

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

# Sept. 11 - 24, 2020 Volume 11 // Issue #19

# **Bridger Canyon burns**

COVID-19: Quarantine quagmire

Bloomin' algae Paying homage to an architect's legacy



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

OPINION	4
LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS	
LOCAL	
OP NEWS	15
ENVIRONMENT & OUTDOORS	17
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT	27

SPORTS	33
HEALTH	
BUSINESS	-
DINING	
FUN	
BOZEMAN'STOP5BESTLISTINGS	

## Bridger Canyon burns

The Bridger Foothills Fire broke out near the popular "M" trail on Sept. 4, jumped the ridge and spread nearly 7,000 acres by Sept. 5, destroying 28 homes in Bridger Canyon and continues to burn as of press time.

## **COVID-19: Quarantine quagmire**

In Big Sky, it's notoriously difficult to find reliable, long-term staff due to the cost of living and seasonal nature of a ski town. During a pandemic, businesses have found it near impossible, and it has forced many to shut their doors temporarily.

## | LPHS athletes in action

The Lone Peak High School varsity football team and the Lady Big Horn varsity volleyball team both were in action over the past weeks. The Lady Big Horns have secured some commanding victories and on the gridiron Lone Peak looks to find their groove.

# Bloomin' algae

Toxic algae blooms—we know to keep our dogs away from it, but what are some contributing factors to the slime? This summer marks the second year of a three-year study on the algae bloom in the Gallatin River, a study that began after the algae blooms worsened significantly in 2018.

# 28

8

10

33

17

## Paying homage to an architect's legacy

In downtown Bozeman, you'd be hard-pressed to avoid spotting one of Fred F. Willson's buildings and the legacy he left behind. The famed architect and lifelong resident spent his career designing functional and beautiful schools, government buildings and homes all over the Gallatin Valley.



## **ON THE COVER:**

A massive plume of smoke rises over the Bridger Mountains on Saturday, Sept. 5 as low humidity, high temps and gusty winds fueled a fire that swept down the east side of the mountains, prompting evacuations in Bridger Canyon. PHOTO BY ALLAN HATHAWAY

A mountain biker enjoys the first snow of the season on Aug. 31 at Big Sky Resort, marking the transition from summer to fall in Big Sky. PHOTO BY TUCKER HARRIS

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#### **OPINION**



With Big Sky rapidly growing, what are the issues that you think are most important for our sustainability and who should be in charge of resolving them?



**Josh Treasure** *Big Sky, MT* 

"I think the biggest issues right now are obviously infrastructure, issues on roadways, the water sewage treatment plant is overrun and is taking on way too much of a workload than what it can handle, and retaining staff for businesses is a major issue as well. The question that we need to ask right now though is will incorporation solve these issues. We need to make an educated decision on whether incorporation is right or not for Big Sky. I don't think anyone had a trajectory for how big Big Sky was going to get-and now it's exploded, so we need to sit down as a community and answer these questions without any ulterior motives."



**Angela Sharp** *Atlanta*, *GA* 

"I think recycling is a big issue. We have drop offs, but no pickup recycling and things like that. But I think also infrastructure like water and electricity are important issues too. And well I assume local governance is usually involved in that kind of thing, and I do think that is something that should be looked into because Big Sky is definitely getting to the point that it is large enough that it actually probably needs some oversight. I think they have done really well with the town planning, but we get a huge influx of tourists every year so it's probably worth at least looking into."



Ashley Valentini Big Sky, MT

"This is kind of a serious question, but my immediate response is going to be two of the biggest issues are affordable housing and infrastructure. I believe it is the responsibility of the community foundations who are helping us to develop into this new ski town to maintain a life for the locals that is sustainable and viable."



Luke Weber Big Sky, MT

"I think the most important issue to address is the lack of affordable housing. As Big Sky continues to grow, we see an increasing demand for mountain homes, and, in turn, a diminishing supply of developable land. This issue, paired with the boom of short-term property rentals, has left our towns workforce struggling to secure suitable housing. Without workers the town simply can't grow, and without affordable housing our access to a reliable workforce is continuously shrinking. In order to keep this town sustainable, I think the resort, and some of the bigger developers should be taxed and tasked with resolving this problem."

STACY OSSORIO Broker, Private Office Advisor 406-539-8553 stacyossorio.evrealestate.com stacy.ossorio@evrealestate.com





Montana Club Lot 3 | \$1,250,000 | MLS# 346985

229 and 233 Beehive Basin | \$3,100,000 | MLS# 349

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#### **OPINION**

Sept. 11 - 24, 2020 5

# LETTERS

To the Editor,

Al Malinowski's article, "A tie goes to the runner," (EBS, Aug. 14) was a three-run homer. The first was a great description of the game he was watching, the second a description of important moments in officiating, and the last his personal introspection and appreciation for local umps.

Nowadays, I see Al Mal helping at the Big Sky Post Office during rush times, or on the sidewalk to say "hello." A few years ago, we spent much time together serving on the Big Sky Resort Area District Tax Board. I came to appreciate his calm demeanor. I also appreciated his wisdom as we threaded our way through the applications for the funds for the projects that have made Big Sky a wonderful community.

But most of all, I appreciated his friendship. I enjoyed those times with Al and miss them now that they are gone. Whenever we see each other, we promise to have coffee and catch up but we never seem to get that small task accomplished. As the saying goes, life is what happens while you're making other plans.

Al is one of the hundreds of people who have committed themselves to our community. He lives here, works here and volunteers here. Big Sky is the better for his presence.

Les Loble Big Sky





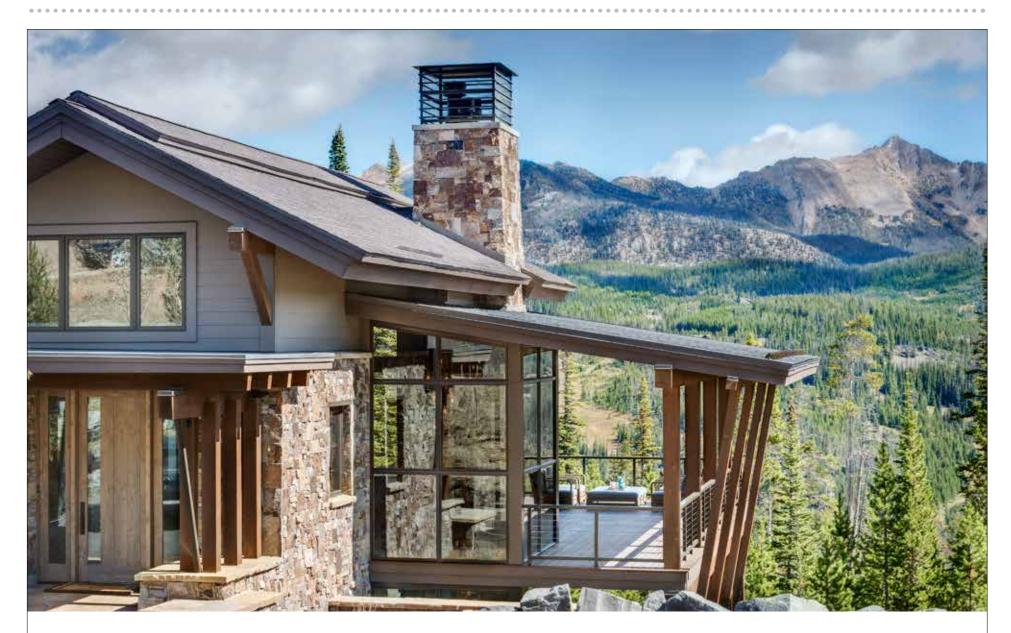
**Lisa Ledoux** Chief Operating Officer info@theserenityranch.org 406-600-9526 The Serenity Ranch's mission is to assist women with programs designed to create a safe environment to help facilitate a positive relationship with our 42 rescued horses, when battling PTSD, trauma, abuse and the addictions that can result.

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We need to raise \$6000 to complete the fencing project. Please help us by donating on our website www.theserenityranch.org.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.





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# **Bozeman Foothills Fire relief fund**

MONTANA VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTER

A community fundraising effort has been launched to rapidly mobilize financial resources to meet the needs of individuals, families and agencies impacted by the Bridger Foothills Fire in Bozeman.

The creation of the Bridger Foothills Fire Relief Fund is a joint effort between the Southwest Montana Community Organizations Active in Disaster, Greater Gallatin United Way and One Valley Community Foundation to streamline financial support and direct it to people affected by the fire who need funding most. Funding will also be distributed to agencies supporting fire relief efforts.

To make a donation to the Bridger Foothills Fire Relief Fund, text BRIDGERS to 91999 or give online through the web pages of Greater Gallatin United Way and One Valley Community Foundation.

# Cold hikers and biker rescued

#### GALLATIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On Sept. 7 at 3 p.m., the Gallatin County Sheriff's Search and Rescue team responded to a report of four individuals stranded at the Mystic Lake Cabin in the Custer Gallatin National Forest. Two mountain bikers had planned an overnight mountain bike trip from Hyalite Canyon to Sourdough Canyon. The weather took an abrupt turn, dropping from 87 F on Sept. 6 to 58 F on Sept. 7, and higher elevations began to see snow in the late afternoon. The mountain bikers came upon a separate party of three hikers near the area of Mystic Lake Cabin who were also unprepared. The group made a fire, while one cyclist rode to the Sourdough trailhead to call for help.

SAR volunteers and the Forest Service District Ranger reached the stranded party by vehicle. They successfully transported the party to the Sourdough trailhead where AMR Paramedics assessed their condition. All members were medically cleared and allowed to returned home.

Sheriff Brian Gootkin reminds everyone of the potential for rapidly changing weather conditions in Gallatin County as fall arrives. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear, pack necessary provisions and be prepared to stay out longer than expected when venturing out into the backcountry.

# 'Art for Everyone' event hailed as success

# Two grizzlies euthanized in West Yellowstone

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

Two grizzly bears were euthanized after multiple conflicts in campsites and at residences near West Yellowstone. Conflicts with the two subadult grizzlies, a male and a female began in 2019. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks staff relocated the bears but reports of problems again started on Aug. 5. By the time the bears were last captured on Sept. 1, there were 15 reports of two bears being in campgrounds where they were able to access garbage and dog food.

FWP bear specialists set cameras and noise alarms at two sites where the bears gained access to garbage, but when those efforts were unsuccessful the specialists caught the bears on Aug. 16. Officials agreed to relocate and release the bears due to their young age and because this was their first time being captured. Both bears were fitted with ear tags and satellite collars.

The bears then returned to the same area on Aug. 25, entering an occupied tent and RV storage compartment, and were again captured on Sept. 1. Due to the chronic conflicts and concerns for human safety, the bears were euthanized in consultation with the FWS.

"When garbage and other attractants are left unsecured and available to bears, human safety becomes a huge concern, and bear mortalities are the unfortunate result. This is why we ask people to be so careful with food, garbage and similar items," said Mark Deleray, FWP's regional supervisor in southwest Montana.

Visit igbconline.org/bear-safety for more information on avoiding negative encounters with bears.

# Bozeman to host Special Olympics next three years

SPECIAL OLYMPICS MONTANA

BOZEMAN – From May 12 through the 14, 2021, 1,000 athletes and 200 unified partners will converge on Bozeman from across Montana to compete in Special Olympics Montana's 51st State Summer Games. For the next three years the games will be held here where athletes will test their mettle participating in seven Olympic-type sports including bocce, track and field, golf, gymnastics, soccer, swimming and cycling. Rooting for them will be hundreds of family members, friends and volunteers.

#### EBS STAFF

The Big Sky Artists Collective hosted their third "Art for Everyone" event at the Wilson Hotel Sept. 5-7. This year, the Artists Collective featured local artists' new work for sale to the public. All 11 participating artists sold a piece of artwork with nearly 60 pieces total sold over the course of the weekend.

Participating artist Georgia Baker said she was pleased with the turnout of approximately 250 visitors, according to a Big Sky Artists Collective press release. "We had a very good attendance considering COVID-19, the fire in Bozeman, and our first snowstorm," Baker said.

Local artist, Paul Brourman, sold a piece of his work for \$2,500. Entitled "Clairvoyance," the work was a 20-inch by 20-inch oil painting.

"One of the goals of the Artists Collective is to connect local artists," said group coordinator and event chair Maggie Shane. "A lot of great relationships, both professional and personal, were cemented by this show."

Looking ahead to the winter season, in its second year, the Big Sky Holiday studio tour will be hosted by the Artists Collective Dec. 5-6, 2020.

Special Olympics Montana provides people with intellectual disabilities opportunities to compete in a wide array of Olympic-type sports while building life skills on and off the playing field. The games are open to competitors of all ability levels and ages. Through participation in the state games, athletes may qualify for USA and World Games.

"It's such a big thing that it's coming to Bozeman," said Joey Hancock, special education instructor for the Bozeman School District. "We're just such a caring community and this will bring so much joy, positivity and inclusivity to the area when it's so needed ... It'll be a good time for our community to really shine."

Contact Mandy Patriarche, vice president of outreach, for more information: apatriarche@somt.org or (406) 589-6005.

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# Bridger Foothills Fire explodes near 'M' in Bozeman Still o percent contained, blaze reported at 7,138 acres as of Sept. 9

#### BY BRANDON WALKER

BOZEMAN – A wildfire started near Bozeman in the Bridger Mountains on Sept. 4. The Bridger Foothills Fire was first reported at approximately 3:30 p.m. on Sept. 4 about two-and-a-half miles from the Bridger Foothills trail near the "M."



PHOTO BY ALLAN HATHAWAY

The area was quickly cleared of hikers to ensure nobody remained near the burn. Roadway and trail closures in the immediate area quickly followed the discovery of the fire, beginning with parts of Bridger Canyon Road and trails including the "M" and Sypes Canyon. On the evening of Sept. 4, the fire encompassed roughly 80 acres, but expanded in size by more than four times overnight.

By the morning of Sept. 5, flames had engulfed roughly 400 acres and over 100 first responders had made their way to the fire to assist. Ten aircraft battled the fire in its early stages, dropping both water and fire retardant on the flames.

"This morning there is some smoke in the air, but it's not as active yet," Mariah Leuschen-Lonergan, public information officer for the Bridger Foothills Fire, told EBS on Sept. 5. "It's on both the east and the west side and the majority of resources are anchored in and doing structure protection and digging line on the eastern side."

Trails and highway closures continued to accumulate as the fire began

Not long after the first evacuation announcements, the American Red Cross said it had opened a space for individuals displaced by the fire at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

"All of the Bridger's roads and trails and all of the Bangtail's roads and trails are closed effective immediately on National Forest system lands," Leuschen-Lonergan said later in the day on Sept. 5.

A Federal Management Assistance Grant funded by FEMA was allocated to help with the expenses that accompany combatting the fire. Gov. Steve Bullock announced the funding in a press release.

"Montana's Department of Natural Resources and Conservation submitted the request for firefighting assistance for the Bridger Foothills Fire. The [grant] makes FEMA funding available to pay 75 percent of the state's eligible firefighting costs," a press release from the governor's office stated. "Eligible costs include materials and supplies, mobilization and demobilization, equipment use, and expenses for field camps.

Additionally, each [Deferal Management Assistance Grant] is eligible for over \$450,000 in federal mitigation funding."

