tom and Chelsea Cook Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

**TUESDAY, JULY 18** Tails & Trails dog hikes Dee-O-Gee, 5 p.m.

Dusty Pockets Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Losing Julia Finch Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19 Big Sky Country State Fair Gallatin County Fairgrounds, all day (July 19-23)

Ned Ledoux Live from the Divide, 9 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JULY 20** 

Big Sky Country State Fair Gallatin County Fairgrounds, all day (July 19-23)

### **Cattail WaterWorks** Dry Creek Schoolhouse, all day through July 30

Art on the Rocks Series Emerson Cultural Center, 6:30 p.m.

Grassy Mountain Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**RECURRING EVENTS:** Bridger Mountain Big Band

Eagles Lodge, Sundays at 7 p.m. Open Mic Night The Haufbrau, Sundays, Mondays, and Karaoke Bar IX, Tuesdays at 9 p.m.

Lunch on the Lawn **Emerson Cultural Center, Wednesdays** at 11:30 a.m.

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

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

**Bluegrass Night** Red Tractor Pizza, Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Music on Main Downtown, Thursdays at 7 p.m.

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

Pickelball Southside Tennis Courts, Fridays at 9 a.m.

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

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

Gallatin Valley Farmers' Market Haynes Pavilion, Gallatin County Fairgrounds, Saturdays at 9 a.m.

## Livingston & **Paradise Valley** FRIDAY, JULY 7

**Yellowstone Boat Float** Livingston to Columbus, July 7-9, all day

Montana Manouche Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar, 6 p.m.

Laney Lou & The Bird Dogs Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

Stephen Sondheim's Company Dulcie Theatre, 8 p.m.

Solidarity Service Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JULY 8** Scooter Brown Country Jam for the Vets Pine Creek Lodge, 5 p.m.

Monday Funday 320 Guest Ranch, 5 p.m.

Service Industry Night Lotus Pad, 5:30 p.m.

Wyatt Hurts Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, JULY 11**

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

Women's Weekly Golf Clinic Big Sky Resort Golf Course, 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

**Top Shelf Toastmasters** Town Center Sales Office, 12 p.m.

Children's Summer Reading: Raptor **Conservatory Center** Big Sky Community Library, 4 p.m.

Monday Funday 320 Guest Ranch, 5 p.m.

Service Industry Night Lotus Pad, 5:30 p.m.

Wyatt Hurts Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, JULY 18**

Women's Weekly Golf Clinic Big Sky Resort Golf Course, 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

**Top Shelf Toastmasters** Town Center Sales Office, 12 p.m.

**Big Sky Transportation Study Public** Meeting Big Sky Water & Sewer District Conference Room, 5 p.m.

Ready, Set, Grow! Kid's Planting **Big Sky Landscaping** Garden Center, 5:30 p.m.

Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Andrew Combs Live from the Divide, 9 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 12

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

Vandoliers Live from the Divide, 9 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, JULY 13**

Ivan Doig Discussion Series Country Bookshelf, 7 p.m.

Nic Armstrong Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Birds of Chicago Live from the Divide, 9 p.m.

## FRIDAY, JULY 14

Art Walk Downtown, 6 p.m. Wednesdays at 10 p.m.

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

Mobile Mondays Emerson Cultural Center, Mondays at 11 a.m.

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

**Bogert Farmers' Market** Bogert Park, Tuesdays at 5 p.m.

Cribbage Night Eagles Lodge, Tuesdays at 6:25 p.m.

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

Old Time Bluegrass Pub 317, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. Peter King Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Stephen Sondheim's Company Dulcie Theatre, 8 p.m.

Cole & the Thornes Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, JULY 9**

Stephen Sondheim's Company Dulcie Theatre, 3 p.m.

Hillfolk Noir Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

Scooter Brown Band Old Saloon, Emigrant, 9 p.m.

#### MONDAY, JULY 10

Sneaky Bones

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

#### **TUESDAY, JULY 11**

## Murrav Bar. 5 p.m.

July 7 - July 20, 2017 **75** 

# EVENTS CALENDAR

## People of Yellowstone with Steve Horan Elk River Books, 7 p.m.

Brian Ernst Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

The Vandoliers Old Saloon, Emigrant, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12 Livingston Farmers' Market Miles Band Shell Park, 4:30 p.m.

Frogleg Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

John Statz Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JULY 13** The Moves Collection Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

The Malpass Brothers Music Ranch Montana, 7:30 p.m.

