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Big Sky

Aug. 18 - Aug. 31, 2017
Volume 8 // Issue #17

How to view the solar eclipse

A Billion Dollar Bet

Big Sky's development history, part 5

**Local Troy Downing vies for
Tester's Senate seat**

Bear break-ins on the rise

'A River Runs Through It' turns 25



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ON THE COVER: Cascading from a nearly 600,000-year-old rhyolite lava flow, Lower Yellowstone Falls in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone is the largest volume waterfall in the Rocky Mountains of the United States. The National Park Service turns 101 on Aug. 25. PHOTO BY MERLIN GRANT

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'A River Runs Through It' turns 25



OPENING SHOT

Wildflowers in full bloom at the top of the Beehive Basin trail on Aug. 15. Though the trail was quite busy for a Tuesday, the views (and dog petting opportunities) were definitely worth braving the crowds for the photographer. PHOTO BY MADELYN METTLER

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



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MARTHA@BIGSKY.COM
406.580.5891

YELLOWSTONE PRESERVE AUCTION AUGUST 31ST

Yellowstone Preserve is a collection of 9 homesites totaling 1,580 acres and is a unique, once-in-a-lifetime offering. This parcel shares 2 1/2 miles of adjacent boundary with the Yellowstone Club, 1.2 miles of the South Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin River, and over a mile of adjacent border with National Forest -- all accessed off the private Yellowstone Preserve and members-only Yellowstone Club roadway. Contact Martha directly for auction details.

Previously Offered for \$39,900,000



862 ELK MEADOW TRAIL

Spanish Peaks Mountain Club. Located on 14th fairway of the Signature Tom Weiskopf Golf Course AND Ski in/ Ski out. 7 bedrooms, bunk room (3 built in bunks, air hockey table, TV, adorable bathroom); spectacular master bedroom suite with private office, 6 fireplaces, Chef's kitchen, landscaping with stream and waterfall that wraps around property, 3 car garage, heated driveway, xm/sirius surround sound, theater room, pool table and bar. Golf membership available.

Offered for \$5,700,000

2885 RED FEATHER LANE

Spectacular views of Lone Mountain from every room in this spacious home. A picture perfect location in Sweetgrass Hills, Meadow Village. This home boasts a master suite on the main floor and a large family room on the lower level. Huge floor to ceiling windows in the living room enhance the sense of space and connection to the mountains. Minutes to the Big Sky Meadow Village and Town Center.

Offered for \$1,150,000



SPANISH PEAKS NORTH LOT 63

4.22 acres located on Silverado Trail in this desirable and serene subdivision of Big Sky. This homesite features a private, treed setting that is frequented by elk, deer, and moose. A roughed-in driveway currently exists, as well as a collection of magnificent boulders that could be utilized to compliment your landscaping plans. An excellent location for your future Montana home of your dreams!

Offered for \$399,000



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News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

New documentary chronicles Big Sky history from ranchland to resort

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – “Homesteads to Huntley” is a newly released documentary that chronicles Big Sky’s history from its early days as a tiny ranching community to the opening of Big Sky Resort under Chet Huntley’s guiding vision.

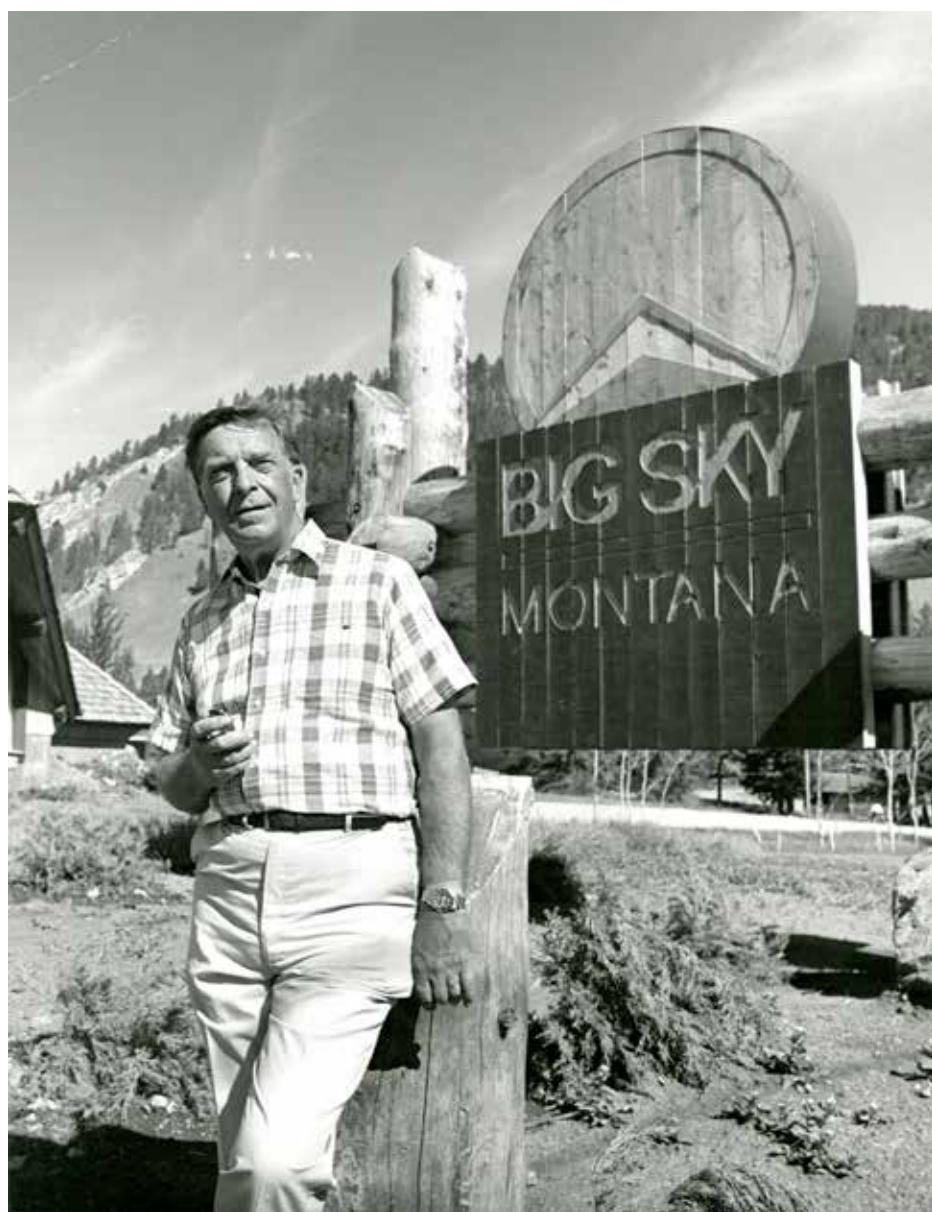
Outlaw Partners joined forces with Huntley’s daughter, Sharon Kahn, and Big Sky residents Kristin Kern and Anne Marie Mistretta to produce the 26-minute film that brings this story to life. Kern is Huntley’s niece and Mistretta, who also wrote the film’s script, is the chair of the Historic Crail Ranch Conservators committee.

The film consists of a narrated montage of interviews with the Huntley family and key players in the resort’s establishment, archival photographs, historic news footage, and early resort plans and sketches. The film begins with a brief history of the Crail family and other Gallatin Canyon homesteaders then shifts its focus to Huntley, who was also born into a Montana ranching family.

“Homesteads to Huntley” follows the iconic newscaster’s path from his youth through his long tenure on NBC’s “Huntley-Brinkley Report” and his return to Montana—where he would live just long enough to see his dream of making this area an outdoor recreation destination a reality with the opening of Big Sky Resort.



The Huntley family visited Chet Huntley’s former Big Sky home following the premiere of a new documentary tracing Huntley’s role in Big Sky’s transition from ranchland to resort. From left: Jane Erickson (niece), Daniel Arensmeier (great grandson), Sharon Kahn (daughter), Rik Arensmeier (grandson), Kristin Kern (niece), Sam Arensmeier (great grandson). PHOTO BY LIAM KESHISHIAN



Chet Huntley passed away in March 1974, just months after witnessing the realization of his dream with the opening of Big Sky Resort in December 1973. PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, MANSFIELD ARCHIVES

“Homesteads to Huntley” premiered at a private showing for the Gallatin Canyon Women’s Club on July 12 at The Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. Three generations of Huntleys were present for the screening including Huntley’s daughter Sharon Kahn, her son Rik Arensmeier and his two sons—Chet’s great-grandsons—Sam and Daniel Arensmeier.

“I think the history of a place is incredibly important,” said Kahn, explaining why she felt making this film was necessary. “It’s important to know where you come from, what and who was there before you, before everyone who is here now—especially when you’re talking about a location that has expanded and grown into what is today.”

After the screening, the Huntley family stopped at the Big Sky Visitor Center to be photographed in front of Chet Huntley’s antique roll-top desk before heading to his former home on Chief Joseph Trail.

In addition to its educational value, the film was of personal import, both for Kahn—who said she can’t watch her father’s last broadcast on NBC without shedding a tear—and especially for her son and grandsons who got to share the big-screen viewing experience together.

When Kahn’s son Rik was 10 years old he spent two weeks in Big Sky with his grandfather. “The greatest memories I have were always with my Grandad Chet,” Rik said. “He and I shared a love for the land, the mountains, the rivers and especially fly fishing. He taught me to fish on some of the greatest rivers in the world: the Gallatin, Madison and Yellowstone.”

Rik’s 33-year-old son Daniel hadn’t seen the film prior to the July 12 premiere. “‘Homesteads to Huntley’ was fantastic,” he said. “Not only did it open the life story of my great-grandfather Chet but it also put everything into perspective of how Big Sky came to be and what it took to make his dream a reality.”

“It made [the boys] connect to their great grandfather in a way that they wouldn’t have if we were just sitting around talking about him,” Kahn said. “It was a very important moment.”

“Homesteads to Huntley” is now available for viewing at homesteadstobuntley.com.



Baucus to speak Sept. 7 at MSU

MSU NEWS SERVICE

Max Baucus, former U.S. ambassador to China and long serving senator from Montana, will reflect on his life in public service in a lecture celebrating his return to Montana at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7, in room 101 of Gaines Hall on the Montana State University campus.

The lecture, sponsored by the Burton K. Wheeler Center at MSU, is free and open to the public. However, because space is limited, tickets are required.

Baucus served as six terms as Montana's U.S. senator, from 1978 until 2013, making him the state's longest-serving senator. While in the Senate, Baucus served on various committees, eventually becoming the ranking member and chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance and vice-chairman of the Joint Committee on Taxation. President Barack Obama appointed him as the U.S. Ambassador to China in 2013. He served in that post until January 2017. He is now retired and living near Bozeman.

For nearly 40 years, the Burton K. Wheeler Center has worked to provide opportunities for Montanans to explore and engage in discussions about policy. Previous Wheeler Center lectures have featured Sally Jewell, John Snow, Lynn Cheney, Lawton Childs and Brian Schweitzer.

Tickets may be reserved at wheeler-center-max-baucus-lecture.eventbrite.com. For more information email wheelercenter@montana.edu.

Moonlight and Spanish Peaks Community Foundations announce new executive director

EBS STAFF

Tarsha Ebbern, the new executive director for Moonlight Community Foundation and Spanish Peaks Community Foundation, joined the Big Sky community after living in Steamboat Springs, Colorado for 16 years.

Ebborn moved to the U.S. from Australia after competing on the World Cup circuit in freestyle skiing for many years and becoming a winter Olympian in 1992.

Ebborn has experience advising, operating and managing individual nonprofit organizations and fundraising events including a community foundation serving northwest Colorado.

"I am thrilled at the opportunity to help both Moonlight and Spanish Peaks Community Foundations reach the goals of their donors, facilitating gifts to all sectors of the local nonprofit community as well as serving and educating the nonprofits themselves," Ebbern said.

In other community foundation news, SPCF recently awarded nearly \$60,000 total to Big Sky Rotary Club and Montana Land Reliance as a result of proceeds from the Calcutta event held on both evenings of the Big Sky PBR.

Moonlight Community Foundation awarded 10 grants totaling \$87,864 in its 2017 spring grant cycle to nonprofit agencies that included those focused on the arts, education and youth advocacy.

In addition, the foundation recently held its annual "Ski Bridges of Madison County" fundraising event with proceeds directly benefiting the MCF granting fund, which has awarded more than \$300,000 in grants in the past two years.

Morningstar throws family fundraising event Aug. 26

MORNINGSTAR LEARNING CENTER

Morningstar Learning Center, a Big Sky daycare and preschool facility, will host its annual Garage Sale & Kid's Carnival on Saturday, Aug. 26, at Town Center Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Comprised of donations from Big Sky area residents and businesses, the garage sale will feature deals on home goods, clothing, gear for kids and adults, toys and more. New this year, the event will also have a bounce house, face painting, a 50/50 raffle and food.

"The annual Morningstar Learning Center Garage Sale is a critical fundraiser for our operating budget," said Stephanie Kissel, executive director of MLC. "Profits support staff salaries, building upkeep, and classroom supplies, among other things."

With the new infant building under construction, MLC anticipates greater demands on the operating budget. Typically grossing over \$4,000, this year MLC looks to increase the results of their fundraising efforts with the inclusion of a kid's carnival with activities and food.

"Local organizations such as the Yellowstone Club and Spanish Peaks Club have generously donated equipment to help make this a successful event," Kissel said. "We couldn't do it without all of the community support and look forward to seeing everyone there!"

You can drop off donation items in good condition at Morningstar from Aug. 21-25 during business hours; or Friday Aug. 25, from 3-7 p.m. at Town Center Park.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Kissel at skissell@morningstarlearningcenter.com.

United expands winter air service to Bozeman

BIG SKY RESORT

To better service skiers eyeing southwest Montana slopes this season, United Airlines announced Aug. 8 that it's significantly expanding air service into Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport for the upcoming winter.

Beginning around the end of December, United will increase the number of flights and the available seats to Bozeman from San Francisco, Los Angeles, Denver, Chicago, Houston and New York/Newark. This will increase air service into the Bozeman region by 30 percent, and United will offer up to 12 daily departures during the peak winter season.

"New air service like United just announced is a critical piece to the economic growth and lifestyle that makes Big Sky and the Gallatin [Valley] such a great place to work, live and visit," said Big Sky Resort General Manager Taylor Middleton.

This the single largest expansion of winter air service into Bozeman Yellowstone International, according to airport director Brian Sprenger.

United will also increase its year-round service with up to five flights daily to and from Denver, and up to three flight daily to and from Chicago.

"United is proud to offer easy access for our customers flying from six of our U.S. hubs to Bozeman," said Jake Cefolia, United's vice president of sales. "More flights to world-class skiing in Bozeman is now just a short flight away."

Big Sky Fire Department receives FEMA grant

EBS STAFF

U.S. Sen. Jon Tester announced Aug. 10 more than \$750,000 in Federal Emergency Management Agency funding to support the Big Sky and Red Lodge fire departments. Big Sky received \$564,783 from FEMA's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program, which provides funding to professional and volunteer fire departments across the U.S., to ensure there are a sufficient number of well-trained firefighters to protect rural communities.

The grant will help to fund three firefighter positions over the next three years—two-thirds of the three salaries during the first two years, and one-third of the salaries in the final year. The balance of the salaries will be funded Big Sky Resort Area District tax appropriations.

"This expansion is part of a larger plan to seek a mill levy in order to add enough staffing to meet our emergency response growth and better cover the large geography of Big Sky," wrote Fire Department Chief William Farhat in an email.

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Forum**

EBS is wrapping up a five-part series on the development history of Big Sky.

What is your greatest hope for Big Sky's next 10 years?



Kayla Burton
Big Sky

"I would like to see cheaper housing, I think it would make it a lot easier for people to survive here. This is a great place, and it's nice to enjoy, but when you're worried about money it's really stressful to keep living here. I also think the resort could use better recycling."



Mark Roemer
Big Sky

"I'd like to see continued growth, but I don't want it to go rampant. I'd also like to see some affordable housing, we've been fighting that since I moved here in 1975."



Amy Vandam
Big Sky

"I think affordable housing would be a big one. It's been rough for us here, there's so many businesses opening and no housing. Where are the employees supposed to live?"



Steven Lingo
Big Sky

"I've been here for thirty years and I hope it continues to grow reasonably. I'm not sure what direction they're going to go since it's already growing so fast."

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Who is excited for the
Total Solar Eclipse?

August 21, 2017

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ATTENTION BIG SKY COMMUNITY

The Burton K Wheeler Center & NorthWestern Energy invite you to discuss their latest project in Big Sky.

This is a series of meetings for specific communities & businesses throughout the Big Sky area to discuss the siting project for the new substation in Big Sky.

PLEASE COME TO THE ONE THAT BEST MATCHES YOUR AREA:

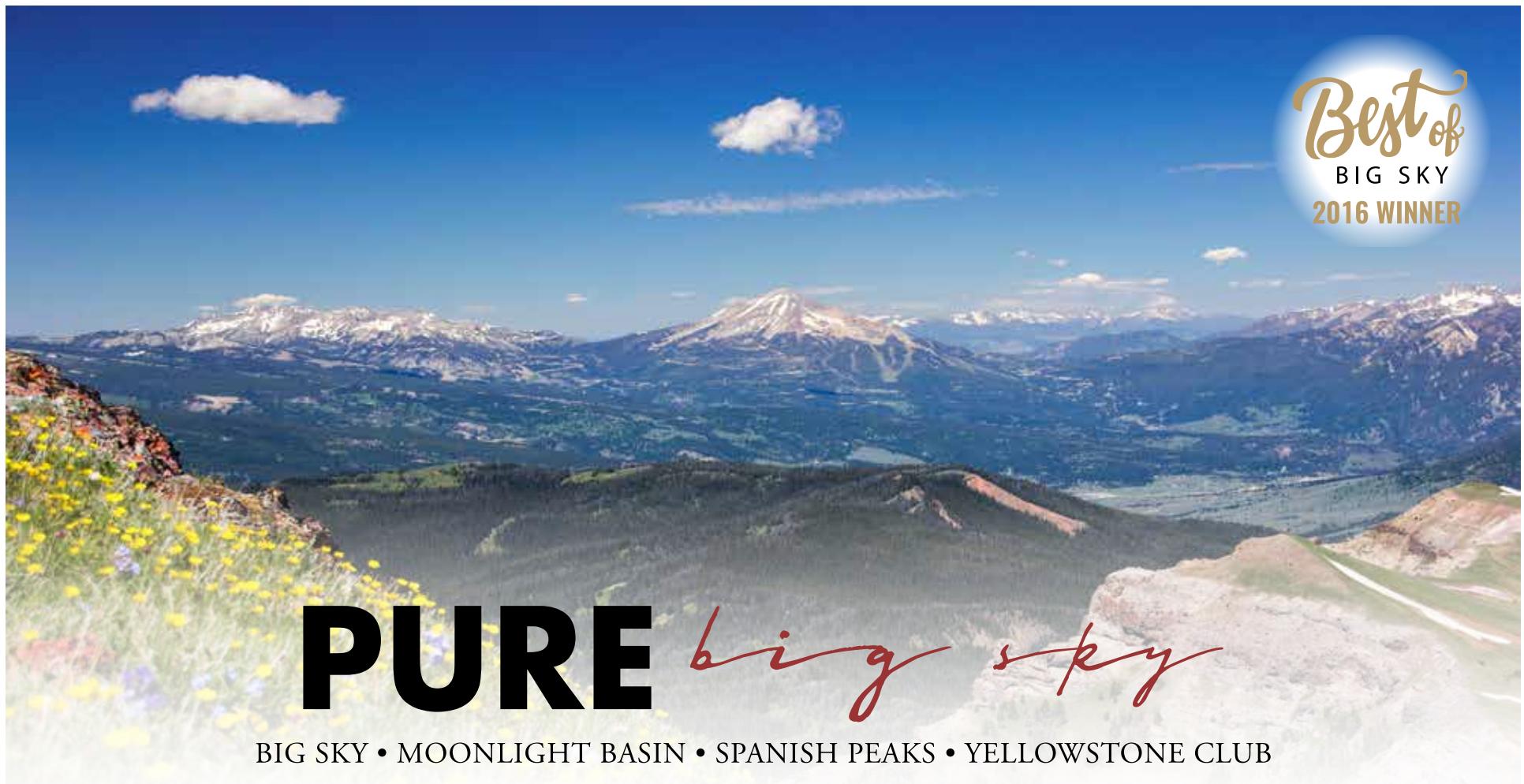
8.17.2017	Antler Ridge & Sleeping Bear HOAs 6-7:30 at Big Sky Water & Sewer
8.21.2017	Mountain Village Businesses and other commercial interests, Location TBA
8.22.2017	Big Sky Owners Association and other residential owners 6-7:30 at Big Sky Water & Sewer.
8.29.2017	Community-Wide Project Wrap Up Meeting Warren Miller Center 6-7:30

The schedule of meetings can be found on our website and to see the growing FAQ page please visit: bigskysubstation.wixsite.com/bigskysubstation or email bigskysubstation@gmail.com for more information.



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217 GOSHAWK TRAIL | \$4,225,000

Stunning ski-in/ski-out property situated in a pristine setting. Breathtaking views, groomed ski access and the elegant home create this masterpiece. This 6 bedroom, 6.5 bathroom home is ideal for entertaining guests with large open living spaces, three ensuite bedrooms, two guest bedrooms, and a bunk room. Extensive log and stone detail highlight the surrounding mountain environment. Spanish Peaks Mountain Club membership required. Golf membership included in sale. // JACKIE MILLER | 406.539.5003



PORCUPINE PARK 39 & 40 | \$595,000 - \$695,000

Beautiful and private, these parcels are located in the Porcupine Park Subdivision. Lot 40, at 6.34 acres plus an additional 22.58 acres of open space, and Lot 39, at 13.16 acres and accompanied by 8.87 acres of open space, give way to sweeping views to the south and east to the Gallatin Range and Porcupine Drainage. Mature, old-growth trees provide a beautiful backdrop for these very easy building sites. The parcels provide quiet seclusion and yet are only minutes away from all of the wonderful outdoor activities the Big Sky area has to offer. // MICHAEL THOMAS | 406.581.2400



45 TURKEY LEG ROAD, SKYHOUSE D | \$365,000

There are only four Skyhouses in the Stillwater development and this is special one! Located on the third and uppermost level, Skyhouse D is an end unit in the newest building in the complex. Featuring one true bedroom on the main level plus a loft sleeping area, this retreat also has two twin wall beds that fold down as well as a sofa sleeper. The large deck provides privacy as well as Spanish Peak and Lake Levinsky views, perfect for entertaining. // MARY WHEELER | 406.539.1745



TBD BEEHIVE BASIN ROAD, LOT 236A | \$325,000

Fantastic ski-in/ski-out location and panoramic views from this large Cascade Highlands lot! Ski out your front door to Big Sky Resort from this 1.633 +/- acre homesite that has a groomed ski trail off three of four property boundaries. Bright and sunny, this south facing lot offers views of Lone Mountain, Fan Mountain, and Andesite Mountain that may be framed by the windows of your Big Sky home! // SANDY REVISKY | 406.539.6316



TBD SUMMIT VIEW DRIVE, LOT 5 | \$295,000

Spectacular views of Big Sky Ski and Summer Resort's Mountain Village and Lone Mountain! Conveniently located across Lone Mountain Trail from Big Sky's Mountain Village, this 1.106 +/- acre parcel offers privacy while being only minutes from the slopes. The community is gated, keeping road traffic and noise to a minimum while the large amount of neighborhood open space allows wildlife to roam freely. // LYNN MILLIGAN | 406.581.2848



5400 GALLATIN ROAD | \$65,000

If you are looking for a recreation property in the Gallatin Canyon, check out this Forest Service cabin! Across the road from Duran Meadows and the Gallatin River, the cabin sits next to Tamphery Creek and borders beautiful National Forest. Use it in the summer for hiking or fall for hunting, this is a great location. Note: Due to this being a Forest Service cabin, it cannot be your primary residence. // BRENNNA KELLEHER | 406.581.3361



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Letter: Don't pollute the Gallatin

As a native Montanan, it concerns me to hear rumors that Big Sky may be building more vacation homes that produce more wastewater than can be handled. Out-of-staters should not be able to discharge their waste into our trout streams.

To be sure, dumping wastewater into the Gallatin River will impair the water quality and damage the ecosystem.

The corporate powers at Big Sky should not be able to do whatever they want with the public's natural resources. The corporate interests of Big Sky should spend their "big money" on figuring out how to dispose of their excess wastewater without discharging into the Gallatin or its tributaries.

Andrew Weisbeck
Bozeman, Montana

Letter: Midway substation site will negatively impact area wildlife

As a Big Sky property owner for 25 years, I understand the need for NorthWestern Energy to build an additional power station in our community. I share concerns with the entire community about visual impact and harm to adjacent property owners.

As a veterinarian and outdoorswoman, I am deeply concerned about our wildlife. NWE has stated preference for locating the substation at the Midway site between Sleeping Bear and Antler Ridge neighborhoods. This location is a primary corridor for wildlife movement and provides one of the safest crossings on Highway 64. This area is home to 15-20 deer, a mama black bear who produces a cub (or two) every other year, two moose cows and calves, a family of fox, numerous coyotes, and the occasional mountain lion and badger.

Our resident elk herd is a subgroup of either the Porcupine or Spanish Peaks herd and has remained fairly stable at 30-40. The creek valley is the location for elk and deer calving. This past spring, at least 10 calves were counted traversing the proposed Midway location as well as several fawn. Michigan State University has found that dairy herds located adjacent to substations experience a significant decrease in birthing rates and milk production. My concern is that our local elk herd will be similarly impacted.

Sadly, NWE is not required to perform an environmental impact statement (EIS) before constructing this substation. However, at the insistence of the Big Sky Alliance for Responsible Development, NWE has promised to conduct a wildlife population count. The accepted standard for this count entails aerial surveillance from December through March when large game are more easily spotted; and on-ground elk calving counts in the spring.

There is technology, recently used in Aspen and Snowmass, Colorado, that would reduce the size of the substation footprint, allowing it to be enclosed in a barn-like structure consistent with the beauty of area while reducing the impact on our animal population.

We urge the community to join us in speaking out on these issues.

Joanna McCoy
Cambridge, Maryland

APRÈS...

Mountain bike, ski, hike, raft, golf, yellowstone tour, kayak, frisbee golf, archery, gun shootin', hunting, off roading, rock climbing, motocross, rut, convention, work, running, horseback riding, skinny skiing, zip line, skateboarding, bullriding

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Big Sky's largest homeowners association to meet over Labor Day weekend

EBS STAFF

The Big Sky Owners Association's 45th annual meeting will take place Friday, Sept. 1, at 3 p.m. in Big Sky Resort's Summit Hotel.

The BSOA is Big Sky's oldest and largest homeowners association with 1,900 members who own 2,300 properties. BSOA Communications and Events Coordinator Paula Alexander said she expects between 220 and 250 people will attend the meeting.

Members of BSOA should have already received a nomination packet to vote on open positions within the organization and an amendment to the bylaws, but they can vote at the meeting if they choose, Alexander said.

Four seats are open on the BSOA's board of directors, with four people running for the three-year appointment, Alexander said.

There are two open seats on Big Sky's Architectural Committee, and two names are on the ballot. BSAC is a volunteer-run board with seven members who work with BSOA support staff to ensure compliance with design regulations and subdivision covenants.

