

ExploreTM

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

FREE

Big Sky

May 7 - 20, 2021
Volume 12 // Issue #10

**All-Spanish comedy night
takes WMPAC stage**

*Big Sky Ski Patrol votes
to unionize*

**Fire department urges wildfire
preparedness**

*What now?
Guidelines for the vaccinated*

**Letterpress duo takes
show on road**



OUTLAWTM
PARTNERS

explorebigsky.com



OUTLAW PARTNERS

May 7 - 20, 2021

Volume 12, Issue No. 10

Owned and published in Big Sky, Montana

PUBLISHER

Eric Ladd | eric@theoutlawpartners.com

EDITORIAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, VP MEDIA

Joseph T. O'Connor | joe@theoutlawpartners.com

NEW MEDIA LEAD

Mira Brody | mira@theoutlawpartners.com

STAFF WRITER

Gabrielle Gasser | gabrielle@theoutlawpartners.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Bella Butler | bella@theoutlawpartners.com

CREATIVE

LEAD DESIGNER

Marisa Opheim | marisa@theoutlawpartners.com

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

ME Brown | maryelizabeth@theoutlawpartners.com

SALES AND OPERATIONS

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Megan Paulson | megan@theoutlawpartners.com

VP, SALES AND MARKETING

EJ Daws | ej@theoutlawpartners.com

VP OF EVENTS

Ennion Williams | ennion@theoutlawpartners.com

MEDIA AND EVENTS DIRECTOR

Ersin Ozer | ersin@theoutlawpartners.com

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT LEAD

Sam Brooks | sam@theoutlawpartners.com

CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER

Blythe Beaubien | blythe@theoutlawpartners.com

CONTROLLER, DISTRIBUTION DIRECTOR

Treston Wold | treston@theoutlawpartners.com

EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR

Tucker Harris | tucker@theoutlawpartners.com

COPYWRITER

Patrick Straub

CONTRIBUTORS

Rich Addicks, Seth Dahl, Eric Dietrich, Jacob W. Frank, Al Malinowski, Scott Mechura, Pat Straub, Samantha Suazo, Pepper Trail, Kara Tripp, David Tucker, Dr. Andrea Wick, Jenny Wilcynski, Todd Wilkinson

ON THE COVER:

Vibrant colors emerge out of the steam at Grand Prismatic Spring on a brisk April morning. PHOTO BY ME BROWN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OPINION.....	4	ENVIRONMENT&OUTDOORS.....	20
LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS.....	6	SPORTS.....	25
LOCAL	7	ARTS&ENTERTAINMENT.....	29
REGIONAL.....	14	BUSINESS	34
OP NEWS.....	15	DINING.....	36
HEALTH.....	17	FUN.....	39

10

All-Spanish comedy night takes WMPAC stage

“La Gran Noche de Comedia” will feature up-and-coming comedians Francisco Ramos and Cat Alvarado delivering a show entirely in Spanish. Event organizers say creating a gathering point for the Latino community in Big Sky is important and hope for more to come.

12

Big Sky Ski Patrol votes to unionize

In a 69-21 vote on April 29, patrollers at Big Sky voted to be represented by the United Professional Ski Patrols of America. The hope is to gain better working conditions along with more competitive wages and benefits.

9

Fire department urges wildfire preparedness

On May 1, representatives from the Big Sky Fire Department along with volunteers went door-to-door in Big Sky to educate residents about wildfire preparedness. A growing community and longer burn season make being prepared for fire critical.

18

What now? Guidelines for the vaccinated

After reaching fully vaccinated status, navigating current guidelines and understanding safe and CDC-approved activities is tough. Here’s what you need to know.

29

Letterpress duo takes show on road

After purchasing an old letterpress on Facebook Marketplace for \$100, two college dormmates plan to travel the country in a mobile studio visiting traditional letterpress shops.

Opening Shot



Volunteers gathered in Gallatin Canyon on the banks of the Gallatin River on May 5 to plant native vegetation as part of the Upper Deer Creek Riparian Habitat and Access Restoration project. Construction on the project began in August of 2020 and is completed after the May 5 efforts. Partners in the project include Gallatin River Task Force, Montana Trout Unlimited and Custer Gallatin National Forest. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER

EDITORIAL POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

Outlaw Partners, LLC is the sole owner of Explore Big Sky. EBS reserves the right to edit all submitted material. Printed material reflects the opinion of the author and is not necessarily the opinion of Outlaw Partners or its editors. EBS will not publish anything discriminatory or in bad taste.

EBS welcomes obituaries written by family members or from funeral homes. To place an obituary, please submit 500 words or less to media@theoutlawpartners.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor allow EBS readers to express views and share how they would like to effect change. These are not Thank You notes. Letters should be 250 words or less, respectful, ethical, accurate, and proofread for grammar and content. We reserve the right to edit letters and will not publish individual grievances about specific businesses or letters that are abusive, malicious or potentially libelous. Include: full name, address, phone number and title. Submit to media@outlaw.partners.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

For the May 21, 2021 issue: May 12, 2021

CORRECTIONS

Please report errors to media@outlaw.partners.

OUTLAW PARTNERS & EXPLORE BIG SKY

P.O. Box 160250, Big Sky, MT 59716 (406) 995-2055 • media@outlaw.partners

© 2021 Explore Big Sky unauthorized reproduction prohibited

#explorebigsy

f explorebigsy

t explorebigsy

@explorebigsy



LEGACY PROPERTY ON 160 ACRES WITH PONDS AND STREAMS

Great Point Lodge, Meadow Village
8 BED + 10 BATH | 16,000 +/- SQ. FT. | 159 +/- ACRES | \$25,000,000



MOONLIGHT BASIN

4A Lodgeside Way
4 BED + 4 BATH | 3,278 +/- SQ. FT. | \$4,350,000 UF

THE BIG SKY REAL ESTATE CO.

Let's Make It Happen.



Martha Johnson
VP of Sales
Founding Broker
martha@bigsky.com
406.580.5891

View all my listings at bigskyrealestate.com/team/martha-johnson

Pending



MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

Mountain Lake 2B Summit View Road #102B
4 BED + 3 BATH | 2,416 +/- SQ. FT. | \$1,450,000



ONLY 4 TRACTS REMAINING

Gallatin Preserve, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club
160+/- ACRES | \$6,615,000 - \$8,295,000



SKI-IN/SKI-OUT NEIGHBORHOOD

Highlands Neighborhood, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club
3 - 6 BED + 3.5 - 5.5 BATH | 2,914 - 4,620 +/- SQ. FT. | FROM \$3,900,000



WEST YELLOWSTONE

179 Old Lionhead Camp
6 BED + 6 BATH | 4,160 +/- SQ. FT. | 18.37 +/- ACRES | \$3,999,000



4 BUILDINGS UNDER CONTRACT

Inspiration Point, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club
5 BED + 6 BATH | 4,275 +/- SQ. FT. | FROM \$5,150,000 | CALL MARTHA FOR AVAILABILITY



406.995.6333 | [BIGSKYREALESTATE.COM](https://bigskyrealestate.com)

ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED IS DEEMED RELIABLE BUT IS NOT GUARANTEED AND SHOULD BE INDEPENDENTLY VERIFIED. INFORMATION AND DEPICTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO ERRORS, OMISSIONS, PRIOR SALES, PRICE CHANGES OR WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT NOTICE. NO GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY HAS JUDGED THE MERITS OR VALUE, IF ANY, OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS ADVERTISEMENT OR ANY REAL ESTATE DESCRIBED OR DEPICTED HEREIN. THIS MATERIAL SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER TO SELL IN ANY STATE OR OTHER JURISDICTION WHERE PRIOR REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED OR WHERE SUCH AN OFFER WOULD BE PROHIBITED, AND THIS SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE A SOLICITATION IF YOU ARE WORKING WITH ANOTHER REAL ESTATE AGENT. NOTHING HEREIN SHALL BE CONSTRUED AS LEGAL, TAX, ACCOUNTING, OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL ADVICE.

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



Give Big Gallatin Valley, May 6-7, is a countywide effort to generate funding for community causes. What nonprofit do you support or what are some causes that are close to your heart?



Noah Fisher | Big Sky, MT

"I work at Discovery Academy, so that is probably number one close to my heart right now. I love the community dynamics and the both the student and staff community that work there and the opportunities that it provides for students and teachers."



Sally Fisher | Big Sky, MT

"For sure the Big Sky Library. We love it so much as a family, [especially] Story Time. It got delayed for a little bit but it is just the best program. And their One Book Big Sky program, I love that too, it is awesome. So for sure the Big Sky Library."



Riley Daniels | Big Sky, MT

"Every year is Eagle Mount. I volunteer every winter—this was my third year volunteering with the program. The participants in the program, it's just like getting to know the people in the community and from all over the country just to be in this program here in Big Sky. It just puts a little love in your heart with every lesson. It gives me a purpose."



Dan and Jeannie Hallock | Red Lodge, MT

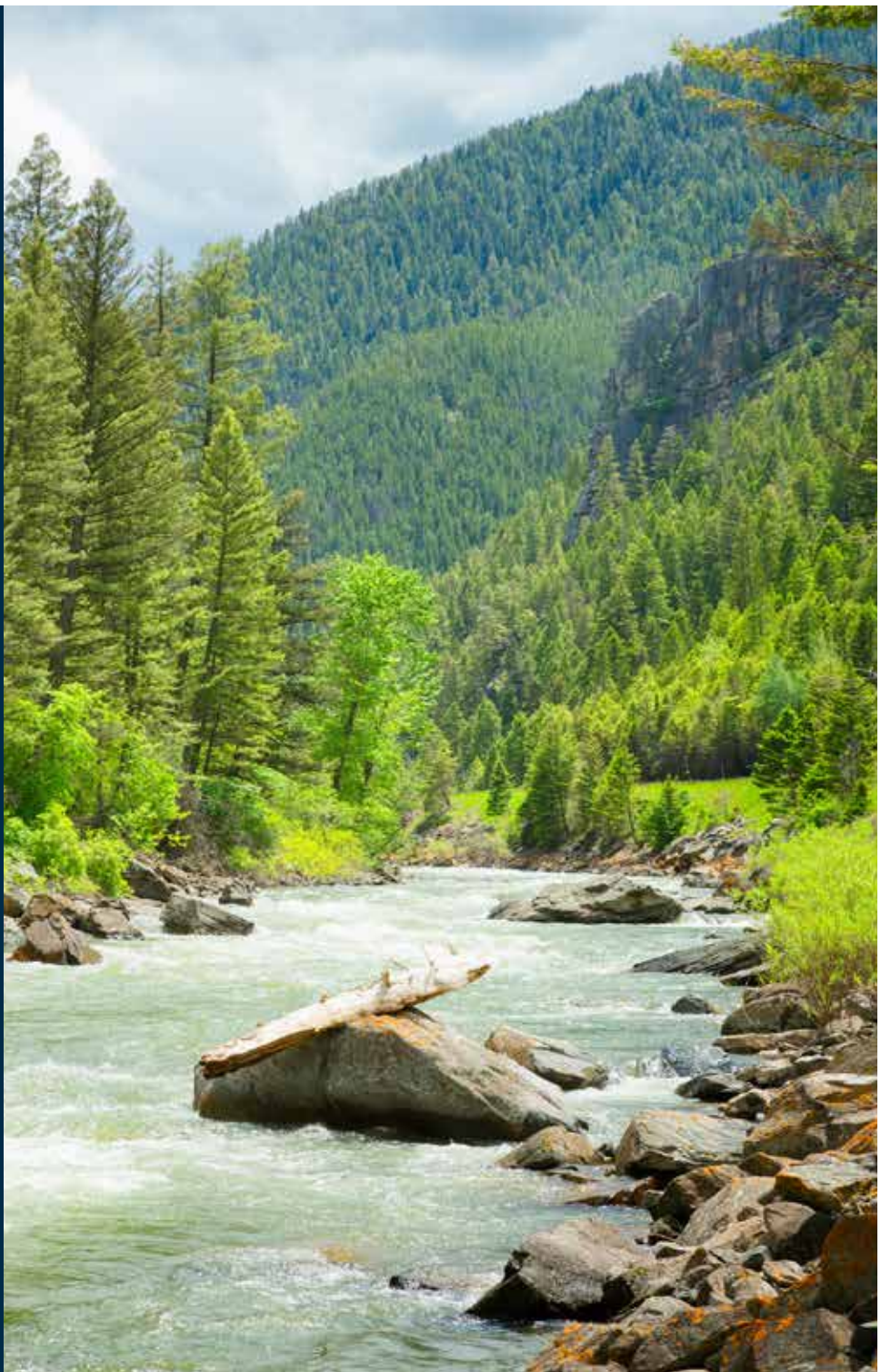
"The Billy Graham [Evangelistic Association.] It's a good Christian Foundation that donates to anywhere in the U.S., like when the riots were going on they were down there helping, they go everywhere, if there's flooding—they're in India right now. Any need, they help out."

Save Water. Save Money. Save the Gallatin.

The Gallatin River Task Force will pay you to upgrade your water-using household fixtures to more efficient models.

Start saving today by visiting gallatinrivertaskforce.org/indoor-rebates or calling (406) 993-2519.

Funding for the Big Sky Water Conservation program provided by



BETTER TOGETHER



A biweekly District bulletin

Project Summary

Part 1 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. 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.

Government Entities	Community Development & Social Services	District Events
3-YEAR INTERLOCAL REQUESTS:		12 MAY Board Meeting* @ 9:00 am
Operations Big Sky Fire Department \$2,757,921	Music in the Mountains 2022 Arts Council of Big Sky \$215,000	31 MAY Memorial Day Office Closed
Operations Big Sky Transportation District \$2,775,000	Cultural Programming for 2021 & 2022 Warren Miller Performing Arts Center \$210,000	7 JUNE Application Review Meeting #1* @ 5:30 pm
Operations Gallatin County Sheriff's Office \$999,981	Tuition Assistance Program Morningstar Learning Center \$200,000	10 JUNE Application Review Meeting #2* @ 5:30 pm
Operations Gallatin Canyon Water & Sewer District \$222,000	Montessori Early Childhood Program Big Sky Discovery Academy & Community Learning Center \$92,446	*All meetings are open to the public and held via Zoom. Public comments are welcome and highly encouraged. Visit ResortTax.org for more info.
Housing	Big Sky Community Library Friends of the Big Sky Community Library \$87,825	Economic Development
Furture Development TBD Big Sky Community Housing Trust \$1,100,000	Operating Budget Morningstar Learning Center \$75,000	Destination Marketing Visit Big Sky \$556,215
RiverView Apartments on Lone Mountain Trail Big Sky Community Housing Trust \$500,000	Behavioral Health Women In Action \$51,500	Staffing & Operations Big Sky Chamber of Commerce \$321,507
Operations Big Sky Community Housing Trust \$140,000	Emergency Food & Social Services Big Sky Community Food Bank \$48,000	Staffing & Operations Visit Big Sky \$199,279
Rent Local Incentive Big Sky Community Housing Trust \$130,000	Event Coordinator Big Sky Ski Education Foundation \$20,000	Education - Market Research Visit Big Sky \$25,997
Down Payment Assistance Big Sky Community Housing Trust \$40,000		Public Health & Safety
		BSFD Capital Request Big Sky Fire Department \$1,035,000
		Training & Equipment Big Sky Search and Rescue \$53,500
		<i>Project applications may be viewed at: ResortTax.org/funding</i>

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."

Info@ResortTax.org | ResortTax.org | 406.995.3234



Big Sky Building Reserve Levy passes, two trustees re-elected

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – Unofficial results from the May 4 Gallatin County school election are in. Big Sky School District #72 had two items on the ballot: the election of two trustees and a Big Sky Building Reserve Levy.

As of EBS press time, the Levy had 378 votes for and 234 against, making it likely that the measure will pass. The School Board voted to finalize the ballot language for the levy on March 16 for the purpose of raising funds to pay teacher salary increases.

Also on the ballot were two open trustee positions for which Matthew Jennings and Loren Bough ran for reelection. Since they are the only two running, their places as trustees are secure with only 46 write-in votes.

Bough has served on the School Board for 11 years serving three three-year terms and one two-year term. Jennings has served on the board for nine years with three three-year terms. Next year, according to BSSD Business Manager Corky Miller, two positions will be up for election, which are currently held by Whitney Littman and Scott Hammond.

Bough and Jennings will be sworn in again as trustees on May 18 after the vote is finalized by the Gallatin County Board of Canvassers.

Health board allows health rules to expire

GALLATIN MEDIA CENTER

BOZEMAN – On May 5, the Gallatin City-County Board of Health discussed current local emergency rules that are meant to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in Gallatin County and legislation that may make those rules unenforceable.

The two rules that remain in effect until they expire include the following:

- Phase 2 reopening rule. This rule includes restrictions on public gatherings, table sizes in restaurants, table spacing and overall capacity for bars, restaurants, breweries and other licensed establishments. It also contains limits on group size for gatherings. This rule expires on May 10.
- Face covering rule. This rule remains in force until May 27.
- Legislation approved by the Montana Legislature and expected to be signed by Gov. Gianforte (HB 257) will prevent enforcement of these rules by the Health Department or any local government agency once that legislation is signed into law.

The Gallatin City-County Health Department will continue to strongly urge citizens to practice all of the recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that we know help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. Avoid crowds when possible. Wear face coverings in public places where social distancing cannot be maintained. Stay home when you are sick. And get a free, safe, and effective COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccines are readily available in Gallatin County at multiple locations. Find options at healthygallatin.org/covid-19-vaccines.

Those with concerns about enforcement of local health rules or HB 257 should call the governor's office at 406-444-3111, or the sponsor of the legislation, Rep. Jedediah Hinkle, at 406-992-0703.

GRTF restoration project wraps

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – On May 5, volunteers gathered on the banks of the Gallatin River to plant native streamside vegetation and build a protective fence. These efforts are part of a larger ongoing project spearheaded by the Gallatin River Task Force to restore the upper Gallatin River corridor and to provide sustainable recreation opportunities.

After planting concluded on Wednesday, the Upper Deer Creek Riparian Habitat and Access Restoration project will be completed, according to Emily O'Connor, conservation program manager for GRTF. The project has been in the works for about three years now and includes partnerships with Montana Trout Unlimited and Custer Gallatin National Forest.

The volunteers planted a total of 380 plants and erected a fence around them to protect the young plants as they grow. Originally, the plan was to focus on the Deer Creek trailhead, but O'Connor explained that they had to shift to a site that provides better and sustainable river access.

Moving forward, the hope is that the newly restored area will provide improved recreation access for rafting companies and the public alike.

Transportation District expansion passes

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – The May 4 election in Gallatin and Madison counties has returned preliminary results indicating that the Big Sky Transportation District expansion will pass.

