

**Explore**

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

**FREE**

# Big Sky

July 2 - 18, 2019  
Volume 10 // Issue #14

**Peak to Sky touches down in Big Sky**

***Sushi and The Sonics***

**Fourth of July festivities**

***The Wilson Hotel Grand Opening***

Global warming: An opportunity missed?

***Plus: Golf tips from the pro***



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# OUTLAW PARTNERS

July 2 - 18, 2019

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## ON THE COVER:

On July 4, 1776 the 13 New England colonies declared their independence from England. Now 243 years later, the celebration of this watershed day in history continues, even in the little mountain hamlet of Big Sky. See page 50 for a guide of the area's Fourth of July events. PHOTO BY DAVE PECUNIES

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## Peak to Sky touches down in Big Sky

After months of anticipation, the Peak to Sky festival, the largest ticketed event in Big Sky history, arrives in Big Sky on July 5 and 6. With four Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees, three-time Grammy Award winner Brandi Carlile and a host of local and regional talent hitting the stage, it will go down in history. **+Fourth of July events schedule**

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## Sushi and The Sonics

Jordan Albertsen had all but given up on making a film about The Sonics, the Seattle-area rock band from the 60s that was completely unaware of their profound influence on the punk and grunge subgenres of rock, until a chance encounter with Pearl Jam guitarist Mike McCready in Bozeman's Dave's Sushi changed everything.

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## The Wilson Hotel Grand Opening

The Wilson Hotel, Big Sky's first-ever branded hotel, will usher in a new era in Big Sky hospitality. On June 21, Big Sky residents attended the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony, officially welcoming the hotel into the community fabric.

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## Global warming: an opportunity missed?

Award-winning journalist Todd Wilkinson delves into a critical period following the presidency of George H. W. Bush, in which legislators failed to act fast in addressing mounting scientific evidence of climate change.

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## Golf Tips

Big Sky Golf Course Pro Mark Wehrman talks about the inaugural PGA Junior League, the "Little League" of up-and-coming golfers in the Big Sky-Bozeman area.



Camp Big Sky campers and 33 community volunteers endured the rain on June 25 for #pullforthepark day, removing a 1,028 pounds of noxious weeds from the Big Sky Community Park with Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance. PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER MOHLER

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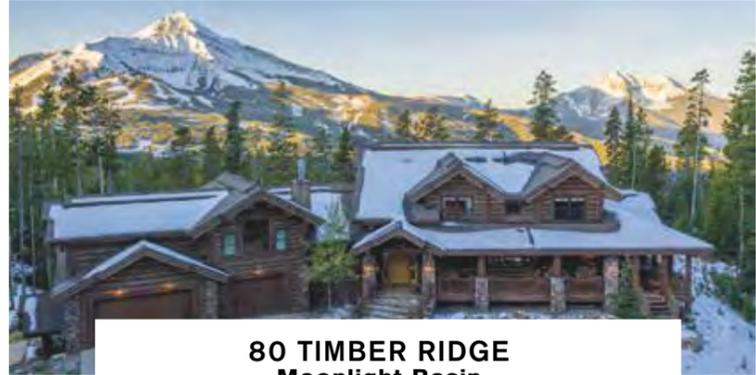
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## Local business raises thousands for GRTF

GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

Big Sky Shuttle owner Tracy Pabst donated \$4,000 to the Gallatin River Task Force through her campaign “Save the River...Ride the Coach.” The campaign started as a response to the umbrella campaign “Buck a Sale for Big Sky,” which encouraged Big Sky businesses to support their favorite local non-profits. BSS collected money for their favorite non-profit by donating one dollar to the Gallatin River Task Force for every luxury airport shuttle seat booked during the 2019 winter season.

BSS's campaign started as an effort to encourage people to opt for a scheduled shuttle service rather than taking a private ride through the canyon to reduce traffic and therefore danger in the Gallatin Canyon, Pabst said. Supporting GRTF was an added bonus.

“Buck a Sale for Big Sky” allows Big Sky businesses to make a tremendous difference for the community.

“This is a local idea, but we could see this expanding to other ski resort towns,” said Pabst. “A ‘Buck a Sale’ could be a great way to fund a variety of much-needed infrastructure in Big Sky. The campaign is exciting!”

## Yellowstone day ride permit program enters third year

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS, WY – Yellowstone National Park will continue issuing free day ride permits to individuals who take stock on park trails this summer. Launched in 2017, the free permit system helps park managers understand where, when and how many stock users visit the park.

Traveling in Yellowstone's backcountry with stock is an exciting way to see the park. The free day ride permits provide an opportunity for park staff to assist riders in planning safe enjoyable, and low-impact trips

Stock users can obtain their free permits on the park's website, by calling the central backcountry office at (307) 344-2160, or at any of Yellowstone's backcountry offices.

Overnight stock use is not allowed until July 1. Check the backcountry situation report to see what trails are open for day use. Stock users whole plan overnight trips must obtain a backcountry permit and must possess certification of a negative Coggins Test performed within the last 12 months for all equine stock entering Yellowstone.

Rangers may ask to see people's permits during rides on trails. Yellowstone is not limiting the number of individual stock users on trails.

## UC Davis economist to deliver speech on poverty at MSU

MSU NEWS SERVICE

A free public lecture on poverty in the United States and the role of government programs in breaking the cycle will be hosted on July 10 at Montana State University.

Marianne Page, director of the Center for Poverty Research and professor of economics at the University of California Davis will present her lecture as part of the MSU Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis's Visiting Scholar Program. Page will discuss her research focused on child poverty and intergenerational mobility in the United States and the safety net programs designed to help alleviate the issue.

Following the lecture, local anti-poverty leaders will lead a discussion about how safety net programs impact Montana. The lecture will take place at MSU's Linfield Hall Room 125 at 7 p.m.

## BSCO gala celebrates local parks and trails

EBS STAFF

The Big Sky Community Organization will host their annual gala on July 12 to celebrate their extensive community parks and trails system. The event will include dinner and drinks, a silent and live auction and music by the band Horsin' Around. Gala attendees will take a look back on BSCO's past endeavors as well as look ahead to new projects. The BSCO offers local businesses three levels of gala sponsorship, Ousel Falls, Community Park and Trailblazer, appropriately named after a few of the many projects that the organization has completed. The 250-seat gala is currently sold out but is accepting names for a waitlist.

*To be added to the waitlist or to inquire about sponsorship opportunities, email [sara@bscomt.org](mailto:sara@bscomt.org).*

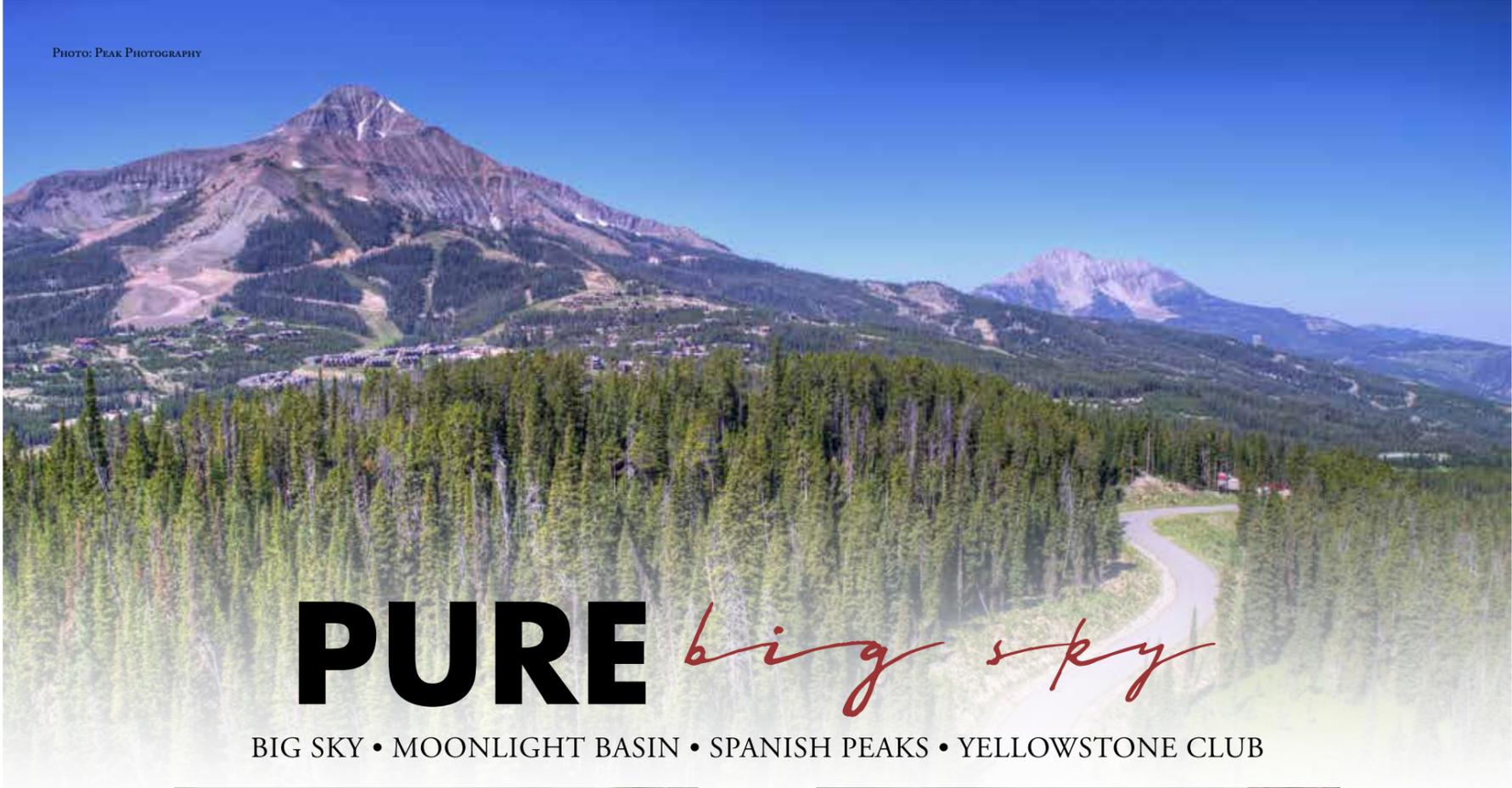
## Funds for canyon engineering study put to work

EBS STAFF

A yearlong engineering study to better understand the hydrology of the Gallatin Canyon begins in July as part of the task of determining how to best manage water and wastewater along the precious river corridor. The Gallatin River Task Force received resort tax funds in June to pay for the project, which will better illuminate available options for centralized treatment for canyon businesses and residents; options could range from a centralized treatment plant to treatment pods throughout the canyon, according to Karen Filipovich, the consultant GRTF hired to lead the initiative to address water quality concerns in the canyon.

Without centralized wastewater treatment in the canyon, developments rely primarily on septic systems, which do not treat wastewater to as high a degree as a plant, even under proper maintenance. If not properly maintained, septic systems can contaminate drinking water from wells and the Gallatin River.

PHOTO: PEAK PHOTOGRAPHY



# PURE *big sky*

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**TBD SUMMIT VIEW DRIVE, LOT 5 | \$349,000**  
Spectacular views of Big Sky Resort's Mountain Village and Lone Mountain! Conveniently located across Lone Mountain Trail from Big Sky's Mountain Village, this 1.106-acre treed parcel offers privacy while only minutes from the slopes. The community is gated, keeping road traffic and noise to a minimum while the large amount of neighborhood open space allows wildlife to roam freely. A hiking trail in the open space joins other area trails. // **LYNN MILLIGAN | 406.581.2848**



**TBD CIEL DRIVE, LOT 3 | \$335,000**  
This beautiful 6.31 +/- acre homesite provides seclusion in a tranquil setting in a 5-lot development part way up the mountain, but it is just minutes from both the Mountain and Meadow Villages of Big Sky. Heavily treed with rolling terrain, the driveway is in and electric is to the lot. There is a charming surface water creek, so wildlife is plentiful. Build your Big Sky home here and enjoy peace and solitude with all of the area amenities of Big Sky nearby. // **MARY WHEELER | 406.539.1745**



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## The Fourth of July is a celebration of independence for the United States. What do you appreciate most about living in the U.S. and why?



**Flynn Kabisch**  
*Big Sky, Montana*

“I appreciate having a good education here in the United States. I don’t think I would have the same opportunities as a girl living somewhere else.”



**Jay Markevich**  
*Big Sky, Montana*

“I love all that our country has to offer. We’ve got mountains, we’ve got deserts, we’ve got oceans, beautiful lakes – our country’s geography, I suppose. What else could you ask for?”



**Steve Markevich**  
*Bloomfield Hills, Michigan*

“I think the diversity. We were founded on immigration and open doors. We invite people in and we welcome them and I hope we keep doing it.”



**Nancy Finney**  
*Denver, Colorado*

“What I appreciate about the United States is freedom of speech. I’m a writer and a musician, and I think it’s wonderful that we live in a country where we can express what we believe.”

## Letter to the Editor Cattle and bison: coexistence

To the Editor,

There has never been evidence of a documented transmission of brucellosis from bison to cattle, so not allowing bison to roam out of Yellowstone Park is a government scheme that is backed up by a misrepresentation of the facts.

Further, slaughtering the bison that leave the park is a way for our government officials to cater to special interests and private ranching operations.

There is no scientific evidence of harm from bison to the landscape or to other livestock. A free roaming herd of bison should be restored in Montana—until we can be provided with a truthful, legitimate reason for otherwise.

Kaitlyn Schlangen  
*Bozeman*



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# OUTLAW

News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

## Aluminum water bottles replace plastic at Peak to Sky, PBR

EBS STAFF

In lieu of single-use plastic water bottles, aluminum resealable water bottles will be for sale at Peak to Sky’s bar, one step in reducing demand for plastic as part of Outlaw Partners’ events.

Montana Silver Springs, based in Philipsburg, Montana, donated 50 cases of their aluminum bottled water—1,200 bottles—for the inaugural Peak to Sky.

Nolan and Cathy Smith have bottled beer in aluminum resealable bottles since opening Philipsburg Brewing Co. in 2012, but began bottling high-alkali spring water in the same style of containers in October 2018.

This year is the first that the pioneering company has supplied bottled water to Yellowstone National Park concessionaires; Glacier Guides, Glacier National Park’s exclusive backpacking guide service; as well as for Logjam Productions, which powers the live music scene in Missoula, Montana. To the park alone, Nolan Smith expects to send close to 100,000 bottles this year.

Smith is excited to support Big Sky’s biggest summer events and help remove plastic waste from the equation.

“I just think it’s important to raise people’s awareness about plastic in our environment and if our bottles are [at these events], it puts the issue at the forefront of people’s minds,” Smith said.

While a plastic water bottle can take 450 years to decompose, aluminum has the only true closed loop recycling process, meaning that aluminum cans can be melted down and made into new aluminum cans indefinitely. Plastic is generally downcycled into materials such as landfill liner.

Through this partnership and others, Outlaw seeks to reduce the use of single-use plastic, curbing the substance’s adverse environmental impacts, while offering a replicable model for future events in Big Sky.

“Our goal is to significantly reduce single-use plastic water bottles at our events this summer, and we are partnering with state and local community leaders to find solutions,” said Ersin Ozer, Outlaw Partners’ media and events director.

## Peak to Sky, summer events arrive in Big Sky

### New parking lot to aid attendees

EBS STAFF

**BIG SKY** – After months of anticipation, a flurry of events are descending on Big Sky bringing throngs of visitors to the area. The events, including the historic musical assembly of Peak to Sky and Fourth of July celebrations kick off a packed summer season.

With thousands of residents and visitors slotted to attend events beginning this week, parking in the small mountain town required expansion.

This summer, paid parking will be available in the lot running parallel to Simkins Drive and Aspen Leaf Drive (see map below) at \$20 for Peak to

Sky and Big Sky PBR and \$10 for Music in the Mountains shows.

A portion of parking revenue from Peak to Sky will go toward the Big Sky Fire Department’s ongoing work with the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and a portion of proceeds gathered from the lot during Big Sky PBR will support the Big Sky Ski Education Foundation.

Attendees are encouraged to carpool or bike to the events due to limited space in Town Center; no street parking will be allowed around town or in neighborhoods with non-designated parking zones.

Parking payments will be cash only.



# PEAK TO SKY

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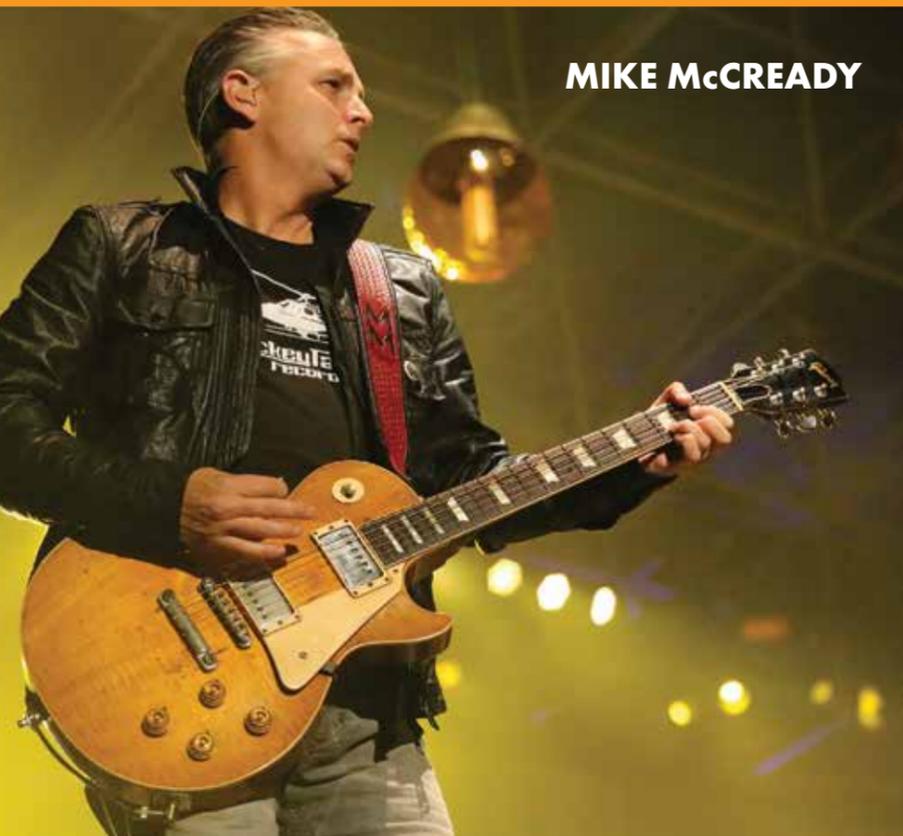
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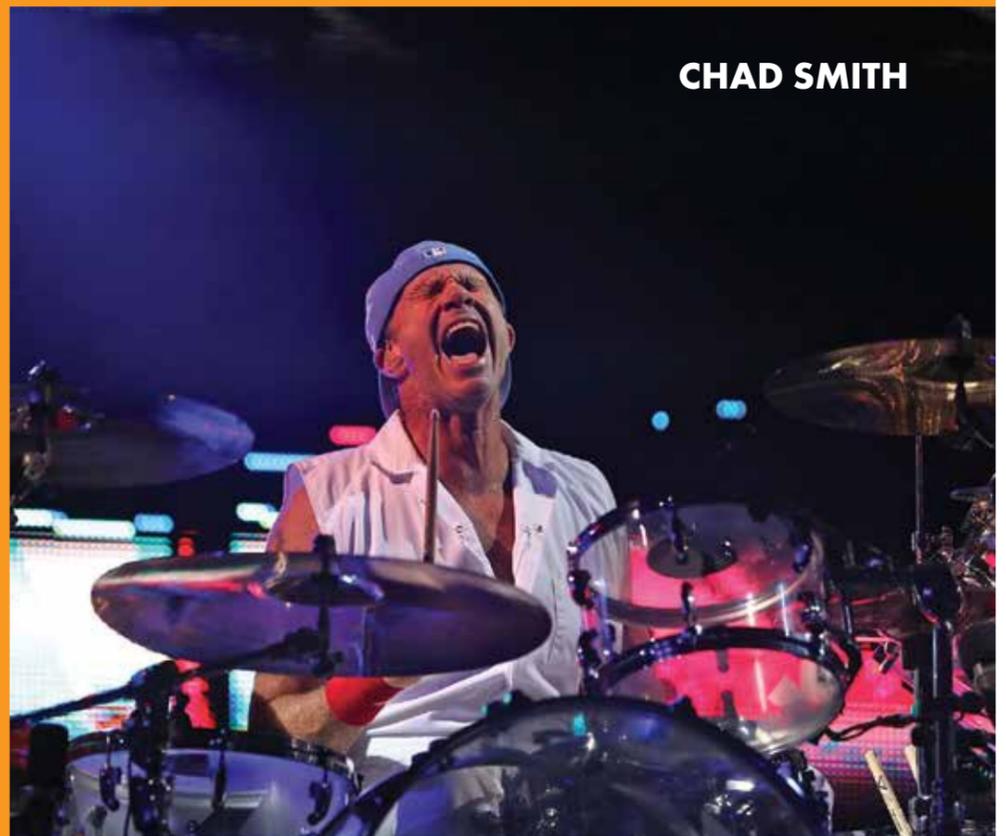
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**BRANDI CARLILE**

# Resort tax bonding: What we know

BY BAY STEPHENS

**BIG SKY** – At the June 10 final appropriations meeting for the Big Sky Resort Area District resort tax collections, BSRAD’s board of directors allocated more than \$8 million of collections and bonded \$939,499 between the requests from Gallatin 911 and Big Sky Community Organization.

The power to bond was vested in BSRAD in 2013, but this is the first year it’s ever been used, so some of the details were unclear when the bonding was proposed and approved during the June 10 meeting. Now that the dust has settled, here’s what we know:

Overall, it will be a couple of months before the bonded funds are available for Gallatin 911 and BSCO. According to District Manager Daniel Bierschwale, both organizations will have the funds in time for their respective projects.

As per the resort tax ordinance for Big Sky’s district, the formal bonding approval process requires two instances of public notice, followed by the organizations filling out an application for bonded funds and finalized in a public hearing when the BSRAD board votes a majority in favor. This shouldn’t be an issue considering a majority already voted in approval of both bonds in the June 10 meeting.

The public hearing that approves the bonds would also be where the board decides how many years they will pay off the bonded funds. The debt service of the loans cannot last past 2032 when the Big Sky’s resort tax district is set to dissolve, though it can be renewed for a longer time prior to its dissolution.

The longer BSRAD decides to pay off the loans, the cheaper the yearly payments that come out of future resort tax collections. However, this will increase the monies paid overall, and vice versa.

Then BSRAD will go to a bank and take out two loans, one for BSCO and one for Gallatin 911. At that point, the final interest rates, paired with the loan

terms the board decides on, will reveal how much funding will be subtracted yearly from future resort tax collections for debt service.

## Other news

In May, BSRAD became an associate member of the Colorado Association of Ski Towns and the Montana Infrastructure Coalition, both of which will stand to better inform the board’s decisions in the future.

The Colorado Association of Ski Towns was formed to bring together resort and tourism communities that face unique challenges when it comes to providing municipal services to residents and visitors, according to its website. Along with members such as Aspen, Steamboat Springs and Denver, associate members include Moab, Utah, Jackson, Wyoming and several Colorado counties.

“We joined to learn from more mature Colorado ski towns how to make the best decisions for Big Sky,” Bierschwale said.

The Montana Infrastructure Coalition also provides a way for BSRAD to remain abreast of the statewide infrastructure conversations, which are relevant locally considering the number of infrastructure projects the organization funds.

“Similar to the Logan Simpson [Strategic Visioning process], we are trying to be more informed to make the better informed decisions with the highest level of impact for the community,” Bierschwale added.

At the July 10 BSRAD board meeting, a months-long process of ordinance revision will kick off, the end goal being increased clarity for businesses that collect resort tax on what is taxable and how to do so, as well as for applicants who seek resort tax funding.

The district is also looking to hire an operations manager and an administrative assistant.



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# The Wilson Hotel celebrates with grand opening

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

On June 21, Big Sky residents celebrated the grand opening of The Wilson Hotel, a Marriott Residence Inn and Big Sky's first branded hotel, ushering in a new era of hospitality offerings in the growing mountain community.

The party, with more than 300 people in attendance, was complemented by free food, drinks and a musical performance by the soul, funk and rock fusion band Ticket Sauce.

There was also a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially commemorate the historic event.

The hotel, which is owned by Lone Mountain Land Company and will be managed by Urgo Hotels and Resorts, is already operating with remarkable success, according to General Manager Mandy Hotovy.

