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Big Sky

Sept. 13 - 26, 2019
Volume 10 // Issue #19



HOMECOMING == 2019 ==

MeatEater: An interview

Trucks in Big Sky Town Center

The NFL and trout fishing



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ON THE COVER:

With the 2019 Homecoming just around the corner, Big Sky gears up for some local pride as graduates return from new posts around the state and nation for a pep rally and Homecoming football and volley games. PHOTO BY ANDREW MCELROY

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Homecoming

A cherished tradition in communities around the nation, Homecoming is a time for residents past and present to celebrate town pride through sports and togetherness. As Big Sky welcomes back graduates of Lone Peak High School, dive into the spirit by joining in on the pep rally throng and homecoming football and volleyball game crowds.

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MeatEater: An interview

A sit-down interview with the producer of Netflix's hit series MeatEater reveals a gentler, eco- and family-driven side of hunting that challengers may not yet fully appreciate.

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Trucks in Big Sky Town Center

According to the Bozeman office of Sanderson Stewart, a civil engineering company, 450 trucks turn westbound onto Highway 64 from Highway 191 every day, of which, 260 travel through Big Sky Town Center via Ousel Falls Road. While frustrating for many, are they just another growing pain in the advancement of Big Sky?

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The NFL and trout fishing

In his latest "The New West" column, EBS Environmental Columnist Todd Wilkinson breaks down the humility of the San Francisco 49ers starting offensive guard Mike Person—a quality he earned growing up in remote Glendive, where he plied the Yellowstone River's waters for trout.



When nights begin getting crisper and the plants fade into the telltale hues of red, yellow and orange, it's a matter of fact: Fall has arrived in The Greater Yellowstone. Pictured, a horse takes a drink in Yellowstone National Park with Electric Peak in the background. NPS PHOTO

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As shoulder season approaches, what are you going to miss about summer, and what are you looking forward to this fall?



Amy Landmaid
Big Sky, MT

I'm going to miss what little sunshine we had, the good weather and summer activities like hiking, biking and horseback riding. But, I'm looking forward to seeing the fall colors change and to travel.



Tanya Johnson
Big Sky, MT

I'm going to miss hiking, the sunny weather and spending time outdoors with my kids and enjoying the nature. But, I'm looking forward to using the fall to regroup for the busy season.



Bailey Scerri
Big Sky, MT

I'm going to miss softball and getting to go swim everywhere, but I'm excited to pick up a new baselayer and to throw a Halloween bash.



Kristin Voisin
Big Sky, MT

I'm going to miss the sunshine but I'm actually still looking forward to the rain and the change of season.

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Bear cub visits Buck's T-4

BIG SKY – On Aug. 31, a few patrons of Buck's T-4 Lodge found themselves face-to-face with a bear. Luckily, this was no menacing grizzly; it was a yearling black bear cub.

A few minutes before the scene unfolded, employees working the front desk spotted the cub peering through one of the lobby windows. Upon further investigation, it appeared that curious bruin had moved on. However, upon return to their posts at the front desk, they heard loud noises coming from the lobby's women's restroom.

The cub had found its way into the bathroom and elected to take a nap while perched atop the sinks. Employees attempted to clear a path for the bear to make a speedy exit, but it quickly became evident that the cub preferred to stay right where it was.

Gallatin County Sheriff deputies arrived to assist in the removal, eventually calling in a game warden. The warden sedated the cub and was able to remove the bear without further incident to be released in a more remote location.

New auto parts store opens in the Canyon

BIG SKY – On Sept. 3, NAPA Auto Parts opened its doors to the public in a lot adjacent to the Soldiers Chapel. The storefront will serve as a one-stop shop for car, truck, industrial and recreational vehicle parts.

Previously, it was difficult for do-it-yourselfers to get auto parts without taking a drive to Bozeman. Doing so often required driving a car that was not in optimal condition to handle a forty-mile commute. NAPA Auto Parts aims to make that a thing of the past by providing parts and know-how in a convenient location near the confluence of the West Fork and the Gallatin River.

The store is owned by John Zowada, a Gallatin County native who also runs the NAPA Auto Parts in Bozeman. He has brought on a member of the local community, Kelly Scherfig, to manage the new store. The pair hopes to be able to support Big Sky by providing work opportunities to students at Lone Peak High School and other residents, as well.

Zowada believes that his success in Bozeman has largely been due to a commitment to an outstanding customer experience. NAPA Auto Parts in Big Sky seeks to do the same by providing exemplary customer service, a knowledgeable staff and employees who are excited to acquire new skills to better assist patrons.

First snowfall on Lone Peak

BIG SKY – Lone Mountain saw its first snowfall of the season on Sept. 9. As the clouds parted over the 11,166 foot summit, a fresh coat of white could be seen covering the upper portion of the peak.

Dustings of snow are not uncommon for this time of year, but the first snowfall of the year serves as a potent reminder that summer has officially come to a close. Shoulder season is now in full swing and locals and visitors alike can enjoy the cooler weather, the trees changing color to their fall shades and the thrills of hunting season.

The autumnal dusting is a couple weeks later than the first snowfall of last year, which came to town on Aug. 27. Luckily, the first snow of the year does not always correlate with the total amount of powder that will be dumped on the slopes of Big Sky Resort in the following winter months. With ski season less than 80 days away, the harbinger of winter is always a welcome sight for skiers and snowboarders looking forward to opening day.

Mountainfilm On Tour and Town to Trails race this weekend

BIG SKY – For the fourth year in a row, Mountainfilm on Tour, presented by the Arts Council of Big Sky, returns to Big Sky the weekend of Sept. 13-15. The Arts Council is once again partnering with the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center and Lone Peak Cinema to showcase a selection of documentary films about environmental, cultural, climbing, political and social justice issues curated from the annual Mountainfilm festival in Telluride, Colorado.

Publicly accessible festivities kick-off on Friday evening with a screening of "The Weight of Water" at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. On Saturday morning, Women in Action will sponsor a free, family-oriented matinee featuring an art project, snacks and kid-friendly short documentaries at Lone Peak Cinema. Saturday evening, Lone Peak Cinema will host a series of short documentaries with staggered showings beginning at 7 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.

Sunday morning, the inaugural Town to Trails Race, a philanthropic, 6-mile run through some of the best trails Big Sky has to offer, kicks off at 10 a.m.. The course will weave its way through Town Center, the Uplands loop and the Hummocks loop before ultimately finishing back in Town Center. Registration is \$35, and a portion of which will be used to enhance and maintain the local trail systems.

To round out the weekend, there will be a free short film screening in Town Center Park starting at 6 p.m. Bring a towel or chair, snacks, and family and friends.

Gallatin River Task Force to host Wastewater Upgrade Feasibility Study meeting

GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

BIG SKY – The Gallatin River Task Force is holding a public informational meeting about the feasibility of wastewater treatment upgrades at Buck's T-4 Lodge at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 19. The Task Force and their engineering consultants will address the purpose, goals and schedule for the feasibility study.

"Based on the priorities identified in the Big Sky Sustainable Watershed Stewardship plan and outreach meetings in the spring of 2019, the community is interested in learning more about potential options for upgrades in wastewater collection, treatment and reuse in Gallatin Canyon," said Kristin Gardner, executive director of the Task Force. "There is an interest in updating and expanding a similar study completed in 2008 and to assess the feasibility of such upgrades."

Karen Filipovich, project facilitator for the Task Force, stressed the importance of the study and active participation from canyon area residents. "The residents of the canyon area will determine their water and wastewater future, we are providing this initial forum to share the intent of this critical study so that residents are well informed moving forward."

The study is funded by the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board and administered by the Task Force. An engineering consultant team of WGM and AE2S has been hired to execute the study and the entire process will be open for public comments. The study will be completed by April 2020.

For more information visit gallatinrivertaskforce.org or contact Karen Filipovich at 406-522-3819.



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Montana among least happy states

EBS STAFF

According to the Great Falls Tribune, the online personal finance resource WalletHub ranked Montana in the bottom 40th percentile in terms of overall happiness for U.S. states after compiling data on 31 metrics, including rates of depression, suicide, sports participation and income growth.

The organization ranked Montana No. 31 on the list of happiest states after finding the Treasure State also ranked No. 1 for suicides, No. 40 for emotional and physical wellbeing, No. 8 for work environment, No. 7 for community and environment and No. 5 for lowest long-term unemployment rate, among other statistics.

Hawaii ranked No. 1 in terms of overall happiness and West Virginia ranked No. 50. Montana's neighboring states Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming ranked No. 6, 12, 27 and 34 for overall happiness, respectively, while North Dakota and Wyoming were ranked No. 49 and 48 for suicides, respectively.

\$2.5M to help curb opioid epidemic

EBS STAFF

HELENA – The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services will receive nearly \$2.5 million in Department of Health and Human Services funds to combat opioid misuse. The State Opioid Response grant will help the department more quickly and accurately track overdose data and provide the funds to support prevention, treatment and recovery services.

The grant is administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and is especially focused on providing evidence-based treatment, including medication-assisted treatment.

Credit Unions may now lend to hemp farmers



CC PHOTO

EBS STAFF

HELENA – On Sept. 9, Sen. Jon Tester announced that federally insured credit unions may begin to provide banking services to legally operating hemp producers. This decision comes under the guidance of the National Credit Union Administration and is the first time a federal regulator has clarified that hemp farmers can access financial services.

Up until December of 2018, hemp was considered a controlled substance in the U.S. and Montana farmers were limited to growing the crop through a select pilot program launched in 2014. However, following passage of the 2018 Farm Bill, hemp was removed from the Drug Enforcement Agency's list of controlled substances, making it legal to grow industrial hemp in the U.S.

"This is a strong step toward cutting through the red tape that's slowing down Montana hemp farmers," said Tester in a statement. "I'm going to keep fighting to make sure our state's hemp producers can access the resources that will help them create jobs and grow their businesses."

Dollars secured for Land and Water Conservation Fund

EBS STAFF

HELENA – Sens. John Tester and Steve Daines have secured more than \$1.6 million in federal grants that will expand access to public land and bolster Montana's outdoor recreation economy.

The grants come from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a pool of national dollars that was set aside in 1964 to provide for conservation and recreation projects across the U.S. Earlier this year, bipartisan legislation saw to the permanent refunding of LWCF at a time when the funds were close to running out. LWCF is now authorized to receive up to \$900 million annually.

"The Land and Water Conservation Fund is the best conservation tool we have to expand public access to public lands and strengthen our \$7.1 billion outdoor recreation economy," Tester said in a statement. "These investments are going to do some real good for our outdoor way of life."

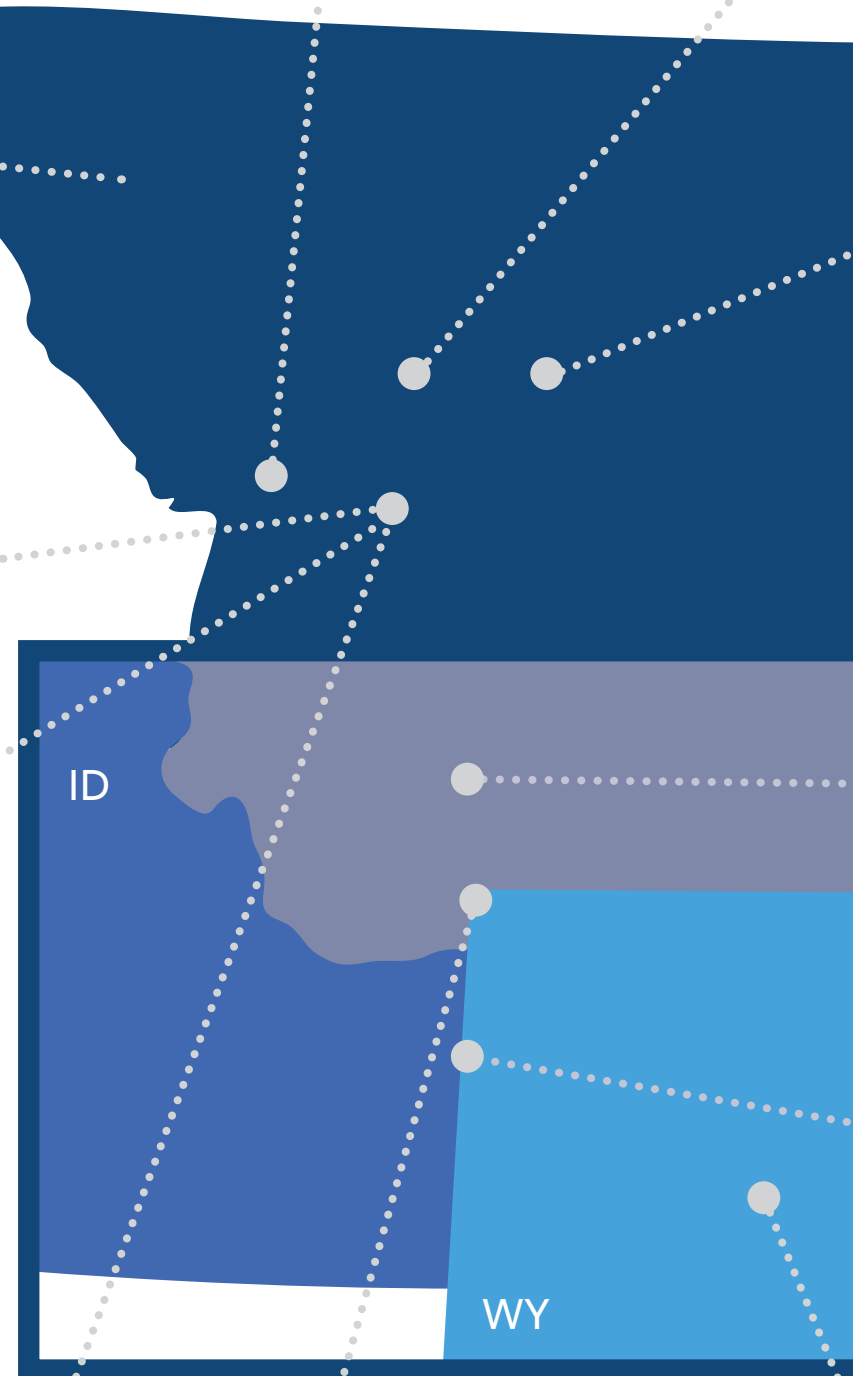
Daines also praised LWCF and the fund's contribution to the state.

"This is great news for Montana," he said in a statement. "This LWCF funding could help increase public access to public lands, expand access to fishing sites and promote outdoor recreation."

University of Montana to field 'Esports' team this fall

EBS STAFF

MISSOULA – In response to the growing popularity of "Esports"—or competitive video gaming—the University of Montana is set to field its first-ever "Esports" team this fall. The athletes, while not competing in traditional athletic endeavors, were nonetheless recruited and will participate in online gaming competitions in five popular games: League of Legends, Fortnite, Apex of Leagues, Overwatch and Rocket League.



Gallatin County Sheriff's hazing bison



CC PHOTO

method when clearing reluctant bison from the Yellowstone National Park boundary by blasting "Hell's Bells" by Australian

Deputies typically respond to bison with vehicle lights and sirens and utilizing the post, "With a reluctant bison, DC Hell's Bells over the speakers—"

Camp-raiding grizzly euthanized

EBS STAFF

AUGUSTA – On Sept. 7, an increasingly bold, 300-pound grizzly bear was put down west of Augusta, after it was involved in five human-related incidents over the span of a week. The bear had raided backcountry camps in the Bob Marshall Wilderness and got within 20 feet of several recreationists, which Montana, Fish, Wildlife and Parks wardens said was a result of conditioning from negligent humans. Wildlife officials chose euthanasia after several failed attempts to dissuade the bear from such behavior via helicopter hazing, being chased by dogs, pepper spray and rubber bullets.

Great Falls man continues paddle trip to New Orleans

EBS STAFF

GREAT FALLS – Mark Juras, 32, is on a quest to make it to the Gulf of Mexico in New Orleans by paddle. The Great Falls man has rowed more than 2,250 miles from Montana to Missouri and in a Sept. 5 article he told the Great Falls Tribune he thought he was about six weeks away from completing his 3,500-mile journey.

Overall, he says his voyage, while fraught with flooding and closed campsites in the Midwest, is giving him a deeper appreciation of the U.S. as he meets new people along the way.

Juras is traveling in an 18-foot rowboat he built himself, having launched from Three Forks on June 9.

Reward offered for information about dead pelicans

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

BILLINGS – Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is offering a reward of as much as \$1,000 for information leading to the conviction of the person or persons who shot and killed pelicans—possibly dozens of them—along the Bighorn River below Yellowtail Dam.

In Montana it is illegal to shoot pelicans, which are a federally protected migratory bird. FWP game wardens have seen or retrieved nearly a dozen dead pelicans in the world-class blue-ribbon trout waters between the dam and Two Leggins Fishing Access Site. They believe dozens more may have been shot and killed this summer in the same area.

Anyone with information about the illegal killing is asked to call 1-800-TIP-MONT, FWP's 24-hour poaching hotline, or contact game warden Jake Barzen at (406) 860-7796.



CC PHOTO

MSU ranked among nation's best universities

BY ANNE CANTRELL
MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – Montana State University is once again ranked among the top universities in the nation, according to U.S. News and World Report's 2020 annual college guide and rankings released Sept. 9.

In U.S. News' "Best Colleges 2020" guidebook, MSU tied for 119th place in the top public schools category. MSU also tied for 246th overall in the best national universities category, which includes both public and private institutions.

Rankings are based on several key measures of academic quality, including social mobility, first-year student retention and graduation of students, expert opinion, faculty resources, student excellence, financial resources, alumni giving and graduation rate performance, which is a comparison between the proportion of students expected to graduate and the proportion who did graduate.

MSU is the largest research entity in Montana, with research expenditures at MSU topping \$100 million for five years in a row.

Symposium to celebrate women in photography

EBS STAFF

JACKSON, WY – This fall, the Teton Photography Club in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, will host the "Shoot Like a Girl – Women in Wildlife" photography symposium. As a celebration of female wildlife photographers, their work and vision, this full-day event is presented on Sept. 28 at the National Museum of Wildlife Art from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A selection of women photographers will speak to their inspiration and work across the region, demonstrating how they've captured a creative vision and how photography can inspire change.

Visit tetonphotographyclub.org/events/shoot-like-a-girl for full event details.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NOLS

Wyoming outdoor school names new leadership

EBS STAFF

LANDER, WY – The National Outdoor Leadership School recently selected Terri Watson as the school's sixth president. Watson succeeds John Gans, who served 24 years as the school president.

NOLS, based in Lander, Wyoming, is a premier wilderness education school with over 800 instructors, 16 campuses and 28,363 students enrolled last year. The school, which will celebrate its 55th anniversary in 2020, provides classroom instruction in more than 40 countries, offering 350 courses related to extended wilderness expeditions, wilderness medicine and custom expeditions.

