

ExploreTM

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

FREE

Big Sky

May 21 - June 3, 2021
Volume 12 // Issue #11

**Lone Peak grads conclude
hectic year**

*ALS survivor keeps
moving forward*

**O'Dell Creek conservation
brings new life**

A new 'Sanctuary' in Big Sky

**Mercedes Carroll shines
on stage**



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ON THE COVER:

Over the weekend of May 15 and 16, several members of Gallatin County Sheriff Search and Rescue participated in a two-day course on Swiftwater rescues taught by Missoula-based Whitewater Rescue Institute. Some of the things they learned included class IV and V rescues, stranded swimmers and extrication. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GALLATIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Lone Peak grads conclude hectic year

The Lone Peak High School senior class has made it through a hectic year filled with COVID-19 protocols, virtual learning and weekly surveillance testing. Nonetheless, 27 grads will walk on June 5 in the Bough-Dolan Athletic Center.

13

ALS survivor keeps moving forward

Five years from her ALS diagnosis, Andrea Lytle Peet is competing in marathons on a recumbent bike—50 marathons to be exact—and isn't letting a terminal illness stop her momentum. On Memorial Day weekend, she'll partake in Bozeman's Frank Newman Marathon, marking her 30th race.

14

O'Dell Creek conservation brings new life

The O'Dell Creek conservation project began in 2004, and has since created an important sanctuary for hundreds of new bird, plant, fish and wildlife species in the Madison Valley. The effort was celebrated by an art unveiling by legendary Montana painter, Monte Dolack.

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A new 'Sanctuary' in Big Sky

Amy Woodger opened Sanctuary, Big Sky's newest luxury spa, in April of 2021. The 20-year Big Sky resident became an esthetician in 2017 and offers a variety of facials and organic skincare products, providing a quick escape without traveling far.

35

Mercedes Caroll shines on stage

Musician Mercedes Caroll has been captivating small audiences and the virtual screen all year, but what she's really looking forward to in a post-pandemic world, is releasing her second album and interacting with her fans once more.

Opening Shot



A paraglider prepares to take flight from Baldy Peak in Bozeman on the evening of May 17. PHOTO BY KELLY MEEKER

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25 TOWN CENTER AVENUE | 145 TOWN CENTER AVENUE | 66 MOUNTAIN LOOP ROAD | 181 CLUBHOUSE FORK



Recently, trails have been temporarily closed due to bear activity. What do you do to stay bear aware while recreating in Big Sky?



Bailey Scerri | Big Sky, Montana

"Always stay in a group of six or more, or at least three. Always carry a can of bear spray—it's here at The Moose—also, kind of, if you see wildlife, don't get close to it, keep your distance. That's for all wildlife, not just bears."



David Richardson | Brooklyn, New York

"I would try not to go too deep into a trail alone. Always carry bear spray. Try not to pack food, but if I do, keep it sealed, like granola bars keep wrapped up in packages."



Jessica Berry | Big Sky, Montana

"Make sure that you're saying 'Hey Bear' and making lots of noise, try to stay in a group, don't hike alone and if you see something dead maybe don't go near it."



Wayne Young | Trenton, New Jersey

"We bought bear spray, outside of that, I talked to my friend who lives out here, and he said make noise and if you see a bear, try not to move too much and move the other way."

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BETTER TOGETHER



A biweekly District bulletin

Project Summary

Part 2 of 2

We invite you to participate in this year's application process by reviewing the requests below and reading project applications at ResortTax.org/funding. Then share public comment for the projects that are important to our community. The District's locally elected Board uses your feedback to help guide them in making strategic community investments. We live in the era of social media and technology and while it might seem logical to vocalize your opinion through social channels — it misses the mark to truly voice your opinion. We have made it easier than ever to make your voice heard.

Share public comment by emailing Info@ResortTax.org or by attending District meetings via Zoom.

District Events

Memorial Day
Office Closed



Application Review Meeting #1*
@ 5:30 pm

Application Review Meeting #2*
@ 5:30 pm



Board Meeting*
@ 9:00 am

*All meetings are open to the public and held via Zoom.

Visit ResortTax.org for more info.

Recreation & Conservation

Operations & Maintenance

Big Sky Community Organization
\$675,243

Operations

Gallatin River Task Force
\$76,201

Gallatin River Access Restoration

Gallatin River Task Force
\$46,377

Big Sky Water Conservation Program

Gallatin River Task Force
\$41,077

Board Replacement

Big Sky Skating & Hockey Association
\$39,750

Watershed Monitoring & Analysis

Gallatin River Task Force
\$38,008

Operating Funds Assistance

Big Sky Skating & Hockey Association
\$34,980

Middle Fork Restoration

Gallatin River Task Force
\$34,765

Education & Outreach

Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance
\$32,900

Buck Ridge/Doe Creek 2 Weekly Groomings

Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association
\$27,000

BSTRP-FY22

Big Sky Trails & Parks District
\$25,000

Parks & Trails Maintenance Equipment

Big Sky Community Organization
\$22,400

Environmental Stewardship

Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance
\$21,600

Administration

Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance
\$20,720

Big Sky Land Conservation

Montana Land Reliance
\$20,000

Tennis Court Resurfacing

Big Sky Community Organization
\$13,200

Recycling/Compost Service

Big Sky SNO, Inc
\$5,400

Equipment Storage Trailer

Big Sky Skating & Hockey Association
\$2,300

Glycol Tank

Big Sky Skating & Hockey Association
\$1,750

Infrastructure

Maintenance Facility

Big Sky Community Organization
\$267,339

Water Supply Resiliency

Gallatin River Task Force
\$240,567

Post Office Operations

Post Office LLC
\$131,000

Upper Gallatin Nutrient Reduction

Gallatin River Task Force
\$86,567

US-191 Wildlife &

Transportation Conflict Assessment

Center for Large Landscape Conservation
\$50,000

Equipment

Big Sky Ski Education Foundations
\$42,000

Project applications may be viewed at:

ResortTax.org/funding

Administered by the Big Sky Resort Area District, Resort Tax is a 4% tax on luxury goods & services.

OUR VISION: "Big Sky is BETTER TOGETHER as a result of wise investments, an engaged community, and the pursuit of excellence."

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Yellowstone implements self-driving shuttle program

EBS STAFF

MAMMOTH, WY – If you’ve visited Yellowstone National Park in the last few years, you’ll have noticed that sitting in lines of traffic is a daily occurrence. In an effort to try and ease congestion, the park is launching a new pilot shuttle program starting May of 2021. The shuttles, by a company called BEEP Inc., utilize low-speed, electric, automated-vehicle shuttle technology and each vehicle will fit six visitors at a time. They will make their rounds in the Moran and Washburn Hotel area as well as Upper and Middle campgrounds, shuttling riders to neighboring visitors’ centers. If the pilot program is successful, the park will consider using this service permanently to improve the experience of the park.

Routes are as follows:

May 24–July 12

Visitor Services, Moran Lodge, Washburn Lodge

7:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

12:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

July 14–August 31

Visitor Services, Amphitheater & Campground Services, Middle

Campground, Upper Campground

7:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

The National Park Service asserts that visitor and employee safety, as well as overall safe vehicle operation, is paramount. Each shuttle will have its own on-board attendant who will monitor safety and can take over the shuttle operation at any time. NPS and Beep will initiate several weeks of testing before and a Risk Management Plan is in place to train park staff and first responders to address issues that arise during the pilot program.

New CEO takes helm of Chamber, Visit Big Sky

BIG SKY CHAMBER

BIG SKY – The Big Sky community will welcome Brad Niva as the new CEO of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and Visit Big Sky on June 1. Niva hails from southern Oregon and brings an extensive background in the outdoor and tourism industry. Most recently, Niva served as the Executive Director of the visitor’s association Travel Southern Oregon.

Niva, who lived in Bend, Oregon, for 20 years, has seen and understands the impact that tourists, as well as locals, can have on outdoor spaces.

“My goal is to support Big Sky in developing a destination management plan and make sure the Big Sky community has a robust tourism economy for years to come,” he said.

Niva looks forward to supporting the Big Sky Chamber and serving the businesses that make up the community through a number of initiatives. He and his family are looking forward to making Montana their home.

Health Officer rescinds county mask rule

GALLATIN CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOZEMAN – Based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued yesterday, and on improving epidemiology of our COVID-19 outbreak in Gallatin County, Health Officer Matt Kelley is rescinding the local Health Officer order related to face coverings, effective May 14. This decision is based on a number of factors:

- New CDC guidance issued on May 13 stating that people who are fully vaccinated (meaning two weeks past their final shot) no longer need to wear masks in many settings.
- That the epidemiology in Gallatin County has improved significantly in recent weeks, including a reduction in cases, hospitalizations, and deaths; adequate capacity at the hospital to deal with those who need care; timely turnaround within our COVID-19 testing system; decreasing test positivity rates among those tested; and adequate capacity to conduct contact tracing for cases that are identified.
- We now have enough vaccines and enough resources to dispense the vaccine to a degree that everyone 16 and older in Gallatin County has had the opportunity to get the vaccine if they want to.

While the Board of Health rule technically remains in place until its May 27 expiration, Kelley said that there will be no enforcement of that rule. Businesses and organizations still have the authority and right to make decisions on requiring masks. CDC continues to recommend prevention measures for unvaccinated people, including wearing a mask and social distancing, Kelley said.

School Board expands graduation capacity

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – At a May 18 Big Sky School District Board meeting, the board voted to increase Lone Peak High School’s graduation capacity and allow each senior 10 guests. Previously, in a May 5 meeting, the board had set capacity at 170 guests in the gym but noted that number would be flexible as the situation evolved.

Graduation will take place on June 5 in the LPHS gym with an attendance of about 300 guests. The plan is to arrange 27 pods of ten chairs in the space for each student and their guests.

The board also voted to maintain the requirement for all students, staff and visitors to wear masks while on school property until June 11. Gallatin City-County Health Officer Matt Kelley lifted the county-wide mask mandate on May 14 following leveling COVID-19 cases and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Seventh Annual Harbor’s Hero Run

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – The seventh annual Harbor’s Hero Run will take place on Saturday, May 22, at the Big Sky Community Park. Harbor’s Hero Run is a 5K color run hosted by the Lone Peak chapter of the National Honor Society in memory of Harbor deWaard. The run will feature color stations where volunteers will throw color powders on passing runners. This year, the run benefits Big Sky Women in Action and the Harbor deWaard Scholarship Fund offered through WIA.

To take full advantage of the available color stations, make sure to walk, run or bike the official 5k route between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Otherwise, participants are encouraged to go out for a run on their own and make sure to share any photos on Instagram with the hashtag #harborsherorun. Visit [sites.google.com/bssd72.org/harborsherorun/home](https://www.google.com/bssd72.org/harborsherorun/home) for more information on the run.

Resort tax looks to allocation, reflects on COVID

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY – As the Big Sky Resort Area District board and staff prepare for the annual allocation cycle, a new report shared at the board’s May 12 meeting revealed net gains for 2020 resort tax collections in Big Sky across all industries.

The report, prepared by Bozeman-based Northern Rocky Mountain Economic Development District, sought to describe the economic impact of COVID-19 on Big Sky industries, which the study parsed into 13 sectors. Jackie Haines, the economic development district’s executive director, shared key findings from the report at the meeting.

All industries in Big Sky showed net gains in both sales and resort tax collections, a finding the development district did expect to see, according to Haines. The district prepared a similar report to analyze resort tax collections in West Yellowstone, which yielded different results. “Big Sky saw no lapses, which is not the case in West Yellowstone,” Haines said in an interview after the meeting. “That demonstrates that the economies are different, and the seasonality of resort tax collections are different.”

In the meeting, Haines also said the report revealed an increase in sales revenue in Big Sky between 2019-2020 that resulted in direct and indirect economic impacts of nearly \$54 million. Haines described the direct impact as the value of a dollar when it’s first spent, and the indirect impact as the economic activity that the direct impact results in as it circulates throughout the community. Of that \$54 million, approximately \$32 million stayed in the community.

The report also found that the increase in sales directly impacted 635 jobs, resulting in more than \$23,000 in impact per job.

“We’re really excited to have a partner to work with here to evaluate the impacts of COVID on our local economy,” said BSRAD Executive Director Daniel Bierschwale in a May 13 interview. “And we will continue to find opportunities to gain a deeper understanding of our local economy and how that ties into the overall resort area.”

The board is currently reviewing applications for 49 projects proposed by 29 organizations which total \$9.2 million in requests. Resort tax collection amounts available to be awarded are not yet known.

The resort tax district is encouraging the public to review applications alongside the board leading up to the formal application review meetings, and to provide public comment. They’re advising public comment to be specific to a project as opposed to offering general support for an organization. The application review meetings will be held on June 7 and 10 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

“I believe having constructive public comment on resort tax funded projects is important because they are public tax dollars at work,” said board Vice President Sarah Blechta. “To make a fiscally responsible decision, it’s important that the outcomes from awarding funds support community needs. Including the community is critical for the success of these projects and the district as a whole.”

The board also discussed a reserve funds strategy composed by a subcommittee made up of Bierschwale and board members Grace Young and Blechta. No action was taken on this item.



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Congratulations LPHS Class of 2021

EBS STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL BUSSI

BIG SKY – Lone Peak High School’s 2021 graduating class not only underwent the usual challenges of exams, awkward dances and justifying their powder flu; they’ve completed their high school careers during a global pandemic. After finishing their junior year remotely, this year’s LPHS seniors made it through a hectic year that ended with everyone back to school entirely in person on Feb. 15.

From zooming in to classes, seeing only a few of their peers in person and swabbing their noses weekly, LPHS students persevered through a difficult year.

“I am incredibly proud of the class of 2021,” said Dr. Marlo Mitchem, principal of LPHS, in an email to EBS. “They have had to adapt to online school, the hybrid model, and then back to 100 percent—all while applying to colleges and universities and preparing for the next chapter of their lives. The past 14 months have been anything but normal. Through it all, they have stayed positive and focused on their goals. I will always remember the class of 2021 for their kindness and their grit, and I am looking forward to celebrating their accomplishments at the LPHS graduation!”

The 27 seniors have a wide range of plans for their futures including studying things like business, architecture and engineering in places like Washington, California and Vermont. Some of them shared their plans with EBS.

“I look forward to this next step,” said senior Nadia Benjdid, who will attend Montana State University in the fall. “I’m grateful for all the support and encouragement throughout my high school experience.”

Several students expressed excitement for joining a new community, but they won’t forget the one they’ve come from. “I would like to thank the entire community of Big Sky for supporting me throughout my 13 years at Ophir and Lone Peak,” said senior Michael Romney, who will attend Duke University in the fall.