After a day of explosive fire growth and an evening estimate of 11,000 acres was provided on Sept. 5, a flight to map the fire utilizing infrared and heat signatures better documented the blaze, which on Sept. 6 was reduced to approximately 7,000 acres in size.

Per a Gallatin County press release, a countywide burn ban was implemented. The ban was in effect for 48 hours and ended Sept. 8. Later, a Custer Gallatin National Forest social media post relayed the implementation of flight restrictions around the Bridger Foothills Fire indicating a drone had been witnessed around the blaze.

Around midday on Sept. 6, the sheriff's office began contacting individuals living within Moffit Gulch about the possibility of future evacuation announcements, according to social media posts. Later that afternoon, Park County officials did the same for those who live the Quinn, Fleshman, O'rea and Willow Creek areas.

On Sept. 6 and 7, the sheriff's office allowed some residents of the Bridger Canyon to briefly check on their homes.

The fire on Sept. 5 had grown roughly 140 acres over the course of the day and a CGNF press release listed the fire at 7,140 acres.

"Minimal fire activity occurred on Sunday, mainly on the northeast flank of the fire, the press release said." Firefighters began assessing structures

to quickly grow in size throughout the afternoon. Parts of the Bridger Canyon road remained closed and the closure began to expand.

"All trails from Middle Cottonwood, all the way up to Saddle Peak and then tying in over the ridge to Bridger Bowl's southern boundary and running south all the way down to the 'M,' Leuschen-Lonergan said on Sept. 5. "All of those trails are closed."

Corresponding evacuations began taking place later in the day. In a press release and social media updates, the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office announced it was evacuating nearby residents as the fire jumped Bridger Canyon Road. As of EBS press time on Sept. 9, the fire had burned 28 homes, according to the Rocky Mountain Incident Management team. "It's pretty rapidly moving, rapidly evolving," Leuschen-Lonergan said. A Custer Gallatin Nation Forest press release said one firefighter was struck by a rock as it rolled downhill on Sept. 5 but was discharged after receiving treatment. Three other firefighters were discharged from Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital after receiving treatment for heat exhaustion and smoke inhalation.



PHOTO BY ALLAN HATHAWAY

and providing additional structure protection after Saturday fire front to prevent any reburn around homes. Direct handline continues to be constructed along the heel of the fire and proceeding north." Incident Commander Dan Dallas of the Rocky Mountain Incident Management team began directing operations on Sept. 7, becoming the third party to lead fire operations since it started.

A sheriff's office press release from Sept. 7 announced the ending of some evacuation orders. "Kelly Canyon and Moffitt Gulch residents may return home permanently unless otherwise notified," it said. Additionally, the announcement allowed some Jackson Creek residents to return to their residences.

First responders on site nearly doubled from 160 on Sept. 7 to roughly 300 the following day. On Sept. 8, the incident team reported that the fire encompassed 7,138 acres and has held constant at that number since.

As of EBS press time on Sept. 9, the fire is 0 percent contained and the cause has not yet been identified, though authorities continue to investigate.

Follow this story on explorebigsky.com for further updates.



PHOTO BY ALLAN HATHAWAY



# BRIDGER FOOTHILLS FIRE

(The following statistics are accurate as of EBS press time and are according to a Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team press release)

Size of the fire:

Roughly 7,138 acres **Containment:** 

0 % Contained

Personnel responding:

Roughly

Residences burned:

28

#### PHOTO BY ALLAN HATHAWAY

#### **Bridger Foothills Fire resources**

#### Donations

Text BRIDGERS to 91999 or donate online at: https://www.greatergallatinunitedway.org/ or https://www.onevalley.org/

#### Volunteer

https://www.volunteermt.org/need/detail/?need\_id=539441 or go to VolunteerMT. org and click on Bridger Foothills Fire Volunteer Response

#### Provisions

Food, water, sports drinks and non-perishable food can be brought to the Salvation Army or the Hilton Garden Inn.

#### Meals for first responders

To coordinate the donation of meals for first responders or evacuees, call the Salvation Army at 586-5813.

#### Housing assistance

If you are an evacuee in need of housing assistance call the American Red Cross at 1-800-272-6668.

#### Pets and livestock

The Bozeman Lost Pets Facebook group is helping those who have lost pets, to connect those evacuees who need livestock transportation or a place for house pets to stay while they get situated. You can also donate food to displaced animals at Heart of the Valley animal shelter.

For all other help, call 211 or search the Bridger Foothills Fire—info & resources Facebook page.

# The quarantine quagmire Local businesses struggle to staff amid pandemic guidelines

Editor's note: Tracing a pandemic is a complicated task. This is the second in a series in which we uncover the intricacies of this pandemic and how it is affecting in the Big Sky community.

#### BY MIRA BRODY

BIG SKY – In Big Sky, it's often difficult enough to find reliable, long-term staff due to the cost of living and seasonal nature of a ski town. During a pandemic, businesses have found it near impossible, and it's forcing many to shut their doors if only temporarily.

One such business is Brothel Bikes Pub. In June, a bartender tested positive for COVID-19, leading the health department to contact and quarantine five other bartenders who were known close contacts.

Left without a majority of his staff, pub owner Chaz Boutsikaris made the decision to close down for three weeks, putting him out of business through the Fourth of July weekend. He closed not because the health department forced him to, but because he didn't have enough workers to feasibly stay open.

"The reality is [in Big Sky] for the most part everybody runs in the same circles. Everyone goes to the same bar, eats at the same places," Boutsikaris said. "You just feel like it's the nature of the game, it's the nature of a small town."

Boutsikaris estimates the revenue he lost during that time was close to \$20,000.

"Three weeks is rough right in the middle of the season, on top of the other closure," Boutsikaris said, referring to the stay-at-home order that occurred for most of the service and entertainment industry back in March before the state's phased reopening began.

Alex Omania opened the Lotus Pad in 2007 and has been in the service industry for well over 30 years. She closed her doors on three separate occasions for a week each, once over the Fourth of July, a weekend that in a normal year draws a lot of business.

March too, is when she says she makes a large portion of the income necessary to keep the restaurant open through shoulder season. Each time she closed, it was her personal decision as a business owner, and for the health and safety of her employees and patrons.

Matt Kelley, health officer for Gallatin City-County Health Department, says that COVID-19 tests are issued based on whether they provide the county and state with useful information. Those whom the health department asks to quarantine but not test are not counted in county COVID-19 case numbers. He says the number of those in that category are probably very small.

"You're not counted as a case unless it's with a confirmed laboratory report,"

"We have good turnaround on tests right now," Kelley said, adding that while the county currently has enough tests, past shortages were an issue. "We are constantly cognizant of the potential to overwhelm the system."

Meanwhile, patients are asked to quarantine even as businesses struggle to keep enough staff to stay open. Lotus Pad is currently closed two days a week, solely because they don't have the workers to keep the restaurant open full time, Omania says, something she's never experienced in the 13 years she's been open in Big Sky. Her staff has been flexible and hardworking, but she says she simply can't afford to work everyone seven days a week.

Another attributing factor to the staffing shortage in Big Sky is how difficult travel restrictions have made it to acquire J1 visas. Although she's unsure if she'll be able to get J1s this year, Omania hopes to get at least five similar work visas approved for winter so she can bring more staff in and remain open for business.

"A restaurant is heavily dependent on cash flow," Omania said. "If you don't have money, there's constantly money leaving the bank and you're constantly paying for things. When you don't have cash flow, you're getting into trouble."

Omania believes in personal reasonability but this dance, she says, has been frustrating and is unsustainable for her business.

"You know what I'm not going to do, I'm not going to just keep opening and closing like we've been doing," she said. "When we close to take-out only, we lose like a third of the business. It's hard, I can't imagine having to do that all winter and having to pay rent, too."

Boutsikaris, for his part, is so far making ends meet. He says that without his regular patrons he'd be less lucky as a bar owner in Big Sky.

"We're paying the bills, people are showing up, we're having decent nights, but we're being cautious," he said. "Under the circumstances honestly I can't complain. It's been a rough year but I'm so grateful that we have people that are still showing up."



Kelley said. "We might not be making them go in and get a test result because it wouldn't change what were asking them to do, especially if they don't have symptoms."

Although he says the county is doing OK with accessible rapid tests right now, the department is also trying to avoid a system overload, much like the one in July when massive surveillance testing resulted in test results taking up to a month to return to patients. It's a benefit versus cost situation, says Kelley.

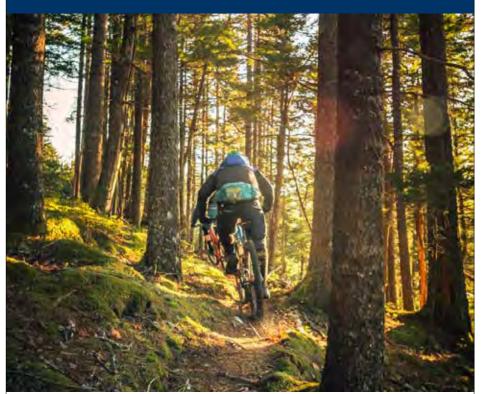
"We are testing people where we see public value for that testing," he said. "Where there's not a lot of public health value for it, we won't because we don't want to overtax our system. We went through a problem in July when we had too many tests, and we don't want to have that happen again."

As for the recent change in guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that suggests asymptomatic individuals not get tested for COVID-19 at all, Kelley says that directive doesn't affect the health department's efforts on a county level.

Like many doorways in Big Sky, the Lotus Pad's is decorated with information about wearing a mask upon entry. Above it, is a help wanted ad for a temporary cook. PHOTO BY MIRA BRODY



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# **Community rallies around firefighters and** evacuated neighbors

#### BY BRANDON WALKER EBS STAFF

BOZEMAN - Flames continue to rage as the Bridger Foothills Fire sweeps through the Bridger Mountain Range near Bozeman leaving a charred landscape in its wake. In a time of destruction and uncertainty for many, the Bozeman community has feverishly rallied in response, assisting neighbors displaced and those working on the frontlines in any way possible. From local businesses and organizations to individual citizens, aid is arriving rapidly in all forms.

Evan Locke has lived in Bozeman for two years. Locke and Marie Morin, an ex-coworker of his from OnX maps, recognized the need to help coordinate fire information and relief efforts. Together they launched the "Bridger Foothills Fire -- Info & Resources" Facebook group on Sept. 5.

The group exploded with more than 8,660 members joining in just a single day. That number is continually growing and offers of assistance on the group range from that of lodging for both people and their animal companions, to food donations, to assistance evacuating and more.

"In crises like these, I find, it's better just to help people get access to all this dispersed information," Locke said. "So, that's kind of been my focus."

Locke added additional administrators to the group to help coordinate relief efforts. One of those administrators is currently in the process of organizing a food train and many local businesses are joining the effort.

"I believe they're getting organized to do meal trains with a bunch of other local restaurants, so hopefully I'll jump

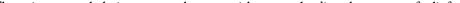
on board with that in the next couple days," said Adam Paccione the owner of Red Tractor Pizza. "I know they've got tonight and tomorrow taken care of already though."

Paccione and his staff are offering any items that they can from pizza, salad and ice cream, to the restaurant's full array of drinks to those displaced by or working at the fire. He and his staff already sent pizzas to the American Red Cross on the evening of Sept. 5 and to an evacuated individual who was taking shelter in their vehicle on Sept. 6.

"This community has really taken me in and supported me in the last 10 years that I've been here. I just appreciate that community aspect and us coming together," he said. "There's so much division in our country today and we can't have that moving forward with a situation like this."

Treeline Coffee Roasters co-owners Deejay Newell and Natalie Van Dusen jumped at the opportunity to help first responders providing granola bars and single serve pour over coffee packets to the Salvation Army on Sept. 6 for first responders and others working tirelessly on the frontline. Additionally, throughout the duration of the fire, all first responders will have their coffee tab covered when they stop in to refuel at either Treeline location.

"It wasn't really a decision; it was just the right thing to do," Newell said. "We have been so supported by this community since the day one of starting our business. It's why we live here; it's why we all live here."





Red Tractor Pizza owner Adam Paccione tosses a pie in the kitchen of his Bozeman restaurant. PHOTO BY CATALIN CORRIGAN

assistant general manager of the Hilton Garden Inn. "... That's the one beautiful thing about our community is that we all do step up together to help each other out because we're all neighbors."

The inn began accepting donations on Sept. 6. Being a locally owned business, the decision came easily, according to Evert.

"We all were born and raised here. We grew up here and I went to high school here and Bozeman has a special place in my heart," she said. "We are very much into giving back to the community when we can and we saw that the community needed us and I just felt compelled in my heart to do something about it."

After coordination between the Greater Gallatin United Way and the One Valley Community Foundation on Sept. 6, monetary donations can now be made to the Bridger Foothills Fire Relief Fund.

"In the days after the smoke clears, we're really going to need to help those who've lost everything," said Jennifer Lammers the board president of One Valley Community Foundation. "... Through partnering with the Greater Gallatin United Way, we know that we can provide a reliable source for accepting and then quickly dispersing funds to those in need."

Lammers said an early estimate of donations was not available as the relief fund page was launched at roughly noon on Sept. 6.

"Seeing online how many people have offered shelter to [a] stranger, offered to go after animals who were fleeing the fire—I think that in times like this we all have to look to each other and Gallatin Valley has proven itself to be a community that responds graciously and generously to those in need," she said passionately reflecting on the community's response to the fire.

At a Sunday afternoon public meeting, Gallatin County Sheriff Brian Gootkin

The pair want to help in any way they can without overloading the system of relief and Newell encourages evacuated individuals to reach out to her if they need assistance.

"This is a time for all of us to lend help if we can and ask for help if we need it and I just think we need to come together as a community and get through it," she said.

From pizza to coffee to beer, community businesses are offering it all. Mountains Walking Brewery & Pub will offer any food and beer that they serve free of charge to firefighters and other first responders on Sept. 7 thanks to support from an anonymous donor.

"One of our priorities is to be involved with the community and to help the community, so those fires, they hit close to home and we just want to be a positive influence on the people putting their health and safety on the line to protect us all," said Mountains Walking Brewery Founder and Director of Brewing Gustav Dose.

The brewery will be open 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sept. 7 offering free food and beverages to first responders. "We really appreciate what you're doing and we're thinking about you and we're doing our best to support you," Dose said.

The Hilton Garden Inn opened their doors to provide an alternative drop-off location other than the Salvation Army for donations of all items aside from furniture. "We've already gotten a ton of donations today," said Rika Evert the directed those looking to donate and assist, or with questions to the 211 help line.

The support continues even beyond the Facebook group. Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter is accepting pet food donations, while the Salvation Army coordinates receiving and distributing donations to first responders and those in need of assistance.

Additionally, the American Red Cross opened a shelter for evacuated individuals and families in need of housing on Sept. 5 in response to the fire. The shelter is located at Christ the King Lutheran Church. These are just some of the numerous businesses and organizations offering to lend their services during this unprecedented time.

"We're all in this together. We're all here to support," Paccione said. Newell echoed his sentiment: "I would just say Bozeman Strong, like we're all in it together."

The acts of selflessness went beyond donations as Locke continually downplayed his role in helping the community rally together.

"It's less even an interview about me, but more just highlighting how awesome this community is," he said.

Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to visit volunteermt.org. To make monetary donations visit greatergallatinunitedway.org or onevalley.org.