Watson will take her new role at NOLS after serving 28 years in corporate and nonprofit leadership positions. Most recently, she was the CEO at Colorado-based LightHawk, a nonprofit that connects conservation initiatives with volunteer pilots and aircrafts.

Office uses AC/DC for

EBS STAFF

WEST YELLOWSTONE – According to a Sept. 10 Facebook post, the Gallatin Country Sheriff's Office utilizes an unconventional

on roadways by turning on their air horn. However, according they've been known to play AC/DC that usually seems to work."

MT

The impacts of truck traffic in Big Sky Town Center

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY – In a town where the big sky above feels like the limit, it's only natural for developments of all shapes, sizes and purposes to spring up in virtually every corner of this unincorporated community's census-designated boundaries. Intended to help meet the needs of growing residency and visitation numbers, such operations are reliant on infantry, the commercial trucks that haul in everything from raw building materials to appliances.

But in a community that has been shaped from scratch by individuals and organizations alike, there is a disconnect between the peaceful mountain setting many hope to achieve and the steady stream of trucks that cut through the heart of the town every day.

According to data collected by the Bozeman office of Sanderson Stewart, a civil engineering company, 450 heavy trucks head westbound on Lone Mountain Trail each day. All of these trucks also return eastbound toward Highway 191, bringing the Lone Mountain Trail truck traffic tally to a total of 900 individual passes daily.

The data, collected in August 2019, also found 260 of those 450—nearly 60 percent of all heavy trucks entering Big Sky—turn left off Lone Mountain Trail onto Ousel Falls Road. Considering that each of those trucks then returns to Lone Mountain Trail via Ousel Falls Road, this means there are 520 individual heavy truck passes each day on Big Sky Town Center's chief transportation artery.

Sanderson Stewart-collected data also revealed that only eight medium or heavy trucks crashed on Lone Mountain Trail between July 1, 2006, and June 20, 2016, out of a total of 182 crashes that involved no pedestrians; both of those figures are below the statewide crash averages for similarly classified roadways in both urban and rural settings. Still, Joey Staszczuk, a project engineer for Sanderson Stewart, spoke anecdotally of unease he experienced at the corner of Lone Mountain Trail and Ousel Falls Road.

"While the whole safety aspect is a really hard thing to pin down, we had the signals built at that intersection, and there are just so many trucks cruising by," Staszczuk said. "I certainly would not want to be working construction at that intersection because of speed and volume of truck traffic."

According to information from a Town Center Owners Association newsletter, "Big Sky Town Center's 'walking village' design makes the neighborhood a unique place to live and work with proximity to dining, shopping, entertainment, trails, parks, essential services and nature. Pedestrian-friendly communities offer a better quality of life, higher, more stable property values, and more opportunities to get to know others in the community."

Despite the lack of accidents involving pedestrians, a truck's ability to react and stop quickly the way a passenger vehicle might, is hindered, Staszczuk wrote in an email to EBS. He added that safety concerns are compounded by the facts that clear visibility of surroundings is diminished in such vehicles and slower times to gain speed from a point of standstill have a natural impact on the flow of traffic.

However, through several public-private partnerships spearheaded by organizations like Big Sky Town Center and the Big Sky Community Organization, many safety measures such as crossing flags, flashing beacons and signage denoting maximum speeds have contributed to a safer Big Sky Town Center experience for pedestrians.

Still, the inability of a commercial truck to quickly gain speed after coming to a stop will inadvertently contribute Big Sky's traffic woes, as the projected annual growth rate for Lone Mountain Trail's traffic volume—set forth by the Sanderson Stewart 2017 traffic study that was used in the application for the more-than \$10 million awarded to Big Sky via a federal TIGER grant—is 4.34 percent. And Staszczuk says the AGR is actually more like 10 percent, according to recent analysis.

A study isolating current traffic conditions on Ousel Falls Road is underway: In order to arrive at better-informed policy and possible changes to the way heavy trucks, along with all traffic, interact with Big Sky Town Center and Ousel Falls Road, the Town Center Owners Association, Big

Sky Community Organization, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and Yellowstone Club wrote letters of support for a traffic study to be conducted by Bozeman-based engineering firm Morrison-Maierle, the manager of a Rural Improvement District (RID) that maintains Ousel Falls Road on behalf of Gallatin County.

This June, Morrison-Maierle submitted those letters to the county commissioners of Madison and Gallatin Counties, and is awaiting tentative approval to use RID dollars to conduct the study.

Less obvious, though, are the dangers to one's ears.

According to Odyne Systems, a Wisconsin-based manufacturer of hybrid utility trucks, the average diesel engine found in heavy commercial trucks produces approximately 100 decibels of noise, which is 10 decibels less than a chainsaw and 7 decibels less than a power mower, according to a chart from a Yale University Environmental Health Services study.

Even before the noises of trucks are amplified by the flat, canyon-like walls of the buildings adjacent to Ousel Falls Road at the intersection of Town Center Avenue, just 15 minutes of prolonged daily exposure to 100 decibels can cause damage to the ear resulting in potentially permanent hearing loss, reports the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association—and every increase in 3 decibels cuts that safety window's duration in half.

The effects of the noise have not gone unnoticed by several members of the business community that are situated along the route.

"We have two beautiful entries to our business," said Courtney Collins, gallery director for Creighton Block Gallery. "I just wish we could have the doors open to be inviting, for people to walk in and get that foot traffic. But it's just so loud."

Bianca Godoy, daughter of Brenda and Alberto Godoy, co-owners of Alberto's Mexican Cuisine on Ousel Falls Road, serves and bartends at her family's establishment. She says noise complaints from their customers are not uncommon.

"We get complaints more or less every other day during lunchtimes in the summer. People complain about the noise, it just disrupts everything—servers can't hear and everyone has to speak louder—as it's otherwise really quiet outside," Godoy said. "They always ask if there's another road that the trucks can take."

Frank Kern, the newest owner of Big Sky food service mainstay The Hungry Moose Market and Deli, has fielded similar complaints, but acknowledged that there are two sides to the coin.


"You'll get two types of comments, comments about the noise of the trucks, and comments about the noise of progress," Kern said.

As the saying goes, "a rising tide lifts all boats," and both privatized and public developments bolster the community's housing, recreation and public amenities, attracting people of all walks to add their DNA and varying backgrounds to the fabric of the growing community.

Additionally, a service or auxiliary route, as mentioned by Godoy, isn't necessarily feasible, Staszczuk says.

"The cost of building a temporary road is just not worth it, especially in a place like Big Sky with the short window for things to be constructed," he explained. "And that's not even considering impacts to things like interfering with hospital operations, where that access needs to be wide open."

Certainly, there was a time in every more-established town and city around the nation when construction dominated the landscape—to the benefit of future generations who fortuitously avoided the bustle associated with major growth. The notion harkens back to a series EBS ran this spring titled "Growing Pains," and perhaps recommends an acceptance that not everything will be perfect in a town on the rise; no pun intended, it's all part of the ride.



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Resort Tax hones in on ordinance revision

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY – On Sept. 10, the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board hosted an open board meeting at the offices of the Big Sky Water and Sewer District, which played host to an agenda dominated by debate over the vernacular and associated definitions pertaining to the revised Resort Tax ordinance.

Specifically, members of the board grappled with the definitions of “goods and services,” “luxuries” and “necessities of life” and how those ultimately ought to be taxed. The three items have been the center of discussion for the past three BSRAD open board meetings, highlighting the difficulties associated with pinning down the nebulous terminology, particularly where there might be overlap in what are termed “enumerated establishments”; lodging and camping facilities, food service establishments, public establishments that sell liquor, and destination ski resorts or other destination recreational facilities as defined by the draft ordinance.

In what was meant to be a first reading of the ordinance, board members instead determined that they had not reached internal consensus on how “goods and services” and “luxuries” should and will ultimately be defined, and decided that a supplementary open board meeting, scheduled for Sept. 20, was necessary to iron out the language. Members of the board will share their various opinions and ideas amongst themselves in the interim, which will then be discussed at and dictate the procedure of that public meeting.

“The Resort Tax is a tax on goods and services, period,” said Vice Chair Steve Johnson. “It’s always a tax on goods and services, whether sold at an enumerated establishment or anywhere else if those goods and services are identified as luxuries.”

Chairperson Kevin Germain felt that beginning with the definition of “luxury,” first and foremost, would help in solving the remainder of the Resort Tax ordinance puzzle currently in front of the board.

“Everything’s listed under ‘luxury’ and that’s why I think let’s just work on the definition of ‘luxury,’” Germain said. “I’m still struggling with something we want to tax at an enumerated establishment that is not considered a luxury.”

The meeting also hosted representatives from consulting firm Logan Simpson who are spearheading the Community Visioning Strategy.

Bruce Meighen, managing principal for Logan Simpson, revealed key, high-level information as to the direction of the Community Visioning Strategy, such as trending values like “accessible to all,” “beautiful and sustainable,” “environmentally conscious” and “built to preserve natural beauty,” among others, as well as key highlights of project initiatives such as housing, infrastructure, a healthy business community and an abundance of arts and entertainment offerings, to name a few.

According to Meighen, after months of community interaction, interviews and data collection, a reviewable draft plan will be ready for consumption by Big Sky’s various organizations on Oct. 15.

In a bittersweet moment, Mike Scholz announced to those in attendance that after eight years of service for the BSRAD, he will be leaving his post.

Germain spoke on behalf of the board when he said, “Thank you for your dedication to Big Sky ... it is truly a better place because of your presence.”

The board then heard statements and questioned three applicants for the available position on the board, and appointed Ciara Wolfe, executive director for the Big Sky Community Organization, after several members of the public in attendance, including former board member Al Malinowski, voiced support for Wolfe and her credentials.

The BSRAD also met on Aug. 30 to review and take action on amendments to the terms of Resort Tax allocations awarded to the Big Sky Housing Trust determined at the Aug. 14 meeting. Per the language of the contract, “During the Term, Contractor [Big Sky Housing Trust] shall be entitled to use up to \$773,324 of the Appropriation for down payment on construction financing for Phase 2 of its MeadowView Condominium project ... When Contractor’s Phase 2 loan has been repaid from closings on its sales of Phase 2 units, Contractor shall use the Construction Financing Funds for new project developments. ... During the Term, Contractor shall use any remaining portion of the appropriation for new development projects.”

It also called for documentation, tracking and reporting of progress to the BSRAD, upon request, and noted that should the full appropriation amount go unused, BSRAD may require the return of said funds or apply the unused funds as rollover to future appropriations.

Rotary Club of Big Sky call boxes to the rescue

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY



Members of Rotary Club of Big Sky installing a new emergency call box at Taylor Fork. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROTARY CLUB OF BIG SKY

initiative to install multiple emergency call boxes.

According to Rotary member Lee Griffiths, who oversees the necessary project permitting and ensures that first responder agency needs are met, it’s a project that’s been ongoing for over a decade, when the chapter first installed three phones at the Karst, Moose Creek Flat campground and the turnoff for Taylor Fork.

The Big Sky chapter has since installed call boxes at new locations while also updating older ones.

BIG SKY – One drive from Big Sky to Bozeman, or vice versa, reveals the inherent dangers of Highway 191, when white crosses litter the sides of the road both in singularity and in clusters for much of the route. It’s a constant reminder that driving through the canyon on the two-lane highway is nothing to take lightly, whether it’s your first or 1,000th pass, especially considering there is no cell service for the entirety of the section that stretches between the mouth of the canyon and Big Sky.

In an effort to combat the lack of cellular service along much of Highway 191, including those reception blackouts on stretches between Big Sky and West Yellowstone, the Rotary Club of Big Sky has taken the

“The older call boxes were functional and provided a much-needed service to the traveling public. However, the older call boxes lacked a sufficient power source and as such were sometimes unreliable in that there were some 911 hang ups,” Griffiths told EBS in an email. “We made the assumption that equipment malfunctions may have caused the majority of the false calls and set up to replace the phones with more robust equipment.”

Today, new phones are solar powered, ensuring standalone functionality, and are equipped with one-touch calling to emergency responders. Griffiths says three new call boxes have been installed in recent years, a replacement callbox at Moose Creek Flat in 2017, a replacement at Taylor Fork expected to be functional by October of this year, and a new call box at the Lava Lake Trailhead in 2018.

Long-time Big Sky resident Jill Bough made use of the Lava Lake call box after a collision with an oncoming truck on April 27, and recounted her experience in an email written to the Rotary Club of Big Sky; that letter was shared with EBS by the chapter, a portion of which is republished below:

“... The southbound truck collided with me head-on, completely crushing the entire driver’s side of my Suburban and setting off airbags in both vehicles. I remember climbing out of the car on the passenger side in a confused state ... As a Big Sky resident, of course I knew there wasn’t service, but I had never thought about actually being in this situation in the canyon. It was then that I saw the emergency call box literally across the highway. I can’t tell you my relief when I picked it up and immediately was speaking to an actual person who explained that help was on the way. ...”

According to Megan Mohn, who is charged with managing social media and marketing for the Big Sky chapter, Rotary is trying to promote the locations of their call boxes so people know where to find them.

As the old adage goes, “pray for the best, and prepare for the worst.” One can never know, just as Bough learned, when such a resource just might make the difference.

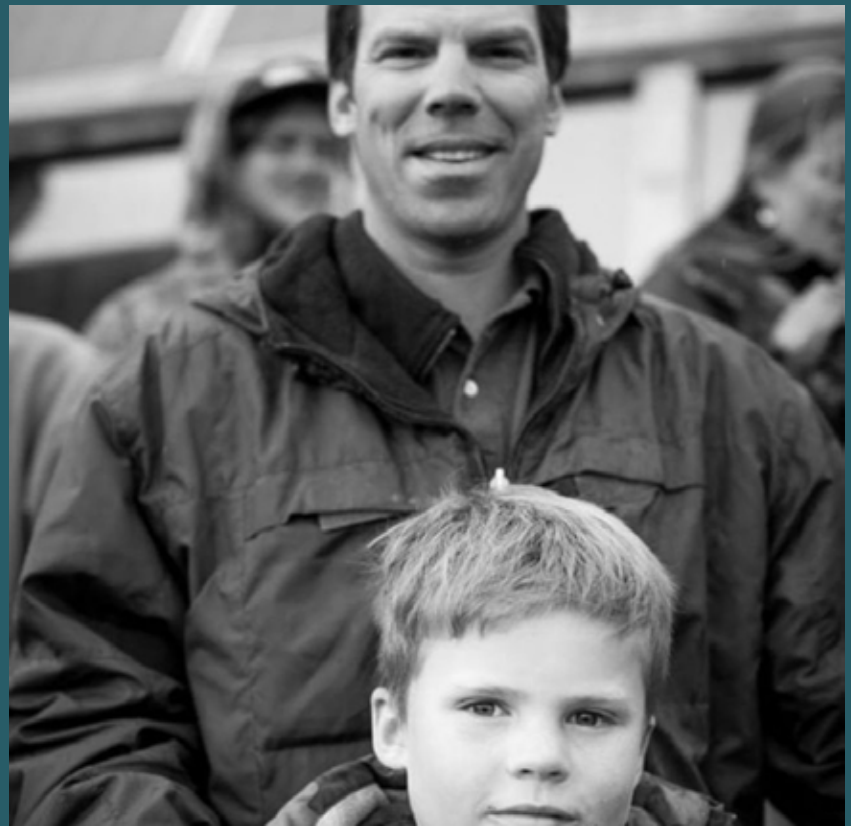
Visit bigskyrotary.com for more information on the various initiatives and happenings of Rotary Club of Big Sky.

Happy 50th

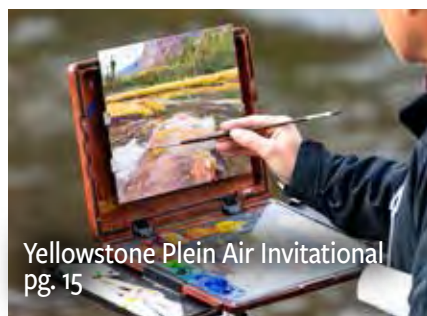
to our favorite doctor of rock 'n' roll,
long drives, lost in the woods, and saving the world
with homes built out of our trash!

Thanks for keeping us straight!

Cheers to you Jeff Saad!



SECTION 2: ENVIRONMENT & OUTDOORS



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Pilgrimage on the Yellowstone

Finding friends and inspiration on the river

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

LIVINGSTON – The sky opened up and water fell from the heavens in a high basin tucked away in Paradise Valley. The rain dropped cold upon my neck, but it quickly passed, a cool kiss in the August sun. As rolling thunder and bright lightning jarred my bones, I embraced the heavy smell of damp and living soil.

From some 500 yards, I watched two grizzly bears eat caraway root, despite the downpour; I was as drenched as they were. Even with wet clothes, I didn't shiver right away; I wasn't cold at first. It must have been a warmth radiating from within, for my senses were thrumming in this place: The Greater Yellowstone.

It was midway through an immersive week-long field course, an experience that embraced the confluence of writing, adventure and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The course was one of four offered this year by Missoula-based Freeflow Institute, a fledgling organization founded last year in order to give emerging writers, artists and athletes the time, community and inspiration needed for thoughtful, creative work.

I was one of 11 participants, joined by Freeflow founder Chandra Brown and intern Steph Maltarich, as well as professional journalists and course instructors Alexis Bonogofsky and Elliott Woods. We gathered at Pine Creek Lodge south of Livingston on Aug. 12, a group of strangers hailing from across the state and nation, joined by the common interest of the pen. Many of us were professional journalists, writers and editors. A resident of Shields Valley north of Livingston, I was the only writer venturing into my proverbial backyard.

With the gentle babbling of Pine Creek as a backdrop, we began the course by listening to the weighty words of notable authors Terry Tempest Williams, Rick Bass and Doug Peacock. As the Perseids meteor shower shot sparks across the eastern sky, we were told to be fierce in our passions and embrace writing as a place to come together.

Following in the Freeflow mission—to take the practice of writing outdoors—we spent the following days on an intensive study of the Yellowstone River. Guided by Ashea Mills, a longtime veteran guide in Yellowstone Park, our party sojourned through the Black Canyon of the Yellowstone River, hiking 20 miles over two days in the hot and arid belly of the beast—the very headwaters of the Yellowstone, the last major undammed river in the Lower 48.

While traversing the boulder-strewn slopes and tight cliffs of the Black Canyon, we discussed the decades-old debate over whether to allow paddling on the scenic and treacherous Black Canyon whitewater, while allowing the conversation to flow, ebb and undulate to encompass questions over park visitation, recreational use versus conservation, and the question of what it means for a place to be wild.

Once through the park, we took to rafts and floated from Gardiner to Emigrant, accompanied by river guides Jim Hepburn and Nathan Herring. We made splashes around Yankee Jim's formidable rapids and took pit stops in Gardiner and Tom Miner Basin, among others.

