

ExploreTM

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

FREE

Big Sky

March 16 - 29, 2018
Volume 9 // Issue #6

**Big Sky receives \$10M
transportation grant**

*Young athletes impress at
Headwaters Spring Runoff*

Big Sky Resort to install 8-seat chairlift

PBR adds third night
Tickets on sale March 22

Auction for the Arts features top Western artists



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ON THE COVER: Bears were sighted for the first time this season in Yellowstone National Park on March 7. Billings painter Carol Hagan garnered the highest bid for a bear painting at last year's Auction for the Arts, a fundraiser for the Arts Council of Big Sky. Hagan, along with many other acclaimed Western artists, will participate in this year's event on March 22 at Moonlight Basin Lodge. PHOTO COURTESY OF CREIGHTON BLOCK GALLERY

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OPENING SHOT

In the inaugural season of the Big Sky Curling League, Team Pruiett triumphed over Beehive Basin Brewery to win the regular season title without a loss. In the end-of-season tournament, Scott Johnson, Scott Altman, Andrew Schreiner and Jim Overmayer of Big Sky Rock took home the championship. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

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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Judge: Yellowstone grizzly lawsuits to proceed as hunt looms

BILLINGS (AP) – A federal judge says lawsuits from environmentalists and American Indians who want to restore protections for Yellowstone-area grizzly bears can move forward.

U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen on March 13 denied a request by the Interior Department to put the lawsuits on hold.

Attorneys for the agency had argued they needed time to review last year’s decision to lift protections for the animals.

Advocates for restoring protections said a delay would have hurt their efforts to stop a proposed grizzly hunt in Wyoming this fall.

The hunt would allow up to 24 bears to be killed. It would be the first legal grizzly harvest in the Lower 48 in more than 40 years.

According to biologists, about 700 grizzlies live in Yellowstone National Park and surrounding areas of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho.

YCCF awards four scholarships in the Gallatin Valley

YELLOWSTONE CLUB COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Yellowstone Club Community Foundation recently announced the winners of its annual high school scholarships.

Lone Peak High School freshman Sara Wilson is heading to Vietnam and Cambodia this summer as the newest recipient of the Big Bald Dave Scholarship. This scholarship honors the memory of former club employee Dave Mueller and his love of outdoor adventure. Wilson will be exploring both countries while constructing and installing clean water filters in remote villages and teaching English.

The Rieschel Family Scholarship was launched in 2017 to encourage skill-development and leadership in the pursuit of STEM—science, technology, engineering and math—fields among college-bound seniors. There were a record number of applicants this year. The scholarship’s winner is Avery Berg, a Bozeman High School senior who plans to use her college degree as a springboard into a lifetime of conservation-oriented work.

The Corey C. Griffin Scholarship is awarded to the two southwest Montana high school seniors who most closely exemplify the life, philosophy and impact of Corey Griffin, a club member who died in an accident at age 27. Among many other accomplishments, Griffin was cofounder of the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. This year’s winners are Liam Diekmann from Bozeman High School and Katelyn Hoppe from Belgrade High School.

YCCF is a nonprofit that was established in 2010. Funded by Yellowstone Club members, guests, and the local community, the foundation provides student scholarships and grants to nonprofit organizations that promote community services, arts and education, health and conservation efforts.

For more information about YCCF, call Anna Shipley at (406) 995-7909 ext. 2701 or email her at anna.shipley@yellowstoneclub.com.

Lone Mountain Ranch changes trail policy

EBS STAFF

On March 13, Lone Mountain Ranch released a statement describing a change in their trail system policy. After opening several trails earlier this winter to dogs and fat bikes to compensate for the unmaintained trails in Town Center, Lone Mountain Ranch is closing this service.

“Lone Mountain Ranch is proud of its role in the maintenance of the Big Sky Nordic ski trail system,” wrote general manager Ryan Kunz in the release. “Our ability to perform this role rests in part on our invaluable partnerships with many Big Sky homeowners. Without their generosity and public spirit, the trail system could not exist.

“Therefore, and in accordance with the wishes of our homeowner partners, the Middle Fork trails, including Andesite, Tree Farm and the Beaver Slide, will no longer be available for fat biking and skiing with dogs.”

Lone Mountain Ranch also said they will continue to work with BSCO and Town Center to plan for grooming Town Center trails in the future.

While Lone Mountain Ranch has changed their dog and biking policy for some trails, the Crail Trail and Far East Loop will remain dog-friendly and open to fat bikes.

Open lands supporters initiate new campaign

MONTANA LAND RELIANCE

More than 70 supporters packed 406 Brewing on March 13, to help kick off the Vote For Open Lands campaign one week after the Gallatin County Commission voted to place the measure on the June ballot.

Steve Schnee, founder of Schnee’s Boots and Shoes, was joined as a speaker at the event by Dave Tyler, owner of Thirteen Mile Lamb and Wool, and Sarah Davies Tilt, director of Yellow Dog Community and Conservation Foundation.

Tyler described the easement on his land, which is within a half-mile of two other easements.

“What we’ve got there is a wildlife corridor which really connects the Bridgers along the Reese Creek drainage and East Gallatin River,” Tyler said. “Not only from a standpoint of protecting the agricultural land, it’s also protecting wildlife habitat in the valley.”

Gallatin County is the fastest growing county in Montana and one of the fastest growing in the nation. Rapid growth is putting pressure on agricultural lands and wildlife habitat, creating urgency to renew funding for the Gallatin County Open Lands Program. The last of the funds from the 2004 bond were expended last year, leaving the program with no source of funding for future projects.

“As a sports woman, I can’t say enough about protecting our open lands,” Davies said. “Open lands are a vital part of our community, our economy and for our personal well-being. ... Many of us moved here precisely for the opportunity to revel in nature, to be part of the agriculture community, to hunt, to fish, to enjoy wildlife and be a part of the wild landscape.”

Gallatin County voters will have the opportunity to vote on the levy during the June 5 primary election. If approved, the levy will renew funding for the Open Lands Program, provide resources for Gallatin County Regional Park, and invest in parks throughout Gallatin County.



Big Sky Resort announced the next phase of its development plan March 7, which includes an eight-seat, heated bubble chair to replace Ramcharger and a high-speed quad at Shedhorn. **How do you feel about the improvements planned for next winter?**



Kent Johnson
Big Sky, Montana

“I was skeptical of the bubble chair that replaced the triple, but Powder Seeker turned out to be nice and fast. So I’m looking forward to the improvements they announced, especially night skiing.”



Lila Scott
Big Sky, Montana

“I think they could have made other improvements elsewhere on the mountain first. Ramcharger and Shedhorn aren’t really in need of replacement, but Swifty could use an upgrade. Eight people sounds excessive.”



Matt Sendral
Bozeman, Montana

“Isn’t that called a gondola?”



Bob Fylling
Bismarck, North Dakota

“Swifty is the one that needs improvements. Ramcharger goes fast enough. Is it even long enough to replace Shedhorn? Sure, an eight-banger will move more people up the hill but why not on Lone Mountain instead of Andesite?”

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OUTLAW

News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

Big Sky PBR adds third night of bull riding to July event
Tickets on sale March 22

OUTLAW PARTNERS

BIG SKY – Outlaw Partners is excited to announce an additional night of bull riding for the Big Sky PBR on Thursday, July 26. Tickets will go on sale March 22 at 9 a.m. and can be purchased online only at bigskypbr.com.

“Our Friday and Saturday night events sold out in eight minutes,” said Outlaw Partners CEO Eric Ladd, who is also publisher of EBS. “It’s clear there is a strong demand for this event so we rallied quickly with PBR to offer a third night.”

The ticket options for Thursday, July 26, include general admission for \$50 and VIP tickets for \$150. In an effort to accommodate more locals who were unable to purchase tickets during the initial sale, the general admission section for this bull riding event will be significantly larger.

“This third night of bull-riding excitement should give locals yet another chance to get tickets to the event-of-the-summer in Big Sky,” said Town Center project manager Ryan Hamilton. “We’re honored to be part of this Big Sky tradition, and will keep working to do what we can to make it better each year.”

Alex Iskenderian, president of Lone Mountain Land Company, echoed Hamilton’s



Flint Rasmussen stokes up the crowd during the 2017 Big Sky PBR. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

sentiments. “I think it’s awesome,” he said. “The PBR is a great event for Big Sky and the extra night is a great addition to last year.”

When Brandon Bates, the voice of PBR and announcer for every Big Sky event, heard about the sell out, he said, “I have traveled to the world’s largest Western events for the past 20 years. I’ve covered events with 80,000 fans in Brazil; packed Olympic arena in Sydney, Australia, and have been fortunate enough to announce the PBR finals for 15 consecutive years.”

Bates continued, “Nothing rivals the energy of the Big Sky PBR. You have to see it for yourself—if you’re lucky enough to get a ticket.”

The third night of bull riding will take place from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 26, concluding just in time for fans to walk over to Big Sky Town

Center park for the Arts Council of Big Sky’s Music in the Mountains series featuring Shovels & Rope, an energetic folk duo from South Carolina. The concert, sponsored by Outlaw Partners, starts at 8:30 p.m.

“It will be a big week in Big Sky,” Ladd said. “We’re excited to bring this festival atmosphere to our great mountain town—and to continue to grow the annual tradition into a multi-day event the community looks forward to all year.”

Visit bigskypbr.com for more information.

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Big Sky Resort to install first 8-seat chairlift in North America

Shedhorn lift replacement, Mountain Mall renovation planned

BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS MANAGING EDITOR

BIG SKY – Stephen Kircher, president of Boyne Resorts, announced at a press conference March 7 that Big Sky Resort will install an eight-seat, high-speed chairlift this summer on Andesite Mountain, where the Ramcharger lift is currently.

The new chair, called Ramcharger 8 and slated to open in early December, will have heated seats, blue wind bubbles, and seats 2-inches wider than the six-seat Powder Seeker chairlift installed two years ago in The Bowl.

Ramcharger 8 will be the first eight-seat chairlift installed in North America—while foreign to this continent, Kircher presented a slide showing the number of eight-passenger chairlifts by country, with Austria topping the list by far with 47.

The current Ramcharger lift, a high-speed quad, will be moved to the south side of the mountain this summer to replace the Shedhorn double. Cutting the 10-minute-plus ride in half, the refurbished lift will also be more wind-resistant, allowing the resort to increase the number of days of operation in that area.

“In terms of the alpine experience, one of our pillars and goals with that was to create the most advanced lift system in North America,” Kircher said. “And also, at the same time, reinventing the on-mountain food and beverage experience.”

He announced a planned renovation of the third floor of the Mountain Mall, which will increase lunch seating capacity by 350 seats; include a coffee bar and wine and beer bar; indoor fireplaces; new food options such as stone-fired pizza, sushi, ramen and crepe stations; new windows to open up views of Lone Mountain; and expanded outdoor patio space.

Kircher said after the press conference that the Mountain Mall renovation might happen this summer, but that they’re still finalizing the design process and won’t begin the remodel unless there is certainty that it will be complete by next winter season.

This is the second phase of “Big Sky 2025,” a 10-year plan announced in 2016 to reshape Big Sky as the “American Alp.” The first phase included the installation of the Powder Seeker lift and Challenger triple. Future planned projects include night skiing on Andesite, slated to open for winter 2019-2020; expanded snow making; and a gondola to replace the Explorer double chairlift.

The gondola will be a two-phase project, with the second stage extending it to The Bowl at the base of Powder Seeker. A timeline for the gondola installation has not



The new Ramcharger 8 will be installed on Andesite Mountain this summer and will be the first eight-seat chairlift in North America. PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY RESORT

been released, but Big Sky Resort General Manager Taylor Middleton said after the press conference that it’s a matter of “sequencing” and will depend on infrastructure being installed for a new ski-in, ski-out development called the Montana Club.

Once the infrastructure, including water and sewer, is connected for the Montana Club development, the resort can begin planning for a new beginner area with food and beverage options at the eventual mid station of the gondola, which will originate from the north end of the Mountain Village.

Middleton compared the vision to Jackson Hole Mountain Resort’s Sweetwater Gondola that opened for the 2016-2017 winter season, which accesses a new children’s ski school facility at its mid station.

Kircher also discussed plans to improve the Moonlight side of the mountain, by upgrading the Iron Horse lift, relocating and replacing the Headwaters lift, and adding additional food and beverage options. He also mentioned future upgrades to the Lone Peak Tram, as well as the Southern Comfort, Lone Moose and Swift Current chairlifts. A small food and beverage option is also in the idea stage for the summit of Lone Mountain.

While not divulging the cost of the Doppelmayr-built Ramcharger 8, Kircher joked that “it will cost more than the first lift we bought from Sun Valley for \$5,000,” and that each chair will cost “as much as a Porsche.” The Powder Seeker and Challenger lifts cost the resort \$9 million to install in 2016.

When Kircher was asked how mountain biking access would be affected this summer, Middleton interjected that the resort is thinking about running vehicle shuttles for bikers to reach the many new trails built on Andesite Mountain in recent years. He later said that one idea is to have mountain bikers take the Swift Current chairlift and bike down to the saddle of Andesite, where trucks would transport bikers every 30 or 45 minutes.

Middleton opened the March 7 press conference by telling the crowd that Big Sky Resort was sitting at 130-percent of average snowpack and will surpass 500,000 skier visits this season, for the first time in its history. He credited the hundreds of Big Sky businesses and entities that have given “a sense of place” to this resort community.

“I remember when I first came to this resort 37 years ago, I wondered if it would make it,” he said. “And only about 20 years ago did I recognize that this town would exist forever. And now, for the first time in my history we can recognize what the potential that this community and this resort has to offer.”



Boyne Resorts President Stephen Kircher announces the next phase of “Big Sky 2025” on March 7 at Big Sky Resort. PHOTO BY TYLER ALLEN



Boyne Resorts has plans to reinvent Big Sky as the “American Alp” over the next decade, with numerous lift upgrades and additional food and beverage options throughout the ski area. PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY RESORT

Big Sky transportation projects receive \$10M federal grant

BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS MANAGING EDITOR

BIG SKY – On March 6, U.S. Sen. Steve Daines announced that a \$10.3 million TIGER grant was awarded to Gallatin County to be used for ambitious improvements along Lone Mountain Trail, also known as Highway 64, and to fund the expansion of the Big Sky Transportation District’s public transit services.

The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant will be used for the construction of approximately seven left-turn lanes, a pedestrian tunnel beneath the highway, and nearly \$2.5 million for the Skyline bus system, which will include adding four buses and six vans to the existing public transport between Big Sky and the greater Bozeman area.

“Gallatin County is leading the state in economic growth,” Daines said in a statement. “This grant will help the county meet the infrastructure demands of this rapid growth and continue creating good-paying jobs in the community.”

The grant might also help the advancement of certain affordable housing projects in Big Sky, such as the Powder Light subdivision, which was stalled by a vote of Gallatin County commissioners who cited the lack of a turn lane on Lone Mountain Trail as a potential safety hazard.

Although still in litigation with the county, Powder Light developer Scott Altman is cautiously optimistic. “Our hope is that the additional infrastructure will help remove some of the barriers ... to construct affordable housing in the future,” he said.

Protected turn lanes are slated for the intersections at Ace Hardware—where the Powder Light housing entrance would be located—the Big Sky Medical Center, Roxy’s Market, and the entrance to Big Sky Resort, among others that have seen numerous vehicle collisions in recent years.

“There are so many needs to address with the growth [in Big Sky],” said David Kack, coordinator for the Big Sky Transportation District and program manager for the Western Transportation Institute. “This is a great way to address many of the community’s critical needs without finding a local funding source.”

One of the challenges to funding such improvements is that the 9-mile stretch of highway straddles two counties and serves the unincorporated community of Big Sky.