Big Sky School District Superintendent Dustin Shipman also commended the seniors for the way they handled the unusual year with “grace, patience and humor.”

“All I can say is Bravo!” he said in an email to EBS.

LPHS graduation will take place on Saturday, June 5, in the Bough Dolan Athletic Center.



Nadia Benjdid



Ruth Blodgett



Michael Botha



Nathan Browne



Dolan Cain



Hannah Dreisbach



Joseph Edwards



Amelia Fischer



Reilly Germain



Chloe Hammond



Ivy Hicks



Miles Hoover



Evan Iskenderian



Pierce King



Jackson Lang



Della Levine



Kolton Maus



Lylianne McCarthy



Brooke Meredith



Grace Redmon



Michael Romney



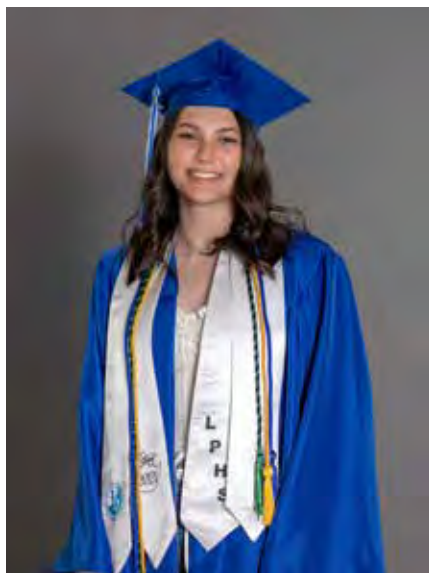
Ashton Russell



Nolan Schumacher



Delaney Smith



Madison Strauss



Sara Wilson



Sayra Yaqoob

Give Big Gallatin Valley reaches new heights

The annual nonprofit event brought in record-breaking donations

BY MIRA BRODY

GALLATIN COUNTY – Give Big Gallatin Valley reached a new record this year, showing just how generous the community we live in is. Give Big is an annual event spanning 24-hours in which the Gallatin Valley and surrounding communities rally to support their participating nonprofits. Put on by the One Valley Community Foundation and sponsored by the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation, the event this year took place virtually from 6 p.m. Thursday, May 6 through 6 p.m. Friday, May 7.

This year, donations totaled \$2,635,802 supporting 210 different organizations. This is an \$835,000 increase from last year. Since the Give Big tradition began seven years ago, the event has raised over \$8.4 million for nonprofits located in or serving Gallatin Valley.

“We are astounded by the generosity of the entire community this year,” said Jill Ellwood, Give Big’s program and relations manager. “Community members really stepped up to support the entire nonprofit sector. And the nonprofits did an amazing job at taking ownership of the initiative and promoting it. It was amazing to be a part of it.”

According to data provided by Ellwood, the top categories that people donated to this year were: health and wellness, education, youth, and arts and culture.

“This year we received \$38,580 from 84 donors,” said China Reeves, event coordinator for the Arts Council of Big Sky. “Both of these numbers surpassed last year and we’re so grateful to the community for coming together to support Give Big, and us, for a record-breaking year!”

While nonprofits usually partner with local businesses to host treadmill contests, photo booths and other in-person ways to rally the community, the last two years it has been virtual due to the pandemic. It’s virtual platform, however, hasn’t dampened the community’s ability to give.

“This year, donations through Give Big were critical to our nonprofits that have seen an increase in demands on their services due to COVID-19 and the tremendous growth of our region,” said Bridget Wilkinson, executive director of the One Valley Community Foundation, in a press release.

Give Big also provides prizes to help spur momentum and further help participating nonprofits during the 24-hour period. In total, over \$20,000 worth of prizes were awarded to nonprofits throughout the day to maximize the impact of each donation. We Are HER, a nonprofit devoted to helping survivors of domestic abuse, received a Kickoff Prize and a Newcomer Award—a surprise that founder Stevie Croisant says will help fund their entire year’s programming.

Another way organizations could raise more funds was by partnering with matching donors. The Bozeman Ice Festival, for example, matched donations made to Friends of Hyalite up to \$2,500, and the Big Sky Youth Empowerment Board of Directors matched donations to the nonprofit up to \$20,000. BSYE programs are aimed to help 8th through 12th graders build stronger foundations, cultivate meaningful relationships and friendships and discover their potential.

Joe Schadt, BYEP’s marketing and communications manager, says their Give Big efforts rallied 134 donors for a total of \$47,365 in donations.

“We still had an awesome Give Big turnout and are so grateful for everyone who contributed,” Schadt said.

GIVE BIG GALLATIN VALLEY BY THE NUMBERS

Where your donations went

2021 - Raised

\$2.6 M



2020 - Raised

\$1.8 M



Give Big
has raised
\$8.4 M
over seven years

Over **6,200**
donors contributed

210 organizations
participated

Over **59,000** donations
processed, making it the
largest giving day in the
state of Montana!

Big Sky Fire Department preps for wildfire season

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

BIG SKY – In order to remain up to date with their wildland fire training, firefighters must be able to complete a rigorous athletic task: cover three miles in 45 minutes with 45 pounds on their backs. Although this might sound simple, it becomes extremely important when they are deployed in the wilderness trying to navigate uneven terrain with heavy loads of supplies.

On the sunny morning of May 12, four members of the Big Sky Fire Department's shift C crew successfully completed their pack tests and a fire shelter deployment test, preparing them for the upcoming fire season.

In addition to an increased focus on training, the Big Sky Fire Department will receive two new wildland fire engines in June, according to Deputy Fire Chief Dustin Tetrault. The new engines can hold 500 gallons of water each, compared to the 250 gallons that the department's current engine holds.

Tetrault emphasized that there will be an elevated fire risk this summer and he is using his background in wildland fires to train up the Big Sky crews.

Prior to the pack test and shelter training, BSFD went out on prescribed burn training with the Forest Service to clear out some sage flats ahead of this summer. Coming up on May 20, BSFD will complete chainsaw training as part of their continuing wildland firefighting education.



Firefighters at the Big Sky Fire Department complete yearly wildland fire training in anticipation of the approaching fire season. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER

"We are really formalizing our team and getting the guys trained," Tetrault said.

He contextualized the importance of wildland fire training through the frequency of different types of calls. According to Tetrault, the most common call BSFD receives is an Emergency Medical Service call, second is a fire alarm call, but the third most frequent call that they receive is wildland fires.

Mark Loomis, captain of the C shift, shared a standard daily routine which, in addition to meetings, equipment checks, physical fitness and responding to calls, includes daily training.

Loomis says they feel pretty good about being prepared for this summer and he and his crew will be doing continuing education throughout the summer.

The ability of the fire department to focus on wildland fire training and get the crews dialed is a welcome change, according to Tetrault. He noted that this year is the 50th anniversary of the Big Sky Fire Department, but that it was staffed entirely by volunteers until the early 2000s. Since the shift from volunteers to fulltime staff, the department has become a career station keeping the Big Sky community safe and responding to mutual aid calls around the state and even the wider mountain west.

"Let's talk about wildfire preparedness," Loomis said. "Everybody that lives here can do the best they can to mitigate their property. ... If everybody can do just a little part of [mitigation] it has a huge impact on what happens in the big picture."

Water and sewer passes bond resolution, approves permits

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY – At a May 18 board meeting, the Big Sky County Water and Sewer Board completed several action items. A number of ongoing projects advanced, including the long-awaited Water Resource Recovery Facility expansion.

A pair of unanimously passed resolutions finalized the financing for the WRRF, and permission was granted to allow project engineer Scott Buecker to execute a notice to proceed following a construction contract award given to the RSCI Group out of Boise.

The first board resolution authorized the nearly \$43 million bond agreement the Big Sky County Water and Sewer District has entered into with First Security Bank. According to the district's general manager, Ron Edwards, this was a big step since the bank can now move forward with the bond sales.

"This is monumental for the bank as well as the district," said Tim Kent, president of First Security's Big Sky branch, who was in attendance.

The second resolution authorized a loan from the State Revolving Fund, a loan program established by the Montana Legislature for water pollution control projects. While the SRF could not fund the entire project, the district secured a \$1.4 million loan from the fund, \$350,000 of which is forgivable. Edwards said this loan will be used to recover engineering costs for the WRRF. "We spent a lot of money in design on this plan," Edwards said in an interview with EBS after the meeting.

The board also approved the fiscal year 2021-22 budget proposed by the budget subcommittee, notably including costs for the WRRF sewer plant expansion upgrade, as well as three new employees: two new sewer operators for the full year and a new administrative employee budgeted for half the year.

In addition to the budget, the district held its first reading of the draft rate ordinance. The district is proposing an increase of 5 percent across all rates for water and sewer charges. The second hearing for the rate increase will take place at a special board meeting on June 1, where the board will vote on the ordinance.

The board also passed an ordinance releasing an additional 300 Single Family Equivalents for connection permits. Permits requesting new SFEs are currently backlogged by more than 25 SFEs, so this ordinance will allow for permits on hold to access SFEs as well as new requests to be fulfilled.

The ongoing process of incorporating the future workforce housing project, a partnership between the Big Sky Community Housing Trust, in the water and sewer district saw updates during this meeting. The water and sewer board will move forward with writing an ordinance that would annex the property, which includes the former American Bank building, an extent land extending eastward into the district. The board also approved a connection permit for one of the lots that will become Lone Mountain Land Company's Powderlight Employee Housing.

At ground zero

As pandemic rages in Nepal, local dentist looks to return to Montana

BY BELLA BUTLER

KATHMANDU, NEPAL – Peter Schmieding, a Bozeman local who operates a dental practice in Big Sky and Ennis, sits on the seventh-floor terrace of Hotel Tibet in Kathmandu, Nepal, with his 19-year-old daughter, Maya Hyolmo. The early morning is painting the city smog with its sunrise palette, and the golden spire of the Boudha Stupa, a famous Buddhist temple, rises just higher than the mountainous silhouette in the background.

Schmieding has been coming to Nepal for decades to support Tsering's Fund, a nonprofit he oversees in the south Asian country, but he isn't supposed to be there now. While cases of COVID-19 are diminishing daily in Schmieding's hometown where vaccinations are widely available, Nepal and neighboring India are in the violent clutch of the pandemic.

NBC reported on May 18 that the positivity rate in Nepal is 45 percent with 9,000 new cases emerging daily, a 3,000-percent increase from last month.

Schmieding is stuck at ground zero.

"Nepal has a pretty dilapidated medical system that is easily overwhelmed in the best of times, and this latest surge of COVID has just overwhelmed the medical system completely to the point where hospitals aren't taking new patients, there's a terrible lack of oxygen and respirators and ventilators," Schmieding told EBS Editor-in-Chief Joe O'Connor during a May 17 interview.

On April 30, the Kathmandu Post reported a statement from Nepal's Ministry of Health, who said that the health system is "not able to cope" with the crisis and that hospital beds cannot be made available. "We give up." That's what could be summed up from what the Ministry of Health said on Friday through a statement," Arjun Poudel wrote for the Post.

Schmieding, who is fully vaccinated, was scheduled to return home to Bozeman on May 7, but Nepal locked down Kathmandu on April 26 effectively closing the international airport. "We just had to hunker down and be part of the lockdown and try to do what work we could based out of our hotel here and try and get out as soon as we could," Schmieding said.

Schmieding started Tsering's Fund in 2006 with his wife, Karen Fellerhoff Schmieding, and their Nepal-based friend, Tsering Dolkar Lama. The fund connects underprivileged children, young women and families in Nepal with private donations to support education, medical care and basic living assistance.

In 2019, Tsering's Fund and local filmmaker Wes Overvold released "Namaste Ramila," a 13-minute documentary that examines education as salvation from sex trafficking through the life of Ramila Biswakarma and other Nepali girls.

Tsering's Fund is currently working on a second documentary exploring the life of Hyolmo, who Schmieding adopted from Nepal two years ago. Schmieding traveled to Nepal most recently to visit Hyolmo, who is now a nursing student in Kathmandu, and to do some groundwork for the upcoming film.



Maya Hyolmo, who grew up in rural northern Nepal, recreates the five-hour trek to school she endured as a child with her new adopted father and the president of the nonprofit Tsering's Fund, Pete Schmieding. Schmieding traveled to Nepal in April to work on a documentary the fund is producing about Hyolmo before getting stuck when the country locked down due to a COVID-19 outbreak. PHOTO COURTESY OF PETE SCHMIEDING

Hyolmo grew up in Helambu in rural northern Nepal and was raised by her grandmother after her parents died when she was 4, according to Schmieding.

"When I learned that she had walked four to five hours a day to go to school each day, six days a week, with an elevation change of 3,000 feet, I just had to see it to believe it," Schmieding said.

Hyolmo and Schmieding made a trip to Helambu before Kathmandu locked down so Schmieding could see firsthand what the daily trek was like. "It was just astounding," Schmieding said.

This adversity is emblematic of the "headwinds" many Nepali children face, according to Schmieding. "I thought it would be worth chronicling in the documentary," he said.

Aside from a few staff members, Schmieding reported in a follow-up interview that he is now the only guest at Hotel Tibet International, which is owned by Dolkar Lama. His two daughters, Hyolmo and Lhakpa Sherpa, currently live in Kathmandu and have stayed with him when they're not studying. Like Schmieding, Sherpa is fully vaccinated, but Hyolmo is not. Nepal suspended its vaccination program in April after running out of doses.

The variant currently bleeding into Nepal from India is called B.1.617 and is believed to be more transmissible and potentially resistant to some treatments. Schmieding is worried about Hyolmo but believes if she gets sick, he'll be able to get her treatment in a hospital. For other Nepali people without money, though, Schmieding says they'd likely be denied oxygen and sent home to fend for themselves.

According to Schmieding, rural villages like where Hyolmo is from are more removed from the outbreaks but are not entirely safe.

"COVID has found its way into the villages but a lot of the villages are so remote with so very few people traveling from place to place...that it's hard to know the extent," he said, adding that the reporting in these areas is spotty and the medical care inconsistent. "Since there's no medical care and very little testing, people either get ill and recover or get ill and don't recover."

The U.S. embassy recently arranged for Schmieding and other U.S. citizens to fly out on May 25 with Qatar Airways. He says it's difficult to leave.

"When you get home, you ... think about the people still suffering here, because it's a lot different back in America where if you go to the hospital you will assume that you'll get oxygen therapy if you need it, he said. "You'll actually be fed if you're admitted to the hospital."

Schmieding suggested one way to help Nepal is by pressuring the U.S. government to provide aid like oxygen or vaccines. He also said Tsering's Fund can be a conduit of relief through its work supporting orphanages, education for young girls and, recently, feeding the canine population that lives on the street.

Schmieding will return to his home, his dental practices and clients, leaving behind one mountainous landscape in peril for another in a much more stable state.



