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Big Sky

July 1 - 16, 2020
Volume 11 // Issue #14

**Big Sky's spirited,
safe Fourth of July plans**

*Advocating for lung
cancer research*

**Big Sky benefits from bipartisan
conservation act**

Little League baseball returns

*Bozeman Art Museum addresses
art education*



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ON THE COVER:

In 1782, six years after the Declaration of Independence was signed, the Second Continental Congress elected the bald eagle as the national symbol of the U.S. Since Roman times, the bald eagle has been viewed as a symbol strength. Epitomizing strength and majesty, the white-headed raptor is a reminder of the independence that is celebrated each year on July 4. PHOTO BY DAVE PECUNIES

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Big Sky's spirited, safe Fourth of July plans

This year, with COVID-19 cases spiking once again in Gallatin, many community event organizers have opted for safety over tradition for the red, white and blue holiday. However, local efforts might be the greatest display of American appreciation yet.

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Advocating for lung cancer research

Twelve years and three months ago, Linda Wortman had her lung removed due to a bout with lung cancer. Now a runner, biker and mountaineer, Wortman is a staunch advocate for lung cancer research.

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Big Sky benefits from bipartisan conservation act

Following the passing of the Great American Outdoors Act, touted as one of the most monumental conservation bills in recent history, local conservation and outdoor recreation experts explore how the federal legislation will support Big Sky's treasured wide open lands and rivers.

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Little League baseball returns

The sound of a bat cracking a ball and the ensuing cheers of spectators marked the return of Little League baseball to Big Sky on June 23 when the 11- and 12-year-old Big Sky Royals beat the Belgrade Dodgers in their first home game of the season.

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Bozeman Art Museum addresses art education

Each year, through their education program and staff of talented educators, the museum teaches 1,200 students in a 12-week curriculum. They target rural schoolhouses and education centers where teachers often do not have the experience or funding for art education.

Opening Shot



The American flag, perhaps the most recognized symbol of the United States, sports the colors chosen for the Great Seal of the United States. Charles Thomson, who played an instrumental role in the seal's design, said that the white signifies purity and innocence, the red stands for hardiness and valor and blue denotes vigilance, perseverance and justice. PHOTO BY DAVE PECUNIES

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Arts Council of Big Sky presents Music in the Mountains

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

BIG SKY – For almost 10 years, Music in the Mountains has been a staple event for the Big Sky community, gracing attendees with free live, local music on warm summer evenings. Luckily, the Arts Council of Big Sky is able to present Music in the Mountains this summer in an adapted format, which kicked off with everyone’s favorite Tom Petty tribute band, The Waiting, on Thursday, June 25.

The Waiting is a roadhouse rock ‘n roll band from Bozeman that celebrates the music of Tom Petty. Although not quite your average cover band, the Waiting is a motley mix of musicians and friends interpreting the songs of one of rock’s greatest legends. From Tom Petty’s smash hits with the Heartbreakers to a sampling from his solo albums, or even a collaboration with the Traveling Wilburys, the Waiting runs the gamut, performing each tune with undeniable, fiery live energy and a devotion to showing each person in the crowd a good time.

The Waiting performed live from the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center stage with full sound and lights from Jereco Studios—the same engineers that produce the sound and lights for the outdoor series. Several cameras were installed in the theater, allowing for multiple angles, then broadcasted on the Art Council’s Facebook and YouTube channels.

The Arts Council would like to thank the generous sponsor for this event, First Security Bank, with additional help from Hammond Property Management, American Bank, 3 Rivers, Big Sky Landscaping and Big Sky Resort Tax.

Four Music in the Mountains concerts are scheduled for the summer, featuring bands that were originally slated to perform for the outdoor series, including the Kitchen Dwellers on July 23, Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs on August 13 and Dead Sky on September 3.

Trump orders ban on foreign workers

EBS STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. – President Donald Trump announced an executive order on June 22 that extends an April order barring most categories of foreign workers and freezing green cards through December.

The Trump administration said that during a period of sweeping unemployment, the order will protect American jobs.

The order temporarily suspends H-1B visas for foreign workers in specialty occupations as well as seasonal foreign employees, including those working through the J-1 Visa Program, which provides hundreds of employees to the Big Sky community, according to Candace Carr Strauss, CEO of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce.

“We already battle lack of affordable workforce housing and have 50 percent of our workforce commuting in everyday from the greater Gallatin Valley, so to not be able to leverage that tool of an international workforce to fill the gaps ... it will definitely have an impact on Big Sky,” Carr Strauss said.

Officials have estimated that the ban will keep 525,000 foreign workers out of the U.S. for the remainder of 2020.

MSU researcher publishes paper examining COVID-19 spread

MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – Using a database of information collected after the 2009 H1N1 outbreak, a Montana State University researcher is helping develop a better understanding of the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Alex Washburne, a researcher in the Bozeman Disease Ecology Lab published a paper on the subject June 22 in the journal Science Translational Medicine. The paper uses data from ILINet, a database created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2010 to count patients who check into medical clinics with influenza-like illnesses, or ILI.

Influenza-like illnesses include infections with symptoms similar to the flu, such as fever, cough and sore throat. Monitoring trends in ILI clinic visits, Washburne said, could help better understand how quickly and extensively COVID-19 spread during the early days of its appearance in the U.S.

In collaboration with Pennsylvania State and Cornell universities, Washburne examined the number of ILI visits reported each week over the last decade and compared those trends to visits during March 2020. They identified a surge in March 2020 ILI visits that parallels regional increases in COVID-19 cases. Washburne and his collaborators determined that there may have been many cases of the coronavirus disease that weren’t initially identified as such—they estimate that as many as 87 percent of coronavirus cases were not diagnosed during early March, which could translate to around 8.7 million people based on the excess March ILI visits.

With much of the research about COVID-19 happening as the pandemic unfolds, Washburne said syndromic surveillance like this shows researchers and the medical community one piece of a larger story. Coupled with COVID-19 testing efforts, this type of data collection and analysis can help outline our understanding of coronavirus as a whole, while also offering insight for future potential epidemics. It can also be used as a tool in areas where widespread testing is too expensive.

“For communities that may not have the capacity for more large-scale testing, this may be able to help give them a picture of the movement of their epidemic in time and space,” he said. “That way they can know when to implement actions like mask wearing and social distancing measures.”

The practice of collecting data ahead of a potential outbreak is an investment in future public health. This research into COVID-19 wouldn’t have been possible without the creation of the database after H1N1, so continuing to expanding the baseline data collected for other illnesses could be crucial in navigating future pandemics.

Biologists to begin grizzly captures for research in Yellowstone

Public reminded to heed warning signs

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

BOZEMAN - As part of ongoing efforts required under the Endangered Species Act to monitor the population of grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the U.S. Geological Survey, in conjunction with the National Park Service, is working to inform the public that pre-baiting and scientific capture operations are once again about to begin within Yellowstone.

Biologists with the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team will begin field captures on June 27 and continue through August 28. Capture operations can include a variety of activities, but all areas where work is being conducted will have primary access points marked with warning signs. It is critical that all members of the public heed these signs and do not venture into an area that has been posted.

For more information regarding grizzly bear capture efforts, call the IGBST hotline at 406-994-6675.



The Great American Outdoors Act, a bipartisan bill recently passed by the U.S. Senate, will allow for more federal funding for national conservation projects. In the midst of a global pandemic and a national social justice movement, what role should conservation play now?



Al Malinowski,
Big Sky, Montana

“As someone who is frustrated with the politics routinely played in the federal legislative decisions, I am happy to learn of the commitment to provide additional federal funding for conservation projects. I am thankful that our country has a history of prioritizing funding to protect certain lands for the use and enjoyment of the public. I hope that those funds will be used wisely, and that our elected officials will have the discipline to identify some cost reductions that can offset the funds approved for conservation.”



Cooper Tedford
Bozeman, Montana

“I’m very weary of what might happen to the money if it isn’t spent because of the pandemic. The outdoors is exceptionally white. It would be amazing to see more [people of color] utilizing the outdoors.”



Ben Moscona,
Bozeman, Montana

“I think, in terms of conservation, we need to look at the larger picture and how it plays a role not only in the health of our landscapes but also in the ability of people to get out and recreate. I think that links back to the pandemic, especially considering lung health—being able to get outside is incredibly important to maintaining our health. But with the Black Lives Matter movement going on, we need to also think about it in terms of environmental justice and how we can shape policy that’s inclusive of other members of our community that might not be able to get outside as much.”



Andre Thornton
Big Sky, Montana

“I think people should be able to use the land because it is an outdoor activity; it’s not super congested. [Recreating] is something that can be contained. Seeing how bars and other operations are open, trails should be available as well.”



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LaDawning of a new era at BSSD

BY BRANDON WALKER

BIG SKY – She’s heard her final pitter patter of excited feet, hurriedly moving down the hallway as students move from class to class. She’s taken her last phone call from a parent notifying the school that their child is sick and will be out of class for the day. She’s turned off her computer for the final time before walking out the door to return home for the evening. After 12 years working for the Big Sky School District, LaDawn LeGrande is saying goodbye.

LeGrande concluded her time at BSSD in a fitting way, speaking at the commencement ceremony for the class of 2020, an experience she said she greatly enjoyed. “I got to just say a little memory that I had of each one of them, but every year when the kids graduate, I’m like, I could talk about all of these kids,” she said.

LeGrande’s path to BSSD was a winding one. The Garden Grove, California, native was one of eight children in her family and she fondly recalls growing up near Disneyland. While in school herself, LeGrande knew exactly what she wanted to be when she grew up: “I always wanted to be a mom,” she said.

One year after graduating from Rancho High School, LeGrande married her husband, Rod. She went on to attend Cyprus Junior College where she earned her associate’s degree in general education. After school, LeGrande held her first job working with her husband, who was a motivational speaker and sales trainer. “[I] basically taught myself the computer, so I did books for him,” she said, describing her role.

The pair moved around the western and mid-western portions of the United States, with LeGrande self-describing them as “gypsies.” With stops in California, Utah and Kentucky, while raising six kids, they eventually settled on Montana in 2008.

“We spent a year driving around Montana to different places to see where we wanted to live and we settled in Big Sky,” LeGrande said. Upon arrival, Rod was semi-retired, but LeGrande wasn’t ready to call it a career just yet. After coming across an advertisement for the secretary position at BSSD in the newspaper, LeGrande knew it was meant to be.

“It said, ‘Must know computers [and] must love working with children’ and I thought that might as well have had my name on it because we raised six kids,” she said, recalling her thoughts while reading the ad.

LeGrande spent the next 12 years working for BSSD, holding the title of executive secretary and possessing a wealth of knowledge on the school district’s database system. The title is deceiving, however, as LeGrande wore a multitude of hats throughout her time, substituting for a band teacher for a stint, and even acting as the athletic director at one point.

When first filling in for the band teacher, students were excited to have a substitute, expecting to avoid practicing their instruments, but LeGrande had



Big Sky School District staff members celebrate at LaDawn LeGrande’s (center, white shirt) retirement party. PHOTO COURTESY OF LADAWN LEGRANDE



The congratulatory banner for LeGrande displayed at the graduation ceremony for the Lone Peak High School class of 2020. PHOTO COURTESY OF LADAWN LEGRANDE

other plans. “No, I know how to conduct a band. You guys [have] got to play,” she said, reminiscing and chuckling at what she told the group.

“Her job description should’ve been something like: Can you do everything in life,” said lead facilitator of creativity and innovation for BSSD Jeremy Harder in appreciation of LeGrande’s ability to tackle any task. “...Whatever was handed to her she crushed. It was done well and done right.”



A hat displaying a bottle of glue in reference to Jeremy Harder’s label for LeGrande. PHOTO COURTESY OF LADAWN LEGRANDE

Harder labeled LeGrande “the glue that binds the district”—hats displaying a bottle of glue paired with the hashtag #Wegotthis were distributed at her retirement party. “The thing about Miss LaDawn is she would be able to do things that were above or beyond, [and] way outside her job description,” Harder said.

Harder’s glue phrase was reinforced as other BSSD staff members began referring to LeGrande with the phrase as well. “She kind of runs that school, she’s like the glue that holds it all together,” said BSSD kindergarten through fourth grade health teacher Erika Frounfelder who worked with LeGrande for all 12 years. “But I’ll miss her personality and just her love for the kids.”

LeGrande, who was also known as “Miss LaDawn” due to the fact that another faculty member shared the same last name as her when she first started, was well known for her love of students. Frounfelder said that her classes would recognize LeGrande at the conclusion of each school year for assisting them with injuries.

“She was always just so kind and she helped take care of the kids and made them feel better even when it was just a small scrape or something,” Frounfelder said. “But she tended them as if the scrape was something bigger. Which they loved.”

Harder, who worked with LeGrande for her entire tenure, appreciated her optimism and composure, no matter the situation. “Her ability to look at every situation in a school setting, no matter how stressful, with like a smile and just like a presence around her to know that well we’ll figure this out. Don’t worry,” he said. He believes it will be an adjustment for BSSD as LeGrande moves on, losing a consistent presence that has been there for more than a decade.

For LeGrande, saying goodbye didn’t come without a list of things she will miss, but most of all: “I think just seeing the kids every day,” she said. “I really enjoy interacting with them and just watching them grow and change and move on to do great things and I feel like they’re all mine.”

LeGrande has moved on to the next chapter in her life; experiencing her 22 grandchildren grow—she and Rod moved to Utah following the conclusion of the school year to be closer to them. She plans to return to Big Sky next spring to attend the graduation of the class of 2021. LeGrande knew what she wanted to be when she grew up and today, she continues to live out her dream of being a (grand)mom.

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COVID-19 brings lung cancer risks to light

Big Sky local advocates for better lung cancer screening, treatment and care

BY MIRA BRODY

BIG SKY – Twelve years and three months ago Linda Wortman had her lung removed due to a bout with lung cancer. Wortman's husband Jerry sat beside her in the hospital teaching her how to breathe again. "Breathe. Breathe. Breathe," for five hours he prompted her. Now a runner, biker and mountaineer, Wortman is a staunch advocate for lung cancer research.

A member of the American Lung Association, Wortman is the co-founder and CEO of the Wortman Lung Cancer Foundation and determined to quell the stigma that only smokers are at risk for the disease that kills 422 people every day.

The battle with lung cancer isn't simply canvassing for funding and awareness, it's that, coupled with an outdated stigma that the disease is only associated with smoking. In 2006, when Wortman went to her doctor with shoulder pain and frequent coughing fits, because she was relatively healthy and never a smoker, they marked it off as psychological.

"If you haven't smoked more than 100 cigarettes in your life, it's really hard to get a CT scan," said Wortman. "There are no funds for research because of this stigma."

As her pain grew worse over the next couple years, Wortman knew it had to be something more and went to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota for a second opinion. At the time she was working as a flight attendant for Northwestern Airlines. After her appointment, she had planned to head back for a flight to Amsterdam, but instead was asked to return to the clinic immediately. Less than 48 hours after she had first seen her Mayo Clinic doctor, she was looking at a 3.5-centimeter tumor in an x-ray of her lungs, while being wheeled in for surgery to have her lung removed.

"Your lungs are like your furnace," said Wortman. "Once lung cancer starts, it's really tiny and really slow."

In recovery, Wortman's insurance required her to go through nicotine therapy, even though she had never smoked in her life, a requirement she says is based on outdated statistics, not reality. "They treat you like you're an addict," she said of the experience. In therapy, Wortman said patients are taught that nicotine is the most addictive substance in the world. They learn all about the lungs and what "they"—the lung cancer survivors—did wrong to get cancer in the first place.

