Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

Rocking and riding
Big Sky PBR recap

A conservation expedition:
From LA to Glacier and beyond

Vine and Dine returns to Big Sky Resort

Local golfer wins Montana Women’s Amateur

Water and sewer district to forgo contribution, raise mill rate
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**Editorial Policy**

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

**Letters to the Editor**

Letters to the editor allow EBS readers to express views and share how they would like to effect change. These are not Thank You notes. Letters to the editor allow EBS readers to express views and share how they would like to effect change. These are not Thank You notes. Letters should be 250 words or less, respectful, ethical, accurate, and proofread for grammar and content. We reserve the right to edit letters. Include: full name, address, phone number and title. Submit to medias@theoutlawpartners.com.

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**Advertising Deadline**

For the Aug. 21 issue: Aug. 14, 2015

**Corrections**

Please report errors to media@theoutlawpartners.com.

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**Fifth annual Big Sky PBR recap**

33 Water and sewer districts to forgo contribution, raise mill rate

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**What is this publication?**

*Explore Big Sky* is the local paper for Big Sky, Montana, and a news and lifestyle journal for the Greater Yellowstone Region.

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**ON THE COVER:** Robert Earl Keen closed out the three-day Big Sky PBR on Aug. 1 in style. PHOTO BY DANIEL BULLOCK

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**“The trouble is, you think you have time.”** - Buddha
39 Swift Bear
Offered for $4,200,000

39 Swift Bear Road is a stunning, one of a kind 5 bed 6 bath custom Durfeld log home in the Cascade Subdivision of Big Sky’s Mountain Village! This exceptional ski in/ski out mountain home sits on 1.572 acres with a year round stream and is adjacent to open space. Main house contains 3 bedrooms and 3.5 baths. In addition there is a 1,500 square foot guest apartment with 2 bedrooms 2 baths plus a loft. Also has Tulikivi Finnish soap stone fireplace, gourmet chef’s kitchen, custom designed furnishings, outdoor hot tub and a beautifully landscaped yard!

795 Karst Stage Loop
Offered for $799,000

Gorgeous 3 bed 3 bath log home with separate office, library, and a finished basement including media room, workout room and kids game room. This stunning property also has an amazing 1 bed 1 bath log guest cabin, and either property can be rented short or long term. Walking distance to the Gallatin River, this home is very attractive to fisherman. Horse owners will love it as it is equipped with a horse corral and has several adjacent horse trails. Remodeled with chef’s kitchen, this home is energy efficient with a soapstone wood-burning fireplace that can heat the entire dwelling!

Elkridge 33
Offered for $6,400,000

862 Elk Meadow Trail, an elegant 6 bed, 9bath Spanish Peaks Mountain Club ski in/out country manor perfect for entertaining! Spectacular mountain views will be appreciated from every room of this majestic home. This residence is approximately 9,000 square feet and has 6 en suite bedrooms allowing comfort for both family and guests. Home theater, cigar room, chef’s kitchen, private office with hidden door to master bedroom, 3 laundry rooms, large outdoor hot tub, and a recirculating creek that circles the home are just some of the features of this one of a kind property! Club membership required.

Crail Ranch 110
Offered for $735,000

Crail Ranch Condominium, Unit 110, is a centrally located 4 bed 2.5 bath beautifully appointed and well maintained condominium that overlooks the historic Crail Ranch Homestead and is adjacent to the Big Sky golf course. In winter, avid cross country skiers will love the short walk to the groomed trail system. This unit is walking distance to restaurants, shops and the Big Sky Chapel. Crail Ranch 110 makes for a wonderful primary residence or a highly desirable rental property for either long or short term rentals. This is a wonderful opportunity to own an investment property in Big Sky!

Yellowstone Preserve
Offered for $39,900,000

Yellowstone Preserve is a collection of 9 homesites totalling 1580 acres with 2.5 miles of adjacent boundary with Yellowstone Club, 1.2 miles of the Southfork of the Gallatin River and over a mile of adjacent border with National Forest - all accessed off the private YC road. Recreation on your own property with private access into Gallatin National Forest. You can build an executive retreat or family compound and put the remaining densities into a conservation easement or sell each parcel individually - own it privately or pull together a consortium of your friends.

