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# Big Sky

November 5 - 18, 2021  
Volume 12 // Issue #23

**CommUNITY Forum gathers  
key players**

*Trapper's Cabin Ranch to offer  
year-round programming*

**Eggs & Issues presents  
tax discussion**

*An excerpt from  
'The Broken World'*

**Steele Pressed Juice expands  
beyond kiosk**



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# OUTLAW PARTNERS

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## ON THE COVER:

As winter tightens its icy grip on the land, the leaves on the aspens go through a quick transition, creating vibrant pockets of color that stand out against the frosty evergreens. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER

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## CommUNITY Forum gathers key players

The Inaugural CommUNITY Forum hosted by the Big Sky Resort Area District provided a chance for community members to hear from and speak with the organizations that run Big Sky. At the event 38 local organizations gave presentations and enjoyed face time with attendees and fellow presenters.

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## Trapper's Cabin Ranch to offer year-round programming

The historic Trapper's Cabin Ranch is now under new stewards who plan to open its use to the public. In April of 2021, local nonprofit Crosscut Mountain Sports Center purchased the ranch and is currently developing a plan for year-round programming.

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## Eggs & Issues presents tax discussion

The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce presented the eighth Eggs & Issues meeting on Nov. 3, where county and local experts provided insight on Big Sky's tax landscape. The meeting was followed by a biannual joint-county commission meeting, where leaders from Gallatin and Madison counties as well as Big Sky Resort Area District covered updates on a broad range of community issues.

25

## An excerpt from 'The Broken World'

Local author Tom Vandel is a Montana native who enjoys traveling backroads and collecting stories. His latest book, "The Broken World," highlights broken relationships and people with a sprinkle of humor and a healthy dollop of emotion.

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## Steele Pressed Juice expands beyond kiosk

Steele Pressed Juice owner Jennifer Steele opened a new location next to Beehive Basin Brewery on Oct. 29 for her health-food cafe. The new location is celebrated with a fresh menu featuring new juices, smoothies, a smoothie bowl and build-your-own burrito bowls.

## Opening Shot



EBS Publisher Outlaw Partners won PBR Event of the Year for the eighth consecutive year. The crew received the award at the Heroes & Legends dinner and awards ceremony on Nov. 2 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Congrats to the entire team that pulled it off again!

L-R: Outlaw CEO Megan Paulson; Outlaw Publisher Eric Ladd; Freestone Productions' Andy Watson; Outlaw Media and Events Director Ersin Ozer; and Freestone Productions' Jacey Watson. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

## EDITORIAL POLICIES

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FORUM

The Big Sky CommUNITY Forum took place on Tuesday, Oct. 26. Members from the community and 38 organizations gathered at The Wilson Hotel, presenting and listening to issues currently facing the Big Sky community.

As a community member, what brought you to the CommUNITY Forum and what issues or projects do you think need to be prioritized in Big Sky?

As a presenter, what issues will you be presenting on? Why is this issue important for our Big Sky community?



**Whitney Brunner** | Big Sky, Montana

"Livability of the workforce, workforce, housing and just services for the workforce. I think that the gap has grown. We used to be focused on middle and upper management and now I think there's the entire spectrum."



**Greg Megaard** | Big Sky Fire Department

"It's about growth and development, which then impacts the demand for public services. Our call volume over the past five years has gone up exponentially. I think every member in this room today is affected by that. From our standpoint, it's about response times, delivery emergency services, and how that impacts us. We anticipate this year alone we will break over 1,000 emergency calls for the 2021 year."



**John Barzizza** | Big Sky, Montana

"We're concerned about the growth of Big Sky and Gallatin Gateway and want to know where we can be involved in that and add something to the process of making things make sense as they build out. We recently moved here from Austin, Texas... and would like to contribute."



**Caitlin Quisenberry** | Visit Big Sky & Big Sky Chamber of Commerce

"These two businesses think that the most important issue right now is the idea that when we build a solid community foundation, then we can do our work the best. So how do we support businesses and our workers so that when our guests come, we can offer them the best experiences and they want to come back."

## EDITORIAL:

### Women belong in journalism

Dear Reader,

Last year, I interviewed Montana gubernatorial candidate Whitney Williams and asked her about how she would use her position as a woman in the governor's seat—the first since 2005. She talked about not only what it meant to her, but what it could mean for others.

"If you see it, you can be it," Williams said, reviving anecdotes of moments she'd shared with young, aspirational girls and women on the campaign trail.

I work in journalism, one of the many industries that men dominate in America. An Oct. 28 study released by the Women's Media Center found that, overall, men receive 65 percent of news bylines and credits in the nation to women's 34 percent.

In print news, the gap is even wider. Similar reports from recent years also found that less than 8 percent of print newsroom staff are women of color. Numbers like this make it harder to see what you can be.

Harder, though not impossible.

Straight out of college, I didn't need a report to tell me the reality of the journalism industry. Between cautionary tales from professors, my own experiences as a reporter and a general understanding that as a woman I'm four times as likely to experience gender discrimination at work, I knew what I was stepping into.

And yet, I found hope. I work in a newsroom where 75 percent of our reporters are women, and more than 50 percent of the staff at Outlaw Partners, publisher of EBS, are women.

This doesn't mean the job is a utopian bubble of infallible equality; it's easy to see, to feel, when my fellow female reporters and I are treated differently than our male colleagues—by a source, sometimes even our readers. But we're here, and that's a start.

It's a start, though with a long road ahead. Because it's not enough to simply show women in the field. We need to show not only their success but also acknowledge their struggles; celebrate their achievements but make visible what they endured to arrive there.

The truth is, yes, these statistics are not in our favor. But we still deserve to be here. Women belong in journalism. To me, that's what "If you can see it, you can be it," means.

Gone are the days where all the reporters delivering the news to the U.S. look like only 30 percent of its population. Underrepresented demographics working in newsrooms open a new door to truth. Women belong in journalism.

I feel grateful to the executive staff at Outlaw Partners for recognizing this and making a commitment to make space for women to report Big Sky's local news. I feel grateful for my editor-in-chief, Joe O'Connor, for being empathetic to our challenges. I feel grateful to my fellow female EBS reporters, Gabrielle Gasser and Tucker Harris, for withstanding harsh realities in pursuit of a more inclusive future. And above all, I feel grateful for the women that fought to be visible so that young reporters like myself could believe that women belong in journalism.

One of my greatest hopes in this work is that I can be that woman for someone else. And that Tucker and Gabrielle can be those women for someone as well.

—Bella Butler, *Senior Editor*

# Big Sky's *inaugural* CommUNITY Forum



Thank you to our community partners, friends, and neighbors for making the inaugural Big Sky Community Forum a fantastic success. We are grateful for the dedicated organizations, government entities, and private businesses who work to make our community BETTER TOGETHER.

A recording of presentations, partner contact information, and more is available at the District website: [ResortTax.org/Community-Forum/](http://ResortTax.org/Community-Forum/)

## OUR VISION:

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

## THANK YOU PRESENTERS:



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





## Aluminum shortage halts Montana license plate manufacturing

*EBS STAFF*

HELENA – The U.S. is experiencing a supply chain shortage and effects are being felt everywhere. Montana has halted its traditional license plate manufacturing due to a disruption in aluminum supply.

About 750,000 license plates are made each year at the Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge by inmates working for Montana Correctional Enterprises, a division of the state Department of Corrections according to an article in The Western News.

The Montana Correctional Enterprises ran out of aluminum this week, said Carolynn Bright, spokesperson for the Department of Corrections. The next aluminum shipment isn't expected until December, officials said.

“We knew this might be a possibility because it's been an issue at other license plate factories throughout the nation,” MCE Administrator Gayle Butler said in a statement.

The short-term solution is to print plate numbers on reflective sheets and then place them inside plastic sleeves, Bakri said.

Individuals who receive the temporary plates will receive permanent plates when regular production resumes, Bakri said.

## Gallatin County voters pass \$29M courts bond

*EBS STAFF*

GALLATIN COUNTY – Gallatin County voters on Nov. 2 passed a \$29 million bond issue to fund a new county courts facility. The bond issue, which was the only item on Big Sky voters' ballots, passed with an approximately 55 percent majority according to unofficial election results as of EBS press time.

The bond will fund the design, construction and furnishing of a new county courts facility and will cost property owners \$6.70 per year for every \$100,000 of the property's assessed value. For a property with an assessed value of \$500,000, this equates to \$33.50 per year.

After voters rejected higher-dollar versions of the bond request twice, the county worked to trim the ask before bringing to the electorate a third time. “We're breathing a huge sigh of relief and gratitude today because we didn't have a good plan B and we were going to be in a really difficult position figuring out how to move forward without that voter support,” said Gallatin County Commissioner Zach Brown.

Now that the bond has passed the county will put out a request for bids in early 2022, Brown said, with the goal to break ground next spring.

## Most entrances and roads close in Yellowstone National Park Nov. 8

*YELLOWSTONE PUBLIC AFFAIRS*

MAMMOTH – Nov. 6-7 provides the last chance for visitors to drive to many iconic locations in Yellowstone. The West, South and East entrances and all roads, with one exception, will close to vehicle travel at 12:01 a.m. Monday, Nov. 8. The park annually closes roads in early November to prepare them for the winter season and snowmobile and snowcoach travel, which will begin Wednesday, Dec. 15.

The one exception is the road from the park's North Entrance at Gardiner, Montana, through Mammoth Hot Springs to the Northeast Entrance and communities of Cooke City and Silver Gate, Montana. This road is open all

## NorthWestern Energy adds energy station

*NORTHWESTERN ENERGY*

BILLINGS – NorthWestern Energy is adding the 24/7 energy resource, the Laurel Generating Station, to its 70 percent carbon-free power serving Montana today to ensure continued reliable energy service.

Additional 24/7 on-demand energy sources are required in order to add more renewable, variable resources—wind and solar—to keep the grid stable as NorthWestern Energy transitions to an even cleaner energy future.

The Laurel Generating Station is located near other industrial operations and NorthWestern Energy is committed to environmental stewardship during its construction and operation.

The existing Byron Pipeline formerly used to transport crude oil is being converted to transport cleaner natural gas for the Laurel station. The conversion includes testing the entire pipeline and improvements to ensure pipeline integrity. Among the improvements is the installation of new pipe at deeper depth under the Yellowstone River near Laurel.

## LPHS to host Veterans Day Assembly

*EBS STAFF*

BIG SKY – Lone Peak High School will host its annual Veterans Day Assembly on Nov. 11 to honor veterans in the Big Sky community.

Planned by the LPHS Student Council, the assembly will take place at 1 p.m. in the Bough-Dolan Athletic Complex.

After being canceled last year the student body is excited to invite community members to join them in this important celebration of those who have served the country.