"We're already starting to hit 90 percent occupancy," she said. "That's pretty fantastic for how long we've been open."

The grand opening marked a dream realized for many, including Bayard Dominick, vice president of planning and development for Lone Mountain Land Company.

"I oversaw the design and construction of the project since the beginning," Dominick told EBS. "We started planning the hotel almost five years ago."

Dominick is excited by the prospect of attracting tourists that historically passed right by Big Sky on their way to Yellowstone National Park from Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport.

"We think the Marriott brand will help capture a significant increase in Yellowstone Park visitors, and will draw an entirely new set of visitors to Big Sky."

Named after Wilson Peak and President Woodrow Wilson, one of the most prominent in the Spanish Peaks range that backdrops much of the town, the hotel boasts stylishly-designed community spaces, such as the lobby, which will provide locals with a new place to gather and unwind.



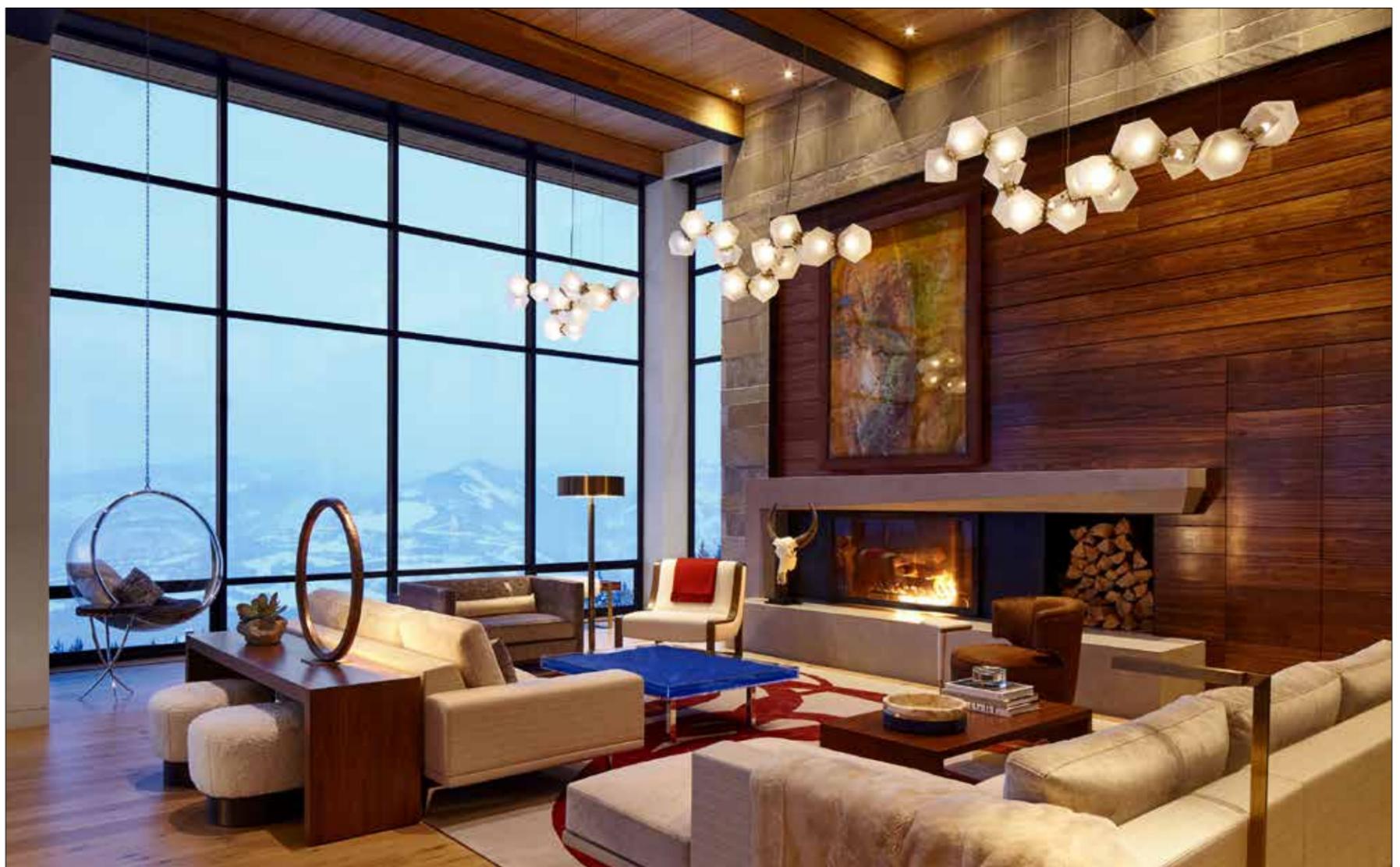
More than 300 Big Sky residents gathered in The Wilson Hotel's lobby and adjacent Town Center Plaza for a grand opening celebration. PHOTO BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

Doubling down on gestures of homage to the region's history, The Wilson's exterior is made with brick, a traditional building material in the area.

The hotel has already proved a valuable community resource, and has been commissioned for events such as Santosha Wellness Center's 108 Sun Salutations as well as the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce's Black Diamond Awards Dinner and Members Meeting.

Hotovy is excited by the prospect of carving out a space for Big Sky residents to nurture their sense of community, a public living room of sorts where even more ways to expand upon the town's success can be hatched.

"It's a place to gather. It's a place to socialize and network, and it's also one of those places that's going to help build the relationships in the community," Hotovy said.



# Gallatin River Festival streams through Big Sky

The Gallatin River Festival, formerly the Gallatin River Fly Fishing Festival, hosted by the Gallatin River Task Force, ran from June 28-30 gathering locals around a shared love of the river. EBS gathered this handful of photos from the festival to give a glimpse for anyone who missed it.

The weekend kicked off with the Pesca Fiesta on the evening of June 28 at Gallatin River Guides where representatives from Simms, Redington and Patagonia hosted gear demos for festival attendees. The fly shop also extended a 15 percent discount on equipment in honor of the festival.

On June 29, anglers and river enthusiasts of all ages gathered for the Outdoor Fair at Town Center Park. Activities throughout the afternoon included tying flies, practicing

casts, testing gear, learning about river insects and more. The Fair also featured a tasting garden hosted by the Montana Distiller's Guild and music by the Bridger Creek Boys. Fly cast painter Ben Miller demonstrated his niche artform that combines painting and fly fish casting.

The festival concluded on the 30th with a banquet in the meadow behind Gallatin Riverhouse Grill. Doubling as a fundraising effort for the nonprofit, the three-day event's goal was to garner \$100,000 for the protection of the Gallatin River. As of EBS press time on June 30, the final amount raised was yet to be determined. Stay tuned to EBS online and social channels for the final tally.



PHOTOS BY TUCKER HARRIS AND BAY STEPHENS

# How local programs are hooking women and youth on fly fishing

BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – Ten and two, ten and two. Keep your wrist still, use your arm instead. That's it, pivot at the elbow. Alright, now cast. Nice placement. Wait, wait, mend. Wait for it. Now cast over on that seam.

These are the instructions a new fly fisher might receive from an experienced angler while wading Southwest Montana's fabled coldwater trout streams. Traditionally an older gentleman's pastime, fly fishing is transitioning into a more inclusive sport—this is true in Big Sky thanks to a smattering of initiatives and programs.

Hooked on the Gallatin is one such program. A partnership between the Gallatin River Task Force and the Big Sky Community Center's Camp Big Sky, the course takes kids typically between the ages of 7 and 14 for four half-days of learning about the river, conservation and fly fishing on tributaries of the Gallatin River.

The program has been active since 2016, but this is the first year the camp will come in three sessions: beginner and intermediate sessions in July and an advanced one in August. The beginner session kicks off July 15.

During the four days, staff from GRTF engage kids with a variety of hands-on activities, such as collecting and identifying stream insects, teaching about invasive species, fish handling to optimize fish survival after being released and making t-shirts with a Japanese press art technique. The advanced session might even include a fish dissection to learn about the creatures' biological mechanics.

The rest of the day, campers ply the waters of the West and South forks of the Gallatin River with licensed guides from around the area as they impart to their students the technique and an eye for stealthy fish.

"Fly fishing is this really beautiful pursuit which teaches you how to connect with the river in a way that, perhaps, other ways of recreating don't," said Stephanie Lynn, the task force's education and communications coordinator. "We really believe in the importance of starting young. If you can help youth connect with the river early, they're so much more likely to develop into good stewards."

Jimmy Armijo-Grover, a former Gallatin River Guides guide of 17 years, played a crucial role in getting the camp's first year off the ground.

Armijo-Grover had access to rods, reels and fly tying equipment through a fly fishing program he learned through in Santa Fe, New Mexico, before he was hired at Gallatin River Guides and moved to Big Sky.

"It was so great because fly fishing gear is really expensive and the first year starting a camp there's just a lot of things you need to acquire," Lynn said. "It was a huge hit and we've done it every year since and we've grown it incrementally."

Through funding from the Spanish Peaks Community Foundation, the task force has since bought all of its own gear.

In Armijo-Grover's eyes, getting kids outdoors is increasingly important as technology becomes more prevalent, and educating them makes way for future conservation.

"These kids are going to be adults someday that will get other people involved and be stewards of the river," Armijo-Grover said. "There's a lot of stuff that needs to be



Hooked on the Gallatin gives local kids the opportunity to learn about rivers, conservation and fly fishing through activities and days on the river with licensed guides hired by the nonprofit Gallatin River Task Force. PHOTO BY DAVE PECUNIES



In its fourth year as an offering, the women's course from Gallatin River Guides began as a response to seeing more women interested in the sport of fly fishing. This year, 18 courses are slated to get women on the river together, often with female guides. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

protected and these kids will be in our position. If we don't have them, I don't know what will happen."

Already, the camp is bearing fruit. Finn McRae learned to tie flies through Hooked on the Gallatin, and has participated in the camp every year since. This year, he will even help with the beginner session. He and his friend Wats Littman, who learned to tie flies with Armijo-Grover at Gallatin River Guides, have their own fly tying business called Fish Outta Water that sells flies at the weekly Town Center Farmers Markets on Wednesdays.

Among initiatives that get less traditional user groups out on the rivers are Gallatin River Guides' women's courses. In response to a growing trend of individual women and groups of women fly fishing, the outfitter began offering an all-women's course four years ago.

"It started with this realization that—especially in the last four or five years—that we're seeing more and more women that are interested in fly fishing, and not only are they interested in it, it's becoming their thing," said co-owner Mike Donaldson, who purchased the company from Pat Straub with his father in March of this year.

When he began guiding for GRG eight years ago, Donaldson said it was rare to see women fishing, or at least not without male accompaniment. Though it used to be rare for groups of out-of-town women to visit Big Sky with the chief goal of fishing, he said it's quite common now.

Headed by fulltime GRG guide Kimberly Smith, the women's course lasts three days. The first starts with a morning at the fly shop doing "classroom" work, such as learning entomology, rigging and casting technique before lunch and an afternoon fishing the Gallatin. The second day takes clients for a full day of walk-wade fishing on the Madison River between Earthquake Lake and Ennis, followed by a third day of fishing wherever the group feels drawn.

From what Donaldson has seen, women tend to gravitate toward the class for two main reasons: because they like having female guides run the course—though male guides such as himself also guide when needed—and because they enjoy learning and building friendships within a group of women.

"They really seem to build a camaraderie between themselves quite quickly," Donaldson said.

He said helping out with the women's courses has always been a blast for him, offering a fresh perspective on fly fishing.

"It's possible that at times we take the sport too seriously, or we take our fishing days too seriously, and we forget that it's not all about just getting in there and catching as many fish as you can," Donaldson said. "The ladies seem to be able to reflect more and stand back more and enjoy the day."

"It's a great program," Donaldson added. "As new owner, I am so proud to have it be a part of Gallatin River Guides."

Visit [gallatinrivertaskforce.org](http://gallatinrivertaskforce.org) or [montanaflyfishing.com](http://montanaflyfishing.com) to learn more about the Hooked on the Gallatin kids fly fishing camp or the women's fly fishing course offerings at Gallatin River Guides.

# Chamber of Commerce hosts Black Diamond Business Awards

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY



Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Cam Sholly, the event's keynote speaker, addressing the crowd of roughly 150 people. PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**BIG SKY** – On June 25, approximately 150 representatives from the more-than 450 active business members of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce gathered in the Sapphire Ballroom of the newly opened Wilson Hotel for the 22nd annual Black Diamond Business Awards.

The dinner and recognitions are meant to honor the achievements of local businesses and individuals that not only embody the best values of the Big Sky community but also inspire and propel new avenues of growth and positive change through their own accomplishments.

The Chamber presented five awards over the evening:

“Emerging Entrepreneur,” “Nonprofit Person of the Year,” “Business Person of the Year,” “Business of the Year,” and the “Chet Huntley Lifetime Achievement Award.”

Twenty-one-year Big Sky locals Kara and Ben Blodgett were awarded the “Emerging Entrepreneur” distinction for their outstanding business, The Rocks Tasting Room and Liquor Store. Caitlin Quisenberry, programming and events manager at the Chamber, presented the award to the couple.

“This year’s winner has managed to keep their doors open and thriving through peak and shoulder seasons, greeting our locals and guests with charm and hospitality,” Quisenberry said.

Explore Big Sky reported earlier this year on the troubles of maintaining business through the grinding feast-famine cycle of peak and shoulder seasons, so the Blodgett’s ability to earn a reputation for consistency at any time of year is remarkable.

“I’m just so grateful,” Kara told EBS. “It’s such a wonderful community to be a part of. I’m grateful and honored.”

Ciara Wolfe, CEO of the Big Sky Community Organization, pocketed the “Nonprofit Person of the Year” award, a recognition she earned through her tireless efforts to maintain the standing achievements of the BSCO, but also for her efforts in spearheading the most ambitious fundraising campaign effort ever rolled out by the organization.

The Big Sky Community Organization is raising \$17.5 million for the construction of the town’s first ever community center, a space intended to bring Big Sky residents of all walks together in a shared space.

“I was the one being recognized, but I was really accepting the award on behalf of the work of everyone involved with the BSCO, from the partners, to the donors and volunteers,” Wolfe told EBS. “I’m honored but the whole army behind the BSCO makes our work possible.”

The “Business Person of the Year” award went to Tim Kent, branch president of First Security Bank in Big Sky Town Center. Kent has been instrumental in the completion of several crucial projects around town, most notably the subsidized Meadowview housing developments that are geared to make living in Big Sky a reality for members of a workforce that has, in recent history, been forced to commute from other Gallatin County communities.

Big Sky Town Center and members of the Simkins family were presented with the “Business of the Year” award. The Simkins’ commitment to the community has been realized through countless projects and initiatives over the years, most recently the sale of the 3.3-acre plot of land that will be

home to the BSCO’s community center and the new Town Center Plaza adjacent to The Wilson Hotel.

Big Sky Town Center’s role in facilitating foot traffic for the growing business hub as well as creating spaces for Big Sky organizations to offer new and lasting activities for community engagement and togetherness was also key in this recognition.

The “Chet Huntley Lifetime Achievement Award,” the crown jewel of the awards offered by the chamber, was presented to Loren Bough.

Bough’s community involvement and dedication over the years are numerous, such as generous financial donations and support for community spaces like the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, the Big Sky Medical Center and Lone Peak High School, and his role on several notable boards including the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation, Friends of Big Sky Education, Big Sky resort tax board and his current position as third-term chair of the Big Sky School District Board.

Kevin Germain, chairperson for the Big Sky resort tax board and Big Sky Chamber Board Member, spoke to the significance of Bough’s contributions to the town.

“Loren, and his wife, Jill, are committed and dedicated community members. The Boughs have focused on making Big Sky a world-class community by focusing on education, the environment and the arts. He cares deeply about this community.”

Following the awards portion of the evening, the Black Diamond Awards Dinner keynote speaker Cam Sholly, superintendent of Yellowstone National Park, addressed attendees as to the current priorities for the park, which,



Loren Bough receiving a standing ovation for his “Chet Huntley Lifetime Achievement Award.” PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

like parks across the nation, is experiencing tremendous upticks in visitation.

“I don’t take quite the alarmist’s viewpoint—at least not yet,” Sholly said. “Traffic moving through a road corridor, which covers one percent of Yellowstone’s 2.2 million acres, is not nose diving the condition of the resources ... That said, there are more visitors here than ever. We need to take it seriously and have an organized approach to how we manage visitors today, and what that might look like tomorrow.”

His words were of particular interest to a community that is also experiencing increases in tourism and pressures from the accompanying infrastructural needs, such as those associated with telecommunications.

The chamber also announced reelections and recent appointments to their board of directors.

Names included Scott Johnson, chair; David O’Connor, past chair; Katie Grice, vice chair; Ken Lancey, treasurer; Shannon Sears, secretary; and board members Frank Acito, Sarah Gaither, Kevin Germain, Greg Lisk, Joel Nickel and Bill Simkins.

# Yellowstone Club settles alcohol violations with Revenue Department

BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR

**BIG SKY** – The Yellowstone Club private ski and golf community near Big Sky, Montana, has signed a settlement agreement with the state Department of Revenue following a number of liquor violations brought by the state earlier this spring.

According to the settlement agreement signed on June 19, Yellowstone Club liquor licensees and a license applicant at the club will pay a total of \$370,000 in a civil penalty payment to the Revenue Department and suspend alcohol operations in restaurants and bars operating under those licenses from seven to 20 days over the next five months.

The agreement stated that Hans Williamson, the club's vice president, general manager and the licensee's location manager misled investigators and will step down from managing liquor locations and will not be able to remain a part owner of liquor licenses. He will, however, retain his VP/GM position with the club.

Matt Kidd, managing director for CrossHarbor Capital Partners, the Boston-based private equity firm that owns the Yellowstone Club, would not comment on the settlement agreement but emailed a prepared statement to EBS.

"The [Yellowstone Club] license holders and all of the individuals involved have accepted full responsibility and going forward will comply with all of the conditions of settlement and ensure continued compliance with all laws and Department administrative rules," Kidd wrote.

According to DOR documents, on April 18 the DOR initially filed an action to revoke four liquor licenses from the Yellowstone Club and deny the application for another after an anonymous whistleblower informed Montana Department of Justice investigators that alcohol was being stored in off-site locations and served illegally at the club's Boot Room and Buffalo Bar and Grill.

On two separate occasions, Jan. 24 and Feb. 14, DOJ investigators found and confiscated a combined 2,979 bottles of liquor, 3,108 bottles of wine, 2,906 bottles and cans of beer, and 31 beer kegs, according to DOR Notice of Seizure documents.

Investigators also found alcohol and empty kegs in an unlicensed Huffine Lane warehouse in Bozeman where the warehouse manager said alcohol was stored before being shipped to the Yellowstone Club, a violation of state law that prohibits bars and restaurants from storing alcohol off site.

Following the suspensions, the four licensees will be able to commence normal business operations provided all servers, bartenders, supervisors and location managers "... pass DOR-approved responsible alcohol sales and server training within one year of the execution of this agreement," the settlement stated. Under the terms of the agreement, the club will be allowed to recover the seized alcohol.

As of press time on June 30, Revenue Department officials had not responded to requests for comment for this story.



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Wildlife-vehicle collision  
reduction pg. 23



Small streams hold large rewards  
pg. 26



A day in the park pg. 29



A group of bighorn rams on Mount Everts in Yellowstone National Park. To learn more about recent population surveys for the Spanish Peaks bighorn sheep that live near Big Sky, visit page 21. For more about Yellowstone, turn to page 61. NPS PHOTO



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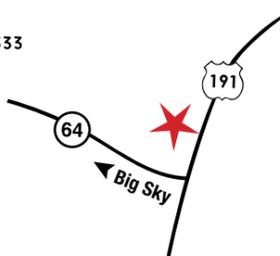


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## WATER WISDOM

*Presented by the Gallatin River Task Force and its partners, this recurring series highlights the conservation work done and environmental concerns found in our local watersheds.*

### Establishing a baseline

## Students explore river health at future restoration site

BY STEPHANIE LYNN  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR



The Lone Peak High School freshman class monitors the Gallatin River from the boat ramp at Moose Creek. PHOTO BY NATE MCCLAIN

The Lone Peak High School freshman biology class, in coordination with the Gallatin River Task Force, collected watershed data at sites slated for river restoration and access improvements during the 2018/2019 school year.

After recognizing that increased river use was threatening the Gallatin River, the Task Force realized an ambitious plan to collaborate with the Custer Gallatin National Forest to repair and enhance river access sites that began with work at Moose Creek Flat. Water quality information collected before, during and after this series of projects will be used to evaluate whether or not restoration activities improve river health and fisheries. However, sampling all proposed sites exceeds the scope and manpower of regular monitoring conducted by the Task Force and volunteers.

Enter Kate Eisele, middle and high school biology teacher, with a desire to focus her freshman biology class on environmental science, a passion for river conservation, and a goal to engage her students with real world issues. A logical partnership between the Task Force and LPHS emerged.

"I love to guide students of all backgrounds and abilities in risk-taking through experiments," Eisele said. "I believe learning science should be fun, safe and hands-on."

After receiving water quality monitoring training in August 2018, the 26 ninth-grade students trekked to the Gallatin River and two of its tributaries, Porcupine and Beaver creeks, monthly to measure key indicators of watershed health, including dissolved oxygen, nitrate, air temperature, water temperature, E. coli, flow rate, pH, conductivity and turbidity.

The class progressed during the year from researching their assigned parameters to interpreting their results and culminated their studies with a field trip to two completed river restoration sites and one future restoration site.

"Beyond classroom learning objectives, they have developed a much larger awareness of the watershed they live in and the challenges it faces from a growing human population," Eisele said.

When they left the controlled environment of the school laboratory, the freshman discovered that, at times, field investigations can be messy.

"They learned things don't always work out as planned; equipment fails, gets dropped, tossed, lost or broken," Eisele said. "Student teams have had to persevere to overcome deep snow, cold temperatures and absent teammates to accomplish data collection."

Their measurements led to a greater understanding of river conditions where a gap exists in monitoring efforts. Students measured water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH levels that support trout and aquatic insects, but discovered abundant E. coli bacteria in Beaver and Porcupine creeks. In addition, nitrate levels recorded in Beaver Creek were twice as high as the other sites.

"Overall, our rivers and streams are clean, but Beaver Creek was less clean, due to the [trail] crossing," said freshman Ace Beattie.

After completing their yearlong study, the students connected their data with overall river health and expressed enthusiasm for protecting the special place they call home. The rising freshman class will build upon their efforts this fall.

*Stephanie Lynn is the education and communications coordinator for the Gallatin River Task Force.*

# The New West: Of harbingers and a scientist ignored



BY TODD WILKINSON  
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

For many young people today, it might seem as if climate change has only recently become a topic of fierce debate and, depending upon one's own world view, a subject ripe for deep denial.

"How can global warming be happening," I heard one person remark in Bozeman, "if it snows on the first official day of summer?"

Intense discussion about the effects of climate change, in fact, have been going on for a long while, predating the arrival of members of Generation Z, those born between the mid-1990s and mid-2000s.

The very same summer that historic forest fires swept across Yellowstone National Park in 1988, members of the U.S. Senate were holding the first formal hearings on climate change in Washington, D.C.

When the late George Herbert Walker Bush was elected president later that year, his chosen director of the Environmental Protection Agency, William K. Reilly, and Bush's pick for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, John Turner of Jackson Hole, accepted that the science of climate change was compelling and needed attention.

In many ways, the attitude of that Republican Bush Administration was more advanced than that of the Democratic Clinton Administration that followed it and critics today say critical time in adopting a strategy for addressing carbon emissions was squandered.

Many reports, analyses, computer models and field studies have undertaken documenting average rising temperatures trending over time along with forests and marshes drying out, new diseases appearing and water in river systems heading lower faster in summer. And yet "windshield biologists" still claim climate change isn't happening.

One person who has influenced my own perspective is the now-retired entomologist Dr. Jesse Logan who witnessed ecological changes long before many others did. Logan spent decades studying beetle outbreaks as a researcher for the U.S. Forest Service. Today he lives in Emigrant where, as a passionate angler and backcountry skier, he's paid attention to trends, not to fickle weather variations occurring year to year.

Logan predicted the loss of Greater Yellowstone's whitebark pine forest decades ago caused by a combination of a pathogen called blister rust, beetle infestations hastened by climate change, forest fires and a general drying out of whitebark forests that leaves them more vulnerable to all of the above.