# **Big Sky Discovery Academy returns to campus**

#### BY BRANDON WALKER

BIG SKY – Sept. 8 marked the first day of school for students and staff of the Big Sky Discovery Academy. Smiles and excitement filled the campus, but reminders of the COVID-19 pandemic remained as students, faculty and staff wore masks when necessary and desks were adequately spaced throughout classrooms to allow for social distancing.

The Discovery Academy saw increased enrollment this year, in part due to families visiting over the summer stayed in second homes or opted to buy their own in Big Sky. Sixty-three students walk the halls this fall, an increase of 11 students from the 2019-2020 school year. The largest increase in student population came at the elementary level where there are 19 children enrolled compared to the 10 that were present a year ago.

Discovery returned all of its students to classrooms, entering the year with a 100 percent in-person learning model. Aside from following all health and safety guidelines, adaptations were made to ensure a safe return to campus for all parties. Small class sizes afforded Discovery Academy staff and students the opportunity to return fully to campus, according to BSDA Head of School Nettie Breuner. "Our numbers are such that we can follow the guidelines in place for six-foot distancing and mitigating overlap between our different program levels," Breuner said. "So we're feeling fortunate."

Additional adaptations the school is implementing include dispersing elementary students between multiple classrooms and adjusted schooling hours to mitigate COVID-19 spread. Schooling hours for the various grade levels have been amended to avoid concentrating traffic in and out of the building.

"We're still in person and I do think that that interaction is super important to the kids and I think that's the piece that, as long as we can continue to do it well and safely, I'm most looking forward to," Breuner said.

High school students begin classes at 7:30 a.m. and finish their instruction by 1:30 p.m., starting and concluding an hour earlier than years past. Middle school students finish classes at 3:45 p.m., 15 minutes after elementary students and a half-hour after preschoolers to avoid overlap.

"We've done a lot of really great prep," Breuner said. "The teachers were at school all week this last week and we were running through all of our transition times and pick-up and drop-off protocols."





EBS visited the Big Sky Discovery Academy to capture students' return to campus for their first day of the 2020-2021 school year amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. PHOTOS BY BRANDON WALKER

# Hunter attacked by bear in Big Sky

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – A bear attack was reported around 7 a.m. in Big Sky on the morning of Sept. 7. The victim, a 69-year-old male, was reported to be in stable condition with serious bite marks on his shoulder and hip, according to Gallatin County Sheriff Brian Gootkin. The victim is receiving treatment for his injuries at the Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center. The victim was located off of the First Yellow Mule trail around Flattop Mountain by Gallatin County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue along with a sheriff's office deputy, the Big Sky Fire Department, Montana Highway Patrol and security from the Yellowstone Club, according to a Gallatin County Sheriff's Office press release.

The attack occurred while the victim was hunting after coming upon a sow bear that had cubs and in proximity to the area a game animal was taken by an acquaintance of the victim.



A scenic view along the First Yellow Mule trail in Big Sky. PHOTO BY ADAM JOHNSON

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# Town Hall panelists discuss students' return to the classroom

#### BY TUCKER HARRIS

BIG SKY – Students across Montana are going back-to-school whether in person, online, or a mix of the two—sparking the crucial question: is it safe for students to return to the classroom? Explore Big Sky hosted the 13th Big Sky Virtual Town Hall on the evening of Aug. 31 featuring four panelists from all levels of education, with additional commentary from a Bozeman Health medical professional to offer their opinions and insights regarding how they are navigating the complex return to the classroom at our local and regional institutions.

Panelists included Nettie Breuner, Head of School at the Big Sky Discovery Academy; Clayton Christian, Montana University System Commissioner of Higher Education; Dr. Waded Cruzado, President of Montana State University; Dr. Dustin Shipman, Superintendent of the Big Sky School District; and Dr. Maren Dunn, a Family Medicine Physician at the Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center.

Breuner started the evening's conversation highlighting the responsibility the Discovery Academy has to operate respectfully and safely with an effort to balance health concerns with the safety of their school and the greater Big Sky community. She noted the importance of relying on health professionals for information and guidance during this pandemic.

Commissioner Christian also spoke on the importance of responsibility during this transitional time. "Student behavior is going to have to represent a huge part of us to be successful," he said, noting that 70 percent of their students live off campus. Therefore, he stated that none of the institution's precautionary measures will really matter unless students, faculty, and staff alike take the responsibility to socially distance while off campus.

Dr. Waded Cruzado also spoke to the responsibility higher education and MSU specifically has in the greater regional community. She reminded listeners that it is not just the students who may fail to take precautionary measures, but adults as well: "I'd like to believe that it is a shared responsibility. This is human behavior; not just young behavior, and we fail every time we generalize it as such."

"We have recognized that each of us holds the key to your health ... and we have discovered that in our very way we can be agents of transformation," Cruzado said. The responsibility is on each individual to practice the best safety precautions. She noted that this pandemic has "... shown us how important higher education is for Montanans and community and that he's also asking students to hold each other accountable. Together with faculty and staff, this kind of self-leadership and responsibility placed onto the individual "... will be one of the keys to overcoming this and coming out better on the other side," he said.

The final panelist of the evening was Dr. Maren Dunn, representing the Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center. She discussed the importance of returning to in-person classes. "The pros far outweigh the cons, especially for the younger kids," she said, listing social and emotional skills, social support, the ability to go outside and play together, and being fed, as important ways to maintain a healthy community.

Dunn praised the resilience the faculty and staff of Big Sky schools and the greater regional community have displayed as they prepare with enthusiasm for the return of students into their institutions.

All panelists offered the same insight into the solution of keeping the return of academia safe and healthy during this pandemic—responsible behaviors at the individual level married with the safety precautions that have been outlined as students return to school. Each emphasized the fact that individuals have a responsibility to do their best to keep not only themselves, but those around them safe and healthy, while still staying in tune with our social and emotional needs.

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what a very important role [they] have to play in society," whether that be through research, outreach, or support.

Cruzado trusts that the safety precautions from reducing the number of students in the classroom, mandating masks, and taking temperatures, will help prevent pockets of COVID-19 outbreaks. "I have been reminding students that the virus doesn't take weekends off ... everything within measure can be accomplished, but not everything will be able to be done as we used to," Cruzado said. She noted the safe and responsible practices that will have to be made by everyone in order for the university to remain safe and healthy.

Dr. Dustin Shipman of the Big Sky School District also pointed to the measures that everyone from the school community will be held responsible to carry out: "It's all of us coming together as a school community and as a wider community to really practice the best practices," he said.

Shipman noted that he's proud to have real leaders within the BSSD



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#### 5:40 PM

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- BIG SKY COUNTY WATER & SEWER **SECTION 1 Q & A**

## **INTERMISSION**

**SECTION 2 Q & A** 

#### 7 PM

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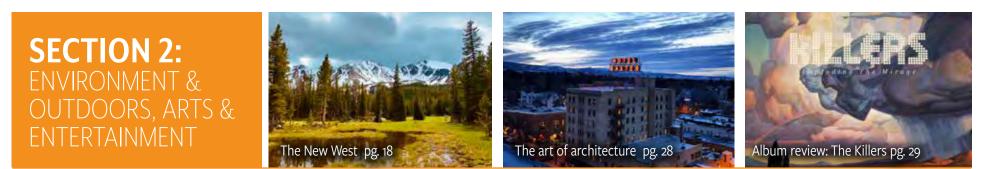
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#### Explore Big Sky

### **ENVIRONMENT & OUTDOORS**



# Algae bloom in Gallatin reaching 'tipping point'

# BY GABRIELLE GASSER EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – This summer marks the second year of a three-year study on the algae bloom in the Gallatin River. It also signals another summer of extensive algae blooms fueled by high nutrient levels in the Gallatin.

The study began in 2018 after the filamentous algae bloom, which has been occurring naturally in the Gallatin River for years, worsened significantly. It's being conducted by the Gallatin River Task Force in partnership with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and complemented by data gathered by the Upper Missouri Waterkeeper, an organization focused on protecting and improving waterways in the Upper Missouri River Basin.

Kristin Gardner, executive director of the Gallatin River Task Force, said the three-year study will collect algae, water chemistry, streamflow and temperature data at multiple sites along the Upper Gallatin River.

"We are hoping to learn the drivers of algae growth in the Upper Gallatin so we can develop and prioritize projects that address these drivers," Gardner said.

While the exact cause of the increased bloom has not been completely identified, unnatural nutrient loading of nitrogen and phosphorus in the water contributes to the growth, according to Guy Alsentzer the executive director of Upper Missouri Waterkeeper. Nitrogen and phosphorus are naturally occurring and necessary at normal levels, however too many of these nutrients can throw the water chemistry off balance.

Alsentzer said one contributor to the algae bloom is a human one. "At this point, the experts unequivocally are saying we have a lot of manmade, unnatural nutrient pollution coming from a variety of different sources in Big Sky," he said, "and all of those different types of pollution can be the causal agent that gives rise to algae blooms."

This summer the bloom arrived in late July and has lasted into September, Gardner said. The bloom has been observed on the mainstem Gallatin River from Portal Creek to the northern border of Yellowstone National Park, the lower West Fork of the Gallatin and the lower South Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin.

"In 2018 we also saw significant algae upstream into Yellowstone National Park," Gardner said, "but we did not collect or receive data from that section this year."

The spread of the algae is concerning and also puzzling to David Tucker, communications manager at GRTF. The areas downstream of Big Sky where the growth is prolific can be partially attributed to the nutrient loading caused



The widespread algae bloom covers the entire substrate of the Gallatin near Deer Creek. PHOTO BY DAVID TUCKER

since there hasn't been similar land-use change in that drainage which would have caused the uptick in growth in 2018, Tucker said.

Along with nutrient loading, other conditions contribute to the bloom as well. Summer sun, warmer water temperatures and lower flows in the river also contribute to more growth. And while human activity is not the only cause of these blooms, it certainly accelerates the growth. Alsentzer compared the process to a firearm. "Nutrients are the bullets that go in the gun," he said. "What pulls the trigger are the random natural conditions that we have no control over."

So, he says, humans need to stop providing the ammo.

A main focus of the current water-quality study is to identify where the nutrients are loading in the Gallatin and to find solutions to mitigate that loading. Part of the solution will be a forthcoming Nutrient Reduction Plan published by the GRTF this fall. Another solution will be the upgraded wastewater treatment plant in Big Sky which will begin construction in the spring of 2021.

by human activity. However, the growth upstream of Big Sky complicates things



Filamentous algae can be seen spanning the central channel of the Gallatin River near Deer Creek. PHOTO BY DAVID TUCKER In addition to the plan, Gardner said GRTF will engage with the Big Sky community in a number of ways. "That will include ... reaching out to potential project partners to gauge their interest in working together on a project; advocating for projects that others could lead that is outside of our capacity or expertise; outreach to residents and landowners on ways they can participate and make a difference; and engaging within and outside of our community to solicit potential project funding," she said.

While the study still has another year to go, solutions have already been identified and GRTF is working to implement them through their plan and community engagement.

Alsentzer said the algae bloom is reaching a "tipping point" after three consecutive years of high nutrient levels.

"It's time for everyone who cares about the Gallatin to come together and say 'we need to identify those sources of pollution and we need to have transparent metrics for reducing them," he said. "It can't be a voluntary effort anymore. We need to make sure everyone is on the same page and do it. So let's put pen to paper and make it happen."

# THE NEW WEST



#### BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

Early in my career as a freelance writer, before I became focused on the environment, I did things I look back upon now as having committed a sin.

To make money in order to pay the bills, I took some assignments writing what I would call shameless travel stories. A few of the pieces that appeared in print under my byline had headlines such as (these aren't literal): "Your Guide to Five

Undiscovered Trails in Yellowstone" and "The Top Ten Fishing Rivers Where You Can Escape the Crowds" and "Bozeman, Montana— Outdoor Mecca: A True American Diamond In the Rough."

Although they were published long ago, they do not represent my proudest days as a journalist and I admit to feeling a sense of shame today.

The five "undiscovered" trails certainly weren't anymore and the fishing holes I mentioned came under a lot more pressure. The net effect was that I helped call attention to some really cool places that did not need touting or more people pouring into them. In fact, quite the opposite.

As writers, what is our responsibility, if any, to protect places that figure in our storytelling? I would argue that the ethic we adhere to ought to be comparable to the Hippocratic Oath medical doctors take: "first, do no harm."

Up front, I admit that this makes me a hypocrite because I've already violated the rule I am now advancing. But isn't that as it always happens? Think of the old man who once was an ardent trophy hunter and who mentored generations into loving the great outdoors. Eventually, he ages to the point where he stands in front of the elusive bull elk and decides not to pull the trigger.

The decisions we make are personal and need to pass muster with our own consciences. But many of us realize, when there's more years accumulated behind us than ahead, that the prize is worth more alive than having a head mounted on our walls where we alone come to possess "the quarry" in death.

What I'm wrestling with most these days, on a planet with 7.5 billion

# Let's not sell out the fragile places we love

is hunting mountain grouse. "Blues," as the birds are called, tend to inhabit ridgelines and finding them requires a lot of high, steep hiking. I didn't write about my favorite spots but I did take a friend there.

The place I'm referencing was truly extraordinary and out of the way. The source of my adoration for it wasn't just that it had a regular healthy population of grouse, but I saw bears there, as well as moose, herds of elk, mule deer and other aspects of solitude. Often, I would climb on an afternoon, set my shotgun aside and just sit there, soaking it in.

My friend and I had a couple of memorable outings together. After he swore on the Bible that he wouldn't tell anyone, I learned later that he, in fact, wanted to demonstrate to another acquaintance that he possessed good knowledge of the forest, and so he shared the whereabouts of the secret spot, along with the words: "I'm gonna take you to a place no one else knows about that has a great population of grouse but you have to promise me you won't tell anyone."

A few years later, the grouse are largely gone, hunted out. Guys with bird dogs swarm it every year and vacuum it of blues. I offer this as an example of metaphorically what our writing can do. I've heard of places that have been written about—where there were undisturbed pictographs and petroglyphs that, after a story appeared, suffered from vandalism.

For places that already are being inundated and possess the infrastructure to handle high volumes, it's not an issue. But our special places need safeguarding. The social media age advantages most the unimaginative, the lazy and the ecologically uninformed who, with a little bit of inside dope, can wreak havoc.



souls headed toward 10 billion later in this century, is how can each of us convert "users" into advocates for protecting nature?

We're fast realizing that the mantra of modern commercial society—"all growth is good"—can have severe consequences and it includes the culpable role we play in promoting industrial-strength tourism. It's happening everywhere. Humankind is consuming wildness at a rate faster than we're holding the line protecting it.

I'm certainly not saying don't share special places. What I'm recommending is don't call attention to the fragile ones. In other words, don't give them away.

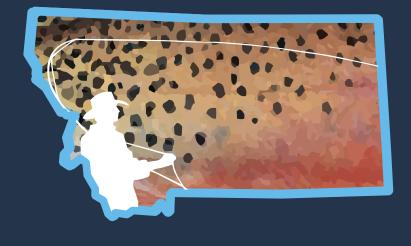
Before the days of the internet, before the notion of "going viral" on social media became a modern phenomenon, I experienced the soul-crushing downside of a parallel version. One of the things I savor doing in the fall

One spot that shall go unnamed. If you know it, don't call it out. PHOTO BY TODD WILKINSON

We don't need to create treasure maps where "X" marks the spot of the last great wild places—and we don't have to chronicle every escape we make on Instagram. Some secrets should remain just that.

