

Big Sky

July 16 - 29, 2021
Volume 12 // Issue #15

**Big Sky PBR
celebrates 10 years**

*Sewer ponds tested
for leaks*

**The Corral:
'100 million stories'**
*Belgrade Bandits named
state champs*
*Geyser marks 30 years
on the river*



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ON THE COVER:

Alex Cerqueira rides Cord McCoy/Big Sky Bulls, LLC's Outlaw for 82 during the first round of the Del Rio Unleash The Beast PBR. PHOTO BY: ANDY WATSON / BULL STOCK MEDIA

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Big Sky PBR celebrates 10 years

Big Sky's Biggest Week kicked off July 14 with the opening of the Big Sky Art Auction. The 10 days of events leading up to the 10th annual Big Sky PBR include the Big Sky Community Rodeo, Mutton Bustin' and lots of live music. Check out this special section for all things PBR including a Q&A with Robert Earl Keen who will wrap the evening of July 24 with a live performance.

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Sewer ponds tested for leaks

In July of 2020, Cottonwood Environmental Law Center and two other plaintiffs filed a lawsuit against the Big Sky County Water and Sewer District claiming the liners of the wastewater holding ponds were leaking effluent into the Gallatin River. A Missouri-based lab is now dyeing the holding ponds with a green tracer dye to help determine if the ponds are leaking.

10

The Corral: '100 million stories'

After more than 30 years, the beloved Corral bar and restaurant is changing hands. The House family sold the business to a Gallatin Valley family out of Belgrade. But the history and lore of the Corral is legendary. Here's a look back at one Big Sky staple.

17

Belgrade Bandits named state champs

Belgrade's 12U all-star baseball team recently took home the Montana State Championship. Now, the 12 athletes will head to Meridian, Idaho, on July 21 for the Pacific Northwest Regional Tournament and a shot at snagging a spot in the World Series tournament in Branson, Missouri.

33

Geyser marks 30 years on the river

Built on the "Spirit of Fun and Adventure" Geyser Whitewater Expeditions has been guiding visitors and locals alike down the Gallatin River for 30 years. After starting the company in 1992 with one van, two employees and two rafts, Geyser is now staffed by about 45 employees, offers zipline adventures and rents boat at Big Sky Resort.

Opening Shot



The Arts Council of Big Sky's first Music in the Mountains in over a year kicked off on July 3 for Fourth of July weekend with Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs, the Steep Canyon Rangers and the Tiny Band on July 4. PHOTO BY MIRA BRODY

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For the July 30, 2021 issue: July 21, 2021

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

Letter from the Publisher: 10 years of PBR

Nearly 15 years ago Big Sky PBR was a dream discussed tableside with Andy and Jacey Watson; a rendering showed an arena in the shadow of Lone Peak, and a bold sunset casting a colorful sky. I could only imagine the crowd of cheering fans.

Thanks to a key partnership with Jim Murphy, seeded by original sponsorship and support from the Yellowstone Club, Simkins Family, and Big Sky Town Center, and made a reality by the hard work of the Outlaw Partners team, welcome to the 10th year of Big Sky PBR!

Taking pause to celebrate 10 years of “Big Sky’s Biggest Week” is exciting and humbling. Time flies when you are having fun and the Big Sky PBR has been a blast; it seems like just yesterday that we were borrowing bleachers, stacking hay bales on flatbed trailers for overflow seating, and awarding Montana native Beau Hill with the inaugural win.

Fans have been gracious in supporting this event, sponsors have shown up in countless ways to make this event a success, and PBR has recognized us as Event of the Year seven times over!

The original premise of Big Sky PBR was to bring an authentic, fun event to Big Sky to celebrate community while also raising money for important causes – all enjoyed amongst a setting that Mother Nature has blessed us with. Ten years later Big Sky PBR is a thriving, sold-out event

generating millions of dollars of economic impact for the community and over \$1 million in donations for local non-profits and charities.

If you are reading this letter, you have likely helped play a role in making this event such a pivotal part of the Big Sky community. As you watch the sunset over Lone Peak and enjoy this event, please know that I appreciate your support. You helped make a dream a reality.

An additional sincere thank you to my Outlaw Team and the talented staff from PBR who orchestrate such a professional show...you are world class! A special note to Montana’s home state hero Flint Rasmussen for being part of this event for all 10 years; Chad Berger who has been instrumental in curating the livestock since day one; and lastly, the show would never happen without the riders and livestock who show up every year – we are grateful for your support.

Let’s hope we can celebrate this event together another 10 years from now – imagine the continued legacy of fun, goodwill, and connection this event will produce for our incredible community.

Grateful,

Eric Ladd

Chairman, Outlaw Partners





BETTER TOGETHER

RESORT TAX

A biweekly District bulletin

Since 1992, over \$75 million in District investments have played a significant role in funding priority programs and projects throughout Big Sky. These investments include community development, social services, economic development, housing, infrastructure, public safety, recreation, and conservation. These dollars have been a pivotal tool for funding Big Sky’s priorities. In 2020, in an effort to meet community needs, the District adopted its first 3-year Strategic Plan. As a result of our COVID-19 response, the District recently added ADAPTABILITY to the Principles of Operation.

THREE PILLARS



CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

Cultivate Ongoing Development
Nurture Organizational Unity
Proactively Plan and Adapt



ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITY

Foster Public Engagement
Create Community Awareness



STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS

Invest in Identified Community Needs
Foster Strategic Collaborations
Require Accountability

OUR VISION

“Big Sky is BETTER TOGETHER as a result of wise investments, an engaged community, and the pursuit of excellence.”

STRATEGIC PLAN FY21-FY23

CORE VALUES

ACCOUNTABILITY: We keep our word, follow through with commitments, and hold partners to the same standard.

COLLABORATION: We seek partnership in all endeavors and believe it results in the best possible outcomes.

STEWARDSHIP: We lead by example, taking care of Big Sky’s people, economy, and natural environment.

ENGAGEMENT: We recognize the power civic engagement plays in a healthy community.

INCLUSION: We strive to create opportunities for community involvement for all who reside in Big Sky.

PRINCIPLES OF OPERATION

FAIRNESS: We speak honestly, directly, and kindly within and about our community.

THOROUGH: We are detail oriented and evaluate all perspectives.

LEGAL: We operate only within the constraints of the law.

PROACTIVE: We are forward thinking and will lead and follow as necessary.

RESPONSIBLE: We operate strategically in order to maximize the resources within our community.

The detailed plan can be view at:

<https://resorttax.org/about/governing-documents/strategic-plan/>

(406) 995-3234 | resorttax.org | info@resorttax.org

Big Sky Resort Area District

OUR MISSION:

“Fairly collect tax for strategic investments to ensure the well-being of the Big Sky Community”



Upcoming Board Meetings

August 11th
@ 9:00 am

September 8th
@ 9:00 am



All District meetings are open to the public and are currently being held at the Resort Tax office (11 Lone Peak Dr. #204) and through Zoom.

Share public comment by emailing Info@ResortTax.org or by attending District meetings. Visit ResortTax.org for more info.

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FORUM

Big Sky's Biggest Week, a series of events leading up to Big Sky PBR, kicks off on July 16 with the Big Sky Community Rodeo. What's your favorite part of a rodeo?



Jackie Crain | Denver, Colorado

"I've been to the PBR several times, but I love the bronc riding, I would say it looks more challenging. Yeah, they're definitely all cowboys!"



Allie Prather | Winter Park, Florida

"I love the actual PBR and the bull riding...one time I went to one and there was a fair there which was cool."



Joe Jenkins | Albuquerque, New Mexico

"I would say probably the bronc riding...I like bull riding, I think the Broncs, It just takes a little more skill, but I enjoy it all."



Tamara Schafhauser | Big Sky, MT

"I'm excited for just all the activities and everything that's going to go on, like the live music too, and that I can just see the rodeo/PBR in person."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Gallatin deserves 'Wild and Scenic'

To the Editor:

Montana is home to untold miles of iconic waterways: the Madison, Yellowstone, Boulder, Smith and of course the Gallatin, all call this great state home. Now, with Sen. Jon Tester's reintroduction of the Montana Headwaters Legacy Act, we can give these rivers the protection they deserve.

This made-in-Montana bill would designate 385 river miles as "Wild and Scenic," including 39 miles of the Gallatin and 15 miles of the Taylor Fork. From Yellowstone National Park to Spanish Creek, our local waterways would be protected under this groundbreaking legislation, the highest form of river protection in the country.

As the general manager of a hospitality business here in Big Sky, I cannot stress how vital a clean, healthy Gallatin is to our business. Guests come to the Lone Mountain Ranch from around the world to fly fish, whitewater raft, horseback ride along the river and enjoy our relatively pristine wildlands. The Gallatin is the lifeblood of this ecosystem and major part of the ranch's popularity. It's the backbone of our local economy and without it we can't succeed.

In Montana, conservation and commerce go hand in hand—the latter can't succeed without the former—and free-flowing rivers like the Gallatin are becoming fewer and farther between. Striking a sustainable balance between the two and allowing one to support the other is the surest path forward, and the Montana Headwaters Legacy Act lays the necessary groundwork for that path. Join me in supporting this landmark legislation.

Ryan Kunz
Lone Mountain Ranch

Big Sky for sale?

To the Editor:

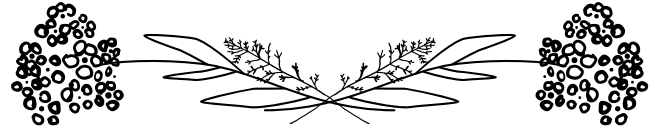
I and many acquaintances and friends are so dismayed that our little village has succumbed to "naming rights" as evidenced by the new Len Hill Park, formerly so aptly and subtly named "Town Center Park." While it may always be problematic to raise substantial sums for civic improvements, I cannot help but wonder how many of us would have reached deeper into our pockets to avoid the unseemly, un-Western, un-Big Sky, self-aggrandizing Len Hill.

Who cannot appreciate the former, diminutive plaque recognizing the original benefactors of our little park, right-sized you might say, not overshadowing the beauty of the place.

And what could follow? "Ousel Falls Trail Brought To You By Kirkland Water," "Budweiser Upper Hummocks Trail," "Tesla Town Square"? Are we really for sale?

Patrick Mitchell
Big Sky

Darlene Monson



Darlene Monson, 90, passed away July 3, 2021, at Peace Hospice in Great Falls, MT. Memorial and burial services will be held at a time to be determined by her family.

Darlene was born May 31, 1931, in Eureka, MT to Gertrude and George Handford. She moved to Great Falls with her mother and brothers following the death of her father. In 1935, Darlene moved with her family to Big Sandy following the marriage of her mother to Louis Reichelt. She graduated from Big Sandy High School in 1949.

Darlene married Walter Monson on September 17, 1949. She and Walter farmed west of Big Sandy until September of 2010. At that time, she and Walter, who preceded her in death in 2012, moved to Great Falls. Darlene resided there until her passing.

Darlene enjoyed sewing for herself and her two daughters. She was a very accomplished seamstress. She enjoyed crocheting and especially loved making baby afghan blankets. While living in Big Sandy, Darlene was an active volunteer for the Red Cross Blood Program, a member of the Christ Lutheran Church and the church's quilting group, she served on the board of the Big Sandy Medical Center, and she was active in the Big Sandy Senior Citizens where she was named Senior Citizen of the year.

She is survived by her two daughters, Patty (Verlin) Reichelt of Big Sandy and Connie (Charles) Simpson of Lakeland, MN; two grandsons, Ryan (Terran) Simpson and Kyle (Eva) Simpson; and three great-grandchildren, Autumn, Summer and Paisley. She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, Ernest and Floyd Handford; and her husband, Walter.

The family has suggested memorials to the Big Sandy Medical Center and the Peace Hospice, or a memorial of your choice. Condolences for the family may be shared online at SchniderFuneralHome.com.



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Goose fire south of Ennis grows

EBS STAFF

The Goose wildfire began on July 1 and as of EBS press time has grown to upward of 3,000 acres as a result of dry and windy conditions afflicting the area. The fire is 32 miles south-southeast of Ennis near Hoodoo Pass; Flames have moved to border the southern tip of Cliff Lake and are expected to continue growing in the south and northwest directions.

The wildfire's cause has been determined to be natural by officials, having resulted from a lightning strike. Three fire crews are fighting the fire at the time of print, with helicopters assisting from above.

Evacuations and closures of nearby campgrounds have been following the steady increase in the fire's size.

The smoke column can be spotted while looking west from popular weekend getaway Hebgen Lake, and is adding to the haze taking over much of the mountain west in an early fire season.

Gianforte declares 'drought emergency' across Montana

EBS STAFF

HELENA – Montana farms are in trouble, something that's been validated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's declaration of drought emergency for 15 additional counties. This brings the total to 31 counties under emergency out of the state's 56 total counties.

Gov. Greg Gianforte has put pressure on the Department of Agriculture to declare a federal emergency for the entire state and on July 14 he issued an executive order declaring a statewide wildland fire emergency in Montana.

"Montana faces critical fire conditions that pose significant threats to our communities, infrastructure, first responders, and way of life," Gianforte said in a news release. "As our firefighters battle active fires across the state with more to come, this executive order helps ensure they have the suppression resources, supplies, and fuel they need to safely and aggressively respond."

As of July 14, all of Montana is experiencing dryness, more than 25 percent seeing extreme drought conditions, negatively impacting crops, livestock and fire restrictions.

Public hearing for water and sewer district annexation

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – The Big Sky County Water and Sewer District is soliciting public opinion during a July 20 hearing via Zoom to vote on annexing the old American Bank and adjacent lots into the district.

The land, which is currently outside of the water and sewer district, was purchased earlier this year by Lone Mountain Land Company for future workforce housing developments to be completed in partnership with the Big Sky Community Housing Trust. The proposed RiverView Apartments would provide 100 units of living space, allocating a quarter to Big Sky workers and the rest to local employers to lease to their employees.

The project is, however, contingent on the area being included in the water and sewer district's jurisdiction.

A vote for the final decision of whether or not to annex will be made by the board following the July 20 hearing.

Lone Mountain Land Company purchases Crazy Mountain Ranch

LONE MOUNTAIN LAND COMPANY

CLYDE PARK, MONTANA – Lone Mountain Land Company on June 30, 2021 announced its purchase of the Crazy Mountain Ranch located near Clyde Park. The guest ranch was formerly owned by Philip Morris USA.

"Lone Mountain Land Company will continue to operate the ranch's cow-calf operation and guest ranch," said Managing Partner and Co-Founder at CrossHarbor Capital Partners, Sam Byrne, the parent company to Lone Mountain Land Company. "We look forward to working with our neighbors, the Clyde Park community and the Forest Service to be thoughtful stewards of the land and good members of the community."

Lone Mountain Land Company learned of the opportunity to purchase the ranch earlier this year.

For two decades, Philip Morris USA has operated the property as a commercial guest ranch for adult smokers 21-plus with an Old Western Town, housing 20 buildings that include a saloon, an events barn, a spa, hotel rooms and modern facilities. At peak season, the ranch employs approximately 100 people.

Lone Mountain Land Company will retain the 13 full-time employees currently working at the ranch and plans to hire more.

There are no plans for residential subdivision or a commercial heliskiing operation at the property.

Sarah Blechta welcomed as new Resort Tax board chair

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY –The Big Sky Resort Area District board elected new officers at a July 14 meeting following Kevin Germain's announcement last month that he would be stepping down as board chair. The board unanimously approved Sarah Blechta as board chair, Ciara Wolfe as vice chair and Steve Johnson to continue his current officer position as secretary and treasurer.

"I'm very pleased with this suite of officers, I think that we are in good hands," said Germain at the meeting.

Germain is the V.P. of Moonlight Basin and has served two board terms since he and his family moved to Big Sky in 2014. He was at the helm of BSRAD during their efforts with Big Sky Relief during the COVID-19 pandemic and played a large role in implementing the surveillance testing program as well as the vaccine incentive program.

Blechta grew up in Big Sky and is the director of Property Owners Associations for Yellowstone Club. She emphasized that she wants to continue the example of strong transparency Germain set as board chair. The officer position changes are effective immediately.



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Under new ownership, Corral retains hard-earned legacy

Longtime locals sell famed bar, restaurant to Montana family

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY – With a drink in hand, wife and three sons by his side, Dave House reflects on a legacy as a crowd of “Corral family,” as its loyalists have come to be known, hang on his words, raising glasses at every chance. After decades, House, 33-year owner of the famous Corral Bar, Steakhouse and Motel along U.S. Highway 191 south of Big Sky, is turning it over to new owners. But not without one last party.

In the same joint where Dave and his wife Kathy changed their triplets’ diapers on the pool table, where his deceased business partner and friend Devon White is memorialized in photographs on the wall, where so many stories and people found a home at this cozy roadhouse, the 65-year-old legendary owner considers a question he’s been asked throughout his tenure at the Corral: What’s made you so successful?

“First of all,” he says into the mic, “you start off playing pool in this place in the ‘70s with a guy that ... drinks more than I did.” The crowd laughs. “Or you end up partnering with him, and he works harder than any person you ever meet in your life... then you meet a girl that’s as pretty on the inside as she is on the outside,” he smiles at Kathy, and people whistle, the drummer in the band behind him thrashes the cymbal. “Then you have three shmucks like this,” he gestures to his triplet sons, now 24, standing beside him. “And the rest is easy.” The crowd erupts.