Whitebark pine produces tiny little nutlike seeds in their cones that nourish grizzly bears, Clark's nutcrackers and red squirrels. With grizzlies, those edibles high in fat and protein help keep the bruins well-nourished and, for females, in better health to reproduce.

Scientific colleagues of Logan's, like Dr. David Mattson, now also retired and who spent years working for the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Study Team, have said whitebark pine has been one of the most important dietary staples for grizzlies in our region, fueling rising numbers of bears.

Now, most of the whitebark pine forest that existed a human generation ago is gone and the outlook for the trees that remain is bleak, prompting researchers to say that whitebark, as a major seed producer, is functionally extinct, forcing bears to seek other sources of nutrition.



Red means dead. This photograph shows the extent of a dying whitebark pine forest high in Greater Yellowstone. PHOTO COURTESY OF ECOFLIGHTx

Logan built an esteemed career over decades that made him world-renowned. But he realized how serious the administration of George W. Bush elected in 2000 was about downplaying the effects of global warming on whitebark and grizzly bears after Logan was featured in a story in High Country News during the summer of 2004.

While he was widely commended by Forest Service employees in the field for expressing candor, it came to his attention that a high-level official in Washington was upset.

"Everything I've learned to believe is that a free press remains the cornerstone of our Democracy," he told me. "But all the media training I received as a senior scientist with the Forest Service is how to spin things in order to protect the agency."

It was not unusual for Mark Rey, the former timber industry lobbyist and then Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for the George W. Bush Administration overseeing the Forest Service, to call up and remind scientists that "if you are ever asked about climate change, I know you'll say the right thing," Logan says.

"With climate change," Logan adds, "I felt implicit and explicit censorship."

Doug Honnold, a respected attorney now retired from the environmental law firm Earthjustice, represented conservation organizations that mounted a legal challenge to bear delisting.

Honnold helped prepare a proposal to give polar bears more federal protection, based largely on the argument that as the sea ice melts, thus eliminating the tool that bears use to access seals, they could be doomed.

In our part of the world, he and Logan wanted people to ponder the rapidly diminishing presence of whitebark when they think about grizzlies. On the land, climate change isn't an abstraction.

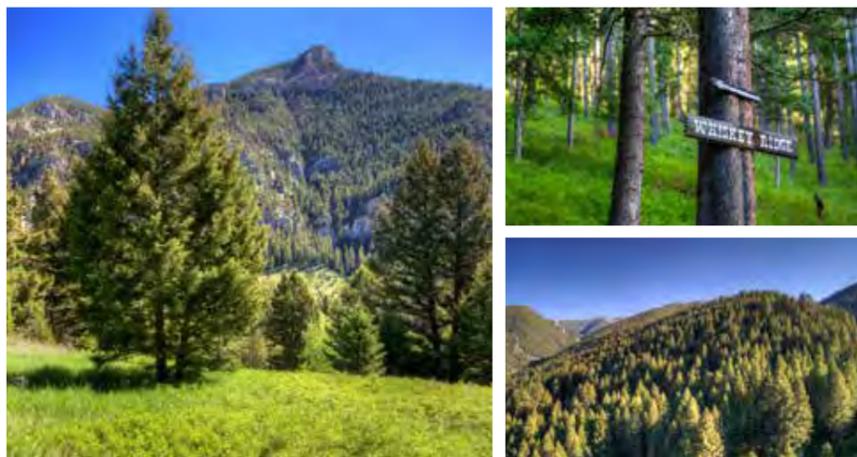
"It's already here," Honnold told me a dozen years ago. "Jesse is somebody who saw global warming many years ago and started studying it and modeling it and unfortunately many of his projections came to be true."

*Todd Wilkinson is the founder of Bozeman-based Mountain Journal (mountainjournal.org) and is a correspondent for National Geographic. He's also the author of "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek" about famous Jackson Hole grizzly bear 399, which is available at mangelsen.com/grizzly.*

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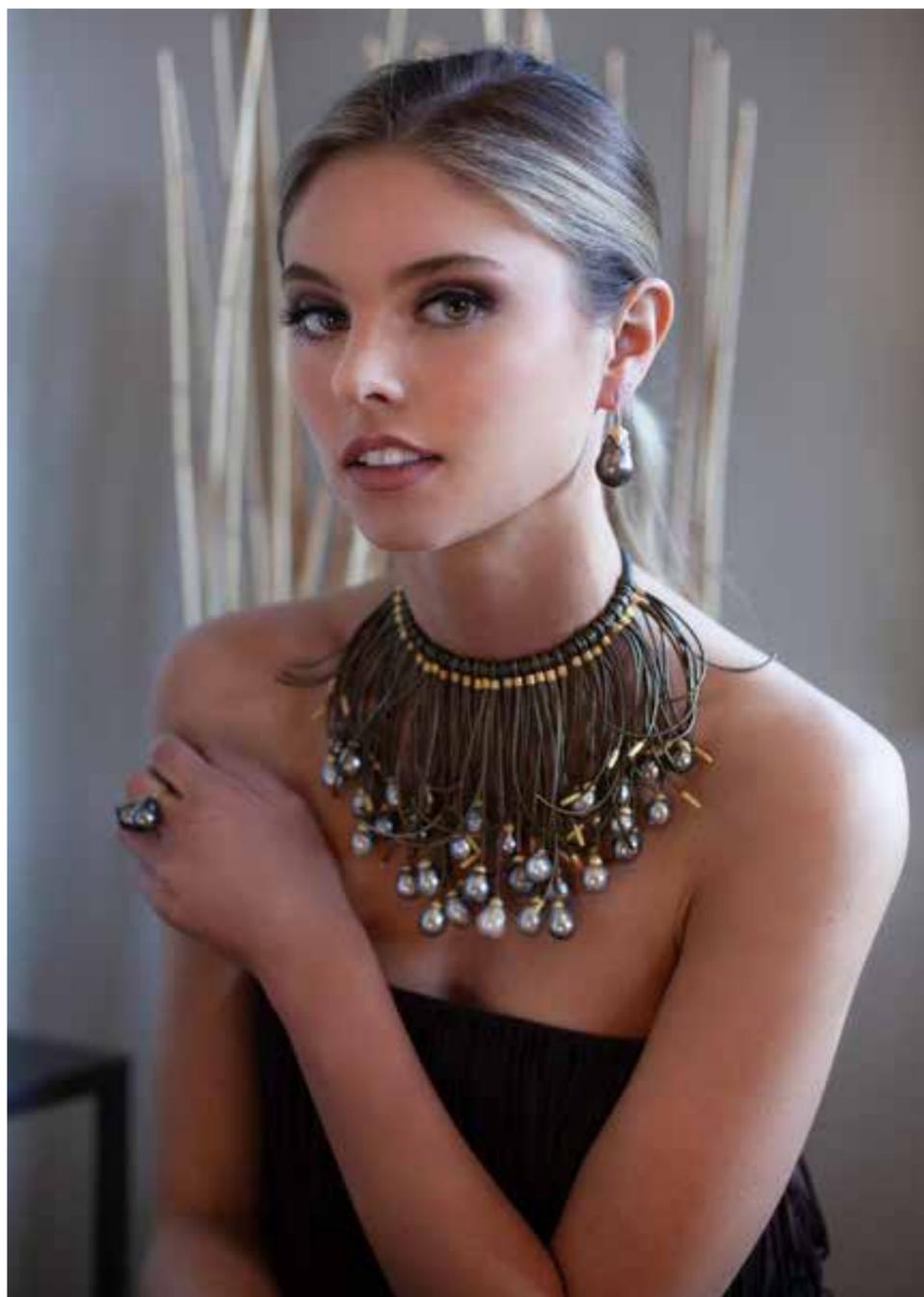
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# Biologists suspect low lamb survival for Big Sky bighorn sheep

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BOZEMAN – Despite intensive restoration efforts nationwide, bighorn sheep populations remain fragile across much of their home range. The wild sheep that grace Big Sky travelers on Highway 191 and Lone Mountain Trail, which are known as the Spanish Peaks herd, are no different.

This spring, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks conducted routine flight surveys as a part of ongoing monitoring for the Spanish Peaks and Taylor-Hilgard herds. While many of the sheep sporting GPS-satellite collars survived the winter, area biologist Julie Cunningham reported seeing few year-old lambs. Surveys were conducted prior to the 2019 lambing, so lambs referenced from this count refer to those born in 2018.

The lack of 2018 lambs, Cunningham said, is likely due to several causes. Some of the decline could be attributed to hunting, as FWP has offered a moderate number of ewe hunting tags in recent years, resulting in approximately 22 ewes harvested from the Spanish Peaks herd in the last three years combined.

Another factor likely at play was the overall harsh winter. Cunningham said last winter didn't start out very intense, but by March the snow was deep and temperatures were very cold. It ended up being particularly unforgiving because of the timing.

"They don't have a bite of nutritious food once grass turns brown [in the fall]," Cunningham said over the phone after releasing a report from her spring surveys on June 17. "Even in a mild winter they are going to have way lower fat reserves by March."

She added that in a good year, the grass is on the brink of greening in March as snow begins to melt, but as was the case of early spring 2019, the cold and snow finally hit at a time when fat reserves had been depleted. Cunningham said lambs are especially vulnerable because their energy in the summer and fall goes toward growth, not storing fat reserves.

While admittedly a brutal winter, there has not been evidence of large-scale mortalities from the winter. In other words, there have not been many reports of sheep carcasses found at the wintering grounds.

"It is likely the true population has not dropped as sharply as counts suggest," Cunningham wrote in her report. Instead, Cunningham thinks a large factor in her low sheep counts was observability.

"After bad winters like this [year's], they aren't as likely to move away from the helicopter. They don't feel good. If animals are in bad condition, they are less likely to flush out," she said. "Did I observe 50 percent or 80 percent of the herd?"

Overall, during April and May helicopter flights, 97 bighorn sheep were counted in the Spanish Peaks herd and 120 were counted in the Taylor-Hilgard herd that winters in the Madison Range southwest of Big Sky.

Amid the report of low counts, Cunningham did note that one ewe captured and marked with an ear tag in the Taylor-Hilgard herd in 2016 was spotted near Deer Creek in Gallatin Canyon last fall, where



Bighorn sheep graze near Highway 191 east of Big Sky. PHOTO BY JULIE CUNNINGHAM

she joined the Spanish Peaks herd for the winter. This is the first known connection between the two populations.

Given the uncertainty of the actual population sizes, and in the face of a likely decline based on low lamb survival, Cunningham is proposing to reduce the number of 2019 ewe hunting licenses during the upcoming season-setting process.

For the Spanish Peaks herd, she said she's proposing one tag for 2019—a drop from 10 given last year—and will consider eliminating the hunt in 2020. The ewe hunt was opened up in 2016 at a time when the herd was experiencing population growth beyond the carrying capacity of 150 sheep in an effort to prevent over-browsing of winter range. Cunningham said they will maintain the seven ram licenses this year, but may consider reducing that number in the future.

While hunter harvest can be adjusted to meet the needs of a population, Cunningham said poor forage and traffic collisions continue to pose a challenge for bighorns. The Spanish Peaks sheep, she says, are threatened by noxious weeds that have taken hold on winter habitat.

According to Jennifer Mohler, the executive director for Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance, weeds got a foothold during early development in Big Sky. Since 2010, the alliance has been working to improve the forage on the hillside west of Highway 191 and north of Lone Mountain Trail by treating noxious weeds and planting test plots of native plants. Mohler says they've seen impressive results but are still struggling with cheatgrass and spotted knapweed in some areas.

"Every winter range is really critical for wildlife, that's what they survive on. [Noxious weeds] directly impact the amount of available forage," she told EBS last summer.

Cunningham says these efforts can have a huge impact. "The footprint of winter range is small. The percentage of good habitat makes a difference."

She added that drivers on Highway 191 in Gallatin Canyon should always be on the lookout for sheep, no matter the time of year. Sheep come down and lick residual salt on the road from the winter, which often collects in the rumble strip along the center line.



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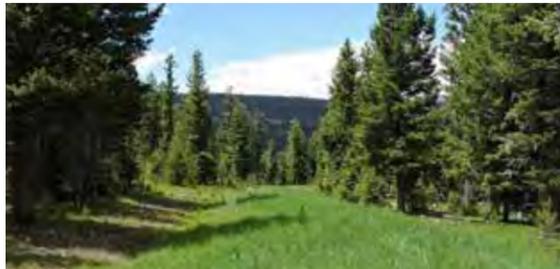
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# Montana partners commit to wildlife-vehicle collision reduction

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

LIVINGSTON – According to statistics released by the vehicle insurance company State Farm, in 2018, Montana ranked second in the nation for a driver's chance of experiencing a vehicle collision with a deer, with 14,098 claims filed by Montana drivers.

“We all see roadkill and most of us want to do something about it, but we just don't know how to help,” wrote Laramie Maxwell in an email to EBS. Maxwell is the co-coordinator for the advocacy group Montanans for Safe Wildlife Passage and was among a team that convened at the first-ever Montana Wildlife and Transportation Summit in December of 2018.

In June, the summit partners released a 60-page report that includes a summary of the event as well as efforts the collaborating agencies and organizations have agreed to in moving forward. The summit, which was held at Carroll College in Helena, saw participation from more than 160 individuals, and was organized by Montanans for Safe Wildlife Passage, the Governor's office, Montana Department of Transportation, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University.

According to Nick Clarke, also of Montanans for Safe Wildlife Passage and a project coordinator for conservation organization Yellowstone to Yukon, the summit has prompted greater collaboration among agencies and non-profits, helping to form new relationships, new collaborations and a new understanding among those involved.

“This strong foundation has opened up additional possibilities and created momentum for collectively addressing wildlife and transportation issues in Montana,” he wrote in an email to EBS.

The recent report outlines several measures aimed to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions. To start, FWP, MDT and Montanans for Safe Wildlife Passage are organizing a steering committee that will provide guidance in developing a wildlife and transportation plan that identifies connectivity and safety priorities, encourages information sharing, outlines education and outreach initiatives and discusses funding opportunities.

“The intent of the work plan is that it is informed by local-level efforts. Community interest and support are integral to planning highways for people and wildlife,” wrote FWP Communication and Education Chief-of-Staff Greg Lemon in an email to EBS.

“There are a variety of wildlife accommodations that can help wildlife safely cross the highway, including signs, fencing and crossing structures,” he added. “For example, variable message signs activated seasonally can alert drivers when wildlife are moving. These seasonally-placed signs seem to be more effective than permanent signs.” One key challenge the plan will address is related to information gaps across agencies and research groups. While FWP and MDT have a history of collaboration, the summit organizers believe additional partnerships are a valuable part of developing solutions.

“Information can be better shared among stakeholders so that decision-makers have the best information available at their disposal,” Clarke said. “Additionally, there is a need to support new and ongoing research to better understand how wildlife populations are moving across the landscape, and where their movements intersect with highways, so that we can make roads safer for everyone.”

Currently, FWP deploys GPS transmitters on a variety of species to track movements and habitat use. Not only does this data provide a glimpse into a specific animal's movement pathways and ranges, but it can also be extrapolated to other populations and areas.

“In any given year, FWP maintains and collects data from hundreds of GPS-marked animals around the state,” Lemon said. “This information can help with highway planning and other conservation efforts.”

Maxwell said one important aspect to keep in mind is that distinct areas of the state are of greater concern for different reasons.

“One area may not have as many crashes, but because a certain resident species—think bighorn sheep—is relatively small, each crash may have the potential to affect the population's ability to survive, while another area may be of concern because the high crash rate is dangerous for people,” he said.

Once migratory corridors are identified that overlap with significant traffic areas or proposed development, transportation officials are often tasked with some form of mitigation.

A 2014 survey conducted by the Western Transportation Institute found that transportation officials nationwide credit funding as the greatest barrier to developing wildlife crossing structures. In Montana, this is also coupled with what MDT Director Mike Tooley describes as a 3 to 1 ratio between overall transportation infrastructure needs and available fiscal resources—and the fact that the department manages over 25,000 lane miles of highway.

Maxwell says that while crossing structures are expensive, the actual cost with the benefits tells a nuanced story.

Wildlife collisions are estimated to cost the U.S. \$6 to 12 billion annually in the form of paid law enforcement, emergency services, road maintenance crews, wildlife managers and vehicle repairs. As one example, Maxwell cited a pronghorn and mule deer crossing built in 2012 over Highway 191 near Pinedale, Wyoming, which is estimated to pay for itself in 20 years.

“Understanding the true societal costs and benefits,” he said, “is key to increasing public awareness and building local support to construct crossings wherever they are needed.”



A wildlife overpass in Banff National Park west of Calgary, Alberta. These type of wildlife bridges incorporate vegetation and fencing to encourage safe passage over highways for wildlife. PHOTO BY WENDY FRANCIS

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Rocking S7 Ranch Lot 4  
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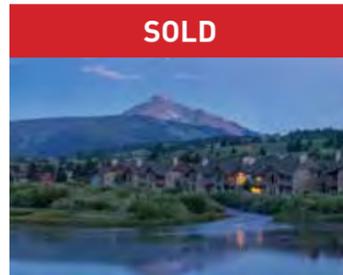
Yellowstone Ranch Preserve  
List Price: \$19M



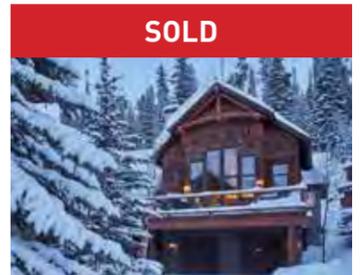
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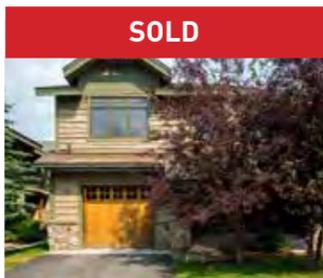


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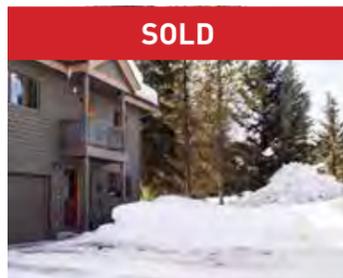
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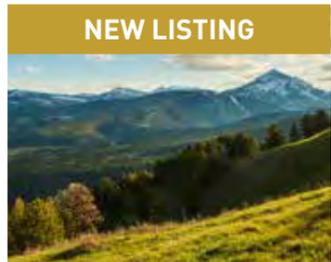
Kandahar at  
Beehive Basin  
5,409 SQ FT / \$3.45M



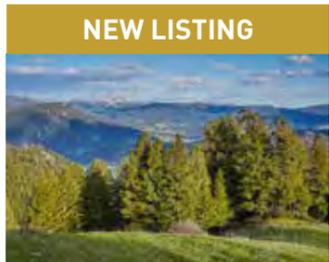
30 Beehive Basin Rd.  
6,203 SQ FT / \$2.9M



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



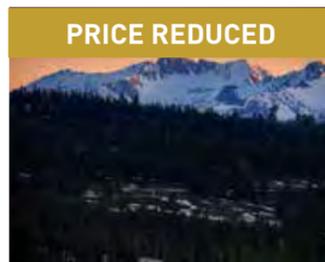
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Osprey Cove Lakehouse  
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2078 Little Coyote List  
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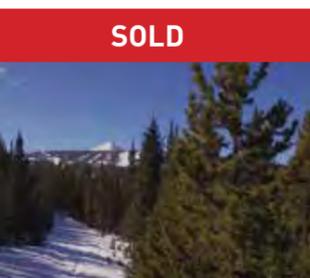
Ski Tip Lot 10  
List Price: \$975K



81 Pheasant Tail Ln. Unit 2  
2,707 SQ FT / \$839K



Lot 64 Goshawk  
1.04 ACRES / \$775K



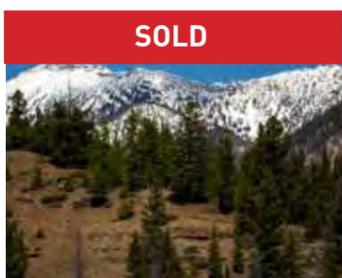
Lot 63 Silverado Trail  
List Price: \$390K



Lot 113 Crow Point Rd.  
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Lot 40 Half Moon Court  
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# EDDY Line

## The Eddy Line: Small streams hold large rewards



BY PATRICK STRAUB  
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

You've heard of the famous rivers—the Madison, Yellowstone, Missouri—but have you heard of the many small creeks that are also home to plenty of wild trout? Maybe or maybe not. And, you may never hear of them because that is the way it is supposed to be. Good things come in

small packages, right?

Small creeks are the hidden gems of our local waters, but fishing them requires a few adjustments to your angling attitude and your angling tackle. Here's some help.

**Look on the light-side.** A 9-foot 5-weight may be the best rod for the Madison, but if you plan on going to smaller waters, get more out of your fishing by fishing a 3- or 4-weight. A smaller rod will allow for better accuracy in the tight quarters of small creeks. Length can vary, but an 8-foot 3- or 4-weight rod is a versatile option for nearly all of our local creeks.

**Learn leaders.** Understanding leader length and size will help you. You will lose less flies to bankside bushes and you will find it easier to get a better drift. Follow a few simple rules—if you are fishing a large fly, fish a shorter leader, even as short as 5 or 6 feet. If you are fishing a small fly you can fish a 10- to 12-foot leader and get long drifts, but, be sure your casts are accurate or you will be picking your tiny dry fly out of the bushes often.

**Earn your rewards.** Small streams can offer exciting fishing on a more intimate scale. Increase your chances of having an even more secluded experience by burning off some calories. Walking an additional 15 minutes from the parking lot can pay big rewards

**Map it out.** For those anglers willing to put in a little extra work to earn some small stream rewards, be sure to keep quiet when it comes to spreading the word to other anglers. And for good reason—many of the creeks worth fishing cannot handle large amounts of angling pressure. Because maybe you were never told just how good the North Fork of the West Fork of Nunofyadamn Business Creek, you have to pull out a map and learn a new place the old-fashioned way by figuring it out on your own.

**Embrace simplicity.** I learned to fly fish on a small creek near Bozeman. As a middle school kid my size 10 Royal Wulff would catch the hungriest trout in the riffle first, then several fish later I might get lucky and catch the big one. Small creeks allow you to forget about what a lot of trout fishing has become—two fly nymph rigs fished with weight below an indicator. Get back to the roots and cast a single dry fly and fish the way Lefty Kreh intended.

**Do not neglect streamers.** There are times when a dry fly just won't work—if there is no hatch or the water is a bit off-color. When that occurs try something new and fish a small Woolly Bugger or your favorite streamer pattern in a size 8 or 10. Expect to make long casts and often fish from the middle of the creek, stripping directly back toward you. After you make your presentation cast, keep holding the line with your line hand because often times the biggest fish in the hole hits your fly immediately.

**Be cautious of critters.** Many small streams are in backcountry areas or areas with plenty of willows and marshy habitats. Backcountry streams, especially those in Yellowstone National Park, can be frequented by bear, and marshy streams can be home to moose. Don't fish in fear, but be aware and consider telling people where are you headed and what time you expect to be home.



Now that runoff is over, our small streams are an angling option offering some solitude for those anglers willing to put in some extra effort. PHOTO BY PATRICK STRAUB

**The stealthy anglers are the happy anglers.** Small streams can hold plenty of fish, but, not for the clumsy anglers. Small fish may be unaware of your presence, but big fish grow big because they elude predators. When fishing small creeks move slowly and act more like a hunter than an angler.

**Practice the golden rule.** Many of us fish small creeks to experience some angling solitude. There will be a time when you encounter another angler on your favorite little stream. When that occurs give them plenty of space and leave them lots of water before you begin fishing. Or, consider calling an audible and venturing elsewhere.

For many, the appeal of fly fishing lies in its simplicity. Tying on a single fly on a light weight rod and stepping into a creek you can cast across is at the root of many anglers' first fly-fishing experiences. Getting back to those roots can be intrinsically rewarding.

With the end of runoff and the heart of summer here, the options for fishable waters are large and varied. Now is the time to embrace a little angling simplicity and self-discovery on your favorite little small stream, just keep your success to yourself.

*Patrick Straub is a 20-year veteran guide and outfitter on Montana's waters and has fished the world over. He now writes and manages the social media for Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures. He is the author of six books, including "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Fly Fishing" and has been writing The Eddy Line for seven years.*



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# Identifying Big Sky's wildlife by track



Usually 3.5 inches or more in length, not including claws. Resembles a domestic dog track with four oval toes.



Usually 3-3.5 inches in length as an adult. Track typically does not show claws. Mountain lion prints are round in shape, with four toes that are teardrop-shaped as opposed to the more oval appearance of a wolf's.