Retired U.S. Marine Cpl. Matt Bakken will be the assembly's keynote speaker. Bakken is a Gallatin Valley resident and a former Big Sky School District teacher.

“We are thrilled to be able to host this assembly again after a 1-year hiatus due to the pandemic,” wrote BSSD Superintendent Dustin Shipman in an email to EBS. “This is always a highlight of the year for local veterans and our students as well as a long-standing tradition in our high school.”

year, weather-permitting. Travel east of Cooke City is not possible from late fall to spring because a segment of U.S. Route 212 known as Beartooth Highway between Cooke City and Pilot Creek is closed to vehicle travel.

If you plan to drive in the park during the fall and winter:

- Prepare for changing weather conditions.
- Expect limited services.
  - This time of year, most services are open in Mammoth Hot Springs and closed elsewhere in the park.
  - Check Operating Hours and Seasons for details.
- Anticipate possible road closures due to inclement weather and dangerous driving conditions.



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# Inaugural CommUNITY Forum fosters community engagement

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

PHOTOS BY GABRIELLE GASSER

BIG SKY – Welcoming an audience made up of the who's who of Big Sky, Sara Blechta, chair of the Big Sky Resort Area District board encouraged attendees at the Inaugural Big Sky CommUNITY Forum to “be curious, not judgmental.”

The forum gathered community leaders and residents in the Wilson Hotel on Tuesday, Oct. 26 to hear presentations from 38 local organizations and to have the chance to engage directly with presenters.

“Think of this as community speed dating,” said Daniel Bierschwale, executive director of BSRAD, referring to the hybrid nature of the event that allowed attendees to hear from presenters and speak with them one-on-one.

A BSRAD community survey sparked the idea for the forum following the district's June 2021 allocations process. Bierschwale said survey respondents asked for more communication from and access to the organizations that make this unincorporated community tick.

“One of the strategic pillars for the district is to engage our community,” Bierschwale said in an Oct. 27 interview with EBS. “We designed this forum as an opportunity not only for BSRAD to engage, but also all of the partners to make Big Sky better together to gain some exposure, introduce initiatives and generate an opportunity for engagement directly with the residents of Big Sky.”

Throughout the evening, attendees circulated between the Agate Room, where the five-minute presentations were taking place, and the Sapphire Room, which housed a table and representative from each organization.

Presentation topics included Public Health and Safety; Public Works; Community Support Services; Education and Childcare; Housing and Planning; Recreation and Conservation; Arts, Culture, and Events; and Economic Development.

The dull roar of conversation never ceased and if presenters found themselves without a curious community member to chat with, they made a point to greet their neighbors and speak with other organizations.

Dustin Tetrault, deputy fire chief with the Big Sky Fire Department, emphasized the value of the event and the opportunity to connect with other organizations. He said that it can be difficult to carve out time to talk about mutually beneficial projects, but the evening provided that chance.

“I thought last night was great,” Tetrault said. “Any opportunity that we get to get out and be able to interact with community members in a venue like that is always beneficial.”

Laura Seyfang, executive director of the Big Sky Community Housing Trust, said the evening was a fabulous learning opportunity and she applauded BSRAD for putting the event together.

“I had one community member who was really concerned about the fact that we didn't get federal funding through the [Low-income Housing Tax Credit] award and was interested to know what we were going to do about it,” she said.

That community member, Seyfang said, had a background in investment banking and offered to help the housing trust with next steps.

Community members in attendance also appreciated the chance to speak directly with the organizations.

“I think this kind of forum is good because it helps to see the future,” said Big Sky resident Jim Glowacki at the event. “There's little bits and pieces of information that come in from different sources but now when you see the collective group, they can all feed to this same source of information.”

Gary and Jill Marcinick, part-time Big Sky residents for 18 years, attended the forum to take advantage of the face-to-face interaction and to learn more about the community that they are settling down in.

“We really were hoping to learn new things, which I think we did,” Gary said. “There were a couple of questions that we wanted to pose, which were answered. So, [the forum] ... really exceeded our expectations.”

Jenny Muscat, operations director with the district, said she has heard positive feedback about the evening.

“I think it was a great event,” she said. “We went into it not knowing what was going to happen since it was the first time we'd ever done it. But it was great to see such high participation from partners and even just general community members.”

“I thought it was awesome,” Bierschwale added. “It was wonderful to hear from the boots on the ground in Big Sky that are really making things happen and engage with them one on one in the expo.”

The future of this event is unclear, but Muscat said the district will reach out to gather more community feedback on the event.

“Overall, there was a great turnout and hopefully we can do it again next year,” Muscat said. “We hope people appreciated it.”





# County, Big Sky experts present on taxes at Eggs & Issues

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce presented two back-to-back meetings to an audience of approximately 50 people to discuss community issues on Nov. 3 at the Wilson Hotel.

The chamber’s eighth Eggs & Issues kicked off the morning with presentations from county and community speakers on the local tax landscape and was followed by a joint-county commission meeting including leaders from Gallatin and Madison counties as well as the Big Sky Resort Area District board.

Caitlin Quisenberry, programming and events manager for the chamber, said this Eggs & Issues was about offering the community a fact-based, baseline understanding of taxes in Big Sky.

“It’s so easy to, as a community member, make assumptions, and then those assumptions become your gospel fact,” she said after the meeting. She hopes these meetings can help uproot those assumptions and replant them in fact.

Dan Clark, director of Montana State University’s Local Government Center, opened the meeting by laying out a philosophy of taxation, but also boiled down the general structure of taxes in Montana, Gallatin and Madison counties and eventually, Big Sky.

Clark said that about 45 percent of Montana’s statewide tax revenue comes from property taxes compared to the national figure of 24 percent. Gallatin County Chief Financial Officer Justine Swanson later revealed in her presentation that in Gallatin County, the portion is even greater at 64 percent.

The sole two legs of Montana’s metaphorical tax stool are property taxes and income taxes, Clark said, and Big Sky’s 4 percent resort tax is a stabilizing third leg for the local community.

Madison County Financial Officer Vicki Tilstra and Gallatin County’s Swanson each broke down how property taxes are calculated, debunking what they said are common misconceptions they hear. For example, Swanson said that though many assessed home values are currently spiking—many significantly, their property taxes will not grow to the same proportion.

Dax Schieffer, director of Voices of Montana Tourism, broke down Montana’s 8 percent lodging and bed tax, of which Big Sky is now the state’s largest contributor.

To cap the meeting, BSRAD Executive Director Daniel Bierschwale refreshed the local audience on the history and utility of resort tax, a unique funding source in that it remains entirely within the Big Sky community.

In reflection of the meeting, chamber CEO Brad Niva said some of the feedback he gleaned from the Nov. 3 discussion was Big Sky community members’ concerns over how the taxes they pay to the county return to Big Sky.

“I think it’s just about being transparent and accountable and watching those funds,” he said.

Presenters each provided several examples of how county tax money ends up back in the Big Sky community, through costs for items like road work and special district elections.

“It’s great to see that Big Sky has such an engaged population,” Clark told EBS after the meeting. “People that are concerned, interested and involved to the point where we got a room full of people at eight o’clock on a Wednesday morning talking about taxes.”

The joint county commission meeting, which occurs in Big Sky twice a year, covered a range of topics from emergency response and evacuation planning to road infrastructure and tourism data.

BSRAD board trustee Kevin Germain reported that a joint subcommittee he serves on with Gallatin County Commissioner Scott MacFarlane and formerly Madison County Commissioner Jim Hart, who stepped down from the commission effective Oct. 30, recently met to discuss emergency response in Big Sky, an effort that will be further supported by a joint-county position beginning in 2022. The subcommittee will meet next to explore transportation.

“It is invaluable to bring together our local governments to ensure the success of Big Sky,” BSRAD Board Chair Sarah Blechta wrote in a statement to EBS. “By collectively identifying and working to address core community needs it demonstrates that we are truly better together.”

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# LPHS senior receives commendation from National Merit Scholarship Corporation

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

BIG SKY – John Chadwell keeps busy balancing a hefty extracurricular schedule with his schoolwork. The Lone Peak High School senior has played the male lead in two high school musicals, is in a cappella and plays varsity basketball. But it's his academic pursuits that have most recently paid off.

In September, Chadwell learned that his grade on the PSAT, or Preliminary Scholarship Aptitude Test, earned him recognition as a Commended Student from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Out of 1.5 million entrants, Chadwell became one of the 50,000 students with the highest PSAT/NMSQT scores to qualify for recognition in the scholarship program.

"It definitely feels good," he said, "like hard work paying off."

To enter the program, students must take the PSAT/NMSQT no later than their third year of high school and Chadwell has taken it three years in a row. His October 2020 score from his junior year is what qualified him for recognition this year.

The NMSC annually awards roughly 7,500 scholarships to high school students in the spring semester of their senior year. While Chadwell's score will not garner scholarship money, the commendation recognizes his excellent performance on the PSAT/NMSQT.



John Chadwell, a senior at Lone Peak High School, recently received a Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN CHADWELL

"John Chadwell is an incredibly hard-working student, who is curious about the world and determined to make a positive impact," wrote LPHS Principal Dr. Marlo Mitchem in an email to EBS. "I am very proud of all that John has and will accomplish!"

Chadwell has accomplished much in his tenure at LPHS.

This past July found Chadwell in Washington, D.C. serving as a senator from Montana in the American Legion Boys Nation program.

He has been president of Interact Club since the end of his freshman year, represented his class on Student Council for the past three years, currently serves as the treasurer of the LPHS chapter of National Honor Society, founded the Finance and Stock Club at the school, and participates in Mock Trial.

While still undecided on his college major, Chadwell said he will seek a four-year degree. He's currently considering political science, public policy, anthropology, psychology and computer science as potential majors.

"Overall, with this award I'm really appreciative [and] I'm humbled," said Chadwell, who thanked his teachers and parents for supporting his journey. "It's encouraging for me and I think for others. It's a sign to keep working and that good things come to those who work hard."



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# OUTLAW™

News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

## Outlaw Real Estate Partners welcomes Steve Borup to the team

BY MIRA BRODY

BIG SKY – The Outlaw Real Estate Partners team in October brought on a new director of development into the fold, Steve Borup. Borup brings a passion for responsible development and a robust background in accounting and project management as well as working with contractors and vendors to OREP’s growing team.

In his new role with Outlaw, Borup is thrilled to be working on exciting projects such as The Wildlands project in Bozeman’s northeast neighborhood and a 100-plus acre master planned development on the west end of town.

“One of the things that really appealed to me in accepting the job was Eric [Ladd’s] interest in land conservation and urban farming,” Borup said. “We want to make a positive community effect outside of making money.”