Built in 1947, the Corral has been under the care of numerous owners over the years and has grown into one of Big Sky’s most beloved and long-lived treasures. Most recently, the Houses and Devon elevated the roadside log building and its name into a legacy.

Dave House arrived in Big Sky in the mid-1970s after seeing an ad in the Detroit Free Press for a job that came with a ski pass. The ad was for Big Sky Resort, where he worked shoveling snow and handling general maintenance. He’d bring his weekly \$88.13 paycheck to his landlord and ask if there was any cash left after rent. The landlord would laugh.

Dave and his friends spent most of their time at Buck’s T-4 Lodge or at the old Karst Camp bar in the Gallatin Canyon, which served Oly on tap for a quarter a pour. But when Buck’s would get old, the crew, including Devon, would hit the Corral to play pool and drink “cold canned beer.”



The Corral bar in the 1970s, before Dave House and Devon White bought it. PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY HOUSE

When the Corral’s former owners, brothers Dave and Vinny Williams, had one too many whiskeys from their own stock, Dave and Devon would hop in and tend bar themselves. They did that for six years before they started thinking about buying the spot in 1986 when Karst eventually burned down, and Dave, Devon and their friends felt its absence.

“It was a homey place,” Dave says in interview at his Beaver Creek South home, 33 years after buying the Corral, pictures adorning the living room as proof. “So, we tried to emulate that: what was missing when Karst burned.”

On April Fool’s Day, 1988, Dave and Devon took ownership of the Corral and brought in Montana Rose, a local country band that remains a fixture in many of those good-old-days stories, to celebrate the occasion.

Under their ownership, the bar evolved into a place many would later call a second home—in an old EBS article from 2017, writer and longtime local Hannah Johansen said the Corral was among the old watering holes she used to call “her living rooms.”

The duo transformed the kitchen from a place you might avoid to one of the best eats in town, the kind that greets you with a pig roast for Easter dinner. Quinn House, 24, one of Dave’s three sons, remembers Devon teaching him how to cook when he was a teenager. Devon was king on the smoker.

“He never ever used any kind of gauges,” Quinn says. “Only feel.”

To pair with the revitalized menu, Dave and Devon turned the Corral into a lively music venue to fill the live entertainment void in Big Sky.

“We’d have bands come in from Billings, [from] all over, just about every weekend for the first two years,” Dave says. “It was a lot of work but you know, we didn’t care. We were single.”

The days of bachelorhood wouldn’t last long.

One day in 1988, Kathy, then a teacher in Three Forks but formerly a seasonal employee in Yellowstone National Park, dragged her friend down to the park to see the infamous wildfires, a spectacle that summer.

“We stopped at the Corral because we saw this cute little bar on the side of the road and we thought it would be fun to have a burger and a beer,” Kathy remembers. The women accepted an invitation from Dave and his friend to play pool.



Dave House changes his sons’ diapers on the pool table at the Corral. PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY HOUSE



Kathy, Dave and their sons share stories and gratitude on May 30 at the celebration of their 33-year ownership. The House family turned the keys over to the new owners on July 1. PHOTO BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR

“Meanwhile, I was just looking around going ‘God, I just love this bar,’ and Dave said, ‘I own it. “That’s what they all say,” Kathy recalls telling him, her famous laugh filling the dining room at the House residence.

Dave and Kathy were married three years later and had their reception at the Rainbow Ranch, catered by the restaurant and bar across the road: the Corral.

“The story goes, she fell in love with the bar and I came with it,” Dave says, giving Kathy a sly smile in the home they’ve shared for decades.

Aside from the good food and gatherings, the Corral came to be known by everyone for one outstanding thing.

“The Corral is a place that’s about the people,” Dave says to the packed bar on May 30. “It’s about everybody that’s come here for one reason or another, time after time.”

Brad “Mister” Tidwell is one of those people. Mister arrived at the doorstep of the Corral in 2008 after moving to Big Sky to escape a growing meth scene in Billings. He’d been behind bars for 17 months and needed a fresh start. Dave and Devon gave him a job. Since then, Mister has worked nearly every position at the Corral, he says with pride, his new dentures gleaming. Most recently, he’s been tending bar.

“Truly, the Corral has been my life for the last 13 years. I eat it, breathe it, sleep it,” Mister says, his voice cracking with emotion. “To me, it saved my life.”

On the customer side of the taps, Terry Thomas and his twin brother Lance sit on the far right end of the bar, the same seats they’ve occupied since 1980 when they first walked in the front door. Terry stops by after work before heading home, five to six days a week, he says, to sip on a Coors; occasionally a Pendleton.

“It’s a landmark around here,” says Terry. To him, the Corral is about the camaraderie, and the “100 million stories about that place.”

These stories are kept alive by the people, but also by the place. Scrawl covers the bathroom walls with declarations of love, dirty comments and presumably inside jokes. Behind the Keno machines are signed jerseys and bear pelts hanging in classic Corral identity. And best among the hodge-podge interior design and nailed deep into the log walls: photos of Corral family members; on hunting trips, at parties, even inside the Corral, a reflection of the relationships and community seated at the well-worn bar.

On July 1, fifth-generation Montanan Ashley Langlas, her father Mike Monforton, and her brother-in-law Jeff Flanagan, took ownership of the Corral and started their own journey

in the log bar that’s assumed the title “home” for so many owners and patrons before them.

“Dave led such a huge legacy there,” Langlas says days after taking over. “We want to keep that going. We want to keep the real Montana theme and feeling.”

Along Highway 191, where resort town front gives way to ranches and the untamable meandering of the Gallatin River, people clink glasses of whiskey and cans of cheap beer and drink to the old days. Those days when you knew everyone that walked in the room, when you could ride your horse right through the Corral doors.

Stories are passed from one end of the bar to the other, each punchline punctuated by another toast. Outside that timeworn front door, the world moves, everchanging and with a short memory. Inside the Corral, the old days are alive and well.



Brad “Mister” Tidwell grins in the Corral, the bar he’s worked at for 13 years. PHOTO COURTESY OF BRAD TIDWELL

Water and Sewer holding ponds being tested for leaks

Lab to dye ponds as part of yearlong lawsuit

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY – Last year, a lawsuit was filed against the Big Sky County Water and Sewer District alleging the wastewater holding ponds were leaking and effluent was finding its way into the Gallatin River. Within a month, it could be clear whether or not the pond liners are leaking.

On July 14, a hydrologist from a Missouri-based lab colored the district's holding ponds with a bright green tracer dye to perform tests related to a lawsuit between the district and plaintiffs Cottonwood Environmental Law Center, Montana Rivers and Gallatin Wildlife Association.

The lawsuit, filed July 10, 2020, alleges that the district is violating the federal Clean Water Act by discharging polluted water leaking from the holding ponds into the West Fork of the Gallatin River without a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. The district countered during an interview with EBS on July 9, stating that it discharges water from an under-drain system that collects groundwater and transfers it back into the river through pipes that run beneath the holding pond liners.

In order to find out if the holding pond liners have tears and are leaking, allowing wastewater to be discharged into the West Fork, the plaintiffs hired Missouri-based Ozark Underground Laboratory to dye the holding ponds with fluoresceine, a fluorescent tracer dye, that the lab can then track.

"We're just doing the test and answering the question: does it leak and can we detect it?," Tom Aley, the hydrologist with Ozark Underground, told EBS on July 13.

In addition, several samplers have been placed in the Westfork that will detect whether the fluoresceine-dyed wastewater makes it into the Gallatin River tributary, according to John Meyer, executive director of Cottonwood and the attorney representing the plaintiffs in the suit.

Meyer said in a July 8 interview with EBS that the plaintiffs had samples of the water being discharged into the West Fork collected and tested prior to filing the lawsuit and found "high levels of nitrogen." This led the plaintiffs to believe



The bright green dye slowly spread fluorescence throughout the holding ponds, which may remain green for up to three days. PHOTO BY JULIA BARTON

that the water being discharged is wastewater, which requires a permit to be discharged.

"[The district] created a tributary of what they call groundwater and we think it's just wastewater," Meyer said. "We have reason to believe the liners are ripped and ... they've created a tributary to the West Fork that's probably just pollution."

Ron Edwards, executive director of the water and sewer district, is named as a defendant alongside the district. "We don't think that [the ponds are] leaking," Edwards said during a July 9 interview with EBS.

Whereas the plaintiffs' tests that yielded high levels of nitrogen were conducted in-stream, the district pulls water samples directly from the under-drain groundwater and has not found high levels of nitrogen, according to Edwards.

"I don't have any presumption of what they're going to find," Edward said, later explaining that wind drift from the nearby golf course irrigation could affect the outcome. "Every night we're irrigating and if [effluent used for irrigation] were to blow in stream it could show up as a positive in their samples," he said.

A series of samples will be collected over a period of 42 days and will be split between the district and the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs' samples will be processed at Ozark and the district will send their samples to another lab to ensure accuracy. Results will be available after the last sample is collected 42 days after the ponds are dyed.

The green dye is the same as what is used to turn the Chicago River green every St. Patrick's Day, and Meyers, Aley and Edwards said the dye will not have significant environmental impacts.

In a public notice, the water and sewer district said the holding ponds, which are visible from many areas around Big Sky including from Highway 64, are expected to be bright green for two to three days, though the dye is not expected to impact water in Big Sky homes.

The district added that landscaping and golf courses irrigated with the treated wastewater should not be impacted other than potentially visible traces of bright green that should not be of concern.



Ian Fisher, clad in a pfd and tethered to a rope, dumps fluorescein tracer dye into the water and sewer holding ponds on July 14 as part of a legal claim against the Big Sky County Water and Sewer District. Fisher is helping with Cottonwood Environmental Law Center, one of three plaintiffs in the lawsuit against the district. PHOTO BY JULIA BARTON.

‘The Match’ draws Town Center crowd

The annual charity event raised millions for national and local nonprofits

BY MIRA BRODY

BIG SKY – Bryson DeChambeau and Aaron Rodgers took a 3 and 2 win against Phil Mickelson and Tom Brady at The Match on July 6 at Moonlight Basin’s The Reserve Golf Course. Down in Big Sky Town Center, fans gathered for a community watch party, the competition streaming live from the TNT broadcast on a big screen and family-friendly activities available, including a mini golf course and bouncy castle.

“I’m not a huge golfer but it’s so cool to see it here in our little town on national and worldwide TV,” said Lee Horning, sales associate at Big Sky Real Estate Co. who was among those in Town Center. “The course looks awesome, I just saw some wildlife out there, and I think it’s cool for our little community to be exposed like this and to get national attention for this event. I hope the community appreciates it and enjoys it.”

Michelle Horning, sales associate at Big Sky Real Estate Co., added that the event was a nice opportunity to showcase the amenities Big Sky has to offer. “Even though we’re small [it’s great] what incredible facilities we have in this town,” she said.

The charity event brought in 6.3 million meals for Feeding America and the Montana Food Bank, and \$2.6 million for My Brother’s Keeper, a nonprofit launched by former President Barack Obama that closes opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color. An additional \$500,000 was donated to the individual players’ foundations. At the watch party, the Big Sky community Food Bank was able to raise about \$3,000.

“We are very proud to have had this opportunity to host The Match at Moonlight Basin this summer, and to show the world how special Big Sky is, as a community and a destination,” said Matt Kidd, managing director of CrossHarbor Capital Partners, Moonlight Basin’s owner. “Raising over \$3 million to fight hunger locally and nationally, made the day even better. We look forward to being a part of more community events like this in the future.”

Now in its fourth version, The Match was a series that began with Tiger Woods and Mickelson that eventually expanded to include Steph Curry, Charles Barkley, Peyton Manning and Brady. Golfers played a modified alternate shot format and the groups traded shots throughout the course. True to any Big



Spectators could celebrate from afar in Big Sky Town Center including a big screen broadcast, a bouncy house and mini golf. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Sky event, the occasional resident black bear and coyote wandered on-screen, making it a true Montana experience for all viewers.

“It’s very nice that they’re making it a community event,” said Caitlin Tamposi, who came down to watch the big screen in Town Center with her coworker, Todd Rossier.

As the afternoon wore on and the game came to a close, the energy at Town Center grew, as did the anticipation for the event’s conclusion.

“It was super special to have an event to this scale here [and] to put Moonlight on the big screen,” said Mike Wilcynski, general manager at Moonlight Basin. “It was a very meaningful event, we had a blast and we had a lot of fun in putting it on.”



Aaron Rodgers, Bryson DeChambeau, Phil Mickelson and Tom Brady at The Match on July 6. PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES VIA TURNER SPORTS



BIG SKY FARMERS MARKET

Brick Bound

Artisan Matt Saporito started his journey into professional leather-making with a ski accident. After tearing his MCL and ACL at Big Sky Resort back in 2010, he sat in recovery, wondering what he could do to keep busy. His eyes wandered to a bag he picked up a few years back while on a trip with his family. They had been visiting a friend of his in Morocco who was just finishing up a stint with the Peace Corps, and they were visiting a tannery that he estimates was about a thousand years old. He remembers the contrast of the white thread on the dark leather, the fine craftsmanship and durability of the product.



Next thing he knew, he was hobbling down to the local saddlery learning about leather-making and purchasing his first tools and leather. Aside from a quick tutorial at the shop, Saporito is self-taught, and began making wallets for friends and family. Now he makes tote bags and cross body bags and everything in-between, which you can find at the Big Sky Farmer's Market and Meridian and Inner Alchemy in downtown Bozeman. He began Brick Bounds in 2014 and has been leather-working full time since three years ago. He believes in quality through simplicity and communicates his frustration with today's world of planned obsolescence.

"It's kind of just like a metaphor where one brick isn't really good for anything," Saporito said. "But if you use a high quality product, like thread or good mortar, you can create a structure that'll stand the test of time."

"This found me and I found it," he says of his craft.

In addition to the farmers market, you can view Saporito's work on his Instagram page.

Mosher photography

When it came to changing careers to photography with no formal training behind him, Jake Mosher was simply following his heart. Now, he captures award-winning landscapes in southwest Montana and spends time in the places he loves most.



"For me it was the perfect opportunity to spend time in the places that speak loudest to me," said Mosher.

The Vermont native moved to Montana 23 years ago after college—he recalls seeing a photo as a child of a man holding a string of trout with a snowcapped mountain range in the background and feeling the draw of the beautiful state.

He has a degree in journalism and published a couple novels before he got tired of what he calls the "starving artist thing," and switched to a career in explosives engineering. After 13 years, he left it all behind to take photos, which he has been doing professionally for over three years now.

"It was great for my pocketbook but it didn't do anything for my soul," Mosher says of engineering. "I turned to photography because it's a way for me to spend time in the places that I like most."

He spends most of his time shooting in remote areas of the region where, he says, "a remarkable moment might occur." One such remarkable moment won him the 2020 National Wildlife Federation Photo Contest for best landscape. "Cold Night on the Yellowstone" depicts the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness with the night sky and the Milky Way galaxy arched above. You can find Mosher's work on his website or at the Big Sky Farmers Market.

"I hope that it makes people a little bit more aware of what's around them, particularly off the beaten path," Mosher said of his work. "Everyone's going a million miles an hour now [but] there's still some pretty fantastic things to see in the world if we look."

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Bozeman artists host obstacle race fundraiser for affordable housing

BY JULIA BARTON

BOZEMAN — An artist-designed obstacle course race will be taking place in Bozeman's Northeast Neighborhood on July 31 to support more affordable housing in the area. The event, dubbed the SUPER FUN(-draiser), aims to connect artists and locals to work together and raise funds for Bozeman's affordable housing dilemma.

The northeast side of Bozeman is home to an abundance of contemporary artists, creating a lively and nimble atmosphere in the shadow of the Bridger Mountains. Known for its industrial past, the area was attractive to artists due to low cost for studio spaces. But, as the Northeast Neighborhood grew in popularity, so did the cost of rental and building spaces, making it more difficult for artists to enter the neighborhood.

Artists with established roots decided to dig in even deeper to keep the vibrancy alive. Among them is Sahra Beaupré, co-owner of Echo Arts, a gallery located in the northeast side.



Sahra Beaupré, co-owner of Echo Arts and organizer of the SUPER FUN event. PHOTO COURTESY OF SAHRA BEAUPRÉ.

Beaupré and a number of other creatives who landed their galleries, studios and pop-ups in the neighborhood came together to form the Bozeman Arts District, the organization hosting SUPER FUN. The event came about as a way for artists to connect with the community and put their creativity toward finding solutions for the lack of affordable housing in Bozeman.

"It's a conversation and situation most of Bozeman has felt the strain of here for a long time," said Beaupré in regard to affordable housing. "I thought that doing something really fun that engaged many facets of the community... would be a really good way to turn the conversation into something productive."

The burden of housing solutions shouldn't just lay upon the backs of developers or policymakers, Beaupré explained, hoping that utilizing artists' creativity can spur a wider conversation in the Bozeman community.

SUPER FUN aims not only to raise funds and generate conversation, but also provide the community with an extra fun event during this summer's Northside Stroll. The bi-annual stroll welcomes the community into the neighborhood with live music and events, featuring the local businesses residing there.