Wortman has always been an activist—she marched with Martin Luther King Jr. in the same streets that were recently desecrated in BLM protests following the killing of George Floyd. After surviving lung cancer



Linda Wortman with her guide, Boni Nkunda and Conrad Anker. Wortman summited Mt. Kilimanjaro after surviving lung cancer with one lung. PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDA WORTMAN

however, her activist spirit was rekindled. Wortman was one of three airline stewardesses who started the petition to ban smoking on airplanes. She began running, vowing (and succeeding) to run a 5k in every state and a 10k on every continent.

As part of an altitude sickness study led by renowned climber and Bozeman resident Conrad Anker, Wortman climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro—an accomplishment she spoke about in her talk "Beating the Odds: Climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro with One Lung" at TEDxBigSky in 2017. After learning how to breathe following her surgery, she said summiting Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa standing at an impressive 19,341 feet above sea level, was a close second. She credits her sheer determination and her high-altitude lifestyle in Big Sky to her success.

She got through using the same rhythmic mantra technique that had saved her post-surgery, chanting: "Heel, toe. Heel, toe. Heel, toe," all the way to the top.

"If you have lungs, you can get lung cancer," Wortman said in her TEDx talk. "You can live with one lung. You can run and you can climb with one lung."

Research is on the rise—Ping Yang, M.D., Ph.D., a Mayo Clinic genetic epidemiologist, recently determined that lung cancer may be linked by genetics, specifically a gene mutation called GDR, most commonly found in women. But with smoking on the decline and lung cancer diagnoses increasing, it can't come fast enough.

With COVID-19 further illuminating the importance of lung health, Wortman hopes awareness is on the rise—many lung cancer cases have been discovered from the increase in lung screenings due to the pandemic.

On the curtails of the successful ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, the Wortman Lung Cancer Foundation hopes to host a similar contest called First2Burst, which involves participants blowing up a balloon for donations.

"My hope with COVID is that attention is spreading from this pulmonary disease," said Wortman. "We need to be checking for this regularly, not just when there's an emergency. People need to know [lung cancer is] anybody's disease."

Today, Wortman is usually outside, employing her lone lung to the fullest, whether skiing, running or biking—possibly more than most anyone uses their two. The Wortmans have been married 45 years and have three sons, one daughter and a total of seven grandchildren.

Through their experiences in hospitals—Jerry suffered his share of close calls with a career in the Air Force—they have learned to trust medical professionals, something their children struggle with, which has caused a rift in their family. Although painful, her fractured relationship with her children is just another driving force behind Wortman's tenacity to advocate for those struggling through the lung cancer diagnosis, treatment and recovery process.



To raise awareness for lung cancer research, Linda Wortman is starting a campaign called First 2 Burst in which participants blow up a balloon until it pops. PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDA WORTMAN



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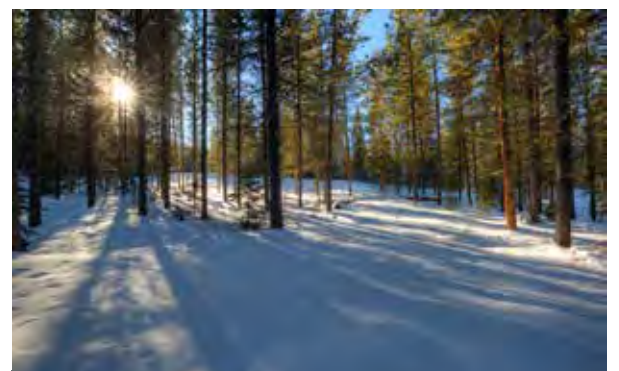
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- I understand that I need to be a responsible visitor.
- I will wash my hands frequently, wear a mask, practice social distancing, and follow other CDC guidelines and all local guidance regarding outdoor recreation, including that from Gallatin City-County Board of Health, the state of Montana and federal organizations to do my part to keep the community safe.
- I will stay home if I am sick.
- I will be patient with hospitality staff and businesses working through the phased reopening of Montana.
- I will respect the people and places that make Big Sky unique and the different approaches people are taking in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- I will give construction workers and wildlife a brake when driving.
- I will stay at least 25 yards from wildlife by practicing safe selfies and being aware of my surroundings whether near wildlife, mountain tops, steep cliffs, rivers or roads.
- I will be bear aware by carrying bear spray and knowing how to use it. I will also be alert, make noise, hike in groups, and stay on designated trails to limit encounters with bears.
- I will take only photos and leave only footprints. I will leave what I find including antlers, artifacts, rocks, plants, or any other objects.
- I will make my own memories, but not my own trails.
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Visit Big Sky is a 501 (c)(6) nonprofit membership organization.

Messages of solidarity

On June 19, collectively known as Juneteenth, the oldest known commemoration of the end of slavery in the U.S., the Big Sky Social Justice Group held a solidarity event to draw attention to racial inequities nationwide and in the small town of Big Sky.

Originally planned as a rally that encouraged participants to march from Fire Pit Park in Town Center to the Wilson Hotel plaza, a recent uptick in COVID-19 cases forced organizers to adapt the event into a peaceful and solitary demonstration. Dozens of residents and visitors, young and old, posted signs around Fire Pit Park sending messages of education, hope, solidarity and unity. Here are some of them. – *The Editors*



A new kind of Fourth of July celebration

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY – Each Fourth of July, Big Sky celebrates with live music and a crowd of company under a sky lit up by fireworks. This year, with COVID-19 cases spiking once again in Gallatin County following the state's phased reopening, many community event organizers have opted for safety over tradition for the red, white and blue holiday. Tradition aside, however, local efforts might be the greatest display of American appreciation yet.

The Arts Council of Big Sky, which typically hosts live music and puts on a firework show, felt it irresponsible to put on any display that would encourage the gathering of large groups of spectators.

"Obviously July 4 is a big deal in Big Sky and the Arts Council has been the organization that has sort of hosted the party for the last 15-20 years, so it was something we didn't take lightly," said Brian Hurlbut, executive director of the Arts Council of Big Sky. "But at the same time, the priority was...the health and safety of the community."

Despite the absence of colorful explosives lighting up Big Sky, Hurlbut believes there are other values of America's celebrated independence to be acknowledged.

"I guess we kind of thought that fireworks are just fireworks, and I know a lot of people like them, but I guess to us that's not what being American [is] or American stands for," Hurlbut said. "It's more American to take the high road and feel safe in your own community and try to bring people together in other ways or let them celebrate in the way that they choose."

While his sentiment is contradictory to hundreds of years of independence celebration since John Adams wrote to his wife that the day "will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival," Hurlbut's statement explores another proposal by the founding fathers.

In the conclusion of the Declaration of Independence, the authors wrote: "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor." The Big Sky Community Organization, which in past years has hosted a Fourth of July 5k run and breakfast as well as a three-on-three basketball tournament, also made adjustments in the interest of public health. The organization is instead offering a virtual 5k and is directing interested runners to the Big Sky Community Outdoor Challenge Facebook page, which features a number of local 5k routes.

With less community organized options for the Fourth, many people are taking to the river, the woods and the mountains. As the executive director of ACBS, Hurlbut will spend his first Fourth of July not working for the first time in 20 years backpacking. He suggests that others take the opportunity to celebrate in a way they normally wouldn't; take some space with loved ones, get outside.

"To me you can't get any more celebratory than that: going somewhere special with your friends and family," he said.

Part-time local Hayley Freedman, who has been spending time in Big Sky with her family for 24 years, usually spends the holiday enjoying Fourth of July Music in the Mountains with thousands of others. This year, Freedman and her friends are choosing an alternative way



In the recent years, the Fourth of July music and firework show has attracted crowds of around 5,000, according to the Arts Council of Big Sky. This year, due to COVID-19 related safety concerns, ACBS has canceled their events, forcing people to look elsewhere for their holiday entertainment. PHOTO BY DAVE PECUNIES

to celebrate on a three-day trip down the Yellowstone River between Gardiner and Livingston.

"Instead of the usual party in town, this will be a great opportunity to reflect on events of the past few months, be grateful for living in such an amazing place and be responsible community members by keeping the [float] group size small and safe," Freedman said.

She added that while she's disappointed to miss the annual music and fireworks, she is glad the community is being responsible.

For those sticking around the Big Sky area, Sara Marino, BSCO's community development manager, suggested people enjoy the miles of community trails and outdoor spaces in the Big Sky area. The recently passed Great American Outdoors Act is a reminder of the treasured outdoors that Americans have voiced support for time and again, and spending moments in these spaces is one way to honor the privilege.

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Ennis Rodeo Grounds

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July 4, 7 p.m.

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Big Sky Artisan Festival

Meadow Village

July 4, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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OUTLAW™

News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

Master craftsmen preserve the spirit of the West

Thirty works to be featured at Big Sky Art Auction

BY MIRA BRODY

CODY, WYOMING— In the 19th century, early American settlers vied for a coveted piece of the West, which promised fortune, freedom and new beginnings. Pilgrimage west was believed to be a process of development and a paradigm of the American character. By Western Hands is a nonprofit with a legacy of preserving this wild, frontier spirit in the works of the master craftsman they support. It's a spirit encapsulated and carried down through minds and works of those who have devoted their lives to creating functional, lasting art.

By Western Hands functional artworks are created of wood, carved leather and bone, beaded textiles, antler, silver and iron, just to name a few, and are unlike anything you'll ever see in a typical furniture store. They are reflections of a style born in the late 1800s, now deeply rooted in American culture and embraced by acclaimed furniture craftsman Thomas Molesworth. Artisans are highly trained and their works are juried—only those individuals demonstrating the highest quality workmanship with an eye toward the Western tradition are invited to join the master craftsman guild.

Unfortunately, these artists are becoming a rarity.

“We are stressed and saddened because some of these master craftsman are moving toward the end of their careers and it's not going to be around if someone doesn't learn their techniques that go into their pieces,” said Harris Haston, one of the founders of By Western Hands and current chairman of the board. “I think the whole spirit of the American West and all the things we've learned to romanticize are in this work.”

By Western Hands is in its third iteration of what began as a loosely organized group of master craftsmen who would gather at the Western Design Conference in the 80s. They were originally headquartered in Jackson, Wyoming, but—possibly fueled by Wild Bill Hickok's lingering spirit—they felt more at home once they settled in Cody, where the showroom and museum stands today. They established themselves as a 501(c)(3) and run a thriving education program with Northwest College, a community college in Wyoming. Their showroom features over 125 pieces by 40 different artists from nine different states.

The program at Northwest College is designed to develop the students' skills, teach them how to run a successful business and hook them onto



The By Western Hands showroom in Cody, Wyoming features over 125 pieces of work by 40 different artists from nine different states. PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTERN HANDS

the craft in hopes that they will continue carrying on the spirit of the Northern Rockies heritage. They will then work as an intern for 900 hours with a master in their shop.

“Our real mission is to raise awareness, but [the craftsmen's] mission is to make sure their genre is going to exist for future generations,” said Haston. “It's all about passing the craft down. For them, it means everything to have an intern.”

The Big Sky Art Auction, hosted by Outlaw Partners, the publisher of this newspaper, takes place Saturday, July 18 and will feature 30 unique functional Western pieces hand-chosen by the By Western Hands committee. Nineteen artists will be featured, including Dan Rieple, Doug Norburg and Christina Chapman.

“We are very pleased and honored to be included in the show,” Haston said. “It is a thrill for [the artists] to be able to come and show their work. This is a pretty serious opportunity for this kind of work to be recognized for being highly creative and collectable.”

Any setting in which the master craftsmen can meet their patrons viewing and purchasing their work is special, and another way to pass down the appreciation for their work.

“Most of our craftsman find it really joyful to meet patrons and customers, learn their personalities and learn what those patrons enjoy to have in their home,” said Russell Johnson, marketing director at By Western Hands.

To this day people migrate to what was once the Wild West to find a slower pace of life amongst the rugged mountains of the Northern Rockies. It is the same force that drives By Western Hands to preserve and pay homage to that legacy so we don't lose the spirit, strength and perseverance of the American West.

“It would be a tragedy if we didn't have the opportunity to enjoy new innovative work for the next generation. The hope is always to leave the world a little better off than we found it,” Haston said. “To be able [to] advance this creativity for the next generation—we can't think of anything better.”



“The Least of These” is a desk crafted by artist Dan Rieple, whose work will be featured in the Big Sky Art Auction on July 18. PHOTO BY MARGARET KISPERS

OUTLAW | News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

Big Sky PBR announces postponement of July event

New event date rescheduled for September 4-6, 2020

OUTLAW PARTNERS

BIG SKY – Outlaw Partners announced the 10th annual Big Sky PBR scheduled for July 23-25, 2020 has been postponed and rescheduled to Labor Day weekend September 4-6, 2020.

“The health and safety of our fans, athletes, sponsors and staff remains our top priority,” said Eric Ladd, CEO of Outlaw Partners. “Given the unique circumstances COVID-19 has created, and as currently required by Montana’s reopening phasing, we have made the decision to postpone the event until September.”

Outlaw Partners and Freestone Productions, who co-produce the event, have been working closely with PBR corporate headquarters, local and state health agencies to ensure protocols are in place and the highest level of safety is met for the event.

“We are hopeful and excited to have the opportunity to keep the Big Sky PBR a fixture of the community in 2020,” said Ladd. “We’ve

received a tremendous amount of feedback from the community encouraging us to move forward.”

Since its debut in 2011, the Big Sky PBR event has grown to three days, earned 7x PBR event of the year, and has a gross economic impact of \$3.4 million annually for the Big Sky community.

All current bull riding tickets will directly transfer and be honored for the new dates, as follows:

- Thursday, July 23 --- Friday, September 4 (Bull Riding Night 1)
- Friday, July 24 --- Saturday, September 5 (Bull Riding Night 2)
- Saturday, July 25 --- Sunday, September 6 (Bull Riding Night 3, Championship)
- Music-only tickets --- TBA

Additional details and instructions for all ticket types and the event will be sent via email to current ticketholders on or before July 15. All three nights of the Big Sky PBR are currently sold out; additional tickets, if released, will be available via bigskypbr.com.

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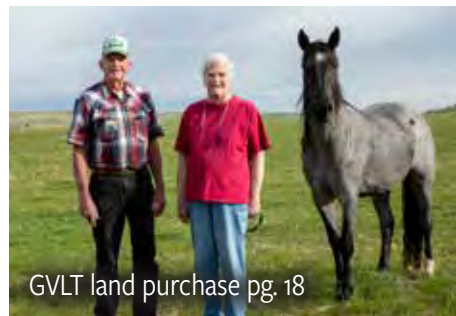


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SECTION 2: MONTANA, ENVIRONMENT & OUTDOORS



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Writers on the Range pg. 25



Stop the invasion pg. 27

New outdoors act plays role in Big Sky conservation, recreation

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY – The recent Great American Outdoors Act made national headlines after passing through the U.S. Senate with extensive bipartisan support and according to local organizations, the act's high-dollar benefits will trickle down to Big Sky's conservation and outdoor recreation landscapes.

The bill, which garnered outspoken support from members of both sides of the political spectrum, passed with a 73-25 vote and will allocate billions of federal dollars to public land agencies like the National Park Service. According to Outside, these agencies report \$20 billion worth of financially blocked maintenance on public lands nationwide, and money from the act will support the upkeep and improvements that have been especially neglected.

The second part of the bill mandates complete funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million annually. Established by an act of Congress in 1964, this fund has helped support the conservation of thousands of acres across the U.S. Local organizations such as the Big Sky Community Organization have benefited from the LWCF and will continue to follow the ratification of the new act.

The LWCF, which provides funding for open lands bonds and projects throughout Gallatin County and the state of Montana, aided in BSCO's purchase of the Big Sky Community Park, said BSCO Director of Parks and Trails Adam Johnson, who added that the organization will continue to use the LWCF to support parks and trails maintenance and upkeep. Johnson clarified that while the concept of the bill may invoke images of pristine wild places, it will also support local parks and trails, a large part of what the BSCO does in Big Sky.