Kack said that he didn’t expect to hear about the grant application’s status until April or May, and was surprised by the news. “When you look at the sheer number of proposals they get, you have about a 6 percent chance of being selected.”

A 2017 transportation study commissioned by the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, and written by the Western Transportation Institute, identified numerous hazards on the state highway, including high traffic volumes and unprotected turning lanes.

WTI wrote the proposal for the TIGER grant in conjunction with Bozeman engineering firm Sanderson

Stewart, and it was submitted by Gallatin County on behalf of Big Sky in October 2017. Kack said the design process for roadwork could begin as early as this summer, with construction likely happening in two phases during the 2019 and 2020 construction seasons.

The money for the transportation district is intended to address the issues of over-capacity in the area’s transit system.

Big Sky Chamber of Commerce CEO Candace Carr Strauss said she was ecstatic when she heard the news. “We’re honored that the Big Sky community trusts us to be the catalyst for tackling some of the major infrastructure-related challenges that we’re facing with our growth here,” she said.

Strauss stressed the importance of the partnership among the various stakeholders in receiving the grant, entities that include WTI, Sanderson Stewart, the transportation district, the Big Sky Community Organization, the chamber of commerce, and both Gallatin and Madison counties for adopting the transportation study in their growth plans. She also pointed to the funding from the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board in making the initial study possible.

The pedestrian tunnel beneath Lone Mountain Trail will cost nearly \$660,000 and will connect the trail along the highway to the Meadow Village.

“That is just a critical connection for our community trail system, because it connects the trails on both sides of the highway,” said Big Sky Community Organization Executive Director Ciara Wolfe. A pedestrian bridge is also slated for construction over the West Fork of the Gallatin River, along Little Coyote Road.

“This proposal was a big focus on rural economic development,” Kack said. “We really played up that Lone Mountain Trail was the only public access to Big Sky, which is a big economic driver for Montana.”

The funding is available to Gallatin County until 2025, but Kack said they anticipate that the project will be completed as quickly as possible.

Reporting was contributed by EBS Senior Editor Sarab Gianelli.



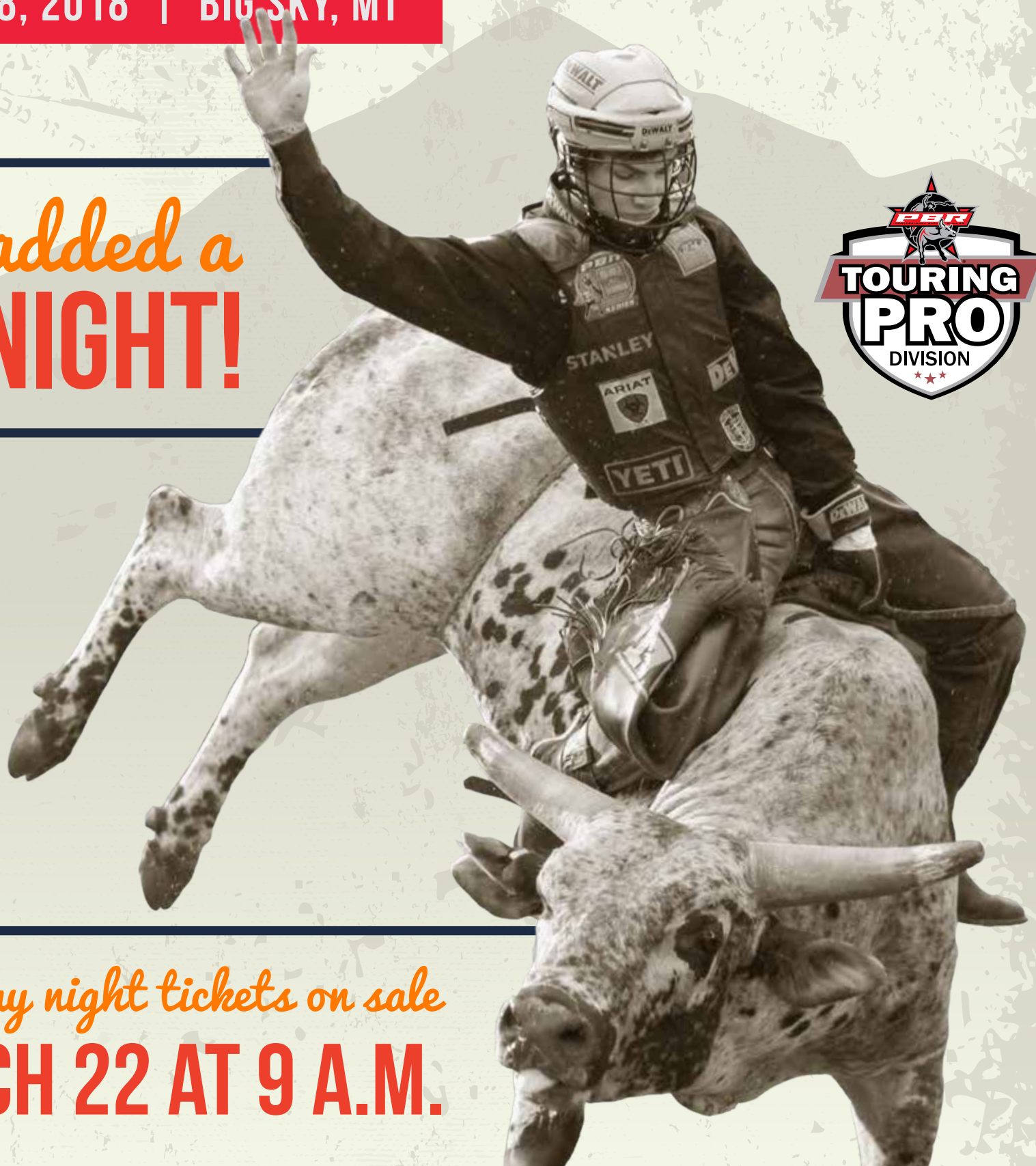
Between 2006 and 2016, 182 crashes occurred along the 9-mile stretch of Highway 64. A portion of a \$10 million federal grant will fund the addition of seven turn lanes in the hopes they will decrease the number of accidents. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

BIG SKY PBR

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Headwaters Spring Runoff showcases young talent



2018 Big Sky Headwaters Spring Runoff Results		
U12	12-14	15-18
Snowboard Male 1st Joey Walton <i>Big Sky Freeride</i> 2nd Elijah Singer <i>Big Sky Freeride</i>	Snowboard Male 1st Isaac Singer <i>Big Sky Freeride</i> 2nd Ronin Suella Zell <i>Jackson Hole Ski & Snowboard</i> 3rd Marvin Martell <i>Jackson Hole Ski & Snowboard</i>	Snowboard Male 1st Holden Samuels <i>Big Sky Freeride</i> 2nd Garrett Klotz <i>Big Sky Freeride</i> 3rd Duncan Gentry <i>Big Sky Freeride</i>
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 **LOCAL LOOK BACK**

You think you know cold?

BY JIM ANDERSON

Brrrrrr ...You think it is cold this winter? Well, back in the winter of 1987, it got real cold, and I mean real cold. One morning I got into my truck to head to work and the vinyl seats broke. It was so cold that the vinyl actually cracked into pieces because it was so brittle. I tried to start the truck and of course it wouldn't.

I kept trying and the engine was making a funny noise as I kept trying to turn it over. I would eventually learn that the fuel pump diaphragm split and pumped gas into the oil pan.

My wife's car had been plugged in but it would not start either. I called Kenny at Canyon Auto. He suggested I place a space heater under the car and a blanket on top of the engine. After a few hours the car started. Kenny advised me to let it continue to run—and it ran for three days and nights straight.

I remember the sky during that cold spell—they were “bluebird,” not a cloud to be seen. At night, if you looked up at a light, the air was full of crystals. It was so cold that the moisture in the air was crystallizing.

I was project manager at Hidden Village during that time. For those three days all I did was try to keep the unoccupied units from freezing. Even after shutting the water off to the units, it was amazing how many freeze-ups there still were.

So how cold was it? Thirty to 35 below zero during the day and 60 to 65 below at night.



Jim Anderson (center) with fellow longtime locals Jim Muscat and Paul Zitzer on top of Emigrant Peak in the good ole days. PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM ANDERSON

Now that was cold.

A love of the outdoors brought Jim Anderson to Big Sky in 1975 where his background in construction helped him start Anderson Enterprises, a full service textiles cleaning company he established in 1988.



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Jesse Campos: At home in the heat, at home on the ice

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – Jesse Campos wrapped up his third season as the Town Center ice rink manager when it closed March 9. His path to Big Sky, and caring for the community ice sheet, was anything but a typical one.

The 28 year old was born outside of Los Angeles to Mexico-born parents. When he was 8, his father lost his green card and the family moved back to their home state of Michoacan, to a hot, dry region known as Tierra Caliente about five hours south of Mexico City.

While living in the U.S., Campos' father worked seasonally at a golf course in Minnesota in order to help support family in Mexico. It was there, in 2000, that the elder Campos met Ryan Blechta, now golf course superintendent at Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, and president of the Big Sky Skating and Hockey Association.

That connection, reinforced by a trip Blechta took to Mexico in 2003, would lead Campos to Big Sky many years later.

When the family relocated to Mexico, Campos' father could no longer work seasonally in the U.S., so at the age of 16 Jesse took his place, joining an uncle who also worked on the golf course.

He said it was difficult returning to the U.S. at that age, having lost most of the English he had learned as a young boy, but that it was also very difficult to find work in Mexico.

"I have two brothers and one sister who were still in school and I was trying to help them stay in school," said Campos, who would send his family about \$300 from every paycheck. "In my town that's pretty normal."

Not only is pay in Mexico insufficient, safety is also a big concern. His father took a job as a policeman but had to quit because of the danger.

After working with Campos' father for a number of years, Blechta moved to Big Sky for a golf course job at the Yellowstone Club in 2005.

In 2008, Blechta lured Campos to Big Sky with a job offer.

"I was 18 years old and the only person I knew was Ryan," said Campos, who accepted and joined the private club's golf course maintenance crew. He worked seven summers there, before following Blechta to Spanish Peaks in 2013.

"He's more than a friend," Campos said. "He's family to me now. He's been a support for me in this town for a long time ... he's like a brother."

Campos solely worked the summer season in Big Sky, returning to Mexico for the winter, until Blechta asked if he would manage the Town Center ice rink in 2015. The job entails setting up for ice hockey, shoveling snow from the rink, clearing benches, picking up trash and



Jesse Campos has been splitting his time between Mexico and Big Sky since 2008, working on area courses, in hospitality and as the manager of the Town Center ice rink. PHOTO BY KAREN ESTEFANIA CAMPOS

heating up water for his favorite part of the job—riding the Zamboni. Like a tractor for ice, it uses hot water and what Campos likens to a big mop to make the rink's surface "really shiny and perfect."

His first day on the job, Campos was given his first pair of ice skates. Today, he's playing ice hockey.

He's still sending some money back home, but less now that he is starting his own family here in Big Sky. Last August, he married Karen Benitez, a woman from his hometown that he's known since he was 12 years old.

They haven't had a reception yet because they've been saving money for the legal costs of obtaining Benitez's green card, though Campos said they're in the final stages of that process.

They will hold a big, traditional Mexican wedding celebration as soon as they can get back home. After a church ceremony, the whole community will be invited to a party where revelers will enjoy live mariachi music and the region's signature dish of birria—a spicy beef stew served taco style.

"I really miss my family," Campos said. "Time just keeps going by ... I have two new nephews and I can't be with them. They know they have an uncle in the U.S. but that's about it."

Still, Campos wants to continue to build a life in Big Sky, for the better opportunities and the friendliness of the people. His dreams are humble.

"I wish I could bring my family to live here," he said. "I think a house one day is all I really want—just a good life, a family and a job that can support my family."

Big Sky students protest gun violence in national walkout

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – On March 14, dozens of Ophir Middle School and Lone Peak High School students walked out of their classrooms in solidarity with thousands of students nationwide protesting gun violence.

For 17 minutes—in honor of the 17 people killed in the Valentine’s Day shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida—Big Sky students held banners that read “we call B.S.,” “protect kids not guns,” “enough is enough,” and other slogans calling for change. After walking out, the students congregated near the American flag in the high school bus loop, which had been closed to traffic.

Senior Abi Hogan partnered with her friend Anna Bulis to organize the walkout, and together they created an Instagram account and video to get the word out and inform their fellow students about the purpose of the protest. She said the point of participating—which was entirely voluntary—was to encourage students to use their voices about issues they care about.

“It’s about showing support and using your voice,” Hogan said just before the 10 a.m. walkout. “I hope that students gain awareness of what’s going on in their country and are not afraid to speak out.”

Superintendent Dustin Shipman stressed that the protest was 100-percent student organized, but in reference to a point of debate in some schools around the country, Big Sky School District students would not be penalized for their participation.



Dozens of Big Sky students participated in the national anti-gun walkout on March 14, in honor of the 17 killed in the Parkland, Florida, shooting, and to raise awareness about gun violence. PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI

“I’m excited to be able to allow our students to exercise their First Amendment rights,” said middle and high school principal Alex Ide. “It’s an opportunity to take a moment to recognize that we have an issue around gun violence, especially in schools. It’s my hope that through this walkout students will continue to pursue these issues at a greater level.”



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Local Tip: Fire safety

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – On March 11, the Big Sky Fire Department responded to a cabin fire at Rainbow Ranch Lodge, marking the department’s fourth response to a blaze this winter. No one was in the cabin at the time, and while there was no damage to the structure itself, an ash can burned through the cabin’s wooden porch, causing \$500 in damage.

As March brings sunny days and snowmelt, accompanied by still frozen nights, it’s important for folks living in this region—where wood is a source of heat and wildland fires are common—to be cognizant of the dangers of fire.

“All cans containing fireplace materials should be placed outside and away from the home so a fire is not started,” said BSFD Chief William Farhat, regarding residences operating a wood stove or fireplace.

Farhat added that homeowners should have chimneys cleaned every fall and shouldn’t stack their firewood against the house. The generally dry wood is an easy fuel source whether contained in the fireplace or ignited by a spark or blaze outside. It’s also important for homeowners to remember to remove snow from around fire hydrants on their streets during the winter months, to keep the water supply accessible.

With the daylight savings time change in March, BSFD suggests each household change the batteries in every smoke or carbon monoxide detector in the home as the first defense against a fire.

The department also recommends every household make an escape plan in case of a fire, which includes a meeting point for family members so that everyone can be accounted for. “Never hide, and if you’re trapped make noise,” Farhat said, adding that it is also a good idea to sleep with bedroom doors closed to keep smoke and gas from entering the room.

“It’s often not the fires that kill people, it’s the gases from combustion when carpets and other things burn,” he said.

While winter fire safety is still on the mind, it is also valuable to plan for fire prevention in the spring and summer.



Farhat recommends having foliage cut back from the house and lower tree limbs shouldn’t touch the ground so as to minimize the spread of fire from the ground to the trees. He also suggests the use of rocks instead of woodchips for landscaping. “[Using woodchips] is just inviting a disaster if a wildlife starts,” he said.

In addition to providing safety information online, a member of the Big Sky Fire Department will come to a home free of charge to provide advice to keep the area defensible against fire. These wildfire audits can be made by calling the department at (406) 995-2100.

For additional information about fire safety, visit bigskyfire.org/fire-safety-and-prevention.



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Tester woos Trump voters in tough re-election campaign

BY MATT VOLZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – U.S. Sen. Jon Tester is trying to woo the voters who gave President Donald Trump a lopsided election victory in Montana by touting his ability to pass bills the president will sign despite acrimonious partisanship in Washington.

