

Big Sky

Sept. 25 - Oct. 8, 2020
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Hunting: Open season

How mail-in voting will work

Teachable moment:

Community addresses distance learning struggles

Big Sky Resort's winter ops plan

LPHS football seeks win, volleyball still perfect



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ON THE COVER:

Montana's archery big game hunting seasons are in full swing. Outdoorsmen- and -women may currently pursue deer, antelope, big horn sheep, and elk with archery equipment. Other hunting seasons are underway but equipment and weapon requirements vary. Visit fwp.mt.gov/hunting/seasons/ to confirm season dates and legal weapon requirements. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

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Hunting: Open season

Echoing elk bugles are filling the air. Fall has arrived and outdoorsmen and -women began pursuing a variety of game animals earlier this month. Archery and gun seasons are in full swing throughout Montana. Here's what you can expect when you enter the field.

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How mail-in voting will work

Registered voters in Gallatin County will have the option to utilize mail-in ballots when casting their votes in the upcoming November general elections. Accompanying the postal return option are a wealth of ballot drop-off locations throughout the county and a mobile election office to vote in person.

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Teachable moment: Community addresses distance learning struggles

Following BSSD's chosen 50/50 learning model, some working parents found themselves struggling to support their families, while also keeping up with their children's distance learning education. Community organizations and educators came together to form the Discovery Learning Support Center.

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Big Sky Resort's winter ops plan

Big Sky Resort season pass sales were halted as a result of COVID-19. With the opening day two months away, passes are on sale once again. Five season pass options are available on the resort's website.

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LPHS football seeks win, volleyball still perfect

Coming off a closely contested battle with Sheridan, the Big Horns took to the gridiron searching for their first victory of the 2020 season. Meanwhile on the volleyball court, the Lady Big Horns remained perfect but only after surviving a test from Shields Valley.

Opening Shot



Smoke has coated a majority of Gallatin County lately as wildfires rage throughout the west. PHOTO BY CHRIS KAMMAN

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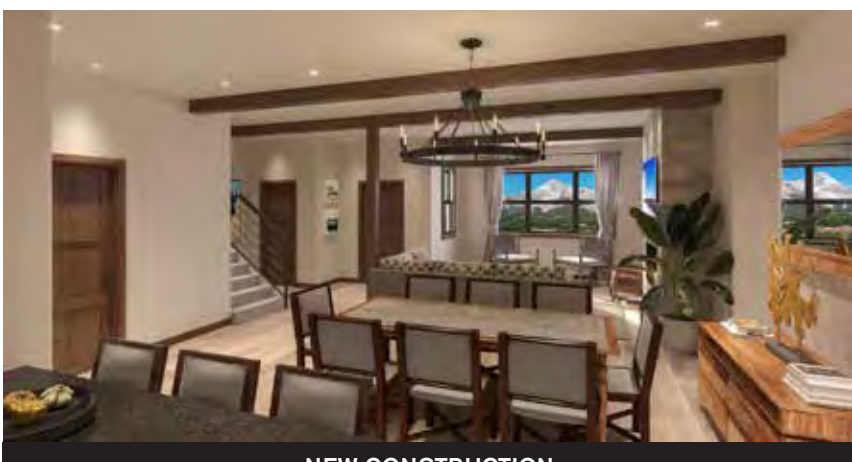
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As we head into the shoulder season, what are you going to miss the most about summer and what are you looking forward to this upcoming fall or winter seasons?



Lee Manning
Bozeman, MT

“I am going to miss water skiing up in Helena and hiking here for sure. In the fall, we are looking forward to my great-nephew being born in about three weeks. Dependent on the weather, I’m also looking forward to hiking or cross-country skiing—whenever the snowy weather arrives.”



Jessica Lieurance
Big Sky, MT

“I am going to miss the amount of people that have been here, the warm sunny days and the farmers markets. I am looking forward to the really pretty fall colors and transitions into the winter season.”



Madison Kitchens
North Ogden, UT

“I think what I will miss most is all the activities they do in town here like the farmers market and also mountain biking, hiking, and the wildflowers. I won’t be here in the winter, but I am definitely going to come visit and I’m excited to go skiing because everyone talks about how fun it is.”



Jessie Coil
Big Sky, MT

“I am definitely going to miss the weather and the sunshine, as well as the smooth flow of the biking trails in Big Sky. I am most looking forward to having no more smoke and obviously, ski season.”

Meanwhile somewhere in downtown Big Sky.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

A dilemma: Who should I vote for?

As the November election approaches, your vote for a candidate might be an easy decision. Many of us cast our votes based on political party affiliation and their philosophy on governance. However, in Montana, candidates for a seat on the Supreme Court are placed on the November ballot with no party affiliation.

In fact, state law prohibits these candidates from injecting politics into their campaigns; in other words, these races must be apolitical. So, how do we as voters decide on a Supreme Court candidate? What makes one more qualified than another?

Speaking for myself, I'm often unaware of a candidate's qualifications. Therefore, I took it upon myself to do some research. The two candidates for the upcoming seat are Laurie McKinnon and Mike Black.

Black is a fourth-generation Montanan who was born and raised in Havre, according to his website. He graduated with high honors from the University of Montana with undergraduate degrees in history and political science, and earned a law degree from the Cornell University Law School in Ithaca, New York. I personally feel a law degree from Cornell is a true accomplishment.

McKinnon is from Maryland and received her undergraduate degree from Goucher College in 1982 and her law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 1986.

You can read a comparison of the two candidates here: blackformontana.com/study-up-on-the-mtsupco-2020-candidates

I am voting for Black for the following reasons:

1. Support for public access to state land and waters
2. Arguing cases about regulating dark money in Montana elections and partisan influence in judicial elections
3. As the Litigation Director for Montana Legal Services Association, he worked to increase access to justice for Montana's less fortunate.

This is not a political effort on my part but rather my personal thoughts of who will best serve the interests of all of Montana's citizens and communities without regard to special corporations and dark money groups.

Dr. Alan Shaw
Big Sky, Montana

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Bullock releases COVID-19 outbreak response for schools

EBS STAFF

HELENA – Gov. Steve Bullock has released outbreak response protocols to support K-12 schools as they navigate increasing COVID-19 cases at the request of school nurses who have advocated for clearer instruction from the governor.

“By following these protocols in consultation with local public health, our schools can properly quarantine, recommend testing and take other measures to minimize the spread and keeps kids healthy while preserving in-person learning for the students and families who depend on it,” Bullock said at a Sept. 10 press conference.

The new document is based on an outbreak response plan put together by Rhode Island and includes guidance from the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control to provide guidance for schools as they respond to cases of COVID-19.

This guidance recommends hand sanitizing, wearing face coverings when social distancing is not possible and prioritizing activities where physical distancing can be maintained. It also advises that schools should have plans in place for isolation and treatment of a student or staff who develops COVID-19 symptoms. The full document can be found [here](#).

Gov. Bullock addresses rapid spike in COVID-19 cases in Montana

EBS STAFF

HELENA – At a Sept. 22 press conference, Gov. Steve Bullock discussed the “new high” of COVID-19 cases that have occurred across the state. He named Deer Lodge, Rosebud, Northern Cheyenne, Flathead, Roosevelt, Fort Peck, Missoula and Yellowstone counties as problem areas and noted that school reopening’s as well as social gatherings as contributing factors. He also announced that Montana ranks sixth in the nation on employment performance since the pre-COVID-19 recession peak.

Gov. Bullock was joined by Jim Murphy, Bureau Chief of the Communicable Disease Control and Prevention Bureau, Stacey Anderson, Lead Communicable Disease Epidemiologist and Greg Holzman, State Medical Officer at the press conference.

Currently, 100 people are hospitalized in the state due to COVID-19 and over 160 have died. Although all age groups are affected, 90 percent of positive cases in the last two weeks are in the 19 and under age group.

Holzman said that although most people recover, medical professionals still need to fully understand the long term consequences of COVID-19 and that although those with underlying conditions are more susceptible, healthy individuals have been shown to have long-term complications, and it remains unclear as to why.

Yellowstone National Park sees second busiest August on record

EBS STAFF

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK – With limited travel outside of the U.S. due to COVID-19, tourists from all over the country are flocking to national parks to recreate outdoors. Yellowstone National Park recently released this summer’s recreation visitation numbers. The park hosted 881,543 visits in August 2020, a 7.5 percent increase from last year’s 2019 August attendance numbers. This number makes it the second busiest August on record for the park, beating out August 2017, the year of the solar eclipse.

The park closed for COVID-19 health and safety precautions on March 24, 2020. The two Wyoming entrances reopened on May 18 and the three Montana entrances opened on June 1. Since then, all five park entrances have remained open.

In 2020 thus far, the park has had 2,546,373 recreation visits, 18 percent lower than the number of visits from the same period last year.

To learn more about how the park calculates the visitation statistics and to see previous year’s numbers, visit go.nps.gov/20038.

Upper Deer Creek River-Access Restoration project underway

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – The Gallatin River Task Force, Montana Trout Unlimited and the Custer Gallatin National Forest have partnered to help restore the habitat and enhance recreation access at the Upper Deer Creek trailhead along the Gallatin River. Thus far, they have built in the hard-surface, sustainable boat launch and crews are working hard on the other project features such as revegetating the riparian habitat, stabilizing the eroded streambanks, building a user access trail system and developing a formalized parking area.

Once complete, the site will contain sustainable river access points, an accessible fishing platform, improved parking and 1,414 feet of sustainable user trails. The project is expected to be completed around Oct. 31, with additional vegetation planting to occur in spring 2021 with the aid of volunteers.

This is the Task Force’s second large-scale project to restore the ecological health of the river and improve river access, with the other being the Moose Flat recreation area.

Big Sky Resort Golf Course caps successful season

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – On Sept. 27, Big Sky golfers will bag their clubs, untie their golf shoes and park their golf carts for the final time this season as the Big Sky Resort Golf Course shuts down for the offseason. In an uncertain year, the golf course witnessed notable success, according to course head golf pro Mark Wehrman.

In an email to EBS, Wehrman said approximately 3,000 more rounds of golf were played over the course of the year as opposed to last. The season opened May 22, and the course hosted events throughout the summer including the Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Big Sky Country golf marathon and most recently the American Junior Golf Association tournament Sept. 5-7. The 18-hole course also held its popular Wednesday evening golf league this season.

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Gallatin County bolsters mail-in voting options

BY BRANDON WALKER



An example of a ballot return box. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN COUNTY ELECTION DEPARTMENT

GALLATIN COUNTY – Registered voters in Gallatin County will have the option to utilize mail-in ballots when casting their votes in the upcoming November general elections. This follows the Gallatin County Commission voting 2-1 in favor of the mail-in ballot option on Aug. 18.

Gov. Steve Bullock issued a state directive on Aug. 6 affording each respective Montana county the option to utilize a mail-in ballot voting method in the general elections. “As with the March 25, 2020 Directive, this Directive permits counties, at their local discretion, to

expand access to voting by mail and early voting,” the directive states.

Ballots and accompanying return postage materials will be mailed on Oct. 9 to registered voters within the county in advance of the Nov. 3 general election deadline, according to the Gallatin County Election Department.

Voters have the option to mail ballots through the U.S. Postal Service or return their completed ballots to the election department office or any other ballot return location until the evening of Nov. 3. Expanded election department hours—7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.—will begin on Oct. 2 and expand to 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Nov. 3. In addition to the mail-in ballot option, registered voters may also elect to cast their vote in-person at the election department or the newly announced traveling election office this election season.

“We’re as prepared as we can be inside of a pandemic. There’s constant planning, changes in planning [and] accommodations of changes,” said Casey Hayes, election manager for the Gallatin County Election Department. “So, just like with every election we’ve been preparing for an extended period of time and as we approach the election day, or the canvas, or whatever the event is inside of the election calendar, proper planning allows us that success that the voters expect.”

Individuals who register to vote after ballots have been sent on Oct. 9 will be provided with a ballot on site when they become a registered voter within the county.

In a recent press release, the election department also announced the addition of a traveling election office available throughout October as it moves around Gallatin County. For more than three weeks the mobile office will visit locations in Belgrade, Three Forks, Manhattan, West Yellowstone, Big Sky and Bozeman.

“Gallatin County voters will have the opportunity to register to vote, update their voter registration, and receive a ballot in-person,” the press release states. “Except for the location on the campus of Montana State University, these services will be provided at an administrative trailer located in the parking lots of the respective locations, not within the buildings themselves.”

Accompanying the traveling election office, election officials said seven ballot return locations will begin accepting completed ballots on the day they are sent to voters. Two locations in Bozeman as well as one each in Belgrade, Manhattan, Three Forks, West Yellowstone and Big Sky, will accept ballots via metal return boxes throughout their typical hours and even longer hours on election day, according to the press release.

“We’re trying to provide as many opportunities within local communities to get voters registered [and] issued ballots so that they don’t need to appear at the election office and certainly so that they don’t have to appear on election day,” Hayes said. “All of this is to enable voters to be registered, get a ballot and vote their ballot prior to election day.”

On Nov. 3, seven more locations in the county will become ballot return spots, accepting completed ballots for the duration of the day. “With the exception of the Gallatin County Election Department, these locations serve only for depositing of voted ballots,” a Sept. 3 press release said.

Voter data from the Montana Secretary of State’s office showed roughly 48 percent of registered Gallatin County voters submitted ballots in the 2020 primary election, a 14 percent increase from the 34 percent of registered voters that cast their votes in the 2018 primaries.

In 2016, 74 percent of registered Gallatin County voters submitted ballots in the general elections—the highest recorded percentage since 1992, according to data from the Montana Secretary of State’s office.

Visit gallatincomt.virtualtownhall.net/election-department or call 406-582-3060 for more information on voter registration, the traveling election office schedule and ballot return locations.

Gallatin County Election Department Mobile Satellite Office Schedule

(Information provided by the Gallatin County Election Department)

City of Belgrade Office
91 E. Central Ave, Belgrade
October 7 – 8, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Three Forks Library
607 S. Main St, Three Forks
October 13 – 14, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Town of Manhattan Municipal Offices
207 S. Sixth St, Manhattan
October 15 – 16, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Town of West Yellowstone Offices
440 Yellowstone Ave, West Yellowstone
October 20 – 21, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Big Sky Water & Sewer District Office
561 Little Coyote Rd, Big Sky
October 22 – 23, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Campus of Montana State University
West side lobby, Brick Breeden Fieldhouse
October 27 – 30, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

General Election Ballot Return Locations
(Information provided by the Gallatin County Election Department)

Gallatin County Election Office
311 W. Main St., Bozeman

Belgrade City Clerk’s Office
91 E. Central Ave., Belgrade

Manhattan City Clerk’s Office
207 S. 6th St., Manhattan

Three Forks City Clerk’s Office
206 N. Main St., Three Forks

West Yellowstone City Clerk’s Office
440 Yellowstone Ave., West Yellowstone

Big Sky Water & Sewer District Office
561 Little Coyote Rd., Big Sky

Office of Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU)
221 Strand Union Building, 751 W. Grant St., Bozeman

Gallatin County Fairgrounds
(Election day only)
901 N. Black Ave., Bozeman

Hope Lutheran Church
(Election day only)
2152 W. Graf St., Bozeman

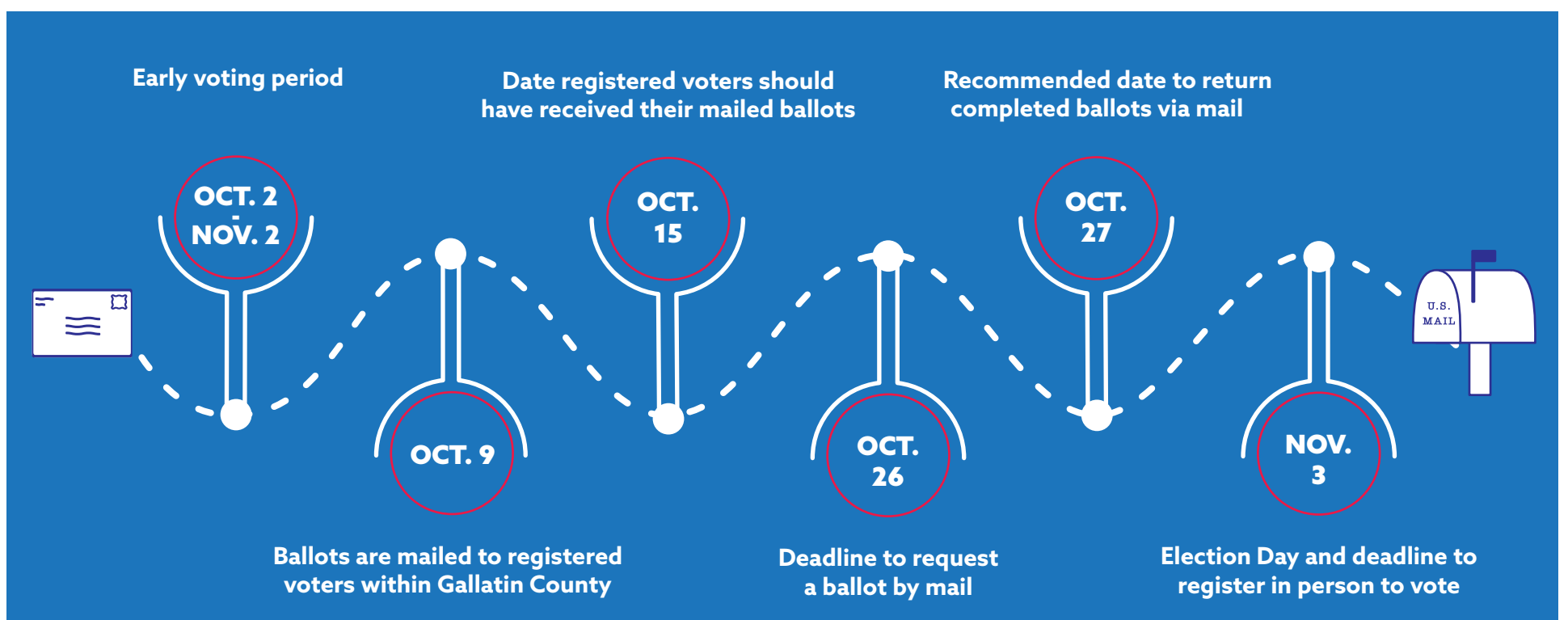
Belgrade Special Events Center
(Election day only)
220 Spooner Rd, Belgrade

River Rock Community Center
(Election day only)
101 River Rock Rd., Belgrade

Gallatin Gateway Community Center
(Election day only)
145 Mill St., Gallatin Gateway

Manhattan Christian High School
(Election day only)
8000 Churchill Rd., Manhattan

Bridger Canyon Fire Station
(Election day only)
8081 Bridger Canyon Rd., Bozeman



Amid distance learning struggles, a community comes together

Discovery creates learning center to support working parents

BY MIRA BRODY

BIG SKY – No matter how much time has passed, memories of an elementary school classroom remain vivid: the nametags, cubbies, colorful graphics framing every window, a chalkboard and a glass tank on the back counter with a reptile or goldfish, a mute observer to academic ventures.