Todd Wilkinson is the founder of Bozeman-based Mountain Journal and is a correspondent for National Geographic. He's also the author of the book "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek," featuring photography by Thomas D. Mangelsen, about famous Jackson Hole grizzly bear 399.

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Living with COVID-19 pandemic makes one's physical well-being more important than ever. With nearly 13 million visitors to Montana in 2019, having non-resident visitors during a time of heightened public health awareness has brought public safety to the forefront. As a result, Visit Montana—in partnership with statewide tourism regions and Destination Marketing Organizations including Visit Big Sky—launched the MONTANA AWARE campaign. Now, more than ever, the health and safety of Montana citizens and visitors is the top priority.

#### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

For our resident visitors and visitors who are enjoying all that Montana has to offer, please be prepared for the following protocols and safety precautions:

- Masks are required in counties with more than four active cases for people over 5-years-old in public indoor spaces and outdoor settings where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Know a destination's public health guidelines before you arrive
- Stay home if you're sick.
- Understand some services and destinations may be limited.



View more of the story at NorthWesternEnergy.com/BrightFuture

• There is currently no travel-related quarantine.

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Mental health at this time is just as important as one's physical well-being. September 6-12<sup>th</sup> is National Suicide Prevention Week. This year's Big Sky Chamber's Eggs & Issues will focus on Behavioral Health Services. **#NOTALONE** 

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EGGS & ISSUES | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> | 8:30 AM

**BIG SKY & CHAMBER** 

# A goldmine by a salmon fishery is a terrible idea



# BY BONNIE GESTRING *writers on the range*

In Alaska, what supports 14,000 jobs, generates \$1.5 billion annually and sustains the region's indigenous communities, just as it has for millennia?

The answer is Bristol Bay's wild salmon fishery, and it is no exaggeration to say it is the world's most productive. Every year, some 40-60 million salmon return to the bay's headwaters.

Yet in late July, the Army Corps of

Engineers gave the proposed gold and silver Pebble Mine the go-ahead in its final environmental review. For the Trump administration, it's been full speed ahead even though opposition continues to gain momentum.

More than 80 percent of Bristol Bay residents are against it. Prominent jewelers like Tiffany & Co., Ben Bridge and Zale's have expressed their opposition to the Pebble Mine and vowed not to use any gold extracted from it. Even Donald Trump Jr. opposes the mine.

Commercial fisherman, churches, restaurants, seafood processors, hunters and anglers, Earthworks, the Wild Salmon Center and grocery store companies all support protection of the Bristol Bay salmon fishery over large-scale mining. And nobody has been as steadfast in their opposition, or stands to lose as much, as the Native tribes who live around this magnificent bay.

"We are salmon people," said Alannah Hurley, executive director of United Tribes of Bristol Bay, when she testified before a congressional committee last year. "But salmon are more than food for us. Salmon are central to our cultural identity, our spirituality and our sacred way of life that has made us who we are for thousands of years in the Bristol Bay region."

In 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency completed a scientific assessment and proposed safety limits on disposing mine waste in Bristol Bay waters to ensure that salmon wouldn't be harmed by mining. But in its evaluation of three possible scenarios, the EPA found that even the smallest mine would result in "unacceptable adverse effects."

And what does "small" mean when talking about a massive open pit and tailings dam for storing 1.1 billion tons of mine waste? There would also be a 270-megawatt power plant, a 188-mile long natural gas pipeline that crosses Cook Inlet, an 82-mile transportation corridor, and a port on the Alaska coast. And it's worth noting that Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd., the Canadian company behind the mine, has promised its shareholders that Pebble will inevitably expand to its full size, thanks to subsequent permit expansions. than 3,200 acres of wetlands. Reuters reports that the next day, shares in the company owning the mine fell by 25 percent as investors weighed in. In addition, Alaska's two Republican senators came out against the mine.

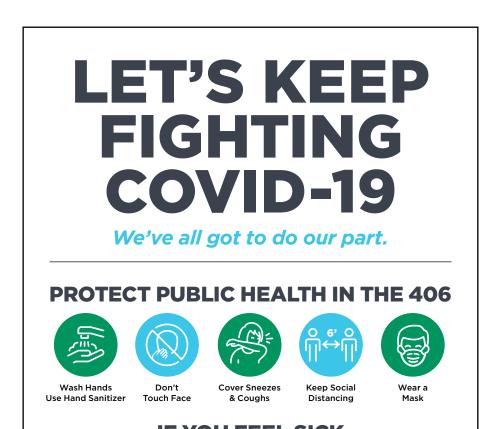
The final environmental review predicts a mind-boggling variety of impacts to the Bristol Bay watershed. One example: permanent damage to over 100 miles of rivers and streams and 2,000 acres of wetlands. I can't think of any other mine in North America—and perhaps the world that would have such a devastating effect on clean water.

The Bristol Bay salmon fishery is a renewable resource; the legacy of the Pebble Mine promises perpetual pollution.

The ore will likely be shipped overseas to Asia, while the lasting impacts stay in Bristol Bay. In contrast, if the pristine water and wild salmon habitat of the watershed gain protection, the fishery can continue to feed our nation and power our economy forever.

It's hard to imagine a more irresponsible mining project than the Pebble Mine. The silver lining: There's still time for Congress to act before a permit to mine is issued this fall, and for mine opponents to be heard, loud and clear. This mine must be stopped.

Bonnie Gestring is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange. com, a nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. She lives in Montana, works as northwest program director for Earthworks, and has been reviewing mining projects for 20 years.



In any case, the Trump administration withdrew the proposed safety limits in 2019, and the mine has been fast-tracked through the environmental review process, led by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Yet state and federal experts have repeatedly critiqued the adequacy of the environmental review. The chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure recently called for a delay in the release of the final environmental impact statement due to the Corp's failure to properly consult with tribes.

Then in late August, two major events: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reversed its July go-ahead and gave mine operators 90 days to explain how they would offset "unavoidable adverse impacts" to more

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#### BY DAVID TUCKER EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Some call it Baetis Alley. Some call it Power Line Meadows. Some know it for the Green Bridge, while others know it for the Deer Creek trailhead.

Anglers, rafters, hikers, and bridge-jumpers alike take advantage of its easy access, but all that use is taking its toll—both on the ecological health of the area and the accompanying recreational experience.

I'm talking about the popular river-access site that stretches from the famous Green Bridge about one mile up-river to the eye-drop parking area adjacent to Highway 191. Collectively known as Baetis Alley by fishing-focused locals, this site is in dire need of rehabilitation and restoration. The Upper Deer Creek Riparian Habitat and Access Restoration project aims to do just that.

Upper Deer Creek will be the second large-scale project (the other is Moose Creek) to restore the ecological health of the river and improve the ease and safety of access along the upper Gallatin corridor. Construction on the project broke ground on Aug. 31 and work should be wrapped up around Halloween. In spring 2021, there will be opportunities for volunteers to replant streamside vegetation.

The Gallatin River Task Force is overseeing the project in partnership with Montana Trout Unlimited and the Custer Gallatin National Forest. "Healthy watersheds are very important for our communities, our wildlife and our lifestyle here on the Custer Gallatin," said Wendi Urie, recreation program manager for the Bozeman Ranger District. "In the past, we really haven't had a focus on these river-access sites. This partnership with the Gallatin River Task Force has allowed us to start looking at the issues and how we can manage them well."

Better management starts with ecological restoration, the primary goal of the project, and includes access enhancement, like sustainable trails and durable-surface parking areas.

"One way we can practice good river stewardship when we're going fishing or boating is by parking in designated parking areas or along the road in a designated pull-out," said Emily O'Connor, conservation project manager for the Gallatin River Task Force.

# **Upper Deer Creek Facelift**

Once complete, the Upper Deer Creek project will feature parking areas at the east and west ends of the site. These durable-surface areas will concentrate vehicle impact, allowing vegetation to regrow throughout the project area.

Currently, rutted double-tracks crisscross the site, which is a mapped wetland with sensitive native plants that are easily destroyed by repeated trampling. Healthy riparian areas are crucial to river health for several reasons. First, they act as natural filtration systems, decreasing the concentration of harmful pollutants such as nitrogen and phosphorus entering the river. Riparian areas also provide crucial



Erosion along the riverbank at Baetis Alley. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

wildlife habitat to native mammals, birds and insects. Along the river's edge, replanted willows will further filter excess nutrients and provide additional habitat and shade that will keep water temperature cooler—the way trout like it.

In addition to the riparian restoration, the project includes a network of sustainable angler trails. These trails will provide access to the river while concentrating foot traffic along designated routes, keeping anglers, boaters and wildlife watchers from eroding streambanks and killing vegetation.

Along the river, a hardened river-access point will serve as a raft put-in and a dedicated kayak launch will further decrease streamside erosion. In addition to the boat launches, an accessible fishing platform will provide a more inclusive recreation experience.

When Upper Deer Creek is complete, it will serve as another model for sustainable recreation in the river corridor. As use increases, we must continue to guard against ecological degradation and these restoration projects are a major part of that effort.

"It's a special place, and it's a fragile place," said Urie. "Balancing how we let people have access to the river with minimizing their impacts to the river is really important."

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







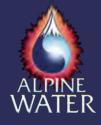
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# BY PATRICK STRAUB EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

Back in my early years of guiding—when phones still had cords and there was only one ESPN—the middle of September meant anticipation. The hot days of summer were in the rearview and along with them the throngs of part-time, fair-weather anglers. Like Christmas for kids, September came with plenty of anticipation as the coming of fall meant the serious anglers arrived to fish the cooler waters of the changing seasons.

Mid-September certainly means longer nights and cooler mornings. However, this doesn't always translate into better or more consistent fishing action. As our weather and rivers transition from summer to fall, it is important to remind ourselves that even though the calendar may say September this doesn't always translate to storybook days—days filled with hatches of mayflies, October caddis, and aggressive brown trout chasing streams. It does mean that each day serves up something unique. Here are five of the best flies for right now.

#### **Morrish Hopper**

Seeing a trout rise to a large dry fly is what brought many of us to the sport. As the mornings cool, the 'hopper bite will start later in the day, so plan to fish a 'hopper at some point each day. The legs of the Morrish hopper are thin and supple, which means they have great action while the fly floats on the surface. This fly catches a lot of fish. But because the legs are so supple, they are delicate and rarely last for more than one or two catches. They're great for fly shops because they sell a bunch, but they're not great for your pocketbook.

#### Any trico mayfly pattern

Hatches of tricos occur early in the morning, often just as the sun begins to rise. Smaller than most midges, tricos hatch in late summer and early fall. The hatching adult insects range from size 18 to 22. Choose patterns with a parachute for added visibility—the post rises above the water's surface. If a hatch of trico mayflies does occur, it may only last a few hours but if you are at the right place at the right time, this is the right fly.

#### Chubby Chernobyl

A fly more frequently associated with stoneflies, this is an ideal late summer and early fall pattern. You may not see an insect that resembles this pattern, but with its high wing and plethora of rubber legs, it looks plenty buggy to a trout. It's also ideal to use this high-floating fly as the top fly in any two-fly dropper rig.

#### Parachute Purple Haze

Mid-September often sees equal chances of cold and rainy weather or sunny and warm weather. If the cold and rain come, fall mayflies—most of them are Blue Winged Olives—could hatch on any given day.

A regular Parachute Adams will work fine but watching thousands of fish eat dry flies on various Parachute dries has taught me that the purple body makes a difference.

# **Not summer anymore, but not yet fall** Five flies for right now

been writing the Eddy Line for eight years. He's owned a fly shop and was one of the largest outfitters in Montana, but these days he now only guides anglers who value quality over quantity. If you want to fish with him, visit his website, https://www.dryflymontana.com/.



Mid-September is a transition time on our local waters. Conditions can range from summer-like to fall-like all in the course of a single day of fishing. Be prepared with the right fly.PHOTO COURTESY OF SECLUDED WATERS



#### Tie: Zuddler and Sculpzilla

As much as we want mid-September to be paired with consistently good streamer fishing, it rarely meets expectations. But, like a Blue Winged Olive hatch, if the weather patterns align and bring an overcast day, fish may target streamers. Both of these patterns are intended to imitate baitfish and larger food sources, such as crayfish. They can be fished with action or deaddrifted under an indicator. When choosing a color, a widely accepted rule is to choose a light-colored fly on a sunny day and a dark-colored fly on a cloudy day.

The next few weeks can serve up some very good fishing, but also some very inconsistent fishing. Each day of fishing really is like a box of chocolates so what matters most is that you gear up and head out because ski season is less than 75 days away.

Patrick Straub has fished on five continents. He is the author of six books, including "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Fly Fishing" and has There's never been a better time to convert your property to a longer-term rental. We handle everything to help you secure a trusted, locally employed tenant. With flexible lease options, you can still visit Big Sky while helping with the local housing crisis.

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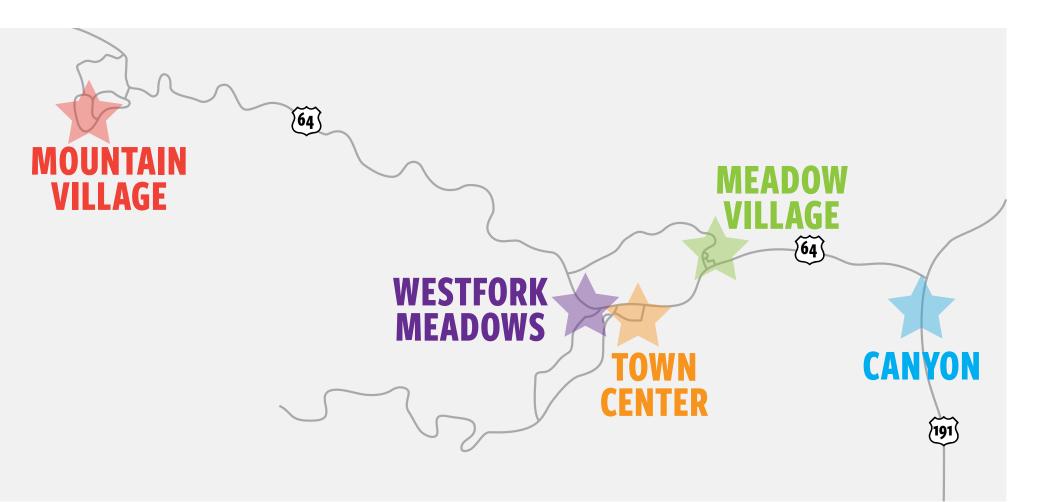
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# MSU professor, collaborators receive nearly \$1 M for Crow water project

#### **MSU NEWS SERVICE**

BOZEMAN – A Montana State University professor and her collaborators have received a grant worth nearly \$1 million to create a program for Apsáalooke youth that they hope will ultimately spark interest in STEM fields and lead to cleaner water for the Apsáalooke nation in southeast Montana.

Vanessa Simonds, associate professor in the Department of Health and Human Development, received the \$999,417 grant from the National Science Foundation through its Advancing Informal STEM Learning program. Simonds and her collaborators will use the funds to create and implement a summer program for Apsáalooke, or Crow, youth in the fifth and sixth grades, as well as a mentorship program for Indigenous high school students and tribal college students.