Anceney Ranch
Offered for $6,900,000

An original homestead in Big Sky and one of the finest sporting properties available in Montana, Anceney Ranch sits on 83 prime acres of forest, springs and meadows. With almost a mile of the legendary Gallatin River frontage and multiple spring fed trout ponds, this is the ideal place for the fishing enthusiast. The land is surrounded on three sides by the Gallatin National Forest. Anceney Ranch has 7 total bedrooms and 6 total baths with a main house, guest cabin and a caretakers’ home along with a horse barn. There aren’t enough adjectives to describe how incredible this property is!
News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

Mountain Outlaw reaching readers far and wide

BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

The 10th edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine was released in early June and is in the hands of readers throughout the Greater Yellowstone, across the country and around the world.

Our gold Chevrolet Astro van has circled Yellowstone numerous times, distributing Outlaw Partners’ flagship publication to the four corners of the park, where it can be found in hot spots frequented by locals and travelers alike.

More than 20,000 copies of Mountain Outlaw have been distributed to 500 locations in the region – to hotels, chambers of commerce, coffee shops, restaurants, bars, resorts and breweries. The magazine is bedside in 18 hotels in towns and resort communities including Big Sky, Bozeman, West Yellowstone, Red Lodge and Livingston in Montana; and Jackson, Grand Targhee Resort and Cody in Wyoming.

Big Sky vacationers can also find the magazine in hundreds of rental properties, from the meadow to the mountains.

The 124-page, glossy publication is directly mailed to more than 1,500 subscribers in all 50 states and throughout the world – Mountain Outlaw is sitting on coffee tables in Canada, Mexico, France, England, United Arab Emirates and New Zealand.

“Our free publication model allows us to be aggressive with where and who we put the magazine in front of,” said Ersin Ozer, Outlaw’s Media and Events Director. Ozer has spent hundreds of windshield hours, and driven thousands of miles to deliver Mountain Outlaw throughout the Greater Yellowstone.

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Pick up your copy of Mountain Outlaw today to read intriguing stories from Yellowstone country and beyond. Or download it from Apple’s App Store and carry Mountain Outlaw in your pocket, on any adventure you have planned this summer.

Email ej@outlaw.partners or ersin@outlaw.partners by Sept. 15, to learn about advertising opportunities in this winter’s issue.
Big Sky water and sewer mills to increase
District to withhold tax cushion

BY JOSEPH T. O’CONNOR
EBS MANAGING EDITOR

BIG SKY – Homeowners in Big Sky’s Water and Sewer District will divvy out more money and assume the full debt service to pay back state loans this tax year.

Combined water and sewer mill rates on the 2015 property tax levy are projected to increase by approximately 27.8 percent – or about 13 mills using 2014 evaluations – one of the highest relative increases in the last decade. Gallatin and Madison counties will send the Department of Revenue’s certified taxable values for 2015 in the next week, according to BSWSD General Manager Ron Edwards, which will be used to determine the final mill rate.

But even though district homeowners voted in 2001 and 2006 to approve the debt service for nearly $27 million in state water and sewer loans, they’ve never actually felt the brunt of that cost in the district – until now.

The mill increase is in part due to a $300,000 holdout this year from BSWSD, which since 2007 has annually apportioned money from its wastewater reserve fund to level out the mills. A mill is equal one thousandth of a dollar, and the rate fluctuates based on state-assessed property values.

“We’ve been controlling how much the mill rate has been by subsidizing it with restricted funds from the district,” Edwards said, referring to the reserve fund it has set aside for sewer-related spending. “So in the past we’ve [used] our money to go toward bond debt, which effectively lowers how much the mill rate needs to be.”

For its part, Edwards says BSWSD helped soften the blow by refinancing the state loans in 2013, lowering interest rates from 3.75 to 2.25.

“Total payments have gone down since we refinanced, which is ultimately saving taxpayers close to $2 million [per year],” he said.

At a May 26 meeting of the BSWSD board, its members decided not to dip into $2.9 million it holds in restricted funds, which it’s saving for sewer plant upgrades as the need arises.

Called the Plant Investment Reserve Fund, this money is earmarked for sewer-related investments as opposed to water-related expenditures. It comes from a one-time, $3,500 Plant Investment Charge per single-family equivalent that’s imposed on homeowners building new houses when they apply for permitting.