A pandemic, however, compromises many of these experiences particularly the tangible, face-to-face element that is so important in early education.

Last March, the Big Sky School District board voted to move all classes to an online learning format in response to Gov. Steve Bullock's stay-at-home order until the conclusion of the school year.

In July, parents received a survey with five different learning models for how the school should reopen in the fall. By the time the survey closed, 43.5 percent of parents had voted for the 100 percent in-person learning model with restrictions.

At an Aug. 6 BSSD board meeting, the board voted unanimously to start the 2020-21 school year with a blended model of 50 percent occupancy and 50 percent virtual learning on an every-other-day rotation. They also released a school reopening plan, outlining the district's strategy for regular temperature checks, hygiene and sanitation guidelines.

Robbeye Samardich has lived in Big Sky for 22 years. An account manager at Hammond Property Management, Samardich and her husband have two kids, second-grader Parker at Ophir Elementary and 4-year-old Mateo, who attends Morningstar Learning Center.

When schools closed in March, Samardich felt jolted. Without any sense of closure, her daughter Parker would no longer see the teacher and friends she had grown close to.

"I was extremely supportive of getting them back in the classroom," Samardich said. "But I understood that this was not a decision to take lightly."

When BSSD released the school models, Samardich voiced her concerns to the board, and reached out to school councilors for direction. Her concerns were not only of the emotional impacts that isolating children might have on their development, but also the logistics: Being a dual-working household, she struggled to balance distance learning with providing for her family.

"This week Parker went to school Tuesday and Thursday," she said. "Next week she'll go Monday, Wednesday, Friday. It's so hard to schedule. As far as being a working parent having to homeschool ... it's hard to look too far ahead. It's overwhelming."

While we've all heard the adage "it takes a village," organizations in the Big Sky community acted the part—they saw the need Samardich and many other parents were experiencing and made moves to meet it.

Starting this week on their distance learning days, some K-5 students will be sitting in the Geyser Whitewater Expeditions building at tables and chairs donated by Buck's T-4 Lodge. The new Discovery Learning Support Center was spearheaded by Discovery Academy's Head of School Nettie Breuner and Outreach Director Hannah Richardson.

It's a vision supported by a multitude of other community organizations, including Big Sky Resort, Women in Action, Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, Big Sky Community Organization, Gallatin County United Way and Childcare Connections.

Local educators Sam Riley, Richard Sandza and Nadia Razavi came on as the team of educators, and Breuner says within 24 hours of releasing an informational flyer about LSC, they had 20 parents interested.

"I think [the program instructors] are collaborating well with our teachers and certainly we're all part of the same childcare network in Gallatin County," said Dustin Shipman, BSSD's superintendent. "Instead of the students attending virtually, the students are still attending class from our school, just from a distance."

The program currently has 29 students, and with COVID-19 restrictions in place, they can take up to 40 students per day. The teachers follow BSSD's curriculum schedule, providing a place for the kids to learn, interact and regain that social aspect of education, Richardson says.

"It's a great way to provide support to those working parents and helping people with the highest need, and in general just supporting the local workforce families," Richardson said.

The program costs parents \$200 a month; the rest is funded through the Yellowstone Club Community Fund. Breuner says this funding will tie them over



Substitute teacher Betsy Funk helps student Scottie Rose log onto her online class in the Geyser Whitewater building. PHOTO BY MIRA BRODY

until December, when they expect to hear whether or not they qualify for the Montana State School Age Childcare Grant, which funds childcare programs that specifically help families affected by COVID-19.

"One of the things that has come out of COVID is this tremendous act of collaboration," Richardson said, noting that meeting this need is merely an extension of Discovery Academy's existing initiative. "The really cool part is just me trying to remember every single person who contributed. It really is incredible the connections we've formed assessing community needs."

Other families have taken a different approach. Lacey Cook, who taught at Ophir Elementary for 11 years before leaving in order to care for her children full-time, made the decision to home school her oldest son, five-year-old Tobyn, shortly after BSSD released its fall semester plan.

While Cook says it wasn't an easy choice, she and her husband felt it was best for the safety and health of their family with a kindergartener, a three-year-old and three-month old in the household. She also wanted Tobyn, who had struggled with virtual learning back in March, to experience the full social benefits of education. Cook felt homeschooling would provide the option to do so within the safety of their learning "pod."

"That's where the concept of community really plays into it, even if people are opting to do different things, it's by no means a show of aggression or disapproval," she said. "For us it's not like we disapprove of any of the systems that [schools] are implementing, it's just that this is what works best for our family."

The "pod" consists of two other families with similarly aged children who have made a mutual commitment to practice COVID-19 safety measures so their families can interact freely and the kids can have a hands-on education experience and maintain classroom friendships.

The families alternate houses to give parents a break, and coordinate group field trips. They follow Montana's state education curriculum standards with a goal of having Tobyn first-grade ready by next fall and rejoin his classmates at Ophir.

Although Cook had voted in the BSSD survey for 100 percent in-person learning, she recognizes the difficult decision the district had to make.

"We have a phenomenal school system here in Big Sky," she said. "That's the struggle right now with COVID ... No one received training on how to facilitate learning models during a pandemic and schools aren't receiving additional funding right now. We need to give everyone a lot of grace."

"You're constantly second guessing," she added. "Have I made the right decision?"

Cook cites as another factor in her decision-making an increase in depression rates since the pandemic began and society was forced to isolate. Kids, she says, have a hard time understanding that it's their peers on the screen, making it difficult for them to gain the same social benefits as they would playing outside with friends.

The benefits of personal interaction are not lost on Samardich and her family either.

"We are extremely grateful for the Discovery program," she said. "A huge piece of [education] is that [Parker] gets to see her teacher every day ... Miss Mackenzie is amazing. She can get right down to their level, look them in the eye and she just speaks that language of their age group in order to motivate them."



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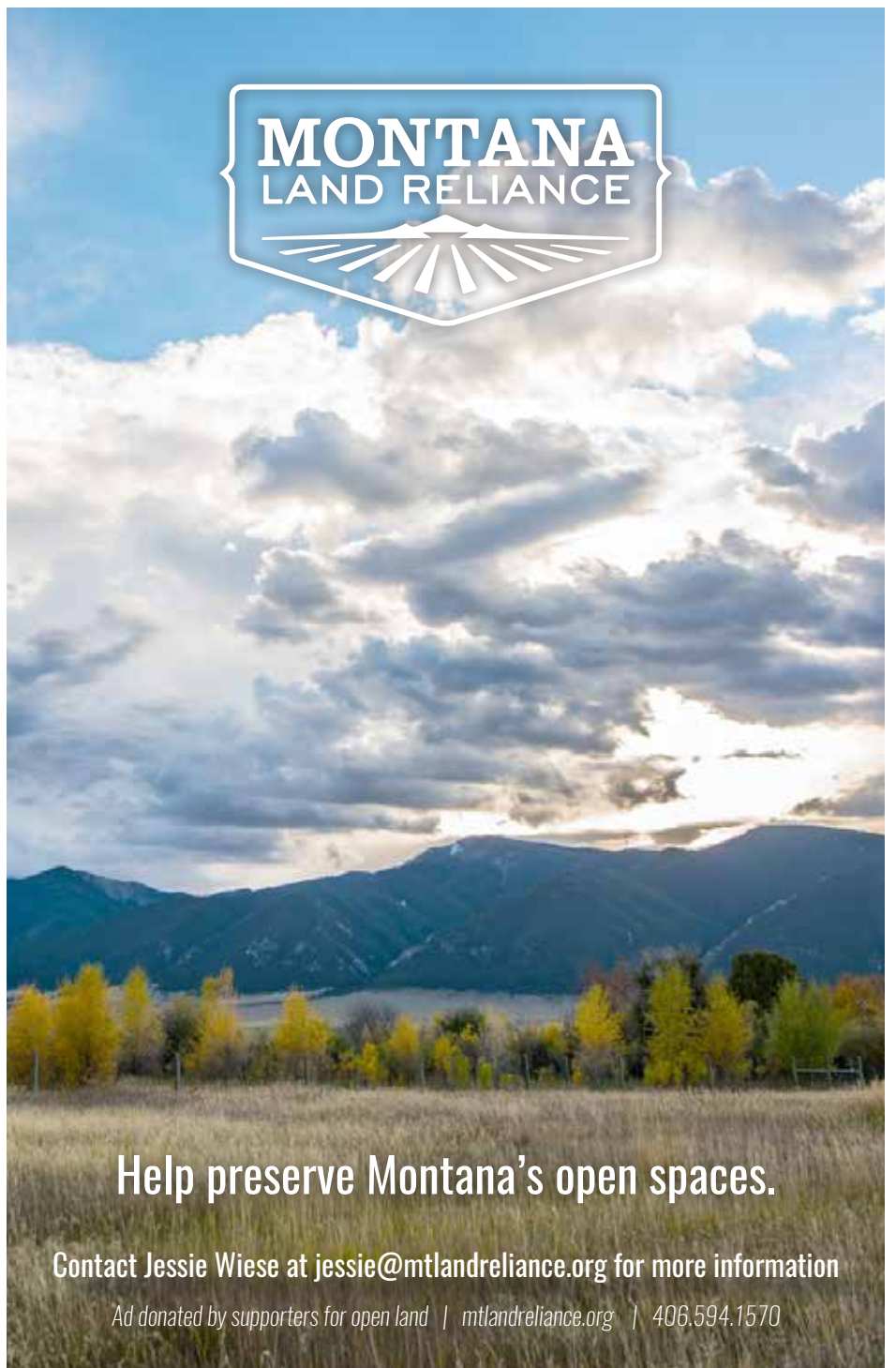
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Big Sky Resort releases winter operations plan

BY MIRA BRODY

BIG SKY – At Big Sky Resort social distancing isn't the most difficult undertaking. With 5,850 skiable acres, it's easy to spread out and enjoy the open mountain air. After closing a month early last season, finishing off a successful summer season, tweaking its pass offerings this coming winter and all that acreage on their side, the resort is eager to spin lifts for the winter 2020-21 season.

"We recognize that the resort is a pretty integral part of this community and to the lifestyle that we all live here," said Troy Nedved, the resort's general manager. "The thought that we're putting into structuring our operations this year is absolutely with the goal to open and stay open. We recognize when last year we closed it was a shock to our community, and to all the things we're used to."

The five season pass options are available on the resort's website and the result of carefully observing skier needs. For example, Nedved says the average skier uses the tram seven days, which prompted the offering of the Black Pass: unlimited skiing plus seven days on the tram for those days when you need a little extra vertical.

Other additions resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic, such as "Worry-Free Winter Assurance," which provides credit toward a 2021-2022 season pass based on the number of days lost if the resort were to close due to unforeseen circumstances and operate fewer than 140 days.

Passholders also have the option to roll over the value of an unused 2020-2021 pass as a credit toward a 2021-2022 pass for any reason through Dec. 10, 2020. This assurance program also applies to those who purchased passes earlier this year.

The Lone Peak Tram may look a little different this season. While resort staff can manage occupancy on chairlifts by keeping families together and enforcing face coverings, tram riders are in close quarters. To mitigate this, depending on how things go as winter approaches, the tram may have limited capacity. Gone too, is the singles line, a standard that will be followed by all U.S. ski resorts this season.

Nedved says this is all in an effort to strike the right balance between maximizing uphill capacity and respecting everyone's personal space and comfort level. With the uncertainty of the pandemic, rules will be fine-tuned as the season progresses.

"I couldn't be happier with our team," said Nedved, who just concluded his first year as general manager. "[Although] I wouldn't choose to have a first year like this ... operations during a national pandemic brings people closer together and refines your skills and refines



Big Sky released a new lineup of season passes this winter and announced a few changes that will allow them to adhere to social distancing guidelines. PHOTO BY JEFF ENGERBERSTSON

your team to a point where it's certainly been a positive."

Ikon Passholders must use Ikon's reservation system prior to visiting Big Sky Resort and Mountain Collective Passholders may be required to make a reservation before their visit—additional details are forthcoming, according to a Sept. 15 release.

Lift ticket holders can now purchase their desired days of skiing with no anticipated restrictions. Doing so before the start of the season, Nedved said, assures access.

"I'm glad to have them, but I'm a little bummed that the singles line is gone. It's pretty cool ... how they're breaking it up," said Andy Haynes of the pass options this year. Haynes works as a boot fitter

at Grizzly Outfitters and has been in the area for eight years. "I think they're doing the best with what's in front of them. Try to keep the lifts spinning."

All chairlifts and the tram will be running per usual, but with social distancing measures in place and face coverings will be required in all loading and unloading areas. The resort is also offering an early-access first tracks program on Ramcharger 8 allowing skiers to make reservations for lift rides at 8 a.m., an hour before public access.

All resort dining operations will allow for online ordering and grab-and-go options and the Yellowstone Conference Center will be open to the public to provide additional seating and room for dining and warming up this winter. Mountain operation details were outlined in the Sept. 15 press release, and Nedved says Big Sky Resort looks to the National Ski Association, the lead educational body in the industry, for general guidance on operations.

"We have more acreage and more space ... a strength that we can play on," Nedved said. "We're just a little different than the traditional destination ski area."

Since they went back on sale Sept. 15, season pass sales were surprisingly high, Nedved added, as skiers and riders look forward to a successful winter season ahead. Prices on all season passes increased Tuesday, Sept. 22.

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Q How do I get involved?
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Big Sky Chamber talks infrastructure, community building at forum

BY MIRA BRODY

BIG SKY – Big Sky is transitioning, a period of growth from being recognized solely as a great adventure destination, to becoming a community. To address the issues that arise during the growth period and keep the community informed, the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce hosted its third annual Community Building Forum on the evening of Sept. 17.

Members involved in the projects helping shape the town include: the Big Sky Community Housing Trust, Big Sky Community Organization, Big Sky Medical Center, Big Sky Resort, Big Sky Resort Area District, Big Sky School District, Big Sky Town Center, Big Sky County Water & Sewer District, Lone Mountain Land Company and NorthWestern Energy.

“Someone was going to build out Big Sky ... and we want to do it right,” said Matt Kidd, managing director at CrossHarbor Capital Partners. “You can walk down main street, which you couldn’t do a few years ago.”