After some controversial back-and-forth with the board and members about whose names would appear on the ballot, there are just two nominees for those positions, Kate Scott and Gary Walton.

Members also have the opportunity to vote on a bylaw regarding term limits. A vote in favor of amending the re-stated bylaw will reinstate a term limit, allowing board members to serve for no more than three terms.

The meeting will include a number of presentations from other local entities, including Big Sky Resort, the Big Sky Water and Sewer District, Big Sky Community Organization and Town Center Project Manager Ryan Hamilton.

Following the meeting, there will be live music by the Lone Mountain Trio.



24 / 7 EMERGENCY SERVICES

NONSTOP HEALTHCARE

A photograph of a young boy in a blue shirt standing outdoors, looking towards the horizon with his arm extended. An adult's arm is visible on the left, supporting him.

Emergency Department: 24/7/365

Family Medicine Clinic: Monday–Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Retail Pharmacy: Monday–Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Weekends 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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 BOZEMAN HEALTH
BIG SKY MEDICAL CENTER

Yellowstone Club member enters race for US Senate seat

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – Troy Downing, a resident who built a home here in the late ‘90s, will attempt to unseat Democrat Jon Tester, Montana’s two-term U.S. Senator, in the 2018 mid-term election.

A California native, Downing worked as a research scientist and instructor at New York University before creating a company focused on online groupware, establishing footing in the internet commercial realm early on.

He created a company named WebCal and entered into business with Yahoo in 1998. “It was a life changer,” Downing said of the merger, which put him in a position to retire in his early 30s. “I loved it. There were a lot of smart people and we were changing the world.”

The Republican candidate purchased land to build a house in Big Sky in 1998 with the desire to “find somewhere that was still wild,” he said.

Downing, 50, said he was deeply affected by the 9/11 attacks, which he learned about after a moose hunt in a remote region of Alaska. He decided to enlist in the armed forces and entered basic training at 34 years old, one year shy of the age cut-off.

After attending SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape) school in Spokane, Washington, and flight school at Kirkland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico, he served with the U.S. Air Force on a combat search and rescue squadron. He did two tours in Afghanistan, one in 2005 and another in 2007, and stayed in the Air National guard until 2009.

In 2010, Downing started AC Self Storage Solutions, a California-based real estate company that buys and manages self-storage facilities across the U.S.

Downing, a member of the private Yellowstone Club, said the seed for his Congressional bid was planted at a dinner in Big Sky at Olive B’s with Ryan Zinke, who was Montana’s sole U.S. representative at the time and is currently Interior Secretary, and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, who represents California.

This is Downing’s first official entry into the political realm, although he said he’s always been politically involved. He names tax reform, job creation, term limits for politicians, and “an over-intrusive central government,” as issues he’s particularly motivated to change.

He said two terms for U.S. senators and three terms for U.S. representatives is plenty, and term limits would curb the energy and resources politicians expend on re-election bids.

“I’m looking at these career politicians that are as much concerned about being re-elected as they are concerned about doing the work of the people, and I’m tired of that,” Downing said. “I don’t care how smart you are, how well-meaning you are—if you’ve been in Congress for 20-plus years you’ve been institutionalized, you don’t know what it means to be a normal person, a normal American.”

In reference to the role of government in creating opportunity for citizens he said, “If you have the gumption and the risk tolerance and the desire to reach for the brass ring, I want you to be able to bask in the glory of your success. And if you fall and fail, it’s up to you to pick yourself up and lick your wounds and get past it.”

Downing spoke at length about the state of health care, saying he would like to see discussion shift from politically charged rhetoric so both sides can come together to discuss what needs to happen. “‘Repeal and replace’ and ‘fix it’—you’re saying the same thing but with politically charged words,” he said.

“It’s the wrong debate,” he added. “We’re talking about building a bureaucracy to insure a broken system without talking about the broken system. ...Why are we not talking about actual health care?”

“The cost of actual health services is twice what it is in the [rest of the] civilized world,” Downing said, adding that hospital billing practices, tort reform and the cost of pharmaceuticals all need to be changed.

“Obviously you have to insure the most vulnerable, you have to deal with the people who cannot help themselves—you’re just not a civilized society if you don’t—but beyond that you help everybody if you fix this problem and not this big, political quagmire of how to insure it,” he said.



PHOTO BY SCOTT WILSON

The security of American borders is another big issue for Downing, but he said he doesn’t buy into President Donald Trump’s idea that a physical wall on America’s southern border is the answer to the country’s immigration issues. “I agree we are a nation of immigrants, but I think it is in our national interest to know who’s coming here and why. ... If we have places where people are flying here that are historically hotbeds for developing terrorists, I think we need to look at that closely.”

Downing said he likes the idea of welcoming in immigrants that want to become Americans. He said he doesn’t know how such a determination would be made.

In reference to Trump’s candidacy and performance in the White House, Downing said he’s not pleased with the way Trump communicates, but he’s approving of his impact on markets.

“Ultimately he’s going to continue to float a lot of boats,” he said. “I think most Americans are going to be better off because of his presidency, and at least half of them are going to go yelling and kicking and screaming and spitting all the way.”

During the June 5 Republican primary, Downing will face Matt Rosendale, who is currently Montana’s insurance commissioner and has been active in the state’s Republican party for at least a decade; and potentially Yellowstone County District Judge Russell Fagg, who has set up an exploratory committee to test the campaign waters.

Rosendale is too far right to appeal to the independent voters he would need to win against Tester, Downing said: “I think that he will appeal more to the radical far right base a little too much to be effective in a general election.”

A spokesperson for the Rosendale campaign declined to comment.

Fagg has not officially declared. “Should I decide to run, I would welcome Troy to the race,” Fagg said in an Aug. 7 interview. “I actually think the more ideas that are on the table, the more discussion and the more debate we have, the better it is for our democratic system.”

In reference to a potential Fagg candidacy, Downing said, “He’s another lawyer—do we really want to send another lawyer to Washington?”

Whoever wins the GOP primary will take on Tester during the general election on Nov. 6, 2018.

“I think his voting record is going to speak for itself,” Downing said of Tester’s tenure in the Senate. “He’s 90-plus percent right along party lines on his votes.”

A spokesperson for Tester’s campaign supplied a statement from Montana Democratic Party Spokesman Chris Maeagher: “No matter who emerges from what now promises to be a messy primary, Jon Tester will win in November 2018 because his life is rooted in Montana and Montanans know Jon and know he works hard for them every day.”

Tester won his Senate seat by defeating two-term Republican Conrad Burns in 2006.

Two men charged with raping woman Aug. 11 in Big Sky

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY - Two men have been charged with raping a woman they brought back to their house in Big Sky from a bar in Three Forks in the early morning hours of Aug. 11.

As of Aug. 15, Heriberto Cuevas Bobadilla, 28, and Alex Solis Romero, 34, had not entered a plea to charges of sexual intercourse without consent and were being held in the Gallatin County Detention Center.

According to an affidavit filed Aug. 12 by Dan Mayland, the deputy sheriff investigating the case:

The victim said she visited several bars in Bozeman and consumed alcohol at each. She said she left Music on Main and traveled to Teasers bar in Three Forks. She reported becoming extremely intoxicated and being offered a ride to her vehicle in Bozeman.

The woman got into a vehicle with three or four men and said she has nearly no recollection of traveling in the vehicle. She recalled one of the men holding a card in front of her nose and forcing her to inhale a substance that burned her nose before she passed out again.

The driver of the vehicle reported the woman was very intoxicated and that all of the vehicle's occupants used methamphetamine in the car and again at the residence of Bobadilla and Romero. He said they also continued to drink at the residence, which is located in the Firelight Chalets.

Bobadilla, Romero and the driver gave conflicting reports of the night's events.

Bobadilla denies using drugs. Romero initially said he did not use methamphetamine, but later admitted to drug use when confronted with conflicting accounts, saying Bobadilla supplied it.

The woman said the next thing she remembers after being in the car was waking up in a dark room, alarmed and confused, and a man from the bar having sex with her.

The woman said she dozed in and out of consciousness, awaking a short time later to a man putting on a condom at the foot of the bed. She reports he started having sex with her and she realized it was a different man than the first man.

According to her account, she pushed him off of her and told him she was going to call 911 but realized her cell phone was dead. She began searching for a phone or phone charger but could not find one. She fled to a neighboring house and called 911.

At approximately 5:30 a.m., two law enforcement officers with the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office responded. The victim told a responding officer that she was sexually assaulted by two men, and she was transported to the Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital for a sexual assault examination.

Romero contends that he and the woman had consensual intercourse. He admitted she was highly intoxicated and sleeping at times. Romero told the investigating deputy that Bobadilla and the victim also had intercourse.

Bobadilla told the deputy investigating the case that he had no sexual physical contact with the victim other than a kiss on the cheek.

The deputy indicated that Bobadilla's story changed several times when confronted with information from Romero and the driver. The deputy's interrogation of Bobadilla, Romero and the driver was conducted with the help of a translator.

Romero told the deputy that both he and Bobadilla fled the residence after the victim left.

Bobadilla told the deputy that he went to bed after the woman left and left the residence only once to go to work. A man who said he was the employer of the men in question told the investigating deputy that neither Bobadilla nor Romero arrived for work that day.

On Aug. 15, the investigating officer said charges have not been filed for drug use, but added that the investigation is ongoing.

School district makes eight new hires, still faces staffing challenges

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY - At a special meeting of the Big Sky School District board Aug. 7, the first order of business was a discussion of losing one of their candidates for a fifth grade teacher position, leaving the district only 20 days to fill the spot before school commences Aug. 28.

Although they had received written commitment from the candidate, after deeper consideration of the housing limitations and overall expense of living in Big Sky, he rescinded his decision.

"We spend a significant amount of time talking with our candidates, vetting and interviewing," said Superintendent Dustin Shipman. "Usually we're there with 90 percent of our applicants, then it comes down to 'What is my life really going to look like in [Big Sky]?' Shipman added that it isn't simply the financial burden of living in Big Sky that is a deterrent to prospective employees, but the sheer lack of housing available.

"Sooner or later people have to do the calculation," he said.

The district filled the fifth grade teacher position on Aug. 14 with Bradi Watkins, a Montana State University graduate from Helena, but difficulty finding a bus driver is ongoing. Half a dozen members of the Karst community, whose bus route will be suspended until they find another driver, were on hand to voice their concerns. Karst is approximately 7.5 miles north of Big Sky on Highway 191.

Shipman explained that the most rural routes serving the least number of children are cancelled first. Transportation services for students in the Black Butte and 320 Ranch areas south of Big Sky on Highway 191 have already been discontinued.

"We're sending you a bus as soon as we find a driver," said Loren Bough, chair of the Big Sky School District Board of Trustees.

Bough added that they're facing the same challenges when it comes to hiring—and retaining—teachers, coaches and drivers.

"The housing crisis here is affecting us in all three of those categories," he said. "It's a Big Sky problem."

BSSD made eight new teacher hires for the 2017-2018 school year after losing multiple employees, including Spanish teacher Keith McHugh who resigned after two years; athletic director and technology teacher Matt Bakken; and fifth grade teacher Michaella Croskey. Shipman noted that they were all commuters.

"I think we have good data that indicates the shelf life of commuters," said Shipman, making a direct correlation between people opting to commute and the cost and availability of housing in Big Sky.

"Sooner or later you want to be a homeowner," Shipman said. "You don't want roommates ... you want to move into adulthood. This is probably one of the top places in the world to raise a family, but you have to be able to live here."

He said securing "support staff" is the most challenging of all, referencing the limited custodial staff the district has been operating with.

"It's the army of people that keep everything rolling behind the scenes," Shipman said. "Kitchen people, bus drivers ... [a lack of drivers] is the most glaring because it has the most direct impact on the families."

Read introductory profiles of the eight new Big Sky School District faculty members in a special back-to-school section in the Sept. 1 issue of EBS.

Tell Me, Tallie: Does Big Sky have building codes?



BY TALLIE LANCEY
EBS COLUMNIST

"Well I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down. Little Pig, little Pig, let me come in."

The moral of that classic fairytale, "The Three Little Pigs," is to work hard building a formidable home so you don't get eaten by the big bad wolf. As a quick refresher, the first two pigs built their homes of straw and sticks so they could have more time for porky powder turns. Pardon the metaphorical overreach. You'll recall they unceremoniously ended up as the wolf's bacon supper. It's all about self-preservation and long-term gratification.

How would the pigs' story have changed if they'd lived by a farmer who offered to test their home for proper construction to keep them safe from predators?

In the story of Big Sky's history and current growth trajectory, there is no such kind farmer. Allow me to translate. The question on the minds of many new construction owners and renters is: Are there building codes in Big Sky? If so, how are they enforced? Are all these new homes and condos "up to code"?

For the layman, building codes are minimum residential and commercial safety requirements written by the International Code Council to protect public health and safety. They are enforced in municipalities and other similar jurisdictions.

Yes, there are building codes in Montana. No, they are not enforced in the area we know as Big Sky, with the exception of plumbing and electrical codes. Builders are required to adhere to state codes. However, there isn't a Big Sky—or even Gallatin or Madison County—code compliance officer. We rely upon nothing more than Scout's Honor and that has actually served us pretty well, for the most part, thus far.

When you build a single- or multi-family home in Big Sky, it's examined, if all goes accordingly, only twice during the construction process by an official inspector: once by the state plumbing inspector and once by the state electrical inspector. In a city like Bozeman—where there are municipal building codes—foundations, framing, ducting, fire safety, insulation, sheetrock, siding, moisture barriers, clearance and egress are checked by city-employed inspectors. Their salaries are funded by building permits. The most common correction their inspectors cite results from contractors not following the plans that have been approved by an engineer.

Given the fact that you the consumer have to protect yourself, what should you do? I'd recommend hiring a certified and experienced building inspector

or engineer for each step of construction and entering into a one-year comprehensive warranty with your builder. You may even hire a third-party code compliance officer. However, it's important to know that they have no actual jurisdiction. The only recourse you have in the event of poor construction is litigation. A local builder told me that the best way to ensure your new home is up to code is to hire a Montana licensed architect from the project's outset. They oversee the engineers of record and coordinate with your general contractor.

As a community, we need to ask ourselves if it's time for us to begin enforcing building codes. Does the consumer in Big Sky need to be protected? Josh Greene, with Greene Construction, said, "Absolutely. It would create a level playing field. People are spending millions of dollars on their homes and, in some cases, no one is looking over the builder's shoulder." Most contractors see the inspectors as a partner; they appreciate the second set of eyes. Inspectors help builders learn from their mistakes; but inspectors make mistakes too.

According to the industry experts I queried, Big Sky home safety and quality would improve if a municipality had jurisdiction over building codes. Their responses were unequivocal. To take it a step further, a hypothetical Big Sky city council might even create incentives for homeowners who meet certain environmental high marks similar to the Gallatin River Task Force's Water Conservation Program. For the sake of comparison, many municipalities in Montana do not have building code enforcement due to their small population, and Missoula County is the only one in the state that has county building codes inspectors.

Let me be clear: The wolf in our story is not a general contractor or developer. The wolf is a freak storm that dumps feet of heavy snow on your roof. The wolf is an errant framer who neglected to add supporting struts under the fireplace. The wolf is a dynamic building environment in which ever-more complicated homes are expected. The wolf is a lazy tenant who doesn't use the bathroom exhaust fan each time she showers.

How do we protect the investment we make in our homes? The moral of our story is to be the third pig. In the absence of a municipal or county inspector, hire the best inspector or architect you can find and tell the wolf, "Not by the hair of my chinny chin chin."

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

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

The Crail Ranch hosts eclipse-viewing event in Big Sky

HISTORIC CRAIL RANCH

The Historic Crail Ranch Homestead will host a community viewing of the "Great American Solar Eclipse" beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 21.

The event will begin with a presentation of eclipse history and stories told by Bozeman actor Steven Harris-Weiel. Harris-Weiel will share multi-cultural stories about solar eclipses across history and shed light on the legends and myths that were born from a desire to understand the phenomenon before science could explain it. Stories will range from Native American legends about a black squirrel who ate the sun to ancient Greek myths that perceived an eclipse as a result of angered Gods and that it heralded disaster and destruction.

Complimentary eclipse viewing glasses and soft drinks will be provided for the first 75 people. Attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket and picnic lunch.

The eclipse countdown begins at 10 a.m., with peak 97 percent coverage at 11:35 a.m. The eclipse ends at 12:58 p.m.

The Historic Crail Ranch Homestead is located at 2110 Spotted Elk Road in Big Sky. This event is weather dependent and children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information visit craillranch.org.

Eclipse viewing safety

It is not safe to watch the eclipse without a viewing device. The sun's UV radiation can burn the retinas in the eyes leading to permanent damage or even blindness. This can occur even if your eyes are exposed to direct sunlight for just a few seconds.

According to NASA, the following materials should never be used to view a solar eclipse:

- sunglasses of any kind
- color film
- medical X-ray film
- smoked glass
- floppy disks

Spike in Big Sky bear activity continues

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – With six incidents this season, bear conflicts requiring official intervention in Big Sky are up more than 50 percent from last year, but these numbers tend to be cyclical according to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Grizzly Bear Management Specialist Kevin Frey.

Of the five bears captured, three were relocated and released, and two were euthanized. The sixth bear on FWP's radar for repeat food-related house break-ins was killed by a vehicle in the vicinity of Spanish Peaks Mountain Club. Most of the incidents have occurred in the Mountain Village area, although there has also been problematic bear activity in the Meadow.

On Aug. 2, a female black bear and two cubs entered a home near the entrance to Moonlight Basin and foraged for food in the residence's kitchen. The bears gained access through the screens of open, low level windows. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks also received a report of a black bear getting into garbage cans below Lake Levinsky at Big Sky Resort.

The homes tend to be occupied vacation rentals and Frey suggested the correlation could be that visitors are not as "bear aware" as residents. He relayed one anecdote of a couple waking up and finding bears inside the home, although he said generally bears exit the premises as soon as they are discovered.

Ennion Williams, general manager of Big Sky Vacation Rentals, said the company advises their guests to keep ground level doors and windows locked; and not to leave food in vehicles or coolers on porches—or anything, anywhere that might attract a bear.

"We try to instruct people to take preventative measures so bears don't get into properties," said Williams, who nonetheless has received bear-related reports from renters. "They are there," he said. "But they're usually not aggressive. Most of the time when you encounter these bears they run."

Frey said the problem bears tend to be sub-adults, who at 2 to 3 years old have recently been rejected by their mother.

"It's a stressful time in a bear's life," Frey said. "They're learning to get along without their mother, and make it on their own, so to speak."

He said that makes them susceptible to easily obtainable food rewards like bird seed, dog food and garbage.

The most recent capture occurred Aug. 6 in the Mountain Village, and this animal was put down. FWP makes the determination whether a bear should be relocated or eradicated on a case by case basis, taking into account the particulars of the break-in, including how easily accessible the food reward was, and the number of repeat offenses.

"We evaluate that and potentially give that bear another chance," Frey said. "But it comes down to a public safety concern once they start repeatedly entering houses. So we hate to see bears get food rewards. ... Every time you have to put a bear down it's frustrating and sad and hard. ... You know what needs to be done for bears overall and the public safety but it's really sad when you're there looking at a bear and trying to decide its fate."



A bear near Moonlight Basin was one of five bear captures this summer, three of which were relocated and two of which were put down. Culvert bear traps employ bait to lure the bear into a straw-lined, grated barrel with a sliding door that gets triggered upon entry. PHOTO BY KEVIN FREY

While Frey clearly prefers relocation to euthanization, he said the method presents its own challenges. Although FWP puts a distance of 40 to 50 miles between the capture area and release site, and in a habitat with adequate natural food resources, the bears often find their way back to civilization—either to Big Sky or elsewhere.

"Relocation is difficult because a problem that was created in Big Sky often becomes another community's problem," Frey said.

It's common to see a spike in bear activity this time of year. As summer winds to a close, bears enter hyperphagia, a period of excessive eating and drinking in preparation for hibernation.

"From now through early October the bears are going to be on serious quest for high-calorie foods," Frey said.

Again, he urged residents and visitors to minimize human-bear conflicts by not leaving attractants available or accessible for the animals.

"Any effort to not feed bears or leave food available for them will help everyone who lives here and it will help the bears out also," Frey said.

For more information on bear safety visit bscomt.org/natural-resource-council/bear-smart/. If you have a bear-related incident that requires assistance call 911 or 800-tip-mont.

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Visit our new Big Sky office @ 47 Town Center Ave. C-1

Residents of smoke-choked town in northwestern Montana advised to leave

BY MATT VOLZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) - The smoke pouring into a small Montana town from a nearby wildfire has gotten so bad that health officials are warning residents to leave the area, or at least find somewhere else to sleep at night when the smoke is at its worst.

Seeley Lake registered air pollution levels the morning of Aug. 10 that are 38 times above what the World Health Organization says is safe. The hazardous air prompted the Missoula City-County Health Department to recommend for the first time ever that an entire community just leave their homes for clearer skies.

"This is a dangerous level of smoke for any living thing," said air quality specialist Sarah Coefield. "Nobody should be breathing smoke this thick."

The recommendation is not an enforceable evacuation and most people in the community of about 1,600 are staying. They won't abandon their property and choose instead to endure the stinging eyes, raspy throats and the inescapable campfire smell.

The smell is nauseating, but it's the taste of the smoke that sticks with Ted Linford, a 67-year-old resident.

"It's almost like having the aftertaste of chalk in a drink," he said. "You're done with the drink and you still feel the chalk in your throat."

The 18-square-mile fire burning less than 2 miles from Seeley Lake was one of 27 large active wildfires across the West on Aug. 16, according to the National Interagency Coordinating Center. A dry summer and high temperatures are expected to extend the wildfire threat into September, and longer for places experiencing extreme drought like eastern Montana and the western Dakotas.

The fire in Montana isn't an immediate threat to Seeley Lake homes, though authorities have told residents to be prepared to leave at a moment's notice, said Missoula County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Brenda Bassett.

The popular tourist town is nestled between the Mission Mountains and the Bob Marshall Wilderness in a scenic valley that traps the smoke that rolls down the hillside at night from the fire.

The smoke starts to disperse mid-morning, when the sun warms the valley floor and the warm air rises, but it returns most nights when the temperature drops again.

"We understand that a lot of people may not like what we're saying, but we also feel that it's the most accurate message we can give," Coefield said.

The smoke and fire have already driven many of the tourists away, and the town's namesake lake is closed so that firefighting aircraft can safely scoop water. That's going to hurt local businesses in a town where visitors can double the population in the summer.

"It's dead," Linford said. "Nobody's here. It's really odd."

Bonnie Philliber, co-owner and general manager of the Double Arrow Lodge, said she is frustrated because she believes the threats from the smoke and fire have been overblown. It was sunny and her guests were playing tennis at the resort midmorning Aug. 10—business as usual, she said.

"There's a huge forest fire, but there are forest fires everywhere," she said. "The whole valley is an amazing place and we have people experiencing what they want to do."

Editor's note: On Aug. 16, after a brief reprieve precipitated by a cold front, the air quality in Seeley Lake returned to hazardous levels.

Montana Land Reliance celebrates 1 million acres under easement



On Aug. 5, Montana Land Reliance and nearly 400 of its easement donors, past and present staff, board members and trustees, and close friends gathered to watch the signing of the organization's millionth acre of conservation easements in the state.

Attendees, including former U.S. Sen. Max Baucus (top right) enjoyed live music by Little Jane & the Pistol Whips, and participated in a live auction emceed by MLR Managing Director Rock Ringling (top left). The event was held at the historic Hilger Ranch across from Gates of the Mountains Wilderness on the Missouri River.

Phil Rostad, a longtime member of the Montana Land Reliance's board of directors, donated the millionth acre easement on his family's ranch, which is outside of White Sulphur Springs. Since 1978, Montana Land Reliance has worked with more than 800 landowners to protect open space in the state of Montana.

PHOTOS BY ALEXIS BONOFSKY



BIG SKY SCHOOL DISTRICT 72



INTERNATIONAL

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As an IB world school, Lone Peak High School is part of a global community of schools committed to developing knowledgeable, caring young people who will be ready to negotiate their futures successfully and make contributions resulting in a more harmonious and peaceful world. The positive results of the districts decision making and commitment to high expectations will become evident in our community as classes of DP students graduate and undertake activities that enhance social, cultural and economic environments locally, nationally and, perhaps, internationally. The community of Big Sky is engaged in a grass roots effort to become the best school in the state of Montana and Northwest and certainly, the commitment to the IB program is a large step in fulfilling that goal. Through generous support of the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation and the Friends of Big Sky Education, Lone Peak and Big Sky School District 72 have been able to mobilize quite quickly around this implementation and put our students in a position to compete with the best students in the world.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT WWW.BSSD72.ORG

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Annual river cleanup pg. 22



Spirits in the Sky returns pg. 27

Mountain Journal aims to connect the dots of Greater Yellowstone



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem has, heretofore, never had a single journalistic presence devoted entirely to making sense of our vast region.

Now it does.

Mountain Journal (mountainjournal.org) was just launched this week as an online, non-profit entity devoted to the mission of public-interest journalism.

Not only was "MoJo" founded in response to the absence of a regular journalistic forum aimed at consistently, aggressively, methodically trying to piece together the differing parts of Greater Yellowstone into an understandable narrative. It will be a free, easy-to-access venue where people with a shared love for the region—no matter where they live—can gather.

My involvement with Mountain Journal and the mission of its board of directors springs from dozens of conversations held over the last couple of years with people in every corner of Greater Yellowstone.

Together, they voiced this reality: Without a better dialogue, without better public understanding of what's at stake, and without a strategy that involves major players in the region (federal and state land management agencies, elected officials, 20 different counties, local governments and myriad private special interests), Greater Yellowstone faces a certain fate.

In the face of climate change, inward population migration, development patterns, and other forces occurring on the landscape, the character of Greater Yellowstone has little chance of persevering against impacts that have diminished the natural environment of almost every other place on Earth.

It is the founders' hope that Mountain Journal foremost will be a celebration of Greater Yellowstone while identifying landscape-level issues that, for a variety of reasons, cannot be covered well by local media.

Here is a realization I've had after 32 years of writing about Greater Yellowstone, traveling elsewhere to other wild regions for magazine assignments, and doing research for various book projects: For as much as we share mutual mega-passions for Greater Yellowstone, it's striking, when you think about it, how little people in differing corners of the ecosystem actually talk to each other.

Through a stellar line-up of MoJo columnists, part of that gap will be closed.

On one hand, it's perfectly understandable why folks from Whitehall (located in Greater Yellowstone's far northwestern corner) would not know many souls in Atlantic City at the far southeastern tip of the Wind River Range in Wyoming.

Relatively speaking, that's a vast geographical distance from here to there covering hundreds of miles. Yet between them the same interconnected landscape unfolds.

There is nothing that stands out obviously indicating why one national forest, national park, wildlife refuge, BLM land or Native American reservation would begin in one spot and end in another.

Certainly not if you are an elk or grizzly bear.

Nor is the reasoning behind boundary lines for Greater Yellowstone's 20 counties—the fastest growing rural landscape in America—conspicuous; nor the rationale behind the original siting for the three state lines of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho that converge upon the ecosystem. Nor the city limits for the differing municipalities.

So, back to the point: There's a strong affinity all of us feel for Greater Yellowstone, whether we live in Bozeman or Jackson Hole, Big Sky or Cody, Lima or Meeteetse.