As of EBS press time results were still unofficial, pending a final count and subsequent approval that will occur on May 12, but the tallied votes indicate strong support for the expansion. Gallatin County returned 153 votes for and 27 against and Madison County reported 66 votes for and seven against the expansion. There will be one more ballot count on May 10 for any provisional ballots but according to Casey Hayes, Gallatin County election manager, that count is not expected to change the results.

Only a select group of Big Sky residents were able to weigh in on this ballot measure. Those who live in the boundaries of the Big Sky Resort Area District, but do not live within the boundaries of the current Transportation District were able to cast their votes.

Right now, the Transportation District Boundary covers U.S. Highway 64 or Lone Mountain Road from its juncture with U.S. Highway 191 up to Big Sky Resort, as well as the portion of 191 from the Big Horn Center down to the Corral Bar, Steakhouse & Motel.

The expansion of the district will provide clarity and ease for the district board and for the voting public in Big Sky.

Chamber provides update on TIGER Grant projects HWY 64 construction expected to begin this summer

BY MIRA BRODY

BIG SKY – Construction on Lone Mountain Trail, otherwise known as U.S. Highway 64, will begin this summer funded by a \$10.3 million federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant. Updates on the TIGER Grant were provided by representatives from Sanderson Stewart and the Western Transportation Institute at an April 29 Big Sky Chamber of Commerce Eggs & Issues meeting.

Big Sky’s unincorporated status, straddling of county lines and main thoroughfare owned by the state all pose hurdles for attaining funding through the state or county for infrastructure projects like most incorporated cities can.

The TIGER Grant provided a way to overcome these hurdles, says David Kack, executive director of the WTI at Montana State University.

The federal grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation was originally awarded to Gallatin County in June of 2018. Through Big Sky Area Resort Tax funding, the county contracted Bozeman-based engineering firm Sanderson Stewart for the road improvement projects. Sanderson Stewart spent extensive time collecting community input and data about traffic activity on Highway 64, which revealed problem areas including congested and dangerous intersections, wildlife crossings and pedestrian access.

“You don’t have to spend much time in Big Sky to understand what those are,” Kack said of the highway’s issues. “You see skid marks on the roads at these places because someone’s not paying attention and they see someone coming in front of them and they have to hit the breaks pretty hard.”

Design began in the fall of 2019, the full design plans were finalized in June of 2020, and Danielle Scharf, principal partner and regional manager of Sanderson Stewart, says



David Kack from the Western Transportation Institute discusses TIGER Grant updates. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BIG SKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

bids will be submitted May 2, and accepted on May 25. The contractor will have their notice to proceed with construction in June or early July. In June Sanderson Stewart will host a community update to establish project sequencing and traffic control.

Project plans include eight additional turn lanes along Highway 64, wildlife crossing signs, a pedestrian bridge and tunnel near Little Coyote Road, vehicle pullout areas and recreation paths along the road, much like the one in Bozeman leading to the ‘M’ trailhead.

Also present at the Eggs & Issues meeting was Laura Seyfang, executive director of the Big Sky Community Housing Trust, and Kack, this time

representing the Big Sky Transportation District. Seyfang spoke of the importance of providing affordable options for working class families in the community. She says when families can live where they work, they become more invested in their community. “It’s not a one-size-fits-all,” she said. “We have to come up with a lot of solutions to help those who are struggling to afford to live here.”

Their most recent partnership with Lone Mountain Land Company involved closing on the former American Bank property along Highway 64 and the adjacent parcel with workforce housing in mind. Seyfang says the benefit of using the Community Land Trust to make these purchases is that the community owns the deed, preventing it from being sold for any other use.

Kack spoke of the importance of expanding the Big Sky transportation District’s current boundary, an issue currently on the ballot that arrived in voters’ mailboxes last week. Those in the new proposed boundary will be the only ones voting on the boundary expansion and he noted that at this time, driving your ballot to the elections office is the only way to ensure your vote is counted.



PREMIER LIFESTYLE CRAFTERS

406.995.4579 | BLUERIBBONBUILDERS.COM | EST. 1975

BSSD's teacher housing projects calls on volunteers

BY MIRA BRODY

BIG SKY – The sound of hammers and a table saw rang out in the otherwise crisp, quiet spring morning at the Big Sky School District teacher housing project site where 12 volunteers from Habitat for Humanity International, AmeriCorps, Suffolk Construction and Lone Mountain Land Company worked. From April 19 to 23, the crew, which was also supported by Haas Builders, finished the outside features of the second housing unit, and will move to the interior with the help of the community.

On Saturday, May 22, Habitat for Humanity and BSSD are asking for community volunteers to help out with some interior finishes on the units. All tools, protective gear and even snacks will be provided.

“What we would like to have is to invite the community down to help out with anything we have left at that point,” said Habitat for Humanity of Gallatin Valley Executive Director David Magistrelli. “My anticipation is the mudding and taping, maybe some touch up trim that needs to be done, but it would be items that community could easily handle.”



When finished, the two triplex housing units will have capacity for a total of 12 individuals within six, 1,000 square foot units comprised of two bedrooms each, with a garage. PHOTO BY MIRA BRODY



Volunteers from Habitat for Humanity International, AmeriCorps, Suffolk Construction and Lone Mountain Land Company worked on the teacher housing project April 19 to 23. PHOTO BY MIRA BRODY

Right now, volunteers are getting a start on interior drywall, mudding, taping, trim finish and flooring. They hope to open the units to BSSD teachers by mid-June.

The project was first conceived in October 2018 at a local realtor association meeting when BSSD Superintendent Dustin Shipman and Business Manager Corky Miller attended a presentation by Habitat for Humanity of Gallatin Valley. They knew that with Big Sky's high cost of living, a housing project would ensure teachers could live locally, within walking distance to the school.

When finished, the two triplex housing units will have capacity for a total of 12 individuals within six, 1,000 square foot units comprised of two bedrooms each, with a garage. John Hannahs, the school's athletic director, has already made unit A his home.

Magistrelli says the pandemic slowed Habitat's ability to bring in additional volunteers over the last year.

“With the weather cooperating come on out, help us out and have a good time!” Magistrelli encouraged.

Those interested in volunteering on May 22 can contact Drew at: Volunteer@habitatbozeman.org

Big Sky Ski Patrol votes to unionize

BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR

BIG SKY – After a monthslong process following years of internal negotiations between workers, directors and management, the Big Sky Resort Professional Ski Patrol has voted to unionize.

In a 69-21 vote tallied on April 29, patrollers at Big Sky Resort chose to be represented by the United Professional Ski Patrols of America, a labor union organized under the Communications Workers of America, in an effort to gain better working conditions along with more competitive wages and benefits, patrol representatives said.

The vote has been a long time coming, according to 15-year patrol veteran Noah Ronczkowski, but much is left to be determined.

“I can't necessarily speak for everyone on the ski patrol,” said Ronczkowski, 39, who has been part of the group pushing for better conditions since 2014, “but I do feel like I understand what a lot of [patrollers] are saying and feel like I can speak fairly well on behalf of the majority of the 77 percent of people who voted yes to unionize the ski patrol.”

Big Sky's patrol joins Crested Butte, Steamboat and Telluride in Colorado, as well as Utah's Park City and Stevens Pass in Washington, all patrols represented by CWA. On May 3, Breckenridge ski patrollers in Colorado voted to unionize under CWA by a vote of 43-42. Last month, Keystone patrol voted against organizing a union.

While discussions have been underway since the 1980s, the most recent negotiations at Big Sky Resort began in 2014 when a group of nine ski patrollers began meeting unofficially outside of work to discuss the direction the ski patrol was headed, according to an BSSP Organizing Committee email obtained by EBS.



On April 29, Big Sky Resort Professional Ski Patrol voted 69-21 to unionize. PHOTO BY SKYLAB MEDIA HOUSE

“It was unanimous that the working conditions, wages, and benefits were not sustainable to make this job a career,” the email read. “It was decided that unionization would be a last resort.”

Over the next six years, the group sought to negotiate with resort directors and management without forming a union, and in 2019 proposed three requests to resort management: healthcare, paid time off and annual cost of living adjustments, or COLA, to keep wages consistent with the increasing cost of living and working in a resort town like Big Sky.

In February 2020, the patrol organized a focus group to streamline communication between patrollers and directors, and in April 2020, a dozen patrollers had a Zoom call with CWA “to get a better idea of what it would look like to unionize,” the email read.

“We respect and appreciate the thoughtful discussions our Ski Patrol team has had while in the union organization process,” said Troy Nedved, general manager for Big Sky Resort, in a statement to EBS. “Ultimately, we are one team who share a common passion for skiing in Big Sky, and we are committed to moving forward

and working together to provide the best workplace possible.”

The summer and offseason hold negotiations for both sides: the patrollers and the resort. But no guarantees exist for unionizing at this point, according to Ronczkowski.

“It doesn't guarantee anything at all,” he said. “The only thing it guarantees is a seat at the table.”

CWA representatives were unable to be reached for comment before EBS press time on May 5.

Mira Brody contributed reporting to this story.



Volunteers from the Rotary Club of Big Sky and Interact Club at Lone Peak High School joined members of the Big Sky Fire Department to educate the Big Sky community about wildfire preparedness. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER

Big Sky Fire Department promotes wildfire preparedness

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

BIG SKY – On the sunny Saturday morning of May 1, a group of volunteers gathered outside the Big Sky Fire Department Station #1 to join members of the department in canvassing the community. The occasion was National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day put on by the National Fire Protection Association, and the goal was to educate the community about wildfire preparedness.

Volunteers were comprised of the Rotary Club of Big Sky and three Lone Peak High School students from the Interact Club there to support Deputy Fire Chief Dustin Tetrault and his coworkers in their efforts. In the shadow of Station #1's fire engine, the crew circled up while Tetrault gave a run-down of the plan for the day.

"If we can educate five to ten people, I call that a success," said Tetrault.

This is the first year that the fire department went door-to-door according to Tetrault. In the past, BSFD held in-person events such as a brewery day where community members could gather and learn while sipping local brews. Due to concerns over COVID-19, Tetrault and his crew took to the streets to make sure the Big Sky community is educated and prepared.

Participants broke into three groups to divide and conquer the various neighborhoods including Hidden Village, Skywood and Ousel Falls. Armed with educational materials and official BSFD vehicles, the groups set off to their assigned areas.

At each stop, volunteers began by asking homeowners if they were enrolled in the Gallatin County Community Notification System which is an important tool to inform the community of warnings and evacuation orders.

The packet also included information on emergency evacuation routes out of Big Sky which are U.S. Highway 191 north, U.S. Highway 191 south, and Jack Creek Road.

Homeowners were asked to think of the defensible spaces around their homes which is the space between a structure and the surrounding wildland area. If desired, BSFD crew would walk around a homeowner's structure with them to complete a home risk assessment.

A recent \$18,383 grant from the International Association of Fire Chiefs as part of their Ready Set Go! Community Chipping Program will enable BSFD to continue holding community chipping days. To participate, homeowners are asked to stack any debris in a neat pile in an accessible spot on their property. Then, BSFD can haul a chipper up to each property and dispose of the debris for free.

Educating the community, home risk assessments and chipping days are important now more than ever, according to Tetrault.

"You can really see with how we are building out our community that we're putting more and more houses in these in these extreme risk areas," he said. "It's becoming more and more important that we educate the public that we're creating a higher hazard as we build out. The three big things for us are defensible space...knowing the evacuation processes within the community and knowing the evacuation routes, and a sense of personal responsibility."

According to a wildfire risk report by Headwaters Economics, "populated areas in Big Sky have, on average, greater risk [of wildfire] than 87 percent of communities in the state." Not only does Big Sky have a greater risk for wildfire, we also saw an over 100 percent increase in population from 1,528 in 2010 to 3,058 in 2019 according to the report.

Tetrault also emphasized the longer burn season that is affecting the Big Sky area and droughts that are affecting the entire state. He said that the same trends that have emerged in the past few years are continuing and now we are seeing what he called "flash droughts" where areas can go 30 to 45 days with no rain, high temperatures and low humidity which dry out fields very quickly.

Big Sky experienced one of its largest wildfires to date in November of 2020 according to Tetrault. He said the fire burned almost 700 acres and emphasized the fact that it happened in November was unusual.

The community canvassing is only the beginning according to Tetrault and he hopes to follow up with more home risk assessments. He explained there is a good chance most of the fire department will be busy with fire suppression or organizing an evacuation in an emergency and that, "a lot of [responsibility] is going to fall back on the community member to take the responsibility to plan for and to be prepared for some sort of a wildfire event."

WMPAC to host Spanish comedy night

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

BIG SKY – For the first time, the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on May 8 will host a night of comedy entirely in Spanish. Entitled “La Gran Noche de Comedia,” the event follows on the heels of the experimental performance from the 2021 winter season, “Through the Fourth Wall,” which featured a Spanish version of the interactive escape room game.

Andrew Garcia, a long time Big Sky local and WMPAC volunteer, was instrumental in creating the Spanish version of “Through the Fourth Wall” and he is again lending a hand to plan “La Gran Noche de Comedia,” which he named.

Garcia recalled a conversation with WMPAC Executive Director John Zirkle that took place while they worked on the escape room.

“The words that he told me that have always stuck with me are, “The WMPAC is here for the Big Sky community and that includes everybody in the community, whether they’re Spanish speaking, English speaking or wherever they may come from,”” Garcia said.

“La Gran Noche de Comedia,” or “The Great Night of Comedy,” will be performed entirely in Spanish, bringing to the stage up-and-coming comedians Francisco Ramos and Cat Alvarado.

Ramos was born and raised in Venezuela and came to the U.S. at age 12. He’s now garnering more attention in the television industry and is currently cast in the hit Netflix show “Gentefied.”

Alvarado is a comedian and activist who covers topics ranging from parenting to relationships. She has a popular YouTube channel called “The Reel Rejects” and hosts the comedy podcast “Villains of History.”

“I’m more than sure the audience is going to love them,” said Samantha Suazo, a junior at Lone Peak High School and one of the event organizers. “They’re both very charismatic and they love doing what they do. It’s their passion.”

Other organizers include Zirkle, Garcia and Josh Perkins, owner of Justus Entertainment Group, a Bozeman-based company specializing in fundraising, pop-up shops and large-scale events.

Perkins pitched the idea of arranging an evening with Latino comedians to Zirkle who immediately pulled Garcia into the project. Rounding out the team is Suazo who started the Latino Student Union at LPHS and who is spearheading a Spanish news source for the local Spanish-speaking community called Noticias Montaña.

All four organizers emphasized the importance of the upcoming evening as a gathering point for the growing Latino community in Big Sky. Currently, approximately 8 percent of the Big Sky population is Hispanic, according to 2019 American Community Survey data on Census Reporter.

“This year in particular has been a year of reflection for us about what type of programming we want to do and who’s in our audience and who’s in our community,” said Zirkle, adding that the idea permeating the entire project is about recognizing that Spanish speakers live in the Big Sky community, and that it’s important for WMPAC to offer diverse programming.

“I’m very happy to be a part of it and I’m glad that we’re being recognized,” Garcia said, “not just as someone who lives in Big Sky but as being part of what is Big Sky.”

Suazo commended Perkins and Zirkle for pitching the idea and starting a larger conversation. “It shows that there are people out there who are trying to create bridges for both communities so that we can become culturally aware that we are here,” Suazo said.

To make this night a reality, each organizer is chipping in with their unique skill set.

WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
LA GRAN DE NOCHE COMEDIA
 CAT ALVARADO FRANCISCO ROMAS
MAY 8TH 2021 EARLY SHOW 6:00 PM
 LATE SHOW 8:00 PM
 WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
 45465 GALLATIN ROAD, GALLATIN GATEWAY, MT 59730
MONTANA'S FIRST ALL-SPANISH COMEDY SHOW
 FEATURING COMEDIANS CAT ALVARADO & FRANCISCO ROMAS
 WITH SPECIAL GUEST DJ MASZ FINO
TICKETS \$30
 PLUS POD DISCOUNTS: GROUP OF TWO FOR \$50,
 GROUP OF FOUR FOR \$75, GROUP OF SIX FOR \$100
 TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.WMPAC.COM
 AND IN PERSON AT CACTUS RECORDS AND EL MERCADITO
 THE 6PM SHOW WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE VIRTUALLY
 POSTER COURTESY OF WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Zirkle provides WMPAC as an events space while helping secure funding and support marketing efforts. Perkins is using his professional connections to network and contract with the two comedians. Garcia came up with the name for the show and is helping with tickets, which are available at El Mercadito, his family’s Mexican market located in Four Corners. Suazo has supported marketing efforts and gone door-to-door to inform people and sell tickets.

“I think it’s so important to do something like this for the Latino community because it brings to them that feeling of home and to feel appreciated and to feel like we don’t have to be divided,” Suazo said.

Perkins said the idea sparked from his experience working on shows and events at Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and the Yellowstone Club. When he arrived to set up a show, he noticed a large Latino community behind the scenes at those establishments.

“I thought it’d be dope if we built something for them, something to acknowledge them and let them know we appreciate them being in the community,” Perkins said. “Whether it’s a 99.9 percent Caucasian population, we can still do something for that 0.1 percent of people one time a year to let them know that we’re here with them too, and we appreciate their efforts to keep the Big Sky community afloat.”

To kick off the evening, a DJ will warm up the audience. There will be a hybrid in-person/virtual show at 6 p.m. and another live show at 8 p.m.

According to Zirkle, the evening won’t be a one-off and organizers are thinking

of more ways to make WMPAC a space for everyone in the community, English and Spanish speakers alike.

“I’m happy that we got this going and I’m hoping that this leads to us doing more fun things,” Perkins said. “We’ve already been kicking up ideas about making a full night of entertainment where it’s not just comedy, but we mix it up and bring a bunch of different tangibles, a bunch of different lanes of entertainment and make it a yearly thing.”

As Big Sky grows, so does the Latino population and the culture that’s becoming more embedded in the wider Montana community.

Garcia recalled that when he first moved to Montana from Mexico, he couldn’t find tortillas anywhere.

“The more we try, the more we can help make different cultures feel comfortable around our community and feel more a part of everywhere in Montana,” he said.

The creation of the all-Spanish comedy night and WMPAC’s efforts to create a gathering point for the Latino community will continue, organizers say. Meanwhile, Suazo is working hard in the Big Sky community through her efforts with the Latino Student Union and coverage of the local Latino community to bring visibility to what she calls “my beautiful culture.”

WMPAC anfitrión de la Gran Noche de Comedia en Español

POR GABRIELLE GASSER
 TRADUCIDO POR SAMANTHA SUAZO

BIG SKY - Por primera vez en su historia, en el Warren Miller Performing Arts Center el 8 de mayo albergará una noche de comedia íntegramente en español. Titulado "La Gran Noche de Comedia", el evento sigue los pasos de la actuación experimental de la temporada de invierno de 2021, "Through the Fourth Wall", que contó con una versión en español del interactivo Escape Room Game.