The Montana Democrat's campaign released its first television ad March 12 that said Trump has signed 13 bills either sponsored or co-sponsored by Tester. More than half of the bills deal with veterans' affairs, while others range on topics from government oversight to naming a mountain in the Madison Range.

Tester is defending his seat this fall in a state that Trump won in 2016 by 20 percentage points. He'll need to appeal to Trump voters to win a third term in a race viewed as one of the more vulnerable Senate seats held by a Democrat.

"He's gotten more bills signed into law by President Trump than he has fingers," campaign manager Christie Roberts said. Tester is missing three fingers on his left hand due to a childhood accident with a meat grinder.

Republicans seeking to unseat Tester quickly rebutted that he is no friend of the president. The National Republican Senate Campaign referenced an analysis by FiveThirtyEight.com that said Tester has voted against Trump's position on bills 64 percent of the time.

"I think people are going to be able to see through that," said Jake Eaton, a senior adviser for the Montana Republican Legislative Campaign Committee. "He's been a pretty vocal critic of Trump."

David Parker, a political science professor at Montana State University, said passing legislation in a hyper-partisan environment is a big deal. The issues that the legislation deal with have broad-based appeal and shouldn't alienate the Democratic base against Tester for trying to align himself with the president, Parker said.

"A number of progressives have always grumbled about Tester," Parker said. "He's a centrist Democrat. That's who he is and how he wins races."

Four Republicans are competing for their party's nomination to challenge Tester in November. They include Commissioner of Securities and Insurance Matt Rosendale, former District Judge Russ Fagg and Big Sky businessman Troy Downing.

A Libertarian candidate and a Green Party candidate also entered the race March 12, the last day to file as a candidate with the Montana Secretary of State.

The Senate election tops a slate of Montana elections this fall that also include U.S. Rep. Greg Gianforte defending his seat after last year's special election victory and Republicans trying to hold their legislative majority.

Democratic leaders said they hope to harness a surge of activism since Trump's election to take control of the House and Senate.

"That activism and that need to feel involved and the desire to do something, to change things, will be reflected in Democratic votes," said Democratic state Rep. Moffie Funk, of Helena.

Eaton said he was skeptical that Democrats could spin activism into votes.

"I've been doing Montana legislative races for about a decade now, and every year the Democrats say they have this enthusiasm and will take back the Legislature. It never happens," Eaton said.



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Section 2: ENVIRONMENT, SPORTS, DINING & BUSINESS



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The New West: 'My Father's Son'



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

As many readers here know, I am also the founder and managing editor of Mountain Journal, a nonprofit, public-interest journalism site focused on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. MoJo, as we are called, is proud to have a professional alliance with Explore Big Sky, and one of our focal areas is bringing young people into the fold.

One of our bright young writers is Liam Diekmann, a soon-to-graduate senior at Bozeman High School. His column is titled "My Father's Son" and is dedicated to his late father, Alex Diekmann, a professional conservationist with The Trust for Public Land and after whom a peak in the Madison Range was just formally named.

I wanted to share part of a recent conversation I had with Liam. I hope you enjoy it.

Todd Wilkinson: *There aren't many outdoors columnists your age out there. What do you enjoy most in writing about fly fishing?*

Liam Diekmann: The No. 1 thing I enjoy writing about fishing is being able to tell stories. Ever since I was little I have always been able to tell stories better in writing, rather than physically speaking them.

T.W.: *You've no doubt dealt with the eternal angler's lament. What is the biggest fish you ever booked that got away and how did it happen?*

L.D.: One of the biggest fish I lost was on the Granger Ranches in the Madison Valley while in the company of my father Alex, brother Logan, and Jeff Laszlo, owner of the Granger. It was along a bend in the creek that remains one of my favorites.

T.W.: *If you had to do it all over again, would you play the fish differently?*

L.D.: Yes, I most definitely would. I was using a large size 6 grasshopper pattern and a monster of a fish smashed it, but I was young and did not have the experience to know how to let the fish run and play with it. So the tension was tight and the line snapped. If I could do it over again, I would be more patient and respect the fish more, let it run as far as it wanted to go and kind of tack him in.

T.W.: *What do you think is most important in getting environmental issues to ripple with millennial-aged young people?*

L.D.: First it's getting them outside the way I did with my dad. And then helping them understand why it's important that they get involved with trying to protect rivers so that future generations can experience them the same as they are [now]. And then they need to help spread the word, why having a healthy environment matters.

T.W.: *Your mom and dad both worked in conservation—your dad at The Trust for Public Land and your Mom as the first executive director of the Yellowstone Park Foundation, today Yellowstone Forever. What are some of the lessons you've learned from them?*

L.D.: There is one that will live with me for the rest of my life. It was some of the last words my dad said to me. They were, "Be kind to everyone no matter their race, their culture, their ethnicity. Just be kind." I try my hardest to follow his words, and when I do, it is always the right thing, because I have a feeling of warmth within me. It makes me believe each of us can make the world better.



Liam Diekmann at O'Dell Creek in the Madison Valley. PHOTO COURTESY OF LIAM DIEKMANN

Todd Wilkinson, founder of Mountain Journal (mountainjournal.org), 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 feature on the delisting of Greater Yellowstone grizzlies appears in the winter 2018 issue of Mountain Outlaw and is now on newsstands.



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Museum hosts talk on honeybee crisis

GALLATIN VALLEY FRIENDS OF THE SCIENCES

Honeybees are the primary insect pollinators of U.S. crops, which are valued at \$17 billion annually, but their population is in significant decline. Michelle Flenniken, Montana State University microbiologist and co-director of MSU’s Pollinator Health Center, will discuss the honeybee crisis and ways to address the global challenge in the third presentation of the winter/spring Science Inquiry Series.

The talk will be presented at the Museum of the Rockies on Wednesday, March 21, at 7 p.m. in the museum’s Hager Auditorium.

The series, sponsored by the Gallatin Valley Friends of the Sciences, explores cutting edge science topics, their latest developments, and their relevance to society through speaker presentations followed by conversations between speaker and audience. The talks are free to the public.

In her presentation, entitled “What’s Killing the Bees? A look at the Research,” Flenniken will discuss honeybee losses of more than 30 percent per year over the past decade, factors affecting honeybee colony health, and the importance of both basic and applied science in addressing the problem.

Flenniken, an assistant professor in the Planet Sciences Department at MSU, holds a Ph.D. in microbiology from MSU, with postdoctoral work at the University of California, San Francisco. Her research currently focuses on investigating honeybee host-pathogen interactions and studying honeybee threats through the Pollinator Health Center.

The presentation will be followed by an opportunity for audience members to engage in conversation with Flenniken in the museum lobby with light refreshments served.



Microbiologist Michelle Flenniken will discuss her research on honeybees and the decreasing honeybee population on March 21 as a part of the monthly Science Inquiry Series. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GALLATIN VALLEY FRIENDS OF THE SCIENCES

The speaker presentation and audience participation segments together will last approximately an hour.

For more information about the Science Inquiry Series, contact James Manning at gallatinscience@gmail.com or (406) 585-2672.

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5:00 - 6:00pm Yin Yoga	9:00 - 10:15am All Levels Yoga	9:00 - 10:00am All Levels Yoga	9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga	9:00 - 10:00am All Levels Yoga	9:00 - 10:15am All Levels Yoga	Check our Website for Weekend Workshops and Special Events.
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	4:15 - 5:15pm All Ages Apres Ski Yoga	5:45 - 7:15pm Sacred Sweat	4:15 - 5:15pm Apres ski yoga		5:45 - 7:00pm Heated Yoga	
	Evening Workshop Series		Awareness Wednesdays			4:30 - 6:00pm Heated Yoga

Future of freeride on full display at Big Sky Resort

Headwaters Spring Runoff showcases rising local, regional athletes

BY SCOTTIE WILLIAMS
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – The next generation of freeride athletes put on an excellent show in the Headwaters venue at Big Sky Resort, during the International Freeskiers & Snowboarders Association Headwaters Spring Runoff on March 10 and 11.

Athletes aged 10 to 18 descended on Big Sky for the regional event, hoping to earn points to qualify for the IFSA North American Junior Freeride Championships, scheduled for April 11-14 at Snowbird, Utah. Big Sky Freeride Team members and other local athletes topped the podium in many of the age groups and categories, with some of the competitors making their first sanctioned event one to remember.

Philadelphia native and part time Big Sky resident Claire Rubenstein won the girls’ 12-14 Ski division, skiing the Obsidian face with grace in her first ever competition. Rubenstein is an independent athlete coached by Freeride World Tour veteran Francesca Pavillard-Cain, and they do much of their training on Pioneer Ridge at the Yellowstone Club. Rubenstein has a bright future in freeride should she choose to pursue competitive skiing, as it’s only one of her many athletic interests.

The girls’ 15-18 Ski division was won by Big Sky local Nehalem Manka, who skied with fluidity and control on the final day of the event to earn her place on top of the podium.

Teton Valley-native Kai Jones, the son of Teton Gravity Research co-founder Todd Jones, had a standout performance in the boys’ 12-and-under Ski division. Jones spent an incredible week in Big Sky leading up to the competition, when the 11 year old became the youngest person to ski the Little Couloir.

Jones displayed a high level of talent for an athlete of his age, hitting every feature he could with superb style during both days of competition and taking first place in his division. Jones said that he and his brother Cam plan to continue the TGR legacy long into the future, which is good news for ski film fanatics.

The boys’ 15-18 Ski division was won by Bridger Bowl Freeride athlete Charlie Steele, and the top finisher for Big Sky in the category was Harry Schreiner, who skied with



Athletes aged 10 to 18 descended on Big Sky for the Headwaters Spring Runoff, hoping to qualify for the IFSA North American Junior Freeride Championships, scheduled for April 11-14 at Snowbird, Utah. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

power and technique to improve on his day one score, moving into fourth place for the weekend. Schreiner can do it all, from super G racing to impressive big mountain skiing, a combination that will take him a long way in the sport.

Big Sky snowboarder Holden Samuels showed off his experience with excellent riding during both days of competition, winning the boys’ 15-18 Snowboard division. Samuels ripped up the Obsidian face on day one, linking together a number of large features with style. On day two, Samuels locked down his win in the Three Forks venue with big airs and a technical line selection. Samuels will be traveling to the IFSA Freeride Junior World Championships in Austria later this month.

The 18 year old will be competing in his final junior event in Austria, as next year he’ll move up to the big leagues, where he’ll compete with local snowboarding success Chance Lenay. Samuels has the skills and the bag of tricks to succeed—held back by IFSA bylaws, he cannot do inverted airs in junior competitions. The rules will change for him at the world level, and he plans to use his talent in the air to try and land podium spots next season.

Q&A with snowboarding phenom Holden Samuels

EBS STAFF

Explore Big Sky caught up with Lone Peak High School senior Holden Samuels after he won the IFSA Headwaters Spring Runoff and before he heads to Kappl, Austria, to compete March 21-23 in the 2018 Freeride Junior World Championships.

Explore Big Sky: *When and where did you learn to ski and snowboard?*
Holden Samuels: I learned to ski in the Big Sky [Resort] ski school, but when I was 8 I switched to snowboarding and was part of the first year of the Moonlight Freeride Team.

EBS: *Who has been instrumental in helping you get to the level you’re at today?*
H.S.: My first snowboarding coach James D’Angelo was instrumental in helping me learn the fundamentals of snowboarding. From there, Big Sky Freeride coach Cooper Raasch helped me to feel comfortable hitting bigger airs and riding steeper lines. But the most important factor in helping me reach the level I’m at today is my older brother Chase. Following him around on the mountain has pushed me to go bigger, try new tricks, and ride lines that I would never have picked out by myself.

EBS: *Can you tell me about a highlight of competing in freeride events?*
H.S.: A big highlight is being able to travel to different locations and ride new terrain. Another great part of competitions is being able to ride with some of the best athletes in the world. Finally, coming into the finish corral at the end of a comp run and having all your friends give you props and high fives is an awesome part of competing.

EBS: *What are your plans for college?*
H.S.: I am going to attend the University of Colorado [Boulder].

EBS: *You won your first Junior Freeride World Tour event at Crystal Mountain in Washington since coming back from an ACL tear. Can you tell us more about the recovery phase? Do you feel you are back to 100 percent now?*
H.S.: I tore my ACL last July. The recovery was the longest six months of my life, but the thought of being back on the snow kept me motivated the whole time. I did sessions three days a week with Lone Peak Physical Therapy, whose dynamic workouts helped me to recover in record time. I worked as hard as I could in order to get healthy in time for the World Championships, and now, a week before I leave, I finally feel back to 100 percent.

EBS: *How do you train and prepare for competition?*
H.S.: I train for competitions by just riding as much as possible. I try to ride all types of terrain in all conditions so that I can be prepared for everything.

EBS: *You won your division in the Headwaters Spring Runoff on March 10 and 11. What did you think about your performance on your home turf?*
H.S.: It was nice competing on terrain that I’m familiar with, and in classic Big Sky conditions. The competition went really well, and I finally won this event for the first time in my last year of competing here.

EBS: *What is your mindset heading into the World Championships? How do you feel about the venue and what are your goals in competing against some of the best riders in the world?*
H.S.: I am heading into worlds with the mindset of winning. The venue they have looks amazing, and will allow me to combine some technical riding with “sendy” airs, and hopefully some tricks as well. If I pick the right line and ride like I know I can, I feel that I have a pretty good chance of coming out on top.

EBS: *What are your goals for your future as a big mountain snow sports athlete?*
HS: I hope to one day win the Freeride World Tour and have my own TV show about snowboarding.



After recovering from an ACL tear, two-time IFSA Junior NorAm champion Holden Samuels is back to competing and winning junior freeride events. Pictured here at a Crystal Mountain Resort competition which he won, Holden will soon travel to Kappl, Austria to compete in the Freeride Junior World Championship from March 21-23. PHOTO BY CHRIS SAITO

The Iditarod: a ‘bucket list’ getaway

BY KATIE MORRISON
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The Iditarod was not actually on my bucket list, but going to Alaska was. Thanks in part to many long road trips during my childhood, I had been to 49 states, Alaska being the only state standing in between me and my lifelong goal—and winning the race with the rest of my family—to see all 50.

Watching the start of the Iditarod was on my aunt Meg’s bucket list however, so when she called to see if I’d join her and her daughter Erin, I was in. Aunt Meg had talked about the Iditarod for years. As an elementary school teacher in Idaho, she conceived creative lesson plans around the event, like stringing a replicated trail around the school to teach about scale, charging the kids with measuring the progress of their favorite mushers, and writing papers on the checkpoint towns of rural Alaska.

With her passion, she was going to be the perfect guide.

Upon arriving in Anchorage—after taking the obligatory photo to prove to my family that I had won the race—we immersed ourselves in the event.

The ceremonial start of the Iditarod is in Anchorage. Crowds line the streets to cheer on their favorite teams and hope for a chance to meet the unique and dedicated individuals who are about to embark on the journey to Nome.

The teams will forge across nearly 1,000 miles of cold and beautiful Alaskan landscape, including the Yukon River and Bering Sea via the southern route which has not been taken since 2013 due to lack of snow.

As each team waits to start, the dogs bark and howl, jumping into the air to be snapped back by their harnesses, unable to contain their excitement. The enthusiasm was contagious.

After a long, dark winter, you could sense how the ceremonial start to the Iditarod roused the town from its slumber. People dressed up in costume, ran with reindeer,

and gleefully wore foam dog ears around town.

The official start of the Iditarod takes place the following day in Willow, Alaska, where spectators and mushers were fortunate to have a blue sky day with views of Denali and Mount Foraker in the distance.

The excitement continued, but the mood was more focused and competitive than the previous day’s festivities.

