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# Big Sky

Oct. 8 - 21, 2021  
Volume 12 // Issue #21

**Remembering Big Sky  
legend Sam Wilson**

**Shedhorn Fire  
burns near Big Sky**

*LPHS celebrates homecoming*

*Middle Fork stream restoration begins*

**Nonprofit measures Big Sky's  
carbon emissions**



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# OUTLAW PARTNERS

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## ON THE COVER:

Sam Wilson, a Big Sky legend, passed away on Sept. 17, 2021. Wilson served on Big Sky Ski Patrol, was a member of American Legion Post 99 and was Big Sky's first Dirt Bag King in 1979. PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT FOSTER

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## Remembering Big Sky legend Sam Wilson

Sam Wilson, a third-generation Gallatin Valley resident, was the epitome of a Big Sky legend. Wilson passed away on Sept. 17 at age 79, leaving behind the legacy of one of the town's true greats.

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## Shedhorn Fire burns near Big Sky

The Shedhorn Fire ignited on Sept. 27 south of Big Sky in the Taylor Fork Drainage. As of press time, the fire was burning at 75 acres with 80 percent containment. A new artificial intelligence camera installed atop Lone Mountain was the first to detect smoke from the fire.

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## LPHS celebrates homecoming

The Lone Peak High School Big Horns celebrated homecoming with an action-packed week. Students battled teachers in athletic contests, dressed up for spirit week and rode floats around Town Center for the homecoming parade.

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## Middle Fork stream restoration begins

Gallatin River Task Force began restoring the Middle Fork West Fork Gallatin River which is impaired due to excess sediment loading, nutrients and e-coli. This effort is the first part of a multiphase restoration project that will address three impaired streams in Big Sky and improve local water quality.

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## Nonprofit measures Big Sky's carbon emissions

The Big Sky Sustainability Network Organization recently completed a Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory that established a baseline of data that will help create solutions for Big Sky to reduce its carbon footprint. The next step for SNO will be using the report to draft a Climate Action Plan which will tentatively be announced in the next six months.

## Opening Shot



The JV and varsity volleyball teams wave at spectators and throw candy during the LPHS homecoming parade on Oct. 6. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER

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# The Big Sky Fire Department is recognizing fire prevention awareness during the month of October. How can the Big Sky community be proactive in managing fire risk?



**Seth Nowlin** | *BSFD firefighter/EMT*

"You should ensure that your home and neighborhood have legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. We recommend using reflective or metal materials."



**Travis DuBois** | *BSFD firefighter*

"You need to make sure that in your home you keep pathways like hallways lit with night lights and free of clutter to make sure everyone can get out safely. Plan your escape route that you have talked about beforehand, and at times, practice a home fire drill. It's also important to choose an outside meeting place where if you have to leave your house, you go to. Finally, test your smoke alarms regularly."



**Dan Skilling** | *BSFD firefighter/paramedic*

"We need to become a fire-adaptive community. That means taking actions to reduce your wildfire risks so you can safely accept wildfires as a part of the surrounding landscape—that means limiting trees around your house and making sure that your area has defensible spacing for wildfires."



**Jay Van Voast** | *BSFD firefighter/EMT*

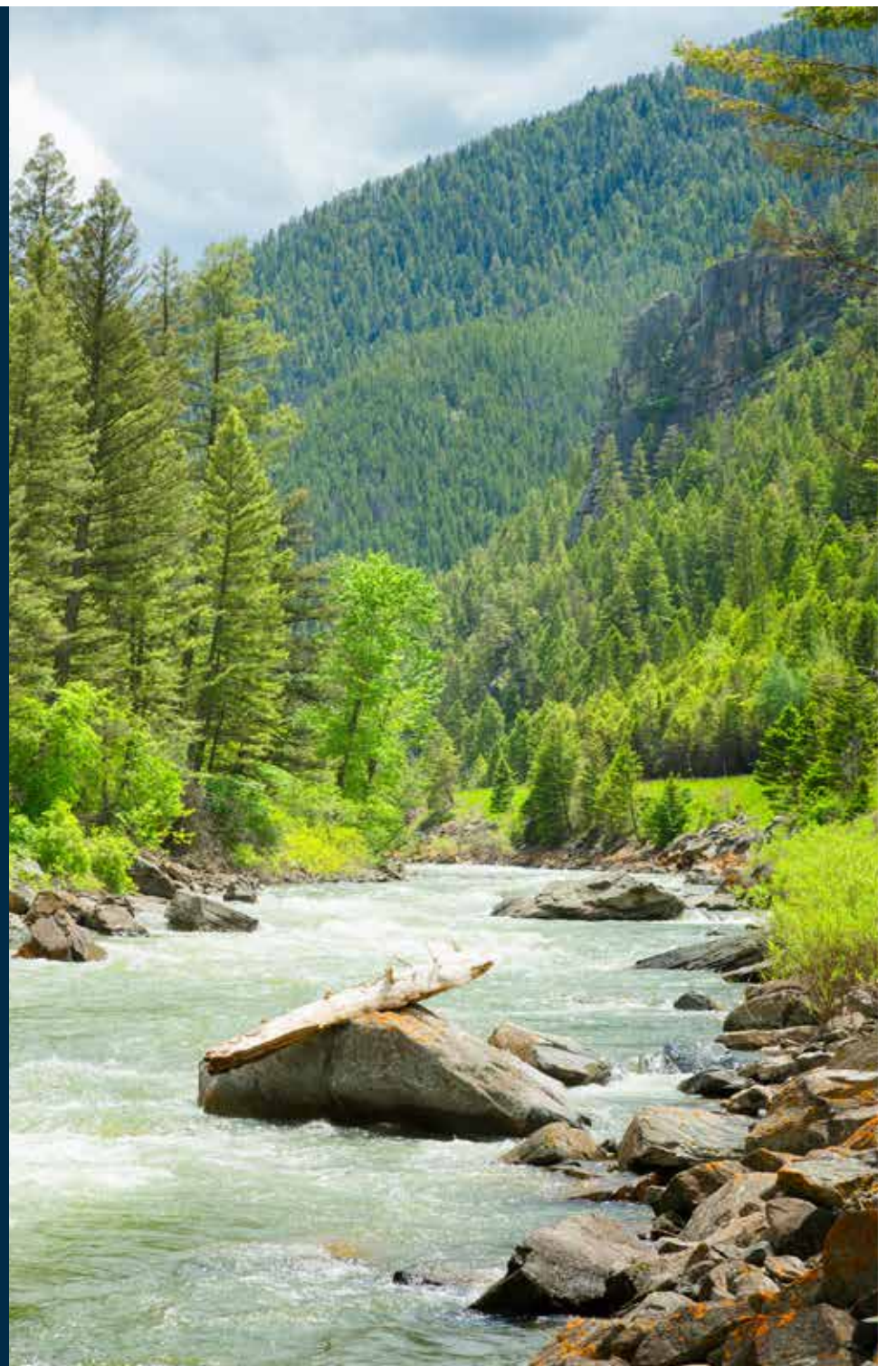
"We need to work together in our neighborhoods to reduce wildfire risk. Create an evacuation plan and know two ways out of your neighborhood. Always evacuate if you feel it's unsafe to stay; don't wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened from any fire or natural event."

## Save Water. Save Money. Save the Gallatin.

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Funding for the Big Sky Water Conservation program provided by



..... SAVE *the* DATE .....

# Big Sky's *inaugural* CommUNITY Forum

**Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>  
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Partner Presentations: 5:30pm - 9:00pm**

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## PRESENTATIONS TO INCLUDE:



- Big Sky Zoning Advisory Committee
- Big Sky Trails, Recreation, & Parks District
- Gallatin Canyon Water & Sewer District
- Gallatin County (Courts Facility Bond)



## October marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month

**EBS STAFF**

In 1985, October was designated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month as an annual campaign to recognize the impacts of breast cancer, help raise money for research and a cure, and to support those battling breast cancer. Supporters proudly don pink ribbons in solidarity and hope.

Money donated to organizations such as the National Breast Cancer Foundation or local campaigns such as Pink Bozeman throughout the month of October supports education, providing community activities and support groups, and funding mammograms.

The American Cancer Society estimates that more than 950 women in Montana will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2021, and recommends women get annual and early screening. Decorating your store front, wearing your favorite shade of pink or donating to research centers are ways to help increase awareness and build the community conversation around breast cancer.

Visit [pinkbozeman.com](http://pinkbozeman.com) to learn how the Bozeman community is recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month through promotions with local restaurants and retail stores, and a full calendar of community programs.

## Stadium lights reviewed by zoning committee

**EBS STAFF**

The Big Sky Zoning Advisory Committee reviewed the Big Sky School District's exemption application for the four lights at the new athletic facility at an Oct. 4 meeting.

Public comments were received during the meeting mainly focused on why public comment was being taken after the lights had been erected.

Montana Code 402 allows public agencies to claim exemptions from zoning laws and stripping local boards of adjustments of the power to take any action. The code was recently revised by new legislation, giving boards power to act on proposed uses previously protected by the exemption, a change which became effective on Oct. 1, 2021.

The new law didn't apply since the district's application was submitted before Oct. 1. The board took no action on the agenda item after a period of public comment.

The district's exemption application will be reviewed at a second hearing scheduled on Oct. 14 by the Gallatin County Planning and Zoning Commission where more public comment will be heard but no action will be taken by the board.

## Big Sky committee recommends county deny Flatiron zoning

**EBS STAFF**

The Big Sky Zoning Advisory Committee met on Oct. 4 to discuss a proposed large-scale development project near the northeastern boundary of Big Sky Resort. The project, known as Flatiron Montana and proposed by Middle Fork Properties LLC, consists of a 1,440-unit development set on nearly 500 acres split between Madison and Gallatin counties.

The five committee members who advise the Gallatin County Planning and Zoning Commission on Big Sky and Gallatin Canyon zoning matters

## Community forum facilitates discussion, engagement

**EBS STAFF**

On the evening of Sept. 30, the Fourth Annual Community Building Forum hosted by the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce gathered key Big Sky stakeholders as well as community members to discuss development and growth in Big Sky.

Between a live and virtual audience, 140 people gathered online and in the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center to hear presentations from representatives from Flatiron Montana; Lone Mountain Land Company; Big Sky Resort; Big Sky County Water and Sewer District; Big Sky Community Housing Trust; Big Sky Resort Area District; and the Big Sky Fire Department.

Several key themes emerged including workforce housing, financial and environmental sustainability and public safety as it relates to wildfires and water. Two Q&A opportunities allowed the public to directly address presenters.

"We had great attendance and so I think that's always a good barometer of how engaged our community is," chamber CEO Brad Niva told EBS after the event. "People are curious about things; they want to know things. Our job is to make sure that the right information is being shared."

*A recording of the event can be found on the chamber's website at [bigskychamber.com](http://bigskychamber.com).*

## Three Yellowstone wolves killed in Montana

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

Yellowstone National Park wolf biologists report that the park's Junction Butte Pack lost three wolves to Montana hunters during the first week of Montana's wolf hunting season, which opened on Sept. 15. The pack lost two female pups and one female yearling, and brought the pack size down to 24 individuals.