It was at Tom Miner Basin where we watched the grizzlies feast, accompanied by Daniel Anderson, whose family owns the Anderson Ranch. One of just a handful of landowners in the basin, the Andersons are well versed in the conservation conversation. They are largely a cow-calf operation that partners ranching heritage with sustainable living and are members of the reputed Tom Miner Basin Association that seeks to reduce predator conflict and maintain healthy stewardship of the land.

Daniel, a master's student at the University of Montana in Missoula, hosted our group at his family home as a part of his larger Common Ground Project, which launched this year. Seeking to provide a platform for intentional, meaningful conversation, Common Ground is a place where groups can come to talk, with conversation framed around building community through learning, storytelling and experiencing a sense of place. The Common Ground ethos is something essential to the question of preserving the Greater Yellowstone.

On the eleventh hour—the last day of our campaign on Aug. 17—we arrived at Chico Hot Springs and the glory of naturally warm mineral hot springs. The warm water was an antidote to river weary soldiers, but it also became an elixir for the mind as we discussed strategies for conservation and a way of going forward. Those who've participated in a field course, an experiential learning journey, know the feeling of information overload.

Throughout the trip, Bonogofsky and Woods guided our party of dawning writers. For me, it was a pilgrimage of sorts: within a backdrop of a familiar place I met strangers and came out with friends as well as a deeper sense of place and home and what it means to protect those still wild corners on the map. At one point, Woods said something that remains etched in my mind: "Journalism is the first draft of history."

It is now that our actions matter. And it is this place—the mountains, the rivers, the sagebrush plains, the hills, the valleys, the brooks and the springs—that needs our full attention. It is now that we must intentionally experience the Greater Yellowstone so that we might choose responsibly and shape what will be the Greater Yellowstone of tomorrow.



Participants during the Yellowstone River Field Course offered by the Freeflow Institute paddle down the Yellowstone toward Emigrant in Paradise Valley. PHOTO BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

THE NEW WEST



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

On Sundays in autumn when we Northern Rockies denizens return to our rivers, re-wetting lines of connection in the cooling currents after months of usurpation by outsiders, Mike Person dreams of his homeland, too, but from afar. Such idylls help him still the nerves as he puts on his armor, preparing for battle in the truest

American form of gladiator.

On his afternoons, Person's mind becomes intensely focused on repelling an invasion, this one a war over turf. Hunched down in a three-point stance, squaring off against foes who want to pummel the colleagues behind him—and for whom he is paid handsomely to protect—Person ponders holes, though not the mellifluous, placid kinds that hold trout.

As a starting offensive guard for the San Francisco 49ers, Person's job is opening up running lanes for ball carriers or buying quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo time to stand poised in the pocket. He knows success for the team comes down to something seemingly simple yet actually complicated and hard to execute—his ability to block.

“From a standpoint of physics, we are the only guys on the field taking a hit or giving a hit 70 times a game,” Person said. “Those add up over the course of a season. Mondays I'm sore; Tuesdays really sore; and then, when Wednesdays roll around, it's time to stop worrying about what hurts because we've got to get ready for Sunday.”

Bruised and bloodied week in and out, sacrificing his 300-pound frame to crunching hits, he'll soak his weary muscles in ice baths, get deep tissue massages and take Ibuprofen to help make the pain go away before he does it all over again for months until the season ends.

But, what does Person's profession have to do with fly fishing, his expanding respect for wild places and doing right by his family?

As it turns out, everything.

Person's career in the trenches reminds him of contrasts—of Sundays past, present and future. Where he escapes during the offseason, home water means peace but not quiet. Compared to the deafening roar of 70,000 fans, so loud it drowns out the quarterback's cadence, there is solace in the hum of a river like the Yellowstone, Madison or Gallatin, he says. Wading into a bend casting, stripping line, mending, tying on a fake gnat with no one else around, no cheers or jeers, is an activity where Person can go to hear himself think.

And listen.

He understands why clean water matters.

Fly fishing has trained him to be more instinctive, to read patterns on water, to move with ease and grace, rather than like a bowling ball knocking down pins. There's no brawn or quarter ton squatting weights required to lay down a midge. Typically, casters need not worry about blown out ACLs, concussions, broken fingers and torn rotator cuffs. And yet a parallel can be drawn between how a ball moves downfield and a trout navigates its linear sanctum.

Many people have stereotypes when it comes to pegging football linemen, equating them almost to stolid members of a bison herd. Person, the youngest of four siblings, is soft-spoken, contemplative and big-hearted, residing more on the laconic side of the spectrum than evincing any pretentious temptation to name drop who his employer is.

That's not how he was taught to impress people in Montana.

An NFL warrior daydreams of Greater Yellowstone trout waters

“There is lot of pride when it comes to being from there and it is present from Libby [in the northwest part of the state] all the way down to Wibaux [in the southeast]. Every kid who grows up there feels it in some way but you're not always aware of it until you're gone,” he said. “Being from Montana, that's more important than what you do.”

Person never needed anyone to teach him how to meditate before games; it's second nature, rooted in afternoons, sometimes following Sunday morning Catholic Mass when he and his buddies repaired to the river, using night crawlers bought at the local gas station to hook catfish and sauger. By “the river,” he means the Yellowstone.

Person grew up in remote Glendive only a few blocks from the Yellowstone's banks lined with cottonwood trunks as big around as Greek columns.

He stood out in football and earned all-state honors on the o-line. Bobcat coaches at Montana State recognized him as a kid with raw talent that could be molded for the next level. When he first reported to campus, he was 6 feet 4 inches “and extremely skinny” at 250 pounds, he said.

It wasn't until Person decided to play at Montana State, he says, that he started to think about angling as a high art form. He gained a newfound appreciation for Yellowstone National Park and the surrounding ecosystem. He counts it as a favorite destination, where his family is constantly reminded why it's important to care about the environment.

Part of the perk of being a Bobcat is having access to some of the best-known trout streams in the world. Fly fishing is something many players learn and it's those memories that they take with them. It's uncanny how many pro athletes take up fishing to unwind.

When Person talks about landing big browns and rainbows in the 49ers locker room, teammates pay attention; Montana, to some, sounds almost like a mythological place.

At age 31, Mike Person, wearing number 68, is indeed in the prime of confidence though he knows football won't last forever.

As a history and education major, he's thought of teaching and coaching, like his dad. He also said he wouldn't mind penning a fly-fishing column for “Mountain Journal.” The family still has a cabin north of Butte. With the rivers around Bozeman getting crowded, he enjoys wandering the Boulder River. Planting a fly perfectly on the seam of a riffle, he says, is as amazing a feat to him as watching a perfectly-thrown spiral 60 yards into the outstretched hands of a receiver.

“There's beauty in both,” he said.

He can relate to the analogy offered by noted Bozeman writer Paul Schullery, who once said, “Calling fishing a hobby is like calling brain surgery a job.” Schullery also observed, “If you aren't a fisher, you'll see many things, but the river, except where it is ridden by a waterfall or waded by a moose, will rarely enter your thoughts, much less stimulate your spirit. It's different if you fish. The surface of the water tells a story.”

Person does fish, and it stimulates his spirit and it reminds him there's always an abiding place where he can return, though for now fall fishing on Sundays in Montana will have to wait for a while. Still, he says the rivers have already given him stories to tell.

One of them is this: like safeguarding his quarterback, clean water needs protection too.

Todd Wilkinson is the founder of Bozeman-based “Mountain Journal” 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.

INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



Yellowstone Plein Air Invitational returns Sept. 24-29

BY CHRISTINE GIANAS WEINHEIMER
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Visitors to Yellowstone National Park are invited to be part of the second annual Yellowstone Plein Air Invitational Sept. 24-29, and help celebrate the current and historical presence of art in the park.

During this unique event hosted by Yellowstone Forever—the park's official nonprofit partner—sixteen of the nation's best artists will paint “en plein air,” or outside on-site, in various locations throughout the park. Visitors have the opportunity to attend daily painting demonstrations and other art activities, including a “Paint-Out” at Madison Junction on Saturday that gathers all the artists, who will have 2 hours to complete a painting of Yellowstone.

A selection of the artists' “wet paintings” produced during the week will be displayed alongside studio-produced pieces at the Old Faithful Lodge Recreation Hall. This artwork will be available for viewing and purchase at a ticketed event on Saturday, Sept. 28 and for the general public on Sunday, Sept. 29. A portion of proceeds from the event will benefit Yellowstone National Park priority projects and education initiatives.

Accomplished painter and distinguished museum director Ian McKibbin White will judge the art entries, in addition to giving the keynote address at the banquet.

Artists at this year's event will travel from as far away as Texas and California. All 14 artists from the 2018 Yellowstone Plein Air Invitational will return this year, along with two new artists: John Cogan and John Potter.

John Cogan of Farmington, New Mexico, paints the landscapes and wildlife of the American West in a unique style that has become known throughout New Mexico and the Southwest. A multi-year participant of the annual plein air events at Grand Canyon and Zion national parks, Cogan has won awards at both events. In January of 2019, Cogan was chosen as an Associate Living Master by the Art Renewal Center, an honor that places him among the most important representational artists of the 20th and 21st centuries.

John Potter of Red Lodge, Montana, spent 20 years as an award-winning illustrator before committing his attention to painting full-time in 2002. Often painting en



An artist paints a scene near Madison Junction during last year's Yellowstone Plein Air Invitational. The event will return to Yellowstone Park this September. NPS PHOTO

plein air in the rugged mountain landscapes of the American West, Potter brings his small outdoor studios home, where they are then used as reference to create his larger studio works. He has participated in shows and exhibitions throughout the U.S. and abroad, and is represented by galleries in Red Lodge, Jackson, Big Sky, Cody and Santa Fe.

Maps of artist demonstration locations will be available the week of the event at all of Yellowstone Forever's Park Stores.

Visit yellowstone.org/plein-air for more information including a full list of artists and a detailed schedule.

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

US welcomes 45 new citizens at Yellowstone National Park

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

GARDINER – On Sept. 5, 42 of the country's newest citizens pledged an oath of loyalty to the U.S. while backdropped by Yellowstone National Park's Roosevelt Arch. The citizenship candidates are originally from 23 countries scattered throughout Europe, Asia, South and Central America, and Africa, among others, and currently reside in Utah, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana.

Through a partnership between the National Park Service and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that began in 2006, new citizens are welcomed at parks, monuments and historic sites throughout the nation each year. According to USCIS, this partnership is a way of “connecting the next generation of American immigrants to the nation's most historic and precious places.”

U.S. Magistrate Judge Mark L. Carman administered the “Oath of Allegiance,” and the crowd heard from guest speakers Pat Kenney, Yellowstone National Park deputy superintendent, and Kristi Goldinger, USCIS Denver district director.

Last year, USCIS naturalized more than 757,000 people, many of whom waited years to become U.S. citizens.



Citizenship candidates say the Oath of Allegiance on Sept. 5 in Yellowstone National Park. NPS PHOTOS



The Yellowstone National Park Mounted Color Guard presents the colors during the 2019 naturalization ceremony.

Understanding the implications of pine beetle

Study looks at elk behavior

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BOZEMAN – Hike through the mountains in Montana and you're increasingly likely these days to see the red hues of dying forests. In some places, the pine trees have long since shed their dry needles, their arthritic limbs merely ghosts of the mountains.

The cause of this decline in forest health—with implications for lodgepole and whitebark pine, to name a few species—is largely the result of the native mountain pine beetle. And as forests change from dense and green to bare, open stands, wildlife is taking note.

According to a study conducted by biologists with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, elk in the beetle-killed Elkhorn Mountains south of Helena are changing their use of the forest. While a change in habitat from beetle infestation appears to be only one component of the way elk use the landscape, a study released in August indicates that elk use the dying forests less in the summer and fall.

Researchers say an elk's use of the forest is largely related to cover and security needs, and various forest types provide a range of overall canopy cover and protection from predators and human hunters. While stands of dead lodgepole pine have more cover than healthy Douglas fir and ponderosa pine forests, the infected lodgepole remain less secure for elk than their healthy counterparts.

For the Elkhorn study, biologists radio collared 60 elk and followed their movements over the course of four years; they found that elk are using public land less now than during a study conducted in the 1980s, prior to beetle infestation. The phenomenon might be attributable to the differences in hunting pressures between public and private land, and the lack of adequate security on public land due to dying trees.

A large portion of the study area included the Elkhorn Wildlife Management Unit, which is the only U.S. Forest Service wildlife management unit in the country. FWP manages the area for hunting and releases a limited number of cow and young, spike bull elk tags, and the department also offers permits for larger bulls, which is the most difficult elk permit to draw in the state.

In an FWP press release announcing the completion of the study, FWP supervisor Mark Deleray said elk management is complicated in Montana.

"It always involves public hunters, private landowners, various land management agencies and changing habitat conditions," he said. "This study gives us important information on habitat and the needed security to help keep elk on public lands during the hunting seasons."

Overall, according to the release, the new findings will inform future land management, "to provide adequate security for cow and bull elk during the hunting seasons and discourage elk redistributions to private lands. Similar to many areas in Montana, private land surrounding public land can be a beacon to elk when the hunting pressure increases on public lands."

"The places in Montana with the worst beetle kill are places with thick lodgepole forests that are conducive to infestation," FWP research biologist Kelly Proffitt said in an email to EBS. "We have been actively conducting research about elk security in Montana for several years ... This is a big issue well beyond the Elkhorns."



An elk's use of the landscape is largely related to forest cover and whether they have adequate protection from predators. A recent study has found that elk living near forests infested by bark beetle are using the forested landscape less. NPS PHOTO

She added that FWP wants to better understand the overall health of our public lands and how to keep elk on public land rather than see them redistribute to private properties. Proffitt said as FWP learns more about elk movement, the department can work with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in how to better manage public lands for wildlife.

As one example, Proffitt described a research project on beetle-kill in the Sapphire Mountains south of Missoula. After the Forest Service modified travel in that portion of the forest, they saw an increase in elk security by 30 percent.

While FWP is actively researching the larger impacts of mountain pine beetle, scientists have been studying the bug itself for a number of decades. The mountain pine beetle bores into the bark of healthy trees in order to lay its eggs, and once hatched, the larva feed on the host tree, eventually girdling and killing the tree. The mountain pine beetle is one of an estimated 600 different bark beetle species in the U.S.

In recent decades, the prevalence of mountain pine beetle is continuing to increase across the Western U.S.

According to Jesse Logan, the former project leader for the Forest Service's Interior West Bark Beetle Project, mountain pine beetle populations appear to be under the direct influence of seasonal temperature. Logan, who retired in 2006, found that as trending temperatures rise, pine beetles are able to survive through the winters and at higher elevations; a warming climate is giving these tree-killers the perfect setting for extensive outbreaks.

Logan notes, however, that while beetles have seemingly devastating impacts on our forests, in large part they serve a natural process for lodgepole: beetle-killed lodgepole forests fuel wildfires that lead to tree regeneration decades later.

But Logan's sentiment flips when the conversation turns to the question of whitebark pine, a high-alpine tree species that has come under beetle attack due to climate change. In an article published in 2004 by "High Country News," Logan told the reporter, "When I see outbreaks intensify in the lodgepole pine, it's an interesting ecological event. When I see a 700-year-old whitebark pine go down, I have a completely different reaction. It breaks my heart."



Understanding wastewater treatment across Big Sky

BY KRISTIN GARDNER AND KAREN FILIPOVICH
EBS CONTRIBUTORS

Turn on the shower, order a meal or flush the toilet. All of these activities involve water going down the drain. In Big Sky, what happens next and the resulting quality of treated water varies significantly depending on the type of wastewater treatment system.

Wastewater treatment infrastructure varies in the Big Sky area from single septic systems to large, centralized systems. Wastewater treatment removes solids, pathogens and nutrients. Doing so protects human health and safeguards water supply and water quality.

Septic systems are designed for small, individual sites in areas with low density development. They are commonly found in the more remote areas of Big Sky, like the Gallatin Canyon or Beaver Creek. With this system, a tank settles out solids and bacteria digest nutrients and pathogens and the resulting effluent is then usually released into a drainfield.

There are two major types of septic systems: Level 1 and Level 2. Level 1 systems are more common and easier to operate, but do not remove as many nutrients as other methods. Typically, this system treats effluent to a point where total nitrogen concentration is about 50 milligrams per liter. Level 2 systems treat to a higher level, and are required to remove total nitrogen to a concentration of less than 24 milligrams per liter.

Level 2 systems are significantly more expensive than Level 1 systems and are more difficult to operate. However, these treatment levels are only achieved if a system is properly maintained. The individual landowner has complete responsibility of the system including any maintenance and testing.

Public wastewater treatment systems vary greatly in size and treatment methods around Big Sky, ranging from systems servicing a single business, to large groups of residential and commercial development. In Big Sky, these systems range from large onsite systems that are similar to individual septic tanks but serve multiple households or businesses, to treatment lagoons and multistep technologies. Treatment levels vary greatly based on technology, but all public systems require routine monitoring and reporting to the state.

The largest public wastewater treatment plant in the area is the Big Sky Water and Sewer District, which services the Meadow and Town Center areas, the Big Sky Resort base area, and parts of Spanish Peaks. The district's facility is a tertiary treatment plant and achieves treatment levels similar to most of the smaller community treatment systems in Montana. The treated effluent's total nitrogen ranges from 4 to 35 milligrams per liter depending on the time of year. The district is in the process of

Additional Resources:

Wastewater treatment in the Gallatin Canyon:

Gallatin Canyon Project Kickoff Meeting
Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Buck's T-4

Canyon residents and business owners are invited to learn more about an engineering study that will provide information about wastewater treatment upgrade options in the Gallatin Canyon. This study is administered by the Gallatin River Task Force and funded through the Big Sky Resort Tax. Contact Karen Filipovich at karen.filipovich@gmail.com or kristin@gallatinrivertaskforce.org for more information.

Big Sky Water and Sewer District wastewater reclamation upgrades:

Big Sky Water and Sewer District - bigskywatersewer.com

Septic permitting and maintenance:

Gallatin Health Department - healthygallatin.org/environmental-health/water-quality/wastewater-septic-treatment

Madison Health Department - madisoncountymt.gov/247/Septic-System-Information

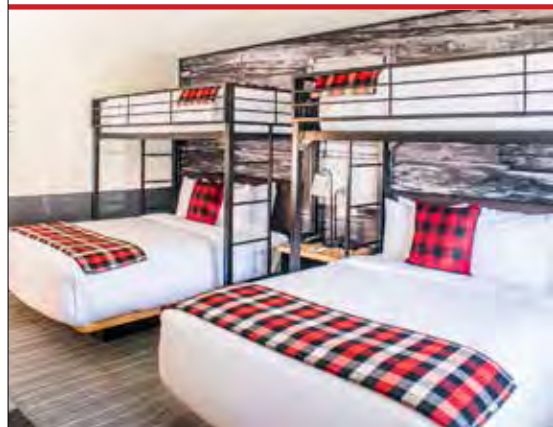
Gallatin Local Water Quality District - glwqd.org/septic-wastewater-treatment-systems

designing an upgrade and expansion that would achieve nitrogen concentrations of less than 5 milligrams per liter, similar to the Bozeman wastewater treatment plant and compliant with Montana's Class A-1 reuse standards, the highest quality described by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

Improving wastewater treatment levels is very important as Big Sky grows because more effluent will be generated as more people move in and visit the area. Higher treatment levels also allow for more diverse reuse options for the treated water, which could be greatly beneficial to watershed health.