The SUPER FUN event will take the shape of a race open to people of all ages through artist-designed obstacles commissioned by BAD. The race will take participants through the Northeast Neighborhood and have a winner based on time as well as awards for things like best outfit. The theme is retro Bozeman t-shirts or outfits corresponding to when housing was more affordable.

"I have a lot of friends who have been here for 20 years and they make a decent living but still, they're getting priced out," said one of the featured artists, Shaw Thompson. "They can't afford to buy a house here." Thompson's art comes out of one of the most iconic buildings in the area, a grain elevator built in the 1930s, called the Misco Mill.

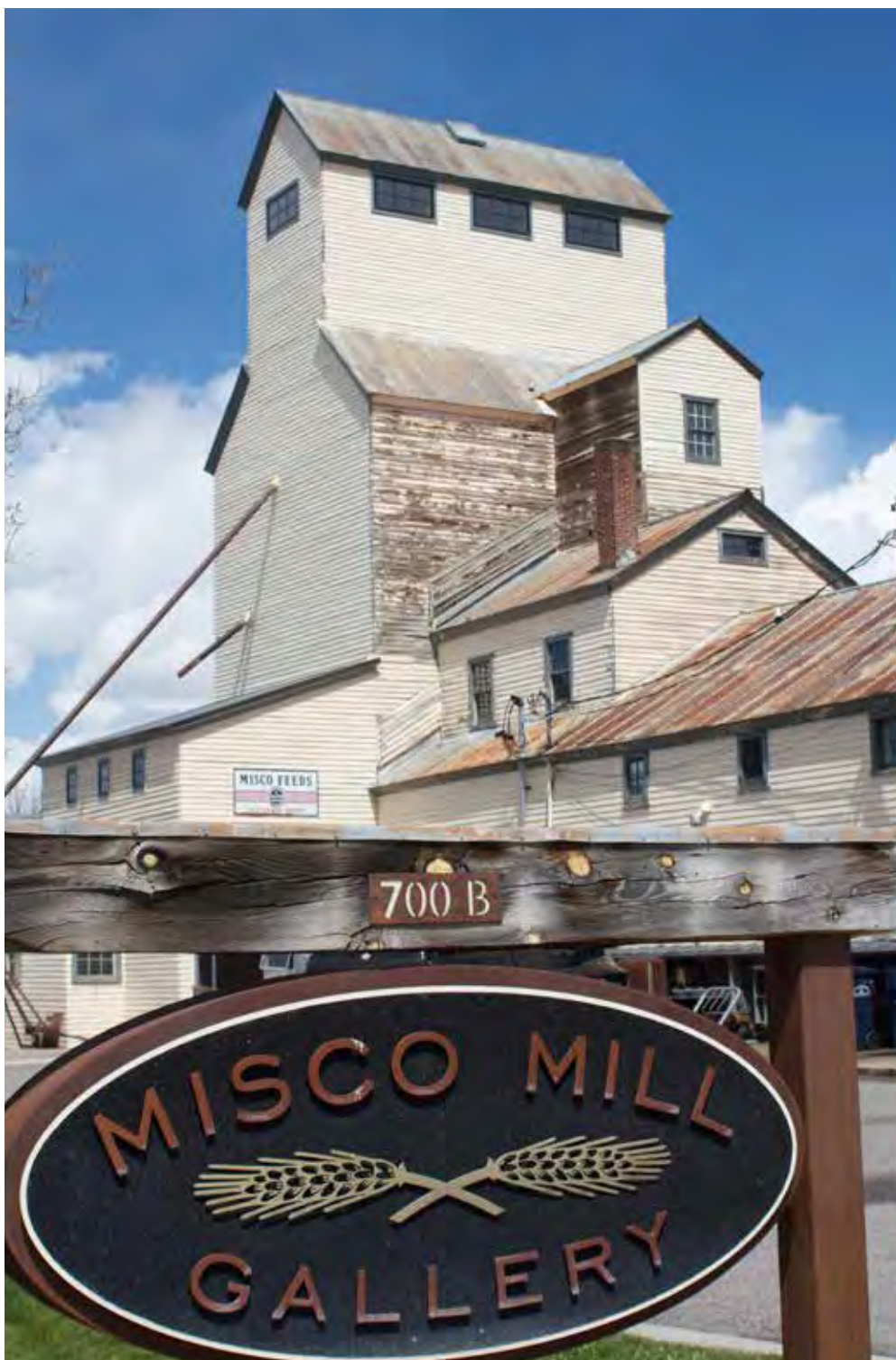
Thompson has been on the northeast side for two decades and has seen the affordable housing problem develop over the years. Although he specialized in handcrafted furniture that utilizes salvaged objects, Thompson is creating a unique, pyramid-esque obstacle as part of the fundraiser.

Children can race for free and adults must pay a \$20 entrance fee, however, racers must sign up prior to the event. Participants will decide the benefactor for all of the proceeds by voting after the race, all of the options being related to affordable housing and many of them creative solutions provided by the local artists.

"However you confront the obstacle, whether you're five or 50, and whether you have a skateboard or you are in a wheelchair, we hope that the little jog will be exciting for everybody," said Beaupré.

The race will be open for one hour starting at noon on July 31, and the Northside Stroll will follow from 1-5 p.m.

To register for the race or to donate, visit bozemanartdistrict.com/superfun. Outlaw Partners is a sponsor of this event.



The Misco Mill Gallery on Wallace Avenue in Bozeman's northeast side. PHOTO BY MIRA BRODY.

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SECTION 2:
SPORTS AND
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Heat and streamflows pg. 29

Belgrade Bandits win state tournament

BY GABRIELLE GASSER
PHOTOS BY DAVE PECUNIES

MILES CITY, Montana – On Sunday, July 11 the Belgrade Bandits all-star baseball team won the 12U Montana State Championship.

The team of 12 kids competed in the three-day, double elimination tournament and emerged undefeated. They clinched their win on Sunday with a four to one victory over the Gallatin Outlaws.

“I’ve worked with this all-star team for the last four years, through blood, sweat, and tears,” wrote head coach Matt Morris in an email to EBS. “Our goal has always been to win the State Tournament. It all came together in Miles City this past weekend. I could not be more proud of the boys and their efforts.”

Morris is joined by two other coaches Travis Hazen and Ryan Trenka.

Now, the team is headed to Meridian, Idaho on July 21 for the Pacific Northwest Regional Tournament. The games will kick off Thursday, July 22 and the champion will be named on Sunday, July 25.

At the tournament will be all the state champions from the Pacific

Northwest Region, which encompasses Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, North Oregon, South Oregon, North Washington and South Washington as well as Canadian provinces Alberta and British Columbia.

This tournament will feature pool play with all teams being sorted into pools of four and playing the other three teams in their pool. Based on the results of that play, teams are seeded and placed in a bracket for the single elimination tournament.

“Now, we have the chance to play some of the best teams in the Pacific Northwest and truly test our talents against big cities with more conducive baseball weather,” said Morris. “Not bad for a ski town!”

After the regional tournament, the next step would be the World Series tournament which takes place in Branson, Missouri from August 5-14.

Morris said that it would be amazing for the boys to continue advancing and win the regional tournament but they are very happy to have achieved their goal of winning State.

“We played solid defense, pitched well and had timely hitting to bring the title home,” he said. “It is an experience we all will never forget and something to be extremely proud of.”



Golf Tips: Adjust your setup follow through to control ball flight

BY MARK WEHRMAN
EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

Next time you watch professional golf on TV, pay close attention to the practice swings the tour pros are making. There are some consistencies that almost all players perform while practicing their swing before their shot.

The first thing you would notice is they never take their eyes off of the target when making practice swings. The reason for this is when they are making their practice swings, they are trying to picture the shot they want to execute.

For example, they are envisioning either a high or low ball flight, or a fade or draw shot pattern. In order to properly execute the ball flight they are picturing in their mind what they need to adjust in their follow through to achieve the desired trajectory.

If you are trying to flight the ball higher, you will make your arms follow through higher. Meaning, when I am attempting to hit a high ball, I try to make my right bicep hit my chin in the follow through. This action along with a setting up with my lead shoulder higher than my trailing shoulder, and moving the ball up in my stance, will result in a higher ball flight.

If you want to flight the ball down, you will want to do the opposite of what I just described. You would move the ball back in your stance, slow



To achieve high ball flight Wehrman recommends trying to make your right bicep hit your chin in the follow through of a swing. PHOTO BY PIERCE KING



Mark Wehrman demonstrates the low ball flight finish position which puts your arms across your chest in the follow through. PHOTO BY PIERCE KING

your swing down as much as possible, and in your follow through, finish with your arms more across your chest.

When it comes to hitting a draw or fade, we also need to make a few adjustments in our setup and follow through.

When I want to hit a draw, I will set up with my feet slightly closed at address, pointed more to the right for a right-handed golfer, and strengthen my top hand on the golf club by turning my left hand more to the right, to promote a more closed club face at impact. During the swing I will make sure to “fire” my hips first at the top of my swing, which helps me release the club head earlier in to the ball.

When trying to fade the ball, I will weaken my top hand on the grip, which is the left hand for right-handed golfers, by turning it more to the left so I only see one knuckle when looking down at my grip. During the swing I will hold off on releasing the club so as the heel of the club is leading the way in to impact. This action will keep the face from closing too early and allow me to hit a fade by having an open club face at impact.

One thing to note while processing this information, for all of these shot types I never attempt to change my backswing.

The one quote I have liked to use over the past couple of years is that, “no one has ever hit a ball in their backswing.” To piggy back off of that philosophy, remember this, what happens after impact is just as important as what happens before impact.

Lastly, make sure to keep a good eye on your target when making practice swings and always try to picture your shot so you have a clear vision in your mind of what you are trying to do.

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BIG SKY SOFTBALL 2021



On August 12, the Bombers squared off against the Bears on the field at the Big Sky Community Park. The Bears are up to bat while the Bombers man the outfield. PHOTOS BY JOE O'CONNOR

TEAM NAME	WIN	LOSS
1. YELLOWSTONE CLUB	5	2
2. MULLETS	0	8
3. MOOSEKETEERS	4	5
4. CAB LIZARDS	4	7
5. BOMBERS	1	9
6. HILBILLY HUCKERS	8	1
7. LPC – GOLDEN GOATS	7	0
8. RUBES	1	8
9. BIG SKY BALLERS	1	8
10. BEARS	7	0
11. THE CAVE	4	2
12. LOTUS PAD	5	1
13. YETI DOGS	5	2
14. MILKIES	5	2
15. WESTFORK WILDCATS	2	4



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THE NEW WEST

John Maclean's memoir goes deep behind 'A River Runs Through It'



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

It has been said and written that “A River Runs Through It,” the motion picture, changed everything in western Montana along with rivers in the Rockies found between New Mexico and Canada.

Robert Redford's movie, based on the 1976 novella by

Norman Maclean is, looking back now, portrayed as a big bang moment which hastened not only the adoption of fly fishing by millions as an outdoor passion, but also the sale and transformation of former working ranches with water on site into recreation properties.

I don't need to wax on how important the “fly-fishing economy” is to the larger Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, home to several near-mythic rivers known for their trout water.

Years before I ever touched a copy of “A River Runs Through It,” I was familiar with the writing of a different Maclean other than Norman. By then, Norman was an English professor at the University of Chicago, a city where I started my career as a violent crime reporter. At the time it was his son, John Maclean, a Washington, D.C.-based journalist for The Chicago Tribune whose byline I read regularly.

One reason: John, more than a generation older, was an alum of the same journalistic training ground as me: the City News Bureau of Chicago.

Only after I moved West to the Greater Yellowstone region, did I pick up a copy of Norman Maclean's classic reflection about an angling-obsessed family who loved rivers with an almost religious zeal and whose drama is punctuated by the loss of Norman's younger brother, Paul.

I wrote about Redford's filming of the movie around Bozeman and Livingston in the early 1990s and interviewed him.

In both versions, Paul has a penchant for drinking, playing cards and consorting with shady figures, then is murdered. This summer we're treated to a new book by John Maclean that is a reflection on his father and uncle, the river—the Blackfoot—that he made famous and, interestingly, what really happened to Paul.

John Maclean's memoir: “Home Waters: A Chronicle of Family and a River” is a fine read, for it serves as backstory to a slightly embellished tale that romanticized fly fishing so much, it created a shock wave of interest. That has, as an upside, helped bolster calls for river conservation though, as a downside, the resulting feeding frenzy has also spurred more commercialization of angling and spawned user conflicts.

(As a kind of parable, it sparks the question of whether, in a social media age, we should even be writing about the special places we love, knowing that it risks inviting lots of people to overrun natural destinations that can't handle much human pressure. But that's another topic).

For years, I've been fascinated with how Paul's end really happened in 1938 because both Norman Maclean and Redford treat it with a cloak of mystery.

Without giving too much away—you really ought to read “Home Waters”—John Maclean reveals that Paul was murdered in Chicago shortly after he started a job in the public relations department at the University of Chicago. Paul had earlier been a young journalist in Montana.

What I savor about the writing related to Paul's end is its classic digging for facts and presenting them with the narrative method that both John Maclean and I were taught at City News Bureau of Chicago—itsself known for being a training ground for young cub reporters.

John would go on to distinguish himself for his international reporting as a diplomatic correspondent, even traveling with Henry Kissinger. During those years, he, just like his dad before him, made summer trips back to the family cabin at Seeley Lake, Montana.

And, just as Norman had written about wildfire, memorializing the smokejumpers who perished in the Mann Gulch fire outside Helena, John penned a riveting award-winning book, “Fire on the Mountain,” about the tragic Storm King Fire that claimed the lives of 14 firefighters in Colorado in July of 1994.

In “A River Runs Through It,” the Maclean family grieves the loss of Paul, and it is presented as a kind of meditation on the ephemeral, often fickle nature of life and that we peer back through time looking as much for what we want to see as blurring things that give us pain. In the Maclean family, flyfishing was both a source of memory and balm.

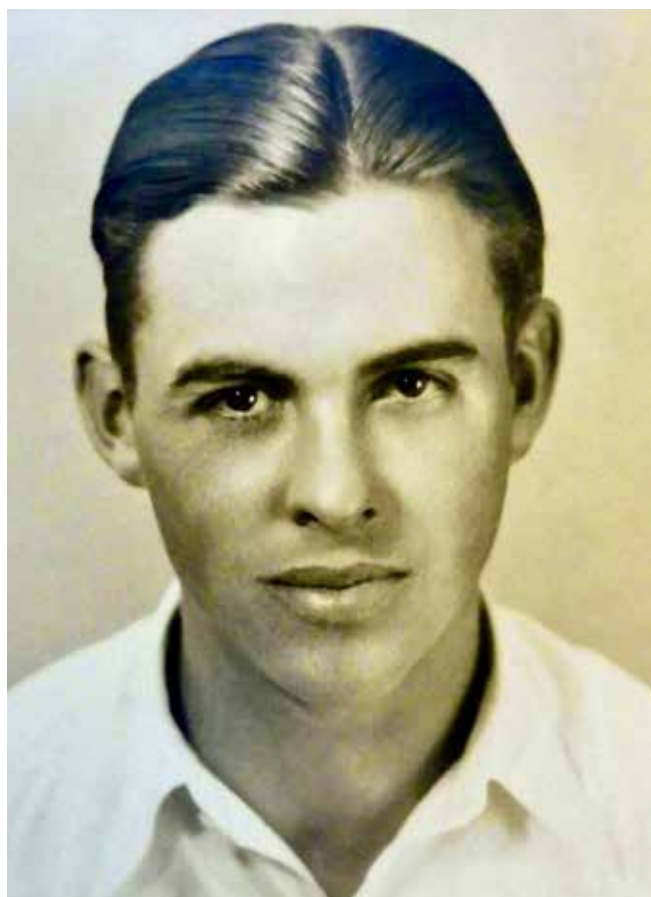
The circumstances of Paul's homicide left me thinking of how a good reporter is continually searching, fueled by curiosity, led on by discoveries of detail and accumulated insight—the exact same way an angler appreciates the allure of rivers and instinctively knows how to read them.

After Paul died in a Chicago hospital following a severe beating, the Cook County Medical examiner interviewed Norman, John Maclean writes. “My father speculated that Paul had gone wandering through the neighborhood that night, as he had done as a reporter back in Montana, simply to acquaint himself with his surroundings.”