At our gut level, we get why the region, apart from its scenery, is special. We take pride from living in a province where there is an extraordinary abundance of wild animals and geothermal wonders that still survive here because they haven't been messed up by patterns of destruction that have occurred everywhere else.

Unfortunately, traditional print journalism, in most parts of the country, is suffering from advertising models that can no longer support large staffs. That's why reader-supported public-interest journalism is the future.

It doesn't matter if you are presently reading these words from a print or digital version of this great local newspaper. I honor the considerable effort of the editors who toiled to put it in your hands. They deserve your praise and your readership.

Mountain Journal looks forward to sharing content with Explore Big Sky and others in distant corners of Greater Yellowstone. With them MoJo will be collaborating to deliver more in-depth stories that connect the dots of what's happening in our region at the landscape level. A major focus area will be public land and wildlife issues mixed with illuminating commentary that transcends provincial thinking.

We live in a world-class region; it's time to truly start thinking as one.

*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. Again, you can find Mountain Journal at: mountainjournal.org.*

270 Karst Stage Loop

\$1,099,999 | MLS#303669



West Yellowstone Fishing Retreat

\$1,300,000 | MLS#300726



**Boulder River
Fishing Retreat**

\$475,000 | MLS#300889



Glacier Condo

\$312,500 | MLS#219085



42 Cottonwood Creek

\$2,325,000 | MLS#219155

Bridger Canyon

\$5,300,000 | MLS#209620



Bozeman Condo

\$279,000 | MLS#219367



Aspen Groves

\$2,350,000 | MLS#301197



**Spruce Cone
Townhouse**

\$545,000 | MLS#220452



Skywood Preserve

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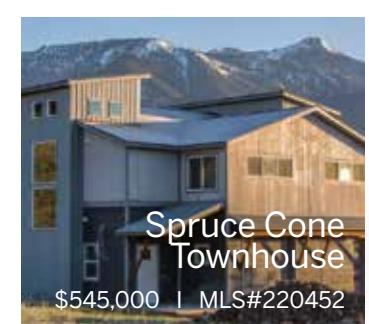


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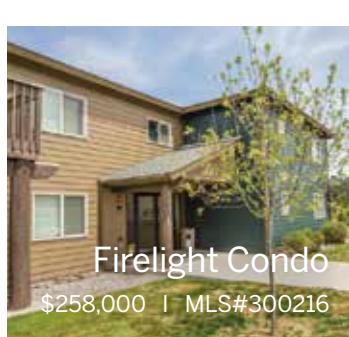
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Sage grouse conservation changes praised, provoke alarm

BY MEAD GRUVER AND MATTHEW BROWN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) - President Donald Trump's administration has opened the door to industry-friendly changes to a sweeping plan imposed by his predecessor to protect a ground-dwelling bird across vast areas of the West.

Wildlife advocates warn that the proposed changes would undercut a hard-won struggle to protect the greater sage grouse.

Representatives of the ranching and energy industries cheered the policy shift as needed to give states flexibility.

A document outlining the recommended changes was released Aug. 7 by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

It recognized for the first time the importance of livestock grazing on sage grouse habitat, said Jim Magagna, executive vice president of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association.

It also backed away from requirements to keep rangeland grasses and shrubs at a prescribed minimum height, which ranchers had complained was arbitrary.

"I was very pleased with what I saw there in terms of the tone," Magagna said.

The ground-dwelling sage grouse has lengthy, pointed tail feathers and is known for the male's elaborate courtship display in which air sacs in the neck are inflated to make a popping sound.

Millions of sage grouse once populated the West but development, livestock grazing and an invasive grass that encourages wildfires have reduced the bird's population to fewer than 500,000.

States affected by the conservation plan are California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Just how much Zinke intends to tinker with the plan that was years in the making remains to be seen.

It was hashed out under President Barack Obama and unveiled in 2015 as a solution to keeping the sage grouse off the endangered species list following a decade-long population decline caused by disease and pressure on the birds' habitat from energy development, grazing and wildfires.

The proposed changes, the result of a 60-day review of the plan by Zinke's agency, could give states wiggle room in areas such as setting population goals for sage grouse and drawing boundaries of recognized sage grouse habitat.

Advocacy groups such as The Wilderness Society and National Wildlife Federation said the proposal was a backdoor attempt to allow unfettered oil and gas development that ignored previous scientific studies showing that drilling too close to sage grouse breeding areas would harm the birds.

"Wholesale changes to the plans are not necessary and could derail years of hard work," National Wildlife Federation President Collin O'Mara said in a statement. "We cannot fall victim to the false dichotomy that pits wildlife conservation against the administration's energy development goals."

The birds inhabit parts of 11 states including large swaths of Wyoming, Utah, Idaho and Nevada—big ranching states that include areas with vast wind energy and gas drilling potential.

Wyoming has a larger number of greater sage grouse than any other state and keeping the bird off the endangered list remains a priority, Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead said.

"We've come a long ways to get to this point," Mead said. "As we make changes—and I certainly think there's room for improvement—we have to move cautiously because we don't want to get to the point where the bird is listed."

Wyoming officials are glad the Trump administration has been talking to them about sage grouse policy, and the proposed changes include improvements, Mead said.

Officials remain concerned, however, by how the administration wants to set population goals for sage grouse. The birds are difficult to count and their numbers can fluctuate significantly from year to year in response to weather patterns, Mead said.

"We want to move cautiously as to not disrupt the great work that has been done by so many over the many years," Mead said.

Idaho Gov. Butch Otter said Zinke's announcement marked an appropriate step toward giving the state more power to manage sage grouse. Idaho, along with Utah and Nevada, had filed a lawsuit challenging the Obama-era conservation plans for the birds.

"My staff and I stand ready to roll up our sleeves and work with the Department of the Interior to bring the federal plans into alignment with Idaho's science-based conservation plan," Otter said in a statement.

The proposed changes drew a muted reaction from some other Western governors who had been heavily involved in crafting conservation plans for the birds.

Democrat Gov. John Hickenlooper of Colorado, who co-chaired a federal-state sage grouse task force established in 2011, was still reviewing Zinke's announcement, according to spokeswoman Jacque Montgomery.

In Nevada, Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval didn't have any immediate comment. Sandoval had worked closely with former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to develop sage grouse protection plans for the state.

Sandoval, Mead and Hickenlooper met with Zinke in April and urged him to coordinate with states before changing the Obama-era plans.

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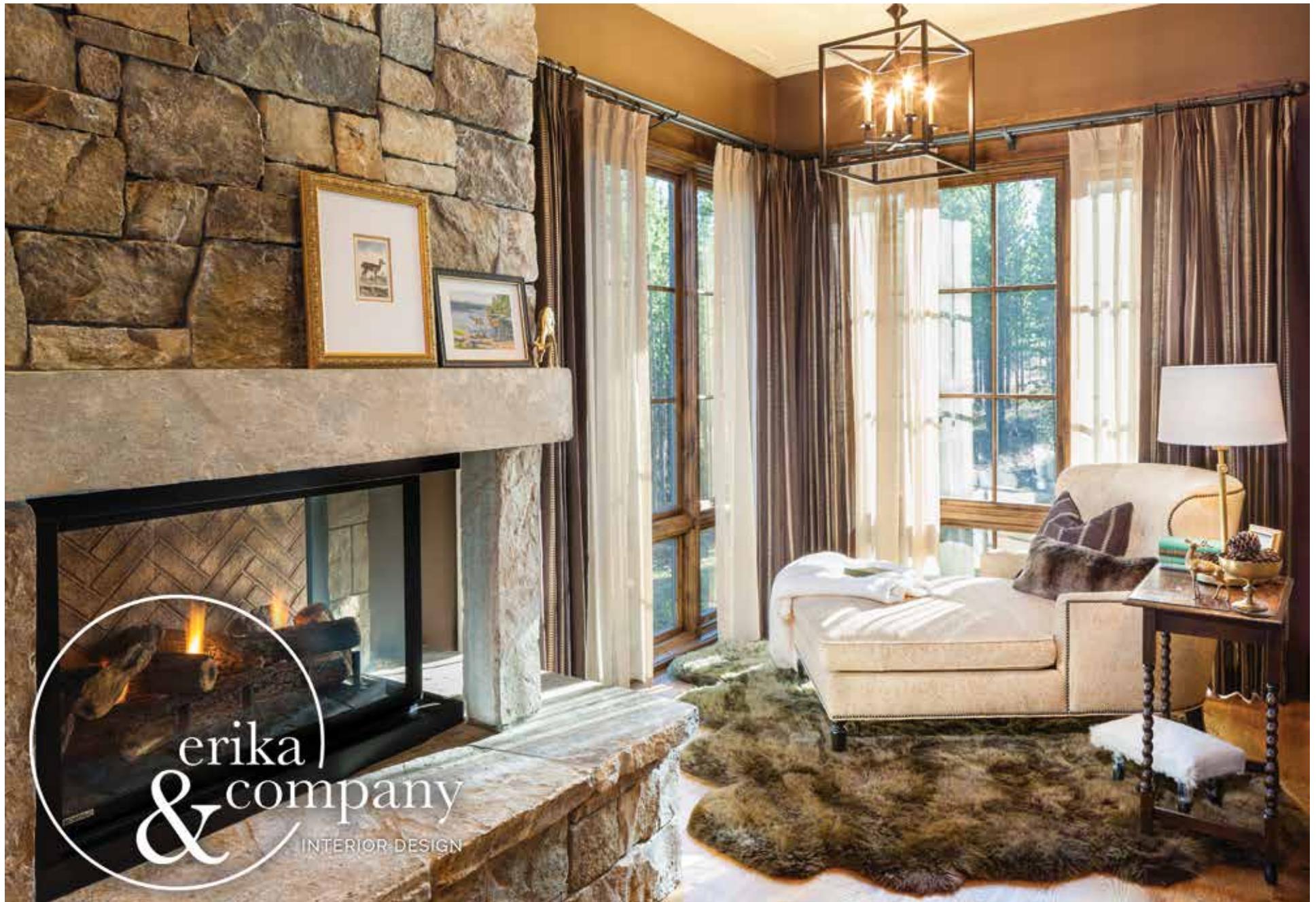
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MSU polar scientist contributes to research on effects of extreme melt season in Antarctic polar desert

MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – A Montana State University polar scientist has contributed to new research that describes how an abnormal season of intense glacial melt in 2002 triggered multiple distinct changes in the physical and biological characteristics of Antarctica's McMurdo Dry Valleys over the ensuing decade. The study was an interdisciplinary collaboration between scientists from 10 institutions.

The findings, published in the journal *Nature Ecology and Evolution*, suggest that even abrupt, short-lived climate events can cause long-term alterations in polar regions that unfold over the span of several years and subsequently change the overall trajectory of an ecosystem.

This is especially significant since Antarctica acts as the canary in the coal mine for Earth's climate, said John Priscu, an ecology professor and internationally renowned polar scientist.

"Although climate variability is occurring on a global scale, ecological impacts are often specific, and vary from region to region," Priscu said. "Climate changes in polar regions are amplified, making these high-latitude areas sentinels for monitoring not only climate variability, but also for the determination of how ecosystems respond to this variability."

There has been a large focus on temperature warming in the Arctic and its ramifications on geopolitics, human inhabitants and changes in north polar ecosystems, Priscu said. Yet, despite its importance in regulating the planet's climate, much less is known about Antarctica, the fifth largest continent and repository of approximately 70 percent of Earth's freshwater.

Additionally, Priscu said, the Antarctic continent and the surrounding ocean represent "coupled components" that both drive and respond to climate.

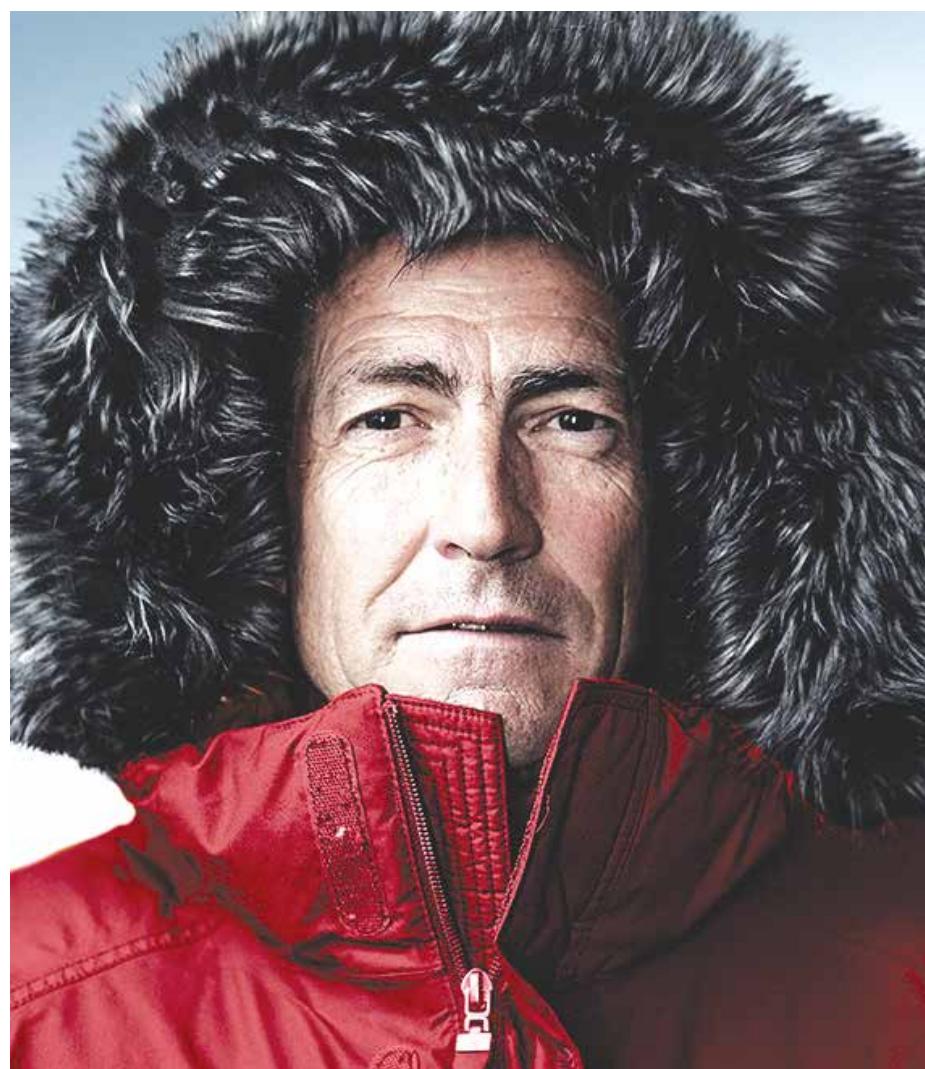
"Remarkable changes have been observed in Antarctica over the past several decades, including the rapid collapse of ice shelves, changes in penguin populations, and extreme flooding within the polar deserts of the McMurdo Dry Valleys," Priscu said.

"Our understanding of the mechanisms behind these events is improving, but the complex interactions between the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere are difficult to resolve," he said. "Changes are occurring faster than predicted only a few years ago, and although the future trajectory remains uncertain, these changes have been projected to alter both marine and terrestrial Antarctic ecosystem structure and function."

The McMurdo Dry Valleys, or MDV, are the largest ice-free region of Antarctica and are considered a polar desert environment due to their low humidity and scarce precipitation. Now in its 25th year, the National Science Foundation's McMurdo Dry Valleys Long-Term Ecological Research, or LTER, has provided a continuous multi-decade record of atmospheric and ecological data at the MDV research site.

As principal investigator on the McMurdo LTER project since its inception in 1993, Priscu oversees the work on the physics, chemistry and biology of the lakes, which he has studied for more than three decades.

Between 1987 and 2000, the MDV region experienced a period of cooling, during which mean summer temperatures steadily declined while solar radiation gradually increased. The trend resulted in expected changes to most biological variables, including decreased streamflow and increased thickness of permanent ice covers on lakes.



John Priscu, Regents Professor and renowned polar scientist, has contributed to research published in *Nature Ecology and Evolution* that suggests that even abrupt, short-lived climate events can cause long-term changes in polar regions over several years and change the trajectory of an ecosystem. PHOTO BY KELLY GORHAM

In 2002, however, the MDV experienced an abnormally warm and sunny summer season, triggering the greatest amount of glacial meltwater since 1969. The abrupt event prompted numerous changes in the lakes, streams and soils of the MDV over the following decade, according to the new research.

Priscu said the "flood year" seemed to be a tipping point where lake levels rose sharply and the permanent ice cover thinned from about 15 feet to 9 feet.

"The productivity and biodiversity of the ecosystem is now heading in a different direction," Priscu said. "This may be a preview of what we may see in temperate lakes as air temperature continues to rise. The integration of long-term data presented in our manuscript provides a starting point in our understanding of the cascade of environmental consequences related to rapid climate change on the Antarctic continent."

Paul Cutler, the NSF program officer for the two LTERs in Antarctica, noted that these results underscore the value of gathering data over decadal time scales.

"The natural world operates in non-linear ways and on many different time scales, from daily cycles to processes that take centuries," Cutler said. "The LTERs are instrumental in measuring and deciphering these complexities in order to inform basic understanding of ecosystem functioning and to refine predictions of the future of critical ecosystems, particularly in areas like the Dry Valleys, which maintain an ancient, but potentially delicate, ecological balance."

Annual river cleanup slated for Aug. 31

GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

The Gallatin River Task Force will host the Annual Upper Gallatin River Cleanup Thursday, Aug. 31, at 2 p.m.

Volunteers will meet at the Big Sky Community Park River Pavilion for cleanup assignments, disperse to river access sites throughout the Upper Gallatin, and pick up trash. Groups will return with their trash to the Community Park around 5 p.m. for a free barbecue and beer courtesy of Lone Peak Brewery.

GRTF is seeking volunteer leaders to commit in advance to attending the river cleanup. Leaders will be responsible for recruiting teams of four to six people to focus on high-traffic river access points. Volunteers can choose their favorite river access point, and will be accommodated on a first-come, first-serve basis.

GRTF has organized a river cleanup for the past five years, and has seen a steady increase in participation over time. Last year, 35 volunteers picked up trash at river access sites in the Gallatin corridor from the Yellowstone National Park boundary to the mouth of the Gallatin Canyon, as well as along streams in the Big Sky area.

"The 2017 river cleanup will be bigger and better than ever with great prizes and new volunteer opportunities," said GRTF director Kristin Gardner. The individual who collects the most unique item of trash will win an RTIC cooler donated by the RMR Group, and the team that collects the most garbage will be awarded GRTF hats.

For more information about the GRTF river cleanup, or to volunteer, contact Stephanie Lynn by email at stephanie@gallatinrivertaskforce.org or by phone at (406) 993-2519.



For the past five years volunteers have picked up trash throughout the Upper Gallatin with Gallatin River Task Force. The nonprofit will host the event again this year Aug. 31. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

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Golf Tips From a Pro:

Practice makes permanent

BY MARK WEHRMAN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

When to practice and how to practice are two essentials when it comes to improving your golf game. One thing is for certain, practice doesn't make perfect, it makes permanent. So many golfers spend too much time perfecting bad habits and also put too much time into the less important areas.

First, let's talk some facts. Sixty percent of your shots on the course are within 60 yards of the green. So where do you think 60 percent of your practice should be spent? Too many times I see people go to the practice range, buy a large bucket of balls and immediately pull out their driver and start banging away. At most, in an 18 hole round you will only use your driver 14 times.

Let's say you're a bogey golfer and your average score is around 90. That means that only 15 percent of your shots are played with the driver. So, why would we spend close to 100 percent of our time working on just that club? The answer is because it is more fun to slash away trying to hit the home run with the driver than stand on the putting green and work on distance control and lag putting. But, please remember, the old adage of "drive for show and putt for dough" couldn't be more true.

Next time you're going to spend some time on your game please consider these good habits. If you are on the driving range before going out to play you're essentially warming up. This is not a time to grind on a new technique or perfect a motion. This time should be spent creating a smooth tempo for the day and warming up your muscles to avoid injury. Make sure to start with a shorter club and work your way through the bag ending with the driver.

The best time to get good quality practice is either after your round or on a day you're not planning on playing. Start with putting and then move to chips and pitches around the green, working on feel and distance control. After you've spent 30 minutes to an hour around the green you can make your way to the driving range. Once there, start small. Hit lots of half wedges and slowly work your way through the bag.

If you're working on drills, hopefully they have been prescribed to you by a PGA Professional. Make sure you are doing those drills with a more lofted club like a 6-, 7- or 8-iron. Do not attempt to do drills with a 3-wood or driver. Also, make sure your interval between shots doesn't decrease. Meaning, don't play rapid fire with your basket of balls.

It's very easy when we're not hitting the ball well to start hitting shots faster and faster hoping the result changes. You are better off taking your time, being deliberate with your setup, and focusing on what you are trying to change or fix.

In summary, quality practice is spent on and around the green, not, swinging the driver over and over again seeing how far you can hit it. If you are not sure if you are working on correct fundamentals and/or mechanics, go see your local PGA Professional.

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



Quality practice perfecting the fundamentals around the green will vastly improve a player's golf game.
PHOTO BY MARK WEHRMAN



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Thursday, August 24	Make up games if needed
Friday, August 25	Make up games if needed
Saturday, August 26	Summer 2017 Tournament All Day
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7. LMC Barnstormers **6-6**
8. Cab Lizards **5-6**
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Montana high school students get real-world glimpse into the hospitality industry at Vine & Dine

BIG SKY RESORT

Big Sky Resort is boosting the educational component of the fourth annual Vine & Dine festival, taking place now through Aug. 20, by offering an entry-level sommelier class and inviting high school students interested in the hospitality industry to learn from some of the top figures in the business.

Eight Montana high school students will learn side-by-side with local and special guest chefs. The students are members of ProStart, a collaboration between schools and the food service industry to provide real-world skills in the culinary arts and restaurant management.

Vine & Dine will feature Google's culinary team, American chef and TV personality John Besh, Big Sky Resort's culinary team and Chuck Schommer, food and beverage director of Buck's T-4. These chefs and their sous chefs will pair up with a student and give them a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to execute a major culinary and wine event.

"I am thrilled to work with ProStart's Montana students at this year's Vine & Dine," said Google's Global Program Chef Scott Giambastiani. "As chefs and hospitality leaders, it's not only our obligation to mentor tomorrow's talent, but it's one of the most rewarding parts of the job. The responsibility we have as leading professionals to inspire and engage tomorrow's talent is huge."

Twelve Montana high schools participate in the ProStart program. The students selected to participate at Vine & Dine attend high schools in Bozeman, Whitefish and Drummond.

"Having worked with ProStart for the last eight years, it is always exciting to host these young future culinarians in my kitchen," said Todd Christensen, Big Sky Resort executive chef. "This year is very exciting to have not only the Big Sky chefs working with ProStart but also them having the opportunity to work with Chef Scott Giambastiani and his Google team of chefs."

The goal is to inspire and excite the students about working in the hospitality industry by giving them a real-world, behind-the-scenes look at working in the food service business.

"Growing up in the hospitality industry, I have always had chefs and mentors that I looked up to," said Schommer, director of food and beverage at Buck's T-4. "Now as a chef and restaurateur, ProStart is the natural fit to give back to an industry that has taken such good care of me."

For more information about the ProStart program, visit goprostart.com. For a full schedule of Vine & Dine events, visit bigskyresort.com/vine.

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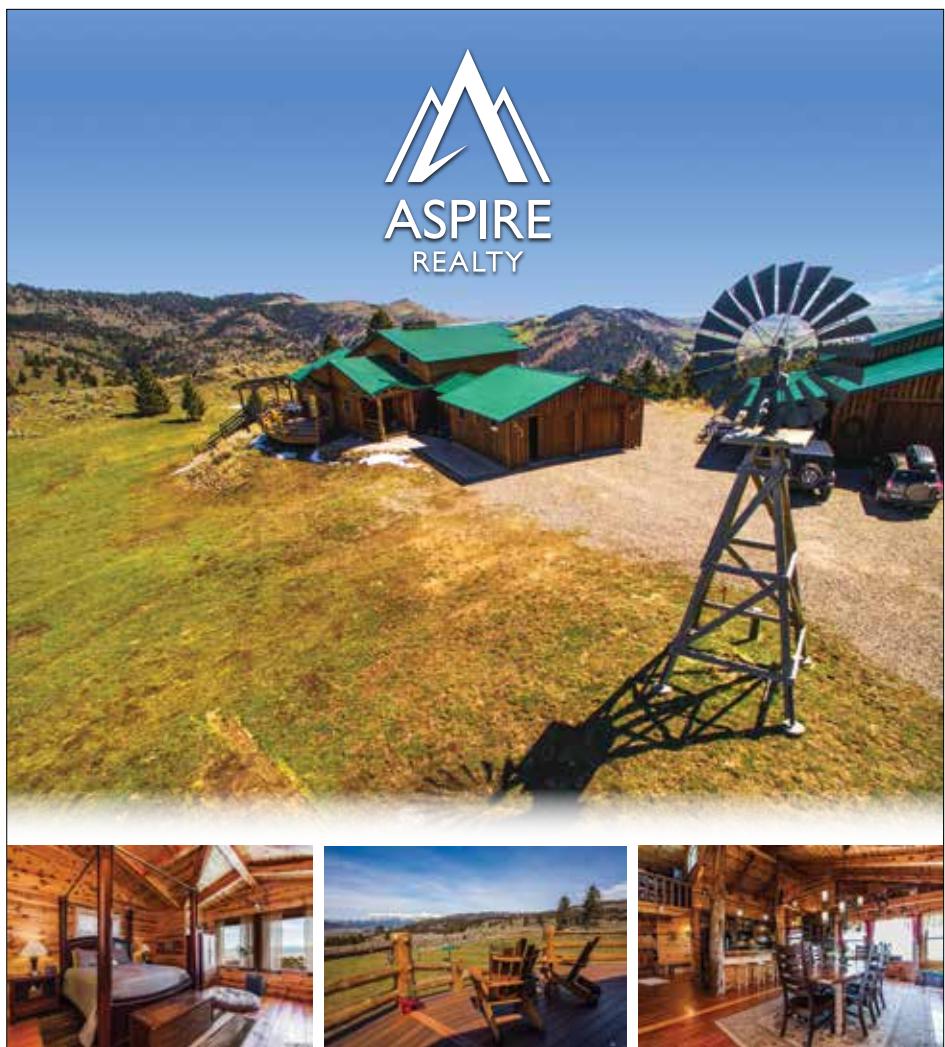
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The Cave's Spirits in the Sky tasting event showcases Montana distilleries



The Cave hosts the second annual Spirits in the Sky tasting event from 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 22, in Big Sky's Town Center Park. Taste and learn about Montana-made bourbons, whiskeys, gins, vodkas, moonshines and liqueurs while enjoying live music by Julia Roberts, local food and signature cocktails. All proceeds from suggested donations will benefit the Erika Pankow Scholarship Foundation, which supports Big Sky Search and Rescue, Gallatin Canyon Volunteer Fire Department and Big Sky Ski Patrol. PHOTOS BY AMANDA EGGERT

The image is an advertisement for Shelly Bermont Fine Jewelry. It features a large, ornate necklace with blue stones and gold fringe. The necklace is displayed against a dark background. The text "Shelly Bermont" is written in a cursive font, with a small "sb" logo above it. Below the necklace, the text "Shelly Bermont Fine Jewelry | Open Mon-Sat 10-6, Closed Sun." is written in a smaller, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the page, there is a horizontal line of text: "32 Market Place Suite 2 | Meadow Village | Big Sky, MT | 406.995.7833 | ShellyBermont.com | Available for Private Appointments".