Back foot tracks are typically 10 inches and include the entire pad print. Front pads are usually 5.25 inches and include a print from just the front portion of the pad. Toes are typically closer together than a black bear's print.



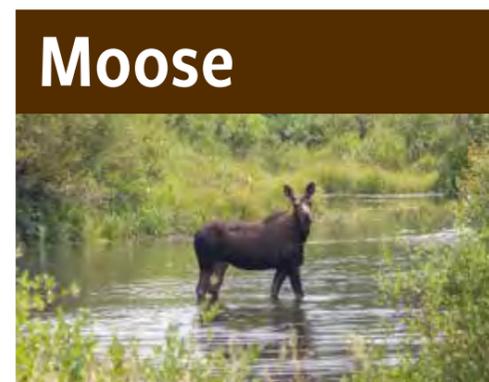
Back foot tracks are typically 7 inches and include the entire pad print. Front pads are usually 4.5 inches and include a print from just the front portion of the pad.

A line drawn under the big toe across the top of the pad runs through the top half of the little toe on a black bear track and through or below the bottom half of the little toe on a grizzly track

A line drawn under the big toe across the top of the pad runs through the top half of the little toe on a black bear track and through or below the bottom half of the little toe on a grizzly track



Generally the length of an elk track is 4-4.74 inches. Elk tracks will appear more rounded than a moose track, with the two hoof segments running parallel to each other.



A moose track is typically 5-7 inches in length. Moose hooves are more pointed than an elk's and they point slightly inward at the tips.

# On the Trail: A day in the park on Fourth of July and beyond

BY SARA MARINO  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Looking for more ways to get outside and have fun in Big Sky? There is something for everyone at the Big Sky Community Park. Spanning 44 acres, the park is an ideal location for the young and the young at heart to gather and play in the summer, winter and all times in-between.

If sports are your thing, take advantage of the softball fields, basketball court, sand volleyball court, tennis and pickle ball courts and multi-use field overlooking Lone Peak.

For hikers and anglers, try Little Willow Way, a leisurely path through the park that follows the West Fork of the Gallatin River and connects to Black Diamond Trail. The creek is easily accessible and offers many spots to fish or play on the banks. Pets are welcome, but please help keep the park clean by picking up after your dog.

There is a playground for younger children that has a covered picnic pavilion—a nice shaded area to take a rest after playtime. Older kids can also enjoy the skate park and climbing boulders.

Be sure to check out the park as you plan your Fourth of July festivities. There will be a 5K Road Run starting at 8:30 a.m. on July 4 where runners, walkers, strollers and leashed dogs are all welcome. A kids fun run will follow at 9:30, and 3-on-3 basketball will begin at 10. Register in advance at [runsignup.com/race/mt/bigsky/bigskyroadrace](https://runsignup.com/race/mt/bigsky/bigskyroadrace) or arrive early that morning for same-day registration.

To get to the Big Sky Community Park from Meadow Village, head north on Little Coyote Road, go past the Big Sky Chapel and fish pond to the first right-hand turn. Look for the Big Sky Community Park sign at the parking lot entrance.



An aerial view of the Big Sky Community Park. PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVE PECUNIES PHOTOGRAPHY

The Big Sky Community Organization engages and leads people to recreational and enrichment opportunities through thoughtful development of partnerships, programs and places.

Visit [bscomt.org](https://bscomt.org) for more information about Big Sky's parks, trails and recreation programs.

Sara Marino is the community development manager for the Big Sky Community Organization.

### Fourth of July at the Community Park

- 8:30 a.m. – 5K Road Run
- 9:30 a.m. – Kids' Fun Run
- 10 a.m. – 3-on-3 Basketball



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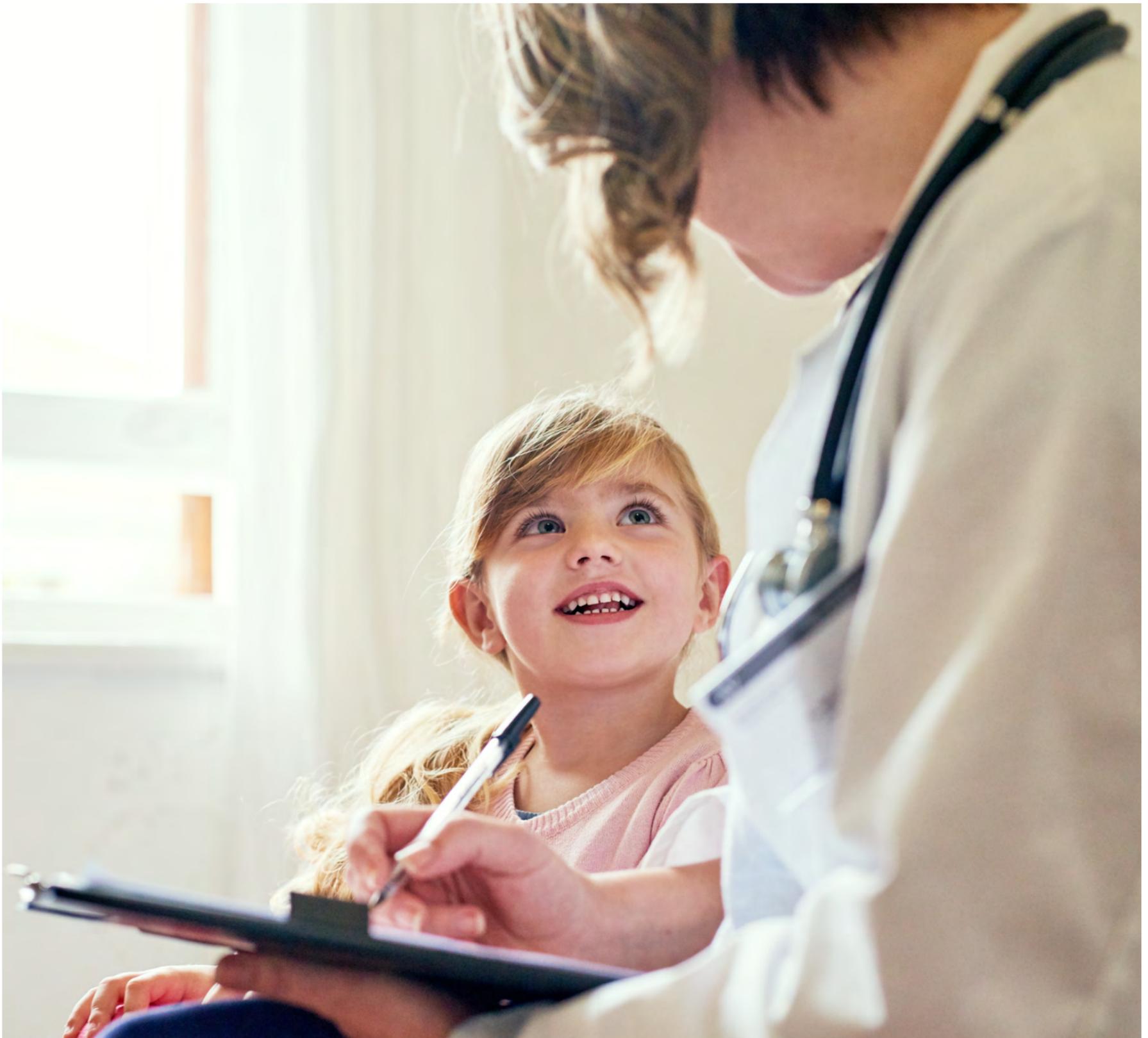


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# Yours in health

## Keep those bugs from biting this summer

BY DR. ANDREA WICK  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

With summer in full swing, you may be bracing yourself for mosquitos, ticks and flies. If you are a sweet treat for bugs in the summer, here are some tips to avoid pesky rashes and itchy skin.

Histamine is the culprit to blame for allergic reactions with bug bites. When an allergen is injected into the skin and unrecognized by the immune system, histamine is released into the body. The immune system triggers chemical signals to be delivered to mast cells. Mast cells trigger a release of histamine, causing vasodilation—or increase of blood flow—to the part of the body that the allergen is affecting. Inflammation begins and your immune system kicks in and starts to defend itself by causing an irritant. In the case of bug bites, the result is itchy skin.

A great way to prevent bites is to not smell good to bugs. According to a study done in 2000, mosquitoes are attracted to lactic acid, ammonia, carboxylic acid, carbon dioxide and octenol which is found in human sweat and breath.

Thiamine (vitamin B1) is thought to be an effective bug bite prevention, specifically for mosquitoes, though many studies have been inconclusive. The thought behind ingesting high doses of thiamine is that it will cause the skin to produce an odor that is repulsive to mosquitoes. As a water-soluble vitamin, it is safe to ingest thiamine in larger doses. Eating foods such as lean meats, seafood, nuts and eggs will provide a valuable source for vitamin B1.

Lemongrass is found to be as effective as commercial bug repellents. A research study done by “Phytomedicine Journal” found that lemongrass lasted

2-3 hours, comparable to commercial bug repellents. Mixing lemongrass with other essential oils such as citronella, lavender or oil of lemon eucalyptus may give you a greater chance of protection.

This is a great option if you choose to avoid chemicals such as DEET. The Environmental Workers Group suggests that if DEET products are used, it should not exceed more than 30 percent of the chemical. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends 20-50 percent DEET and highly recommends this in areas with a high risk of Lyme disease.

The best way to treat any bug bite is to first wash the area with warm, soapy water. Placing ice packs on the inflamed area can help reduce swelling and relieve the itching. Creating a paste with baking soda and water and placing the mixture on the bites can also relieve discomfort.

Another successful treatment is with essential oils. Tea tree (melaleuca) oil has antimicrobial and antiseptic properties. It is best diluted with coconut oil and applied to the skin to halt itching. Peppermint oil can also severely reduce itching, lessen scratching and speed up the healing process due to its cooling properties.

Other options that I have found to work include citronella deodorant and essential oil bracelets. It is recommended to wear light colors, long pants and shirts to prevent bug bites when you will be outdoors.

*Dr. Andrea Wick is a chiropractor and applied kinesiologist. She graduated from Life University in Marietta, Georgia, and now practices at Healing Hands Chiropractic in Big Sky. She has a passion for holistic health care and being active in the outdoors.*

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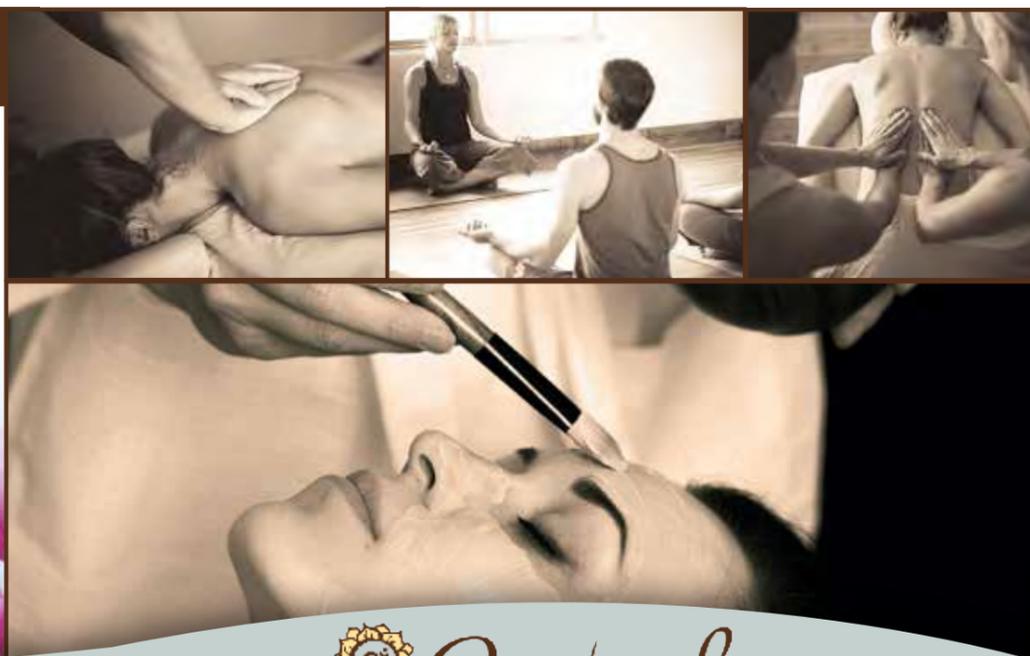
with James Sewell Saturday, July 6th 1:00-2:00

#### Cacao Ceremony & Ecstatic Dance Saturday

with Amy Raven, July 27th 11:00-Noon

#### Sound Healing

with Amy Raven July 28th 6:30-7:45pm.



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9:00-9:45am Free Your Mind Mediation (Donation Based) 10:00-11:30am All Levels Yoga 5:00-6:15pm Warm Yin/Restorative Yoga	9:00-10:15 All Levels Yoga 12:00-1:00pm Community Yoga (All Levels) In Town Center Park 5:45-7:00pm All Levels Yoga*	7:30-8:30am Rise & Shine Yoga 9:00-10:00am All Levels Yoga 11:00-Noon All Levels Yoga 5:45-7:00pm Heated Flow	7:30-8:30am All Levels Yoga 9:00-10:15 Level II Yoga 11:00-12:00pm All Levels Yoga 4:15-5:15pm Slow Flow Yoga*	7:30-8:30am Rise & Shine Yoga 9:00-10:00am All Levels Vinyasa Flow 11:00-Noon All Levels Yoga	9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga* 12:00-1:00pm Heated Flow	9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga

\* special \$10 drop in rate for Big Sky workforce first visit always \$10 - any class

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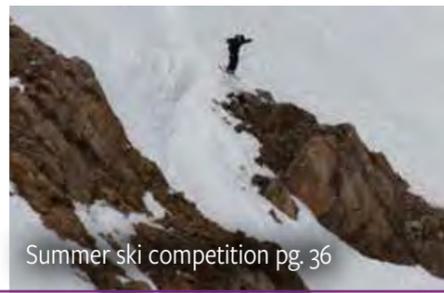


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**SECTION 3:**  
SPORTS, BUSINESS,  
DINING & FUN



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Lone Peak's Revenge, the third stage of the Montana Enduro Series, will return to Big Sky on July 27, a technically demanding course on Andesite Mountain and Lone Mountain that was designed in concert with the crew at Gallatin Alpine Sports to showcase Big Sky Resort's most technical terrain. PHOTO BY GABE PRIESTLEY

# Golf Tips from a Pro: PGA Junior League

MARK WEHRMAN

EBS GOLF COLUMNIST

This year marks the inaugural season for PGA Junior League in the Bozeman-Big Sky area. So far, the league has surpassed all of my expectations. Even with the small enrollment numbers at Ophir Middle and Lone Peak High schools, Big Sky managed to field two teams this year with a total of 21 participants.

PGA Junior League is a nationally supported program by the PGA of America for kids ages 7-13. Its purpose is to create a "Little League" for golf. Almost every kid in America grew up playing, at one point, Little League baseball. The PGA Junior League is meant to mirror that program, only for golf. All of the signup is done on a site-specific online platform designed for the PGA Junior League.

On this site, parents can register their kids and pay the league fee, view the tournament and match schedule, and also see practice times and other team information. Included in their league fee is a home and away jersey, tee shirt, ball cap, bag tag and shoe-string backpack. There are a total of six matches and a weekly organized practice that comprise the season schedule.

For the Bozeman-Big Sky schedule, there are a total of five matches scheduled with each course hosting the league one time. Matches are scheduled on Sundays and so far we have been to Bridger Creek, Black Bull, and Cottonwood Hills, and Riverside Country Club golf courses in Bozeman. The Big Sky Golf Course rounds out the season with the final PGA Junior League action on July 7.

Big Sky practices have been from 4:30-6 p.m. on Thursdays. The parents have been a huge part of the success for each team as there are simply not enough pros to have eyes and ears on each match going on. I would like to offer a heartfelt "thank you" to the parents that have been so helpful each week.



Harper Bedell, the youngest player on the Big Sky team, walks the fairway at the Bridger Creek Golf Course in Bozeman with a bag the outsizes her in tow. PHOTO BY MARK WEHRMAN

With the first year success of this nationally recognized program, I feel that the sky is the limit going forward. Next year, the registration will be available by April 1 at the latest and all kids ages 7-13 will be accepted.

Based off of feedback from the kids, parents and pros so far, I think Big Sky can field three to four teams next season. If you are in the area, please feel free to stop by after 5 p.m. on Sunday, July 7, at Big Sky Golf Course to watch these young golfers have the time of their life. Oh, and their uniforms are pretty cute too!

*Mark Wehrman is the Head Golf Professional at the Big Sky Resort Golf Course and has been awarded the PGA Horton Smith Award recognizing PGA Professionals who are model educators of PGA Golf Professionals.*



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# Busy July in store for Big Sky Resort

BY DOUG HARE  
EBS STAFF

Big Sky – As Fourth of July rolls through, Big Sky Resort is ramping up for one of the busiest months of the year. The Mountain Village is already abuzz with mountain bikers, zipliners, children practicing on the climbing wall and trampoline, disc golfers or just those taking a scenic trip to the top of Lone Mountain.

But with the expected influx of visitors and vacationers, the resort has brought back many of their most popular events to offer activities and entertainment to an eclectic demographic trying to enjoy summertime in southwest Montana.

On July 13 from 4 - 8 p.m., the 14th annual Big Sky Brewfest will feature tastings from over 30 breweries from Montana and the greater Intermountain West. With live music, fresh food, and free kids activities, the brewfest always draws a crowd to the base area.

On July 14-15, the Big Sky Golf Course will host the 18th Annual Celebrity Golf Tournament. The tournament will take place on Monday, July 15, with players and celebrities playing a casual round on our local Arnold Palmer-designed course. The pre-event cocktail party with a live and silent auction will take place on Sunday, July 14, at Big Sky Resort.

For nearly two decades, the charity event has won the support of dozens of sports and entertainment celebrities who are committed to playing for a great cause, including Jeff Fisher, Matt Morris, Autry Beamon, Tom Weiskopf, Dave Coulier, Chris Kirkpatrick, Eric Dickerson, Marty Pavelich, Dan Carpenter, and many more.

On July 19-21, the Total Archery Challenge returns for a three day on-mountain event where bow enthusiasts will compete in one of the most elaborate outdoor 3D archery experiences in the nation. While drawing some of the most talented archers in the region, with multiple courses for all skill levels, beginners are encouraged to come out and discover the great sport of archery for themselves.



On July 15, the Big Sky Golf Course will host the 18th annual Celebrity Golf Tournament featuring sports and entertainment celebrities teeing it up with less well-known participants and raising money for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Gallatin County. PHOTO BY DAVE PECUNIES

On July 27, the third stage of the Montana Enduro Series will return to Big Sky to put on Lone Peak's Revenge—a scenic, technically challenging and physically demanding course on Andesite Mountain and Lone Mountain that was designed in concert with the crew at Gallatin Alpine Sports. Registration is \$70 and the event has sold out in years past.

Riders agree that the Revenge has earned its reputation as the most challenging race course in the Montana Enduro Series, showcasing of Big Sky Resort's steep, technical transfers and even steeper, more technical descents.

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# Summer ski competition dominated by Big Sky athletes

BY DOUG HARE  
EBS STAFF

Ski season might be an afterthought in the middle of the summer for most, but Big Sky's most talented skiers and riders take advantage of the fact that Montana boasts North America's only summer-specific ski destination, Beartooth Basin Summer Ski Area, located 23 miles south of Red Lodge.

The Beartooth Basin IFSA FWQ.2\* Summer Shredfest, held June 18-22, technically marks the beginning of the 2020 freeride season, and numerous Big Sky athletes return to the top of the Beartooth Highway every June to get some turns and test their mettle on a uniquely difficult venue featuring massive cornices, cliffs and chutes.

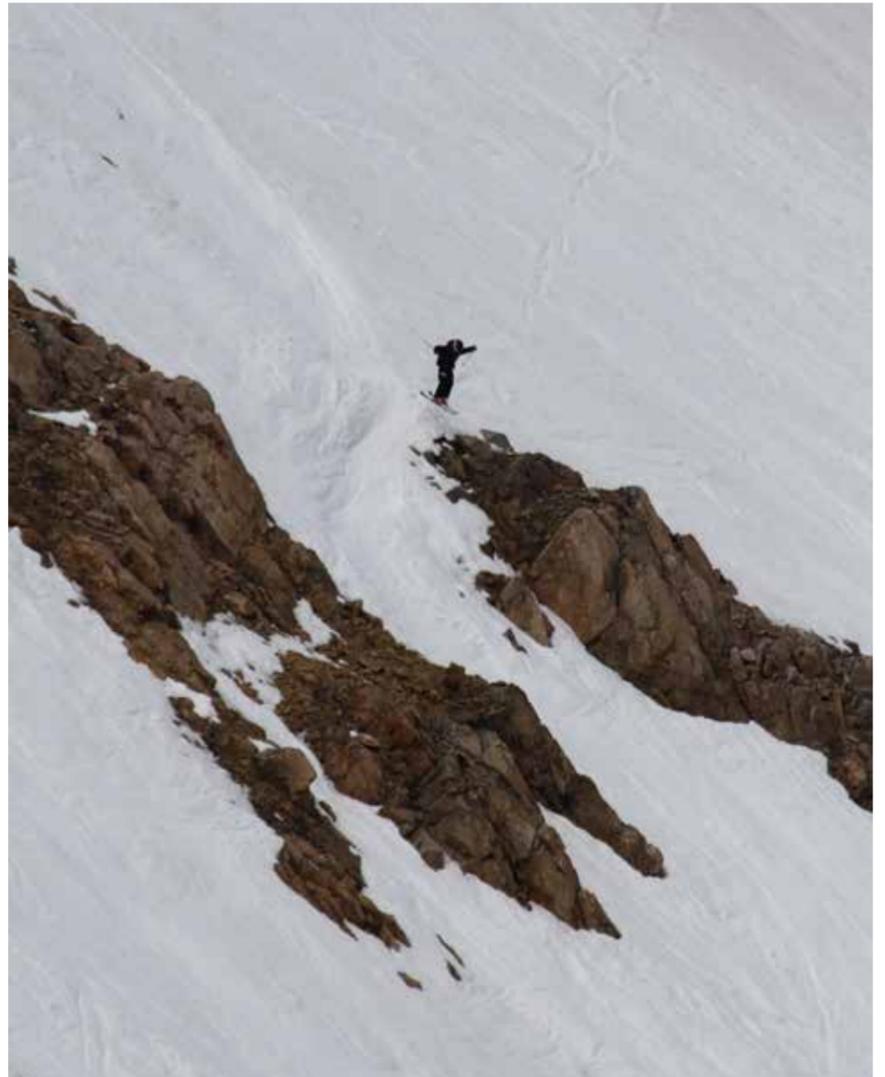
"The Summer Shredfest is an epic weeklong celebration of ski culture and competition in the heart of some of the most spectacular terrain in North America," said Pete Manka, former BSSEF freeride coach who also judged the event.

"You never know what the weather will be like. It's a short and steep venue, so you have to use as many features as possible. We even got to use a little bit of the park this year. It was awesome to hit a rail in my final run," said Blaise Ballantyne, who finished in second place in his first competition in the 12-14 age bracket for male skiers by putting down multiple smooth 360s.

Ballantyne finished behind Preston Smith, another BSSEF freeride athlete who is no stranger to finding podium spots at IFSA competitions. Preston's older brother Andrew finished in second place in the 15-18 male skier division. The Smith brothers split their time between a ranch in North Dakota and Big Sky during the winter months.

"We lucked out with the weather and had two full days of sunshine and perfect corn on the venue," said BSSEF Coach Wallace Casper. "What I'm most excited about is that almost every Big Sky athlete increased their score on the second day meaning they were skiing at the best of their abilities. Very excited to see what these kids do this coming season."

In the adult division, the Samuels brothers continued to prove that they are some of the most exciting skiers and riders on the freeride qualifying circuit. "We headed to the Beartooths to have some fun and ski in the summer. Pretty hyped about how things ended up. It's a super relaxed competition put on by some good people. I'm looking to have a blast traveling around next year," said Chase Samuels, a rising senior at Montana State University who finished in second place in the male skier division.



Not for the faint of heart. Blaise Ballantyne going full send at the Beartooth Basin Summer Ski Area freeride competition en route to a second place finish. PHOTO BY TODD JONES

"It was a crazy unique competition, and it's always fun to get out riding in the summer. I'm just stoked the [competition] went off!" said Holden Samuels, who won the male snowboard division. The younger Samuels, a sophomore this fall at Colorado University at Boulder, narrowly missed qualifying for the Freeride World Tour in his rookie season as an adult competitor last season.