Andrew García, voluntario de WMPAC y local de Big Sky desde hace mucho tiempo, fue una pieza fundamental en la creación de la versión en español de "Through the Fourth Wall" y nuevamente está echando una mano para planificar "La Gran Noche de Comedia", a la que él mismo nombró.

García recordó una conversación con el director ejecutivo de WMPAC, John Zirkle, que tuvo lugar mientras trabajaban en la sala de escape.

"Las palabras que él me dijo siempre se me han quedado grabadas y son: 'El WMPAC está aquí para la comunidad de Big Sky y eso incluye a todos en la comunidad, ya sean de habla hispana, hablantes de inglés o de donde sea que vengan'", García dijo

"La Gran Noche de Comedia" o "The Great Night of Comedy," se representará íntegramente en español, trayendo al escenario a los prometedores comediantes Francisco Ramos y Cat Alvarado.

Ramos nació y se crió en Venezuela y llegó a los Estados Unidos a los 12 años. Ahora está atrayendo más atención en la industria de la televisión y actualmente participa en el exitoso programa de Netflix "Gentefied".

Alvarado es una comediante y activista que cubre temas que van desde la crianza de los hijos hasta las relaciones. Tiene un popular canal de YouTube llamado "The Reel Rejects" y presenta el podcast de comedia "Villains of History".

"Estoy más que segura de que a la audiencia les encantarán", dijo Samantha Suazo, estudiante de tercer año en Lone Peak High School y una de los organizadores del evento. "Ambos son muy carismáticos y les encanta hacer lo que hacen. Es su pasión". Otros organizadores incluyen a Zirkle, García y Josh Perkins, propietario de Justus

Entertainment Group, una empresa con sede en Bozeman que se especializa en recaudación de fondos, tiendas emergentes y eventos a gran escala.

Perkins le propuso la idea de organizar una velada con comediantes latinos a Zirkle, quien inmediatamente atrajo a García al proyecto. Completando el equipo está Suazo, quien inició la Unión de Estudiantes Latinos en LPHS y quien encabeza una fuente de noticias en español para la comunidad local de habla hispana llamada Noticias Montaña.

Los cuatro organizadores enfatizaron la importancia del próximo evento como un punto de encuentro para la creciente comunidad latina en Big Sky. Actualmente, aproximadamente el 8 por ciento de la población de Big Sky es Hispano, según los datos de la Encuesta sobre la Comunidad Estadounidense de 2019 en Census Reporter.

"Este año en particular ha sido un año de reflexión para nosotros sobre qué tipo de programación queremos hacer y quién está en nuestra audiencia y quién está en nuestra comunidad", dijo Zirkle, y agregó que la idea que impregna todo el proyecto es reconocer que los hispanohablantes viven en la comunidad de Big Sky, y que es importante para WMPAC ofrecer una programación diversa.

"Estoy muy feliz de ser parte de esto y me alegro de que se nos reconozcan", dijo García, "no solo como alguien que vive en Big Sky, sino como parte de lo que es Big Sky".

Suazo elogió a Perkins y Zirkle por lanzar la idea y comenzar una conversación más amplia. "Demuestra que hay personas que están tratando de crear puentes para ambas comunidades para que podamos tomar conciencia cultural de que estamos aquí", dijo Suazo.

Para hacer de esta noche una realidad, cada organizador está contribuyendo con sus habilidades únicas.

Zirkle proporciona WMPAC como un espacio para eventos mientras ayuda a asegurar la financiación y respalda los esfuerzos de marketing. Perkins está utilizando sus conexiones profesionales para establecer contactos y contratar a los dos comediantes. García inventó el nombre del espectáculo y está ayudando con las entradas, que están disponibles en El Mercadito, su mercado mexicano familiar ubicado en Four Corners. Suazo ha apoyado los esfuerzos de marketing y ha ido de puerta en puerta para informar a la gente y vender entradas.

"Creo que es muy importante hacer algo como esto para la comunidad latina porque les brinda ese sentimiento de hogar y sentirse apreciados y sentir que no tenemos que estar divididos", dijo Suazo.

Perkins dijo que la idea surgió de su experiencia trabajando en espectáculos y eventos en Spanish Peaks Mountain Club y Yellowstone Club. Cuando llegó para montar un espectáculo, notó una gran comunidad latina detrás de escena en esos establecimientos.

"Pensé que sería genial si construir algo para ellos, algo para reconocerlos y hacerles saber que apreciamos que estén en la comunidad", dijo Perkins. "Ya sea que se trate de una población blanca del 99.9 por ciento, todavía podemos hacer algo por ese 1 por ciento de las personas para hacerles saber que también estamos aquí con ellos, y apreciamos sus esfuerzos para mantener a flote la comunidad de Big Sky."

Para dar inicio a la velada, un DJ calentará a la audiencia. Habrá un espectáculo híbrido en persona a las 6 p.m. y otro show en vivo a las 8 p.m.

Según Zirkle, la velada no será única y los organizadores están pensando en más formas de hacer de WMPAC un espacio para todos en la comunidad, tanto angloparlantes como hispanohablantes.

"Estoy feliz de que lo hayamos puesto en marcha y espero que esto nos lleve a hacer más cosas divertidas", dijo Perkins. "Ya hemos estado planteando ideas sobre cómo hacer una noche completa de entretenimiento donde no sea solo comedia, sino que lo mezclamos y traeremos un montón de tangibles diferentes, un montón de diferentes carriles de entretenimiento y convertirlo en algo anual."

A medida que Big Sky crece, también lo hace la población latina y la cultura que se está arraigando más en la comunidad de Montana en general.

García recordó que cuando se mudó por primera vez a Montana desde México, no podía encontrar tortillas por ningún lado.

"Cuanto más lo intentemos, más podremos ayudar a que las diferentes culturas se sientan cómodas en nuestra comunidad y se sientan más parte de todas partes de Montana", dijo.

La creación de la noche de comedia en español y los esfuerzos de WMPAC para crear un punto de encuentro para la comunidad latina continuarán, dicen los organizadores. Mientras tanto, Suazo está trabajando duro en la comunidad de Big Sky a través de sus esfuerzos con la Unión de Estudiantes Latinos y la cobertura de la comunidad latina local para dar visibilidad a lo que ella llama "mi hermosa cultura".

WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
LA GRAN NOCHE DE COMEDIA
 COMEDY CENTRAL
 YouTube
 NETFLIX
 CAT ALVARADO FRANCISCO RAMOS
8 DE MAYO 2021 PRIMER SHOW 6:00 PM
 SEGUNDO SHOW 8:00 PM
 WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
 EN BIG SKY
 EL PRIMER EVENTO DE COMEDIA EN ESPAÑOL DE MONTANA
 CON LOS COMEDIANTES CAT ALVARADO Y FRANCISCO RAMOS
 CON INVITADO ESPECIAL DJ MASZ FINO
ENTRADAS
 GRUPO DE DOS POR \$ 50, GRUPO DE CUATRO POR \$ 75,
 GRUPO DE CINCO POR \$ 90, GRUPO DE SEIS POR \$ 100
BOLETOS DISPONIBLES EN LÍNEA EN WARRENMILLERPAC.ORG
Y EN PERSONA EN EL MERCADITO
 EL EVENTO DE LAS 6PM ESTÁ DISPONIBLE VIRTUALMENTE
¡NO TE LO PIERDAS!

EL CARTEL CORTESÍA DE WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

A night of pies

Big Sky PTO hosts 41st Annual Pie Auction

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

BIG SKY – It was a night full of jokes, sound effects, a surprise Disney character, and most importantly, pies. The rambunctious masters of ceremony for the evening, Joe and Michelle Borden, were dressed as pumpkin and cherry pies while they virtually hosted the 41st annual Pie Auction, benefitting the Big Sky Parent Teacher Association.

This year looked a little different from years past, featuring a hybrid format as opposed to the in-person event that traditionally takes place. After cancelling the live auction last year due to concerns over COVID-19, the pie auction raised over \$111,000 this year through the online auction, raffle ticket sales and generosity of event sponsors.

“Thanks to new parental involvement we brought new energy to the event and really focused on the fundraiser being about the kids,” said Mitch Immenschuh, president of the PTO. “Teachers offered teacher experiences that were really popular and the live stream was geared to be fun for all ages.”

To pull it off this year, the Parent Teacher Organization hosted the virtual auction on May 1 via live stream from the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, which the community could tune in to from smaller private gatherings.

The Pie Auction started in Big Sky in the early ‘80s and the first one took place at Hunter’s Inn according to Immenschuh who was interviewed on stage during the event. “What better way to make money and bring people together,” she said when describing the original inspiration for the event.

Since that early iteration, the Pie Auction has expanded beyond just auctioning pies and all the proceeds benefit the PTO and help to support kindergarten through 12th grade students at Ophir School and Lone Peak High School. Funds raised by the Pie Auction will help to send students on trips like

Expedition Yellowstone and Washington D.C. as well as support downhill and cross-country ski days, field trips and even science experiments in the classroom. Bidding this year opened on Thursday April 29 at noon and all of the items closed for bidding by 9:30 p.m. on May 1. Pies were all picked up or delivered on the evening of May 1 and the rest of the items are available to pick up at the ERA Landmark Real Estate office May 3 to the 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

New this year were “Teacher experiences” which were popular with families and they raised \$6,355.

Tesha Distad, vice president of the PTO, said that she is happy with how the event went and the PTO exceeded their \$100,000 goal this year after raising only \$40,000 last year. She organized the live stream event along with help from Jennie Bibbens and Amy Gitchell.

“We are very happy,” Distad said of the event. “We wanted it to be fun and light yet raise money for the school and then also be informative because there are so many new families.”

Immenschuh also praised the event this year and offered many thanks to everyone who helped to make it happen. She listed many community members including John Zirkle executive director of WMPAC, Andrew Blessing [of] Big Sky School District, students Charlie Distad and Abby Meredith who worked on the production, Joe and Michelle Borden, Dustin Shipman, Jeremy Harder, Brittany Shirley, Erika Frounfelker, John Hannahs, Ashley Dodd, PTO Board members Tesha Distad, Amy Gitchell, Jennie Bibbens, Pie Auction Committee members Sheena Kidd, Liz Magrans, Kate Scott, Veronica Bryant, Amanda Hamstra, and all the donors and bidders.

“It was amazing to have a successful event this year and it really was thanks to the generosity of Big Sky businesses and local support,” wrote Immenschuh in an email to EBS. “The livestream from the WMPAC showcases the incredible resources and talent we are so fortunate to have in this community.”



Ashley Dodd made a completely edible Fairy Wonderland which closed at \$200. PHOTO COURTESY OF MITCH IMMENSCHUH



Guests received pies in the face based on nominations from the student body. Host Michelle Borden pied Athletic Director John Hannahs. PHOTO BY JENNIE BIBBENS



These two 5-layer cakes generated some school spirit along with \$245. PHOTO COURTESY OF MITCH IMMENSCHUH



This fresh cherry cheesecake was donated by Hammond Property Management and was sold for \$70. PHOTO COURTESY OF MITCH IMMENSCHUH

Totally Free Checking


At First Security Bank, Totally Free Checking really is FREE! Free of minimum balances and hidden weekly, monthly, or annual fees. We also have three great interest-bearing accounts to fit your every need.

■ **Success. Together.**



OURBANK.com /// 406.995.2321



Member FDIC Equal Housing Lender 



**BIG SKY
BUILD**
— EST. 1997 —

123 SNOWY MOUNTAIN DR
BIG SKY, MT 59716 USA
406.995.3670
BIGSKYBUILD.COM

Montana grows into a second U.S. House seat

State population counts from the 2020 census, published Andrew 26, indicate Montana will regain the second U.S. House seat it lost following the 1990 census

BY ERIC DIETRICH
MONTANA FREE PRESS

Montana will gain a second representative in the U.S. House as seats are reapportioned according to population counts from the 2020 census, the U.S. Census Bureau said April 26.

The news means that, starting with the 2022 election, Montana will have two U.S. representatives for the first time since losing its second seat following the 1990 census. The state's five-member 2020 Districting and Apportionment Commission will be responsible for drawing district boundaries.

Montana's official 2020 population count, intended to represent the number of people living in the state as of April 1, 2020, is 1,084,225. That's 94,810 more Montanans than the 989,415 reported in 2010 — change representing 9.6% growth over the course of the decade.

That growth rate is essentially the same as the 9.7% rate reported for Montana from 2000 to 2010, and lower than the 12.9% growth rate over the decade between 1990 and 2000.

Between 1980 and 1990, the decade that saw Montana's population stagnate to the point of losing its second seat in Congress, the state's population grew a mere 1.6%.

Elsewhere in the country, Texas will gain two House seats as a result of the 2020 census, and Oregon, Colorado, North Carolina and Florida will join Montana in picking up one each. California, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York will each lose a seat. It is possible that the results will be challenged in court — New York, for example, would have held on to its 27th congressional seat if the census had counted 89 more residents there.

What else you need to know:

The numbers released on April 26 represent the first set of results available from the 2020 census, the constitutionally mandated, once-a-decade effort to count every American in order to rebalance representation in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Census Bureau will eventually publish more detailed data from the 2020 count, including other demographic information and specific population numbers for smaller geographies including counties and towns.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said Monday that the next set of data, the finer-grained demographic counts necessary to redraw political districts, will be available no later than Sept. 30.

In addition to allocating political representation in Washington, D.C., and state capitals across the country, census population counts and demographic data are routinely used in formulas allocating federal spending. Public census data, both collected through the decennial census and other bureau programs, is also relied upon by entrepreneurs, researchers and journalists, among others.

In a more narrow political sense, though, confirmation that a second representative is being added to Montana's congressional delegation poured gasoline on a long-smoldering debate about what fair district boundaries would look like.

As specified by the state Constitution, Montana's redistricting commission is nominally nonpartisan, composed of two commissioners from each major political party and a tiebreaker chairperson appointed either by other commissioners or the Montana Supreme Court.

However, the 2020 commission has already been the subject of political scrutiny. After its initial presiding officer stepped down citing health reasons last year, the state Republican Party issued a fiery press release criticizing the court's replacement pick, former University of Montana tribal law professor Maylinn Smith, as having "a blatant partisan past" because she had previously made political contributions to Democratic candidates.



PHOTO FROM UNSPLASH

Montana GOP Chairman Don "K" Kaltschmidt referenced that criticism in a statement Monday.

"Despite our excitement, we also know our opposition will do everything in their power to minimize our voices at the ballot box by rigging the system for political benefit," Kaltschmidt wrote. "As we have already expressed concern over the Commission's fifth member, we will do all we can to ensure the redistricting process is fair, transparent, and carried out in a way that reflects the will of Montana voters, not just those seeking political power."

Jeff Essmann, one of two Republicans on the districting commission, retweeted an image before the Census Bureau announcement of a map grouping Missoula, Helena, Great Falls, Butte and Bozeman into a single district that would purportedly skew Democratic despite the state's overall Republican lean in recent election cycles. "This is how you gerrymander," he wrote.

For their part, Montana Democrats used the news about the second House seat as an opportunity to take an apparent swing at efforts by the GOP-controlled state Legislature to restrict some voter registration options in the name of election security.

"Another seat in Congress gives Montana another seat at the table where decisions are made. We must ensure that the competition for this new office is free, fair, and unobstructed by irresponsible attacks on our democracy," wrote Montana Democratic Party Executive Director Sandi Luckey. "To make sure this office truly reflects the will of all Montanans we must redouble our efforts to protect all eligible Montanans' right to access the ballot box."

Gov. Greg Gianforte and U.S. Rep. Matt Rosendale also issued statements Monday.

"Even though I will no longer be the lone representative from the state of Montana, this is a great opportunity for the state," Rosendale said. "Having another member in our delegation makes us that much more powerful and it means we will have representation on more committees that are important to our state."

Gianforte cited efforts by the Montana Department of Commerce to promote participation in the 2020 count, which was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This is a great day for Montana. With a second congressional seat, Montanans will have another voice in Congress to work on their behalf," Gianforte said in a statement. "It's critical we avoid the traps of partisanship and gerrymandering as our new district lines are drawn. Our new districts should be compact, keep our communities together, and make common sense."

This story was originally published on montanafreepress.org.

OUTLAW™

News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

Seth Dahl joins Outlaw Video Production team

BY MIRA BRODY

BIG SKY – Still frames are great, says Outlaw Partners' Video Director, Seth Dahl, but the story is what emerges once you have a movement of light, sound and motion. The Great Falls native studied photography at Montana State University and transferred to the University of Montana where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Journalism.

"I love both, the active photography, finding that one frame that tells the story is the quest of a photojournalist and that thrills me beyond anything," Dahl said. "But I started finding that I like that frames after and before that one single image. The story that comes out of it with sound, audio ... you feel something come out of the subject."

Dahl joins Chris Kamman on the Outlaw video team, who has brought a multitude of experience after working for Big Sky Resort and his own video production company, Sky Lab Media House. He's been helping Outlaw produce high-quality real estate videos, client commercials, internal projects and much more.

Dahl remembers the moment of his calling clearly—it was 2004 and he was serving in Iraq for the 1-163rd infantry battalion army, a National Guard unit based in Missoula. He had been deployed on a mission with an Associated Press photographer and watched in awe while she documented something many wouldn't ever experience back home. The stories she told of documenting history and capturing the human spirit amongst conflict inspired him to go to school to learn documentary film and photojournalism when he returned.

For the last five years, Dahl has been in Boise running his company, Big Cedar Media, which he started in 2013. Big Cedar produced a Clif Bar-sponsored 20-minute documentary titled, *The Long River Home*, featuring veterans Aaron Howell, Russell Davies and Lonnie Bedwell, a blind Navy veteran, as they process the residual effects of war down the Grand Canyon,

in kayaks. It premiered at the Banff Film Festival and was screened in 43 different countries as a part of the Banff World Tour.

"It's incredible to go into these festivals to watch the crowd reacting to your video," Dahl says of the experience. "They just want to sit and listen to a story."

Dahl was river guiding for Boundary Expeditions when he was offered the job at Outlaw, and was happy to return to Big Sky. He calls it "a ticket home."

Currently, Dahl and Kamman are busy with a variety of both internal and client projects. One Outlaw project they work on together weekly is a series call *A Sense of Place*, in which a one minute video is created to capture a single moment in Big Sky, the lights, movement and sounds.

"They're meant to showcase both Montana's places and businesses, acts and events," Dahl said. "They're really just to show the sights and sounds of a place, in time."

Dahl hopes to grow the video production capabilities at Outlaw, moving toward full-length cinematic productions. With his roots in documentary filmmaking, he is always drawn to the more "emotional, arsty" projects, he says, and hopes there is an opportunity to bring more of that passion to Outlaw as the department expands. "It's always the art of pulling the true story of the character out on film," he said.

As for Outlaw, it will add volume and quality to an already thriving and talented department.