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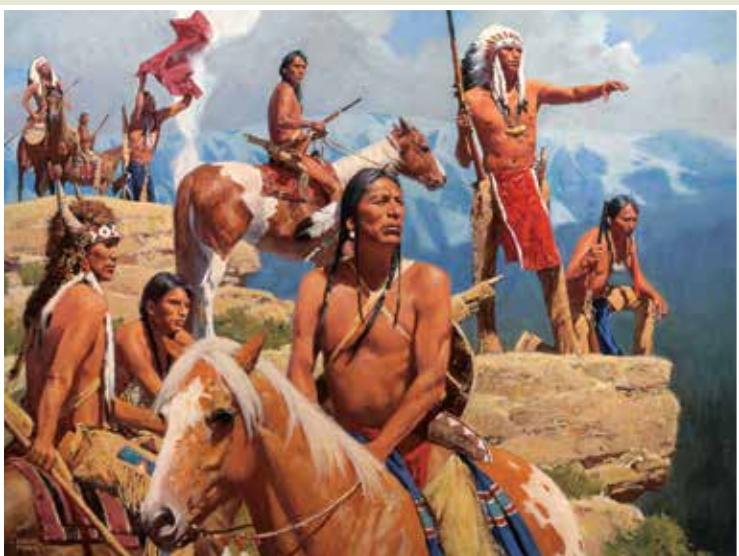
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The fuss about fermentation

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER
EBS STAFF

Despite a surge of products like kombucha and tempeh popping up in markets around the country, the process of fermentation is not a new concept. In fact, it is among the oldest food and beverage preparations. Our ancestors used fermentation as a preservation process for thousands of years, but modern technologies caused it to go by the wayside.

Fermentation has resurfaced in the past few years, perhaps as a health kick or simply as a trend in modern kitchens. Regardless of the reason, fermented foods are becoming more standard in many forms, ranging from drinks like kombucha and kefir to proteins like tempeh—a fermented soybean product popular among vegans.

A fermented food is one whose sugars have been broken down into acids by natural bacteria, creating a product that is uniquely tangy. If you're unfamiliar with this flavor, sauerkraut and yogurt are two common fermented foods that have this trademark taste.

So, why are fermented foods good for us? There has been recent research into a collection of bacteria that lives in our gut called the microbiome. When functioning normally, the microbiome ensures that our digestive system runs smoothly. When the balance of gut bacteria becomes out of whack, it can result in symptoms like bloating, inflammation and heartburn. Fermented foods replenish your gut with the good bacteria that are naturally present in these foods.

Foods like kombucha, kefir, miso and other fermented products are becoming more and more available in supermarkets and specialty stores.

Making fermented food at home may seem intimidating but it is actually quite easy. All you need to get started is some fresh vegetables. Cover them with salt water, leave at room temperature, pack tightly and wait. Try this easy recipe next time you want to take a dish to the next level:

Easy sauerkraut

2 heads cabbage, shredded
1/4 cup salt
1 tablespoon caraway seed (optional)
2 quart-sized mason jars

Clean all jars and utensils well before starting. Place cabbage and salt into a large bowl, and massage the salt into the cabbage. Let sit for 10 minutes until juices release.

Stuff cabbage into mason jars, and pour over any liquid from the bowl into the jars. If necessary, add water to just cover the cabbage. Weigh down the cabbage with a fermentation weight or a smaller mason jar filled with water. Cover jars with a clean cloth and seal with a rubber band or twine.

Wait two to three weeks, sampling it occasionally until your sauerkraut is flavored as your taste buds desire. The finished product will store in the refrigerator for up to six months.

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.

Tragedy of the commons

BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Globally we have seen the ebb and flow of commercial fishing and its ecological effects for decades. Fish like juvenile swordfish, blue fin tuna, or certain species of wild salmon for example, have been moved on and off endangered lists, based on how well we are managing their populations worldwide.

For me, once I decide on a fish I want to sell, I consult the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch. Not only do I want to know if the fish is on an endangered species list, but I also want to know where and how the fish was caught.

I strive to find better fishing practices, such as hand lines, and try to avoid less ideal methods, like the use of pelagic longlines. I recently learned of a type of fishing that, true to its name, is far scarier than anything I had imagined. It's called ghost fishing.

Ghost fishing is what happens when fish and other marine life get caught in abandoned, lost or discarded commercial fishing gear such as crab and lobster cages, or get snagged on hooks from miles of wayward fishing lines floating like Halloween spider webs, waiting to entrap their victims. Damaged nets can also snare mammals that need to frequently surface for air.

Some of this equipment is washed overboard, or torn off in storms, while others are simply discarded at sea. In the Netherlands for example, fishermen are charged a substantial fine upon returning to the mainland with missing pieces of fishing equipment. Oddly enough, those fines are put in place to keep the oceans clean of damaged fishing equipment.

In one fishery in the northeast Atlantic alone, it is estimated that 25,000 nets are lost or discarded annually. Attached end-to-end, these nets could span the distance from New York to Chicago.

The United Nations Environment Program and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization estimate that 640,000 tons of fishing gear are left in our oceans every year. That's the equivalent weight of almost 500,000 automobiles.

Right here in the U.S., recent clean-up efforts in Washington state yielded 870 ghost nets containing 32,000 marine animals.

There was a time when fishing nets were made from cotton or hemp and would biodegrade in a relatively reasonable amount of time. But in recent decades, fishing nets have been made from synthetic materials to prolong their life, while tragically shortening or ending the lives of so many hapless fish and wildlife. The strength of a net made today is believed to retain enough integrity to entrap even the largest marine animal 100 years from now.

There lies the tragedy of the commons—a global problem in which the responsibility falls on everyone, yet the incentive to rectify it lies with no one.

So what do we do?

There is hope. In the Arabian Sea, the United Arab Emirates ruled in 2002 that at least one of the walls of all traps must be biodegradable. And a company called Net-Works purchases discarded nylon fishing net and repurposes it into carpet tiles.

Our first response is often to say we are not buying seafood anymore. But the reality is that commercial fishing equipment is expensive, so the more seafood we buy, the more money the fishermen make. And the more they make, the less likely they might be to cast away nets, lines and other fishing gear, opting instead to return to shore and repair damaged equipment, which can sometimes be more expensive than the fine for lost equipment all together.

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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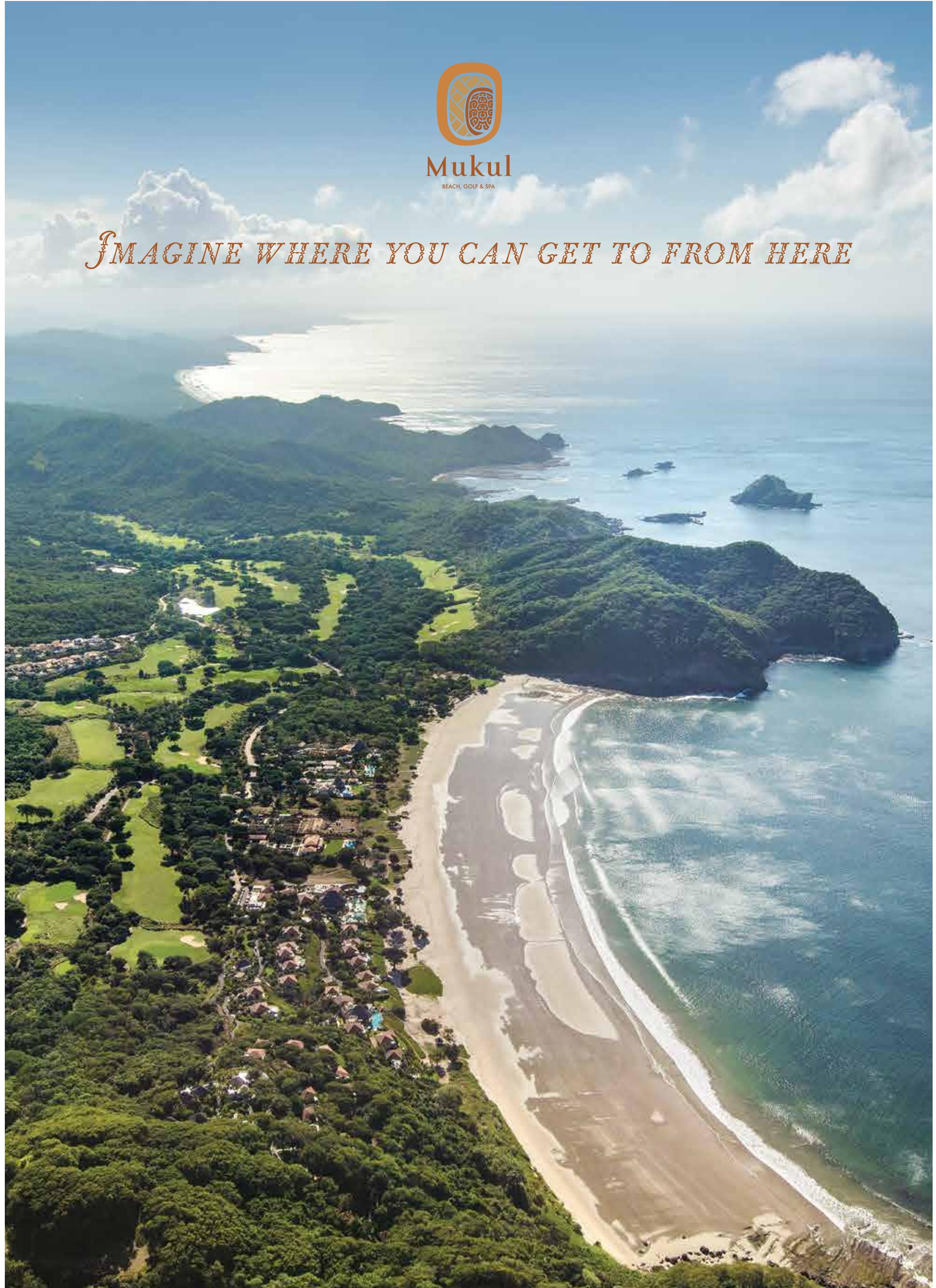
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Section 3: BUSINESS, HEALTH & BACK 40



Business Profile: Montana Supply pg. 35



Lotus Pad's plans to expand pg. 36



Allergic reactions to antibiotics pg. 39



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

Part 5: A ship without a captain?

BY BRIGID MANDER
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The two county commissions that oversee Big Sky don't collaborate much beyond helping Big Sky with law enforcement and occasionally hosting joint meetings to hear about community funding needs, as they did in April of this year.

Madison County, a rural, agricultural county with less than 8,000 residents and a per capita income of \$29,000, has found itself hosting multiple ultra-exclusive vacation home enclaves for millionaires and billionaires. The most direct impacts have been the influx of property taxes: The Big Sky levy district on the Madison side pays approximately \$6.5 million of the nearly \$28 million in property taxes collected by the county, according to the Montana Department of Revenue.

Gallatin County, on the other hand, is growing fast and has a host of other issues to solve in the more densely populated northern end of the county.

However, Gallatin County did inform the Big Sky Transportation District on Aug. 16 that it would provide \$68,500 of the \$80,000 in requested funding for fiscal year 2018, according to district coordinator David Kack. After providing \$50,000 last fiscal year, this marks the second consecutive year of funding from the county for the Skyline bus system after a long drought. Madison County has consistently supported the Big Sky Transportation District.

Some residents of this unincorporated community believe relying on the seven special districts, nonprofits and homeowner association boards isn't the way to run a town.

"The resident population has no say in the management of our community," said Steve Johnson, who sits on the zoning advisory committee, and fire and park district boards. "[It] has done nothing to assert its voice in shaping the direction of this community."

"There are conflicts, some weirdness with the boards," admits Boyne Resorts President Stephen Kircher. "If it's clear that someone is voting their conflict of interest, we should do something. I don't think it's a model that should be replicated, but I don't know what incorporation would even do for us—maybe if we can hang onto more of our tax money, great, but if it's just adding a layer of government infrastructure, then there's no point."

Kevin Germain, who is vice president of planning and development for CrossHarbor's Lone Mountain Land Company, and is on the resort tax board

as well as the chamber of commerce board of directors, notes the issues, but maintains it doesn't guarantee people are voting the wrong way.

"I am raising my three children in Big Sky and want it to be as great of a community as possible," Germain said. "That is the perspective I bring to all my decisions on the various boards. I have reviewed the conflict of interest opinions in detail. To pass this threshold, I cannot receive 'any direct economic benefit' of any decisions I am part of."

There is no guarantee, either in elected government or in Big Sky's district boards, that people will govern purely in the public interest—but Big Sky residents seem to have a healthier than average cynicism. Developers with a financial stake in Big Sky's continued growth sit on a number of district boards, including the Big Sky Water and Sewer District board and the Big Sky Zoning Advisory Committee.

"Big Sky is pretty Western when it comes to our municipal structure," said Erik Morrison, owner of Love Street Media and resident since 2002. "Split between two counties, our community accomplishes everything through collaboration with districts, boards and organizations. Personally, I have a love/hate relationship with this structure. I've seen it be extremely effective when we all work together. ... However, when our community is siloed across county lines and special interests, it brings these efforts to a grinding halt."

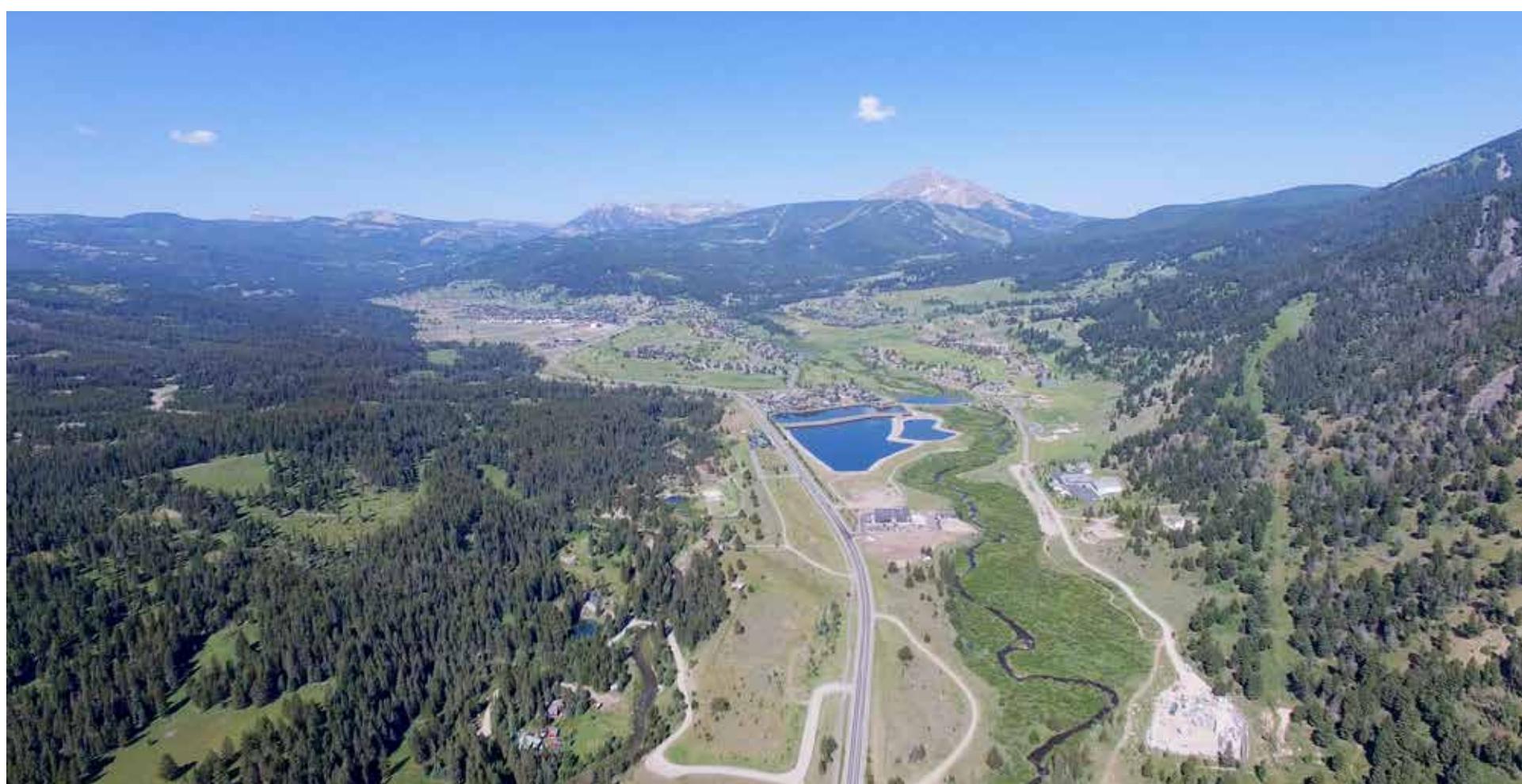
"I don't think the developers see it in their own interests to solve these problems. They deal with it in platitudes, and being part of the solution involves more than showing up to a few meetings and writing a few checks," said Gallatin County Planner Tim Skop.

Lee Poole was one developer that left a legacy even after he lost Moonlight Basin to bankruptcy in the Great Recession. An avid bow hunter, he made conservation a priority alongside his development dreams, and took action.

"Lee Poole and his partners wanted to ensure the wildlife connectivity stayed intact," said Germain, who joined Poole in 2001 as an environmental consultant. They sold 17,000 acres to conservation buyers, who put conservation easements on approximately 14,500 acres, which included the Jack Creek Preserve.

CrossHarbor Capital Partners does not plan to deviate from Poole's conservation-minded development on the property, according to Germain, and managing

Continued on page 34.



Big Sky has enough developable land to at least double in size, and by some estimates \$1 billion will be invested here in the next 10 years. Affordable housing, water and sewer rights, traffic issues, and development impacts on wildlife habitat and connectivity, are among some of the challenges facing this resort community. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Continued from page 33.

partners Sam Byrne and Matt Kidd deserve a lot of credit for buying into the vision Poole set out. "I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't the case," Germain said.

And the nonprofit Big Sky Community Organization, as well as Lone Mountain Land Company and Boyne, have invested significantly in recent years to build biking and hiking trails, to showcase other conserved lands in Big Sky—if the SUVs loaded with mountain bikes flocking to the area in recent summers are any indication, it's working.

"The town is a blank canvas," said Brian Hurlbut, executive director of the Arts Council of Big Sky and 16-year resident. "Development needs to be done in a way that's respectful to the people living here. We have a vested interest in how the town moves forward."

"We don't have an infinite workforce. Around here it's an excruciatingly finite resource," Johnson said, noting the availability of employees could be a limiting factor to development plans. "We live in a place where unemployment is under 3 percent and there's a limited number of people that want to commute up the canyon [from Bozeman]."

Germain agrees that Big Sky needs more of its workforce living here to be sustainable in the future.

"I think it's the community's No. 1 issue and everyone's got to keep pushing on it," he said. "The large employers have done a lot for the seasonal workers, but no one yet has done anything for the year-round workers and the community's got to come together on this. Our teachers, our firefighters and our year-round workforce need to live here in Big Sky."

Ultimately, Big Sky has the potential to be a place that could set an example for other resort towns, and indeed even larger communities. As a town that rose from a resort, with a non-traditional method of governing itself, Big Sky could show outsiders that the private sector and citizens can create a fair, well-functioning community without the layers of local government bureaucracy.

"Montana calls itself the last, best place. Big Sky could be the last, best, great ski area—but without a vision, it could all be lost," said Kitty Clemens, former president of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce.

"When I first moved here in the early 2000s, my fall and spring 'offseasons' were a solid two months on either end," Morrison said. "Jobs were scarce, businesses closed up shop and many people left town to make ends meet. Even the summer seasons were difficult, offering few amenities and services."

According to Morrison, it wasn't until the Great Recession—which hit Big Sky especially hard—that the community really started working together to create many of the amenities and activities enjoyed here today.

Big Sky Resort and Moonlight significantly increased the number of events they offered throughout the year, extended their summer and winter seasons, and began adding extensive trail systems, he said. Town Center created new opportunities for businesses, amenities and venues for everything from the Big Sky PBR, the arts council's free Thursday night concerts, and farmer's markets, to the Big Sky Medical Center, Roxy's Market and more.

As documented in this series and other stories published by EBS, Big Sky has enough developable land to at least double in size, and by some estimates \$1 billion will be invested here in the next decade. The current challenges of affordable housing, water and sewer rights, traffic issues, and development impacts on wildlife habitat and connectivity will necessitate a collective effort by the various developers, districts boards, HOAs and nonprofit organizations that serve as Big Sky's quasi government.

"Personally, I want to see us work together, learn from the mistakes of our fellow mountain communities—like Jackson, Aspen, Vail, etc.," Morrison said. "As a town Big Sky is young, still relatively undeveloped and is in a unique position [for stakeholders] to work together to ensure we develop an economy that is not at the expense of our community."

"It's not too late for us to do it right."

Reporting was contributed by EBS Managing Editor Tyler Allen.

Read each installment in this five-part series at explorebigsky.com/a-billion-dollar-bet. EBS will continue its coverage of the challenges facing this rapidly growing resort community and feature profiles of community members guiding the vision of Big Sky's future in upcoming editions.

►

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The organic hustle behind Montana Supply

BY JANA BOUNDS
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – For the owners of Montana Supply, it's all about the Treasure State, community and sharing the best of Big Sky with visitors. Montana Supply is one of Town Center's newest brick-and-mortar businesses.

The company found its initial footing seven years ago when owners Josh Tozier and Alaina Stinson started selling T-shirts sporting Tozier's designs at the Big Sky Farmer's Market. The high school sweethearts originally from Maine said the new store's product line is about mountain lifestyle: products that can go from the trail to the town.

"It's been organic with hustle behind it," Stinson said referring to their concept evolution and business growth.

Big Sky Shirt Company evolved into High Country Goods in 2014. This spring, they closed the doors of High Country Goods to become Montana Supply. Tozier said they rebranded to give customers a more open mind about offered products.

"We have rebranded for the third and final time," Stinson said with a smile.

Tozier-designed T-shirts now hang on the walls at Montana Supply, with its locally-sourced fixtures and reclaimed lumber from Montana barns. Other items for sale include topographic maps, leather journals, hiking boots, artwork and tree tents—shelters that are suspended from trees similarly to hammocks. Stinson even field-tested a tree tent in the Beartooth Mountains and said although some people view them as hipster, they are remarkably comfortable.

The freedom is what they love about their business. Although both admit they never foresaw owning a retail store, they never wanted to work in an office setting. Now, they're virtually unlimited in the products they can offer, but they do have a tiered selection process: local first, followed by companies with give-back policies or benefit programs for environmental causes, and U.S.-made next.

The couple selects every item in the store.

"We both usually have to agree," Tozier said while surveying the store to attempt to spot an item they disagreed on.

Montana Supply opened July 21 with a block party organized with neighboring businesses. They hope that kind of collaboration continues and plan on having monthly events.



Montana Supply, a mountain lifestyle retail store run by the owners of the now-closed High Country Goods, opened in Town Center on July 21. PHOTO BY SYDNEY MACDONALD

The open design concept between Montana Supply, Compass Cafe and Big Sky Real Estate Co.—three businesses sharing the space at 25 Town Center Ave.—is meant to be a pre-adventure gathering place: a location to get acclimated to Big Sky and plan exploration.

"It's amazing, open and airy. It's nicely done," Tricia Amadio, a visitor from St. James, New York, said.

Stinson said that as there is no wall between businesses, Montana Supply's hours will always match those of Compass Cafe: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

"They are creative souls, good people and incredibly hard workers," Tiffany Lach, owner of Compass Cafe said of the Montana Supply duo.

Adventure is what initially brought the couple here and their love for the outdoors led them to stay. Stinson was first a white water rafting guide on the Gallatin River before Tozier decided to meet her in Montana a year after she settled in Big Sky. Before the move, Tozier ran his own design company, but the business was heavy with web design and limited Tozier's time to create his own designs for screen printing.

Now, he will be using that knowledge again, but doesn't mind because the store gives him the opportunity to more fully use his skill set. E-commerce is the next step for the company followed by a Montana Supply catalog to "become a brand supported by other brands," Tozier said.



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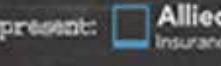
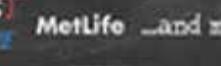
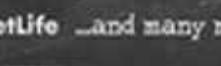
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Lotus Pads expands to Ohio

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – One of Big Sky's most popular dining establishments is planning on replicating their success in the Great Lakes region. On Monday, Aug. 21, construction will begin on a second Lotus Pad restaurant just outside Cincinnati, Ohio.

"We are excited to be developing the Lotus Pad concept into an organic chain restaurant, and Cincinnati is the perfect test market for that," said owner Alex Omania.

Partnering with experienced restaurant business investors, Omania plans to open one to two new locations per year in Ohio. Her investors have been skiing in Big Sky for years, and after getting to know them during their visits, she feels confident that Lotus Pad will be able to recreate their unique Thai-inspired cuisine in a new market.

"I look forward to going to Cincinnati with some of my crew and getting this new project off the ground," Omania said. "I have such dedicated, competent employees. It's an exciting time for us, and our restaurant is thriving in our new location in the heart of Town Center."

Her investors have recently expanded the Pies and Pints franchise in the Midwest and East Coast markets, and they hope to piggyback on that success with the Lotus Pad concept.

"Ohio is a great market in that it is not saturated with many Asian-inspired restaurants. Just like our new location in Big Sky, the spots we are planning to build new Lotus Pads are 'lifestyle' complexes where residents are within walking distance," said Omania. "We hope to have lots of repeat customers, just like in Big Sky."

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Montana Health Co-op remains standing as others falter

BY BOBBY CAINA CALVAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) - Montana's health care co-op, one of America's few remaining alternatives to traditional health insurance, will resume accepting new enrollees Sunday after it voluntarily pulled itself from the state's insurance marketplace in December.

The insurer took the nine-month hiatus from enrolling new members in the exchange created by President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act to boost its financial reserves and keep it from the same fate that has befallen failed co-ops across the country.

The program was among about two dozen privately run health co-ops that sprang up across the country following the 2010 passage of the Obama administration's health care law. They provided medical coverage with premiums far lower than plans offered by traditional health insurance companies.

But within two years, half of the programs quietly folded—undermined by political attacks, financial miscalculations and the volatility of the health insurance marketplace. Just four remain—in Montana, Wisconsin, Maine and New Mexico. Earlier this week, Massachusetts officials placed the Minuteman Health co-op in receivership.

The Montana Health Co-op, which also serves customers in neighboring Idaho, temporarily suspended new enrollment in Montana because of worries that it was overextending its resources and heading toward insolvency.

"When all the other co-ops were going down, we were losing money, too," said Jerry Dworak, the Montana Health Co-op's CEO. "Thankfully, we've turned things around."

This year, the co-op is projecting \$28 million in profits, after weathering a string of losses. It lost about \$6 million in its first year and more than \$40 million the following year, Dworak said.

So confident is the co-op about its financial health that Dworak said it has the capacity to absorb all 64,000 Montanans who buy their insurance through the state's exchange. It now enrolls about 20,000 people who purchase individual plans on the exchange. Blue Cross and PacificSource, the other two providers on the exchange, have nearly 32,000 and 12,000 enrollees respectively.

State Auditor Matt Rosendale, whose office oversees Montana's health insurance market, said he has no immediate concern over Montana's co-op.