The Boise, Idaho native and Brigham Young University alumnus graduated with a master’s in accountancy and gained a plethora of professional knowledge as analyst and project manager for ExxonMobil’s real estate team. He also led the project management office at Alliant Techsystems Aerospace Group and most recently was senior VP of project and development services in the Rocky Mountain Region for JLL, a global real estate services firm.



Steve Borup is joining the Outlaw Real Estate Partners team with a passion for responsible development and a robust background in accounting, project and business management. PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE BORUP

In that role, Borup was the development manager for Teledyne FLIR’s new facility in north Bozeman. This new high-tech facility consolidates Teledyne FLIR’s three Bozeman facilities into a single new state-of-the-art 62,000-square-foot Photonics production and engineering building where synthetic crystals are grown and processed for commercial use.

“I do really love real estate and real estate development—I myself am a carpenter, I really like the creation process of building and real estate really provides that,” Borup said. “Between the location and the type of work, it was [a] no-brainer for me to accept this position.”

Borup looks forward to leading development for OREP working closely with local municipalities and local vendor partners, including architects and contractors, to deliver many exciting projects the company is bringing to the Gallatin Valley area. He currently lives in Logan, Utah, with his wife Kelly, and children, Madison, 20, Rylie, 16, Jayden, 11, and Lance, 7. Since working on area projects, he has fallen in love with Bozeman and will relocate in the coming year.

“I love the area, I love the people I’ve been able to work with in Bozeman and it’s an opportunity to work here more,” Borup said, noting that the Rocky Mountains have always held a special place in his heart. He looks forward to hitting the trails with his family once they arrive.

“I love being in the mountains,” he said, echoing the same reason so many have moved to the area. “It’s an energy to my soul.”



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Donation bins are located at the entrance of Montana Supply, Acre, The Wilson Hotel, The Big Sky Real Estate Co., Ophir Elementary School, Discovery School and Morningstar.

**PERSNICKETY CLEANERS**

All coats will be dry cleaned before the coat pick-up days, thanks to Persnickety Cleaners. With that in mind, no donations will be accepted after November 12.

**COAT PICK UP**

On November 18 & 19 coat pick up will be at the Wilson from 9-5. Masks and sanitizer will be required upon entry. One jacket per person.

The 2021 Big Sky Coat Drive is brought to you by the collaborative caring of The Big Sky Real Estate Co., Lone Mountain Land Company, The Wilson Hotel, Big Sky Town Center, Persnickety Cleaners, Coldwell Banker Distinctive Properties, and Kelsey French. For more info or how you can help our cause, please contact [phammelman@lonemountainland.com](mailto:phammelman@lonemountainland.com).





## SECTION 2: ENVIRONMENT & OUTDOORS AND SPORTS



Are you ready for avalanche season? pg. 15



It's time to rethink reuse pg. 16



LPHS sports pg. 22

# Crosscut builds strategic plan for Trapper's Cabin Ranch programming

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

**BIG SKY** – Located just 15 miles south of Big Sky off Taylor Fork Road, Trapper's Cabin Ranch is an idyllic getaway nestled against the untamed Lee Metcalf Wilderness. Previously under private ownership, the historic ranch's new steward envisions making this special place accessible to all through year-round programming.

Since buying the 640-acre ranch in spring of this year, Bozeman-based nonprofit Crosscut Mountain Sports Center has been developing a long-term strategic plan for how to best manage the property for both community use and land preservation.

Crosscut is located 17 miles north of Bozeman on 500-plus acres in the heart of the Bridger Range offering year-round recreational opportunities for the public. After buying Trapper's Cabin Ranch, the nonprofit hired Managing Director of Trapper's Cabin Ranch Angie Weikert and Community Outreach Manager Sinclair Welch in late June. Weikert has since been gathering community feedback and hosting pilot programs to inform her plan.



The historic Trapper's Cabin Ranch sits on 640 acres nestled against the Lee Metcalf Wilderness 15 miles south of Big Sky. PHOTO COURTESY OF CROSSCUT MOUNTAIN SPORTS CENTER

"What we've learned so far is this place is really special and we want to make sure we protect it and are good stewards of the land," Weikert said.

The ranch has five cozy cabins that can sleep up to 30 people as well as several outbuildings. All but 30 acres of the ranch are protected from development by a conservation easement.

Executive Director of Crosscut, Jennifer Beaston, said that this particular easement is intended to protect the fragile grizzly, wolf, moose and elk habitat. She added that the easement stipulates that the land can always be a working ranch meaning horses and cattle are allowed but no motorized vehicles are permitted on this small corner of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

The origins of the ranch can be traced back to when Congress passed the Land Ordinance of 1785 which divided land west of the Appalachian Mountains into mile-square parcels for settling. A trapper named Tom Lincoln built the ranch's first structure in 1910 giving the ranch its name.

Museum of the Rockies Co-founder Dr. Caroline McGill purchased the ranch from what is now the Burlington Northern Railroad in 1940. After Doc McGill passed, the Martin family took over the ranch in 1965. Virginia "Ginny" Martin spent summers at the property for decades and was known for her philanthropy and support throughout the Bozeman and Big Sky communities.

When Ginny passed away in 2016, the Martin family decided to sell the property and initially listed it for \$15 million. In February of this year, one of Ginny's granddaughters approached Beaston to brainstorm how the ranch could more broadly serve the surrounding communities.

"I knew that this was a property ... and our board and all the donors knew that this was a property, that we very much wanted to be very thoughtful about how we plan for its uses so that we could keep protecting the ecosystem," Beaston said.

Not long after starting a discussion with Crosscut, the Martin family offered the nonprofit an opportunity to purchase the ranch. Crosscut's board of directors signed a buy-sell agreement on March 8 with one caveat: Crosscut had eight weeks to raise almost \$2.9 million in cash to purchase the property at an 80 percent reduced price.

Bolstered by support from philanthropic partners in the Big Sky and Bozeman communities, Crosscut was able to raise the money and signed the purchase agreement on April 29.

The Yellowstone Club, Moonlight and Spanish Peaks community foundations each contributed \$50,000 to the purchase and anonymous individuals associated with the Yellowstone Club and Moonlight Basin gave an additional \$30,000.

"Our interest in helping them, one was conserving that parcel and having that under ownership of a proven nonprofit partner of ours, and then just the public accessibility of such a beautiful location," said Ciara Wolfe, VP of philanthropy at YCCF. "It's just an amazing place and so to have that be publicly accessible through the programming of Crosscut and what they choose to do at Trapper's Cabin just seemed like a win-win."

YCCF has funded Crosscut's programming at its Bridger location in the past, and YCCF board member Andrew McEntire will serve on Crosscut's advisory board. Beaston said Crosscut has been asking donors and partners for feedback on how to make the ranch a place that the Big Sky community can enjoy.

Beaston said that she has been excited by the response Crosscut has received from the community organizations and individuals who are helping to shape future programming.

Weikert, who has a masters in science education and is currently working on a PhD focused on place-based education, said she invites any feedback the Big Sky and Bozeman communities have to offer and said that this coming spring there will be a more structured way to submit it.

"Accessibility and inclusivity are really important for us," Weikert said. "Helping people that don't normally get to access wild places, we want this to be a spot for them."

Weikert named horseback riding and fishing as possible programs and emphasized her focus on supporting access for everyone in her planning. Place-based education, she added, is another key piece of her strategic plan.

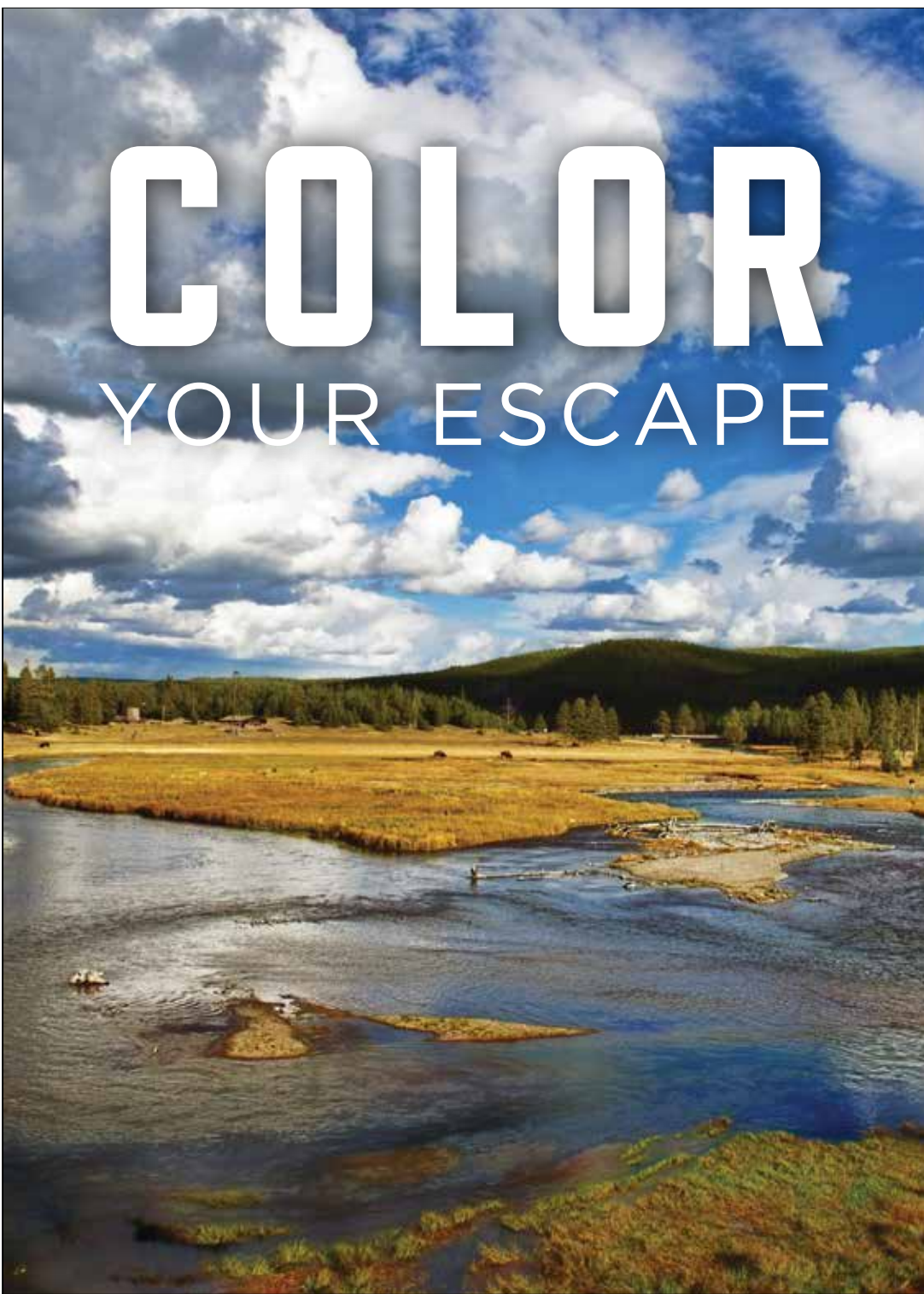
"We've done one pilot program up there, and it went really well. We're looking forward towards more of those," she said.