Slomo Joe Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JULY 14** The Lucky Valentines Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar, 6 p.m.

Pinky & The Floyd Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

Stephen Sondheim's Company Dulcie Theatre, 8 p.m.

Nic Armstrong & the Thieves Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JULY 15** Eryn Bent Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Brian Ernst Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar, 6 p.m.

Satsang Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m. Laugh Out Livingston Whiskey Creek Saloon, 7 p.m.

Stephen Sondheim's Company Dulcie Theatre, 8 p.m.

The Memphis Strange Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JULY 16** Stephen Sondheim's Company Dulcie Theatre, 3 p.m.

Doc Tari Pine Creek Lodge, 6 p.m. Drew Fish Band Old Saloon, Emigrant, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 17 Hogan and Moss Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

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

**TUESDAY, JULY 18** Open Midnight by Brooke Williams Elk River Books, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19 Livingston Farmers' Market Miles Band Shell Park, 4:30 p.m.

Christy Hays Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

Ginstrings Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JULY 20** Paul Lee Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Maita & the American West Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar, 6 p.m.

Brad Parsons Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

Rhonda Vincent & The Rage Music Ranch Montana, 7:30 p.m.

Keith Scott Blues Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

## West Yellowstone

**FRIDAY, JULY 7** Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo Highway 20, 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JULY 8** Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo Highway 20, 8 p.m.

**TUESDAY, JULY 11** Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo Highway 20, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12 Gardens in Transition 100 Bonnie View Circle, 6:30 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo Highway 20, 8 p.m. **THURSDAY, JULY 13** Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo Highway 20, 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JULY 14** Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo Highway 20, 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JULY 15** Hebgen Lake Yacht Club Annual Memorial Regatta Kirkwood Marina, all day

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo Highway 20, 8 p.m.

**TUESDAY, JULY 18** Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo Highway 20, 8 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 19** Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo Highway 20, 8 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JULY 20** Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo Highway 20, 8 p.m.

## **E**nnis

**FRIDAY, JULY 7** Shea Stewart Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JULY 8** Farm Dinner Rainbow Valley Lodge, 6:30 p.m.

Varian Trio Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Idaho Old Time Fiddlers Elling House, Virginia City, 7 p.m.

Karaoke Bale of Hay Saloon, Virginia City, 9:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JULY 9** Hogan & Moss Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12 Madison Farm to Fork Farmers' Market Ennis High School, 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 14 Wee Dog, Dog and Grog Beer Bale of Hay Saloon, Virginia City, 5 p.m.

Wildlife Speaker Series: Lynx Lion's Club Park, 5 p.m.

Lucky Valentines Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m. Chad Ball Bale of Hay Saloon, Virginia City, 9:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY, JULY 15

Ennis Air Fair 2017 Ennis-Big Sky Airport, all morning

Dog and Grog Bale of Hay Saloon, Virginia City, all afternoon

Growling Old Men Concert Elling House, Virginia City, 5:30 p.m.

Brian Ernst Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 16 Johnny Dango Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 17 Farm Dinner Rainbow Valley Lodge, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19 Madison Farm to Fork Farmers' Market Ennis High School, 4 p.m.