The decision not to contribute to the tax role this year, according to Edwards, stems from a series of studies the district is implementing in order to prepare for what the BSWSD board sees as an influx of both tourists and residents of late.

“We’re back in another big upswing in growth for Big Sky,” said Edwards, BSWSD’s frontman since 1995. “And we’re in the process of looking at our infrastructure and updating our facility plans, all of which are telling us, ‘Buckle up, we’ve got some stuff ahead that we need to start planning for.’

BSWSD-hired engineers are applying information garnered from a recently completed wastewater facilities study to a five-year Wastewater Capital Improvement Plan, which will show the board what improvements or upgrades the district will need to implement as more people use the system.

“The board saw preliminary reports from the engineers that showed multiple millions of dollars in sewer projects that will be required to meet future wastewater capacity,” said BSWSD Treasurer Terry Smith. “They’re going to have to happen. It’s just a matter of when.”

Along with BSWSD not apportioning $300,000 from its coffers this year, the mill increase, Smith says, is also due to the fact that the water and sewer board did not apply for resort tax funding to offset those increases.

Resort tax supplemented BSWSD in the past for debt service, but the Big Sky Resort Area District board of directors denied the last ask by this public works department in 2012, when the mill levy rose 26.99 percent over the previous year. Since BSWSD apportioned $300,000 to the tax roll that year, however, homeowners and businesses didn’t feel the hit. This year will be a different story.

Homeowners will receive tax bills in November notifying them of the increased mill levy, and can pay the full amount by Nov. 30, or half then and half in May 2016.

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**GALACTIC PARK - LOT 16**
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**PENDING**

**MEADOW VILLAGE - LOTS 23 & 24**
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**MEADOW VILLAGE - LOT 25**
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- Private community dock
$299,900 | MLS 170691

**FRANK ROAD - BELGRADE**
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$1,675,000 | MLS 201531

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Furnished $525,000 | MLS TBD

**BEAVER CREEK - 20 ACRES**
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**LAKE FRONT MANOR - LOT 6**
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**BUCK RIDGE RANCH - LOT 32A**
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- Captivating views
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**IERO-G-MONTANA RANCH - LOT 8**
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- Gated ranch with horse facilities & riding trails
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- Borders Ted Turner's ranch on 2 sides
$1,525,000 | MLS 199541

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**PENDING**

**LADIGIO-MONTANA RANCH - LOT 8**
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- Gated ranch with horse facilities & riding trails
- Full-time ranch manager
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**PENDING**

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BIG SKY – Three of the five seats on the Big Sky Resort Area District Board of Directors are up for re-election on Nov. 3, and the deadline for public petitions for nominations is Aug. 20.

The Resort Tax Board serves on a voluntary basis and oversees all aspects of collection and appropriation of Big Sky’s 3 percent sales tax on luxury purchases. The board meets monthly, reviews applications, and appropriates funding each June.

Board members Jamey Kabisch, Mike Scholz and Jeff Strickler are concluding their first, four-year terms. Candidate filing commenced on June 22 and closes Aug. 20.

Kabisch plans on running for another term, Strickler will not re-run, and Scholz is undecided, according to Whitney Brunner, RTB’s administrative officer. Scholz will make his final decision after the group’s Aug. 12 board meeting, Brunner said.

However, regardless of what current RTB members and potential candidates have expressed to Brunner, she says they can still change their minds. “We won’t actually know until everything is submitted on Aug. 20,” Brunner said.

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As of EBS press time on Aug. 5, Kabisch has submitted the only petition for nomination, according to the Gallatin County election office, which files the submissions.

RTB members serve a four-year term once elected in the November general election, in odd-numbered years. This prevents full turnover during re-election.

But this January the Montana Legislature passed House Bill 84, which offers new guidelines for special purpose district elections, like the RTB’s. After the November 2015 election, RTB elections will be held in May.

“The bill simplifies the process for both candidates and election administrators throughout the state, in addition to bringing statewide consistency on various election procedures,” said the RTB’s attorney Mona Jamison.

For the winning candidates in November, this means their terms will actually last four years, six months, with terms expiring in May 2020.