The Gallatin River Task Force, a Big Sky-based water conservation organization, also looks forward to drawing gains from the new legislation. With a primary focus on water quality and watershed health in the upper Gallatin watershed, GRTF partners with local, state and federal public land agencies like the U.S. Forest Service, which will be supported through the act.

The LWCF was created to jointly support conservation and recreation interests, something the Great American Outdoors Act similarly aims to achieve. Locally, BSCO and GRTF demonstrate how conservation and outdoor recreation are intrinsically tied together. David Tucker, GRTF's communication director, provided the following example.

The ever popular Ousel Falls Trail, which is managed by BSCO, leads hikers and bikers on a path that dances around the South Fork of the Gallatin River. BSCO reported 53,528 trail users on Ousel Falls Trail in 2019, a substantial amount of traffic stomping along the banks of the stream.

"While it's not directly in the river, it has an impact on water quality," Tucker said. The two organizations often collaborate on community efforts like the annual dog waste clean-up and educational efforts like interpretive signage along trails.

Climbing trail and river use trends only make their work more critical, and the Great American Outdoors Act is an opportunity to ramp up the funding support needed to meet a rising demand for conservation and recreation services. Since 2010, statistics show that the population of Gallatin County has continued to grow exponentially, equating to more people using parks, trails and river access.

Recently, this trend has been exacerbated by conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic. During April and May, one of Big Sky's two shoulder seasons, a BSCO report revealed trail counts higher than past years, a shift Johnson attributes to seasonal workers not being able to travel elsewhere and the ease of social distancing in the outdoors.

Tucker reported similar trends for river use, with boaters and anglers flocking to the water leading up to the mellower runoff season. "It's always been a place of solace for people, and that trend has only increased," he said.

The increased traffic, however, stands to threaten the treasured waters that people are escaping to.

"We're seeing way more and more people go to the river... with that comes some negative impacts to the river and that's where conservation comes in; where we can practice kind of restraint and we can educate people on their unintentional consequences that their recreation is maybe having..." Tucker said.

Other communities are experiencing heightened interest in the outdoors, as well. "I think that right now we're really seeing that people value this," Tucker said. "And we might've known it for a while here in southwest Montana but a lot of other people across the country... they're getting to see the value of these natural resources in a different way."

Headlines from coast to coast read how "quarantine fatigue" and the security of open air are inspiring rising outdoor recreation, and organizations across the nation are vying for extra funding to support the expanding needs.

"I think one of the highlights of what's going on with all of our trail is we all recognize it's a very important thing to have trails and outdoor spaces right now," Johnson said. "The last go around with the Recreational Trails Program saw I think the largest application pool that they have seen in the state of Montana..." Johnson said that extra funding for the LWCF, which historically has only been funded at a small fraction of its new \$900 million budget, will help fund increased trail work, locally and beyond.

"...[W]hile the bill is a great step toward... chipping away at that maintenance backlog, there's a lot of things that we can all do as recreators on public land, private land trails, whatever it is, to make sure that we're leaving the least amount of impact that we can," Tucker said, suggesting actions like avoiding muddy trails, abstaining from littering at fishing access sites and limiting plastic use can make a significant difference.

"There's a lot of accountability that can start with individual recreators," he said.



A mountain biker takes in the views on the Uplands Trail after riding a few of the near 20 miles in Big Sky managed by the Big Sky Community Organization. Current and future BSCO projects will benefit from increased funding to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. PHOTO BY BELLA BUTLER

Local farmer conserves land forever



Mel Visser and his wife, Marge, recently finalized a conservation easement on their Manhattan property with the help of the Gallatin Valley Land Trust. The easement will protect the 779-acre land from fragmentation, development and non-agricultural commercial activity. PHOTOS BY LOUISE JOHNS

BY BELLA BUTLER

MANHATTAN – Eleven miles west of bustling Four Corners, Mel Visser surveys a portion of his 779-acre farm from his front stoop. Dozens of horses graze on the green bounty of the land, and a shift in the breeze flushes a flock of birds from a patch of wild lupine along a creek.

“I love the open space,” he says, admiring the life playing out before him. “Except for them damn houses out there.”

Miles beyond his rolling hills, a cluster of rooftops poke up from the horizon, a constant visual reminder for Mel of the sprawling development creeping ever closer to his family’s farm. His father purchased the land in the 1940s; it’s where Mel was born and raised, and it’s where he hopes to live the rest of his life. But fast-paced urbanization is an imposing threat on this wish.

On June 3, Mel and his wife, Marge, finalized a conservation easement on their property with the help of the Gallatin Valley Land Trust. The conservation project, which began as mere discussion three years ago, aims to protect the Vissers’ property from fragmentation and development to ensure that the highly productive land can remain viable for agriculture and to safeguard migration corridors and habitats for wildlife.

“[GVLТ is] just trying to keep working lands in the hands of farmers, and it’s getting tougher by the day with the value of land creeping up...” said one of GVLТ’s lands project managers Chad Klinkenberg. “It’s definitely been a priority for us to protect those critical [agricultural] properties that contain highly productive soils, and this particular project was no exception to that.” According to Klinkenberg, the Vissers’ land is roughly 80 percent of what the National Resources Conservation Service designates as prime soil.

Mel said in 1992 inflated fuel and fertilizer prices forced him to shift away from grain farming and find another way to draw an income from

his land. It was then that he struck a deal with Jake’s Horses, an outfitting company near Big Sky. When the snow blows in and the temperatures drop, 20-80 horses from Jake’s take refuge on Mel’s land, their winter pasture.

Although 78-year-old Mel has no immediate interest in returning to laborious grain and hog farming, the conservation of his rich piece of dirt will allow for the continuation of the winter pasture that’s served as Marge’s and his main source of livelihood for years.

This particular conservation easement contains stipulations that satisfy three primary goals: The Visser land cannot be fragmented; it cannot be developed; and it cannot be used for non-agricultural commercial purposes. The easement is also tied to the deed, so the protections are in perpetuity.

As much of the surrounding landscape adopts a new form as a platform for homes and commercial structures, Mel is happy to have the assurance that his beloved land will not host “the rat race” that he looks upon with disdain. “You’ll carry me off of here before I move to town,” he said emphatically.

“We’re losing our rural Montana. It’s not the good ol’ West anymore. It’s too urbanized.” He laments the loss of a quiet vastness that many new residents of Gallatin Valley may never know.

The Vissers’ conservation easement isn’t the land trust’s first endeavor in the area. In the Churchill/Amsterdam region, GVLТ has worked with 23 landowners to successfully conserve 9,700 acres. Klinkenberg estimated that of GVLТ’s projects in the area, 90 percent are on generational farms.

“Conservation easements are a way to help families keep their properties in [agriculture] and pass their land onto the next generation—their next generation—so they can continue to farm and utilize [agriculture] as a sustainable source of livelihood.”

All four of Mel and Marge’s kids were born and raised on the farm, and Mel hopes the land that was passed onto him can one day rest in

the hands of one of his children. Kevin, their youngest son, lives on the property and does most of the heavy lifting nowadays. He knows one day the farm will be his responsibility, and he's more than content with that fate. He shares in his father's deep admiration for the quilted patchwork of fields and fences, farmstead buildings and interminable sky. "This is my paradise too," he said.

Another interest that warranted the easement is the surrounding wildlife. Roughly five years ago, the Vissers observed a herd of 300-400 elk travel from Ted Turner's neighboring Flying D Ranch across their land to what locals know as "The Bench," a plateau just beyond the Visser property. It's a wonder Mel said he never saw growing up, but he's enjoyed watching the herd's migration ever since.

Mel and Kevin hypothesize that the wolves that have moved onto the Flying D Ranch are what have pushed the elk up their way, and Kevin adds that because the land is no longer used for farming, which leaves the ground mostly bare in the winter, the year-round pasture likely resembles a buffet for the herd.

In addition to the elk herd, the native grasslands planted by Mel decades ago serve as prime habitat for upland bird species, raptors and mule deer—all residents of the land the easement seeks to protect.

The cost of the easement—equivalent to the value of the property's development rights, was funded by a trio of sources: The Gallatin County Open Lands levy, which voters approved in 2018, the NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and the Vissers themselves, who accepted only a portion of the dollars and relinquished the remainder as a charitable contribution.

According to reporting by Time in November 2019, Chapter 12 farm bankruptcies were up 50 percent in the Northwest from mid-2018 to mid-2019, and between 2011 and 2018, the U.S. lost more than 100,000 farms. The decline of America's quintessential small family farms has come to dominate the nation's narrative in recent years.



The Visser property, once used for grain and hog farming, is now winter pasture for Jake's Horses.

Conservation easements, like that acquired by the Vissers, put money or tax incentives in the hands of farmers and ensure that they'll never have to see development wash out the land they've worked on an been a part of for generations.

Following the finalization of the easement, Mel is able to get out of debt, pay his bills and look toward retirement. The threat of being forced to "sell out," as he's seen too many neighbors do over the years, is squelched, and he can take comfort in the fact his children and their children will know the land as it was, not from stories and old photos but from seeing it with their own eyes.

The expanse of earth that Mel looks across from his stoop, the nooks and crannies he used to explore as a kid, the land he's come to know so intimately, will forever remain as he sees it now, unfragmented and undeveloped; a treasured piece of the "good ol' West" he remembers.



Mel and Marge met in Michigan, where Mel lived briefly while looking for work. Shortly after meeting, the couple moved back to Montana to take over the Visser farm, where they raised their four children.



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Water Wisdom

Prioritizing Restoration

BY DAVID TUCKER
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The upper Gallatin River is famous for its easy access. From the Yellowstone National Park boundary to the mouth of Gallatin Canyon, anglers, rafters and kayakers enjoy almost 40 miles of public waterway and riverbank—but this convenience is not without consequence. All this access, combined with increased tourist visitation and resident population growth, is starting to take its toll on the river's health.

The most obvious impacts have been to streamside vegetation, vital habitat for aquatic insect species and trout. Anglers and boaters looking to access the river trample willows and other riparian vegetation, inadvertently killing the essential plant life. These plants act as anchors for rocks and soils along the shoreline, and they filter sediment and pollutants during runoff and storm events.

Without streamside vegetation, erosion increases, adding more sediment to the waterway while changing riverbank composition. Willows also provide shade for trout, keeping the water cool in the heat of summer. More sediment and less shade are a bad combination for fish health, and all these little impacts are adding up.

As part of a long-term partnership with the Custer Gallatin National Forest, the Gallatin River Task Force undertook a study of public river-access sites. From the Yellowstone National Park boundary to Spanish Creek, 101 sites were identified where river users are leaving permanent impacts, mostly at or near highway pullouts. At these sites, streamside vegetation has been trampled, invasive plant species have flourished and in-river fish habitat has suffered.

To mitigate the problem, restoration projects were prioritized along the Gallatin Canyon corridor, looking first at popular sites with heavy recreation use. It was at these sites that we could guarantee the highest return on our investment.

In 2018, the Task Force completed work at the Moose Creek Recreation Area, installing bio-engineered streambanks, replanting willows, building sustainable kayak and raft launches and constructing user paths to concentrate access. We also expanded the parking area to provide for increased recreation pressure.

Moose Creek is complete, and another major restoration project is underway, this time upstream of Deer Creek. This area sees a lot of traffic all summer long, from hikers at the Deer Creek trailhead to anglers casting dry flies in Baetis Alley. Whitewater rafters also use the site to launch guided and private trips down the river, and the Green Bridge has long been a popular swimming hole.

Construction will begin later this summer, with project completion slated for late fall. New features will include a dedicated parking lot to discourage off-road vehicle use, an accessible fishing platform, sustainably designed kayak and raft launches and restored streamside vegetation. The site will also feature angler paths to concentrate river access and offset erosion.

While these large-scale projects go a long way toward restoring river health, it's important to consider their goals and lessons every time we visit the river. If there is an established angler path, stick to it. Doing so decreases impacts to riverside vegetation. Clean, drain and dry your gear to limit the spread of aquatic invasive species, and park your vehicles on durable surfaces to limit damage to riparian areas.

If we want to continue to entice trout to take our flies, we'll need to be good keepers of their river habitat. This means taking thoughtful steps toward conserving, preserving and restoring vital ecological systems, like wetlands, floodplains and riparian areas throughout the watershed.

Access sites are an important step, but the same ethos should be applied to other land use as well, from residential construction to commercial development. Taken together, these are the building blocks for a healthy Gallatin.

David Tucker is the communications manager for the Gallatin River Task Force.



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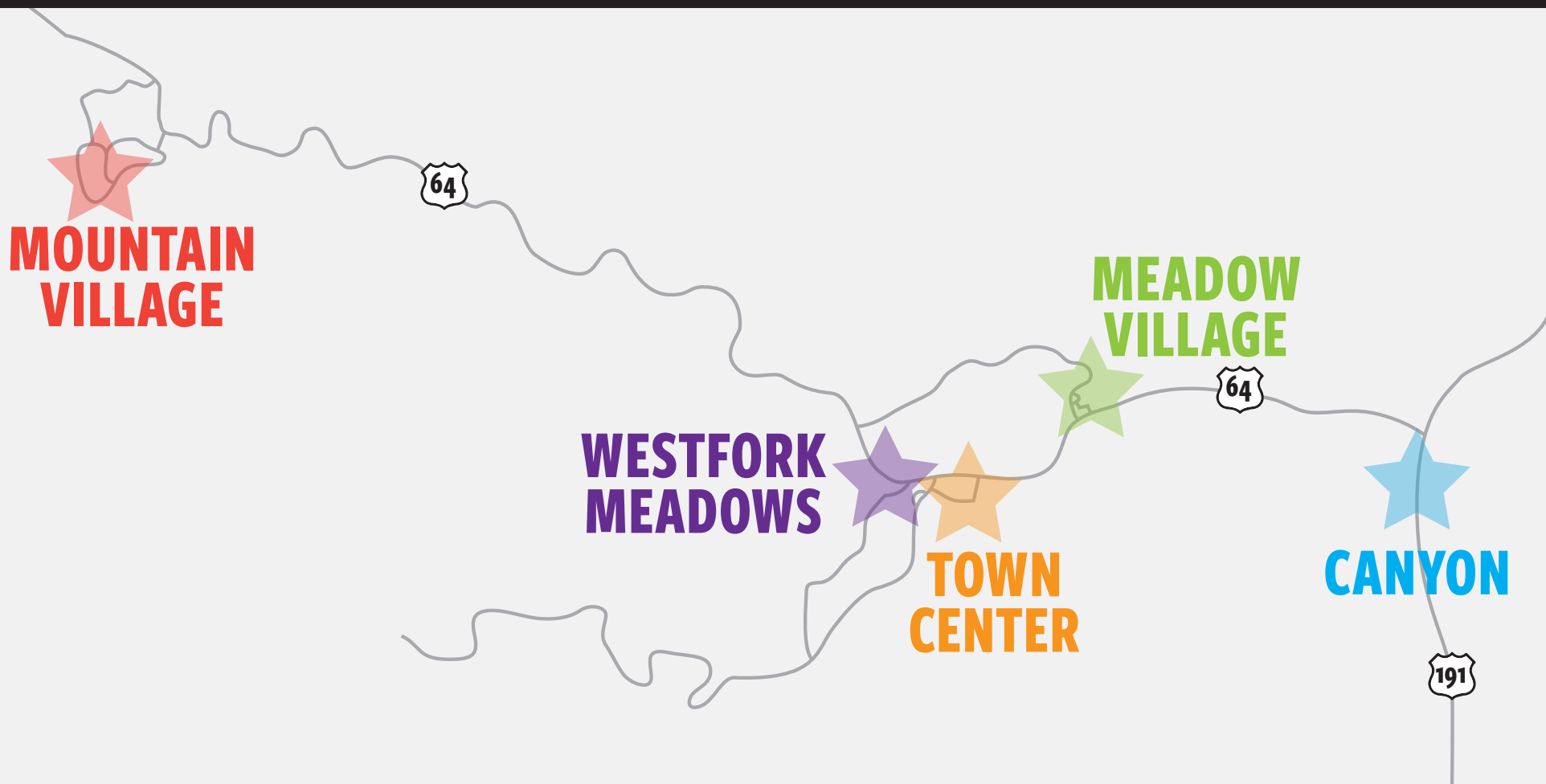
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THE NEW WEST



BY TODD WILKINSON

In this surreal span of battenning down the hatches, I've surrounded myself with books that might offer context for what we're experiencing. One volume on the desk, full of bent pages and scribbles in the margins is Tom Brokaw's best-selling "The Greatest Generation."