Simonds' collaborators include Little Big Horn College, Crow Agency Public School, Crow Environmental Health Steering Committee and the advisory board of Guardians of the Living Water, a summer camp and afterschool program at Crow.

"I'm grateful for this funding and excited to work with youth," said Simonds, who is an enrolled member of the Crow tribe. "And working with youth is a way to reach families."

Christine Martin, a collaborator on the project and Crow Climate Change Adaptation project coordinator at Little Big Horn College, has worked on similar projects with Simonds for about five years. She said the program is a direct result of a request from the community. It uses a method known as community-based participatory research —or research done in partnership with the community.

"Partnering with the community at the very beginning, when we were figuring all of this out, was really important," Martin said.

As part of the program, high school and tribal college students will participate in a four-week internship in which they learn about conducting water research and facilitating science activities. The students will then partner with Apsáalooke elders and science professionals to implement a two-week summer program for fifth- and sixth-grade youth.

During that two-week program, Simonds said the youth will study water and participate in a number of waterrelated activities. They will develop research questions about water quality on the reservation and test water at culturally important sites. Students will then compile their data, complete a research poster and share their findings at a celebration with their families.

They will use the findings from these interviews to develop a multimedia toolkit, which includes a set of comprehensive materials that will enable other researchers and informal educators to implement similar programs. This toolkit will include information about water science and water quality, lesson plans and related resources, professional development materials to prepare the high school youth to act as mentors, handouts for family members to facilitate at-home engagement with their children and more.

The program builds upon a similar program Simonds piloted at Crow soon after she came to MSU in 2014 as a professor in the College of Education, Health and Human Development. With funding from the MSU Center for American Indian and Rural Health Equity, or CAIRHE, in 2015 Simonds and her collaborators at Crow launched a summer camp focused on water issues for middle school students. The project received ongoing funding from CAIRHE and continued for five years.



Montana State University professor Vanessa Simonds talks over research findings with students in a summer camp. Simonds and her collaborators have received a grant worth nearly \$1 million to create a program for Apsáalooke youth that they hope will ultimately spark interest in STEM fields and lead to cleaner water for the Apsáalooke nation in southeast Montana. PHOTO BY ADRIAN SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ

Simonds said there is a real need for a program of this sort.

"The Apsáalooke nation in Montana, as well as other Indigenous

"The big piece that is really exciting to kids is testing their water," Simonds said.

Simonds expects a total of 75 fifth- and sixth-grade students -25each year – will participate in the program over course of the grant. In addition, 15 high school students and 15 tribal college students – or five each per year – will participate. Simonds said that five elders and five STEM professionals will also participate. Over the course of the project period, she expects the program will also reach hundreds of family members and community members.

Importantly, Apsáalooke perspectives and cultural practices will be integrated into the program. To develop this piece, the project team will conduct interviews with elders and Apsáalooke community members in scientific fields to determine the desired features of the program.

"We really want to integrate Indigenous knowledge with Western science," Simonds said.

communities across the nation, disproportionally experience negative consequences from water-related environmental hazards, such as contaminated water," she said. "Fifth- and sixth-grade Apsáalooke youth will act as change agents through investigating water issues in their communities and presenting findings to their communities."

Ultimately, Simonds said she hopes the project will increase participants' interests in careers in science, technology, engineering and math. She also hopes it will increase their knowledge and understanding of science and water issues. In addition, the research team will study how youth participation in the program affects their families' and community members' water-related knowledge.

Martin hopes the project will strengthen relationships with children and their families at Crow. She emphasized that the work is being done because of those families.

"This is for the Crow community," she said. "What we're doing is for them. We always have them in mind."

# Album Review: 'Imploding the Mirage' – The Killers

BY SAMUEL ORAZEM EBS CONTRIBUTER



The declining popularity of arena rock over the past decades led many bands to adopt what has been colloquially dubbed a "more mature sound." This change usually indicates that the group has either chosen to refine their specific take on the genre or they have taken their talents to greener, trendier pastures.

The Killers serve as the counterpoint to all those bands that chose to grow up. Sixteen years ago, the Las Vegas-based group's debut album "Hot Fuss" lit up the rock scene. It was filled with the confidence, youthful energy and intoxicating immaturity of Sin City.

"Imploding the Mirage," the Killers' sixth record, is the work of a group that refuses to let go of its past but is simultaneously revolted by the idea of sounding stale. It sports the same timeless quality as the city they call home.

The opening track, "My Own Soul's Warning" begins with lead singer Brandon Flowers's voice cutting through a stormy, eerie, sonic landscape before exploding into a combination of joyful strings, guitars and upbeat drums. Flowers sings about making mistakes and getting back up in a tone that does not quite line up with the lyrics. He bellows, "Cutting up my nights, like a goddamned knife" in a manner that makes such a vicious image sound as benign as a stubbed toe.

the state of the Mirage

"Imploding the Mirage." The third track, "Dying Breed," begins with a mismatch between the Ronnie Vannucci Jr's dance-inspiring drums and the rest of the band. Vannucci hits a massive fill at the two-minute mark that launches the song into the stratosphere. It feels like you are driving out of Vegas into the vast Nevada desert and suddenly you see the speed limit jump by 20 mph.

Even the more ballad-like tracks sport an infectious energy and optimism. The Killers have taken up the mantle of being the sages of a strange, neon-tinged temple of Vegas Dharma.

For example, "When The Dreams Run Dry" talks about the somber topic of time lost and how much longer we have. Somehow, Flowers makes somber lyrics like "we're all going to die" sound positive. He discusses letting go of the reigns and enjoying the path you are on without fear or worry.

With "Imploding the Mirage," The Killers have managed to tap back into what made "Hot Fuss" such a ubiquitous hit. The latest album is as full of the youthful immaturity and uncertainty as their debut was but, paradoxically, also manages to present a more refined version of their signature sound.

While it's unlikely that any of the 10 new tracks will be the next "Mr. Brightside," The Killers' uncompromising commitment to what made them successful makes "Imploding the Mirage" a delightful listen. The only real downside is that we only got 42 minutes of new material.

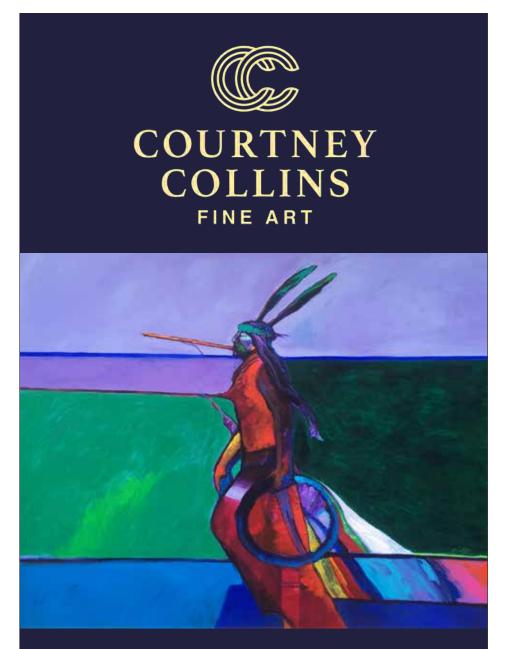
Samuel Orazem is a political science student at UCLA with a passion for music, its contributions to cultural development, and its potential for empowering social and political mobilization.

That sort of slow opening from the opening track is found throughout



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The Armory Hotel is Bozeman's tallest building, sitting at nine stories tall. Only the Baxter Hotel signage one block over is technically taller. PHOTO BY MIRA BRODY

# The art of architecture

Fred F. Willson's legacy lives on through some of Bozeman's oldest buildings

#### BY MIRA BRODY

BOZEMAN – From the top of the new Armory Hotel in downtown Bozeman, the tallest building in town at nine stories, you can spot many of Fred Fielding Willson's architecture, including one of the most iconic, filling most of your western view: the Baxter Hotel, its 11 glowing red letters and the infamous Bridger Beacon nestled just below.



Others include the Gallatin County Courthouse, the Emerson, Longfellow School, countless houses of varying elegance and style in the Historic District, and the first two floors of the Armory itself. In fact, you'd be hard-pressed to stand anywhere within a two-mile radius of downtown and not spot a building designed by Willson.

When it first opened in 1941, the Armory at 24 W. Mendenhall St. housed the 163rd Infantry Regiment of the Montana National Guard during World War II, complete with a rifle range, soundproof room and thick floors capable of accommodating military trucks and tanks.

The Armory Hotel architecture pays tribute to Fred Willson's original Armory Building. PHOTO COURTESY OF KIMPTON HOTELS

## Architect Dies; Mourned by All



Fred Willson's obituary, printed in an Aug. 1956 issue of the Bozeman Courier, noted that he was one of Bozeman's most "useful and highly beloved citizens." PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GALLATIN HISTORY MUSEUM

The contractors and hotel, an operation of the Kimpton Hotel and Restaurant Group based in San Francisco, pays homage to the building's legacy and the history of the area, as well as Willson's artistic mind and the visions he had for the city of Bozeman.

Aaron Whitten, the Armory Hotel's general manager, knows some of the many hats the building has worn over the years.

"I've heard stories here from prom being hosted here, to a taco shop getting their start here, to jazzercise. So this space has lived quite a few lives since that original 1941 Armory," Whitten said. "To speak to how the space reflects in the community, everyone that I've talked to in town has a story or connection or an experience with this particular building in one capacity or another."

Walking through the hotel's second floor on the mezzanine above the stage offers slices of its past, literally. The building's designers opted to reveal pieces of the concrete walls as a tribute. The concrete used in the WWII-era was speckled with pieces of stone, wood and rebar, making for a sort of industrialized mosaic.

The dance floor below, once used for tank maneuvers, looks on toward an impressive stage that will, as soon as revelers can gather again, host performances for a room of up to 600 people. The restaurant, appropriately named Fielding's after Willson's middle name, is a step back in time to traditional American cooking and dining.

Born in 1877 in Bozeman, Willson had a heritage worthy of making any native Montanan proud. He attended the town's public schools as well as the Bozeman Academy and Montana State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts before graduating with a bachelor's degree in Architecture from Columbia University in New York. He traveled around Europe to further his architectural education, visiting several countries including France, Germany, Italy and Britain, and studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. His diary entries during this time document his impressions of European architecture and lifestyle during the early 20th century.

It was in January of 1910 that Willson returned to his hometown for good, bringing with him the inspiration collected from his travels that now mark the neighborhoods of Bozeman. These influences are revealed in his designs, which include multiple architectural styles: Georgian, Mission Revival, Art Deco and Craftsman. passionate artists in the area," Whitten said. "The art and space were inspired by each other."

While Willson believed in functionality, he was also a strong believer in art and the beauty that architecture has the power to bring a community.

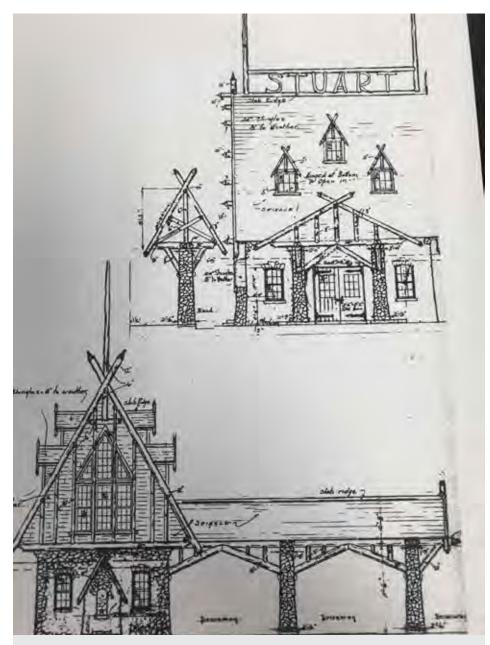
"There is a fundamental reason for every feature embodied in a structure,"Willson said in a 1954 address at Montana State University, two years before his death. "It must have refinement, simplicity, beauty and good taste. Thus an architect's business is to make the things of daily life beautiful."

On the ninth floor rooftop, the historical aspect of the building becomes a bit muddled, what with the rooftop pool and glass walls, but in the the basement you can get a stronger taste for what the original Armory was nearly 80 years ago. The underground whiskey bar, Tune Up, is housed down here, where the infantry's band would practice in the '40s.

Just outside of Tune Up, two large, original metal light fixtures hang like sentries on either side of the entrance under a metal, art-deco-style awning that wasn't part of the early building, but did actually appear in Willson's early blueprints. It's unnerving to think that at one time the Armory was slated for demolition and was only revived after a decade of paperwork, permits, meetings, construction and construction stoppages.

"There's a few components of the exterior that are actually brought to life, rendered from notes that Fred took originally in his architectural drawings," Whitten said. "Essentially we saw in the margins components that are now functional and alive."

Even standing at street level before the massive structure, its chrome chevrons pointing toward the sun with a backdrop of the city's bustling downtown, you can still catch sight of, without much effort, Willson's work and the legacy he left behind in the Gallatin Valley.



Juxtaposing the Armory's masculinity and bold art deco style are pieces of its female ancestry as well. After all, it was Etha Story, the daughterin-law of another Bozeman pioneer Nelson Story, who raised the funds that were donated to procure the land where the Armory was built.

Armory staff worked alongside Susan Denson-Guy, executive director of the Emerson Center for Arts and Culture, to curate unique and custom fine art pieces for the interior. Among those artists are Vicki Fish, Will Hunter and DG House, who painted a one-of-a-kind "Armory Bear" for the hotel's Green Room.

"It's really, really special that we were able to connect with such

In 1927 Willson designed a new, three-story structure for Eagle's Store on the site of the original store built in West Yellowstone, Montana, in 1908. Willson donated his expertise in order to promote the National Park Service rustic architectural style. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GALLATIN HISTORY MUSEUM

# **BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR**

Friday, Sept. 11 – Thursday, Sept. 24

If your event falls between Sept. 25 and Oct. 8, please submit it by Sept. 30 by emailing media@outlaw.partners

## Friday, Sept. 11

Hope & The Holidays 10th Annual Golf Scramble Bridger Creek Golf Course, 12 p.m.

**Best of 406 Market** The Marketplace, Bozeman, 4 p.m.

**Friday Afternoon Club** EBS Facebook live, 5 p.m.

**Thrivin' at the Drive-In** Gallatin County Fairgrounds, Sept. 11-12

## Saturday, Sept. 12

**Gallatin Valley Farmers' Market** Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.

Saturday Sweat, Free Community Workout Moving Mountains Big Sky, 8 a.m.

**Riding on Cloud Nine Poker Run** Cloud Nine Cycles, Bozeman, 9 a.m.

**Bozeman Out of the Darkness** Lindley Park, 9 a.m.

**The Buckhorn Sessions** The Buckhorn Inn, Livingston, 7 p.m.

**Mountainfilm on Tour Big Sky** Arts Council of Big Sky, 8 p.m.

## Sunday, Sept. 13

**Bodhi Farm to Table Sonic Bliss Bath** Bodhi Farms, 3 p.m .

## Monday, Sept. 14

Virtual Book Club https://fullecology.com/, 7 p.m.