"Holden has the skill set to compete and win at the highest level against the best in the world. It will be fun to watch him this season," Manka said after watching him put down another first place performance.



## Community park adds pump track to repertoire of offerings

The installment of a new feature at the Big Sky Community Park is underway. Lead by the initiative of local Joe Muggli, the Big Sky Community Organization is overseeing the construction and operation of a pump track, a circuit-based track made of berms and humps used by bikers to improve their use of balance, energy and momentum on a bike. "I always thought it was something that would be of use to the cycling community as we grow and develop our skills as a town," Muggli said.

The project was approved in August of 2018 and has since garnered sizable community interaction and support. After sending out a community survey, Muggli received over 100 responses from people volunteering their time to build the trail and maintain it once completed and open to the public. Scott Altman of Orlando Rock and Sealing has already donated machine time and materials to the construction of the track, and Muggli hopes to host a community dig day to finalize the track.

Thanks to the combination of private donations and fundraising as well as community involvement, the pump track has been and will continue to be a low-impact project. Muggli said because the track is made of dirt, it can be easily removed or relocated, allowing for the probable future growth of the community park.



**PREMIER LIFESTYLE CRAFTERS**

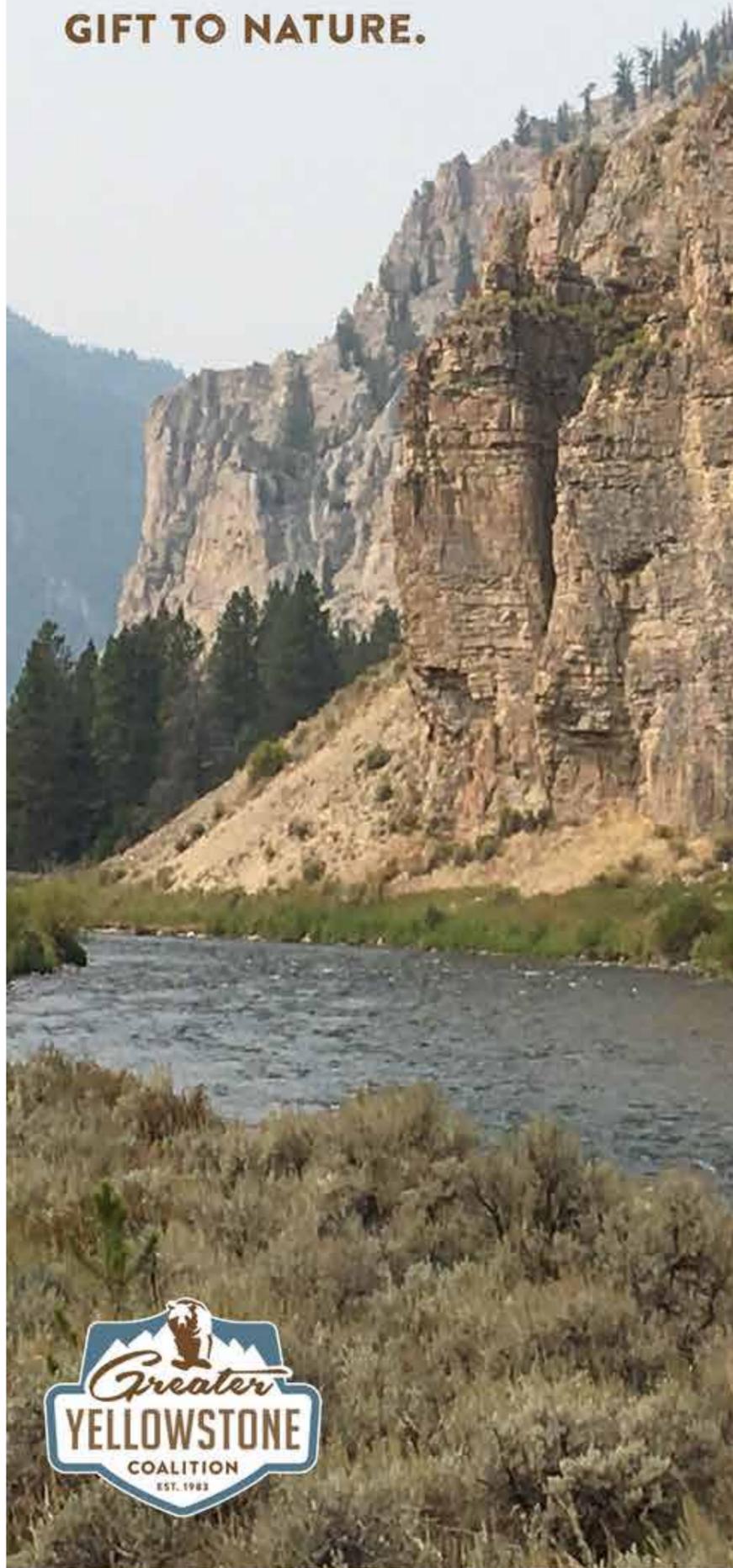
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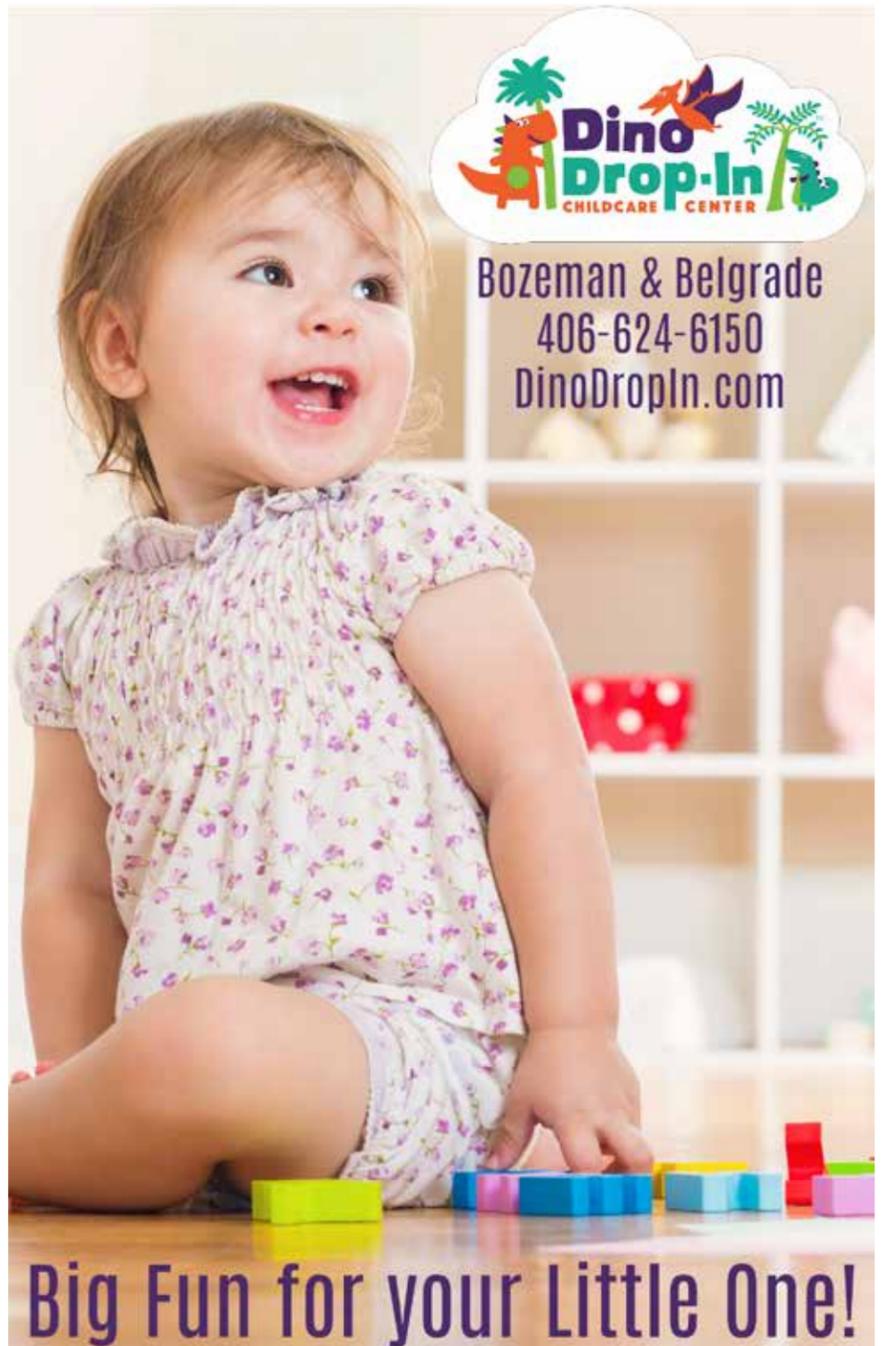


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## Making it in Big Sky: Thomas Heating and Sheet Metal

BY BELLA BUTLER

You'd be strapped to find a long-time local that hasn't heard of the Thomas twins.

"Bo" Lance and "Bo" Terry, as they are commonly known, ventured to Big Sky in 1979 after starting their heating, ventilation and air conditioning business at the tender age of 15. After forty years of business in Big Sky, they still like to keep it old school. With no computer and no website, they operate Thomas Heating and Sheet Metal from the buttons of a flip phone.

The brothers and their only employee and lifelong friend, "Bo" Tim Pattison, travel between Bozeman and West Yellowstone with the simple mission of making sure people are happy—to them, business is personal, as most of their relationships with clients have turned into close friendships.

**Explore Big Sky:** *How have you grown your business since its conception?*

**Terry Thomas:** We've been really productive over the years. We are a small company, so I just like to do one job at a time.

**EBS:** *How has your business evolved over the years?*

**T.T.:** I never used to say no; I would just do everything. Now I am getting a little older, a little wiser, and there are certain jobs that I look at and just go 'Oh man.' The ability to say no [is important.] I like working for people I know, I believe in, I trust.

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

**T.T.:** Overhead—insurance and work [compensation] is so expensive. People wonder why [it's so expensive] but everything goes up. You have to keep it tight.

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

**T.T.:** I first moved here in the early 80s. I first moved here because I heard the hunting was good and there was no work. I love the people here, I'm a people person, and I like to think I have the gift of gab. I love the locals here, and most of the people I meet are pretty awesome people, and I like to BS with people. I'm a talker. I've watched [Big Sky] grow, and I've watched it evolve, and some of it's good, some of it's bad, but mostly good.

**EBS:** *What are some of the challenges that come with doing your job during the winter?*

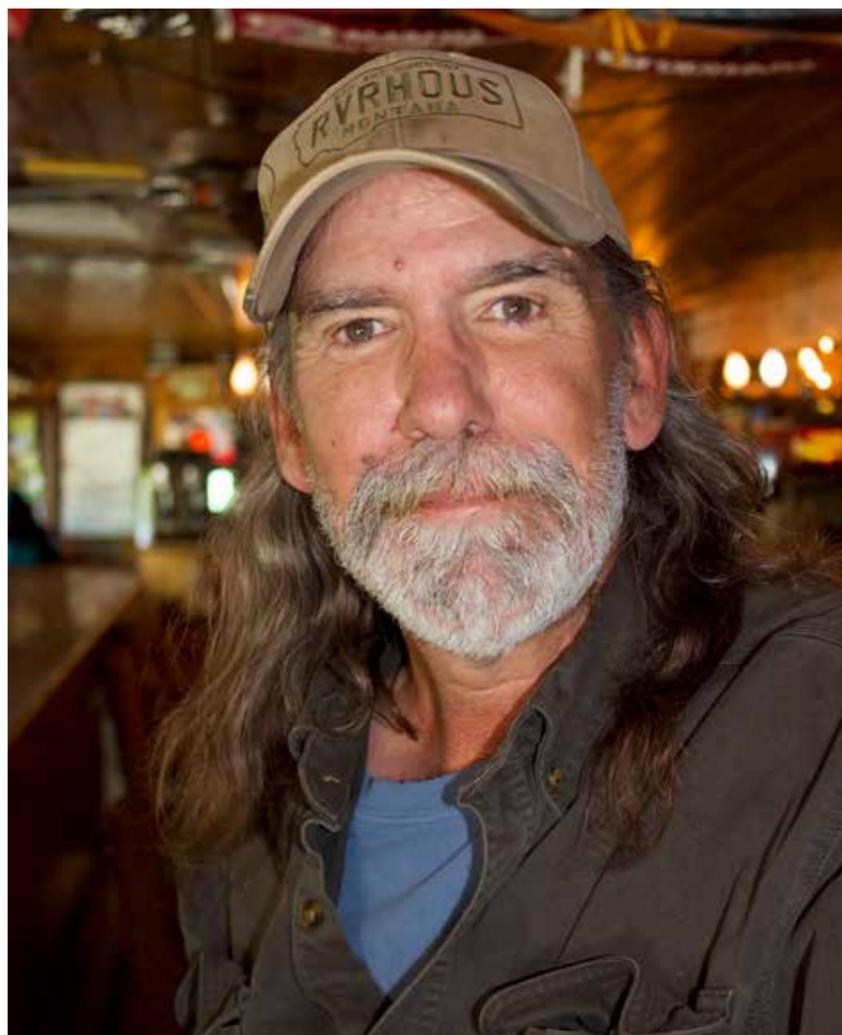
**T.T.:** [In the winter] we do service work. The challenge is we are getting old, and we're limited.

**EBS:** *What is the most memorable moment you've had in Big Sky as a resident or business owner?*

**T.T.:** I met John F. Kennedy Jr. and he was a way cool guy. We shot pool and drank beer down at the Half Moon years ago. He was staying at a house down the street and the furnace broke down so I got to go fix it.

**EBS:** *Do you remember your first customer you had?*

**T.T.:** I worked for my father, but we started our business in '78. We went to go bid a job and it was a church, and I think it was a Baptist church because the guy was Southern. We got up on the roof and looked around. They had a baptism pool up at the podium. My dad gives the guy a bid and said, 'Son of a bitch, you've got a jacuzzi up there!' I'm thinking, we are never going to get this job. We got the job.



Terry Thomas (pictured) and his twin brother Lance started their business in 1978. Over forty years later, they still operate under the principles of treating people right and following through on their word.

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

**T.T.:** It was from my father, probably when I was a kid: Take care of people, and do what you say you're going to do at the price you said you were going to do it. My philosophy is to respect people.

**EBS:** *What is it like working with your brother?*

**T.T.:** He's A and I'm B, but we make it work. We work together and we live together. He is totally like my mom and I am totally like my dad. My dad was laid back and my mom was serious and by the book. We are twins, and we make it work. I couldn't do my business without him.

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

**T.T.:** Retirement! You know, we are going to do work for certain people, but you have to know when to say no. I'm going to work until I tip over, but I should probably tone it down a little bit.

### MAKING IT IN BIG SKY IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE BIG SKY CHAMBER



The 22nd Annual Big Sky Chamber Black Diamond Awards Dinner will be held on Tuesday, June 25th at the Wilson Hotel. This is a time for the Chamber of Commerce to honor members of our community that exemplify outstanding success and service to Big Sky. Nominate a Business TODAY!

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# BIG SKY PBR

**JULY 25-27, 2019 | BIG SKY, MT**

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## 2019 SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY, JULY 20 &  
SUNDAY, JULY 21**

**Fourth Annual Big Sky Art Auction**  
Artist Reception & Preview | Saturday, July 20  
Live Auction | Sunday, July 21  
Arena Tent | [www.bigskyartauction.com](http://www.bigskyartauction.com)

Featuring \$500,000+ in traditional and contemporary Western art, this event gives attendees the chance to appreciate a wide variety of art by famed artists from the region.

**WEDNESDAY JULY 24**

**Big Sky PBR Golf Tournament**  
to Benefit the Western Sports Foundation  
**The Reserve at Moonlight Basin**  
Registration at 9am | Shotgun Start at 11am

Buy a team and be paired with a cowboy. 18 teams of 4 plus a PBR cowboy will play a 18-hole, 5-person team scramble. All proceeds from the tournament will go to the Western Sports Foundation, whose mission is to support total athlete wellness for those competing in Western lifestyle sports by providing resources for life.

**FRIDAY JULY 26**

**Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 2 | PBR Arena**  
12:00pm - Will Call opens for ticket pickup  
4:30pm - Golden Buckle gates open  
5:00pm - Calcutta Auction in the Golden Buckle tent  
5:30pm - General Admission gates open  
6:30pm - Bull Riding event starts  
8:30pm - Concert to follow

PBR's Touring Pro Division continues to light up Big Sky Town Center with 40 of the world's best cowboys going head to head with world-class bulls.

**Big Sky PBR After Party & Music**  
Featuring Jamie McLean

SAV Stage | 8:30pm

Concert access included with Big Sky PBR tickets. Music-only tickets available at [bigskypbr.com](http://bigskypbr.com).

**THURSDAY JULY 25**

**Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 1 | PBR Arena**

4:30pm - Gates Open | 5:30pm - Bull Riding Begins

PBR's Touring Pro Division kicks off three nights of bull riding in Big Sky with 40 of the world's best cowboys going head to head with world-class bulls.

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Sponsored by Big Sky PBR, presented by Arts Council Big Sky

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8:30pm - Hayes Carll

**SATURDAY JULY 27**

**Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 3 | PBR Arena**

12:00pm - Will Call opens for ticket pickup

4:30pm - Golden Buckle gates open

5:00pm - Calcutta Auction in the Golden Buckle tent

5:30pm - General Admission gates open

6:30pm - Bull Riding event starts

8:30pm - Concert to follow

PBR's Touring Pro Division wraps up after three epic nights of bull riding in Big Sky. One cowboy will be named the champion and will take home the Western bronze, the check, the guitar and the buckle.

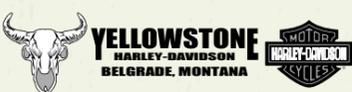
**Big Sky PBR After Party & Music**  
Featuring Hell's Belles

SAV Stage | 8:30pm

Concert access included with Big Sky PBR tickets. Music-only tickets available at [bigskypbr.com](http://bigskypbr.com).

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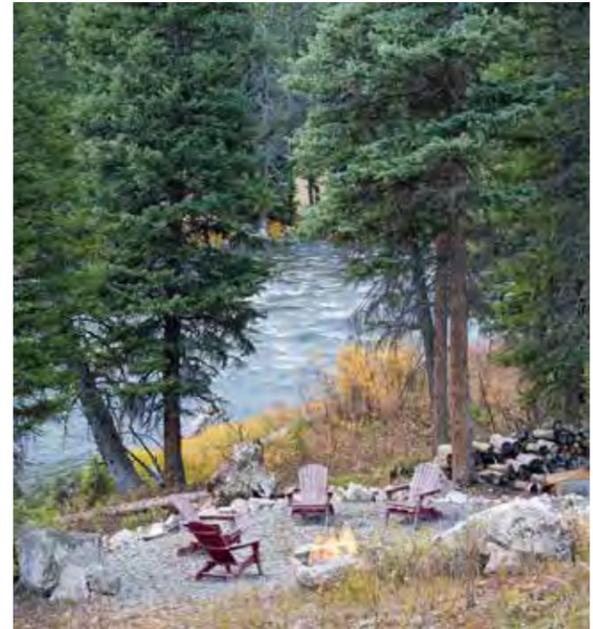
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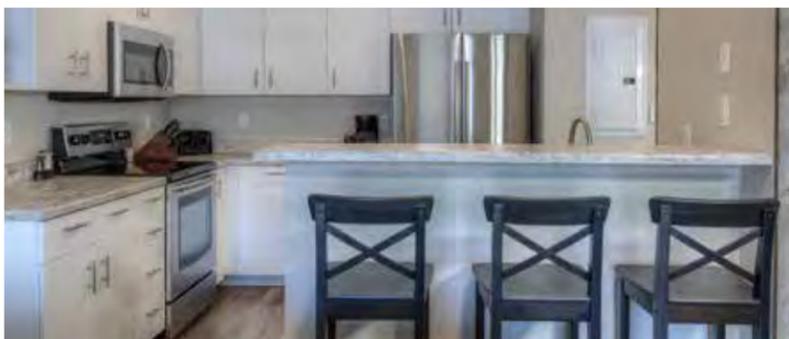
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## AMUSE-BOUCHE

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

### The genius of grocery stores



BY SCOTT MECHURA  
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

The grocery store. One of society's greatest food institutions. From the small, independently-owned, to the world's largest chains, such as Carrefour, Aldi, and 7-Eleven (classified as a grocery store), it is perhaps one of the only categories of store you could make the argument for that the majority of humans have patronized at some point in their lives.

And the industry knows this.

"Don't get lost in the bowels of the store." That's what someone in the grocery business told me many years ago, and it has stuck with me to this day.

They were referring to what I call the empty middle aisles. Sure, their shelves are full, but with little substance. Produce sections are vast, yet the average shopper only spends 10 percent of their money there. As opposed to 26 percent of their dollars going to the middle of the store. A smart shopper should reverse that trend at the very least. My personal observation is that, with a couple exceptions, the deeper in the store, the less nutrition you'll find.

Best practice when shopping is this: everything you really need is either on the perimeter, on the end of an aisle, or at least very close to the end.

You don't often see sale items on the end of an aisle that aren't already popular; you see items most people already buy. That is by design. The thought behind that move isn't putting an item there that doesn't sell in order to gain some traction, but rather placing an everyday item you will probably already buy—only now, you will simply buy more.

Have you ever just run to the store "for a few things" only to emerge 30 minutes and two bags of groceries later, instead of a small bag with what you went in for in the first place? Of course you have. We all have. Grocery stores took their cue from casinos.

And while your local store may not be filled with cigarette smoke and the constant ringing of a Wheel of Fortune slot machine, they are windowless on three sides, have no clocks, and have long aisles with different kiosks strategically positioned to block the ends of aisles and misguide you to places like the frozen foods section where you may suddenly remember you were out of ice cream or frozen pizza—which, by the way, take up over half of all freezer sections.

Those free food samples positioned at the end of an aisle and usually in a high traffic area aren't so free. A study conducted by Arizona State University showed that even if you didn't buy what the free sample was, the fact that you tasted or merely smelled something triggered taste buds, and more often than not will lead you to purchase more than you would have originally.

A University of Michigan study found that manufacturers create an image of higher quality even when it isn't, which translates to higher prices, by simply changing the packaging, labeling, product name and font.

As someone who is trying to get a product on Montana grocery store shelves, I can tell you that it will cost you. You pay them for shelf exposure and they decide where it will be placed on the shelf, not you. New product? You are subject to what they refer to as a TPR, or temporary price reduction. This means you will almost always take a loss for typically six months before you are allowed to charge what you need or wanted to charge in the first place.

And one final note: one of the dirtiest public things you can touch is the handle of your shopping cart.

*Scott Mechura has spent a life in the hospitality industry. He is a former certified beer judge and currently the executive chef at Buck's T-4 Lodge in Big Sky.*

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Photo Courtesy of Matt Dodd



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## Mix it up: An appetite for apricots

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER  
EBS STAFF

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

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

This stone fruit is packed full of nutrients including high levels of beta carotene and lycopene, as well as vitamin A, vitamin C and plenty of fiber. Despite being among the most nutritious fruits, the average apricot contains only 17 calories. This can be attributed to lower sugar levels.

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

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

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

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

### Apricot Sauce

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

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

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

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# American Life in Poetry: Column 744

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

I am often asked if I know of a good poem to be read at a wedding, and here's one by James Bertolino, from his new and selected poems, *Ravenous Bliss*. Bertolino lives in Washington state and I have been a reader of his poetry for almost fifty years. When he and I were younger, we often published in the same literary journals, most of which have slipped away into the past.

## A Wedding Toast

By James Bertolino

May your love be firm,  
and may your dream of life together  
be a river between two shores—  
by day bathed in sunlight, and by night  
illuminated from within. May the heron  
carry news of you to the heavens, and the salmon bring  
the sea's blue grace. May your twin thoughts  
spiral upward like leafy vines,  
like fiddle strings in the wind,  
and be as noble as the Douglas fir.  
May you never find yourselves back to back  
without love pulling you around  
into each other's arms.

*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 ©2014 by James Bertolino, "A Wedding Toast," from Ravenous Bliss, (MoonPath Press, 2014). Poem reprinted by permission of James Bertolino and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2019 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004–2006.*

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

## ACROSS

- 1 Family member
- 4 Signed (abbr.)
- 7 Atlantic (abbr.)
- 10 Amorphous mass
- 11 Haw. garland
- 12 Thunderfish
- 14 Apropos
- 16 Besides
- 17 Soft drink
- 18 Keen
- 20 Thus (Lat.)
- 21 Query
- 22 Charity
- 24 Weapon
- 27 Native
- 30 Wings
- 31 Skate
- 32 Berne's river
- 33 Wall
- 35 Inside
- 36 First principles
- 37 Kind of lettuce
- 38 Alas (Ger.)
- 40 Welsh onion
- 42 Limb
- 45 Bath cake

- 47 Madness
- 49 Work (Sp.)
- 50 Rubber tree
- 51 Love of Radames
- 52 This one (Lat.)
- 53 Sup
- 54 Before common era (abbr.)