It provides grounding. A few weeks ago, I reached out to Brokaw by email to pose a question: "How might members of the Greatest Generation

and those who shaped its thinking have responded to the current coronavirus pandemic?"

To readers who delight in the elder put-down meme "Ok, Boomer," we're not talking about the perceived self-absorbed Baby Boomers (born circa 1946-1964) of my generation; we're talking about their parents.

It was their generation that confronted uncertainty, hardship, worry, distress, and had the sense that the world they knew was coming to an end.

Who were they? As expected, Brokaw sent a thoughtful reply: "The Greatest Generation was formed first by the Great Depression. They shared everything—meals, jobs, clothing. They arose out of a clear and present threat to our very existence—and the call to arms by the Commander in Chief who rallied political allies and opposition alike."

He went on, noting, "... the great difference between then and now is in the quality of the leadership. FDR [that's Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the president] mobilized America with his eloquent rhetoric and candid assessment of the challenge before us. He united us—not divided us. President Trump might serve us all better if he worked harder at unification instead of insisting the spotlight be on him 24-7."

Brokaw says the finest leaders are minted when they demonstrate character during periods of profound adversity. It's how they earn admired places in history. While his observation would make news in any national publication, and his was offered for context not as a partisan jab, the reason for sharing it here is because he identifies as a Westerner.

Just as some readers may not be conversant with the lessons in selflessness of the Greatest Generation who served during WWII, they might not appreciate the role that Brokaw played in millions of American living rooms around dinnertime.

Of all the regions he has a fondness for—and there are many—Tom and his wife, Meredith, feel some of their strongest affinity for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

While living on the East Coast, where Brokaw for decades delivered the NBC evening news from his chief anchor desk in New York City, the place where he and his wife liked to escape, where they relished the fact that the locals treated them like locals, was a valley holding a river originating in the wild Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness.

Whether in Big Timber or Bozeman, whether wandering the aisle of a hardware store, mom-and-pop bookseller, restaurant or stopping to chat with a rancher; whether wading nonchalantly into a stream with flyrod in hand or attending the Fourth of July Rodeo in Livingston, Brokaw enjoys the friendliness of those in the Northern Rockies. They are "real people," he would say, reminding him of those hardy souls on the prairie heartland he and Meredith knew growing up in neighboring South Dakota.

And he believes it is those in the vast radical middle of our society who have a yearning to come together. They want honesty and directness; they want to rally behind a leader who places more importance on common good than self-image.

Brokaw cut his teeth as a White House correspondent during the impeachment investigation of President Richard Nixon. (He recently wrote the book "The Fall

Tom Brokaw: Leaders rise to challenge in tough times

of Richard Nixon: A Reporter Remembers Watergate"). Later, as the voice of his network, Brokaw covered the fall of the Berlin Wall and the attacks of 9/11.

But the biggest and most enduring contribution he made personally was bringing a crystalized national focus—a mass collective remembrance and thanksgiving—to the cohort group of 16 million strong called the Greatest Generation.

More than 418,000 mostly young Americans the same ages as today's Millennials and Gen Z'ers died in WWII. Globally, between 70 and 85 million are estimated to have died—about 3 percent of the world population in 1940.

Brokaw is quick to remind that their strength came from loved ones and fellow citizens supporting them on the home front. They were the impetus for people being willing to give their lives. A country isn't anything without the people and the values it represents. It was what soldiers and airmen dreamed of coming home to. Born in 1940 at the front end of the Baby Boom, Brokaw had gratitude.

At no time in the history of America did the country seem to be more united behind a common cause and what flowed forward most, Brokaw wrote in his book, was empathy and compassion. Lacking was the rampant cynicism of today tethered to the idolization of self-interest. Things were hardly perfect and the rise of McCarthyism happened in the 1950s but no one doubted whose interest the president had at heart.

How tragic if some of the last surviving members of the Greatest Generation were to be taken out by the novel coronavirus because a member of a younger generation did not exercise caution and responsibility for personal actions or rhetoric that may have grave consequences.

What can we learn from revisiting the Greatest Generation? Now, in this lull, pick up Brokaw's book again. If you're a Boomer, read and pass along. Let them be a reminder that common American values can still be a foundation for persevering together, not alone, when times get tough.



Tom Brokaw reported the news from New York and around the world but his love of nature resides in his adopted home state of Montana. PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM BROKAW/NBC NEWS



Tom Brokaw receiving a Peabody Award for news broadcast excellence in 2014. WIKIMEDIA PHOTO

Ain't none of us can breathe

BY WAYNE HARE
WRITERS ON THE RANGE



I'm black, and for years I've been saying that if you peel back a layer or two of anything, you find racism.

People usually just look at me with polite skepticism. And I get it. How do you explain racism when it is so subtle and ingrained that it became invisible to white people generations ago?

When Washington politicians cut back on social welfare and safety net programs, it affects poor blacks more than any other group. Is this intentional racism? Or just an unacknowledged bias that comes from living and working in a city that is overwhelmingly black and poor, leading legislators to believe that safety net programs affect not their own constituents, but only poor "lazy" blacks?

After all, in 2011 the DC black unemployment rate was almost 21 percent while the white unemployment rate was a mere 3.7 percent. What could account for that other than laziness? Those people don't need safety nets, they just need to get to work!

Do cops start their shift intending to jack up a poor black? Derek Chauvin who took a knee to George Floyd's neck looked as nonchalant as if he merely had his foot on a cockroach. Did he even recognize that he was killing an actual human being?

How many jokes compared the Obamas to monkeys? Beverly Whaling, mayor of Clay, Virginia, referred to Michelle Obama as "... an ape in high heels." Maybe Chauvin, instead of being a racist cop hell-bent on killing black people, simply didn't see Mr. Floyd as "people." Just some kind of an ape.

But racism is here. It's everywhere. It was there when Jim Cooley carried a loaded assault weapon into the Atlanta airport and simply went about his business, no problem. But when John Crawford, a black man, picked up an air rifle that he was considering buying for his son in an Ohio Walmart, he was promptly shot dead.

It was there when Ronald Reagan announced his run for the presidency from the Philadelphia, Mississippi, state fair, the same town where three civil rights workers were murdered by the local sheriff and others 16 years earlier.

American racism was there when the NFL conspired to deprive Colin Kaepernick of his livelihood because he placed his knee on the ground during the singing of the National Anthem, a song of freedom written by a virulent slave owner that nods to slavery in the third verse. He was protesting the kind of violence that later ended Floyd's life.

It was there before Derek Chauvin choked Floyd to death in Minneapolis, and when former New York police officer Daniel Pantaleo choked Eric Garner to death on the streets of Staten Island.

And it was there in Los Angeles in 1976 when Adolph Lyons was pulled over for driving without a taillight, yanked from his car, handcuffed and then choked. When he regained consciousness he was lying on the street, spitting up blood and dirt, gasping for air, and losing control of his bodily functions. He was issued a traffic violation for a minor offense and released.

When his lawsuit against the police department reached the U.S. Supreme Court seven years later, and the court sided with the police, an astonished and furious Justice Thurgood Marshall wrote a dissenting opinion: "Although the city instructs its officers that the chokehold does not constitute deadly force, since 1975 no less than 16 persons have died following the use of a chokehold by an LAPD officer. Twelve have been Negro males..."

And now, the coronavirus, which kills Americans who are inflicted with the dangerous pre-existing condition of being black in America in far greater numbers than it kills white people. Combine that with the murders of Floyd and Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery and the covers of the "everywhereness" of American Racism have been yanked back. Racism is exposed yet again and white Americans are finally mad as hell.

I sense that they are angry not only because of the injustices they see on video, but also because they sense that the customs and institutions and traditions that maintain the hurt of racism, hurts them as well.

Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness...where all men and woman are created equal...give me your tired, your poor, yearning to breathe free...with liberty and justice for all. I think white Americans are figuring out that that's the country they want to live in. Not this one. They've been gamed, and they've joined Black Americans in their anger. Racism is suffocating, and finally, ain't none of us can breathe.

Wayne Hare is a contributor to Writersontherange.org, a nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He lives in Grand Junction, Colorado, and often fights wildfires for the federal government.



A man holds a megaphone at the Black Lives Matter protest in Washington D.C. on June 6. PHOTO BY CLAY BANKS

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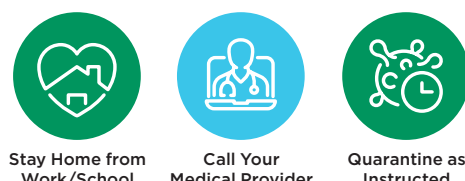
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Stop the invasion

How you can prevent invasive species from damaging our waterways

BY DAVID TUCKER (GRTF) AND JEN MOHLER (GISA)

Clean, drain, dry... it sounds like the instructions on a shampoo bottle but it's actually a warning to regional anglers, and following these simple steps could save Montana's blue-ribbon trout streams from potential disaster.

Beginning with the European invasion of North America, aquatic invasive species, or AIS, have been spreading across the continent, some introduced intentionally as easily harvestable crops, and some tagging along as stowaways accidentally transported from England, France and Russia.

Fast forward to present day Montana, and the plague is wreaking havoc on our waterways. Anglers are unwittingly waging this underwater war, distributing these invaders on boots, boats, vests and nets. Often invisible to the untrained eye, AIS can take over healthy ecosystems, throwing them out of balance and leaving destruction in the wake.

So, what exactly are AIS? According to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, AIS are "non-native plants, animals and pathogens that cause harm to the environment, the economy and human health." In their local ecosystems, AIS support healthy and proper ecological function. In the Gallatin, Madison, Yellowstone and Missouri, they can "out-compete native species for food, reduce prime spawning habitat, feed on young and reduce water quality."

If that apocalyptic scenario doesn't disturb you enough, think about this: once established, AIS are nearly impossible to eradicate. Because of this humbling fact, "prevention is our best defense," says FWP.

Luckily, the battle plan is simple. First, clean all material from your fishing gear before leaving the water. While you're still boots-deep in Baetis Alley, use a scrub brush to remove plants, mud and debris. Check your reel, rod and line. This minimal effort goes a long way toward mitigating the AIS threat.

Next, drain your gear before balling it up and tossing in the truck. Wring out saturated waders and soak up excess water with a sponge, squeezing the liquid out before returning any items to your vehicle. This helps prevent transport of unwanted "hitchhikers." Finally, dry your gear. Hang your waders and set your boots in the sun. Before returning to ply local waters another day, make sure all your fishing gear is dry to the touch.

If you follow these simple steps, you'll be doing your part in what will likely be a never-ending battle against AIS. Make this part of your routine, as elemental to angling as tying knots and selecting flies. Indeed, there is likely nothing more important to the future of fishing than clean, drain and dry, and we all need to do our part.



Anglers can unwittingly spread aquatic invasive species from one waterbody to another on boots, waders and other gear. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

The Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance and Gallatin River Task Force, in conjunction with FWP, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and Montana Invasive Species Council, have been working to mitigate AIS in our waterways since 2017. Visit cleandraindrymt.com to learn more.



Cleaning gear then leaving it to dry reduces the transport of aquatic invasive species. PHOTO COURTESY OF GRTF

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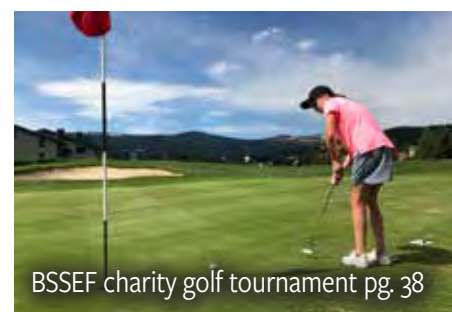
SECTION 3: BUSINESS, SPORTS, HEALTH & FUN



New Big Sky coffee shop pg. 31



Baseball returns to Big Sky pg. 35



BSSEF charity golf tournament pg. 38

Making it in Big Sky: Gallatin Riverhouse Grill

BY BRANDON WALKER

BIG SKY – Founded in 2013, the Gallatin Riverhouse Grill has just as long been ranked amongst the town's top go-to spot for locals and travelers alike.

Pandemic be damned: The Riverhouse was forced to close shop in March, like all restaurants and bars in Gallatin County, when such orders were released from the Gallatin City-County Health Department. But while the well-worn bar stools remained stacked and the doors locked, the Riverhouse adapted to offer takeout orders to continue serving the Big Sky community.

After weeks of that challenging pivot, on May 4, the restaurant was once again able to welcome dine-in patrons after completing extensive health training.

The Riverhouse continues to take precautions in preventing the spread of COVID-19—continuing to require all employees to wear a mask and gloves on site and not allowing patrons to be seated at the bar. Even with occupancy restrictions in place, Riverhouse owners Greg Lisk and Kyle Wisniewski said they have spaced their seating in a manner in which they can't exceed their current maximum occupancy of roughly 160 people.

With the barbecue pit firing on all cylinders again in Big Sky, Lisk and Wisniewski recently spoke with EBS to discuss what it's like to operate a restaurant during a pandemic.

Explore Big Sky: *How has business been since reopening the dining room?*

Greg Lisk: Very nice. We're seeing more travelers than locals. To-go orders ... have been nice. But on a beautiful day like today, we're seeing it being pretty damn busy.

EBS: *How beneficial is it to operate with occupancy restrictions versus remaining closed all together?*

Kyle Wisniewski: It's definitely more beneficial to be open. And it's kind of worked out in our favor just that with the restrictions we can't go to full capacity just yet, just because we are working with a limited work force, a limited you know labor force. So ... not having our J-1 students back, not having people willing to get off of that unemployment and back into working is definitely hindering being able to operate at full capacity, but as far as open versus not open, even under restricted limitations, it's definitely worth it, keeping in mind that all the precautions are taken.

EBS: *Are patrons asking to sit outside rather than inside more frequently this summer?*

K.W.: I think it's as normal as any other year and ... I think people that travel out here are more inclined to dine outside and do all their activities outside ... Yeah, I don't think it's different than any other year as far as people asking for that. The only thing that, I just actually took a call this morning about, was people with you know pre-existing health conditions have called in advance just asking for outdoor seating with social distancing, that kind of thing. So, you know it's a very small group to you know kind of categorize but I think it's pretty standard. Any year I think our patio seating is one of our strengths down here.

EBS: *Do you still plan to host Bingo in the fall, even if it's in an adapted format?*

G.L.: Depending on what phase we're at and as of right now we're kind of on a standby with music and all sorts of stuff because of that reason ... The number one thing for us is safety and not getting ourselves, employees, family, friends and definitely the community, you know, we don't want to spread anything. So, we can all just work together as a team and beat this **** like [it's] how this little town works. It's pretty cool.