Kristin Gardner is executive director of the Gallatin River Task Force. Karen Filipovich is a facilitator and consultant in the Bozeman area.

FIND YOUR WILD



MOUNTAIN MODERN MOTEL
JACKSON HOLE

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September 19 | 6:30 pm | 46625 Gallatin Road



Reason # 21

Our People - First Security Bank would like to congratulate Big Sky branch president, Tim Kent. Tim was awarded the Business Person of the Year Award at the Big Sky Chamber Black Diamonds and Dinner event earlier this week. Tim was recognized for all his work in the community and more recently, his efforts with the Big Sky Community Housing Trust and tackling affordable housing issues in Big Sky. Discover the 100's of reasons why your neighbors choose First Security Bank.

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BEAR BASICS WITH BERNADETTE

DO YOUR PART, BE BEAR SMART

Why are bears so active in the fall?

BY KRIS INMAN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Are you wondering why you might be seeing more bears around Big Sky? It is because it's that time of the year when they become more active. Bears are preparing to enter their dens and not eat or drink for five to seven months. They consume as much as 15,000-20,000 kilocalories per day during the period of hyperphagia that runs from August to October to make it through the winter denning season. This means bears are covering a lot of area in search of food.

In August, army cutworm moths, more commonly known as millers, escape the summer heat in rock slides above timberline and bears key in on this food source. "Bears consume as many as 40,000 moths a day," said Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team Leader Frank van Manen. "These moths are a valuable natural food source because up to 65 percent of a moth's body weight is fat by the time bears consume them."

In the fall, elk carcasses and gut piles left by hunters or bull elk seriously injured during the fall mating season are sought out as a valuable source of high protein for bears.

It is easy to believe, then, that a bear traveling near Big Sky on trash pickup day might find a smorgasbord of opportunity in human trash, which provides a more consistent and easier food source than the short-duration, seasonal abundance of berries and insects.

It doesn't take long for a bear to key in on those areas where non-bear-resistant trash cans are the norm, or where a few unaware homeowners haven't yet realized their HOA requirement for bear-resistant trash.

Soon the cycle of trash-conditioning and habituation to humans begins. Bears then become bolder, especially during late summer and fall when they are driven to consume what is an unfathomable number of calories a day.

Open windows or garage doors are hard to pass up, "Especially for young 'naïve' sub-adult black and grizzly bears that are on their own for the first time, females with cubs,

or older bears with worn teeth that find it more difficult to acquire enough natural food," said Kevin Frey, the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks grizzly bear specialist.

In addition to consuming a high number of calories, which are converted to fat, allowing the bears to survive through the denning season, bears have a physiological adaptation that lets them survive for five to seven months: during this time, they do not eat, drink or defecate.

Bears only lose a surprising 15 to 25 percent of their body mass and they don't get bed-sores or osteoporosis. Instead, they emerge from their dens in the spring with a slowly returning metabolic rate and increased body temperature, lean muscle mass that hasn't atrophied and normal bone density, says FWP bear research biologist Cecily Costello.

This surprising fact led researchers from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, nearly 20 years ago, to visit radio-collared bears in their dens. I participated as a researcher in this study, where we took blood from the hibernating bears to try and understand these physiological adaptations and apply it to humans. This mystery is still unresolved and remains of key interest to medical doctors and researchers.

The period of hyperphagia gives us a better understanding for why bears are more visible in our neighborhoods in the fall. Maybe, too, it gives us another reason to want to keep bears safe.

For the cost of your morning coffee, or less than your favorite lunch sandwich, you can switch to a bear-resistant trash can and by simply keeping your windows and garage doors closed, you keep yourself and bears safe.

Remember to follow Bernadette Bear on social media @bearsmartbigsky to learn how to make Big Sky's story a positive one for bears, people and wild places.

Kris Inman is the community partnerships coordinator for the Wildlife Conservation Society and oversees the Bear Smart Big Sky campaign.

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Royal Coachman Ranch
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Lot 38 Bitterbrush Trail
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BIG SKY



2005 Upper Chief Joseph
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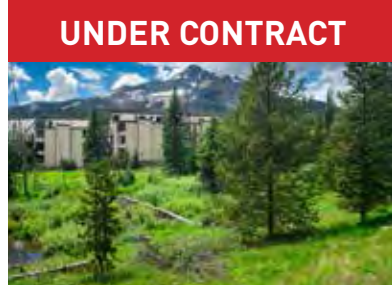


64 Lodgepole
6,160 SQ FT / \$3.895M

BIG SKY



Cottonwood Crossing Unit 5
1854 SQ FT / \$565K



Hill Condo 1361
440 SQ FT / \$179K

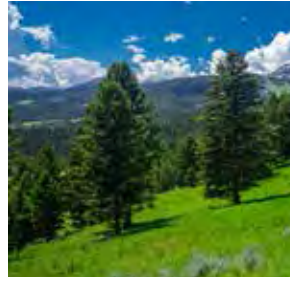
BIG SKY - LAND



Mountain Meadows
120 Acres / \$3.495M



The Ranches at Yellow Mountain
2A-1B
526 Acres / \$5.8M



The Ranches at Yellow
Tract 3B-1
23 Acres / \$8

BIG SKY - LAND



Bear Paw Ponds Parcel 7
20.04 Acres / \$399K



Lot 3 Joy Road
6.83 Acres / \$395K

BOZEMAN & GREATER MONTANA



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

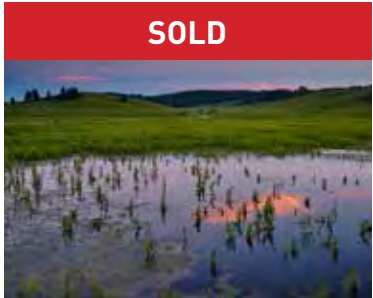


Rocking S7 Ranch Lot 4
Bozeman, MT
20.232 ACRES / \$650K

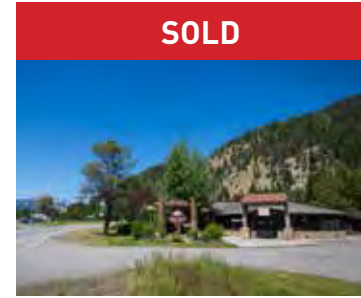


Homestead at th
Butte, M
640 Acres / \$

RECENTLY SOLD



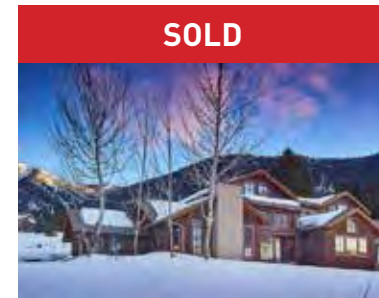
Yellowstone Ranch Preserve
List Price: \$19M



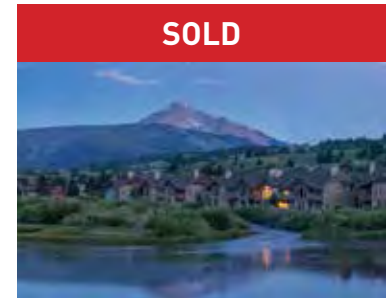
Big Sky Corner Property
List Price: \$3.24M



78 Meadow Village
Dr. Big Sky, MT
4,769 SQ FT / \$2.1M

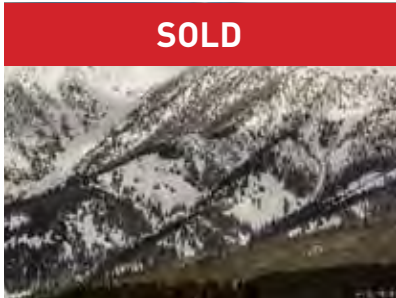


245 Rain in Face
3,446 SQ FT / \$1.695M



Crail Ranch Unit 40
List Price: \$1.35M

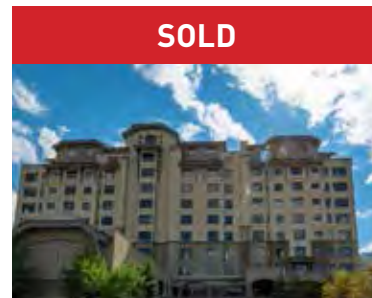
RECENTLY SOLD



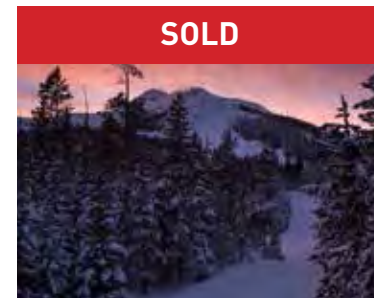
Lot 44 Diamond Hitch
1.25 ACRE / \$699K



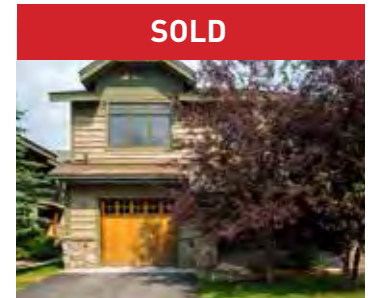
Hidden Village
15 Blue Flax Place
2,788 SQ FT / \$599K



Summit 911/912
List Price: \$595K



Lot 39 Diamond Hitch
1 ACRE / \$595K



Cottonwood Crossing #15
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6,203 SQ FT / \$2.9M



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



211 B Pheasant Tail
\$720K



Yellow Mountain
\$75k



The Ranches at Yellow Mountain
Tract 1A-1
21 Acres / \$795k



Big EZ
Lot 42: \$339K / 20 ACRES
Lot 43: \$375K / 20 ACRES
Combined: \$699K



Lot 2 Big Buck Road
20 ACRES / \$480K



Lot 4 Beaver Creek
20 Acres / \$539K

COMMERCIAL



The Beacon
MT
\$1.65M



UNDER CONTRACT

3170 Winter Park #B
Bozeman, MT
1183 SQ FT / \$295K



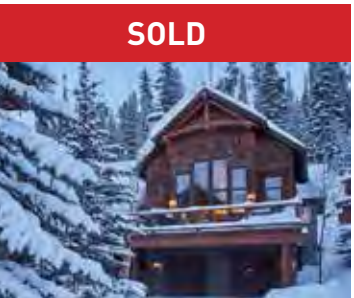
Marketplace Unit 104
Big Sky, MT
1,204 SQ FT / \$560,920



Marketplace Unit 202
Big Sky, MT
966 SQ FT / \$389K



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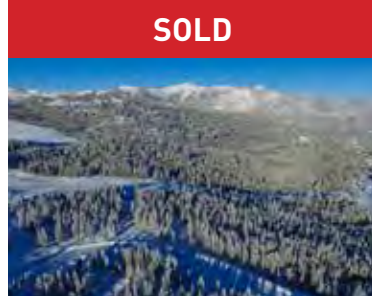
SOLD

Black Eagle Lodge Unit 30
List Price: \$1.35M



SOLD

2078 Little Coyote List
List Price: \$1.079M



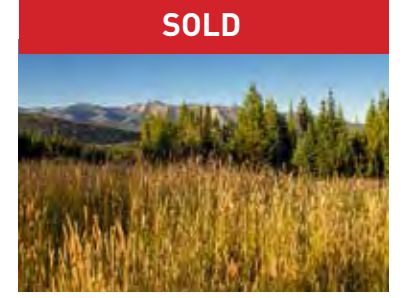
SOLD

Ski Tip Lot 10
List Price: \$975K



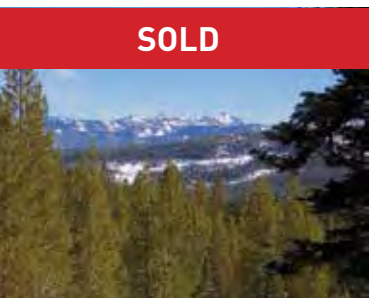
SOLD

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



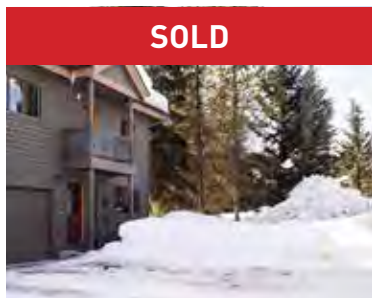
SOLD

Lot 64 Goshawk
1.04 ACRES / \$775K



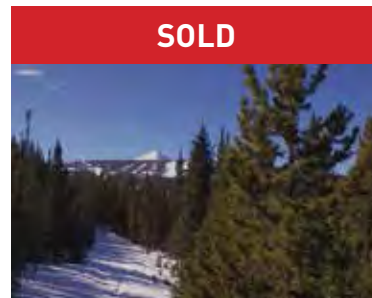
SOLD

Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.
3.13 Acres / \$490K



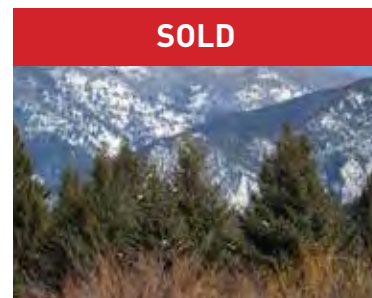
SOLD

118 Rose Hip Circle
1,940 SQ FT / \$489K



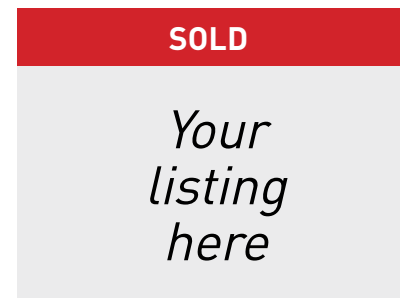
SOLD

Lot 63 Silverado Trail
List Price: \$390K



SOLD

Lot 40 Half Moon Court
.81 ACRES / \$325K



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Fall hiking

BY SARA MARINO
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Fall is in the air. That means cooler days, fewer crowds, changing colors and pumpkin spice lattes are back. It's a great time to get outside, while keeping a few tips in mind.



An autumn view of Hummocks Trail. PHOTO COURTESY OF BECKY BROCKIE PHOTOGRAPHY

Give Wildlife Their Space

Autumn marks the start of the rut, or breeding season, for both elk and moose. Animals are more active, and aggressive, as they look for a mate. It's also the time that bears enter hyperphagia, where they consume as many calories as possible before winter hibernation, and will fiercely protect their food. Talk while you hike so animals are aware of you, be observant of your surroundings and never approach wildlife.

Watch the Weather

Fall weather can be variable. Check the forecast before you go, and be prepared for your day to change from warm and sunny to cold and snowy, and all things in between.

Keep Track of Time

In mid-September the sun will begin setting around 7:30 p.m. Know your group's hiking ability and speed to plan to safely finish your hike before dark.

Be Mindful of Hunters

Archery season opens in September and general season opens in October for elk, deer and antelope. Be responsible when hiking on public lands during hunting season. Wear blaze orange to make yourself visible—this goes for your dog, too—make noise to make your presence known, and avoid hiking during the peak hunting times of dawn and dusk. Consider planning your hike for areas closed to hunting, such as Yellowstone National Park, or the town trails like Hummocks, Uplands or Ousel Falls, which are managed by the Big Sky Community Organization.

Visit bscomt.org for more information about Big Sky's parks, trails and recreation programs. The Big Sky Community Organization engages and leads people to recreational and enrichment opportunities through thoughtful development of partnerships, programs and places.

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

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Prepare for the fall cool down



BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

As fall creeps into our area, despite our desire to cling to our flip-flops and sunshirts, we can be excited for a very good fishing season. Blessed with ample summer streamflows and some of the best hopper fishing we've had in recent memory, fall in southwest Montana is shaping up to be one to remember.

Here are some helpful tips to get the best out of your fall fishing:

Time your fishing appropriately. We stress this often in winter but, for fall fishing it is equally important. A few more hours of sleep never hurt anyone, and for me I'm happy to be waking up at 7 a.m. instead of 5 these days. Watching a Montana sunrise is often spectacular, but for fall fishing, your time's better spent watching the sunset on the river than stumbling for your coffee in the dark of the early morning.

As the nighttime lows dip into the 30s, it will take longer for the water temperatures to rise and make for hungry and happy trout. A good rule: If the nighttime low is below 30 degrees, hit the water no earlier than 9 or 10 a.m.; if above 30, 9 a.m. is do-able but you might have cold fingers for a while before you hook a fish.

Invest in quality gear. A local angling legend once said to me, "There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad gear." The few times I've been cold and miserable on the river were the direct result of poor planning on my part because I did not have the appropriate gear. By gear, I mean your entire outfit from socks to stocking cap.

Technology has evolved to create fabrics that offer a lot of warmth with very little bulk and materials for outerwear and waders have exceptional water and wind resistance. From friction-fused microfibers to extreme vapor-fighting powers, these fabrics are winning the war against the elements, but like any technology, it's only as smart as its user. Fortunately zipping a Gore-Tex jacket is much easier than programming your smartphone.

Adjust your fishing tactics. Fishing guides enjoy the change of tactics that occurs when morning frost shows-up. The most obvious and popular tactical adjustment is fishing streamers and larger baitfish imitations. Brown trout become more aggressive in the coming weeks as they prepare to spawn. Rainbows and cutthroat trout also become more opportunistic.

Anglers targeting lakes or fishing in rivers dependent on lakes, such as the Madison River upstream of Hebgen or the river "between the lakes," should use sink-tip lines and weighted flies in the larger holes or deeper runs. Patience here is key—get to your spot, ensure your fly is getting down to the necessary depth, and continue fishing as fish come and go migrating upstream.

Dry-fly anglers will find matching the hatch becomes a little more important during these cooler months. On most of our rivers, the primary hatch is the fall blue-winged olive mayfly. A purple Parachute Adams or a Purple Para-Cripple will get it done most of the time, but it is a good idea to have a few mayfly emergers in your box along with some spent mayflies.

Be flexible. This past week I guided some new clients—despite my suggestions of waiting until the day-of to decide where to fish, we spent a lot of lip service weeks-prior discussing where to go and what would be the best option. They wanted a plan in place before they got off the plane, so we set one: Monday the Yellowstone, Tuesday the Madison, Wednesday a spring creek, and so-on.