The mushers are prepared to spend approximately 10 days in the wilds of Alaska, and this is their sendoff. Crowds line the trail for miles, three-deep at the starting line, and dwindling down to a snowmobile tailgate party across the lake.

With waves and high-fives, the mushers thank their fans for their support. The dogs cruise across the trail, half trotting, half loping, basking in the praise of the cheering masses. It is the start of an adventure—one that will challenge man and dog with blizzards, wildlife and sleep deprivation. It is a race that relies on mental strength, strategy and luck that will push their limits for the reward of what I found to be the true draw of Alaska—a deep sense of freedom that is only derived in the wild.



Erin Downey cheers on musher Monica Zappa at the official start of the Iditarod in Willow, Alaska. PHOTO BY KATIE MORRISON

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EGGS & Issues

Local Governance



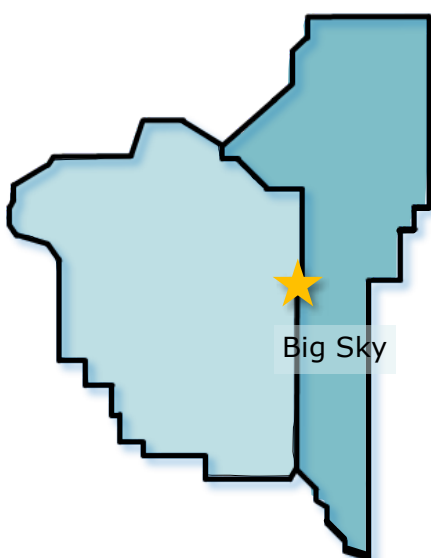
Wednesday, April 4th

8:30–10:00am

Talus Room at Big Sky Resort

Dan Clark, from MSU's Local Government Center, will be sharing his preliminary findings on options available to the Big Sky community to formalize an areawide governance structure that allows for a representative voice for the community. The Center is reviewing various statutory options available in the Montana Code Annotated and their applicability to the community of Big Sky.

Hosted breakfast will be provided,
RSVP at www.BigSkyChamber.com/events



Joint Gallatin & Madison County Commission Meeting

Wednesday, April 4th

10:00am—12:00pm

Talus Room at Big Sky Resort

Agenda to Follow

SAVE the DATE

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Black Diamond



Awards Dinner
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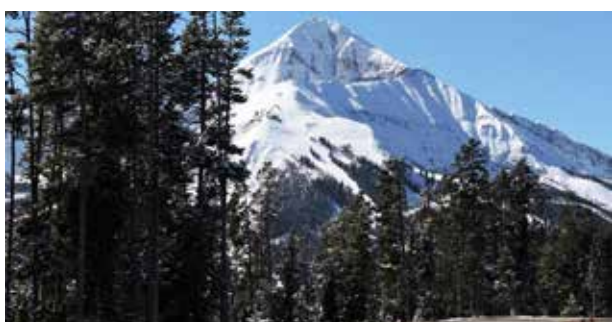
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Vinegar varieties

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER
EBS STAFF

Whether it's a splash of pickle juice in my Bloody Mary, a squeeze of lime over stir fry, or a drizzle of vinegar to round out a soup or sauce, I love using vinegar and other acidic ingredients in my cooking. I've mentioned this before, but oftentimes people will add salt when a dish is lacking flavor when really acid is what the dish needs.

It's a good idea to have a variety of vinegar in your pantry, as they lend themselves to different applications. These are the varieties I always keep on hand.

Distilled white vinegar is a colorless, highly acidic vinegar. While it may not be the best choice to cook with, it can be used both in and out of the kitchen. Dilute it with water to clean produce of wax, dirt and chemicals. A splash of this highly distilled vinegar can also be added to simmering water when poaching an egg to help coagulate the whites.

Red and white wine vinegars are made in one of two ways—by adding a bacterial “mother,” or by processing it through an aeration machine with bacteria. Both methods feed the wine and convert alcohol sugars into acid. Both varieties have a crisp, light taste, with white wine vinegar having a slightly sweeter profile. These varieties lend themselves particularly well to making vinaigrettes.

Apple cider vinegar is best purchased unfiltered to maintain its fruity flavor and healthful benefits. Its flavor is less harsh than other varieties, but it still has a sweet acidic kick. A versatile vinegar, it can be used in anything from vinaigrettes to tart, refreshing beverages and marinades.

Balsamic vinegar has one of the most complex flavor profiles due to being aged in wooden barrels until it becomes sweet and syrupy. Many less expensive varieties bypass the aging process and achieve a likeness by adding colors and sweeteners. Balsamic vinegar works great in a vinaigrette, but try an authentic variety drizzled over grilled fruit and paired with mascarpone cheese for a savory and unexpected dessert.

Sherry vinegar, like balsamic, is also aged in barrels, but not for as long and with sherry rather than red wine. The result is a toasty, warm and slightly sweet vinegar that pairs well with savory cooking. I reach for this bottle to deglaze a pan, further intensifying the caramel flavors, or to round out the flavors in a soup or sauce.

Rice vinegar is commonly known as the seasoning in sushi rice, but it has other uses as well. Rice is steamed, combined with yeast and fermented, and then aerated to create this variety of vinegar. Its origins make it suited for Asian cuisine—I like using it in stir fry sauces, or to lightly season raw vegetables to top a bowl of ramen. It is sold both seasoned and unseasoned, but I tend to opt for the latter so that I have more control over the end flavor.



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.

Anatomy of a steak



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

In my last column, I wrote about a key component of protein called myoglobin, and how it is commonly mistaken for blood in proteins, especially red meat.

Proteins are incredibly complex. At the most basic level, we learn that some cuts of beef are ideal for sautéing or grilling, such as tenderloin or ribeye; while others are better suited for low and slow cooking methods like braising, such as shoulder or chuck roast. An easy rule of thumb to remember is that the closer to the ends of the cow, or the head and feet, the tougher the meat. The middle of the animal is more tender.

So, without getting too technical and scientific, here is an overview of the anatomy of a steak.

Meat is a complex system of muscle fibers, connective tissue and fat. The muscle cells are about the thickness of a human hair and are surrounded by sheer connective tissue that binds the muscle fibers together. These fibers form bundles that are surrounded by more connective tissue, predominantly a protein called collagen.

More connective tissue creates ligaments and cements the bundles to the bones, which is mostly elastin—think “The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills.”

Scattered among the fibers are fat cells that store energy for the muscles. A lot of fat intermingled with the muscle is referred to as marbling because of the white striations that resemble actual marble.

As the animal grows, ages and exercises, muscle fibers get thicker and tougher, as does the connective tissue. When cooking, collagen begins to melt at about 160 degrees and turns into rich liquid gelatin. This gives meat a lot of flavor and a wonderful silky texture.

More internal activity is at play at lower temperatures.

At 95 to 110 degrees, fat starts to melt, and a steak begins to cook exponentially.

At 120 degrees the fat begins to turn opaque, almost milky.

Near 140 degrees, the capsule around the muscle cells begins to shrink rapidly and squeeze out moisture. Think of ringing out a wash cloth with your hands. The meat usually gets tough and chewy around this temperature.

Fat is the source of much of the flavor in meat. It absorbs and stores the aromatic compounds in the animal’s blood. As the animal ages, the flavor compounds intensify. After the animal is slaughtered, the fat can turn rancid if stored improperly or too long. So, we have a tradeoff. The muscle fibers and connective tissues get tougher as the animal ages, while the fat builds flavor.

Finally, one cooking tip. While cooking a steak or burger, never press on it. Since proteins are mostly water, you are actually steaming the meat when you cook it. When you press on it, you are pressing the water—your primary heat source—out, thereby slowing down the cooking time. As we professionals say in the kitchen, “never press!”

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.



Featuring a showing of art by Greg Alexander displayed by Creighton Block Gallery of Big Sky. Please stop by the bank lobby to see in person.



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Making it in Big Sky

Chad and Sarah Oullette of The Cave Spirits and Gifts

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – In the late '80s the State of Montana Liquor Division shut down the State Liquor Store in Big Sky and put it out to bid in 1989. Jodean and Doug Bing approached Chad Oullette about bidding on that liquor license. They were successful in the bid and reopened the Big Sky Liquor Store at Bucks T-4 Lodge from 1990 to 1994. In 2006, Oullette was again approached to purchase the store with partner Scott Johnson from Sidney, Montana. In the beginning they didn't have very many wholesale accounts, but one by one they started winning them back.

Starting out with 1,200 square feet in the RJS Tower building in Town Center, they quickly realized the need for more space, and in 2007 moved into their current 3,000 square foot space in the Market Place Building, expanding their selection of beer, wine and gifts.

Then came the recession and with it plenty of changes. Chad bought out his partner and his wife Sarah joined the business and took over all gift-buying responsibilities. Chad said he was never so scared in his life, with a wife and three little girls and holding on for dear life, but now they are on the brink of moving into an even larger 5,000 square foot space in the new building under construction across the street from Roxy's Market this spring.

As part of this ongoing series, the Oullettes shared their thoughts with EBS on the reasoning behind their success and longevity operating a Big Sky small business.

Explore Big Sky: *What has been the key to your success?*

Chad Oullette: We have always tried to provide excellent customer service. Today more than ever I think customer service is vital to be successful.

EBS: *What are the biggest obstacles to operating a small business in Big Sky?*



The Cave has been growing and expanding since Chad and Sarah Oullette bought the business in 2007. Their next move will be into a 5,000 square foot space in a new building still under construction across from Roxy's Market. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CAVE SPIRITS AND GIFTS

C.O.: The off-seasons have always been tough. We now like to call them shoulder seasons, but you still have to be ready to get through them.

EBS: *How has the business landscape changed since you started out?*

C.O.: Social media—it's a full time job keeping up with social media today.

EBS: *What is it about Big Sky that compels you to stick it out through the hard times?*

C.O. I moved to Montana in 1987 and couldn't believe I got to live in such a beautiful place; I still feel that way today.

EBS: *What is one of the most memorable moments you have had as a resident/business owner in Big Sky?*

C.O.: Probably my first run off the tram with my buddy Dave Smith. He has passed on now, but it's funny how often I think about that day and how much fun we had.

EBS: *Why do you think so many new businesses fold relatively quickly?*

C.O.: Maybe patience. I think some people start making a little money and spend it instead of saving some for a rainy day and believe me, it will rain.

EBS: *What advice would you give to small business owners just starting out in Big Sky?*

C.O.: Know your numbers. The best decision I ever made was hiring an experienced bookkeeper and accountant and then actually listening to them.

EBS: *What's the best piece of business advice you've received?*

C.O.: Never get stagnant—the second you coast, somebody will pass you by.

EBS: *Where do you see your business in 10 years?*

C.O.: With what's going on in Big Sky right now that's really hard to answer. We are getting ready to move into our new building with much more square footage than we currently have. Will this be our last move?

THE CAVE SPIRITS AND GIFTS - BY THE NUMBERS



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7



YEARS IN BUSINESS:
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& BACK 40



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INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



MSU researchers reveal new findings about virus that lives in Yellowstone hot springs

BY EVELYN BOSWELL
MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – For seven years as a graduate student at Montana State University, Rebecca Hochstein hiked into the backcountry of Yellowstone National Park.

Careful to avoid the bears whose tracks she saw on the trail, she collected samples from a 176-degree hot spring at the south edge of Hayden Valley. Then she returned to MSU, where she processed the samples, analyzed her findings and eventually focused her doctoral research on a lemon-shaped virus whose secrets she continues to reveal.

Her most recent paper—this one published in PNAS, the official journal of the National Academy of Sciences—explains a totally new way that viruses operate, specifically focusing on the Acidianus tailed spindle virus. The paper explains how nature assembles the virus and how the virus ejects DNA, the knowledge of which has potential applications in medicine and biotechnology.

“We have understood for many years the principles for the construction of cylindrical and spherical viruses, but this is the first time we have really understood how the third class, [lemon-shaped viruses], is put together,” said co-author Martin Lawrence, a professor in MSU’s Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry in the College of Letters and Science. “This understanding could potentially be adapted for technological uses.

“If we could load these virus shells with a different cargo, say a drug, and target it to a particular place in the body, such as a tumor, it could then deliver the drug to just that specific location, making the drug more effective, or reducing side effects,” Lawrence said.

Co-author Mark Young, a professor in MSU’s Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology in the College of Agriculture, said virologists and scientists interested in nanotechnology were excited to learn about a new way that nature has evolved viruses to build a virus particle.

“The detailed understanding of this virus isolated from a boiling acid hot spring in Yellowstone provides a potentially new virus-based nano-container that can operate at high temperature and acidic conditions which is of interest to biotech companies,” Young said, adding that this could have applications for smart drug delivery, as the virus could be stable in the GI track.

Hochstein and her collaborators from MSU, the University of California, Los Angeles, and the Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry in Germany learned more about the structure of the Acidianus virus by using a combination of cryo-electron microscopy and X-ray crystallography, and had access to one of the world’s most sophisticated microscopes.

The cryo-electron microscope in Hochstein’s project, which provides such high resolution images that scientists can create models down to the atomic level, was the most sophisticated one in the world just five years ago, Lawrence said. The instrument worth approximately \$7 million is located at the Max Planck Institute where Lawrence was on sabbatical from 2013-14.

Lawrence said the research team, among other things, was able to discover how the Acidianus virus makes a “remarkable transition” from a lemon-shaped virus



Rebecca Hochstein collecting samples in a hot spring in Yellowstone National Park. Hochstein’s research on a lemon-shaped virus could have important applications in medicine and biotechnology. PHOTO BY DEREK LOUDERMILK

into long, thin cylinders. Explaining how, he compared its structure to bricks connected by ropes.

“The bricks are actually connected to each other in long spirals, almost like a spiraling rope, and four to six of these spiraling ropes then wrap around each other to make the lemon-shaped container,” Lawrence said.

To turn the lemon-shaped viruses into cylinders, the ropes have to slide against each other, Lawrence said.

“We think this transition is used to squirt the DNA from the virus into the cell that the virus is infecting,” Lawrence said. “This answers the question of how the DNA leaves the virus. By analogy, how does one get juice out of a lemon? You squeeze it. In this case, the ropes in the shell squeeze the DNA inside, forcing it out.”

Lawrence praised Hochstein for her years working in Yellowstone National Park and her involvement in every other phase of the research. Acidianus doesn’t grow in the lab, so Alice Springs in Yellowstone Park’s Crater Hills became her laboratory, Lawrence said.

Hochstein earned her doctorate in MSU’s Department of Microbiology and Immunology in 2015. She is now a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities where she investigates the microbiome of the marine worm *Capitella teleta*.

Hochstein has switched her focus away from the lemon-shaped virus, but she said she is excited about her first publication in PNAS. Her previous findings about the Acidianus virus were published in 2015 and 2016 in the *Journal of Virology*.

“It was exciting to see all this come together as such a big story in a big journal,” Hochstein said. “I put a lot of time and effort into this virus. It’s nice to see that other people besides me think it’s interesting and important.”



Plowing Sylvan Pass. All of the roads in Yellowstone National Park closed to oversnow travel March 15 to allow for spring plowing. Weather permitting, some park roads will open for vehicles on April 20. Non-motorized travel, including bicycling, walking or jogging, will be permitted once roads are clear of snow, prior to opening roads to vehicles. NPS PHOTO

Yellowstone bans felt sole boots

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Aquatic invasive species could have devastating ecological, economic and recreational impacts on Yellowstone National Park. They are costly to manage and extremely difficult to eradicate. Due to the urgent need to prevent these destructive species from entering the park, felt sole waders and boots worn by anglers will be banned in the park permanently starting in 2018.

Felt sole waders and boots will be banned because they can carry microscopic organisms even after cleaning. Rubber sole boots, which trap fewer organisms than felt, will be allowed. Rubber can also be cleaned with water and a scrub brush.