Crosscut will continue piloting different programs with the goal of rolling out a full lineup of programming in 2023.

Beaston said the long-term hope is to expose as many people as possible to the ranch while still keeping the ecosystem pristine. "We really saw it as one of those places where it's hopefully a once in a lifetime experience [that] you never forget and shapes who you are as a person, for the rest of your life."



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# Are you ready for avalanche season?

BY DAVE ZINN

EBS CONTRIBUTOR

PHOTOS BY DAVE ZINN

The first flakes of snow in the sky prompt a collective rush to gather riding, snowboarding and skiing equipment. For some, the first snow means seeking areas with (arguably) enough coverage to make the first turns of the new season, but before heading to the hills be sure that all your avalanche rescue equipment is functioning and get out to practice. Remember the adage, “If there is enough snow to ride, there is enough snow to slide.”

Everyone traveling in steep snow-covered terrain beyond the boundaries of a ski area should have three primary pieces of equipment--an avalanche beacon, rescue shovel, and probe--and know how to properly use them. Unsurprisingly, equipment left broken and worn as the snow melted last spring did not magically repair itself during the summer. Here are the checks to perform before heading out this season:

### 3-Antenna Digital Avalanche Beacon:

- Replace the batteries and confirm that the contacts are in good condition.
- Ensure the battery power is at 100 percent and all buttons/dials/switches are functioning.

### Metal Avalanche Shovel:

- Inspect the metal blade and handle for wear or cracking.
- Assemble and test the shovel to make sure it operates smoothly.
- File the cutting edge of the blade smooth so it doesn't tear up your backpack.

### Avalanche Probe:

- Inspect the tensioning cable for fraying and damage.
- Assess the locking mechanism.
- Assemble the probe.

### Avalanche Airbag (optional):

- Check the canister pressure or battery charge (now and before each day's use).
- Charge or refill canister as needed.
- Know how to assemble the airbag.
- Perform a test deployment.

Confirming that your essential avalanche safety equipment is organized and in working order is the first step in your pre-season preparation. Next, gather a group of friends in the backyard and get the grill going. While you are waiting for food, time yourselves as you transition from having your gear in backpacks to “ready-to-rescue” mode. Hide transmitting beacons around the yard and perform searches. Finally, go to [mtavalanche.com/EducationCalendar](http://mtavalanche.com/EducationCalendar) for online avalanche education tools and a calendar of local classes to get yourself and your crew into an avalanche safety mindset.

We are all excited to see snow fly and kick off a fantastic winter of recreation in the mountains. Perform these simple checks and be ready when the winter arrives. Find relevant avalanche information and forecasts from the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center all winter at [mtavalanche.com](http://mtavalanche.com).

*Dave Zinn is an avalanche forecaster for the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center. He has been with GNFAC since 2019 and has eleven years of ski patrol experience at Bridger Bowl and the Yellowstone Club.*



## Avalanche Fundamentals with Field Course

Live Q&A Dec. 2, 2021  
at 7 p.m. on Zoom

The popular GNFAC and MSU Outdoor Recreation Avalanche Fundamentals with Field Course returns this year beginning on **Dec. 2**.

This program is a good refresher or introduction to avalanches. This year's course will take a new format with four lectures pre-recorded to watch at your convenience, a live Q&A session, and your choice of a snowmobile or ski/board-based field day occurring the following three weekends.

Ski sessions will be hosted at Bridger Bowl from 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the following dates:

- **Friday, Dec. 3**
- **Saturday, Dec. 4**
- **Sunday, Dec. 5**
- **Saturday Dec. 11**
- **Sunday Dec. 12**

Pre-registration is required at [ow.ly/P1oM50Gww1s](https://ow.ly/P1oM50Gww1s) and tickets are \$40. Proceeds benefit the Friends of the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center.

Visit [mtavalanche.com](http://mtavalanche.com) to see a calendar of upcoming avalanche courses and to get the daily avalanche forecast.



# It's time to rethink reuse

## We must seek creative solutions to water-cycle challenges

BY DAVID TUCKER  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

On Oct. 11, snow returned to the upper Gallatin watershed, and for the first time since late spring, the water bank began recharging.

In Big Sky, as with all communities across the Mountain West, fresh water comes primarily in the form of winter's snow, as inches turn to feet and next summer's water supply is stored in the alpine until spring.

The continuation of this cycle is critical to river health—and to the supply of fresh water in our homes and businesses—but its persistence is far from guaranteed.

As climate change continues to wreak havoc on the delicate natural balance of our headwaters ecosystem, the availability of fresh water becomes less likely every passing year. Warming temperatures mean fewer days of snowfall, shorter winter seasons and faster spring snowmelt. All of this adds up to a concerning sum—a future without ample cold, clean flows for the Gallatin River.

But just as the season's first snow offered a sigh of relief from the dry, hot summer, proactive conservation and resilience in the face of climate change can result in a more hopeful outcome. Recently, we've taken major steps forward.

Earlier this year, engineers broke ground on a new, upgraded wastewater treatment plant in Big Sky. This facility will have major positive impacts on the health of the Gallatin River, as water treated there will have 90 percent less bacteria, 99 percent less nitrogen and 99 percent less phosphorus.

This highly-treated water allows us to prioritize wastewater recycling options that aren't available currently, such as groundwater recharge and snowmaking. A snowmaking project is underway at the Yellowstone Club, and the Gallatin River Task Force is working with Big Sky Resort on a feasibility study for the resort's terrain.

By mimicking traditional snowfall patterns, snowmaking with highly-treated wastewater will recharge our aquifers, improve streamflows in our waterways

and mitigate adverse impacts from climate change. This is particularly important as drought, such as we experienced this year, becomes the norm, not an anomaly.

While using wastewater for snowmaking might seem irksome to some, it's important to note that studies reviewed by the task force show no adverse environmental impact from doing so. In fact, as far as discharge options go, this is far more favorable than using wastewater for landscaping irrigation, although with the new treatment plant, this process will also be radically improved. Snowmaking also helps avoid direct discharge into the Gallatin, which the task force has long opposed.

Because our water supply is so reliant on snowfall, and because all climate models predict a significant decrease in snowfall, this reuse option is particularly encouraging, although there are others that could also improve water quality and bolster water quantity.

Groundwater recharge, in which treated wastewater is pumped into underground "infiltration galleries" connected to aquifers, could also go a long way toward augmenting our water supply as we prepare for a drier future. Because the wastewater is highly-treated, we believe there is little threat to water quality and river health, and indeed this method would increase in-stream flows as underground aquifers feed springs that feed the Gallatin.

As the weather shifts, forecasters are predicting a cold, snowy winter, which is good, but far from a guarantee of ample water supply come spring. For now, only one thing is clear: our water supply issues are not going away. Climate change and human use are driving our water levels down. This decrease in supply exacerbates water quality issues, further threatening aquatic wildlife, our recreation economy and public health.

To solve what feels like a monumental problem, we have to be creative and we have to be proactive. By doing so, we can set the sustainability standard for headwaters communities across the American West. It will take outside-the-box thinking, but based on recent progress, it appears we're heading in the right direction.

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



As snow returns to the alpine, next summer's water supply begins to rebuild. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE



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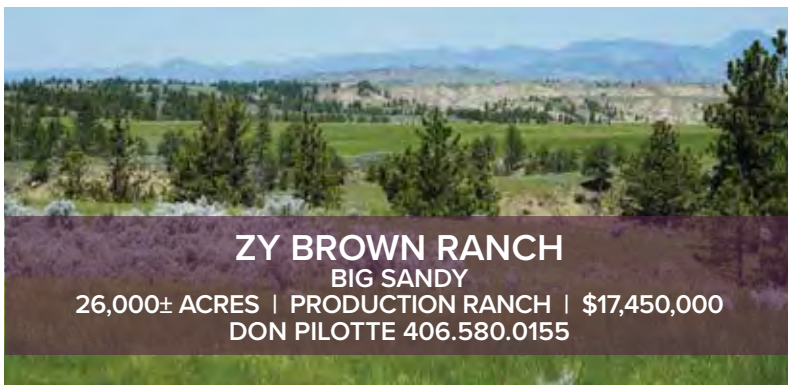


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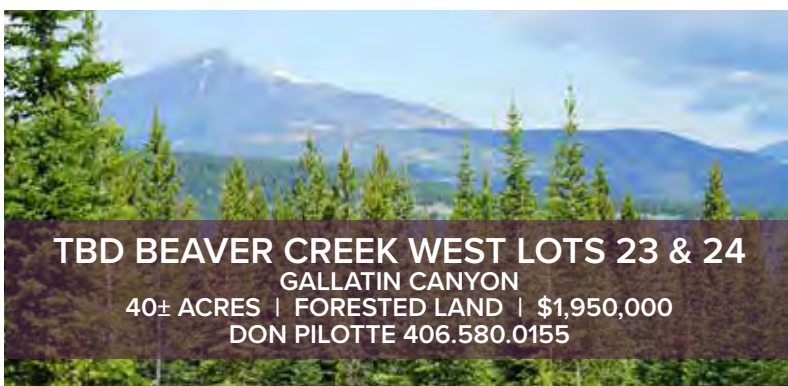
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# Sometimes, the simplest things can help wildlife



BY RICHARD KNIGHT AND HEATHER DANNAHOWER  
*WRITERS ON THE RANGE*

“Oh, give me a home where the buffalo roam  
Where the deer and the antelope play  
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word  
And the skies are not cloudy all day”



Sad to say, but that wide-open home on the range that Bing Crosby sings about in Brewster Higley’s “Home on the Range,” has been steadily diminishing with every passing decade as the Western landscape has been sliced and diced by roads and barbed-wire fences.

Today, only an extremely savvy deer or antelope (or elk, moose or bighorn sheep) can move freely across private and public lands. Wild ungulates may have co-evolved nicely with carnivores on the top of the food chain, but

they are overwhelmed by the “metallic carnivores” that roam highways. They also have little defense against the snagging attacks of barbs on fences.

What to we do about it? As with every bit of technology we invent, humans can learn to adapt to their downsides. There are ways to make things safer for wildlife.