The children at the Happy Homes Orphanage just outside of Kathmandu line up outside their facility. Tsering's Fund plans to bring improvements to the orphanage this year by drilling a water well, providing consistent food supplies and providing four full time teachers. PHOTO COURTESY OF PETE SCHMIEDING

A journey through 50 marathons in 50 states

ALS survivor Andrea Lytle Peet refuses to stop moving

BY MIRA BRODY

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA – Andrea Lytle Peet has six swallows tattooed on her forearm, one for each year she's lived since being diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, at the age of 33. Her most recent swallow has a mask on—symbolic of the pandemic year that was 2020—and now, at 39-years-old, she's planning to get her seventh bird this year in Spokane, Washington, where she'll compete in her 28th recumbent bike marathon. Her goal is to cover her entire arm.

"Swallows are a symbol of hope because they would be the first birds that sailors would see to know that they were close to home," Lytle Peet said while showing her tattoos over a Zoom call with EBS in early May.

On Memorial Day weekend, she will complete Big Sky Wind Drinkers' Frank Newman Marathon, a route that traverses Bridger Canyon, the entirety of Bozeman Pass and finishes at Sacajawea Park in Livingston. It'll be her 30th of 50 marathons—each in a different state—a project she started in 2019 with a twofold purpose: to raise money and awareness for ALS, and to express her refusal to sit and let the disease determine her fate.

"Eventually I was tired of waiting around for this disease to kill me, I just wanted to do whatever I wanted," said Lytle Peet. "When I reached five years [since being diagnosed] in 2019, I was like, 'I want to do something.' The biggest thing that I could think of was a marathon in every state. Only 20 percent who have ALS have three to five years, so that was a really big milestone."

While biking 50 marathons may sound like a steep undertaking, Lytle Peet can complete up to three marathons a week on her recumbent bike—on which the rider lays back and pedals with their arms—and she averages a 3:30 to 4:15 marathon time. Although she and her husband, David Peet, prefer to fly, they've been taking advantage of travel limitations placed by the pandemic by seeing more of the country from their Subaru.

ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, causes nerve damage and a weakness of muscles, reducing motor functionality over time. There is no known cure, but some medications can slow progress or lessen symptoms. Lytle Peet was diagnosed in 2014 after she began experiencing tremors and slurred speech, right around the time she and her husband had just bought a house and were thinking of starting a family. In the span of eight months, she went from competing in triathlons and a half Iron Man to walking with a cane. Because she is considered a "slow progressor," however, she does not qualify for research trials—a frustrating irony that many ALS patients face, like Eric Stevens.

Stevens, alongside his wife, Amanda Stevens, and his family and friends, is fighting his own battle against ALS with his foundation, Axe ALS. Stevens, an accomplished athlete and firefighter, was diagnosed at 29, just weeks after his and Amanda's wedding.



Andrea cherishes every one of her metals, and when asked what her favorite race is, she says, "all of them." PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TEAM DREA FOUNDATION

"I think it's incredible," said Stevens. "You're already battling such a devastating disease and not letting it get you down or letting ALS define you or hold you back. It's also bringing more awareness to the cause. It's inspiring."

Axe ALS's mission is to challenge Congress and the Federal Drug Administration so patients can gain access to possibly life-saving drugs, currently stuck in clinical trials that very few patients have access to.

"Our fight right now is to try and get a congressional hearing to try and get Congress and the FDA to figure out what's wrong here," said Amanda. "I feel like with ALS the bar is set so high. With Andrea and Eric, their diseases are so different yet we hold ALS to this one-size-fits-all disease."

Both Lytle Peet and the Stevens' say that despite the frustrations, there is power in hope.

"It's not just about a cure," said Eric. "It's about moving forward."

Moving forward is actually the focal point of Lytle Peet's journey and documented in the film "Go On Be Brave."

The documentary also highlights Lytle Peet's nonprofit, the Team Drea Foundation, which has so far raised more than \$600,000 for ALS research. The foundation sends most donations to a research lab called ALS TDI out of Massachusetts. Lytle Peet started Team Drea in 2015 not only to raise money, but also to inspire others to push themselves out of their comfort zones and to admire what our bodies can do.

"It's just an appreciation for the human body, something that ALS takes away," Lytle Peet said. "I just want people to appreciate that [fitness] is more about the journey than losing five pounds. I want to expose more people to ALS and let people know that we're making progress ... [a cure] may not come in my lifetime, but we are now making progress."

Although she's an advocate for athleticism, over the years doctors have wavered on whether or not it further aggravates ALS symptoms. But despite this, Lytle Peet remains active and in high spirits.

"The most frustrating thing about my diagnosis process is that in the beginning I was told not to exercise," she said. "So I went from the strongest I've ever been, to not doing anything, so I lost all of the muscle. Now I am finding that I can buy that back if I'm slow and deliberate about it."

One thing she doesn't allow for is for anyone to push her bike.

"It's about independence," Lytle Peet said. The Davidson College alumni worked as a city planner before her diagnosis and now runs the day-to-day operations of the Team Drea Foundation. "It's been hard for me to accept help, and accept that I can't do the things that I want to do, but I always come back to the gratitude for what I can do."

Her 50th marathon, the grand finale, will be the Prince of Whales Island Marathon in Alaska on Memorial Day weekend of 2022, a year after she pedals through Montana. The small community of about 5,000 has been following her journey and has invited her to speak as a guest at the local schools. Her neurologist, Dr. Richard Bedlack of the Duke University ALS Clinic, will be present. Dr. Bedlack is known not only for his research in ALS, but also his flashy suits, and is known by many as the "rock star neurologist."

"Andrea's always wanted to go to Alaska, it's always been on the bucket list for her and her husband," said Shaw Hipsher, a friend of Lytle Peet's and a volunteer for the Team Drea Foundation. "We think of Alaska as just so wild, as this frontier for our nation and to me this aligns with this medical frontier that Andrea is pushing for."

Lytle Peet says although her 50 marathons project started out as a goal, it has been the journey itself that has been most fulfilling. With each race, she learns something more about herself and her limitations, she says, and she feels that same energy from the other racers around her.

On May 29, Lytle Peet will be cresting the hill that is Bozeman Pass, the Bridger, Gallatin, Madison and Absaroka mountain ranges surrounding her as she ascends into Livingston to complete the 30th marathon in her journey.

Whether it's checking off races or adding sparrows to her arm, she'll continue checking off her milestones, advocating for other families battling ALS, and encouraging everyone to reach their potential.



Andrea Lytle Peet was sick of waiting around for ALS to kill her, so she set out on an ambitious goal—to complete 50 marathons in 50 states. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TEAM DREA FOUNDATION

A long healing in Madison Valley

O'Dell Creek project reverses years of damage, restores wetland habitat

BY MIRA BRODY

"A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they know they shall never sit"
— ancient Greek proverb

ENNIS – Famed Montana landscape artist Monte Dolack stands in front of a breathtaking framed piece featuring a sweeping wetland, crane, geese, elk, antelope and an imposing silhouette of Sphinx Mountain in the background. As he presents the piece, titled "Restoring Our Waters," to a small audience in a field overlooking a thriving wetland, he explains that it took him multiple iterations to get the landscape and its inhabitants right—layers of previous versions are visible underneath the finished product. It's fitting, because the landscape that it depicts, the one behind him in the Madison Valley during the art unveiling on May 6, is a conservation project that took many decades to become the success it is today.

The O'Dell Creek fish, wildlife and plant restoration project began in 2004 to repair damage to the area from the 1950s caused by uninformed landowners who used the natural flowing streams for farming irrigation.

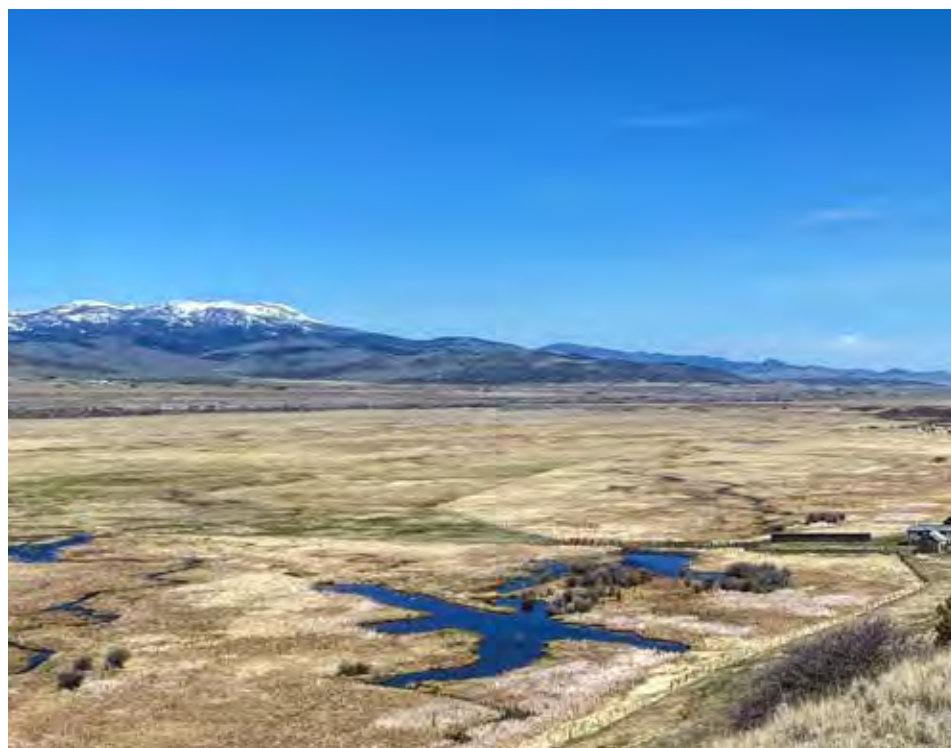
Since the project began in 2004, 15 miles of creek channel have been restored to their original snake-like pattern and 700 acres of wetlands created. The ecosystem is vital to Montana's native species of fish, birds, plant life and wildlife. When the project began, only 29 species of bird lived there. Now, there are 116 different bird species that thrive, including 18 Montana species of concern—a term Fish Wildlife and Parks uses to designate flora or fauna that need imminent conservation action. The project was made possible through a partnership between Jeff Laszlo, managing partner and fourth generation rancher of Granger Ranches LP, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Northwestern Energy.

"The interesting thing about the partnership is that it included people who were fisheries based, people who were wildlife based, people who were migratory bird based, and they all brought their interests and specialties to this so that as we worked we considered all the things that were going to be using this area," says Laszlo, who is chairman of the Western Landowners Alliance, a photographer and avid conservationist.

The Laszlos and Grangers have owned Granger Ranches since 1936. "As a result we've improved water quality ... we've seen a huge increase in migratory birds, particularly waterfowl species, and the temperatures have come down, the fisheries have improved, all that water is flowing into the Madison River for all of its usages including energy ... recreation, agriculture and probably municipal uses. It's a project that has multiple layers."

Since 2000, Northwestern Energy has funded 63 projects at O'Dell Creek and invested \$3.7 million with the help of partner contributions. The project is now in its 18th stage of ongoing restoration—Laszlo says he's unsure how many phases will complete the project but he estimates it could go on for another decade. In 2018, the three partners behind the O'Dell project received the Society for Ecological Restoration's Northwest Restoration Project of the Year Award, an award that recognizes the important wildlife habitats that have thrived following restoration projects.

As a way to celebrate the milestone and raise money for the Madison Valley community, Northwestern Energy commissioned "Restoring Our Waters," which was unveiled on a beautiful sunny morning to the tune of hundreds of wild bird calls, and a nearby moose—wild residents that prove the project's success.



The O'Dell Creek fish, wildlife and plant restoration project began in 2004 to repair damage that occurred in the area in the 1950s. Since then, 15 miles of creek channel have been restored. PHOTO BY MIRA BRODY



NorthWestern Energy commissioned famed Montana artist Monte Dolack to paint "Restoring Our Waters," which was unveiled on a beautiful sunny morning to the tune of hundreds of wild bird calls. PHOTO BY MIRA BRODY

"Monte, the work captures this place, captures what Jeff and others are doing, and will help raise good money, but will also help tell the story very broadly," said NorthWestern Energy CEO Robert Rowe during the unveiling.

"Restoring Our Waters" will tour its way throughout the region first at the Ennis Chamber of Commerce to welcome tourists for the summer fishing season, then it will make its way over the Madison Range to a gallery in the Big Sky Town Center. It is \$25 for an unsigned print, \$75 for a signed print and the money goes toward a nonprofit called Gardens, Resources, Outdoors, Wildlife and Watersheds, or GROWW, and Good Thymes Camp, a youth program made possible by Madison Farm to Fork, the Madison Conservation District and the Madison School District. The camp engages local area youth in outdoor activities tied to farming and healthy ecosystem stewardship.

"The premise really of GROWW is that if our students learn about agriculture, soils, growing food, water quality and wildlife in a hands-on way, they're going to be the future stewards of our land," said Janet Bean-Dochnahl, vice president of Madison Valley Farm to Fork. "So it is a good fit with your program," she addressed the crowd.

Dolack was born and raised in Montana, studied art at Montana State University and University of Montana and has spent a lifetime documenting the state's breathtaking landscapes and wildlife with his brushes and acrylic paint ever since. He is known for his "Invader Series," which explores our relationship with our surrounding environment, and is featured in museums across the world. In 2000 he was named by the Missoulian and The Montana Century as one of the 100 most influential Montanans of the twentieth century. He is also the recipient of the Fine Arts Alumni award from UM and the 2008 Montana Governors Award for the Arts.

"That's been one of the most rewarding things about my work, doing commissioned pieces around Montana—the learning experience is wonderful," said Dolack, who says he spent many hours with Laszlo out in the landscape, learning about it from the man who spent so much of his life here. "It's like I'm constantly learning something new and I'm trying to reveal that in a visual format."

Dolack says his grandfather and father were both miners, unaware of the impact their career paths had on the land, like many other ancestors before. The beauty of this project, he says, is that it came to be by working together to recognize those devastating mistakes of the past; collaborators worked to fix the problem instead of pointing fingers.

"I'm proud to be bringing what I can to this project so there's at least a visual and hopefully ... that will sum up what we're doing and trying to do," said Dolack, sweeping his hand across the painting. "All of it: the plants and birds and animals that have returned."

Restoration work will continue to be observed by biologists and wildlife experts as nature reclaims the land and heals from the years of damage. This year, through a partnership with Northwestern Energy, the Madison River wildlife and fisheries program will take shape, marking the implementation of phase 18 which will help bolster Madison River fish populations. The area is not only home to trumpeter swans and a breeding area for Sandhill cranes, but plays an important role in local agriculture, providing clean water and hydraulic energy for residents in the valley—a symbiotic benefit that will serve generations of all species to come.