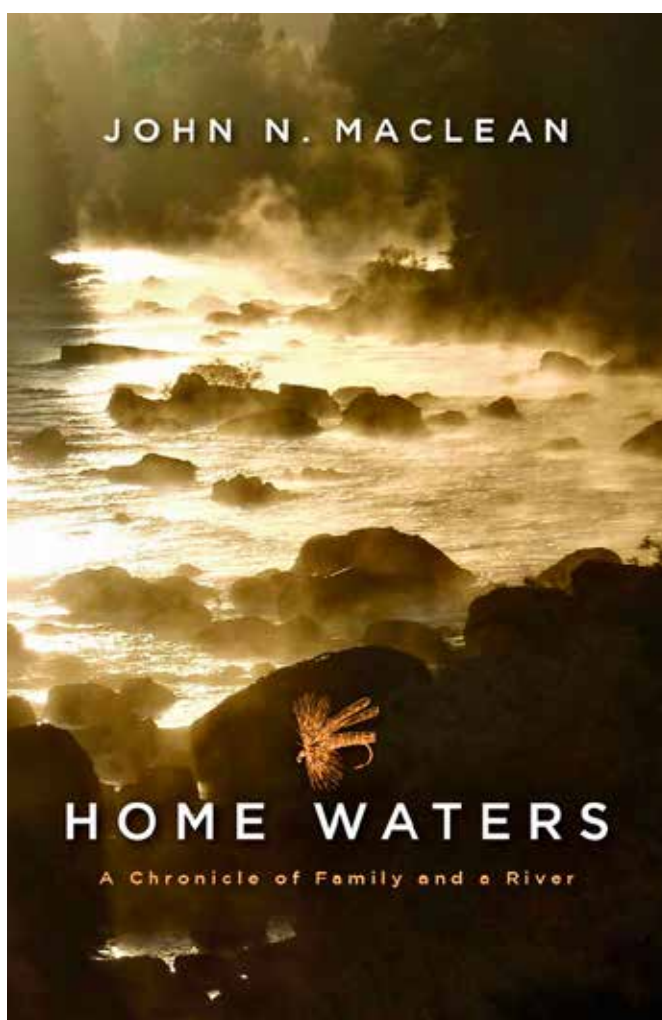
John quoted the actual report in which his father, who had to identify the body, had been interviewed by the coroner. “He liked to walk around in odd sections of the city,” Norman told a coroner's inquest. “He was a newspaper reporter by trade, and he was from a small town. He liked to walk around, just to see the town ... I had warned him that this was not Montana.”

Sometimes real-life stories, memoirs that explore classic earlier memoirs, are as fine as the original. In many ways, they are exceeded. This is the case. Great work, John Maclean. You started as a cub reporter but you became the kind of writer we all aspire to become. You did your dad proud.

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. Read his latest article on renowned actress Glenn Close in the summer 2021 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine



Paul Maclean, John's uncle, in his 20s. PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN MACLEAN



John Maclean's new memoir, “Home Waters” looks deeply into his father Norman's iconic novella, “A River Runs Through It.” PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN MACLEAN

EBS Viewfinder: Summer in Yellowstone

EBS STAFF

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK – From the Fairy Falls Trail in Yellowstone National Park, you can see steam rising above the trees from Grand Prismatic Spring no more than a mile in the distance. As you continue forward, the trees part and at the source of the steam, the vibrant glow of the spring's turquoise and orange makes for stunning juxtaposition against the flanking green forests. A bald eagle soars overhead, drawing your attention away from the distant spectacle. In the midst of your head's swivel, you stop as your gaze locks with that of a bison. The hum of nearby traffic and hikers seems to fade as you absorb

the connection to fellow animal, to place, to the park. This is summer in Yellowstone.

No matter the season, Yellowstone National Park is a true treasure. From mountain goats traversing high-alpine terrain to herds of elk making their beds riverside to wolves hunting the wide-open spaces of the Northern Range, the 2.2-million acre park offers unparalleled diversity.

Below, find moments of the park's magic caught through the lens of EBS reporter and photographer Gabrielle Gasser. Enjoy.



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The protectors of the trails

A perspective on hiking from a Big Sky Trail Ambassador

BY KATE BATTAGLIA
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BEEHIVE BASIN – The snow-crested mountains of the Spanish Peaks stretch across the horizon, their jagged tops silhouetted by the sun. I crane my neck in an effort to capture glimpses of mountain goats moving across the distant slopes. Despite the blistering heat, Beehive Basin Trail rustles with an abundance of wildlife. My eyes sweep across bundles of native Indian Paintbrush flowers in the wild grass lining the trail. Intermixed within the floral patches lies a Gatorade bottle.

As an avid hiker within the Big Sky area, I aim to contribute to the trails which have provided me – along with fellow hikers – a place to escape from the bustling Town Center. The opportunity of being a trail ambassador for Big Sky Community Organization seemed like a role too fitting to overlook.

The trail ambassador program was initiated by BSCO about five years ago, and as of summer 2021 has five active participants. For the past few years, I've hiked Big Sky's most popular trails like Ousel Falls, the Uplands Trail and Beehive Basin Trail, and observed the conditions of each individual trail. Unfortunately, their popularity yields some downsides.

On my many hikes, I've discovered a great deal of waste scattered along each trail. As a Trail Ambassador, it is my role to remove any waste found along the trails.

Mackenzie Johnson, head of the Trail Ambassador program, emphasizes the recent growth of tourism seen this summer, describing it as "exponential." Johnson adds that this increase is "most visible in the trails and parking lots." Picking up pieces of litter and dog waste may seem to be quite a monotonous and draining job, but I'd argue otherwise.



The rushing current of the Gallatin River tumbles down Ousel Falls in a damp haze on an early June morning. PHOTO BY KATE BATTAGLIA

Being a Trail Ambassador grants me a unique opportunity to give back to the trails which have given so much to me. As someone who resides in Dallas, Texas an area characterized by its expansive flatness, I am continuously awestruck by the mountainous beauty of the area. With the growing popularity of Montana, I strive to do as much as I can to provide others with the same experience.

I encourage others who possess the same adoration for the Big Sky ecosystem to try out the Trail Ambassador position. Not only do we preserve the natural beauty of each trail, but we also maintain the overall safety. After the completion of a hike, trail ambassadors report back to BSCO to inform them of the quantity of the people on the trail, the amount of garbage found and any potential hazards.

"We don't have enough staff to hike every trail every day so the trail ambassadors can help us in reporting any hazards, like a fallen tree or other obstacle," Johnson said.

Individual efforts, while small, become part of a larger preservation project, and every little bit counts.

Johnson added that the outreach made possible by the trail ambassadors not only aids in the preservation of the trails but also in "educating people on the proper etiquette." This aspect is also increasingly prominent as "populations are visiting the area who aren't used to the wildlife or the altitude," she said.

The role of a trail ambassador is not only to preserve the trails for the community of Big Sky, but for visitors who desire to experience the stunning trails. Locals and tourists alike all must play their part in maintaining the Big Sky community.

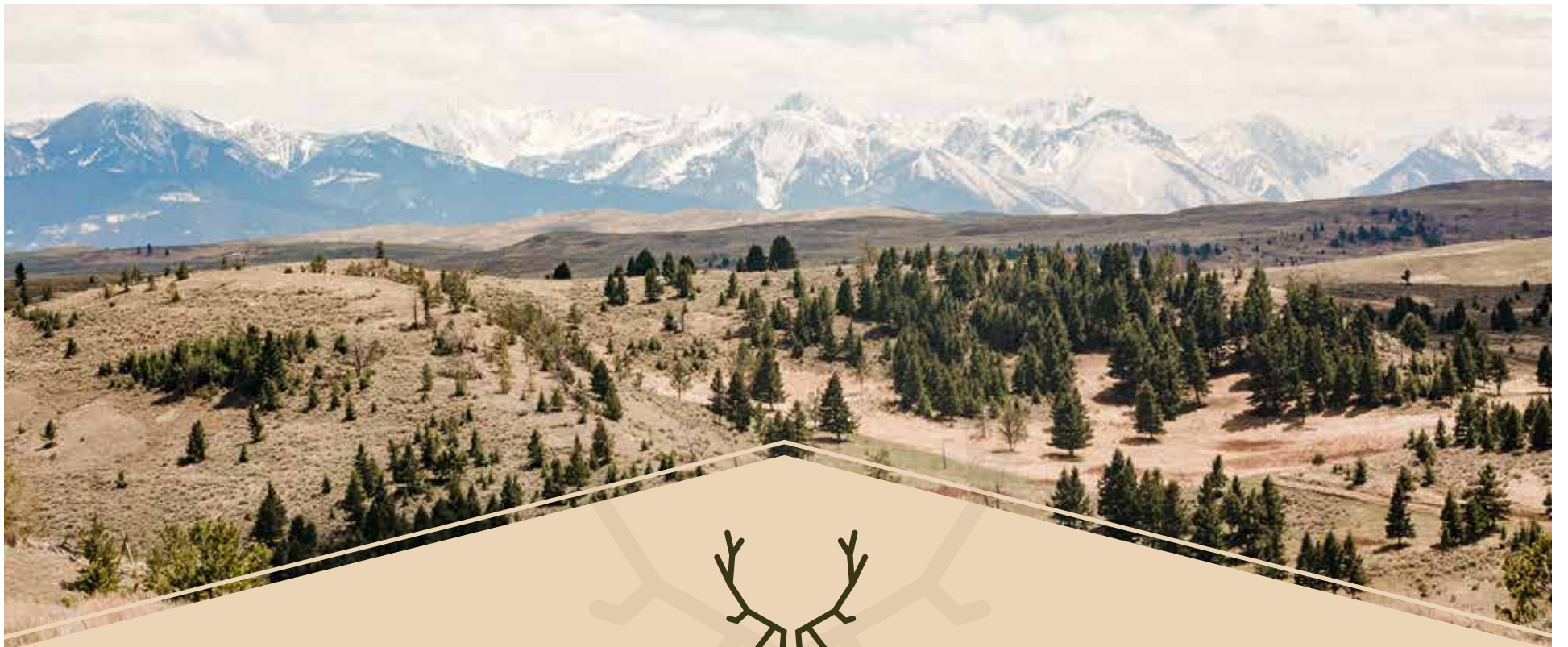
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Heat and streamflows: how to feel good about your fishing

BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

It's the small talk we can all make right now—"Geez, I can't believe this heat." "It's never been this bad." "I sure hope it doesn't last."

To be blunt: believe it, it's real; it has never been this bad; and it is going to last. For anglers we can adjust and adapt as we can escape to indoor air conditioning, climb a mountain peak, or go for a swim in a river or lake. For the trout that swim in our area rivers and creeks, however, there is no escaping the two-handed gut punch that is our current situation: low stream flows and unprecedented hot and dry conditions. Trout require cold water to thrive and when low streamflows combine with high air temperatures, water temperatures rise fast, often to levels harmful to trout.

A myriad of articles exists on the impacts of high-water temperature and trout. Additionally, for any fish that is caught and released—which most of

our local anglers do because they practice catch-and-release angling—a fish's chances of recovery reduce substantially when water temperatures are above 68 degrees.

So, what is an angler to do?

Start fishing early, stop fishing early. On average, the coldest water temperatures occur overnight and rise throughout the day. On most local rivers and streams, if you care about the future sustainability of wild trout populations, fish as early as possible based on local regulations and stop fishing when water temperatures hit 68 degrees. A good gauge is to start at sunrise and fish no later than 1 or 2 p.m.

Carry a thermometer or visit streamflow websites. Visit your local fly shop and buy a thermometer today. This is your best gauge for your own fishing. If you don't wish to purchase a thermometer, you can visit the USGS Montana streamflow charts via the web. Most sites have temperatures listed and current trends on most rivers in the area show water temperatures rising by early afternoon.

Do not take "grip-and-grin" photos of any fish that plan to be released. With the warm water temperatures prevalent right now, even a few seconds of being out of the water can be fatal for a fish. As water temps rise, the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water decreases. Less dissolved oxygen means it is very difficult for a trout to recover from being hooked and fought. Those negative effects are exponentially amplified if taken out of the water. In fact, make the No Fish Dry July pledge—a campaign started by Keep Fish Wet.

Open up your angling horizons. Trout may rule the roost of desired species in most of our local waters, but a variety of other species exist that are more tolerant of warm water temperatures. Carp and smallmouth bass swim in sections of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers, and any of our area reservoirs are home to perch and walleye. For anglers who enjoy sight-fishing to large fish, the area's fly fishing for carp provides some exciting opportunities. Carp? Yep. Carp. Give it a try.

Find another short-term hobby. The heat will eventually subside and we can get back to what we perceive as more normal conditions—more on that later—but until the onset of cooler weather comes or fall begins and water temperatures decline, consider doing something else. Our area boats abundant options: hiking, mountain biking, golf, volunteering, tennis, rock climbing, and the list goes on and on.

Accept that climate change is real and we need to do something about it. Low water combined with warm water temperatures is not new. If you look at last year, we started the summer with an above-average snowpack and streamflows but ended the summer with near or slightly below-average streamflows. Water is scarce. Most scientists agree that trout habit is declining because water is declining.

If you can't make some small sacrifices to adjust your late-summer fishing habits in the short term, then how do you expect to alter other habits?

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.



As the sun of summer gets more intense and water temperatures continue to rise, get an early start or consider other options to ease the stress on our local trout. PHOTO BY PATRICK STRAUB



ON THE TRAIL

Top five hikes for dogs

BY SARA MARINO
EBS OUTDOORS COLUMNIST

Even on days when no one is up for a hike, I can always count on my dog to be ready to go at a moment's notice. It's nearly impossible not to have a good time on the trail when you see the joy and enthusiasm of your best friend discovering new sights, sounds and smells. Here are a few of my dog's favorite hikes in the Big Sky area. A few tips to keep in mind – please pick up after your dog, keep him or her under leash or voice control, and be wildlife aware.

South Fork Loop

If you're short on time but you and your pup really need to stretch your legs, the South Fork Loop is the trail for you. This 1-mile forested loop provides some solitude and room for your dog to run close to Town Center. The trailhead is adjacent to the South Fork of the Gallatin River, giving your pal a chance to cool off and get a drink before or after your hike. Just up the road, Hummocks and Uplands Trails are also great options if you want to hike a bit further. And Beehive Basin Brewery is a few minutes away from the trailhead if you need a post-hike libation.

Cinnamon Mountain Trail

This 8.5-mile out-and-back hike begins at the Cinnamon Creek Trailhead, located 10.5 miles south of Big Sky. With a 2,600-foot elevation gain, it offers a nice workout, and great scenery ranging from forested trail to open meadows with views of Sphinx Mountain, the Taylor Hilgards and Lone Mountain. The first few miles follow Cinnamon Creek, but be sure to pack extra water for your dog, and don't forget your bear spray.



When hiking with your furry friend remember to pick up after them, keep them under leash or voice control and be wildlife aware. PHOTO BY SARA MARINO

Little Willow Way

A local favorite for dogs, this 1.6-mile roundtrip trail starts in the Big Sky Community Park and follows the West Fork of the Gallatin River. This is a great hike for older dogs as it is a flat and well-maintained gravel surface. If you want to keep going, you can add the Black Diamond Trail which will wind through the forest and drop down behind the skate park.

North Fork Trail

Whether hiking or biking, the North Fork Trail offers plenty of fun for both you and your dog. Access this trailhead by way of North Fork Road, just west of the entrance to Lone Mountain Ranch. The mileage and adventure-level opportunities abound—hike a few miles in, keep going 6.7 miles to Bear Basin, or take the Beehive Connector Trail.

Lava Lake

There is a reason this hike is one of the most popular in Gallatin Canyon. This 6-mile out-and-back hike climbs a steady and gradual 1,600 feet through both forest and

meadow areas until it culminates at the beautiful alpine lake. There are plenty of water opportunities for your dog along the way, and a great place to swim or fish once you reach the lake. Plan to get an early start to beat the heat and the crowds.

A similar version of this story ran in a 2018 edition of Explore Big Sky.

For more information about Big Sky's parks, trails and recreation programs, visit bscomt.org. The Big Sky Community Organization engages and leads people to recreational and enrichment opportunities through thoughtful development of partnerships, programs and places.

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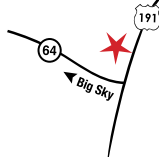


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SECTION 3:

BUSINESS, FINANCE,
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT,
DINING & FUN

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Events Calendar pg. 40



The Sawtooth Six pg. 47

Geyser Whitewater Expeditions celebrates 30 years

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

BIG SKY – Driving north on U.S. Highway 191 in the early '90s, you were likely to pass business partners Eric Becker and Jim Robbins frantically paddling a raft on the side of the road.

The two men were not beached. This was, in fact, their marketing strategy for the rafting company they started together.

Back when the Cinnamon Lodge was known as the Almart Lodge and was populated by a rowdy cast of Big Sky legends, Becker and Robbins used it as a location from which to operate their two-man raft guiding service, snagging business from the side of the road.

In 1992, the young men guided 150 to 200 clients down the river during their first season of operation, according to Becker. This summer, Geyser Whitewater Expeditions will take about that same number of people out on the river in a single morning.

Growing up in Colorado, Becker came out to Montana on family vacations every year. His family is originally from Butte, Montana and his parents would bring him and his siblings up to the Treasure State for skiing and river float trips.

Becker's father and uncle decided to try whitewater, so they built their own equipment and started attempting larger rapids in Colorado and Montana.

After being exposed to whitewater during his formative years, Becker met lifelong friend and business partner Robbins in college. The two were roommates their freshman year and became river guides together in California and Oregon.

Robbins and Becker decided to start their own rafting company after the company they worked for sold, and they ended up in Big Sky, as it accommodated their love for both rafting and skiing.

"It was just he and I, and we had two boats and a van that my uncle from Butte found for us that the Forest Service was selling," Becker reminisced. "I don't think we ever had two boats on the water that year."

The dynamic duo found a home for their business in the Almart Lodge after an unsuccessful search for their own space in Big Sky. Becker recalled how they simply walked into the lodge and asked if they could start a company there. He said that first year they traded labor for rent.