## Once upon a Mattress

The Ellen Theatre July 14-30 **Downtown Bozeman** 

# Saturday, July 15, at 7 p.m. James Sewell Ballet

will present new work with live musical accompaniment by the Ahn Trio

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THURSDAY 7.27

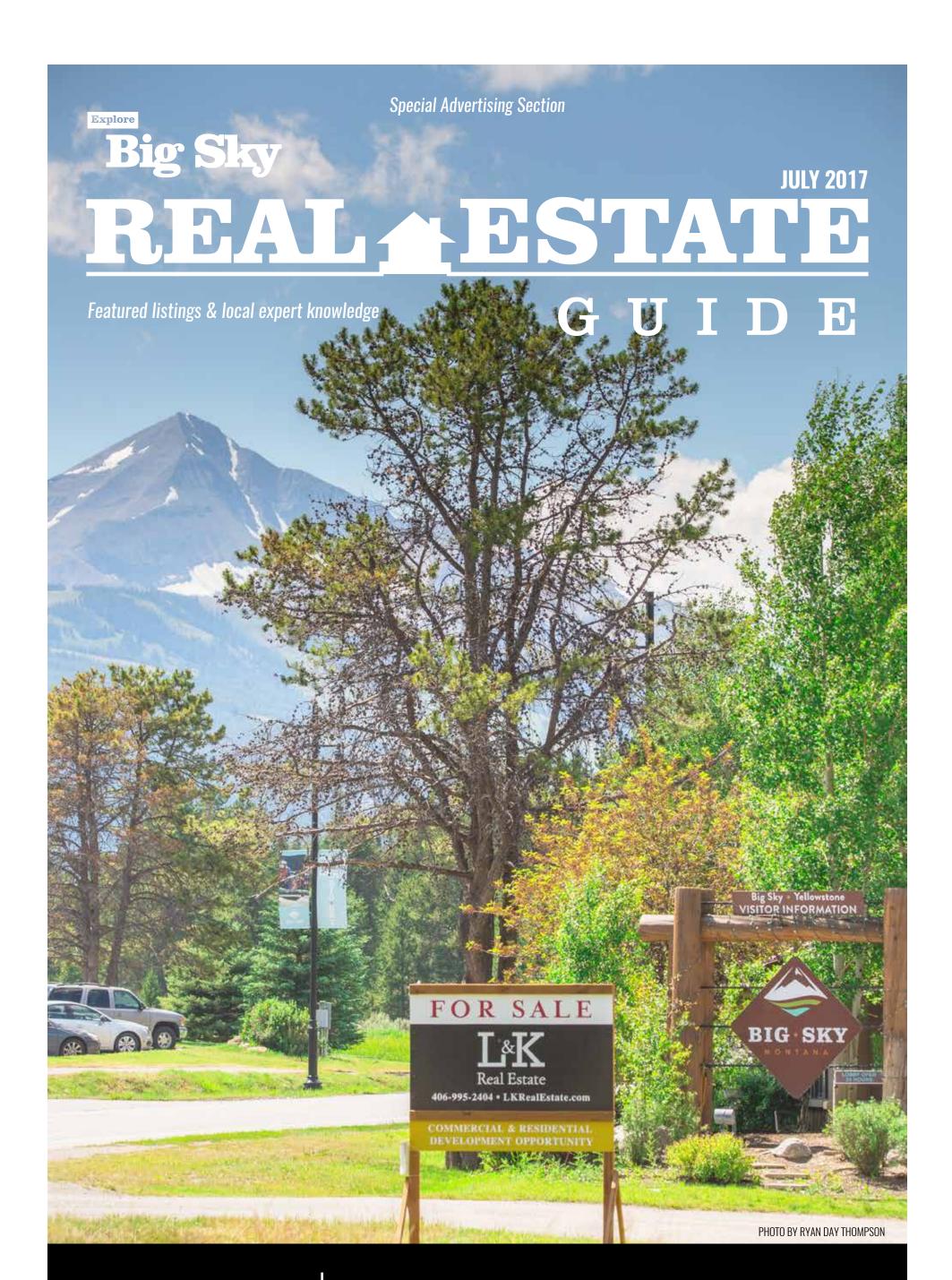
FRIDAY 7.28 Saturday 7.29 BIG SKY'S HOMETOWN HOEDOWN FREE LESSONS, FIDDLE MUSIC & DANCE CALLS FEATURING: THE BEET TOPS PBR ARENA, 6-10PM

TURNPIKE TROUBADOURS FREE ADMISSION TOWN CENTER STAGE, 7PM

JAMES MCMURTRY COST: \$20, SAV STAGE DOORS OPEN AT 8:30, SHOW AT 9PM TICKETS AT DOOR AND BIGSKYPBR.COM

JAMIE MCLEAN BAND COST: \$20, SAV STAGE DOORS OPEN AT 8:30, SHOW AT 9PM TICKETS AT DOOR AND BIGSKYPBR.COM







## Who will take control of the entrance to Big Sky? Read more on page 9.

# Big Sky SPECIAL SECTION

Reserve your space in the next real estate guide on shelves December 8, 2017 Contact Jeff Palmer | jeff@outlaw.partners