"Video continues to be one of Outlaw's most sought after services," said Megan Paulson, CEO of Outlaw Partners. "We're excited Seth has joined the team; his leadership will be a key part of our ability to elevate and scale our production capability for clients."



Seth Dahl joins Chris Kamman as Outlaw Partners' Video Director. PHOTO COURTESY OF SETH DAHL

JOIN US FOR BIG SKY'S BIGGEST WEEK!

SUMMER 2021 LINEUP - BIGSKYPBR.COM

**All events located at the PBR Basecamp Tent in Town Center Plaza unless otherwise noted*

FRIDAY, JULY 16

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

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

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

SATURDAY, JULY 17 & SUNDAY, JULY 18

10am-6pm - 6th Annual Big Sky Art Auction

TUESDAY, JULY 20

4pm - Mutton Bustin Pre-Ride Competition at the Big Sky Events Arena

6pm - Big Sky Bingo Night

9pm - Live Music featuring Dammit Lauren and The Well

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21

10am - Big Sky PBR and Western Sports Foundation Golf Tournament

5pm - Farmers Market

THURSDAY, JULY 22

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

2pm - PBR Meet & Greet

4pm - Live Music

7pm - 10th Annual Big Sky PBR Night 1 Bull Riding at the Big Sky Events Arena

TBA - 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

10 YEARS
2021
7X EVENT OF THE YEAR
BIG SKY PBR

Big Sky's Biggest Week is proudly supporting: Big Sky Community Organization, Women in Action, Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter, Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance, Gallatin River Task Force, Haven, Big Sky Food Bank, Big Sky Bravery, Warriors & Quiet Waters, MorningStar Learning Center, The Big Sky Discovery Academy, Western Sports Foundation, Big Sky Youth Empowerment, Montana Land Reliance, Red White and Blue Warriors & Quiet Waters, Sustainability Network Organization, and The Montana Invasive Species Alliance



SECTION 2: HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENT & OUTDOORS



Yours in Health

Keep your kids well with chiropractic

DR. ANDREA WICK
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Many patients ask me “When can my child start coming to the chiropractor to receive an adjustment?” Most parents look shocked when I tell them “As soon as they come out of the birth canal!” Chiropractic can be extremely beneficial for the physical, mental and emotional development of your child and here is why.

Birth is the first traumatic event for a child.

Birth is tough on an infant. Think about all the different ways a baby is moved, torqued and pulled during the birthing process. Chiropractic adjustments at this stage of life are gentle and are comparable to the pressure used to check the ripeness of a tomato. When an infant’s nervous system is communicating correctly, everything works better, including bodily functions such as sleeping, eating and pooping.

Chiropractic helps children stay healthy.

Chiropractic adjustments help with general wellness and proper immune function. Regular adjustments are shown to prevent the severity of colds and flus. Research from the Journal of Chiropractic & Osteopathy demonstrates that immunoglobulins increase post adjustment. This increase in immunoglobulins shows a beneficial relationship between the body’s immune response and spinal adjustments.

Chiropractic helps with proper posture.

In our day and age with an increase in technology use, more and more children are developing “tech neck.” Due to kids chronically looking down, I’m seeing poor posture starting to develop at a very early age. Adjustments help to increase range of motion, joint health and mobility. Your children may feel taller, straighter, relaxed and more comfortable after an adjustment.

Chiropractic prevents ear infections.

In a 1996 study by the Journal of Manipulative & Physiological Therapeutics, children under the age of 5 received chiropractic adjustments to treat the symptoms of ear infections. Ninety-three percent of all cases improved in 10 days or less; 43 percent improved within two treatments or less.

Chiropractic helps with colic.

Research in the Journal of Manipulative & Physiological Therapeutics showed that infants with colic receiving manual therapy had a reduction in their crying due to colic. This was a significant improvement compared to the control group.

Chiropractic benefits emotional health and stress.

Chiropractic care helps to stimulate the parasympathetic nervous system (rest and digest) and can help manage stress. Neuro-emotional

technique is a chiropractic brain-body technique that helps to diagnosis a stress a patient is feeling and re-program the subconscious brain. Patients have stated they feel relief, easily create more fulfilling relationships and increase their ability to achieve their hopes and dreams.

Chiropractic supports athletes and active kids.

Chiropractic helps to increase range of motion and joint proprioception. It also helps to treat sports injuries in order to heal faster and stronger. There are currently chiropractors for every NFL team, and athletes such as Michael Jordan, Jerry Rice and Venus Williams thank chiropractic for the longevity of their careers.

In a world with increasing amounts of stress, why not make life for you and your kids easier by getting adjusted?

Dr. Andrea Wick is a chiropractor and applied kinesiologist. She graduated from Life University in Marietta, Georgia, and now practices in Big Sky. She has a passion for holistic health care and being active in the outdoors. Her practice, Healing Hands Chiropractic, is located in the Meadow Village Center. Visit drandreawick.com to learn more.

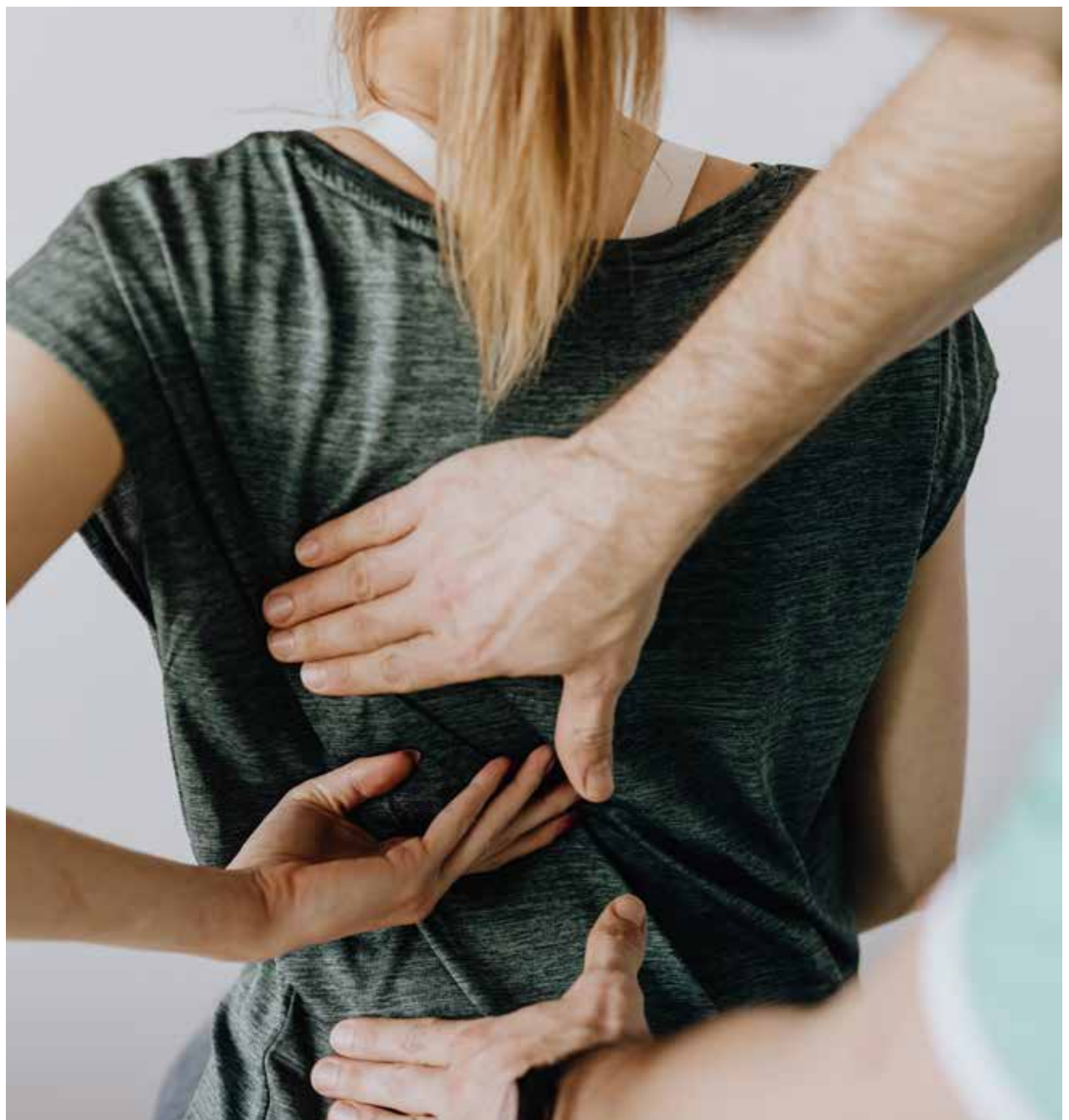


Photo courtesy of Pexels

Vaccinated? Now what

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY – More than 300,000 Montanans have been fully immunized to COVID-19 as of May 3. For those Montanans, and the many who have been recommended to adhere to several COVID-19 precautions for more than a year, local and national sources are providing recommendations on which measures to continue, and which no longer apply.

“Those that are fully vaccinated and it’s been two weeks from their second dose, they can start reintroducing some actions that were previously encouraged against,” said Amanda Farmer, a physician assistant at the Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center. Farmer said mask use is an example of one of those differences.

Fully vaccinated people—those that have had the recommended doses and waited two weeks—can be among other fully vaccinated people indoors without a mask, Fisher said in a statement corroborated by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations. With the exception of larger crowds, she added that fully vaccinated people can also be outside with other people without a mask.

There are still some circumstances, though, where mask-wearing is still recommended, and sometimes required, for fully vaccinated individuals. Farmer said that no vaccine is 100 percent effective, and the COVID-19 vaccines—which range from about 66-95 percent effective—are no exception. Breakthrough cases, fully vaccinated people who still get sick, are rare but possible and have already occurred in Gallatin County, according to Gallatin County Health Officer Matt Kelley.

“We’re still asking people, even after they got those two doses, to consider the impact it may have on others around you if you’re one of the other small percentage who does develop the disease after you get the vaccine,” Kelley said. Gallatin County’s mask mandate was extended by the county’s board of health at an April 5 meeting and expires May 27.

Kelley said that as more people get vaccines and both parties in a given interaction are vaccinated, there’s a “double duty protection” created against risk of breakthrough cases. “That’s where you get in that situation where, in public health that term you call herd immunity, where the overall community has so much immunity built up that it really just becomes difficult for the virus to navigate through and jump from one person to the next,” he said.

The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce recently reported that the most recent week of Big Sky surveillance tests, which were down in total count by more than half of the count two weeks prior, yielded the highest positive rate yet recorded in the program at 4.6 percent.

“The fastest way for us to reach herd immunity is going to be for as many as possible to get vaccinated, and if we want to get back to living our normal lives post-pandemic we all need to do our part and get shots in arms,” said Big Sky Resort Area District Executive Director Daniel Bierschwale. Bierschwale wrote in an email that vaccines are available in “abundant supply” in the Big Sky community.

To sign up for a vaccination appointment, visit bozemanhealth.org/about-us/covid-19-information/covid-19-vaccine-information/. For questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, call Bozeman Health’s vaccine hotline at (406)-414-2620 or visit healthygallatin.org.

I AM FULLY VACCINATED. CAN I:



Hike hummocks with my friend?

YES

Do I need a mask? No



Attend book club at a friend’s house with other vaccinated people?

YES

Do I need a mask? No



Swing dance to a cover of Wagon Wheel at a crowded outdoor concert?

YES

Do I need a mask?
Yes, a mask is recommended and sometimes required



Enjoy an ice-cold Salmon Fly at a bar?

YES

Do I need a mask?
Yes, a mask is recommended and sometimes required

Guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, call the Bozeman Health vaccine hotline at (406)-414-2620 or visit healthygallatin.org.



Big Sky Medical Center
 now offers general, OB/GYN, vascular,
 and basic fetal ultrasounds.

**Call 406-995-6995 to schedule an
 appointment for your ultrasound needs.**



BOZEMAN HEALTH
 BIG SKY MEDICAL CENTER

334 Town Center Avenue, Big Sky, MT
BigSkyMedicalCenter.com



**BERKSHIRE
 HATHAWAY**
 HomeServices
 Montana Properties

TBD BEAVER CREEK WEST LOTS 23 & 24
 GALLATIN CANYON
 40± ACRES | FORESTED LAND | \$1,750,000
 DON PILOTTE 406.580.0155

YELLOWSTONE CAMP
 PARK CITY
 19± ACRES | IRRIGATED FARM GROUND | \$1,650,000
 DON PILOTTE 406.580.0155

NEW LISTING

191 SHEEP CREEK ROAD
 CAMERON
 14± ACRES | PRIVATE FISHING ACCESS | \$999,000
 JAMIE ROBERTS 406.209.3069

NEW LISTING

37 BEAR TRAP LANE
 DEER RUN CONDOS
 2470± SF | 3 BD + 3 BA | \$849,000
 KATIE MORRISON 406.570.0096

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



Runoff Recreation



Runoff has a way of humbling even the most seasoned river rats. PHOTO BY RICH ADDICKS PHOTOGRAPHY

BY DAVID TUCKER
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

On May 2, the United States Geological Survey gauge on the Gallatin River at Deer Creek reached 1,200 cubic feet per second, rising almost 1,000 cfs in just several days. Runoff is here, the time every spring when the winter snowpack starts melting in earnest.

It is at this time of year that the Gallatin becomes a raging whitewater river, powered by a long winter of alpine storms being released all at once to pulse through the upper Gallatin River watershed.

While this release can be exhilarating for whitewater kayakers and rafters, intent on navigating the river's rapids in their respective vessels, it can also be highly dangerous and catch the unsuspecting river recreationalist a bit off guard. A little planning, however, can go a long way to keeping you safe while you enjoy everything runoff has to offer. Follow these steps to continue enjoying the river as it rises.

Dress for the Water Temperature

Dress for the water temperature, not the air temperature. Many an unsuspecting angler has been lulled into thinking that the forecasted temperature calls for wet-wading and short sleeves. Think again. The water temperature is still ice-cold and the weather can change in the blink of an eye. To avoid hypothermia, continue to dress in layers, keep waterproof apparel close at hand and be prepared to quit if things take a turn for the worse.

Know Your Limits

Are you comfortable in fast-moving currents? Do you have the skills necessary to successfully navigate Class-V whitewater? Are you familiar with the Gallatin at these levels? If you've paddled the river at lower flows, you might think you know all of its nooks and crannies. But runoff has a way of humbling even the most seasoned river rats. Never run a new river blind, and runoff will make the Gallatin new again for folks who have never paddled it at these higher volumes.

Use the road to your advantage to scout rapids, watch other, more experienced paddlers and practice laps on smaller water before committing to the big stuff.

Ask the Pros

There are dozens of local businesses that know a whole lot about the Gallatin and all its moods. Use that resource. If you're an angler, get some beta on where the fish might be holding even when the river is raging and it looks like chocolate milk. The trout have to go somewhere, and they can't stop eating for a month.

If you do get some free advice, make sure you cover your good karma quotient by buying some flies, picking up some new waders or even booking a half-day guided trip with one of the outfitters. It's the least you can do after learning all the secrets that take guides a lifetime to figure out.

Take a Hike

While spring is definitely river season, the Gallatin can be unforgiving if you're unprepared. Sometimes, your best option is to skip it entirely and keep to the shoreline.

Luckily you can still experience the full power of runoff from water-side trails like the Gallatin River trail, Taylor Fork Road, Storm Castle Road, Hellroaring Creek and several others. The roads make for fun dirt-road bike rides with little or no car traffic, and Gallatin River trail will give you a front-row seat to the high-water action for three miles between Lava Lake and Storm Castle.

This spring, as runoff grows toward its peak in late May or early June, you can continue enjoying the Gallatin safely with a little restraint and a lot of planning. Come August, it'll be wet-wading season and you can let your guard down a bit. Now is the time to respect the awesome power of this free-flowing Montana river.

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



Fly fish to give back

Ways you can contribute

BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Prior to the pandemic, the number of new anglers entering the world of fly fishing was stagnating. But over a year into it people continue to look for new outdoor activities and today, the numbers are staggering. As thousands of new anglers come into the sport, it is important we all understand that generosity of spirit and embracing an angling community are core values of a fly fisher.

To call Lefty Kreh and Joan Wulff the founders of fly fishing in America is an understatement. If you are new to fly fishing, read anything written by these two. Read it again. If you know of Kreh and Wulff, you know they embraced teaching, community and ensuring the act of going fly fishing transcended the simple act of fooling a fish with a fly. They knew it was a sport meant to connect people and be a force for good.

Use your passion as a force for good by supporting some of the many organizations that blend fly fishing with missions to support crucial habitat, expand access or use fly fishing as physical and/or emotional support.

Gallatin River Task Force: If you fish local, then you should give back to your local watershed conservation group. With a staff committed to preserving the water quality and habitat of the Gallatin River, anyone who has enjoyed the Gallatin River can thank these folks.

Reel Recovery: For any angler who has been affected in anyway by cancer, Reel Recovery is there to help men by introducing them to the healing powers of fly fishing, while providing a supportive environment to explore their personal cancer experiences with others who share their stories.

Casting for Recovery: Breast cancer has affected many of us. Casting for Recovery provides healing outdoor retreats for women with breast cancer, at no cost to the participants. These retreats offer opportunities for women to find inspiration, discover renewed energy for life and experience healing connections with other women and nature.

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers: Very little of our fly fishing could occur without the ability to access fishable waters. Backcountry Hunters and Anglers seeks to ensure North America's outdoor heritage of hunting and

fishing in a natural setting, through education and work on behalf of public lands, waters and wildlife.

Trout Unlimited: Because so many anglers are first introduced to fly fishing while fishing for trout, every angler should join "TU." With local chapters across the country, anglers can get involved with other like-minded anglers, work hands-on in a variety of conservation projects and enjoy access to a lot of fly fishing knowledge.

The Mayfly Project: The mission of The Mayfly Project is to support children in foster care through fly fishing and introduce them to their local water ecosystems with the hope that connecting them to a rewarding hobby will provide an opportunity for foster children to have fun, build confidence and develop a meaningful connection with the outdoors.

Warriors and Quiet Waters: Homegrown in southwest Montana, this organization strives to be part of the solution regarding our nation's injured defenders by providing a respite from the stresses of war, the monotony of lengthy hospital stays and traditional therapy and the many day-to-day struggles involved in their journey home. Their fly-fishing retreats offer injured defenders a chance to experience the joys of our sport.

Indifly: While there are other nonprofit organizations teaching Indigenous peoples how to own and run businesses, Indifly's approach is unique. They are the only organization using the transformative power of fly fishing to create sustainable livelihoods through guiding, lodge ownership, sustainable farming, and more while providing important economic incentives for protecting local environments.

Whether you've been fly fishing for 30 minutes or 30 years, it is a sport that is bigger than you. You may think the fly you tied on your tippet that you used to make your cast to catch your fish is as simple as it gets. It is much bigger than that, so give back and pass on your passion.