I'm a firm believer in fishing the best water given the current conditions. Naturally our angling itinerary changed. We ended up on the spring creek the day we were supposed to be on the Madison because of wind on the Madison and overcast skies in Paradise Valley; we fished the Madison on the day slotted for the Yellowstone because of rain muddying the section they wanted to fish. Rain, wind, colder temps in one area versus another, and even the day of the week—weekends being busier—all should play a role in choosing the best places to fish this time of year.

Each spring I look forward to fall, and not just because the finish line to another guiding season is in sight, or because I get an extra hour of sleep each night not having to be on the water shortly after sunrise. It is because in my soul I believe trout fishing's heart belongs to chilly mornings, fishing hatches during the gentlemanly hours of the day and a river feeling frigid against the skin.

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.



As the fall colors embrace our local rivers and creeks, along with the changing seasons we need to change our angling tactics. PHOTO BY PATRICK STRAUB

The Lore of Hunting Camp

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

LIVINGSTON – In Montana, the term “hunting camp” piques the senses. In the minds of sportsmen and sportswomen, it conjures memories of those still moments at dawn, the smell of cool, crisp pine and lingering sage and the baptism delivered by an autumn sunrise; good food that warms from the inside and stories made and told. Whether cabin, bivy or tent, hunting camp is as much a place as it is an experience.

For months, hunters across the state have been gearing up, literally and metaphorically, for the beginning of the Montana hunting season, of which an integral part of prep is setting up camp.

Often beginning in the summer and stretching through the month of September, backcountry outfitters take strings of mules, or pack trains, into the mountains to U.S. Forest Service permitted areas, loaded up with gear. One string of mules, each carrying in the range of 120 pounds, might bring in the motherlode of wall tents, chairs, pot-belly



Mules carry a load of gear into a backcountry hunting camp.



A wall tent, erected with wooden poles or an aluminum frame, is a common basecamp for hunting thanks to their large size and ability to house a wood stove. PHOTOS BY RYAN CASTLE

stoves, bedding and cots. On another trip, the mules might bring in certified weed-free hay, and in the final days the stock carry in people, food and gear to a camp reminiscent of those of the old West.

Others are perhaps eager for the stealth and challenge of the September bow season or are prepared for the rugged mountain climbs requisite in the pursuit of bighorn sheep and mountain goats. Still others anxiously await the opening of the backcountry general rifle deer and elk season on Sept. 15 in select wilderness districts. In many cases, these hunters bring what they need on their backs, and they accept the knowledge that, if successful, they’ll be making several trips to haul out that bull, which has a field-dressed weight of approximately 400 pounds.

The hunting camp oft becomes a primal homestead for the hunter; a place to return to during a season, over the years, and throughout a lifetime—literally and in memory. It’s where laughs are exchanged around humble fare, a place of comfort and sleep, and the spot where the sun sets to the purest of starry skies.

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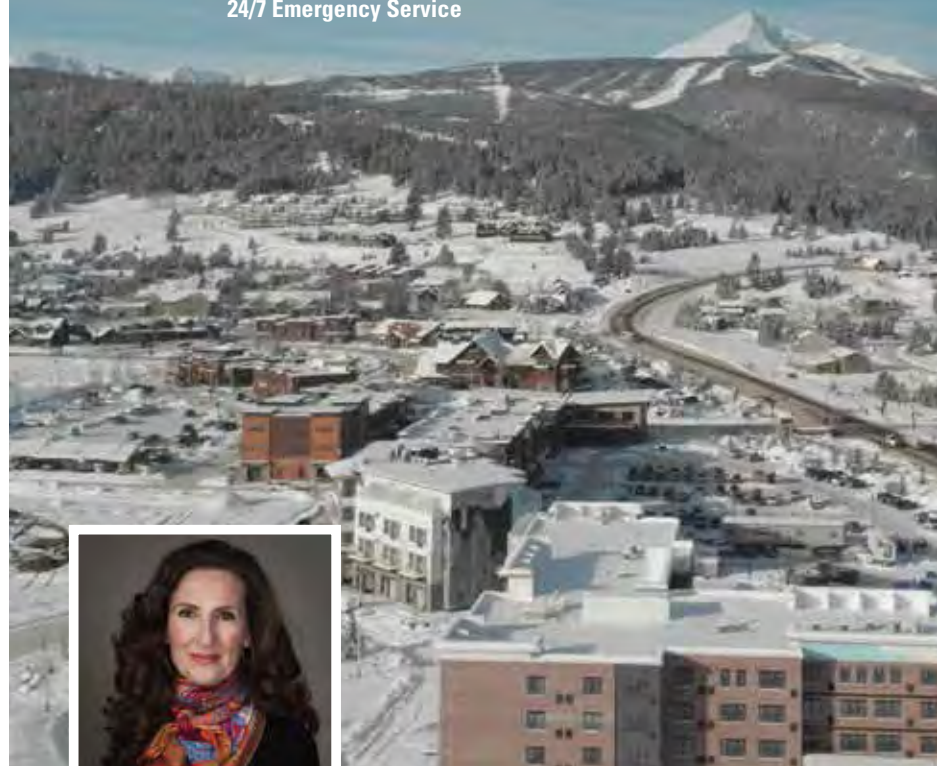

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Q&A with TV producer and hunter Janis Putelis

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BOZEMAN – For Janis Putelis, producer for the Netflix TV show “MeatEater” starring Steven Rinella, the outdoors is a place of experience. It’s where he forms deep bonds with his comrades, and it provides the backdrop for learning.

Gun in hand, Putelis is a sportsman who enjoys the quiet pursuit of squirrels in the wood though he’s also worked as a fly-fishing and elk hunting guide. He grew up hunting for his own meat and advocates this as a professional through his work with “MeatEater” and through “Hunt to Eat,” the clothing line he and his brother started.

EBS recently spoke with the Bozeman-based producer about his work and his passion, which both center on the concept of harvesting his own game. Here’s what he had to say.

Explore Big Sky: *You were raised in a hunting family in southwest Michigan and have built a career on the sportsman lifestyle, working in the industry and serving as a founding member of the Rocky Mountain Squirrel Hunting Foundation. Why do you hunt?*

Janis Putelis: I hunt because it makes me happy. The mental and physical challenge combined with deep immersion into nature makes for a perfect cocktail that clears my mind, strengthens my body, enriches my soul and humbles my ego.

EBS: *It looks like informed dialogue is an important aspect of the “MeatEater” mission. Can you speak to the role education plays in being an ethical hunter?*

JP: An educated hunter is a more ethical hunter. It can be as simple as knowing the anatomy of the animal you’re trying to kill ... In the end, education is most important to me because it makes me a better, more articulate advocate for what I believe in: nature, and the ability to enjoy it through hunting.

EBS: *Your team has traveled across the nation pursuing a wide variety of prey and demonstrating ways to process and cook it. Why do you emphasize procuring your own food?*

JP: The inclusion of procurement has largely been missing from hunting media since the beginning ... But for the most part, American hunters have been happily butchering and eating their wild game for hundreds of years. Steve and I both grew up doing it, so we decided to include it in our content and that has struck a chord with our audience.

EBS: *What inspires your culinary interests and how do you come up with game recipes?*

JP: I’m the father of two girls, 5 and 8 years old. That makes me a busy cook with a lack of time for developing new recipes. I now mainly fall back on recipes I’ve been making for most of my adult life ... If I do try something completely new, it’s because I saw a recipe or dish, made with domestic meat, at a restaurant or on Instagram, and I try it at home with wild game, making a few tweaks to account for the lack of fat in wild game.

EBS: *In your opinion, what role does hunting play in conservation? How does conservation inform hunting?*

JP: Hunting funds most of the conservation work done in our country ... Conservation influences hunting by providing the parameters which define what can and cannot be hunted [and] how much of each can be hunted. If a species is in low numbers or decline, then hunters stop hunting it and do what is needed to reverse the direction. And it’s important to remember that what a duck hunter does for ducks also helps the marsh and everything that lives in the marsh; what the elk hunter does for elk also helps the mountains and everything that lives in them. Hunting and conservation are extremely intertwined.

EBS: *As the producer of “MeatEater,” how do you work to bring together hunters and non-hunters? Why is this important?*

JP: “MeatEater,” in large part due to Steve Rinella’s incredible ability to communicate as a host, is such a powerful tool. Hunters watch it, become



Bozeman resident Janis Putelis, the producer of the television series MeatEater, enjoys hunting for all its challenges and the unique opportunity to fully immerse into nature. PHOTO COURTESY OF MEATEATER

informed and proud of their lifestyle; non-hunters watch it and become informed as well, but instead of feeling proud they might feel more at ease with hunting and possibly become supporters—if not participants—of the lifestyle. With both groups more informed, we can have a dialogue about what’s important to both groups, which should be protecting what nature we have left.

Also, non-hunters greatly outnumber hunters. If hunters want to keep hunting available to the next generation, non-hunters have to be not just OK with hunting, but supporters of it. Otherwise, the next anti-hunting ballot initiative is passed and hunting disappears one method at a time.

EBS: *Areas like Bozeman are experiencing unprecedented growth and a booming outdoor recreation industry. How do you think we can mitigate negative impacts on the environment from outdoor recreation? Where does hunting play into this?*

JP: We will have to police ourselves. As the populations of these outdoor recreation paradises grow and the recreationists hammer the trails and rivers, limited use is the only way I see all this continuing to work. The animals and landscapes simply can’t take the pressure that so many humans can apply. We are loving it to death. It’s a ways off, but I see popular rivers like the Yellowstone and popular hikes like those in Hyalite Canyon becoming limited entry where you’ll have to draw permits to float and hike those places. The demand will outweigh the ability of those places and the animals that live within them to buck our constant presence. Nature is resilient, but it is not indestructible.

Hunters already do this and are used to limiting themselves. We apply for limited-entry hunts that we may never draw, essentially, giving money to help those species we dream of hunting stay on the landscape. We only shoot one elk when a herd of twenty might be standing in front of us. By doing this, hunters have sustained and grown game populations and opportunities. Hunters will have to be advocates for limited-entry recreation when the time comes.

PHOTO DOUG LONEMAN

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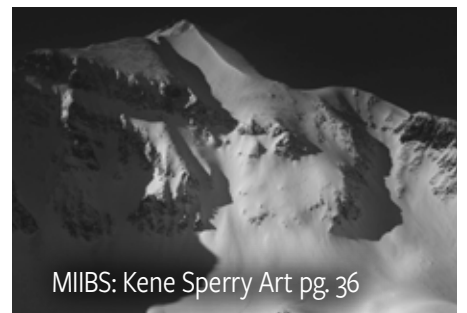
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SECTION 3: SPORTS, BUSINESS, HEALTH & FUN



Another successful AJGA tournament

MARK WEHRMAN
EBS GOLF COLUMNIST

The Big Sky Golf Course once again hosted a highly successful American Junior Golf Association tournament over Labor Day weekend, the gold standard in junior golf nationwide. The week started with 95 players trying to qualify for the last 11 spots in the field, with eight boys and three girls spots up for grabs.

Roughly 25 of those players were already exempt in the field but still played in the qualifier to boost their tour status, which helps get them into more events nationally throughout the year. Once the field was set, there were a total of 78 players, 54 boys and 24 girls, competing for world ranking points and college scholarships.

The AJGA Big Sky event is a win for more than just the players competing, it is also a win for the community of Big Sky. The players and their accompanying families stay for multiple nights in hotels, Airbnb rentals, VRBOs, eat in our local restaurants, shop at the retail stores in town, whitewater raft, visit Yellowstone National Park, zip line, etc. Most of these people have not been to Big Sky previously and are not a part of the ski community that seems to be the epicenter of most of what goes on in Big Sky. To put it bluntly, this tournament is putting Big Sky on the map in a whole different way than what we are used to.

Personally, I have never had so much fun working long hours, showing up before sunup and leaving after sundown. This event features 80 of the best junior golfers in the world. If you have never been to a professional golf tournament in person, the quality of play is very similar. The tournament was contested Saturday through Monday in a 54 hole stroke play format.

In the girls division, Charlotte Hillary, last year's second place finisher, took home the trophy with a three-day combined score of 13-under-par, 203—pretty impressive to say the least. Charlotte is already committed to Northwestern University in the Chicago area for next fall. In the boys division, Ben Lorenz out of Peoria, Arizona, earned the first place trophy with a three-round combined score of 8-under-par, 208. Watching the final groups finish their round on Monday was very exciting with multiple players tied for the lead with only two holes left to play. Lorenz was able to finish the tough holes 17 and 18 with pars on both to secure the win.

What was equally impressive was the way the boys who were tied for the lead coming down the stretch and lost handled themselves after the round. William Huang, playing out of Exeter, New Hampshire, and finishing fourth, was one young man whose composure really stood out. William, tied for the lead with two holes to play, finished with two bogeys sealing his fate as the fourth place finisher.

Immediately, after the completion of the tournament, and his round, William sought me out in the parking lot to thank me for hosting this event and tell me how much he enjoyed our course and coming to Big Sky in general. He was not sulking, pouting in the parking lot or wishing others to feel sorry for him; he was smiling and shook my hand, looked me in the eye and thanked me for the chance to compete in Big Sky. These young



For the second year in a row, the Big Sky Golf Course hosted an American Junior Golf Association event over Labor Day weekend featuring some of the best junior golfers in the world. PHOTO BY MARK WEHRMAN

men and women competing are not only extremely talented golfers, but mature and respectful individuals that have the brightest of futures ahead of them. Most of this is due to the way they were raised by their parents, but a lot of it has to do with their association with the game of golf.

I fully expect the AJGA tournament, due to its popularity with players and parents, to be a yearly staple over Labor Day weekend. The one piece of the puzzle that is still in need to ensure the long term success for this event is a title sponsor. The AJGA is actively looking for \$30k, which could come from one person or business or from multiple different individuals or businesses.

The American Junior Golf Association is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. In order for them to bring staff, interns, supplies and travel expenses associated with running the tournament they will eventually need to secure a sponsor or sponsors. This is where I ask for your help. If you know of anyone or any business, foundation or organization that would be interested in sponsoring this great event, please contact me at the golf course.

Lastly, this tournament would also not be a success if it wasn't for the generous time donation of the dozen or so volunteers that came out each day of the event. I would like to personally thank those individuals, you know who you are, for your time. I hope you enjoyed watching golf be played at such a high level by so many talented young men and women. To you, the players, AJGA staff and of course the staff at Big Sky Resort Golf Course, I say "Thank you!" I am already looking forward to next year's event.

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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Homecoming Events Schedule

Monday, Sept. 16

Meme Day

2:45 p.m.: Powderpuff Football and Co-ed Soccer

Tuesday, Sept. 17

Twins Day

2:45 p.m.: Macho Volleyball

Wednesday, Sept. 18

Cowboy/Cowgirl Day

2:45 p.m.: K-12 Pep Assembly - LPHS Gym

Thursday, Sept. 19

Blue/White Day

LPHS Volleyball vs. Sheridan Homecoming Game

Junior Varsity @ 4 p.m. and Varsity @ 5:30 p.m.

Location - Bough-Dolan Gym

Friday, Sept. 20

White Out

LPHS Football vs. Park City Homecoming Game

Junior Varsity @ 4 p.m. and Varsity @ 7 p.m.

Location - Big Sky School District Field

Friday, Sept. 27

Homecoming: Disco

Time- 8-10:30 p.m.

Location - WMPAC Lunch Room

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Introducing the 2019-20 LPHS Varsity Football team: (top row, left to right) Isiah Holst, Bennett Miller, Cody McVey, Nick Wade, Kole Maus, Chaz Paduano, Aiden Miller (bottom row, left to right) Frankie Starz, Isaac Singer, Pierce Farr, Austin Samuels, Jacob Bryant, Hunter Strauss, Ryker Potter (not pictured Greg Miller and Jarrett Blackburn) PHOTOS BY DOUG HARE

Lone Peak High School 2019-2020 Varsity Football Schedule

Sat. Sept 14 Home vs. St. Labre 1:00 p.m.
 Fri. Sept 20 Homecoming vs. Park City 7 p.m.
 Sat. Sept 27 BYE Week
 Fri. Oct. 4 Away @ Absarokee 7 p.m.
 Sat. Oct. 12 Home vs. Ennis 4 p.m.
 Fri. Oct. 18 Away vs. Twin Bridges 7 p.m.
 Sat. Oct 26 Home vs. West Yellowstone (Senior Night) 7 p.m.

Nov. 1-2 Playoffs Begin - TBD
 Nov 22-23 State Championship Games - TBD



Now in his third season as head coach of the LPHS varsity football program, Adam Farr is looking forward to another football season, despite losing against the Simms Tiger and the Joliet J-Hawks in their first two contests. Farr said the first two games of the season were highly competitive, and despite getting beat on some long passes, the Big Horns were able to stop the run effectively

With seven seniors as well as several underclassmen starting, the team has an interesting mix of experience and youth. "It's great that freshmen and sophomores are getting playing time and starting in some cases. That bodes well for the future," Farr said.

The team is bolstered by quarterback Frankie Starz and wide receiver Austin Samuels, a dynamic duo who can stretch the field and make plays under pressure. Farr says that despite being low on numbers and undersized, the team will be competitive in every game this year.

"Park City is a tough draw for our Homecoming game because they are so competitive, but our guys are always up for a challenge," Farr added.



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Introducing the 2019-20 LPHS Varsity Volleyball squad: (top row, left to right) Brooke Meredith, Emery Miller, Reilly Germain, Dounia Metje, Hannah Dreisbach, Ivy Hicks (bottom row, left to right) TJ Nordahl, Madi Rager, Chloe Hammond, Ruth Blodgett, Grace Redmon
PHOTOS BY DOUG HARE

Lone Peak High School 2019-2020 Volleyball Schedule

- Fri. Sept. 13 Away @ Gardiner - 5:30 p.m.
- Sat. Sept. 14 Home vs. Whitehall - 5:30 p.m.
- Thurs. Sept. 19 Home vs. Sheridan - 5:30 p.m.
- Fri. Sept. 20 Home vs. West Yellowstone - 5:30 p.m.
- Sat. Sept. 28 Home vs. Shields Valley 5:30 p.m.
- Fri. Oct. 4 Away @ White Sulphur Springs - 5:30 p.m.
- Fri. Oct. 5 Away @ Manhattan Christian Invitational (Varsity) - TBD
- Tues. Oct. 8 Home vs. Gardiner 5:00 PM / 6:30 p.m.
- Fri. Oct. 11 Away @ Manhattan Christian - 6:30 p.m.
- Fri. Oct. 18 Away @ Twin Bridges - 6:30 p.m.
- Tues. Oct. 22 Away @ Three Forks - 5:30 p.m.
- Fri. Oct. 25 Home vs. White Sulphur Springs - 6:30 p.m.
- Sat. Oct. 26 Away @ West Yellowstone - 6:30 p.m.