## Tuesday, Sept. 15

## Thursday, Sept. 17

**Farmers Market** Bodhi Farms, 5 p.m.

**Chalk-Tails** Dry Hills Distillery, Bozeman, 6 p.m.

## Friday, Sept. 18

**Best of 406 Market** The Marketplace, Bozeman, 4 p.m.

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

## Saturday, Sept. 19

**Pacific People at the Baxter** The Baxter, Bozeman, 6 p.m.

**Centennial Pavilion Ribbon Cutting and Dedication** Glen lake Park, Bozeman, 4 p.m.

**The Buckhorn Sessions** The Buckhorn Inn, Livingston, 7 p.m.

## Sunday, Sept. 20

Western Trout School Fins & Feathers of Bozeman, 8 a.m.

Montana Bike Odyssey Bike Tour Bozeman, Sept. 20-21

## Monday, Sept. 21

NLC Community Pint Night MAP Brewing Co, 4 p.m.

**Pints with Purpose: Sip and Slam** Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Virtual Book Club https://fullecology.com/, 7 p.m.

**Craft Beer Week at Copper** Copper Whiskey Bar & Grill, Bozeman, Sept. 15-19 "One Book Big Sky" Author Visit Big Sky Community Library, 6:30 p.m.

**Michigan Rattlers** The Filling Station, Bozeman, 8 p.m.

## Wednesday, Sept. 16

Hike Big Sky: Town to Trails Race Prep Corner of Simkins and Aspen Leaf, 9 a.m.

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

**Big Sky Farmers Market ft. Kira Fercho** Big Sky Town Center, 5 p.m.

## Tuesday, Sept. 22

**Bozeman Farmers Market** Lindley Park, 5 p.m.

## Wednesday, Sept. 23

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

## Thursday, Sept. 24

**Chalk & Shop** Whiskey & Lace Clothing Boutique, 6 p.m.

**Bozeman Premier of TGR's Make Believe** Starlite Drive-In Theatre, 6 p.m.



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### **SPORTS**



# Lady Big Horns win a pair, improve to 3-0

#### BY BRANDON WALKER

The Lone Peak High School Lady Big Horns varsity volleyball team improved their season record to 3-0, picking up victories over White Sulphur Springs and Sheridan on Sept. 4 and Sept. 5, respectively. Lone Peak previously defeated Absarokee in commanding fashion on Aug. 29, winning in straight sets to open their 2020 season.

"It's a nice feeling," said LPHS head coach Missy Botha. "It's nice to see the hard work pay off."

#### LPHS outlasts White Sulphur Springs

On the road for their first away game of the season, the Lady Big Horns made the more than two-and-a-half-hour trip to White Sulphur Springs for their matchup with the Hornets on Sept. 4.

After a quick 5-0 start in the opening set of the match, Lady Big Horns sophomore middle hitter Maddie Cone was forced to leave the contest with an ankle injury. She was unable to return to competition and LPHS went on to lose the set, 25-20—the first set that the team had lost of the year.

But Lone Peak proved tougher than their adversaries on this day, winning the next three sets 26-24, 25-13, and 25-20 to capture the match victory 3-1.

"I was able to pull Vera Grabow from the JV team, put her on the roster and after that substitution we took the second, third and fourth set," Botha said. "[Our team] put that first set behind them. They kept pushing forward and they showed a lot of character by not losing their heads. They don't dwell on past mistakes or any kind of setback."

Botha praised Grabow, a freshman, for her effort filling in for the injured Cone. Grabow tied for the team high with six kills and led the team with two blocks in the match.





The LPHS Lady Big Horns varsity volleyball team huddles during their matchup with White Sulphur Springs on Sept. 4. PHOTO BY KARA BLODGETT

Senior outside hitter Reilly Germain and junior middle hitter TJ Nordahl shared the team lead in kills with Grabow. Senior libero Chloe Hammond led LPHS with 14 digs, while senior setter Ivy Hicks had 20 of the Lady Big Horns 23 assists versus the Hornets.

#### Lady Big Horns overwhelm Panthers

Playing for the second consecutive day, Lone Peak hosted the Sheridan Panthers on the evening of Sept. 5. The team played the match without Cone, who remained sidelined. Grabow was once again promoted to the varsity squad to fill the void.

The Lady Big Horns overpowered the Panthers, winning in straight sets, 25-6, 25-14, and 25-20. Botha believed the intensity of the previous

Lone Peak competes against Sheridan on Sept. 5. The Lady Big Horns won the match in straight sets. PHOTO BY KARA BLODGETT

evening's match and playing on back-to-back days may have affected the Lady Big Horns performance in the final set. She said she chose not to take a timeout for the team to regroup, instead encouraging them to push through the adversity as Sheridan battled in a tight third set.

Botha was impressed with her group of seniors throughout the match. LPHS's seniors led the squad in three statistical categories against the Panthers, including nine digs from Hammond, all 22 of the team's assists from Hicks, and five aces by Ruth Blodgett.

"Chloe Hammond ... always has solid games and some of her digs were just amazing," Botha said. "Reilly Germain had a great game on the outside and defensively."

Botha noted that LPHS junior varsity coach Kara Blodgett and her team also remained perfect, improving to 3-0 over the weekend as well.

The Lady Big Horns' next match of the season occurred on Sept. 10, the day after EBS press day, when Lone Peak traveled to face Twin Bridges.

# Joliet proves too much for Lone Peak

#### BY BRANDON WALKER

BIG SKY – On a warm Sept. 5 afternoon the Lone Peak High School Big Horns varsity football team hosted the visiting Joliet J-Hawks in their second contest of the season. The J-Hawks outsized and outmanned the Big Horns, defeating LPHS by a score of 56-8.



Lone Peak senior Kole Maus (99) is introduced before the start of the Big Horns matchup with the Joliet J-Hawks. The J-Hawks defeated the Big Horns 56-8. PHOTO BY HANNAH FARR

"They're just far older," said Big Horns head coach Adam Farr. "They have quite a few seniors, we have one and that clearly played out, and it was obvious that their size was substantial compared to ours physically."

Lone Peak's roster featured 12 athletes, while Joliet totaled 23, affording them the ability to easily substitute players in and out throughout the contest.

"We focus a lot on cardiovascular fitness and all of that because we are limited in numbers, but the fact is if you play offense, defense and special teams, which most of the guys did, fatigue is definitely going to play a factor particularly given the heat, so that was difficult," Farr said.



The J-Hawks struck quickly, scoring on their opening play from scrimmage only nine seconds into the first quarter. Following the kickoff by the Big Horns, which sailed through the endzone for a touchback, J-Hawks junior quarterback Hayden Ward found sophomore wide receiver Paxton McQuillan for a 65-yard passing touchdown. Ward was unable to connect with McQuillan on the 2-point conversion attempt, leaving the score 6-0.

Roughly two minutes later Ward utilized a misdirection play to streak down the sideline himself for a 55-yard rushing touchdown. Joliet junior Rye Brastrup successfully converted the 2-point conversion rushing attempt, making it 14-0.

The J-Hawks continued to utilize a variety of rushing and passing plays to spread the Big Horns defense out. They led 42-0 after the first quarter and added a short yardage passing touchdown and 2-point conversion with just over one minute to play before the half to take a 50-0 lead at the break.

Lone Peak continued to battle in the second half, never allowing the score to affect their effort on the field of play. Trailing 56-0 in the fourth quarter, sophomore running back Pierce Farr scored his third rushing touchdown of the season with less than nine and a half minutes remaining in the game.

Farr took the handoff from sophomore quarterback Isaiah Holst, ran right and found an opening along the sideline to punch in a roughly 23-yard touchdown. After lining up for a PAT attempt, a low snap led to a lateral to freshman Juliusz Shipman who found a Big Horn receiver in the end zone to convert the 2-point conversion, making it 56-8.



The Lone Peak High School Big Horns varsity football team kicks off during their matchup with

The Big Horns compete against the Joliet J-Hawks on Sept. 5 at Lone Peak High School. The J-Hawks came out victorious 56-8. PHOTO BY HANNAH FARR

the Joliet J-Hawks on Sept. 5. The Big Horns were defeated 56-8. PHOTO BY HANNAH FARR

"They didn't hang their heads. They didn't stop trying. They didn't get after each other. They just kept grinding against what was clearly a superior team at this point," Farr said.

Coach Farr said the team would work on defending the pass in their two practices leading into their next contest.

"I'm impressed with our run defense, even against that team. I mean they peeled off some long runs on us, but we also put up a fight," he said.

After some scheduling rearrangements, the Big Horns (0-2) faced off against the Sheridan Panthers on Sept. 10 in what would have otherwise been their bye week.

# The fan attendance dilemma

BY AL MALINOWSKI *ebs contributor* 

If a game is played but only the home team spectators are in attendance, did it happen?

It's a unique time for scholastic sports in Montana. Thankfully, in most cases schools are participating in fall athletics, yet it is anything but business as usual. COVID-19 has changed the way we live our lives, likely in many aspects, permanently. But it has also raised the question of when individuals can assess risks and make their own decisions regarding their safety versus having those decisions made for them.

One example recently occurred when the Gallatin City-County Health Department—after consulting many area school district administrators decided to limit spectators at high school sporting events.

Reducing capacity at games makes sense. The county guidance states that home teams are permitted two spectators per player as are visiting teams, provided their school is also located within Gallatin County. But for visiting schools located outside of the county, spectators are not invited.

This is a difficult decision to accept and understand, especially when it is applied to outdoor sports like football. Our society has had nearly six months to make adjustments to our lifestyles to keep each other safe. Everybody owns and wears masks and recognizes the benefits of social distancing. Some might argue Montana specialized in social distancing long before the practice had a title. Additionally, most of the schools from other Montana counties that Lone Peak High School will compete against have fewer active COVID-19 cases than Gallatin County does.

No doubt many of the athletic directors and school administrators both in and outside Gallatin County are struggling with this decision too. At smaller schools this practice becomes difficult to enforce, especially when spectators are using common sense and presenting little if any risk to others. At some point, one has to wonder if the statistical risk of contracting COVID-19 while social distancing at a sporting event is any greater than the risk those individuals accepted of possibly getting into an accident while traveling to the game.

All sports fans have their personal list of top games they've attended. My top three, in no particular order, include the sixth game of the 1998 NBA Finals in Salt Lake City (yes, I do think Michael Jordan pushed Bryon Russell before the game winning shot to clinch the NBA Championship).

I also witnessed the "Miracle at Michigan", when Kordell Stewart of the Colorado Buffalo connected with teammate Michael Westbrook for a gamewinning bomb on the last play of the game.

While in college, I watched an unranked Michigan State football team upset No. 1 ranked Michigan in Ann Arbor, when Desmond Howard "tripped" trying to catch what could have been a game-winning 2-point conversion.

But for most parents, those types of fan experiences don't compare to attending sporting events that involve your own children. Montana parents travel long distances, in often challenging road conditions, to see every game played by their sons and daughters.

The truth is, many parents will find it very difficult to adhere to the Gallatin County decision when their kids are playing games this Fall. It's difficult to blame them. The Gallatin County decision should be revisited soon to allow local schools the ability to offer visiting fans the same courtesy we are providing spectators who live in the county. It's just the right thing to do.

Al Malinowski has lived in Big Sky for over 25 years. He has coached middle school and high school basketball at the Big Sky School District for 22 of those years. He believes participation in competitive athletics has been critical in establishing his core values.



# **EXPLORING MONTANA?**

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# LPC Golden Goats clinch softball tourney four-peat

#### EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Softball league witnessed history on Sept. 3 when the Lone Peak Caregivers Golden Goats secured their fourth consecutive tournament championship. The Golden Goats topped the Big Sky Bears in walk-off fashion, 20-18, after an exciting rally by the Bears in the top of the seventh inning.

Entering the championship game matchup versus the Bears, the Golden Goats knew that history was on the line. Already tied for the most consecutive tournament championships with the Cab Lizards at three apiece, anticipation was high as the game began.

The teams swapped runs early, but the Golden Goats gained a 17-8 advantage by the end of the sixth inning. In the top of the seventh, the Bears plated 10 runs to seize an 18-17 lead, leaving them just three outs away from a come-from-behind tournament championship victory.

The Golden Goats responded quickly in the bottom half of the inning. Left-center fielder Craig Ames doubled to lead off the bottom of the seventh. He was plated when the left fielder Brandon Walker tripled, tying the score at 18. Then right fielder Dan Paulson stepped to the plate and hit the next pitch high over the rightcenter-field fence, a walk-off two-run home run, sealing the four-peat.

The 2020 Big Sky Softball league season had one final game to finish: the League Championship match. That game between the Golden Goats and the Hillbilly Huckers was slated to resume on Sept. 9 at 6:30 p.m. after a thunderstorm halted play on Aug. 26.

When play resumed, the Golden Goats led the Huckers 9-5, with the Huckers coming to bat in the top of the fourth inning.

Visit explorebigsky.com for the outcome of the League Championship game.



PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY

# What it takes to be an AJGA competitor

# BY MARK WEHRMAN *ebs contributor*

Entering our third year hosting the American Junior Golf Association I started thinking about the road to becoming a competitor on the American Junior Golf Tour. I have come to the conclusion that it takes: passion, perseverance, dedication, determination, patience and most of all practice. Just thinking about all of that makes it seem like an impossible task, but all six of these virtues blend together in some form.

First, the passion has to come from the kids. It has to be their passion or dream to excel in golf. It can't be the dream or wish of their parents. If the kids don't have the desire to compete—especially at a high level—then they will most likely get burned out if they are pushed too hard. It's a parent's job to expose their kids to the game, providing them with the opportunity to create a genuine "love" for the sport. Through that exposure the kids will decide if high level competition is what they desire.



mentioned in my previous article, I have been working with a young girl from China in her preparation for the AJGA event. She told me that she started golfing when she was 9 years old. For the first two years she either practiced or played every day; That's an example of dedication.

In order to be dedicated enough to practice diligently you need to be patient with the learning process. Becoming a better golfer isn't simply taking a lesson once a week and expecting to get better. You have to have the patience to invest the time into practicing, coupled with the discipline to spend time working on what you learn to perfect your game.

Too often I see kids taking weekly lessons but they



A full practice facility preparing for competition. PHOTO BY MARK WEHRMAN, PGA

are not doing anything in between those lessons to improve. They only show up once a week for their scheduled lesson. Well guess what, practice makes permanent and perfect practice will make perfect play. Taking a lesson will give you knowledge, but

consistency can't happen without repetition. When asked what the secret to golf was, the great Ben Hogan said, "the secret is in the dirt." This means that if you want to get better you need to spend time practicing even when it isn't fun, things may not feel the greatest, or you just don't want to be out there.

Now, most don't have aspirations to get to that level of competition. Yet some do, but don't possess the patience and dedication it will take to achieve that level of success. That's alright, but if you're going to spend good, hard-earned money on lessons and golf equipment—which is as expensive as skiing—you should be setting goals and willing to put in the effort to make those goals a reality.

I can tell you that after hosting the AJGA event for three years, some things I notice do not change year-to-year. They are the amount of time these young men and women dedicate to improving and achieving their goals. Their passion shows and their perseverance and determination help them get there. These young golfers are truly an inspiration to me and they're the future of golf. I hope you were able to take some time to come watch excellence at such a young age.

Next, I think about the perseverance and determination needed to get to that level of competition. The perseverance will be necessary when things aren't going their way. Of course, there are always going to be days that aren't going your way and the club feels terrible in your hands, your rhythm and tempo are off, or you just don't have your best stuff.