For more than a decade, the state of Montana limited the number of wolves taken from Montana wolf management units in Gardiner and Cooke City, which are adjacent to the park's northern boundary. Recent state changes to hunting and trapping have lifted restrictions within these units making the northern range population extremely vulnerable.

Montana has also authorized baiting from private property. More than 33 percent of the boundary Yellowstone shares with Montana is within one mile of private property where baiting is now permissible.

"Yellowstone plays a vital role in Montana's wildlife conservation efforts and its economy. These wolves are part of our balanced ecosystem here and represent one of the special parts of the park that draw visitors from around the globe," said Yellowstone Superintendent Cam Sholly.

unanimously voted to recommend that Gallatin County deny the proposal. Committee members said they leaned heavily on public comment, much of which was provided during the meeting, in making their committee's recommendation. Comments raised concerns from environmental impact and water rights to traffic problems. There were no comments in support of the project.

The Gallatin County Planning and Zoning Commission will meet to consider Middle Fork's application for a Planned Unit Development at an Oct. 14 hearing at 9 a.m. in the Gallatin County Courthouse community room.

# LPHS HOMECOMING 2021

**EBS STAFF**

BIG SKY – Lone Peak High School celebrated its homecoming this year with a full roster of spirited activities. Inside the school, teacher-student sports games and spirit days colored students and staff with pride. The homecoming parade, a pep rally, varsity volleyball, soccer and football games brought the community into the festivities, and students will take part in high school tradition with a homecoming dance.

LPHS homecoming week this year took place on Monday, Oct. 4 through Friday, Oct. 8. Students donned class colors, pajamas, tropical wear, matching outfits, and black throughout the week for spirit days.

On Monday, male students faced off against the teachers in a “macho volleyball” match according to LPHS principal Dr. Marlo Mitchem. The teachers were victorious.

The teachers kept their winning streak going on Tuesday in a mixed-gender soccer match against the students.

The rivalry continued on Wednesday with a Powder Puff football game where the students exacted their revenge on the teachers winning 21-7.

Following the football match was the vibrant homecoming parade which drew a vocal crowd of spectators arranged along the route. Floats included the soccer teams, volleyball teams and football teams as well as the homecoming court and teachers.

“I think the parade was a perfect community event,” Mitchem said. “It was so exciting to see all the kids and the families out celebrating.”

On Friday, Oct. 8, students will gather in the Bough-Dolan Athletic Center for a pep rally ahead of the varsity volleyball match against the Harrison/Willow Creek Wildcats at 5 p.m. Following the showdown on the court, the varsity football team will face off against the Ennis Mustangs at 7 p.m.

The boys and girls soccer teams take the field against the Lockwood Lions on Saturday, Oct. 9. The Lady Big Horns play the Lions on the new athletic field at 3 p.m. and the boys play at 5 p.m.

To cap off the week LPHS students will head to the high school gym for their neon-themed homecoming dance on Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

## LPHS SPORTS

**OCT. 8:**

**Pep Rally @ 2 p.m.**

**Varsity Volleyball Match**

@ Bough-Dolan Athletic Center vs. Harrison/Willow Creek @ 5 p.m.

**Varsity Football Game**

@ New athletic field vs. Ennis @ 7 p.m.

**OCT. 9**

**Girls and Boys Varsity Soccer Games**

@ new athletic field vs. Lockwood @ 3 and 5 p.m.

**OCT 11-16:**

**First Round of Soccer Playoffs**

**OCT. 15**

**Varsity Volleyball Match**

@ Bough-Dolan Athletic Center vs. White Sulphur Springs (Senior Night) @ 5 p.m.

**OCT. 16**

**JV and Varsity Football Games**

vs. Twin Bridges @ 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

**OCT. 20**

**JV and Varsity Volleyball**

@ West Yellowstone @ 5 and 6:30 p.m.



Kids from the Big Sky Futbol Club show off their handmade signs at the beginning of the homecoming parade. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER



From left to right, seniors Cassidy Boersma, Carly Wilson, Luke Kirchmayr and John Chadwell show off their pink outfits worn as part of the class colors spirit day. PHOTO BY MARLO MITCHEM



The teachers show their Big Horn spirit on their homecoming float. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER



Athletic Director John Hannahs sends the ball over the net in the teacher versus student volleyball game on Oct. 4. PHOTO BY DJ SOIKKELI



Both boys and girls soccer teams ride in the back of an army truck driven by the boys Assistant Coach Jeremy Harder with Head Coach Tony Coppola and girls Head Coach Jaci Sand in the front. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER

# Shedhorn Fire ignites in Taylor Fork drainage

BY BELLA BUTLER AND JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR

**BIG SKY** – A wildland fire ignited in the Taylor Fork drainage south of Big Sky on Sept. 27 sending a plume of gray smoke into a clear blue sky.

The Big Sky Fire Department responded to a report of smoke in the area at approximately 4 p.m. before transferring incident command to the U.S. Forest Service once it was clear that the fire was burning on forest service land.

As of EBS press time, the Shedhorn Fire was burning at 75 acres with 80 percent containment in the Upper Tumbledown Creek area of the Taylor Fork drainage. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation, according to Forest Service officials.

Aircraft were critical in containing the fire, but for the first two days crews were on scene, officials were forced to call off flights that were providing water drops and mapping, both crucial in the early days of a wildfire, according to Jay Fassett, Shedhorn incident commander.

“When they fly, we can’t,” Fassett said. “Everything goes away, in the middle of whatever they’re doing. The helicopters went back to Ennis, the air attack went back to Bozeman.” Drones pose a serious threat to air operations and can take aircraft out “like a bird strike.”

“If we can’t use aircraft, obviously it becomes harder because there are lots of snags in the area and there’s just areas [where] we’re not going to put people for safety,” Fassett added.

With air operations on hold, 41 firefighters were left to work the fire from the ground on Sept. 28. The following day, two 20-person hand crews arrived to support suppression efforts.

“The first day it started, the fire would have been out if it wasn’t for that drone,” said Big Sky Fire Department Deputy Fire Chief Seth Barker at a Sept. 29 press event.

Fire personnel peaked at approximately 80 people in the first week but decreased once the fire was partially contained on Oct. 2. Within the first few days, crews included Forest Service hand crews and smoke jumpers along with Big Sky Fire Department crews.

Resources are tough to come by in fall and especially given the 2021 fire season, Fassett said. Usually, fire seasons rotate throughout the regions in the



Fire crews walk into the Taylor Fork drainage to battle the blaze. PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE

West, but the especially hot and dry conditions this year torched that pattern as fires burned millions of acres across the West since June. Wildfires like the million-acre Dixie Fire in northern California deplete critical national resources, Fassett said.

Tory Kendrick, manager of the smokejumper base in Missoula, said staffing fires is also a challenge later in a fire season. “They just don’t have many people and there aren’t a lot of firefighters this time of year,” he said. “A lot of the students have gone back to school.”

The fire is primarily burning in subalpine fire, which made it an especially spotty and “dirty” fire, according to Fassett.

“When they torch, they throw thousands of spots,” he said.

Weather both aided and battled fire crews, with high winds early on but also cool, wet conditions some days.

The Forest Service on Sept. 30 implemented an area closure for the western part of Taylor Fork that lasted through Oct. 1.

Officials reported on Oct. 2 that more than 190,000 gallons of water had been dumped on the fire from the air in a matter of days. Helicopters pulled water from nearby sources to combat the spread of aquatic invasive species.



Smoke from the Shedhorn Fire is visible in the Upper Tumbledown Creek area of the Taylor Fork drainage. PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE





The newly-installed AI camera on Lone Mountain detects smoke from the Shedhorn Fire on Sept. 27. PHOTO COURTESY OF PANO AI

## Smoke-detecting AI camera installed on Lone Mountain

### New technology detects Shedhorn Fire

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY – Under hazy skies on Sept. 27, a new artificial intelligence camera perched atop Lone Mountain detected a plume of smoke rising from a drainage 13 miles away. The camera had been installed in early September as part of pilot program to test its ability to detect wildland fires in the Big Sky area. Unexpectedly, it launched into action when a fire ignited in Big Sky on Sept. 27.

After receiving a 911 alert as well as a notification from Pano AI, the company that brought the AI camera to Big Sky, the Big Sky Fire Department responded to what would soon be named the Shedhorn Fire in the Taylor Fork drainage south of Big Sky. Even after detection, the fire department continued to use the Pano AI camera to monitor its activity.

“We use artificial intelligence to detect smoke as quickly as we can see it,” said Arvind Satyam, Pano AI’s chief commercial officer at a press event this afternoon. “Over the course of Monday and the last two days, we were able to demonstrate this technology.”

Once the AI camera picks up smoke, it sends an alert back to a 24/7 Pano AI intelligence center, where real people analyze the data, determine if it’s a fire incident, and notify the fire department.

“It was really integral as we were down there trying to get a better location on this fire,” said BSFD Deputy Fire Chief Dustin Tetrault of the Shedhorn Fire response. Because video can also be reviewed retroactively, he added, this could be a potential tool for investigating the cause of fires.

Pano AI launched 14 months ago inspired by the spike in major fires around the world in recent years. As part of their pilot program, the company has more than 20 camera stations across Colorado, California, Oregon and now Montana. While the Lone Mountain camera is the only Pano AI camera in the Treasure State, both Pano AI and BSFD expressed interest in expanding to other locations.

According to Satyam, several factors went into choosing sites for the pilot. “Each of these locations were areas which we’ve identified as high fire-risk areas,” he said, “but also ones that are innovative fire districts and innovative communities that wanted to be on the front end to go test this capability out.”

Funding partners for the camera include BSFD along with Big Sky Resort, Spanish Peaks and Moonlight Basin.

“It’s always fun to partner with the community and there’s a long history in Big Sky of doing that,” said Big Sky Resort CEO Taylor Middleton. “So, when the fire department calls, we’re all in.”

Having additional cameras installed atop nearby vantage points would create a more robust view and help pinpoint more exact incident locations, according to Satyam. In Big Sky, this will require more funding.

“We need more cameras so we can triangulate,” Middleton said. “The beauty of Lone Peak is you can see so much. The bad thing about Lone Peak is you can’t see Lone Peak. So, we need more cameras.”

The cameras themselves are also in a perpetual state of evolution or cumulative “deep learning,” as Satyam puts it, from each incident detection and 360-degree spin.

“We’re training our AI model based on 350 million historic data sets,” Satyam said. “In addition to that, we’re constantly learning with all of our stations that are deployed across the four states.”

Because it’s late in the fire season, Tetrault said the fire department will use open burn season to test the camera further. “We’re really excited about getting this technology up here,” he said.

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# A 'true legend'

## Remembering the life of Sam Wilson

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY – It's hard for folks to say exactly when the "old Big Sky" became "the new Big Sky." So much has changed, but in local barroom anecdotes, a few consistencies emerge: the people, places and circumstances that were the good ol' days.

At the center of that Big Sky of yore is a group of legends, defined by one old timer as the "people that really made this place a great place to live."

One of those undisputed legends was born-and-raised Montanan Sam Wilson, who passed away on Sept. 17 at age 79.