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/>.



Two fishermen cast into the hazy sunset light on the Madison River. EBS Columnist Patrick Straub argues in his most recent Eddy Line that fly fishing is a sport meant to connect people and to be a force for good. NPS PHOTO/JACOB W. FRANK

We blame the trees, but whose fault is it?



BY PEPPER TRAIL

Just like you, I live with the fear of wildfire. My southern Oregon town of Ashland nestles against the foothills of the Siskiyou Mountains, whose forests become tinder in our hot, dry summers.

One lightning strike or tossed cigarette on the wrong windy day, and Ashland could be destroyed as completely as the town of Paradise, California, in 2018.

This reality was brought home with terrifying force last September, when a wind-driven wildfire roared through the nearby towns of Talent and Phoenix, destroying over 2,500 residences in a matter of hours. Ashland was largely spared, but only because the wind pushed the fire in another direction.

Over the past several years, the city has implemented the ambitious “Ashland Forest Resiliency” project to reduce flammable fuels on thousands of acres of public lands. Tools in the Ashland Watershed include thinning and controlled burns. The project is considered to be a model ecological approach, not mere window-dressing to justify commercial timber harvest as is true of many “forest health” projects.

As a homeowner, I’ve supported the project, and as a conservation biologist, I’ve been impressed with how it’s been carried out.

Yet even as the city and its partners are diligently reducing forest fuels, more and more homes are being built in every nook and cranny of private land abutting the watershed. Many are McMansions commanding expansive views of the valley below. All these homes are at extreme risk of wildfire. As if the sense of crisis surrounding fuels reduction wasn’t enough, this adds another crisis, one we’ve made ourselves.

Recently, I took a favorite trail leading from the edge of edge of town into the watershed. I always look forward to walking through an avenue of small manzanita trees. In spring, their pink urn-like blossoms are mobbed by bumble bees and hummingbirds. In fall and winter, their berries — the “little apples” that give these shrubs their Spanish name — feed robins, thrushes and bears. Winter storms turn these groves into an enchanted labyrinth of green leaves, red bark and white snow.

Not this year. Not again in my lifetime. I found that this once intact and healthy wildlife habitat had been reduced to “defensible space.” The manzanitas had been harshly hacked back; those that had been spared stood isolated in a barren expanse of blood-red stumps. I counted the rings on one of the stumps, revealing that it had been at least 55 years old when we decided it was too dangerous to live.

The Forest Resiliency Project considered these manzanitas a threat because they were close to the city limits — and even closer to the big new homes being built outside the city limits.

They were sacrificed to increase our sense of security, and for no other reason. They were mostly healthy and important for wildlife. They shaded the soil and hosted mycorrhizal fungi integral to the nutrient cycles of the forest.

Yes, someday a wildfire would have burned here. But without our presence, that fire would not have been a tragedy, merely an episode in the long life of the land, and an opportunity for renewal.

Manzanitas are well-adapted to fire; some species actually require fire for seed germination.

Oregonians take pride in being environmentally aware. Yet we accept the ecological destruction of the “fuels reduction” paradigm, rather than putting limits on our relentless expansion into the rural landscape.

Perhaps my town is becoming safer than it was before. But it’s questionable that any amount of “thinning” could protect Ashland from a wind-driven firestorm coming out of the watershed.

The fire that destroyed much of Talent and Phoenix, Oregon, like many of last summer’s devastating California wildfires, did not start on heavily forested public land.

Instead, it ignited and roared through a typical valley mosaic of creekside woodlands, orchards and residential neighborhoods. The hard truth is that for Ashland and many other towns around the West, avoiding catastrophic wildfire is as much a matter of luck as preparedness.

Still, we have to try, right? That means some degree of fuels reduction. But we must acknowledge the losses to the ecological integrity, the habitat value, and the beauty of this land that we love so much.

Pepper Trail is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He is a conservation biologist and writer in Ashland, Oregon.



DID YOU KNOW?

- 100 colonies estimated in 2015 in Yellowstone National Park

- One colony may support 2–14 beavers that are usually related. Six is considered average

- YNP’s beavers escaped most of the trapping that occurred in the 1800s due to the region’s inaccessibility

Unregulated trapping, deforestation, and destruction of dams due to unwanted flooding have continued to affect the beaver population.

RESPECT. PROTECT. CHERISH.

Paid for by the animals in your backyard.

CONSIGNMENT CABIN OF BIG SKY

FEATURED ITEM

MONTANA ARTIST BURL JONES | "SERPENDINE"



CLOTHING

ARTWORK

SPORTING

GOODS

LIGHTING

FURNITURE

KITCHEN

DINING

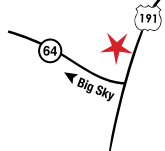
BED AND BATH

ANTIQUES

FIND YOUR TREASURES HERE



CALL KERRI AND KEVIN FABOZZI 406-993-9333
OPEN 6 DAYS/WEEK
LOCATED IN BIG SKY, MT
IN THE BIG HORN SHOPPING CENTER



Build Your Dream Home in Bozeman



Lot 1 Vaquero Parkway | Bozeman, MT | \$299K
.16+/- ACRES

Premium corner subdivision lot in The Crossing. Surrounded by green space and trails on multiple sides.



L&K

Real Estate

E.J. Daws
ej@lkrealestate.com
(406) 589-6247

lkbozeman.com | 406.995.2404



All information given is considered reliable, but because it has been supplied by third parties, we cannot represent that it is accurate or complete, and should not be relied upon as such. These offerings are subject to errors, omissions, and changes including price or withdrawal without notice. All rights reserved. Equal Housing Opportunity. If you currently have a listing agreement or buyer broker agreement with another agent, this is not a solicitation to change. ©2016 LK REAL ESTATE, llc. lkrealestate.com

Contact Jessie Wiese at jessie@mtlandreliance.org for more information

Ad donated by supporters for open land | mtlandreliance.org | 406.594.1570

THE NEW WEST

Wallace Stegner's bond with MSU



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

Around the world, every great institution of higher learning boasts connections to big picture thinkers. And no wordsmith in recent times gave the American West a louder, more contemplative voice than Wallace Stegner.

Hailed as the “Dean of Western writers,” Stegner coined phrases that convey the spirit and grit of our vast region that geographically extends from roughly the 100th meridian longitude to the Pacific Ocean.

His observations are both astute and resonant. After visiting nature preserves like Yellowstone, Glacier, Yosemite and the Grand Canyon, for example, he concluded that “national parks are the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst.”

As a province appealing to the desire Americans have for seeking better lives, he called the West “a geography of hope.”

It may be a little ironic, then, that one of Stegner's most impactful nights in Bozeman happened on an evening when a huge overflow crowd showed up to hear him speak at Montana State University. But Stegner wasn't there. His prose thundered and echoed; it pulled at our hearts and lifted us up, though the venerable author had fallen ill with the flu. That night, he was sidelined in the emergency room at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital.

In his stead at Museum of the Rockies, Dr. Gordon Brittan, MSU's renowned professor of philosophy (now emeritus) delivered a selected reading from Stegner's formidable canon.

While Stegner's visit to the infirmary was brief, only a short time later, in spring 1993, he died at age 84 in a tragic auto accident in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The story above could easily have become a fleeting anecdote lost to time. But fatefully, before his passing and owed to deep friendships he forged with Montanans, Stegner consented to having a permanent connection to MSU. He gave his imprimatur to creation of an academic pillar—The Wallace Stegner Endowed Chair in Western American Studies.

The position has proved over the last quarter-century to be a powerful teaching catalyst, a reminder that Montana has its own prominent place in a rapidly evolving “New West.”

Dr. Mark Fiege, current Stegner Chair and a scholar who follows in a long line of others who held the post, notes that Stegner's prose and nonfiction reveal a storyteller who wrestled mightily with what to make of our iconic region.

“The importance of Wallace Stegner is that his observations are still as relevant as ever,” Fiege says. “Stegner had a brief but intense, positive, and very warm relationship with [Bozeman] and it was positioned within his

larger fondness for Montana. Here, at the end of his life, the stars sort of aligned. We can rightfully claim our own piece of the Stegner legacy. He saw our West clear eyed and it's a vision we can learn from, if we're willing to peer into it.”

Bolstering the gravitas of the Stegner Chair, the MSU Library Archives has a collection of Stegner papers and the university has hosted “Stegner Lectures” nearly every year. The stellar list of presenters is a who's who of influential writers and scholars trying to make sense of the West.

While the Pulitzer-Prize-winning “Angle of Repose” is the book for which Stegner is most hailed, writing at the height of his craft, Fiege and Brittan point to “Big Rock Candy Mountain” as the work that established his voice.

“Stegner presents the sweeps of history with people coming into the West and how the Great Depression brought a reckoning in which some rural areas began to empty out and die,” Fiege says. “Big Rock Candy Mountain” is a bitter book, exposing the desperation of uprootedness, which still exists. This western phenomenon is a subset of a larger American story.”



Wallace Stegner is considered by some to be a greatest writer to make sense of the “New West.” Stegner lived in Great Falls as a child and would later develop a strong connection to Bozeman and Montana State University. PHOTO COURTESY OF MSU

Despoiling landscapes and exploiting people did not contribute to advancing the American dream, Stegner contended; rather it was a stain on democracy. In essence, he used literature to normalize discussions about issues that contradicted the virtues of colonization. Still, Stegner generally avoided the injustices heaped upon native people and the legacy of a string of broken treaties.

“Stegner was a person of his time, who saw the world through his own white EuroAmerican frame. That doesn't mean he didn't create beautiful works that have universal themes. It doesn't mean his words don't exude empathy for working class people and those who were exploited and the consequences of that. He did,” Fiege says. “The stories he told came from his own experience and he shouldn't be judged for being someone he was not.”

Brittan says Stegner anticipated the arrival of Montana becoming heralded for her visual splendor, abundant wildlife and healthy landscapes. If you save it, he believed, people will come from around the world to experience it. He was right. To him, leaving wilderness alone, without humankind imposing its will upon it, was a virtue.

“What is such a resource worth? Anything it costs,” Stegner wrote in a famous letter supporting landscape protection. “If we never hike it or step into its shade, if we only drive by occasionally and see the textures of green mountainside change under wind and sun, or the fog move soft feathers down the gulches, or the last sunset on the continent redden the sky beyond the ridge, we have our money's worth.”

He added, “We have been too efficient at destruction; we have left our souls too little space to breath in. Every green natural space we save saves a fragment of our sanity and gives us a little more hope that we have a future.”

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.

LPHS spring sports update

Track

LPHS track athletes competed among 19 other class A, B and C schools in the Manhattan Christian track and field invite at Gallatin High School on April 22. No LPHS students placed top three in any events, but several students posted notable personal records at the school's first meet as a team. The Track team has a meet in Livingston on May 7 as well as the District 12C Meet on May 14.

*PR=personal record

- **Mady Strauss**
long jump PR: 12'-7.75"
- **Orrin Coleman**
1600 m PR: 5:21.1; 800 m PR: 2:28.96
- **Piece Farr**
shot put PR: 35'-7.75"
- **Jessica Bough**
shot put PR: 24'-11.25"; 800 m PR: 2:57.58
- **Isaiah Holst**
400 m PR: 1:00.43; 1600 m PR: 2:33.73



PHOTO BY JENNY WILCYNski

one boy. They will be squaring off against athletes from Three Forks and potentially Red Lodge at their upcoming home match on May 7 at the Big Sky Community Park. After beginning the season practicing inside since the courts were covered in snow, the head coach of the team expressed pride in every athlete for how much progress they have made.

Now the team will set their sights on the upcoming Divisional tournament which will take place the second week of May. Three of the female athletes and the lone boy will head off to the tournament and all are expected to do well.

Golf

The boys and girls golf teams have seen successes at several tournaments this season. TJ Nordahl finished in a tie for first place at an April 26 tournament with an 80. She also finished second place in Three Forks at the Class B/C invite with an 88 posting the lowest class C score. Nolan Schumacher and Nathan Browne

respectively shot a 90 and a 94 the week of April 26 to qualify for the state tournament, and Pierce King shot an 88 on April 29 to finish in a tie for 7th place.

The golf teams have two more tournaments before the State C tournament on May 18 and 19 which five athletes have qualified for. On the girls side, TJ Nordahl and Josie Wilcynski qualified, for the boys, Pierce King, Nolan Schumacher and Nathan Browne all qualified.

"We can't field full teams [for state], but the athletes can still compete individually and that's what's awesome about golf," said head coach Jenny Wilcynski. "I love that fact that they can still go out and compete for individual honors."

Head coach James Miranda offered praise to Orrin Coleman and Astrid McGuire.

"[Orrin] is focused on setting the school record in the 1600m and is looking to qualify for State," Miranda said. "He is driven to meet this goal."

"Astrid is our dual sport athlete this track season," he continued. "She is a striker on the Gallatin Elite Futbol club as well as our 800m and 1600m runner for the ladies. She is driven to be the best and also is looking to make State."

Tennis

The tennis team has had a winning season this year with six girls and



YOUR BEST SUMMER LIVES IN YELLOWSTONE

Yellowstone is a land of larger than life adventures – especially in summer. There's no better time to experience the region and the wonders of Yellowstone National Park. You can find convenient lodging near the park through Yellowstone Vacations. Moments spent in this world are with you for a lifetime. See Yellowstone for yourself this summer.

BOOK YOUR ADVENTURE TODAY.

877-600-4308 | YellowstoneVacations.com



**YELLOWSTONE
VACATIONS**

There's still no 'I' in team

BY AL MALINOWSKI
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

During his inauguration in 1961, the United State's 35th president, John F. Kennedy, encouraged Americans to "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." Though that speech predates the birth of most who will read this column, it would be unlikely that you haven't at some point heard a recording of that line from Kennedy's speech. While those words generate a spirit of patriotism, they also promote a sense of responsibility to prioritize the greater good over our own interests.

Years later, NBA basketball legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson applied Kennedy's philosophy to sports. Johnson, who won a college national championship at Michigan State and five NBA championships with the Los Angeles Lakers, is attributed with saying "Ask not what your teammates can do for you, ask what you can do for your teammates." Johnson's commitment to his mantra of selflessness helped make the Lakers of the '80s to become commonly known as "Showtime."

Today, Johnson's reminder is as applicable as it was when he played. However, as parents have become more directly vested in their child's athletic endeavors, sometimes the value of teamwork can be forgotten. Often with good initial intentions, the parents begin to focus on their own child's opportunities, which inevitably creates confusion for the young player.

As a coach, I've seen this firsthand. I've watched a player struggle to grasp our team-first approach in practice because it contradicted the coaching their parents gave them on the car ride to the gym.

Success, accomplishment and achievement of team goals are valuable lessons learned from team sports. So are failure, facing adversity and not achieving goals. When parents attempt to protect their kids from the latter experiences, they can inadvertently undermine the player's coach or teammates.

It seems when parents have invested in off-season specialized coaching, they may lack patience for any experience other than success. This is often when parents start talking about looking for a better coach or a better team, since they figure the failures must be someone else's responsibility other than their child's. Their child can't risk their chances at a Division I college scholarship on bad coaches or teammates, right?

Several years ago after a touchy conversation where a parent was offering me unsolicited coaching advice, the parent sensed my frustration and asked me a surprising question. "What's the dream job for a basketball coach?" I was biting my tongue, holding back from saying "Anywhere but here," when the parent revealed the punchline: "Coaching basketball at an orphanage."

It's easy for a coach to be distracted by parents who have forgotten the benefits of the entire team experience. I know I lost my focus a time or two. But I also had the joy of coaching many players who understood and appreciated the value of accepting their role in contributing to the team.

There is currently a young basketball team at Ophir School full of skilled athletes who embody the team spirit. No doubt they are a reflection of the values of their parents. I'm glad I didn't have to relocate to an orphanage to find them.

JACKSON HOLE

LIFT YOUR ADVENTURE

JACKSONHOLE.COM

With room to roam, it's time to get outside.

Come experience the wonders of nature and the wide open spaces of the Tetons. Jackson Hole Mountain Resort is open for summer and ready for your next adventure. Ride the Bridger Gondola to reach breathtaking views, hike through wildflowers to remote vistas, experience the thrill of Via Ferrata, rip through perfectly crafted mountain bike trails, indulge at three exquisite dining locations, and discover world-class specialty retail shopping with curated products and gear. New this year, Sweetwater Gondola provides access to expanded intermediate and advanced bike trails. Sail over tabletops, flow around corners and then catch the lift for a ride back up to the top.

ANDERSON ENTERPRISES

BIG SKY'S
TEXTILE CLEANING
SPECIALIST

SINCE 1988

Carpet Cleaning • Soil & Stain Protectants • Spot Cleaning
Upholstery Cleaning • Leather Cleaning
Fine Area Rug Cleaning • Tile & Grout Cleaning
Hardwood Floor Cleaning & Conditioning • Odor Removal

IICRC CERTIFIED FIRM

406.995.2811

TRAIN & RECOVER WITH INTENTION

Limited gym memberships
means no overcrowding

1:1 training with Big Sky's only
Strength & Conditioning Specialist
and Exercise Physiologist

Injury rehabilitation by Doctors
of Physical Therapy to keep you
doing what you love

Montana's **ONLY** functional
testing and training technology
built for serious athletes

**LONE PEAK
PERFORMANCE**

406.995.4522

lonepeakperformance.com

32 Market Pl. Big Sky, MT 59716



Brett Evertz
406-629-0132

NMLS #523473

Mortgage Branch Manager
bevertz@oppbank.com

Your Big Sky Home Lending Expert

"You'll be hard pressed to find a better
teammate in all of Montana."

- Alex, MT

"Brett is the best! He didn't waste our time.
He made the process seem so easy!"

- Sara, MT

"Brett was absolutely the best performing
cog in our home building machine.
He is a true professional who
knows his stuff."

- RK, MT

"Brett was an all-star. He acted fast with
every step which was important in the
intense market where I was purchasing.
I would HIGHLY recommend working
with Brett."

- Gregory, MT



All loans subject to credit approval. Fees and restrictions may apply.

VISIT BIG SKY



THANK YOU

TO THE MOUNTAIN STAFF & OPERATIONS ▲ TO VISITORS FROM NEAR & FAR
▲ TO THE BIG SKY COMMUNITY, BUSINESSES & PARTNERS ▲
IN A YEAR UNLIKE ANY OTHER, VISIT BIG SKY OFFERS OUR SINCERE THANKS
TO THOSE WHO MADE THE 2020 / 2021 WINTER SEASON
SAFE, SUSTAINABLE, AND ONE TO REMEMBER.



Join Visit Big Sky as we look forward with anticipation to the tourism industry's role in bringing back our vibrant communities, restoring the U.S. economy, rebuilding our workforce and reconnecting America through the **POWER OF TRAVEL** in 2021.

406.995.3606 | visitbigsky.com

Visit Big Sky is a 501 (c)(6) nonprofit membership organization.