"Right now they are very strong, and I feel very comfortable," Rosendale said.

But Rosendale, who recently announced a bid for the U.S. Senate, said the millions of dollars in federal loans that co-ops have used as seed money could be better used, and he doubts that the Montana co-op will be able to repay the \$85 million in loans it has gotten under the Obama health care law.

Political and financial volatility in the country's health care system have prompted a further surge in premiums. In Montana, all three of the insurance plans participating in the exchange announced hikes in premiums, with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana announcing an average increase of 23 percent. PacificSource is looking to bump its premiums by an average of 7.4 percent, while the co-op's premiums are expected to rise on average by 4 percent.

During the heady debates over the Obama administration's health care law in 2010, a so-called public option was supposed to spur competition in the health insurance marketplace. When that effort failed, privately run health insurance co-ops emerged as alternatives.

Co-op administrators like Larry Turney, president of Montana's program, watched in concern as lawmakers in Washington debated the fate of the Affordable Care Act. While that debate has waned, worries persist that wholesale changes could cause membership numbers to plummet, especially if Congress strips away subsidies.

"There would be a lot of uninsured Americans again because members would have to pay their entire premiums," Turney said.

An analysis by the U.S. Government Accountability Office in spring 2016 found co-ops have delivered on their promise of offering lower premiums, with the average premiums for co-op health plans substantially lower than other insurers.

But the analysis noted many of them grew too fast and did not have the necessary reserves to handle the higher-than-expected number of enrollees. As many as 1 million people enrolled in the co-ops before a substantial part of the system began collapsing.

Chuck Butler, one of the founders of Montana's co-op, cited the challenges faced by rural states like Montana in widening access to affordable, quality health care. With few insurance carriers willing to do business in rural states, where the average cost of medical care is higher, the co-op was meant to give Montanans more options.

"The people of Montana deserve choices, and they really didn't have a whole lot of choices," Butler said.

DPHHS urges caution regarding rabies and bats

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Recent potential bat exposures are prompting state and local public health officials to remind Montanans of the risk of bat exposures, especially at night when sleeping in an enclosed space where bats are found.

Public health officials recently assessed two situations where groups of people were potentially exposed to bats while they slept.

One situation involved a group that stayed overnight in a gymnasium. Members of the group reported seeing bats on the walls and in the rafters above where they slept. Due to the risk, public health recommended vaccination (also known as rabies post-exposure prophylaxis) to the exposed individuals.

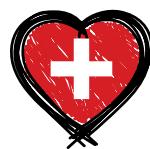
The second situation occurred when a group of travelers to another country found bats in the sleeping area of their rustic cabin. However, public health officials determined there were no identifiable exposures because mosquito netting was present to prevent any bat contact with a sleeping individual.

As a result of the successful vaccination of dogs and cats, transmission of rabies in the United States rarely occurs from a dog or cat bite. While rare, the majority of recent human rabies cases acquired in the United States have been related to bat exposures, many with no documented bite or direct contact with a bat. A 2015 human fatality in Wyoming and Montana's only two reported cases of human rabies in 1996 and 1997, followed this pattern.

Because bat bites inflicted by small, needle-like teeth can be difficult or impossible to detect, it is important to report potential bat exposures to a health care provider or public health officials for a risk assessment. Bats found in sleeping areas are a concern because sleeping people and small children may not be aware of, or unable to report, an exposure.

"It is important to consult with health authorities if you find a bat in your home," said Department of Public Health and Human Services communicable disease nurse Jen Fladager.

For more information about rabies prevention visit dpbhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdep/diseases/rabies.



From Jackie *with love*

Golf gets greener



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

In Big Sky, home to approximately 2,500-year round residents, there are four 18-hole golf courses. While researching lawn maintenance, I became curious about how the managers of our courses are responding to the growing concern over the health and environmental impacts of using chemical lawn products. So I called them.

I was immediately put in touch with the superintendent of each course. To my delight, they are all environmentally proactive with a thorough and practiced plan in place.

While each has a unique approach, there are overlapping methods. These include spraying chemicals only when and where necessary (which involves a more time-consuming spraying-by-hand method), using more eco-friendly items like granular products over sprays when possible, working with consulting firms, keeping tight control on water usage, and creating natural buffer zones between the greens and wetlands.

Ryan Blechta of Spanish Peaks is proactive when it comes to protecting the Gallatin River watershed. He says he and his team are going through the rigorous process of becoming certified by Audobon within the next five years. The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses was initiated in 1991 by the Audubon International, a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to conservation. Today, 354 courses in the United States have met their requirements, which work to ensure that wildlife like birds and fish living on and near golf courses are safe in their habitat.

Mike Wilcynski, Moonlight's former superintendent and now general manager, holds extra tight reins on water consumption. Every sprinkler head is individually controlled to prevent random and excessive watering. He says their greens play firm and fast. "While they might not be emerald green all the time, which comes with higher water and fertilizer usage, we are leaving a lighter footprint," Wilcynski said.

Bob Clarkson of the Yellowstone Club said he holds environmental stewardship as a top priority.

They implement the Best Management Practices Guide for Environmental Sustainability created by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Key components of their practices are water conservation, water quality protection, pollution prevention, energy conservation and integrated pest management, a program that seeks to reduce pesticide use by using a variety of practices to control or manage pests.

Water testing by the Gallatin River Task Force (GRTF) is in place on both the South Fork and West Fork below the Yellowstone Club. "These stations monitor real-time temperature, conductance and water levels. Nutrient data is also collected throughout the year. This monitoring process ensures that any potential issues would be detected," Clarkson said.

Big Sky's Sam Woodger notes that over the last six years they've been working closely with GRTF. This has led to receiving grant money that made it possible to refurbish three sections of the Gallatin River where there was erosion along the creek bank. "We planted willow and sedge to build up a buffer zone," Woodger said. "We also planted over 2,000 willow cuttings along water edges to prevent nitrate uptake."

There are occasionally noticeable algae blooms in waterways near local golf courses. I contacted GRTF Executive Director Kristin Gardner to ask if this was caused by excessive nitrogen from fertilizer run off. "Runoff of lawn chemicals is contributing nitrogen to the river, but the bigger culprit is the runoff and/or groundwater inputs from wastewater effluent irrigation onto the golf course," Gardner said. "Other contributors could be wastewater effluent from upstream septic tanks."

In response to this, I asked each superintendent if they'd be willing to meet with Whole Earth, a Bozeman-based landscaping company, to learn more about the use of the organic compound Biochar. It is believed that Biochar can shield waterways from excessive nitrogen run off. Read my column in the Aug. 4 issue of EBS for more about how Biochar works. Each superintendent responded that they're always interested in learning about more eco-friendly ways to manage their grounds.

These conversations made me hopeful and grateful that we've reached a turning point in how we treat our environment and we're making changes to do the right thing.

Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach, culture consultant and public speaker. For a complimentary health consultation, reach her at rainfordcorcoran@gmail.com.

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An overview of allergic reactions to antibiotics

BY JEFF DANIELS
EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

A problem that comes up frequently in the practice of medicine is an allergic reaction to a drug. Many people, when questioned, will give a history of having a bad reaction to one or more medications at some point in their life. Not all of these reactions are allergic in nature, and not all supposed allergic reactions will repeat themselves.

The definition of an allergy is a troublesome set of symptoms, sometimes a nuisance, but sometimes life threatening, that occurs when one or more branches of the immune system react with a foreign substance (a drug, a harmless pollen, a food) leading to a specific medical problem. Most allergic reactions occur after more than one exposure.

Symptoms of drug allergy range from an itchy rash to life-threatening anaphylaxis, and antibiotics are the most likely class of drugs to do that, notably penicillin and its derivatives, and sulfa antibiotics. When taken to treat an infection, these two groups of medicines combine with the normal proteins of the body and present a foreign-looking molecule, called a haptene, to the vigilant immune system. In turn, the immune system unleashes cells and molecules to remove what it considers to be invaders. This happens in everyone, but only a small percentage of people will manifest a clinical reaction.

The type of reaction depends on which branch of the immune system has been activated. Most commonly, an inflammation occurs in a patient's millions of tiny blood vessels, particularly in the skin, leading to a rash. This can occur immediately, but usually occurs days or weeks after starting the offending drug.

The rash from penicillin or sulfa comes in two forms. The most common rash is called a maculopapular eruption, which is red and itchy, flat against the surface of the skin, and will fade away once the drug is stopped. The other type of rash we see is hives, or urticaria, which refer to raised itchy blotches with very irregular borders, and notably come and go over several hours to several days.

Rashes can be confusing, especially in early childhood, where many different kinds of viruses (that don't get better with penicillin or amoxicillin) produce a similar-looking rash. Since the penicillins came into general use in the 1950s, they have been overused to treat viral illnesses, ear infections, bronchitis and sinus infections, most of which we now know are not really helped by antibiotics.

Many people carry around a diagnosis of penicillin allergy because of confusion with a viral rash. If they've been falsely diagnosed, they have fewer options later in life for an otherwise safe and inexpensive medicine.

At the other end of the allergic reactions spectrum is life-threatening anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is derived from Greek and means "against protection." It refers to the rapid onset of several symptoms all at once, including a rash, swelling of the face and other areas, difficulty breathing because of an asthmatic reaction or swelling of the trachea, and a loss of fluid internally that results in a precipitous drop in blood pressure, known as anaphylactic shock.

Anaphylaxis has an onset of minutes to hours after exposure to a drug—or being stung by a bee or hornet, or eating a food known to cause allergies, like peanuts or shrimp. It occurs when the immune system makes too much of a certain immunoglobulin, known as IgE, which serves as a trigger for the release of the chemical histamine. Excessive histamine release is responsible for the rapid onset of the symptoms of anaphylaxis.

The administration of epinephrine will reverse anaphylaxis, and people who know they might be prone to this condition should carry epinephrine (in the form of an EpiPen or some other injection device) for immediate use once this the reaction begins.

There are tests to determine if someone has severe allergic sensitivity to penicillin. A skin test, similar to the ones done for hay fever, using a chain of penicillin molecules, can give proof that too much histamine could be released if exposed systemically to penicillin. It's not a perfect test, and is usually used in the hospital setting when an infection must be treated with penicillin.

For most people with a history of penicillin or sulfa allergy, avoidance keeps them out of trouble. By avoidance, I mean either thinking twice about taking an antibiotic if it really isn't necessary, or switching to a totally unrelated class of antibiotics to treat a bacterial infection.

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.

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Section 4: OUTDOORS & FUN



INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



Expect heavy visitation at Yellowstone around Aug. 21 Park entrance fees waived on Aug. 25, Sept. 30

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Visitation to Yellowstone National Park in the days before, during, and after the solar eclipse on Aug. 21 is anticipated to be heavier than usual.

On Aug. 21, visitors will see the moon pass between the sun and earth, blocking a part of the sun—a partial eclipse—throughout the park. Yellowstone is not in the path of totality.

Park roads and facilities may be overwhelmed by this large influx of visitors who are here to see the eclipse. The National Park Service does not recommend traveling in and out of Yellowstone's South Entrance on Aug. 21. That entrance borders Grand Teton National Park and the centerline of the solar eclipse will pass over that park, placing it in the path of totality.

Aug. 21 is anticipated to be the busiest day in the history of Grand Teton National Park.

Here's what you can do to prepare:

- Pack your patience
- Expect heavy traffic on park roads
- Give yourself plenty of time to travel to and from your destination
- Get up-to-date road conditions online at www.nps.gov/yell/

planyourvisit/parkroads.htm and by phone at (307) 344-2117

- Do not expect to have cell phone service, even in areas where it is normally available
- Arrive with enough food, water and fuel in your vehicle for the entire day
- Bring appropriate eclipse viewing glasses (available in park lodges, general stores and bookstores) and solar filters for cameras, binoculars or telescopes
- Read the solar eclipse frequently asked questions at nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/eclipsefaqs.htm

In Yellowstone, the partial eclipse will occur between 10:15 a.m. and 1 p.m. The eclipse will "peak" around 11:36 a.m. for a little over two minutes.

If you will be along the path of totality for the total solar eclipse, you may want to consider participating in the Eclipse Megamovie Project, a citizen science project that aims to gather images of the eclipse from over 1,000 volunteer photographers and amateur astronomers. The media assets will be stitched together to create an expanded and continuous view of the total solar eclipse as it crosses the United States.

Also of note: The National Park Service will celebrate its 101st birthday on Aug. 25 by waiving entrance fees at all national parks.

Entrance will also be free on Sept. 30, National Public Lands Day.

Yellowstone Park vehicle traffic nearing capacity

BY BOB MOEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) - Sometime within the next four to six years, Yellowstone National Park is expected to reach its capacity for being able to handle all the vehicles that tourists drive through the park to see sights like Old Faithful, wild wolves and grizzly bears and spectacular scenery.

Potential solutions include instituting a reservation system or passenger shuttles to control the number of visitors during peak times for the busiest attractions in the park, but no decisions will be made for at least a couple of years, according to the National Park Service.

"Historic and recent trends demonstrate that visitation will increase over the long-term, therefore, it is imperative for us to plan now," Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk said in a statement. "Good visitor-use management will allow the park to protect resources, encourage access, and improve experiences."

The agency on Thursday released a pair of studies looking at traffic and parking in the nation's first national park and visitor demographics and expectations.

Based on conservative estimates of visitor growth to the park, the traffic study said the nation's first national park should expect to exceed its overall vehicular capacity by 2021-2023.

"The more popular areas of the park are already over capacity under current conditions during peak season," the study noted.

Two-thirds of the more than 1,250 visitors surveyed in August 2016 said that finding available parking is a problem and more than half think there are too many people in the park.

The report recommended additional traffic studies within the park and the Greater Yellowstone region to help park officials develop solutions that could include developing a plan that "evaluates and defines visitor capacities for key locations in the park."

One suggestion the report made was that park service officials might consider managing the number of visitors to the busy geyser basin attractions during peak time through "reservation systems."

Using shuttles, which have been adopted by some other national parks, is another possible solution.

The park service pledged to gather more information through 2019 that "will guide the park in evaluating trade-offs in visitor experience and developing the most appropriate strategies to address summer season visitor-use challenges." It promised to listen to all concerns to help shape any actions.

Yellowstone spokeswoman Morgan Warthin said Thursday that no decisions are imminent and that the park considers the matter to be in a "pre-planning phase."

More than 4.25 million people visited Yellowstone in 2016.

According to the survey of park visitors, 83 percent of Yellowstone's visitors come from the United States and 17 percent come from abroad with people from Europe and China the top two respectively among international travelers.



BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

A local angler who fishes more than 200 days a year told me the other day that he was struggling to catch fish as easily as he did earlier in the summer. My response, albeit a tad adolescent, was, "Well, duh—it's late August."

The next few weeks serve up some of the year's most challenging fishing. Low and clear water, a lack of abundant hatches, water temps climbing in the afternoon causing fish to feed less, and fish that have seen a good amount of angling pressure for several months combine to make for tricky fishing conditions. With that comes the need to tighten up your angling game. Here's some help.

Early on and early off. If people call these days the "dog days of summer," imagine how a river-dwelling trout feels late in the afternoons. Low and clear water mean that trout are more sensitive to light refracting into the water than they are earlier in the season. Counter this by fishing during the hours of the day when light and water temperatures are more conducive to active trout.

Slow down. With the early wake times required for angling success, stretching the last bit of sleep out of your night will be challenging. But the slow down begins the night before—get to bed early so you can wake up early and be ready to hit the water fresh and focused. Once you're on the water, take your time. Fish feed more cautiously in late summer, so stalk a stream slowly, eyeing every possible feeding location. Be meticulous with your rig, as minor adjustments make a big difference.

Sweat the small stuff. In my younger angling days I scoffed at micro-split shot, the advantage of fluorocarbon, the various types of floatants, and other tackle adjustments. However, as fish become more selective, how your fly is presented is more crucial. Micro-split shot allows for minor changes in a deep nymph rig. For example, a feeding trout may not be willing to move to a different depth to eat your fly, so you have to adjust to get to the right depth.

When fishing dry flies, understand which floatants work the best. Visit my Aug. 4 column for the breakdown on floatants. For sub-surface fishing, such as deep nymphs or emergers below a larger dry fly, fish fluorocarbon tippet. Fluorocarbon is thinner and stronger than mono-filament and less visible in water.

Fish more thoroughly. As trout become more concentrated due to low water, fish deeper runs with conviction as trout will hold in deeper, cooler water. Like above, slow down and spend time fishing all depths. Play around with micro split-shot and fluorocarbon. The sweet spot where trout feed and your fly drifts does exist...you just have to be patient and fish thoroughly to find it.

Think outside of the box. As a self-proclaimed dry fly snob, my late summer angling used to consist of fishing grasshopper and ant patterns on blind faith. I still do that and it often works well for me, but occasionally I have to get creative.

The biggest fly fishing mistakes, and how to solve them



The dog days of summer are upon us. That doesn't mean your fishing has to cease, but it does mean that you need to adjust many facets of your angling. PHOTO BY JACK GARDER

I'll fish very long droppers off my dry fly when fishing a dry-dropper rig. A 4-to-6 foot dropper is not uncommon for me. Other longtime anglers I know will drag, rather than strip, streamers through deeper runs, thinking lethargic late summer fish are less likely to chase a stripped streamer. Consider taking colored markers to make the body of a tan fly black, so it looks more like an ant than a stonefly. The possibilities are endless—you just have to take the time to be different.

Maintain perspective. Trout are animals and react to their environment. Sometimes they feed and sometimes they don't. Sometimes, no matter how good an angler is or how perfect the rig and drift are, trout just don't eat. These instances occur more frequently in late summer than other times of the year. If you find yourself in this scenario, take a break and enjoy the surroundings. If you must have instant gratification, somewhere nearby there is a Taco Bell open 24 hours.

I used to disdain the next few weeks of the angling calendar. With more than 20 years of local angling experience, I've grown to really enjoy the last two weeks of August. The masses of tourists are gone and the fair weather anglers are back to reading online blogs. For those like myself willing to fish on a little less sleep and try something different, the dog days might as well be called the trout days.

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 co-owns Montana Fishing Outfitters and the Montana Fishing Guide School.

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The Rut attracts 2,500 racers to Big Sky Resort

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The fifth annual Rut Mountain Runs—Big Sky Resort's challenging alpine race—sold out in record time this year. Within a matter of hours, the 28K race was full.

Approximately 2,500 racers from all over the world will converge at Big Sky Resort during the weekend of Sept. 1-3 to tackle some of the toughest terrain in the world. Last year, Outside magazine named The Rut one of "the world's eight toughest races."

The Rut Mountain Runs attracts world-class trail runners as it's the only North American race stop on the International Skyrunner Series tour.

This year, The North Face is the title sponsor. On Friday, Sept. 1, from 3-5 p.m. ultrarunner Rob Krar will sign posters in The North Face retail location at Big Sky Resort.

New to The Rut this year, The North Face is bringing its speaker series to Big Sky Resort at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 2, in the Yellowstone Conference Center. Speakers include ultrarunners Timothy Olson and Cedar Wright who will share tales of their latest adventures. Olson will discuss his 2016 Hardrock 100 race, which is the basis for the film "The Unknown." Wright will share stories and present his film, "Of Choss and Lion," which is about a recent expedition to Kenya with climber Alex Honnold.

The event will be emceed by Bozeman-native Conrad Anker and The North Face athlete team captain.



The Rut returns to Big Sky Resort for the fifth annual three-day multi-race event taking place Sept. 1-3. Considered one of the world's most challenging courses, the race attracts approximately 2,500 runners from around the world. PHOTO BY AMANDA EGGERT

The Rut Mountain Runs consists of five races: a 50K, 28K, "Vertical K," 11K and the Runt Run, a child's race. Many of these courses take racers to the top of Lone Peak at 11,166 feet. The 50K racers will gain 10,500 feet of elevation. The 28K racers will ascend 7,800 feet.

Spectating is highly encouraged during The Rut Mountain Runs. Turn out to cheer on some of the top ultrarunners in the world.

For a complete schedule of race times and events, visit bigskyresort.com/rut.

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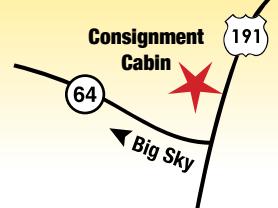
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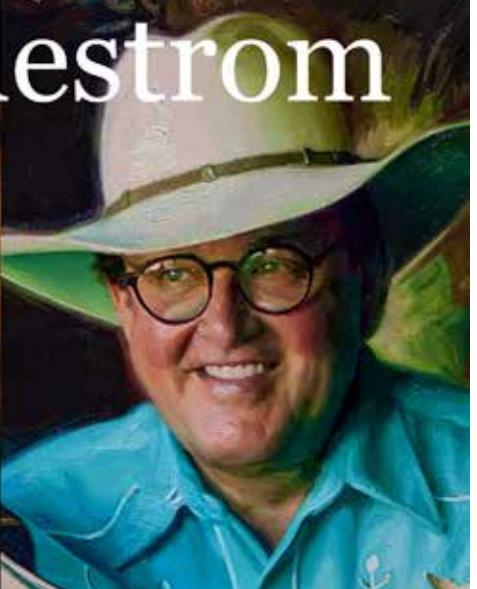
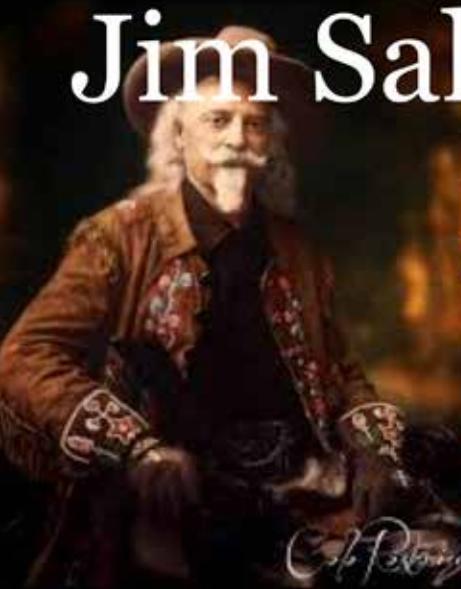
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On the Trail: Lower Beehive Basin

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

BY CIARA WOLFE
BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Lower Beehive Basin U.S. Forest Service trail is the lesser-known access trail to the popular Beehive Basin Trail. This intermediate level dirt trail ascends 745 feet over the course of its 1.4 miles before connecting with the Beehive Basin Trail, which leads directly into the Lee Metcalf Wilderness area and up to the basin's shallow lake.

The trail is primitive due to minimal usage, but provides expansive views of Lone Peak and an abundance of wildflowers. The Lower Beehive Basin trailhead is also within walking distance of the Mountain Village area of Big Sky Resort.

For those looking for a longer, more difficult hike than the 7.1-mile Beehive Basin trail, Lower Beehive Basin trail also serves as an extension by adding 3 miles round-trip to the trek.

The trail starts approximately 100 yards past the main entrance of Big Sky Resort, immediately before the fire station. The trail begins across a grassy field a couple hundred feet beyond a large pullout on Highway 64.

The pullout has a brown USFS sign pointing to the Lower Beehive Basin trailhead and denoting the additional 3 miles it adds to the Beehive Basin trail. The primitive trail climbs up a shale ridgeline crossing several small bridges and one high wooden bridge across a steep ravine. Once you have crested the ridgeline, be sure to turn around and take in the impressive view of Lone Peak. Continue to follow Beehive Basin road in and out of the forest until you reach the Upper Beehive Basin Trail.

This portion of the trail crosses two small private roads, one gated and one dirt. Cross in front of the gate, and upon reaching the dirt road, walk approximately 50 feet along the road before dropping back onto the trail and into a steep forested ravine. The trail can be faint in sections, however if you look ahead you will always see where an evident trail picks back up.

The trail ends across the road from the Beehive Basin Trail, where an additional 3.3 miles one-way culminates at Beehive Basin and lake. Please note that where this trail ends, a private trail with public access called the Summit View Nature Trail begins. This trail follows along Beehive Creek into the Summit View

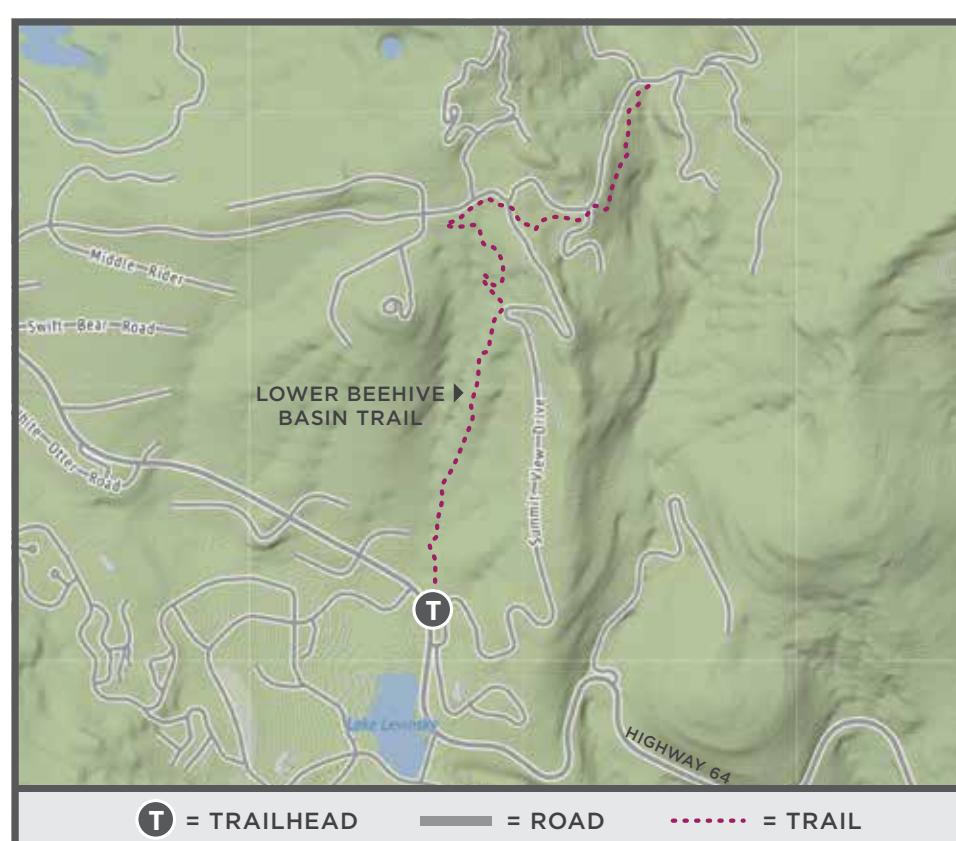


Lower Beehive Basin Trail starts across from the entrance to Big Sky Resort and connects with the popular Beehive Basin Trail after 1.4 miles. PHOTO BY CIARA WOLFE

subdivision. When returning make sure that you stay on the correct trail as the Summit View Nature Trail does not end in the same place.

Please be bear aware while enjoying this trail that will not only extend your Beehive Basin hike, but provide beautiful views of the surrounding landscape and wildflowers. Unlike the Upper Beehive Basin trail, you will also most likely have it all to yourself.

For more information about Big Sky's Parks, Trails & Recreation Programs visit bscomt.org. The Big Sky Community Organization is a local non-profit that connects people to recreational opportunities by acquiring, promoting and preserving sustainable places and programs for all.