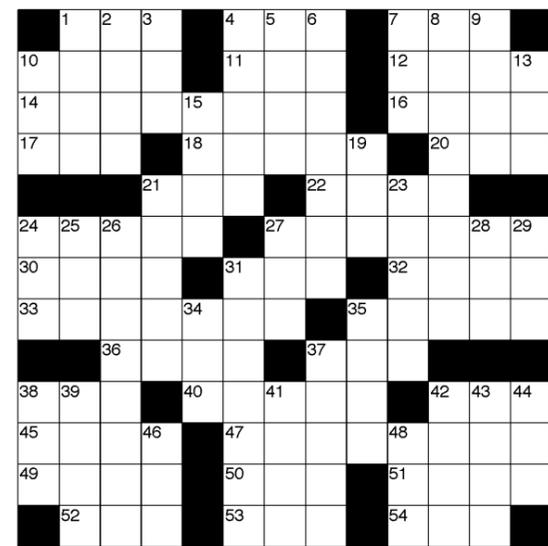
## DOWN

- 1 Rosebud, e.g.
- 2 Captive of Hercules
- 3 Compass direction
- 4 Loose
- 5 Bend
- 6 Aromatic herb
- 7 One hundred square meters
- 8 Magic charm
- 9 Continue
- 10 Bikini top
- 13 Drug Enforcement

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

- Admin. (abbr.)
- 15 Container
- 19 Ancient times
- 21 Sharp
- 23 Resources
- 24 Science class
- 25 According to (2 words)
- 26 4th incarnation
- 35 Daughter of Eurydice
- 37 Santa's reindeer
- 38 Jap. volcanic crater
- 39 Cork County port
- 41 Firstborn of Benjamin
- 42 Of the kind of (suf.)
- 43 Journey
- 44 Sheep's cry
- 46 Lumberman's boot
- 48 Capture
- of Vishnu
- 27 Auricle
- 28 Fury
- 29 Wax (pref.)
- 31 Leavings
- 34 Interstate Commerce Commission (abbr.)



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## SECTION 4: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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Moonlight MusicFest pg. 58

# The real-life magic behind fireworks

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

**BIG SKY** – Every Fourth of July, hundreds of millions of Americans take to backyards, beaches, parks and swimming pools nationwide to celebrate our independence, culture and unique freedoms.

At nearly 330 million strong, living in environs ranging from alpine to semi-tropical, it's only natural we celebrate differently, honoring local customs and cuisine.

But Americans share one thing with certainty on the Fourth of July, whether they're in Honolulu, Boston or anywhere in between: that moment when it's time to lay out a towel or blanket, look to the night sky, and take in the truly awesome spectacle of a fireworks show.

The people of Big Sky have come to enjoy their very own show, thanks to the work of a dedicated team of paid volunteers. Robert Wood, a co-owner of Blue Raven Properties in Big Sky, has helped put on the fireworks display for nearly 10 years.

Wood's introduction to fireworks came on the slopes of Lone Mountain, where he worked for Big Sky Resort as a ski patroller.

"I did hundreds of shows up at the resort," Wood said. "They used to do a show a week."

His experience transferred easily to the Big Sky Town Center show, particularly when it comes to handling potentially dangerous explosives.

"We had the skills and transitioned into the Fourth of July show," Wood said. "The fireworks are considered Class C explosives, and with avalanche mitigation at the resort we worked with Class A explosives. Since we already had licenses to work with the Class A, we were already able to do the Class C work. So we just needed the training."

Big Sky Fireworks, a fireworks purveyor out of Helena, handles everything from training to show planning for Big Sky's annual Independence Day show, while available funding and the desired show duration determine the design.

The Big Sky show incorporates shells ranging from 3 to 8 inches long, which determines flight height—shells travel approximately 100 feet for every inch of shell. Each shell is contained in its own tube, and each tube is mounted to a rack. Racks are then grouped in banks.



Behind every good Fourth of July fireworks show there is a thoughtful planning process to ensure safe and awe-inspiring execution. PHOTO COURTESY OF PEXELS.COM

According to Wood, Big Sky's show contains hundreds of shells.

"For the 3-inch shells, we have five racks of 12 [tubes] per bank, so there will be 60 3-inchers in just one bank. It adds up really quickly."

The crew works in close harmony with the Big Sky Fire Department, an essential partnership in mitigating wildfire risk in a notoriously fire-prone corner of the nation.

"Big Sky Fire always checks in with us before the show to make sure we don't need anything," Wood said. "If it's really dry, they'll wet down the grass before the show, and the whole department will set out en masse after the show to look for spot fires and spray things down."

According to Wood, setting up the show takes about a day. But it's a labor of love.

"It's a really neat thing to be able to do because it makes you feel so connected to the town when you're doing something like shooting off a fireworks show for the kids of Big Sky," he said. "It's a great feeling when you pull out your earplugs and you hear the whole town cheering."



## Yoga series celebrates summer, raises funds for BSCO

On June 21, the summer solstice, Big Sky residents of all ages gathered in the newly opened Wilson Hotel for a morning of mental and physical detox facilitated by an event called "108 Sun Salutations," hosted by Santosha Wellness Center.

A sun salutation is a series of yoga positions including one of total prostration, "a deep bow to yourself," said Santosha owner and event leader Callie Stolz. Why 108? The figure has long been considered sacred in Hinduism, yoga and Eastern philosophy, present in instances such as 108 beads on a Mala, a Hindu prayer bead garland, or the 108 sacred Vedic texts. It even has some scientific backing; for one, the diameter of Earth is approximately 108 times smaller than that of the sun.

The full routine took approximately one hour, and upon completion attendees were met with food provided by The Gourmet Gals, a Big Sky gourmet catering company. Proceeds from the donation-based gathering were dedicated to the Big Sky Community Organization's "ALL IN BIG SKY" community center campaign, and the event also commemorated the grand opening of the Wilson Hotel later that evening. —Michael Somerby

## Big Sky Artisan Festival returns for third year

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

For the third consecutive year, Big Sky's Meadow Village will be home to some of the region's most inventive and crafty artisans with the Big Sky Artisan Festival returning on July 6.

With 25 artists from around Montana and nearby states, Big Sky residents and visitors will get an opportunity to peruse the various artisans' stalls, discovering one-of-a-kind pieces.

Sponsored by Visit Big Sky, attendees of the Big Sky Artisan Festival will also enjoy a number of food and beverage offerings at commissioned food trucks. Or, if a longer meal is in order, the nearby and numerous Meadow Village restaurants are available for browsing.

Event organizer Kate Tomkinson launched the festival with the intent of bringing new avenues of art and culture to Big Sky's doorstep.

"The reason that we started the festival was to bring juried artisans into Big Sky from all over Montana, and other states, and bring more tourists and expose people to what Montana artisans have to offer," Tomkinson said. "I think the community benefits greatly from exposure to the art, and it's so varied, from pottery to handmade brooms to oil and water color artists."

The event was originally a two-day affair, but was truncated and coordinated to launch concurrently with the Peak to Sky festival, which is expected to bring even more visitors to the community. The Big Sky Artisan Festival will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



## A guide to Fourth of July in Big Sky



Every Wednesday, the Big Sky Farmer's Market brings local food and artisan craft purveyors to Fire Pit Park. Get in a little slow-moving, family fun before the pace ramps up on Thursday.  
OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

### Big Sky Farmers Market

Wednesday, July 3, 5-8 p.m.

Fire Pit Park

Enjoy a mellow Wednesday night at the Big Sky Farmers Market before the pace picks up for Thursday's Fourth of July festivities. The Big Sky Farmers Market brings both local and visiting food and artisan craft purveyors to the community for a fun, family-friendly gathering where attendees can expect to find fresh produce, flowers, tasty food vendors and unique Montana goods while enjoying live music and good company. Head to Big Sky's Fire Pit Park every Wednesday between 5 and 8 p.m. to join in on this cherished community staple.



Racers of all ages and abilities are encouraged to hit the pavement for the Fourth of July 5K Road Run, hosted by the Big Sky Community Organization and The Cave Spirits and Gifts.  
OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

### Fourth of July 5K Run

Thursday, July 4, 8:30 a.m.

Big Sky Community Park (start)

This Fourth of July, the Big Sky Community Organization and The Cave Spirits and Gifts will host the annual Fourth of July 5K Road Run. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. with a registration fee of \$35, but online registration is available prior to race day with a special reduced fee of \$30. Racers get a race shirt with their registration and a will feast on a pancake breakfast after the race. A free 1k kid's race will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the 5k will start at 8:30 a.m. The race will begin in the Big Sky Community Park and will follow roads within the Big Sky Meadow Village area, and money raised from the race will go to supporting existing trails and parks in Big Sky. Runners of all ages and abilities are welcome to attend.

### Firecracker Open Golf Tournament

Thursday, July 4, 10 a.m. shotgun start

Big Sky Golf Course

Take part in some friendly, and potentially profitable, competition at the Firecracker Open hosted by the Big Sky Golf Course. Register as a team of four or as an individual and get paired with team members at \$100 a person, which covers the green fee, cart, practice balls and lunch. Players will alternate between red, white and blue tees to celebrate the spirit of the holiday and will be scored scramble-style. An optional \$20 skins pot is available to players as well, with a payout of 30 percent of the field in both gross and net divisions. Players will also enjoy a 20 percent discount on red, white and blue merchandise excluding balls, gloves and hats.

Call 406-995-5780 to register.

### Three-on-three basketball tournament

Thursday, July 4, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Big Sky Community Park

For those looking to kick off their Fourth of July with a dose of fast-paced competition, a three-on-three basketball tournament will be held at the Big Sky Community Park. The tournament is divided into three age divisions: entering third through sixth grade, entering seventh through ninth grade and entering 10th grade through adults. Teams of up to five players can register by emailing their team name and player information to [register@bscomt.org](mailto:register@bscomt.org). Only four teams will be permitted to play in each division, so a prompt registration email is suggested. The youngest division will play games between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., the middle division will play from 11 a.m. to noon and the senior division will play from noon to 1 p.m.

### Fourth of July Festival

Thursday, July 4, 7 p.m.

Town Center Stage

The annual Big Sky Fourth of July festival will take place in Town Center, bringing together community members and visitors for an evening of bona-fide American celebration. A free concert featuring The Tiny Band, a Bozeman-based rock, soul and pop fusion group, will begin at 7 p.m. Take advantage of the food and drink vendors and kid's activities while the family waits in excitement for the fireworks show at dusk. Glass and dogs are not permitted in the park.



Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee Chad Smith, known best as the drummer of the internationally beloved Red Hot Chili Peppers, will be taking the stage at Peak to Sky on July 6.  
PHOTO BY LAURA GLASS

### Peak to Sky

July 5-6

Big Sky Events Arena

Attend the first ever Peak to Sky festival in the Big Sky Events Arena on July 5 and 6, with two nights of music curated by Mike McCready of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inducted band Pearl Jam. Along with McCready, performers include Chad Smith and Josh Klinghoffer of Red Hot Chili Peppers, Duff McKagan of Guns N' Roses, Taylor Hawkins of Foo Fighters and three-time Grammy-award winner Brandi Carlile, among others. Enjoy this all-star lineup along with Friday night's performances by Big Sky's very own Dammit Lauren and the Well and Seattle-based female rock quartet Thunderpussy—all the while surrounded by the picturesque scenery of Big Sky.

Visit [peaktosky.com](http://peaktosky.com) for more information and to purchase tickets.

### Big Sky Artisan Festival

Saturday, July 6, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Meadow Village

For the third year in a row, regional artists will gather in Big Sky's Meadow Village shopping center to showcase and sell a variety of artistic works—the event, which is sponsored by Visit Big Sky, will feature a whopping 40 Montana artisans. Fuel up between exhibitions at the number of local restaurants in the area or grab something quick from one of the food trucks stationed around the event.


**REEL REVIEW**

## Reel Review: ‘Fighting with my Family’

BY ANNA HUSTED  
EBS FILM CRITIC

“Fighting with my Family” is the best kept secret of 2019. An independent film written and directed by one of the tallest men in the industry, Britain’s Stephen Merchant, looming large at 6 feet 7 inches, “Fighting with my Family” is simply fantastic and has made its way easily into my top 20 films of the year.



Florence Pugh and Jack Lowden play siblings battling it out for a chance at the World Wrestling Entertainment stage. PHOTO COURTESY OF MGM STUDIOS

Based on a true story, “Fighting with my Family” is about the Knight family and their relationship with wrestling. Ricky and Julia Knight, played by Nick Frost and Lena Headey, respectively, have raised two kids with aspirations of becoming professional wrestlers in their little town in England. When the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) crews come to London, both of their kids, Zak and Saraya, played by Jack Lowden and Florence Pugh, are given the opportunity to try out, but only Saraya, who goes by the wrestling name “Paige,” makes the cut.

“Fighting with my Family” is a coming-of-age film about Saraya and Zak grappling with their own and each other’s successes. While Saraya heads off to Miami to train with the best WWE coaches, played by the charming Vince Vaughn and Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, Zak keeps coaching his own group of ragtag kids in England, including teaching a blind boy how to fight.

The Knight family dynamics are cleverly written, realistic and entertaining; each has their unique relationship with each other and their unique wrestling style to match.

While Saraya struggles to fit into the world of “model” wrestling, Zak’s insecurities about his dreams of fighting in the WWE haunt him, and the rapport between these two siblings is shaky, yet tender. They care deeply about each other, which manifests in jealousy—albeit a common phenomenon in the world of siblinghood.

But the film also comes with a dose of reflection on personal values and giving people a chance to show more than what meets the eye; Saraya is surrounded by older women who are strong but possess the classic attributes of “sexy,” whereas she has an unrefined Norwich, England, accent, dark hair and is shorter than your typical model. She immediately feels left out but realizes that she didn’t give the other women a chance either and only assumed they didn’t understand her struggles.

“Fighting with my Family” is just a darn good film: It’s entertaining from start to finish, with some fun cameos, witty writing and its focus on themes of family in a non-conventional, non-sappy way. Watch “Fighting with my Family.” You will not be disappointed.

“Fighting with my Family” is available to rent on YouTube or Amazon. It is also available at Bozeman Public Library.

*Anna Husted has a master’s in film studies from New York University. In Big Sky she can be found hiking a mountain or at the movies at Lone Peak Cinema. When not gazing at the silver screen or watching her new favorite TV show, she’s reading, fishing or roughhousing with her cat, Indiana Jones.*



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# Sushi and The Sonics

## The story of unsuspecting rock stars and a down-on-his luck director

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

**BOZEMAN** – When Jordan Albertsen moved to Montana from Los Angeles in 2017, he was at the lowest point in his life.

Near-broke, depressed and demoralized after failing to launch a successful career as a filmmaker, he took a job as a server at Dave's Sushi in Bozeman. But his story, much like the subjects of his critically acclaimed, award-winning documentary “BOOM: A film about The Sonics,” is truly stranger than fiction, defined by a healthy dose of serendipity.

### Jordan Albertsen

As a kid growing up in the Seattle area in the 1980s and 90s, Albertsen was baptized by the local music scene, a fertile ground for the brash and countercultural subgenre of rock and roll music affectionately dubbed “grunge” by the media.

Needless to say, when Albertsen's father played some of his favorite tracks by bands such as The Eagles, there was a disconnect—that music felt soft and edgeless, in stark contrast to the punk and grunge stylings Albertsen was drawn to—and their differences in music taste were emblematic of a deeper rift between father and son.

But the first piece of destiny in Albertsen's story came in the form of a record, when his father left a vinyl, “Boom” by The Sonics, outside his bedroom door.

A skeptical Albertsen was immediately impressed by the rawness and punk sounds of the band, especially considering that the Tacoma, Washington, group released the album in 1966. The Sonics were light-years ahead of their time.

“I was just blown away. They were so bad ass and I couldn't believe my dad listened to them,” said Albertsen. “I was instantly a fan.”

A newfound connection over music bridged the ailing relationship, inspiring the father and son to attend concerts around the nation, a practice they carry out to this day.

### The Sonics

The Sonics formed in 1963, releasing three albums over the ensuing decade before ultimately parting ways. At the time of their first album release, the members, consisting of Larry Parypa on lead guitar and vocals, Andy Parypa on the bass, Rob Lind on the saxophone, Gerry Roslie on the organ and Bob Bennet on drums, were mere teenagers but they managed to bottle all the accompanying energy and angst into their music, blowing the doors off conventional approaches to rock.

With distorted guitar riffs, break-your-drumsticks percussion and howling vocals, and under the guidance and management of Buck Ormsby, a regional musical legend in his own right, the band captured the hearts of young people across the Northwest, opening shows for the likes of The Beach Boys, the Mamas & The Papas, Jay & the Americans and The Shangri-Las.

But their interest in music declined as they failed to break through onto the national stage. The boys parted ways and soon they were leading ordinary lives—wife, kids and day jobs.

Unbeknownst to them, their records were making a splash across the globe, deeply influencing the punk, garage and metal genres. In Europe especially, they were veritable rock stars.

As the punk and grunge music scenes started to gain some traction in the 80s and 90s, the members of the band began hearing whispers of their growing popularity around the world.



“It was a slow process,” Albertsen said. “And then the reunion offers start to come in.”

The Sonics, now middle-aged men, resurfaced in the music scene after a nearly four decade hiatus, playing sold out shows around the globe. Albertsen and his father attended one such reunion show in 2008.

“When the Sonics did their first hometown reunion show at the Paramount Theater, my dad and I went. It was just this amazing show and that night I decided that I was going to make a movie about The Sonics.”

### ‘Boom: A film about The Sonics’

Albertsen immediately dug into the project, firing off an email that night to an address he found online.

“I wrote this crazy email to a management address I found online. The guy that wrote back was Buck Ormsby, and I instantly recognized the name because Buck produced the first two Sonics albums, and he was the bass player for The Wailers, a band from the 60s I was a huge fan of,” Albertsen said. “We had lunch and made a decision to make this movie together.”

Yet plans to shoot for the moon failed to cement, at least in the way Albertsen had imagined they would.

“At the time, I was living in LA, and I expected to go back and tell my

agency about the film and get millions of dollars to make it. And that just never happened. So for 5 to 6 years, I was constantly trying to find financing. It looked like the movie was dead,” Albertsen said.

The film took another massive hit when Ormsby passed away in October 2016.

“When the funding bombed, I didn’t know what to do. And Buck was my connection to rock stars, so when he passed away, that connection was completely gone. ... It was really heartbreaking. The film was dead. It was such a broken thing, and I moved to Montana out of necessity and depression.”

On a shift serving at Dave’s Sushi, a miracle presented itself to Albertsen. Mike McCready, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee and lead guitarist from legendary Seattle rock band Pearl Jam, strolled in with his family for a bite.

“I swear, I recognized him from behind. Pearl Jam was my band forever. I mean, I had a poster of him [McCready] on my wall when I was a kid,” Albertsen said. “He turned around and I was totally star-struck.”

Albertsen had been trying to get in touch with McCready while making the film, perhaps opening avenues that Ormsby’s death closed.

McCready offered his help, and suddenly the film was back on track.

“That little chance encounter completely changed the course of the making of that movie,” Albertsen said. “His gesture added this life force, it just really started the fire.”

On Sept. 30, 2018, Albertsen released the film to the world, and it has since bagged several awards, including Best Documentary Feature at the 2018 Lone Star Film Festival and 2019 Silk Road Film Festival in Dublin, Ireland.



Albertsen (right) with Pearl Jam guitarist and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee Mike McCready—a critical piece in the “Boom” saga. PHOTO COURTESY OF JORDAN ALBERTSEN

Despite these triumphs, Albertsen remains incredibly humble, still serving at Dave’s Sushi in between trips to film festivals in places like Italy and England.

With the decade-long odyssey just barely in the rearview mirror, the one-man band director, writer, editor and producer believes the journey has altered his life forever.

“I spent 10 years of my life making this,” said Albertsen. “I don’t even know what my life would be like if I hadn’t.”

*BOOM is currently touring on the film festival circuit, and a worldwide release is slotted for early 2020. Visit [facebook.com/sonicsfilm](https://facebook.com/sonicsfilm) for a full list of festival appearances.*

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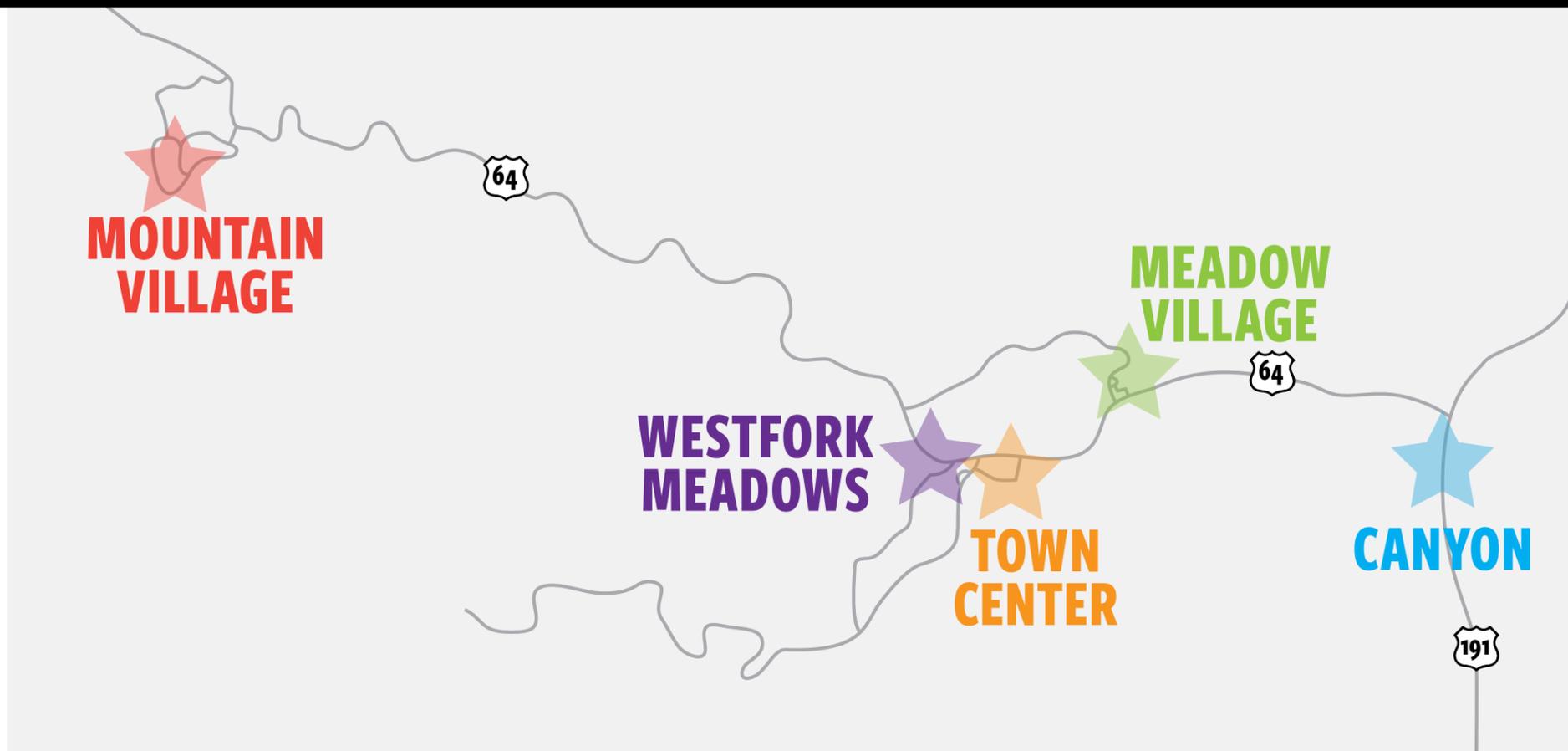
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# BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JULY 2 - THURSDAY, JULY 18

*If your event falls between July 19 and August 1, please submit it by July 10 by emailing [media@outlaw.partners](mailto:media@outlaw.partners)*

## TUESDAY, JULY 2

Live Music: Carson Mahone  
Live From the Divide, Bozeman, 9 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 3

Big Sky Farmers Market  
Big Sky Town Center, Fire Pit Park, 5 p.m.