SECTION 3:

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT,
BUSINESS, DINING & FUNMusician spotlight:
Luke Flansburg pg. 31"shoulder season" restaurant hours
in Big Sky pg. 35

Through the Darkness pg. 41

Letterpress duo takes craft on the road

Bozeman artists go mobile to preserve aging art

BY BELLA BUTLER

BOZEMAN – Last spring, two passionate artists found an old letterpress on Facebook Marketplace. It was \$100, plus a short drive to Lolo to pick it up. They figured they didn't have much to lose and bought it. Their serendipitous purchase would mark the launch point for an LLC and a cross-country modern-day take on the old tradition of revered letterpress apprenticeship.

The artists, Rosemary Middlebrook and Sara Budeski, were Montana State University students who had found a passion for letterpress—a printing technique using a raised image—while on a university trip to Italy. Middlebrook and Budeski were paired as dormmates their freshman year at MSU and kindled a strong friendship.

After living together for much of college, the art students traveled with 16 other students and three professors from the MSU School of Art to Italy to study for three months. As part of the trip, the cohort visited Tipoteca, a letterpress museum and working archive in northern Italy. Budeski and Middlebrook paired up for a letterpress project to document the evolution of their friendship. After that, they each dove into the craft.

Budeski loved learning how the analog practice had informed so much digital design, like the way letters and words are spaced. She and Middlebrook are both also graphic designers.

"That's where that draw is for me is connecting the handmade with design," Budeski said.

Middlebrook said letterpress is a chance for her to slow down. "After studying graphic design, I've realized that all I want is to break from the speed that everyone expects in our digital age," she said. "There's no real shortcuts in the tactile process of letterpress, and I love that."

Budeski, whose grandfather was once a pressman at the Great Falls Tribune, returned to Bozeman for the summer and started working at Ice Pond Press. She took the introductory letterpress course at MSU and was accepted to a letterpress internship in Nashville, Tennessee, which has been deferred twice due to the pandemic.

Then came the Facebook listing.

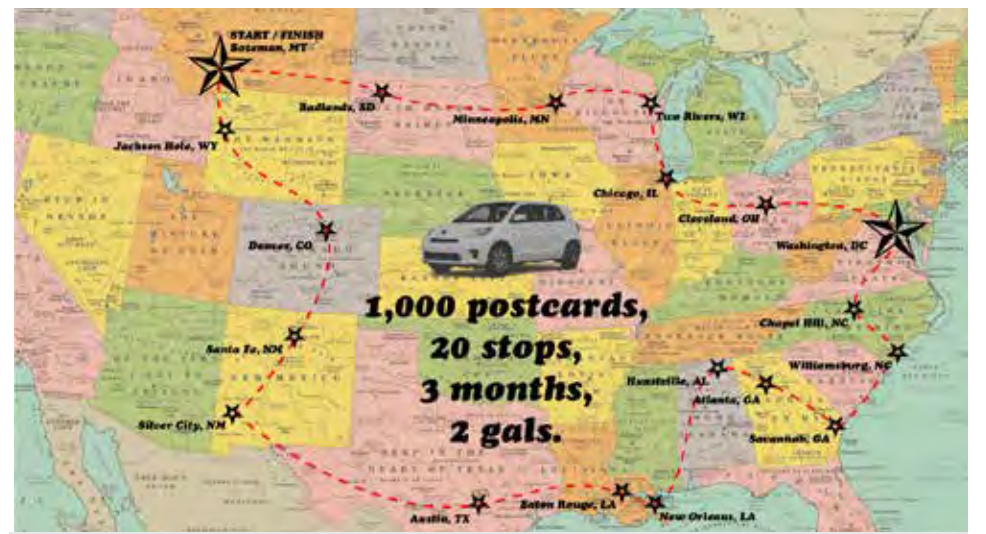
For \$50 a piece, the purchase seemed low risk. The seller, from Idaho, met the Budeski and her friend in Lolo with more than a press—he brought them a story. Accompanying the press was what Budeski refers to as the makings of a letterpress business: several drawers of lead type and a junky suitcase full of paper samples, letterpress samples, blocks, rollers, ink and personnel items like checkbooks.

Budeski and Middlebrook later learned the press belonged to a Mr. Gary L. Kissler, a commercial printer that used the small-sized Kelsey Excelsior press to create printed ephemera like menus, invitations and business cards. They assumed, based on information from the seller and clues acquired with the press, that Kissler had passed and his items had been tucked away in the corner of his building before it was sold. The new owner liquidated the remaining items, including the press.

Budeski said having this history is extremely significant in the letterpress and broader printmaking community. "There's a real effort to archive things well, preserve things really well, restore presses, keep alphabets of type together, so it was really cool to see the history of this and to be able to tell people about the history of presses and how they



Sara Budeski and Rosemary Middlebrook put together type for a letterpress poster they completed at the Tipoteca museum in northern Italy. Budeski and Middlebrook have since started a letterpress business and plan to hit the road this summer with a mobile letterpress studio. PHOTO COURTESY OF S.R. KISSLER PRESS



This summer, two Bozeman-based artists will make a cross-country journey with a mobile letterpress studio built out in their car. They'll stop at several letterpress shops to create unique prints, which have been pre-sold. ART COURTESY OF S.R. KISSLER PRESS

do get bought and sold, but the restoration of presses today is really important because they're not made anymore," she said, adding that many people who are especially good at lead type are old and many of them are dying. She considers this a huge incentive for young artists to preserve these collections.

Following the acquisition of the press, Budeski and Middlebrook formed an idea to start their own business. They created an LLC in January 2021 named S.R. Kissler Press to honor the history and present life of the Kelsey.

Not long after they restored the press, the artists knew they wanted to do something with it. After an exhausting year of pandemic limits, the vaccinated duo wanted to combine interests in travel and creating content for people, and thus the idea of the Summer of Mobile, Moveable type was conceived.

Beginning in early June, Middlebrook and Budeski will start their journey with a mobile studio built out in the back of Middlebrook's Scion xD hatchback. They'll visit letterpress shops across the country throughout the summer and use the shop's type or printing material to create postcards. "[We'll] use that as a way to document the shop that we go to and the places we're at and during a time that's really quite interesting and unprecedented," Budeski said.

To fund the trip, S.R. Kissler Press opened a Kickstarter to pre-sell the postcards they'll make throughout the summer and collect donations.

As with the press, their journey has a historical layer. Centuries ago, letterpress apprentices would travel from print shop to print shop to learn the trade from several masters before assuming the role as master themselves. Later, the International Typographical Union would allow for union-card holders to travel and pick up work in various cities. These workers were called Tramp Printers, or sometimes, the original freelancers.

In 2015, artist Chris Fritton revived the practice, traveling across the globe for two years modeling practices of the Tramp Printers. Fritton is famously known as The Itinerant Printer, and in Budeski's words, created a "new way of archiving the letterpress shops" that have popped up in the last decade or two.

Middlebrook and Budeski knew Fritton distantly from lectures and appearances he had made at MSU. When they launched their Kickstarter and got the word out about their trip, Fritton contacted them and offered to help connect them with print shops.

"I guess what's really cool with communicating with all these shops is ... it's such a niche thing and all the artists and designers that still use it, they're stoked when young people are like 'Hey we have this press and we want to come see you and do a print with you' and they're like 'This is so cool. Yes, of course,'" Budeski said. "We've gotten a lot of feedback like that and that's really cool to see that you're part of a community that is so welcoming."

To date, the Kickstarter has raised nearly \$7,000 and is open through May 10. They've also acquired several sponsors, including Stix Yarn Co., Frederick Books Art Center and Clementine flowers.

With an entire summer on the road ahead of them, the young women are excited for the entire experience, they say. "Besides printing, I really don't know what's in store for us, and I'm so excited to have the room for spontaneity," Middlebrook said.

"As just members of the letterpress community, [we're excited to] continue to just grow the community, be a part of it and connect to people through our trip," Budeski said.

BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR

Friday, May 7 – Thursday, May 20

If your event falls between May 21 and June 3, please submit it by May 12 by emailing media@outlaw.partners

Friday, May 7

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

Live Music: KC 'n Bo
Tips Up, 8 p.m.

Give Big 2021
Donate at: www.givebiggv.org through 6 p.m.

Lone Mountain Trail Trash Pickup
Bags available at the Conoco and Kircher Park trailhead, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, May 8

Saturday Sweat
Moving Mountains, 8 a.m.

La Gran Noche de Comedia
WMPAC, 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Mother's Day Mini Spa Retreat
Santasha Wellness Center, 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 9 (Mother's Day)

Service Industry Night
Lotus Pad Asian Cuisine, 5 p.m.

Afternoon Tea
Starlite Bozeman, 3 p.m.

Monday, May 10

Trivia Night
Pinky G's Pizzeria, 7 p.m.

Trivia
Bozeman Taproom, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 11

Trivia Night
Café 191, 5:30 p.m.

Bingo Night hosted by the American Legion Post #99
The Riverhouse, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 12

Wine Wednesday
Big Sky Virtual Kitchen Facebook page, 5 p.m.

Ladies Night
Devil's Toboggan, Bozeman, 6 p.m.

Thursday, May 13

Pure Barre Pop Up
Blend – Wine Bar & Gallery, Bozeman, 4 p.m.

Live Music: Peter King Duo
Tips Up, 8 p.m.

Friday, May 14

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

Live Music: Cole Decker
Tips Up, 8 p.m.

Big Sky Community Recycling Day
Big Sky Community Park, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 15

Saturday Sweat
Moving Mountains, 8 a.m.

Bach Roads of Montana
Downtown Bozeman, 3 to 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 16

Service Industry Night
Lotus Pad Asian Cuisine, 5 p.m.

Brunch
Mountains Walking Brewery, Bozeman, 10 a.m.

Monday, May 17

Trivia Night
Pinky G's Pizzeria, 7 p.m.

Sunrise Karaoke
American Legion, Bozeman, 9 p.m.

Tuesday, May 18

Trivia Night
Café 191, 5:30 p.m.

Bingo Night hosted by the American Legion Post #99
The Riverhouse, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 19

Open Mic Comedy Night
J & Company Bar, Bozeman, 8 p.m.

Untold Stories of Montana's Minorities
Virtual Event, 7 p.m., Join Here: us02web.zoom.us/j/86301642724

Thursday, May 20

Bucket Night
Bar IX, Bozeman, 8 p.m.

Live Music: Luke Flansburg
Tips Up, 8 p.m.

DO YOU THINK YOU MIGHT HAVE A DRINKING PROBLEM?

Contact A.A. - We're alcoholics helping other alcoholics stay sober.
Call 1-833-800-8553 to talk to an A.A. member or **Get the Meeting Guide app** or
Go to aa-montana.org for virtual and face-to-face meeting times and locations



Musician spotlight: Luke Flansburg

From self-taught to teacher, Bozeman guitarist is a staple in local music scene

BY MIRA BRODY

BOZEMAN – Luke Flansburg’s grandmother always knew when he was home from school as a kid because the house was filled with his singing.

The Bozeman-based singer-songwriter has loved music since he can remember. A talented soloist, Flansburg is also a member of many of the region’s well-known bands, including Pinky & the Floyd, MOTH, Dead Sky and the Kelly Nicholson Band.

He names Dr. Teeth and the Electric Mayhem as early influences and the drums as his first instrument. He later learned to play the guitar through his high school science teacher, Brad Muhlenbruck. The Tiffin, Iowa, native took the foundation Mr. Muhlenbruck provided and ran with it.

“[I] found my mom’s old acoustic guitar in a closet, pulled it out—miraculously in tune—hit the low E string and hammered out Nirvana’s ‘Come As You Are’ in a matter of minutes,” Flansburg said. “Pretty much taught myself everything I know from that point on.”

One of his first bands, Bliss, channeled the scene of the 90s: Nirvana, Metallica, Guns n’ Roses and Green Day. After moving to Bozeman in 1997 to attend Montana State University, he started a band with fellow dorm neighbor Jeremiah Slovarp.



Luke Flansburg is a member of many of the region’s well-known bands, including Pinky & the Floyd, MOTH, Dead Sky, the Kelly Nicholson Band and is also a talented soloist. PHOTO BY CAPTURE NOW STUDIOS

“He’d always be outside playing Dave Matthews on the front steps, [so] one day I joined him,” Flansburg said. “Then we started sneaking into the Hausbrau [House] to play open mic on Mondays with Joe Mann. We started a band called ‘Boulderfield Movement’ and started buying a few speakers and a mixing board.”

After Boulderfield Movement dissolved, Flansburg and Slovarp used the gear they had invested in to start a sound business and by 2002, along with Boulderfield Movement drummer Orion Bradwell, they opened Jereco Studios. Bradwell left in 2008, but Jereco continued to grow into the full-scale sound, lighting, events and installation business it is today.

Flansburg left Jereco last year, but remains on-hand for the company when needed. Now, he teaches guitar at Music Villa full time, which he has been enjoying immensely.

“They gave me the wonderful opportunity to teach on a regular basis,” Flansburg said. “I had originally come to MSU to be an elementary education major, so I’ve always been drawn to teaching.”

Though a devoted teacher, Flansburg still has time to jam in Bozeman and Big Sky, and is known for putting on some lively shows. You can catch him playing on May 20 at Tips Up in the Big Sky Town Center.

Artist spotlight: Kara Tripp

Explore Montana’s scenery through the palette knife

BY TIMOTHY BEHUNIAK

BOZEMAN – There is a saying that one should do what one loves in order to be happy and successful. For Kara Tripp, that means creating paintings of her backyard with a palette knife.

The third-generation Bozeman native has always been surrounded by the creative world. Her father was an artist who painted wooden decorative decoys and her family traveled with him to art shows in the summer.

Although she studied chemical engineering at Montana State University, Tripp worked odd jobs after graduation until fully dedicating herself to a creative career.

“My mother-in-law is also an artist, so her and my dad both encouraged me to start painting,” said Tripp, now 40. “There was a gallery in Big Timber that was opening and they were accepting new art, so I submitted a few pieces, which was in 2008.”

Beginning with just a few paintings she created, Tripp enrolled in the Montana Artrepreneur Program in her early 30s. MAP, as the program is known, is a Helena-based business school for artists, one that “demystifies the world of business” and affirms a creative path as a credible profession, according to its website.

After completing the program, Tripp’s production and sales skyrocketed. One factor is that her pieces transport you to a familiar place, like driving down Highway 191 into Gallatin Canyon. Another is Tripp’s style of chosen medium.

“I used to paint with a brush but switched to a palette knife because of its impressionistic feel,” she said. “I can quickly move the oil around, scrape or build up the paint to create nice textures.”

A palette knife looks like a miniature trowel and artists often use one to mix paint before applying it with a brush. But Tripp uses the palette knife to create her paintings because of its ability to quickly put paint to canvas and to give her art a thicker, mosaic quality and depth.



Face to Face by Kara Tripp. PHOTO COURTESY OF KARA TRIPP

“I paint fairly traditional subjects in terms of bison, cranes, foxes and Montana landscapes, but the way I paint and frame them is a little more contemporary,” Tripp said.

Tripp draws inspiration from her childhood and her present-day surroundings. Growing up in southwestern Montana meant regularly witnessing the sights and scenes of The Treasure State, including bison and other wildlife. Plus, she works from photographs she takes while driving around or near town.

Tripp finds her muse in the old masters of impressionism, but also in contemporary artists, such as Robert Moore, an Idaho-based palette knife painter. “After taking his class I realized that a palette knife offers the results I want,” she said. “His work, bold technique and first instinct of not reworking his paintings once starting really attracted me.”

At the Sweet Pea Art Festival in Bozeman, Tripp was a featured artist in 2014 and her artwork was chosen for “Best in Show” three years in a row at the event’s art exhibition. “I grew up going to Sweet Pea every year so it was a really cool full circle to win their poster contest,” Tripp said.

The artist now creates and hangs her work for the public to view in studio 111 in the Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture. “I love the Emerson,” Tripp said. “It’s a great place to be because of the events they always put on and I think people really know it for its one-of-a-kind Montana art.”

Along with the Emerson, Tripp’s work has been featured throughout downtown Bozeman in various local businesses and public spaces, including the library and Lockhorn Cider. She has also been featured in galleries in Billings, Bigfork and Big Sky among other Montana towns. For Tripp, there’s no slowing down anytime soon. “I like being my own boss and speaking with people one-on-one when they come to my studio,” she said, smiling. “I’m happy to say that this is my full-time gig.”

This article was originally published in March 2019 and has been shortened for brevity. Visit explorebigsky.com for the full version. Visit karatrippartist.com to view more of the artist’s work.

Explore™

Big Sky

ONE MEDIA OUTLET 1 MILLION READERS

Want local news?

DAILY

EXPLOREBIGSKY.COM



EBS APP

Download at
explorebigsky.com



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL:

@explorebigsky & facebook.com/explorebigsky

2x PER WEEK



TOWN CRIER EMAIL
NEWSLETTER

Sign up at explorebigsky.com

EVERY 14 DAYS



EXPLORE BIG SKY
NEWSPAPER

Pick up at 300 locations in
Big Sky and Bozeman

explorebigsky.com

CLASSIFIEDS



NOW HIRING

Experienced Siders, Framers, Trim Carpenters, Laborer and Job Supervisor Wanted for a Big Sky custom home builder. F/T position with benefit pkg.

Seasonal employment also available. Wage D.O.E. Vehicle, References, and a back-ground check required.

Please email resume to:
brian@bigskybuild.cm

NATURAL RETREATS

BIG SKY, MT

NOW HIRING

We at **Natural Retreats** are looking for an enthusiastic and reliable **Guest**

Services Coordinator to serve as the direct liaison between our guests and all areas of the day-to-day operations at our Big Sky, MT destination.

This position is fulltime and comes with a spectacular benefit package!

If you are interested, please forward your resume to:
recruiting@naturalretreats.com.



NOW HIRING

RMR seeking experienced construction professionals to work in Big Sky:

- Construction Project Manager
- Assistant Construction Superintendent
- Carpenters
- Construction Laborers

Visit website for job description:
www.rmrgroup.net. Resumes to lou@rmrgroup.net

RECYCLE



Enjoy our publication and please remember to recycle.



Montana Life

REAL ESTATE



33 Acres Wooded w/Views Big Sky, MT \$795,000



Peaceful Flathead River Front Big Fork, MT \$2.35M



.5 Ac Adj. to Park Southside Bozeman, MT \$1.195M

Joe Duval

406 570 7837

joe@MontanaLifeRE.com

MontanaLifeRE.com



Making it in Big Sky: L&K Real Estate

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

BIG SKY – L&K Real Estate Sales
Associate Michael Pitcairn cut his teeth in the real estate profession at a very young age. His parents were real estate investors and he recalled that they would have family workdays to switch over rental properties.

Now, Pitcairn has been in the real estate business for nine years and has sold over 55 million in volume since joining the L&K team.