TRAIL STATS



Distance

2.8 miles
roundtrip



Uses

Hikers,
runners, horses



Difficulty

Intermediate



Elevation

7,538 feet
(trailhead)



Surface

Dirt

Directions: Turning off Highway 191 onto Lone Mountain Trail, follow the signs 9 miles to Big Sky Resort. Park in the dirt pull out 100 yards past the entrance to Big Sky Resort. The trailhead is across the grassy field within the trees.

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GATHER



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WHERE BIG SKY COMES TOGETHER

Town Center to Mountain Village Bus Schedule

Heading Up

DEPARTING
TOWN CENTER

7:25a / 8:35a / 9:35a / 11:35a / 2:35p / 3:35p
4:35p / 5:35p / 6:35p / 8:35p / 10:35p

ARRIVING
MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

7:44a / 8:54a / 9:54a / 11:54a / 2:54p / 4:54p
5:54p / 6:54p / 8:54p / 10:54p

Mountain Village to Town Center Bus Schedule

Heading Down

DEPARTING
MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

8:15a / 9:15a / 10:15a / 12:15p / 3:15p / 5:15p
6:15p / 7:15p / 9:15p / 11:15p

ARRIVING
TOWN CENTER

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

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Inside the Big Sky | By Derek Lennon

Where to go backcountry fishing in alpine lakes near Big Sky

BY DEREK LENNON
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Backcountry fishing in alpine lakes is truly a unique experience. Grabbing your gear and hoofing it down the trail deep into the wild mountains that surround Big Sky is an adventure everyone will enjoy.

Picture having a pristine, crystal clear alpine lake all to yourself. It's just you and Mother Nature. Cutthroats, grayling and rainbows regularly rise to the surface creating ripples on the lake's perfect, glasslike surface. The towering peaks and stunning alpine cirques make for a setting straight out of National Geographic. Before you drop your line in the water you might have to pinch yourself to remind yourself this is real. This is Big Sky Country.

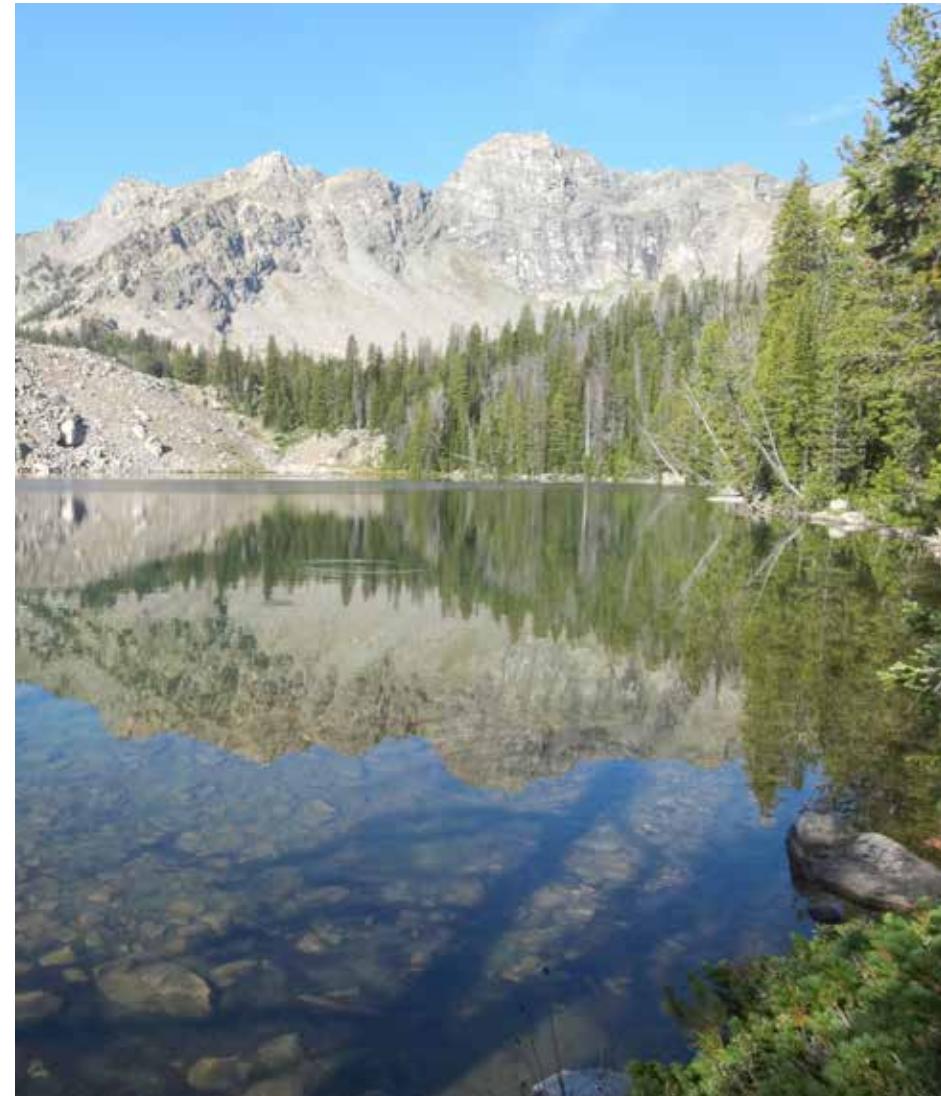
Grab a map of the Big Sky area—Beartooth Publishing puts out a great one—or check out Joshua Bergan's book "Flyfisher's Guide to Southwest Montana's Mountain Lakes." Scanning the map, you'll notice countless named and unnamed lakes dotting the mountain landscape in Big Sky's backyard. Some of them contain fish and others don't. How does one even know where to begin?

Did you know that a good number of the alpine lakes in Big Sky Country are actually stocked by the government? You can obtain detailed information from Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks about fishing in alpine lakes near Big Sky. FWP's thorough Montana Fishing Guide provides information about fishing and boating regulations, stocking, fishing pressure and an interactive map.

We grabbed some of the data from the Montana Fishing Guide to help you quickly locate stocked alpine lakes near Big Sky in the Madison and Gallatin ranges.

Madison Range

Avalanche Lake – Yellowstone cutthroat trout
Beehive Lake – westslope cutthroat trout
Blue Danube Lake – golden trout
Blue Paradise Lake – rainbow trout
Cedar Lake – westslope cutthroat trout
Cherry Lake – westslope cutthroat trout
Chilled Lakes – westslope cutthroat trout
Diamond Lake – westslope cutthroat trout
Expedition Lake – westslope cutthroat trout
Gnome Lake – Yellowstone cutthroat trout
Grayling Lake – Arctic grayling
High Hope Lake – westslope cutthroat trout
Hilgard Lake – westslope cutthroat trout
Lake Cameron – westslope cutthroat trout, Yellowstone cutthroat trout
Lake Ha Hand – westslope cutthroat trout
Lava Lake – rainbow trout
Lillian Lake – westslope cutthroat trout
Lizard Lake, Lower – westslope cutthroat trout
Margo Lake – westslope cutthroat trout
North Spanish Lake – westslope cutthroat trout, Yellowstone cutthroat trout
Painted Lake – Yellowstone cutthroat trout
Ramona Lake – westslope cutthroat trout
Spanish Lakes – westslope cutthroat trout
Sunset Lake – westslope cutthroat trout
Ulery's Lakes – rainbow trout



Montana has countless alpine lakes suitable for backcountry fishing. Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks' "Montana Fishing Guide" is a helpful resource to find stocked alpine lakes near Big Sky. PHOTO BY DEREK LENNON

Gallatin Range

Big Bear Lake – westslope cutthroat trout
Heather Lake – record incomplete
Hyalite Reservoir – Arctic grayling, brook trout, Yellowstone cutthroat trout
Lake Elsie – Yellowstone cutthroat trout
Upper Bear Lake – westslope cutthroat trout

As you explore Big Sky's vast backyard, you'll discover that additional lakes not listed here also contain fish. Don't think of this as a complete list of alpine lakes with fish, instead consider it a starting point for your backcountry fishing adventures.

Everyone should give backcountry fishing in alpine lakes near Big Sky a try. Make it a day hike or turn it into a backpacking trip. This outdoor adventure is well worth the effort—and every real fisherman needs to experience it.

Remember that all fishing activities require a Montana or Yellowstone National Park fishing license.

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/alpine-lake-fishing-near-big-sky/>. Read more interesting content about the area on Visit Big Sky's blog at <https://visitbigskymt.com/category/blog/>.

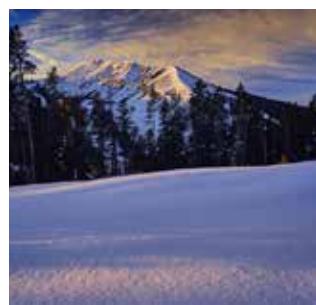
YELLOWSTONE CLUB*



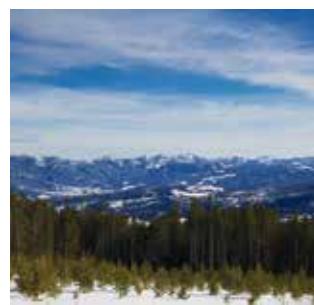
River Runs Through It
13,349 SQ FT / \$14M



388 Andesite Ridge Rd.
5,020 SQ FT / \$6.45M



Lot 338 Bristlecone Dr
14.6 Acres / \$4.95M



Lot 86 Andesite Ridge Rd.
2.64 Acres / \$3.3M



Lot 472 White Spruce Dr.
2.9 Acres / \$3.3M

SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB*



Lot 38 Bitterbrush Trail
1.27 ACRES / See agent
for details



118 Old Barn Rd.
2.49 ACRES / See agent
for details

MOONLIGHT BASIN*



Luxury Suite 1B
2,563 SQ FT / \$1.445M



Kandahar at
Beehive Basin
5,409 SQ FT / \$3.45M



25 Lower Dudley Creek
4,076 SQ FT / \$1.65

BIG SKY



330 Beaver Mountain Trl.
2,293 SQ FT / \$780K



99 Pheasant Tail Unit 1
2,805 SQ FT / \$759K



Summit Hotel 911/912
1,303 SQ FT / \$695K



49850 Gallatin Rd.
2,499 SQ FT / \$595K

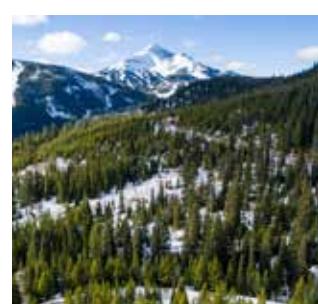


281 Village Center
473 SQ FT / \$295K

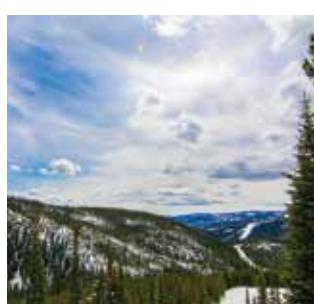
BIG SKY



Lot 15 Bobtail Horse Rd.
.88 ACRES / \$445K



Lot 1 Ciel Drive
8.03 ACRES / \$415K



Lot 3 Joy Rd.
6.83 Acres / \$395K



Gallatin Rd. Parcel 1
2.63 ACRES / \$255K



Gallatin Rd. Tract 4
1.4 ACRES / \$254K

RANCH & RECREATION



Yellowstone Ranch Preserve
Hebgen Lake, MT
277.17 ACRES | \$8.365M
239.75 ACRES | **Under Contract**
236.52 ACRES | \$6.95M
Whiskey Jug Cabin : 2,702 SQ FT



SxS Ranch
Bozeman, MT
483.78 ACRES / \$7.5M



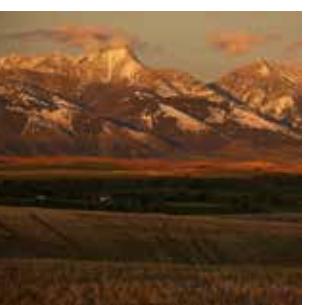
Missouri River Ranch
Craig, MT
160 Acres / \$5.9M



Mountain Meadows
Big Sky, MT
120 Acres / \$3.495M



Homestead at the Beacon
Butte, MT
640 Acres / \$1.65M



Rocking S7 Ranch Lot 4
Bozeman, MT
20.232 ACRES / \$650K

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YELLOWSTONE CLUB*



Lot 144A Pumice Rd.
2 Acres / \$2.65M

SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB*



Homestead Cabin #6
2,585 SQ FT / \$2.2M



Ski Tip Lot 10
1.02 Acres / \$875K



UNDER CONTRACT
Ski Tip Lot 8
1.11 Acres / \$825K



Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.
3.13 Acres / \$450K

BIG SKY



245 Rain in Face
3,446 SQ FT / \$1.595



Mountain Selah
4,574 SQ FT / \$1.35M



Black Eagle Lodge
2,549 SQ FT / \$1.35M



100 Crail Ranch Dr.
3,730 SQ FT / \$1.29M



NEW LISTING
2237 Little Coyote
2,346 SQ FT / \$895K

BIG SKY



Cedar Creek 55
868 SQ FT / \$285K



PRICE REDUCED
Big EZ Lots 42 & 43
20 ACRES ea. / \$699K
option to purchase
separately



Lot 4 Beaver Creek West
20 ACRES / \$539K



Lot 287A Rising Bull Rd.
1.04 Acres / \$529K



NEW LISTING
Big EZ Lot 13
20 ACRES / \$449K

BOZEMAN



Limestone Creek
40 ACRES / 10,297 SQ FT
\$12.9M



NEW LISTING
353 Little Wolf Road
2,784 SQ FT / \$625K



1800 Skunk Creek Rd.
38.71 ACRES / \$393K



NEW LISTING
134 E. Magnolia Dr.
1,522 SQ FT / \$210K



Osprey Cove Lakehouse
Hebgen Lake, MT
4,628 SQ FT / \$1.795M



Lot 14 Chokecherry Lane
Hebgen Lake, MT
1.08 Acres / \$97.5K

GREATER MONTANA



Big Sky Entrance Property
Big Sky, MT
4.61 Acres / \$3.24M



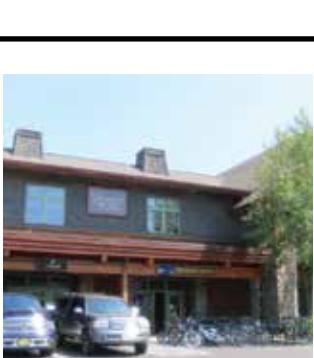
Parcel 3B Gallatin Rd.
Gallatin Canyon, MT
5.46 ACRES / \$640K



Marketplace Unit 104
Big Sky, MT
1,204 SQ FT / \$560,920



BeaverPond Plaza
Units 8A & 8B
Bozeman, MT
3,400 SQ FT | \$390K



RJS Tower Unit 205/207
Big Sky, MT
961 SQ FT / \$339K



Airport Garages
Bozeman, MT
\$24.9K per unit
2 available units

COMMERCIAL



Big Sky Entrance Property
Big Sky, MT
4.61 Acres / \$3.24M



Parcel 3B Gallatin Rd.
Gallatin Canyon, MT
5.46 ACRES / \$640K



Marketplace Unit 104
Big Sky, MT
1,204 SQ FT / \$560,920



BeaverPond Plaza
Units 8A & 8B
Bozeman, MT
3,400 SQ FT | \$390K



RJS Tower Unit 205/207
Big Sky, MT
961 SQ FT / \$339K



Airport Garages
Bozeman, MT
\$24.9K per unit
2 available units

Bozeman conservation group hosts biking competition

EBS STAFF

The Gallatin Valley Land Trust NextGen Advisory Board, a group of young professionals dedicated to protecting the region's open spaces, wants to get goofy. The board invites those with a passion for trails and outdoors to don your best costume and decorate your bike for the second annual Pedal Parade Thursday, Aug. 24, at 5:30 p.m.

Participants can meet at the GVLT parking lot at 212 South Wallace Avenue and travel in groups to designated trail stops around Bozeman for chances to win prizes. NextGen members have set up six stations that participants are challenged to visit within one hour. Each location will award one raffle ticket to cyclists, with an additional raffle ticket going to those who successfully complete a given activity or answer a trivia question. There are bonus stops farther from town that award an extra ticket for biking fast and far.

Upon arrival back at the GVLT parking lot, participants can use their raffle tickets for a chance to win a number of prizes, including a one night stay at Element Hotel, a \$500 Sitka Gear gift card, a pair of Simms Fishing waders, three hours of business legal services from Kristin Bailey Law, a pair of Oboz Footwear shoes, a Rocky Mountain Toy Company kids package, or a Mystery Ranch backpack. Food and beer will also be available for purchase.

This event is kid and family friendly, with multiple trail stations close enough to the base camp for little tykes to reach within the time limit. Children can drop their earned tickets into the bucket for a special kids' raffle prize.

A trophy will be awarded for the best costume and decorated bike. The sillier the better, the advisory board says—you'll be in good company.



Last year the Gallatin Valley Land Trust NextGen Advisory Board hosted the inaugural NextGen Pedal Parade, a biking costume competition challenging riders to visit trail stops around Bozeman for a chance to win a prize. This year's event is slated for Aug. 24. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN VALLEY LAND TRUST

GVLT is a Bozeman-based non-profit that works to conserve our region's open spaces and access to trails. In order to better connect with the community, GVLT adopted the NextGen Advisory Board in May 2016, bringing young professionals onboard to help with outreach and fundraising. The board also helps GVLT to look to the future and understand the needs of the growing community.

To learn more about the NextGen Pedal Parade visit gvlt.org/events/nextgen-pedal-parade.

Wildlife Commission approves extended elk hunting season west of Bozeman

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN - The Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission approved a proposal Aug. 10 to extend the 2017 elk hunting season west of Bozeman to address changing elk migration patterns and landowner concerns.

The extended season, termed a late shoulder season, is effective for all lands within the northern portion of hunting district 311, excluding National Forest land. The area extends north of Highway 84 toward Three Forks, stretching between Bozeman and Harrison. The new shoulder season will follow after the general rifle season, beginning Nov. 27 and continuing through Feb. 15, 2018.

Region 3 wildlife biologist Julie Cunningham says this extended season is an effort to reduce property damage caused by increased numbers of elk migrating into the region for the winter, and will also address concerns about brucellosis transfer when elk come into contact with cattle.

Historically, these elk spent the winters in the higher-elevation area south of Highway 84 near Big Sky and the Spanish Peaks, but a number of factors have led elk to migrate into areas owned by relatively small farms, ranches and dairies where elk have not been seen for generations. Migration typically coincides with snowfall and the elk herd generally does not move into the area until after the general elk hunting season closes.

"The original cause of this expansion may relate to snow conditions, forage availability and predators," Cunningham said.

Beginning in 2009, biologists and landowners observed a herd of approximately 1,800 elk expanding its range north of Highway 84 and the new distribution pattern has changed markedly in the last few years as the elk seek high-value forage. According to Cunningham, elk found unprotected hay stackyards and grain left over in fields after harvest, which causes a herd memory of the readily available forage and continues to draw them back to the area.

"1,800 elk can devour an average-sized unprotected [hay] stackyard in a matter of days," Cunningham said. This might be hay intended to feed livestock through the winter, or could be hay stored for later sale.

An added concern for landowners and biologists is a reported 22.5 percent seroprevalence of brucellosis in the herd, meaning 22 percent of sampled elk

were found to have brucellosis present in their blood. Brucellosis is a self-sustaining bacterial infection that can be transmitted between species, and causes abortion in infected wildlife and livestock.

"[Twenty-two percent] is high when it comes to a herd of elk. Twenty-two of 100 elk could have it," said Montana Department of Livestock veterinarian and brucellosis specialist Eric Liska. "When you start saying one in every five animals are potentially going to be affected ... that's a lot of animals."

The major concern, Liska said, is the potential spread of brucellosis to humans through ingestion of infected food products. Should infected elk mingle with area cattle, ranchers may be required to quarantine their herds and undergo expensive testing and vaccinations prior to selling or even moving the cattle.

Since the initial change in the area elk migration, FWP has authorized specific measures in order to aid landowners, however the actions were ineffective in dealing with the large elk herd. Efforts included small, specialized hunts on individual properties and the use of herders to haze elk away from hay and cattle.

"When you start thinking about ranchers in Montana, they're huge advocates for the land and the wildlife on that land," Liska said. Landowners care about wildlife, but are also concerned about their own livelihood, he added.

Overall, the objective of the shoulder season is not to drastically change the elk population number, but to change the migration pattern, Cunningham said. Biologists hope that hunting pressure as elk move into their newly established winter range will encourage the herd to reestablish their winter range back to the south toward the Spanish Peaks.

To assess the effectiveness of this new plan, area biologists will survey the elk population during winter flights and document herd locations. Landowner input will also be recorded.

In order to hunt during the late shoulder season, hunters can use a general elk license or a hunting district 311 antlerless B license, which is available for purchase through the FWP surplus tag system at fwp.mt.gov. One thousand of these licenses will be available, a twofold increase from the previous year.

Cunningham says hunters are welcome to call the Region 3 Headquarters office in Bozeman in order to learn more about specific areas within the hunting district that are experiencing elk pressure. Call (406) 994-4042 to learn more.

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\$2,100,000 | #219569 | Call Don
Ridge home in Antler Ridge with views of Lone Mtn from all three bedrooms, the great room and from the sunny south facing deck. Reclaimed beams, granite, high-end appliances, convenient mid-mountain location.



26 TROTWOOD CIRCLE

\$619,000 | #303585 | Call Stacy or Eric
3 bd, 2.5 ba Lone Peak Townhome in the heart of Town Center. Walk to many amenities. Gourmet kitchen, Granite countertops, SS appliances. 1 car garage. Views of Yellow Mountain.



FOURPOINT RD, ANTLER RIDGE LOT

\$240,000 | #214051 | Call Don
.35± acre ridge lot, great building site, views of Lone Mtn, Yellow Mtn, and canyon. One of the first lots sold when initially offered, rolling hillside topography with community W/S.



SITTING BULL ROAD, HILL CONDO

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2 bd, 1 ba, 3 level Hill Condo Loft. Chefs kitchen with new cabinets, SS appliances and breakfast bar. Remodeled bathroom, wood floors, ski storage room, and washer/dryer. This unit is perfect for year-round living or as a secondary home.

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GEAR REVIEW

SLUMBERJACK NIGHTFALL 2

With the summer days getting shorter and the nights cooling down, the Slumberjack Nightfall 2 is the perfect tent for a late summer camping trip. With a 15-minute max pitch time, this tent made it easy to secure a camping spot and quickly hit the trails.

Setting up the Nightfall 2 was a breeze. With just three poles and a handful of stakes, directions were minimal and straightforward. The tent is surprisingly large and comfortably fit two adults and a 40-pound sprawled-out pup. With near vertical sidewalls, the inside felt quite roomy for the seemingly small exterior. The front porch vestibule rolls up to allow more airflow, and can be converted into a shade awning with a couple of trekking poles.

Although a perfect end-of-summer tent, this three-season mountain tent can handle just about any weather thrown its way. External pitch pole architecture keeps it dry in the rain, and the full coverage rain fly ensures a dry and comfortable experience. The rain fly also keeps out strong nighttime wind. With lightweight 7001 series aluminum poles and an overall weight of 5 pounds and 10 ounces, this tent is ideal for backpackers and hunters heading out into potentially chilly weather. – Marisa Specht

\$140, slumberjack.com



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SUNDAY

10:00-11:15am
All Levels Yoga

MONDAY

7:00-8:00am
Dance X
9:00-10:15am
All Levels Yoga
11:00-Noon
(July-Labor Day)
Community Yoga for a
Cause (ALS)
(Outside in Town
Center)

TUESDAY

7:00-8:00am
All Levels Yoga
8:15-9:15am
All Levels Yoga
9:30-10:30am
All Levels Yoga
6:30-7:45pm
All Levels Yoga

WEDNESDAY

7:00-8:00am
Dance X
9:00-10:15am
All Levels Yoga
11:00-Noon
The Practice (Yoga
Level II-III)

THURSDAY

7:00-8:00am
All Levels Mat Pilates
8:15-9:15am
All Levels Yoga
9:30-10:30am
All Levels Yoga

FRIDAY

9:00-10:15am
Level II Yoga
11:00-Noon
Yin/Restorative Yoga

SATURDAY

9:00-10:00am
All Levels Yoga
Check schedule online
(workshops may take
the place of class)



**RECREATION - ART - WELLNESS - HISTORY
ENVIRONMENT - KIDS ACTIVITIES**

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

Mindfulness & Exploration Hike

10:00 a.m.

Willow Way Trail with Angela Marie Patnode

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22

Geology Hike

10:00 a.m.

Uplands Trail with Katie Alvin and East Slope Sports

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29

**Keeping the Gallatin Clean:
An Aquatic Invasive Species Adventure**

10:00 a.m.

*Willow Way Trail with Gallatin River Task Force &
Gallatin-Big Sky Weed Committee*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Your Forest at Work

10:00 a.m.

Hummocks Trail with the Natural Resource Council

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Walk with A Doc

10:00 a.m.

Uplands Trail with Big Sky Medical Center



BIG SKY
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

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



NPS PHOTO

Bobcat // *Lynx rufus*

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

- Bobcats are elusive and nocturnal, so they are rarely spotted by humans. Although they are seldom seen, they roam throughout much of North America.

- Fierce hunters, bobcats can kill prey much bigger than themselves, but usually eat rabbits, birds, mice, squirrels and other smaller game.

- In some areas, bobcats are still trapped for their soft, spotted fur. North American populations are believed to be quite large, with perhaps as many as one million cats in the United States alone.

They face habitat destruction from agricultural and industrial development as well urban sprawl. The ever-expanding human population further limits their ranges.

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BIG SKY BEATS

BY LIAM KESHISHIAN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

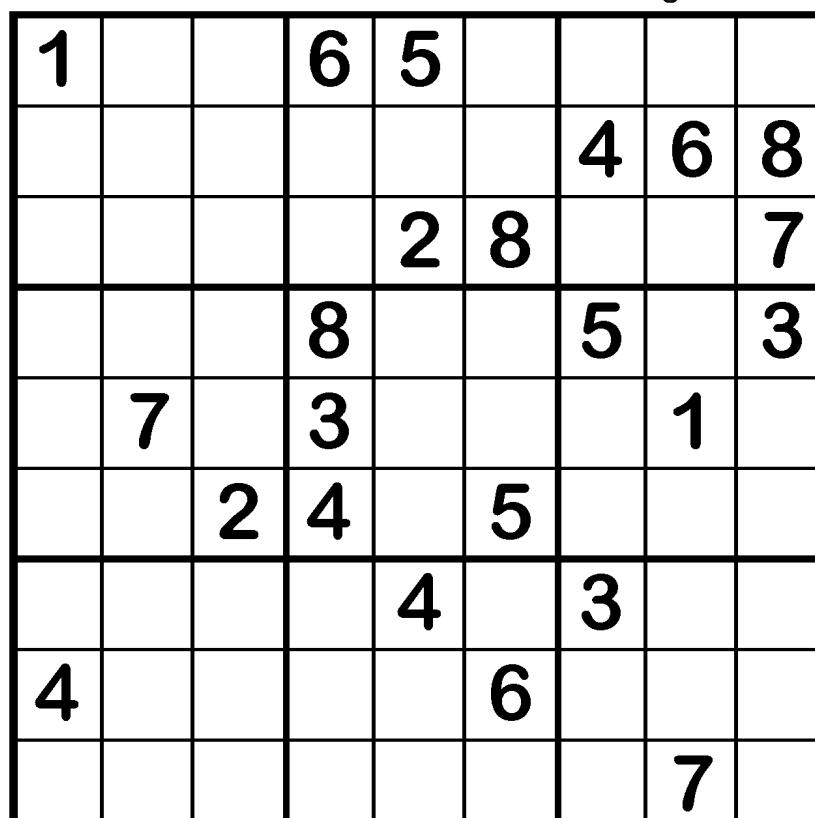
Find out what tunes we're bumping! In Big Sky Beats, Explore Big Sky staff suggests tracks for your next playlist. Whether you need to freshen up your music library, want to expand your collection or just need some tunes for a summer trip, we've got you covered.