## Featuring content from the following:

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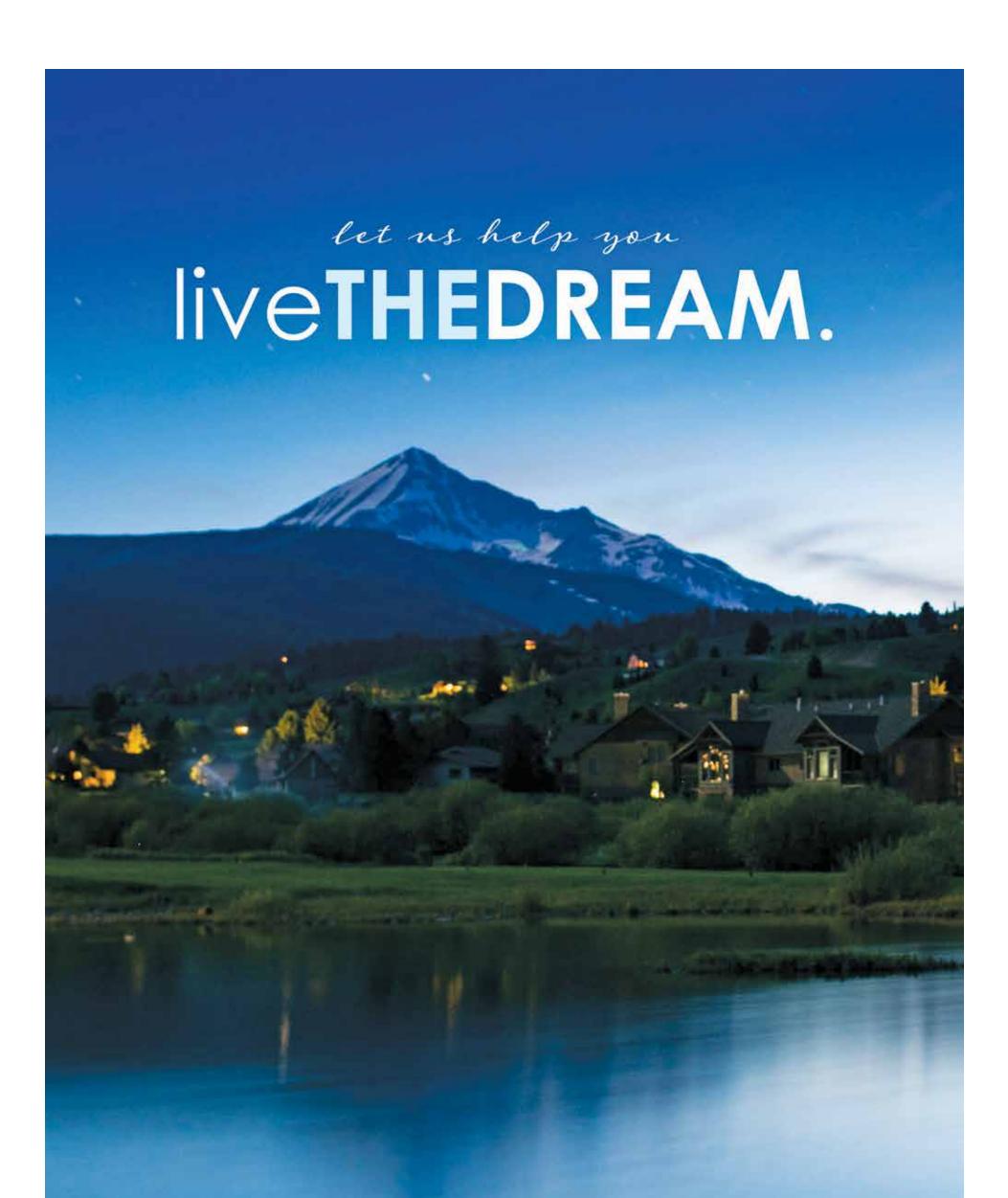