With that goal, Colorado State University and Fort Collins Front Range Community College enlisted some of their students--with financial support from Colorado Parks and Wildlife--to take down gates and make road and fence crossings safer for deer, elk and antelope on the Roberts Ranch in Larimer County, Colorado. Zach Thode, ranch manager, championed the efforts on the 17,000-acre Roberts Ranch. The working ranch is in a conservation easement, and Thode says he takes the conversation part of his job seriously.

The new gates result in less wildlife mayhem on highways and fewer cases of animals getting snagged on barbed wire, where they die painful deaths.

Eliminating barbed wire gates is remarkably simple: Install posts 4 feet above the ground and 17 inches apart. Walla! Cows, horses and mules are too broad to pass through but ungulates easily slip past. Then take down the gates and count the comings and goings on a trail camera.

An alternative model constructed by Colorado State University and Front Range Community College places a log horizontally on vertical supports, 40 inches above the ground. That allows antelope to pass underneath safely while deer and elk can easily jump over. Cows are blocked because they have too much mass to make the jump.

What’s amazing is that the fixes are inexpensive, costing just \$100 in materials, and the students and their teachers who do the work come away enriched with the knowledge that they have increased the ability of wild animals to move about safely.

Since this opened with a lyric about freedom, here’s a fitting conclusion to this modest effort that makes the West safer for wildlife, written by Cole Porter:

“Oh, give me land, lots of land under starry skies above,  
Don't fence me in.  
Let me ride through the wide open country that I love,  
Don't fence me in.  
Let me be by myself in the evenin' breeze,  
And listen to the murmur of the cottonwood trees,  
Send me off forever but I ask you please,  
Don't fence me in.”

*Richard Knight (richard.knight@colostate.edu) and Heather Dannahower (heather.dannahower@frontrange.edu) are contributors to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, a nonprofit service that seeks to spur lively conversation about the West. Knight is a wildlife conservation professor at Colorado State University and Dannahower is a professor of natural resources at Front Range Community College.*



# CONSIGNMENT CABIN OF BIG SKY

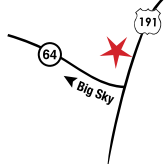
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## THE NEW WEST



BY TODD WILKINSON  
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

If you've been reading the regional news and you care about the wondrous things of the natural world, then you know famous Jackson Hole grizzly mother 399 and her four cubs are in trouble.

They are strolling prior to hibernation this year in perilous straits—conditions even more treacherous than navigating a landscape full of elk hunters in the woods of northwest Wyoming leaving behind carcass piles that attract hungry bruins.

This grizzly fivesome has been wandering widely in Jackson Hole, moving through developed areas and neighborhoods, across busy highways—all in a search for food. That's what grizzlies do in autumn when they are preparing themselves for several months of slumber. They need to take in as many calories as possible to fatten up for winter. Nutritional health makes all the difference.

But this year the 25-year-old matriarch and her family of yearlings has gotten into unnatural food. The same thing is happening with grizzly and black bears in Paradise Valley, outside Bozeman, on the outskirts of Big Sky and many other places.

Here's the punchline: "If something bad happens to 399 and her cubs, it's not going to be her fault. The blame will rest on humans who did something stupid."

That assessment comes from Dr. Christopher Servheen, who spent three-and-a-half decades overseeing grizzly bear recovery for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from his office in Missoula. Servheen is today retired and serves as an executive with the Montana Wildlife Federation.

399's fate rests in our hands and it ought to serve as a wake-up call—yet another reminder that living in Greater Yellowstone comes replete with personal responsibility. The things we humans may have practiced elsewhere don't work here.

"What's happening in Jackson Hole right now with 399 is a test that we knew was coming," said Tom Mangelsen, the noted nature photographer who has been chronicling 399 and several litters of cubs for 15 years. "People forget that grizzly conservation is a miracle and it only happened because we humans changed our behavior."

On Monday, Nov. 8 from 6:30-8 p.m. MST, Servheen and Mangelsen will discuss grizzly 399, the story of bear conservation in the Northern Rockies and challenges facing bears now that Montana has passed controversial laws that Servheen believes will hobble ongoing bear recovery.

Along with Servheen and Mangelsen, another esteemed panelist will be Dr. Jodi Hilty, president and senior scientist with the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative that has championed bioregional connection in the Northern Rockies.

The EBS Town Hall forum, in collaboration with Mountain Journal, will be free and made available via Zoom and on the EBS Facebook page. It will be a chance not only to hear from experts who have spent many, many years observing nature, but to also become informed.

Where for many years Servheen was a firm backer of states regaining management authority over grizzlies once they were removed from federal protection under the Endangered Species Act, now he is reassessing his position. He says that Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte and the majority of politically appointed members of the Montana Fish and Wildlife

## Servheen, Hilty, Mangelsen headline online chat about grizzly bears in Northern Rockies

Commission don't understand bear biology, the science of bear management or that fact that bears are not the menaces that members of the Montana Legislature portrayed them to be.

Perhaps the best example of all is Grizzly 399 who has successfully raised several litters of cubs in close proximity to people in Grand Teton National Park. She has demonstrated that grizzlies are not impetuous bloodthirsty beasts prowling for trouble with people. She has been tolerant of humans and taught her cubs how to navigate landscapes with intense human footprints.

Today in Montana, and if grizzlies are ever removed from federal protection, state laws would prohibit the ability of bear managers to relocate grizzlies outside the grizzly bear recovery zone—an area that Servheen says was established mostly to reflect where grizzlies were on the landscape in 1975.

Bears were brought under federal protection because the states of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho showed they were incapable of maintaining healthy populations, emanating a mindset remarkably similar to the one being expressed by Gianforte and his political appointees, Servheen says.

Along with Servheen, Mangelsen brings many decades of insights about wildlife conservation. It was only a few years ago that he was profiled on CBS's 60 Minutes.

Joseph O'Connor, editor-in-chief of Explore Big Sky, and I welcome you to tune in Monday night. We know it will make for a fascinating conversation about the fate of an animal that defines the essence of wildness in the Northern Rockies.

Tune in to the Explore Big Sky Facebook page Monday Nov. 8 at 6 p.m. MST to watch the discussion.

*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 Mangelsen, about grizzly bear 399.*



Famous Jackson Hole grizzly bear 399 and her four cubs swim across the Snake River near Jackson, Wyoming. PHOTO BY THOMAS D. MANGELSEN



# LPHS SPORTS

## Big Horn volleyball wraps 2021 season

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

BIG SKY – Defeat at the District 12C tournament ended the Lone Peak High School varsity volleyball team's season on Friday, Oct. 29.

Headed into the tournament the Big Horns had a 6-6 record and picked up one more win and two losses.

After playing West Yellowstone for their final regular-season game where the Wolverines picked one game from the match off them, Lone Peak's head coach, Ellen Wolferman, said the Big Horns were fired up to play the Wolverines in the first round of the tournament.

"All our players played phenomenally well," she said. "Everything came together for [the game against] West so it was good to start off with setting the tone that way."

Lone Peak defeated the Wolverines in three games scoring 25-21, 25-15 and 25-12. The victory against the Wolverines matched the Big Horns against the White Sulphur Springs Hornets who were ranked second in the district going into the tournament.

Wolferman said she saw a lot of errors in the match against the Hornets, and the Big Horns struggled to communicate on the court. While the girls fought hard after getting into the swing of things, they fell in three games to the Hornets 25-15, 25-19 and 25-11. The Hornets went on to take second place in the tournament, losing to the Manhattan Christian Eagles in the championship.

The loss sent the Big Horns to the loser bracket in the double-elimination tournament, where they squared off against the Twin Bridges Falcons, who they lost to in the regular season.

Wolferman said it was a "night and day difference" from the game against the Hornets the previous day.



The Big Horns pose with Assistant Coach Bailey Dowd (left) and Head Coach Ellen Wolferman (right) at the District 12C volleyball tournament. PHOTO COURTESY OF ELLEN WOLFERMAN

"That was by far probably one of my most favorite games to be coaching this whole season," she said of the game versus the Falcons.

Many of the players for the Big Horns and the Falcons are evenly matched Wolferman said, so the game was a nail-biter the whole time. Though the Big Horns competed closely in the high-stakes matchup, the Falcons took the match in three games winning 25-23, 25-16 and 25-21 to end the Big Horns' season.

Despite the loss, Wolferman said she was proud of the team's closing performance.

"I feel like everything that we had worked so hard on the entire season kind of came together for everyone," Wolferman said.

She noted that the Big Horns logged some great blocks against the Falcons and praised sophomore left-side hitter Vera Grabow for her best game all season. After injuring her finger against the Hornets on Thursday, Grabow came out against the Falcons with ferocious hits and racked up points for the Big Horns.

Freshman Emerson Tatom also gave a standout performance against the Falcons with her deceptive underhand serve. Wolferman said that Tatom's serve allowed the Big Horns to set up effective attacks and go on scoring streaks.

Junior libero Jessie Bough emerged as a strong leader during the tournament, logging some amazing digs and bringing a positive attitude to the court. Wolferman said Bough did a great job fulfilling her role as captain and picking up the slack on the court.

This was Wolferman's first year coaching the Big Horns and she said it was a fun season full of adaptation as challenges arose.

"I feel like our girls really stepped up and embraced [the challenges] and leaned into adversity and took on a lot of challenges head on," she said.

The Big Horns had a young team this year with only one senior, TJ Nordahl, on the roster. Wolferman said she looks forward to working with the returning players and seeing them grow and gain experience on the court.

Wolferman predicts that freshman right-side hitter Claire Hoadley will be unstoppable in three years and sophomore middle blocker Ella Meredith is already a completely different player from the beginning of the season.

Junior left-side hitter Maddie Cone was the Big Horns top performing hitter, finishing the season with 100 kills and a pass rating of 2.26 out of 3. Bough had 192 digs this season and a pass rating of 2.06.

Wolferman thanked Assistant Coach Bailey Dowd for her hard work throughout the season as well as Athletic Director John Hannahs for supporting her in her coaching duties.

Wolferman said she looks forward to using what she learned this year to improve the team next year. "It's exciting seeing those younger players because if this is where they're at now I just can't wait to see what the future holds if we just keep working at the skills that we've worked on this whole season," she said.

## In season finale, Lone Peak football falls to Choteau

BY AL MALINOWSKI  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – The Lone Peak Big Horns football team concluded their 2021 campaign Thursday night at home against the Choteau Bulldogs, from the 8-man Northern Division. Despite a 14-14 tie at halftime, the Big Horns were unable to contain the Bulldog running attack in the second half, falling to Choteau 58-20. Lone Peak ends their season with a 2-6 record, while Choteau finished at 2-7.

Both teams faced tough competition this season, contributing to their respective losing records. Lone Peak's first four games came against three teams currently ranked in the 406mtsports.com High School Top Ten—Simms, Joliet, Park City—and the fourth against Sheridan who recently dropped out of the Top Ten.