- Oct 31-Nov. 2 District Tournament TBD
- Nov 7-9 Divisional Tournament TBD
- Nov 14-16 State Tournament @ MSU Bozeman TBD



Now in her third season as head coach of the LPHS varsity volleyball team, Missy Botha is optimistic about the team's prospects this season, including making it through districts to the divisional tournament at the end of the year.

The Lady Big Horns started their season off in style by winning the sixth annual Battle in Big Sky Volleyball Invitational—for the sixth time. Although they

dropped their first game of the season against Manhattan Christian, Botha is confident in her team being able to rebound from the loss.

“We have two great leaders in our captains senior Dounia Metje and junior Chloe Hammond. Dounia is our power-mid and she leads by example. If she is playing well, so will the rest of our team,” said Botha. “Chloe is our talented libero that can make so many important digs for us. Her love for the game of volleyball is contagious.”

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Making it in Big Sky: Kene Sperry Art



A black and white photograph that captures the immensity and grandiosity of the Moonlight Basin terrain at Big Sky Resort PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY

Longtime local photographer Kene Sperry got his bachelor's degree from Washington State University in business entrepreneurship and photography. After graduating, he moved to Big Sky in 2000 to start his career shortly after that.

Sperry, one of the more recognizable names among Big Sky's many talented photographers, also returned to the Rocky Mountain School of Photography to study digital photography. The talented artist sat down with Explore Big Sky to discuss his craft, artistry and the place he calls home.

Explore Big Sky: *What initially drew you to photography?*

Kene Sperry: I was always drawn to the light and had a perspective that seemed to give me an infinite feeling of love.

EBS: *What is unique about your industry/trade that people might not expect?*

K.S.: We've become desensitized to the point that we don't even move into what moves us emotionally.

EBS: *Other than Big Sky, what are some of your favorite places to shoot?*

K.S.: My heart and soul live in southwest Montana but my favorite spot I ever photographed is India where 15 years ago my whole view of light, time and space changed forever. That is when the endless sense of wonder really kicked in with me in the medium of photography.

EBS: *You have amazing shots of mountains. What is unique about capturing the topography of southwest Montana?*

K.S.: Southwest Montana completely blows my mind with how special and unique the topography is. The light and space seem to have an infinite level of perspective. This place is a vortex and that is why people are moving here.

EBS: *What are the biggest misconceptions about taking professional photographs that the general public has?*

K.S.: That capturing a beautiful, dynamic and emotional responsive image is easy. Once you know the mechanics of the camera and basic rules of photography then I believe you have to work very hard in self awareness and mindfulness to create your own unique vision and perspective.

EBS: *From a business perspective, how have you seen Big Sky change in the last two decades, for better or worse?*

K.S.: All of the art collectors that have moved or have places in Big Sky have brought an abundance to all of the artists in this town and around Montana. The art market is huge in Big Sky right now. I love Big Sky and like to stay optimistic that the future will be bright. Remember that we are all just visitors here—nobody truly owns this place and you take none of it with you when you die. So accept what is and continue to add value to wherever you live for the short fleeting time we share on this planet. It is all a gift.

EBS: *If you weren't a photographer by trade, what other field could you see yourself in?*

K.S.: There is no other profession I would see myself doing, so I suppose I would just be a ski bum, thus I am grateful for my eye and open heart to capture life through a lens.

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

K.S.: The spring offseason when we took a helicopter up to ski and photograph the Headwaters and North Summit Snowfield. All of the stars aligned and I captured an image that had been in my mind for over ten years that truly expresses the grandiosity of this place in one image.

EBS: *What advice would you give someone who was just starting to explore photography as more than a hobby?*

K.S.: I think it is fantastic that so many people are interested in photography and the visual arts. Photography has never been more important as a profession because everyone and every business is trying to get your attention and there is no better way than the still photograph. It is true that a photograph is worth a thousand words. Your work will shine powerfully when you simply keep your heart open, free your mind and keep your soul connected to all that is divine. Love, attention and understanding are all things we crave. Shoot that.

EBS: *What's the best piece of advice you've received about the art of photography? Did you have a mentor?*

K.S.: It is not about the machines. It is 100 percent all about how hard you are going to work at the craft and how to continue to see more deeply. What you are truly dealing with ... is what is inside of you. That is what makes your work. That is why photography is not easy because you have to study yourself to find your vision. You have to put yourself in the photographs. What photography is is studying yourself.

Be mindful and self-aware. Just spend time seeing with and without camera. Focus, relax and commit. Walk around in wonder. You have to study the craft as almost an obsession. Slow down and be intentional. Just be a good photographer—focused on the art, failing a lot knowing that that is part of it. The journey is the prize. You will never stop failing, once you know this you can relax into it.

One of the more influential persons in this field is a friend, colleague and my master curator/editor Ryan Day Thompson who I met at Rocky Mountain School of Photography in 2003. His careful attention to the depth of my work with his keen eye has been a perfect complement to who I am.

The time I am most connected without ego is when I am focused on the light and not following rules and just following my heart. I ask myself, "What am I trying to evoke with this photograph/moment?". The most whole I am as a photographer is when I am deeply connected to my subject matter whether that is a landscape or a person I feel that deep authentic connection of presence.

EBS: *Where do you see yourself in 10 years?*

K.S.: I see myself as continuing to be humble with an endless capacity to learn and grow. I see myself as one of the more influential photographers in this modern day. I want my work to continue to lean into the discovery of myself and the vulnerability of shining my light as bright as I came into this world. I envision moving back and forth with capturing the light from natural landscapes of this planet to the infinite light of the human soul.

I believe the only thing to do here in this existence is to hold space for yourself and then hold that space for others. That is the best value you can bring this world. This quote really resonates with me as a photographer: "Nothing is ever the same twice because everything is always gone forever, and yet each moment has infinite photographic possibilities." -Michael Kenna

Check out Sperry's work at www.kenesperryart.com and www.instagram/kenesperry.

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Life 101

What is going right in your life?



BY LINDA ARNOLD
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

If you can't see your glass as half full most of the time, it's not your fault. Our brains are wired to prepare us for dangerous situations. We often go to the list of "what ifs," causing our glasses to diminish.

Blame it on our throwback response to the saber-toothed tiger dangers of yesteryear. Our fight-or-flight responses release the hormone cortisol into our systems to deal with these "emergencies." And that can cause stress.

When you catch yourself going into a negative spiral, take note. You can change your thoughts, since you no longer need to be afraid of the lions, tigers and bears. Oh, my!

Our minds love questions, and they go in search of answers. The problem is we often ask questions out of fear and these questions have no real answers. So, the mind keeps searching and searching, swirling around in circles.

As I write this, I'm at Ocean Isle, North Carolina, on hurricane watch. By the time this column is published, we'll know the outcome of Hurricane Dorian. Right now, though, we're living in the "cone of uncertainty."

I really have no control over this situation, and have to live with ambiguity. As a planner and organizer—with a tad of control mixed in there—this is not my strong suit. While it's tempting to watch "The Weather Channel" or check online updates incessantly, that can be detrimental. I need enough information to be prepared, yet not so much that anxiety sets in.

So I wait.

What a great time to switch my focus to what is going right. You may want to try this handy exercise, too. Just keep asking your mind these questions:

What is going right in my life?

What else is going right?

And what else is right?

Since the mind loves questions and likes to provide answers, it will keep searching and searching, coming up with more things that are going right. This becomes easier with practice.

Gratitude can be a powerful antidote to worry, stress and anxiety. If gratitude journals haven't worked for you, this might be a good approach. It lets your mind do the work for you. Our minds also like to think in pictures, so the more you can visualize those things that are going right, the better.

My niece, Caity, has a wonderful way of shedding light on life lessons with her sons. She came up with the term "PIP it," as a shorthand way of saying "put it into perspective."

Consider these real-life scenarios, as shared by life coaches Marc and Angel Chernoff, from participants in their workshops. Talk about PIP-ing it!

"On my nursing shift at the hospital, I was forced into a moment of clarity when I got off my phone, utterly flustered after having an argument with my husband. An 8-year-old patient who's dying of leukemia asked me if I was OK."

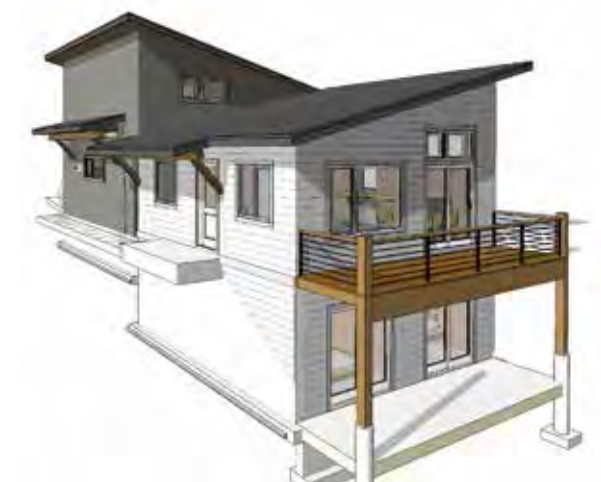
"Today is the 10-year anniversary of the day I had planned on ending my life. It's also the 10-year anniversary of the day I found out I was pregnant with my now 9-year-old son. He's the reason I changed my mind. And he is so worth it. Perhaps most important, I now realize I'm worth it, too."

So, what is going right in your life?

Linda Arnold, M.A., M.B.A., is a syndicated columnist, psychological counselor and founder of a multistate marketing company. Reader comments are welcome at linda@lindaarnold.org or visit lindaarnold.org for more information on her books.



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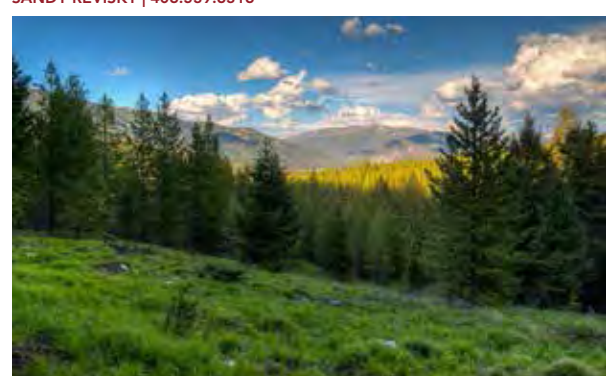
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American Life in Poetry: Column 754

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. POET LAUREATE

We reprint poems by living Americans, about American life, but sometimes we need to remind ourselves of the many beautiful and moving poems written by American poets no longer with us. Robert Francis has been gone for thirty years but I turn to his poems again and again. Here's a favorite of mine from his *Collected Poems: 1936-1976* from University of Massachusetts Press.

The Sound I Listened For

By Robert Francis

What I remember is the ebb and flow of sound
That summer morning as the mower came and went
And came again, crescendo and diminuendo,
And always when the sound was loudest how it ceased
A moment while he backed the horses for the turn,
The rapid clatter giving place to the slow click
And the mower's voice. That was the sound I listened for,
The voice did what the horses did. It shared the action
As sympathetic magic does or incantation.
The voice hauled and the horses hauled. The strength of one
Was in the other and in the strength was impatience.
Over and over as the mower made his rounds
I heard his voice and only once or twice he backed
And turned and went ahead and spoke no word at all.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Driving while intoxicated (abbr.)</p> <p>4 Rodent</p> <p>7 Curve</p> <p>10 Principal</p> <p>11 Raw mineral</p> <p>12 Accountant (abbr.)</p> <p>14 Pimento</p> <p>16 Asian desert</p> <p>17 Drone</p> <p>18 Hindu prayer position</p> <p>20 Kimono sash</p> <p>21 Landed</p> <p>22 Javanese carriage</p> <p>24 Small woodpecker</p> <p>28 Simple organism</p> <p>31 Maple genus</p> <p>32 Tenth of a sen</p> <p>34 Ancient church platform</p> <p>35 Lead-tin alloy</p>	<p>37 Cue (2 words)</p> <p>39 Mine entrance</p> <p>41 Small (Scot.)</p> <p>42 Shak. contraction</p> <p>44 Ger. spa</p> <p>46 Yorkshire river</p> <p>49 Asian weight</p> <p>51 Think</p> <p>53 Actual being</p> <p>54 Greek letter</p> <p>55 Locality</p> <p>56 Hyson</p> <p>57 Quaker pronoun</p> <p>58 Television channel</p>	<p>ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE</p> <p>HOMO PAC CAAM AMAS EDE ANCE HEAT NER RODA SIMEON IMPACT ABANA NAE CHOLINE OTHER WEI TEC ALI MULTI CHECHIA UND AGA CHARGE POMMEL REAR BAA LAVE AARE ABT ECON BLET RBI THEA</p>
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<p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Printer's direction</p> <p>2 Grain</p> <p>3 Legal proof</p> <p>4 Riot</p> <p>5 Ecclesiastic box</p> <p>6 Adolescence</p> <p>7 Sup</p>	<p>8 Sailboat</p> <p>9 Wound crust</p> <p>10 Habakkuk (abbr.)</p> <p>13 Three (pref.)</p> <p>15 Container</p> <p>19 Air-to-air missile (abbr.)</p> <p>21 Ghastly</p>	<p>23 Old Sp. gold coin</p> <p>24 Lumberman's boot</p> <p>25 Amazon tributary</p> <p>26 Rayon</p> <p>27 Gratuity</p> <p>29 Love (Lat.)</p> <p>30 Arabic letter</p> <p>33 Posy</p> <p>36 Bird's beak</p> <p>38 Everywhere (pref.)</p> <p>40 Silence: music</p> <p>42 Summer (Fr.)</p> <p>43 Asia</p> <p>45 Old-style verb</p> <p>46 Deserve</p> <p>47 Machine gun</p> <p>48 Cyclades island</p> <p>50 Pasture</p> <p>52 Tactical Air Command (abbr.)</p>
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A104

“A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices.”

—William James,
American Philosopher
and Psychologist

BIG SKY BEATS

“Highwomen” - The Highwomen

In the 1980s, Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings and Kris Kristofferson formed a country supergroup called The Highwaymen. In an ode to their predecessors, four female country stars—Brandi Carlile, Maren Morris, Amanda Shires and Natalie Hemby—are hitting the road as The Highwomen, a reinterpretation of the ‘80s supergroup. Their self-titled song is hauntingly original and strangely reminiscent of their male counterparts of days past.

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SECTION 4: ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & DINING



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Reel Review: 'Her Smell' pg. 46



Summer Shutters winners pg. 51

Pine Creek Lodge and authentic dedication to music

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

LIVINGSTON – There was a time when music, at least that of the mainstream, meant more than appealing to the consumer and mighty dollar.

Albeit, perhaps the very term “mainstream” and the business of music are, by nature, never mutually exclusive, but I can’t say for certain as I was never alive for that purist era, and few generations living today can claim that they were.

Even artists as far back as 1969’s Woodstock, like folk and rock ‘n’ roll legend Neil Young, protested the presence of cameras, even refusing to be captured on one at the groundbreaking musical event. His performance was for those in the audience, no one else—you were there or you weren’t, it was that simple for Young.

But even then, in the nascent stages of live, standing-room-only-performance as we know them today, the business of music invaded that sanctity.

Fortunately, enclaves exist where that intimate relationship between audience and artist is still respected. In places like Livingston’s Pine Creek Lodge, an ethos, that of Young and his contemporaries, lives on. This was particularly evident on Sept. 6, when Bozeman’s Kitchen Dwellers played an entirely acoustic set to the light of headlamps and smartphone flashlights.

Pine Creek Lodge, best-case scenario, is a charming Montana hospice that doubles as a one-of-a-kind venue, with a village-of-sorts layout: wooden footbridges weave over a babbling brook between various food and drink stands, restaurants, a humble wooden stage and refurbished shipping containers that serve as chic hotel rooms, all under a webbing of string lights—the hallmark sign of good times to be had outdoors.

But, on Sept. 6, it was worst-case scenario—the power was completely knocked out—which paradoxically revealed the sturdy constitution of every player present, from the caliber of musician to the type of audience Pine Creek Lodge attracts.

Minutes before the band took the stage, the lights flickered momentarily, which many took as a signal the show was soon to begin. Only, they never turned back on; Pine Creek Lodge was suddenly and without warning devoid of its signature, pink and green marquee directing foot traffic to the entrance and the string lights that connect the venue’s various enclaves and offerings.

At the outdoor bar, pasted over with posters from past acts like Trout Steak Revival, Blitz Trapper and Big Sky favorite Pinky and The Floyd, patrons used lighters, lit-cigarettes and headlamps to help aid the bartender in keeping the kegs flowing.

Other concertgoers, drenched from sporadic rainfall, stomped through the growing layer of mud in the darkness, with those in flip-flops and Chacos humorously lamenting their plight.

“It’s funny, we probably had 500 people there that night, and we had one person ask for a refund,” said Chip Hurt, owner of the lodge. “At one point I was talking to somebody, and they said, ‘This is amazing, nobody here even cares that the lights aren’t turning back on.’”

Hurt was originally concerned, but then reminded himself of what he’s



Lit up: Bozeman’s the Kitchen Dwellers shredding acoustic to headlamp and smartphone lighting. PHOTO COURTESY OF PINE CREEK LODGE

helped to build over four years of booking music for the venue.

“I was stressed for a second and that’s not really the vibe of Pine Creek Lodge. Let’s roll with the punches. This is like hanging out at your friend’s yard, let’s continue to show people that.”

And without a hitch, the four-man psychedelic bluegrass fusion group, consisting of a banjo, guitar, standup bass and mandolin, began to play an acoustic set for a crowd that was virtually unfazed, jiggling and two-stepping to the music all the same.

Is Pine Creek Lodge’s band shell equipped for such a performance? No, the acoustics were not ideal, but the crowd managed to stifle conversations and noise, save for some appropriately timed hooting and hollering after a deserving solo or riff, to allow the artists to thrive in their unexpectedly unfavorable conditions.

And whether part of a predetermined set list or cleverly chosen on the spot to match the events of the evening, the band launched into a cover of the Grateful Dead’s “New Speedway Boogie,” with a fitting chorus of “One way or another, this darkness got to give.”

The crowd sang along with every word.

At one point, frontman, vocalist and banjo player Torrin Daniels announced, “If you’re here tonight, you clearly give a [expletive] about us, and I really appreciate that.”

If there was ever a statement that aligns with the original intent of music, it was that, and the bond between artist and audience secured. There was no sea of filming smartphones to crane necks around, no hollow, viral and choreographed dance moves to know, and not a bad attitude in sight despite the setback.

There was only music, and Pine Creek Lodge was the venue—you just had to be there.

Visit pinecreeklodgemontana.com to view upcoming events.

Young artists foster new approach to the art gallery

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BOZEMAN – Sam Jenkins and Nick Tenney, 21 and 23 years old, respectively, are shaking things up in the Bozeman art scene.