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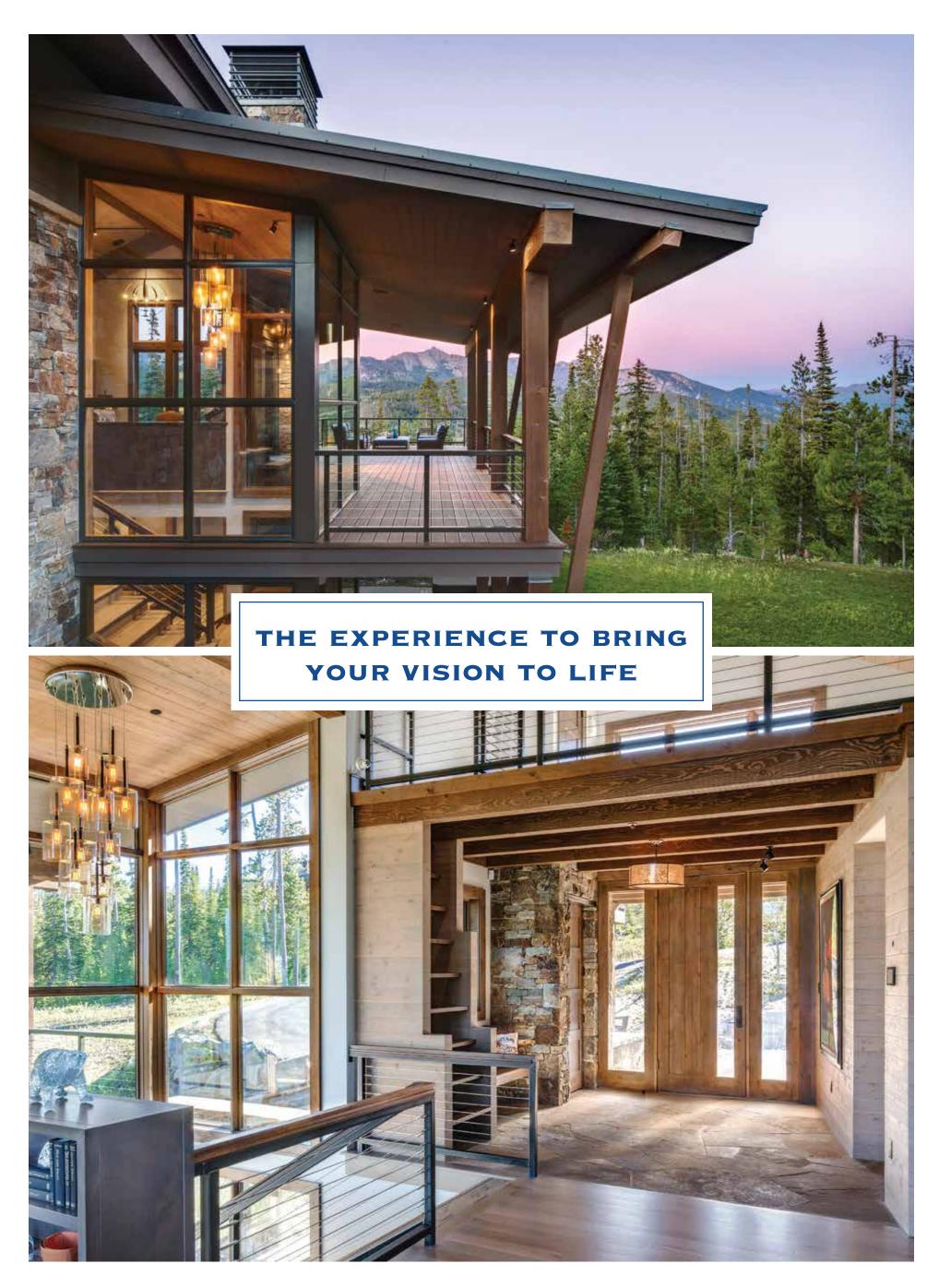
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## **L&K Real Estate** Who will take control of the entrance to Big Sky?



With over \$1 billion dollars of development behind the property, Bozeman to the north and Yellowstone National Park to the south, this intersection has the potential to drive more traffic than any other piece of commercial ground in the area, but the big question is: who is going to own it?

Since it's inception, the resort community of Big Sky has called to those who seek risk for the opportunity of big rewards. Whether it's the adrenaline rush of riding steep slopes or the rush of investing in a unique business concept, Lone Mountain pulls in people from around the globe looking for that excitement.

But just like any secret powder stash, or inside track on a new development, it seems that finding Big Sky has been kept to those "in the know." Many travelers driving from Bozeman to Yellowstone are not aware of what lies just a few miles up the road.



The corner of Highway 191 and Lone Mountain Trail marks the entrance to Big Sky, Montana. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

That could all change in the near future.

The entrance to Big Sky has been held in ownership by only a couple of entities over the years, originally marked by a gondola as a sign to skiers to make the turn in the 1970s. With increased traffic, a stoplight has made the intersection more obvious. Recent traffic counts show more than 7000 vehicles a day head into Big Sky from Highway 191, greeted currently by the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce visitor center that rents a building on the property.

As Big Sky continues to develop, this property is no different. Now listed for sale, the current owners worked with the state to acquire necessary Department of Environmental Quality approvals for additional development of the 4.61-acre property and removing uncertainties for the future buyer. Engineering studies were also conducted to outline possible site plans that take advantage of the busy intersection, as well as the streamside location next to the West Fork of the Gallatin River.