EBS: *Shoulder season fluctuations aside, how do you believe the virus will continue to affect your businesses?*

K.W.: As travel restrictions kind of loosen up, I feel that you know there's still kind of that underlying fear of going out and traveling and that's why we're seeing such an increase in our to-go or pick-up food. I really don't think our numbers are showing anything different. We'll



Gallatin Riverhouse Grill owners Greg Lisk (right) and Kyle Wisniewski (left) pose on the patio of their barbecue restaurant. PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG LISK AND KYLE WISNIEWSKI

see what the fall brings. I think our biggest effect to the business, at this point, is our large gatherings so any kind of events, whether that's bingo or weddings or whatever ... We are just able to operate as a restaurant, you know, and nothing outside of that.

EBS: *What has it been like trying to balance remaining up to date with all of the latest health information as well as running your business?*

G.L.: When all of this first happened this was new to everybody, so by the time we kind of got Phase 1 figured out, I'm saying we as the restaurant owners and businesses, it feels like as soon as we got Phase 1 figured out they switched to Phase 2 and then we kind of hit the ground running and now it seems like Phase 2 kind of opened a can of worms, where people aren't really following [it] and kind of letting their guard down. So that's why down here we're still mandatory [in] making our employees wear masks and gloves and we're pretending we're still in Phase 1. We're not allowing people to sit at the bar even though it's legal for them to sit. We're just not doing that just to keep our crew safe.

EBS: *As an owner, what will you remember most from when you were able to welcome dine-in patrons and reopen the dining room?*

K.W.: Reopening a business under these kinds of circumstances, it's just kind of a strange time and I think the most important thing is just delivering this great barbecue product that is kind of unique to us, to our customers. And I just hope they know that even though we're wearing masks and covered up and everything else, that we are happy to see them and smiling underneath those masks.

EBS: *If you could choose one aspect of life before the pandemic to restore, what would it be and why?*

G.L.: Just greeting people, saying hi and, you know, hugging people. I mean this is like a family establishment where people come in and they can't wait to see us and they have our personal cell phone numbers and [say] like 'Hey, we're coming up with family and we know you don't take reservations, but remember us from last year. We're from Wisconsin' or this or the other. And just kind of ... honestly like hugging the extended family and definitely shaking hands.

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

K.W.: I would say everything that we've done since day one is based on consistency, so, if you're consistent 100 percent of the time, don't ever fail and just make sure that you're consistent in hours and quality and safety and everything. That consistency would be our No. 1, greatest piece of business advice.

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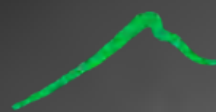
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New Big Sky coffee shop rooted in strong community values

BY BRANDON WALKER

BIG SKY – Sam Riley had a vision. She wanted to own her own coffee shop in Big Sky. On June 14, after two and a half years of planning, that dream blossomed into a reality when she opened the to-go window of The Traveling Bean. Riley's focus with her mobile coffee shop is to give back to the community that has supported her as well as lending a hand to the coffee industry that she is so passionate about.

Almost every physical aspect of the mobile coffee shop—the menu board, the coffee bar's "Coffee" sign, the grinder, and even the cups—were crafted or purchased from members of the Big Sky community and Riley, speaking with a gratefulness that one can feel when chatting with her, can rattle off the lengthy list of individuals who have assisted her in some way, in making her dream a reality.

"Between yesterday and today, I can feel that Big Sky supports me, so I just want to support them," she said after her second day of business on June 15.

The Bel Air, Maryland native never envisioned herself in one of the West's premier resort towns before her arrival to Big Sky in 2014. "I had never heard of it. I hadn't even been out West ever," she said.

Ultimately, a senior project she completed while pursuing her degree in hospitality and tourism management at Appalachian State University led to her discovery of the mountain town that she now holds dear. She recalls communicating with the Big Sky & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Information Center and Big Sky Resort for the project throughout her final semester at ASU before ultimately applying for and getting offered a secretary position at the resort.

"I graduated college, got my wisdom teeth out, [and] moved out here two days later," she said, laughing at the memory.

In 2017, Riley traveled to Honduras to teach for a year and had even been taking trips to Central America as early as 2010. The longtime barista, who previously served frothy, caffeinated beverages at the Hungry Moose and Caliber Coffee, also aims to support the coffee growers who allow her to remain in operation. Her goal is for growers to earn enough money to allow them to send their children to school. "Kids can't go to school," she said.

"Kids are in the streets [and] either they become gang members, even if they don't want to, or they just are living in this form of poverty forever and then their kids will, and the cycle never breaks."

Riley chose Yellowstone Coffee Roasters as her coffee distributor because they share the same moral values: giving back to coffee growers and other community movements.

"I truly, deep in my bones, believe that education is a way out of poverty and so that ties into this entire existence," she said.

The mobile shop is unique in nature being that Riley can take her operation anywhere at any given time. Costing a grand total of no more than \$10,000, Riley knew this outside the box operation was what she wanted from the start.

"It was like a no brainer for me," she said. She cited the various logistical mishaps of costly overhead and the risk of eviction, the plights of occupying a physical location, as the reason for her mobile operation. "... I'm in it for the long haul."

Riley plans to put her mobile shop to use by attending community events, while also selling her coffee to those also in attendance. She said The Traveling Bean will remain located outside of Gallatin River Guides, along U.S. Highway 191, for the summer before moving locations next year.

"I love knowing people's coffee orders," she said. "So, it's like fun to get back into it and still remember them." She plans to utilize social media, specifically Instagram, as well as other community channels to communicate when and where she is moving her operation.

When the pandemic shut down so much of society, Riley, who was working at Ophir Elementary and Middle School as well as the Discovery Academy, found additional time that allowed her to finish preparing for her opening. COVID-19 didn't have an overbearing impact on The Traveling Bean; instead it's caused more industry-based delays than anything, according to Riley.

"The coffee business is slower. There's a shortage of almond milk out there," she said.

Continuing with the theme of education and giving back to the community, Riley hopes to eventually offer internships or other educational based programs that would translate to credits at her shop.



Riley plans to operate her mobile coffee shop outside of Gallatin River Guides along U.S. Highway 191 for the summer. She wants to travel to community events in the coming years as well. PHOTO BY BRANDON WALKER

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Enjoying the Ride: Where the heart is...



BY SCOTT BROWN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

It's hard to believe that in the midst of one of the more challenging times in our nation's history that median home prices in the U.S. just surged to a record high of \$330,000. All the while facing the COVID-19 virus and related lockdowns, George Floyd protests and riots, and arguably one of our most divisive political environments and Presidential election cycles. Given this environment, I'd like to "move in" to the rent vs. own debate.

As some great philosopher once said, "Home is where the heart is." That may be true, but the quote only adds to the complexity of this argument as deciding whether to rent or buy a place in which you live is a major life decision. It affects your lifestyle, your savings decisions, cash flow, flexibility, family traditions, memories, and possibly even your taxes to name a few. Personal finance is personal to say the least. With that said, fewer financial decisions can have a larger impact on your money than whether or not homeownership is the right thing for you and your loved ones.

Since the bias is often towards ownership, let's begin there. Positives to buying include: A forced savings program (monthly mortgage payment), investing in and eventually owning a valuable and likely appreciating asset, tax deductibility of mortgage interest, the pride of ownership (the American Dream), monthly and annual cost predictability (no rent increase or leases that aren't renewed), and finally, stability (being part of a community with long-lasting relationships, schools for your children, etc.).

Negatives to buying include one-time, non-equity home ownership costs which can run 6 to 12 or more percent of the home's value (mortgage origination fees, closing costs, realtor costs). Further negatives include ongoing costs like mortgage interest, homeowners insurance, property taxes, as well as maintenance and repairs. Certain costs are purposely left off here since if you were renting they would likely be passed on to you (utilities, condo or HOA fees, tax increases, and even some maintenance, repairs and improvements).

Perhaps the greatest benefit to renting is flexibility. You have the ability to move each time your lease ends. You can choose to upsize, downsize, urbanize, suburbanize, follow your passions, your career and invest your cost savings however you'd like (rent and invest the difference). You also have more predictability in your monthly living expenses since you won't be hit with an unforeseen expense like replacing your roof or a major household appliance.

Negatives include, no mortgage interest deduction on your taxes, lack of, or at least one less forced savings plan (no equity in your home or appreciation), uncertainty in your living situation knowing that you could be forced to move suddenly. Referring to scenarios such as, if your landlord decides to sell the property, turn your apartment complex into condos or bump your rent up passed what is affordable.

Questions for consideration that may help you decide what route is the best one for you to take include: How long do you plan to live in the home? What is the cost of residential real estate in your desired area? What's the average annual price increase to residential real estate in your town? Do you have ties to the community? Do those ties outweigh any logical reasoning for you? You must also consider the opportunity costs of things like taxes, insurance, down payment, not having a forced savings plan among other things.

Contrary to popular belief, renting doesn't mean you're "throwing money away" every month, and owning doesn't always build wealth "in the long run." The rent versus own debate will persist, and in my opinion, the answer is extremely personal, circumstantial and at times complex. To quote the great Yogi Berra "When you come to a fork in the road, take it." Or as for me, if the question is which do you prefer, mountain biking or road biking, my answer is simply, "Yes please!"

Whether or not you are currently living in your forever home or not, I simply hope you are comfortable with your current living arrangement and are continuing to stay safe during these challenging times. Last but not least, continue to set your sites on your goals and enjoy the ride!

Scott L. Brown is the cofounder and managing principal of Shore to Summit Wealth Management. His wealth management career spans more than 25 years and he currently works and lives in Bozeman with his wife and two sons.



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Making smarter decisions about renewable energy requires knowledge. NorthWestern Energy's solar projects throughout the state of Montana provide clean energy to the power grid – and they're shaping the future of renewable energy, too. We're working with local universities to better understand where solar energy belongs alongside a balanced energy mix. And that research is helping us build a brighter future for the next generation of Montanans.

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Yours in Health

Living a toxin-free lifestyle

BY DR. ANDREA WICK

There are many harsh chemicals, toxins and fragrances in much of the cleaning products that we use every day. Our bodies are constantly burdened by the toxins in the food we eat, the water we drink and the air we breathe. Being aware of what chemicals are in your household cleansers can help to decrease your body burden.

What is body burden? Body burden is the buildup of toxic chemicals within our body. This can come from food additives, pesticides, inhaling toxic chemicals and chemicals coming in contact with our skin. Eliminating toxic cleaning products and chemicals is a good place to start when it comes to living a healthier lifestyle.

Cleaning product toxins can cause an inflammatory response in our bodies and specifically affect the lungs and the mucus membranes. Chemicals in household cleaners can cause lung cancer, asthma, allergy symptoms, and autoimmune response. According to the American Lung Association, "VOCs or Volatile Organic Compounds," include toluene, benzene, and formaldehyde. VOCs are in cleaners, disinfectants, air fresheners and a lengthy list of other sources. VOCs, according to American Lung Association, cause ear, eye and throat irritation, difficulty breathing, nausea, damage to the central nervous system and even cancer.

Phthalates are plasticizers that help to make plastics and vinyl flexible. They also help to make products more durable and have a longer shelf life. Phthalates are almost always formulated to produce synthetic scents and fragrances.

The thing about these toxins is that they are considered endocrine disruptors, meaning that they mimic hormones, leading to infertility, thyroid dysfunction, and breast cancer. Studies have also shown that phthalates lead to long-term kidney damage. A study in the Environmental Health Perspectives, found that high levels of phthalates can even cause DNA damage in human sperm.

Phthalates are commonly found in laundry detergent, deodorant, cosmetics, vinyl, carpet and anything with a fragrance or perfume. Cleaning products, plastic bottles, plastic wrap, and plastic food containers are other common products that contain this chemical.

Phthalates are NOT listed on ingredient lists, therefore it is important to avoid anything that has added fragrances. The best way to avoid this toxin is to buy products that are not stored in plastic containers. Use DIY hair, skin care, and household cleaners whenever possible.

Wondering about some safe alternative recipes? Here are some great DIY cleaning options:

Surface cleaner:

- 2 cups of distilled water
- ¼ cup of castile soap
- 15 drops of orange or lemon essential oil

Mix into a glass spray bottle and use within three weeks.

I also make other surface cleaners, without soap, adding:

- 2 cups of distilled water
- ¼ cup of rubbing alcohol
- 7-8 drops of clove oil
- 7-8 drops of orange oil

For a natural bleach alternative, try ¾ cup of hydrogen peroxide with ¼ cup of lemon juice, 1 TBSP of citric acid, 20 drops of lemon essential oil, add to a half gallon container and fill the rest with water. Bam! You will have lighter and brighter whites!

You can make your own dishwasher detergent, laundry detergent and even grout cleaner. Essential oils, vinegar and castile soap will soon be your best friends.

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



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Baseball returns to Big Sky

Big Sky team off to strong start

BY BRANDON WALKER

BIG SKY – The sound of a bat cracking a ball and the ensuing cheers of spectators marked the return of Little League baseball to the Big Sky Community Park on June 23 when the 11- and 12-year-old Big Sky Royals beat the Belgrade Dodgers, 12-6, in their first home game of the season.

“It’s a bit of normalcy, we’ve been waiting for it,” said Big Sky Royals coach Matt Morris, addressing the importance of the sport’s return to his young team.

With a temperature of 75 degrees at game time, the Royals got off to an equally hot start, putting the ball in play and taking advantage of some Dodger fielding miscues, earning them a 10-0 lead at the end of the first inning. For the remainder of the contest the Dodgers did their best to claw their way back into it, but to no avail as the Royals added a couple of runs late in the game to shut the door.

In a season that nearly didn’t happen, the Royals find themselves with a sparkling 4-1 record and a No. 1 ranking atop the Belgrade Youth Baseball League standings. With four more games left on their schedule before the league tournament, the Royals have been running rampant throughout the league, outscoring their opponents by a combined total of 58-20 and only being held to single digit runs once throughout their first five games. As a team the Royals are batting .385 for the season and turning in strong performances on the mound, resulting in a 2.98 earned run average.

Following a later start to the season due to COVID-19, the Royals added new players as young athletes originally from New York and Texas have recently relocated and are lacing up their cleats to represent Big Sky this year. “As a new kid in a new environment, there’s nothing better to mix you in pretty seamlessly than a sport,” Morris said of how the game has helped the group grow closer.

As the team camaraderie has blossomed, the wins have begun to rack up with some athletes on the team unaccustomed to the winning ways. The returning 12-year-old players endured a tough season last year, going winless for the entire season, according to Morris, who is coaching for the first year at the 11- and 12-year old level.

“They’re starting to learn how to win and I think that’s important,” he said. “I know winning’s not everything, but to create a winning atmosphere makes it a lot more fun and it’s great to see those guys



Royals pitcher Oliver McGuire unleashes a pitch versus the Belgrade Dodgers on June 23. The Royals won the game, 12-6. PHOTO BY BRANDON WALKER



Big Sky Royals player, Mickey Schack (swinging), makes contact with the ball versus the Belgrade Dodgers on June 23. PHOTO BY BRANDON WALKER

now, who have put in time and took their lumps are out there winning ball games.”

The 11- and 12-year-old group aren’t the only ones swinging a bat in Big Sky, however, with a 9- and 10-year-old team trailing closely behind.

The return of America’s national pastime to the Big Sky community is one example of society’s phased restart, albeit with some tweaks to the game such as not allowing players to slap hands or chew sunflower seeds. “[A] little different this year,” Morris said of the guidelines for play. “But I’m happy I’ve got my squad and we’re able to learn the game of baseball.”

A sunflower seed enthusiast having to adjust himself, Morris is simply thankful to get his team back onto the field, even with the adjustments. He described celebrations as being the toughest habit to break because they are natural, enthusiastic reactions rather than a thought-out gesture. “You know it’s hard to play baseball any other way,” he said.

The team typically competes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with the occasional Saturday game mixed in. The Royals don’t hold set practices, instead Morris notifies the rest of the team when he is going to be at the field to hit and throw the ball with his own son and usually the entire group will show up to participate.

The outside practice time is one bounty provided by the late season as teams traditionally practiced inside once a week before the season began due to the unpredictable Montana spring conditions. “That’s been, I think, our biggest benefit of the season,” Morris said.