I'm afraid to say that this is the last time I will be writing a Big Sky Beats for you lovely readers. Goodbyes are never easy and this is no exception, so I wanted to put together a playlist to reflect my feelings on my time with Outlaw Partners. This playlist will also make for great background music if you want to make your next goodbye mean something more. Or if you just want to make it seem like you're in a movie—this will work for that, too.

"Don't You (Forget About Me)" - Simple Minds
 "Hello, Goodbye" - The Beatles
 "Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)" - Green Day
 "Separate Ways" - Journey
 "Bye Bye Bye" - 'NSYNC
 "Born to Run" - Bruce Springsteen
 "Bittersweet Symphony" - The Verve
 "Tongue Tied" - Grouplove
 "100 Years" - Five for Fighting
 "Closing Time" - Semisonic

Sudoku

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



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DIFFICULTY: ★★★★☆

American Life in Poetry: Column 647

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

Lois Parker Edstrom, a retired nurse, lives on Whidbey Island, off the coast of Washington, and her 2016 book *Night Beyond Black*, from MoonPath Press, has many accessible and moving poems. Here's just one example.

Doing Dishes

By Lois Parker Edstrom

She said she had always wanted to do it;
throw away dirty dishes rather than wash them

and she did, after breakfast, toss the blue, green,
orange, and yellow Fiestaware into the trash.

Transferring from New York to Germany
with her husband and children,

the movers coming that day, she chucked the dishes
in among the banana peels, egg shells, coffee grounds,

bits of bacon, paper towels and called it good.
What she could not know is that a young mother

in that very town received a much needed set
of tableware when her husband returned

home from work that evening. Bright dishes
that showed up chipped and grubby

like old friends with egg on their faces.

*We do not accept unsolicited submissions. American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2016 by Lois Parker Edstrom, "Doing Dishes," from *Night Beyond Black*, (MoonPath Press, 2016). Poem reprinted by permission of Lois Parker Edstrom and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2017 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.*

9TH ANNUAL

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14: MICHAEL HARING	12: MATHIAS	9: ARTS COUNCIL SPECIAL GUESTS	13: KATE & THE ALLEYKATS
21: BRIAN STUMPF	19: ERIN & THE PROJECT	16: DJ MISSY O'MALLEY	20: SPECIAL GUESTS
28: LAUREN JACKSON	26: AERIAL ARTS OF BOZEMAN	23: THE QUIET ACT	27: SPECIAL GUESTS
For info: 406-570-6579 or bigskyfarmersmarket.com			

BACK 40

For Explore Big Sky, the Back 40 is a resource: a place where we can delve into subjects and ask experts to share their knowledge.

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

Recommendations for viewing Aug. 21 solar eclipse

BY MARSHALL SWEARINGEN
MSU NEWS SERVICE

As the Aug. 21 total solar eclipse draws near, Montana State University researcher Angela Des Jardins has some advice for viewing the rare and awe-inspiring celestial event.

"It's really a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Des Jardins, who has been preparing for the eclipse for more than three years. To make the most of it, people should be prepared and plan one or more ways of viewing the eclipse, she said.

The last total solar eclipse that was visible from the contiguous U.S. occurred in 1979; the next ones won't take place until 2024 and 2045. During a total solar eclipse, the moon aligns perfectly with the sun and obscures it entirely.

First, Des Jardins said, be safe. Even during an eclipse, looking at the sun can cause permanent eye damage. In the Bozeman area, where viewers will see a partial eclipse in which the moon will obscure 95 percent of the sun, it will be necessary to wear protective glasses the entire time.

Glasses are inexpensive and are available online. It's important to purchase glasses that comply with international safety standard ISO 12312-2, Des Jardins said. Information about obtaining free glasses at MSU can be found at www.coe.montana.edu/eclipse/viewing.html.

Starting at 10 a.m. on Aug. 21 in front of the MSU Library, members of the MSU Physics Department will distribute glasses and will also have solar telescopes and other special viewing equipment. In Bozeman, the partial eclipse will begin at roughly 10 a.m. and will peak at 11:36 a.m.

Second recommendation: If at all possible, Des Jardins said, go to the path of totality—the roughly 70-mile-wide area stretching from Oregon to South Carolina where viewers will experience the total eclipse. There, the moon will completely block the sun for about two minutes, producing the most dramatic effect.

"If you don't do it, you might really regret it later," Des Jardins said.

Although she hasn't witnessed a total solar eclipse in person, Des Jardins, an assistant research professor in the Department of Physics in MSU's College of Letters and Science and director of the Montana Space Grant Consortium at MSU, has studied the phenomenon enough to know that experiencing it is profound.

"It's kind of a deep twilight, with basically a 360-degree sunset," she said. "Some of the brightest stars will come out." The sun's violent atmosphere, called the corona, will become visible as a ring around the moon, "which is an amazing thing to be able to see."

During the period of totality, viewers can safely look at the eclipse without glasses. The path of totality includes a tiny and remote corner of southwestern Montana, as well as Idaho Falls and Rexburg in Idaho and Jackson, Thermopolis and Casper in Wyoming. If you go, be prepared for crowds and traffic and bring plenty of water and food, Des Jardins said. Cellphone service may be temporarily unavailable due to high demand.

Third: Watch the aerial video that an MSU team and 54 other teams will livestream using high-altitude balloons as part of the MSU-led Eclipse Ballooning Project. A team of MSU students, mostly undergraduates, has spent countless hours designing and building a system that project teams across the country will use to provide a unique perspective on the eclipse.

"It's a space-like perspective," said Des Jardins, who initiated the project in 2014. Helium-filled balloons will carry cameras to an altitude of more than 80,000 feet to capture the video. "From that height you can see the curvature of the Earth and the blackness of space."

"You'll get to feel like you're looking down on planet Earth," she said. "It will invoke wonder and curiosity about what's happening, the special alignment that has to happen for the shadow to move across the Earth."

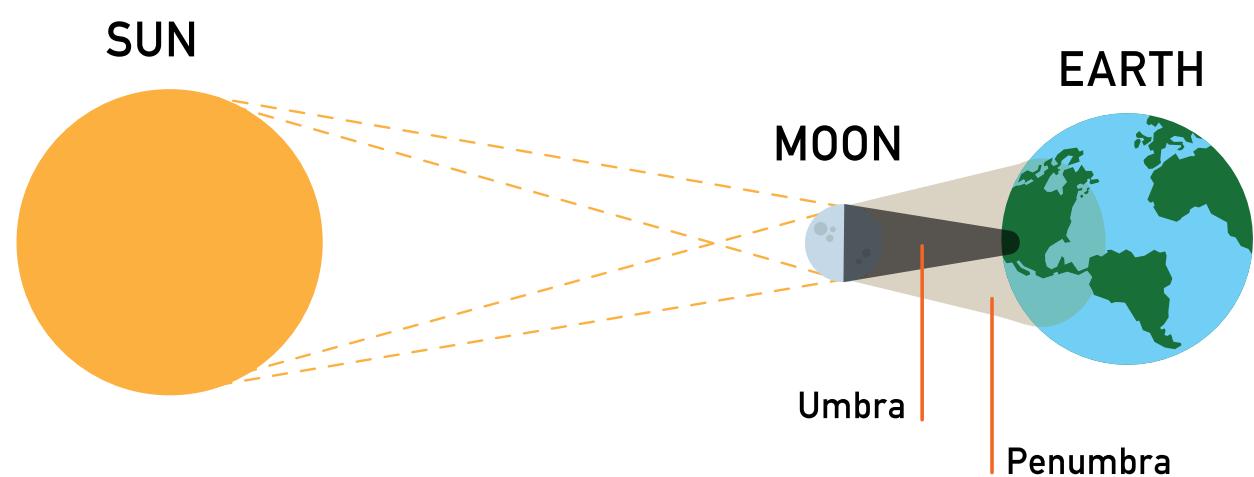
The video from all the teams will be livestreamed to NASA's website. During the eclipse, the MSU homepage will link to a livestream transmitted from one of the MSU team's three balloons, which the team will launch from the Rexburg area.

The livestream is meant to complement viewing the eclipse directly, not replace the experience, Des Jardins said. She recommends viewing the livestream during the hour before or after the local peak of the eclipse. Teams will be livestreaming from more than a dozen balloons in Oregon and Idaho before the eclipse peaks in Bozeman. Go to www.coe.montana.edu/eclipse/stream.html for the livestream.

The Museum of the Rockies will show the Eclipse Ballooning Project livestream at the Taylor Planetarium. Doors open at 10 a.m. and normal admission charges apply. Eclipse glasses will also be available for purchase.

Regardless of how or where people view the eclipse, Des Jardins is encouraging everyone to take time to experience the extraordinary happening.

"There will be something special about seeing it with your own two eyes," she said, "but there will also something pretty profound about seeing those images looking down on the planet."



Section 5: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



In the Spotlight: Kira Fercho pg. 55



The movie 'A River Runs Through It' turns 25 pg. 56



Music in the mountains finales pg. 59

Public art series 'WaterWorks' concludes on historic Kelly Ranch

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY - Bozeman arts organization Mountain Time Arts wraps up its four-part series "WaterWorks" with a three-night light and sound performance that highlights the Gallatin Valley's agricultural heritage and water's vital role therein.

Staged on the historic Kelly Ranch in Four Corners Wednesday, Aug. 23, through Friday, Aug. 25, "Gabriel Canal" is a multi-media collaboration between more than a dozen artists and Gallatin Valley ranchers that provides insight into the agricultural community's environmental perspectives and the function of the valley's canal and ditch system.

"Oftentimes environmentalists and ranchers have different methods of taking care of the water but ultimately their concerns are the same," said artist Mary Ellen Strom, who with fellow Mountain Time Arts board member Dede Taylor, conducted in-depth interviews with the Gallatin Valley agricultural community over the past two and half years.

"Sometimes people categorize the Gallatin Valley as having an urban-rural divide," Strom said. "[What we're trying to do] is locate the dynamic space between urban and rural concerns so that solutions can be found together."

Area ranchers act as interpretive guides and escorts between the five-scene performance, and their oral histories have been incorporated into song lyrics and a digital sound score brought to life by regional and national artists.

While walking through the historic homestead, audience members will take in the engineering feat of the Low Line Canal, witness a range of traditional farming practices, hear original songs, and encounter a video installation that illuminates ranchers' positions on water conservation through two opera singers and a choir of 11.

The event culminates in a grand-scale reenactment of a late 19th century harvest scene and the illumination of the Gabriel Canal that features 12 performers and 10 horses. Custom costumes were made using imagery from labels and brands of agricultural products produced in the Gallatin watershed.

"The recreation of the [harvest] photographs is epic in scale and very cinematic," Strom

said. "They almost function as a historic mirage. History appears and disappears before you."

Directed by Strom, "Gabriel Canal" features a sound score by Greg Young; music by the Bear Canyon Drummers; a video installation by Laine Rettmer; a light installation by Jim Madden, Travis Cook and Ken Dineen; costumes by Alayna Rasile; sculpture by Jim Zimpel; custom made instruments by Joe Schwem; and an installation by Isabel Beavers.

Through public displays of film, music, dance and visual art meant to educate and inspire, "WaterWorks" has traced the Gallatin Valley's water sources from the City of Bozeman to the Belgrade wetlands and now, in its last installment, to the ranchland in a celebration of agricultural stewardship in the valley.

"I think it would be hubris to say [the project] will solve the [water] problem," Strom said. "But I think that art is a way to bring people together around the table, and that the dialogue around a project is as important and valuable as the artwork itself."

This event is free but space is limited. Those who wish to attend must register on the Mountain Time Arts website.

Performances will take place the evenings of Aug. 23, 24 and 25. Attendees must take a 7:30 p.m. shuttle from Zoot Enterprises in Bozeman to the event site. The shuttle will return to Zoot Enterprises by 9:30 p.m. Walking shoes are recommended. The hour-long project entails a 0.5-mile walk. Golf carts will also be available.



Dancers Laine Rettmer and Michael O'Reilly are part of a five-scene multi-media event staged on the historic Kelly Ranch Aug. 23-25. Entitled "Gabriel Canal," the collaboration is the last installment of "WaterWorks," a summer-long public art project that explores the theme of water in the Gallatin Valley. PHOTO BY ISABEL BEAVERS



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IN THE
SPOTLIGHT

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – When artist Kira Fercho was 25 she had a dream that by the time she was 31 she would be a full-time painter and never work for anyone else ever again. At 30, Fercho had a near-drowning experience on the Stillwater River outside of Absarokee, Montana, and her only thought was that she was going to die just before realizing her dream.

A week later she quit her job as a licensed counselor and has been living her dream ever since.

Fercho splits her time between her hometown of Billings and Big Sky, where she has had a working gallery space for four years to showcase her impressionistic oil renderings of Native American imagery, landscapes and abstracts. Western Art Forum has been in its current Town Center Avenue location since 2015.

While Fercho and interior designer Lori Elliot no longer share the space, they still have a symbiotic working relationship. The bulk of Fercho's art sales are commissions from area homeowners, and referrals are often passed between them.

Fercho got her big break with a commissioned multi-piece project for the Billings Clinic atrium that was installed in July 2014. On a walk-through, Fercho envisioned a series of tipi paintings representing 12 Montana tribes.

"A lot of natives from rural areas don't really feel welcome [there]," Fercho said. "I wanted it to be kind of a welcoming for these people."

The contingency of the commission, which was underwritten by her friends Patricia and Harold Korell and donated to the hospital on behalf of their foundation, was that she finish it in a year.

"It was probably the hardest thing I've ever done," said Fercho, referring to the intensive research it took to accurately portray the tipi of each tribe and place it in its natural setting.

The Billings Clinic installation is particularly important to Fercho, not only because of the exposure it has provided, but because she gave birth to her children there.



Modern impressionist Kira Fercho renders Native American scenes and portraits, landscapes and abstracts in her signature style of thick oil paint and bright tonal accents.

"When I die [it'll] probably be what I'm remembered for," Fercho said. "They're on permanent display—I mean my children's children's children will see them."

Fercho's tipis are also popular with her clientele, but whether she's painting Native American scenes and portraits, quaking aspens, or wildlife, they are all in her

Chasing down the dream, bringing it to life through paint



You can often find artist Kira Fercho working on custom commissions in her gallery and studio space, Western Art Forum, in Big Sky Town Center. PHOTOS COURTESY OF WESTERN ART FORUM

signature style of jewel-popping accents and daubs of paint so thick it bestows a three-dimensional quality to her work.

When Fercho was a junior in high school first experimenting with oils, her art teacher disparagingly told her that nobody painted with such heavy streaks in that medium.

"I was so pissed off, I was like 'that's what I'm doing,'" Fercho said. "And that's what I've become famous for."

When Fercho discovered the Russian impressionists she learned she wasn't alone in her painting style, and had found the tradition of painting that most resonated with her.

"When I started studying Russian impressionism, I was like, 'Oh my God this is me,'" said Fercho, who is part Russian. "This is my style; this is my culture."

Technically Fercho says she's a modern impressionist—which requires a deep understanding of neutral tones, blending complicated chords of color, and the ability to paint up-close while retaining the awareness of how the piece will appear when viewed from the optimal distance of 6-9 feet away.

"It's a lot of broken edges but psychologically your brain needs to pull them together," Fercho said. "It's an experience, it's not just a viewing."

Fercho refers to all of her work as "sister paintings." She never cleans her desk-sized palette which is gobbed with a swirled color wheel of paint, and all of her works begin with the same "mother color" from which she pulls out individual tones.

"They're all interconnected because they all have the same palette somewhere in them," Fercho explained.

In addition to her own gallery, Fercho is shown in six galleries across Missouri, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana; and two museums, including the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls and Billings' Yellowstone Art Museum.

Site-specific commissions keep Fercho busy, but the artist enjoys devoting her creative energy to fulfilling her patrons' desire for a particular painting.

"You have this incredible energy from this person who has a vision for something," said Fercho, likening herself to an architect. "People come in and tell me their dreams and I help them build it."

As Fercho continues to settle comfortably into her professional niche, she can't deny the part of her that always has one eye turned toward the future.

Looking ahead, she would like to do another grand-scale public art project. Her eyes tear up when describing the resilience of the Native children she worked with in an intensive care center in her early 20s and expressing her desire to create a piece that honors indigenous women.

"It's like trying to catch a waterfall in a teacup," Fercho said. "I have a billion ideas and I know I won't live long enough to do them all."

Western Art Forum is located at 32 Town Center Ave. in Big Sky. For more information visit kirafercho.com.

Bluegrass bands jam all August at The Ellen

THE ELLEN THEATRE

The All-Star Acoustic Jam Band takes The Ellen Stage on Saturday, Aug. 19, featuring the talents of Darol Anger, Emry Phelps, Andy Reiner, Joy Adams and others. Anger, a seasoned fiddler, composer, producer and educator, is at home in a number of musical genres and has helped drive the evolution of the contemporary string band through his involvement with numerous groundbreaking ensembles. Today, Anger can be heard in the theme song for NPR's "Car Talk," along with Earl Scruggs, David Grisman and Tony Rice.

On Thursday, Aug. 24, Ryan Shupe & the RubberBand perform. The bluegrass ensemble's explosive, dynamic sound has been described as a mix between Dave Matthews Band and the Dixie Chicks, minus the politics. Ryan Shupe & the RubberBand play an array of instruments that include the fiddle, guitar, ukulele, mandolin, bass guitar, string bass, banjo and bouzouki. Billboard Magazine has declared that "these electrifying performers entertain at the highest level."

The John Jorgenson Bluegrass Band returns to The Ellen on Saturday, Aug. 26. Dubbed "brilliant" by Elton John, the Grammy-winning Jorgenson is known for his blistering licks on guitar and mandolin. Jorgenson's successful career includes co-founding The Desert Rose Band and collaborating with numerous musical luminaries including Sting, Bonnie Raitt, Bob Dylan, Luciano Pavarotti, Billy Joel, Barbra Streisand and Earl Scruggs.

All concerts begin at 8 p.m., with the lobby and bar opening one hour prior to show time. Tickets are available online at theellentheatre.com or at the box office. For more information or to purchase tickets over the phone, call (406) 585-5885.



Ryan Shupe & the Rubberband is one of three notable bluegrass ensembles performing at Bozeman's historic Ellen Theatre between Aug. 19 and Aug. 26. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ELLEN THEATRE

'A River Runs Through It' celebrates its 25th anniversary

BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY

On Saturday, Aug. 26, the Bozeman Film Society and Friends of the Story Mansion partner for the eighth season of Story Under the Stars, a free movie screening on the grassy expanse of Story Mansion Park.

In celebration of its 25th anniversary, the organizations will present a screening of Robert Redford's Oscar-winning film "A River Runs Through It." Based on Norman Maclean's 1976 novella about family and fly fishing on Montana's Blackfoot River, the film introduced the world to fly fishing and the spectacular, wide-open lands of the state, including many locations around Bozeman and Livingston—and especially the waters of the Gallatin, Yellowstone and Boulder rivers.

Maclean was a University of Chicago professor of literature who grew up in Missoula. The film stars Tom Skerritt, Brad Pitt, Craig Sheffer, Brenda Blethyn and a host of local talent.

"A River Runs Through It" Executive Producer Patrick Markey will give an opening presentation, joined by cast members and crew. The celebration begins at 7 p.m. and includes a drift boat photo booth, casting demonstrations, live music and food vendors. The Story Mansion, including the rooms featured in the film, will be open to visitors.

The film, rated PG, will begin at dusk.

Additional support for Story Under the Stars 2017 has been provided Bozeman Angler and Simms Fishing. For more information visit bozemofilmsociety.org.



Celebrate the 25th anniversary of "A River Runs Through It" with a free, outdoor screening of the iconic Montana film on Aug. 26 on the grounds of Story Mansion Park. PHOTO COURTESY OF BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY

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I-90 Collective revitalizes musical gems of the Baroque

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY - The I-90 Collective, a quartet of touring Baroque soloists founded in 2009 on the oft-traveled highway between Seattle and Bozeman, comes together for a special performance at the Padilla Home in Bozeman on Wednesday, Aug. 23, at 7:30 p.m.

The concert follows the influence of virtuoso Venetian musicians into the south of Germany, and Austria's Innsbruck, and into England via an adapted manuscript of Italian madrigals. Sublimity and honesty infuse showcased works by Vivaldi, Purcell, Becker and other highly regarded 17th century composers.

Comprised of violinist Carrie Krause, who also serves as concertmaster of the Bozeman Symphony; Adriane Post, also on violin; cellist Paul Dwyer and lutist John Lenti, the I-90 Collective applies their fresh, improvisatory style to a repertoire that extends from the dawn of the Baroque to the works of Bach and Boccherini.

The group perform extensively across the country and abroad with many of America's leading period-instrument ensembles, and have become known for their lively, informative, and interactive performances in intimate venues.

I-90 Collective performs Wednesday, Aug. 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the Padilla Home located at 67 Wade Lane in Bozeman. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Baroque Music Montana and Bozeman Symphony are also partnering to present "The Period Performance Workshop," three days of chamber music coaching, orchestral performances, technique classes, masterclasses and period tales Aug. 25-27, at the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Bozeman.



A quartet of touring Baroque soloists come together as the I-90 Collective for a special performance at the Padilla Home in Bozeman on Aug. 23. PHOTO COURTESY OF LIGHTED PATH PHOTOGRAPHY

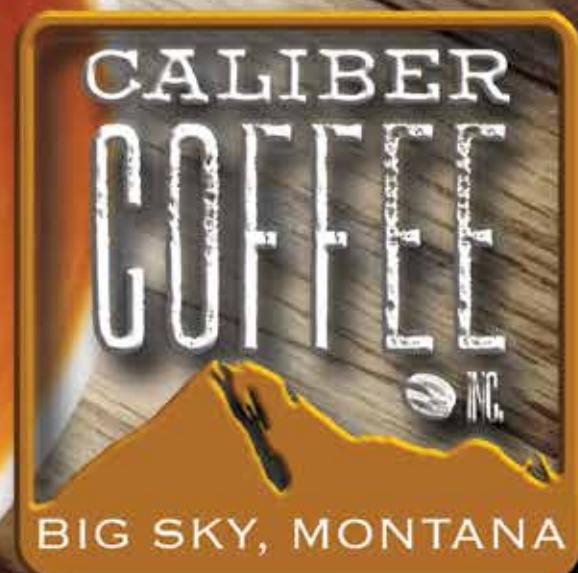
This summer's workshop features special guest harpsichordist Benedict Williams of London's Royal Academy; and faculty from the I-90 Collective. The workshop is open to professional and amateur players as well as high school students.

The workshop will culminate in a free concert featuring chamber and orchestral ensembles on Sunday, Aug. 27, at 4 p.m., also at First Presbyterian Church.

For more information visit i90collective.com or carrieckrause.com.

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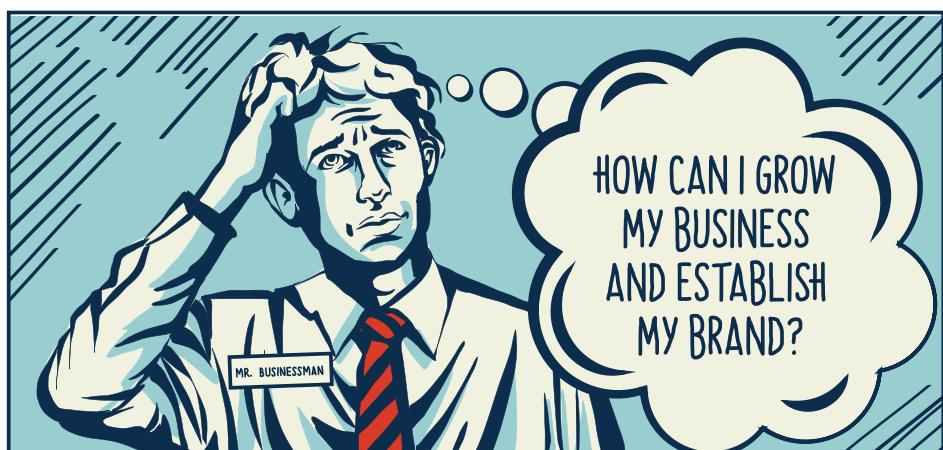
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Rootsy folk and Latin funk close out Music in the Mountains

EBS STAFF

The Arts Council of Big Sky's Music in the Mountains Thursday night concert series comes to a close with Americana folk outfit Ghost of Paul Revere on Aug. 24, and the Latin-infused sounds of Con Brio on Aug. 31.

Born on the banks of the Saco River, and brothers in all but name, the Ghost of Paul Revere is a popular Maine "holler-folk" band. This powerful, energetic, nontraditional American folk band has become a favorite among New Englanders for their harmony-fueled, heart-pounding performances and distinctive songs.

Childhood friends Max Davis, Sean McCarthy, and Griffin Sherry are joined by Matt Young on harmonica to form the Ghost of Paul Revere. The group played their first show together in 2011 at a tiny bar in Portland, Maine. Now, they play across the nation, bringing their unique "holler-folk" into houses, bars and music halls. They have shared the stage with the Avett Brothers, The Travelin' McCourys, Brown Bird, Spirit Family Reunion, Darlingside, as well as members of Greensky Bluegrass, the Infamous Stringdusters, and Old Crow Medicine Show.

Their Billboard-charting album "Believe," and their two EPs "North" and "Field Notes Vol. 1," have been top-selling local albums in Maine and New Hampshire for more than four years. The Ghost of Paul Revere has sold out Port City Music Hall, Stone Mountain Arts Center, and the Strand Theater multiple times, and won Best in Maine at the 2014 New England Music Awards. The band was an official showcase at Folk Alliance International 2015 and made their Newport Folk Festival debut in August 2015. They capped off 2015 with an electrifying headline performance on New Year's Eve at Portland's State Theatre for 1,600 enthusiastic fans.

In 2016, while also touring nationally, they returned to the studio to craft their second full length album, engineered by Jonathan Wyman at Halo Studios and mastered by Adam Ayan of Gateway Mastering.

Music in the Mountains culminates on the last Thursday in August with Con Brio, a band of seven musicians with diverse backgrounds who share a love for the vibrant Bay Area funk and psychedelic-soul sound pioneered by groups like Sly & the Family Stone.

Con Brio formed in 2013 and by 2015, when the band self-produced their debut EP, "Kiss the Sun," they had already become renowned on the West Coast for their magnetic live shows, and lead singer Ziek McCarter's swiveling hips, splits and backflips that earn him frequent comparisons to a young Michael Jackson or James Brown.

After a busy 2015 touring the U.S. and Europe playing alongside veteran acts Galactic and Fishbone, and racking up critical acclaim on programs like Austin City Limits—where PopMatters declared Con Brio "the best new live band in America"—they headed home to transform their momentum, chemistry and live sound into a full-length record.