Pitcairn and his wife went on a mission shortly after getting married to find the perfect mountain town. Although they didn't find it on that particular trip, he says his in-laws brought them out to Big Sky for a ski trip and they knew immediately this was where they wanted to raise a family.

After moving out here, Pitcairn was able to snag an interview with Ryan Kulesza at L&K Real Estate and then a spot on the small and innovative L&K team.

L&K Real Estate deals in residential properties, commercial properties and works with developers through the process of buying land all the way to the finished building. They specialize in relocation, resort communities, luxury homes and investment properties. L&K serves Bozeman, Big Sky and the wider southwest Montana region.

Pitcairn sticks close to home and works primarily in Big Sky. Explore Big Sky sat down with Pitcairn to learn more about L&K and his role on the team.

Some answers below have been edited for brevity.

Gabrielle Gasser: *What drew you to work at L&K?*

Michael Pitcairn: "I liked that they are an independent local company, and they had built a really good community reputation. L&K is a company that I felt proud to be a part of. I was also excited about the diversity of real estate that L&K offers—not only do we sell residential real estate, but also commercial, and work with clients to consult on development projects. Having experience in all of those different sectors make you a well-rounded real estate professional and is highly beneficial to our clients."

GG: *What makes L&K Real Estate stand out from other real estate companies?*

MP: "First and foremost our advertising and our partnership with Outlaw Partners; it really gives us a critical edge to be able to produce high caliber content, but also in a timely manner. I think having both of those elements are extremely important for sellers in such a rapidly changing real estate market. Marketing and an SEO website are critical elements in real estate buying, and our recent enhancement of our website is proof of that. I was recently interviewed on Fox Business News specifically because they found us through our website when searching Google. Also, the team element at L&K—we're all working together to help clients; it's not such a focus on the individual here at L&K, it really is a collaborative effort. I attribute that to our company meetings and being able to discuss ideas and properties to help each other out with solutions. We're all in this together, and I have found that to be a very enjoyable working environment, and also very beneficial to our clients."



The L&K team from left to right: Michael Pitcairn, EJ Daws, Carrie Bryan, Eric Ladd, Ethan Stokes and Ryan Kulesza. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

GG: *What makes the team so effective?*

MP: "We each have different relationships, specialties, and experiences to bring to the table. Collaborating using our individual skills ultimately leads to the best service and outcome for our clients. Having a well-rounded firm with different areas of expertise who are willing to work together is a major key to our success. A rising tide lifts all boats."

GG: *What is your specialty?*

MP: "I primarily sell residential real estate and also have a background in commercial, but I would say 90 percent of my deal flow is residential homes. I also just sell in Big Sky, and don't venture to Bozeman or any other markets. I find having a niche and staying focused just on Big Sky has helped with my success and in-depth knowledge of the area."

GG: *What services does L&K offer?*

MP: "It's a three-tiered approach. In residential we work with buyers and sellers on their personal homes, in commercial we work to sell the spaces and help find tenants, and then the development side where we help identify properties that are ripe for development and go through the whole process from raw land acquisitions all the way to vertical product."

GG: *How has the real estate market changed during your time working in Big Sky?*

MP: "When I first started selling in Big Sky it was slower paced, more inventory, and more time to view properties. Since COVID, it has gotten increasingly more difficult and a much faster pace. In order to get properties under contract you've got to be ready and able whenever a property does come on the market and present it to your client ASAP. If the client is interested, you need to get an offer written up as soon as possible. If it's priced appropriately and in a desirable area, properties are selling very quickly. COVID certainly took Big Sky to the next level and has increased our demand substantially."

GG: *What is your favorite part of working at L&K?*

MP: "I enjoy working with buyers and to introduce folks to this beautiful and amazing part of the country. Big Sky is very unique and very wild, and it's a new adventure for many to come out here and live a more rustic, simple lifestyle. I have to do my fair share of paperwork, but I really enjoy showing unique properties, and walking parcels of land to find the opportunities that exist in each one."

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

MP: "There are no short cuts and no substitution for hard work. Put in the time, always keep your eyes open for opportunities, and be thankful and appreciative for every success no matter how big or small."

GG: *Anything else?*

MP: "I'm excited about people coming to Big Sky to help continue to support our local economy, but I instill in my new buyers that we need to respect the environment and the wildlife. The reason we all moved here is to recreate in nature and observe wildlife, and we need to make sure that we do our best to preserve this beautiful place we call home."

MAKING IT IN BIG SKY IS BROUGHT
TO YOU BY THE **BIG SKY CHAMBER**

As the **VOICE** of Business, the Big Sky Chamber **CHAMPIONS** a healthy economy and works collaboratively to **CONVENE** community stakeholders as a **CATALYST** to improve the overall quality of life in the region.

OUR COMMUNITY. OUR BUSINESS.

The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce is a 501 (c)(6) nonprofit, membership organization

Join Today!

406.995.3606 | BIGSKYCHAMBER.COM

ANNA@BIGSKYCHAMBER.COM



BIG SKY CHAMBER
(Est. 1986)



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Below is a working list of “shoulder season” restaurant hours in Big Sky. Please email gabrielle@theoutlawpartners.com with updates or additions. Visit explorebigsky.com for the most up-to-date information.

ACRE Kitchen – Reopening on May 14. Then open Monday through Sunday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Albertos Mexican Cuisine – Open Tuesday through Sunday 4 to 10 p.m. Closed May 2 through June 1.

Beehive Basin Brewery – Open Monday through Sunday 12 to 8 p.m. for service and 9 p.m. for to-go orders.

Big Sky Community Food Bank – Open Tuesday and Thursday 3 to 7 p.m. and Wednesday and Friday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Big Sky Dough – Reopening on June 1.

Blue Buddha Sushi – Closes on April 25 and reopens on June 1 Tuesday through Saturday 5 to 9 p.m.

Blue Moon Bakery – Open daily 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Bucks T-4 – Reopening on April 30.

Bunker Deck & Grill – Reopening on May 15.

By W.O.M. – Open Monday through Friday 12 to 9 p.m.

Café 191 – Open daily 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Carabiner – Reopening on June 12.

Chet’s Bar & Grill – Reopening on June 12.

China Cafe – Reopening on June 1.

Choppers Grub & Pub – Open Wednesday through Monday 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Copper – Open daily 4 to 11 p.m.

Cosmic Cafe & Catering Food Truck – Open daily 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Country Market – Open daily 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Horn and Cattle – Reopening in May.

Hungry Moose Market & Deli – Monday through Sunday 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. The deli closes at 2 p.m.

Lone Peak Brewery – Open Thursday through Monday 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lotus Pad Asian Cuisine – Open Monday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

McGill’s Restaurant and Saloon – Reopening on May 28.

Mi Pueblito Taco Bus – Open Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Michaelangelo’s – Reopening in June.

Milkies Pizza & Pub – Open Monday through Saturday 3 p.m. to close. Kitchen closes at 9 p.m.

Montana Jack – Reopening in June.

Niseko – Reopening on May 1 Thursday through Sunday, 3 to 9 p.m.

Olive B’s – Reopening on May 26.

Ousel & Spur Pizza – Open Monday through Sunday 5 p.m. to close. Closed May 17-27.

Pinky G’s Pizza – Reopening May 1 Monday through Sunday 12 to 10 p.m.

Rainbow Ranch – Open Monday through Sunday 5 to 9 p.m.

Roxy’s Market & Deli – Open Monday through Sunday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Scissorbills Saloon – Reopening on May 10.

Sliders Deli – Open Monday through Friday 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Steele Pressed Juice & Java – Reopening on Memorial Day Weekend, Wednesday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Thursday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Cabin Bar & Grill – Reopening in June.

The Cave Spirits & Liquor – Open Monday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Corral Bar, Steakhouse & Motel – Reopening on May 7.

The Gourmet Gals – Reopening on May 3.

The Riverhouse Bar & Grill – Open daily 3 to 10 p.m.

The Rocks Tasting Room & Liquor Store – Open Monday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Standard Cocktail & Deserts – Open Thursday through Sunday 4 p.m. to close.

Tips Up – Open Monday through Friday 3 p.m. to close and Saturday through Sunday 12 p.m. to close.

Yeti Dogs – Reopening in June.

BIG SKY BITES

Crafting the perfect charcuterie board

BY BELLA BUTLER

My mother, Nancy Butler, owns a local catering business called the Gourmet Gals. Growing up, I never had a dull meal, but it wasn't always the same for her. She was raised, in part, with three other siblings by a young single mother. My mom remembers eating tuna casserole in dingy apartments with no furniture. But her mom, my grandmother, never failed to incorporate some magical ingredient from the pantry to make each meal taste well beyond the family's means. My mom embodies this skill, taking ordinary on-hand items and transforming them into culinary treats, more than anyone I know, and I think it's what's made her such a great teacher. What she pulls from her oven are masterpieces, but her process is entirely attainable. One of the best examples of this is the charcuterie board.



Class up your summer camping bites with a charcuterie board. Most ingredients will keep well and can be enjoyed with a gorgeous Montana view (or inside a tent if the weather is bad). PHOTO BY BELLA BUTLER

Charcuterie is a presentation of assorted meats and cheeses. The word has French roots, but the dish has recently popularized in the States. Though the intricate boards often served at wine bars can at first look intimidating, a few simple tricks (and key ingredients) will have you serving charcuterie for at-home date nights, dinner parties or my favorite way to enjoy—a solo night in (I think we've all been able to shed the binaries this year. I can, indeed, enjoy a classy meat and cheese board and glass of wine in my pajamas). It's important to remember that this guidance, borrowed from my mother, is a mere frame. The fun of the charcuterie board is making it your own!

The cheese

For many of us, cheese is the star of the show and should be treated as such. Cheese is a great place to start and to understand one of the key principles of charcuterie—texture. My mom believes three kinds of cheeses are the

foundation of any good board: One creamy, like a Camembert or a goat brie; one blue-veined, like a gorgonzola or Stilton; and one aged, like a sharp cheddar or even a Gruyere. You can find a version of these in most grocery stores, but Montana is also home to five spectacular fromagers, or cheesemakers, that produce a variety of specialties and are worth a visit for sampling, tours and a little cheese education.

The meat

If you prefer a simple cheeseboard, meats are not necessary but can be a rich addition. Farmers markets are a great way to find local artisanal meats and support neighbor operations. You also get the unique benefit of meeting an expert. In my experience, these vendors are more than happy to discuss their product and oftentimes will offer advice on how to pair your meats with other board accompaniments. My mom loves the duck prosciutto from Grotto meats in Bozeman. If you're on a budget, a packet of salami or other aged meats will do just fine.



According to my mom and the owner of The Gourmet Gals, Nancy Butler, the start of any good board is the proper variety of cheeses: creamy, blue and sharp. PHOTO BY BELLA BUTLER

The extras

This is where that magical improvisation comes in. My mom and I often dig into the dark corners of the pantry and refrigerator to find things like pickles, dips, fruits and other small pieces to bring texture and color to the board. My most recent creation featured curry pickled carrots and olives and grapes. My mom is a big fan of adding honeycomb and sometimes travels to Livingston to purchase a chunk of the delicacy from a schoolteacher who raises bees and chickens with French names. I go to the grocery store. While not essential, I always like to include a delivery method like crackers. Try options that are fun but not overwhelming, like the Raincoast Crisps sold at most stores.

The layout

If you have a good artist's eye, stop here—you'll do just fine. For the rest of us, this can be where we flail. You now have a collection of diverse items. How do you present them? Play with it a little—not a lot, nobody wants your hands all over their food. If you have a nice wooden board, that will enhance the overall aesthetic, but any on-hand cutting board will do. I start with the cheese, placing them in different corners of the board. From there, fill in empty spaces with meat. If you have a salami log, don't place in the center where it will be difficult to cut. Use that space for something like a hummus or bowl of pickles that can easily be grabbed. I like to cut a slice or two of salami so the inside shows. To finish it off, lay out the extras on empty surfaces, separating them so that something like a cashew could be picked up from either end of the board. Crackers are great for lining pathways between ingredients.

The wine

The magic of the charcuterie is not the individual items but the way they come together. To elevate this marriage, bring wine into the party. If you're buying from a wine shop or even a grocery store, you can often seek advice from attendants to help pair with your board.



Charcuterie boards are a great opportunity to practice your wine-pairing skills. Talk to your local grocer or wine vendor for tips. PHOTO BY BELLA BUTLER



Shining a light on the future.

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

NorthWestern
Energy
Delivering a Bright Future

View more of the story at
NorthWesternEnergy.com/BrightFuture



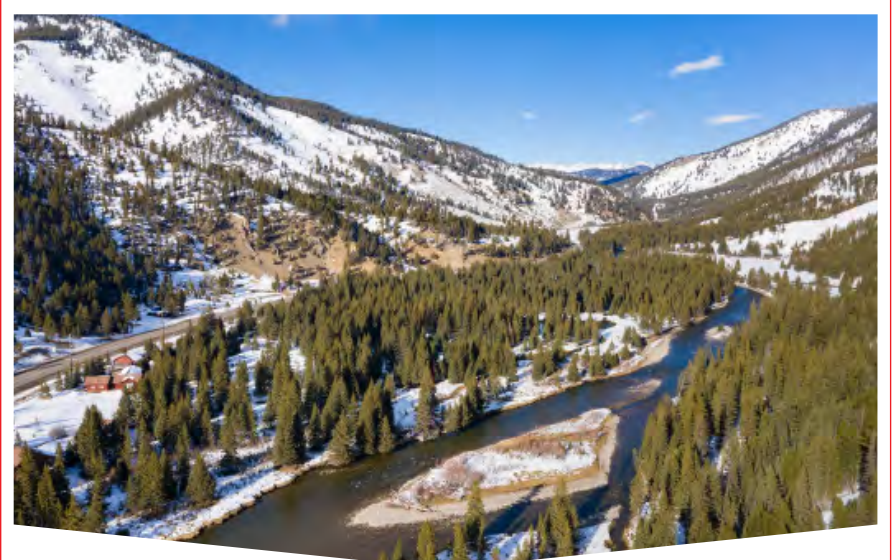
ENGEL & VÖLKERS[®]



2100 North Fork Road | Big Sky, MT
Private Compound | +/- 9,000 sqft
Main House, Guest House & Caretakers Quarters
\$12,000,000 | MLS# 355935
Stacy Ossorio, Broker | 406-539-8553
stacy.ossorio@evrealestate.com



Skycrest Penthouse 1733 | Big Sky, MT
\$1,395,000
5 Beds | 4 Baths | +/- 2,915 sqft. | MLS# 350340
Stacy Ossorio, Broker | 406-539-8553
stacy.ossorio@evrealestate.com



48042 Gallatin Road, Big Sky, MT
\$2,795,000
5 Bed | 3 Bath | +/- 3692 sq ft. | MLS# 355878
Stacy Ossorio, Broker | 406-539-8553
stacy.ossorio@evrealestate.com
Courtney King, Realtor | 406.581.4078
courtney.king@evrealestate.com

Exclusive Listings, Local Knowledge!
We are Engel & Völkers.
bigsky.evrealestate.com

© 2020 Engel & Völkers. All rights reserved. Engel & Völkers and its independent franchisees are Equal Opportunity Employers and fully support the principles of the Fair Housing Act. Each property shop is independently owned and operated. All information provided is deemed reliable but is not guaranteed and should be independently verified. If your property is currently represented by a real estate broker, this is not an attempt to solicit your listing.



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.

The world’s hardest tests



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Food TV put us on the map.

And by ‘us’ I mean, chefs, cooking and the culinary world.

I’ve done my best over the years to bring awareness to our industry and educate people about just how hard this work can be. From the occupation of line cook—which is as challenging a job as any contractor, sheet rocker, electrician, plumber or brick layer—to the mental and physical stress of being a chef in charge of any sizable club, restaurant or hotel.

But what should really grab your attention is the fact that there are five exams in the U.S. that are regarded as the most difficult in America.

In no particular order, they are:

The U.S. Medical Licensing Examination, California State Bar Examination, Master Sommelier Diploma Examination, Certified Master Chef Examination and the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination.

What’s fascinating to me is that despite the hospitality industry often being viewed as “not a real job,” two of the five on this list are in the hospitality industry.

Being completely opposite fields from mine, I have no concept of the difficulty of the other three exams listed here and for many reasons, I’m glad these three tests are so challenging. Imagine the devastating results of a poorly educated accountant handling the finances of large corporations, not to mention your own money.

And do you want someone who wasn’t able to pass their final medical exam diagnosing your possible terminal illness? As the late comedian George Carlin once said, “somewhere out there is the worst doctor in America. And someone has an appointment with them tomorrow morning.”

And while obviously every bar exam is difficult, the California exam is so challenging that people have been known to sue the California Bar for being too difficult.

But now let me put the other two exams in perspective.

Having passed the Level One Sommelier Exam, and watched more than one documentary on passing the level four Master Sommelier Exam, it almost feels like it takes the joy out of wine altogether.

Aside from wine theory, in which you must know every single grape, varietal and region in the world in great detail, you must also blind taste five wines. One could be an Oregon Pinot, or it may be an obscure varietal from South Africa. Either way, you need to identify only by the small portion you have been poured. And the time allotted to come to this conclusion? Only five minutes. When we attempted this in class as a group, those five minutes went by like a cartoon clock whose hands are spinning around the clock face. And of the thousands of level one and two sommelier in America, there are only, depending on the year, about 240 masters.

And that isn’t even the hardest test.

The Certified Master Chef exam is so challenging that very few chefs in America even attempt it. And fewer and fewer take it each passing year.

You will not even be considered if you do not have a formal accredited culinary diploma, and years of experience already in the field, which must include management of people. As well as hours upon hours of experience, education and working practical knowledge in human resources, sanitation, nutrition and cuisines from every continent.

Described by many as “grueling,” the test is 120 hours and lasts eight days. Taking into consideration there are 192 hours in eight days, that allows a mere 72 hours in over a week in which to eat, sleep and regroup.

You are watched and scrutinized by a panel of experts and fellow Certified Master Chefs almost by microscope. It isn’t enough that you completed a task, recipe or project perfectly, but the entire process along the way has to be perfect and in a very specific manner or timeframe.

Once you’ve completed this test and join the ranks of your peers, you don’t have much time to rest, because your certification expires in a mere five years. So, while on TV we’re considered entertainers, remember those five tests, and which apply to those who prepare, cook and serve your next meal.

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.

local, regional, organic food

DELIVERED

TO DOWNTOWN
BIG SKY

rootcellarfoods.com to shop

SHORE TO SUMMIT
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

*The experience, accreditation,
industry-wide recognition and integrity that
Southwest Montana deserves.*

Forbes
BEST-IN-STATE
WEALTH ADVISORS 2020
SHOOK RESEARCH

#11 SCOTT BROWN

Scott and his team manage roughly \$300,000,000 in private client assets.