Sammy, as he was fondly known, had roots that ran deeper than his own renown. His grandparents, Sam and Josie Wilson, homesteaded the Buffalo Horn Ranch in 1899, later to become the 320 Ranch. He himself was a third-generation Gallatin Valley resident and his son, Clinton, was the fourth.

"Sam was definitely one of those guys that was full-blood Montanan," said Kevin Kelleher, another Big Sky legend and longtime friend of Sam's. Perhaps more than a full-blood Montanan, Sam was full-blood Big Sky.

Sam Wilson is, among many other things, remembered as a skier. After growing up skiing at Bridger Bowl in Bozeman, Sam began working for Lone Mountain Sports at Big Sky Resort the year it opened in 1974.

When Sam's friends talk about his skiing, they get a dreamy look in their eyes as if falling into a blissful memory.

"He was just elegant in his skiing," said "Queen" Jean Palmer, 1999 Dirtbag Queen.

In 1979, Sam embarked on what would become a storied adventure. He and a group of fellow Big Sky legends—simply young "dirtbags" at the time, as some of them now recall—planned to summit Lone Mountain. Their exploit predated the Lone Peak Tram by 16 years, when there was no free ride to the summit.

The journey at the time, according to Kelleher's tale published in a 1996 edition of the Lone Peak Lookout newspaper, began with a ride up the old Gondola in an early car with ski patrol and then one more ride up the Triple Chair. The hike began at the top of The Bowl.

"Now Sam Wilson is one of those laid-back native Montanans who usually avoids any type of uphill hike like the plague," Kelleher wrote. But to the crew's surprise, he wanted to tag along.

At the summit, the crew had a picnic and drank "Southern Comfort on the South Face," the article read.

"Sam Wilson is one of those careful and precise type of skiers," Kelleher wrote. "He didn't tip over often and he didn't ski real fast either, but on this crusty snow, he turned something loose on that day in 1979." Kelleher goes on to describe Sam ripping down Lenin on the south face of the peak: fast, furious and unexpected.

Chris Nash, who hiked the peak often back in those days before the tram, remembers that run distinctly.

"He stomped it," Nash said. "He definitely skied it up good."

Kelleher wrote that after South Face Sam's legendary run, he and Sam looked back at the face to see the line they'd left on the mountain. He asked Sam what had gotten into him on that run.

"Southern Comfort," Sam told him, chuckling.

Sam's performance that day earned him a nickname that is used even in his somber absence: South Face Sam.

During a memorial for Sam at the Riverhouse bar on Sept. 30, the restaurant and deck were packed with his friends, old and young from near and far, shoulder-to-shoulder recounting stories of South Face Sam.

They told tales in a roundabout way, sneaking three more memories into each one. They're the kind of friends that've been around so long nobody remembers exactly how and when they met Sam, but they sure remember plenty else.

Jerry Pape tells me about a memory he says epitomizes Sam. When Sam was working at Lone Mountain Sports, maybe 40 years ago Pape supposes, a man from Minnesota brought in a pair of bindings, brand new but not so nice.



Sam Wilson opens a can of chew. PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT FOSTER



A horde of Sam Wilson's friends and family gather at the Riverhouse on Sept. 30 for a celebration of his life. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

"He came to Sam and said, 'They seem to be broken' ... and Sam said 'I can fix that right away,'" Pape said. Sam took the bindings over to the trash can and threw them in. "He came back and he said, 'Now go buy yourself a good pair of bindings.'" Pape said he can't remember if the man ever did buy new bindings or whether he fished out the old ones from the garbage.

"Sam was one of these kind of guys that told it the way he saw it," Pape said. Several other people remembered Sam this way, too.

He was straight up, but also generous, and a good friend. Pam Flach, co-owner of BYWOM restaurant, one of Sam's regular spots, said Sam always made sure her kids and their friends had skis.

Sam used to spend summers in the 80s commercial fishing for salmon in Alaska. On one trip, Harry Ring, former LMS owner and college friend of Sam's from Montana State University, had been partying for days leading up to the season opener.

"I woke up on my boat, alone," Ring said. "No Sam." He came ashore to find Sam, who refused to get back on the boat unless Ring agreed to stop drinking. "Anything," Ring told Sam, sick and desperate for his deckmate. "I haven't had a drink since."

Perhaps one of Sam's most famous identities is that of the first Dirtbag King, which he was awarded in 1979. Dirtbag in Big Sky has been somewhat of a reclaimed word for decades, honored through the annual Dirtbag Ball and crowning each winter of the Dirtbag King and Queen.

It's not just a title; it comes with responsibility. "They still carry on the traditions that we started back then," Nash said. "Ski as much as you can, party as much as you can, work somewhere there in between."

Queen Jean wouldn't earn her crown for another 20 years, but she remembers Sam's year on the throne. "He was a good old king, let me tell you," she said. "He just skied his heart out."

More than in skiing circles, Sam was embedded into so many facets of the Big Sky community. A former Marine helicopter crewman and Vietnam veteran, Sam was a member of the local American Legion Post 99. He worked for the Big Sky Ski Patrol, and could often be seen walking and jogging around town, eating a BYWOM burger or grabbing his morning coffee at the Hungry Moose.

At the Riverhouse during Sam's celebration of life, people from all parts of his world toasted to their old friend, some clinking PBRs, Sam's favorite. Sam Wilson's spirit was vibrant in the shared memories, memorialized in the exchange of stories the same way that old Big Sky is honored.

Though Sam's usual seat in the corner of BYWOM will be filled by new patrons, he's left an unforgettable mark on Big Sky, like a ski line on the south face of Lone Mountain.

"He is one of the true legends here in Big Sky," Nash said.

# OUTLAW™

News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

## Tucker Harris bolsters Outlaw Editorial Department

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

Explore Big Sky welcomes Digital Producer Tucker Harris to the Editorial Department.

Harris interned for Outlaw Partners for three summers starting in 2017. During her time as an intern, Harris dipped her toes into all parts of the company working in the company's Editorial, Events and Marketing departments.

After graduating from the University of Virginia with a major in media studies and a minor in English, Harris joined Outlaw full-time as the executive coordinator while also providing her skillset to Outlaw's Marketing and Events departments in 2021.

A Richmond, Virginia native, Harris enjoys the various outdoor recreation opportunities that Montana offers including hiking, fly fishing with her uncle and playing non-competitive disc golf. In the winter, she enjoys snowshoeing and skiing.

"I'm excited to be able to dive more into the Explore Big Sky and editorial world," Harris said. "I've worked in all different parts of the company, but being able to focus on stories I'm passionate about and share that with the community is what I'm excited to bring to the team."

As the digital producer, Harris will advance Explore Big Sky's digital-first model, manage Explore Big Sky social media, compose the daily Town Crier newsletter and report for the Arts & Entertainment section.

Tucker Harris can be reached at [Tucker@theoutlawpartners.com](mailto:Tucker@theoutlawpartners.com)



Tucker Harris enjoys fly-fishing with her uncle, whitewater rafting and hiking with her newly adopted puppy Bert. PHOTO COURTESY OF TUCKER HARRIS



Mira Brody enjoys trail running and backcountry skiing with her dog Sierra. PHOTO COURTESY OF MIRA BRODY

## Mira Brody brings diverse experience to Outlaw Marketing department

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

The Outlaw Partners Marketing Department welcomes Mira Brody as the new content marketing strategist.

Originally from a Sonoma suburb in California, Brody appreciates the change of pace that Montana offers her. She enjoys skiing and trail running in the mountains with her cattle dog, Sierra, and of course sipping on cold, Montana brews.

Formerly with Outlaw's Editorial Department, Brody brings a valuable background in journalism and copywriting to the Marketing Department and its clients. Brody graduated with a bachelor's degree in English from California State University, Chico. Before joining Outlaw in 2020, Brody worked in the tech industry, helping clients with branding and copywriting services as well as project management and content strategy.

"I'm looking forward to growing Outlaw's digital reach," Brody said. "We offer so much to the Big Sky community—from events and client marketing services, to an independently owned news source."

In her new role, Brody will focus on building Outlaw's social media presence, working with clients to cultivate informative articles about their products and services, collaborating with Outlaw's design and production teams on specialized branding projects and managing and growing VIEWS. Big Sky magazine.

Mira Brody can be reached at [Mira@theoutlawpartners.com](mailto:Mira@theoutlawpartners.com)



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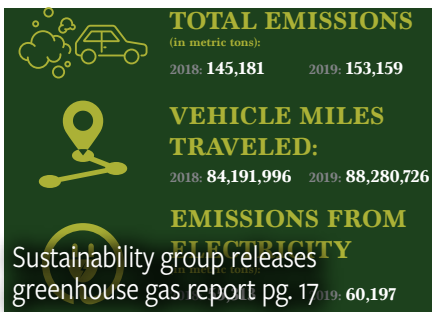
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## SECTION 2:

SPORTS AND  
ENVIRONMENT &  
OUTDOORS

## LPHS SPORTS

## The Big Horns fall to Falcons, sweep Panthers

BY BELLA BUTLER AND GABRIELLE GASSER

BIG SKY – With more than half the regular season under their belt, the Lone Peak High School Big Horns varsity volleyball team found both triumph and defeat on their home court in recent matches. The Big Horns lost to the Twin Bridges Falcons in three games followed by a decisive win in their next home game against the Sheridan Panthers on Oct. 1, bringing the young team's conference wins up to three total.

In their first game against the Falcons both teams struggled to settle into a rhythm right off the bat, but LPHS' front row showed up for a handful of big plays early on.

LPHS middle blocker TJ Nordahl showed maturity as the team's sole senior with a handful of well-placed tips that kept the team's composure into the middle of the first game.

The Falcons answered the Big Horns big front row presence by finding the defensive holes on the Big Horns side of the court. The Falcons front row, though less powerful than the Big Horns, found an uncovered spot in the Big Horns back row throughout the night that junior libero Jessie Bough had a hard time reaching.

"The balls that were difficult for Jessie to get to were because they were either going through or around the block," said LPHS Head Coach Ellen Wolferman. "Twin Bridges was a good team with that. They really knew how to move the sets and just put it where we weren't."

Junior left side hitter Maddie Cone and junior setter Emily Graham paired up to send heat across the net, besting the Falcons' shorter block for several kills and constantly adjusted to the Falcon's defense.

In a tight ending, the Big Horns lost the first game 28-26.

The Big Horns came out with low energy in the second game but continued to fight back, reeling themselves in toward the Falcons' lead but never getting ahead. After the Big Horns tied the game at 11-11, the Falcons pulled away, winning the second game 25-14.

Unable to adjust to cover all their defensive holes and bring themselves out of their mental slump, the Big Horns struggled to gain momentum in the third game, playing below their potential and playing more conservatively. They kept up with the Falcons until about midway through the game before the Falcons swept the whole match with a 25-18 third-game finish.

After a tough loss to the Falcons, the Big Horns set a new tone against the Panthers on Oct. 1, logging a banner performance by sweeping both JV and varsity matches in three games.

The JV squad bested the Panthers scoring 25-17, 25-16 and 15-10. During the JV match, sophomore Dylan Klein led in aces and kills, while freshman Sadie Nordahl added impressive serving.

The three varsity games held high-energy and big momentum swings as both the Big Horns and Panthers built leads based on serving streaks.