Jenkins, an actively enrolled student at Montana State University, and Tenney, a 2018 MSU grad, are precocious, to say the least, a fact backed by their shared project: The Artery Collective.

It's fitting that The Artery Collective, a mixed-use space that serves as a gallery, rentable studio and workshop, be located at 48 Intrepid Drive, roughly 5 miles west of downtown Bozeman, as the two young founders are indeed undaunted.

In an industry dominated by those who are more seasoned, two individuals with a combined age of 44 owning a gallery is pretty atypical. And by providing artists of all backgrounds and talents a space for representation and creative growth, Jenkins and Tenney take a break from the well-established world of art galleries that tend to favor “discovered” artists with standing accolades and followings. They also provide an avenue for employment through a novel creative agency model, connecting artists with fielded gigs appropriate to their talents.

“A big motivation for this project is bridging the gap in the art world, that high-end traditional vibe you see on Main Street. For a lot of artists, it's very unattainable,” Tenney said. “Going through art school, a lot of artists told us you have to wait to be ‘discovered’ ... it's not something you can try for and have and be fruitful, you just get lucky with it.”

In a field as subjective as art, that breakthrough moment can at times feel nebulous and contrived, so Jenkins and Tenney founded The Artery Collective over a year and a half ago to function as a bastion of change in the Bozeman scene, giving artists, particularly young ones, opportunity.

“It's not a priority of ours to only represent people of that [young] age, but it's just worked out that way so far ... and it's something we care about,” Tenney said.



The exterior of The Artery Collective on the evening of their inaugural gallery showing in May of this year.



Artists Sara Saxton (blue metal circle paintings) and Siri Devlin (paintings on the wooden partition) highlight the breadth of styles and mediums on display. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ARTERY COLLECTIVE

That's not to say the average age of the artists represented, which remains just under 30, dictates quality or pricing—break out the checkbook, several works in the gallery are worth thousands of dollars. Still, in true-to-form fashion, the founders did out with the traditional model of immediately attaching a price to specific piece, feeling this tarnished the experience.

“We took down our labels, leaving just the titles and bios ... We realized when we went to other galleries and analyzed our experiences, we'd look at the pieces, look at the price, and then back at the piece with that price attached to it,” Tenney said.

Instead, a price book is available should a patron contemplate a purchase after first appreciating the piece for the artistry involved.

According to Tenney, the gesture is not one of revolt but of creative uniqueness, feeding the idea The Artery Collective is a breathing, evolving piece of art in and of itself. “This project just sort of became our new piece, and we approached this like we've approached every other medium we've approached: How can we be original?”

It's not The Artery Collective's only stamp of originality; housed in a unit in the Rowland Live/Work Complex, The Artery Collective also doubles as a home for Jenkins and Tenney, who live in the structure's adjacent apartment component.

While rare in modern America, the premise of living in or connected to one's place of work extends back millennia; some might scoff at the idea, particularly when “work-life balance” is a mainstay buzzphrase in the modern professional arena, but the old adage “if you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life” rings true for the young men.

“We appreciate it so much each day, living in a neighborhood like this, one that's both residential and commercial,” Jenkins said.

The concept folds neatly into one of The Artery Collective's foremost pillars, that the space is dedicated to the community with a bent on togetherness.

“I really just want it to be known this is a community project ... Bozeman, still has a small town feel, and living in a place like Denver or visiting a place like Seattle, big cities, you realize everything is linked,” Jenkins said. “I’m not saying I want more people in Bozeman, but I do want to unify the subgroups of Bozeman. My goal is to unify and bring these people in to interact.”

Jenkins and Tenney were able to launch their initiative with the help of family, friends and members of the standing Bozeman art community, a reality they are grateful for, and Jenkins, whose father passed in 2014, feels part of his motivation is inherited from the entrepreneurial and businesslike spirit the man possessed; he’s proud of his ability to conceive an idea, get it off the ground and then run with it, knowing his father would be too.

On the professional side of the equation, one connection in particular, that with Amy Kirkland, founder of Bozeman’s Altitude Gallery, has provided a wealth of knowledge that only experience can render, serving as a mentor of sorts and sounding board for their endeavors.

“We got connected right before our first gallery show, and she gave us a lot of help and advice,” Tenney said. “She’s been doing it for over 20 years, so it’s a cool connection to have and it’s a good feeling to have that acknowledgment from her and the already established art gallery community.”

Their inaugural gallery showing in May attracted the attention of a wide swathe of artists, aficionados and community members of all ages; a good omen for those to come, and walking through the Artery Collective’s spaces, as that batch of guests did just five months ago, it’s easy for even the untrained eye to realize the founders are onto something.

Just what that is has yet to be determined, but with ambition and creativity like that possessed by the dynamic duo of Jenkins and Tenney, it’s hard to imagine anything but groundbreaking and lasting artistic impact on the city they call home.

The Artery Collective is open to the public for walk-ins every Sunday, Monday and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the rentable studio space is available Sunday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit artery-collective.com for more information.



Works from artists Cora Whisper (paintings), Eric Healy (photographs) and Matt Biascotti (ceramic pieces) on display at The Artery Collective.

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10:00-11:30am All Levels Yoga	12:00-1:00pm Community Yoga (All Levels) In Town Center Park	9:00-10:00am All Levels Yoga	9:00-10:15 Level II Yoga	9:00-10:00am All Levels Vinyasa Flow	12:00-1:00pm Heated Flow	
5:00-6:15pm Warm Yin/Restorative Yoga	5:45-7:00pm All Levels Yoga*	11:00-Noon All Levels Yoga	11:00-12:00pm All Levels Yoga	11:00-Noon All Levels Yoga		
		5:45-7:00pm Heated Flow	4:15-5:15pm Slow Flow Yoga*			

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BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, SEPT. 13 – THURSDAY, SEPT. 26

If your event falls between Sept. 27 and Oct. 10, please submit it by Oct. 2 by emailing media@outlaw.partners

FRIDAY, SEPT. 13

Mountainfilm on Tour
Friday Night Feature, “The Weight of Water”
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 6 p.m.

Live Music: The Peter King Trio
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 14

2nd Annual First Responder Seminar
Hilton Garden Inn, Bozeman, 8 a.m.

Gallatin Valley Farmer’s Market
Gallatin County Fairgrounds, Bozeman, 9 a.m.

Mountainfilm for Families Matinee
Presented by Women in Action
Lone Peak Cinema, 10:30 a.m.

Mountainfilm on Tour
Saturday Shorts
Lone Peak Cinema, 6 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 15

Inaugural Town to Trails Race
Big Sky Town Center, 10 a.m.

Mountainfilm on Tour
Free Films in The Park
Town Center Park, 6 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPT. 16

Haufbrau Open Mic Night
Haufbrau, Bozeman, 11 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 17

Bogert Farmer’s Market
Lindley Center, 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18

Lone Peak High School Homecoming Parade & Pep Rally
Big Sky Town Center, 6:30 p.m.

Science Inquiry Lecture
“Engineering New Materials for The Future”
Museum of The Rockies, Bozeman, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 19

LPHS Volleyball vs. Sheridan Homecoming Game
Bough Dolan Athletic Center, 4:00 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, SEPT. 20

LPHS Football vs. Park City Homecoming Game
Big Sky School District Football Field, 4:00 p.m.

Evening of Arts
Cattleman Gallery, Ennis, 5 p.m.

WORTH THE DRIVE



Bob Seger and The Silver Bullet Band in 1977. PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA.COM

Live Music: Bob Seger & The Silver Bullet Band

Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, Bozeman

Sept. 17

Born Robert Clark Seger in 1945, Bob Seger assembled the Silver Bullet Band with a group of Detroit-area musicians in 1973, achieving national-level success just three years later with the album “Live Bullet”—the first in a string of albums that received critical acclaim and international attention. With a roots rock ‘n’ roll sound and a soulful, hallmark voice that has transcended time and several generations, Seger has sold more than 75 million records worldwide, placing the New Rock City artist amongst the best-selling of all time. The 2004 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and 2012 Songwriters Hall of Fame Inductee will be performing at Bozeman’s Brick Breeden Fieldhouse on Sept. 17 as part of his farewell tour. Don’t miss the seven-times-Grammy-nominee for this historic performance.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21

Live Music: Granville Automatic
Live From The Divide, Bozeman, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 22

Live Music: Bridger Mountain Big Band
Eagles Bar, Bozeman, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPT. 23

Big Sky Resort
Summer Closing Day

TUESDAY, SEPT. 24

Bogert Farmer’s Market
Lindley Center, 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25

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

THURSDAY, SEPT. 26

Wine & Wildflowers
Gardens at Crail Ranch, 5 p.m.

“Namaste Ramila” Screening, Q&A
Best Western Plus GranTree Inn, Bozeman, 6 p.m.

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Hocked: Bozeman filmmakers to take on dark comedy in budget feature length film

BY SAMUEL ORAZEM
EBS EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

As Bozeman has grown, so too has the local film scene, and while many features and shorts produced by locals focus on life in Montana or the plethora of outdoor activities the region has to offer, Steve Drake of Single Six Media has chosen to tread a new path; his debut feature length production, "Hocked," is a dark comedy inspired by his family's experience as pawn-shop owners in Bozeman.



The "Hocked" title-art overlaying drone footage of a snow-covered Bozeman. PHOTO COURTESY OF SINGLE SIX MEDIA LLC.

"Hocked" tells the story of a struggling musician who comes into possession of, and promptly sells, a mysterious item to two pawn shop brokers. This implicates all three characters in a deal-gone-bad between dirty police officers and drug enforcers, and for the remainder of the film, the protagonists struggle to survive the wrath of enemies they accidentally made.

To form the backbone of the story, Drake drew directly from his own life—as a good piece of writing does.

"I was pretty much raised in a pawn shop and so I would hear all these crazy stories about odd items that would come in and even odder people, sometimes," Drake said. "With that background I was trying to think of something I could write that would be interesting and my mind would just keep going to that."

Drake cites Kevin Smith, the director of witty comedies like "Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back," as his most notable influence for the film. His goal was to write humor that was "real, everyday, two-guys sitting in a pawn-shop humor. It's not set-up jokes, it's real life." He also drew from Guy Ritchie's early films, like "Snatch" and "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels," which feature multiple subplots that ultimately converge at the climax, for inspiration on the film's plot progression.

"I love how somehow you have about sixteen characters, you like all of them and they weave through a mess of a movie before everything ultimately comes together," Drake said.

"Hocked" was produced on a budget of around \$1,000, an ultra-low budget that was only achievable because his video production company already had all the necessary equipment and the family pawn-shop provided a perfect set for the film at no cost, but Drake is convinced that this will not be apparent to viewer.

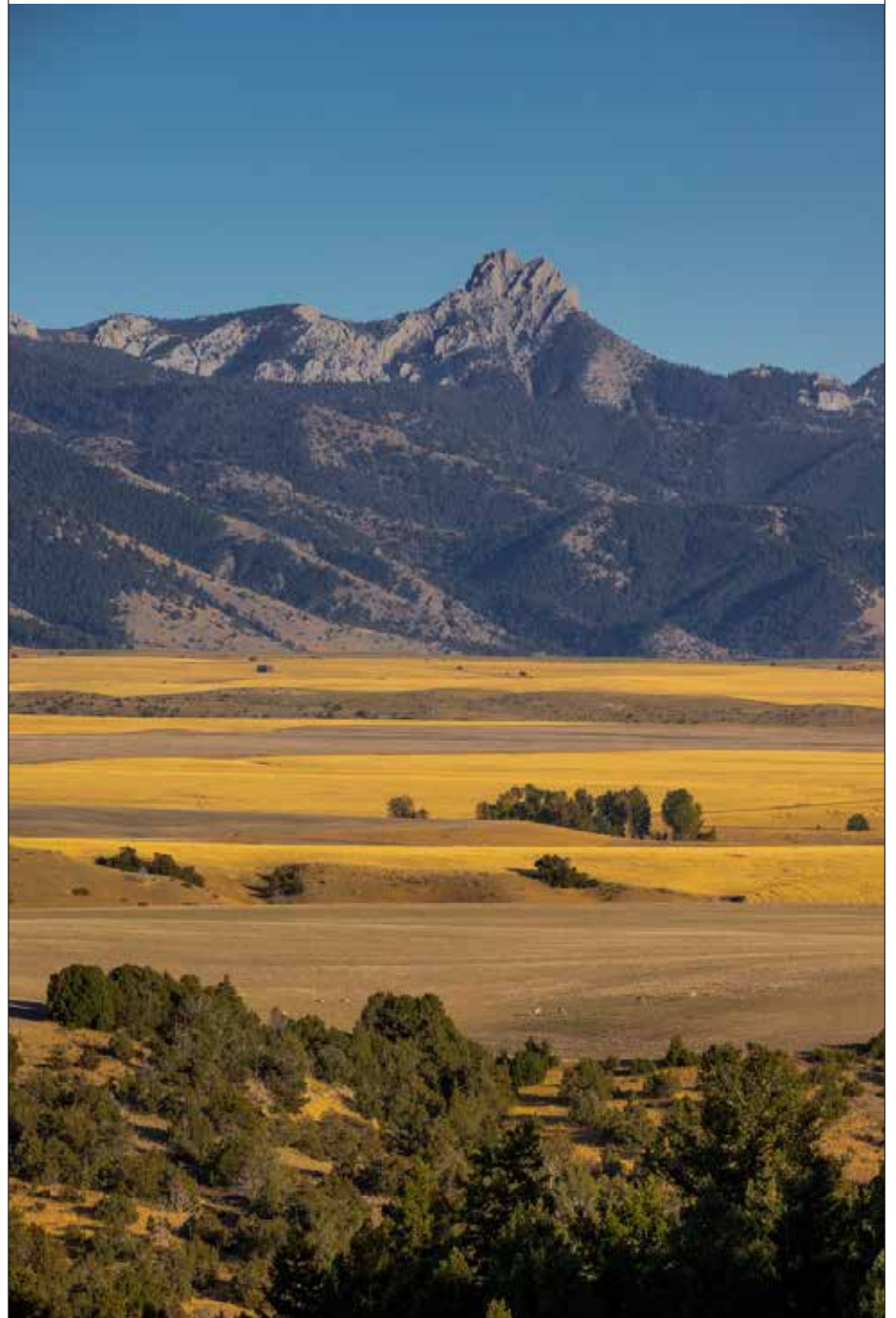
Just because Drake already had the perfect set did not mean that production went off without a hitch.

"I started writing the script early in December of last year and in the middle of December my step-dad and my mom told me they were going to shut it down in April ... I was only six pages into it [the script] at that point, but luckily it served as a kick in the butt to actually put this thing into motion. I think that was the biggest hurdle we could have ever faced"

"Hocked" is a passion project through and through, the product of a young filmmaker who aspires to contribute to the burgeoning indie film scene in Bozeman, clawing for space in the industry as every great household name director has done before him. With a tentative 2020 screening, be sure to keep an eye on developments less you miss this one-of-a-kind piece of local cinema history.

Visit www.hockedthemovie.com for updates on the theatrical screening.

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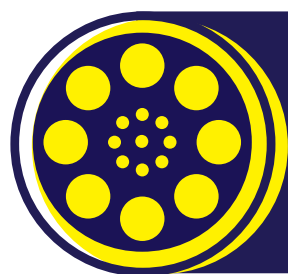
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REEL REVIEW

'Her Smell'



BY ANNA HUSTED
EBS FILM CRITIC

Alex Ross Perry's latest feature "Her Smell" is saturated with authorship and rock 'n' roll. Not only is protagonist rocker Becky Something (Elizabeth Moss) struggling with her own blended identity as a drug user, talented songwriter and lead singer of a successful rock group, but Perry's unique auteur hand is also shown throughout the film—particularly considering how "Her Smell" is shot in five long scenes, dragging the audience through the muck and mire of the artist's heartbreak, success and hitting rock bottom.

We meet drug-addled Something backstage just after a live performance where her shaman (of course there's a shaman) is helping her release the pain she appears to experience while on stage. We get to know her through flashbacks of the all-female band after they finished recording their first album, long before the three best friends found collective solace in cocaine and heroin. We find out in this first long opening sequence that Something has a baby girl she can't live without, but also can't stay sober long enough to raise. She is bitter at her baby's father (Dan Stevens) supposedly because he has married someone else, but it's actually because he has put his life back together leaving Something alone to endure the pain of her past.

In the following two parts, Becky Something continues to spiral out of control, failing to deliver the band's next album and losing her manager while being sued by her bandmates and having to watch young up-and-coming groups take her spotlight. She finally hits rock bottom in a recording studio, very much alone. For a brief moment the screen goes black and we're not certain if we will next see our protagonist in recovery or at her own funeral as she had previously bemoaned to her neglectful mother to have her "coffin arrive half an hour late and on the side written in gold letters: 'sorry for the delay.'" Thankfully, Perry gives us the former ending: one of hope.

Something is at her countryside home drinking tea, but still beaten down even though she has been sober for months. She has lost the rights to her music, thus losing her own identity and sense of self.

Eventually, her ex and her daughter, now three or four and begging her mom to play a song, pay her a visit. It's not only one of my favorite



Elizabeth Moss plays a suffering punk rocker in Alex Ross Perry's euphoric "Her Smell." PHOTO COURTESY OF GUNPOWDER AND SKY

scenes from 2018 but also the touchingly quiet climax, when Something plays Bryan Adam's "Heaven" on the piano. Her gentle touch and primal voice show her laid bare and not putting on a performance like that of the hard-rock persona she worked so hard to build. This is just a mother singing to her daughter, no rights to the music required.

In a new era of rock 'n' roll biographical feature films, "Her Smell" is refreshing. It's fiction but a much-needed break from the stylized "Rocketman's" and "Bohemian Rhapsody's" that dominate the box office. Give this film a chance to show you its perfectly developed characters, great original music, and unique take on the age-old story of the rise and fall from fame.

"Her Smell" is available to stream on Kanopy.com, a free service through Big Sky Community 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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‘Namaste Ramila’ doc screening in Bozeman

Groundbreaking Nepalese investigative reporter to join Q&A

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BOZEMAN – When the dust settled on April 25, 2015 following Nepal’s 7.8-magnitude earthquake, more than the earth had shifted.

The earthquake killed more than 9,000 people and injured some 22,000 more, while in cities like Kathmandu, people frantically picked apart piles of crumbled buildings searching for survivors. In the countryside, landslides and avalanches crushed loved ones, followed by mostly futile rescue efforts.

The tragedy not only shaped Nepal, but also Bozeman-based nonprofit Tsering’s Fund, which had for more than two decades dedicated countless hours and resources to Nepal’s at-risk communities, its women and its young girls. Following the devastating quake, Tsering’s Fund shifted its focus, ultimately funneling the lion’s share of its resources into educating women and girls, the region’s most at-risk individuals.