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WEDNESDAY, JULY 14 - SUNDAY, JULY 18

11am-6pm - 6th Annual Big Sky Art Auction

FRIDAY, JULY 16

6pm - Big Sky Community Rodeo at the Big Sky Events Arena

9pm - Community Street Dance featuring Dirtwire - Town Center Avenue

TUESDAY, JULY 20

10am-4pm - Western Sports Foundation/Big Sky Bravery - Black Bull Golf Tournament

6pm - Big Sky Bingo Night

9pm - Live Music featuring Dammit Lauren and The Well

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21

3pm - Mutton Bustin Pre-Ride Competition at the Big Sky Events Arena

5pm - Farmers Market

THURSDAY, JULY 22

12-6pm - Big Sky PBR Basecamp Vendor Village Open

2pm - PBR Meet & Greet

4pm - Live Music

6pm - 10th Annual Big Sky PBR Night 1 Bull Riding at the Big Sky Events Arena

8:30pm - Music in the Mountains Concert

FRIDAY, JULY 23

12-6pm - Big Sky PBR Basecamp Vendor Village Open

2pm - PBR Meet & Greet

4pm - Live Music

7pm - 10th Annual Big Sky PBR Night 2 Bull Riding at the Big Sky Events Arena

Live Music Following Bull Riding - Jason Boland & The Stragglers

SATURDAY, JULY 24

12-6pm - Big Sky PBR Basecamp Vendor Village Open

2pm - PBR Meet & Greet

4pm - Live Music

7pm - 10th Annual Big Sky PBR Championship Night 3 Bull Riding at the Big Sky Events Arena

Live Music Following Bull Riding - Robert Earl Keen

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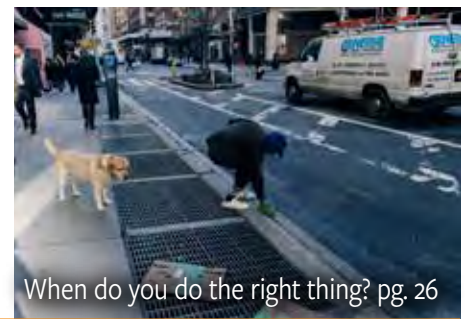
SECTION 2:
SPORTS, ENVIRONMENT &
OUTDOORS, AND HEALTH



Floating season is fast approaching pg. 20



Conservation and young people pg. 24



When do you do the right thing? pg. 26

LPHS sports teams compete at Divisional and State tournaments

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

Track:

At the May 7 Lone Peak High School track meet, sophomore Isaiah Holst achieved a personal record in the 200-meter events as well as the javelin throw. Head Coach James Miranda said Holst’s javelin toss would have qualified him for the Divisional tournament but unfortunately, he was unable to make the District meet to qualify.

“Every meet, each athlete has gotten a personal record,” Miranda said. “If it wasn’t for a COVID year I have a feeling, we would have had a lot more results.”

LPHS track athletes performed well at the District 12C tournament on May 14. “We have seven of eight athletes competing in the Divisional tournament this coming weekend,” Miranda said. “All of our athletes continue to achieve personal records as the season progresses.” Seven athletes are prepping for the Divisional meet, which will take place May 21 and 22 in Missoula:

- Reilly Germain (Senior) - 200m & 4x100
- Madison Strauss (Senior) - Triple Jump & 4 x 100
- Jessica Bough (Sophomore) - Shot put, 800m & 4x100
- Astrid McGuire (Freshman) - 800, 1600 & 4x100
- Orrin Coleman (Sophomore) - 800 & 1600
- Colter Marino (Sophomore) - 800
- Pierce Farr (Sophomore) - Shot put

Miranda said he is proud of all the track athletes who consistently placed in the top ten throughout the year. “I’m proud of their work,” he said. “Every meet we have they improve every single time.”

He expressed regret that the track team was unable to sign up for more meets this year and he said had the athletes competed more, “we would have seen some records broken.” Currently the track team is young, and Miranda said they have a few up-and-comers who will excel moving forward.

If any athletes qualify for the State tournament, they will move on to compete again in Missoula on May 29 and 30.

Golf:

The girls and boys golf teams performed well at their tournament at Ennis on May 10. For the boys Pierce King shot a 79 placing second overall in the tournament, Aidan



Four LPHS athletes competed at the State C golf tournament on May 18 and 19 at Riverside Country Club in Bozeman. PHOTO BY JENNY WILCYNSKI

Miller shot a 101 and Henry Slade finished with a 118.

On the girls’ side, TJ Nordahl shot a 93 to claim fourth place overall and Josie Wilcynski finished the day with a 109.

Five athletes qualified for the State C tournament which took place on May 18 and 19. On the girls side, TJ Nordahl and Josie Wilcynski qualified, for the boys, Pierce King, Nolan Schumacher and Nathan Browne all qualified. Unfortunately, due to conflicts with IB testing, Browne did not compete at state although head coach Jenny Wilcynski noted that he was set to finish top ten for the boys.

“I am super proud of all of our State players,” Wilcynski said. “Playing the State tournament back to back 18 holes can be challenging for the entire field. All players today had a harder time finding the bottom of the cup and saw numerous putts lip out.”

LPHS athletes played hard at State with Nordahl finishing second for the girls with a two-day total of 176, just five strokes behind Paityn Curtiss who took first place with a 171. Wilcynski completed her tournament play with a 256.

For the boys, King finished the tournament with a 196 and Shumacher wrapped with a 211.

Wilcynski offered her congratulations to all LPHS golfers and said she was happy with the 2021 season.

Tennis:

After competing against Three Forks on May 7, the LPHS tennis team went to the Divisional tournament on May 13 and 14. Three girls, Charlee Sue Dreisbach, Vera Grabow and Avery Dickerson, headed to Belgrade to play in the tournament hosted by Three Forks. Dickerson played as a single in four matches gaining two wins and two losses. Dreisbach and Grabow made a doubles team making their way through the bracket until a loss in their final match where the winner went to state.

The season for the girls is now over but the head coach of the team said she is proud of all the girls and looks forward to great things from them moving forward. Dreisbach and Grabow are freshman and Dickerson is a sophomore leaving plenty of room to grow. Unfortunately, the other three girls were unable to attend the Divisional tournament due to IB testing but their coach also commended them for a great season.

The lone boy, freshman Charlie Distad, placed fourth in the Divisional tournament at Missoula on the 13 and 14 and he will move on to the state tournament which will take place May 19 through 21. Charlie’s coach said he had a great season, and she is excited to coach him moving forward and create a strong team.



The season for the LPHS girl’s tennis team is now over but their head coach said she is proud of them and their great play this season. Freshman Charlie Distad placed fourth in the Divisional tournament and will be competing in the State tournament May 19-21. PHOTO COURTESY OF LIBBY GRABOW



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Warm temps, low flows contributing to blooms

BY JESSICA OLSON
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

As you might remember, in 2018 a wide-spread algae bloom, larger than any other ever recorded, was observed in the Upper Gallatin River. While algae is a natural part of any riverine ecosystem, this event greatly surpassed desirable conditions.

In an effort to understand why this bloom occurred, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the Gallatin River Task Force partnered on a four-year study hoping to answer the following questions: Why now? What changed? And how can we prevent these large-scale blooms in the future?

Nuisance algae is concerning for aquatic ecosystems, and when severe, can be deadly to aquatic life such as fish, amphibians and insects. It can also affect how we enjoy the river when fly fishing, kayaking and rafting. Environmental factors that can influence algae growth include elevated and relative concentrations of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, warm water temperatures, pH balance, streamflow, sunlight and water clarity.

In 2018, prior to the partnership with the DEQ, the Task Force collected routine data in the West Fork that found that nitrogen levels were some of the highest ever recorded and that the average weekly water temperatures before the bloom were the warmest recorded since temperature sensors were installed in 2009.

Anecdotal evidence from local river users documented more sunny days over July and fewer afternoon thunderstorms that reduce water clarity than in years past. More sunny days and higher water clarity make it possible for more sunlight to reach the stream, better facilitating photosynthesis in algae. The data suggests that the elevated nitrogen levels combined with warm water temperature, clear water and abundant sunshine might have contributed to increased algae growth in 2018.

In 2020, there was another large-scale algae bloom. Data shows that nutrient levels were not elevated, but sufficient to fuel algae growth when combined with other environmental factors. Similar to the 2018 event,

these factors allowing the algae to flourish appear to be warm water temperatures and lower streamflows. In addition, there was a significant rain event just prior to the first detection of the algae bloom. This may have supplied the algae with enough nutrients to trigger the bloom. However, more data will be needed to better understand this phenomenon.

Over the next two years, we will continue to collect data to better understand the drivers of nuisance algae growth in the Gallatin. To date, our data suggests that the algae blooms are triggered by a combination of environmental factors that work together, including sufficient and in some cases excess nutrients, warm water temperatures, long, bright sunny days and lower-than-average streamflows.

In the meantime, we're working to improve water quality and boost water supply in Big Sky to mitigate some of the drivers of algae growth; these efforts include advocating for better wastewater treatment and reuse that will increase water supply, and coordinated stormwater management. In addition, a recently updated Nutrient Reduction Plan will guide our priorities to reduce nutrients. Some of the actions being taken to reduce nutrient loading are restoration projects, providing trash cans and waste bag stations at local community parks and trails to reduce pet waste, and education on water conservation.

What can you as an individual do to help? Make your home water-friendly by applying for a Task Force rebate when you update your showers, faucets and toilets to water-wise fixtures. This keeps more water in the streams to keep water temps cool and nutrient concentrations lower. Employ the Task Force's Trout-Friendly Landscaping program, an initiative to create lawns that focus on drought-tolerant, native plants. This reduces consumptive water use and cuts back on pollutants like phosphorus that are common in fertilizers. And always scoop the poop. Pet waste is the fifth-highest contributor of nutrients to our creeks.

Taken together, these efforts can help decrease the likelihood of future algae blooms.

Jessica Olson is the Big Sky Watershed Corps member for the Gallatin River Task Force.



Warm water temperatures and low stream flows are likely contributing to algae blooms. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE



Floating season is fast approaching

Be ready with these six tips



A fisherman casts into Yellowstone Lake from his motorboat. To get prepared for summer floating and fishing, EBS columnist Pat Straub covers all the ground for what to get ready now to save trouble later. PHOTO BY DIANE RENKIN

BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

I've got guide buddies always ready to share stories about mishaps occurring on the first day of floating after a long winter's break. Most of these stories run the gamut, but they all begin with "I should've known better..." and end with "I'll never do that again."

With snowmelt runoff beginning, now is the time to prep for our summer floating and fishing season. With a below-average snowpack in most of our river drainages, the duration of runoff—the period when a river is too high and muddy to safely float and fish—will probably be shorter than the past few years. This means if you want to be ready to hit the river without any missteps along the way, prep now. Here are six simple ways to get ready now while the rivers are high to ensure your first floating and fishing trip goes as planned.

Get your boat trailer serviced. It hasn't happened to me...yet. But I've been behind one of my friends when the bearings on his trailer wheels blew out. Not only is dealing with a broken trailer by the side of a busy highway no fun, think of all the fishing that is being missed. Take some time now to get your trailer serviced. Get your bearings packed or replaced and have your tires and lights inspected. Half a day now can save you a full day down the road, and the salmon flies don't wait for the unprepared.

Check your net. I was fishing with a friend of mine on the Yellowstone River several years ago. It was the first trip in his boat since the fall and he was accustomed to leaving his gear in his boat over the winter and spring months. I was fishing and hooked a large brown trout, so my friend grabbed his net and netted the fish. I removed the hook and briefly looked away to grab my camera. When I reached back into the net to grab the fish, it was gone! A mouse had eaten a hole in my friend's net.

Test your anchor line. This is another easy task but is so often overlooked. Pull out the entire amount of anchor line from your boat and run it through your hands. Feel for knicks or scrapes. If there are any,

consider replacing it. There's a reason why sailors used to call the end of the anchor line "the bitter end." Don't find out the hard way.

Grab a screwdriver, Allen wrench, and a ratchet set and check all the screws and nuts in your boat. Over time these become loose. This is especially important if you store your boat outdoors. The freeze and thaw of our winter and spring means small droplets of water can sneak into tiny spaces, loosening nuts and bolts.

Visit your local fly shop and ask some questions. On tailwater rivers like the Missouri and Bighorn, things rarely change from year to year, but on freestone rivers like the Gallatin and Yellowstone, channels change with highwater and islands emerge or disappear. The Madison's lower reaches near Ennis can change, as well. Take some time and visit your local fly shop. See who they've hired for summer help and if they know their stuff. Check in on how their fly and tackle inventory is looking and make a mental note so when you're ready to hit the water you know which shop has what and who can relay the best information.

De-clutter your kit bag. If you're like me, by the end of the fall season your boat bag and fishing pack are a mess of used leaders, flies with knot clippings still attached, and half empty bottles of floatant and dry shake. Pull up the coffee table, Netflix "A River Runs Through It" and organize your bag for the upcoming floating season.

Like I've said in past columns, dealing with runoff is part of being an angler. And, as I've said before, the sooner we get into runoff the sooner it will be over. This year, just make sure you're fully prepared to fish when the moment comes.

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 nine years. He 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/>.

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Housing prices in the West are over the moon



BY JONATHAN THOMPSON
WRITERS ON THE RANGE

One hundred thirty thousand dollars. That's what it takes for a down payment to buy an average-priced home in Bozeman, Montana. Then an aspiring homeowner must fork out another \$3,000 each month, which is more than two-thirds of their household's paychecks if they make the median income for the metro area.

That's because the average home in the greater Bozeman area is going for more than \$650,000, up from an already astronomical \$500,000 in early 2020. A couple of tenured professors at the local Montana State University might be able to swing that, but it is way out of reach for the rest of the faculty.

If college professors can't afford homes, then what kind of local worker can who has no outside source of income? Certainly not public-school teachers, firefighters, cops or journalists. Service workers? Forget about it.

As pandemic-spurred remote work is freeing folks from the office and the cities, they are buying up remote work-centers, aka houses, in places far away from their cubicles. The result is real estate markets blowing up across the West, as well as the nation.

It will take \$533,000 to buy an average-price home in Bend, Oregon, and \$425,000 in Corvallis — a 23 percent jump from a couple of years ago. The pattern repeats just about everywhere, with 25- to 35-percent price increases in nearly every market: Tucson, Flagstaff, Tahoe, Salt Lake City, Durango.

You can't escape by forgoing homeownership and renting, either. Rentals, if you can find them, are similarly expensive. Boise's median rent shot up by 23 percent over the last year, with other mid-sized Western cities seeing similar leaps.