Out of the gate, Lone Peak struggled to pull ahead of Sheridan and both teams traded point-for-point over the first nine volleys. Cone contributed 12 points throughout the evening with solid hitting and well-placed serves. Sophomore middle blocker Ella Meredith assisted with four blocks at the net and six kills to contribute to the Big Horns' lead.

After intense volleys that Lone Peak won with a backrow attack, Bough built the Big Horns a significant lead with consistent serves causing the Panthers to call a timeout at 20-12. After the break, junior defensive specialist Haley Houghteling added an ace before Cone capped the match with a decisive ace of her own giving the Big Horns a 25-15 victory.

The second game featured a similar struggle for momentum as the Big Horns and Panthers traded points. Houghteling used a tricky short serve to gain points for Lone Peak while Cone continued serving aces. Down 13-5, the Panthers called a timeout to ice the server and halt the Big Horns' momentum.

After Sheridan went on a brief serving streak, a dig by Bough turned the tide followed by an ace to bring Lone Peak's lead to 19-12.

Energy in the Bough-Dolan Athletic Center reached a fever pitch when Cone added a kill and closed the game with devastating serves to get the Big Horns a 25-15 win.

In the third and final game, the Panthers led early and the Big Horns struggled to mount an attack. Lone Peak serving errors gave Sheridan a chance to build an 11-7 lead.

Sophomore left side hitter Vera Grabow stepped up with strong serves giving Lone Peak the lead, 18-16, and a huge kill by Cone led to a Sheridan timeout.

Grabow continued serving after the timeout ultimately logging a 12-point serving streak that ended with the Big Horns sitting at 24 points needing just one more for the win.

The Panthers fought back late in the third game but ultimately the Big Horns would bag the victory with a final score of 25-21.

Nordahl remained a dominant presence at the net throughout the night attacking, blocking and tipping to keep the Panthers on their toes. Big Horns Assistant Coach Bailey Dowd said that the team had worked on controlling hitting errors all week in practice. In their games against Sheridan, Lone Peak kept their hitting errors under six total between all four hitters across all three games.

"We were really focused on goals this game," Wolferman said. "We haven't done that as much as in the previous games ... and I felt like it really made a difference because they all collectively were playing together and working toward those common goals."

This teamwork was apparent as the girls continuously lifted each other up on the court.

"It was one of the more fun games we've been able to coach," Dowd said. "Just getting to watch them succeed and cheer each other on."

*The Big Horn's record as of print time is 3-5. Lone Peak will play the Panthers again in Sheridan on Oct. 7 and will face off against Harrison/Willow Creek on Oct. 8 for their homecoming matchup.*



The BigHorns celebrate a great play by sophomore Ella Meredith (11). PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER

# Big Horns battle Rams in soccer showdown

BY DAN KELLY  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – The Lone Peak Big Horns boy’s and girl’s soccer teams hosted the Billings Central Rams at the Big Sky Community Park soccer fields on Saturday, Oct. 2.

Both LPHS teams fell to the Rams in hard fought games. The fans were all smiles on a picture-perfect fall day in Big Sky as the Big Horns and Rams went head-to-head in an afternoon full of exciting play by both schools.

The Lady Big Horns were up to the task in the first half, with a goal scored by senior midfielder Campbell Johnson in the 38th minute. Junior goalie Josie Wilcynski made a superb save to keep the game close in the final seconds of the first half.

Due to in-game injuries, the Lady Big Horns had as few as nine players on the field at one point with no subs able to come in off the bench.

As the game wore on, the Lady Bighorns were beset on all sides by injuries and eventually succumbed to the unrelenting attack from the Lady Rams offense. To their credit, they fought hard and continued to distribute the ball well throughout the game despite having less than the normal eleven players on the field. When the final whistle blew, the Lady Big Horns had lost 5-1.



Midfielder Myla Hoover dribbles past an opposing defender as her teammates join the attack. PHOTO BY DAN KELLY



Forward Trygve Wikan turns the ball upfield against Billings Central on Saturday. PHOTO BY DAN KELLY

“I am proud of the grit and compassion the boys showed on the field today,” said boy’s Head Coach Tony Coppola. “We will work on finding the net for our next match.”

Defensively, Lone Peak was tenacious in pursuing 50/50 balls and closed well on the ball in space, making numerous open field tackles to prevent breakaways. Facing a fast and furious attack from the Rams, the Big Horns back line did well to repel numerous attacks throughout the game.

Shortly into the second half, in what can only be described as a freak goal, Rams goalkeeper Myles Ragar sent a freekick from behind half field soaring into the back of the Big Horns net. Despite this demoralizing goal, Lone Peak continued to battle hard throughout the second half and had several promising opportunities on offense which unfortunately did not find the back of the net. At the game’s end, the score stood 2-0 in favor of Billings Central.

The Big Horns record is now 4-5-1.

Both Big Horn teams left it all on the field on Saturday and returned to action for Senior Night on Thursday, Oct. 7 followed by their Homecoming matchup against Lockwood on Oct. 9.

Earlier in the season Billings Central beat Lone Peak 10-0, so this game was a step in the right direction for the Lady Big Horns.

“Even though we lost, we played our best game of the season and kept the number one team from a shutout,” Johnson said after the game.

The Lady Big Horns record is now 2-8 for the season.

As the team sat watching the boy’s game, morale was high with players laughing and talking amongst themselves on a beautiful Saturday afternoon in Big Sky.

A Big Horns player displayed a resplendent American flag while the starters were announced for each team and the players wished each other good luck before the game. Once the game began, such niceties were done away with in what proved to be a fast and physical matchup between two hard-charging opponents.

Billings Central struck first after an unlucky deflection sent the ball hurtling past sophomore goalkeeper Sawyer Wolfe in the 15th minute. He would soon after make an excellent save to keep the score 1-0 on a freekick from inside the box which found all eleven Big Horn players packed into the goal in an effort to stymie the Rams attempt.

The Big Horns bounced back and displayed efficient and accurate passing throughout the first half, moving the ball well into opposing territory even as quality goal scoring opportunities failed to materialize.

## Big Horns beat Huskies



The LPHS Big Horns and the Ophir Miners football teams traveled to Absarokee on Oct. 1 to battle the Huskies.

The Miners won 28-0 against the Huskies.

The Big Horns logged their first victory since the 2019 season beating Absarokee 60-18. Touchdowns were scored by senior Issac Singer, junior Pierce Farr, sophomores George Helms, Juliusz Shipman, David Perdue and freshman Bridger Flores.

“It was great performance on all sides of the ball by the team,” said head coach James Miranda. “We are looking forward to our next game on the turf versus Ennis next Friday night.” PHOTO COURTESY OF AL MALINOWSKI



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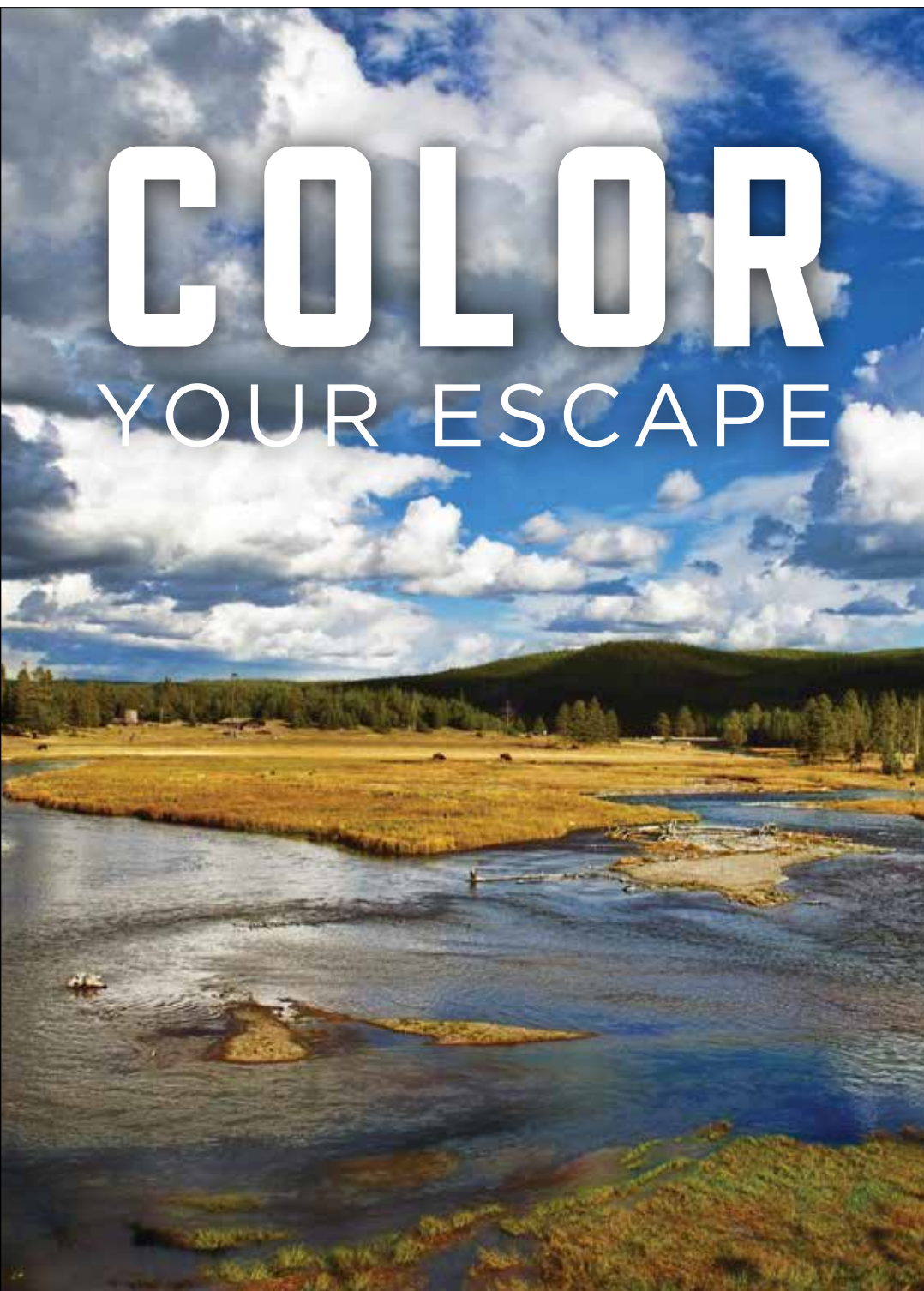
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# Sustainability group releases greenhouse gas report

## Nonprofit SNO looks to reduce Big Sky’s carbon footprint

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

BIG SKY – A local sustainability nonprofit recently completed a study looking at the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions in the area.

The Big Sky Sustainability Network Organization in September finished its Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory, a report that quantifies carbon emissions in Big Sky and creates a baseline of data to be used to come up with solutions to reduce its carbon footprint.

The report was conducted by SNO board member Patrick Miller, who started in 2020 and analyzed data provided by NorthWestern Energy from 2018 and 2019.

“You really can’t attack a problem until you know what the problem is, and you can quantify it,” said Miller, an energy consultant.