On Sept. 26 at 6 p.m. “Namaste Ramila,” a 13-minute film produced by Tsering’s Fund and local filmmaker Wes Overvold, will screen at Bozeman’s Best Western Plus GranTree Inn. The film centers on the lives of six girls who were trafficked from Nepal, and highlights the ways in which education saved their lives. Ultimately, it brings home a harsh reality for folks in places like Bozeman where trafficking is not remotely as prevalent; it’s estimated that at least 20,000 girls are trafficked annually in the mountainous Asian nation.

The film also plants the seeds for involvement, encouraging viewers to participate and sponsor a girl at a cost of \$600 a month to cover the annual fees for a top-notch boarding school, including room and board, less than a single paycheck’s worth for many living in the U.S.

“It’s the real thing,” said Pete Schmieding, Tsering’s Fund’s chairman and president who is also a dentist in Big Sky. “I want to raise awareness about the issue and show what happens when you decide to raise a girl through Tsering’s Fund. You get to see what your [involvement] means to this family, in human terms.”

Even before the earthquake, Nepal had been gripped by the horrors of human trafficking, which saw the country’s most unfortunate sent to far-flung cities and nations like India’s mega-metropolis New Delhi or Arab Gulf countries with vastly different religious and social practices than those of Nepal.

The lucky ones live as indentured slaves or as brides in arranged marriages; the least fortunate work in the sex industry.

The phenomenon was exacerbated by the 2015 natural disaster, when parents and caretakers tried to offset personal losses, often swindled by trafficker promises that their child would send wages home from honest jobs while receiving an education.

“Namaste Ramila” premiered at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center in Big Sky on Aug. 21, and chronicles the efforts of Tsering’s Fund to use education as a means of upending the cycles of poverty and gross accounts of human suffering. By providing a solid education, one founded on speaking English and opening eyes to possibilities outside of those available in rural Nepal, Tsering’s Fund volunteers find they are able to disrupt conventional beliefs, wicked social practices and myopic perspectives about what can be achieved in an individual’s lifetime—particularly a woman’s.

“Child trafficking is a huge issue, even in the United States, but most people never see the practice on a personal level,” Schmieding said. “But where we were filming was ‘ground zero’ ... where it happens in great numbers.”

The Sept. 26 Bozeman event will include a Q&A session with participation from Prachod Acharya, a groundbreaking investigative journalist from Nepal who is also an assistant editor at the Centre for Investigative Journalism in Kathmandu. Through his academic work documenting the horrors of human trafficking, public health and malpractice, Acharya has become a veritable expert on the phenomena, particularly in his home nation, recently earning a post as a Dart Center Fellow at Columbia University.

For those who missed the Big Sky screening, this is an opportunity to learn about the remarkable work of Tsering’s Fund, and perhaps become inspired to be an advocate or even a sponsor for the women and girls of Nepal. And with an expert like Acharya in the mix, it’s a can’t miss event.

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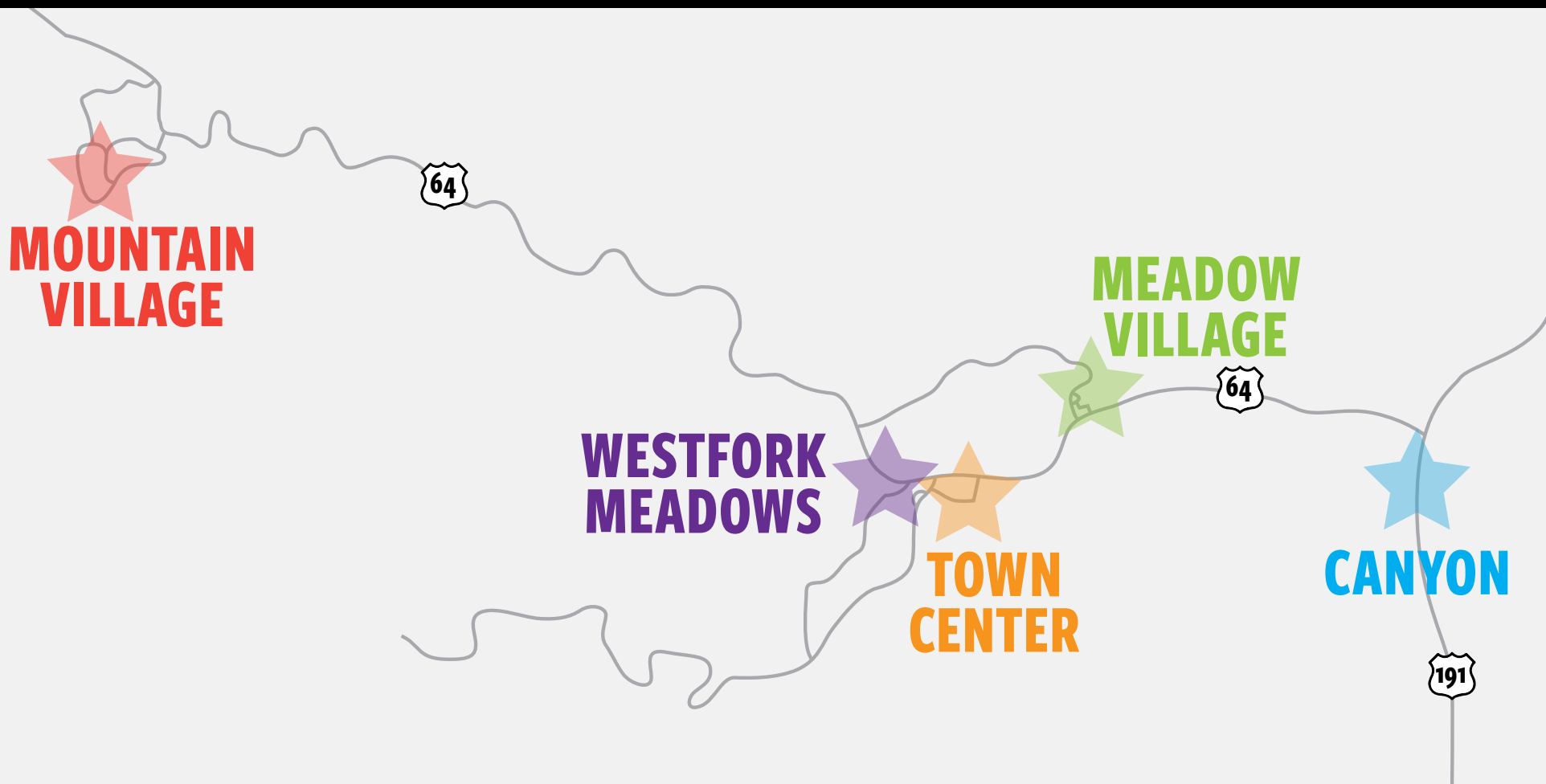
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“Anak Ko” by Jay Som

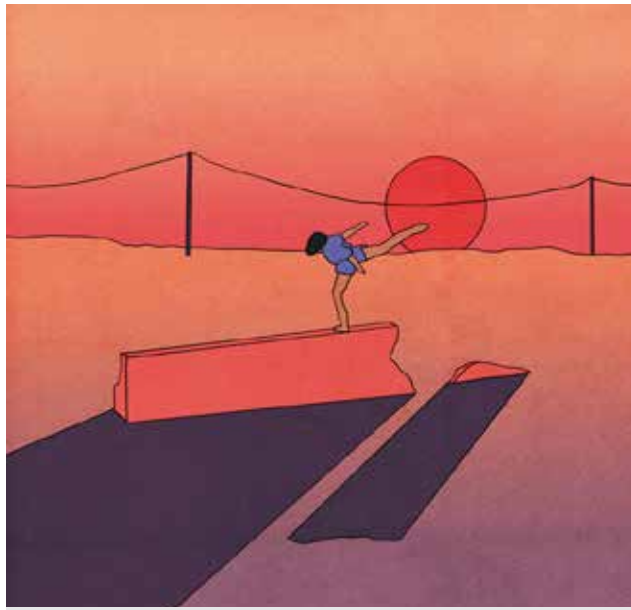


BY SAMUEL ORAZEM

“Anak Ko,” which translated from Tagalog, the national language of the Philippines, reads “My Child,” is a change-of-pace-album for Melina Duterte, the woman behind Jay Som. Following her hit album, “Everybody Works,” the solo act was thrust into the festival circuit and indie stardom limelight, but she’s proceeded to make a series of changes to her life. “Anak Ko” tells the story of an artist moving from the Bay Area to Los Angeles, leaving past romances behind and opening up to new workflows and collaborations.

Duterte’s previous project was an encapsulation of what bedroom-pop albums have become: an amalgam of dozens of styles and genres that renders an extremely personal and intimate sound. Bedroom-pop is often more about the listening experience than the style; admittedly, having been literally written, recorded and engineered in a bedroom may also have something to do with that designation. But the closest you can get to pinning down “Anak Ko” is that it is an evolution from her previous work’s hazy, bedroom-studio charm that makes heavy use of elements of the shoegaze subgenre, such as ethereal vocals, heavily-processed guitars and an emphasis on atmosphere over melody. However, calling it a shoegaze or dream-pop album would be a disservice to the breadth and variety of influences that can be heard over “Anak Ko’s” short, 35-minute run time.

The arguably three best tracks on the album demonstrate Duterte’s diversity of artistic inspirations. “Superbike,” a song about the flight response one feels after heartbreak, is the first standout track of the album, drawing obvious influence of the 90s era shoegaze with an assortment of hazy guitars and



“Anak Ko” chronicles the satisfaction and strife that stems from making large-scale changes in life. ALBUM COVER COURTESY OF JAY SOM

droning melodies artfully intertwined by Duterte.

“Nighttime Drive,” conversely, evolves from a track centered around acoustic guitar to one dominated by folk violin; the rolling basslines and strumming acoustic may remind listeners of singer-songwriter Mac DeMarco’s soft rock. And all of this is underlined by simple percussion that builds on the track’s energy throughout.

Last but certainly not least of the three, “Tenderness” is an understated pop ballad that sports a dreamy, trance-like sonic signature as Duterte puts her vocal chops on center stage with dancey drum sequencing and funky guitars backing her up.

Duterte’s mastery of intertwining countless sub-genres of pop, indie and more is what transforms

“Anak Ko” into a musical Matryoshka doll. Casual listening will reveal how many different genres Duterte pulled from, active listening will allow you to hear specific artists’ influence and some detective work will leave you recognizing elements from genre-pioneering tracks.

Despite the library of influences and genres Duterte pulls from, there is something distinctly recognizable and attributable to Som about “Anak Ko.” While it does not sound like anything she has made before, fans of hers will instantly recognize her. The dreamlike quality that defines this album’s sounds is a mature version of the intimate vibes that made “Everybody Works” so popular; “Anak Ko” utilizes psychedelic timbres in concert with the characteristics of her past work to tell a story of massive changes, strife and growth. It works beautifully.



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‘Summer Shutters’ photo contest crowns champion

Hundreds of submissions, many honorable mentions

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY – On June 1, Explore Big Sky launched the “Summer Shutters” photo contest, a three-month-long photography competition with \$75 in cash prizes doled out every two weeks, and with a highly-coveted \$500 cash prize and \$500 in prizes from Bozeman Camera and The Frugal Frame Shop on the line for a grand prize winner.

Over the course of June, July and August, EBS received hundreds of submissions from over 100 photogs based across the Greater Yellowstone who expertly chronicled the cherished lakes, rivers, streams, mountains, plains and wildlife of our incredible corner of the universe.

On Sept. 3, EBS crowned a grand prize winner: Caden Crawford, Instagram handle @cadencrawford, of Red Lodge, Montana.

Crawford, 24, was inspired to pursue photography during his senior year of high school due to a “365 photo-a-day” challenge featured on the popular photo-sharing platform Flickr.

“I really fell in love with creating and the challenge of coming up with new ideas and concepts for photos,” Crawford told EBS.

As a result of that catalytic moment, Crawford has pursued photography professionally for the past three years, leaving behind Billings, where he spent his college years, for the “mountains and isolation of the wilderness.”

Equipped with a passion for photography and the Treasure State, Crawford sold most of his belongings, bought a Toyota 4Runner, built a sleeping platform, purchased camping essentials and hit the road indefinitely to capture the wilds of Montana and the Greater Yellowstone.

When asked about winning the “Summer Shutters” contest, Crawford said,



“So stoked to be the ‘Summer Shutters’ contest winner. Me and my travel funds both thank you.”



He says the mission of his work is to showcase what Montana has to offer.

“Growing up with the beautiful Beartooth Mountains in my backyard was too good to be true and really inspired my landscape and adventure photography. It’s funny, because when I was younger, I longed to move away to a bigger, better place—silly me, growing up I can now see why they call Montana the Last Best Place.”

Ultimately, Crawford offers a great piece of advice for all, photographer or not: “Go get lost in Montana.”

Bi-monthly winners

In total, there were six victors of the “Summer Shutters” photo contest: Crawford as well as five recipients of the bi-monthly \$75 dole outs. The bi-monthly winners were:

1. June 17 winner, Michelle Chevalier, @mc_photography406
2. July 1 winner, Andrew Stimetz, @aroundthebend3
3. July 15 winner, David Janssen, @gnarangutang
4. July 29 winner, Colton Stiffler, @coltonstiffler
5. Aug. 12 winner, David Janssen, @gnarangutang

Big Sky Bites: Applesauce

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

Long gone are the days when I'd pilfer coins from between the couch cushions in my childhood home and beeline to my local candy store, Mackenzie's, where in feverish delight I'd scale out ribbons of sour tape, handfuls of taffy and bags of jawbreakers.

As I've grown older, my appreciation for sweets has diminished, due in part to an awareness of the high fructose corn syrup and absurd amount of sugars compacted into the likes of a single Jolly Rancher or Coca Cola, but this meant abandoning many snacks and treats that I'd grown up with, including applesauce. Mott's was a popular go-to brand in my household, but a single serving contains 31 percent of your daily recommended sugar intake, much of it comprised of the nefarious corn-based sweetener.

So in 2015 when I took a job in a prep kitchen in London's Elephant and Castle district—think a British Bronx—it had been years since I'd eaten applesauce. My boss and head chef Andreas, a German national, made just one item that we'd hawk at the South Bank Centre Market near the world-famous London Eye carousel: a roasted pork sandwich that used a mixture of sweet Thai chili sauce and homemade applesauce as a spread.

It's fitting that a German should pass the simple art of applesauce on to a colonial cousin, as the dish has been a mainstay in European cuisine since Medieval times when the modern sugar trade was just a twinkle in the eye and people relied on fruits to satisfy their collective sweet tooth.

Through Andreas, I learned that applesauce might just be the simplest food in the world to make, needing nothing more than sliced apples for a sweet taste that pairs well with savory grilled pork chops and seared duck breasts, or stands on its own, hot or cold. As temperatures begin to dip in Big Sky, the cinnamon-sweetness of applesauce makes a perfect side dish, spread or snack for the evolving palettes of fall and winter.



I like my applesauce thick and chunky, which makes shaping it into simple presentations a snap: dust with ground cinnamon and garnish with a cinnamon stick. For a football season-ready hors d'oeuvre, slice some sharp cheddar onto a Triscuit, and top with a dollop of applesauce, a piece of thick cut bacon and a slice of raw jalapeño. PHOTO BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

Recipe:

Prep Time: 5 minutes
Cook Time: 60-75 minutes
Servings: 4-6

Ingredients:

4 high-quality, ripe Granny Smith apples
8 high-quality, ripe McIntosh apples, or similar
1 tbsp cinnamon (optional, or to taste)
2.5 cups water

Instructions:

Peel apples (optional, I prefer the skin for nutritional value, texture and appearance)
Slice each apple into 6-8 slices, and then halve each slice

Place apple slices and cinnamon into a medium pot of simmering water, approximately 2.5 cups, and cover with a lid
Allow apples and water to simmer, stirring with a fork every five-to-ten minutes until apples brown and soften into a puree
After 60-75 minutes, once water has evaporated and you have your desired consistency and texture, pull from heat and serve immediately or refrigerate for a cooler dish

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BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Do you want to be Myspace or Facebook?

We see it all the time. Pioneers who pave the way, revolutionize the way we live, or acquire something only to fade away as successors duplicate their vision with better product, better methods or less expensive cost of production.

There is one in particular that I thought would always stand resilient, at least in the foreseeable future. But even they haven’t withstood the inevitability of the commerce tsunami that is the likes of Amazon and Alibaba.

As I write this, Dean & DeLuca, the Manhattan-based specialty foods store, is “86-ing” many of their stores, and those remaining are probably not far behind according to reports from landlords and vendors being stiffed on rent and payments.

Currently, Dean & DeLuca is down to a mere six stores in the U.S. from its peak of 40 as recently as 2014 when it was purchased by PACE Development, a Thai real estate and gourmet retail company.

Opening in 1977 in SoHo, or, south of Houston Street in Manhattan, Giorgio DeLuca and Joel Dean introduced those first culinarily curious New Yorkers, who we now colloquially refer to as “foodies,” to items such as caviar, truffle oil, artisan olives and cheeses, Asian fruits and tapenades. All of which are not only now commonplace in pantries across America, but some of which are even considered blasé by some. And all thanks to the culinary vision of Dean and DeLuca.

There were predecessors, as well as competitors, such as San Francisco-based Williams Sonoma, founded in 1956. Though they have equally enticing wares, their main focus has always been kitchenware and home furnishings.

This is exactly the type of business that should continue to be patronized, despite Amazon or Alibaba telling us otherwise.

I’ve visited stores like this all over the country. From the immense Eataly in the heart of Manhattan, to a store I don’t even know the name of in Rutherford, California, a few blocks off the well-traveled tourist corridor that is Highway 29. Housed in a

The end of a pioneer

turn-of-the-last-century laundry, the woman who owns it can’t even complete a transaction or tell you about any of her vast array of olive oils, unless her English-speaking granddaughter is there, despite her always maintaining her post behind the cash register. Yes, an actual cash register.

I can’t think of a more interesting type of store than what I just described. But today, Dean & DeLuca is suffering from both exterior and interior challenges. Amazon has taken a fairly large bite out of the specialty foods market. Though some of us enjoy the experience of a physical store, where we can see, touch and taste in person, many younger consumers don’t want that interaction.

In addition, many larger grocery stores that do have the chops to withstand market challenges have added sections or aisles that now sell many of those once sought-after items—items Dean & DeLuca first introduced and later popularized.

The two locations that they were most proud of were in St. Helena, California, and New York City. I have had the pleasure of visiting both—and the California location definitely more than once.

For me, as a chef, I enjoy stores like this because it allows me to experience the products in person, rather than reading a review from someone whom I’ve never met trying to tell me why they liked or disliked something.

But those days are fading fast.

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.



The view from inside Dean & DeLuca’s flagship store in SoHo PHOTO BY JESS HAWSOR

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