## THURSDAY, JULY 4

See page 50 for a comprehensive list of Fourth of July happenings in Big Sky

## FRIDAY, JULY 5

Live Music: Peak to Sky festival  
Big Sky Events Arena

## SATURDAY, JULY 6

3rd Annual Big Sky Artisan Festival  
Meadow Village Center, 9 a.m.

Live Music: Peak to Sky festival  
Big Sky Events Arena

## MONDAY, JULY 8

Santasha Wellness Center Community Yoga  
Proceeds to go toward the BSCO  
Big Sky Town Center Park, 12 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

Big Sky Farmers Market  
Big Sky Town Center, Fire Pit Park, 5 p.m.

## THURSDAY, JULY 11

Live Music: The Commonheart  
Music in the Mountains  
Center Stage at Town Park, 6 p.m.

Film: Amazing Grace  
Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, Bozeman, 7:30 p.m.

## FRIDAY, JULY 12

Live Music: Nikki Lane  
The Rialto, Bozeman, 7:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY, JULY 13

14th Annual Big Sky Brewfest  
Big Sky Resort, 4 p.m.

## SUNDAY, JULY 14

Big Sky Celebrity Golf Tournament  
Proceeds to go toward Big Brothers Big Sisters of Gallatin County  
Big Sky Resort Golf Course

## MONDAY, JULY 15

Big Sky Celebrity Golf Tournament  
Proceeds to go toward Big Brothers Big Sisters of Gallatin County  
Big Sky Resort Golf Course

## WORTH THE DRIVE



## Trout Steak Revival

**YELLOWSTONE VALLEY BREWING, BILLINGS**

**July 9, 6 p.m.**

Colorado bluegrass band Trout Steak Revival is on a mission to breathe new channels of life into the genre, bringing elements of folk, indie, roots and Americana into play, and the accolades keep stacking up: The band has pocketed numerous coveted awards, including winning the 2014 Telluride Bluegrass Festival Competition and an Emmy for their work with Rocky Mountain PBS. The five-piece string band includes a fiddle, mandolin, bass, various forms of guitar and, of course, a banjo, but Trout Steak Revival is also known for the captivating harmonies created by all five members of the group. Catch them at Yellowstone Valley Brewing in Billings—it's going to be an intimate, lively show you don't want to miss.

Proceeds to go toward the BSCO  
Big Sky Town Center Park, 12 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

Total Archery Challenge  
Big Sky Resort, 7:15 a.m.

Big Sky Farmers Market  
Big Sky Town Center, Fire Pit Park, 5 p.m.

## THURSDAY, JULY 18

Total Archery Challenge  
Big Sky Resort, 7:15 a.m.

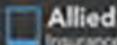
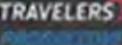
Extreme History Project Lecture  
The post-Civil War memoir of James Howard Lowell  
Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman, 6 p.m.

Live Music: Orgone  
Music in the Mountains  
Center Stage at Town Park, 6 p.m.

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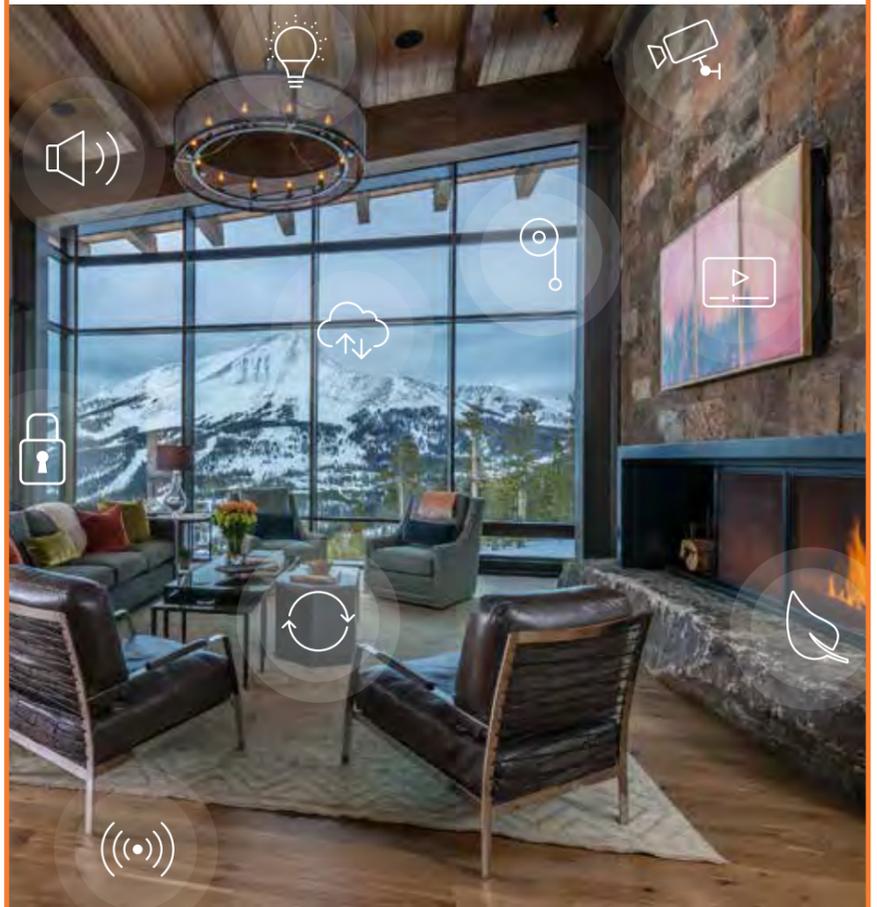
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SPECIAL ADVERTISING CONTENT

# Moonlight MusicFest introduces two more groups

# MOONLIGHT MUSICFEST

BIG SKY, MONTANA 2019

## MOONLIGHT MUSICFEST



Husband and wife Michael and Tanya Trotter are known to be so powerful, so soulful in their delivery as to leave crowds with goose bumps. PHOTO BY DAVID MCCLISTER

The Moonlight MusicFest team is excited to introduce two more epic groups from what's shaping up to be a larger-than-life musical experience—smack dab in one of the most beautiful pockets of the state.

### THE WAR AND TREATY

We salute The War and Treaty this holiday.

When The War and Treaty stepped up to fill a last minute spot at the 2018 Americana Music Festival & Conference, they dropped jaws at the Cannery Ballroom in Nashville—the band has been on a steady burn ever since.

Needless to say, we are thrilled to have The War and Treaty performing at this

year's Moonlight MusicFest, which takes place Aug. 16-17 in Big Sky, MT.

Funky bass lines, keys, lap steel, acoustic strings and stripped-down percussion create a swampy Southern soul bed for Michael and Tanya Trotter's transcendent vocals.

Michael is a Wounded Warrior who found his voice while serving in Iraq, when he was pulled from the frontlines to write songs for the fallen. Tanya is a lifelong artist, drawn to singing's power to take another's pain away.

Tanya's voice is honeyed and bold, guttural yet angelic, and Michael possesses a once-in-a-generation volcano of a voice.

Michael started writing early on, and spent his childhood in urban areas—sometimes in and out of homeless shelters. Michael enlisted in the United States Army in 2003, two years after 9/11.

"I didn't know it was wartime," he says. "People say, 'How do you not know that?' Well, in the neighborhood I grew up in, we weren't patriotic. No one cared—that's rich people's news. Meanwhile, someone I know just got shot on my street yesterday."

But what Michael did know was that as a soldier, he felt proud—then scared.

He was sent to Iraq, where leaders who outranked him saw the fear in his eyes and treated him not as an underling, but as a brother.

Stationed in one of Saddam Hussein's rubble palaces, he had access to a piano that had emerged miraculously unscathed. A captain heard him play and sing and he encouraged Michael to pursue music. When that same captain was killed, Michael sat down to write—really write—for the first time.

Officers gave him a new charge: write and perform songs for the fallen. So whenever a brother or sister in arms died, Michael spoke to buddies, uncovered the story, and penned a song for the memorial.

When Michael returned home, he was playing at a festival that also featured Tanya Blount. They eventually dated, married, started a family and began performing together.

"We allow people to see two people that are not perfect," says Tanya. "We get on stage. We sweat. We're overweight. We yell. We get ugly, we scream. My

hair comes loose. We're vulnerable—naked—in front of people, and it's a chain reaction. It allows them to be vulnerable, too."

The War and Treaty delivers a show that make the hairs on the back of necks stand up, and their music and stories bring tears and goose bumps to anyone lucky enough to bear witness.

### BLACKBERRY SMOKE

There's nothing that quite says Fourth of July fun more than good old classic rock music. And you'll find that sound in every lick, riff and chord of Blackberry Smoke's music.

"Blackberry Smoke has become the pinnacle of what good, southern-flavored rock and roll should sound like," wrote *Glide Magazine*. "Not sticking to their deep twangy Georgia roots, they have swum around in the creek of many colors, coming up for air with psychedelic, prog, country and western, Americana and plain ole ass-kicking rock and blues ..."

Since emerging from Atlanta in the early 2000s, the quintet, comprised of vocalist and lead guitarist Charlie Starr, guitarist and vocalist Paul Jackson, bassist and vocalist Richard Turner, drummer Brit Turner and keyboardist Brandon Still, has become known for a singular sound. Blackberry Smoke is part of a lineage that shares a love of Tom Petty, the Allman Brothers Band, Lynyrd Skynyrd and Hank Williams Jr.

Blackberry Smoke also just announced a new fall tour with The Record Company, a band also taking the stage at this year's Moonlight MusicFest. Could a possible jam with the two bands be in sight for the Saturday evening of the event in Big Sky? Come find out.



Blackberry Smoke evokes the sounds of classic rock to create a rich and unique style. PHOTO BY DAVID MCCLISTER

"Find A Light," Blackberry Smoke's first studio album features rich instrumental flourishes as keening fiddle, solemn organ and bar-band piano boogie add further depth and resonance.

"That's one of my favorite things about Blackberry Smoke's albums and live performances—there's a lot of variety," Starr says.

Interestingly enough, one of their guest musicians on the album was The Wood Brothers, who will also be performing at the Moonlight MusicFest on Saturday.

"As we were recording that song, I was singing it, and from the very beginning of that song—even in its embryonic stage—I wanted it to be a three-part harmony all the way through," Starr says. "I asked The Wood Brothers because I love their vocal blend. They're fantastic harmony singers."

Visit [moonlightmusicfest.com](http://moonlightmusicfest.com) to check out *The War and Treaty* and *Blackberry Smoke's* music and purchase tickets.

★ ★ ★



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BIG SKY, MONTANA

AUGUST 16-17, 2019

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## SECTION 5: INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



Short hikes in Yellowstone pg. 64



The other half of Yellowstone pg. 68



A century of automobiles pg. 74

# New Yellowstone Hot Springs resurrects history

BY BELLA BUTLER

**CORWIN SPRINGS** – Positioned on the fringe of Paradise Valley and just north of the Roosevelt Arch at the entrance to Yellowstone National Park, a new hot springs brings to life a historic tale of the West.

On March 8, Yellowstone Hot Springs opened their doors to residents and visitors of the Greater Yellowstone area after nearly a year of construction. Patrons of the hot springs experience fresh new pools and modern infrastructure, but the facility is far from pioneer in its conquest.

In 1899, Julius LaDuke, a French-Canadian immigrant, took hold of a mining claim along the Yellowstone River. To his surprise, his newly-staked land was inhabited by a natural hot spring. LaDuke capitalized on the discovery by building tubs on the banks of the river where the springs flowed in. LaDuke Hot Springs, as the actual hot spring is still named today, provided a relaxing environment for the old Aldridge and Electric mining communities.

Ten years later, Dr. Frank Corwin of Livingston opened the Corwin Springs Hotel, an 86-room inn and spa. Corwin, a physician at the time, built a one-and-a-half-mile wooden pipeline that drew water from the LaDuke Hot Springs to his pool. A bridge that crossed the Yellowstone allowed for tourists traveling on the Northern Pacific Railway to visit the springs.

In 1916, the hotel and its brief but memorable legacy was swallowed by fire. The land was purchased in 1960 and reopened as a dude ranch, but the property was acquired in the '80s by the current owner, Church Universal Triumphant.

The church bought the mineral rights with the property but didn't intend to open a hot springs until more recently. "We wanted to continue offering the hot water experience to the area," YHS General Manager John Carp said of the decision to open a facility for the public.

The staff at YHS believe they offer the same relaxing opportunity now as past operations aimed to do for the last 100-plus years. When soaking at the springs, red residue is visible around the pool walls, a footprint left behind by iron, one of the 12 rich minerals found in the water.

While the staff makes no claims of confirmed health benefits, they instill confidence that their visitors will depart feeling refreshed and rejuvenated. During the conception of YHS, the founders sent a sample to the team of Masaru Emoto, a Japanese author who performed photographic research on frozen water crystals.

Emoto made claims that water crystals that came from samples that were exposed to music or were surrounded by positive thinking were

the most symmetrical and beautiful. The image of the YHS water nearly mirrored that of water that had been prayed over by monks.

For those of a less spiritual mind, Carp makes the assertion that generally, a good soak can have soothing effects on stress.

Every seven hours, YHS's 70,000-gallon pool circulates a combination of fresh well water warmed by the piping hot spring water pulled from a modernized version of Corwin's pipeline. The main pool ranges between a relaxing 102 and 103 degrees, an ideal setting to sit back and admire the two stunning mountain ranges that sandwich the valley. Perched above the main pool are hot and cold pools that are about 106 and 70 degrees respectively. The various pools allow guests to alternate between temperatures, a common hydrotherapy treatment that supports healthy circulation.

In addition to new features like a propane fire pit, vestiges of the late western enterprises decorate the YHS grounds. Time-honored brick fireplaces from the dude ranch stand proudly in vintage fashion along the fence line, and wildlife roam freely within eye sight of the hot springs, just as their ancestors did. "We're continuing on from what those very early hot springs were," Carp said.

Next door to YHS, another Church Universal Triumphant business, Yellowstone Destinations, offers camping and lodging options so that visitors may enjoy a revived version of the experience that began on the cusp of the 20th century.

*For more information on Yellowstone Hot Springs, visit [yellowstonehotspring-smt.com](http://yellowstonehotspring-smt.com). To book with Yellowstone Destinations, go to [yellowstonedestinations.com](http://yellowstonedestinations.com).*



Yellowstone Hot Springs, owned by the Church Universal Triumphant, opened March 8, 2019. The hot springs draws hot water from LaDuke Hot Springs through a pipeline that is a mile-and-a-half long. PHOTO BY BELLA BUTLER

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# Yellowstone guide informs exploration, appreciation of nation's first preserve

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

With powerful storytelling, investigative research and artful photography, the newest release of “Explore Yellowstone” aims to inspire. Hot off the press June 28, this full-color magazine is an annual guide for anyone looking to make a connection with the nation's first park.

In this fifth edition of the magazine, locals and visitors will peruse travel tips, suggested activities, information on important ongoing research initiatives, the ways the National Park Service preserves and protects, along with content on regional Native history and an artist's inspiration from the park's wildlife.

The publication is complete with a “Snapshot” gallery of images taken off the park's beaten paths, as well as fun activity pages for kids. There's even a section on adventure, which includes a tale of the likely first solo-circumnavigation of Yellowstone Lake on a standup paddleboard.

One of Outlaw Partners' three publications, alongside “Mountain Outlaw”

magazine and “Explore Big Sky” newspaper, “Explore Yellowstone” was born from an effort to bring residents and visitors of southwest Montana closer to the incredible offerings of Yellowstone.

As described by former Senior Editor Tyler Allen, the publication “is a way to guide our readers through the park and its gateway communities with compelling stories and our unique insight into the Yellowstone region.”

A comprehensive business directory at the end of the magazine connects readers to area lodging options, restaurants, grocery stores, fishing outfitters and more.

The publication is available for consumption from late June 2019 to early June 2020 in businesses around the park, as well as in Montana and Wyoming's park gateway communities including Big Sky, West Yellowstone, Bozeman, Gardiner, Red Lodge, Cody and Jackson.

For an electronic copy, visit [explorebigsky.com](http://explorebigsky.com).

## Yellowstone conducts commercial vehicle safety inspections

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Yellowstone National Park rangers are partnering with state and federal transportation officials to conduct safety evaluations of commercial vehicles and operators traveling in the park this summer.

The inspections are intended to ensure the safe operation and mechanical soundness of commercial buses and trucks on Yellowstone's roadways. They evaluate vehicles and drivers to ensure full compliance with federal regulations that govern commercial vehicle operation. Inspections help protect visitors, employees and park resources.

This is the 20th year of the interagency inspection program. The program has resulted in a significant decrease in “out-of-service” violations, which require that either a commercial vehicle or a commercial driver be taken off the road due to serious mechanical or driver-specific violations.

## Mount Washburn Trail and parking lot at Dunraven Pass to close in August for improvements

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

The Mount Washburn Trail and trailhead parking lot at Dunraven Pass will close for improvements August 6-27, 2019. The trail and trailhead parking lot is located 4.5 miles north of Canyon Junction.

The closure is necessary for public safety and will include the replacement of a deteriorated multi-tiered log crib that structurally supports the trail. Find a photo of the unsafe crib on Flickr.

To replace the crib wall, trail crew will use cable rigging and fall protection systems affixed to fabricated anchorages constructed into the trail. A helicopter will deliver log pilings to the work site.

The Mount Washburn Trail from Chittenden Road will remain open.

Find updated trail status on the online [Backcountry Situation Report](#) and at visitor centers.

## Yellowstone visitors to come prepared, protect the park

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

If you plan to travel to Yellowstone National Park this summer, come prepared so you can protect yourself and this wild and awe-inspiring place.

Summer is Yellowstone's most popular season. Expect busy facilities and destinations, as well as delayed travel times due to heavy traffic and wildlife jams. If you want a less crowded experience, arrive early or stay late and avoid main attractions during peak hours like Old Faithful, Grand Prismatic Spring, the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone or Norris Geyser Basin.

In addition to checking current park conditions and roads, as well as reserving your stay in a campground or hotel, you can also pledge to act responsibly and safely, and set a good example for others during your visit.

Visit [nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/yellowstonepledge.htm](http://nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/yellowstonepledge.htm) to learn more.



### Wildlife safety in Yellowstone

Yellowstone National Park reminds visitors to be aware around wildlife. Keep at least 25 yards away from large mammals, and a minimum of 100 yards—or the length of a football field—away from bears and wolves.

Pictured is an elk cow and three calves near Mammoth Hot Springs. Mothers can be aggressive toward people as they try to defend their offspring. The National Park Service warns that visitors should be vigilant even near buildings, as cow elk may bed their calves near building and cars.

NPS PHOTO

# Short hikes in Yellowstone

BY CHRISTINE GIANAS WEINHEIMER  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

There's so much to see and do in Yellowstone, but sometimes we don't have time for a long hike. Or perhaps we are traveling with young children or people with limited mobility. The following hikes and walks range from .6 to 2.5 miles, are family-friendly, and offer features of interest for all ages.

## Lake Village

Natural Bridge Trail begins at the Bridge Bay Marina parking lot, south of the Lake Hotel. This partially paved, 2.5-mile, round-trip hike leads through a forested area to the Natural Bridge, a towering rock formation. Here a .5-mile loop leads around a large hole in the rock formed by erosion. The trail may be closed in the spring; inquire at a visitor center before you head out.

## Lamar Valley

Trout Lake Trail offers a 1.2-mile, round-trip hike that circles a beautiful mountain lake. The trailhead is on the Northeast Entrance Road, around 14.5 miles west of Cooke City. This hike is steep in some parts. Keep an eye out for wildlife at the lake, especially otters and osprey.

## Norris

Artists' Paintpots Trail is located 3.8 miles south of Norris Junction. This 1-mile, round-trip boardwalk leads to colorful mudpots and hot springs, as well as a spectacular view of Mount Holmes.

## Old Faithful

Observation Point Trail begins just off the Old Faithful Geyser boardwalk and leads to a vantage point that provides a birds-eye view of Old Faithful and the Upper Geyser Basin. While the hike is only 1.6 miles round trip, the uphill climb becomes more strenuous near the top.

## Mammoth Area

Forces of the Northern Range Trail is a .5-mile boardwalk loop located halfway between Mammoth and Tower Junction. The wheelchair- and stroller-friendly trail meanders through an area in the process of regrowth since the 1988 fires, and features several interpretive stations to learn about Yellowstone's wildlife, plants, wildfires and geology.



Trout Lake in Yellowstone National Park's Lamar Valley is accessible via a short hike from the Northeast Entrance Road. NPS PHOTO

## West Thumb

West Thumb Geyser Basin Trail is situated on the scenic shore of Yellowstone Lake, just north of West Thumb Junction. This .6-mile, boardwalk trail loops through the geyser basin full of colorful hot springs, mudpots and dormant lakeshore geysers.

It is especially important to stay on marked trails in hydrothermal areas where the thin ground can break easily, and often overlies scalding water. Pets are not allowed on trails or boardwalks, or in thermal areas in Yellowstone. Strollers are permitted on boardwalks and paved trails, but not on backcountry trails.

For more information on these and other short hikes in Yellowstone, pick up a trail guide at one of the many Yellowstone Forever Park Stores—a percentage of proceeds will aid the park—or other gift shops throughout the park.

*Christine Gianas Weinheimer lives in Bozeman and has been writing about Yellowstone for 17 years.*

# Immerse yourself in Yellowstone with a field seminar course

BY CHRISTINE GIANAS WEINHEIMER  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

A Yellowstone Forever Institute Field Seminar is a unique way to experience Yellowstone like never before. Led by experts in their field, these in-depth learning experiences allow participants to explore a specific topic of interest or try a new skill. While many programs fill up fast, there are still a selection of seminars open for registration.

"Because the summer season is more popular for park visitors, Yellowstone can at times feel a little crowded. However, by participating in one of our field seminars you can get away from the crowds and experience this remarkable landscape in a far more intimate and personable way," said Robert Petty, senior director of education for Yellowstone Forever.

Wildlife enthusiasts can choose from numerous courses led by naturalists and wildlife biologists that focus on animal tracking, behavior or research. Several field seminars let you explore the world of a specific species such as wolves, cougars, bison, grizzlies, bats or owls.

Those who would like to nurture their artistic side can register for field seminars in nature writing, journaling or photography with Yellowstone as their muse. Other courses delve into the human stories of the Yellowstone area by exploring park history, conservation efforts and Crow or Lakota culture.

This year's new programs include "Backpacking Basics" and "Outdoor Skills and Wilderness Survival," which help participants build skills and confidence for their backcountry pursuits. There are also fly fishing courses designed for everyone from beginners to advanced anglers.

Also new this year, the Institute is connecting several summer programs to the Citizen Science Initiative, a collaboration between Yellowstone Forever and Yellowstone National Park. Participants will have the chance to help scientists gather information for park research studies. These hands-on programs include red-tailed hawk monitoring and collecting data on pikas or ungulates, among others.

Those seeking to start a new career or continue their professional education may take a course to become certified as a Naturalist Guide or Interpretive Guide. In addition, the certification course in Wilderness First Aid is ideal for anyone who



The sun rises over an ephemeral pond in Lamar Valley. Among courses offered by the Yellowstone Forever Institute is the new seminar "Yellowstone's Wetlands," offered July 13-15. Like all of the Field Seminars, this is an opportunity to immerse yourself in rich knowledge about Yellowstone National Park. NPS PHOTO

spends a lot of time working or playing in the backcountry.

For most summer field seminars, participants can reserve lodging with Yellowstone Forever at either the Overlook Field Campus in Gardiner or the Lamar Buffalo Ranch in Yellowstone's Lamar Valley.

Field Seminar registration is open year-round for a variety of other types of Yellowstone Forever Institute programs as well, such as Lodging and Learning, Private Tours, Youth and College, or Teacher programs.

*Yellowstone Forever is the official nonprofit partner of Yellowstone National Park. Learn more or register for a program at [yellowstone.org/experience](http://yellowstone.org/experience).*

*Christine Gianas Weinheimer lives in Bozeman and has been writing about Yellowstone for 17 years.*

*A version of this article first appeared in the Jan. 18, 2018, edition of EBS.*



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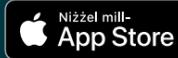


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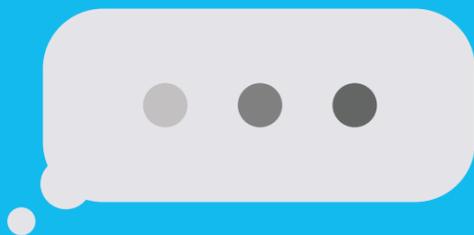
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## The other half of Yellowstone

Yellowstone National Park, a tourist hotspot and local treasure, is a place of knowledge, learning and active experience. The park is approximately 2.2 million acres, is home to more than 900 miles of hiking trails and contains more than 10,000 hydrothermal features, as well as half the world's geysers.