Current board members Heather Budd and Ginna Herman’s terms will also extend six months, and they will be up for re-election in May 2018, rather than November 2017.

Interested candidates can find petition nomination forms online at resorttax.org. They must be submitted to the Gallatin County election office, and signatures from at least five registered voters who reside in the Big Sky Resort Area District are required.
Is traffic an issue in Big Sky?
If so, how could it be improved?

Marcus Fay, Big Sky, Mont.
Customer Sales Representative, East Slope Outdoors

“I think the traffic signals, lights and lanes have yet to catch up to the development.”

Colin Mathews, Big Sky, Mont.
Owner, Creighton Block Gallery

“There’s an enormous amount of construction-related traffic in the morning and at the end of the work day. It is sometimes annoying to wait at the stop sign at the intersection of Two Moons Road and Lone Mountain Trail, which shows how lovely and how spoiled we have been in our corner of paradise. I would much prefer to see the problem handled with patience on the part of local drivers than with a stoplight.”

Kendra Schwartz, Big Sky, Mont.
Beadsmith, Ari O Jewelry

“The traffic here on Ousel [Falls Road] is definitely a problem, all the construction traffic ... distracted people looking up at Lone Peak while they’re driving. Unfortunately, I think we’re going to need a light out there. That’s not what I want to see, but the traffic is an accident waiting to happen.”
Beehive Basin Brewery hosts grand opening

A new brewery in Big Sky Town Center held its grand opening on July 25 to a full house looking to meet the owners, partake in a pig roast, and fill their pint glasses.

The Beehive Basin Brewery, located in the Peaks Building behind Roxy’s Market, held a soft opening on July 10, but is now pouring pints and filling growlers in its tasting room seven days a week from 12-8 p.m.

Owners Casey Folley and Andy Liedberg – also the head brewer – welcomed the overflowing crowd at 2 p.m., and took their turn with the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce’s giant scissors for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The chamber’s Executive Director Kitty Clemens handed over the brewery’s “first dollar,” gifted in a picture frame.

“It was a lot of fun,” Folley said. “A bunch of people came down and were trying beer even if they don’t usually drink beer. They seemed to all like it.”

Montana law limits tasting room customers to three beers apiece, and bartenders poured more than 600 before the day was out, according to Folley.

Buck’s T-4 Lodge provided two pigs for the roast, catering the event on site. The swine were fed spent grain from the brewing process. - J.T.O.

Buck’s T-4 Lodge catered a pig roast for the brewery’s grand opening.

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Park approves fish restoration project

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

A regional group of federal and state organizations has agreed to stand up for its native fish: the Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

Yellowstone National Park, in coordination with partner agencies Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and the U.S. Forest Service, has approved a project to remove nonnative brook trout from Soda Butte Creek and reintroduce Yellowstone cutthroat trout into the stream to restore the native fish population.

The Soda Butte Creek Native Fish Restoration Project will help restore an important fishery in upper Soda Butte Creek by protecting native cutthroat trout populations of the Lamar River watershed from future invasion by nonnative brook trout.

This project is part of Yellowstone’s 2010 Native Fish Conservation Plan to conserve native fish from threats of non-native species, disease and climate. Under this proposal, biologists will remove brook trout by applying an EPA-approved piscicide called rotenone to Soda Butte Creek upstream of Ice Box Canyon.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, a draft Categorical Exclusion for this project was prepared and made available for public review from May 20 to June 19. The park received a total of 56 pieces of correspondence.

In response to public comments concerning potential negative impacts to native Yellowstone cutthroat trout currently living in Soda Butte Creek, the park and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks will use electroshock fishing to remove cutthroat trout prior to the rotenone treatments. The salvaged cutthroat will be held within the Soda Butte Creek watershed and returned to the creek in the areas of Cooke City and Silver Gate following the treatments.

Cutthroat trout are the only trout species native to Yellowstone and were once the dominant fish species within the park prior to Euro-American settlement. Native cutthroat trout are considered among the most ecologically important fish of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and are highly regarded by anglers.

Genetically pure Yellowstone cutthroat trout populations have declined throughout their natural range in the Intermountain West, succumbing to competition with and predation by non-native fish species, a loss of genetic integrity through hybridization, habitat degradation and predation.