Kidd, who has been working in Big Sky for 13 years, updated viewers on their three main projects: Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks and Moonlight Basin. In addition, they secured 24 acres along Jack Creek Road as a wildlife easement and announced a few new businesses that will be joining Town Center in the coming season: Black Diamond and Chair Therapy Barber.

Although CrossHarbor has struggled with the same uncertainties that any other business has amid COVID-19, Kidd noted that the Wilson Hotel, despite losing almost all their occupancy from March-May, exceeded 96 percent occupancy in July.

“Big Sky is on the map and people want to be here, and that is good for business,” he said.

In addition to the 78 long-term employee housing units CrossHarbor is working on, they are also pushing for more hotel growth; while annual skier visits reach 700,000 people, Big Sky only has 879 hotel rooms.

Brian Wheeler, vice president of Real Estate and Development at Big Sky Resort, updated the public on the resort’s projects, including the fastest chairlift in the country: the new Swift Current 6 life. The chairlift will replace the current one, bringing skiers from the base to the mountain in just a minute. They are also moving forward on the D-line, a 10 passenger gondola which includes a midway Learning Center and restaurant.

A topic of high interest was touched on by both Ryan Hamilton of Simkins-Hallin, Inc. and Ciara Wolfe, CEO of the Big Sky Community Organization—the new BASE community center. The new center broke ground earlier this year and is anticipated to finish in early 2021. The community centers design includes Len Hill Park, two baseball fields, a pickleball field, an ice rink, gym, climbing wall, as well as meeting rooms and offices.

“This is our organization’s largest project and we truly cannot be more excited to open the doors of this project to the community,” said Wolfe. “It’s something I think represents the values of this community and how innovative we are.”

The building is also aiming to gain a platinum LEED certification, making it the most efficient building in Big Sky. In a recent press release, BSCO noted that



The new BASE community center is making fast progress—this month underground plumbing and foundation were completed. PHOTO BY TUCKER HARRIS

progress is being made on the campus, including that geothermal wells have been connected, plumbing and foundation concrete have been completed and framing for the building exterior will begin at the end of the month.

Robert Rowe, president and CEO of NorthWestern Energy, which serves 5,800 customers in Big Sky, spoke of infrastructure upgrades in the area noting that all of the work they’ve done in the last few years has been built with future growth in mind. When asked about long-term infrastructure management in relation to fire safety, Rowe said that right now, Montana currently has 30 vegetation crews who regularly inspect the power grid for potential fire risks. NorthWestern has been working with other power companies to better understand what practices make sense.

Ron Edwards voiced another important utility in Big Sky—water. The general manager of the water and sewer district, Edwards says they’ve been very busy keeping up with growth in the form of a wastewater treatment facility upgrade, the district’s biggest project.

“The growth here has necessitated us to start a new plant, sooner rather than later,” he said. The double plant capacity will be 1.3 million gallons and made possible by \$27 million in resort tax funds.

Candace Carr Strauss announced that the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce moved their building to Town Center and talked about the chamber’s expanded programs including round tables and leadership development opportunities.

“I consider us the connective tissue that keeps all of these other parts together,” Carr Strauss said. She said Yellowstone National Park just had the second highest August visitation on record, second only to the 2017 eclipse, whereas other National Parks such as Grand Canyon, had lost hundreds of thousands of annual visitors this year due to COVID-19. She said Big Sky is on track to see a September and October tourism season “like never before.”

Daniel Bierschwale, executive director of the Big Sky Resort Area District, supplemented his update with a poignant Theodore Roosevelt quote: “Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children’s children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.”

“I don’t think that’s happening here in Big Sky,” Bierschwale said.

In Montana, 11 communities have a resort tax with the purpose of minimizing visitor impacts on local services and infrastructure. 100 percent of the 4 percent resort tax stays in the Big Sky community. Bierschwale believes that the resort tax district’s primary goal is to lead with transparency and collaboration within the community.

Taylor Rose, director of Clinical Services & Operations at Big Sky Medical Center, updated viewers on how the hospital has responded to both growth and the pandemic. The hospital has doubled its inpatient bed capacity to eight, with six emergency beds, two primary care physicians and one physician’s assistant.

Dustin Shipman superintendent of the Big Sky School District, spoke of the \$23.5 million bond that passed, allowing the school district to expand campus—there are plans for a science, technology and music center as well as a CAD design and workshop classroom.

“We’re the only high school in Montana that does not have a facility where kids can learn to build things with power tools,” said Shipman.

Laura Seyfang of the Big Sky Housing Trust addressed one of Big Sky’s most critical needs: housing for working class residents. While housing process have increased 78 percent, acquiring funding for low-income housing projects remains difficult because Big Sky is not incorporated.

“We’ve heard so much tonight about all the growth that Big Sky is experiencing but ... we just haven’t caught up with all the housing needed for those folks,” she said.

Seyfang said while Crossharbor and Big Sky Resort are focusing on their seasonal workers, the BSHT is helping the people who are looking to live here for the long haul, aiming to provide both rental and home ownership opportunities. Projects include income-based housing units, down payment assistance as well as the “landing locals” program, which connects homeowners who have empty rentals with those seeking.

BSHT studied similar communities such as Jackson, Wyoming and Summit County, Colorado to see where they get their housing funding and found that their assets were very diversified—never primarily from a single source. Big Sky, she noted, with its community engagement, would be capable of supporting a similarly-structured housing solution.



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ACRE to replace Toast in Town Center

New management team will offer farm-to-table options, cocktails and brews

BY TOM MARINO
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Boutique café Toast is in transition to ACRE Café and Cocktails. Led by General Manager Adam Harman and located in Big Sky Town Center, the café plans to offer a daily menu featuring meals to support vegetarian, gluten-free, vegan, paleo and keto lifestyles.

Harman, joined by business partners Campbell Schnebly, James Murphy, Kathryn Moos, Jeff Mroz and Kaley Burns in running the eatery, plans to hire around 16 employees.

“This all started with a hike,” Harman said. The three couples discussed the idea of running a healthy eatery when they hiked Lemondrop Trail near Rainbow Ranch last spring.

Harman grew up in Billings and began skiing at Big Sky Resort in 1986 when he was 5 years old. “That trip stands out with my grandma breaking her ankle on Mr. K,” said Harman, who also worked at a ski shop in Billings and spent time in Colorado and Alaska before moving to Big Sky full time in November of 2019.

Murphy, Moos and Mroz are natural product founders. Moos and Mroz founded a company called Only What You Need (OWYN), a plant-based protein drink. In 2018, Murphy founded LMNT, producer of a zero-sugar electrolyte drink mix for folks following the keto, low-carb or paleo diets. The two couples have been involved in the healthy food space for years and are looking to provide more healthy food options in Big Sky.

“In the day-to-day operations, our main focus is supporting Adam and the team,” said Schnebly, who also works as a freelance writer and literary agent. “We’re behind the scenes working on space and menu design, budget and management.”

The café is currently open every day for coffee, light fare and grab-and-go options from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will be building to ACRE’s full menu and hours throughout the fall to serve breakfast, lunch and evening bar bites and cocktails, according to Schnebly.

“Our plan for ACRE is to keep it simple and extremely high quality, serving you the wholesome ingredients you’d find on one acre of land,” she said.

New kitchen equipment arriving soon will allow ACRE to expand the menu as needed, Harman says, adding that fare will include a number of to-go selections.

“A lot of people are excited to have a healthy grab-and-go option after skiing the slopes for the day, hiking or whatever you’re doing,” he said. “We don’t want people waiting in line too long.”

Keeping it healthy and simple will be the focus, according to Burns, who also owns Big Sky Natural Health just down the street from ACRE. “Nutrition is one of my passions, which is where I fell in with these guys in terms of menu development,” said Burns, a natural health product physician who focuses on a more holistic approach to medicine along with IV nutrient therapy.

“[Kaley] is making sure we toe the line nutritionally,” Schnebly said.

Moos and Mroz wanted a place where folks can relax with great food and drink. “A place to hang and spend time with friends whether you’re local to Big Sky or visiting,” Moos said. “We’re really trying to encourage people to open your laptop and be comfortable here. In theory, on a Saturday you’ll be able to come here for brunch and stay until 10 p.m.”

For her part, Mroz is thrilled for the new opportunity. “Adam and the group he’s assembled are true professionals,” she said. “We’re really excited by the collaboration.”

The three couples also plan to have ACRE après this winter with live music. Cocktails, charcuterie, and bar bites will highlight the evening menu.

“ACRE is completely made for Big Sky,” Schnebly said.

Harman noted that on the Lemondrop hike they all agreed they wanted to offer options that were not currently available in Big Sky.

The story on the wall at the café says it all:

“Help us to make ACRE your own. We’d love your feedback and will do our best to incorporate what you need ... maybe you’ll even get a dish named after you! With this new wave of growth, we all have the opportunity to collectively shape the next phase of town. We aim to be good stewards of this community and the surrounding lands we love - offering events to connect, nourishing food, reliable hours and everything you need to fuel your day’s adventures.”

ACRE is planning to have local events this fall, including “Meet Acre” on Oct. 16.



The new operators of ACRE, which will replace Toast café in Town Center, came up with the new restaurant concept on a hike on Lemondrop Trail south of Big Sky. PHOTO BY JAMES MURPHY

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Town Hall panelists discuss how to grow responsibly

BY TUCKER HARRIS
EBS STAFF

BIG SKY — The key to responsible growth in Big Sky and the greater Montana landscape is collaboration and community engagement, according to panelists of the 14th Big Sky Virtual Town Hall hosted by Explore Big Sky. The town hall on Sept. 14 featured five guest speakers who provided perspectives on how Big Sky can continue to grow responsibly and sustainably.

Panelists included Charles Drimal, Waters Program Coordinator for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition; Jordan Vana, a Managing Director for the Montana Land Reliance; Bayard Dominick, Vice President of Planning and Development at Lone Mountain Land Company; Chet Work, Executive Director of the Gallatin Valley Land Trust; and Danny Bierschwale, Executive Director of the Big Sky Resort Area District.

Charles Drimal of GYC began the evening, focusing on river conservation efforts which keep Montana wild and scenic. He highlighted the Montana Headwaters Legacy Act which would protect 17 river segments across the greater Yellowstone ecosystem and the Smith River System for a total of 336 river miles.

The GYC garners support from all: “When it comes to protecting these amazing river resources that we have, we’ve found time and again that people are really united about it regardless what industry they work in, regardless of what part of the state they live in,” stated Drimal. He continued to state that Montana’s free-flowing, clean rivers bring the community together and are what drive those who live here to grow sustainably so that these spaces can remain clean and wild.

Chet Work spoke next about GVL’s efforts to connect communities with the open lands. Work pointed out the significance of trails to our community in addition to the rivers: “Charles suggested that rivers brought Montana together and I would argue as well that trails are a pretty critical element to bringing our community together.”

When it comes to growth, he believes that growing closer to town and avoiding sprawl will be what works best in order to retain habitat and agriculture conservation. “I think that there’s such an embrace from this community around recreation, scenery

and agriculture and that there’s a pretty good embrace of where we shouldn’t be growing as well.”

Bayard Dominick from Lone Mountain Land Company provided his perspective on responsible development in three categories: environmental sustainability, economic sustainability, and social sustainability. He too noted the importance of connections and working together in the path to sustainable growth, pointing to the new BASE community center that is being developed right now and the need for more employees to live in Big Sky as opposed to commuting year-round, “an important part of creating a sustainable community.”

“The Town Center is a big part of creating a community center where people will be coming and hanging out and feeling like they want to be a part of it, not just living in a bedroom and commuting up here to work,” said Dominick.

Jordan Vana, one of the managing directors at Montana Land Reliance spoke on the desire for Montanans to conserve their land. “It’s a real testament to landowners who, for a variety of reasons, are seeing conservation as a very good choice for their land for their families and for their futures,” he said. MLR helps private landowners permanently conserve the special wide-open spaces for generations to come. “[The choice to conserve] really does start with love of land and wanting to leave it better than you found it,” Vana said.

The Executive Director at Big Sky Resort Area District, Danny Bierschwale, closed out the evening explaining the strategic investments that Big Sky’s tax dollars go towards. As with all panelists, he believes, “the power of partnership and collaboration can really bring a community together to address multiple needs.” He believes responsible growth starts with transparent, collaborative efforts by all community members.

All panelists voiced their belief that it will take collaboration and partnerships in the community in order for Big Sky to grow responsibly and sustainably. Drimal summed it up well: “I love the open space, I love the public land access and I also am committed as a member of this community—like all of you—to come up with sustainable solutions, be part of the conversation, and help support the planning ... It’s going to take us working together to bring vision into action in these communities”



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SECTION 2: ENVIRONMENT & OUTDOORS, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Patagonia takes a stand pg. 18



Summer fades to fall pg. 23

Photo series captures
"Significant Other" pg. 29

Fall hunting seasons underway in Montana

Game numbers, weather consistent with recent years

BY BRANDON WALKER

Warm summer days are waning as cool evenings signal what's to come, and echoing elk bugles are beginning to fill the air. Fall has arrived and outdoorsmen and -women had the opportunity to start pursuing deer and elk on Sept. 5, the opening day of archery season for a majority of the state.

Archery season spans the month of September, concluding on Oct. 18 in most hunting districts. After a short break, general gun seasons begin Oct. 24 and ends Nov. 29 for nearly all of Montana.

Morgan Jacobsen, Region 3 information and education program manager for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, says it's challenging to estimate hunter participation numbers for coming and current seasons, but he has noticed an upward trend in recreational activities throughout the region this year.

"This past spring and summer, recreation in our wild places in Montana has been very high," Jacobsen said. "It's been unseasonably high and so if that trend continues we could very well see really high participation levels in hunting this year. Again, we don't know for sure what that will look like until we're in it and afterward but if the general recreation trend for this year continues to play out, we should see a lot of hunters in the field this fall."

Jacobsen highlighted Montana's steady population rise and the COVID-19 pandemic as two contributing factors for the recent surge in recreationists.

In 2019, Gallatin County sold more than 14,750 general base hunting licenses to both residents and nonresidents. At the same time, more than 8,600 residents bought general deer licenses and nearly 7,500 residents purchased general elk licenses within the county. Additionally, more than 3,800 residents and out of state outdoorsman and -women purchased bow-and-arrow licenses. The aforementioned license sales resulted in nearly \$400,00 in revenue for the state in 2019.

But hunting license numbers paled in comparison to Gallatin County's 2019 season fishing license sales, which totaled over \$750,000. More than 22,000 anglers purchased season-long fishing licenses to try their luck at enticing fish in Montana rivers, streams and lakes last year.

Jacobsen said FWP has not discussed halting or suspending nonresident game animal seasons this fall, as was done in the spring when the COVID-19 pandemic was in its earlier stages.

Weather conditions this year have been roughly on par with previous years, according to Julie Cunningham, FWP's Bozeman area wildlife biologist. She says the agency has witnessed no adverse repercussions in game animal populations.

"In general, the winter of 2019-2020 was not exceptional, so recruitment was generally average," Cunningham wrote in an email to EBS. "DNRC drought maps indicated average conditions in May, slightly dry conditions in June, and moderately dry conditions in July and August. Across Gallatin County, weather this spring, summer and fall should be viewed as within normal range of variation and not likely to have exceptional effects on game animals."

Elk population counts reported late August provide encouraging data for hunters this fall. For FWP hunting districts 301, 309-312 and 360-362—the districts that encompass the county—only hunting district 310 witnessed lower than desired elk numbers through the summer.

Previous season male deer harvest data suggests populations within Gallatin County are healthy. Throughout the Gallatin County hunting districts, both male white-tail and mule deer harvest reports showed a below-average

harvest in only a singular hunting district a season ago as opposed to above or average harvests for the remainder.

Hunting district 309 yielded a slimmer mule deer buck harvest in 2019 when compared to the statistical average from 2005 to 2018, according to FWP data. The same trend was witnessed for white-tailed deer bucks in hunting district 362, another report indicates.

While hunters will seek game animals this fall, Jacobsen noted that it's important for sportsmen and -women to remember another other four-legged creature in their pursuits: the grizzly bear. When compared to 2018, a March FWP press release relayed that 2019 saw an increase in human and grizzly bear encounters, injuries resulting from encounters and grizzly bear fatalities.

"In the greater Yellowstone ecosystem—which is where we're at in southwest Montana—we are seeing an increase in bear numbers, an increase in grizzly bear sightings outside of their recovery zone as well as encounters with hunters and recreationists in that process," Jacobsen said.