SNO is a nonprofit organization that began in 2020, born out of a series of community conversations in 2019 regarding sustainability in Big Sky. The goal, says SNO Community Engagement Director Lizzie Peyton, is simple: engage the Big Sky community in identifying and solving local sustainability issues.

Peyton has been encouraging community members to sign up for SNO’s stewardship program and emphasizing that the group aims to be a resource for the whole community.

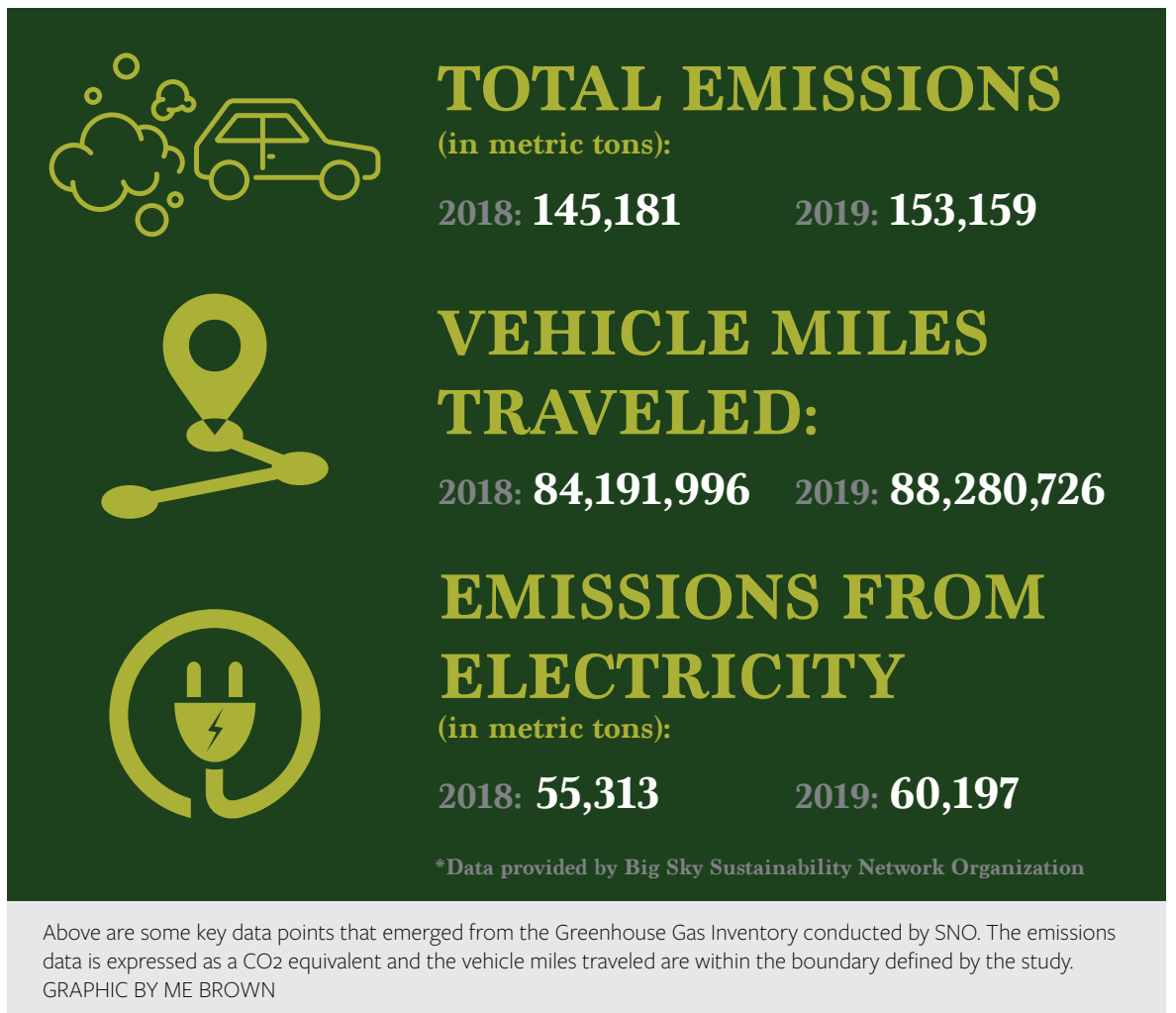
With the greenhouse gas study in hand, SNO now has a good baseline of data that will inform projects and plans moving forward, according to Miller.

From 2018 to 2019, the report identified a 5.5 percent increase in total emissions in Big Sky. The largest contributors to Big Sky emissions are “residential energy,” which is divided into electricity and liquid propane gas, and “transportation and mobile sources” including gasoline and diesel.

A major takeaway, according to the report, is that electricity is one of Big Sky’s largest and fastest growing sources of emissions. In 2019, emissions from electricity accounted for 39 percent of Big Sky’s greenhouse gas emissions, and electricity from NorthWestern Energy is the fastest growing emissions source at nearly 9 percent from 2018 to 2019.

The study reports that electricity refers to an indirect emission based on energy generated by NorthWestern Energy and purchased by Big Sky residents. NorthWestern provides energy across the state of Montana and, in addition to traditional sources of energy including coal and natural gas, also utilizes clean energy sources such as wind, hydroelectric facilities and solar.

“About 60 percent of the energy that we provide our customers is clean energy,” said NorthWestern Energy Manager of Sustainability John Bushnell.



The company utilizes energy conservation programs in place like its E+ Green program, which offers customers the chance to pay an extra \$1.25 a month to help reduce their carbon footprint by adding 100 kilowatt-hours of renewable benefits of wind, solar and biomass.

“We’re working closely with our communities to have a program that works for us and works for them,” Bushnell said.

Marne Hayes, treasurer of SNO, says that the report has bigger implications than just painting a static picture of Big Sky’s footprint or emissions.

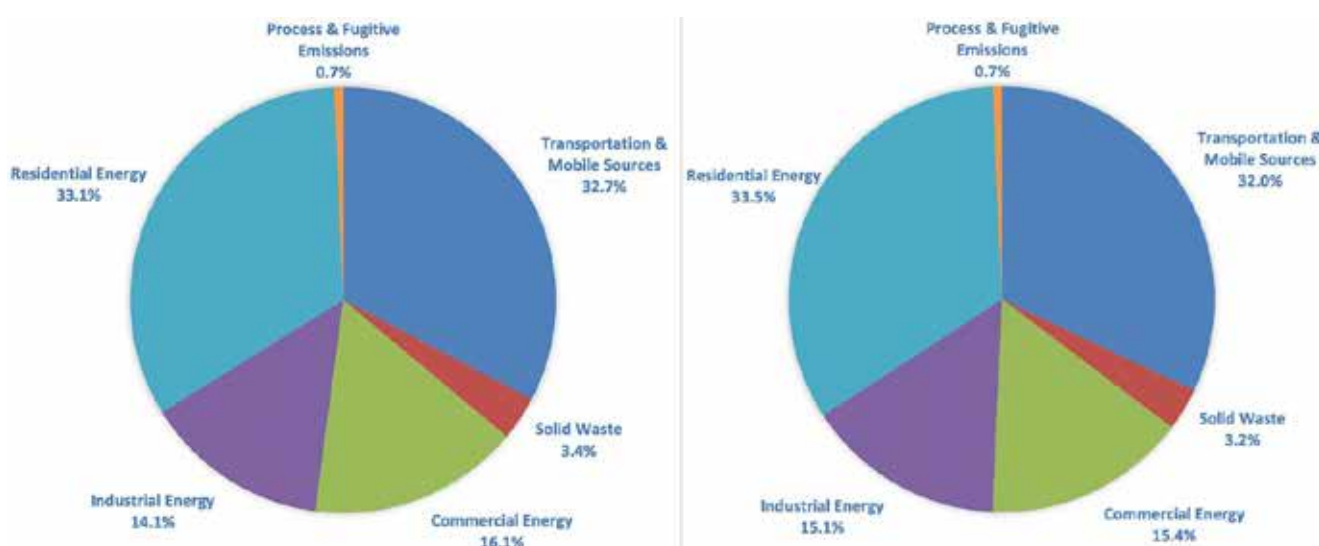
“Tied up in that big picture term ‘climate change’ are many things, but for Big Sky, those are projects focused on energy, transportation and carbon emissions from both of these sources,” she wrote in an email to EBS.

The next step for SNO will be drafting a Climate Action Plan that a subcommittee is currently working on which will tentatively be announced in the next six months.

“We all think that it’s going to need community involvement,” Miller said. “We’ve got to bring enthusiastic people who really believe in this idea into our group to work on the plan so I think it’s going to grow.”

In addition to drafting the Climate Action Plan, SNO aims to establish an emission reduction target with an ultimate goal of net zero emissions for Big Sky. Peyton noted that while emissions will always exist in Big Sky to some degree, the community can reduce them and look into purchasing carbon offset credits, similar to the program at Big Sky Resort.

“It’s not like it’s going to happen overnight,” Peyton said. “It’s a practice you have to wake up every day and make an intentional change, and so that’s why we’re here ... We want to be a resource.”



Above is a breakdown of emissions in Big Sky based on 2018 data and on the right is the breakdown based on 2019 data. GRAPHS COURTESY OF BIG SKY SNO



Channelization of the Middle Fork below Lake Levinsky. PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF DUNN

## Stream restoration set to begin in Big Sky

BY DAVID TUCKER  
GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

Three streams in Big Sky fail to meet state standards for water quality, but the Gallatin River Task Force plans to change that.

On Oct. 5, restoration began on the Middle Fork West Fork Gallatin River, just downstream of the Lake Levinsky outlet adjacent to Big Sky Resort. The Middle Fork is impaired due to excess sediment loading, nutrients and e-coli, and restoration efforts led by GRTF will help improve water quality while slowing the flow of water through our headwaters community.

“As a community, we’ve identified sustainability and water conservation as key objectives,” said Emily O’Connor, conservation director for GRTF. “This project is another step in the right direction. We hope it serves as an example of how to live in Big Sky with ecological integrity in mind.”

The effort represents part one of a multiphase restoration of the Middle Fork, and project partners will be installing beaver-dam analogs and other natural features to better replicate how water would flow through a landscape uninterrupted by human development. The features serve two purposes: to add an additional layer of filtration and to keep water from rapidly running off downstream.

To address sediment and alterations to streamside vegetation, bioengineering techniques will be used to restore a natural meandering riffle-pool sequence with increased floodplain connectivity, including wetland creation and natural water-storage features.

With funding from the Big Sky Resort Area District, the Moonlight Community Foundation and the Montana Watershed Coordination Council, the Middle Fork project is a collaborative effort toward shared community goals.

“The Middle Fork stream restoration project will enhance habitat, mitigate drought conditions and improve healthy water resources in Big Sky,” said Amy Trad, Big Sky Resort’s sustainability specialist. “Our collaborative effort with the Gallatin River Task Force on rehabilitation is an important part of preserving our ecosystem, one of the core principles of the ForeverProject, the resort’s long-term roadmap for sustainability.”

Decades ago, channelization of the creek below the Lake Levinsky outlet created the unfavorable conditions that exist today, but this isn’t the only place where stream conditions have been altered.

“This stretch of the Middle Fork will serve as a case study,” said Kristin Gardner, GRTF’s chief executive and science officer. “We’re excited to share the results with community members throughout Big Sky and take steps to restore riparian habitat and floodplain connections along other streams, as well.”