Geyser Whitewater Expeditions started with two business partners Eric Becker (left) and Jim Robbins (right) and two rafts. PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC BECKER

In the company's second year of operating, they moved into the Canyon Adventures building owned by Ed Hake. They continued to trade labor for rent that year and operated out of the building for five years.

"The Hakes used to feed us and let us live there for free," Becker said. "We never really paid ourselves for the first five or six years so we were always doing other jobs."

By the sixth year of operation, Becker said they had about five employees, and in the late '90s he and Robbins were approached by the owner of Adventures Big Sky, the rafting company started by Big Sky Resort, about the opportunity to purchase the Big Sky Resort company.

They were able to take out a loan, "that was more than our net worth at the time," Becker said, in order to buy Adventures Big Sky, which came with a building across from the Big Sky Conoco Travel Shoppe. The two companies were combined in the sale and Geyser operated out of that location for about five years.

Geyser finally found its forever home in 2001 when Mike Scholz, who owned Buck's T-4 Lodge at the time, approached Becker about moving the rafting business farther south off of U.S. Highway 191 to its current location.

To make the move, Scholz converted the old community laundromat into a rafting business, designing the building specifically for Geyser.

Today, after 30 years of operating, Geyser has about 45 employees and is largely booked out for the summer of 2021. The successful guiding company also runs the Yellowstone Zipline Adventure Park in West Yellowstone and boat rentals at Lake Levinsky by Big Sky Resort.

Nicole Barker has been the general manager of Geyser for 22 years since she moved out to Big Sky. Becker referred to her as the "brains of the operation" who runs the day-to-day of the company.



In its 30th year of operating, Geyser now boasts 45 employees and a fleet of rafts and buses to take guests down the Gallatin River. PHOTO COURTESY OF JANICE TATE/CRYSTAL IMAGES

"Geyser is a really fun place to be and it's cool to see not just our guests coming having a great time, but all of our employees meet their new best friends," Barker said. "They're all family to each other, they take really good care of each other and they're out there having a great time and are genuinely great people."

The company was built on the "Spirit of Fun and Adventure" according to their website and Barker added that the company is spearheaded by Becker's passion for the river.

"Eric is very innovative and very passionate about whitewater and recreation and making sure that all of our guests have the best time," Barker said. "Whatever he can do to make their day better he goes out of his way to make sure that happens and he also does that for all of his employees and guides as well. ... I can tell that he truly loves doing what he does and it makes it easier to be here every day."

This summer especially the Geyser team has been extra busy giving guests a great experience and serving the larger crowds Big Sky is seeing this summer.

"We wake up, [Nicole] and I and our staff every day and we're just here to make sure everybody has the best day of their life, whether you're a guest or one of our staff members," Becker said. "We're a business that wakes up every day to try hard, and you're coming here to have fun, and we're going to make it happen."

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Directors of Big Sky County Water & Sewer District No.363 will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday July 20, 2021 at 8:00 AM. The hearing will be done as an online only Zoom meeting to take public comment on the annexation petition to annex lands into the water and sewer district. The land under consideration is the across the highway from the Meadow Village Center commonly known as the American Bank and Maybee properties.

The Zoom meeting link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4069952660>. The intended use for this land is for employee housing that will be owned by Lone Mountain Land and the Big Sky Community Housing Trust. Please see <https://bigskyhousingtrust.com/riverview-apartments/>.

The District also has an online survey with 3 questions and space for your comments on it. The survey can be found at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wsd363_annexation For written comments please send letters to PO Box 160670, Big Sky, MT 59716; or by email to office@wsd363.com.

Scan the QR codes with your mobile phone to go to the Zoom meeting link, BSCHT webpage, or the online survey. Thank you for your feedback.



Zoom Meeting



BSCHT Webpage



District Online Survey

Big Sky Sotheby's International Realty under new ownership

BY JULIA BARTON

BIG SKY — Local brokerage Big Sky Sotheby's International Realty was purchased earlier this summer by Northwest Real Estate Brokers, joining a large coalition of real estate offices in Washington, Idaho and Montana.

Big Sky Sotheby's, owned and operated by Tim Cyr and Cathy Gorman for the last 19 years, started with a small local office and has since expanded into multiple offices across Big Sky and Bozeman. The purchase of the Big Sky Sotheby's offices gave NWREB ownership over all Sotheby's offices in Montana, after they purchased Glacier Sotheby's International Realty last fall.

As the real estate business in Gallatin County became more and more lucrative, Gorman said they had been approached by a number of interested buyers over the years; the decision to sell to NWREB came down to core values and resources.

"Their philosophy is like ours," explained Gorman. "Everything will still be local Big Sky people, but [NWREB] adds the benefit of having a special marketing team and all kinds of things that as a small company, we really weren't able to have."

Tallie Lancey, a broker with Big Sky Sotheby's for 11 years, shared her favorite part of working for the company, which she said is twofold. "First, being connected to a global network is of great value to me professionally and my customers as well," Lancey said. "Second, I love my coworkers."

Lancey is aligned with the core values of the company, which she doesn't expect to change with the new leadership.



Big Sky Sotheby's International Realty has been serving the Big Sky community for almost 20 years. PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

"Cathy and Tim created over a long period of time a service-oriented and family culture that I expect to continue under new leadership."

Gorman shared this sentiment, saying that the new ownership will keep the name, realtors, locations and management the same.

After being in the family for nearly 20 years, the decision not to sell locally was contingent on finding a buyer who would keep roots in the Big Sky area strong while being able to provide the benefits of a larger company.

The NWREB, also known as the Tomlinson Group of Companies, has been family-run out of Washington for four generations and fit the bill for Cyr and Gorman. Current co-owner and CEO Shelley Tomlinson Johnson is the first female in her family to take the

lead of the company, and keeps mountain geography and community at the forefront of her business decisions.

"When we look to form partnerships, we look for companies that have strong operations," Johnson said in a press release, adding that she has no plans to change the fundamentals of what Cyr and Gorman have built in Big Sky thus far.

Although Cyr and Gorman are handing over ownership to Johnson, both still plan on being involved with the company, continuing to work with buyers and sellers for the foreseeable future. Gorman remains in place as the interim managing broker until her position can be adequately filled.

Gabrielle Gasser contributed reporting to this story.

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Making it in Big Sky: Ryan Turner Photography

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

BIG SKY – Ryan and Angi Turner moved to Big Sky together and have called the community their home for 25 years. They love to ski, snowboard, raft, fly fish, hike, bike, camp, backpack, snowmobile, travel and explore Montana and beyond.

The Turner's two daughters, Elia and Lily, were raised in Big Sky and attend Lone Peak High School and Ophir Middle School.

“We love and appreciate living in Big Sky and raising our family here,” wrote the Turners in an email to Explore Big Sky.

Ryan said he originally discovered Gallatin Valley when he visited on a ski trip during college. After graduating with a fine arts degree in 1996, Turner set his focus out West and followed his dream of having a gallery like Thomas Mangelsen in Jackson, Wyoming.

“I remember my parents thinking this was not such a good idea,” he quipped.

Today, Ryan has his own gallery in a new location he just opened on Town Center Avenue. The walls of the space are covered in prints done in a variety of styles for sale in-person or online at ryanturnerphotography.com.

EBS talked with Ryan about his 20-plus year career as an adventure photographer in this gorgeous place we call home.

Some answers below have been edited for brevity.

Explore Big Sky: *You recently moved your business to a new location, what prompted the move? What's new at the new location?*

Ryan Turner: We have had great success with many clients over the years. My craft and collection have developed to desire a space like our new space for people to enjoy. We have been waiting for a space that was the right size and fit to be able to show my work in the way I have dreamed of. This is that space.

EBS: *How did you become interested in photography?*

R.T.: My grandma loved photography and I always loved art. My dad bought a nicer camera one year and he let me use it for some classes in junior high and I have been photographing ever since.

EBS: *What is your favorite subject to shoot?*

R.T.: I have always loved capturing amazing high action images of skiing and snowboarding, but my heart is in nature. I love photographing trees and abstracts in nature a lot lately, but also enjoy a personal moment with wildlife. It is hard to have a favorite subject when I really just love finding the beauty or intrigue in any moment.

EBS: *In your opinion, how has the photography industry changed over the years?*

R.T.: It certainly has changed. I worked for many, many years in commercial and editorial photography to pay the bills. More social media and web and less and less print has affected how photographers operate. Also, the market has become even more saturated. Everyone is a photographer now as we all carry amazing phone cameras with built in editing systems and effects.

EBS: *How do you prioritize shooting photographs for enjoyment versus shooting them for work?*

R.T.: My shooting now is really not that work directed. I have always traveled with my camera close by while experiencing life. If something catches my eye or something unexpected happens along the way, I would capture it, not necessarily for work, but just because I was inspired.

EBS: *As a professional photographer, has your business approach adapted over time? If so, how?*

R.T.: Yes, like all things in life, the industry has changed often through my career. In the beginning I chased work and now I just create work. I have managed to do well through the years focusing on what I loved to shoot and finding clients that wanted my work.

Ultimately, my goal was to be able to create art or images and just sell my work. I have been fortunate enough to ride the ebb and flow to this point where my business is today. Nowadays, I primarily shoot for myself and try to grow as an artist and grow my fine art collection. I have wonderful clients who can't wait to see what else I can create. I am happy to shift all of my efforts into my art world. This has taken many years of promoting and creating to manifest, but all of the hard work has paid off.

“ It is hard to have a favorite subject when I really just love finding the beauty or intrigue in any moment. ”

EBS: *What advice would you offer to aspiring photographers?*

R.T.: Find passion in what you choose to shoot. The more you can engage with your subject, the more you can find the expression within the subject and capture that.

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

R.T.: Manifest it and make it happen. No one else is going to do it for you.



Ryan and Angi have lived in Big Sky for 25 and enjoy the wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities in the area. PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN TURNER

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The Reserve at Willow Creek offers all that makes Montana great—truly the best of everything! Located against the Bangtail Mountains in southwest Montana, the 157 +/- acre parcels offers breathtaking views, unparalleled privacy and wide open spaces, all within 25 minutes of Livingston, Montana.

The varied topography gives each parcel unique character and views of the Bangtails and Bridger Canyon. Each lot, accessed by a private community road, is different and includes features such as sage meadows, rock outcroppings, cliff bands, tree stands and more stunning elements of the region.

The best part? Buyers can make the property their own. They can build a home or barn within a five-acre building envelope, offering enough open space for horseback riding, off-roading, hunting, hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing and whatever outdoor activity fills your days. There are also opportunities to fish and hike to nearby trails less than a half-mile from your front door—the possibilities are endless at the Reserve!

The surrounding views are jaw-dropping—the jagged peaks of the Absaroka and Crazy mountain ranges, Bangtails and great western prairies stretch as far as the eye can see, all from your own window.

Although the Reserve provides a rural lifestyle surrounded by wide open vistas, it's only 25 minutes from downtown Livingston. In addition to being a world-class recreational and fly-fishing destination, the humble community offers great dining, shopping and entertainment options for all. The Reserve offers the best of everything—unfettered access to the outdoors but also a nearby cultural scene with great restaurants, boutiques and nightlife.

The Reserve at Willow Creek is only an hour's drive to downtown Bozeman and Yellowstone International Airport making it a convenient destination to fly and in out of. Property owners will also enjoy close access to Yellowstone National Park's north entrance, located 50 miles away near Gardiner, Montana. Its location showcases the perfect balance of rural living coupled with access to community and culture.

“This reserve provides the freedom to create something of your own, on your own piece of land,” says EJ Daws of L&K Real Estate, the co-listing agent for The Reserve. “As Montana grows, this opportunity to own land with unobstructed views this close to Livingston and Bozeman is rare.”

The Reserve at Willow Creek is perfect for those who have been dreaming of wide open spaces, beautiful panoramic views and the opportunity to build a life in rural Montana. This is your chance for freedom, to create a homestead of your own. This is truly the best of what makes Montana great.



The Reserve offers the flexibility to build your dream home, and is conveniently located near Livingston, Montana. PHOTOS BY BAILY MILL/BARE MOUNTAIN PHOTOGRAPHY

Enjoying the Ride: Freedom



BY SCOTT BROWN
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Celebrating the Fourth of July has always been special to me. It is not simply the day we celebrate our freedom from British rule and the creation of the U.S., it is also the day we celebrate how blessed we are and how much we have sacrificed to be the freest nation in the world! It's a time to enjoy our great American traditions of backyard barbeques featuring baseball, hot dogs and apple pie.

Independence Day also celebrates the fact that we are raised to believe, and in fact taught in schools, that if we work hard enough, we can be whatever we want to be, such as an astronaut, the President, a pro-athlete, a successful entrepreneur—you name it or you dream it and it can be yours! That is such a powerful and encouraging reality for our young people to be raised in. It is why the U.S. is where people want to be.

While freedom is fantastic, I believe financial freedom is fleeting for many. Like any other worthy accomplishment in life, financial freedom comes with a lot of hard work and discipline.

I believe financial freedom generally means that you have **enough money saved to maintain your lifestyle for the rest of your life**, without being dependent on a monthly salary. You may choose to keep working, but you have the freedom not to if that suits you better. It is also much more than money; it is the freedom to be who you really are and do what you really want in life. So how do you get there?

Some things you could consider doing include studying or training for something you are passionate about that can afford you the ability to do the things you want and could allow you to have the family and lifestyle you desire. It always helps to set goals and to make reaching those goals a family effort.

For younger people, live at home for a while if you can and rethink big wedding plans or lavish vacations. Of course, you should have a rainy day fund and a budget that includes both a savings and debt reduction plan.

On top of that, plan to allocate a portion of your future raises to increasing your savings and debt payments. Consider getting a side “gig,” maybe in a field you’re passionate about or that is one of your hobbies so that you can earn extra cash. Before you go shopping, consider shopping in your garage, shed, closet or basement and repurpose stuff you already own. As a senior financial advisor, I always believe you should simply start with a plan. As Henry Ford once said, “Before everything else, getting ready is the secret to success.”

I trust you all have a wonderful summer full of fun, family and yes, freedom! Whether you travel by horse, boat, bike or boots this summer, get out in the backcountry of this beautiful land we live in and enjoy the ride!

Scott L. Brown is the Co-Founder and Managing Principal of Shore to Summit Wealth Management. His investment planning career spans more than 25 years and he currently works and lives in Bozeman, MT with his wife and two sons.

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BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR

Friday, July 16 – Thursday, July 29

If your event falls between July 30 and August 12, please submit it by July 21 by emailing media@outlaw.partners

Friday, July 16

Big Sky Art Auction
Basecamp Tent, 11 a.m.

Friday Afternoon Club: Mathias & Luke Flansburg
Blue Buddha Sushi Lounge patio, 5 p.m.

Big Sky Community Rodeo
Big Sky Events Arena, 7 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

Street Dance Featuring DirtWire
Town Center Avenue, 9 p.m.

Live Music: Luke & Mathias
Tips Up, 9 p.m.

Saturday, July 17

Big Sky Art Auction
Basecamp Tent, 11 a.m.

Backyard Baroque: The Countertenor
Schwer-Toepffer Residence, 2 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

Live Music: Rotgut Whines
Tips Up, 9 p.m.

Sunday, July 18

Big Sky Art Auction
Basecamp Tent, 11 a.m.

Monday, July 19

Shakespeare in the Parks
Town Center, 5:30 p.m.

Burger Night with Stumpy
The Bunker, 6 p.m.

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

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

Tuesday, July 20

Golf Tournament
Black Bull Golf Course,
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Youth Fly Fishing Clinic
Gallatin River Guides, 1:30 p.m.
Noxious Weed Bouquet Contest
2100 Spotted Elk Road, 5 p.m.

Trivia Nights
ACRE Kitchen, 6 p.m.

Inaugural Dick Allgood Big Sky Bingo Night
PBR Basecamp Tent, 6 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

Live Music featuring Dammit Lauren!
PBR Basecamp Tent, 9 p.m.

Wednesday, July 21

Hike Big Sky
Beehive Basin, 9 a.m.

Mutton Bustin' Pre-Ride Competition
PBR Arena, 3 p.m.

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

Artist Reception featuring Ed Nash
32 Town Center Ave., 5 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

Live Music: Jacob Rountree
Tips Up, 8 p.m.

Thursday, July 22

PBR Vendor Village opens
PBR Basecamp, 12 p.m.

PBR Meet & Greet
PBR Arena, 2 p.m.

Live Music Featuring Kylie Spence
PBR Basecamp, 4 p.m.

PBR Bull riding Night one
PBR Arena, 7 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

Music in the Mountains: Magnolia Boulevard
Len Hill Park, 8:30 p.m.

Live Music: Peter King Band
Tips Up, 10 p.m.

Friday, July 23

Hike Big Sky/Tiny Treks
Little Willow Way, 10 a.m.

Shelly Bermont Fine Jewelry Trunk Show
Shelly Bermont Fine Jewelry, 11 a.m.

PBR Meet & Greet
PBR Arena, 2 p.m.

Live Music Featuring David Gautreau
PBR Basecamp, 4 p.m.

PBR Bull riding Night two
PBR Arena, 7 p.m.

Live Music: Jason Boland & The Stragglers
PBR Arena, Following bull riding

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

Live Music: Wild Signs
Tips Up, 9 p.m.

Saturday, July 24

Big Mountain Enduro
Big Sky Resort, 8 a.m.