FWP reported in the press release 18 "potentially dangerous" human-grizzly bear encounters in mainly non-residential zones in 2019. "In those encounters, five people were injured and two adult bears were killed," the report said. "Fortunately, none of the human injuries were fatal." Notably, nearly 80 percent—or 14 encounters—took place after Sept. 1, the press release said.

Another new development sportsmen and -women should be aware within Gallatin County this season correlates with Chronic Wasting Disease, or CWD. "Hunters ... will see both the usual game check stations this fall in southwest Montana but also southwest Montana will be a surveillance area this year for Chronic Wasting Disease," Jacobsen said.

He encouraged successful hunters to check in with these additional CWD check stations to aid in data collection efforts.

Call 1-800-TIP-MONT to report illegal game animal harvests and visit fwp.mt.gov/hunting/seasons to view game animal season dates.



Fall big game hunting seasons kicked off Sept. 5 in many portions of Montana. Hunters may currently pursue deer and elk using a bow and arrow. PHOTO BY KOBY STRAYHORN

THE NEW WEST



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

Today's word is "altruism" and the question accompanying it is this: What motivates people to do the right thing on behalf of a better public good?

Or, relatedly, ponder this: When facing difficult choices that demand we become inconvenienced, discomforted or earn less, will we always choose pursuing rational self-interest even if it threatens our common long-term prospects for survival?

Everyone knows that the outdoor clothing company, Patagonia, which holds strong human and heartfelt connections to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, wears its environmental ethic on its sleeve.

Over the years it has staked out positions that marketing mavens on Madison Avenue would argue jeopardized Patagonia's bottom line. During one holiday season a few years' back, Patagonia paid for a full-page ad in *The New York Times* and encouraged the public to not buy new Patagonia products.

Ironically, customers, moved by the message, responded by purchasing more Patagonia apparel, deepening brand loyalty to a company that actually had the cojones to say that more consumptive materialism is destroying the finite natural wonders of planet Earth.

Now, in a bizarre year when Patagonia believes it's important for Americans to bring clear-eyed 2020 vision to challenges facing the globe and representative democracy as we've known it, a new message has literally been added to the tags of some of Patagonia's products.

Behind the familiar Patagonia mountain logo on the backs of shirts and other wearables is a message: "Vote the A**holes out." Because this is a family-friendly publication, I'll leave it to you to fill in the blanks.

Patagonia isn't telling consumers who exactly they should support in the upcoming election, but the company is saying that, as part of our civic duty, we citizens ought to educate ourselves on who is telling the truth on facts surrounding climate change and who isn't. Those who are intentionally distorting scientific evidence about the impact of fossil fuel burning on our common atmosphere ought to be held to account, it says.

Those who dismiss human-caused "climate change as a hoax invented by the Chinese" call Patagonia's position a radical move, but is it?

Company founder Yvon Chouinard, who spends a lot of time in his adopted home of Jackson Hole, says any business that deliberately denies scientific facts and stakes out positions that threaten the well-being of customers is immoral.

Further, he would add that any company or politician that knowingly engages in the harmful plundering of nature, to advance short-term economic gain at the cost of longer-term ecological health, ought to be called out. On this front, Chouinard has said the media which does not apply scrutiny to environmental destruction is complicit.

His opinion is shared by Auden Schendler, climate activist, father, outdoor recreationist, former journalist and who serves today as Vice President of Sustainability at Aspen Ski Company in Colorado. Schendler also sits on the board of the nonprofit group Protect Our Winters, which recently launched a new campaign featuring world-class climber Jimmy Chin.

Why don't more local businesses have the courage to emulate Patagonia?

Schendler says Americans need to realize that while climate change represents an existential threat to all that people value about the ecological richness of a region like the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, there's more at stake: "... the future of representative Democracy that is based on established scientific fact informing important public decisions," he told me.

I asked Schendler why Protect Our Winters doesn't place more emphasis on the deleterious impacts of climate change on forests (beetle kills and wildfires), water (less available in summer owed to rising temperatures and dryer warming seasons), and threats to wildlife that make Greater Yellowstone the most iconic for large mammals in the Lower 48?

His response: Before humans will act to protect the survival of other species, they must first acknowledge that something like climate change is going to harm them in the pocketbook, or threaten the security of their kids' world, or, on a very base and superficial level, make it more difficult to enjoy their favorite passions such as skiing, flyfishing, or breathing clean air in the mountains.



Schendler says that companies taking the lead deserve being rewarded by consumers who value corporate altruism—i.e. looking out for the best interest of society and not seeking only to please bean counters in corporate board rooms. Doing harm to nature, he and Chouinard say, is not a shrewd business move.

A few years ago, Chouinard and noted Madison Valley angler, conservationist and former Michigan cop Craig Mathews founded One Percent for the Planet. Companies that partake in the program earmark one percent of their profits for conservation.

Analysis has shown that companies taking risks and advancing social causes often win greater loyalty from customers. They also attract the best kind of conscientious employees who are proud to work for such firms.

As you move around Greater Yellowstone, think about the companies and politicians that aren't afraid to stand behind science-based decision-making.

To those who don't, Chouinard and Schendler would say they don't deserve your loyalty. Full disclosure from Todd Wilkinson: Patagonia supports Mountain Journal, a nonprofit news entity he founded devoted to watchdog journalism and defending science.

Wilkinson is also a correspondent for National Geographic. He's wrote the book "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek," featuring photography by Thomas D. Mangelsen, about famous Jackson Hole grizzly bear 399.

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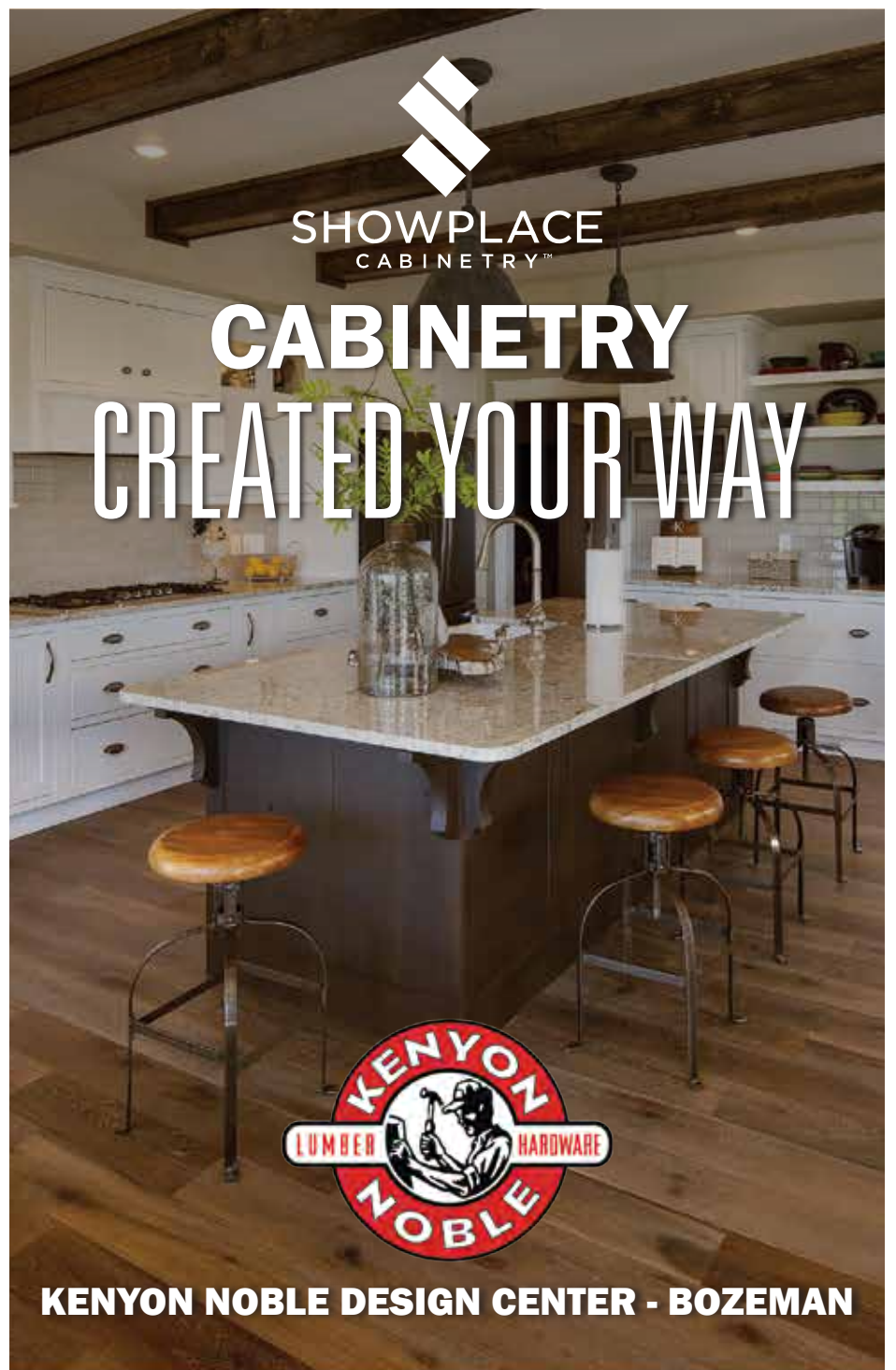


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Visit Big Sky

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.
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Mental health at this time is just as important as one's physical well-being. September 6-12th 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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BIG SKY CHAMBER

Water Wisdom

BY DAVID TUCKER
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Walking, biking, or driving around Big Sky this time of year, one thing always stands out: bright green Kentucky bluegrass lawns. While meadows and hillsides go from brown to browner, residential and commercial lots in the Meadow and Mountain villages and the Town Center remain lush, vibrant and attention-grabbing.

To the untrained eye, these lawns look healthy. In reality, they're anything but. They are ecological food deserts and a scourge for local water quality.

Historically, Big Sky residents use the most water in the late-summer months of August and September, even though until recently winter visitation and occupancy far out-spaced summer. The primary reason: landscaping irrigation. As more native flora have been displaced due to land development for houses, condos and commercial buildings, the problem has gone from bad to worse.

These water-intensive lawns are a problem for a variety of reasons, most notably because they require so much water to stay green and because they require fertilizers packed with harmful pollutants to thrive. The pollutants—primarily phosphorous and nitrogen—are flushed into surface waters and seep into groundwater, leading to chemical imbalances in our streams, creeks and rivers, and potentially tainting our drinking water. These chemicals are also drivers of the wide-spread algae growth we saw earlier this summer on the main stem of the Gallatin and throughout the upper watershed.

In addition to the pollutant problem, these lawns also use a lot of fresh groundwater during the irrigation process. Most is lost to plant uptake or evaporation, and little returns to the groundwater.

Fall into Water Savings

So, what's the solution? No one wants to live in a house surrounded by dirt and rocks. Luckily, native plants and wildflowers offer an attractive alternative, and now is the time to start prepping for spring.

By landscaping with regional grasses, flowers, bushes and trees, you can still have a beautiful backyard, but now you won't be contributing to Big Sky's ongoing water-quality problems and future water-quantity issues. Native plants have evolved to succeed in our semi-arid climate, a climate that the Montana Climate Assessment predicts will likely get drier and hotter. They need little watering once established, and never need to be mowed or fertilized. Added bonus: pollinators, birds and native wildlife love them, so you'll also be restoring habitat while you're at it.

In addition to improving local water quality and building water-supply resiliency, a native lawn will also save a bundle of dough. In a couple weeks you'll likely receive your water bill, if your home is serviced by the Big Sky Water and Sewer District. Because the district has implemented a new tiered billing system based on usage, if you irrigate your lawn, you might be in for a surprise. Get ready for some staggering numbers.

Once you've regathered your wits, head to your local lawn-care company and ask about prepping your lawn for spring. Fall is the time to get started to ensure water—and cash—savings next season. If you're unsure where to start, check out the Gallatin River Task Force's Trout-Friendly Landscaping certification, part of the Big Sky Water Conservation program. Certification is a big step toward reducing your personal nutrient footprint, and it will save you a bundle on next fall's water bill.

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

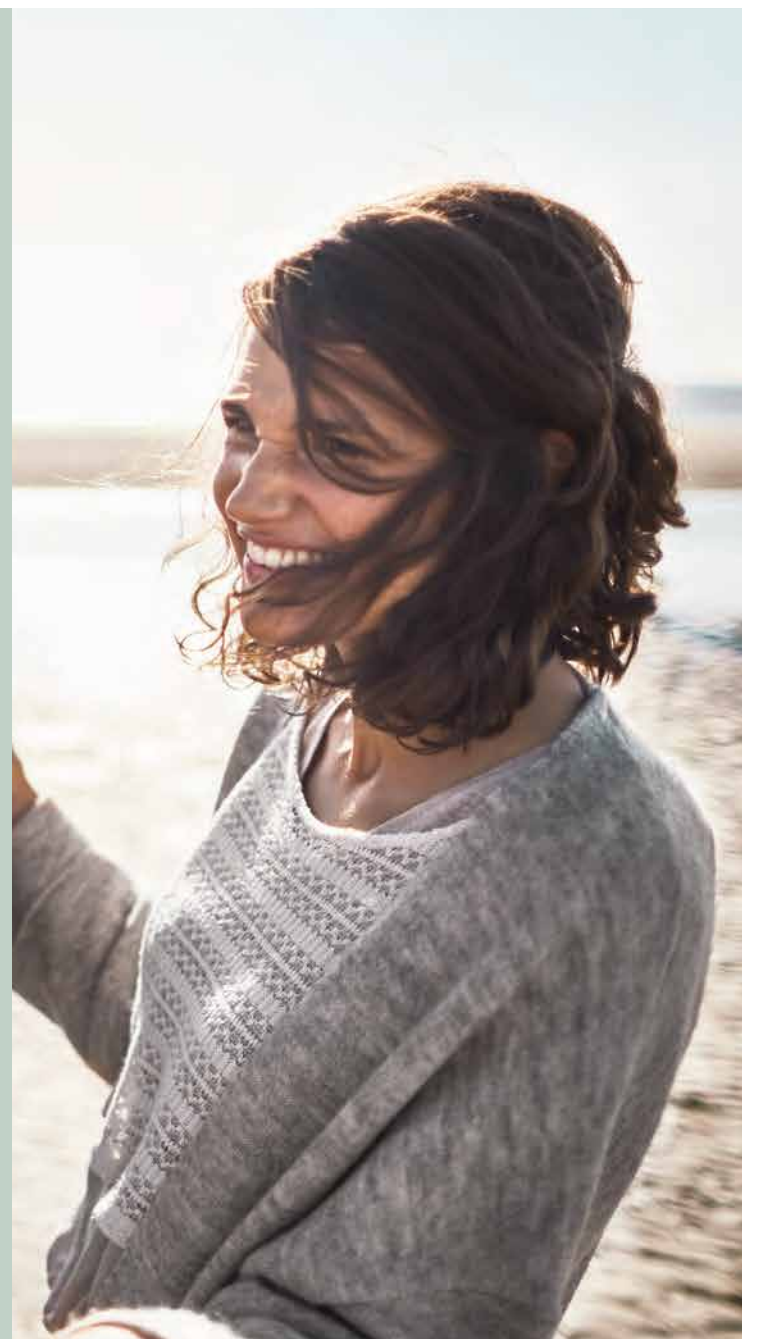


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These fires will happen again and again

BY CHAR MILLER
WRITERS ON THE RANGE



We should not be surprised that much of the West is on fire. Or that more than 3.1 million acres already have burned in California, another million in Oregon and in Washington, and that tens of thousands of people have been forced to evacuate.

The downwind consequences shouldn't come as a shock, either: Toxic plumes have darkened the skies of the small Oregon town of Sisters as well as the metropolitan areas of Seattle, Portland, the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles.

The least surprising thing about this summer's conflagrations is that we have done this to ourselves. We are the architects of the world that is now going up in smoke.

Picture this Los Angeles Times photograph: a paint-stripped car resting on its buckled roof, its tires and hubcaps incinerated, windows shattered and wheels weirdly melted. Framing the backdrop are the ash-white remains of a Sierran forest.

The photograph was snapped in the furious aftermath of the Bear Fire, since subsumed into the North Complex Fire, which has burned 250,000 acres in California's Plumas National Forest. But it could have been taken at any of this summer's infernos, because its symbolism is impossible to ignore.

Even as we fear for the owners of these abandoned automobiles and are astounded at the intensity of heat that could turn tempered steel molten, we can't miss how burned-out cars explain our fiery circumstances. After all, no sooner had this four-wheeled, fossil-fueled, late-19th-century technology been invented, than it became one of the icons of the Industrial Revolution, a sign of economic prosperity.