The Northern Division currently boasts four of the Top Ten teams, twice as many as any other division. Choteau faced three of those Top Ten teams this season—Fort Benton, Belt, Chinook—and also played Sheridan in a non-division game.

Despite their records, the two teams entered their final game motivated to end the season on a positive note and send their seniors out with a victory. The first half play depicted two teams determined to finish their seasons on a winning note.

Choteau received the football first, but Lone Peak's defense held, forcing the Bulldogs to punt. On the Big Horns' first drive, sophomore quarterback Juliusz Shipman connected with senior Issac Singer for a 51-yard touchdown, when the Bulldog defensive back dove for a deflection and missed. Singer maintained his concentration and snagged the pass, then raced down the open field to the end zone. The Big Horn



attempt to kick the Point After Touchdown was blocked, giving Lone Peak a 6-0 lead.

Choteau answered on its next drive. At the Big Horn 30-yard line, Bulldog sophomore quarterback Bowen Rappold rolled to his right, drawing all four Big Horn rushers with him. Rappold lofted the ball back to the left where senior Carter Morgan was awaiting the screen pass. Morgan took the ball the distance, though the Choteau PAT attempt was also blocked, tying the score at 6-6.

After a Lone Peak drive that ended in a punt, Choteau faced a fourth and long in their own territory and planned to punt. However, the snap was bobbled and freshman Bridger Flores tackled the Bulldog punter at the Choteau 29-yard line.

The Big Horns would waste no time taking advantage of the Bulldog miscue. On the first play from scrimmage, Shipman hit junior Pierce Farr for a 29-yard touchdown strike down the left sideline. On the 2-point PAT, Farr caught a pass from Shipman at the 1-yard line, then outpowered the Choteau defender to score, regaining the lead for the Big Horns 14-6.

Choteau punted on its next possession. Lone Peak drove the ball deep inside the Bulldog territory for a first-and-goal opportunity. However, the Big Horns lost yardage on their next several plays and turned the ball over on downs.

The Bulldogs would immediately add to the momentum of their defensive stops. On their first play of the possession, Rappold would turn what appeared to be a broken-down pass play into a 54-yard scramble for a touchdown. Senior Jeffrey Colesworthy added a 2-point conversion run to tie the score, 14-14, and conclude the first-half scoring.

Lone Peak began the second half with a steady drive into Bulldog territory but lost the ball with a fumble at the 35-yard line. Choteau would score 5 touchdowns in their next 13 offensive plays, all running the ball, to seize control of the game.

After touchdown runs from 29 yards by Colesworthy, 3 yards from Morgan and 44 yards again from Morgan, Shipman gave the Big Horns hope by returning the next kickoff to the Bulldog 16-yard line. Lone Peak eventually scored on a Shipman quarterback sneak from 3 yards out on fourth and goal. The PAT failed, and Lone Peak had cut the deficit to 34-20.



Aiden Miller, 52 and Pierce Farr, 50 stop a Bulldog run in the first quarter. PHOTO BY LINDSEY PRUIETT

Choteau responded with a 63-yard kickoff return touchdown to regain their 20-point lead, 40-20. The Bulldogs added another touchdown run by Morgan from 39 yards, his fifth of the game, a 19-yard scamper by Colesworthy, and a 40-yard interception return by junior Landon Jamison on the final play of the game. With unsuccessful PATs on the final four touchdowns, the Bulldogs won 58-20.

Both head coaches praised their seniors following the game. First-year Big Horn Head Coach James Miranda acknowledged the resiliency of his seniors, Henry Slade, Issac Singer, Aiden Miller and Robert Pruiett, as their team battled through injuries this season. He also reinforced the feelings their teammates have for them. “Unfortunately, we couldn’t get the W for them, but you’ve noticed [the seniors] are definitely well respected and loved by their players.”

Miranda also looked ahead, recognizing the experience the underclassmen had earned and the success of the middle school program.

“Guys are playing through a lot of pain,” he said. “We have individuals that are looking forward to a long weekend, but we told them, Aug. 12 next year, tell your parents that’s when it starts.”

Choteau Head Coach Lucas Gunderson lauded the performance of his seniors, Morgan, Colesworthy and Jared Selander.

“They just had phenomenal games, especially that second half,” Gunderson said. “They really turned it on and can find the holes and opened it up.”

Gunderson also recognized the overall defensive play on his team and how it contributed to the offensive success.

“We had some big turnovers, fourth-down stops that puts all the momentum back in the offense’s hands, and we just capitalized on it.”

Earlier in the day, the Ophir Miners middle school team defeated rival West Yellowstone 60-12. The Miners concluded their season with a 5-1 record and look to promote eight eighth-graders to the high school program next year.

# STACY OSSORIO

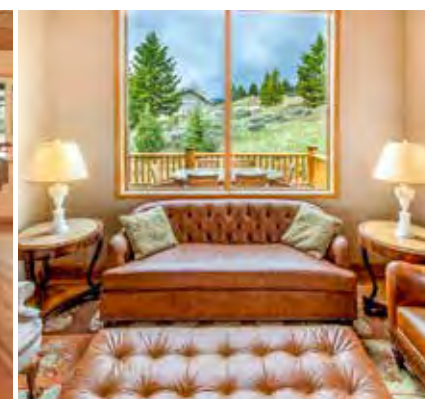
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## SECTION 3:

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT,  
BUSINESS, DINING  
AND FUN

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MIIBS:  
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expands into new location pg. 29

## A look into “The Broken World” by Tom Vandel

BY TUCKER HARRIS

BIG SKY – If you were to ask author Tom Vandel for his favorite places in the world, his response would be Rome, Paris, New York City, and Butte, Montana. Vandel grew up in Billings, attended University of Montana, and now resides part-time between Big Sky, Montana, and Portland, Oregon. He loves to travel down Montana’s backroads, stopping in little bars along the way, drinking a cold Rainier, and meeting individuals and hearing their stories. These stories are the inspiration for much of his writing, including many of the stories in his newest book, “The Broken World.”



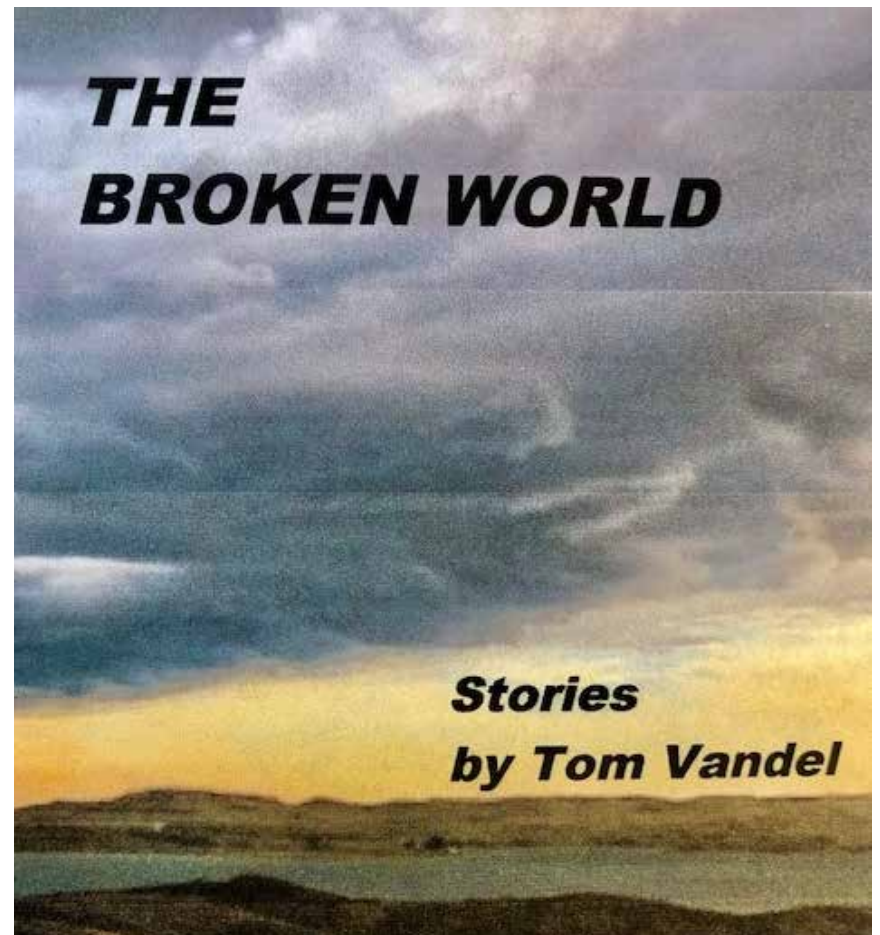
A collection of short stories published on Oct. 21, “The Broken World” highlights broken relationships and people, with a little bit of humor woven in. Using short and punchy language, each story is pulled from the people and places which Vandel has met or experienced throughout his travels. The first short story, “The Men and the Lake” takes place on Flathead Lake, south of Glacier National Park. Vandel recreates the true story of his friend, who mysteriously drowned in Great Bear Lake, with his own twist. Written in verse format, the lines ebb and flow on the page like waves, reflecting the emotions of joy and sadness rising and falling in the story.

“The Broken World” can be found at Barnes & Noble, Target, and on Amazon.

Below is an excerpt from “The Men and the Lake” a short story in “The Broken World.”

### We could talk about the men and the lake.

Friends since third grade,  
They grew up on Wyoming Avenue in Billings, five houses apart,  
Throwing rocks and snowballs and insults at other kids,  
And each other.  
And making themselves crack up. Two crazy loons.  
One confident and competitive,  
The other snarky and who-gives-a-shit.  
Conner and Mason. Known to friends as Connie and Mace.  
After high school, Conner went to college and moved to Seattle.  
Worked as an engineer, married a high school classmate,  
Had a son and daughter.  
Mason held odd jobs, became a teacher,  
Married a woman from Edmonton. No offspring.  
They drifted apart for a decade, then nature (or fish, or fate),  
Flung them back together again, like old times.  
They reconnected over a shared love of  
Angling, drinking, and  
Sports trivia.  
Both had a deep  
Love for Roberto Clemente,  
The baseball legend who perished when his  
Cargo plane crashed into the sea during a  
Relief mission to Nicaragua.  
It'd been eight years since Conner and Mason last  
Caught big fish together.  
On a summer fishing  
Trip to Great Bear Lake in the far north.  
Mason wanted to catch one more whopper  
Before he died, he said, laughing.  
He wanted them to  
Go back to the Great Bear.  
Conner said it was a brilliant idea.  
And wondered if Mason was sober. He seemed lucid.  
Mason assured him he was. Conner responded that the  
Proposal was sound,  
But Great Bear Lake was not possible. Not this year.  
He flashed on an alternative instead.  
How about Flathead Lake?