Restoring a summer staple to the lives of unassuming little leaguers appears to be a win for everyone. “I think the whole community creates a great environment and it’s ... fun to see,” Morris said.

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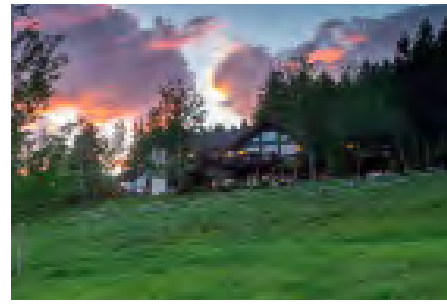


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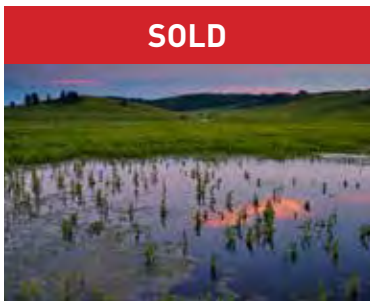


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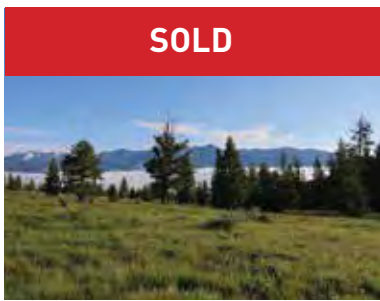


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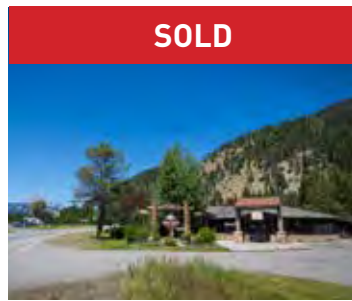
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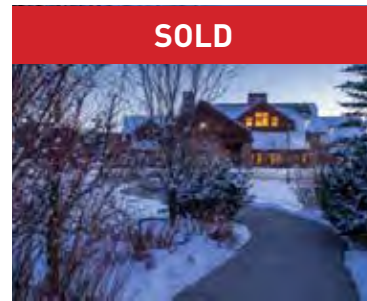
Yellowstone Ranch Preserve
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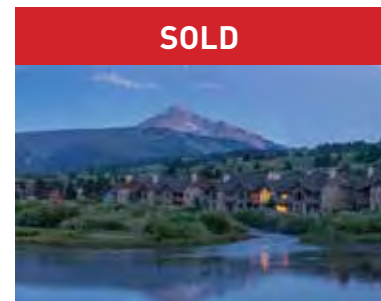
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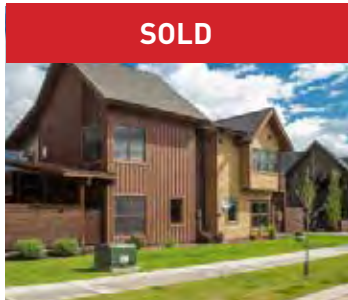


78 Meadow Village
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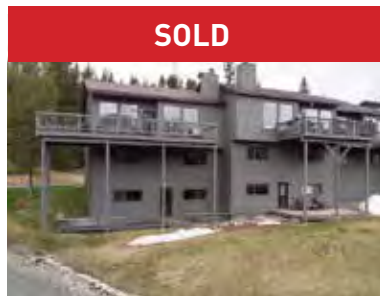


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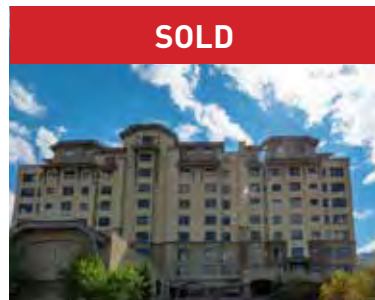
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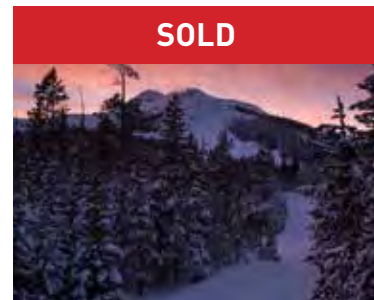
211 B Pheasant Tail
\$692K



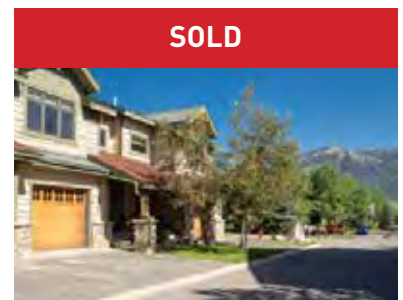
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15 Blue Flax Place
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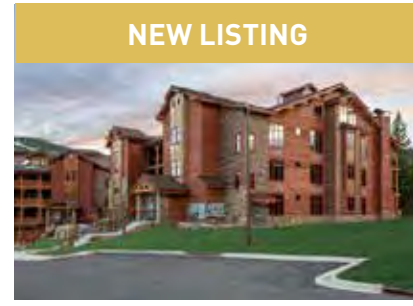
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BUSINESS



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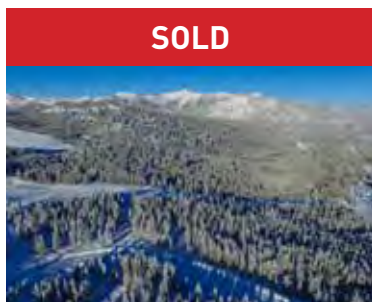
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\$29.9K per unit
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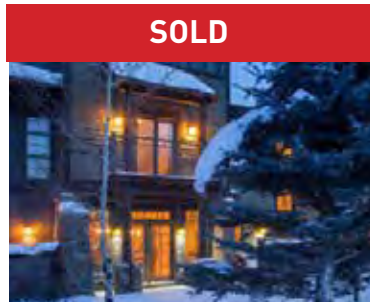
Terranaut Adventure Vans
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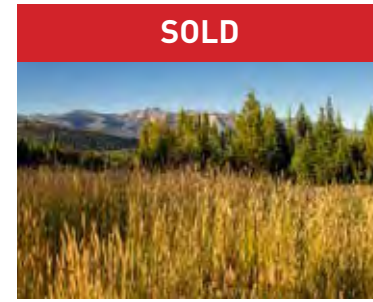
2078 Little Coyote List
List Price: \$1.079M



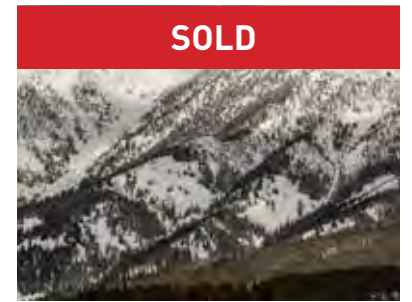
Ski Tip Lot 10
List Price: \$975K



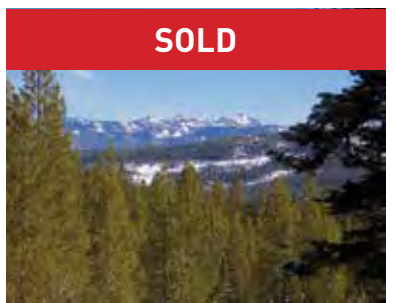
81 Pheasant Tail Ln. Unit 2
2,707 SQ FT / \$839K



Lot 64 Goshawk
1.04 ACRES / \$775K



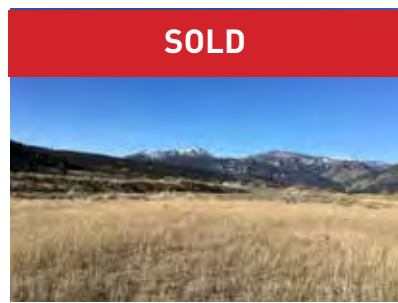
Lot 44 Diamond Hitch
1.25 ACRE / \$699K



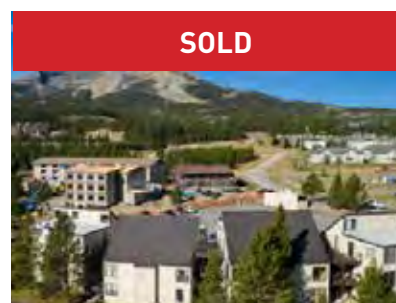
Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.
3.13 Acres / \$490K



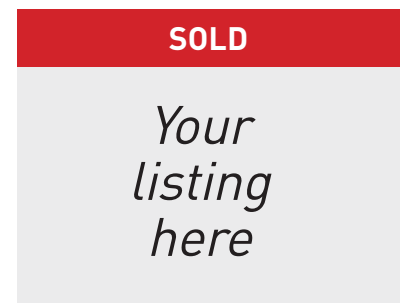
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Big Sky Ski Education Foundation hosts first annual charity golf tournament

BY BRANDON WALKER

BIG SKY – On June 27 the Big Sky Ski Education Foundation held their first fundraiser since February due to COVID-19 cancelations, postponements and precautions. 26 teams competed in the first BSSEF Swing into Summer Charity Golf Tournament which brought in between \$6,000 and \$7,000 in proceeds benefiting BSSEF operations.

“The support for it was overwhelming,” BSSEF Executive Project Director Callie Pecunies said. “We really weren’t sure when we went into this whether people were going to be willing to be sponsors and ... pay the entry fee and buy raffle tickets.”

Kicking off with a shot gun start at 10 a.m. the sunny and partly cloudy conditions made for ideal golf conditions for the 26 teams, which were comprised of four competitors each.

“It was awesome. It was a beautiful day in Big Sky,” competitor Daniel Bierschwale said of the tournament. “... The perfect activity for socially distancing and being able to soak up some sun on the golf course.”

Pecunies was initially fearful that BSSEF wouldn’t fill the team limit that was set for the tournament, but teams registered and filled the field prior to even the registration deadline on June 22.

“I was hoping we could get at least 20 teams,” she said. “... We’ve been you know just really pleased with the support and the number of sponsors.”

The tournament was capped with a team limit because of the availability of golf carts rather than for COVID-19 precautions. Pecunies said it was due to the amount of golf carts that the Big Sky Golf Course could allow BSSEF to utilize, while still being able to offer carts to the public looking to casually play.

“I think it speaks to the excitement of just doing something after so many months of not doing things,” Pecunies said, referring to how quickly registration filled.



Eric Leydig chips on the 9th hole of the Big Sky Golf Course on June 27. 26 teams competed at the first Big Sky Ski Education Foundation Swing into Summer Charity Golf Tournament. PHOTO BY BRANDON WALKER



Kate Leydig putts for par on the 9th hole of the Big Sky Golf Course at the first BSSEF Swing into Summer Charity Golf Tournament. PHOTO BY BRANDON WALKER

Adjustments were made to the tournament to ensure the safety of all participants. Teams were adequately spaced throughout the course, there were multiple scoreboards rather than having one gathering place for teams to check final scores, as well as various stands to purchase beverages located around the course to further avoid large gatherings of people.

“I felt super safe and commend the BSSEF for following all of the recommended CDC guidelines,” Bierschwale said. “I think they set a positive example [for] the rest of the community [and] being able to do this at some point again this summer.”

Funds raised from the golf tournament, sponsored by Big Sky Build, First American Title Company and Pinky G’s Pizzeria, will be crucial to BSSEF, after they had to cancel large-scale competitions due to COVID-19. The cancelations resulted in a loss of about \$30,000 in revenue, according to Pecunies. The Tri-Divisional Alpine Championships and the Freeride World Qualifier were both canceled due to the pandemic.

BSSEF will still have the opportunity to host these competitions next year, after the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association decided to honor the same hosts who had to cancel the competitions this year, rather than allowing bidding for the competitions to determine the host.

BSSEF also extended their annual winter raffle, which typically concludes in April, but instead the organization is continuing to sell tickets until the fall, while also selling fireworks at their fireworks trailer located next to the Conoco.

The “Bozone Hawks,” comprised of Henry Farley, Tom Hoffman, Thomas Sexton and Taylor Limanek, came away with the top gross score of the tournament at 57 strokes, while “Biggerstaff Construction” made up of Jerad Biggerstaff, Taylor Graham, Ryan Blechta and Brian Scott, was the top net scoring team at 58 strokes.

Local rugby match likely only one of season

A brief history of the Montana Rugby Union

BY BRANDON WALKER

BIG SKY – The Bozeman Cutthroats Rugby Club hosted the Jackson Hole Moose Rugby Club for a friendly match on June 27 in what may be the only competition to take place on the rugby pitch in Gallatin County this year.

“It’s great. We’re excited, we’re happy to do it, we’re just stoked to get a game in,” said Ben Johnson, a lock forward for the Cutthroats, prior to the match on June 25. “We didn’t think we’d even have one all year.”

The Cutthroats defeated the Moose 25-5, in the friendly competition after learning that their season and usual tournaments have all been canceled for the year. While rugby is set to experience a slow year due to COVID-19, its history in Montana is rich.

“Rugby in Montana—I mean it’s not huge—but we’ve got a history, we’ve got some well-established teams,” Johnson said.

The Cutthroats are a member of the Montana Rugby Union which has been in existence since 1976. “We play in the Montana Rugby Union, which is a union, with its own teams, we play for our own championship [and] our own trophy,” Johnson said.

Johnson explained that rugby unions were independent before USA Rugby, the national association for rugby in the U.S., was formed in 1975 and clubs began to affiliate with the centralized entity—a move the MRU never made.

“Over the years, these what were called outlaw unions, kind of dissolved and started to get annexed into USA Rugby, but the Montana Rugby Union is the last outlaw union,” Johnson said. “We’re the last group of teams that play just the way we’ve always done it.”

The eight-team union is comprised of the Cutthroats, the Coeur d’Alene Osprey, the Billings Bulls, the Butte Crabs, the University of Montana Jesters, the Missoula Maggots, the Great Falls Electric City Shockers and the Flathead Moose.



Ben Johnson (with ball) competing for the Bozeman Cutthroats in a previous match. The Cutthroats hosted the Jackson Hole Moose for a friendly match on June 27, winning 25-5. PHOTO COURTESY OF BEN JOHNSON

The Cutthroats typically have a spring and fall season. They play five matches in the spring season, ultimately culminating in an MRU end of season tournament, in which the victors lay claim to the rotating Silver Cup. Prior to the cancelation of this season, the Cutthroats were aiming to reclaim the Silver Cup, after winning three consecutive years from 2016 to 2018. The fall season is less structured with teams only partaking in a single MRU competition, before finding friendly matches and tournaments to participate in for the remainder of the fall.

Johnson, who has played rugby since 2004 when he was earning his degree in wildlife biology at the University of Montana, said the roughly 30-man Cutthroat squad was formerly known as the Bozeman Deer Slayers. He joined the Cutthroats after relocating to Big Sky in 2011, having played his first seven seasons for the University of Montana Jesters.

In preparation for their friendly match on June 27, the team was practicing about twice per week, adapting play to two hand

touch style rather than full on contact. In a normal season the Cutthroats practice four times each week between fitness training and tactic focused practices, Johnson said.

After the final scrum on June 27, the two teams shared a meal together at the field, rather than gathering at a local eatery as was previously planned, before the Jackson Hole team returned home.

Field set for PBR team competition championship

Team Pendleton Whisky claims No. 1 seed on final day

BY BRANDON WALKER

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA – The PBR Monster Energy Team Challenge completed regular season matchups on June 28 with three teams from Division B punching their tickets to championship weekend, joining three from Division A.

Team Pendleton Whisky (5-1), Team Ariat (4-1-1), and Team Boot Barn (3-2-1), advanced to championship weekend, taking place July 10-12 at the Denny Sanford PREMIER Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota with a live audience in attendance, joining Team Cooper Tires, Team Las Vegas and Team Can-Am.