Many of these places have long been too pricey for the average worker, but a hopeful homeowner could always look farther afield, as home prices tended to drop in direct proportion to the distance from the town's center. It's the old "drive till you qualify" non-policy of affordable housing, leaned on by communities from Jackson to Aspen to Park City.

But now the Zoom Boom-fueled market fire is spreading beyond the "best places" into the once-affordable bastions of working-class neighborhoods, the bedroom communities, rural ranchettes and even trailer parks.

In other words, you could drive all night and still not qualify unless you have cash coming in from a trust fund, you sold out of a more expensive market, or you happened to hit it big with cryptocurrency.

Something is bound to break. When even drive-till-you-qualify breaks down, the non-Zoom workers have little choice but to crowd into substandard housing, move into tent-towns, or set up camp in the backseat

in the Walmart parking lot. I know experienced teachers who have been forced into rooming with others in small apartments, like college students. It's hardly surprising that so many businesses are having a hard time finding workers.

Perhaps the most maddening part of all of this is that the Zoom Boom isn't the half of it: The biggest real estate action is happening in the luxury markets. Aspen saw 90 sales over \$10 million last year and the average home price shot up to more than \$11 million. Jackson, Wyoming's median sale price last year was \$2.5 million, and it continues to climb.

This is happening during a time when more than a half-million people have died in the United States due to complications from COVID-19 and the U.S. economy has shed millions of jobs. Los Angeles County's unhoused population is approaching 70,000 and even quaint small towns are seeing growing numbers of unhoused people. Wyoming, which Jackson Hole real estate firms tout as a "tax haven with a view," is facing a budget crunch, forcing more than \$40 million in cuts at the University of Wyoming.

There are solutions: Tax the wealthy — and the high-dollar real estate transactions — and put the revenues into building affordable housing.

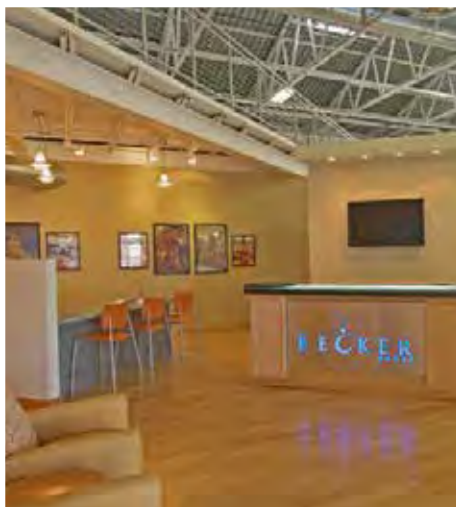
Call it what you want: socialism, redistribution of wealth, compassion or just a tweak in the system to keep the economy from collapsing and violent revolution from occurring.

Or maybe call it what it is: A return to a time when we took care of one another and no one felt the need to amass billions of dollars of wealth at the expense of the working class, or the people who keep America running.

Jonathan Thompson is the editor of LandDesk.org and a regular contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH



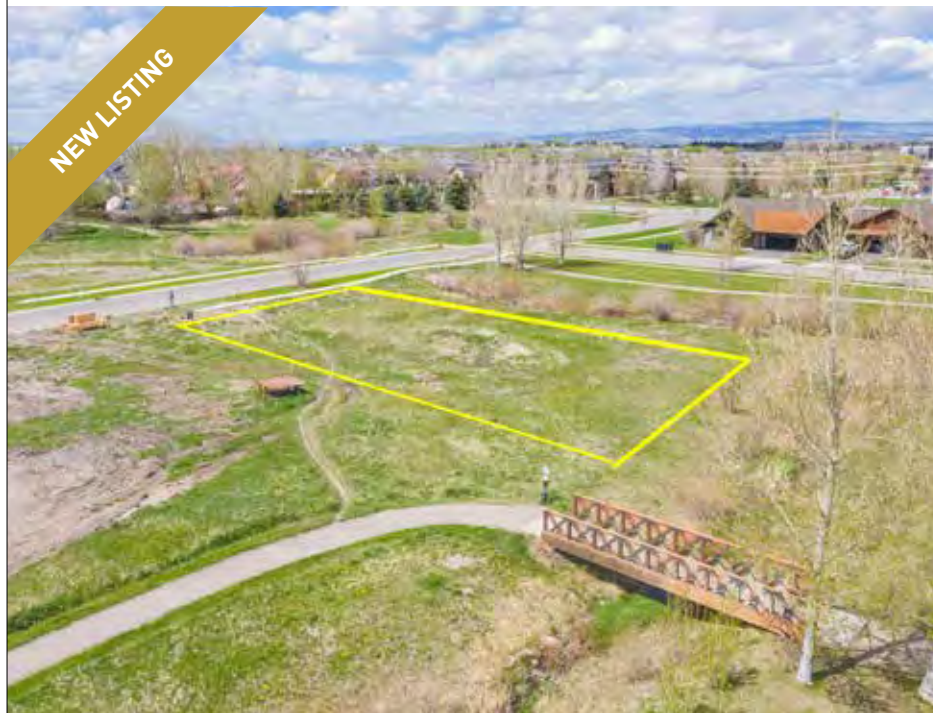
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THE NEW WEST

Conservation and young people: A noted college prof weighs in



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

It's not often these days, in times when print media is facing huge existential challenges, that we find astute, forward-thinking commentary about environmental issues.

While anyone reading these words knows that's the mission of nonprofit Mountain Journal focusing on Greater Yellowstone,

MoJo was hardly the first. Among the best are High Country News, Orion and a now long-dormant publication based in Missoula, Northern Lights.

For a while, Northern Lights was directed by an old friend named Don Snow, who in the last couple of decades has been a highly respected professor of environmental studies at Whitman College. He is one of the foremost thinkers about this amorphous thing we call the "New West."

Here's part of a conversation we had not long ago:

TODD WILKINSON: *A criticism leveled at younger generations is they seem to hold less regard for how 650 million acres of public land they own got protected.*

DON SNOW: I have been dealing with those younger generations for 30 years in the college classroom both at the University of Montana and at Whitman College. They are not the cause of American indifference to history, but they certainly reflect it. If your parents, teachers and mentors don't emphasize the value of history and the sense of contextualization which history uniquely brings, then it's no wonder that you carry the same disease.

Public lands are remarkably easy to take for granted, but if you study their history—the distinct histories of how all four domains of federal lands came into being—you'll readily see how vulnerable these "given" lands actually are. The public lands are ceaselessly under attack by forces of privatization, incompetence and indifference.

T.W.: *Was there more excitement by previous generations in going to work for a government natural resource agency like the Park Service and Forest Service?*

D.S.: Teaching at a very environmental college, I see practically no students today with goals to work for federal environmental agencies.

T.W.: *Politics has hardened cultural divides. Is it reflected on campus?*

D.S.: My students today are utterly shocked to learn that the Endangered Species Act, perhaps the strongest of all the federal environmental laws passed in the '70s, went through with hardly a dissenting vote. Nixon, a Republican, signed it and the Clean Water Act, too. The etceteras go on and on.

T.W.: *So, are generational comparisons exaggerated?*

D.S.: I do see some helplessness and I do hear some tones of despair, but what I mostly hear are questions and pleas for meaningful involvement. I do not agree that so-called millennials are jaded, cynical or disconnected. I think many are rightfully confused, in ways I was not, because so many

avenues that were open to my generation now seem either closed or futile. I push back pretty hard.

T.W.: *Academia, especially urban universities, pays a lot of attention to environmental social justice issues but what about concern for nonhuman species?*

D.S.: It's true. There is generally less interest and enthusiasm for wildlands conservation, per se. In fact, students today are being taught to sneer at it. There's a potent literature out there which depicts the original wildlands conservation movement as privileged, white, racist, nativist, and four or five other 'ists' we've been taught to despise.

When the emphasis is placed only on the human side of the wildlands-conservation argument, it's very easy to, as we like to say in academia, "problematize" most conservation histories and strategies. But this is what I tell students: I quote an old Grace Slick line from a Jefferson Airplane classic: "Doesn't mean shit to a tree."

T.W.: *And the translation is?*

D.S.: Pay more attention to the nonhuman side of the wildlands-conservation argument. The lands (and waters) themselves; the wildlife and plant life, fungi, soil ecologies. In a word, habitat.

Wildlands-conservation efforts, from the 19th century until today, have tried to be responsible for what writer David Abram calls the "more-than-human world." That attention to the nonhuman doesn't excuse or forgive insensitivity to people, but noticing its deeper implications can really help restore some contemporary faith in wildlands protection. The center of the target happens to be the original center of the conservation-environmental movement in the first place: human concern for the nonhuman world, in the face of exploding human

populations, technologies, economies, cities, footprints. It doesn't make you a misanthrope to say so.

T.W.: *If a Whitman student says, "I don't care about the survival of a grizzly bear. I want another trail to mountain bike on," what do you suggest they consider?*

D.S.: Restoring faith and interest in quietude, contemplation, solitude, natural beauty, respect toward beings outside of ourselves.

Aldo Leopold said, in reference to species extinction, "For one creature to mourn the passing of another is a new thing under the sun." He penned that line en route to his articulation of a land ethic in "A Sand County Almanac." I consider it to be one of the most radical and profound lines in the book.

What is not a new thing under the sun is the gluttonous feeding of the human ego. Wild places were not set "apart" for the mere purposes of human pleasure and self-gratification. The Bob Marshall Wilderness Area should not be renamed Fun Hog High Speed Wheeled Machine Place. It's true that things change over time. It's not true that all change is for the better.

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



Professor, writer and New West philosopher Don Snow has a love for wild places. PHOTO COURTESY OF DON SNOW



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Life 101

When do you do the right thing?



LINDA ARNOLD
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

We all know the right thing to do in most cases. Do we always do it, though?

Sometimes our responses are conditional. I ran across a few soul-searching questions, developed by human resources consultant and writer George J. Ziogas that shed some light on the subject. The issues range from simple to complex:

- You're in the kitchen, grabbing a drink, when an ice cube goes flying onto the floor. What do you do?
- You're out on a hike and spot some candy wrappers on the trail. What do you do?
- You're on public transportation. Your feet hurt, and your back is aching. An elderly person boards. Do you offer him or her your seat?
- You're out walking your dog. He just did his business in someone's yard, but nobody is around. Do you pick up after him?

In these situations, the right thing to do is pretty evident. Do you do it, or do you opt for the easy way out? Here are some things that might be holding you back from making the right choice.

Leaky Margins

This got me thinking about the subject of "leaky margins," a term that originated with dentistry and has recently been associated with a lack of integrity. There may be areas in which you have leaky margins—gaps in your integrity. And this can chip away at your soul.

The earlier scenarios just scratch the surface. Digging deeper, Ziogas identifies characteristics that could result in you being a toxic influence on your friends and associates.

You Don't Respect Boundaries

If you refuse to take "no" for an answer, you're likely violating someone's boundaries. This could take the form of guilt-tripping someone into doing something for you—or taking advantage of someone's tendencies to be a pushover, Ziogas explains. You may think your intensity and persistence are strong traits, although they're actually disrespectful.

You Can Be Manipulative

You may be great at offering kindness, but mainly when it benefits you. You look for ways to manipulate others into behaving the way you want them to.

You Refuse to Take Responsibility

If you can't be accountable for your behavior—and always look to blame others—you likely have some integrity issues.

You Take More Than You Give

Relationships are a two-way street. Sometimes you give more, and sometimes you take more. It all depends on the situation. If you're constantly a taker, though, that's a red flag.

You Have Control Issues

This is a tricky one, especially if you're a proactive, goal-oriented person. You may feel like taking charge—and taking action—are the right things to do. While this is often the case, you have problems turning off this personality trait. And then you try to force things—and end up bulldozing your way through.

You Revel in Others' Misfortune

You may not be proud of it, but there's a part of you that gets a sense of satisfaction when things are falling apart for other people. This may be a way of compensating for your own shortcomings. "If that's the only thing that makes you feel better when you're going through your own troubles," Ziogas explains, "then you're reaching a point of no return."

Doing the right thing is an ongoing state of awareness. None of us can predict what will come across our paths at every moment. There may be times when you've intended to do the right thing and weren't able to execute those intentions. Just pay attention and acknowledge your behaviors.

Even when no one is watching.

©2021 Linda Arnold Life 101, all rights reserved. Linda Arnold, M.A., M.B.A., is a syndicated columnist, psychological counselor and founder of a multistate marketing company. Reader comments are welcome at linda@lindaarnold.org For information on her books, go to www.lindaarnold.org or Amazon.com



There are several scenarios that we encounter on a daily basis that test our ability to do the right thing—picking up our pet's waste being one. In her most recent column, Linda Arnold dives into the things that may be holding us back from making better choices. PHOTO BY MATTHEW LEJUNE

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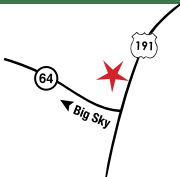
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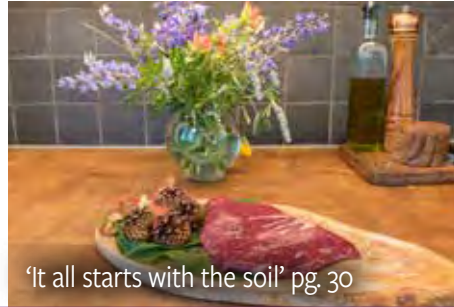
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SECTION 3:

BUSINESS, ARTS &
ENTERTAINMENT,
DINING & FUN

'It all starts with the soil' pg. 30



Artist spotlight: David Ruimveld pg. 35



A Farrier's Art pg. 42



Making it in Big Sky: Anderson Enterprises

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

BIG SKY – Owner of Anderson Enterprises, Elliott Anderson, has been involved in the family business since he was 18 years old. Anderson was born and raised in Big Sky after his dad Jim Anderson moved to the community in the '70s to work in Yellowstone National Park, and later founded the company in 1988.

Growing up, Elliott Anderson spent time skiing, snowboarding, fishing, biking and doing all of the outdoors activities residents of Big Sky love. After leaving to live in Utah for a short time, Anderson has been back in Montana since 2014 and busy running the family business alongside raising his eight-year-old son.

The small team at Anderson Enterprises works hard to provide professional textile cleaning services to the Big Sky community. Anderson said they operate exclusively in Big Sky and accept jobs ranging from private homes to large spaces at the resorts.

The company has grown and reduced the scope of services they offer over the years, but Elliott said today, they are busier than ever. Anderson Enterprises largely receives business through word-of-mouth and connections within the Big Sky community, which allows the small family business to thrive.

Explore Big Sky sat down with Elliott Anderson to learn more about Anderson Enterprises and his answers are below.

Some answers below have been edited for brevity.