Northwest Montana instead of Northwest Territories.  
Go in mid-September when kids and fish are back in school.  
There are huge trout in Flathead, Conner told him.  
Mason had never fished Flathead.  
He bit and the trip was booked.  
Flathead Lake is an immense,  
Breathtaking body of water,  
Just forty miles south of Glacier National Park.  
Born out of the ice age from the glacial waters of  
Ancient Lake Missoula.  
Near 30 miles long and 17 miles wide,  
With a depth of up to 370 feet,  
Flathead is one of  
The largest freshwater lakes in the nation.  
Home to millions of fish.  
Lake trout, bull trout, pike, whitefish, yellow perch.  
And, according to legend,  
One monster.  
Sightings of a strange,  
Undefined creature have  
Been surfacing since the late 1800s.  
Those who claim to have seen it say it looks like a  
Dark, snaky eel crossing the water.  
Others think it's something else.  
A huge, rare white sturgeon.  
Never before caught.  
The great white sturgeon some dubbed it.  
Conner and Mason hoped to see. It. Or, better yet, catch it.  
That week at Flathead was heavenly.  
Days in the low 80s.  
Water hovering in the high 60s.  
Plenty warm enough to swim in, which they did off their dock,  
Every day after lunch, when fish took a siesta.  
The conditions were perfect.  
Until they weren't.  
Turns out,  
The monster wasn't in the lake.  
It was in the sky.  
Lurking.



# BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR

Friday, Nov. 5 – Thursday, Nov. 18

*If your event falls between Nov. 19 and Dec. 2, please submit it by Nov. 10 by emailing [media@outlaw.partners](mailto:media@outlaw.partners)*

## Friday, Nov. 5

**Taste of Montana in the Fall Dinner**

Acre Kitchen, 6 p.m.

**Live Music: Grant Ferguson and Modern Rock Orchestra**

Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

**Live Music: Highly Suspect**

The Elm, 8 p.m.

**Live Music: Jacob Rountree**

Tips Up, 9 p.m.

## Saturday, Nov. 6

**Bridger Ski Foundation Ski Swap**

Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Arthur Trace**

Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 7 p.m.

## Sunday, Nov. 7

**Bridger Ski Foundation Ski Swap**

Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Monday, Nov. 8

**Beehive Paint Party with Heather Rapp**

Beehive Basin Brewery, 5:30 p.m.

## Tuesday, Nov. 9

**American Legion Bingo**

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

## Wednesday, Nov. 10

**November BSRAD Board Meeting**

BSRAD Office, 9 a.m.

**Big Sky Discovery Academy's Fall Jam**

Tips Up, 6:30 p.m.

**Science Inquiry Series**

[gallatinscience.org](http://gallatinscience.org), 7 p.m.

## Thursday, Nov. 11

**Live Music: Ben & Abel**

Tips Up, 9 p.m.

## Friday, Nov. 12

**80's Night Fundraiser**

Tips Up, 7 p.m.

## Saturday, Nov. 13

**Live Music: Tylor & the Train Robbers**

Stacey's Old Faithful Bar & Steakhouse, 9 p.m.

## Sunday, Nov. 14

**Erika Pankow Scholarship Fund Pint Night**

Beehive Basin Brewery, 5 p.m.

**Live Music: JJ Grey & Mofro**

The Elm, 8 p.m.

## Monday, Nov. 15

**Trivia Night**

Pinky G's Pizzeria, 7 p.m.

## Tuesday, Nov. 16

**American Legion Bingo**

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

## Wednesday, Nov. 17

**Read with a dog**

Bozeman Public Library, 4 p.m.

## Thursday, Nov. 18

**Avalanche Awareness Webinar**

Online (visit <https://www.facebook.com/seejaneadventures/> for info), 6 p.m.

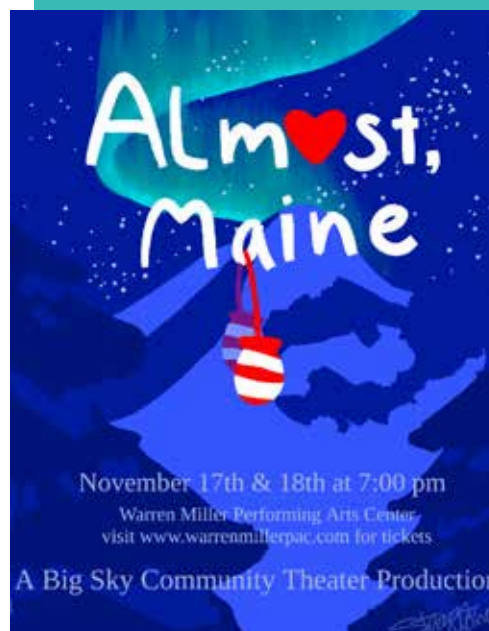
**Live Music: Chancey Williams**

The Elm, 8 p.m.

**Live Music: Amanda Stewart & Co.**

Tips Up, 9 p.m.

## Featured event: Big Sky Community Theater presents "Almost, Maine"



The seasoned and talented Big Sky Community Theatre will present its fall production, "Almost, Maine," on Nov. 17 and 18 at 7 p.m. "Almost, Maine," written by John Cariani, is series of nine vignettes that tell the story of one wintery night in the town of Almost, Maine, where love, loss and surprise take the stage for an evening. Starring your friends and neighbors, this production is sure to add excitement to your November.

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## Making it in Big Sky: Morningstar Learning Center

BY MIRA BRODY

**BIG SKY** – While many visitors may remember Big Sky for its powder days, steep skiing and seasonal events long after they leave, those who live here know the community is much more than a resort town and requires the services of any other city or town—preschool and daycare being one of them. When it first opened in 2007, Morningstar Learning Center was filled to capacity within three weeks and to this day is the only state-licensed, full-time, year-round daycare and early learning center in Big Sky.

Today, Morningstar is able to enroll 66 students daily: 16 infants, 22 toddlers and 28 pre-K students and because it operates as a nonprofit, it's able to offer the lowest possible tuition for those who need it, a necessity for a community that experiences the economic disparities that Big Sky is not immune to. Explore Big Sky spoke with Morningstar's new executive director, Mariel Butan, about her love for the area, for her job at Morningstar and how she is inspired daily by her 11 hardworking staff that make the center possible.

The following answers have been edited for brevity.

**Explore Big Sky:** *First, let's start with a little background information on you. When did you come to Big Sky? How did you get involved with Morningstar and what is your current role?*

**Mariel Butan:** I came to Big Sky in February 2017 to visit a friend. I fell in love with Montana (and the friend), and we've been here ever since! I'd been working remotely in nonprofit management but have friends with kids at Morningstar. They approached me about the executive director role in late 2020, early 2021, and I applied and was hired in the spring of 2021.

**EBS:** *Tell me about the history of Morningstar.*

**M.B.:** The nonprofit organization was founded in September 2006 with a goal of finding a permanent home for childcare in Big Sky. It was fully enrolled within three weeks of opening, and we've been close to capacity—which is dictated by physical space and staffing—ever since. We wound up in our current building in 2009 after the [economic] crash thwarted plans for a beautiful, state-of-the-art, new building. Especially with how the cost of property here has skyrocketed, we're so grateful to have the stability of owning our property so that we can focus on our services—taking care of Big Sky's littlest as they learn and grow!

**EBS:** *As Big Sky grows, how has Morningstar adapted its services?*

**M.B.:** First, Laura MacPherson (our center director) has been spearheading incredible enhancements to our programs at MLC. That L stands for learning, and providing a safe and enriching environment focused on whole child development



Morningstar Learning Center's Mariel Butan (right, with center director, Laura MacPherson) says her favorite thing about working with Morningstar teachers is seeing their love, commitment and patience with their students. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER

“ My favorite thing about working with Morningstar teachers is seeing them with the children. Their love, commitment, and patience—not to mention willingness to change lots of diapers—are truly inspirational. ”

– Mariel Butan, executive director, Morningstar Learning Center

is Laura's and my top priority. We have also been having a lot of conversations with our board and partners about the needs of this community, how Morningstar can meet them, and where other entities need to step up to fill in some of the gaps. We're a town with highly seasonal employment that often includes nights, weekends and holidays, and we're just not equipped to offer childcare that meets everyone's needs. However, we're committed to doing what we can, such as continuing to offer part-time enrollment to support families' choices and schedules.

**EBS:** *How big is your team and what is your favorite thing about working with them?*

**M.B.:** Right now we have two people on the admin team and 11 teachers. We're hiring! My favorite thing about working with Morningstar teachers is seeing them with the children. Their love, commitment, and patience—not to mention willingness to change lots of diapers—are truly inspirational.

**EBS:** *What is your favorite memory working at Morningstar?*

**M.B.:** I don't get to interact with the kids all that much because my responsibilities are so tied to the office and meetings, so the interactions I do have with them mean a lot to me. A few stand out as my favorites, like the smiles I get in the infant center, hugs from friends' kids who have started to recognize me, and the time a girl in pre-K asked whose mom I was. I said “I'm nobody's mom; whose mom are you?” She laughed so hard!

**EBS:** *What is the best part of working at Morningstar?*

**M.B.:** The best part of working at MLC is doing something to help my own community, hands down. I've done so much work that I'm really proud of helping others across the country and in other countries, but this is the first time that if I do a good job, people in my own backyard will live better lives. Kids where I live will have a brighter future. It's a lot of pressure, too!

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

**M.B.:** I once told someone that I didn't see myself as a leader but “just” as a supporter of other people. He said that supporting others is the very definition of leadership, or at least one approach to leadership, and that really gave me a new perspective. It's had a lot of influence on how I show up and make decisions.

**EBS:** *Anything else you would like to add?*

**M.B.:** One thing that encouraged me to take this job and that has continued to amaze me is how people in Big Sky work together to make things happen, both on an individual and business level. I'm really grateful for all the support I've had so far being new to this role, from the board, families, funders, other organizations, random people on the street who find out I'm doing this, and most importantly, MLC's unbelievably hard-working teachers and staff!

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# Steele Pressed Juice expands into new location

## New space means new offerings for the health-food hub

BY TUCKER HARRIS  
EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – From an outdoor kiosk to seating, walls and warmth, Steele Pressed Juice’s new location will provide a fresh atmosphere and menu. Located next to Beehive Basin Brewery on the east side of Town Center, owner Jennifer Steele opened her new location this fall after closing her Town Center Plaza kiosk.

Opening day for the go-to smoothie and juice spot was a success on Oct. 29. “There was so much support from the community,” Steele said. “Definitely overwhelming—in a good, ‘holy cow, I didn’t realize I had so much support’ kind of way.” She mentioned how great it was to see so many locals come into the cafe over the Halloween weekend, and she hopes that this new location will continue to buzz with both resident and visitor traffic as the winter season kicks into gear.