Zoned commercial industrial, it has the opportunity for both commercial and residential development. With a very limited amount of multi-family and commercial properties available throughout the area, it has the potential for a visionary to take the project on as a pinnacle property within our community.

For more information, contact L&K Real Estate at (406) 995-2404 or info@lkrealestate.com.



Lone Mountain welcomes visitors to Big Sky. PHOTO BY RYAN DAY THOMPSON

# Big Sky's Real Estate Bank



**Tim Kent** Commercial Lender and Branch Manager

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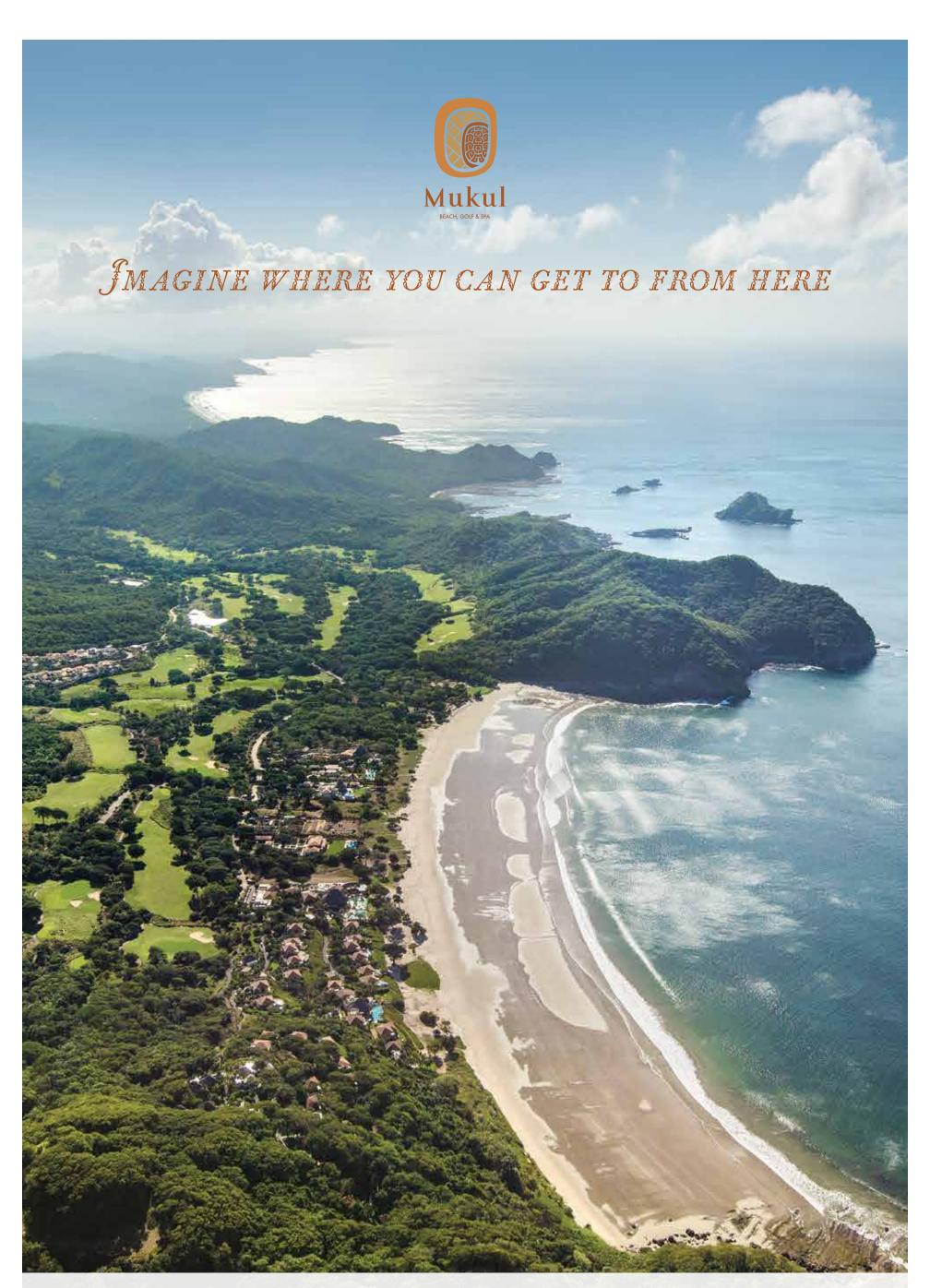
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