It's on these days that you will have to persevere through the bad shots and rounds and not simply quit when things aren't going your way. You have to be determined enough to overcome those bad days or rounds and look at the challenges with a glass half full, rather than half empty mentality. It's key to remain positive and realize that those bad days and rounds are few and far between and not the norm going forward.

Getting to a high level of golf competition takes dedication, patience and certainly practice. You're dedication to the game needs to be strong. Strong in the sense that you'll spend time practicing even when you might not want to be out there. As I

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# Are your defense mechanisms hurting you?



## BY LINDA ARNOLD EBS CONTRIBUTOR

There you go again, overreacting to a situation.

Let's face it, as evolved as we think we are, we still resort to certain behaviors when our backs are against the wall. Especially in stressful times like these.

Last week I allowed something to get to me. I reacted to the tone of someone's voice and became defensive. It wasn't the communicator's intention by any means. On a gut level,

though, it triggered something in me and I allowed it to get the best of me.

Fortunately, this only lasted a few minutes. That's the thing with our "living laboratory of life." When we get lessons over and over, we're able to spot them quickly. In my case, I processed the situation with the other person, and we both learned from it. It turns out she was unaware of how her tone came across, and I was unaware of being hypersensitive.

When you fall back on familiar patterns—defense mechanisms—you think you're defending your position and you're probably not even aware you're doing this.

The three most common defense mechanisms are denial, rationalization and projection. I'll bet you've had some experience with the examples below, either as a sender or receiver of communication.

#### Are you in Denial?

Denial is the refusal to accept reality. Many people use denial to avoid dealing with problem areas in their lives. For example, an alcoholic may deny he has a drinking problem by pointing out how well he functions at the office.

#### Do you Rationalize?

Rationalization means providing other reasons than the true reason. These other reasons draw attention away from the root cause.

When someone offers more than one reason for doing something, they're likely rationalizing. Usually, the true reason for an action is a single one.

That speaks volumes to me! I'll be playing detective by watching my communication and listening to that of others.

You may see a familiar pattern in the example below. I've encountered many of these either directly or through my research. A particularly helpful resource is the book, *Addictive Thinking*, by Abraham Twerski.

Lisa, a recent accounting graduate, was reluctant to apply for a position because she was afraid of being turned down. However, the reasons she gave her family were different: They're probably looking for someone with years of experience. The office is too far away to commute. And the starting wage is unsatisfactory.

#### Are you Projecting?

Projecting means blaming others when you actually bear responsibility yourself. It serves two functions: it reinforces denial and it preserves the status quo.

Projecting your feelings upon someone else relieves you from the responsibility of making changes. Because the only person you can ever change is yourself.

#### Peeling off the Layers

Denial, rationalization and projection often occur in layers, like an onion. As one layer is peeled away, another may be discovered underneath. Being willing to peel off these layers and take responsibility for your actions can go a long way toward changing ingrained patterns.

Below are some examples of defense mechanisms, while they focus on addictions (and times that don't deal with social distancing), you can see how the techniques could apply to other life situations:

- Rationalizing "My entire shift stops for drinks after work. We deserve a few cold ones."
- Blaming "I drink because I'm stuck in a boring job all day."
- Minimizing "I only get high at parties."
- Joking "I can stop drinking anytime I want. In fact, I stop at least once a week."
- Projecting "Next year I'll be out of this dump, and things will be different."
- Generalizing "We all have a bad habit or two."

If you find yourself stuck in a pattern that repeats itself over and over, you may want to see if you're contributing to the problem – either consciously or unconsciously. Defense mechanisms really don't defend us.

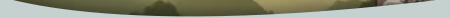
Linda Arnold is a syndicated columnist, psychological counselor and Founder of a multistate marketing company. Reader comments are welcome at linda@lindaarnold.org or visit www. lindaarnold.org for more information on her books.

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# Making it in Big Sky: Horn and Cantle

## BY BRANDON WALKER

BIG SKY – Executive chef Eric Gruber has led the kitchen staff at the Horn & Cantle restaurant, located at Lone Mountain Ranch, for more than four years. He graduated from the Scottsdale Culinary Institute with an associate's degree in culinary arts that he has put to use for more than three decades.

His hospitality industry experience runs deep, working primarily in hotels on the west coast throughout his career. Gruber and his family relocated to Gallatin County from San Diego, California when he accepted the position at LMR, seeking a change from the busy, city life.

Currently, he leads a kitchen staff of roughly 15 employees, down from the usual number of 25 in a typical summer. Gruber and his slender team have adapted the new normal but will soon take a short break—dates to be determined—ahead of the busy, winter season.

He recently spoke with EBS about the adaptations that he and his kitchen staff have made as they continue serving guests and community members throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Explore Big Sky:** In your opinion, what is the greatest key to operating safely and successfully during a pandemic?

**Eric Gruber:** "I would say it's being aware of CDC guidelines and ... I would say, from a sanitary sense of us making sure that we are doing everything we can to keep not only ourselves safe but our guests safe."

**EBS:** What has been your biggest operational success in the last five months? **E.G.:** "We've had zero positive cases on the ranch with over 90 employees. It's using, like I said, looking at the CDC guidelines. We revisit it every day and on shift we talk about masks, we talk about handwashing, we talk about everything that we can do from a sanitizing sense and then we try to stay in the bubble on the ranch."

## **EBS:** Have you and your staff made any operational adjustments, spurred by the virus, that you will maintain for the foreseeable future?

**E.G.:** "I mean we're extra aware of cleanliness. We used to have this philosophy of wash your hands 50 times a day and that turned into 200. It's in my kitchen handbook, so I changed it to 200 times a day. So, I guess just a heightened sense of awareness of how important sanitation, hygiene and everything is."

# **EBS:** Having a career that is centered around customer service, what thoughts ran through your mind as restrictions and shutdowns began to occur around the U.S.?

**E.G.:** "I was personally pretty terrified for myself and my family as well as my team. You know this is their livelihood and I think we're incredibly lucky to open back up and have been as successful as we can [be] and hopefully the rest of the country can take note of the things that're happening in Montana, I think."

## **EBS:** Can you describe the feeling when you returned to the kitchen, surrounded by your staff once again?

**E.G.:** "It was very nervous [times]. I didn't sleep much the first month and we were busy and we didn't have enough staff, so like I said, we [were] kind of winging it for a while. I've been doing this for 25 years and it was by far the most challenging couple month of my career."

## **EBS:** How does it feel to view patrons entering the restaurant and your fellow staff members wearing masks every day?

**E.G.:** "Staying in the back and trying not to expose everybody to everybody has been a very different experience. ... It's much more personal for me to meet, not only the guests that stay at the ranch, but people coming in for dinner."

EBS: If you could've weathered the stay-at-home period learning alongside a famous chef of your choosing, who would it have been and why? E.G.: "It would be Anthony Bourdain, but he passed away. But he's probably one of the most intelligent people out there from a [sense of] how food and culture are so intertwined. ... I'd love to stand next to him for a little bit; learn something through osmosis."

# **EBS:** You have to continue using one health and safety related item (i.e. Masks, Hand Sanitizer, Gloves) on a consistent basis for the remainder of your life. Which item would it be and why?

**E.G.:** "It's definitely hand sanitizer. The mask, like I said ... getting to know people and seeing their face and talking to them and emotion and expression—having someone's mouth covered is difficult and I hate wearing gloves. I would much rather wash my hands."

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

**E.G.:** "I had a really good GM once ... he said, 'you don't put profit margin in the bank, you put money in the bank."



Executive Chef Eric Gruber has led the kitchen staff at the Horn & Cantle restaurant for more than four years. PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC GRUBER

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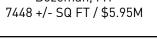
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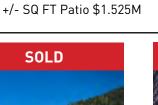














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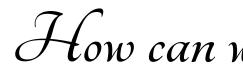
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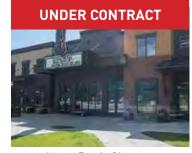
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# **AMUSE-BOUCHE**

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

## Nuked



#### BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

If you ask anyone you know what they use their microwave for, the answer is almost always the same: defrosting and reheating leftovers.

If you think about it, microwaves are the epitome of convenience. You put cold food into a box above your stove or on your counter, that you didn't pre-heat, hit a couple buttons, and voila, your food comes out hot.

And the entire unit itself has nothing too hot to touch. It's not far off from a star trek replicator. But where did it all begin? This is my underlying question surrounding microwaves.

World war II was coming to a close and coincidingly magnetron tubes-used for short range radar—suddenly had no further purpose. Major manufacturers were searching for future uses for this still relatively new technology.

It had already been established that radio waves could heat insulated material with no conduction. Companies like Radio Corporation of America, General Electric, and Bell were all competing for where they could go next with these likely, harmless radio waves.

The next part isn't fully corroborated or confirmed, but as the lore goes, several men were in a lab where they were testing alternative uses for these magnetron waves. One of them was standing close and not long after they fired up their equipment, he felt heat in his pocket. It turned out, the candy bar in his pocket began to cook as a result of the magnetron waves.

As the story goes, he filed for patents for using microwaves to cook food. Enter the first microwave or Radarange—which is a direct reference to its military origins—as it was first referred to. The first microwave was sold in 1946.

Initially microwave cooking technology was used in restaurants and airplanes to reheat food. For restaurants, it meant heating, or reheating foods quickly and without the use of hot, cumbersome ovens. For airlines, what could be better than to have the ability to heat food quickly and with simple electricity for what became the post war jet set crowd?

Fast forward to the late 1960's early 1970's: microwave ovens were about to be more than a pricy, unique method of heating food for the rich and elite.

More and more manufacturers began mass producing this technology and here's where my chef and history brain come together to piece together a culinary storybook that may or may not end well. That depends on your point of view.

The creation and mass consumption of processed foods directly coincides with the advent of high fructose corn syrup. But I would make a case that this unhealthy, convenient way of eating is the culmination of a one-two punch. The other punch being the accessibility of easily cooking and reheating foods in a microwave. Microwaves, the growing use of high fructose corn syrup, and ready to eat processed foods all converged in the early to mid 1970's.

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Suddenly, Americans found themselves in need of two incomes, rather than one. As households wondered who was going to cook dinner, what could be easier than utilizing the revolutionary grocery store items that married the stability of what would later be called processed foods with the ability to heat them in a fraction of the time in an oven that took up a third of the space of a conventional oven?

We could now hold a dual income household together, while spending little time in the kitchen. Which left more time for watching Walter Cronkite, Good Times, Adam 12, or whatever show you were into at the time.

I'll delve more into the advent of processed foods and how we've been directed to eat in the near future.

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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# Big Sky Brews: 208 Session Ale by Grand Teton Brewing

## BY MIRA BRODY

VICTOR, Idaho – Although the brewery is now in Victor, Idaho—not far from the state border—Grand Teton Brewing was actually Wyoming's first microbrewery when it was founded in 1988. Charlie and Ernie Otto originally named the establishment Otto Brothers' Brewing Company.

The brothers, of German-Austrian descent, were passionate about good-tasting, small batch brews. At the time state law prohibited breweries to act as retailers, preventing them from having a storefront for their operation. Charlie spent three years of grass roots organizing to change legalization of brewpubs and finally, in 1992, Otto Brothers' Brewing Company opened Wyoming's first brewpub in Wilson.

Theirs was the first malt beverage manufacturer permit issued in Wyoming in 35 years. They presented their flagship amber, the Teton Ale, to local draught establishments in



Grand Teton Brewing, which started as Otto Brothers' Brewing in Wilson, WY, was the state's first microbrewery. PHOTO COURTESY OF GRAND TETON BREWING

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1989 and the Old Faithful Ale and Moose Juice Stout soon followed.

It was also around this time that the Otto brothers came across a European lidded tin-pail known as a "growler" and reintroduced it in a modern, 64-ounce glass jug version. Growlers can now be purchased and filled at breweries all over the country.

While at Grand Teton Brewing, I snagged a growler of their 208 Session Ale. After a warm day on the trails and a high of 95, the light, crisp wheat ale hit the spot like any good recovery drink. It's drinkable with a light body and citrusy in character. If you're not a fan of citrus beers, however, don't let that deter you, as the flavors are subtle and smooth.



The 208 Session Ale is best served in a Grand Targhee mug with a great sunset view. PHOTO BY MIRA BRODY

The 208 is noted on the brewery's website as "brewed to be Idaho's

beer." It is brewed with 100 percent Idaho barley, Idaho hops and pure Idaho spring water. It'll keep your evening mellow with an ABV of 4.7 percent, and has won silver in the Great American Beer Festival awards.

Although the brewery changed hands and names in the early 2000s, it has allowed them to grow the full annual production to 10,000 barrels of beer and a full bottling line, allowing for distribution throughout Wyoming, Idaho, Montana and Utah. With its friendly staff, historic roots and long list of available brews on tap, the brewery in Victor is a must-visit if you're heading to Jackson or Grand Targhee for your recreational fulfillment.

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# **American Life in Poetry:** Column 806

#### BY TED KOOSER U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2004-2006

Lovers of poetry will be pleased to learn that Louisiana State University Press has just published Pulitzer Prize winner Henry Taylor's new and selected poems, This Tilted World is Where I Live. Some of his finest poems are longer than the space this column permits, but here's a shorter one that will give you a taste. Taylor lives in New Mexico.

#### Art and Life

In the Portland Museum of Art's snack bar one July morning, a young woman worked at the board that lists the specials of the day. From her little stepladder she leaned in

with various colored chalks, using both point and edge, adjusting with her fingertips, experimenting with size and color, print and script, once or twice stepping down and back,

then homing in on what was to be solved. The whole thing might have taken her ten minutes. At last she moved a little farther back to see how what she'd done had changed the room,

while we, who had the good luck to be there at the beginning of her day, beheld the change she couldn't know that she had wrought merely by how her red hair caught the light.

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"And once the storm is over, you won't remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won't even be sure

# **CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

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BIG SKY

## "I Got a Woman" - Ray Charles

"I Got a Woman" by Ray Charles, famed songwriter and pianist, would remain in music history as one of the prototypes for what later became termed as

"soul music." The song's inspiration was derived from "It Must Be

whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in. That's what this storm's all about."

— Haruki Murakami

Jesus" by the Southern Tones, which Charles was listening to on the radio while on the road with his band in the summer of 1954. He and his trumpeter, Renald Richard, wrote "I Got a Woman" by combining a gospel-frenetic pace, secular lyrics and a jazz-inspired rhythm and blues background. It was Charles' first major hit,

climbing to No. 1 on R&B charts in January 1955-to this day it ranks No. 239 on Rolling Stone's list of the "500 Greatest Songs of All Time." It lives on through a popular Beatles cover, and is in the chorus in Kanye West's "Gold Digger," sung by Jamie Foxx, who played Charles in the biopic, "Ray."



# BACKEI

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"

# Wilderness paddling: The Thorofare

BY FORREST MCCARTHY

It's an apt name. For American Indians and early trappers, the broad valley known today as the Thorofare provided easy passage through the otherwise inaccessible southern Absaroka Range. They followed the trails of bison, elk and bighorn sheep that for millennia have migrated through this lush mountain paradise.

Located amid 2.1 million contiguous acres of roadless wilderness, the creek that flows along the valley's bottom is arguably the most remote waterway in the Lower 48. There's no easy way in or out. The shortest trail from its bank to a road is 25 miles long and crosses the Continental Divide. By the time it joins the Yellowstone, Thorofare Creek is the size of a small river.