But the greenhouse gases spewing from these vehicles' tailpipes have contributed to the profound change in the Earth's climate. As a result of planetary warming, large swaths of the West have been drying out. Since the 1980s, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada and California have borne the brunt of this process, according to the Palmer Drought Severity Index; and the pace has quickened over the past two decades.

Other EPA data indicates that warmer and drier conditions will persist for the rest of the

century, altering vegetation cover, endangering wildlife and sparking a significant increase in intense fire activity. The result is anthropogenic, meaning "we did it."

Less well understood is that this rapidly evolving human geography has forged a close link between sprawl and wildland fire. Consider that booming Clackamas County near Portland and fast-growing Deschutes County in eastern Oregon are both under a fire-siege.

Los Angeles is the poster-child for the history of this larger western experience. Between the 1950s and 1970s, for example, its elite began to build mansions in the Hollywood and Beverly Hills. No sooner had celebrities set up house there than devastating fires ripped through the neighborhoods. In 1961, a tie-wearing Richard Nixon was photographed atop his Bel Air home, hose in hand, wetting down its shake-shingled roof.

Since then, a migratory surge has flowed out on a dense freeway network, whose every exit contains an interlocking set of subdivisions, gas stations, restaurants and big-box centers. Fire mitigation has not been high on residents' agenda, and these insta-towns, some with low-income residents, have generated the same smoke-filled results. Fires have swept through the town of Sylmar, located in northern Los Angeles County, four times since 2008.

This pattern of build-and-burn will continue in Southern California and elsewhere because city representatives and county commissioners, along with those developers who underwrite their political campaigns, green light housing projects. This includes some that are slotted into high-severity fire zones. One example is the gargantuan 12,000-acre planned community called Centennial that is being built in the flammable foothills of the Sierra Pelona and Tehachapi mountains. When completed, it will be home to 60,000 people, many of whom will commute into Los Angeles on an already gridlocked I-5.

What could halt this suburbanizing march into the woods throughout the West? Stronger local control over new development with a hand from insurance companies, weary from shelling out money to subsidize building again and again in fire zones.

Everything else seems to have failed.

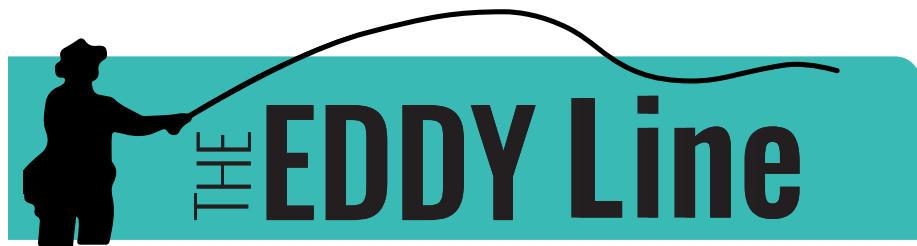
Meanwhile, a bit of unsolicited advice to residents of California, Oregon and Washington: Better keep a go-bag handy so you're ready when told to evacuate.

Char Miller is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.com, a nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He is a writer and professor of environmental analysis and history at Pomona College in Claremont, California.



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Summer fades to fall: Get up and go fishing



BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING CONTRIBUTOR

To say the summer of 2020 was a unique one in southwest Montana is to kick-aside hyperbole. As hundreds of thousands of visitors made their way to our area, local anglers saw an abundance of people fishing our waters. We're happy to share but no one can disagree with me in that it is time we get to enjoy some fall fishing to ourselves.

Fall is here and cooler water temperatures prevail. As the days grow shorter and tree limbs slowly become bare, the habits of local fish change as well. In my soul I believe trout fishing's heart belongs to chilly mornings, fishing hatches during the gentlemanly hours of the day, and a river feeling frigid against the skin. But with the change in season comes the need to change your angling skills. Here are some tips to get the best out of your fall fishing.

Upgrade your gear arsenal.

There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad gear. By gear, I mean your entire outfit from socks to stocking cap. Technology has evolved to create fabrics that offer a lot of warmth with very little bulk and materials for outerwear and waders with exceptional water and wind resistance. From friction-fused microfibers to extreme vapor fighting powers, manufactures are winning the war against the elements, but like any technology, it's only as smart as its user who chooses to use it or not.

Supersize it.

For seasoned anglers, fishing streamers and larger baitfish imitations is an obvious adjustment. Brown trout become more aggressive in the fall months as they prepare to spawn. Rainbows and cutthroat trout also become more opportunistic. Anglers targeting lakes or fishing in rivers dependent on lakes—such as the Madison River upstream of Hebgen, or the river “between the lakes”—should use sink-tip lines and weighted flies in the larger holes or deeper runs. Patience here is key—get to your spot, ensure your fly is getting down to the necessary depth, and continue fishing as these larger fish come and go as they migrate upstream.

Manage the clock wisely.

As the nighttime low temperatures dip into the 30s, it will take longer for water temperatures to rise and make for hungry and happy trout. A good rule: if the night-time low is below 30 F, hit the water no earlier than 9 or 10 a.m.; if above 30 F, 9 a.m. is doable but you might have cold fingers for awhile before you hook a fish. If you're planning to fish dry flies, early and

late in the day will work against you on two levels: fall hatches mostly occur midday and visibility can be challenging with a later sunrise and earlier sunset.

Learn to love the Blue Winged Olive.

A primary hatch in fall is the emergence of Blue Winged Olives. This late season mayfly is a smaller version of the same hatch that occurs in spring. Expect to fish size 18s and 20s to imitate both adult dry fly patterns and nymphs. There are various species that hatch in the fall, but unless you want to impress your Latin professor from your days at Yale, most fall mayflies are commonly referred to as Blue Winged Olives, or Blue Wings, or BWOs once you're standing in your local fly shop.

Adjust your tackle appropriately.

If you're going to fish smaller, be prepared to use lighter tippets. This is important for two reasons. With a smaller fly, a thinner tippet diameter allows your drift to be more natural. Second, with a more natural drift, your fly has a better chance of being eaten. Imagine you're a trout in the Gallatin or the Upper Madison River. By October, you've witnessed a plethora of bad drifts by a varying degree of unskilled anglers. To consistently catch fish in the fall, the presentation of your fly must be natural. Fishing lighter tippet will help.

Be willing to roll with it.

Recently, I guided some new clients. Despite my suggestion to wait until the day-of to decide, we spent a lot of lip service weeks prior discussing where we'd go. I'm a firm believer in fishing the best water given the current conditions. Naturally, our angling itinerary changed.

We ended up on spring creeks the day we were supposed to be on the Madison due to wind on the Madison and overcast skies in Paradise Valley; and we fished the Madison on the day slotted for the Yellowstone because rain muddied the section they wanted to fish. Rain, wind, colder temps in one area versus another, and even day of the week (weekends being busier) should all play a role in choosing the best places to fish this time of year.

A version of this article was originally published on EBS.com in October of 2016.

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 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/>.



Fall means big brown trout on the prowl. To find dandies like these you need the right fly. PHOTO COURTESY OF SECLUDEDWATER.COM

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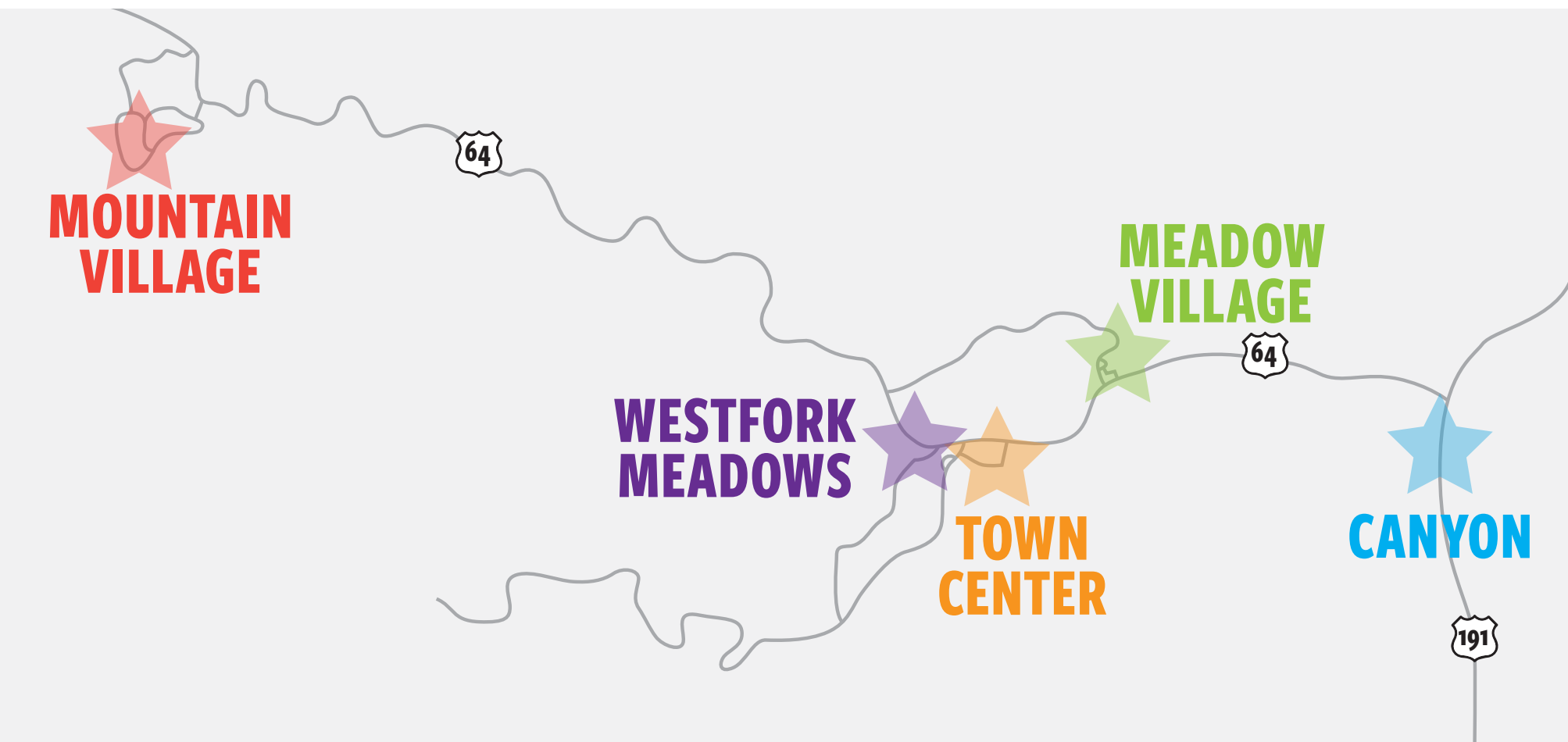
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Robert Kerdasha, AssuredPartners has you covered

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

Attention to detail—that's where this story, a two-sided coin, starts.

On the one side of said proverbial coin, an individual with a level of attention to detail that has proved a cut above. The fruits of that personal quality, coupled with hard work, are visible to even an outsider; your house(s); your car(s); your jewelry; your art; and so on.

Unfortunately, insurance coverage that doesn't match that individual's level of commitment to success is all too often on the reverse side of that coin, written, haphazardly, by professionals who are all too happy to toss signed documentation into a file cabinet. That's where it will sit, never to be seen nor considered, until a problem arises.

This disparity has led to much heartache amongst high-net-worth individuals, who—either out of a lack of knowledge, appropriate concern or grandfathered-in insurance relationships that began as far back as college days—have failed to protect their most valuable assets from ill-fitting and flippant levels of coverage.

It's an easily avoidable situation with the right insurance broker on your side, someone with a matched attention to detail, someone who inherently understands the value of seeking only bespoke excellence in their field. Someone like Robert Kerdasha.

Kerdasha began his journey in risk management over 30 years ago as a direct policy writer for Liberty Mutual, a proving grounds where he cut his teeth. In 1999, he parlayed that experience into starting his own agency, gaining the additional expertise, network and clientele that ultimately made him desirable to AssuredPartners, the Orlando, Florida, headquartered national insurance brokerage firm that specializes in commercial property and casualty insurance, employee benefits and personal insurance coverage.

Specifically, following AssuredPartners' 2014 acquisition of Kerdasha, the seasoned professional leads up a team that caters to the spectrum of needs of high-net-worth, successful individuals.

The level of care Kerdasha brings to each of the 1,500 families enjoying his services begins with a proactive approach that identifies the hopes and expectations of individual clients.

In a sense, rather than wait for a question to arise or a problem to manifest, Kerdasha and his team identify all outstanding variables, potential difficulties and exposures from day one, combining both personal expertise and nearly three decades of experience provided by the brokerage in meeting this objective. Last, a written service timeline is created for each client's specific needs, and request.

What makes the union between Kerdasha and AssuredPartners especially robust is a shared foundation of principles, in this instance. With 100 offices across the U.S., the privately owned brokerage has never



kowtowed to pressures to go public, assuring (no pun) clients get the utmost care and concern. There are no stockholders to please and there is no intent to wrap the operation in a bow for a larger organization to snap up the business in a sale.

Kerdasha taps three decades worth of connections within the industry to ensure his clientele fully experience the AssuredPartners way—in rapid fashion, if called for. After all, you're paying for quality, the same reason you opted for a home in Big Sky, and that's what Kerdasha seeks to deliver in every interaction.

And it's important to remember that when you buy a house in Big Sky, there's always an inherent, albeit small, risk of wildfire damaging your property—such is the nature of buying a home with incomparable proximity to wild, untapped places. Kerdasha exercises his network and history with top providers like Pure, Chubb, AIG and Cincinnati to ensure that even one of Mother Nature's most untamable forces is kept at bay, again keeping your assets well-protected from financial loss.

What's more, AssuredPartners, unlike many competitors of greater scale, avoids spending large portions of their annual budget on advertisements—those campaigns can total into the hundreds of millions, even billions, of dollars, depending on the organization. Rather, those funds are applied to the customer through quality policies sourced and written by AssuredPartners, policies that ultimately fix cars or houses, just as was promised.

Simply put, ads aren't all that necessary, as it's a self-sustaining good news cycle that propels new channels of business.

Kerdasha, who received a Certified Advisor of Personal Insurance (CAPI) designation in 2015 from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business and Chubb Personal Insurance's Aresty Institute of Executive Education, hails from Bluffton, South Carolina, boasting a book of business that canvasses the southeast and has spread westward into the Rocky Mountains. His clients in Big Sky—members of the Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, Moonlight Basin and those nonaffiliated—have discovered the benefits of entrusting their most valuable assets in Kerdasha's hands, finding a trademark Southern hospitality communicated in his approach.

Truly, it's that selfless, listen more, talk less school of thought that is so effective in delivering only the finest for those seeking across-the-board protection, with a single individual managing every piece of the equation. No worries, no guess work.

So, as you consider purchasing a new home in Big Sky, or for those reading this over a cup of coffee on a second home back deck complete with exquisite views of Lone Mountain, ask yourself this important question: is the level of attention that realized your purchase worth extending into the policies that guarantee its security?

This advertorial was first published in the summer 2020 edition of VIEWS.



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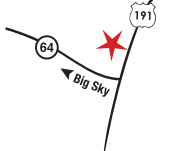
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Local photographer captures light and dark of being human

BY MIRA BRODY

BOZEMAN – Much of photographer Kene Sperry's work involves "line gestures"—a lone skier snaking down an unnamed peak; a line of trees, stark white against the darkened backdrop of a placid lake; a pair of bison trudging through a narrow break in an undisturbed field of snow.

The anonymity is deliberate—the subject isn't the skier, the mountain, the bison or the trees. The subject is the viewer herself and the connection she feels through the photo, whether that's a sense of freedom, longing, lightness or darkness. That light or dark, Sperry says, is part of being human and of what connects us.

For the Summer 2020 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine's Outward Bound Gallery, Sperry presented a collection of portraits titled "The Connection Project." The experiment involved uninterrupted eye contact for five minutes with each subject, and Sperry then laid the before and after portraits side by side. In a time when a pandemic necessitates social isolation and half of our faces are covered in public, the eyes are a key feature—perhaps more important than ever before.

"The only way you're going to get through it—it's not going to be based on a president or a virus disappearing, you actually have to look inward," Sperry said of the collective challenges the world is grappling with together. "We're living in a day of information, and no amount of information is going to give you the answer. What's real is that we're all connected, and everyone wants to be seen and heard and loved and if we can have that kind of empathy then we can transcend."

When he was 13, the Seattle native decided it was his purpose to be a photographer. He pursued art in school, purchased a point-and-shoot camera, then went on to study film photography and business entrepreneurship at Washington State University, then digital photography at Rocky Mountain College in Billings.