In the second half of 2016, Con Brio embarked on a heavy international touring schedule, including stops at many of the major American music festivals including Bonnaroo, Lollapalooza, Summerfest and San Francisco's own Outside Lands. Abroad they performed at Fuji Rock, Japan's largest annual music event; Montreal Jazz Fest; the North Sea Jazz Festival in the Netherlands; London; and Paris.

Big Sky Town Center Park and food and beverage vendors open at 6 p.m. with music beginning at 7 p.m. The Arts Council of Big Sky asks that no dogs or glass containers are brought into the park. For more information visit bigskyarts.org.



The 2017 Music in the Mountains summer concert series concludes with the Latin-influenced stylings of Con Brio on Thursday, Aug. 31.
PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

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Cruisin' on Main Car Show benefits cancer support

EBS STAFF

The Downtown Bozeman Association and the Cancer Support Community Montana will bring hotrods, pickup trucks and classics to downtown Bozeman for the 17th annual Cruisin' on Main Car Show Sunday, Aug. 20. The show will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Main Street between Willson and Rouse avenues. Spectators may stroll the street to peruse an anticipated 300 vehicles, while also showing support for a nonprofit that helps families affected by cancer.

At 7 a.m. the City of Bozeman will close downtown Main Street to through traffic in order to make room for hundreds of cars, trucks and motorcycles. Contestants will have a chance to win over 15 trophies and the title of Best in Show and first, second and third place for the People's Choice award. This year will also feature Motorcycle Alley, with a variety of bikes set up along North Bozeman Avenue.

In addition to the car show there will be a number of sponsor booths and the Way Station will play live music from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

In 2011 DBA partnered with CSC to host the annual car show in order to raise awareness about cancer support and proceeds from the event benefit this Bozeman-based nonprofit.

"Teaming up with Cancer Support Community seven years ago was the best thing that ever happened to this event," said DBA Director Ellie Staley. "They are not only amazing community partners and advocates to work with, but we have been able to raise over \$120,000 to directly help cancer support research and assistance directly in our Bozeman community."

All services at CSC are offered free of charge. "Our motto is 'There is Strength in Numbers,'" said CSC Executive Director Becky Franks. "And truly, this cuts across the community of people we develop through our



On Aug. 20 downtown Main Street will close to traffic in order to make room for an anticipated 300 vehicles participating in the 17th annual Cruisin' on Main Car Show, which includes 14 categories and People's Choice Awards. PHOTO COURTESY OF DOWNTOWN BOZEMAN ASSOCIATION

services, the many folks we count on to put on programs for us, and the funding that can come in that allows us to provide support, education and hope for hundreds of youth and adults each year."

For this year's event, contestants may pre-register online, visit the Pre-Packet Pick-Up and Main Street Cruise on Saturday between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. (picking up show information at the Rocking R Bar and cruising their souped-up rides down Main) or at 8 a.m. the morning of the event on the corner of Black Avenue and Main Street. Spectators may peruse at will throughout the day.

For more information about the Cruisin' on Main Car Show, contact Downtown Bozeman Association at (406) 586-4008 or visit downtownbozeman.org.

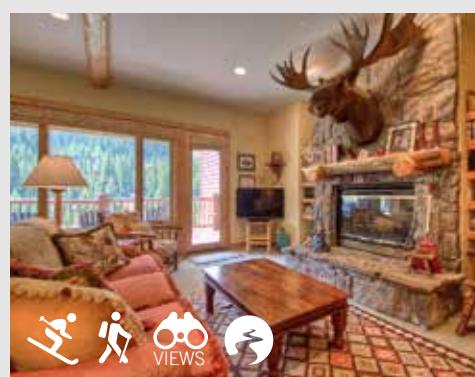
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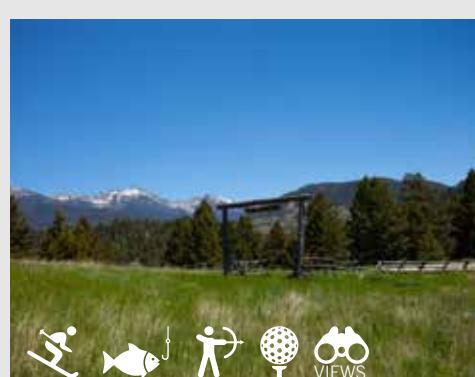
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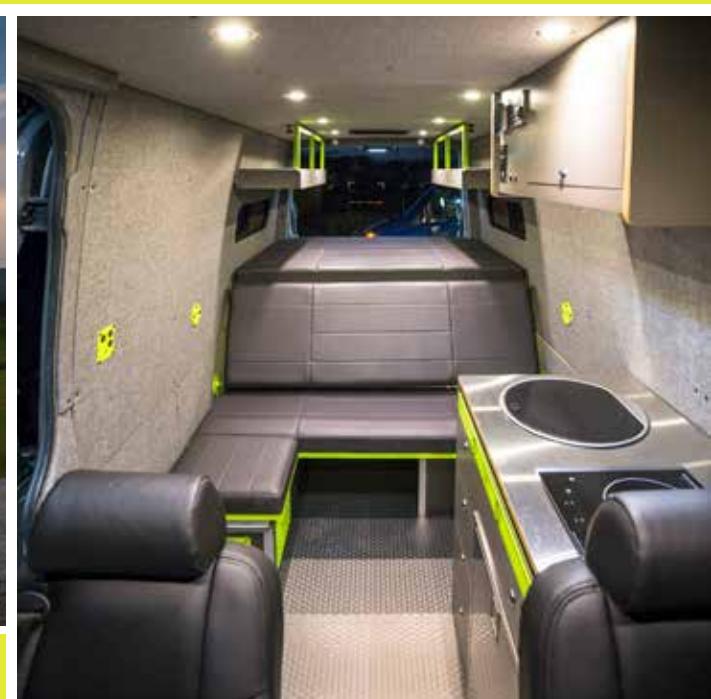
Meadow Village Center hosts first annual artisan fair



Local artist Heather Rapp paints in the "plein air" of her vendor booth at the first annual Big Sky Artisan Festival held Aug. 12-13 in the Meadow Village Center. The event featured art, crafts and boutique items, as well as live painting and activities for kids. PHOTOS BY TYLER ALLEN



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Willow Way Trail, 10 a.m.

Tom Marino
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7:30 p.m.

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 19
Vine & Dine
Big Sky Resort, various times**

Big Sky Open
Big Sky Resort Golf Course, all day

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

**Nancy Cooper Russell & Old Fashioned Picnic Lunch
Crail Ranch, 12 p.m.**

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

Sugar Daddies
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 20
Vine & Dine
Big Sky Resort, various times**

Big Sky Open
Big Sky Resort Golf Course, all day

Wyatt Hurts
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 21
Great American Solar Eclipse
Crail Ranch, 9:30 a.m.

Partial Solar Eclipse Lone Peak Expedition
Big Sky Resort, 10:05 & 10:25 a.m.

Community Yoga For A Cause
Center Stage, 11 a.m.

Monday Funday
320 Guest Ranch, 5 p.m.

Ribbon Cutting
Shelly Bermont Fine Jewelry, 5 p.m.

Service Industry Night
Lotus Pad, 5:30 p.m.

Wyatt Hurts
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22
Hike and Learn: Geology
Uplands Trail, 10 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.

**Spirits in the Sky
Fire Pit Park, 4 p.m.**

Patio Party: A Night on the Bayou
Moonlight Tavern, all evening

Wine Tuesdays
Carabiner, all evening

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23
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, AUGUST 24
Music in the Mountains: The Ghost of Paul Revere
Center Stage, 7 p.m.

Swamp Dawgs
Lotus Pad, 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25
Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26
Morningstar Learning Center Garage Sale
Center Stage, all day

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

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

Rocky Mountain Pearls
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27
Wyatt Hurts
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 28
Community Yoga For A Cause
Center Stage, 11 a.m.

Wyatt Hurts
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29
Hike and Learn: Keeping the Gallatin Clean
Willow Way Trail, 10 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.

Wine Tuesdays
Carabiner, all evening

Late Season Pruning and Harvest Celebration
Big Sky Landscaping Garden Center, 5:30 p.m.

Hike and Learn: Land Easements
Ralph's Pass Trail, 5:30 p.m.

Brian Stumpf
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7:30 p.m.

King Crab Feast
Lone Peak Brewery, By Reservation

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30
**Par the Peaks
The Reserve at Moonlight Basin, all afternoon**

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, AUGUST 31
Annual Upper Gallatin River Cleanup
Big Sky Community Park River Pavilion, 2 p.m.

Music in the Mountains: Con Brio
Center Stage, 7 p.m.

Milton Menasco
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7:30 p.m.

King Ropes
Lotus Pad, 10 p.m.

Bozeman

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19
Inaugural Firehouse 5K
Bozeman Fire Station #3, 9:11 a.m.

Left on Tenth
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Eclipse-a-rama Concert
Ellen Theatre, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20
Cruisin' on Main Car Show
Downtown, all day

IndepenDANCE FUNDay
Bozeman Brewing, 2 p.m.

Owls
Montana Raptor Conservation Center, 3 p.m.

Lane Norberg
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 21
Paul Cataldo
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22
Weston Lewis
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23
Comedy Night
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

WaterWorks: Gabriel Canal Zoot Enterprises, 7:30 p.m.

Maverick
Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Caleb Caudle
Live from the Divide, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24
Nextgen Pedal Parade
GVLT, 5:30 p.m.

Mathias
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

WaterWorks: Gabriel Canal Zoot Enterprises, 7:30 p.m.

Ryan Shupe & the RubberBand
Ellen Theatre, 8 p.m.

Jack Grelle
Live from the Divide, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25
MSU Community Cat Walk
Downtown, 11 a.m.

WaterWorks: Gabriel Canal Zoot Enterprises, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26
Brianna Moore
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Story Under the Stars: A River Runs Through It
Story Mansion Park, 7 p.m.

John Jorgenson Bluegrass Band
Ellen Theatre, 8 p.m.

Bat Walk
Kelly Ranch, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27
Migration
Montana Raptor Conservation Center, 3 p.m.

Lang Terme
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Trios for Trails
Howard Hall, MSU, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 28
Aaron Banfield
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29
Hops & History
Living History Farm, Museum of the Rockies, 5 p.m.

Adam Paccione
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30
She Wore a Yellow Ribbon
Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31
Shakespeare in the Parks
MSU Family/Grad Housing Lawn, 6 p.m.

The Hollands
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Eli West
Live from the Divide, 8 p.m.

RECURRING EVENTS:
Bridger Mountain Big Band
Eagles Lodge, Sundays at 7 p.m.

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

Mobile Mondays
Emerson Cultural Center, Mondays at 11 a.m.

Bogert Farmers' Market
Bogert Park, Tuesdays at 5 p.m.

Cribbage Night
Eagles Lodge, Tuesdays at 6:25 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22
Diane Smith's Yellowstone and the Smithsonian
Elk River Books, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23
Livingston Farmers' Market
Miles Band Shell Park, 4:30 p.m.

Paul Lee Kupfer
Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

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

Old Time Bluegrass
Pub 317, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

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.

Bluegrass Night
Red Tractor Pizza, Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Music on Main
Downtown, Thursdays at 7 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, AUGUST 18
2nd Annual Music Festival
Pine Creek Lodge, 5 p.m.**

Christy Hays
Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar, 6 p.m.

Gary Small & The Coyote Brothers
Chico Saloon, 9 p.m.

Uncle Lucas
Old Saloon, Emigrant, 9 p.m.

The Bus Driver Tour
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 19
Tom Catmull
Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar, 6 p.m.**

World's Finest
Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

Gary Small & The Coyote Brothers
Chico Saloon, 9 p.m.

Christy Hays
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 20
Bark in the Park and Charity Fun Run
Miles Band Shell Park, all day**

Montana Rose
Chico Saloon, 6 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 21

Denny Earnest

Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22

Diane Smith's Yellowstone and the Smithsonian
Elk River Books, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

Livingston Farmers' Market
Miles Band Shell Park, 4:30 p.m.

EVENTS CALENDAR

The Ghost of Paul Revere
Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24
Shelly Besler and Tony Polecastro
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Quenby
Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar, 6 p.m.

Bryan White
Music Ranch Montana, 7:30 p.m.

Columbia Jones
Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25
Art Walk
Downtown Livingston, 5:30 p.m.

Virginia Warner/Switchback Jane
Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar, 6 p.m.

The Cold Hard Cash Show
Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

The Fossils
Chico Saloon, 9 p.m.

Walcrik
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26
Spotlight Gala
Shane Center, 6:30 p.m.

Ranges
Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

The Fossils
Chico Saloon, 9 p.m.

Taj Weeks & Adowa
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27
Ashly Holland
Pine Creek Lodge, 6 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 28
Love Is A Dog From Nebraska
Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30
Livingston Farmers' Market
Miles Band Shell Park, 4:30 p.m.

Garrett Randolph
Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31
Johnny Rodriguez
Music Ranch Montana, 7:30 p.m.

Pickin' Pear
Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

West Yellowstone

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18
Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
Highway 20, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19
Hebgen Lake Yacht Club Match Race Challenge
Kirckwood Marina, 8 a.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
Highway 20, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23
Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
Highway 20, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24
Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
Highway 20, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25
National Parks Fee Free Day
Yellowstone National Park, all day

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
Highway 20, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26
Groove Wax
Pioneer Park, 6 p.m.

Ennis

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
Highway 20, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18
Ennis Ramblers
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19
MVMC Auxiliary Home Tour
Various locations, all day

Sean Eamon
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Chad Ball
Bale of Hay Saloon, Virginia City, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20
Montana Old Time Fiddlers
Bale of Hay Saloon, Virginia City, 2 p.m.

Bus Driver Tour
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 21
Farm Dinner
Rainbow Valley Lodge, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22
Wine Dinner
Madison Valley Ranch, 6:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23
Madison Farm to Fork Farmers' Market
Ennis High School, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24
Wine Dinner
Madison Valley Ranch, 6:45 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25
Main Street Mingle
Main Street, 5 p.m.

Lang Termes
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Bob Weber
Bale of Hay Saloon, Virginia City, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26
Tom Georges
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Bob Weber
Bale of Hay Saloon, Virginia City, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27
Travis Yost
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 28
Wine Dinner
Madison Valley Ranch, 6:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30
Madison Farm to Fork Farmers' Market
Ennis High School, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31
Alan Weltzien on Ivan Doig
Linderman Cabin, Laurin, 6 p.m.

Wine Dinner
Madison Valley Ranch, 6:45 p.m.

Big Sky Open

August 19

Big Sky Resort Golf Course

Pine Creek Lodge

Music Festival

August 19

Pine Creek Lodge | 5 p.m.

Partial Solar Eclipse

Lone Peak Expedition

August 21

Big Sky Resort | 10:05 & 10:25 a.m.
limited space

Waterworks:

Gabriel Canal

August 23-25

Zoot Enterprises | 7:30 p.m.



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Aug. 6th-Prairie ecosystem | Aug. 20th-Owls
Aug. 13th-MRCC open house | Aug. 27th-Migration

161 Bent Wing Rd, Bozeman, MT 59715

Jim Salestrom performs Buffalo Bill tribute show at WMPAC

Proceeds fund ukulele lessons in Big Sky schools

EBS STAFF

In celebration of the centennial anniversary of William F. Cody's (aka Buffalo Bill) passing, Emmy Award-winning musician and part-time Big Sky resident Jim Salestrom presents a multi-media tribute to the iconic performer of the Wild West at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 30, at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.

The show, which Salestrom has performed nearly 20 times in Colorado, includes original Buffalo Bill songs Salestrom recorded in Nashville with Sam Bush and Chris Nole; a presentation of archived films and photographs; and items on loan from the Buffalo Bill Museum on Lookout Mountain in Golden, Colorado.

Salestrom will narrate the program and perform the original songs live.

Admission is free for kids 16 and younger and all proceeds from adult ticket sales benefit The Grateful Music Foundation's ukulele program for Big Sky youth. The foundation has donated 12 ukuleles to Big Sky schools thus far with plans to donate additional instruments this year, including a guitar. Fall ukulele classes begin Sept. 1.

For more information email jim@jimsalestrom.com.



Musician Jim Salestrom performs a multi-media tribute to iconic Wild West showman Buffalo Bill at WMPAC on Aug. 30. All proceeds benefit The Grateful Music Foundation's ukulele program in Big Sky schools. PHOTO BY PAM SALESTROM

Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



Summer vacation is over for most, which means a steep decline in river usage on most of our local waters until next year. That being said we still have lots of great fishing ahead and cooler water temps, which will make for happier fish.

Many of the aquatic hatches are about done for the year on most rivers in Montana as the majority of our bugs hatch from June through mid August. This means we must rely heavily on terrestrial, streamers and small nymphs to get us through the next few weeks. There will be sporadic mayfly and caddis hatches still too, but they tend to be unpredictable. That just means that dry fly anglers have to work a little harder to get fish to the surface.

On the Gallatin you could do well to push small hoppers, ants, small Parachute Adams and other attractors. Fish tend to move into faster moving/more oxygenated water this time of year. Fish that are looking for hoppers and ants may be pushing towards the banks, but expect most fish to be in the middle of the river. Sometimes a little twitch or strip added to a well placed hopper will induce a strike better than one that is dead-drifted.

Nymphing tends to be a bit more of a guessing game this time of year, but smaller patterns in the 18-20 range tend to be more reliable. That being said you may start to see fish feed more consistently on bigger patterns again like Pat's Rubber Legs again. Suggested patterns are JuJu Baetis, Zebra Midges, T Midges, Green Machines and Lightning Bugs.

For best dry fly fishing this time of year on a major river you should head to the upper Yellowstone, especially above Emigrant. You have to be willing to wade through a good number of whitefish most days, but if you have the right fly you could have good numbers of cutthroat to the net as well. Hoppers, ants, small attractors and little baetis patterns tend to be best on the surface. Trout on the Yellowstone will often be found in water that is 3-4' deep this time of year.

On the upper Madison small nymphs will produce the most numbers, but streamers will increase your odds at bigger fish. Some good hopper-tunities can be had this time of year as well.

There are also plenty of small creeks around Big Sky and in the northeast corner of Yellowstone National Park that can offer great dry fly opportunities for weeks to come.

Tight lines and wet hands.

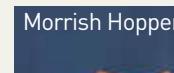
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Montana Shakespeare in the Parks brings 'Macbeth' to Center Stage

EBS STAFF

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks circles back to the organization's home state—and to Big Sky—at the close of a 7,700-mile tour that included performances in 61 communities across Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho and Washington.

The Arts Council of Big Sky's summer of outdoor events officially concludes with an MSIP performance of "Macbeth" at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 1 at Center Stage in Town Center Park.

Kevin Asselin, executive artistic director, will direct "Macbeth." The 10 professional actors touring with the company were chosen out of a highly competitive pool of about 500 applicants auditioning in Bozeman, Chicago and Minneapolis.

Asselin said "Macbeth" will be set in a post-apocalyptic world where resources are limited and power is vital for survival.

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks launched its first season in the summer of 1973. Since that time, MSIP has performed over 2,250 times for nearly three quarter of a million people becoming a mainstay of Montana culture. The company's contribution to the cultural fabric of Montana and its unique ability to serve the most remote, rural areas of the region has been chronicled by Montana PBS, NBC Nightly News, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times and many others. In 1991, the company was named the recipient of the Montana Governor's Award for the Arts.

All performances of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks are free and tickets are not needed for admission. Audiences are encouraged to show up prior to the appointed curtain time with chairs, blankets, a picnic supper, and friends and family to enjoy the evening.

For more information visit bigskyarts.org or shakespeareintheparks.org.



Montana Shakespeare in the Parks presents a free performance of "Macbeth" in Town Center Park at 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 1. PHOTO COURTESY OF WINSLOW STUDIO AND GALLERY

THE VIRGINIAN LODGE & RV PARK

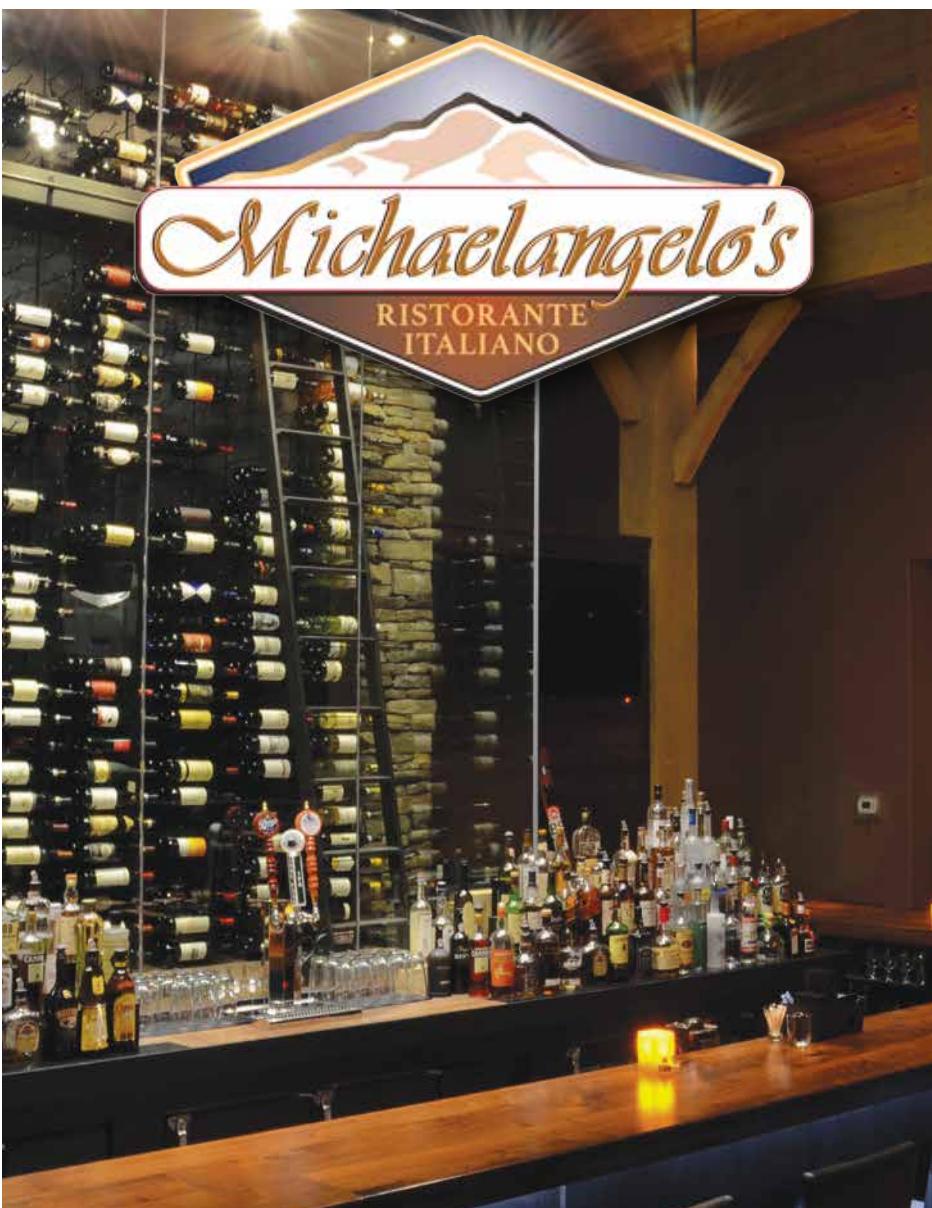


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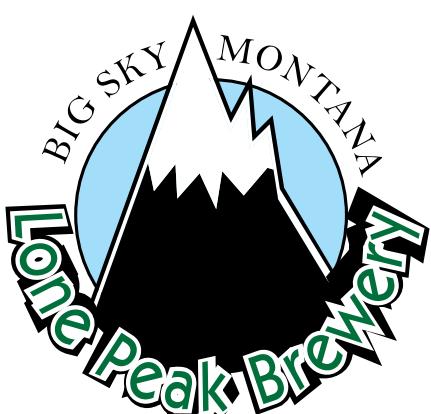
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Cowboy's Quill

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.

Norman Maclean: Haunted waters

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

At the age of 70, Norman Maclean was a well-regarded professor of literature at the University of Chicago who had published only two works of nonfiction. Then, in 1976, fresh into retirement, he penned a collection of semi-autobiographical tales based on his childhood called "A River Runs Through It and Other Stories." Maclean could not find a book publisher or even a magazine to print his first attempts at writing fiction.

Eventually, with the help of some colleagues, the University of Chicago Press decided to take a gamble and print their very first work of fiction. Upon publication, word quickly spread, among both fly fishers and book lovers, about a sublime tale of rivers, manhood and religion in WWI-era western Montana. But how did a story about brothers reconciling the frontier code of the West with the Calvinist ideas of grace and salvation imparted on them by their minister father become a classic of Western literature?

Few, if any, writers have ever been able to capture the artistry of dry fly fishing with such clarity. "He called this 'shadow casting,'" Maclean wrote. "It is more or less the 'working up an appetite' theory, almost too fancy to be true, but then every fine fisherman has a few fancy stunts that work for him and for almost no one else."

As Wallace Stegner pointed out, the very style of the novella's composition is similar to Paul's method of shadow casting. Stegner wrote: "He fills the air with flies that never really settle, he dazzles us with loops of glittering line ... then on page 102 of a 104-page story, the fly settles, and we strike at what we have been alerted to but have not been allowed to anticipate."

I assume most Montanans have seen the Robert Redford-directed film, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary, so I don't feel that I will spoil the book by revealing the ending. Most southwest Montanans also probably know that it was set on the Blackfoot River near Missoula, but filmed in and around Livingston and Bozeman. Few people know that the author's brother Paul was killed by the butt of a gun in real life.

Stegner concludes his assessment, "The ending is brought off with such economy only because it was earlier obscured by all the shadow casting. A real artist has been fishing our stream, and the art of fishing has been not only his message, but his form and his solace."

Indeed, "A River Runs Through It" is in many ways written in an opposite style than the typical American short story. Still, the seemingly rambling yarn with extraneous details, caveats, a host of minor characters and intentional distractions is written with more skill and forethought than most readers pick up on during their first reading.

One of the finest compliments that one can give a work of fiction is to say that it continues to impress upon future re-readings. "A River Runs Through It" is undoubtedly a story which can be read over and over again. The sentences and paragraphs continue to illuminate the sublime, hint at finding transcendence in nature, and ask the deep metaphysical questions that are important whether we are skillful fishermen or not. A well-written story about loved-ones lost and the healing power of time never gets old.

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



Between the Shelves

BY AMY HUNTER
ASSISTANT COMMUNITY LIBRARIAN

Have children ever asked you a question you didn't know the answer to? (We won't tell, we promise!) With the advent of Google, it's much easier to find information quickly. We would like to offer an alternative: Let the library help you and the children in your life learn more about the questions they have and the subjects they are interested in with nonfiction books.

We have nonfiction books for all ages on almost any subject. When you walk into the library, the younger readers' nonfiction books are on the left side with orange stickers on the spines, followed by the middle readers' nonfiction section. Adult nonfiction is to the side by the computers, audio books and movies.

With the eclipse coming up, come to the library to find more information about this amazing phenomenon. What better way to prepare to not only watch, but start to understand, what you are seeing? You can also check out NASA's eclipse website for an activity kit at <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/eclipse-kit>

Make sure you have protective glasses for your eyes so you can safely watch the eclipse on Aug. 21.

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Lower Lodge: 3,139 SQ FT | 6 guest rooms
Private Residence: 2,924 SQ FT | 4 bedrooms | 2 bathrooms

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