Camped at its headwaters with a rag-tag crew of four trusted companions, I watch the sun descend behind the triple 11,000-foot summits of the Trident. Volcanic breccias sculpted into steep ridges and canyons by Pleistocene ice are backlit by the orange sphere. We relax on a gravel bar, warding off the evening chill and heating water for the night's meal over a crackling driftwood fire.

Earlier in the day we'd trekked 11 miles up Fall Creek and down into Bruin Creek, crossing the Absaroka Crest by way of a 11,297-foot trailless pass. Last summer, to reach Fall Creek, we paddled the South Fork of the Shoshone River for 20 miles through the Washakie Wilderness. The day before, we hiked 15 miles over Shoshone Pass from the Du Noir near Dubois, Wyo.

After three strenuous days, we looked forward to a leisurely float down Thorofare Creek. The wild landscape guides our thoughts and conversation, reminding me of words written nearly a century ago. "To countless people the wilderness provides the ultimate delight because it combines the thrills of jeopardy and beauty," wrote Bob Marshall, founder of the Wilderness Society. "It is the last stand for that glorious adventure into the physically unknown."

In the morning we packed our few pounds of camping gear and provisions into lightweight, one-man inflatable packrafts and began the 17-mile paddle through the Teton Wilderness to the southeast border of Yellowstone National Park.

We exited the river there, because floating on park rivers is prohibited by a 1950s-era law designed to protect against overfishing. A federal offense, it's punishable by hefty fines, confiscated gear and possible jail time.

Paddling in Wilderness areas is legal, however, and many of the architects of the 1964 Wilderness Act, including Sigurd Olson and Olaus Murie, were, in fact, paddlers.

"When you go into country by pack train the streams are only for crossing, or to camp beside. To know a stream you travel on it, struggle with it, live with it hour by hour and day by day," wrote Murie, after canoeing the Yellowstone River in the late 1930s with his two sons.

During the day we spent on Thorofare Creek, the views changed constantly. Early on, we navigated a long, braided section. The current was swift, and we piloted our packrafts into the largest channels. Through thick stands of lodgepole pine, the rocky summits of the Thorofare Buttes came in and out of view.

Then, above Petrified Ridge, the glaciated peaks of Mount Overlook and Ishawooa Cone appeared. On the riverbank a bald eagle feasted on a



At Bliss Creek Meadows, Moe Witschard paddles the headwaters of the South Fork of the Shoshone River.



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"



Michael Fiebig enjoys thrilling whitewater on the South Fork of the Buffalo Fork River.

cutthroat trout. I passed close enough to see her individual feathers. Near the confluence with Butte Creek, the channels merged and the creek bent west. We drifted through a shallow gorge of ancient lava, vertical walls of the brittle igneous rock guiding the current.

The valley opened again as we met Pass Creek. In a meadow of lupine, yarrow and grass, a herd of elk grazed. Below Open Creek, a bull moose, its rack covered in dark velvet, watched as we passed.

As we approached the park boundary that afternoon, the 9,761-foot Hawks Rest seemed to grow in stature. Notable as the farthest peak from a road in the contiguous U.S., it also marked the convergence of the Thorofare and Yellowstone valleys and the end of our time on Thorofare Creek. We exited our rafts at a of its own, unique in pattern and personality. Each mile on a river will take you further from home than a hundred miles on a road."

Forrest McCarthy, a wilderness advocate and explorer, is a longtime student of both Bob Marshall and Olaus Murie. All of their published writings sit next to his desk.



gravel bar, and dried our gear in the sun, resting and taking our last look up Thorofare Valley.

From here, we rolled up our boats and trekked 20 miles across Two-Ocean Pass and the Continental Divide to the Buffalo Fork River, then the following day paddled 15 swift miles through a series of whitewater canyons into Jackson Hole, Wyo.

Like many paddlers, I often seek the challenge and thrill of roadside whitewater. But I find that spending days in the wilderness, harmonizing my internal rhythms with the natural, hypnotic pace of free flowing water allows a much fuller understanding of a river's riches.

In the words of Bob Marshall:

"Swift or smooth, broad as the Hudson or narrow enough to scrape your gunwales, every river is a world

After crossing the 11,000-foot crest of the Absaroka Mountains, Andrew McLean and Forrest McCarthy descend into the Thorofare Valley.

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Gallatin Valley is the fastest-growing county of its size in the country. Bozeman's real estate market is booming as people realize the quality of life the area has to offer. With access to year-round mountain recreation, top-notch schools, the busiest airport in the state, the largest university and a robust trail system, Bozeman is officially on the map. Why wait? Find your dream home in "the most livable place" today. Here are the Top 5 BEST Bozeman listings on the market right now, ready for you to move in.

#### Featured: 112 Cobble Creek, Bozeman, MT

112 Cobble Creek is an exceptionally rare offering just four miles south of downtown Bozeman. Listed by Bryce Connery, a broker with PureWest Christie's representing Buyers and Sellers in premiere recreational and lifestyle properties throughout Montana. Read more about this listing on page 52.

# 4430 River Road listed by Cortney Andersen, Broker/Owner of Cortney Andersen Real Estate

This estate is located in an unmatched serene setting on 71+/- acres with roughly .25+/- mile of the iconic Gallatin River elegantly meandering through the property. Blue Ribbon fly fishing, private horseback riding, walking and biking trails are right in your backyard! The ranch house has been elegantly updated and includes two master suites with radiant floor heat. In addition to the main house this property campus consists of the following, four car garage with radiant floor heat, three guest cottages radiant floor heat with three bathes, numerous shops, custom barns with

radiant floor heat, outdoor riding arena and much, much more. Minutes to downtown Bozeman, airport, skiing, horseback riding trails and the many amenities Bozeman MT has to offer. Andersen Real Estate is dedicated to providing exceptional care and services to our clientele. We encourage you to experience the benefits of our expertise, energy and high professionalism.

Contact Cortney Andersen at (406) 599-1990 or cortneyandersen81@gmail.com



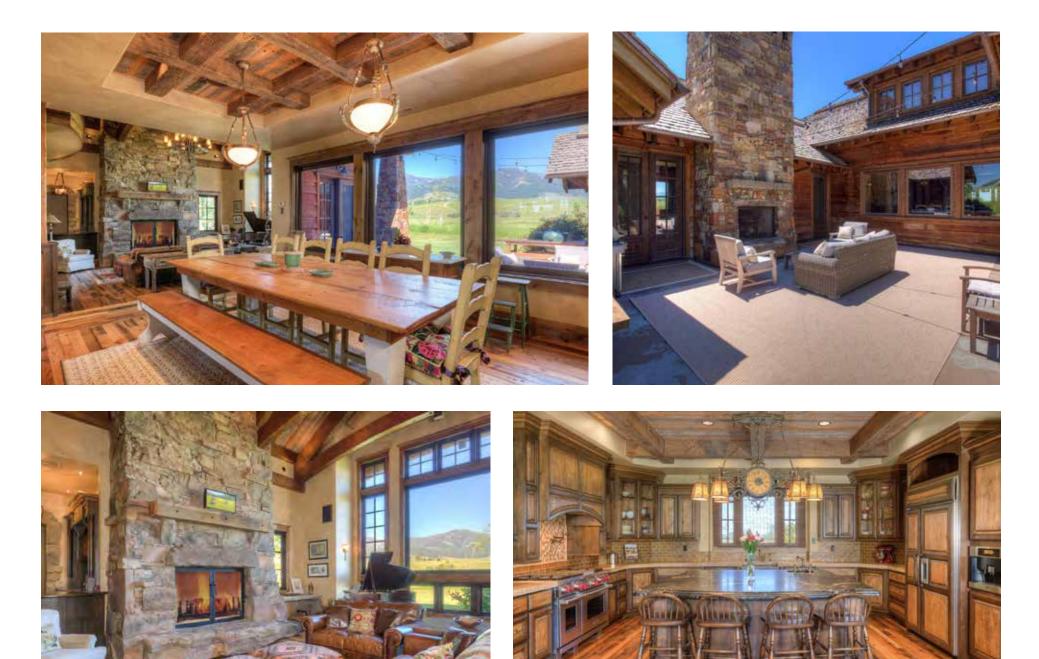




# 200 Jeana Lei listed by Jackie Miller, Broker with PureWest Christie's International Real Estate

Stunning custom-built home situated just minutes from downtown Bozeman and the East Gallatin River. This property offers seclusion and privacy, amazing views and a fabulous outdoor living space with a fireplace. The stone and timber accents blend beautifully with the surrounding nature hosting abundant wildlife. This three bedroom, four bath home features natural and reclaimed finishes providing an elegant, rustic atmosphere. The open floor plan and gourmet kitchen are perfect for entertaining. This property also features an attached, private one bedroom, one bath, full kitchen guest apartment with balcony above the garage. Drive your golf cart to nearby private country club for golfing, tennis, pool and restaurant.

Contact Jackie Miller at (406) 539-5003 or jackie@purewestproperties.com









# 112 Cobble Creek listed by Bryce Connery, Broker with PureWest Christie's International Real Estate

An exceptionally rare offering just four miles south of downtown Bozeman. Watch elk graze in the hayfield, and relax on the patio with spectacular mountain views of the Bridgers, Gallatin Range and Spanish Peaks. Designed by acclaimed architect Stephen Dynia, this four-bedroom, five-bathroom, 6,296 square-foot legacy home sits on 17+/- acres and features an open floor plan and first-floor master; two upstairs bedroom suites; an office, movie theater, wet bar and wine cellar downstairs, plus a guest room and kitchenette above the garage. The outdoor living space, which includes a large deck, patio and a fireplace, is ideal for entertaining guests during those long Montana summer nights. Additional 20 acres available.

Bryce Connery is a broker with PureWest Christie's representing buyers and sellers in premiere recreational and lifestyle properties throughout Montana. Contact Bryce Connery at (406) 599–9158 or bryce@purewestmt.com













# Lehrkind Mansion 719 N Wallace Avenue listed by Chris Awe, Broker/Owner with AWE Real Estate

Built by brew master Julius Lehrkind in 1897, the "Lehrkind Mansion" is a stately representation of Queen Anne Victorian Architecture. Authentic, and well-appointed details make this a very unique offering in the Brewery District in downtown Bozeman. Privately secluded by old growth trees, courtyard and gardens, this is a very rare piece of Bozeman history amidst bustling mixed-use neighborhood containing cafe's, studios, breweries and much more. Working across southwest Montana, Bozeman and Big Sky, Chris Awe of AWE Real Estate provides professional Real Estate Services across spectrum of property types. Be a part of what is arguably the most legendary piece of Bozeman real estate available!

For more information about the Lehrkind Mansion or other general inquiry about the local market. Contact Chris Awe at (406) 579–1758 or chris@awerealestate.com









# 4625 Johnson Road listed by Don Pilotte, Managing Broker with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Montana Properties

Custom home sited on 20+/- acres set up for horses. Newly renovated guest home as well as a detached shop/garage. The main home has a three-car attached garage with a large great room and adjoining kitchen with two islands, duel ovens and pantry with custom cabinets. High-end finishes all through main home, hardwood, masonry, gas fireplace, main floor master and huge outdoor entertainment area. Two bonus rooms, office, steam shower, AC in master bedroom and on the second level, three laundry areas. Sonos sound system, in-floor radiant heat on main level. Main home is four bedrooms and three and a half bathrooms. Guest home has been totally remodeled, new SS appliances flooring and paint throughout the home. Three bedroom or four bedroom home with two and a half bathrooms. Free standing shop/garage with cement floor approximately 30 feet by 40 feet.

Don Pilotte is the managing broker of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Montana Properties—Big Sky Office, located at 55 Lone Peak Drive in Town Center. Don has been involved in residential and farm/ranch/recreational real estate transactions, development, sales and marketing for over 20 years. Contact Don Pilotte at (406) 580-0155 or don.pilotte@bhhsmt.com





# Staff pick TBD Mountain Man Trail listed by EJ Daws, Sales Associate with L&K Real Estate

Acreage in a development that borders the Flying D Ranch.

Perfect for those who are looking for a property with some elbow room close to Bozeman, and Big Sky. The Montana Ranches neighborhood borders Ted Turner's legendary Flying D Ranch, offering amazing wildlife viewing, open space and unobstructed views. This wonderful, 20+ acres east facing lot offers access to over 10 miles of hiking, biking, cross country skiing and equestrian trails with close proximity to world class fly fishing on the Gallatin River. You'll enjoy wildlife viewing right from your backyard. Owners have access to a full-time private ranch manager, common horse facilities and a common banquet hall. Roads within the HOA are paved, and there is already power to the lot. Owner responsible for septic and well. This is the perfect opportunity to own your piece of Montana heaven only 19 miles to Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport.

For more information contact EJ Daws at (406) 589–6247 or ej@theoutlawpartners.com









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61 CHIEF JOSEPH | \$1,750,000

#### #348848 | DON PILOTTE

This Ulerys Lakes home features an open floor plan w/ several decks facing Lone Peak. Main floor master with a private deck leading to a hot tub & a landscaped yard and fire pit area.



#### TBD COWBOY HEAVEN | \$925,000 #342619 | DON PILOTTE

Ski-in, ski-out property in Moonlight Basin Resort. The build site is on the south side of the property just above a ski trail, easy access to a build site due to an access easement across an adjacent property.

#### #319865 | KATIE MORRISON

Sitting on 20± acres, live comfortably in a beautiful mountain setting within a couple miles of Big Sky Resort and Moonlight Basin. No covenants on property.



#### 60 BIG SKY RESORT RD #10402 | \$635,000 #346481 | KATIE MORRISON AND JAMIE ROBERTS

Own one condo with three connected hotel rooms - all with a Lone Peak View: a studio suite w/ a murphy bed, a king jacuzzi suite, and a double queen room.

#### #340582 | DON PILOTTE

Inviting home with log accents and a detached guest apt. A vaulted ceiling in the great room allows the home to be filled with sun creating an open feeling. Views of Lone Peak.



#### LOT 3 JOY ROAD | \$395,000 #334174 | KATIE MORRISON

The Joy Road subdivision is comprised of 4 lots, borders 387± acres of conserved land and is near the Beehive Basin trailhead. Beautiful views of the Spanish Peaks & the Gallatin Range.

DON PILOTTE BROKER, GRI, NCE, RRS, SFR 406.580.0155 | ANDREW INCHES SALES ASSOCIATE 406.581.6595 | BRUCE WINTER SALES ASSOCIATE, GRI 406.581.4658 JAMIE ROBERTS SALES ASSOCIATE 406.209.3069 | KATIE ERBES SALES ASSOCIATE 406.579.3639 | KATIE MORRISON SALES ASSOCIATE 406.570.0096 PETER MACKENZIE SALES ASSOCIATE 406.223.1195 | TONI DELZER SALES ASSOCIATE 406.570.3195

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#### Mary Wheeler, Broker, GRI, CRS, ABR, SFR

Pure West Christie's International Real Estate of Big Sky 406-539-1745 | mwheelerbigsky@gmail.com



"We feel so blessed to call MeadowView home. The location is incredible and the sense of community is refreshing. We truly love where we live." - Jennifer Boutsianis and Adam Getz.

## bigskyhousingtrust.com | 406.995.3696 | info@bigskyhousingtrust.com



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