And according to the National Park Service, a wondrous array of living creatures call Yellowstone home: 300 species of birds, 16 species of

fish, five species of amphibians, six species of reptiles and 67 species of mammals.

With numerous ways to take it all in, Explore Big Sky has curated a selection of photos that highlights the lesser-known, but equally worthwhile, aspects of the park. Whether you're traveling through Yellowstone on a day trip or you call the park your backyard, we hope you enjoy.



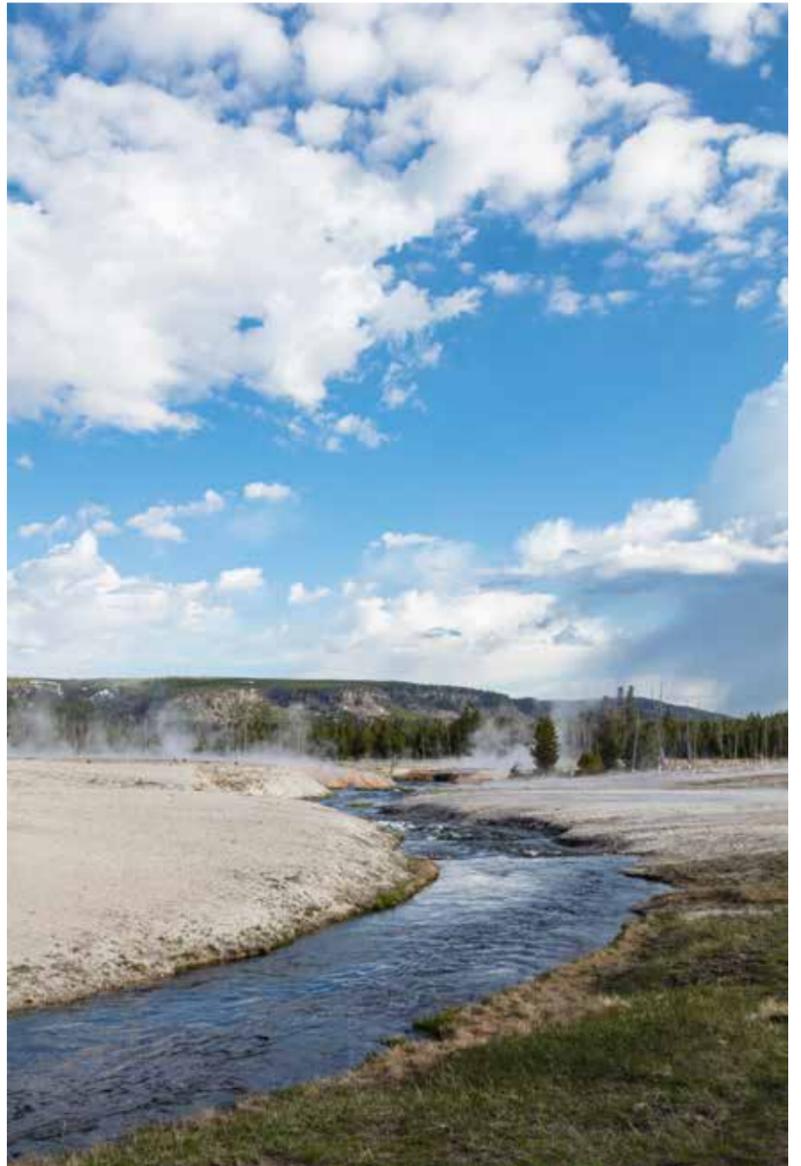
A mule deer buck sports velvet antlers in the summertime. NPS PHOTOS



Firehole Spring in the Lower Geyser Basin.



An eared grebe, commonly found on freshwater lakes in the West, enjoys the waters of Yellowstone.



Iron Creek winds through Black Sand Basin, a small but colorful geyser basin north of Old Faithful.



Black bears look out atop a whitebark pine tree.



A storm rolls over Brink of the Lower Falls, which provides views of the Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River.



Kayaking on Yellowstone Lake.



Biking the Bunsen Peak Road.



Summer hiking in Lamar Valley.



A killdeer and two chicks take flight in a thermal steam at Doublet Pool.

# Viewing the park's night skies

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BOZEMAN – Nighttime summer skies in Big Sky country are a stargazer's paradise and in an effort to highlight the Yellowstone area's night skies, Yellowstone National Park will offer astronomy programs throughout the summer. This programming, offered in cooperation with the Museum of the Rockies and known as Stars Over Yellowstone, is designed to help park visitors find and locate constellations, share stories and view celestial objects through the lens of a telescope.

On select evenings in July, the National Park Service will offer thematic educational astronomy classes in the Madison Amphitheater, and topics include cosmic updates, touring the night sky and understanding ultraviolet light. Each course will be followed by a night sky observation session at the Madison Information Station parking lot, weather permitting.

Evening educational sessions begin at 9:30 p.m. and observation begins at 10:30 p.m. on July 26 and 27. The Park Service will also host observation sessions of the sun on July 27 at 12 p.m. at the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center.



The Milky Way rising over the Roosevelt Arch at the North Entrance.

While the NPS astronomy programming is held on select days during the summer, park visitors can gaze at the sky each and every night on their own. According to former Yellowstone National Park spokesman Jonathan Shafer, there are just a few simple tips that beginners need to know.

The first, Shafer said, is being aware of light pollution.

“Here in Yellowstone, there are fewer artificial lights than you might find in a big city, but the [lights] we have can still have a significant impact on dark sky experiences.” Shafer added that natural light can impact star observation, so it can be helpful to check what time the moon will rise and set and plan stargazing for moonless periods.

“Visitors should allow their eyes to adjust to the darkness by keeping all lights turned off after they pick a spot to stargaze,” he said. “Far more stars are visible when your eyes get used to the darkness.”

While difficult to predict, cloud and smoke conditions can drastically impact star visibility as well.

The best stargazing can be done in large, empty areas in the park, well away from developed areas, where views of the sky will be unob-



Old Faithful and the Milky Way crisscross on a clear summer night. NPS PHOTOS

structed. Several locations that are easily accessible and recommended by Shafer include the open area beneath National Park Mountain behind the Junior Ranger Station at Madison Junction; Swan Lake Flats, about 6 miles south of Mammoth Hot Springs on the road toward Norris Geyser Basin; Hayden Valley between Canyon Village and Lake Village; or along the shores of Yellowstone Lake away from Fishing Bridge or Lake Village.

Another way to see the sky is to embark on moonlight hikes. “Full moon viewings of geysers and other thermal features will help visitors avoid daytime crowds and see the park in a new light,” Shafer said. “Be ready for nighttime chills, though. Yellowstone's nighttime temperatures can dip below freezing in any month of the year.”

“It is important for visitors to park legally in pull-outs or parking lots. Never stop in the middle of the road,” he added. “A bear doesn't care if you're stargazing, so visitors should carry bear spray on walks at night.

“If conditions allow, visitors who stargaze will be rewarded with spectacular views of the park's ‘other half’ in the skies above,” Shafer said.

To learn more about night skies in our National Parks, visit [nps.gov/subjects/nightskies](https://nps.gov/subjects/nightskies).

*A version of this article first appeared in the June 9, 2017, edition of EBS.*



Stars over Grand Prismatic Spring.

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# The New West: Yellowstone's geysers are miracle of survival

BY TODD WILKINSON  
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

One of the greatest rustic hotels in the world—and, more recently, a new, multi-million-dollar visitor center—were built practically on top of the world's most famous and, so far predictable, erupting geyser.

That America still has the Earth's largest assemblage of still-functioning geothermal phenomena in Yellowstone National Park is nothing short of a miracle.

It's a cautionary message that is loud and clear in an overview provided by graduate student Alethea Steingisser and professor Andrew Marcus, both geographers from the University of Oregon. Their report, titled "Human Impacts on Geyser Basins," appeared in the winter 2009 edition of the journal "Yellowstone Science."

"Globally, there are at least 40 locations where geyser activity has been documented but geysers are now extinct in many of those locations," they wrote.

In New Zealand, which once had the third largest number of geysers, some 220 spread across 20 different geothermal areas, now has only 55. The bulk of the decline is linked to poorly conceived energy development.

Closer to home, at Beowawe and Steamboat Springs in Nevada, the two largest geyser basins in the U.S. outside of Yellowstone, zero active geysers exist today following the drilling of exploratory hydrothermal energy wells four decades ago.

As calls are made for America to harness alternative energy resources, the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is becoming a stage again for pondering the tradeoffs of development versus protection. Similar discussions are happening in Russia's Valley of the Geysers on the Kamchatka Peninsula.

Although Yellowstone National Park was set aside, in large part, to safeguard its geysers and 10,000 other geothermal phenomena, human regard for the features historically has been less than admirable.

Earlier iterations of modern tourists chiseled off pieces of geyser cones and carved their initials and graffiti into the mineralized surfaces. Hucksters dumped objects—all kinds—into the waters to leave them encrusted with travertine so that trinkets could be peddled to visitors as souvenirs.

Tour groups were encouraged to pack as much stuff into geyser vents as possible, as if they were preparing cannon fodder, only to sit back waiting for an eruption to send the junk skyward.

When park staff learned that some guides were pouring soap and lye into geysers to trigger premature eruptions, they, too, engaged in the practice. Even famed park photographer F. Jay Haynes employed the technique so that geysers would fountain on cue when he thought the light and wind were perfect to create a postcard image.

In short, adults treated the delicate, fragile features in the national park as cheap carnival games for their own immediate enjoyment, never thinking twice about long-term impacts because, frankly, many knew they might never return to Yellowstone again.

Steingisser and Marcus note that park geysers and hot pools sustained heavy damage in 1946 as the end of World War II brought huge increases in visitation. And, as late as the 1950s, rangers dubbed the picturesque, rainbow-hued waters of Morning Glory Pool as "the garbage can" because of the amount of debris tossed into it.

Looking back, such behavior seems senseless and stupid, yet when the park implemented strict resource protection rules, informed by science,



An eruption of Old Faithful Geyser. NPS PHOTOS

there were still profiteers who cackled loudly about their livelihoods being affected, their freedoms being impinged upon and years of beloved, sacred tradition being dishonored by the heavy-handed, paternalistic federal government.

The irrefutable lesson is that whenever natural resource protection or development is left to the whims of the lowest common denominator of human instincts, it suffers.

People who are unable to restrain their base impulses nearly annihilated most of the wildlife in the West a little more than a century ago, left many streams contaminated by abandoned mining and liquidated forests for the trees.

We forget that the U.S. Forest Service, and the establishment of the forestland reserve concept in Greater Yellowstone, was the result of unspeakable toppling of timber and fouling of watersheds in the East.

As Steingisser and Marcus conclude in their analysis on Yellowstone's geyser basins, over half of all the major geothermal areas in the world have been harmed and many thermal features lost. The surviving ones will become even scarcer as pushes are made to develop geothermal energy and as a growing population, realizing how rare they are, clamor to see them.

*A version of this article first appeared on Jan. 12, 2018 on [explorebigsky.com](http://explorebigsky.com).*

*Todd Wilkinson is the founder of Bozeman-based "Mountain Journal" ([mountainjournal.org](http://mountainjournal.org)) and is a correspondent for "National Geographic." He's also the author of "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek" about famous Jackson Hole grizzly bear 399, which is available at [mangelsen.com/grizzly](http://mangelsen.com/grizzly).*

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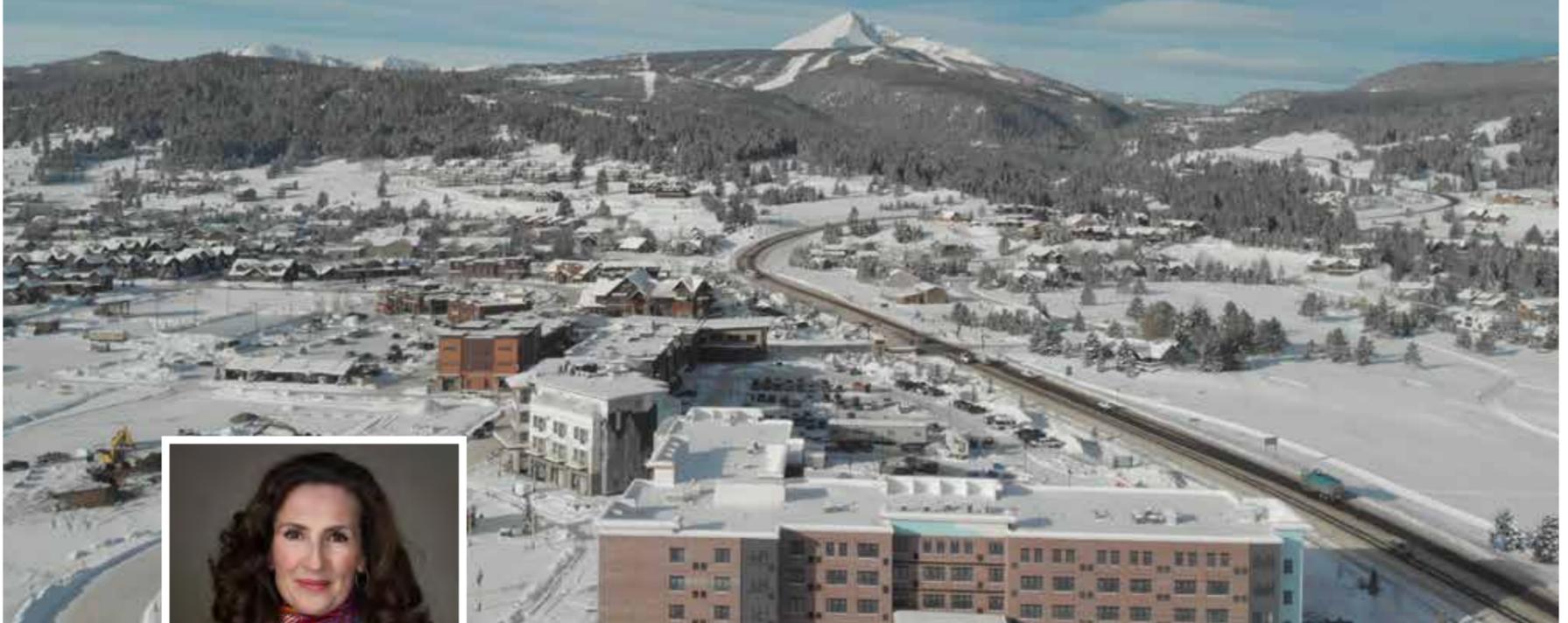
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# A century of automobiles in Yellowstone

## End of the stagecoach era and start of the great American road trip

BY MARK WILCOX  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

It may have been a backfire, but it sounded more like the end of the world.

At least that's what one historian likened it to when the first automobile chugged its way into Yellowstone National Park, beginning to trace over the lines made by stagecoaches throughout the park.

"The best of all possible worlds came to a shaking, rattling, backfiring end at exactly 7 p.m. on the evening of July 31, 1915," wrote historian Richard Bartlett in the summer 1970 issue of "Montana: The Magazine of Western History."

The erasure of the coach lines didn't come until a year later, when commercial transportation switched from dust-encrusted stagecoaches to motorized vehicles, at the end of the 1916 season. We're just past the centennial of that world-changing transition in the first national park, for better or worse.

Historians diverge in their acceptance of the change, but all agree that it was a major transition making access to the park more affordable and altered the nature of who came to Yellowstone.

"The automobile democratized the park—made it so anyone could get here," said Leslie Quinn, an interpretive specialist and historian for Xanterra Parks and Resorts, the current hotelier in Yellowstone.

Author and avocational historian Robert Goss said the change untied people from strict travel schedules and allowed them to avoid high prices from monopolistic hotels and railroads.

"Common folks could eventually enjoy the wonders of nature along with the upper crust," Goss said.

### Coach class

Today, "taking coach" is synonymous with roughing it, but in the early days of Yellowstone it was the only way to travel. It was very expensive and coach-class travelers had to be pretty wealthy.

From relatively nearby Salt Lake City, a round-trip rate to Yellowstone in 1899 was \$58, including rail and stage travel on the Monida and Yellowstone Stage Line. For comparison, hotel stays in the park were \$4 per night.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' inflation calculator only converts dollars as far back as 1913, but at that time \$58 equated to nearly \$1,400 in today's dollars. At that price, flying coach from Salt Lake City today could take a traveler to London and back.

Stagecoaches, while seen in a romantic light now, were anything but.



Touring Yellowstone National Park by auto in 1924.



A stagecoach train parked in front of the Yellowstone Lake Hotel in 1905. PHOTOS COURTESY OF YELLOWSTONE HISTORIC CENTER

"The stagecoach experience was a slow, really dirty, kind of arduous trip," said Marin Aurand, a historian who manages the Yellowstone Historic Center Museum in West Yellowstone. "It was a hard way to travel through Yellowstone."

Dust pulverized by steel-rimmed wagon wheels and iron-shod horse hooves clung to the air, a miasma that coated everything and never seemed to settle. It was the kind of dust that coated lungs and made people long for open water and fresh air. The omnipresent dust was by far the chief complaint of wagon tour riders, most of whom came from high socioeconomic backgrounds.

Author Rudyard Kipling visited the park in 1889 and called the dust "as dense as fog," despite spacing of at least 500 yards between each stagecoach. The few who lived close enough to Yellowstone to take their own buggies into the park were derisively referred to as "sage brushers." This name came from their tendency to camp in the sagebrush rather than frequenting establishments like Lake Hotel, which celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2016.

While the rides themselves may not have been glamorous, the company was colorful. Riders often mentioned their drivers stashing whiskey under the driver's seat. That was before open-container laws were in effect.

In the coach, camaraderie developed between the riders and the coachmen were the original interpreters of the park. They shared stories that could only be gotten from a tour—even if some of them were patently false. Kipling wrote of one driver who went by "Geyser Bob" Edgar. The man would drop a handkerchief in one geyser before "retrieving" it from another miles down the trail, creating the illusion of an underground network of thermal features.

Robert Goss has adopted the name "Geyser Bob" for his website documenting Yellowstone's history, though he hasn't carried forward the handkerchief trick.

### Sharing the road

Getting cars on the road in Yellowstone represented no small challenge, especially since most of the roads weren't paved until the 1930s. Opponents argued that cars on the road would spook horses and create logistical problems and they weren't entirely wrong.

Goss said no deaths resulted from cars and stagecoaches sharing the dirt roads, but the "Livingston Enterprise" told of one incident in July 1916 shortly before the commercial swap to automobiles.

A commercial four-horse stagecoach from the Wylie Permanent Camping Co. left Mammoth headed toward the train depot in Gardiner. A mile or so into the short, but steep descent it came upon a stalled automobile.



A Tally-Ho stagecoach loaded with Yellowstone visitors in 1904.

“The horses panicked and cut loose down the hill, almost going over the edge into the canyon,” Goss said. “The coach flipped on its side and all the passengers were thrown from the coach, crushing many of them between the coach and a rock outcropping. All were injured to some extent and three of the people suffered serious fractures.”

Aurand of the Yellowstone Historic Center said that regulations had progressed slowly before cars came into the park, and Yellowstone ended up being one of the last parks to allow automobiles. When cars came in it marked the “end of the world,” but the start of a new era.

“Essentially this is the start of the great American West road trip,” Aurand said. “It feels more American almost to be able to go by car.”

### Rattling into history

The end of the 1916 season marked the end of commercial stagecoach access to Yellowstone. While sage brushers could still come, and did so for decades longer, concessionaires flipped the historic switch. The results mostly speak for themselves.

“There is a sense that the relative peacefulness and tranquility of stage travel mostly disappeared when the noisy and smoke-belching autos arrived on the scene, signaling the end of a sometimes romanticized travel era,” Goss said. “The increasing reliance on private automobiles over commercial transportation has led to significantly over-crowded roads, huge swaths of land paved over for parking lots and probably a greater disturbance to the wildlife.”

But that is not entirely a bad thing, as millions of people now enjoy a national treasure each year compared to the 20,000 visitors the park had in 1914, the last year before cars were allowed. The following year, visitation jumped to more than 52,000.

“It’s always a toss-up between allowing access and preserving the landscape,” Aurand said. “It’s a really tough balance.”

She predicted a time when the finite space in the park will be overwhelmed and some sort of limit will be placed on the amount of people coming through the gates. But for now, “those infernal internal combustion machines,” as the historian Bartlett called them, have given relatively free access to a natural wonder.

*Mark Wilcox is a storyteller who grew up in Jackson, Wyoming, and the founder of Sheen Startups (sheenonline.com). He avoids Yellowstone during peak season because of “those infernal machines,” preferring trips in May and October.*

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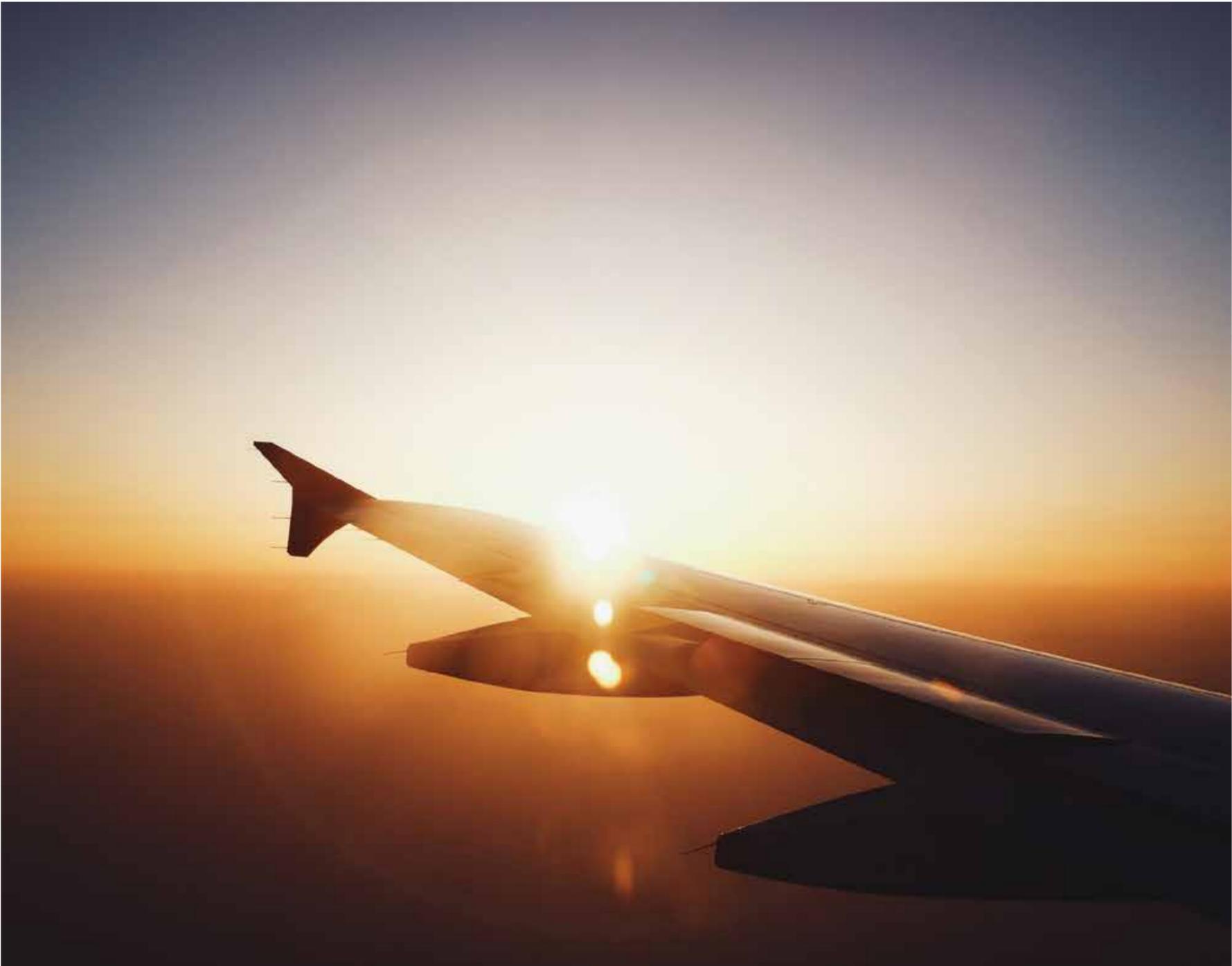
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