Mosaic Magic with Michelle Kristula-Green
Big Sky Community Library, 10 a.m.

PBR Meet & Greet
PBR Arena, 2 p.m.

Live Music Featuring Matt Miller
PBR Basecamp, 4 p.m.

PBR Bull riding Night three
PBR Arena, 7 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

Live Music: Robert Earl Keen
PBR Arena, Following bull riding

Live Music: Cole Decker
Tips Up, 9 p.m.

Sunday, July 25

Big Mountain Enduro
Big Sky Resort, 8 a.m.

Mosaic Magic with Michelle Kristula-Green
Big Sky Community Library, 10 a.m.

Monday, July 26

Storytime
Big Sky Community Library, 10 a.m.

Burger Night with Stumpy
The Bunker, 6 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

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

Tuesday, July 27

Community Acupuncture Outside
33 Lone Peak Drive, 10 a.m.

Trivia Night
ACRE Kitchen, 6 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 28

Hike Big Sky
Ousel Falls, 9 a.m.

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

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

Live Music: The Damn Duo
Tips Up, 8 p.m.

Thursday, July 29

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

Music in the Mountains: Toubab Krewe
Len Hill Park Stage in Town Center,
8 p.m.

Live Music: Lamp Trio
Tips Up, 10 p.m.

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Arts Council launches new public art campaign

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

BIG SKY – The Arts Council of Big Sky has added to the community’s cultural landscape over the years with several public art installations around town. The organization’s latest sculpture, Gibbous, aims to put some “kinetic in our aesthetic,” by placing a moving sculpture in the Town Center roundabout.

The sculpture is by artist Pedro de Movellan, one of America’s most innovative and visionary contemporary sculptors. Named for the gibbous phase of the moon, de Movellan’s kinetic sculpture is propelled by air currents. The movement of his work responds to the environment around it, activated by even the lightest breeze and becoming more energetic as winds increase. Vibrant red was chosen by the artist to contrast against Montana’s vivid blue skies, brilliant white snowscapes and lush greens of summer.

Last fall, de Movellan visited Big Sky to help find the perfect location for Gibbous. Given its space, natural alignment with Lone Peak and ample supply of wind, the roundabout at Huntley Drive and Town Center Avenue has been identified as the ideal site.

“We’re thrilled to introduce Gibbous to the community,” says Brian Hurlbut, the Arts Council’s executive director. “This will be another



“Gibbous” is named for the gibbous phase of the moon and responds to the environment around it, activated by even the lightest breeze and becoming more energetic as winds increase. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

signature piece for Big Sky and continue the forward momentum of our growing public art program.”


Most of the funds to purchase Gibbous have already been raised, but the Arts Council is asking the community to help with the final push. The public part of the campaign will help raise the remaining \$25,000, with installation scheduled for late fall. The existing sculpture in the roundabout, called Menhir I by Bozeman artist Zak Zakovi, will remain in the Arts Council’s public art program and a public vote will be held to determine its new location.

The ACBS currently manages eight sculptures and more than 40 utility box wraps around Big Sky. As Big Sky evolves, the Arts Council is dedicated to enhancing the community through artistic experiences. The public art program is one of three main focus areas for the ACBS, and it contributes greatly to the community by helping to define our character and identity, increase cultural depth and diversity, and improve livability.

“Our public art program is now our biggest asset,” says Hurlbut. “It’s a testament to how

much our residents and visitors appreciate and support art in the community.”

To learn more about Gibbous, please visit bigskyarts.org/public-art.


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BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

The evolution of ranching in North America has become incredibly efficient since its arrival in the new world.

For almost 500 years, habitants of North America have kept cattle as livestock. Europeans introduced domesticated cattle almost immediately upon arrival to the continent. While they were used for sustenance at the local community level, for centuries, cattle were used primarily for their hides and tallow. Beef was just a secondary use.

Herds were growing quickly as the U.S. was growing, but this growth was limited to the western half of the country as Texas.

Although the demand for beef was increasing nationwide, it wasn't until the invention of the refrigerated railcar in 1860 that allowed beef to be transported and sold all the way back to the East Coast.

Subsequently, the number of herds on ranches west of the Mississippi doubled in just 20 years; from 1880 to 1900. But, since meat was still towards the bottom of the list of reasons for raising and selling cattle in the first place, there still was no reason or resources to fatten them up.

As the demand for food increased, they started exploring how to more efficiently raise a heavier animal. Four things came into play.

Cattle breeds in Great Brittan were larger and more muscular. Much more so than the smaller leaner longhorn native to Spain that we now associate with Texas. And while Texas has taken claim to the Longhorn, they have been crossbred with the larger British breeds for over 150 years.

While Texas certainly had the land for stockyards and feedlots, they lacked the connective railway system. Cities like Chicago and Kansas City did have the required rail infrastructure. This meant that cattle could be transported easily to the upper Midwest and finished, which led to the third development.

Cattle then needed to be processed. They could now be shipped live for relatively short distances into these same large cities with refrigerated processing plants very close by. Today, the upper Midwest is still a huge producer of processed beef for the nation.

In addition to the ability to greatly expand what we know as the modern restaurant diner (which I wrote about a few years ago), President Eisenhower's massive national highway project began in the 1950's. That allowed beef and beef products to reach all corners of the U.S.

The raising and production of cattle has become so incredibly efficient and congruent with the land the cattle graze on all over the world, but nowhere more so than in the U.S.

As we often hear that beef cattle are taking over our planet and steering us towards eminent doom, it's interesting to note that while the gross weight of beef cattle in America is only slightly higher than it was in 1955, the total number of beef cattle is in fact less than it was in 1955.

We have kept up with food supplies since first colonizing the Americas, but that brings up a bit of a chicken or the egg quandary. Have we innovated and found ways to keep up with human growth, growing more and better cattle? Or, has our innovation and efficiency allowed us to grow our population?

A question for another time perhaps.

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

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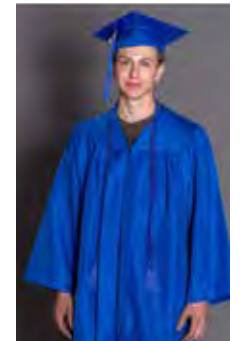
Nathan Brown
 Wake Forest University



Dolan Cain
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Hannah Deisbach
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Amelia Fischer
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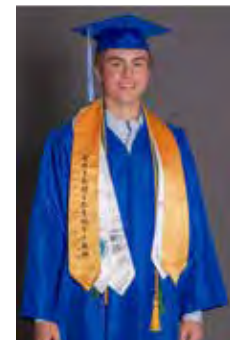
Lylianne McCarthy
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Madison Strauss
 Ohio State University



Sara Wilson
 Northern Arizona University



Sayra Yaqoob
 US Military

American Life in Poetry

BY KWAME DAWS

Sasha Pimentel's poem is a splendid example of the poetic device called the conceit, which refers to an extended metaphor, and of course, the image here is the violin. Yet the title of the poem is taken from Arizonan Stella Pope Duarte's novel about violence against women set in Juárez, the Mexican border-city, which makes this image of a silenced instrument quite haunting and unsettling.

If I Die in Juárez

By Sasha Pimentel

The violins in our home are emptied of sound, strings stilled, missing fingers. This one can bring a woman down to her knees, just to hear again its voice, thick as a callus from the wooden belly. This one's strings are broken. And another, open, is a mouth. I want to kiss them as I hurt to be kissed, ruin their brittle necks in the husk of my palm, my fingers across the bridge, pressing chord into chord, that delicate protest—: my tongue rowing the frets, and our throats high from the silences of keeping.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Gullible person
- 6 Approved (contr.)
- 9 Pronoun
- 12 Part of golf club
- 13 Fr. resort
- 14 Second wife of Athamas
- 15 Oat
- 16 Electrocardiogram (abbr.)
- 17 Noncommissioned officer (abbr.)
- 18 Infer
- 20 Afr. sheep
- 22 Gr. mythical flyer
- 24 Wish undone
- 27 Two (pref.)
- 28 Cat
- 32 Prospects
- 34 Art (Lat.)
- 36 Noted physicist
- 37 Stoppage
- 39 Adjective-forming (suf.)
- 41 Archbishop
- 42 Stem (abbr.)
- 44 Implied
- 47 Delay
- 52 Evil (Sp.)
- 53 Skin vesicle
- 55 Border
- 56 Before common era (abbr.)
- 57 Oriental potentate
- 58 Rom. official
- 59 Aged
- 60 Bird's beak
- 61 Rabbit fur

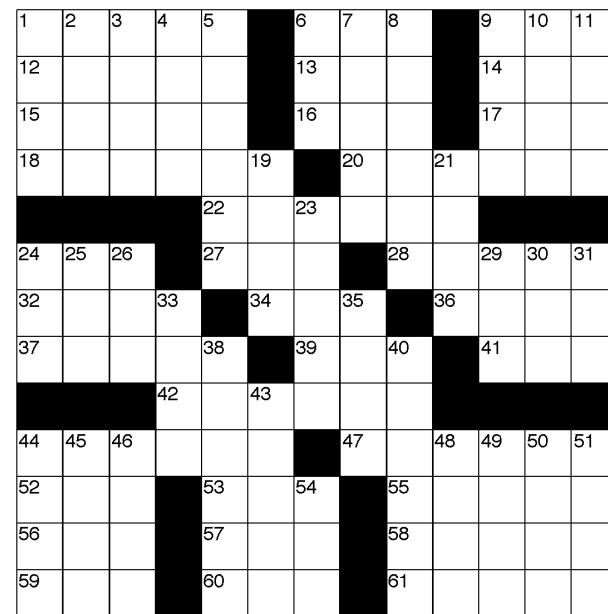
DOWN

- 1 Sudan lake
- 2 Lifted and threw
- 3 Accustomed
- 4 Computer choices
- 5 Quiet
- 6 Unclose
- 7 Barking deer
- 8 Boat

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

- 9 Female deer
- 10 King Atahualpa
- 11 Tone
- 19 Ecuador (abbr.)
- 21 Barren land
- 23 Brother of Moses
- 24 Bosh
- 25 N. Caucasian
- 26 Gelderland city
- 29 Sheep's cry
- 30 Better Business Bureau (abbr.)
- 31 Yelp
- 33 Elam's capital
- 35 Whatever
- 38 Herbal tea
- 40 Garden tool
- 43 Aphorism
- 44 Boss on a shield
- 45 Salt
- 46 Rosebud, e.g.
- 48 Mother of Pollux
- 49 Lose liquid
- 50 Fruit
- 51 Hammerhead part
- 54 Vehicle compartment



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A149

Corner Quote

“All in all, it was a never to be forgotten summer – one of those summers which come seldom into any life, but leave a rich heritage of beautiful memories in their going.”

**-L.M. Montgomery,
“Anne’s House of Dreams”**

Big Sky Brews:

Camp Fire Coma

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

BIG SKY – After a hot day outside hiking, biking or getting after it in your preferred outdoor sport, Beehive Basin Brewery is a great place to stop for a refreshing local brew. With six staple beers and a consistently changing selection of one-off rotators, there is always something exciting to try.

On a blistering Friday afternoon, I decided to try the Camp Fire Coma, a 10 percent ABV aged porter. I'm generally a fan of darker beers like porters and stouts so this special summer brew seemed right up my alley.

The first sip was surprising with rich chocolaty notes and a tangy finish. As I continued to drink, I enjoyed discovering more flavor notes including a hint of vanilla courtesy of the bourbon barrels that aged this concoction from Willie's Distillery in Ennis.

The Camp Fire Coma was inspired by the concept of creating all the tasteful notes of a s'more inside of a beer. Brewers at Beehive took a s'more porter—which contained marshmallows, chocolate and graham cracker malt—and aged it about six months in the barrels, which brought this brew to its 10 percent alcohol content.

Though I was lucky enough not to enter a coma after drinking this beer, the Camp Fire Coma was a tasty way to bring in the weekend and get my s'mores fix. If you're a fan of darker beers with rich flavor profiles, make sure to grab a glass of this limited-time beer next time you find yourself in Beehive's taproom.



The Camp Fire Coma is an aged porter that packs a punch with its 10 percent ABV. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER

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”

The Sawtooth Six

A family grows together in Idaho’s high peaks

BY MARK WILCOX

Plodding up “Devil Hill” with 60 pounds of gear, a baby strapped to my chest and a 5-year-old on my shoulders, I wonder why we tackled this three-day backpacking trip with all six of our children.

And I have time to think. Devil Hill (our nickname) demands prolonged attention under any load as the trail rises, steep and steady, up a 1,000-foot bluff. Idaho’s Sawtooth Mountains tower over the teal water of Redfish Lake, offering periodic distractions from the suffering. My 3-year-old, Lincoln, has had enough and wants to go back to the fun part.

“Can I try the slide now?” he asks, puppy dog eyes peering up through his blonde bangs.

The natural water slide over smooth granite is several miles behind us, but the resulting pain lingers. I think I may have fractured a rib from ride-testing the Class V portion of the slide, which torpedoed me into a rock shelf. The Class II section that the whole family rode for a joyous, refreshing hour, seemed too scary to him when it was convenient.

“Do you really want to go all the way back?” my wife, AmberLynn, asks patiently.

His calculation is an open book as he eyes the steep trail stretching behind us. What goes down, must come up. Lincoln frantically shakes his head when he discovers what we already know: No way in heck are we going back. This year, anyway.

While planning the trek, AmberLynn and I have plenty of discussions about the sanity of this expedition: Three days. An anticipated 11 miles roundtrip based on topo maps and trip reports we’ve studied. All six of our kids, aged 1 to 11. No pack animals, no Sherpa. Just us.

We decide the potential rewards merit the challenge. All kids benefit from an early introduction to the outdoor life. And frankly, it’s been far too long since we’ve done something like this as a family due to the whole “six kids thing.”

As soon as we hit the trail, passing hikers with far smaller packs count the backpacks in our group. Heads bob as they tally the rascals in tow. We’re used to this wherever we go together, but it’s immensely satisfying out here.

Friendly variations of “Are you crazy or something?” comprise our FAQs from other hikers who also usually tell us how impressed they are we’re pulling it off.

“Yep! Isn’t it awesome?” is our general reply. We hear from a number of people who wish they’d done this with their kids, and from plenty who would never attempt it—too dangerous, too exhausting, too hard.

It certainly didn’t come easy.

The first day, we discover our mileage calculations are way off. The trail follows Redfish Lake for the first several miles, a stretch most people boat across to shave distance off their treks. That gets pricey with eight passengers, though.

We think we’ll be able to hike all the way to Alpine Lake, supposedly 5.3 miles in, on our first day. We don’t realize everybody has omitted the boat ride’s mileage in trip reports. That’s mileage we walk, including the 1,000-foot Devil Hill we’ll go up and down in both directions. We also let our determined

1-year-old, Kestrel, walk much of it. The terrain proves difficult for her, though, and she eats a lot of trail dust before resigning herself to the chest pack.

We make an impromptu decision to camp at Bench Lakes the first night, where the kids set up camp, light the fire and pump water with gusto and little direction. This surprises us. At home we’re used to supervising everything and making multiple requests to get anything done. Parent stuff.

In the mountains, our kids are capably doing things we didn’t know they knew how to do.

The lake’s still surface reflects a mirror image of the craggy Mount Heyburn looming above. We cook dinner on the kids’ fire, laugh and enjoy our idyllic campsite until nightfall.

The next day we start out in great spirits, but the trail, again, stretches much farther than we expect. When our GPS says we’ve gone as far as we had planned, a passing hiker tells us we have at least a mile and an intense climb before camp. Turns out it’s two miles and 22 switchbacks, but who’s counting?



Nya, 10, Kael, 11 and Kian, 5, take a break from hiking through Redfish Creek Valley to check out Grand Mogul, which juts dramatically from the shores of Redfish Lake. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK WILCOX.

The older kids naturally outpace our younger ones, who my wife is feeding Skittles, aka “Power Hiking Pills,” at regular intervals to keep them walking. The speed differential splits us without a chance to communicate about the separation. I’m carrying Kestrel in the chest pack and stick with the oldest kids, aged 11 and 10. We ascend cliffs through a wild, glacier-carved bowl.

I don’t see AmberLynn and the three youngest kids anywhere on the many switchbacks below us.

Torn between staying with my charges and making sure everything’s OK with group two, I decide to press on to Alpine

Lake with the older kids and the baby. When we finally arrive, I task Kael and Nya with setting up camp. And, gulp, watching Kestrel while I run back to check on the others. It’s agonizing backcountry decision-making.

A quick prayer and I’m running down the trail worrying about all of the possibilities. Best-case, I’m expecting a fuming wife for: 1. Leaving three kids at the lake alone and 2. Leaving her and three kids behind. I try not to think about worst-case.

Just over a mile down the trail, I find the rest of the family. AmberLynn’s happy to see me. Bullet dodged.

I alleviate the group’s load and carry extra packs to the lake with Ari, 8, Kian, 5, and Lincoln swapping rides on my shoulders much of the way. We make it. Camp’s already set up. The older kids are keeping Kestrel happy bouncing off the tent walls. Wow. They can be responsible.