Scott Brown CFP®, CIMA®, CRPC® recognized as Barron’s Top 1000 Advisor’s in 2011, 2012, and 2013.*

*The rankings are based on data provided by thousands of advisors. Factors included in the rankings were assets under management, revenue produced for the firm, regulatory record and client retention.

Investment products and services are offered through Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network, LLC (WFAFN), Member SIPC. Shore to Summit Wealth Management, LLC is a separate entity from (WFAFN).

Forbes Best-In-State Wealth Advisors Methodology 2020
The Forbes ranking of Best-In-State Wealth Advisors developed by SHOOK Research is based on an algorithm of qualitative criteria, mostly gained through telephone and in-person due diligence interviews, and quantitative data. Those advisors that are considered have a minimum of seven years experience, and the algorithm weights factors like revenue trends, assets under management, compliance records, industry experience and those that encompass best practices in their practices and approach to working with clients. Portfolio performance is not a criterion due to varying client objectives and lack of audited data. Neither Forbes or SHOOK receive a fee in exchange for rankings.

For more information and complete details on methodology, go to www.shookresearch.com

OUR EXPERTISE:

- Comprehensive investment planning and wealth management
- Personalized investment portfolios
- Retirement income planning
- Retirement and benefit plan approaches for small businesses
- Private family office services
- Balance sheet, cash flow and business valuation services

(406) 219-2900

shoretosummitwm.com

American Life in Poetry

BY KWAME DAWES

It must be one of the great mercies of life that time provides us with the magical capacity to turn memories of the complete alarm of caring for an infant child into a delightful bit of nostalgia. Adrian Matejka manages to capture both the splendor and bewilderment of early fatherhood in this tender poem.

Up, Up from Daydreams/Lullaby

BY ADRIAN MATEJKA

Your eyes close as soon as I put you in the plastic moon of a car seat. Connect the seatbelts, check the seat-to-car belts. Face turned to one side, brown like mine. Fists instead of hands just like me. Is this all you got from me? At least the seat is installed right thanks to a fireman at Station 37. At least you smile when you sleep & sleep like it's your job since I still don't know what I'm supposed to do when you wake up. In your dream of passing cars & Oregon hills underneath us, I sing a made-up song while Federico Aubele & the car's intemperate hum really lullaby: Little one, this is a start. Little one, it starts with a heart.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

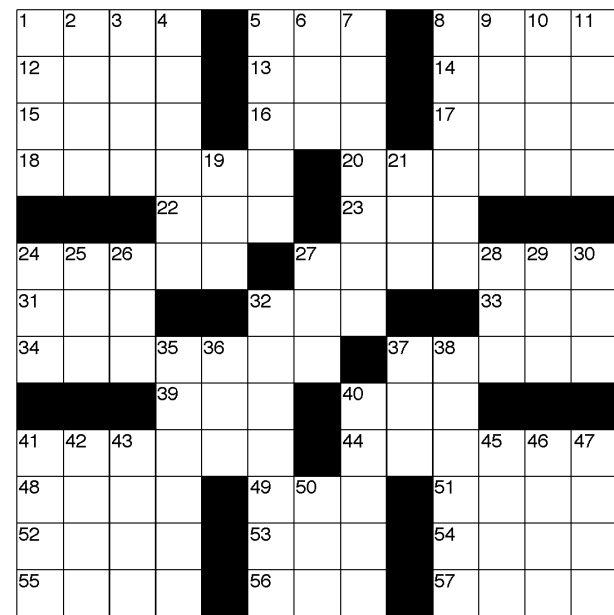
- Judges' bench
- Gun: slang
- Sprightly
- Hamitic language
- Guido's note (2 words)
- Olive genus
- Biology (abbr.)
- Bled
- Andean deer
- Sop
- Helm
- Female ruff
- Here (Fr.)
- Green quartz
- Gospel preacher
- Subside
- Salary
- Metallic rock
- Midas (2 words)
- W. Afr. tree
- Mulberry of India
- Row
- Locust
- Primeval
- Kind of leather
- Drunk driving (abbr.)
- Earth personified
- Bald
- Electrically charged particle
- Sacred image
- Helm position
- Born
- Mound of sand

DOWN

- Polish rum cake
- "Arabian Nights" dervish
- Cella
- Banner
- Fireworks
- Wing
- Rapid gallop
- Lustrous fabric
- Jewish month
- Advise (Scot.)
- Bull (pref.)
- Arikara people
- Amazon tributary
- Via
- Sluggish's stat
- Amer. Broadcasting Corp. (abbr.)
- Belonging to (suf.)
- Tibetan gazelle
- Slip
- "Brave Bulls" author
- Heroic knight
- Chipmunk
- Fr. month
- Rhine tributary
- Arctic
- Think
- Father: Hebrew
- Ember
- Land measure
- Emblem of authority
- Time period
- Alley
- Calamity

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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




©2021 Satori Publishing A144

Corner Quote

“If you cannot understand that there is something in man which responds to the challenge of this mountain and goes out to meet it, that the struggle is the struggle of life itself upward and forever upward, then you won't see why we go. What we get from this adventure is just sheer joy. And joy is, after all, the end of life. We do not live to eat and make money. We eat and make money to be able to live. That is what life means and what life is for.”

- George Mallory, “Climbing Everest: The Complete Writings of George Mallory”

BIG SKY BEATS

 **Original songs and their celebrated covers**

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

For many music lovers, the same question sparks debate: Original or cover? In some instances, the cover of a song ends up becoming more popular than the original. On the flip side, some covers flop or are disliked by the band's fanbase. An interesting function of covers is that they can often blur the lines of genres or even change it entirely. Below is a playlist pairing original songs with their covers and I leave it up to the reader to decide which version you prefer.



PHOTO BY C D-X ON UNSPLASH

- “Southern Nights” (1977) by Glen Campbell
- “Southern Nights” (2017) by Whitney
- “Africa” (1982) by Toto
- “Africa” (2019) by Weezer
- “Hallelujah” (1984) by Leonard Cohen
- “Hallelujah” (1994) by Jeff Buckley
- “Tainted Love” (1976) by Gloria Jones
- “Tainted Love” (1981) by Soft Cell
- “Can't Feel My Face” (2015) by The Weeknd
- “Can't Feel My Face” (2017) by The Amity Affliction

LOCATED AT 235 SNOWY MOUNTAIN CIRCLE

We pack. We print. We get ship done.



Ece Walkup
sales@bigskyprintandship
(406) 995-7884



PEAK CREATIVE
DESIGNS

Andrew Robin
peakcreativdesign@gmail.com
(406) 581-4997

- Graphic Design
- B+W & Color Copies
- Business Cards
- Envelopes
- Rack Cards
- Brochures
- Post Cards
- Laminating
- Posters
- Menus
- Bulk Mailing
- and MORE!

Whatever you set your mind to. We do it all!

INSURANCE IS OUR PASSION



We represent: Allied Insurance, The Hartford, TRAVELERS PROGRESSIVE, MetLife ...and many more

With offices
in
Big Sky
and Ennis



KGLT



FM RADIO

NOW IN BIG SKY!

91.9 FM

BOZEMAN 91.9 & 97.1

HELENA 89.1

LIVINGSTON 89.5

BIG TIMBER 90.5

GARDINER 107.1

KGLT.NET

MONTANA RANCH PROPERTIES

RECREATION | LAND | SPORTING | AGRICULTURE



DON PILOTTE, BROKER | 406.580.0155 | RANCHMT.COM



\$2,000,000 | #349856

BUCKSHOT LANE Twin Bridges

Business opportunity for RV Park or other commercial venture, especially recreationally based businesses. Consisting of 100± acres with Beaverhead River frontage & over 50 individual deeded parcels.



\$1,750,000 | #349480

BEAVER CREEK WEST Big Sky

40± acres. Forested land directly adjacent to National Forest land! Incredible views once the home site is established. A feeling of remoteness but within 15 minutes of Big Sky Town Center. Gentle slopping forested hillside with several building sites.



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
Montana Properties

©2021 BHH Affiliates, LLC. An independently owned and operated franchisee of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Equal Housing Opportunity.

SERVING **BIG SKY** for
46 YEARS
IN THE  OF THE Meadow
Village Center

Locally owned. Locally operated
OPEN 365 DAYS A YEAR

Open 6:30am to 8pm • 406.995.4636

- Located in the Meadow Village Center next to Lone Peak Brewery
- Delivery Service
- Pre-arrival Fridge & Cupboard stocking

www.countrymarketofbigsky.com

BACK40

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”

Challenges await wounded veterans returning home from the ravages of war.

One group of boaters took notice and aims to lead willing soldiers ... Through the Darkness

BY SETH DAHL

From the 10,915-foot summit of Emigrant Peak, serrated mountaintops loom in all directions. Far below, the great Yellowstone River flows among green cottonwood trees as it cuts through Montana's Paradise Valley. It's July and the golden-brown landscape surrounding the river corridor appears brittle and thirsty in contrast to the green, irrigated fields nearby.

On the summit and facing the wide-open valley stands Lonnie Bedwell, who sports a graying and well-trimmed mustache and black sunglasses. Beside him is Dustin Sene, a local who lives outside nearby Gardiner and offered to guide Bedwell up the mountain that day.

Sene describes the named mountain ranges: Crazy Mountains to the north; Tetons to the south; Absarokas to the east; Spanish Peaks to the west.

From this vantage, Montana holds true to its name and Bedwell breathes deeply the cool mountain air. The sun is high in the sky and in between wind gusts against his face he hears the unpolluted silence that high places offer.

Bedwell's senses are heightened atop this lofty perch. All save his vision. He can't see the mountain peaks, valley or wildness around him. Bedwell has been blind for 20 years.

But this doesn't slow down the 51 year old, who in 2015 was named among National Geographic's Athletes of the Year. Bedwell is a kayaker who, as a veteran of the Persian Gulf War, now introduces other blind vets to the sport. On this Montana summer day, however, he wanted to climb the prominent mountain he'd heard so much about.

Joe Mornini is tall and especially fit for his 63 years. His former career is evident when his voice booms across the yard as he shouts dry-land kayaking instruction to Team River Runner's Outtasight participants. Mornini retired in 2014 after working 40 years as a Maryland public school teacher and special education program coordinator. He stays active by kayaking the Potomac River three to four times a week and has been doing so for about 30 years.

In the summer of 2004, with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan well underway, Mornini and his kayak partner Mike McCormick began noticing scores of soldiers recovering from battle injuries at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center just down the road from Mornini's current home in Rockville, Maryland. By fall, the duo decided to pitch in the best way they knew how: on the water.

“We felt we could outfit and adapt boats for them,” Mornini says. “Get them out of wheelchairs and into paddling.”

Around 2.5 million service members have deployed to the Middle East since the invasions of Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003. To date, roughly 52,500 service members have been physically wounded in action and out of those, 1,645 came home missing limbs.

The partners founded Team River Runner in September 2004 with the vision to create a healing and empowering program for veterans. “Moving is living,” Mornini says. “Most individuals in the military love the outdoors, they love adventure and they love excitement. Kayaking involves all three of those.”



Lonnie Bedwell attempts to surf his kayak in a standing wave feature on the Yellowstone River under the guidance of Rachael Ward in the background.

Currently TRR has over 55 chapters in 31 states, and during its 12-plus years has worked with more than 10,000 veterans. Mornini's mantra is "butts in boats," and he often visited injured vets at the Walter Reed hospital to chat with them about his program.

It was at Walter Reed in 2005 when U.S. Army infantry veteran Mackay Mathiason urged Mornini to start a program in Mathiason's home state of Montana. With few rocks choking the rapids and numerous access points, Mathiason said the Yellowstone River was the ideal waterway to learn basic kayak skills. The program that followed aligned sighted wounded-veteran guides with their visually impaired comrades.

"That is the ultimate act of trust: sending [blind kayakers] down a class three [rapid] on your voice commands," says Mathiason, who today lives in Billings, Montana, and runs a custom metal fabrication shop with his wife, Leslie. "Once you establish that trust, the rest is cake."

In 2010, the current TRR Outtasight Clinic was born, and Mornini discovered the kindness of area residents. "The Paradise Valley community is active and engaged in the needs of veterans," Mornini says. "Word travels fast ... and any needs any group or program might have results in support."

Folks in the communities lining the Yellowstone donate food, time and housing, and hold an annual pig roast fundraiser at the River's Edge Bar and Grill to keep TRR coming back.



Team River Runner cofounder, Joe Mornini, smiles during a beautiful July day kayaking the Yellowstone River.

"Among my friends and family in the valley there is extremely strong feelings of support and gratitude for these guys," says Sene, Bedwell's guide who was raised in Paradise Valley. "Not only for what they have done and sacrificed for our country but for how they are living their lives today and moving on."

Every July, Lonnie Bedwell packs his kayaking gear, cowboy boots and overalls, and flies to Bozeman, Montana, from his southwest Indiana home in Dugger. Occasionally he boards the plane wearing his lifejacket, just to get a rise out of travelers. A former Navy submariner, Bedwell feels teaching other blind vets to kayak is his duty now.

On May 4, 1997, Bedwell was turkey hunting a mile from his house when his partner accidentally shot him in the face, blinding him instantly. The recovery road was long and dark, but with the help of his three daughters Bedwell relearned how to negotiate day-to-day life. A year later, he shot a turkey under his friend's guidance.

Bedwell first tried kayaking in 2012 at a TRR pool event at the Disabled American Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in Snowmass, Colorado. In July of that year he attended his first TRR Outtasight Clinic and brought a natural athleticism and iron will that caught Joe Mornini's eye. "Right from the start line he showed no fear and took to kayaking like a duck takes to water," Mornini says.

It wasn't long before Bedwell was setting ambitious goals for himself. In 2013, he became the first blind person to kayak the Grand Canyon on the



Sighted guide, Chris Price, assists visually impaired participant, Adam Rowland, back to their kayaks during the 2016 Outtasight Clinic held on the Yellowstone River.

Colorado River, a total of 226 miles. He only swam twice. He paddled the Grand again the following year with sightless adventurer Erik Weihenmayer, who in 2001 became the only blind person to summit Mount Everest.

Then, in 2015, Bedwell traveled with guides to Africa and took on the massive rapids of the Zambezi River. "I like running whitewater just about as much as anything that I do," Bedwell muses. "It's the most independent thing that I think I do since losing my eyesight."

Mike Malarsie recalls the amazement he felt after hearing of Bedwell's first Grand Canyon trip. "He's an example setter," Malarsie says, "not just for people that are blind and visually impaired but for everybody." On January 3, 2010, Malarsie was on foot patrol as part of a U.S. Air Force Tactical Air Control Party in Afghanistan, when an Improvised Explosive Device, known as an IED, blew him backward and into a canal. The ambush killed four men in the patrol and Malarsie returned home completely blind.

"When I woke up and heard that they weren't coming home I knew I had no right to feel sorry for myself," he says. "I vowed to ... live my life as a tribute to them."

Malarsie had never kayaked before attending the 2016 Outtasight Clinic, but was Eskimo rolling his boat in the pond on day one. As the clinic progressed, so did the vets' skill levels and in a few days they entered Yankee Jim Canyon, the biggest whitewater they had ever encountered. The roar of the river crashing through the canyon is amplified by sheer Precambrian rock walls, and deafening. The whole experience intimidates new kayakers, even the ones who can see.



Mike Malarsie learns the feel of his kayak as Lonnie Bedwell holds the stern of his boat steady. Mike was able to roll his kayak by the end of the day.

“It’s kind of run the whole spectrum of emotions and sensations,” says Malarsie, about kayaking a river blind. “Once I’m in the middle of it, all those sensations are gone and I’m literally just present. I get to the bottom ... and feel on top of the world, like I just did something kind of remarkable.”

The Yellowstone River flows with a steady and natural pull, undisturbed for 692 miles. It’s the longest undammed river in the Lower 48 and a highlight of the region. It doesn’t discern between sighted recreationalists and those who see only the scars that war leaves behind. And neither do the residents of Paradise Valley.

“When I think about that community,” Bedwell says, “I think about the peacefulness of the valley and the acceptance of the people. They’re constantly thanking us for our service and they never treat us like we’re blind.”

The Outtasight Clinic, which now has branches in Florida, Michigan and North Carolina, is a platform for recovery; a program for personal growth. For a moment in time, a kayak and a river offer veterans freedom from their dark worlds. Carried by the Yellowstone’s wild and free current, these vets push into the darkness one paddle stroke at a time. At the takeout, their grins and stories shatter misconceptions of what is possible.

Raised in Great Falls, Montana, Seth Dahl served in Iraq with the 1-163rd Infantry

Battalion. He currently lives in Boise, Idaho, where he shoots and edits videos and short documentary films under his company name, Big Cedar Media. Watch the TRR Outtasight kayak video at bigcedarmedia.com.

This article is dedicated to the four service members killed in the IED explosion that blinded Mike Malarsie: Sergeant Joshua Lengstorf, Specialist Brian Bowman, Private John Dion, and Senior Airman Brad Smith.



Outtasight kayak clinic participant Adam Rowland learns how to roll his kayak in a pond with help from Chris Price and Rachael Ward.

STACY OSSORIO

Broker, Private Office Advisor
406-539-8553

stacyossorio.evrealstate.com
stacy.ossorio@evrealstate.com



ENGEL & VÖLKERS
— PRIVATE OFFICE —



2100 North Fork Road | \$12,000,000 | MLS# 355935 | 9,000 +/- Sq Ft Compound on 20+/- acres w/ Main House, Guest House, Caretakers Quarters & Garage

TRUST EXPERIENCE

*Your trusted Big Sky real estate advisor.
Providing exceptional service to buyers and sellers of Big Sky properties for 25 years.
Let me be your community connection.*



©2021 Engel & Völkers. All rights reserved. Each brokerage independently owned and operated. All information provided is deemed reliable but is not guaranteed and should be independently verified. If your property is currently represented by a real estate broker, this is not an attempt to solicit your listing. Engel & Völkers and its independent License Partners are Equal Opportunity Employers and fully support the principles of the Fair Housing Act.E&OE. Published by REAL Marketing (REM) | www.REALMarketing4You.com | 858.254.9619



Lovely home on expansive acreage
 CLOSE PROXIMITY TO BIG SKY AND ALL AMENITIES



419 Great Gray Hollow | Big Sky Canyon South | \$2.2M
 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths | 3,288 +/- SQFT | 20 +/- ACRES

Presented By:



LKRealEstate.com | 406.995.2404



Ryan Kulesza
 ryan@lkrealestate.com



Carrie Bryan
 carrie@lkrealestate.com



All information given is considered reliable, but because it has been supplied by third parties, we cannot represent that it is accurate or complete, and should not be relied upon as such. These offerings are subject to errors, omissions, and changes including price or withdrawal without notice. All rights reserved. Equal Housing Opportunity. If you currently have a listing agreement or buyer broker agreement with another agent, this is not a solicitation to change. ©2016 LK REAL ESTATE, LLC. lkrealestate.com
 * Membership upon approval