Aerial imagery from 1971 shows the natural, meandering path of the Middle Fork pre-dam. PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF DUNN

Along with the Middle Fork, the South Fork West Fork Gallatin River and the main West Fork Gallatin River are also impaired. Similar projects along these waterways could go a long way toward keeping the main stem Gallatin River from reaching the point of impairment, a fate that has yet to befall our backyard blue-ribbon stream.

“With the variety of threats facing the Gallatin, from climate change to high recreation pressure, we need to use every tool in the toolbox,” Gardner said. “By focusing our efforts on this impaired stream, we can strategically repair damage done while creating resiliency for an uncertain future.”

Everyone who visits and lives in the Upper Gallatin Watershed has a role to play in watershed stewardship. While restoration efforts are an important piece of the puzzle, we need everyone to pitch in to allow our waterways to meet water quality standards. Developers can utilize low-impact development techniques, residents can limit their use of pesticides and herbicides, visitors can practice leave-no-trace ethics and everyone can conserve water.

*David Tucker is a conservation writer for the Gallatin River Task Force.*



Below the Lake Levinsky outlet, the Middle Fork has been channelized to flow in a straight line. PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF DUNN

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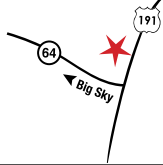
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# Please don't pet the wildlife



BY KELSEY WELLINGTON  
*WRITERS ON THE RANGE*

"I can't believe that person is getting that close."

Just off the road stands a bull elk — a 700-pound animal with 3-foot tall antlers — and a woman is standing not even 4 feet away from it. All it would take is for the elk to make one sudden swing of its head and the woman would be hospitalized.

"Here we go again," I say, rolling my eyes. Then I hop out of the van, instructing my clients to wait here while I try to handle the situation.

I work as a privately contracted guide to lead visitors on wildlife and geology tours of Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks. Leaning on my wildlife biology degree and six years of living in the Rocky Mountain West, I educate clients about the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. At 22 million acres, it's the largest nearly intact temperate ecosystem on earth. Almost all plants and animals that existed prior to human presence in North America still exist here today. So, people flock here from all over the world to see wildlife as it is truly meant to be — wild.

"Excuse me!" I shout from the roadside, trying to get the woman's attention. "Please back up!"

She doesn't even flinch.

I try again. "Excuse me, woman in the white top and white hat! Please give this animal at least 75 feet of space!"

She still ignores me.

Although I do not have the authority that comes with being a park ranger, I do have George N. Wallace's advice in his paper "Authority of the Resource." He says the average person can claim the power to confront someone whose behavior harms the environment or the public's ability to pursue recreational activities in that environment. If, for example, you see someone approaching wildlife too closely, you can speak up.

Far too many times this summer, I've had to speak up. In May, Grand Teton National Park recorded over 360,000 visitors, a 30 percent increase from May 2019. In July, Yellowstone had over a million visitors, a record. There's a rule of thumb: more people mean more opportunities for them to get into trouble with wildlife.

Because some of these visitors were traveling to wild places for the first time, things sometimes went south quickly. Yet most rule-breakers were lucky enough to walk away unscathed; few even recognized the danger they were in.

But it's heartbreaking to watch elk or bears become agitated by human ignorance. It is even more heartbreaking to know that these instances will only increase as more people visit these national parks. Wildlife may change their behavior, heading farther into the backcountry and therefore farther from view.

I love my job. I love driving around these two magnificent national parks and watching animals live their lives every day. Hearing the mating call of a bull elk echo through the valley at sunrise is nothing short of magical. Watching grizzly bears dig for food in preparation for hibernation never gets old.

Because these are experiences I want everyone to share, here are some tips for visitors:

**Know the wildlife-viewing regulations of the area you visit.** National parks require you to stay 25 yards away from most wildlife and 100 yards away from predators. Check relevant websites before you travel.

Follow the instructions of authority figures. Often, this will be a park or forest ranger stationed in wildlife hotspots.

**Don't block the road.** Please do not stop in the middle of the road! And turn your car off so everyone can enjoy the silence.

**Book a wildlife-viewing tour.** While no wildlife guide will ever guarantee an animal sighting, experts know their stuff and will keep you — and the animals — safe.

**Carry binoculars.** This is an incredible tool for viewing wildlife from a distance. I never leave home without my pair.

**Become an authority for the resource.** Speak up if you see someone breaking the rules, and don't be discouraged if you get a nasty response. You have the right to protect everyone's access to nature.

When I return to the van after the woman finally returned to her car, my clients immediately begin expressing their disbelief.

"I've heard stories and seen videos of people acting like that," one woman says, "but to see it first-hand is something else entirely."

"You'd think people would know better," says another.

You'd think.

*Kelsey Wellington is a contributor to Writers on the Range, [writersontherange.org](http://writersontherange.org), an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. She works as a private guide in Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks.*



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# THE NEW WEST

## Montana's once proud wildlife legacy in tatters over wolves



BY TODD WILKINSON  
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

For years, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has owned a gold-plated reputation nationally for how it stewards wildlife managed in the public trust. But now, a groundswell of critics say that legacy is being dismantled by extremist ideology.

Moreover, a prominent group of scientists in charge of helping to build the department's reputation say Montana's policies aimed at annihilating gray wolves has little scientific basis.

Never before in the history of Montana has a sitting governor and Legislature come under a more withering rebuke from such a wide assemblage of wildlife experts with distinguished careers.

But that's what is happening now to Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte and members of the state Legislature who passed new laws targeting gray wolves, authorizing killing techniques that most wildlife professionals and hunters say are a violation of long-established fair-chase hunting practices.

One group of scientists and managers with 1,500 years of combined experience managing wildlife in Montana is led by Dr. Christopher Servheen, the former national director of grizzly bear recovery for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Another is led by Dr. Gary Wolfe, representing seven former Montana Fish and Wildlife commissioners.

All of the above say Gianforte's policies are bringing disgrace upon Montana's hard-earned national status as a beacon of light for wildlife management. Perhaps the highest-profile example of what they're talking about is happening in Montana just beyond the northern border of Yellowstone National Park.

Already, two wolf pups and a 1.5-year-old, members of the beloved Yellowstone Junction Butte pack, were killed when they wandered into Montana across the invisible park boundary.

The missives led by Servheen and Wolfe, however, are among a rapidly expanding public backlash involving scientists and more than 200 indigenous tribes along with a dozen influential conservation organizations who are condemning not only policies in Northern Rockies states, including Idaho and Wyoming, but also Wisconsin.

The latter have written letters and filed formal petitions calling upon Interior Secretary Deb Haaland to exercise her emergency powers and place wolves back under protection of the Endangered Species Act.

Not long ago, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said it is undertaking a review to determine whether relisting is warranted. At present, laws would allow for more than 80 percent of existing wolves in Idaho to be killed and in Montana the wolf population could be knocked down to one-tenth of its current size, based on claims unsupported by science, that wolves are decimating big game herds and causing huge financial losses to ranchers.

The signees to Servheen's statement say: "Wolf haters in the Legislature [have] made up fact-free stories about the impacts of wolves on elk populations in order to destroy Montana's recovered wolf population by legislating use of baited leg-hold traps and neck snares for wolves on public lands, unethical night hunting over bait with night vision scopes and spotlights, extending the wolf trapping season, increased bag limits per hunter, paying bounties to kill wolves, and allowing baited neck snares and leg-hold traps on public land in grizzly and black bear habitat during the time bears are out of the den."

Drawing upon their combined experience, those joining Servheen add: "As wildlife professionals we oppose the current politization of wildlife management and wildlife policy in Montana. We believe that wildlife management should be based on science and facts in order to assure the careful management of all of Montana's fish and wildlife. Such decisions should be made in accordance with the interests of the majority of Montana residents who desire healthy fish and wildlife and a healthy environment. The future of Montana's fish and wildlife should not be sacrificed to partisan political agendas that cater to special interests, favor the wealthy few, and are based an irrational hatred of predators."

The group is joined by former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Director Dan Ashe, who said the treatment of wolves by Rocky Mountain states and Wisconsin is unprecedented in the modern recovery of imperiled species. Ashe, too, has called for emergency relisting.



A Yellowstone grizzly and wolf stroll toward an elk carcass in Yellowstone National Park. So far, two wolf pups and a 1.5-year-old yearling, members of Yellowstone's beloved Junction Butte Pack, have been claimed as trophies by hunters when they wandered into Montana. PHOTO COURTESY OF NPS

Servheen has said he once trusted the ability of states to responsibly manage both wolves and grizzlies. He defended Montana when it claimed it would look out for the best interest of those recovered species, considered two of the greatest wildlife conservation successes ever, but he says actions taken by governors and legislators in Montana and Idaho have changed his mind.

Separately, seven former state wildlife commissioners in Montana also raised concerns.

"Adoption of these regressive regulations reflects poorly upon the Commission, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the State of Montana," they write. "Not only are the new regulations not justified biologically, but they also run counter to generally accepted principles of fair chase and hunting ethics, undermine broader public support for the delisting of endangered species such as grizzly bears and wolves, and add to the negative perceptions many members of the non-hunting public hold for recreational trapping and hunting."

For his part, Wolfe, who also signed onto both letters, is not only well known as a wildlife commissioner, biological consultant and conservationist, but for several years he was president and CEO of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, arguably during its most important period when it gained national credibility.

"I never thought I'd see this day where Montana would return to the Dark Ages of dealing with wolves, but we are there," he said. "Montana should feel nothing but shame."

Todd Wilkinson is the founder of Bozeman-based Mountain Journal and is a correspondent for National Geographic. He authored the book "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek," featuring photography by Thomas D. Mangelsen, about famous Jackson Hole grizzly bear 399. Wilkinson's cover story on renowned actress Glenn Close appears in the summer 2021 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine.



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## Join and learn with the Fly Fishers International Virtual Conclave

BY PATRICK STRAUB  
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

Fly fishing is often an act of solitude—one angler casting one rod in hopes of catching one fish. But there are times when the sport requires, if not demands, it become more social. One of these instances is fast approaching.

Fly Fishers International has been an organized voice for fly fishers around the world since 1964. It's one of the longest-standing fly-fishing-only organizations and advocacy groups. Its mission is to preserve the legacy of fly fishing for all fish in all waters by committing to conservation, education and creating a sense of community.

In November, be an active part of that community by participating in their Virtual Expo 2021. With a variety of workshops, seminars, demonstrations, film festivals, auctions, exhibitors and more, the 2021 Virtual Expo allows anglers from around the world to come together from the comfort of their own living room.

“Similar to fly fishing shows, there will be vendors, break-out rooms, social gatherings, and entertaining activities,” adds Fly Fishers International President and CEO, Patrick H. Berry. “People can immerse themselves in fly fishing without the worry of health and safety concerns of being in a crowded show.”

“The Virtual Expo is the highlight of our year,” Berry says. “But our commitment to our mission expands well beyond the Virtual Expo. It is reflected in the culture of mentorship and teaching that can be found in 17 regional councils and over 260 clubs world-wide.”

Fly Fishers International often hosts local, in-person casting, fly tying, and fishing instruction. Additionally, FFI is also dedicated to local and international conservation efforts.