The park will also implement a new boating season. Boats will be allowed to enter park waters from 7 a.m. on Saturday, May 26, until 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 4.

All watercraft are required to have a boat permit and a Yellowstone AIS inspection before launching in the park. Watercraft include, but are not limited to, power boats, sail boats, canoes, kayaks and angler float tubes.

Instituting a boating season guarantees the park will have staff to provide timely boat inspections.

Yellowstone National Park reminds visitors of the following cleaning procedures:

- Clean all plants, animals, mud, sand and other debris from your boat, anchor, boots and equipment.
- Use high-pressure, hot water if possible, between 120 and 140 F.
- Drain all water from your boat including the motor, bilge, livewell and other compartments before you arrive. Leave drain plugs out during transport. Do not dump water or organisms from one water body into another.
- Dry all compartments and equipment in the sun for five days.

To learn more about Yellowstone's new fishing regulations, visit nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/fishing.htm.

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Fly Fishing Film Tour lands in Big Sky March 21

GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

The Fly Fishing Film Tour will make a splash in Big Sky on Wednesday, March 21, at the Lone Peak Cinema with two showings at 5 and 8 p.m. The 2018 tour showcases nine fly-fishing films from around the world.

“This year’s lineup of films...would blow the doors off a ’78 Buick,” promises the F3T website. “With an emphasis on the stories, characters and fisheries that help make up the vast world of fly fishing, the 2018 F3T will take you from Michigan to Honduras, from Wyoming to Greenland, from the mind of child to the heart of a musician, from the edge of your seat to the end of the earth and back.”

The Big Sky show is a not-to-be-missed event for fishy folk of all ages. There will be a tasting gallery before the films featuring spirits by Willie’s Distillery, Glacier Distilling Company, Dry Hills Distillery, Bozeman Spirits and Wild Rye Distilling. The cinema bar will serve signature drinks to celebrate the original and preeminent exhibition of fly-fishing films.

Two of the films will shine a spotlight on the power of fly fishing to change lives. “Beyond the Horizon” shares the journey of Rankin Jackson who escaped the drug trade to become one of the greatest guides in Honduras.

In “Chandalar” a group of urban youth and veterans tackle fly fishing and healing during a three-week fly-fishing expedition.



In “Chandalar,” a film included in this year’s Fly Fishing Film Tour, a group of urban youth and veterans tackle fly fishing and healing during a three-week fly-fishing expedition through Alaska. PHOTO BY CAVIN BROTHERS

In addition to highlighting the best fly fishing films, the F3T partners with local fly shops and conservation organizations across the country. Last year, the tour raised more than \$500,000 to support education and conservation projects that enhance the sport of fly fishing.

Proceeds from the Big Sky event will support efforts to protect the Gallatin River by the Gallatin River Task Force.

To learn more about the F3T, visit gallatinrivertaskforce.org/project/fly-fishing-film-tour.

MSU Library shares oral histories of more than 150 anglers

BY ANNE CANTRELL
MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – A Montana State University librarian is collecting the stories of anglers from across the world and making those stories available for anyone, anywhere in the world to watch for free.

Special Collections Librarian James Thull said he was inspired to launch the MSU Angling Oral History Project after a story he heard from the legendary fly-fisherman Bud Lilly.

Lilly told Thull about taking an elderly man fishing while Lilly was working as a guide. The man could no longer see well, but he could still fish. Lilly directed the man to where he could cast, and the man landed a nice brown trout. Then he started to put his rod away.

“The fish are still rising,” Lilly told him. “You can keep fishing.”

“No,” the man responded. “That’s the last fish I will ever catch.”

Thull said the exchange with Lilly prompted him in 2014 to launch a project dedicated to capturing the culture, history and significance of angling.

“As humans, if we don’t actively collect, preserve and disseminate things, they can be lost,” he said. “What was once common knowledge becomes lost if it’s not documented and preserved.”

The result of Thull’s effort is the MSU Angling Oral History Project, which collects, preserves and shares the histories, opinions and stories of politicians, artists, guides, authors and anglers from all walks of life. The video-recorded

interviews are freely available online through the MSU-created database, which is a part of the Special Collections and Archives Trout and Salmonid Collection.

To date, Thull has recorded more than 150 oral histories, and he plans to continue collecting for the foreseeable future. Those oral histories—which range in length from roughly 10 minutes to about two hours—come from men and women of approximately 40 countries, including Iceland, India, Japan, Nepal, Russia, the U.S. and South Africa.

Notable individuals who have provided oral histories for the project include Lilly; the writer Thomas McGuane; and Dan Wenk, superintendent of Yellowstone National Park.

Paul Schullery, an author, co-author and editor of more than 30 books, including “American Fly Fishing: A History,” said that Thull has taken the concept of meaningful oral history “to a level I’ve not encountered before, especially in a socially significant but specialized subject like angling.

“MSU’s Trout and Salmonid Collection has emerged as one of the premier such collections in the country in part because it is dynamic enough to recognize the value of new media beyond the traditional print literature,” Schullery said. “The MSU Angling Oral History Project adds just such a dimension to the collection, preserving and celebrating the individual voices of anglers, businesspeople, scientists, conservationists, landowners, resource managers and all the other folks who make up the rich character of this ancient sport that has now become such an important part of the culture of the American West.”

To view oral histories that are part of the Angling Oral History Project, visit lib.montana.edu/trout/oral-histories/.



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The best all-around fly-fishing rod



BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

Mid-March means glory season here in Big Sky—bluebird days on the ski hill and the potential for dry flies on your favorite local trout river. And I’ve been out enjoying both, which is why several emails from my editor inquiring to the whereabouts of this column and its passed deadline went unanswered.

In my defense, on chairlift rides and in between drifts of my dry fly, I was brainstorming ideas for this piece.

Coming up with a fresh column idea was a challenge, because picking out powdery lines and tasty trout lies also required my attention. But as I was departing the river recently, and thinking of my next stop to end another perfect day—soaking my skied-out and waded-out legs in my hot tub—I realized I’ve covered many topics in The Eddy Line, but lacking was trusted advice on the ideal fly-fishing rod to go with living in our outdoor recreation heaven. Here’s my take on the best all-around fly-fishing rod for our local waters.

Choose a five weight. Fly rods are classified by weight: zero weights on up to 14 weights. The lower the rod weight the lighter and less burly the rod. Most rods for trout fall into the zero to seven-weight category, with four to six weights being the preferred choice. Eight- to 10-weight rods and up are for larger waters, cast large flies with ease, and handle beefier species of fish such as bass, bonefish, steelhead and permit. Eleven-weight rods and up are for big-time fish and the larger flies often required to catch them.

I’ll be taking my 12-weight rod to the Providence Atoll in the Seychelles in April, because a five weight and a giant trevally do not mix well. But until then, my five weight is my go-to rod for our local waters.

Four- and six-weight rods are OK, but they can be under-gunned or over-matched. I’m talking about one rod to do it all—the true workhorse rod for our local waters. A four-weight rod can cast single dry fly mayflies on the Gallatin well and might be first choice to do so, but if the oh-so-frequent down-canyon southerly wind kicks up, turning over a 12-foot 5X leader with a four weight is tough.

If the fish cease their surface feeding, and you have to fish weighted nymphs or streamers, fishing a four weight shifts from fun to work. A six weight is a good choice for a double-nymph rig or for dragging streamers; however, if the wind calms, flies hatch, and it’s time to fish single dries to rising trout, a six weight is like trying to park a Suburban in Manhattan. It can happen, but it’s never as easy as you think.

Be fine with nine. Rods come in many lengths, from 7 to 12 feet. For our local waters, a 9-foot long five weight is the rod of choice. This length allows for maximum mending efficiency and if you spend anytime floating rivers and fishing, a 9-foot rod is ideal. In fly-fishing nomenclature, we say a 9-foot five-weight fly rod.



Choosing the right fly-fishing rod for our local waters is important to enjoyment and success. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

This length is also versatile because fishing double-nymph rigs or streamers is less of a chore than when fishing shorter rods. Longer rods offer less sensitivity for smaller waters or situations where small flies and light tippets are necessary, such as a spring creek or in late summer when clear and low water conditions are the norm.

A medium, or medium-fast action rod is the best choice for most anglers. The action of a rod is described as how it flexes when cast or when a fish is hooked. Slow-action rods may struggle in heavy wind or be outmatched for double nymph rigs. Rods that are too fast or too stiff can make casting cumbersome. Pick a rod with a medium or medium-fast action because they offer the widest range of casting ease and fish sensitivity.

Casting range is important if you’re learning to cast or if you ever want to pass on the rod to someone new to fly fishing. Sensitivity is crucial to protect light tippets, the ability to feel the entire flex of the rod while mending, and to more efficiently fight fish quickly.

It’s a good thing March is 31 days long, because the clock is ticking on our ability to enjoy two passions in the same day. By reaching for your 9-foot five weight, you’re making a wise decision. You’ve already chosen the perfect place to recreate, now enjoy it more with the perfect rod.

Pat Straub is a 20-year veteran guide on Montana’s waters and has fished the world over. He’s the co-founder of the Montana Fishing Guide School, and 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.

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On the Trail: Ousel Falls in the winter

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

BY CIARA WOLFE
BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As iconic as Lone Peak itself, Ousel Falls trail and open space park is a favorite for both locals and visitors from around the world in every season. This trail is an excellent way to spend some time outdoors during a beautiful spring day in Big Sky.

The trail sees a lot of traffic during all months of the year, and the trailhead parking lot is plowed making it easily accessible in the winter.

The 1.6-mile hike or snowshoe crosses through a ravine and over the Southfork of the Westfork of the Gallatin River via two picturesque bridges. The trail meanders through the woods along the river with a short climb up to a vista that overlooks a 100-foot waterfall. This sight is worthwhile any time of year.

The falls are particularly impressive during the winter when they are frozen and surrounded by a snow-covered landscape. At times, hikers can watch ice climbers on the falls from the vista overlook.

During the winter months the trail is snow packed and can be slick, so shoes with traction devices like Yaktrax are recommended.

Grab your camera, a water bottle and your studded shoes and head out for a hike that will fill you with an even greater appreciation for nature and for Big Sky.



Ousel Falls transforms from a cascading waterfall in the summer to a frozen array of ice in the winter.
PHOTO BY SHANNON ODOM

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



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RESORT ROUNDUP

Your guide to events, activities and news at Big Sky Resort

WORD FROM THE RESORT

New pass options and up-grades at Big Sky Resort

Pass prices increase April 9

BY CHELSI MOY
BIG SKY RESORT PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER

BIG SKY – Mid-March means there are many ski days left in this glorious snow season, and yet, I find myself already excited for next year.

The resort recently announced plans to install a brand new, state-of-the-art eight-seat chairlift with heated seats and “Big Sky blue” bubble covers on Andesite Mountain, and replace the Shedhorn double chairlift on the south-facing slopes with a high-speed quad. Those changes will mean more ski laps, and more powder and more turns for skiers and riders come next season.

The resort is looking to the future, and therefore investing in the technology of the future. Big Sky Resort is also excited to be a part of Ikon Pass and the Mountain Collective next season, which will help introduce the entire Big Sky community to more out-of-town guests.

But the folks who will benefit the most from these upgrades are our most loyal customers—our season pass holders. The new season pass lineup for next season is available online. Back again, thanks to popular demand, is a wide variety of passes at a number of different price points starting at \$399.

A few things worth noting about the new pass lineup:

- The Gold Pass includes half-off tickets at all Mountain Collective resorts.
- Several passes have new names in a nod to Montana’s precious metals and gems.
- There are two new categories. The “legends” category, valid for people 80 years old and older, will now pay less, as will those ages 18 to 25 with the addition of a “young adults” category.
- Prices will increase on April 9, so it’s advisable to choose which pass is right for you soon.

As if the Mountain Collective benefits didn’t sweeten the pot enough for Gold Pass buyers, we decided to up the ante with the golden ticket. Anyone who purchases a Gold Pass in full before April 8 will have his or her name automatically entered into a raffle for a heli-ski trip in May on Lone Peak.

The drawing will be held April 9. The winner will get to ride untracked runs on a day of choice between May 1 and May 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. followed by a champagne lunch.

Imagine having the mountain all to yourself and two friends, with a helicopter as your transport. It’s hard not to dream about helicopter rides in May and heated, eight-seat chairlift rides next season, but there are still five weeks left in this season so make each day count!

 DINING SPECIALS & APRÈS

DEALS FOR ALL PATRONS
All Locations: \$10 mules mixed with Montana distilled spirits on Mondays
Andiamo: 50 percent off appetizers, 4 to 5:30 p.m. daily.
Every Tuesday enjoy the “Exploring Italian Wine” series at 4 p.m.
Chet’s: Half price on starters, 3 to 6 p.m. daily
Hummers: \$6 house margaritas and \$9 nachos, 3 to 6 p.m. daily
Montana Jack: Saturday afternoons showcase regional breweries with prizes and giveaways from 3 to 5:30 p.m.
Peaks and Carabiner: 40 percent off bottles of wine on Tuesdays

SEASON PASS PROMOTIONS
Flash your pass and get these special promotions.
Andiamo: 50 percent off Aperitivo food menu items, 4 to 5:30 p.m. daily
Chet’s: \$2 off hot bar drinks and \$10 barbecued pulled pork sandwiches with potato wedges, 3 to 6 p.m. daily
Montana Jack: 25 percent off all burgers, beginning at 5:30 p.m. daily
Peaks: 25 percent off the Peaks lunch buffet, every weekday

 TICKET DEALS

2018-9 PASS OPTIONS RELEASED
Big Sky Resort has released its season pass lineup for the winter 2018-2019 season, bringing back a similar lineup of passes as last year at a variety of price points. Here are a few of the standouts.

The premiere, all-access **Gold Pass** not only includes half-off lift tickets to the 16 resorts in the Mountain Collective, but those who purchase it before April 8 will have a chance to win an exclusive May heli-ski trip at Big Sky Resort.

New this year is the reduced price **Legends Pass** for seniors 80 and older, and for young adults ages 18-25.

Payment plans for most season passes are available at only \$99 down.

Visit bigskyresort.com for a full line-up of 2018-19 pass options.

 LIVE MUSIC

MONDAYS Lauren & Jeff Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.	THURSDAYS Kent Johnson Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.	Krazy Karaoke Montana Jack, 10 p.m.
Mike Haring Montana Jack, 4 p.m.	Kenny Diamond Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.	SATURDAYS Milton Menasco Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.
TUESDAYS Lauren Jackson Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.	Laruen & Jeff Chet’s Bar, 4:30 p.m.	Mike Haring Carabiner Lounge, 8:30 p.m.
Milton Menasco Duo Chet’s Bar, 4:30 p.m.	Jazz at Night Carabiner Lounge, 8:30 p.m.	Lone Mountain Trio Chet’s Bar, 9 p.m.
WEDNESDAYS Diamond Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.	FRIDAYS Diamond Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.	DJ Montana Jack, 10 p.m.
Brian and Ben Chet’s Bar, 4:30 p.m.	Mike Haring Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.	SUNDAYS Dan Dubuque Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.



ACTIVITIES

Shedhorn Skimo

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

This technical ski mountaineering race combines skiing and climbing skills for a wild backcountry challenge. Professional ski mountaineering athletes will come to Big Sky from around the world to compete against some of the most fit locals.

FIS Masters World Criterium

MARCH 19-24

This international competition will see

competitive athletes perform in the Slalom, Giant Slalom and Super-G ski race events.

Business After Hours

MARCH 21

SUMMIT HOTEL, 5 P.M.

The Big Sky Chamber Business After Hours is hosted by a different Chamber member each month as an opportunity to meet and network. While a members-only event, Business After Hours is also open to nonmembers interested in joining.