Explore Big Sky: *Tell me about the history of the company?*

Elliott Anderson: "My dad moved here in 1978 from Indianapolis, Indiana. It was to work in Yellowstone Park; he came out here with a buddy from Indiana. He ended up in Big Sky like a lot of people do that work in the park. When he moved to Big Sky, he was very into construction, so what happened is he started managing a bunch of jobs when Hidden Village was starting to get going up there when that was the big new development. Then he started his own construction company, which was Anderson Enterprises, and then he had an investor come up to him to see if he wanted to get into water damage restoration. He agreed and did that and with restoration kind of comes all the same equipment for carpet cleaning. So he thought to himself as long as I'm doing restoration, I might as well double dip into the honeypot so he did that and he was also doing construction. Later, he sold his construction sector off to a guy who now owns Little Coyote Construction. He continued on with the restoration and carpet cleaning. Restoration was always the main thing, but the



Elliott Anderson, owner of Anderson Enterprises, grew up in Big Sky and enjoys recreating outside with his dog.
PHOTO COURTESY OF ELLIOTT ANDERSON

carpet cleaning came with everything that restoration does. That went on since I was about four or five till, I was probably 24 when we actually got rid of restoration we gave the rights to Buffalo Restoration in Bozeman because restoration is just huge. ... Now we're just doing carpet cleaning and I think that's where we're going to stay."

EBS: *When is your busy time?*

EA: "When, when Big Sky Resort closes, and Moonlight, we actually do everything for them. We do the Summit we do the Huntley we do the Exchange, all the common areas. We also do everything for Yellowstone Club, we do all their lodges so it's definitely crunch time right now."

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

EA: "It's a strange way that happened actually because it went from being construction to restoration to carpet cleaning all in the same business to then getting rid of the construction and then getting rid of restoration. So it's actually gone from big to small but that doesn't mean we're not busier than we ever were before. We've definitely grown and it's definitely different than a lot of places."

EBS: *What services do you provide?*

EA: "We're a textile cleaning business, which means we pretty much clean anything, upholstery, leather, carpet, drapes, and we do high dust downs on big houses in the Yellowstone Club, where there's cobwebs up in those big rafters. Anything from residential to commercial—we do just about everything [but] we don't do housekeeping services. Anything tile grout like that we take care of and we also do wood floors."

EBS: *Who is your biggest client?*

EA: "I would say this year it's going to be the Yellowstone Club, but usually it's Big Sky Resort. The reason why it's different this year is because Big Sky Resort is redoing almost the whole Huntley Lodge and almost the whole Summit Hotel."

EBS: *How is Anderson Enterprises unique?*

EA: "Being a family business is unique because a lot of places aren't like that, in Big Sky we're fortunate to have that. You're able to provide more of a one-on-one feel to each of the customers. Keeping employees happy is a lot easier and everyone gets along and agrees with each other for the most part."

EBS: *What is the best business advice that you have ever received?*

EA: "The customer is always right. Friendliness is everything, it's not what you say but how you say it."

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Jody Manuel with Prairie Grass Ranch, a RegenMarket producer, on his ranch in Havre, Montana. Manuel is one of six producers represented by Regen Market. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

‘It all starts with the soil’

New online market connects consumers, regenerative ag producers

BY BROOKE CONSTANCE WHITE
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – You might know whether your food is organic, grass-fed or non-GMO, but do you know whether it was grown using regenerative farming practices?

It’s a question that two Big Sky-based entrepreneurial couples started asking and they hope others will too. Regenerative agriculture is a rising solution to the climate crisis, and it’s one that a Montana-based market is dedicated to.

This year, Big Sky locals Ryan and Monica Kulesza and Steve and Amy DiTullio set out to solve the two main problems they saw in the regenerative agriculture industry: educating people about what it is and providing a market space for producers to sell their products. In February,



RegenMarket is currently a members-only platform where consumers pay a monthly fee that can be used to purchase some of the many healthy, sustainable products the company offers. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

the couples launched RegenMarket, an online marketplace for products made using regenerative farming practices.

Using a combination of techniques such as perennial crops, little to no soil tilling, increased plant diversity, and managed grazing, regenerative farming produces highly nutritious food. Not only that but it’s good for animal welfare, draws carbon out of the atmosphere and is more resilient against drought and pests.

“Our [nation’s] food system is focused on pounds of food produced the fastest, regardless of environment, animal welfare or end-product quality,” Ryan said. “Our producers flip the food system upside down and make the environment, animal welfare and product quality the priority and go from there. It all starts with the soil.”

Prior to the launch of RegenMarket, the two couples were in the process of purchasing a ranch in Big Timber that they planned to use for regenerative agriculture. Monica grew up in Idaho’s agriculture industry and she and Ryan, who run L&K Real Estate, had seen countless family farms and ranches being sold to wealthy individuals because the farmers couldn’t afford them anymore. They wanted to figure out how to make a family farm successful, because according to Ryan, “conventional or industrial ag just doesn’t do it.”

The deal fell apart, but during that process, the couple learned that there are lots of regenerative producers out there, they just didn’t have a market to sell to because most consumers aren’t educated on what regenerative farming is or why it’s important.

“By being in Big Sky, we felt that we were in a great place to showcase these producers to get the word out because Big Sky sees people from all over the nation and world,” Ryan said.

Food that is produced using regenerative practices costs a bit more, but there’s a reason for it. For example, an industrially raised cow is slaughtered in 16-20 months whereas a regeneratively raised cow is finished in about 30 months. During this time, it becomes more lean and develops more nutrient density from the variety of forages. If people don’t understand the differences in the quality of food and in the farming practices, Ryan said, they aren’t likely to understand the difference in cost.

“When we improve soil health we increase the production that can be done on the same piece of ground, therefore with better soil health we can support more animals, more animals used correctly on the land leads to better soil health and the system goes on and on,” Ryan said. “So once these producers make the switch and have an outlet for their goods, their systems will become more efficient and require fewer inputs and the leaders in the regenerative movement are out producing industrial models.”

The DiTullio’s, who own Big Sky Home Management, have also been interested in agriculture and food for many years. When you cook a lot and take pride in quality ingredients, you want to become more knowledgeable about where it’s coming from and how it’s being produced, Steve said.

“If we want to see a healthy planet and healthy people who don’t need pills and who can fight diseases, we’re all going to have to jump on board with regenerative farming”

“Once we started tying the ag side of things to cooking and food, we became really invested in making sure that agriculture is done right,” he said. “We started seeing how industrial agriculture is really ruining the country and wanted to be a part of the solution.”

At the moment, RegenMarket is a members-only online platform offering products like meat, dairy, honey and grains produced using regenerative practices. The entire \$80 monthly membership fee goes right into your account and you can use that to shop for whatever you’d like that month. If customers want to spend more or less than \$80 one month, they can roll over funds to the next month or add more.

“What’s nice about our system is that by signing up with us, our customers are making a commitment to these producers that we’re going to buy their goods,” Ryan said. “That means something to me, to our members, and definitely to our producers.”

Jody Manuel, owner of Prairie Grass Ranch, one of RegenMarket’s producers, says one of the benefits of Regen is that ranches and farms can keep their identity and brand visible so customers know where and who the products are coming from. Many of the larger grocery chains package products without making it clear where the products are from or who produced them, he says.

“People want to know that they are supporting American, family-run farms and ranches,” he said. “With Regen, you can see exactly where it’s coming from.”

On the consumer end, RegenMarket founders say the educational aspect is especially important. Each of the producers has a page on Regen’s website with some background and a video about their business, what they are doing differently and why it’s important.

Steve said part of this education is helping people understand that regenerative agriculture is the only kind of agriculture that can reverse some of the effects of climate change. “At the rate that the nation’s topsoil is degrading, there are only about 60 harvests left,” he said. “People love to talk about

electric cars, solar panels and wind energy and all of that is great but it’s only carbon neutral; those efforts are not going to save our planet. Regenerative agriculture actually sequesters carbon and draws it out of the atmosphere.”

While organic farming is also important, it only involves eliminating the use of pesticides and herbicides in the growing process without much focus on soil health, Steve said. When you focus on soil health and do limited or zero tilling, Steve said weeds and insects naturally become less of a problem.

“Tilling is really the worst thing you can do because it means there is zero root structure in the soil, which is where the microbes and nitrogen are,” he said. “A teaspoon of healthy soil has a billion microorganisms in it.”

Manuel agreed, saying that weeds are generally an indication that something is lacking in the soil and that there’s an imbalance. The microbial population is vitally important to the health of the soil. “In organic systems that rely heavily on tillage, weeds are a seemingly insurmountable challenge,” Manuel said. “Regenerative farming works to re-establish that balance in the soil, but it’s a long process and takes several years to get that soil health back.”

Unlike the linear structure of industrial ag, regenerative ag is cyclical, meaning there is no end to the process; everything feeds back into the loop. There are always more ways to improve practices, whether it’s improving water infiltration, adding more diversity or finding new ways to improve soil health. Add the education and awareness aspect of it and the hope is that more and more people will buy into it, both literally and figuratively.

“There’s always this ‘aha’ moment when people just get it; when they understand that what’s in the soil translates to the plants translates to what animals feeding translates to what we’re eating,” Ryan said. “If we want to see a healthy planet and healthy people who don’t need pills and who can fight diseases, we’re all going to have to jump on board with regenerative farming.”

For more information or to sign up for a membership visit regenmarket.com



A beef flat iron steak is just one of the many tasty options available for purchase through RegenMarket, an online marketplace for local products made using regenerative agricultural practices. RegenMarket was founded by Big Sky couples Amy and Steve DiTullio and Ryan and Monica Kulesza. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

New spa brings retreat to Big Sky

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

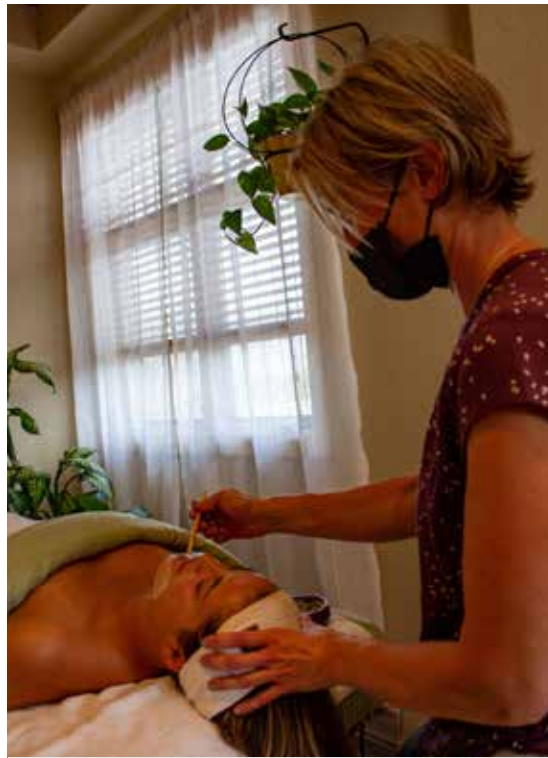
BIG SKY – In April, local Amy Woodger opened Sanctuary Big Sky, and the new spa is just that: a refuge from the dry climate and day-to-day stressors.

Woodger has lived in Big Sky for 20 years and raised her family here. She had a career in sales and marketing at Moonlight Basin until 2006 when she became a stay-at-home mom and switched to part-time work. Her children are now 11 and 15 and her husband has been the superintendent of the Big Sky Golf Course for 23 years. She became an esthetician in 2017 after completing a 900-hour course at Health Works Institute in Bozeman. Before the pandemic shut down the ski town, Woodger worked at other local spas including Santosha Wellness Center, Solace Spa at Big Sky Resort and Big Sky Skin Care.

As businesses opened back up, she said she longed to return to work and connect with people. The space became available, and Woodger said it worked out perfectly for her new business.

“It’s felt really natural and I’m excited to learn more,” Woodger said of her new business. “I’m continually inspired to take on new continuing education courses to add different services for my clients.”

Sanctuary offers a menu of facials including microdermabrasion, plant peels and brow tinting, among other things. Clients also have the option to book a massage with Autumn Buckman, a licensed massage therapist who partners with Woodger and has taken up residence in one of the three treatment rooms at Sanctuary.



One of Woodger’s treatments involves painting a mask onto the client and then wiping them down with a hot towel. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER

Woodger referred to the business as “her own sanctuary” and hopes that clients will find relaxation in the space defined by its high ceilings, many windows, natural light and plenty of plants.

Woodger enjoys working with her hands and in the past has worked as a gardener, a baker and a lunch lady. She explained that she really enjoys engaging with people and that her facials are more of a full-body experience that have been known to render her clients asleep on the table.

“People need therapeutic touch, it’s very healing,” she said. “Everybody has been under a lot of stress, and that’s what I want to give to people.”

Each treatment is specifically customized to the client and Woodger said she seeks to gain an understanding of their lifestyle and existing skincare routine. She described herself as a “holistic esthetician” and said she mixes treatments for each appointment. No two facials are the same.

Many years of living in Big Sky have familiarized Woodger with the climate and she said she has shelves full of organic skincare products that she’s curated specially for Big Sky.

After a month in business Woodger said she has been thoroughly enjoying her work and is able to serve three clients a day.

“I’m really happy to have this place and to be sharing it with everyone,” Woodger said. “It’s been a really positive response. I’m inspired to keep going.”

Woodger’s services are available by appointment only through her website bigskysanctuary.com or over the phone at 406-219-8353.



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Enjoying the Ride: The “Opportunity” in Opportunity Zone Funds



BY BENJAMIN SPIKER
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The following case study is hypothetical. Any similarity to an actual client case is coincidental. The case is presented as an illustration of a potential investment strategy and should not be viewed as a recommendation to follow any trading program or invest in any particular product or type of product. Tax implications are complicated and vary for every investor. Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network

is not a tax advisor. Every investor should consult their chosen licensed tax professional for specific tax advice.

A client called me a few months ago with some very exciting news. After spending the past 25 years building his successful architectural firm, he was in position to sell his business and improve his work life balance to better Enjoy the Ride. It turns out he expected to receive a nice little windfall of about \$5 million. This, along with his accumulated investments would allow he and his wife the ability to fully retire whenever they were ready.

The next part of our conversation wasn't nearly as exciting. He explained that his accountant had estimated he would pay about \$1 million in capital gains taxes for this sale! He asked me if I knew of any strategies that could help mitigate this dilemma. That is when we began to discuss Opportunity Zone funds amongst other ideas.

The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act established the Qualified Opportunity Zone program to provide a tax incentive for private, long-term investment in economically distressed communities. To be clear, these Opportunity Zone funds are not registered investments with the Securities and Exchange Commission and are typically limited to Qualified Purchasers. A Qualified Purchaser is defined as a U.S. individual investor with at least \$5 million in investable assets, though each fund's offering documents will outline investor eligibility.