“No matter where a fly fishing enthusiast might find themselves in their journey to enjoy the sport they love, FFI has the people and resources needed to support them while also working to protect the places they fish,” Berry said.

In addition to the Virtual Expo, Fly Fishers International recently launched an online learning center. This industry-leading learning center provides the premier repository of fly fishing education found anywhere online. This exciting project offers a dynamic way to learn every aspect of fly fishing including casting, tying, conservation, and fly fishing skills.

“We are so excited for the online Learning Center,” Berry said. “Anyone can become a better fly fisher by enjoying what the FFI Learning Center has to offer.”

*To learn more about Fly Fishers International Learning Center visit the Fly Fishers International website at [flyfishersinternational.org/Virtual-Expo](http://flyfishersinternational.org/Virtual-Expo).*

*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.*



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**SECTION 3:**  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT,  
BUSINESS, DINING  
AND FUN



MIIBS: Santosha Wellness Center pg. 29



Occupational hazard pg. 30



## Artist Spotlight: Miles Glynn

BY TUCKER HARRIS

BOZEMAN – Miles Glynn, a Bozeman-based artist, brings elements from past popular culture into a more contemporary context through his art.

A self-taught artist, Glynn started his creative journey with photography. As a child, he watched his father, a photojournalist in the U.S. Army, capture images to convey stories and would tag along in the dark room with him. Decades later, in 2018, Glynn assumed his own way to convey stories using a technique reminiscent of his time spent with his dad in the dark room but all his own: silk-screening.

Silk-screening is the process of pushing ink through a mesh screen that acts as a stencil and then prints the image onto a surface. The method has been the same for hundreds of years, but gained prominence in the 1960's when Andy Warhol made it his primary medium.

“To really do [silk-screening] well you also need healthy doses of finesse, flexibility, and thinking outside the box, which is more the art of the process,” said Glynn, who appropriates old western imagery into large-scale modern pieces. “I’m constantly bouncing between the two aspects in order to achieve the vision I have for any given piece.”

Glynn hopes the subject matter he uses from old magazines, movies and advertisements pulled into a modern context will compel his clients and viewers to learn more about the materials’ back stories. His subject matter toggles between 1960s pop and Western culture, including past characters like Elvis and Brigitte Bardot, anonymous fiction characters of cowgirls and cowboys, and natural scenes.

Glynn became a full-time professional artist just three years ago when he started showing his work at the Emerson for the Arts and Culture in Bozeman. As the physical scale of his pieces grew as well as the demand for his work, he outgrew his space at the Emerson and moved into his own studio in downtown Bozeman.

Being relatively new to the field, Glynn says he’s learning more about certain influences and inspirations like Andy Warhol in a more “after-the fact” way—after becoming an artist full-time, that is. Just last week, Glynn visited The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he learned more about the techniques and methods Warhol used.

It was an amazing experience, he said, to compare the way he uses silk screening today to how an influence like Warhol performed in the medium.

“Rather than focusing on a narrow subject and style... I tend to work very wide with a lot of different looks, subject matter, and color palettes. I’m just constantly chasing ideas,” he said.

Some of the new ideas Glynn is chasing will be on display at Courtney Collins Fine Art Gallery here in Big Sky in February 2022.

The winter exhibition will be titled “Western Lights” and will feature two series debuts. Both will align with Glynn’s goals for his art: imagery that connects the familiar and unfamiliar together.

The series titled “Branded” will compare corporate, popular brands and logos with traditional, agricultural brands that are burned onto cattle.

The second series he will be debuting at this exhibition will be titled “Western Social Club,” featuring juxtapositions between Western portraits with social media elements.

Each piece at the “Western Lights” show will be mixed media incorporating lit-up traditional neon glass. The exhibition will open Feb. 18, and Glynn promises it to be “a bright and fun show” for the Big Sky community and visitors alike.

“My goal is just to continue to evolve and advance as an artist... I’m just enjoying the opportunity to every day wake up and cultivate ideas and execute those ideas.”



Miles Glynn poses next to his piece titled “Annie #1,” a part of his new Series based on Annie Oakley, an American sharpshooter who starred in Buffalo Bill’s Wild West TV show. PHOTO COURTESY OF MILES GLYNN.

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# BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR

Friday, Oct. 8 – Thursday, Oct. 21

If your event falls between Oct. 22 and Nov. 4, please submit it by Oct. 13 by emailing [media@outlaw.partners](mailto:media@outlaw.partners)

## Friday, Oct. 8

**MSU/Downtown Homecoming Pep Rally**  
Downtown Bozeman, 6 p.m.

**Live Music: Zach and Nooch**  
Tips Up, 8 p.m.

## Saturday, Oct. 9

**Woman of Vision**  
Museum of the Rockies, 9 a.m.

**Gibbous Ribbon Cutting**  
Town Center Avenue & Huntley Drive Traffic Circle, 3 p.m.

**406 Consignary Bozeman Kids Consignment Boutique PopUP**  
Gallatin County Fairgrounds, Oct. 9-10

## Sunday, Oct. 10

**Live Music: Black Label Society**  
The ELM, 6:30 p.m.

## Monday, Oct. 11

**Trivia Night**  
Tips Up, 9 p.m.

## Tuesday, Oct. 12

**Bingo Night**  
Riverhouse BBQ & Events, 5:30 p.m.

**Trivia Night**  
Acre Kitchen, 6 p.m.

## Wednesday, Oct. 13

**BSRAD Board Meeting**  
Big Sky Resort Area District, 9 a.m.

**Pint Night**  
Nordic Brew Works, 6 p.m.

**Vocalize Workshop with Daniel Kern**  
Santosha Big Sky, 7 p.m.

## Thursday, Oct. 14

**Big Sky Serenity Seekers Al-Anon meeting**  
All Saints Chapel, 4 p.m.

**Live Music: Dustin Tucker**  
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**Live Music: Josh Moore**  
Tips Up, 8 p.m.

## Friday, Oct. 15

**Of Wilderness & Resorts Presentation**  
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center,  
6:30 p.m.

**Live Music: Garret Kuntz**  
Tips Up, 8 p.m.

## Saturday, Oct. 16

**Fall Festival**  
Gallatin Valley Mall, 11 a.m.

**Mountain Fresh Hop Beer Festival**  
Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 4 p.m.

## Sunday, Oct. 17

**2021 Fall Tour: Bridger Foothills Fire Recovery**  
Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 12 p.m.

## Monday, Oct. 18

**Trivia Night**  
Tips Up, 9 p.m.

## Tuesday, Oct. 19

**Big Sky Serenity Seekers Al-Anon meeting**  
All Saints Chapel at 4 p.m.

**Live Music: Tech N9ne, Rittz, King ISO, MAEZ 103, & Jehry Robinson**  
The ELM, 8 p.m.

## Wednesday, Oct. 20

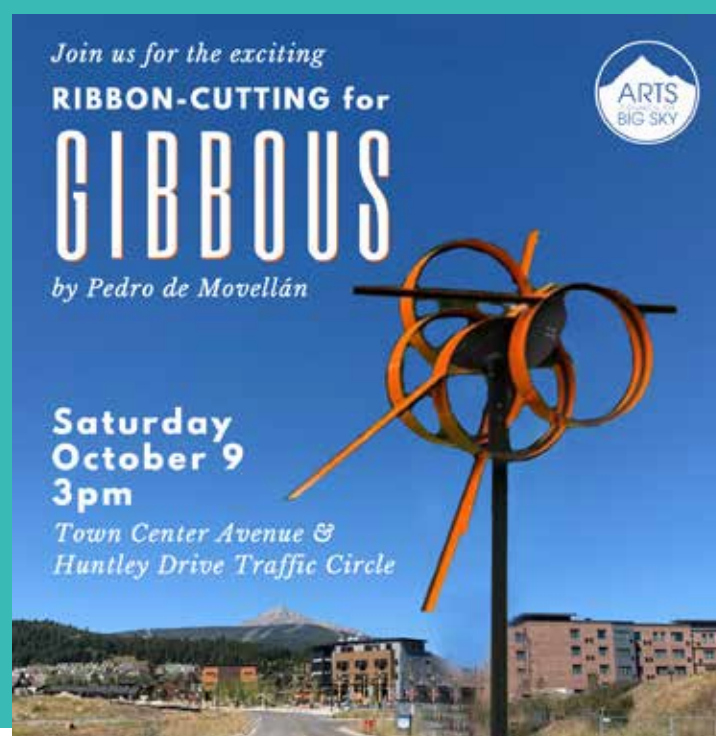
**Friends of the Library Annual Fall Meeting**  
Big Sky Community Library, 10 a.m.

## Thursday, Oct. 21

**Live Music: Ryan Acker**  
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**Live Music: Moonlight Moonlight**  
Tips Up, 8 p.m.

## Event Spotlight: Gibbous Ribbon Cutting



The Arts Council of Big Sky and artist Pedro de Movellán will host the ribbon cutting for the permanent art sculpture “Gibbous” on Saturday, Oct. 9 at 3 p.m. at the Huntley Drive roundabout. Located by Roxy’s Market and the Town Center Plaza, the kinetic sculpture will be dedicated to the Big Sky community to “uplift and inspire everyone who sees it, and to enliven the built environment around it” according to the Arts Council. This event is free to the public featuring a meet and greet with Pedro de Movellán and refreshments.

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## Making it in Big Sky: Santosha Wellness Center

BY DOUG HARE  
EBS STAFF

**BIG SKY** – In 2002, Callie Stolz had what she calls a “second serious health opportunity.” It was during that time that she recognized the importance of complementary and alternative healing modalities. Stolz decided to pursue her dream of offering others that were on a path of healing a place that offered many avenues to do just that while collaborating with other like-minded individuals.

Although determined to eventually open a wellness center, Stolz recognized that she had much to learn if she wanted to offer these kinds of services. For the next decade, she spent years educating herself and gaining experience in the field of healing arts: teaching yoga, doing massage and practicing Ayurvedic medicine.

Santosha Wellness Center opened in the summer of 2012. During busy seasons, Stolz now has nearly 20 teachers and practitioners offering a variety of services from her studio in the Westfork Meadows.

**Explore Big Sky:** *What has been the key to your success?*

**Callie Stoltz:** Creating a feeling of community both in the people who work at Santosha and for those that come to Santosha. Also, I feel it is really important for me to continue to grow and learn, both personally and professionally, in order to feel inspired and to continue to bring more to offer back to Santosha and the community.

**EBS:** *Do you remember your first customer?*

**C.S.:** Our first customers were a class of 15 people in our first yoga class. It is incredible to me how many of those original 15 students we still see on a regular basis at Santosha. That is really gratifying to me.

**EBS:** *What are the biggest obstacles to operating a small business in Big Sky?*

**C.S.:** The limitations of housing in Big Sky create a challenge to attract and recruit enough individuals to meet the growing demands of our community. Also, trying to find balance for people working here given the ebb and flow of the influx of people coming in and quieter times.