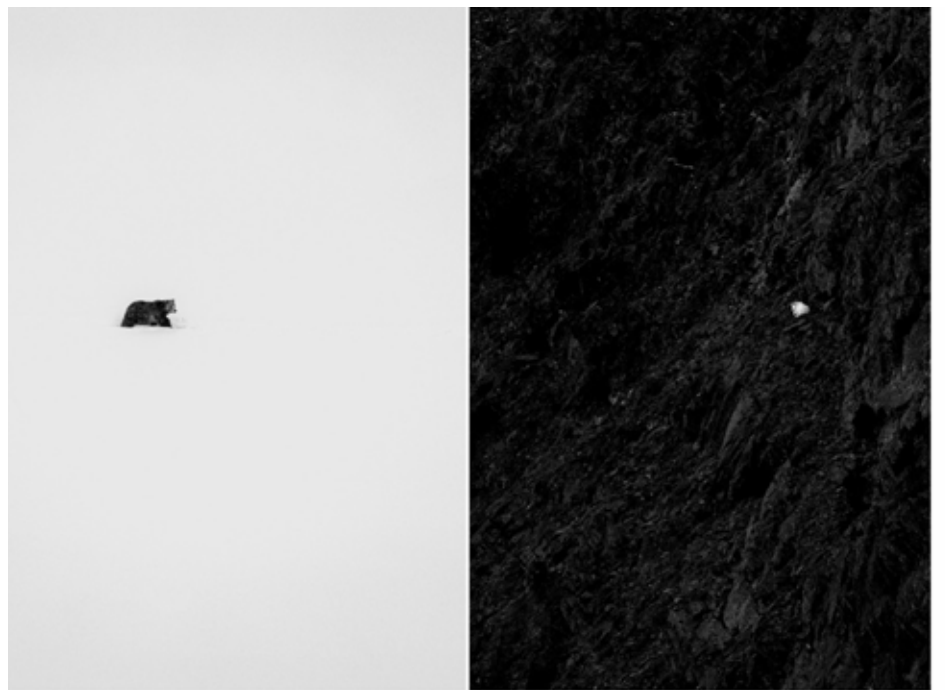
At age 22, having moved to Montana, Sperry dove headfirst into his photography career and hasn't looked back since. Even early in his career, he was fascinated the relationship of light and shadow and how that connects to the human nature within us.

Now, Sperry has more than 20 years of experience under his belt, both in portrait and wedding photography and now in mountain landscape, as well as three kids to keep him humble. He focuses his energy on living and working with intention, whether he's out in nature taking notes and gathering inspiration for his next series, or in a helicopter getting a once-in-a-lifetime photo from high above the mountains.

"When I'm capturing those images, I'm not just shooting pretty images," Sperry said. "I'm trying to gravitate the light that's in each and every one of us. It's not an ego shot, it's you as the viewer. You are that person."

True to the theme of connectivity, Sperry is currently working on a photography series called "Significant Other," featuring pairs in nature. He says people are always in a relationship with someone, whether it be a significant other, a group or merely oneself. The series will be featured in Courtney Collins's Fine Art Gallery in Town Center in time for Christmas and those invited to the opening will be required to bring someone as a pair.

"The root of suffering is to think you're separate," Sperry said. "That's when you feel the most alone."



Bear and goat, together named "Balance," are a part of Sperry's "Significant Other" series. PHOTO COURTESY OF KENE SPERRY



A pair of bison meander along a broken trail through a snowfield in a piece from Sperry's "Significant Other" series. PHOTO COURTESY OF KENE SPERRY

BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR

Friday, Sept. 25 – Thursday, Oct. 8

If your event falls between Oct. 9 and Oct. 23, please submit it by Oct. 21 by emailing media@outlaw.partners

Friday, Sept. 25

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

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

Jazz Night on the Patio: Alex Robilotta
Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 6 p.m.

Bozeman premier of TGR's Make Believe
Starlite Drive-In Theatre, 6:20 p.m.

Bridger Foothills Fire Relief Open Show & Derby
Holloway's Pretty Good Horse Barn, Sept. 26-27

Big Sky Community Ski Drop for Tips Up
Copper Big Sky, Sept. 25-26

Saturday, Sept. 26

Jim Bridger Trail Run
Sypes Canyon, Bozeman, 8 a.m.

Thomas D. Mangelsen: "A" Life in the Wild" Exhibit
Museum of the Rockies, Sept. 26-Dec 31

Hyalite Fall Clean Up and Stewardship Day
Bozeman, 12 p.m.

SLAM Community JAM
Eagle Mount Bozeman, 5 p.m.

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

Sunday, Sept. 27

Taste the Trail
Museum of the Yellowstone, 12 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 28

Pints with Purpose: Bozeman Film Society
Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Nutrition Series: Nutrition to Optimize Immune Health
Lone Peak Performance, 5:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 29

Live Music Tuesdays
Devil's Toboggan, Bozeman, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 30

Fall Farmer's Market
Wilson Hotel Plaza, 5 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 1

Full Moon Women's Circle
Big Sky Community Park, 8 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 2

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

OG BCA Tasting
The Rocks Restaurant and Tasting, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 3

Seven Masters: 20th Century Japanese Woodblock Prints
Museum of the Rockies, Oct. 3-Dec. 31

Bozeman Winter Farmer's Market
Gallatin County Fairground, 9 a.m.

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

Grant Ferguson Live
The Filling Station, Bozeman, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 4

Afternoon Tea at Starlite
Starlite, Bozeman, 1 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 5

Pints with Purpose
Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 6

Bozeman's Backyard Blend
Lockhorn Cider House, 1 p.m.

Devil's Toboggan Live Music
Devil's Toboggan, Bozeman, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 7

Educator Wednesdays
Bunkhouse Brewery, 2 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 8

Special Sip & Slam Pint Night
Union Hall Brewery, 5 p.m.



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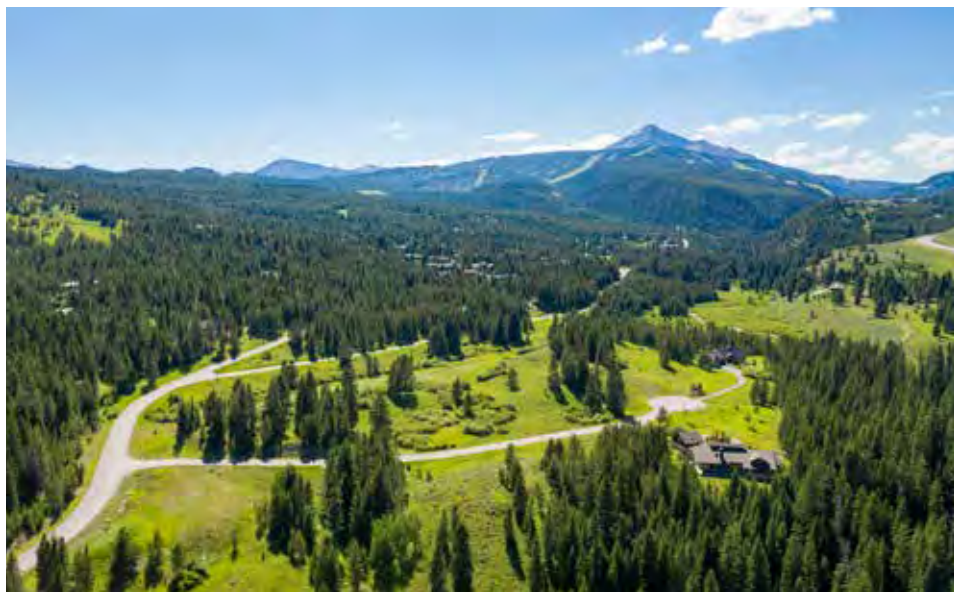
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SECTION 3: BUSINESS, SPORTS, HEALTH & FUN



Big Horns comeback bid falls short
pg. 34



MIIBS: Geyser Whitewater Expeditions
pg. 40



America's most important beers pg. 42

Lady Big Horns remain undefeated

Survive test from Shields Valley, sweep Harrison/Willow Creek as JV's split

BY BRANDON WALKER

An undefeated record signifies a strong season for any team but can also serve as an unnecessary distraction as the season progresses and the win column continues to grow.

The Lone Peak High School varsity volleyball team, however, isn't letting it enter their minds. The Lady Big Horns extended their unbeaten streak to seven matches this season beating Shields Valley on the road on Sept. 18 and sweeping Harrison/Willow Creek at home the following evening.

"We haven't even talked about it," said LPHS head coach Missy Botha when asked how the team is approaching their unblemished record. "It's like it's not even an issue."

Shields Valley tested Lone Peak's mettle early in their match on Friday evening. After LPHS squeaked out a first set victory 25-21, the Rebels grabbed sets two and three, 26-24 and 27-25 respectively, leaving them only one set away from handing the Lady Big Horns their first defeat of the season.

"We feel like we could have played better," Botha said. "We started off smoking hot [but] let them squeak back into that first game because of unforced errors."

Botha made adjustments in the fourth set in an attempt to mitigate areas Shields Valley had been attacking on the court. She credited freshman Vera Grabow and the superb play of senior Ivy Hicks as instrumental aspects to the team's comeback victory.

"[Hicks] keeps us in so many points just because she is all over the court and knows how to move the blockers around by moving the set around," Botha said. "I have to give her a lot of credit for helping us pull that game out."

Trailing 10-7 in the fifth and final set LPHS called a timeout to regroup. Out of the break, the Rebels committed service error giving the Lady Big Horns serving rights. Sophomore Jessie Bough and Hicks served out the rest of the set, only permitting a final Shields Valley point the remainder of the way and completing the comeback, 15-11.

Sophomore Maddie Cone returned to the lineup for the first time since suffering an ankle injury in the team's second match of the year. She made an instant impact, leading the team in kills and blocks versus the Rebels. Hicks had 26 of the team's 27 assists, while senior libero Chloe Hammond paced the Lady Big Horns with 13 digs. Senior Reilly Germain had five aces to round out LPHS's individual scoring leaders.

The next night, Sept. 19, LPHS hosted the Harrison/Willow Creek Wildcats. In a tribute match honoring Skye Swenson, the Lady Big Horns dominated and the team even dedicated the game ball to Swenson.



Lone Peak competes against Harrison/Willow Creek on Sept. 19. In a match honoring Skye Swenson, the Lady Big Horns won in straight sets. PHOTO BY KARA BLODGETT



LPHS senior Reilly Germain (10) serves the ball against Shields Valley on Sept. 18 as sophomore Jessie Bough looks on. Lone Peak pulled out a victory in the five set thriller. PHOTO BY KARA BLODGETT

"Skye made such an impact on, not only her sister as a player or our team, like as an inspiration to our players, but to them as people," Botha said. "They learned a lot from Skye. Just the compassion that this team shows, they owe a lot of that to having Skye as [a] classmate."

Lone Peak won in straight sets, 25-19, 25-10, and 25-19 to secure their seventh victory of the year.

Cone again led the Lady Big Horns in kills with 12. Hicks led the team in assists for the second consecutive evening, this time with 24. She shared the team high in aces with Germain—the duo had four apiece. Senior Ruth Blodgett had a strong showing as well, pacing LPHS with six digs.

The Lady Big Horns will travel to Harrison/Willow Creek on Sept. 26 for a rematch of their Sept. 19 contest, and are looking ahead to a strong playoff run when the district tournament begins on Oct. 29.

"The whole being undefeated thing, it really means nothing if you can't deliver in the postseason," Botha said.

J.V. squad splits weekend matchups

The LPHS junior varsity Lady Big Horns dropped their match versus Shields Valley in four sets on Sept. 18, but quickly rebounded with a sweep of Harrison/Willow Creek at home the following evening.

LPHS lost a closely contested opening set versus Shields Valley 28-26. They responded by winning the second set 25-23 before succumbing 15-7 and 15-9 in the third and fourth sets, respectively.

The Lady Big Horns improved their record to 4-2 on Sept. 19 when they quickly handled Harrison/Willow Creek at the Bough-Dolan Athletic Complex in straight sets, 25-19, 25-15 and 15-6.

"These girls have worked very hard on learning how to play volleyball together and now they are," said LPHS junior varsity head coach Kara Blodgett. "Passing, setting and hitting is playing volleyball and I know the parents will tell you, when they do all three over and over again it sure is fun to watch."

Early deficit too much for Big Horns on the road

Miners still undefeated

BY BRANDON WALKER

PARK CITY, Mont. – Early deficits and road games are a tough combination to remedy in any sport and ultimately led to a tough-luck loss for the Lone Peak High School varsity football team on Sept. 18. Despite a valiant Big Horn comeback bid, LPHS fell short as the host Park City Panthers won the contest 56-30.

Coming off an exciting, back-and-forth affair with the Sheridan Panthers at home on Sept. 10 that saw Sheridan escape Big Sky with a 21-16 victory, LPHS was slow out of the gate against Park City.

“We had a couple turnovers in the first quarter both leading to pick-six’s the other direction, which was a rough way to start the game,” said Lone Peak head coach Adam Farr.

The Panthers scored 30 unanswered points through nearly the first two quarters of play, but sophomore running back Pierce Farr found the end zone on a 25-yard pass from sophomore quarterback Isaiah Holst for LPHS just before halftime. The touchdown was Farr’s sixth of the season and following a successful 2-point conversion, Park City led 30-8 at the break.

Freshman Juliusz Shipman scored his first two touchdowns of his varsity career in the loss. His first came following a Park City touchdown, when he corralled the kickoff at the Big Horn 10-yard line, weaved his way through defenders the entire length of the field and returned it to the house, making it a 38-14 ballgame in the third quarter.

Shipman’s next score came in the fourth quarter when he received a pass from Holst—one of the signal caller’s three passing touchdowns of the game—and found some room to run before crossing the goal line for the Big Horns score.

“He’s really stepped up [and] has incredible foot speed,” Farr said. “Juliusz’s been just a massive addition and does not look like a freshman at all.”

Farr and Holst connected again as time was expiring in the fourth quarter for Farr’s second touchdown of the game and seventh of the year to pace the Big Horns. Holst then found senior lineman Kole Maus open in the endzone to complete the two point conversion, capping off the Big Horn scoring.

“I called a different play and the players, knowing the game was out of hand anyway with no time on the clock and us being down as much as we



Lone Peak senior Kole Maus (center) blocks a Park City defender in their contest on Sept. 18. LPHS was held off on the road by Park City 56-30. PHOTO BY KIM HOLST

were, changed the play without telling me which I thought was great,” Farr said of Maus’s 2-point conversion reception. “He went on a little flare route and he was wide open.”

Holst’s three touchdown passes bring his yearly total to five. He previously connected with Farr twice in the matchup with Sheridan—his first two passing touchdowns of the season.

“They were highly resilient, as they have been all season,” Farr said. “I mean to give up two pick-six’s and then come out and have the best second half of his short high school career was impressive from Isaiah,” Farr said. “If it wouldn’t have been such a rocky start we were very closely matched in my opinion. The result could be different if we played again tomorrow.”

The week of Sept. 21 is a bye week for Lone Peak (0-4) after the Sheridan game was moved ahead on the schedule. LPHS will set their sights on a homecoming contest versus the Absarokee Huskies on Oct. 2 at 7 p.m.

Miners flex their might in commanding win, remain unbeaten

PARK CITY, Mont. – The Ophir Miners middle school football team dominated the gridiron in their trip to Park City on Sept. 18, winning 52-0. The victory improved the Miner’s season record to 3-0.

Ophir found success both through the air and on the ground throughout the contest. Quarterback Ely Hamrick threw four touchdown passes with Bridger Flores finding himself on the receiving end of three of them. Ebe Grabow hauled in the other touchdown pass from Hamrick, a 37-yard connection.

Dominic Holst had his way rushing against the Panthers en route to punching in two short yardage rushing touchdowns in the contest. Jack Laxson added another 15-yard touchdown scamper for the Miners in the victory.

“While we have a number of talented players, our success comes from teamwork,” said Miners head coach Ben Holst in an email to EBS. “With the whole team pulling in the same direction, we are really hard to stop.”

Ophir will next square off with the Absarokee Huskies at home at 4 p.m. on Oct. 2.



LPHS sophomore quarterback Isaiah Holst (with ball) looks to pass as a Park City defender pursues. The Big Horns were defeated by the Panthers 56-30. PHOTO BY KIM HOLST

Golf Tips from a Pro: The effects of Frost

BY MARK WEHRMAN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

As we move into autumn here in Big Sky we also transition into the frost season at Big Sky Golf Course. In northern, temperate climates the effects of frost are a usual and common thing that most all understand. For those that grow up and/or live in the south, frost is a bit of a mystery and its effects can be misunderstood. So, what is frost and how does it need to be handled?