So, why were my client and I exploring these investments at this time? In a nutshell, the possible tax benefits my client could reap from an investment in one of these funds. Here's how it works: a taxpayer has 180 days from the date of the sale to invest the realized gains (or some portion of the gains) into a Qualified Opportunity Zone Fund. The fund then invests in Qualified Opportunity Zone Property that has been certified by the IRS. The potential tax benefit to the client is that they now get to defer paying taxes on the gain they realized from the sale of their business until December 31, 2026. They will then receive a 10 percent step-up in cost basis and pay long-term capital gains at whatever the rate is at that time. Furthermore, the original investment into the Opportunity Zone Fund, if held for ten years, will hopefully grow and, when it is sold, the investor's gain will potentially be tax exempt!

We can use my client as an example. The sale of his business generated a \$5 million capital gain since his cost basis was zero. If he invests the entire \$5 million in the Opportunity Zone Fund, he does not pay the \$1 million in taxes this year. His tax bill will be due when he files his returns for 2026. However, instead of his cost basis being zero, his cost basis will increase to \$500,000, a 10 percent increase. This means, if tax rates remain the same, he will go from a \$1 million tax bill to a \$900,000 tax bill. Additionally, if he continues to stay invested in the fund for the full 10 years and the fund generates a (hypothetical) rate of return of 5 percent per year as an example, that \$5 million investment grows to about \$8.1 million with the \$3.1 million being earned with no taxes due.

So, what is the downside? There is always risk associated with investing that should be weighed prior to moving forward. Some of these risks in Opportunity Zone Funds are:

1. Investing in Opportunity Zones is speculative. There is no guarantee that you will earn positive returns and you could lose money as well.
2. This is not a liquid investment. There may be no secondary market should you decide you want to sell prior to the fund holding period (typically ten years).
3. You still would need to have additional cash available to pay your

realized gain when the taxes are due in 2026. You will not have access to the Opportunity Zone fund to use to pay that tax bill.

4. The regulatory and tax environment could change. This could mean that you no longer reap the tax benefits of these investments. For this reason, tax benefits should be only one part of the analysis determining if these investments are right for you. The underlying investments of the fund itself should be carefully understood so that you are confident you are investing appropriately.

While this strategy is not right for everyone and does carry with it many risks, only some of which I listed above, it can be a tool to assist Qualified Purchasers with deferring taxes and perhaps appreciating investments in a tax-free manner! As with any complicated investment strategy, you should always review with your financial, tax and legal advisors first. If it's the right fit, this could be another way to help you Enjoy the Ride!

Benjamin D. Spiker is the Co-Founder and Managing Director of Shore to Summit Wealth Management. His wealth management career spans more than 22 years and he currently works and lives in Annapolis, MD with his wife, two sons and daughter.

Opportunity zone funds are not appropriate for all investors and are only open to “qualified” investors within the meaning of the U.S. securities laws. They are speculative, highly illiquid, and are designed for long-term investment, and not as trading vehicles. There is no assurance that any investment strategy pursued by the fund will be successful or that the fund will achieve its intended objective. Investments in these funds entail significant risks, volatility, and capital loss, including the loss of the entire amount invested. The increased risk of investment loss is appropriate only for those investors who have the financial sophistication and expertise to evaluate the merits and risks of an investment in a fund. While investors may potentially benefit from the ability of opportunity zone funds to potentially defer and reduce capital gains or realize tax-exempt capital appreciation, consideration should be given as the tax benefits typically outweigh the performance and returns you may realize by investing in more traditional investments. Opportunity Zones are economically distressed communities. Investors should, therefore, carefully assess each investment opportunity on its own merits exclusive of any potential tax benefit. The investments themselves can carry significant risks. Opportunity zone funds are subject to market, funding, liquidity, capital, regulatory, and other material risks. There is no guarantee any investment strategy will be successful under all market conditions. The value of any property may decline as a result of a downturn in the property market, and economic and market conditions. Investments in an opportunity zone fund bear the highest level of risk among real estate strategies as it typically involves a significant amount of “value creation” through the development of underperforming properties in less competitive markets. There is no guarantee value appreciation will be achieved and the operating company may be forced to sell properties at a lower price than anticipated. There is often limited (or even non-existent) liquidity and a lack of transparency regarding the underlying assets. They do not represent a complete investment program. Opportunity zone investments often demand long holding periods to allow for disposition and exit strategy. There is no assurance a secondary market will exist for interests and there may be restrictions on transferring such interests. A fund's offering documents should be carefully reviewed prior to investing.

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Artist spotlight: David Ruimveld

Self-taught artist inspired through outdoor ventures

BY MIRA BRODY

VICKSBURG, MI – Thirty-five years ago, David Ruimveld caught a Landlock salmon so nice he decided to paint it. He framed his painting, alongside the fly he had used to catch it, and hung it in the restaurant he owned at the time. By chance, a well-known Michigan painter known as R. Scott, came in one day, saw the painting, and invited Ruimveld to his studio. The experience was so inspiring, Ruimveld decided to pursue painting as a full-time career.

Although he enjoyed drawing at a young age, Ruimveld has no formal training in the craft of fine art. An avid fly-fishing, hunting and bird hunting outdoorsman, he let what he knew best guide him on this journey into the world of art.

Born and raised in Michigan, he first visited Montana when he was 12 on a camping trip with his family. He cherishes a vivid memory of fishing along the Madison River while on a camping trip with his family, learning to tie his first tie and cast with his father.

He returned later as an accomplished artist, when the Federation of Fly Fishers gathered in Livingston for an exhibition back when, he says, “Bozeman had one main street and Livingston was a sleepy little town.”



David Ruimveld features flies in his paintings because, “you can not fly fish without the flies,” he says. PHOTO BY DAVID RUIMVELD

He paints with acrylic in a watercolor style called “washes,” which adds to the organic and wild nature of his subjects. He specializes in images of angling, sporting and wildlife art and his work has been recognized in galleries, fly shops and homes across the country. Just like his first painting in that restaurant, Ruimveld often incorporates flies into his finished pieces.

“Fly fishing has many aspects to the sport, but you can not fly fish without the flies,” Ruimveld said. “When I attend the shows most of my angling art that is sold or commissioned by clients has or is requested that I place the flies in the shadow boxes below the painting. Art needs to tell a story or rekindle a memory. The flies add to this story.”

Inspiration comes in nature—while casting flies, watching trout rise out of the water for a bite or following his bird dog on a hunt. It’s the small movements, he describes, like the intensity of his dog, or the gentle light falling on the river.

Ruimveld will be featured in the Big Sky Art Auction from July 16 through 18. He says it is crucial for artists to participate in events such as these to build relationships with both new artists and admirers.

“An introduction can turn into great relationships with art collectors, other artists and likeminded friends who you meet through these events,” Ruimveld said.

Musician Spotlight: Mercedes Caroll

Growing her solo career through community support

BY MIRA BRODY

BOZEMAN – When Mercedes Caroll took to the virtual stage at Friday Afternoon Club on April 16, armed with just her voice and a guitar, she captivated fans—old and new—from across the country. The light shining in from the window behind in her home studio matched the atmosphere she was bringing into people’s homes.

A Belgrade native, Caroll picked up her first guitar at age 15 when she and her best friend began learning chords from the pastor at their church. They would play at Sunday service and on holidays. After a brief hold on her musical career to finish high school and college, she picked it back up upon moving to Bozeman in 2013. She began volunteering at Live at the Divide, an intimate venue just northeast of Downtown Bozeman, which later turned into a paid position.

“Through this work I learned a lot about sound technology, venue operation and the music business,” Caroll said. “What I was mostly interested in however was learning songwriting, performance and how to grow my skills as an artist.”

At an open mic one night, she met a group of friends with similar music interests and goals and formed a band, “Drink Me Pretty.” They drove from business to business asking them if they could use their space to play and gain an audience. Although they disbanded in 2016, Caroll learned a lot from those years, and was armed with the tenacity and skillset to peruse a solo career in music.

She got her start thanks to a residency program at The Gravel Bar in Ennis and some gentle urging from Mandy Rowden, a friend, mentor, and musician and songwriter from Texas. He calls her time at The Gravel Bar a “game changer” for her performance since she learned a lot about stage presence, sound and creating a poignant set list. In 2019, Caroll launched a Kickstarter to fund her first album and toured around Montana and Texas.

“That was an experience that really helped me grow before going into recording,” Caroll said.

She was able to work with a plethora of local musicians including: Isaac Carroll, Tony Polecastro, Chelsea Hunt, Rick Winking, Levi Main, Doc Wiley, Mason Tuttle, Tom Murphy, Ethan Decker, Krista Barnett, Alaina Gordon, Hannah Clemenson, Tyler Schultz and her little brother Luke Simonson.

“It was a great group of players to have on my first project—I was very lucky!” she said of her first album, “She’s Pretty, Vol. 1,” which was released in October 2019. Volume 2 was released the following year and fans can listen to both streaming on Spotify, Apple and Amazon Music.

“I honestly haven’t been able to support the project as much as I would have liked with the pandemic, like so many other artists,” Caroll said. “This year I am looking forward to supporting these records through the summer while preparing to get back to the studio to record a sophomore release. I have a handful of new songs I am excited to cut and get out to the world!”

This summer, in addition to working on her new album, Caroll is booking quite a few shows. You can find out where to catch her on her website, mercedescarroll.com.



Mercedes Caroll is working on a new album this summer and touring locally. PHOTO BY CHLOE NOSTRANT

BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR

Friday, May 21 – Thursday, June 3

If your event falls between June 4 and June 17, please submit it by May 26 by emailing media@outlaw.partners

Friday, May 21

Friday Afternoon Club

EBS Facebook Live, 5 p.m.

Live Music: The Damn Duo

Tips Up, 8 p.m.

Saturday, May 22

Saturday Sweat

Moving Mountains, 8 a.m.

Beer Release

Mountains Walking Brewery, Bozeman, 10 a.m.

Sunday, May 23

Brunch

Mountains Walking Brewery, Bozeman, 10 a.m.

Sunday FUNDay

Bozeman Brewing Company, 11 a.m.

Monday, May 24

Trivia Night

Pinky G's Pizzeria, 7 p.m.

Sunrise Karaoke

American Legion, Bozeman, 9 p.m.

Tuesday, May 25

Legally Blonde the Musical

Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 4 & 7 p.m.

Trivia Night

Café 191, 5:30 p.m.

Bingo Night hosted by the American Legion Post #99

The Riverhouse BBQ & Events, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 26

Full Moon Women's Circle

Santosha Wellness Center, 7:30 p.m.

Legally Blonde the Musical

Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 4 & 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 27

Big Sky Thursday Night Ride

Grizzly Outfitters, 5 p.m.

Friday, May 28

Friday Afternoon Club

EBS Facebook Live, 5 p.m.

Uncorked and Unplugged

Blend – Wine Bar & Gallery, Bozeman, 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 29

Saturday Sweat

Moving Mountains, 8 a.m.

Medicinal and Edible Plants Walk

Paradise Permaculture Institute, Livingston, 10 a.m.

Sunday, May 30

Tsunami Funk

Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Twisted Trivia

Bar IX, Bozeman, 7 p.m.

Monday, May 31

Live Poker

Cat's Paw, Bozeman, 1 p.m.

Trivia Night

Pinky G's Pizzeria, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 1

Trivia Night

Café 191, 5:30 p.m.

Bone Dry Comedy Hour

American Legion, Bozeman, 9 p.m.

Wednesday, June 2

Big Sky Farmer's Market

Town Center, 5 p.m.

Open Mic Comedy Night

J & Company Bar, Bozeman, 8 p.m.

Thursday, June 3

Pure Barre Pop Up

Blend – Wine Bar & Gallery, Bozeman, 4 p.m.

Big Sky Thursday Night Ride

Grizzly Outfitters, 5 p.m.

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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.

Is the perfect food always perfect?



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

If you've read anything I've written, you know my thoughts on sugar and, though yes I do consume sugar, how I have warned of its devastating effects on the body if consumed in excess. I choose the word devastating deliberately.

But not all sugar is created equal.

To be fair, most every sugar is still sugar and does essentially the same thing once it enters the human body. Over the last four or five decades, we have created and disguised sugar in many forms of sheep's clothing. From agave nectar to the rainbow of colored substitute packets, sugar is still sugar and it's bad for you—with a possible almost exception of Stevia.

But one sugar separates itself as not only good for you, but often gets called the perfect food.

Honey.

Clay pots discovered in the Tbilisi area of Georgia shows humans were harvesting honey as far back as 5,500 years. And not just one variety but several.

Honey is good for you and comes with many health benefits. Aside from being good for our brain (brains need sugar to function), it has been linked to fighting metabolic syndrome, upper respiratory tract infections, maintaining healthy gut bacteria, as well providing small amounts of 31 different minerals.

The honey making process begins with the honey bee sucking a plants nectar through its proboscis, or long flexible snout, and into its honey stomach which is separate from its food stomach.

Once back at the hive, the nectar gets transferred from bee to bee several times, each breaking it down further with their bodies' enzymes until it is ready to be excreted into the comb.

At this point, it is left open until some of the excess water and other moisture evaporates to just the right consistency. And what more efficient way to assist in that evaporation than to create a natural fan by yet another set of bees whose job it is to beat their wings to create air flow. Then that individual chamber in the comb is sealed with more wax which is produced by separate bees with that specific task.

And while this perfect food is one of nature's most fascinating creations, not all honey is perfect.

Some honey you purchase it not real, that is to say, not all of it is 100 percent pure. It may be adulterated with other sugars or syrups.

I know, is nothing sacred?

Here are some tricks to figure out if the honey you purchased is real or fake.

The first and most obvious is to read the label. If it says anything other than "pure" or "Raw" honey, it has some sort of water or additives such as corn syrup.

And if the price seems too good to be true, it is probably because there are additives in your honey.

When there is enough room in the jar, tip the jar upside down and watch how long it takes for the honey to go from a steady stream to a drip. The longer your honey drizzles, the purer it is.

Fill a pint jar about half way with water. Pour an ounce or two of your honey in, screw a lid on tightly and shake vigorously for five to ten seconds. The longer the foam takes to dissipate on the surface of the water the purer your honey is.

So, the next time you're at the store and looking for the perfect sugar alternative, at least do your due diligence and make sure they honey is pure, and from the bees.

Scott Mechura has spent a life in the hospitality industry. He is a former certified beer judge and currently the multi-concept culinary director for a Bozeman based restaurant group.