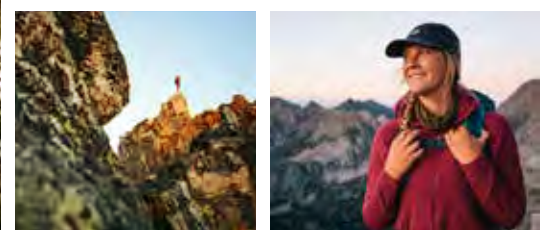
This trek into the Sawtooths turns out to be one of the most fulfilling, surprising adventures we’ve had as a family. The kids experience the difficulty, but they don’t complain. They step it up a notch. The euphoria of camping in the backcountry, riding a natural waterslide and bonding in the outdoors isn’t lost on them (well, maybe on Kestrel)—even on the last day when we have 11 miles to go with one devil of a hill near the end.

As we reach the car, dusty, sweaty and sore, we realize the growth, situational ownership and responsibility that showed up on the trail. Instead of filling our drive home with talk of pain, complaints or difficulty, we happily spend the time planning our next backpacking trip.

A version of this story was first published in the Summer 2020 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine.

BECAUSE MOUNTAIN LIVING IS ALL IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE.

Thinking about living in Big Sky, Montana? Perhaps now's the time.



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**10TH ANNIVERSARY
BIG SKY**

PBR

**BIG SKY'S
BIGGEST WEEK**

Ten years after the first PBR, Outlaw Partners is celebrating what's become "Big Sky's Biggest Week" with 10 days of events leading up to three nights of world-class bull riding. We bring you this section both in reverence for the past decade and excitement for Big Sky's Biggest Week 2021

Big Sky PBR to celebrate 10 years with 3 nights of world-class bull riding

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY – The first Big Sky PBR in 2011 was both a dream and a gamble; a vision to ignite soul within the community and provide a sense of place for the amalgamation of cowboys, ski bums and up-and-coming developers. There'd never been anything like it in the resort town, and creators Eric Ladd and Megan Paulson could only wonder: Will this work? It did. Big time.

Ten years later in 2021, the single day event has blossomed into 10 days of festivities leading up to three nights of bull riding that easily compare to the sport's top events of the year.

This year, the Big Sky PBR will kick off on Thursday, July 22 at 7 p.m., preceded by live music by Kylie Spence and followed by Music in the Mountains at Len Hill Park with Magnolia Boulevard. Jason Boland & the Stragglers will close out Friday night's bull riding and to cap off the electric championship round on Saturday night, nationally touring artist Robert Earl Keen will hit the stage.

The Big Sky event, which has won PBR event of the year seven times, is jam-packed with excitement. "Our crowd is louder than the Vegas world finals, our crowd is more engaged than Madison Square Garden on Friday night," said Ladd, who is also the publisher of Explore Big Sky. "That energy that's created is truly unique to the sport."

Though the event contends with big stadium shows, the Big Sky venue is particularly special. The intimate venue provides every viewer seating no more than 150 feet from the action and in perfect view of the monumental Lone Mountain.

"When you can put fans so close to the action like at the Big Sky PBR, the energy literally transfers from the arena to the crowd," said Paulson, CEO of Outlaw Partners.

BIG SKY PBR BY THE NUMBERS



**30,000
VISITORS**



**7X
PBR EVENT
OF THE YEAR**



**MORE THAN
\$1M RAISED
FOR LOCAL
CHARITIES**



**\$3.4M IN GROSS
ECONOMIC OUTPUT**

There's a special allure to witness man versus beast, Paulson said, adding that part of the sport's novelty is that the athletes are both the riders and the bulls.

"Each ride is unique, and when you put a 1,600-pound animal up against 175-pound humans and challenge them to stay on for eight seconds, it's going to be a good show," she said.

The three nights of bull riding are packed with adrenaline and drama, but as some of the most loyal fans in the community have described over the years, the Big Sky PBR is about more than bull riding.

"The lifetime of memories it's created for tens of thousands of fans is something to be proud of," said Paulson.

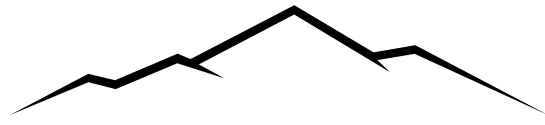
When Ladd first took the leap of faith to bring PBR to Big Sky, the original premise was to build community. Big Sky Resort opened in 1974 and the town has since been known primarily for its resort association. Ladd started to ask the question of what distinguishes a town from a resort. Events, he thought, are a way to unlock the core attributes of a town: soul, connection and tradition.

Nowadays, he believes PBR is playing a big role on the pathway toward community. From the revenue the event brings to surrounding business owners to the mutton bustin' trophies that still adorn kids' dressers to the more than \$1 million that the event has brought in for charity, PBR in Big Sky has become much more than its brief title would suggest.

"I pay homage to those early years because without all the barn raising community support it would not happen," Ladd said. "It's now something that has its own systems, momentum and business structure around it to where it can live beyond us all."

This month, PBR will kick up dust once again in Big Sky, celebrating 10 years of community connection and looking forward to 10 more.





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Brenda H Brown Performance Horses

SPECIAL ADVERTISEMENT

Brenda Brown brings expertise, passion to the riding community

BY BROOKE CONSTANCE WHITE

Training performance horses and riders has never been just a job for Brenda Brown—it's her entire life. Even though she's retired from her full-time job in the industry, she's not ready to be done just yet.

Brown spent her formative years living and breathing horses 24/7. Her father was a horse trainer and their family spent years showing and competing all over the country. In 1981, when Brown was fresh out of high school, she followed in his footsteps and started her own horse training and coaching business.

Although she's moved on from the business she ran for 40 years, she's still an active judge for the National Reining Horse Association and the National Reined Cow Horse Association, and offers private riding clinics and lessons in the Big Sky area.

"I still have a lot to offer and 40 years of experience under my belt that I can share," Brown says, adding that although she doesn't have any of her own horses or a facility to use anymore, she's able to travel to local facilities or train someone at their home. "I love teaching and coaching and I know there are people out there who I could still be of good service to."

For Brown, the most rewarding thing about coaching and training is that moment of clarity during a lesson—when a phrase or technique makes sense to a student. "There are so many different ways to teach or explain different riding techniques, so



finding the way they connect with it is great," Brown says. "It's so rewarding to see them get better and better at a sport that is truly so personal between you and your horse. It's moments when my knowledge and experience makes the horseback riding experience better for someone—that's why I do what I do."

Although she spent most of her career training horses and riders for competing and performance, she's also interested in offering riding lessons and clinics to those who have limited experience on a horse.

"I have a horse show background and specialize in competitions, but I really just want to help people learn how to ride horses better, whether it's their first time on one for their hundredth time," she said.

Having recently relocated to Big Sky full time, Brenda and her partner Don, are enjoying the beauty the area and people have to offer.

"We've been coming to Big Sky several times a year for about eight years, to ski in the winter and for hiking the PBR event in the summer, and had decided that this is where we wanted to retire," Brown said.

Within her busy teaching schedule, the couple fill their free time skiing, hiking and mountain biking.

"Now that we're retired, we're going to continue doing the things we love doing and enjoying all that Big Sky has to offer," Brown says.

**BIG SKY
BEATS**

Big Sky's Biggest Week

BY KATE BATTAGLIA

Big Sky's Big Week is kicking off on July 16 with a series of events including an all-star lineup of local, regional and national musicians. Here are some tunes to set the mood as we prepare for Big Sky's rodeo of events.



1. **"No more"**
by Dirtwire
2. **"Pearl Snaps"**
by Jason Boland & The Stragglers
3. **"The Storm"**
by Dammit Lauren!
4. **"Walk Away"**
by Kylie Spence
5. **"Ride"**
by Magnolia Boulevard
6. **"Meet Me Here"**
by David Gautreau
7. **"Good Times"**
by Matt Miller
8. **"The Front Porch Song"**
by Robert Earl Keen



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BIG SKY BITES

Cocktails and grill bites to get you ready for rodeo season

BY JULIA BARTON

With summer ramping up and Big Sky's Biggest Week on the horizon, what better way to fuel an action-packed July than with a locally inspired cocktail and summer grill eats. From pregaming PBR and the Big Sky Community Rodeo to feeding the kids after some rough-and-tumble mutton bustin', these recipes are sure to keep you happy and stoked during the festivities.

Kabobs make for a meal that's as easy as it is tasty so you can focus on enjoying the fun Big Sky has to offer this summer.



But what's a good meal without a tasty drink to accompany it?

Huckleberries, a Montana staple, are the perfect addition to a classic cocktail, the Moscow Mule. Although the best results come from using a huckleberry flavored vodka, feel free to substitute with a vodka of your choice and a splash of huckleberry syrup if this specialty spirit is too difficult to locate, and if you can get them, top your drink with some whole huckleberries (best when picked fresh trailside). Pair this delicious drink with some grilled veggies and chicken and a side or two for a light yet filling summery meal.

Huckleberry Mule ingredients

- 2 oz huckleberry vodka (we like to use Montana Cold Spring Huckleberry Vodka by Bozeman Spirits)
- 1 can of ginger beer
- 2 limes
- 1 sprig of fresh mint

Bozeman Spirits is the official vodka sponsor of the Big Sky PBR.

Cocktail instructions

1. Add the huckleberry vodka and juice from one lime into a cocktail shaker with ice and shake until chilled.
2. Strain your mixture into two cold copper mugs if you have them, otherwise your normal cocktail glasses will do.
3. Fill up the rest of the mugs or glasses with a little ice and ginger beer.
4. Garnish with fresh mint leaves and a lime wedge.

Kabob ingredients

- 1 lb chicken
- 2 bell peppers
- 1 red onion
- 2 zucchini
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 1 tbsp barbeque sauce
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- 1 tsp paprika
- ½ tsp chili powder
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Wooden skewers

Kabob instructions

1. Chop the chicken and all veggies into pieces about 1 inch by 1 inch in size.
2. Mix the olive oil, barbeque sauce and all spices into a large bowl.
3. Toss the chicken and veggies into your sauce mixture and make sure all are well coated.
4. Add the chicken and veggies onto the skewers alternating, between the different ingredients to your liking.
5. Grill on high for eight minutes on both sides or until the outsides are nicely charred and the chicken is 165 degrees on the inside.

Some sides you can add to complete this meal include warm naan and hummus or your favorite side salad. Serve the kabobs hot off the grill and the mule cold in a copper mug for best enjoyment, and maybe give yourself an extra glass of water to stay hydrated and ready to enjoy the fun Big Sky has to offer this July.

Bingo to honor local legend

Local band Dammit Lauren! to follow

BY JULIA BARTON

BIG SKY —The Dick Allgood Inaugural Community Bingo Night will commemorate a legendary local on July 20 and raise funds for community schools with live music from Dammit Lauren! to follow.

Allgood, who passed away from lung cancer last winter in his Bozeman home, was a Vietnam War Air Force veteran, owner of Allgood's Bar and Grill in Big Sky for 18 years, active American Legion Post 99 member and all-around involved community member since his arrival to Big Sky in 1992.

The bingo night, an installment in Big Sky's Biggest Week festivities leading up to the Big Sky PBR, will take place at the Basecamp tent across from the Wilson Hotel on Tuesday, July 20, beginning at 6 p.m. There will be a slew of tasty snacks and beverages as well as a 50/50 raffle during the event with the goal of raising money for local schools. All proceeds will be split



The inaugural Dick Allgood Community Bingo Night will take place in the Basecamp tent, located in Wilson Plaza. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

between the raffle winner, and Big Sky's Discovery Academy and Morningstar Learning Center.

Each of the schools will also be holding a silent auction offering experiential packages such as a spa night to raise funds during the evening's event.

The initial bingo games will start with the pre-purchase of a pack of 10 bingo cards, followed by a blackout game and a winner's circle where the evening's champion will receive a trophy to be passed down in years to come.

Following the crowning of the bingo champion, Dammit Lauren! will play a free concert, also in the Basecamp tent. The band, a local favorite, is based in Big Sky and specializes in alternative and psych rock music.

Although the music is free, tickets must be purchased for the bingo night, and can be found online at outlaw.myeventscenter.com.

Mutton Bustin' pre-ride to be stand-alone event preceding PBR

BY KATE BATTAGLIA

BIG SKY — For all the cowboys and cowgirls with PBR aspirations, mutton bustin' is the place to start. On July 12, kids between the ages of 3 and 6 years old and less than 60 pounds can test their luck atop a rambunctious sheep.

This year, mutton bustin' will claim its own stand-alone event, presented by Brenda H Brown Performance Horses.

The July 21 event will present activities for the whole family as well as an opportunity for kids who will not be mutton bustin' during the Big Sky PBR to take a ride. The mutton bustin' event will include a petting zoo, pony rides, face painting and arts and crafts, among other fun features.

There will be four winners of this year's competition—all of whom will receive trophies—and all participants will receive ribbons.

Plenty of slots are still open for kids to enter the PBR arena for the pre-ride mutton bustin' competition. Email blythe@theoutlawpartners.com to sign up.



Does Big Sky need a permanent events arena?

A look back and a look to the future



For the first PBR in 2011, fans watched from bleachers, hay bales, and even in rafts placed on top of a bus. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

BIG SKY – In the majestic shadow of Lone Mountain, 1,500 people gathered on Aug. 3, 2011, in a makeshift arena on bleachers, hay bales and even rafts atop buses for the first annual Big Sky Professional Bull Riders event. Since then, the arena has moved and grown, and this year marks the 10th anniversary of this celebrated tradition.

Outlaw Partners CEO Megan Paulson recalls planning the first event and trying to determine a location. “We were looking out the window and thought, ‘How about in the field?’” she said, referring to formerly vacant land in Town Center owned by the Simkins family.

“At that time, nothing was in the field except sagebrush: no hospital, no movie theatre, no grocery store, no condos, no infrastructure...nothing,” Paulson said. “When it came to the idea of bringing a nationally recognized event to Big Sky, our partners were on board and from there Outlaw’s path to planning and executing the first-year event came together very quickly.”

This wasn’t without a little help, of course.

“We had amazing support thanks to key partnerships with Jim Murphy, Yellowstone Club, Simkins family, Big Sky Town Center, Andy and Jacey Watson, and the entire Big Sky community,” Paulson added. “It’s unique to say we literally built the arena and now Big Sky PBR’s legacy from the ground up. There was a real need for a signature community gathering, and once the dirt was tilled, the first bleachers came in and the big white tent went up, there was a certain excitement around town of what was to come.”

Today, PBR has become a fixture in Big Sky, attracting as many as 30,000 visitors throughout the week and winning PBR Event of the Year seven times. The event is now celebrated with 10 days of festivities leading up to three rowdy nights of bull riding.

Despite the international growth and popularity of Professional Bull Riders events over the last 30 years, the fate of the local Big Sky PBR rests on an impermanent land-use agreement and temporary arena infrastructure.

While Outlaw Partners owns the bleachers, they do not own the land, putting the venue at risk of being sold or transferred. The land-use agreement with the Simkins family in place for the venue was recently extended through October 2022, but that does not guarantee Big Sky PBR will exist there in perpetuity.

According to Brad Niva, CEO of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, one solution for Big Sky PBR and all other large, local events would be the creation of a permanent events center, though the road to achieve this has yet to be paved.

“There’s no doubt we need a facility to keep great events like PBR,” Niva said. “It would be fantastic if we were to build a facility that had multiple uses throughout the year for other events to be hosted in Big Sky.”

The current pace and priorities of development in Big Sky are evident through the condos and commercial buildings sprouting up at a rapid speed in the area, a reality that Paulson says is challenging PBR’s needs for infrastructure and space.

“The minute that land is gone, it’s gone, and we as a community risk losing that opportunity,” Paulson said, adding that a permanent events center would support one of Big Sky’s summer economic drivers, while aiding ongoing efforts to make Big Sky a year-round destination and to grow future events.

“We’re at the point where you have a lot of people now calling Big Sky home year round,” she added. “The demand for community events is continuing to grow and we have the opportunity to craft what that future looks like right now before it’s too late.”

Despite the challenges, Paulson says much can be gained from such infrastructure and short versus long term economic drivers for the community. Large events bring value to the community, she said, both as a central gathering point and as an economic boon for local businesses.

According to a 2018 Economic Impact Analysis prepared by Circle Analytics, the Big Sky PBR creates a gross economic output of \$3.4 million. Those dollars then benefit the community, circulating through Big Sky businesses. In addition to pumping revenue into the local economy, the Big Sky PBR also supports a philanthropic effort that has raised more than \$1 million over the years for local and regional charities.

“Events like PBR are huge drivers of business for me,” said Amy Langmaid, owner of Rhinestone Cowgirl, a local Western boutique. “I definitely do well whenever there are events, especially PBR.”

Leigha Bohn, grocery manager at the Hungry Moose Market and Deli, said large events mean big moneymaking weeks for the local grocery.

“[Events] can be really demanding staffing-wise but we know that it benefits our business especially because we’re so close to the music and close to PBR,” Bohn said of the Town Center-based store. While the Moose crew works hard during PBR, their proximity to the event allows them to hear music, cheers and other PBR ambiance from the store. “PBR helps us feel like we’re a part of the party,” Bohn said.

Ania Bulis, longtime Big Sky local and VP of sales at The Big Sky Real Estate Co., has been a tried-and-true PBR fan since day one.



Outlaw Partners Chairman Eric Ladd created plans for a possible events arena that would provide a 5,000-person capacity. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

“One of the things that I found really compelling about the event is the way in which it brings all aspects and all elements of our community together,” Bulis said.