Frost is essentially frozen turf. Frost happens when the temperatures overnight start dipping in to the 30s. We have had certain days where frost even occurred with temperatures in the low 40s. Frost can happen in both the spring and fall but is more likely in the fall when the healthy turf starts to freeze overnight.

There are multiple factors that decide how thick or light the frost will set in. When there is a clear night with little to no cloud cover and/or a full moon the frost sets in thicker and consequently will take longer to melt in the morning. Factors that limit frost are cloud cover and wind. If either of these are present it is less likely that we will have a frost and, if so, the frost won't be as thick and will melt off sooner.

So, why is this information important to golfers? It's because if you walk on frosted turf you will end up killing the grass which leaves ugly and unsightly scars on the turf.

When someone walks on turf that is frozen or frosted, the grass blade breaks at the crown as a result. This is similar to clipping your nails too short. The grass blade now becomes extremely distressed and plant health fails. When this occurs the footprint will turn black and take weeks of warm weather and moisture to recover and become a healthy plant again.

On golf courses where aesthetics are as important as playability, we need to avoid walking on frost at all times. This will ensure the health of the plant and keep the turf not only looking green but, when the plant is healthy, ultimately you will get better performing turf. Also, a healthy playing surface will recover faster from divots and cart/foot traffic, etc.

Now that we are in the frost season we are experiencing delays just about every morning due to frozen turf. Generally, once we get the green light, we start sending groups and get back on schedule usually within the first hour of starting play. What we ask of our golfers is that when you show up for that early morning tee time to be patient as we wait for the ground to warm.

We also ask our residents that live on the course to please refrain from walking yourself and your dog on the course during the early morning hours so as to not kill the grass we work hard to keep green, playable, and as healthy as possible. If you see someone walking on frost it is good to educate them on the correlating effects. As I mentioned earlier, most people don't experience frost on a regular basis and even more people don't understand what walking on frost does to the turf.

Thanks to all the golfers in Big Sky and the surrounding areas for being such great stewards of the golf course. Because of our beloved neighbors and local residents we are able to have a healthy and beautiful course available year after year.

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



A LETTER TO THE GREATER GALLATIN VALLEY COMMUNITY

Dear EBS readers,

In January of 2017, Bozeman Amateur Hockey Association (BAHA) and the Gallatin Ice Foundation (GIF) partnered to "Raise the Ice Barn"-- a two rink ice facility at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds. Almost 4 years later, it's time to "Finish the Ice Barn" and complete a permanent, four season ice arena with stadium style seating for Bozeman and all of Southwest Montana. It's going to be incredible!

As the Philanthropy Director for the Gallatin Ice Foundation, I am writing to you today to let you know that I am 100% committed to finishing this project and that I want your help. Over the next 6 months, we are announcing a new website, new sponsorship programs, Founders Club memberships, and advertising partnerships to help make this dream a reality. Stay tuned for more details!

If you are interested in contributing and making your mark in Bozeman, give me a call at 406-223-5885 or jmoore@gallatinice.org.

Thank you so much for your continued support Gallatin Valley! Together, we can get this done.

Kind regards,

Jeff

Jeffrey E. Moore
Gallatin Ice
Philanthropy Director

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4:15-5:15pm
All level Yoga

TUESDAY

7:30-8:30am
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11:00am-1:00pm

5:30-6:45pm
Heated Flow

7:00-8:15pm
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Vinyasa Yoga

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7:30-8:30am
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10:00-11:15am
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Journey

4:15-5:15pm
All Levels Yoga

THURSDAY

7:30-8:30am
All Levels Yoga

11:00am-12:15pm
All Levels Yoga

5:30-6:45pm
A Breathwork Journey

7:00-8:15pm
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FRIDAY

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Yours in Health

Ways to gently transition into this fall

BY DR. ANDREA WICK
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The fall is a time of transition. During this time, our bodies prepare to convert from the warmth of summer, to the cold fall and winter months ahead. From a holistic health perspective, when this shift into autumn happens, we transition from the fire element of summer to the metal element of fall.

The metal element governs the lungs and large intestine. As many of us locals know, living in Big Sky can be a drastic shift from summer to winter, with not much of a fall season in between. This can be shocking to our bodies, and why it's even more important for us to care for ourselves. If you have trouble with season changes, or Seasonal Affective Disorder I'm hoping these suggestions may help. Here are a few things I recommend incorporating in the fall and winter months:

Eat for the season

Warming your body from the inside out is very important. This is not the time of the year to be drinking ice, cold water and eating raw salads. Instead, drink warm lemon water throughout the day and eat seasonal root vegetables along with stews, broths and soups. Do a group cleanse! The Santosha Fall Cleanse, led by Callie Stolz, C.A.S, L.M.T., is a great way to restart your system. This fall, the cleanse will be from Oct. 7-20th; Write it on your calendar!

Oil pulling in the morning

Oil pulling is an ayurvedic therapy that helps to pull toxins and bacteria from the teeth and gums. Swish 1 tablespoon of coconut or sesame oil for 15-20 minutes, first thing in the morning upon waking. Spit the oil out after, you may notice an improvement with your oral health.

Ionic foot baths

Positive ions are infused into warm water along with trace ionic minerals. The ionic charge helps to pull toxins from your feet, where the largest pores in our

bodies are. I have had many patients say that they feel more relaxed, grounded and sleep better after a bath.

Sauna/Epsom salt baths

Any way that you can heat the body is helpful this time of year. I, personally, love infrared sauna sessions and Epsom salt baths. It's a great way to warm the body along with achieving a gentle detox.

Body work

This is the time of year where we need to slow down and self-reflect, making it a great time to prioritize self-care. Start a daily work out or yoga routine, schedule a massage, acupuncture or chiropractic session. Avoid burning out and re-charge yourself!

Let go

De-clutter and re-organize your space as when your space is neat and tidy you will also feel better. Your living space is a direct representation of how you feel on the inside.

Dress warm

I know this seems obvious, however protecting your throat and lungs from the cold air is vital. It's a great time to wear scarves and protect your neck.

I hope you can take time for yourself this season to re-charge, re-fuel and feel better from the inside, out!

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

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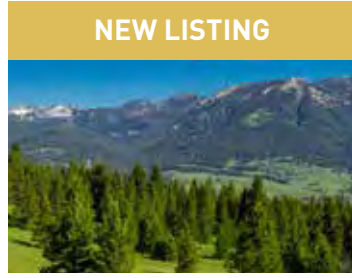
BIG SKY - LAND



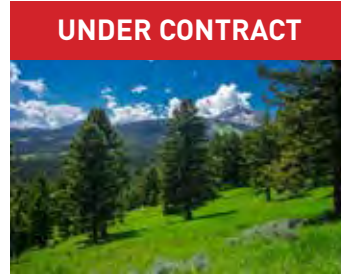
The Ranches at Yellow Mountain - 2A-1B
526 +/- ACRES / \$5.8M



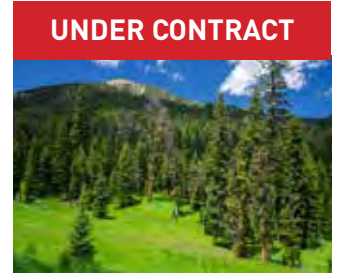
Moosewood Lots 3 & 4
Lot 3 / 6.9 +/- ACRES / \$1.4M
Lot 4 / 5 +/- ACRES / \$1.1M



The Ranches at Yellow Mountain - Tract 2A-1A
196 +/- ACRES / \$2.199M



The Ranches at Yellow Mountain - Tract 3B-1
23 +/- ACRES / \$875k



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



The Ranches at Yellow Mountain - Tract 1A-2
20 +/- ACRES / \$1.1M

COMMERCIAL



Homestead at the Beacon Butte, MT
640 +/- ACRES / \$1.65M



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



380 Mountain Man Trail
Montana Ranch
20.8 +/- ACRES / \$325K

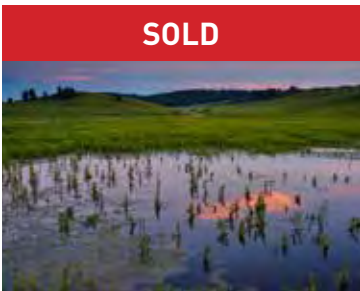


223 Town Center Avenue
Big Sky, MT
2882 +/- SQ FT
1601 +/- SQ FT Patio \$1.525M



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

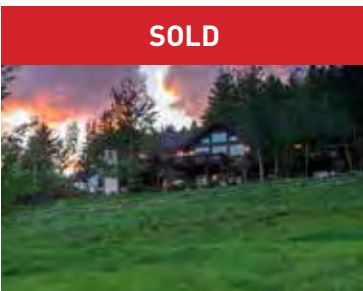
RECENTLY SOLD



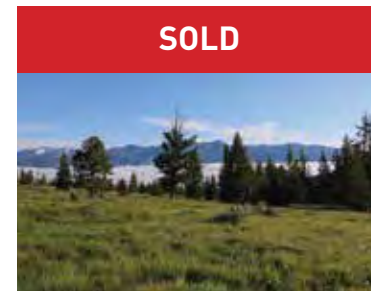
Yellowstone Ranch Preserve
List Price: \$19M



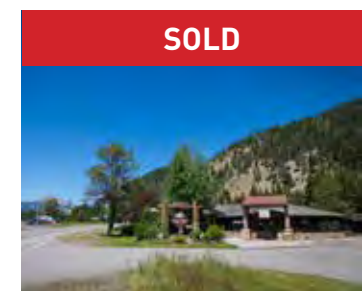
13285 Dry Creek Road
Bozeman, MT
7448 +/- SQ FT / \$5.95M



2005 Upper Chief Joseph
7,690 +/- SQ FT / \$4.3M

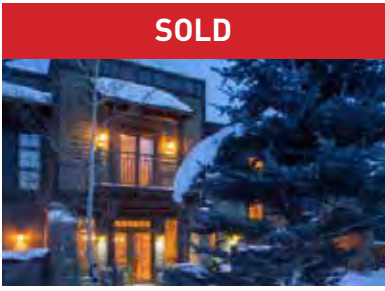


Mountain Meadows
120 +/- ACRES / \$3.495M

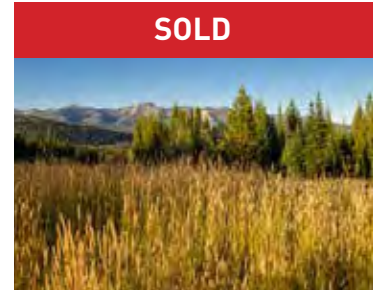


Big Sky Corner Property
List Price: \$3.24M

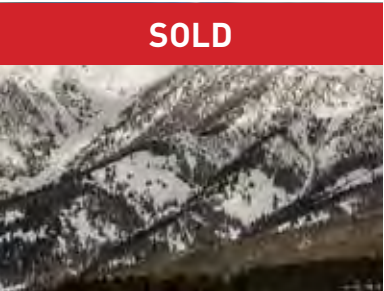
RECENTLY SOLD



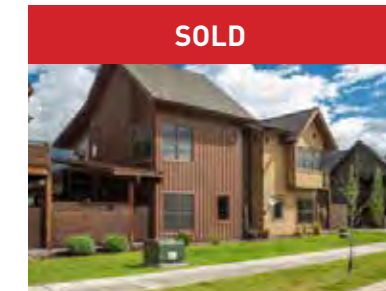
81 Pheasant Tail Ln. Unit 2
2,707 +/- SQ FT / \$839K



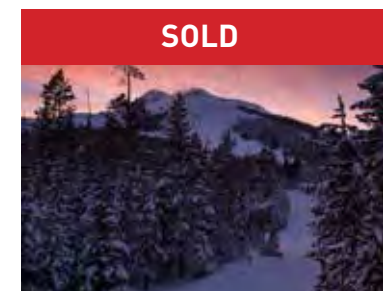
Lot 64 Goshawk
1.04 +/- ACRES / \$775K



Lot 44 Diamond Hitch
1.25 +/- ACRES / \$699K



211 B Pheasant Tail
\$692K



Lot 39 Diamond Hitch
1 +/- ACRE / \$595K

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UNDER CONTRACT



1955 Little Coyote Drive
3,100 +/- SQ FT / \$1.25M



Lodges at Elkhorn Creek
2,060 - 2,203 +/- SQ FT
\$1M - \$2.25M



Gallatin Foothills Lot 5 & 6
\$950K - \$1.295M
Call for more information



189 B Pheasant Tail
1590 +/- SQ FT / \$699K

UNDER CONTRACT



Hill Condo 1313
440 +/- SQ FT / \$219K

BOZEMAN & GREATER MONTANA

LISTING



es at Yellow
n - Tract 3A
RES / \$750K

NEW LISTING



The Ranches at Yellow
Mountain - Tract 4A
20 +/- ACRES / \$750K

NEW LISTING



The Ranches at Yellow
Mountain - Tract 1L
21.29 +/- ACRES / \$750K



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

NEW LISTING



Gallatin Foothills Lot 4
1.519 +/- ACRES
\$395K
Call for more information

UNDER CONTRACT



529 Clancy Way
Bozeman, MT
4200+/- SQ FT / 1.01 +/- ACRES
\$1.69M

BUSINESS

UNDER CONTRACT



50 Ousel Falls
Big Sky, MT
Call for details

UNDER CONTRACT



Lone Peak Cinema
\$140K / Big Sky, MT
Call for details



Airport Garages
Bozeman, MT
\$29.9K per unit
Taking reservations for building G



Airport Garage, E6
Bozeman, MT
Resale, \$28K
Call for details



Terranaut Adventure Vans
Bozeman, MT
Call for details

SOLD



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

SOLD



Crail Ranch Unit 40
List Price: \$1.35M

SOLD



2078 Little Coyote List
List Price: \$1.079M

SOLD



Ski Tip Lot 10
List Price: \$975K

SOLD



705 E Orange
Bozeman, MT
2,200 +/- SQ FT / \$915K

SOLD



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

SOLD



988 Meagher
Bozeman, MT
2232 +/- SQ FT / \$499K

SOLD



Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.
3.13 +/- ACRES / \$490K

SOLD



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

SOLD



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Making it in Big Sky: Geyser Whitewater Expeditions

BY BRANDON WALKER

BIG SKY – One of the greatest outlets for people in southwest Montana throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has been the adventure to be had in the wide open spaces found outside their own front door. From hiking to camping, to days spent at or on the water, recreation has gained a newfound appreciation from the active lifestyle-minded folks of the region and beyond. One summer staple—whitewater rafting—was no exception.

Upon returning from an international fishing venture, Geyser Whitewater Expeditions owner and founder Eric Becker was quickly made aware of the COVID-19 pandemic as it began to spread throughout the U.S.

“My job was to plan on not having a season at all and closing down and seeing how the business and family is going to survive for a year without income,” he said. “Then Nicole, our general manager, her job was to start planning on how we’re going to get open.”

Becker described that GWE made many adaptations to ensure a successful summer season including maintaining only 50 percent occupancy within transportation vehicles, utilizing seating charts and even dressing parties in necessary gear, individually.

“The enthusiasm was there,” he said referring to early summer operations, “and everybody was just dealing with the initial awkwardness of social distancing and trying to figure out how to do activities and travel during this new reality we were in.”

Becker said that the popularity of private raft trips increased this year, but the experience was not new territory for GWE with the company having offered the option for two decades. He recently spoke with EBS over the phone to recap and reflect on a unique summer season—the company’s 30th.

“This year everybody was just very patient and understood things are just different, so we couldn’t be more pleased with how people behaved and how the summer ended up,” Becker said.

EBS: *Can you describe the feeling of returning to the water and launching the rafts for the first time this year?*

Eric Becker: “You know it was great to be out there. Our employees were super excited to be back and just get to work. I think everybody was kind of going stir crazy there for a while. For us as a company, it was just good to be all back together and be out on the river and that was nice.”

EBS: *What were the biggest operational adjustments Geyser Whitewater Expeditions made due to COVID-19?*

E.B.: “We immediately went in and swapped out all of our plumbing so we had no-touch plumbing and automatic flushing toilets throughout the building. We had to buy special devices to disinfect the vehicles and sort of emptied out our shop to create more space—sort of a lot of the usual stuff. All of our equipment has always been treated with virucides so that wasn’t too big of a deal expect ... right down to the paddles and stuff were being disinfected and that’s not normally something that we would disinfect in the past.”