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American Life in Poetry

BY KWAME DAWES

Tracy K. Smith, former poet Laureate, has a wonderful way with strange and haunting images, that still manage to tell a resonant story. I think of the old story she tells here—how future generations must contend with the grand absence that comes with the passing of time. Yet, there is hope, there is hope in art, in song, and one imagines, in this poem. “An Old Story” is a beautiful anthem to the singing.

An Old Story

BY TRACY K. SMITH

We were made to understand it would be
Terrible. Every small want, every niggling urge,
Every hate swollen to a kind of epic wind,

Livid, the land, and ravaged, like a rageful
Dream. The worst in us having taken over
And broken the rest utterly down.

A long age
Passed. When at last we knew how little
Would survive us—how little we had mended

Or built that was not now lost—something
Large and old awoke. And then our singing
Brought on a different manner of weather.

Then animals long believed gone crept down
From trees. We took new stock of one another.
We wept to be reminded of such color.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Malay boat
- Can. Broadcasting Corp. (abbr.)
- Mop
- Yesterday (Ital.)
- Age
- A (Ger.)
- Musical instrument (string)
- White matter of the brain
- “Fables in Slang” author
- Letter of resignation
- Arabic letter
- Article (Fr.)
- Egg-shaped
- Emanate
- Quick
- N. Afr. jackal
- Turk. title
- Love (Lat.)
- Gooseberry genus
- One of the Harpies
- Supporter (suf.)
- Actor’s sign
- Alligator fish
- Small drum
- Overshadow
- Tart
- Gr. author
- Taro
- Poetic contraction
- Car
- Arabian Sea gulf
- Habit
- Time period

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

DOWN

- SW US cotton
- Study
- Caen’s river
- Hand
- Musical instrument (percussion)
- Border
- “Pagliacci” character
- Expanse
- Colima (2 words)
- Coptic clergyman
- Gun sight
- Concert halls
- Tennessee Valley Authority (abbr.)
- Book (Lat.)
- Love feast
- Recommended daily allowance (abbr.)
- Own (Scot.)
- Limn
- Pride
- Latitude (abbr.)
- Compass direction
- Report
- Deserter
- Mongol tent
- Candle
- Carried away
- Academy (abbr.)
- Blue (Fr.)
- Not false
- Eight (pref.)
- Loudness measure
- Uproar
- Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
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54						55			56		
57						58			59		

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Corner Quote

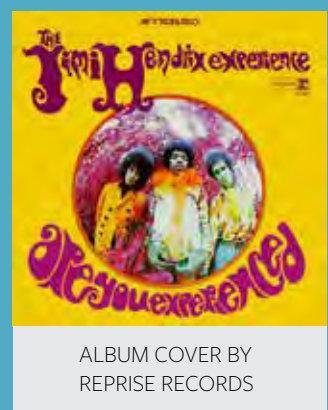
“When words become unclear, I shall focus with photographs. When images become inadequate, I shall be content with silence.”

– Ansel Adams

BIG SKY BEATS

“Are You Experienced” BY GABRIELLE GASSER

American singer and songwriter Jimi Hendrix is considered by many as one of the greatest instrumentalists in the history of rock music. Hendrix had a short but explosive career spanning only three years during which he released just three studio albums. His first studio album, “Are You Experienced,” was released in the U.K. on May 12, 1967 and spent 33 weeks on the charts, peaking at number two just behind The Beatles album, “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band.” The release of “Are You Experienced” is widely regarded as one of the greatest debuts in rock history and it took psychedelic and hard rock music in a new direction. Of the 17 tracks on the album, “Purple Haze,” “Hey Joe” and “The Wind Cries Mary” became hits that you have likely heard. The album is a great way to take a dive into some historic rock with an hour of Jimi’s unique use of amplifier feedback, mesmerizing guitar riffs and tone-altering effects.



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Bozeman Health Foundation would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who helped make Hospitality 2021 a success. An Evening Under the Stars, Rising Together to Support Behavioral Health in Bozeman & Big Sky, exceeded our \$600,000 goal in support of expanding behavioral health services.

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BACK 40

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

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

A Farrier's Art

BY MARIA WYLLIE

A farrier pulls a hot orange horseshoe from his forge and rests it on the anvil. At approximately 1,800 degrees, the steel is now malleable, and he carefully rotates the shoe, striking it deftly with a hammer.

The young man speaks not a word, working with total concentration of mind and body. If it weren't for his modern-day smithy and pickup truck, Josh Stanley could easily belong in a century past.



Before nailing on a shoe, Vanessa Shaw removes excess hoof wall with a rasp. PHOTO BY EMILY WOLFE

The history of the farrier is interwoven with the history of man and earth, and of war, culture and money. This ancient art form likely began when the Celts first nailed rims of iron to their horses' feet around 400 B.C., according to Hickman's Farriery, a working reference for farriers. Archaeologists have found horseshoes in Celtic graves, where horses were often buried alongside their masters.

Gradually the practice extended through Gaul and made its way to Britain by 450 B.C., and much later to America in the 18th century.

Stanley, originally from Memphis, Tennessee, has been shoeing horses in the Bozeman area since 2006. Just 30-years-old, he's one of the busiest farriers around.

A farrier must carry his knowledge in his hands, he says. “So much of our work depends on being able to feel the foot – not just see.” A Certified Journeyman Farrier, Stanley likes to explain the shoeing process to clients – how a particular hand-forged shoe affects the foot and overall health of a horse.

This type of knowledge wasn't part of a farrier's work until the early 1800s, when British scientists began studying how the anatomy of a horse's foot relates to its function. Up to that point, forging shoes and shoeing horses was simply the art of a skilled craftsman. Once this information was adopted, a respected London livery company called the Worshipful Company of Farriers instituted a process for examining and registering horseshoers in 1890. Soon, apprenticeships, traveling farriery schools and competitions became an industry standard.

In America, however, such standards were never adopted. The practice of shoeing horses reached its peak in the early 1900s when horses were used for everything from transportation and farming to the U.S. Cavalry during the expansion of Western settlement, according to *The Principles of Horseshoeing II*.

“It used to be a huge industry, and farriers and vets were one and the same,” Stanley explained on the drive between jobs in Three Forks. “Some of the best minds in the world were involved in farriery to keep the wheels of commerce turning.”

But with the rise of mechanization and the dwindling number of farms, commercial horse use in the United States declined. Even so, riding grew as a popular leisure activity in the second half of the century, keeping the trade alive.

Although equine use is continually evolving, little has changed in the science of horseshoeing for most farriers.

“Most of what we know now, we knew 110 years ago,” said Earl Craig, President of the Montana Professional Horseshoers' Association. “Diagnostic equipment and drugs are what's improved, but in general, the basic job is similar to what it [always] was.”

With no legal certifications required to shoe a horse in America, continuing education is vital in preserving the trade and maintaining a high standard, says Bryce Kawasaki, Director of the Montana State University Farrier School in Bozeman.

Established in 1970, the program is one of the oldest in the country and draws students both nationally and internationally. Combined with the area's numerous ranches and affluent equine community, it has made Bozeman a mecca for horseshoers.

This has helped keep the bar high among Gallatin Valley's vibrant community of horseshoers, says Tom Wolfe, who directed the school for 30 years before handing the reins to Kawasaki in 2013. Many are eager to learn more, he said, and rather than simply tending to their own work, their shop doors are always open.



One of Stanley's handmade shoes. PHOTO BY TYLER BUSBY



Certified Journeyman Farrier Lamar Weaver forges a sample horseshoe at the third annual Bozeman Winterfest Farrier Clinic and Contest, held in February 2013. Horseshoers gather to examine his technique and ask questions before the competition begins. PHOTO BY MARIA WYLLIE

“The thing that’s exciting is the camaraderie,” said Wolfe, who still maintains a strong client base in and around Bozeman.

Stanley says working together helps shoers advance further, attributing his own success in part to Wolfe, whom he calls a horseshoeing master.

“Tom encouraged students to try and find someone to ride around with,” he said. “He knows all the horseshoers who should be known.”

Organized functions like the Bozeman Farrier Clinic and Contest, held as part of the city’s annual Winterfest, also help disperse knowledge. The third annual event last winter drew farriers from around southwest Montana, Idaho and Wyoming to compete and learn new techniques.

“It’s for fun,” says Stanley, who competes around the country and the world with the American Farriers Team.

In one competition, farriers are given an hour to make a shoe from bar stock and then evaluated on how closely the shoe compares to the judge’s sample shoes. The contests can help farriers become more efficient, and also serve as a platform for their work to be critiqued.

Another Montana horseshoer, Katie Cosgriff, has taken a different path. A fourth generation farrier from Big Timber, Cosgriff is less interested in the tradition and artistry behind horseshoeing.

“There is a lot of blacksmithing and art in forging steel shoes,” she said. “I’m more into hoof function and internal structures.”

Cosgriff has been shoeing horses with her father as long as she can remember. A graduate of the MSU Farrier School, she holds an animal science degree and a human biology degree from MSU-Bozeman, a doctorate in chiropractic from the University of Western States in Portland, Oregon, and is board certified by the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association.

Even so, she says establishing herself in such a competitive arena wasn’t easy. “When I started out, I’d shoe whatever I could get,” she said.

Now with 18 years of professional experience, Cosgriff, 37, is perhaps an exception to a lack of innovation in the trade. She works almost exclusively on performance and lame horses, and has traveled to Germany to work with a veterinary farrier team using a synthetic shoe that allows a hoof to function like it does barefoot, but with protection.

Cosgriff says her chiropractic knowledge – as well as a strong back – helps with the physical aspects of her work. “When you’re a female and you’re smaller, there’s a lot of horsemanship and finesse that goes into it. It’s not about being stronger than the animal.”

In a similar way, she creates a therapeutic environment for her clients – both human and horse.

“Oftentimes the horse will have the same problem as the rider,” Cosgriff said, explaining that if the rider bears weight on one side of her body when riding, the horse will too, thus creating asymmetrical movement that can lead to problems and/or injury. Traveling with a portable massage therapy table, she’ll work on both trainers and horses.

Cosgriff is not alone as a woman farrier.

Kalispell, Montana native Vanessa Shaw was working as a real estate appraiser before she took her hand at the anvil.

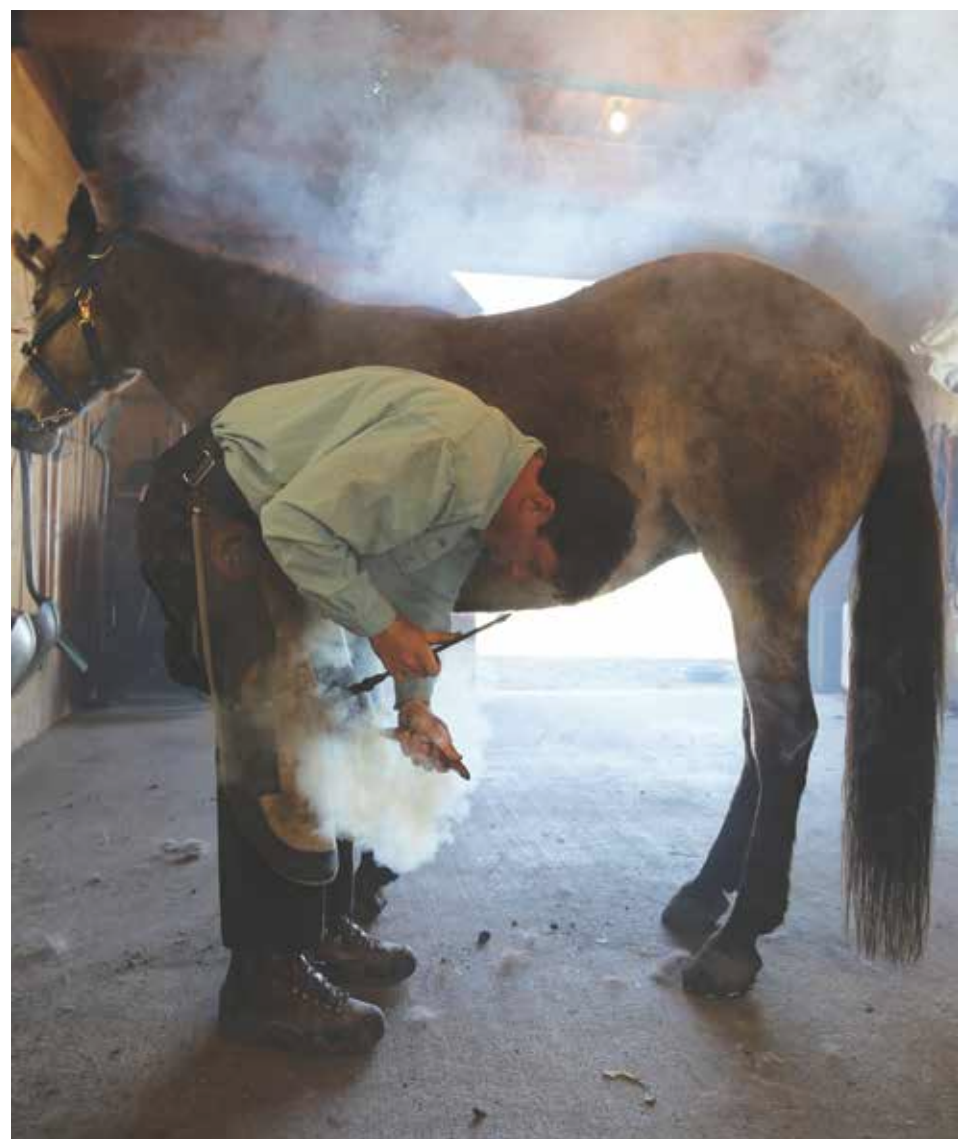
“Like a bolt of lightning, it struck me,” Shaw said. “I went out to ride with my friend ... She let me pull a horseshoe, and it was the hardest thing I had ever done. I had just run a 50-mile race, and it was harder than that. I was hooked.”

Shaw soon quit her job and attended the MSU Farrier School, then apprenticed with Wolfe as an advanced student. Today, she runs her own business, Shaw’d Horses, based out of Bozeman, but loves working alongside her peers.

“Every farrier has been so helpful,” she said. “If I have a question, I can call anyone or ride along with anyone. It’s such an awesome community to be a part of.”

Sometimes, she says, a group of farriers including Wolfe and Stanley will travel to guest ranches around Montana and Wyoming and shoe a whole string of horses. They’ll make just enough to pay for the trip, but it isn’t always about the money.

A version of this story was first published in the Summer 2014 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine.



Josh Stanley hot shoeing a horse at the Eagle Rock Reserve Barn south of Bozeman. This technique allows a farrier to modify a shoe after it has been fitted, and many prefer it over cold shoeing. It typically takes Stanley 12-15 minutes to trim a horse, and an hour to shoe. Rather than shaping factory-made shoes, he makes his own from bar stock. PHOTO BY TYLER BUSBY



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