In addition to the new location, Steele will be expanding her offerings thanks to larger accommodations. The new menu features six new juices, four new smoothies and a “back by popular demand” smoothie bowl with fresh fruit, granola, honey, peanut butter, and an almond butter drizzle.

Her new banana chai smoothie, complete with banana, almond butter, chai tea and almond milk is “just delightful,” Steele said. “It tastes like a chai latte, but in smoothie form.”



Jennifer Steele owner of Steele Pressed Juice on opening day at her new location in Big Sky Town Center. PHOTO BY TUCKER HARRIS

Steele will be bringing new collaborations to the table, as well. Her menu will also include fresh baked goods from Big Sky-based Sweet Buns Catering and coffee, both in bean and drink form, from Bozeman’s Tree Line Coffee Roasters.

Steele is most excited about the new build-your-own burrito and burrito bowl options which will give a healthy, “fresh-mex” or island style twist on the classic burrito, she said. Steele has kept a journal for the past 10 years full of burrito and sauce recipes which she is excited to finally bring to life for her guests.

“I’m a big fan of sauces and making sauces, so I hope everyone likes them,” Steele said. Her sauces will be made with the same fresh ingredients that go in her juices, some of which will be plucked from the vertical garden located inside the shop.

Through November, Steele Pressed Juice will operate on shoulder season hours, open Friday through Monday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Steele hopes to start dialing in the burrito options to be available mid-November and aims to launch full-time hours starting in December, open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

“It’s time to grow from there,” Steele said of the previous kiosk, the Juice Box. The seasonality struggles and the tight space limited her ability to be open, but she hopes her new location, full of bright decor, ambient music and seating space for guests will allow for Steele Pressed Juice to grow.

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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.*

## Steak or milkshake?



BY SCOTT MECHURA  
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

With each passing year, we hear more and more criticism of the consumption of meat, more specifically beef. Much effort has been put forth towards the creation of items like plant-based burgers, or impossible burgers—all designed to replace real beef.

Not to split hairs, but to me, if it's plant-based, it's not a burger.

In a time when factory processed foods are causing more obesity and diabetes than ever, a piece of meat cultured in a petri dish suddenly makes that processed frozen dinner look like health food.

While we have demonized beef cattle and ranching, we hear very little criticism of dairy cattle and dairy production.

I can tell you from several ranch tours I've done that part of the reason ranchers work such long hours and rarely have a day off is because of the passion, hard work and dedication to maintaining a circle of life that respects the animal, the land and the environment.

The overwhelming majority of ranchers take great ownership in the stewardship of the land and their livestock. They will tell you that the animals are just another tool in the proper healthy maintenance of the land.

I have seen up close what untouched native prairie looks like versus properly grazed cattle land. The cattle-grazed land is healthier by a long shot, with more vegetation diversity and biomass that regenerates much quicker than native land.

Both beef and dairy cattle graze about the same as far as pasture coverage and management, but they begin to part ways from there.

It is as natural as human evolution itself to eat meat. There are as many benefits as there are issues with consuming red meat. But what is not natural is consuming cow milk. In fact, we are the only animal that consumes another animal's milk with any regularity.

Why is that?

Why is it that consuming red meat is deemed odious, but enjoying milk, cheese or ice cream is not?

Recent counts tell us we have 94.4 million head of beef cattle in the U.S., and we have 94.8 million head of dairy cattle.

Beef cattle are slaughtered anywhere from 18 months to 36 months of age with the overwhelming majority falling right in the middle at 24 months.

A dairy cow produces healthy, viable milk for up to five or even six years before being sent to slaughter, but they can still produce healthy enough milk to be utilized for breeding up to 10 years.

Beef cattle don't alter their food and water consumption a great deal throughout the year. Hot months mean more water and cold months mean more food, but it doesn't change drastically. A beef cow eats about 27 pounds of feed and silage and drinks about 8 gallons of water per day.

A dairy cow will consume 50-55 pounds of feed per day. But when they are lactating, a dairy cow consumes almost three and a half times the feed as a beef cow and substantially more water.

A beef carcass gets utilized almost entirely. Their hide is used for leather, their bones are ground and used in a plethora of ways and the entire carcass' meat is used.

A dairy cow, when put out to pasture, rarely gets used for quality meat consumption. They are usually the Holstein Friesian breed as opposed to Angus and get used for meat in poorer countries for humans and in the U.S., much lesser quality foods. Think again about processed frozen foods.

All cattle in general have the capacity to improve the land they occupy when managed properly. But when we do a side-by-side comparison, a beef cow has much more complete utilization, has a much shorter life span and impact, consumes less resources and there are fewer of them.

Seems to me like we are barking up the wrong tree.

Given the choice between a beautifully marbled, protein-packed rib eye, or a lactose, sugar-laden, chocolate-syrup-packed milkshake, it's steak over milkshake every day for me.

*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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# By Kwame Dawes

Craig Santos Perez packs into this love sonnet, “Love in a Time of Climate Change”, echoes of many famous love poems, from Robert Browning’s “How Do I Love Thee (Sonnet 43)”, to Shakespeare’s “Sonnet 18”, to Neruda’s “Sonnet XVII.” In the title, he alludes wittily to Gabriel Garcia Marquez’s novel, “Love in the Time of Cholera.” But to what end, one may ask? To remind us of the persistence of love through times of catastrophe and change over the course of history, and to remind us that in clever and sensitive hands, a “recycled” love song can seem fresh, current and deliciously urgent.

## Love in a Time of Climate Change

BY CRAIG SANTOS PEREZ

I don’t love you as if you were rare earth metals, conflict diamonds, or reserves of crude oil that cause war. I love you as one loves the most vulnerable species: urgently, between the habitat and its loss.

I love you as one loves the last seed saved within a vault, gestating the heritage of our roots, and thanks to your body, the taste that ripens from its fruit still lives sweetly on my tongue.

I love you without knowing how or when this world will end. I love you organically, without pesticides. I love you like this because we’ll only survive

in the nitrogen rich compost of our embrace, so close that your emissions of carbon are mine, so close that your sea rises with my heat.

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**

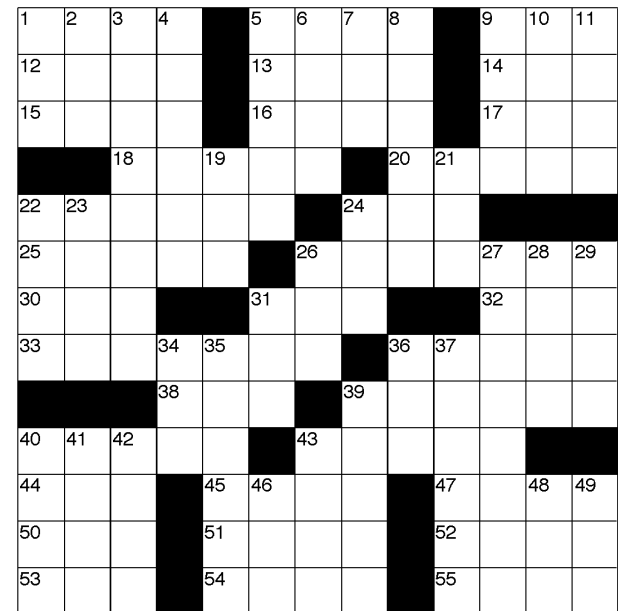
- 1 Tiller
- 5 Cross threads
- 9 Signed (abbr.)
- 12 Hamitic language
- 13 Pelvic bones
- 14 To (Scot.)
- 15 Term
- 16 Pledge
- 17 A (Ger.)
- 18 Austral. beefwood
- 20 Fool
- 22 Unfasten
- 24 Thus
- 25 Excite
- 26 Golf club
- 30 Month abbr.
- 31 Fr. medieval tale
- 32 Went first
- 33 Roe (2 words)
- 36 Venerate
- 38 According to (2 words)
- 39 Vitamin B
- 40 Punctuation mark
- 43 Time period
- 44 Turk. title
- 45 Dayak people
- 47 To or from a distance
- 50 Military macaw
- 51 Fr. resort
- 52 S.A. game bird
- 53 Hebrew letter
- 54 Elbe tributary
- 55 She (Sp.)

**DOWN**

- 1 Stammer
- 2 Vanity
- 3 Aport
- 4 Shy
- 5 Stiff fabric
- 6 King of Israel
- 7 Tree
- 8 Muscle or nerve band
- 9 Machine gun
- 10 Get
- 11 Refuse
- 19 Civil War commander
- 21 Science of (suf.)
- 22 Father of Cordelia
- 23 Gr. wine container
- 24 Hindu title
- 26 Rod
- 27 Lazy
- 28 Yesterday (Ital.)
- 29 Land west of Nod
- 31 Pasture
- 34 Stop
- 35 Tennyson character
- 36 Own (Scot.)
- 37 Senility
- 39 Slip
- 40 Heddles of a loom
- 41 Monster
- 42 Madam
- 43 Nutmeg husk
- 46 Substantial
- 48 Mulberry of India
- 49 Genetic letters

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

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



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# Corner Quote



**“You can’t connect the dots looking forward. You can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that they will somehow connect in your future.”**

**– Steve Jobs**

# BIG SKY BEATS



## The wind, she blows

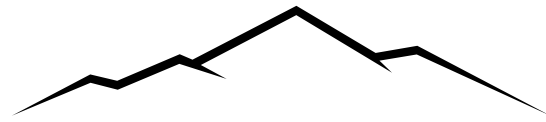
BY BELLA BUTLER

Montana embraces stillness better than just about anywhere. Even with droves of people filling its empty pockets, the state holds space for a rare and valuable peace that the American pace of life often robs us of. It’s one of the reasons we come here—to breathe. As winter arrives on the mountaintops and drops into the valleys, there’s a certain frigid magic that occurs across Montana’s prairie lands. A cold wind blows dry snow through the native grasses, stripping them of their lingering, stubborn offspring. The wind exhales a soft whistle, audible only in the placidity of this landscape. It’s a scene that captures Montana’s most compelling contradictions: gentle beauty and grit, grace and toil, intimacy and distance. For this Big Sky Beats, we bring you a playlist that we hope captures the essence of this scene. Inhale, exhale and enjoy.



1. “I’ll Be Here in the Morning” by Townes Van Zandt
2. “Howl” by the Bones of J.R. Jones
3. “Graceland” by Justin Townes Earle
4. “The Stable Song” by Gregory Alan Isakov
5. “I’ll Fly Away” by Gillian Welch and Alison Krauss
6. “White Clovers” by Wind and the Willows
7. “Lean In” Rising” by Rising Appalachia
8. “After All is Said and Done” by Junip





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