EBS: *How was business this summer as opposed to any summer pre-COVID?*

E.B.: “We always have lots of returning staff members and we just hired fewer new people and from July 4 to Aug. 15 we were sort of chronically understaffed and we just have to change logistics to accommodate that. So, it



Rafters enjoy a thrilling ride on the river with their Geyser Whitewater Expeditions guide. PHOTO COURTESY OF GEYSER WHITEWATER EXPEDITIONS

was very busy for everybody, mostly because we were understaffed so a lot of our key personnel are doing the jobs of two or three people of a normal year. But, as I think most people saw, Big Sky was a popular destination this summer and every mountain community. ... People flock there and outdoor activities, especially sporting goods stores ended up having a great season and we were no exception. It ended up being fun, safe, awkward and it all worked out.”

EBS: *Do you believe the virus will continue to affect your industry and how so?*

E.B.: “I think we’re going to have another year of social distancing and mask wearing and I think we’re going to see continued popularity of mountain—any sort of smaller communities I guess—whether it’s the mountains or just smaller communities. But we’re expecting to operate at COVID type scenario for at least another year and then I think in our business, I think we’ll continue to see a lot of the private boats and still people preferring to do activities where they can be socially distanced from other families for years probably, just becoming a new norm of avoiding crowds to some degree.”

EBS: *What has been your greatest operational success in the last five months?*

E.B.: “I just think getting through the summer and surviving, we’re lucky. We have an amazing staff, some of our people have worked for us—a lot of them—for over 10, 15, up to 20 years and we all just enjoy being with each other and I think just getting through the summer safely, in our industry, is always a bonus. And doing it in a manner where we were just able to successfully make people feel safe and clean and nobody getting sick and just everybody having fun, I think I’m just real proud of our staff for doing it.”

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

E.B.: “My philosophy has always been about taking care of our people and there’s always a quote that says, ‘There is little success where there is little laughter.’ I think our whole company just sort of goes by that and we go out and our job is to make sure everybody has fun and my job is to make sure our staff is having fun and if that all comes together then we’re going to have a great business.”

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BY SCOTT BROWN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

It is truly unprecedented how many times the word ‘unprecedented’ has been used in 2020. Or is it? When we consider that we’ve dealt with COVID-19, passing the CARES Act, racial tensions, riots, natural disasters, and political divisiveness maybe we shouldn’t be surprised. However, something that should be surprising to almost anyone is the unprecedented (that word again) recovery in the S&P 500 following what I like to call the “COVID collapse.”

The S&P’s journey from record high to bear market in just 22 days followed by another new all-time high, just 126 trading days later is well...you know. But is it sustainable or even reasonable? I’m not sure but I do hear Gordon Gecko from the movie Wall Street stating simply, “Greed is good!”

But I digress. Us money folks don’t ever have all the answers related to market and economic behavior, but we do have a few tools to assist us in our analysis along the way. These tools or valuation metrics are financial ratios that compare a stock price (or total market index, sector, subsector etc.) to earnings, book-value, sales, dividends, cash flow or many other metrics.

There are many valuation metrics and models, but I’d like to focus on arguably the most commonly used metric: the Price-to Earnings ratio or PE ratio. The PE is a number calculated from the price per share of the stock divided by the earnings per share of that stock for the last 12 months.

On Sept. 14 the S&P 500 closed at 3,383.54 with a PE of 29.09 of trailing 12 month combined earnings for the S&P 500. Simply put, it would take 29 years of the last twelve months (Sept. 15, 2019-Sept. 14, 2020) earnings added together to equal what the S&P 500 is trading for today. Sound expensive? It should, but it’s not that simple.

For example, during World War I in December of 1917 the lowest PE ever recorded was 5.31. Stocks were arguable very inexpensive but possibly for good reason. The threats to the global economy and freedom worried investors and they preferred precious metals, bonds, and cash. Conversely, in May of 2009 at the height of The Great Recession the PE was 123.79. This occurred amid a sharp economic slowdown caused by a collapse in real estate prices, failing mortgages, rapidly declining earnings and high unemployment.

The S&P 500 fell 57 percent from peak to trough but stocks never fully reflected the drop in earnings because investors thought that regulatory stimulus actions like TARP, historically low interest rates and other global central bank and regulatory actions would eventually turn things around for the global economy. Many weren’t willing to throw out their stock portfolio.

PE ratios alone do not accurately reflect fair value for individual stocks or the broader equity markets. For reference, the historic median PE of the S&P 500 is 15.82. Some common themes around using PE include faster growing companies enjoy higher PE’s, established companies with stable earnings enjoy mid-range PE’s and companies whose earnings are falling have lower or even collapsing PE’s. In conclusion, just because a company’s PE ratio is low and perceived to be cheap does not mean it’s a good buy. Nor does a high PE mean the company’s stock price is going to fall.

I realize I have not answered the question, ‘Is the market overvalued?’ I do hope I have given you tools to begin to make your own determinations on stock and equity market valuations going forward. In these crazy times the Steve Miller Band might advise you to, “Take the Money and Run,” but as a wealth management advisor I would remind you that a penny saved is one that holds some value so context and analysis are important as is a diversified portfolio coupled with a goal-oriented long-term plan. One thing I believe for certain is to get the most value out of life you should always strive to enjoy the ride!

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

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STRAWBERRY RUM JOB
PREMIUM RUM WITH STRAWBERRY & BANANA JUICE, COCONUT CREAM, & NATURAL FLAVORS ADDED
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PREMIUM VODKA, ORANGE WINE AND CREAM WITH NATURAL FLAVORS
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TEQUILA RITA
PREMIUM TEQUILA, VODKA & TRIPLE SEC WITH BANANA FLAVORS, CRUSHED COCONUTS, AND FRUIT
ALC 15% BY VOL • 200 ML

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PREMIUM VODKA WITH PEACH & LIME JUICE, NATURAL FLAVORS & LEMON LIME SWEETENER
ALC 15% BY VOL • 200 ML

15% Alc by Vol

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Riverstone Ranch

Riverstone is a first class sporting property set up to host small conferences and retreats. There is a recreational building, four, three bedroom guest homes and stocked fishing ponds on this 337± acre ranch, sited on the banks of the East and Main Boulder Rivers near McLeod, MT.



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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.

America's most important beers



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Immigrants wasted no time putting their brewing skills to use in America as early as the mid 1800s. Most important, most influential—however you choose to label them—they've had a profound impact on the modern fermented world.

You can find dozens of articles with opinions surrounding which brews make the list. Some I agree with and some I do not, but here's my list. A little giveaway—not every beer company on this list has to do with what's inside the bottle.

Yuengling. It's the oldest brewery in America. Imagine any product in which the original in an entire nation survives a civil war, a 13 year period where your product was illegal, ownership still remains in the family and continues going strong today as a quality product. Now that is a testament to perseverance. Every time I've traveled to the east coast, a Yuengling is my first brew; not a craft IPA.

Schlitz. Yeah, why is this beer on my list when its nickname is a word that I don't even feel comfortable printing in this article? Because it was the first to use brown glass, thereby shielding the delicate hops from harmful ultra-violet rays. Why any beer is still bottled in green or clear is beyond me.

Krueger's. This was the first beer to be canned. Cans had been introduced to other food products in the late 1900s, while canning beer wasn't successful until the American Can Company partnered with Krueger's. That canned beer received a 92 percent approval rating in its first test market in Richmond, VA.

Iron City Premium Lager. Sure, Krueger's canned first, but you needed a tool to open it. What we call a church key, simply because they look like old keys for wooden church doors, was required to access the goods inside Krueger's early cans, but Iron City perfected the pull tab. This still made for additional waste in the form of a metal tab that needed to be discarded, but it brought us one step closer to the modern pull tab.

National Bohemian. Let the festivities begin! National Bohemian was the first to package their cans or bottles in six-packs. This was the original "mass" packaging and it forever changed the way we purchased, not only beer, but virtually all commercial beverages.

Miller Lite. Miller brewed the first light beer. Though it took criticism for its inevitable lack of flavor due to its use of corn syrup as a fermentable ingredient (not to be confused with high fructose corn syrup) all of the competing brewing giants quickly followed suit.

Anchor Steam. Over a century before giddy American craft brewers were so obsessed with being original and thought provoking that they made Lucky Charms IPA, Anchor Steam created steam beer, or California common. A beer that was both ridiculously simple, yet presented a nuance to flavor previously undiscovered; brewing a top fermenting ale with bottom fermenting lager yeast.

Kingsbury Cream Ale. In the same spirit as Anchor Steam, Kingsbury Cream Ale is the other style of beer that, until this second renaissance, is indigenous to America. This light, crisp style with a soft palate was the invention of the Kingsbury brewery in 1933.

Honorable mentions:

Coors. Coors was not the first to use aluminum for its cans, which was much lighter and more affordable, but it was the first can that was recyclable.

Pabst Blue Ribbon. While it does share something in common with Belgium's Stella Artois—it has enjoyed an unrivaled resurgence after almost closing their doors for good—I just can't credit influence or historical importance to a beer that was suddenly "discovered" by a pack of Portland hipsters, thereby creating a cult following and subsequent price increase.

Next issue I'll share my list of more contemporary fermented nectars that I believe helped shape what and how we drink beer today.

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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American Life in Poetry:

COLUMN 807

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

I like poems that rhyme so smoothly and inconspicuously that when you get to the end and look back you're surprised to discover that you've just read a sonnet, this one by Eleanor Channell, who lives in California. This poem appeared in the journal Rattle.

Rivermouth

If you weren't here, I'd fear the surge of surf. I'd watch the moon wax and wane, feel the constant pulling of tides, the urge to drown myself in pity and booze, to explain my life as "Cape Disappointment" with hard luck spinning and winning souls like mine, a jetty of riprap pointing to my faults, the muck of my past too deep to dredge. But you say you see in me a strength that strengthens you, a heart that yearns for your heart and finds it, upsetting even the odds we thought we knew, renewing old hopes, confounding old conflicts. All I know is we're here, my love, our bed warm, your body a bulwark to ride out the storm.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Affirmative
- 5 Ancient Per. province
- 9 Citizen (abbr.)
- 12 Isle of Napoleon
- 13 Move (pref.)
- 14 Genetic letters
- 15 Wen (2 words)
- 17 Fiddler crab genus
- 18 Whitlow grass
- 19 Face
- 20 Blue-gray
- 23 Eur. Economic Community (abbr.)
- 24 Helm position
- 25 U.S. mountain range
- 30 Slugger's stat
- 31 Auspices
- 32 Express disapproval
- 33 Form into a chain

- 35 Variation (pref.)
- 36 Dutch commune
- 37 Pale yellow
- 38 Scarce
- 40 Elite
- 43 Amer. Dental Assn. (abbr.)
- 44 Quack
- 48 Boring tool
- 49 Line
- 50 Repair
- 51 Adjective-forming (suf.)
- 52 Title of Athena
- 53 Action (suf.)

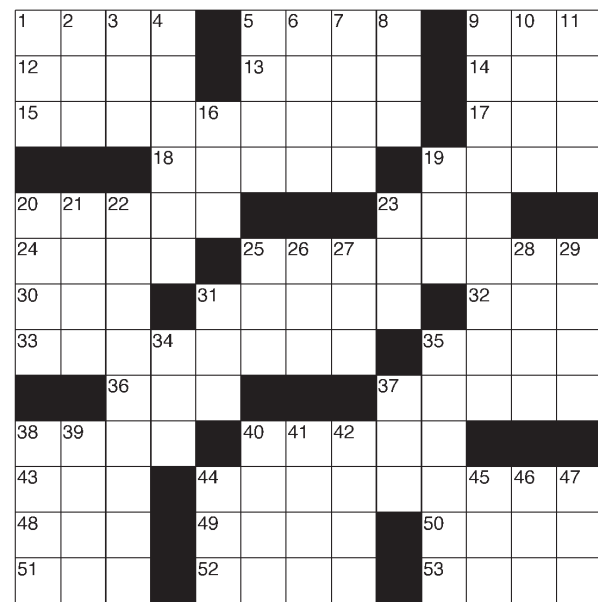
DOWN

- 1 Favorable vote
- 2 BPOE member
- 3 Mother of Hezekia
- 4 Feel
- 5 Ecuador (abbr.)
- 6 Arm

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

- 7 Wild ox
- 8 Sea (Fr.)
- 9 Tribulation
- 10 King Atahualpa
- 11 S. Afr. language
- 16 Three (Ital.)
- 19 Ten (pref.)
- 20 Grape refuse
- 21 It. island
- 22 Repeat
- 23 Curved letter
- 25 Council for Econ. Advisors (abbr.)
- 26 Agent (abbr.)
- 27 Equal
- 28 "Cavallera Rusticana" heroine
- 29 Appear
- 31 Donkey (Fr.)
- 34 Gelderland city
- 35 Fleet
- 37 Rom. first day of the month
- 38 Atomic physicists
- 39 Mine entrance
- 40 Bile (pref.)
- 41 Occasional
- 42 Mother of Brunhilde
- 44 Circuit Court of Appeals (abbr.)
- 45 Brown
- 46 Trajectory
- 47 Compass direction



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A129

Corner Quote

“You have to carry the fire.”

I don't know how to.”

Yes, you do.”

Is the fire real? The fire?”

Yes it is.”

Where is it? I don't know where it is.”

Yes you do. It's inside you. It always was there. I can see it.”

-Cormac McCarthy, “The Road”

BIG SKY BEATS



“I Left My Heart in San Francisco” Tony Bennett

“I Left My Heart in San Francisco,” one of the original anthems of the namesake city, was actually written in Brooklyn, New York. Written in the fall of 1953 with music by George Cory and lyrics by Douglass Cross, the song is about two amateur writers nostalgic for San Francisco after moving to New York, and is best known as a classic Tony Bennett song. In 2018, it was selected for preservation in the National Recording Registry by the Library of Congress as being “culturally, historically, or artistically significant.” And significant it remains: in 1984, the song was adopted by the City and County of San Francisco as one of its two official anthems and it is the song the San Francisco Giants play after each victory at their home field. On April 25, 2020, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic and the shelter-in-place orders, San Franciscan residents sang “I Left My Heart in San Francisco” in unison from their resident balconies as a tribute to the spirit of the city. The sing-along was lead virtually by none other than Tony Bennett himself.





EXPLORING MONTANA?

Hiking, biking, fishing or camping. Here's what you need to know before hitting the road.

1

KNOW LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES BEFORE ARRIVING AT YOUR DESTINATION

2

UNDERSTAND SOME SERVICES & DESTINATIONS MAY BE LIMITED

3

STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK



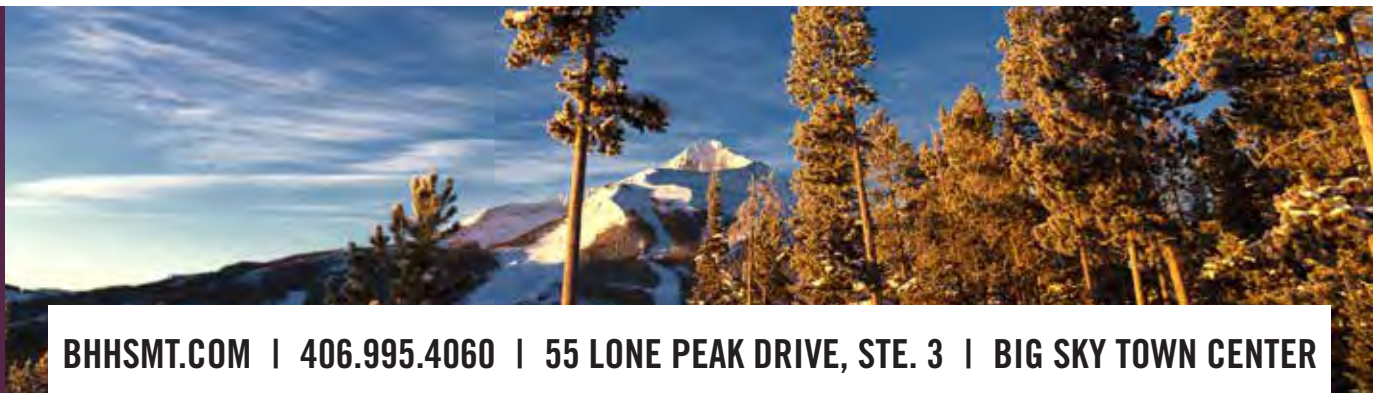
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MONTANA



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
Montana Properties



BHHSMT.COM | 406.995.4060 | 55 LONE PEAK DRIVE, STE. 3 | BIG SKY TOWN CENTER



34 ULERYS LAKES ROAD | \$3,850,000
#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.



30 BEEHIVE BASIN ROAD | \$2,800,000
#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.



61 CHIEF JOSEPH | \$1,750,000
#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.



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.



WHITE GRASS LOT 303 | \$595,000
#341305 | DON PILOTTE

Beautiful sunny southfacing property facing Lone Peak with great ski access. Excellent building envelope allowing terrific views of the surrounding area as well as 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
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