It’s not only about bull riding, she added, emphasizing the tie to philanthropy and community connection.

Events are the cornerstone of Big Sky’s mountain town culture, says Erik Morrison, marketing and events manager for Big Sky Town Center.

“I would love to see an event center in Big Sky somewhere that could really host these larger events,” said Morrison, who spearheads the weekly Farmers Market on Wednesday evenings.

In the same way that Big Sky banded together to make the first PBR happen, Morrison said that the best way to move forward on a permanent events arena project would be through community partnerships.

“Nobody does anything alone in Big Sky because of the way that we’re structured and that we’re unincorporated,” he said. “All great things that have been done here, most of them have been done through the power of partnership with nonprofits, districts, and private funds and philanthropy. That’s how things get done here.”

Eric Ladd, chairman of Outlaw Partners and publisher of Explore Big Sky, believes a permanent arena could help safeguard these culturally and economically critical events. The new arena would not only be a fitting new home for PBR, Ladd said, but would also provide alternative uses including for “concerts, private events, corporate events and a more suitable hockey arena.”

Right now, Jericho Studios, a Bozeman-based event production, recording studio and A/V design company, provides the equipment and staff for all Warren Miller Performing Arts Center events as well as those put on by the Yellowstone Club and the Arts Council of Big Sky. Jeremiah Slovarp, technical director and president at Jericho Studios, estimated that his company runs events three days per week in Big Sky throughout the summer.

To staff and put on the free summer concert series Music in the Mountains for the Arts Council, Slovarp said he brings the equipment and staff, filling out the stage in Town Center. Each week, Jericho Studios sets everything up and takes it all down. On the opposite end of the events spectrum are complete venues like the Rialto and the Armory in Bozeman that have everything they need on site.

Slovarp said there would be value in building a permanent arena in Big Sky since the fully equipped space would reduce labor costs and eliminate the need to rent equipment.

A larger space would also expand the variety of acts that could be hosted in Big Sky, according to Slovarp. He offered WMPAC as an example: While the performing arts center has been successful in producing excellent shows, he said, it’s limited by the capacity of the theater.

So, what does the road to a permanent arena look like? Ladd has an idea.

“First is to locate a piece of land ideally centered in Big Sky’s core district and then to secure funding to build the facility,” he said. “The most ideal location based off the feedback of businesses, sponsors and ticketholders is in the Town Center to allow connectivity to the heartbeat of Big Sky.”

Ladd has some early designs in the works for the arena. The new space he envisions would bring a 5,000-person capacity as well as a separate 15,000 to 20,000-square-foot events barn to Big Sky.

The benefit of this facility is twofold, he says. “Economic impact studies show that organized events bring very strong economic impact to the surrounding businesses,” he said. “The second is that the facility could have a strong tie to local charities,

local business needs. It basically creates a community resource for gathering.”

Especially in the West, the community gathering point is key. Ladd pointed to other towns including Billings and Ennis as well as Jackson and Cody, Wyoming, all of which have arenas or fairgrounds that represent “the Western way of life.” Big Sky would not be the first town to create this type of infrastructure but rather would follow in the footsteps of other cities in the West.

One such city that made the investment in events infrastructure is Medford, Oregon, which was under the purview of Niva when he was the executive director of Travel Southern Oregon. Niva said the community was able to make a large investment in an outdoor field system that brought in a huge economic impact to the area which has since been paid off. The city was able to raise its lodging tax by about 2 percent to fund the infrastructure project, Niva said.

According to Daniel Bierschwale, executive director of the Big Sky Resort Area District, there has never been an application to the BSRAD board requesting resort tax money to fund the construction of an events center.

However, that doesn’t mean the district wouldn’t support that type of project.

“We definitely know that the events that happen in Big Sky not only bring a unique cultural perspective and an essence to who the community is but also have an economic impact on the community,” he said.

Sara Blechta, chair of the BSRAD board, noted that important questions need to be answered before resort tax could make a decision on a request of that nature.

“I think having events in Big Sky and having people come here for events is really important to our community and I have major support for getting a community-type event center,” Blechta said. “The question really is, ‘Is it privately funded or is it publicly funded?’” she said.

Thus far, BSRAD has not pulled numbers on the economic impact from specific events from its collections data, but Bierschwale said something like that is in the works.

Much has changed since the first PBR event in 2011 and a flood of visitors is expected to wash through Big Sky for the event this year. The original bleachers have been expanded and upgraded, a vendor village will fill the Wilson Plaza, and live music will follow each of the three nights of riding.

Bulis, who has watched PBR grow over the years from the ragtag arena in 2011 to the 10 days of events that now fill Big Sky’s social calendar, said that thanks to PBR the Town Center has really become the central core of Big Sky and helped the community. She described herself as “not your average PBR fan” emphasizing that the event is one of her favorite ways to gather with family and friends at a community-driven event.

“To me, it’s so much less about the bull riding,” Bulis said “and so much more about the communitywide event and an opportunity to gather.”



This year marks the tenth year of the PBR in Big Sky which has won PBR Event of the Year seven times. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

2021 PBR Music Lineup



Dammit Lauren!

Big Sky-based band Dammit Lauren! is a local favorite, specializing in alternative and psych rock music. The group primarily plays original music and released their debut album “Warning Signs” in the spring of 2019. Dammit Lauren! has played tunes all round southwest Montana and is excited to continue touring the area this summer.



Dirtwire

Dirtwire—a band self-described as “back-porch space cowboy blues, swamp-tropica and electro-twang”—has a unique energy and sound influenced by their global travels. The West Coast band makes use of various instruments ranging from West African kamale ngonis and space fiddles to Rickenbacker electric 12 string guitars.



Matt Miller

Matt Miller is a Montana-based country musician who weaves detailed storylines into his song lyrics. The artist moved from Oklahoma to the mountains in pursuit of outdoor adventures and has found himself involved in Bozeman’s music scene since 2013, often clad in his signature cowboy hat and boots.



Jason Boland & the Stragglers

Led by career musician Jason Boland, the Stragglers have been playing music together for the past 20 years. A proponent of Red Dirt, Texas-style tunes, Boland’s career is represented by a multiplicity of covers done in his own style across his 10 albums. The group is currently embarking on their national Back in the High Life Again Tour, passing through parts of Montana this summer.



Robert Earl Keen

Almost four decades from his debut album, “No Kinda Dancer,” Robert Earl Keen has rounded out his career as a Texas-blooded country musician with 19 records, thousands of shows and a fan following which proudly considers him a living legend. With no end in sight for his touring, Keen will trailblaze his way to the Big Sky PBR to wrap up the event with a classic lineup of tunes that will bring everyone back to the simpler days of sagebrush and a crackling campfire.



Kylie Spence

At 12 years old, Kylie Spence was purchasing her first guitar with money she had saved herself. In 2017, she realized her first single, “Lying Eyes,” and opened for Dennis Loyd on his tour through Europe and Israel. These days the Montana State University student is studying music and expanding her local touring schedule.



David Gautreau

Hailing from Louisiana, David Gautreau developed a passion for songwriting at an early age thanks to the support of his already musical family. He’s devoted to the “true” old style country sound and it helps that he has the lifestyle to match—many of his cowboy songs are inspired by his time among his horses. Gautreau released his third studio album, “Sweeter Than Sugarcane,” in 2020 and will serenade PBR-goers under the Big Sky during Big Sky’s Biggest Week.



Magnolia Boulevard

The members of Magnolia Boulevard—singer Maggie Noelle, guitarist Gregg Erwin, drummer Todd Copeland, keyboardist Ryan Allen and bassist John Roberts—have an unbreakable bond, one that is apparent when you see them on stage. Their music includes elements of blues, soul and rock ‘n’ roll, all carried by Noelle’s powerful vocals. Magnolia Boulevard will perform as a part of Big Sky’s favorite free music concert series, Music in the Mountains following the first night of the Big Sky PBR.

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Robert Earl Keen to play Big Sky PBR finale July 24

BY SARAH GIANELLI

It's not easy to sum up a career, especially that of folk-country legend Robert Earl Keen, but his lyrics "the road goes on forever and the party never ends" comes close. Keen will take the stage on July 24, the final night of the Big Sky PBR, after the last bull bucks.

EBS caught up with Keen in between stops on a tour that never seems to end and asked him about the highlights of his 30-year career, his sentiments about Montana, and the country's public lands.

Explore Big Sky: *You've been performing in Montana for more than 30 years and last played in Big Sky at the 2015 PBR. What changes in the state have you observed over the decades?*

Robert Earl Keen: The changes in Montana are many, however the natural beauty of Montana is second to none.

EBS: *How has your songwriting and sound changed over the 18 albums you've made since your debut with 1984's "No Kinda Dancer?" And how has the music industry changed since then?*

R.E.K.: Like Jesse Winchester said in his song "Rumba Man," "I'm the same ol' guy that I used to be, I haven't changed at all." Music industry? It's the same as Hunter S. Thompson said: "the music business is a cruel and shallow money trench, a long plastic hallway where thieves and pimps run free, and good men die like dogs. There's also a negative side."

EBS: *What has been the most memorable concert of your career and why?*

R.E.K.: My most memorable concert was [in 2017] at the Hurricane Harvey Relief Benefit with George Strait, Lyle Lovett, Chris Stapleton, Miranda Lambert, Mathew McConaughey and me. Great artists, incredible band; that show helped raised over \$70 million for the hurricane victims.

EBS: *With what musician were you most honored to share the stage?*

R.E.K.: My hero, Willie Nelson.

EBS: *Your fanbase runs the gamut of young and old, hipsters and country music lovers. Why do you think your songs appeal to such a spectrum of listeners?*

R.E.K.: Most of my [songs] tell a story in an easy way. People love stories. Also, my singing doesn't intimidate people. Anybody can sing as good as I can.

EBS: *You have a sparse building on your West Texas ranch known as the Scriptorium that is your sanctuary for songwriting and solitude. Why is that environment conducive, even critical, to your creativity?*

R.E.K.: I love the outdoors; helps me think. The scriptorium is a little rock building on our ranch. It's very cozy.



Robert Earl Keen will cap off PBR and Big Sky's Biggest Week when he takes the SAV stage on Saturday July 24 after the final bull ride. PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHLINN GROUP

EBS: *Three years ago, the Wildlands Festival in Bozeman celebrated Montana's wild and open spaces, and a portion of the proceeds benefited three nonprofits that work to protect them. What is your favorite wild and open space? What are your thoughts on the controversy over public lands?*

R.E.K.: I love Big Bend National Park. It's an incredible, wild and open space. Our 26th president, Theodore Roosevelt, was one of our greatest presidents for many reasons, but his expansion of the national park system insured protected lands for all Americans. Lands that everyone could call their own, roam on, and enjoy the majesty of our great country. I believe we, as Americans, should honor his legacy.

EBS: *Is there something you're looking forward to about playing an outdoor venue during a Montana summer? Or something special about performing concerts here?*

R.E.K.: It doesn't matter if I'm performing or sitting in a rockin' chair, there is no better place to be than Montana.

A version of this interview first appeared in EBS July of 2018.

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Moonlight Basin offers one of the most unique mountain living experiences in the West with ski-in access to Big Sky Resort, a trail system through the Lee Metcalf Wilderness and a round of golf with a spectacular view. PHOTO COURTESY OF LONE MOUNTAIN LAND COMPANY

COMMUNITY PARTNER

Everyone who's moved to Big Sky remembers the moment they realized they wanted to live here. For you, maybe it was rounding the corner on Lone Mountain Trail and seeing the mountain for the first time. Or maybe it was your first real powder day, slicing your skis through the fluffy white mounds and wondering what it might be like to do this every day. Maybe it was your first golf match at The Reserve in Moonlight Basin. Or maybe it was a spectacular sunset during your first Big Sky PBR event, surrounded by cheering friends, the electric energy and a beautiful backdrop bringing the town to life.

Whatever that moment of clarity looks like for you, the feeling of home you get from Big Sky is no accident. From Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, Moonlight Basin, Town Center and the Wilson Hotel, Lone Mountain Land Company and their community partners have been devoted to building a vibrant and dynamic future for the community since its conception. By partnering with the industry's best in architecture, construction and hospitality operations, LMLC never fails to meet planning, entitlement, building, marketing and real estate needs up and down the mountain.

"Committing and implementing improvements around the community is and always has been a top priority for LMLC," says Matt Kidd, LMLC's



Since its completion, the Wilson Hotel Plaza has served as a gathering place for live music, the Big Sky Farmers Market and other much-loved community events. PHOTO COURTESY OF LONE MOUNTAIN LAND COMPANY

managing director. "Whether it's to help make living year-round in Big Sky more desirable and attainable through new housing projects and competitive wages, or supporting a diverse group of full-time and seasonal residents through our foundations, we are continually looking to the future of Big Sky and how we can help enhance it for all."

We all come to Big Sky for its grand views and open spaces, eager for our own piece of the untamed southwest Montana lifestyle. LMLC makes this possible for everyone by enhancing the way of living for all. One such project that emulates this mission is Moonlight Basin—possibly one of the most unique mountain living experiences in the West. From ski-in access to Big Sky Resort, connection to a trail system that meanders through the Lee Metcalf Wilderness from your backyard, to a quick drive down to Town Center for community events, Moonlight strives to make the life you've always dreamt of a reality.

"I feel fortunate that I am able to be a part of so many different aspects of our community," says Kevin Germain, VP of Moonlight Basin. "Through serving on a variety of boards, being involved with the bigger picture when it comes to sustainability at Moonlight and beyond, and working for an organization that supports its employees in getting involved with community issues as much as possible, it's quite an honor."

LMLC also knows that lifestyle isn't just about amenities—it's about the faces you see every day and the memories you build with those in your community. From their role in the formation of the Big Sky Relief efforts during the pandemic, to charitable efforts through the Moonlight Community Foundation and Spanish Peaks Community Foundation, they work to elevate the quality of life for those living in the greater Big Sky area.

"I joined LMLC in March of 2020, right when COVID affected our town the most," says Krista Traxler, VP of marketing at LMLC. "It was incredible to see how LMLC worked together with community leaders to create Big Sky Relief and other efforts supporting our residents during such a challenging time. We are fortunate to live in a place where so many leaders, non-profit organizations, and businesses work together for the betterment of a mountain lifestyle that is certainly celebrated by many."

This week, while you're in the stands at Big Sky PBR grabbing a glass of your favorite brew, cheering along with your friends and family and anticipating the moment when Robert Earl Keen walks on stage—remember that the moment is an accumulation of efforts of a group of strong, community partners who care about how the community grows.

Yellowstone Club Community Foundation

SPECIAL ADVERTISEMENT

Strength in partnerships

The Yellowstone Club Community Foundation is no stranger to the strength of partnerships. Since its inception in 2010, the philanthropic organization has awarded over \$14 million throughout the community, addressing critical need in areas from childcare support to scholarships, to testing and vaccine programs during the pandemic. Today, YCCF is now looking with an eye toward the future as they anticipate a public-facing office in the forthcoming BASE Community Center in Town Center. This year, YCCF has:

- Given back over \$4 million dollars to local non-profits.
- Acted as the fiscal sponsor for the Big Sky Relief program.
- Partnered with the Big Sky Community Organization for the All-In BASE campaign.
- Launched the Behavioral Health Coalition and brought on a program health officer.
- Developed a plan for increasing the quality and services of childcare.
- Supported Big Sky Medical Center's efforts, and provided funds for ongoing needs related to the community's growth.

"I think the work the foundation has done in supporting both the All-In BASE campaign and Big Sky Relief really exemplify how when we come together as a community we can do things that we never thought possible," says Ciara Wolfe, YCCF's VP of philanthropy.

YCCF is inspired by the success joining forces with other nonprofit community partners has yielded over the last year. Through Big Sky Relief, residents and employees of the area were able to access COVID-19 tests, a vital element in keeping businesses open and safe, and helped implement the vaccine incentive program once they became available. Now, with the Behavioral Health Coalition in place, we can be sure the long-term wellbeing of Big Sky is being taken care of.

As Big Sky continues to welcome new residents and businesses each year, YCCF will use this successful model of community partnerships to meet need as we grow.



PHOTO BY Yellowstone Club Community Foundation

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SUMMER 2021 LINEUP - BIGSKYPBR.COM

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

WEDNESDAY JULY 14 - SUNDAY, JULY 18

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

FRIDAY, JULY 16

7pm - Big Sky Community Rodeo at the Big Sky Events Arena

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

TUESDAY, JULY 20

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

6pm - Big Sky Bingo Night

9pm - Live Music featuring Dammit Lauren!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21

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

5pm - Farmers Market

THURSDAY, JULY 22

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

2pm - PBR Meet & Greet

4pm - Live Music

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

8:30pm - Music in the Mountains Concert - featuring Magnolia Boulevard

FRIDAY, JULY 23

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

2pm - PBR Meet & Greet

4pm - Live Music

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

Live Music Following Bull Riding - Jason Boland & The Stragglers

SATURDAY, JULY 24

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

2pm - PBR Meet & Greet

4pm - Live Music

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

Live Music Following Bull Riding - Robert Earl Keen

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OUTLAW
EVENTS

**Events and timing subject to change; stay tuned to bigskypbr.com for the most current events schedule*