Vine and Dine Winter Dinner Series

MARCH 21

PEAKS, 6:30 P.M.

Sommelier Don Jost will give a glimpse of what is on tap for the summer's Vine and Dine festival by offering select wine pairing dinners this winter.

Dirtbag Day

MARCH 24

A holiday commemorating the skiing lifestyle, Dirtbag Day is complete with a costume parade, powder 8 competition and notorious Dirtbag Ball.

Proceeds from these activities benefit Big Sky Ski Patrol. See below for a complete story on this event.

Mountain Church Service

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

MAIN CHAPEL AREA, 1:30 P.M.

Mountain Church Service
Moonlight Basin Chapel Area, 3 p.m.

Commemorating the skiing lifestyle Dirtbag Day returns to the slopes

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The Big Sky Resort Ski Patrol is gearing up for the 39th annual celebration of what it means to be a ski bum. On March 24, patrollers will host their wild and well-known festivities, including a ski parade from the Lone Peak Tram base at 10 a.m., and a powder 8 competition on Cron's directly after.

The powder 8 is a true throwback to the '80s, back when the competitions were all the rage. Teams of two ski down the mountain in synchronization, looping to form a linked figure eight with their tracks, while judges critique skier skill.

The competition is known for drawing particularly memorable costumes, including retro one-piece ski suits, football helmets and creative numbers made of household supplies.

Following the 4:30 p.m. awards ceremony, ski patrol will host the notorious Dirtbag Ball, which has its origins in 1979 at Buck's T-4 Lodge. The Swamp Dogs will begin playing at 9 p.m., and this year will be the first time partygoers will gather at Lone Peak Brewery.



Big Sky Ski Patrol's Dirtbag Day has enjoyed nearly four decades of notoriety, complete with costumes, competitions, and the coronation of a king and queen. PHOTO COURTESY OF AMANDA MARTIN

In addition to music and dancing, the Dirtbag King and Queen will be crowned at midnight, in accordance with annual custom. Patrollers select two locals who ski hard every day and have a good time at night, too. The reigning Dirtbag King is Chad Ziegler, and the Queen is Monica Thomas.

Dirtbag Day, so named to describe locals who live to ski, is an annual fundraiser for Big Sky Ski Patrol.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL 1

Easter celebration

Big Sky Resort offers special Easter activities each year, including a special Easter Sunrise Service at the top of Swiftcurrent chairlift, an Easter egg hunt, as well as an appearance by the Easter Bunny.

APRIL 6

Chet's Brewery Dinner Series: Outlaw Brewing

Chet's restaurant will wrap up the Brewery Dinner Series on April 6 with a four-course meal suited to pair with some of Bozeman-based Outlaw Brewing's very best brews.

APRIL 7

Sam Adams Big Air 2018

This nighttime showcase combines the thrill and technical skill of some of the best skiers and riders in the sport, alongside cutting-edge 3D projection mapping. Stop by the Sam Adams Festival Village during the day and check out the noon-time demo before the night show.

APRIL 21

Pond Skim 2018

This event wraps up the 2017-2018 season, with folks skimming across a slushy pond at the Ambush Headwall.

2018 WINTER CLOSING DAY: **APRIL 22**



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Ski tips: All-terrain skiing all about balance

BY DAN EGAN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The more I teach skiers backcountry and big mountain skills, the more I realize that most advanced skiers aren't held back by a lack of talent—it's a balance issue. Few skiers realize that when it comes to turning a ski, the dynamics don't change much from groomed slopes to steep, powdery pitches.

Fear and apprehension can equal a lack of balance. For nearly two decades, traditional ski schools taught minimized motion when it comes to technique, and focused too much on tipping and edging skis by simply rolling your ankles to initiate a turn—this only works well on groomed and intermediate slopes. In big mountain terrain, you want to arch your turns, creating dynamic motion that makes your skiing more efficient.



Dan Egan focuses on balance while shredding a steep, powdery pitch at British Columbia's Kicking Horse Resort.
PHOTO BY MIKE MCPHEE

Minimized motion results in fear and an inability to decelerate when intermediate skiers enter into difficult terrain such as trees, moguls and steeps. Skiers can conquer apprehension and fear by practicing speed acceptance and slowly building on their skills in new terrain.

Speed acceptance. Skis are made to accelerate, and deceleration happens over a series of turns. So, rather than skiing to slow down, practice skiing to accelerate and then slow down in the last three turns of your descent. You can practice this on a groomed slope and then gradually move to steeper terrain with cut up snow or moguls.

Maximize motion. When it comes to skiing powder, trees and steeps, it's important to maximize motion. You can do this by reaching farther down the hill with your pole plants and/or standing taller between turns—this will make for a more dynamic transition between your stance and your turn. When you maximize your motion you unlock your balance and can control the speed you're generating.

You go where you look, so look where you want to go. The key to all-mountain skiing is looking down the hill and past obstacles. Too often skiers will tell me what they want to avoid, but rarely do they tell me where they want to turn. Focus your eyes beyond the mogul, tree or rocks and see the path around obstacles, then decelerate over a series of two or three turns.

A balanced skier is a thing of beauty and as skiers our job is to complement the terrain we ski. Breathe deep, relax and remember it's a balance issue, not a talent issue.

Extreme skiing pioneer Dan Egan has appeared in 12 Warren Miller ski films and countless others. Today he teaches clinics and guides trips at locations around the world including Big Sky. To find more information on Dan Egan camps and clinics, visit skiclincs.com.

A version of this story was first published in the March 6, 2015, edition of EBS.



Inside the Big Sky

Spa services in Big Sky

VISIT BIG SKY

It’s been a big winter of tearing up the slopes in Big Sky, but in order to have enough fire to last us through April, it’s important to take care of those weary muscles. One way to do so is to book yourself an appointment at one of the multiple spa treatment centers in Big Sky and experience the rejuvenation firsthand.

A classic Thai massage at Santosha Wellness Center in the Westfork Meadows area is the perfect way to wrap up a day on the mountain, as it combines stretching and deep pressure massage to open up the body. The therapist guides the patient through stretches with accompanied pressure on certain points to increase flexibility and relieve muscle and joint tension. This therapy is conducted fully clothed so is a good option for those less comfortable with the nudity associated with traditional massage.

If you don’t want to stray too far from Big Sky Resort, the full-service Solace Spa & Salon in the Huntley Lodge at Big Sky Resort is your answer. All of their body wraps include full body dry brush exfoliation, and therapeutic scalp and foot massages. Indulge in their various, aromatic body scrub options created to enhance relaxation from the inside out.

No one said you had to enjoy your spa experience alone—rather, gather your girlfriends and head to OZsage Therapeutic Spa in the Meadow Village Center for a complete “Girls Getaway” package. Groups can receive treatment in the comfort of their own private suite, extra conducive to relaxing and catching up with friends. The four different package options include access to a private steam room, foot



Solace Spa & Salon in the Huntley Lodge is a convenient option for those staying at Big Sky Resort. In the meadow, Santosha Wellness Center and OZsage Therapeutic Spa offer a diverse array of treatment options to soothe your post-slope soreness. PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY RESORT

treatments, facials, and a massage of varying lengths based on the chosen package. A la carte options are also available.

To learn more about Big Sky and southwest Montana, visit the Visit Big Sky blog at visitbigskymt.com.



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Bozeman film festival highlights mountain biking March 21

EBS STAFF

The Bozeman-based Southwest Montana Mountain Bike Association will host a night of pedaling the trails on film on March 21, at the Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture. The event begins at 6 p.m. and is the only Bozeman stop currently scheduled for the national mountain biking film tour Trails in Motion.

The Trails in Motion Mountain Bike Film Festival is an annual tour that showcases mountain biking films intended to give audiences a true sense of shared inspiration. This year’s collection includes films about biking adventures in British Columbia, an artist inspired by the landscapes she cycles, and surviving the grueling Tour of Ara through the semi-desert South African landscape.

Festival organizers say the driving force for the tour comes from a deep connection with the bicycle.

“Have you ever stopped to consider what your life would be like if you had never ever sat on a bicycle? If your father, your cousin or your friend had never helped you take those first ever pedal strokes?” organizers asked the Facebook community last December, prior to launching the 2018 tour. “To us, the bicycle is a symbol. It’s a means to eternal adventure, a two-wheeled timeline of our lives and the path we constantly tread in search of both belonging to something yet remaining absolutely free.”

SWMMBA works to enhance trails and advocate for mountain bicyclists in and around Bozeman. Proceeds from the event will be used to support their cause.



In the film “Huayhuash,” one of a number of films featured in the Trails in Motion film tour, three friends set out to circumnavigate Peru’s rugged Huayhuash Mountain Range by bicycle. PHOTO COURTESY OF TRAILS IN MOTION

Tickets for the Trails in Motion film tour are available in Bozeman at Bangtail Bikes, Owenhouse Cycles, Gear Wizard and Alter Cycles. They are also available online at eventbrite.com.

For more information about the Trails in Motion film festival and to watch trailers for this year’s films, visit trailsinmotionmtb.com.

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From Jackie *with love* Can dietary fat be good for us?



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

This is the third and final installment of my series on cholesterol. Previously, I focused on new and improved tests for cholesterol and problems with cholesterol-lowering drugs. In this piece, I'll focus on dietary fats.

With a mere 5 percent of the population having a genetic predisposition toward heart disease, we know that most heart attacks and strokes are due to diet and lifestyle choices.

Some of the dietary guidelines put out by the U.S. government actually pose a significant threat to our health. They impact public policies and programs from school lunches to government health programs, yet special interest groups often heavily influence the information they provide.

The biggest and most shocking overturn in diet recommendations coming from scientific studies today is that fat is not the evil villain we've been led to believe since the 1950s. Yet, you may have noticed that the latest U.S. Department of Agriculture nutrition guidelines found in the "My Plate" diagram—which is intended to replace the grossly misleading and outdated "Food Pyramid"—has no fat on it whatsoever.

Adding fat to our diets is worth considering, but we must do it thoughtfully. If we add in fat, which is calorie dense, without removing other calories, we may find that we gain weight because we're simply consuming too much.

The fats we eat should come from healthy sources like nuts, seeds, avocados and coconuts. There is evidence that fat from these sources can lower blood cholesterol which we currently believe is linked to heart disease.

There are indeed unhealthy fats found in processed foods. Partially hydrogenated oil is in many, if not most, processed foods. It's an inexpensive ingredient that has many uses like "mouth feel" and a prolonged shelf life. The Food and Drug Administration gave food manufacturers three years to remove PHO from their products, by June 18, 2018. This came after years of pressure from scientific evidence linking PHO to elevated LDL cholesterol, inflammation, stroke and heart disease.

The truth is though, the more we steer clear of processed foods made in factories, the more this becomes a non-issue.

The best way to know what is right for you, and the health of your heart, is to use yourself as the experimenter and the experiment. Have your blood panel done, eat well for three to six months, re-test and see the results. I doubt there is a single person whose health will decline if they switch to a whole-foods diet—whether it's vegan or paleo—cut out junk foods and drinks, and exercise regularly.

May you live a long, healthy and happy life!

Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach, culture consultant, TEDx speaker and coach. For a complimentary health consultation, visit corcoranhealth.com and schedule your meeting today.

The power of a friend to help you find your way home



BY DARYN KAGAN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

She is not the friend I talk to everyday. She lives on the other side of the country. We can go months without any connection beyond a nod on Facebook.

Until last week, when news spread that my friend had received some difficult medical news.

The details are not mine to share—besides, this column is not about her health battle ahead, but rather the bigger picture of our friendship.

We might not talk every day, but I've come to realize she is one of my most significant friends—in the way a true friend can help you get where you need to go.

Many years ago, when I was single and flush with cash from being a CNN news anchor, I loaned her and her husband money toward the down payment on their first home. I haven't told many people this. I had actually forgotten about it, probably because they paid back every cent long ago.

Years later, a former boyfriend was getting married and I was devastated. If it feels like I often share a "former boyfriend was getting married" story, it's not you, it's me. I starred in many versions of this heartbreak movie.

In this particular episode, my girlfriend suggested I meet her in Chicago where she was attending a medical convention. It was such a relief to not be home on the wedding weekend.

How she didn't yell from the hotel's 27th floor that this dude marrying some other dumb girl would be among the luckiest things that ever

happened to me, I don't know. She made no judgement on my sadness.

Instead, she gave me a gift.

She said, "I know he's on his way ... the man who truly deserves you, who will cherish you, who will love you. I also know you can't believe that right now. I will believe for you. I will hold him in my heart knowing he is on his way."

I shared that story during an evening dog walk with my husband by my side. I just wanted to talk about my friend; he just wanted to listen. Because he is that guy. The guy my dear friend held in her heart all those years.

"It's like she held space for you years before you got here," I marveled. "Her gift was my first step toward you."

And then, the tears started to splash. Something about the power of it all. How in our own way, my friend and I helped each other find our way home.

That is a friend—the one who helps you find your way home.

Do you have that dear reader?

It's time to pick up the phone and tell that friend how much you love him or her, and how great it is to finally be home.

Daryn Kagan was a featured speaker at TEDxBigSky 2018. She is author of "Hope Possible: A Network News Anchor's Thoughts on Losing her Job, Finding Love, a New Career, and my Dog, Always my Dog," and the founder of darynkagan.com, a resource for uplifting and positive news.

BACK40

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

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

A bridge to last the ages Gallatin Canyon’s Shenango Bridge

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

In the midst of a November 1934 snowstorm, a company of men set out from West Yellowstone with belongings and equipment in tow. Headed for a broad, flat bench north of the confluence of the Gallatin River and Storm Castle Creek—formerly called Squaw Creek—these men joined a crew already dispatched to the area, who had been hard at work that summer rebuilding the 1910 ranger station and carving out 2 miles of road in a matter of 10 days.

These men were members of the Civilian Conservation Corps, a national workforce program established by Congress in 1933 to help unemployed men during the Great Depression. The program contributed to national projects like forest management, conservation and flood control, operating in Montana both in Glacier and Yellowstone national parks, as well as in the Gallatin Canyon.

The early years of the new CCC camp—now referred to as the Shenango site for the ephemeral Shenango Creek that runs nearby—hummed with new construction. Barracks to sleep nearly 200, a mess hall, recreation hall, office headquarters and storage sheds all came to life in just a few years, made of hand-hewn logs with cast iron trim and filled with handmade cabinets and furniture.



The bridge to Storm Castle amounted to 430 cubic yards of crushed rock, 230 cubic yards of sand, 3,120 stacks of cement and 34 tons of reinforcing steel.

In addition to building a permanent camp, members of the CCC were assigned various improvement projects throughout the canyon. They conducted game studies and timber thinning, worked in fish culture and stream improvement, and were sometimes called on as an early form of search and rescue or were needed to fight fires.

One of the largest projects assigned to the Storm Castle crew was the construction of a bridge across the Gallatin River, necessary to connect the camp with the developing road through the canyon.

To begin the work, CCC men built a footbridge across the river, to allow for moving materials back and forth. They drilled into the rocky banks along the river to make space for the bridge holdings, having trucked rock crushers, cement mixers and primitive bulldozers into the area from the railroad line in Bozeman. The CCC excavated rock and sand to mix the cement and gathered timber for the concrete forms and scaffolding.

The structure provides an 18-foot roadway and amounted to 430 cubic yards of crushed rock, 230 cubic yards of sand, 3,120 stacks of cement and 34 tons of reinforcing steel, according to a scrapbook compiled by former CCC member Bill Sharp, available at the Gallatin History Museum in Bozeman.