Team Pendleton Whisky avenged a previous loss to Team Ariat, beating them 258.75 event aggregate points to 88.5, claiming the No. 1 seed for Division B. Following the loss to Team Ariat, Team Pendleton Whisky won their last three matchups by a combined 495.25 event aggregate points en route to the top spot and a bye in the first round of championship weekend.

“These guys are tough, I just came in for week two,” said Team Pendleton Whisky’s Boudreaux Campbell. “These guys were already banged up when I got here. But I just showed up to ride and we got it done.”

Team Ariat entered the final two days of competition undefeated before tying Team Boot Barn on June 27 and succumbing to Team Pendleton Whisky on June 28. Despite the slow finish, Team Ariat will be the second seed coming out of Division B.

Team Boot Barn found themselves with a losing record, 1-2, after the first weekend of Division B competition June 19-21, but were able to secure two victories and the tie with Team Ariat to climb back into the final playoff spot.



Team Pendleton Whisky rider Boudreaux Campbell competes at the PBR Monster Energy Team Challenge on June 28. PHOTO BY ANDY WATSON, BULL STOCK MEDIA

“We were determined to make it to Sioux Falls,” said Team Boot Barn Captain Daylon Swearingen. “We haven’t done exactly what we needed to do here, but we’re glad to make it.”

Swearingen rode five of the 12 bulls he faced throughout the two weekends of competition and currently trails Jose Vitor Leme of Team Cooper Tires by more than 300 points in the Built Ford Tough MVP race.

On July 10, the first day of championship weekend competition, Team Ariat will square off with Team Can-Am, while Team Boot Barn takes on Team Las Vegas. Team Cooper Tires and Team Pendleton Whisky will await the winners of each matchup.



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Golf Tips from a Pro: Evolution of golf etiquette

BY MARK WEHRMAN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

As I was playing the other evening I started thinking about golf etiquette and how much it has evolved over the years. I would like to take this opportunity to talk about the changes to traditional golf etiquette, while also recognizing the things that have remained a standard over time.

When I think about traditional golf etiquette certain things come to mind. Stand still and stay quiet while people are hitting a shot. I feel these courtesies are “in the past” now as you will see many people sporting Bluetooth speakers, listening to music while they play, which is allowed as long as it doesn’t become a disruption to others on the course.

Another thing of the past is the hitting order or the “honors” of whom hits first. In my opinion, everyone should be playing “ready golf” at all times. Playing ready golf means not worrying about hitting order and instead focusing on making sure you are ready to hit your ball whenever it is safe for the others in the group. Forget about who is farthest out from the hole or who has the “honor” on the tee; ready golf keeps the game moving at all times and decreases waiting time when others are not prepared to hit their ball. Ready golf can mean playing out of turn at times to keep play moving forward and even include two people hitting simultaneously, as long as there is no danger for any of the players in the group.

Another form of traditional etiquette is wearing a collared shirt when golfing. As a traditionalist, I am still in favor of this practice. My guess is that most all people, especially males, have at least one polo or “collared shirt” in their closet and, in my opinion, golfing is the perfect time to use it. Although it is not a requirement at most courses anymore, I believe that looking like a golfer and acting like a golfer will lead to feeling and playing like an experienced golfer yourself. I’m certain that there will be plenty of opportunities to display your favorite Skid Row tee shirt elsewhere. But, like I said, collared shirts are not a requirement here, instead they are strongly preferred. Other dress code etiquette requirements will always include no tank tops or cut-offs. Avoiding these garments is a must at every facility I have ever played and should be followed when visiting any course.

Golf etiquette also refers to how we care for the course while we are playing, such as repairing your ball marks on the green and replacing your divots or filling them with sand. Following these guidelines will also provide you, and everyone else, the opportunity to play the course in its best condition, which we all want.

Other course etiquette and care procedures have been relaxed over time as well. I feel that walking in someone’s line on the green is not that important anymore due to the fact that most golf shoes no longer have spikes and especially now that the rules allow you to tap down spike marks and fix any imperfections in the turf on your line. In my opinion, it’s just not as “disrespectful” as it was once considered.

Other considerations that will always be recommended are following cart signs on the course, and always keeping your golf car on the cart path, especially around all tees and greens. Again, it is for your own, as well as all other golfers’ benefit, to adhere to golf course care etiquette.

Lastly, when I think of golf etiquette, I also think of the golf course and the residents around it that need to have a mutual respect for each other. In our case here at Big Sky Golf Course, when marking the course each spring with hazard stakes and out of bounds stakes, I always make sure to mark out of bounds areas whenever we have a hole that is bordered by homes. Psychologically, golfers are more concerned about losing their \$2 golf ball than breaking a \$1000 window-pane. Appalling, I know, but it is amazingly true, so as golf course operators we do everything we can to protect the homeowners around the course.

In return, we ask that the residents of golf courses respect the course by not walking their dog on the course when we are open from the months of May to September, as this is for the safety of you and your pets. As a current homeowner on the course for the past 8 years, I can honestly say that I strongly adhere to this recommendation myself. Until this past January, when our beloved dog went to doggy heaven, I would look forward to getting home every night and immediately taking my dog to the park to enjoy a beautiful walk by the river.

We are so fortunate to live in a community with a multi-use park that welcomes all people and pets and we should enjoy our pets at places like these, rather than on the golf course where people are paying good money to enjoy their golf game. Even if you are being careful, it is the perception of people walking their pets on the course that makes others think this practice is ok. We kindly ask that you respect these policies for the enjoyment of all people, pets, and golfers.

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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American Life in Poetry:

Column 796

BY TED KOOSER

U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2004-2006

Now and then, I get a complaint from one of our readers saying that what we publish isn't poetry because it doesn't rhyme. Actually, we've published quite a lot of poetry with rhymes—end-rhymes, half-rhymes, internal rhymes, and now and then a sonnet, if that sonnet is a fine poem, too. And here's one of those by Rhina P. Espaillat, a New Englander, from her book *And After All*, published by Able Muse Press.

Butchering

My mother's mother, toughened by the farm, hardened by infants' burials, used a knife and swung an axe as if her woman's arm wielded a man's hard will. Inured to life and death alike, "What ails you now?" she'd say ungently to the sick. She fed them, too, roughly but well, and took the blood away—and washed the dead, if there was that to do. She told us children how the cows could sense when their own calves were marked for butchering, and how they lowed, their wordless eloquence impossible to still with anything—sweet clover, or her unremitting care. She told it simply, but she faltered there.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Lass
- Old times
- Fr. singer
- Lt. wine region
- Sea (Fr.)
- Sayings (suf.)
- Scientific name (suf.)
- Sheep's cry
- Biblical giants
- Wrinkle
- Sing
- Cereal spike
- Grampus
- Austral. gum tree
- Wedge-shaped
- Radio Free Europe (abbr.)
- Explosive letters
- Babism founder
- Name
- WWI battle
- Borough (abbr.)
- Damage
- Profession
- Bad actor
- Pin (Lat.)
- Polynesian drink
- Less: music
- Nipa palm
- Iodine (pref.)
- S.A. rodent
- Single (pref.)
- No (Scot.)
- Treasury agents

DOWN

- Volcano crater
- Spore sacs
- Account entry
- Didy
- Wheat
- "Brave Bulls" author
- Attenuate (2 words)
- Gore
- Poetic foot
- Indigo plant
- Reputation
- Fr. medieval tale
- Scot. alder tree (abbr.)
- Crab-eating macaque
- Afghanistan (abbr.)
- Kidney (pref.)
- Television channel
- Abridged
- To (Scot.)
- Compass direction
- Geological formation
- Spotted eagle ray
- One of the Three Stooges
- Sweet potato
- Inspire
- Civil War commander
- Madam
- Outer (pref.)
- Malay title of respect
- Force
- Noun-forming (suf.)
- White-fleeced
- Voice of America (abbr.)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

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Corner Quote

“In spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart. I simply can’t build up my hopes on a foundation consisting of confusion, misery, and death. I see the world gradually being turned into a wilderness, I hear the ever approaching thunder, which will destroy us too, I can feel the sufferings of millions and yet, if I look up into the heavens, I think that it will all come right, that this cruelty too will end, and that peace and tranquility will return again.”

– Anne Frank, *“The Diary of a Young Girl”*

BIG SKY BEATS

Big Sky Beats: “Crazy” — Gnarls Barkley

Soul duo Gnarls Barkley is the musical synthesis of two early 2000s mega-stars—Joseph Burton, aka Danger Mouse, who has produced hit albums for the likes of Gorillaz (*Demon Days*), The Black Keys (*Attack & Release*, *El Camino* and *Turn Blue*) and Jay-Z (*The Black Album*), and Thomas DeCarlo Callaway, aka CeeLo Green, who got his start with Goodie Mob in Atlanta during the Dirty South hip-hop movement of the 1990s.

The partnership formed on a CeeLo Green solo tour, with Danger Mouse DJing. Channeling a trademark soul sound, the duo released their first studio album *“St. Elsewhere”* in 2006, which contained their hit single *“Crazy.”* The track would soon peak at No. 2 on Billboard’s Hot 100 list, topping international charts as well. Rolling Stone dubbed *“Crazy”* the best song of 2006, Pitchfork Media ranked it at No. 11 on their top 500 songs of the 2000s, and it also pocketed Gnarls Barkley a Grammy in 2007. It has since clocked millions of sales around the globe, going four-times platinum in the U.S. and two-times platinum in the U.K.

Fifteen years after the release of *“Crazy,”* there has never been a more appropriate time to absorb its apropos sounds and lyrics.



Album art for Gnarls Barkley's debut work *St. Elsewhere*



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SECTION 4: ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND DINING



Arts council summer programs pg. 52



Red Sugar: Montana's first dim sum pg. 57



Back 40: Rooted in the West pg. 58

Bozeman Art Museum meets art education needs of rural schools

BY MIRA BRODY

BOZEMAN – Erin Jones Graf, president of the Bozeman Art Museum board, believes art is a universal, connecting language. Unfortunately, it's also a subject many rural Montana communities are lacking, a gap the Bozeman Art Museum is trying to close classroom by classroom. Hope is on the horizon however, after having successfully opened Bozeman's first-ever art museum this past January, Jones Graf, and Linda Williams, executive director and founder, are no strangers to paving the way in the name of access for art.

"For many kids art is their reprieve. It grounds them, it brings them emotional stability," said Jones Graf. The art advocate attended Montana State University, studying printmaking and art education. She coached track and field at the college for a stint, before ultimately becoming an artist herself. She joined the museum board and at the first meeting was elected president. "If we can reach those kids early on that have an inner passion for art and provide that place for them, I think that's really important."

The Bozeman Art Museum sits in the West Main shopping center sandwiched between Distinctive Lighting and the Frugal Frame Shop. It's a narrow room, well-lit and today home to paintings by Steve Huston and large metal statue works by Floyd DeWitt. Although the physical space only recently opened, their art education and outreach programs have been in full-force since 2012.

Williams, a single parent of four and longtime art collector and contributor to Art Connoisseur Magazine, had long dreamt of bringing such a space to the area, even returning to school to get her Master's in art history to build a stronger foundation for her vision.

"Every other large town in Montana has one," Williams said. "Miles City, Great Falls, Missoula, Kalispell...and yet so many people consider Bozeman the art hub."

Today, the Bozeman Art Museum is a reality, operating as a nonprofit and supported by a local board as well as a national advisory council. Each year, through their education program and staff of talented educators, the museum teaches 1200 students in a 12-week curriculum.

They target rural schoolhouses and education centers, including Pine Creek, Pass Creek and the L'esprit Mental Health Center in Livingston,



Students from Pass Creek School participate in one of the Bozeman Art Museum's art programs. PHOTO COURTESY OF BOZEMAN ART MUSEUM



Erin Jones Graf and Linda Williams stand in the Bozeman Art Museum beside a sculpture by Floyd DeWitt whose work is featured alongside Steve Hudson. PHOTO BY MIRA BRODY

where teachers often do not have the experience or funding for art education. They are also thankful to be able to host group lectures in the Bozeman Public Library and Museum of the Rockies.

"The struggles in rural Montana run deep," said Jones Graf, who was born and raised in Harlowton, a town with fewer than 1,000 residents. "In many ways art saved my life and I know many other kids that can say that. In the city there's so much to do. In a small area, you have four to five teachers doing everything and who don't have an art background. When you go to rural towns, you can really get those kids into art and learning it like they should."

For Jones Graf and Williams, it's not just about access in school, but the opportunity to teach the general public about art history as well, bringing a service to southwest Montana that usually only exists in large cities. While those who grew up near a major populous have memories of Monet's and Da Vinci's work in person, others are unable to travel to those lengths.

"There's an importance of seeing actual brushstrokes," said Williams. "You can look at this stuff online, but you don't realize the Mona Lisa unless you're standing in front of it, and you realize the size and scale. Realizing that it was the hand of man that did that. We want to encourage people to see that somebody made this. This was a blank canvass. And behind that there's years of work."

That's the vision behind the Bozeman Art Museum—providing that ability to stand around a 200-year-old painting, feel the energy that was exerted in its creation and have a discussion about it. The Bozeman Art Museum's long term goal would be to purchase a larger space and bring in incredible works from all over the world, and ultimately, become a longstanding staple of the community.

"That's how every art museum has started. It's started with an idea," Jones Graf said.

Meanwhile, the pandemic has provided time to apply for grants and come up with a game plan for their art education program and art show openings moving forward. While they can teach remotely, they will attempt to host an invitation-only, multi-night opening for their upcoming exhibit slated for July 15.



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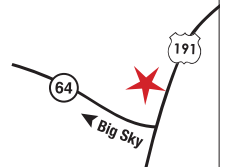


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BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR

Friday, July 3 – Thursday, July 16

If your event falls between July 17 and July 30, please submit it by July 8 by emailing media@outlaw.partners

Friday, July 3

Friday Afternoon Club
EBS Facebook Live, 5 p.m.

Saturday, July 4

Saturday sweat: free community workout
Moving Mountains Big Sky, 8 a.m.

Artisan Festival
Meadow Village Center, 9 a.m.

Gallatin Valley Farmers Market
Gallatin Valley Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.

Virtual Race for Independence
Reach Facebook, 1 p.m.

Business and Pleasure: Bozeman's Historic Red Light District
The Extreme History Project, 7 p.m.

Monday, July 6

Virtual Town Hall
EBS Facebook Live, 5 p.m.

Orvis 101 Fly Fishing Lessons
Montana Angler Fly, 5:45 p.m.

Tuesday, July 7

Bozeman Farmers Market
Lindley Park, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, July 8

Community Yoga for Equality
Santosh Wellness Center, 10:30 a.m.

Big Sky Farmers Market
Town Center, 5 p.m.

Thursday, July 9

Music on Main
Live from the Rialto, 6 p.m.

Friday, July 10

Friday Afternoon Club
EBS Facebook Live, 5 p.m.

Free Friday Night
Montana Science Center, 5 p.m.

Saturday, July 11

ARTventures: Clay monster cups
Arts Council of Big Sky, 10 a.m.

Shred Fest, Women's MTB Skills
Big Sky Resort

Sunday, July 12

Shred Fest, Women's MTB Skills
Big Sky Resort

Tuesday, July 14

Bozeman Farmers Market
Lindley Park, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15

Big Sky Farmers Market
Town Center, 5 p.m.

Thursday, July 16

Music on Main
Live from the Rialto, 6 p.m.



History on the House

Gallatin History Museum
Saturday, July 11 at 11 a.m.

Take a step back in time to what Gallatin County was like in its beginnings at the Gallatin County History Museum in Downtown Bozeman. In addition to jail cells and a hanging gallows, the museum has a unique collection of exhibits and collection of photography that show a glimpse of the unique histories of the people who have called southwest Montana home. As a show of appreciation, on the second Saturday of each month, the Gallatin History Museum will waive all entry fees for History on the House!