**EBS:** *How has the business landscape changed since you started out?*

**C.S.:** It started out with my idea of it being a bit more like a co-op of wellness professionals. Although it has continued to be that way to some degree, I also realized that it needed to feel a bit more cohesive and all under the umbrella of Santosha. So we further developed the website and the online booking system and some other refinements and details



After a decade of immersing herself in the field of healing arts, Callie Stolz launched Santosha Wellness Center in 2002 as a retreat where Big Sky locals and visitors could have the opportunity to pursue alternative healing modalities. PHOTO COURTESY OF CALLIE STOLZ

within the center. We have also tried to continue to add more services by adding an esthetician, the far-infrared sauna, bringing acupuncture back, as well as continuously adding more workshops and seminars people may be interested in to continue to expand our offerings.

**EBS:** *What is it about Big Sky that compels you to stick it out through the hard times?*

**C.S.:** I love it here, this is my home. I have been here for the most part for nearly 23 years and I love the mountain, this community and the people in it.

**EBS:** *What is one of the most memorable moments you have had as a resident/business owner in Big Sky?*

**C.S.:** That’s a tough one, as there are many. But within my time at Santosha, it may have been last summer on June 21 starting out the summer solstice and opening up the day of Soul Shine with 108 sun salutations and an awesome group of people to share it with.

“ Our first customers were a class of 15 people in our first yoga class. It is incredible to me how many of those original 15 students we still see on a regular basis at Santosha. That is really gratifying to me. ”

– Callie Stolz, owner, Santosha Wellness Center

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

**C.S.:** “Partners are for dancing. YOU can do this, it’s YOUR dream.”

**EBS:** *What advice would you give to small business owners just starting out in Big Sky?*

**C.S.:** Take care of yourself. Even when you could not feel busier, take the time you need for you to stay healthy, happy and strong otherwise you’ll burn out and then what’s the point of it all?

**EBS:** *Where do you see your business in 10 years?*

**C.S.:** Continuing to thrive as a wellness center with a strong sense of community, but also adding in more retreats and workshops to the mix as well as a possible second location/retreat center called Santosha Sanctuary.

*This article was previously published in Explore Big Sky in May of 2019.*

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# AMUSE-BOUCHE

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

## Occupational hazard



BY SCOTT MECHURA  
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Being a chef is hard, plain and simple.

I think I've painted a pretty clear picture over the years of what it takes for a chef to survive in a kitchen, let alone be successful. How to balance staff, guest experience and fiscal responsibility while maintaining their sanity is a challenge in the best of times.

Food TV did a lot to shine a light on what were always talented, hard working men and women. It took us from obscure, mysterious misfits to forward-facing artists—and in several instances, nothing short of celebrity status. It made the world sit up and take notice to entire cultures around the globe.

But it is looking more and more like that was short lived.

And it's so easy to blame COVID, a faceless entity that has disrupted or even ruined many lives, depending on your personal situation. And while the pandemic did take a thriving economy and grind it to a halt overnight, the camel has had his nose in the culinary tent for a while now.

These are unprecedented times, and even the hardest working, most devoted chef can have only so much on their plate. And for many, it's all they can do to keep the daily grind, well, grinding.

I know of many chefs who now rarely experiment on new ideas or concepts like they used to. They tell me they just don't have the time, money or energy to make pilgrimages to other restaurants or dining meccas. To "r & d" at their leisure like before. They are too busy and exhausted to do anything more than keep their establishments open and guests happy.

Fine dining as we knew it in America is now a shadow of its former self. Sure, the French Laundry is still with us, and others like it, but so many other talented chefs and fine dining restaurants have shuttered. There has been a slow exodus from our industry for years now, and it has taken its toll on the American chef.

And the added challenge of finding young cooks who want to carve out a successful career in a kitchen or in hospitality is a weight on our shoulders we won't be able to carry forever. It is my belief that this will be a challenge for us for quite some time. Aside from the obvious COVID challenges in our industry, I know of more than one cook or chef that looked inward in their off time and decided a change of direction was necessary.

Now there are of course exceptions, but generally speaking, I have seen a slow decline in creativity in our industry. I'm not talking about creativity in maintaining a restaurant or keeping commerce coming through the doors. Chefs and restaurateurs have been extremely creative and tenacious on that front.

But is the very concept of the restaurant as we know it burning out with the coals? Survival is the name of the game right now, and ironically, many can't afford to stay open, but they also can't afford to close.

So, is the executive chef as I know it on the path to irrelevance? My father had a unique trade and owned a business that went the way of automation and machines, thankfully after he sold and retired. Is the executive chef on a similar path?

One of my favorite Jimmy Buffett songs says it the simplest way:

"My occupational hazard being my occupation's just not around. I feel like I've drowned. Gonna head uptown."

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

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# American Life in Poetry

BY KWAME DAWES

The monk's tonsure is intentional, a shaved bald spot as part of the rituals of sanctification, but here, in his poem, "Tonsure," Young sees this hereditary marker as a complex sign of the things a man inherits from his father, the difficult, the beautiful, and, most powerfully, the part that repeats itself when he becomes a father, too. Kevin Young's collections are always an occasion, as is his next book, *Stones*, (2021) in which this poem appears.

# Tonsure

BY KEVIN YOUNG

Forever you find your father in other faces—	upon your face till you feel at home. It's all
a balding head or beard enough to send you following	yours, this father you make each day, the one
for blocks after to make sure you're wrong, or buying	you became when yours got yanked away. Take your place between
some stranger a beer to share. Well, not just one—and here,	the men bowed at the bar, the beer warming, glowing faint
among a world that mends only the large things, let the shadow grow	as a heart: lit from within & just a hint bitter.

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**

- Scand. people
- Universe (pref.)
- Relative pronoun
- Solemn declaration
- Afr. fruit
- Belonging to (suf.)
- Wing (pref.)
- Reimbursed
- Crimson
- Selling price equivocation
- Floodgate
- Solution
- Queen of the fairies
- Dip
- Flounder
- Summary
- Berserk
- Shellac
- Wrinkle
- Pueblo Indian
- At the age of

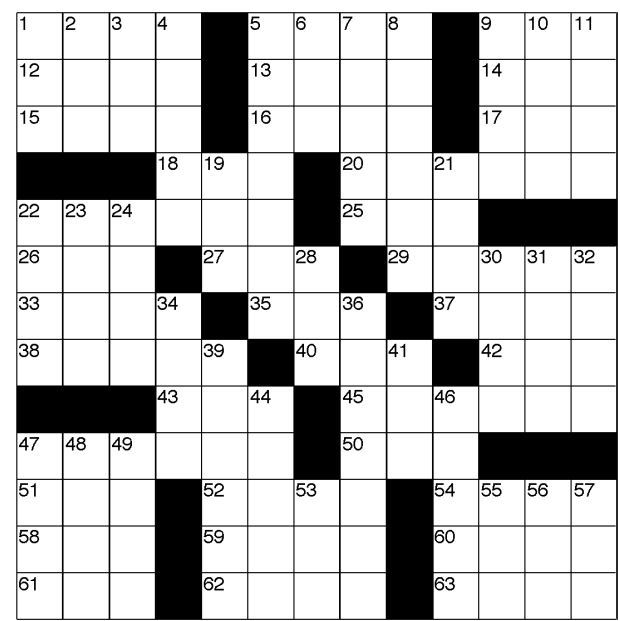
(Lat.)  
42 Formal dance (Fr.)  
43 Name (Fr.)  
45 Setting  
47 Wool  
50 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)  
51 Monkey  
52 Gaming cubes  
54 Semitic deity  
58 Sp. hero  
59 Persia today  
60 Handle (Fr.)  
61 Cyprinoid fish  
62 Sample tape  
63 Acquire

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

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

**DOWN**

- Republicans (abbr.)
- Sup
- Daughter of Zeus
- Pitch
- Coarse tobacco
- Wood sorrel
- Earthquake
- Fruit
- Aweto
- This one (Lat.)
- Wave (Fr.)
- Cot
- Above (Ger.)
- Aleutian island
- Nominate
- Spore (pref.)
- Sheep's cry
- W. Indies island
- Bedouin's cord
- Pallid
- Bingolike gambling game
- One of the Seven Pleiades
- Base
- Poly. beefwood
- Sandalwood tree
- Plot
- Spore sacs
- Freshwater worm
- Fr. author
- Wheel projection
- Sayings (suf.)
- Army service number (abbr.)
- Light-emitting diode (abbr.)



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**“Once we have tasted far streams, touched the gold, found some limit beyond the waterfall, a season changes and we come back changed but safe, quiet, grateful.”**

**—William Stafford**

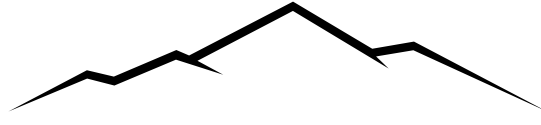
# BIG SKY BEATS

**Season of Change**  
BY BELLA BUTLER

There's nothing more visible than a seasonal change in Montana. Autumn rides in on a western wind's back, diluting the sun with an invisible film and tucking everything into dormancy before winter's more abrasive entrance. However you receive the new season, this shift can serve as an opportunity to reflect on change. Transformation is the catalyst for evolution, yet it can be the hardest part of life to embrace. As Patty Griffin sings in "Let Him Fly," "you must always know how long to stay and when to go." So pour yourself a cup of tea, let that autumn sun find your skin through the window and let this playlist soothe you into a new season of introspection and openness.



- "The Times They Are A-Changin'" by Bob Dylan
- "Change" by Blind Melon
- "Changes" by Langhorne Slim, The Law
- "Autumn Leaves" by Caamp
- "Change" by Sjowgren
- "On Trees and Birds and Fire" by I Am Oak
- "The Circle Game" by Joni Mitchell
- "Every Age" by Jose González
- "Machines" by Mason Jennings
- "Let Him Fly" by Patty Griffin



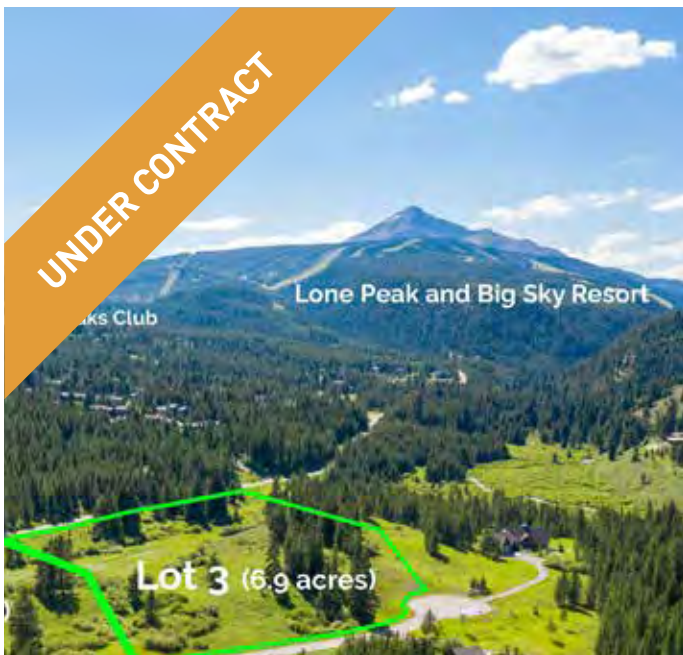
*"Buy land, they're not making it anymore."*  
*- Mark Twain*



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