Members of the Civilian Conservation Corps built a working bridge over the Gallatin River in 1935 in preparation for the permanent concrete bridge built later that year. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GALLATIN HISTORY MUSEUM

Recently, the U.S. Forest Service tested the integrity of the concrete. “It is still in excellent condition,” said Jonathan Kempff, forest engineer for the Custer Gallatin National Forest. “All indications are that the structural capability of the bridge will last another 30 to 50 years, and possibly more.

“A bridge from the 1930s that is still functional is a pretty awesome testament to the work of the CCC,” he added.

Today, a trip over Shenango Bridge leads you to the Shenango Helibase, headquarters for the Gallatin Rappel Crew, a group of wildland firefighters hosted by the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

The helibase sits next to the former CCC camp and a handful of the original CCC structures still stand, including the 1935 ranger station. The Shenango Bridge is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, although it has not been listed yet.

Shenango Bridge will be closed between March 23 and May 15 for restorative work that will strengthen the bridge and allow for the passage of today’s highway legal loads. For questions about this process call the Forest Service’s Bozeman Ranger District at (406) 522-2520.



Storm Castle bridge in 1975.

Section 4: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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Julie Gustafson: The business of art, the solitude of making

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – Most people likely know Julie Gustafson as the face of Big Sky’s Gallatin River Gallery, but might be unaware the devoted gallerist is also an artist herself.

Gustafson earned a degree in geology from the University of Colorado Boulder, and although she would only spend a week working in the field, her attraction to the fundamentals of the natural world can still be seen in the artwork she chooses to represent, as well as the forms that show up in her own work.

In 1979, laid up after breaking her collarbone in a bike accident, Gustafson started drawing and creating watercolors with her rapidograph—a technical pen used to draw topographical maps—and soon thereafter decided to attend the California College of Arts in Oakland.

“When I got to art school the language made so much sense to me; I was in heaven,” Gustafson said.

It was a class in gallery design and management that led to the accumulation of 30-plus years in the industry. Directly out of school, during the art-thriving 80s, Gustafson got a job at San Francisco’s Fuller Goldeen Gallery, recognized as the most prominent U.S. gallery outside of New York City at the time.

Gustafson eventually moved on to the Susan Cummins Gallery in Mill Valley, California, where she spent 14 years gaining invaluable experience in the commercial art world.

In 1999, Gustafson took the plunge and opened a business in Big Sky rather impulsively after visiting a friend in the area. Gallatin River Gallery’s original location was in the canyon next to “J.D.’s fly shop,” Wild Trout Outfitters, among an odd jumble of businesses that Gustafson recalls feeling a bit like “Northern Exposure,” the ‘90s television comedy about small-town Alaska.

Now in its fourth location, in Big Sky Town Center, the gallery is going 18 years strong.

When Gustafson was pressed to find a connection between the business of selling art and the process of making it, she said that they are entirely separate aspects of her life.

“I live and breathe my business to keep it alive,” Gustafson said. “When I’m making my own art, I really do leave the gallery behind and get totally into what’s in front of me in a way that feels really pure.”



Gustafson’s collage “Kiss Me” will be up for bidding in the Arts Council’s Auction for the Arts’ silent auction on March 22.

Gustafson replenishes her reserves of creativity by taking art workshops in stunning natural settings like the Esalen Institute in Big Sur, California, or a farmhouse on Wisconsin’s Lake Pepin.

Although she experiments in many different mediums, her focus is creating deeply personal 2- and 3-D collages that combine vintage paper, objects, text, paint and oftentimes abstracted landscape monoprints she made years ago in art school.



When Julie Gustafson isn’t consumed by her work as the owner of Big Sky’s Gallatin River Gallery, she makes her own art, with a focus on collage and three-dimensional objects. PHOTOS COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GALLERY

“I like putting together diverse elements that then come together to create a whole new piece,” she said.

Gustafson’s “Kiss Me” is a heavily layered piece consisting of monoprint fragments collaged on to vintage text and musical references, and was inspired by the joyful song and dance she experienced at Esalen. The piece was juried into the Arts Council of Big Sky’s Auction for the Arts silent auction which takes place on March 22 at Moonlight Basin Lodge.

Another collage utilized art school-era watercolors on rice paper, textile patterns and pages from an 1800’s arithmetic textbook with her great grandmother’s doodles in the margins.

“[It’s a process of] resurrecting, recycling remembering, honoring ... a kind of a metaphor for the richness of experience of your own life,” she said. “It’s fun to revisit all those fragments and put them back together in a way that’s current.”

Gustafson says she would like to start creating more 3-D pieces in the vein of “Lost and Found,” a piece built on an old checkerboard she found on a beach in Northern California. She collaged a found or given object on each square: sea glass, a miniature Buddha, a flattened dime, a Swedish painted horse, and a glass sea anemone.

“You know, weird stuff that I connect with and know the source of,” she explained.

A sense of personal connection also guides Gustafson’s selection of the artists she chooses to represent.

“I choose my artists on a really gut level,” said Gustafson, who represents approximately 50 artists, half of whom are from Montana. She won’t show anything she wouldn’t want hanging in her own home, and has to feel a natural rapport with the artist. And all of the work—abstract, representational, even jewelry—has to include some reference to the natural world that resonates with Gustafson and her vision for the gallery.

“Each one of my artists has a really personal journey they’re committed to,” Gustafson said. “And are really pursuing their own observations of living and being in nature.”

Gallatin River Gallery is located at 114 Ousel Falls Road in Big Sky Town Center. Visit gallatinrivergallery.com or call (406) 995-2099 for more information.

ACBS adds three new artists to live auction

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – On Thursday, March 22 the Arts Council of Big Sky will hold its largest fundraising event of the year at Moonlight Basin Lodge. The 2018 Auction for the Arts will feature more than 60 works of art, including pieces by some of the West’s best-known artists. Between 50 and 100 percent of proceeds from each work sold will benefit the many programs, initiatives and events the nonprofit brings to Big Sky each year.

The event begins at 6 p.m. with a reception during which attendees can browse a juried silent auction, and watch the invited artists “quick-finish” the piece that will be featured in the live auction to follow. During the main event, spectators can bid on sought-after pieces by Tom Gilleon, Kevin Red Star, Carol Hagan, and many others.

In addition to the many regional artists who have become annual participants in the auction, the Arts Council has invited three new artists whose work ranges from traditional Western motifs to contemporary, abstract pieces.

Non-representational painter Pamela Caughey of Hamilton, Montana, works in many media, with a focus on beeswax-based encaustic, acrylic mixed media, and cold wax and oil.

Caughey’s paintings are not based on the outside world, but rather, originate within. “I let things happen and unfold inside of me,” she said, adding that her work is predominantly autobiographical.



Missoula artist Barb Schwarz Karst paints in styles that range from representational to abstract. For the Auction for the Arts, she has submitted a piece from her Rust Belt series, which explores the region’s dying industries.

In 2016, when Caughey lost her family’s home, a beloved cat, and her studio to a forest fire, she was working on the final, large-scale pieces for a solo exhibit at the Holter Museum of Art in Helena.

Scrambling, Caughey ordered a few supplies, and made her own waxes and colors. She ended up incorporating ashes from her house, resulting in works that were dark and monochromatic, a departure from her usual colorful palette.

“It lent amazing content to the show and made it so much more meaningful,” she said. “People want authenticity in your work—emotional investment.”

Joe Kronenberg left art school after one year, disappointed that he hadn’t learned to paint like the old masters. When he later re-entered the world of art it was as a wildlife artist, inspired by the beauty of his surroundings in Spirit Lake, Idaho.

Today Kronenberg’s work is predominantly figurative, often focusing on Native Americans. Known for instilling classical realism in historically accurate paintings, Kronenberg stages photo shoots to use as reference for his paintings.

“We try to be as authentic as possible,” he said. “If I want to do a Crow scene, the models dress in full Crow regalia.”



Encaustic artist Pam Caughey, from Hamilton, Montana, paints non-representational pieces that are deeply personal and originate from within. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

In 2017, Kronenberg was inducted into the Russell Skull Society of Artists, an exclusive group of Western artists whose work upholds the tradition of Charles M. Russell.

When asked about participating in Big Sky’s Auction for the Arts for the first time, Kronenberg said, “As my calendar fills up, I’ve become more selective. I look for events that have art and artists of a certain caliber, like this one.”

Barb Schwarz Karst of Missoula is best known for her colorful and diverse original paintings.

She credits her years of teaching art for the wide range of her work. “As a teacher, I had to demonstrate a lot of styles, so my work can be extremely realistic and tightly controlled, or it can be big, loose, and abstract.”

All of her work relates to Montana, such as her Rust Belt series, which explores the region’s dying industries. Karst donated a piece from this series to the Auction for the Arts.

“It’s a close-up of a combine,” she explained. “I shot it at a tractor graveyard north of [Missoula]. I did a small mock-up of it a couple years ago and loved the colors, the diagonal angles, the nuts and bolts, all the detail. It’s not completely abstract—it’s anchored in touches of realism—but it’s out of the ordinary and pretty splashy in terms of color.”

“The Arts Council is lucky to have added such talented and diverse artists to the Auction for the Arts,” said ACBS Executive Director Brian Hurlbut, adding that there are more silent auction artists as well.

VIP ticket holders are also invited to a reception for artist Carol Hagan from 5-7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21 at Big Sky Sotheby’s International Realty, and an artist luncheon at noon on Thursday, March 22 at Buck’s T-4 Lodge.

Visit bigskyarts.org for tickets and to bid on silent auction items.



One of three new artists featured in the Auction for the Arts on March 22, Joe Kronenberg is known for creating historically accurate paintings done in the style of classical realism.

Fiery Argentinian dance company to close out WMPAC season

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – On Saturday, March 31 at 7 p.m., the all-male Argentinian dance company, Che Malambo, brings their percussive dance and music spectacle to the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center in the last show of the winter season.

Created by French choreographer, Gilles Brinas, Che Malambo had its premiere in Paris in 2007.

Malambo, a dynamic blend of precision footwork, rhythmic stomping, drumming and song, is in the tradition of the “gaucho,” or South American cowboy. The Paris-based Brinas first learned about Malambo while researching traditional dances.

Malambo began in the 17th century as competitive duels that tested skills of agility, strength and dexterity among the gaucho. It soon evolved to include its hallmark, zapateo, the fast-paced footwork inspired by the rhythm of galloping horses. In addition to zapateo, Malambo features the drumming of traditional Argentine bombos and whirling boleadoras, a throwing weapon made up of intertwined cords and weighted with stones.



The explosive all-male Argentina dance company Che Malambo brings their percussion-fueled footwork to the WMPAC stage in the last show of the season on March 31. PHOTO COURTESY OF WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Brinas soon fell under its spell and travelled to the Pampas region of Argentina to engage with the gaucho and further explore their traditions. He created Che Malambo to share this powerful, passionate art form with international audiences.

Reviewing Che Malambo’s performance at Jacob’s Pillow Dance festival in Massachusetts, Siobhan Burke of The New York Times said the dance group “sent the audience into uproarious applause ... The pawing, galloping footwork and legwork, which often accelerate into a swiveling blur of motion below the waist; the astoundingly elastic ankles that support balancing, improbably, on the outside edges of the feet; the speed with which the dancers, their chests held proud and legs darting out from under them, can swallow up space.”

“To close out the fifth winter season, we really wanted to go out with a bang,” said WMPAC Executive Director John Zirkle. “Che Malambo is exactly that. Get your tickets now, because this show will definitely sell out. At the time of this writing, there are only 30 tickets left.”

Visit warrenmillerpac.org for tickets.



Tom Gilleon donates painting for VIP raffle

This year, VIP tickets to the Arts Council’s Auction for the Arts also include a chance to win a small-scale painting by Tom Gilleon, widely regarded as one of the top Western artists working today. The piece will be raffied off during an artist and VIP ticket holders luncheon at Buck’s T-4 Lodge on March 22. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY



PINKY RETURNS

Pinky and the Floyd, and likely the tribute band’s many enthusiastic fans, return to Rainbow Ranch for a concert at 8 p.m. in the tented barn on Saturday, March 31. The band will perform a set of hits followed by a performance of “The Wall” in its entirety. Tickets are available at cactusrecords.net. PHOTO COURTESY OF LOCKIE PHOTOGRAPHY

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MARCH 31

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Author David Quammen takes audiences to the 8th Dimension

EBS STAFF

On Tuesday, March 27, science writer David Quammen will be the featured guest of Bozeman Film Society's celebration of a "National Evening of Science on Screen," a nationwide event that pairs a film with an insightful presentation by a notable figure from the world of science, technology, or medicine.

Quammen's nieces, Lily and Mae Madison, join him for a screening of "The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension" at 7 p.m. at the Ellen Theatre.

After the film, Quammen will lead a discussion entitled “Seriousity and Beyond,” a family-friendly exploration of Planet Ten, the 8th Dimension, Buckaroo Banzai, and the “Electrode Watermelon,” where Quammen and his “generation z” nieces ask the question: Is silly science fiction any sillier or less wonderful than serious science fiction?

In W.D. Richter's 1984 sci-fi cult classic, neurosurgeon, particle physicist, and rock 'n' roller, Buckaroo Banzai, is called upon to save the world from a hostile extraterrestrial invasion. Combining humor, imagination, and a notable cast that includes Peter Weller, John Lithgow, Ellen Barkin, Christopher Lloyd, and Jeff Goldblum, this film parodies both classic and contemporary sci-fi films.

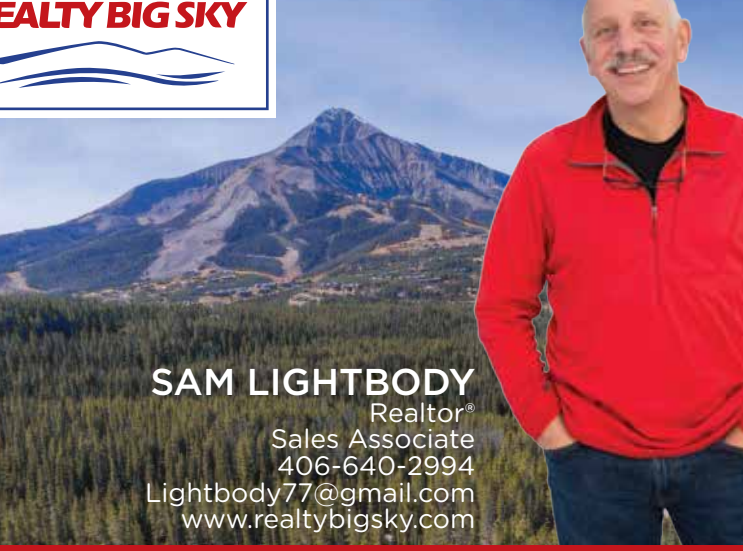
Bozeman resident and life-long Buckaroo Banzai devotee, Quammen is an internationally acclaimed science journalist and author whose fifteen books include “The Song of the Dodo,” “The Reluctant Mr. Darwin,” and “Spillover.” He is a three-time recipient of the National Magazine Award and writes regularly for National Geographic Magazine.



Science writer David Quammen (front right) is the guest lecturer at a screening of the sci-fi cult classic "The Adventures Buckaroo Bonzai Across the 8th Dimension" at the Ellen Theatre on March 27. PHOTO COURTESY OF BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY

Mae and Lily Madison, Quammen's 12 and 10 year old nieces, are Montana natives who love to ski, dance, swim, watch movies and spend time with their "Uncle Quammie." Their youthful perspectives will add a unique element to the evening.

For tickets visit theellentheatre.com, the Ellen Theatre box office or call (406) 585-5885. Visit bozemanfilmsociety.org for more information.

A man with a mustache, wearing a red zip-up jacket over a black shirt and blue jeans, stands with his hands in his pockets. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a scenic view of a mountain range with a large, rocky peak in the distance and a dense forest of evergreen trees in the foreground. The sky is clear and blue.