Arts Council Summer Art Programs

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

Summer is here and the Arts Council of Big Sky is kicking off their summer ARTventure series. ARTventures are free art workshops and activities designed especially for young artists who love a good creative adventure outside of the house, studio or classroom. They are free and open to all young artists! In addition to ARTventures, the Arts Council will also offer adult art workshops in a variety of mediums.

ARTventure Farmers Market Tent

The Big Sky Farmers Market has always been the summer spot to pick up homemade treats, locally grown produce and products and crafts made by local artisans. This year, the Big Sky Farmers Market will also be a place to create! The Arts Council of Big Sky is excited to bring the ARTventure activity tent to the 2020 Farmers Market! ARTventure is a fun, family friendly weekly event where children can get messy, creative and express themselves through art.

The ARTventure tent is free and open to all children under the age of 13 and will run every Wednesday at the Farmers Market from June 17 through Aug. 26, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.. Children will work with Megan Buecking, the Arts Council of Big Sky's Education Director and the ARTventure interns to make their own original artwork. The ARTventure tent activities will vary each week and will feature projects like painting, drawing, clay and fiber crafts.

In order to provide a safe and fun activity, the number of children per session will be limited to 12. Everyone in the tent will be asked to wear masks and use hand sanitizer (both provided) and the space will be thoroughly disinfected between shifts.

ARTventure Weekend Workshops

The Arts Council of Big Sky is excited to announce the ARTventure Weekend Workshop series consisting of five art-making sessions for young artists throughout the summer. The small-group workshops will take place every



A group of young artists showing off their finished paintings at last summer's ARTventure workshop. PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

other Saturday morning at the Community Park Yurt and will focus on creative endeavors like painting, pottery, drawing, photography and more! Registration is available at bigskyarts.org/events.



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AMUSE-BOUCHE

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

Next time you're at a party



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

In my opinion, we've learned some interesting food history and facts, for example, how ketchup originated from Vietnamese fish sauce, or how President Eisenhower is essentially the father of the restaurant diner. And let's not forget how a 12-year-old slave from the French island of Reunion learned how to pollinate the vanilla orchid, thus changing how we use it all over the world.

But there are so many littler hidden treasures from nature, or facts from factories that so many of us take for granted.

Here is just a sampling: Raspberries are in the rose family and it gets better. Not only raspberries, but apples, pears, plums, peaches, apricots, almonds, and a host of other fruits are all related to the rose.

I remember years ago suddenly noticing that the stalks on my grandmother's rose bushes looked a lot like the bark on our apple tree in our backyard. I did some investigative work and sure enough came to the conclusion that they are in the same rosaceae family.

If you are allergic to latex, it's possible you are also allergic to fruits such as figs, melons, kiwi avocado or papaya, as somewhere between 30 percent and 50 percent of people who have an allergy to latex rubber also can have a hypersensitivity to these fresh fruits upon contact. Called latex fruit syndrome, it has to do with what's called cross reactivity and similar structural compounds in these fruits that resemble those in man made latex.

Bananas are berries, while strawberries aren't and in fact, neither are blackberries or raspberries for that matter. They are what's known as an aggregate fruit, which means they are formed from several carpel, or parts, rather than one central piece. In simplest terms, people classified a group of what seemed to be similar fruits together long before scientists could more accurately define what a "berry" was.

By definition, you need three layers to constitute a berry: An outer skin, an inner fleshy part, and more than one seed in the center. Though a "peel" or "rind" do seem to break this mold, bananas and melons are berries, and so is a grape for that matter. To complicate matters more, though classified as berries, grapes seem to have taken on their own laymen's term as simply being called "grapes". Grapes get a bit of a pass since they set themselves apart to some degree by the fact that they grow in clusters.

In Russia, beer used to be classified as a soft drink, as was also the case with anything that was under 10 percent alcohol by volume. They believed this attributed to the heavy consumption of beer by all ages, including drinking beer in the streets, in parks, and almost all other public areas. And studies showed that Russia had per capita alcohol consumption twice the critical level set by the World Health Organization.

Russia had two solutions to this problem. One was to implement a 200 percent tax hike for these alcoholic beverages containing under 10 percent alcohol. The other, was to recategorize beer as alcohol, which in my opinion was a little financially friendlier than the tax hike.

These two changes seemed to be effective, but the most interesting factor to me is when these two things were put into action: Beer wasn't alcohol in Russia until this law passed in 2011!

More fun facts to come in future articles.

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



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Red Sugar: Montana's first dim sum

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BOZEMAN – When I moved to southwest Montana from New York City nearly 18 months ago, I felt that, aside from family and friends, I'd left nothing all that worthwhile behind.

New Yorkers reading this are up in arms, as they are by nature defensive creatures: What about Broadway shows?; What about the bright lights and the kinetic energy that pulses throughout every corner of the five boroughs?; What about the professional options?; What about the food?

As for the first items on that hypothetical and truncated list, they are losses indeed. But were they ever worth the 120 degree conditions at every subway terminal during the summer, the jarring crowds, swarms of tourists, the constant hustle and noise, the incessant need to compare, or the mercurial bums that occasionally harangued friends and me as we tried to walk through the park? But on the latter, food, they have a point.

Combining Big Sky and Bozeman's food offerings will leave any foodie satisfied, as there is truly something for everyone, typically constructed from high-quality, locally sourced ingredients. Though, the buck has stopped short—for me anyway—when considering Chinese food, a staple of the New York City diet. Which is why I was relieved to discover Red Sugar Dim Sum on Bozeman's vibrant Main Street.

Sweet and sour chicken, beef with broccoli, shrimp fried rice—they have their merits, but they are about as Chinese as the Star Spangled Banner. Dim sum, on the contrary, is an authentic craft of cuisine passed on from generation to generation for millennia. It's the real stuff, and Red Sugar nails it.

Owner Angel Chen came to the U.S. 15 years ago from her home in the Guangdong province of southeastern China where she lived in a town not far from Hong Kong. Her first stop was Great Falls, a starkly different environment from the nearly tropical conditions of her earlier life.

"When I first came to Montana, I was very grateful," Chen said. "But when I first came here it felt like a big surprise because in my country I never saw ice, and when I went outside here it was snowy. It was very exciting."



Pork sui mai, a dim sum mainstay



Red Sugar Dim Sum's colorful menu boasts a wide array of traditional options. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

A serial entrepreneur, Chen has managed to found four restaurants across two states—Montana and Arkansas—living in practically every major Montana encampment along the way, such as Bozeman, Missoula, Billings, Helena and Great Falls.

Chen likes doing business in Bozeman because she has family here, and with a population on the relatively open-minded side of the spectrum by Montana standards, it has proved a fertile ground for opening Montana's first dim sum restaurant. It's a sign of the times and the change underway across the region.

"I love dim sum, and in mind you could only really get it in places like Seattle, San Francisco or New York" Chen said. "Montana did not have one, so I decided to open a dim sum restaurant here."

What is dim sum, exactly? Generally considered a regional cuisine specific to Cantonese-speaking peoples of southeastern China, though there are varieties found in other parts of Chen's home nation, dim sum is typically a breakfast food loosely described as bite-sized dumpling-esque dishes served in small steamers or on small plates.

"Dim Sum in our culture is for breakfast, and I wanted to open at 8 a.m., but we opened one week and no one came and it didn't do very well so I changed the opening hour to 10. [It was clear] a lot of people didn't know what dim sum was. How does it look? How does it feel?" Chen said. These are questions I highly encourage you to answer for yourself.

What should the novice order?

"Everything on the menu is my favorite, because I make it. I make it everyday fresh with my own hands," Chen laughs. "The really popular ones are pork sui mai, steamed roast pork bun and shrimp dumplings. That's what a lot of people order."

On your next trip "to town," be sure to incorporate a pit stop at Red Sugar, where an important question awaits you: on your first visit to Montana's first dim sum restaurant, which dish will receive the honor of kicking off the union?

BACK 40

For Explore Big Sky, the Back 40 is a resource: a place where we can delve into subjects and ask experts to share their knowledge. Here, we highlight stories from our flagship sister publication Mountain Outlaw magazine.

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

Rooted in the West

For these young musicians, a sense of place germinates success

BY CLAIRE CELLA

The definitions of “root” are many, and include to enter the earth, to become established, to begin to grow, or to search and rummage. Synonymous with “source” and “origin,” the word serves as a metaphor for the young careers of a group of American roots musicians in the Northern Rockies: Kalyn Beasley; Alysia Kraft of Whippoorwill; and Dusty Nichols and Bo Elledge of Canyon Kids.

In the process of coming-of-age, they all spent time rummaging through memories and early influences, new hopes and old fears, to form a sense of self and original sound in an increasingly dynamic, and difficult, music industry. An industry, according to Skip Anderson, that is also trying to answer the question: What do we do with this music?

Anderson is an award-winning journalist who has covered music, and specifically roots music, for nearly two decades in Nashville, Tennessee, and now, from Bozeman, Montana. He describes the genre as anchored by strong songwriting from genuine artists, independent of major record labels, who make music for the craft of it. Sometimes called Americana, roots music includes the acoustic tradition, but also blues, jazz, rock and country—flavors and sounds that don’t lend themselves to radio play or an easy place to call home, Anderson said.

Although the genre still struggles to find a home in the industry, these musicians don’t seem to—they’ve found success with the support of their communities, and the songs they draw from their surroundings.

“There’s a strong sense of place for people who live in the West. It’s a huge place with a small population—we’re here by choice,” Anderson said.

With a natural beauty and certain quality of life, the Western landscape inspires appreciation and authenticity—and good songwriting, he added. Knowingly or not, these musicians’ songs are rooted in the West and its culture as they write and sing about their lives in small towns, the drama of open spaces and rugged mountains, and the questions of humanity.

Kalyn Beasley

Kalyn Beasley was born, raised and currently lives in Cody, Wyoming—population just under 10,000 and known as the “Rodeo Capital of the World.” He grew up steeped in the tradition of cowboys and guitar chords, listening to his father’s country band, After the Rodeo. Beasley became a cowboy himself, competing as a saddle bronc rider throughout high school and into college at Montana State University in Bozeman. It was there that he first picked up a guitar, and also where he learned that he had a story to tell.

Beasley and a few friends formed the country-rock band The Bad Intentions in 2011, and played in bars across Montana and Wyoming. They recorded an album in 2012 and moved to Austin, Texas, to try to “set the world on fire,” Beasley said with a laugh. Despite early success, something about the ease of making music in the Northern Rockies,



PHOTO BY JUSTINE MAY

financially and otherwise, always called them back home. The group disbanded in 2014 to pursue other interests, and Beasley moved back to Cody to manage a cattle ranch and write songs again.

“I think it’s much easier to make music in a place like Cody than in Austin,” he said. “Being disconnected from my constituency, from the people I relate to and care about, that was hard.”

He landed his first show as a solo singer-songwriter in 2014 at Juniper, a wine bar in Cody. No longer concerned with performing “rollicking, high-tempo, Texas-style fiddle-driven songs that get people drinking and dancing in bars,” Beasley instead shows up to sing about his life.

“You go through life, you move, you break up, you mess up—if you’re like me,” he laughed. “I consider myself a nonfiction writer. I don’t try to make up stories that aren’t true. I like keeping people thinking, laughing, smiling, and I’m constantly getting better at that.”

Beasley has played hundreds of shows each year across the West since 2015, and released his first full-length album, *Northerner*, in 2016. He calls it “Western Americana” because it centers on his experience living in the Northern Rockies. It’s more of a testament to place and culture than a loyalty to sound; it’s an authentic experience that resonates with the people he’s playing to because it speaks to the place he’s playing from.

“I think people can smell bullshit from a mile away,” he said. “If I tried to write about anything other than what I know, I wouldn’t be able to sustain that.”

“You can broaden your audience and your reach by being real,” he added. “And if I take a step back, I realize this is a lot of people’s dreams.”

Alysia Kraft of Whippoorwill

Alysia Kraft was born in Encampment, Wyoming—a town 20 times smaller than Cody, but of a beauty “that most people don’t understand,”



The members of Whippoorwill (from top, clockwise): Tobias Bank, Staci Foster and Alysia Kraft. PHOTO BY CHELSEA GILMORE

she said. Kraft grew up riding around in her father's truck on their cattle ranch, listening to '90s country on the radio. She thinks this early experience infiltrates her music as part of Whippoorwill, the folk-rock trio she formed with Staci Foster and Tobias Bank in 2016.

Prior to Whippoorwill, Kraft had been the fierce and soulful vocalist for the rock 'n' roll band, The Patti Fiasco. Their 2013 tour took them to the South by Southwest (SXSW) music festival in Austin, where Kraft met Foster, a local musician. The two shared the weekend at Hill Country swimming holes and learned that they also both shared a yearning to write songs that dripped of Western life, its impenetrable vastness and its surprising beauty.

The encounter forged in Kraft the feeling that she could finally make the music she wanted to, rich with intricate harmonies and deep intimacy. Although the two parted ways after that first fateful meeting, they were soon back together in Fort Collins, Colorado, writing and recording their debut EP, *Good to Be Around*, as Whippoorwill and hitting pause on work with their other bands.

The stories sung by Whippoorwill are tender and true, and the wide-open enormity of the Western landscape plays a profound role.

"I couldn't imagine trying to make music anywhere else but in the West," Kraft said. "Who I am and how I learned to be human and interact with other humans is shaped by where I came from—a cattle ranch in rural Wyoming. Staci and I are both rooted in the places we came from—it's inevitable we'd be a roots band."

Canyon Kids

Dusty Nichols and Bo Elledge say their band was formed on the banks of the Snake River where the two friends worked as photographers, capturing guided raft trips that would float by. While they

waited, they wrote songs, using the rapids as the rhythm section, Elledge joked.

The duo's upcoming 2019 album was inspired almost entirely by that time on the Snake, too. "Or at least, using water as a metaphor for other things," Elledge said. One song, called "Indecision Ocean" speaks to the uncertain way that water moves, which mimics the decision he and Nichols made, and still question, to stay in Jackson, Wyoming, to try to make music as the Canyon Kids.

Neither of the musicians grew up in the West, but when they moved here as recent college graduates in the late 2000s, they found, as many do, that they couldn't leave. They've been piecing together seasonal jobs and music gigs ever since, humble and grateful for the lifestyle Jackson has afforded them, the songs the place has spawned, and the success the tight-knit creative community has helped them maintain.

"We know there are other major music markets out there: L.A., Austin, Nashville," Nichols said. "And while those places are appealing, you're one among thousands. The chances are that if you're eating in a restaurant, the busser of your table is a better guitar player than you. But here you can get heard, and paid, to be a musician. We're the ones being contacted."

The two are often joined by other bandmates to form a full ensemble, complete with a fiddle, drums, a saxophone and three-part harmony. The band sings frequently about living in a small mountain town—both the pros, as well as the cons, like getting stuck in the valley during long, harsh winter snowstorms. As a duo, Nichols and Elledge find their goals are less about making it big or keeping their music within the boundaries of genre and more about keeping the tradition of songwriting alive.

Because of Jackson's relative isolation, Elledge said it's hard to feel a part of any broader musical scene, but at the same time he's aware of the incomparable opportunities this outlying location provides. They're one of the few folk-rock bands in Wyoming and open for many of the national touring acts that pass through.

"And if you're doing that enough, and getting paid to make music, I think you've made it," Elledge said.

A version of this story first appeared in the winter 2019 edition of Mountain Outlaw Magazine



The Canyon Kids as a full ensemble (from left to right): Shawn Flemming, Dusty Nichols, Joe Rudd, Leif Routman and Bo Elledge. PHOTO BY ZACH MONTES

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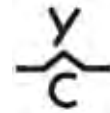
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