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March happenings at the Rialto

EBS STAFF

Saturday, March 17 @ 7:30 p.m.
Spend St. Patrick's Day celebrating immigrant roots
Presented by the New Neighbor's Project, a community film and media project out of Missoula, this all-ages event welcomes recently arrived refugees from Africa, now living in Missoula, as they share their stories of pursuing the American Dream, assimilation, and short films, followed by Congolese music performed by Joel Makeci.

Bozeman Film Society Sundays: March 18
11 a.m. "The Cat Returns"
The third film in the Studio Ghibli Series, Aoi Hiiragi's witty anime feature is about a schoolgirl's adventures with a very unusual feline.

1 p.m. "Film Stars don't die in Liverpool"
Based on Peter Turner's memoir, Frank Cottrell-Boyces' new film follows the playful but passionate relationship between Turner and the eccentric Academy Award winning actress Gloria Grahame.

3:30 p.m. "Concert for George"
"Concert for George" celebrates the life and music of George Harrison with a 2002 concert performance at London's Royal Albert Hall featuring Eric Clapton, Paul McCartney, Ringo Star, Tom Petty and many more.

Tuesday, March 20 @ 8 p.m.
Twin Peaks, The Districts
Twin Peaks' latest album "Down In Heaven" makes it increasingly hard to call their sound "classic." It's rock, new and old, a little bit of country, and a whole lot of punk attitude.

Thursday, March 22 @ 8:30 p.m. | Turkuaz
A nine-piece "powerfunk" outfit from Brooklyn, New York, Turkuaz puts a modern spin on classic funk by blending elements of Pop, R&B, and Soul to create a sound that has been compared to the musical love child of Sly & the Family Stone and Talking Heads.

Friday, March 23 @ 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. | "The Bad Plus"
Reid Anderson on bass, pianist Ethan Iverson, and drummer David King make up this American jazz trio from Minneapolis.

Saturday, March 24 @ 8:30 p.m.
Let's Dance: A benefit for SAGA with Chris Sage and Jackson Lamar
Veteran DJs Chris Sage and Jackson Lamar spin for a night dedicated to support the Bozeman High School Sexuality and Gender Alliance and their annual LGBTQ (and cis)-friendly prom.

Bozeman Film Society Sundays: March 25
11 a.m. "Spirited Away"
Part of the ongoing Studio Ghibli Series, "Spirited Away" is often hailed as animation director Hayao Miyazaki's finest work to date. The surreal "Alice in Wonderland"-like tale tells the story of a lost little girl who must adapt to the rules of a strange land.

3 p.m. "All the Money in the World"
Ridley Scott's "All the Money in the World" follows the kidnapping of 16-year-old John Paul Getty III (Charlie Plummer) and the desperate attempt by his devoted mother Gail (Michelle Williams) to convince his billionaire grandfather (Christopher Plummer) to pay the ransom.

6 p.m. "Concert for George"
"Concert for George" celebrates the life and music of George Harrison with a 2002 concert performance at London's Royal Albert Hall featuring Eric Clapton, Paul McCartney, Ringo Star, Tom Petty and many more.

Thursday, March 29 @ 8 p.m. | The Poets' Roundtable
Former Montana Poet Laureates, Michael Earl Craig and Tami Haaland, are joined by writing professors Greg Keeler and Henrietta Goodman, from Montana State University and University of Montana, respectively, for a casual evening of poetry and conversation.



Shovels & Rope show builds anticipation for summer concert in Big Sky

Edgy folk duo Shovels & Rope delivered during a sold-out March 3 show at the Rialto Bozeman. Their raw, soulful sound and musical versatility captivated the crowd, and got this concert-goer pretty excited for their Music in the Mountains performance July 26, following the first night of Big Sky PBR. PHOTO BY LESLIE RYAN MCKELLAR



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EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, MARCH 16 –
THURSDAY, MARCH 29

***IF YOUR EVENT FALLS
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BY MARCH 21 BY EMAILING
MEDIA@OUTLAW.PARTNERS.**

BIG SKY

**FRIDAY, MARCH 16
Of Wilderness and Resort:
150 Years of Change in
Gallatin Canyon and Big Sky
Warren Miller Performing
Arts Center, 6 p.m.**

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Scavenger, music
Choppers, 10 p.m.

**Chris Fairbanks, comedian
Lone Peak Brewery, 6:30
p.m.**

SATURDAY, MARCH 17
Tom Marino, music
Choppers, 4:30 p.m.

Lauren Jackson, music
Rainbow Ranch, all evening

SUNDAY, MARCH 18
Live Music
Compass Café, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 19
Service Industry Night
Lotus Pad, all evening

**TUESDAY, MARCH 20
Tax Assistance with VITA
Big Sky Community Food
Bank, 11 a.m.**

Top Shelf Toastmasters
Town Center Sales Office, 12 p.m.

Business After Hours
Big Sky Resort, Summit Hotel, 5
p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21
Fly Fishing Film Tour
Lone Peak Cinema, 5 and 8 p.m.

**Auction for the Arts
Moonlight Basin Lodge, 6
p.m.**

Gourmet Ground Beef, cooking class
Big Sky Discovery Academy, 6 p.m.

Caregivers Support Group
Santosha Wellness Center, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22
Resort Tax Board Meeting
Resort Tax Office, 8 a.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Big Sky Chapel, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23
Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Hannah & Zander, music
Coppers, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24
Dirtbag Parade and Competition
Big Sky Resort, 10 a.m.

Brian Stumpf, music
Choppers, 4:30 p.m.

Jon Parvin, music
Rainbow Ranch, all evening

Dirtbag Ball
Lone Peak Brewery, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25
Live Music
Compass Café, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 26
Service Industry Night
Lotus Pad, all evening

TUESDAY, MARCH 27
Top Shelf Toastmasters
Town Center Sales Office, 12 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Big Sky Chapel, 8 p.m.

BOZEMAN

**FRIDAY, MARCH 16
Global Impact Series Hatch
Rialto Theater, 7 p.m.**

Tumbledown House, music
Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17
Winter Farmers' Market
Emerson Ballroom, all morning

Horse-Bike Trail Users Clinic
Diamond E Arena, 10 a.m.

Run to the Pub half marathon
Throughout town, 10 a.m.

GPS Training Session with
Montana Wilderness Association
Location TBA upon registration

Point and Chute film festival
Bridger Bowl Ski Area, 4:30 p.m.

New Neighbors Project Films and
Music
Rialto Theater, 7:30 p.m.

**Christopher Titus:
Amerigeddon, comedian
Ellen Theatre, 8 p.m.**

SUNDAY, MARCH 18
Spring Equinox Dual GS, race
Bridger Bowl Ski Area, all day

"The Cat Returns," film
Rialto Theater, 11 a.m.

"Film Stars Don't Die in
Liverpool," film
Rialto Theater, 1 p.m.

"Fiddler on the Roof," film
Ellen Theatre, 2 p.m.

"Concert for George," film
Rialto Theater, 3:30 p.m.

John Floridis, music
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 20
Engineering Leadership Seminar
Holiday Inn Express, all day

Vernal Equinox Sonic Bliss Bath,
yoga
Emerson Center for the Arts and
Culture, 6 p.m.

Windshield: A Vanished Vision
Screening and Panel
Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Twin Peaks, music
Rialto Theater, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21
Trails in Motion Mountain Bike
Film Festival
Emerson Center for the Arts and
Culture, 6 p.m.

Science Inquiry Lecture: What's
Killing the Bees?
Museum of the Rockies, 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 22
Extreme History Project
Lecture: 130,000-year-old
Cerutti Mastodon Site
Museum of the Rockies, 6
p.m.**

Lang Termes, music
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Turkuaz, music
Rialto Theater, 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23
The Bad Plus, music
Rialto Theater, 6 and 9 p.m.

"Under the Tuscan Sun," film
Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 24
Carve Out Hunger ticket
discount day
Bridger Bowl Ski Area, all
day**

Everyone in Harmony, music
Emerson Center for the Arts and
Culture, 7 p.m.

De Temps Antan, music
Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Let's Dance, benefit
Rialto Theater, 8:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25
"Spirited Away," film
Rialto Theater, 11 a.m.

"A Night at the Opera," film
Ellen Theatre, 2 p.m.

"All the Money in the World," film
Rialto Theater, 3 p.m.

"Concert for George," film
Rialto Theater, 6:30 p.m.

Kenny Diamond, music
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

JD Wilkes and the Legendary
Shack Shakers Unplugged, music
Live From The Divide, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27
Brews and the Big Sky: Traps and
Taps
Museum of the Rockies, 5:30 p.m.

Beer Maven Sour Beer: Beer
Education Series for Women
Montana Ale Works, 6 p.m.

**"The Adventures of Buckaroo
Banzai Across the 8th
Dimension," film
Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.
With special Science on
Screen presentation by David
Quammen**

THURSDAY, MARCH 29
The Road Agents, music
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

The Poets' Roundtable
Rialto Theater, 8 p.m.



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WORTH THE DRIVE

Livingston, MT

“Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn”

Shane Lalani Center for the Arts | March 16-25

The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts is pleased to announce its spring Community Theatre Production, “Big River.” Twain’s timeless classic sweeps us down the mighty Mississippi as the irrepressible Huck Finn helps his friend Jim, a slave, escape to freedom at the mouth of the Ohio River. Their adventures along the way are hilarious, suspenseful, and heartwarming, bringing to life your favorite characters from the novel. Propelled by an award-winning score from Roger Miller, the king of country music, this jaunty journey provides a brilliantly theatrical celebration of pure Americana. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m., with special Saturday matinees at 3 p.m. on March 10, 17 and 24. To learn more, visit theshanecenter.org/events/big-river/.

Great Falls, Helena, Whitefish, MT

Mountainfilm On Tour | March 20-22

The Mountainfilm festival uses the power of film, art and ideas to inspire audiences to create a better world. The film tour travels year-round and worldwide with a selection of current and best-loved films from the annual film festival in Telluride, which showcases nonfiction stories about environmental, cultural, climbing, political and social justice issues that matter. Each show is emceed by a Mountainfilm presenter who often shares personal stories from his or her interactions with the filmmaker or the film’s subjects. The tour will be in Great Falls on March 20, Helena on March 21, and Whitefish on March 22. Visit mountainfilm.org to learn more.

Helena, MT

Made in Montana Tradeshow for Food and Gifts Lewis and Clark County Exhibit Hall | March 23-24

The annual, two-day trade show connects wholesale store buyers from across the region with over 150 members of the Made in Montana program. Exhibitors come from all over the state to display and sell their innovative products, artful creations and tasty treats to buyers who will soon put these products on their store shelves, use in their restaurants and have available statewide to visitors and Montanans alike. To learn more visit madeinmontanausa.com/tradeshow.

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David Quammen: The science of writing

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

I recently had a wide-ranging phone conversation with David Quammen, perhaps Bozeman’s most famous writer. Exceptionally lucid and immediately engaging, he exudes not only a technical proficiency on matters both scientific and literary, but also a boundless curiosity for the natural world.

Although he has written novels, short stories, op-eds and screenplays, these days Quammen prefers writing nonfiction, having found that the genre provides the freedom he needs—the autonomy of storytelling, the occasional literary flourish—while still allowing him to pursue intellectually demanding subjects.

For more than four years, he has been at work on his new book, “The Tangled Tree: A Radical New History of Life,” due out in August 2018. Quammen’s latest work explores how recent advances in our understanding of the human genome have complicated our understanding of how evolution works on the molecular level. The trajectory of his argument points to the inadequacy of the Tree of Life metaphor given recent discoveries in phylogenetics.

But even in an off-the-cuff response, Quammen’s ability to distill and analyze complicated, technical information and synthesize it in a way that makes it accessible to the layman, but also eye-opening for the expert, is undeniable. He is erudite without ever being pedantic, scholarly yet never boring.

Even the late literary giant Jim Harrison would call him up late at night and ask him to explain arcane cosmological theories that Harrison could not wrap his head around.

Quammen also spoke of his days as an English major at Yale University and studying Southern literature with Robert Penn Warren. This period is where the author pinpoints the influence of William Faulkner, Flannery O’Connor and Raymond Carver—on both his fiction and nonfiction styles—not so much on the sentential level, but on a broader, structural scale.

“Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn’t,” Quammen said in a self-deprecating manner.

Now back on assignment for National Geographic magazine, Quammen’s globe-trotting ways will take him to Africa next, where he will continue to find ways to combine his lifelong loves of writing, science and nature.

Toward the end of the interview, I asked Quammen why he has called Bozeman home for more than three decades. He said that when people hear he is a “Montana writer,” they ask him if he has a ranch. He doesn’t.

Quammen moved to Montana in 1973 where he was drawn by the trout fishing. Initially bouncing around the state and living in Butte, Missoula and Ennis, he eventually settled down in Bozeman in the early ‘80s to use the Montana State University library for research, and stills holds status there as an adjunct professor.

Nowadays, he says he enjoys his friendships with neighbor and writer Tim Cahill and poet Greg Keller, among others, and living a few blocks from Main Street, so he and his wife can walk to enjoy a nice meal even on a snowy evening.

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

This month, the Big Sky Community Library has a March Madness bracket set up for the top 32 adult books of 2017. Each Sunday the bracket will open to your votes, and each Wednesday at 7 p.m. the books will advance based on the results for the week.

Even those who haven’t read the books are encouraged to vote weekly for the book they would most like to read. Choose between a wide range of books that include “Camino Island” by John Grisham, “The Book of Joy” by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu, and “The Identicals” by Elin Hilderbrand—and stay tuned to find out Big Sky’s favorite book.

Voting began on March 11 and the winning title will be announced April 4.

Stop by the library to pick up a bracket or email librarian@bssd72.org to vote digitally.

As a librarian, I love when people ask for book recommendations, but not everyone is going to like the same literature that I do. In order to be able to provide a wider array of recommendations, we are asking readers to recommend a book with a one sentence description.

We will start building an area of recommendations to help you find your next book. Your participation helps as we develop programming to build “community” in the Big Sky Community Library.



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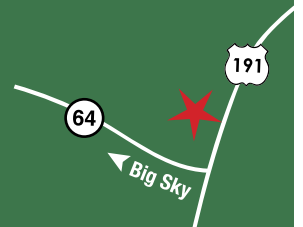


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Morningstar celebrates Dr. Seuss Day

Three-year-old Sydney Griffiths shows off her “Cat in the Hat”-inspired artwork, an exercise in patterns created during Dr. Seuss week at Morningstar Learning Center. PHOTO COURTESY OF MORNINGSTAR LEARNING CENTER

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

			1			9		
	2			6	9	4		
4							7	5
				8				
							4	
9	6				2		5	
2	7				8			
1			4					8
5				7				1

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American Life in Poetry:
Column 677

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

I’m devoted to yard and garage sales, and love to spend time with friendly strangers in scuffed front yards and oily, dim garages. Here’s a poem by Matthew Brennan, who lives in Indiana, from his 2016 Lamar University book, “One Life.”

Yard Sale

By Matthew Brennan

“There is no object so foul that intense light will not make beautiful.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Nature”

The renters bring out their greasy table,
End of the month again: It sags,
Weighted and warped like them, unable
To hold much more than glasses and rags.

Old clothes and rusty tools compete
For space with magazines they stole
From garbage bins behind our street;
Each shoe reveals a run-down sole.

A few come by, inspect, and leave,
Almost always with empty hands.
But when, at sundown, all things cleave
To slanted light, and when it lands

So rubber, glass, and metal glint—
And for a moment make you squint—
You’ll see our neighbors bathed in gold
As if their worth cannot be sold.

We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts. 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 “Yard Sale,” by Matthew Brennan, from “One Life,” (Lamar University Literary Press, 2016). Poem reprinted by permission of Matthew Brennan and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2018 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.



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