Yellowstone cutthroat trout. CC

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 18th, 1:00pm
Summit Hotel, Talus Room

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25th, 5:30pm
Summit Hotel, Talus Room
JACKSON, Wyo. – As appreciation to the greater Jackson community for its support, and in memory of two longtime valley residents who died in a backcountry skiing accident last spring, the families of Luke Lynch and Stephen Adamson – in conjunction with Jackson Hole Live and Outlaw Partners – are bringing a music legend to the Snow King Ball Park on Sept. 4.

Lukas Nelson and his band Promise of the Real will play a concert to benefit Teton County Search and Rescue and the Jenny Lake Rangers: two agencies that helped in the May 17 rescue effort.

Lynch and Adamson were part of a foursome attempting to climb a couloir known as “The Sickle” on Mt. Moran in Grand Teton National Park when a wet slush avalanche released above them. The men succumbed to fatal injuries sustained during the slide.

Both were experienced backcountry travelers and active in the Jackson community, as well as committed supporters of TCSAR. Adamson was a local lawyer and served on the boards of the Center for the Arts and the National Museum of Wildlife Art.

Lynch, the Wyoming Director of The Conservation Fund, received numerous awards and accolades for his work in conserving hundreds of thousands of acres of lands throughout the state. He also served on the Friends of Pathways Board of Directors.

“Our families are so grateful for the outpouring of love and support we have received from the community,” said Luke’s wife Kathy Lynch.

“We also appreciate the efforts of TCSAR and the Jenny Lake Rangers not only on May 17, but year round. This concert is meant as a way to say thank you and to raise funds to support the world-class search and rescue operations in our valley.”

Lukas Nelson and POTR are fresh out of the recording studio with Neil Young, and in June released a new collaborative album called “The Monsanto Years.” Also the son of music superstar Willie Nelson, Lukas and his band are Jackson favorites, having performed at the Jackson Hole Rendezvous in March, as well as numerous other area venues.

The concert will be free and open to all ages with donations highly encouraged to Teton County Search and Rescue and the Jenny Lake Rangers.

Lukas Nelson and his band Promise of the Real will perform a free concert on Sept. 4 in Jackson, Wyo. PHOTO BY DANIEL BULLOCK

Lake Lynch (pictured) and Stephen Adamson died in a May 17 avalanche in Grand Teton National Park. Funds raised at the Sept. 4 show will benefit Teton County Search and Rescue and the Jenny Lake Rangers. PHOTO BY STEPHEN ADAMSON

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IN THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE

With pristine trails, cool water, expansive skies and a slew of regional events, summer in the Greater Yellowstone region is unrivaled. EBS staff collected a few of our favorite moments from the season so far.

Use #explorebigsky on Facebook or Instagram to share your summer adventures with our community.
Bryce Connery wades out into the Yellowstone River pursuing trout feeding on the early summer salmonfly hatch.
PHOTO BY WES OVERTOLD

A sea of Rocky Mountain Iris along Jack Creek Road.
PHOTO BY ALEXIS DEATON

“Current Events” acrylic on canvas, 20x20  BY KELSEY DZINTARS

8-month old Anders enjoys a wildflower playground and Sphinx Mountain views on the upper saddle of Cinnamon Mountain trail in Gallatin Canyon.
PHOTO BY MEGAN PAULSON

Cars race at Belgrade’s Gallatin Speedway against a backdrop of the Bridger Range.
PHOTO BY MARIA WYLIE

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Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides
Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager

Spruce Moths on the Gallatin, hoppers on the Yellowstone and Callibaetis on the lakes. As we move into August we’ll start to see more action on terrestrials like hoppers, moths, ants and more. Consider chasing gulpers on nearby lakes like Hebgen, Quake, Cliff, Wade and Ennis Lakes where you will find fish chasing Callibaetis and tricos on the surface or cruising just below the surface eating nymphs.

We should see the Spruce Moth activity improve rapidly on the Gallatin soon, but focus on areas where there are stands of trees near the banks of the river. Otherwise we are seeing sporadic caddis, mayfly, cranefly and blackfly hatches. As the weather heats up again hopper fishing should improve in the meadow sections of the Gallatin. For patterns try Bloom’s Parachute Caddis, Fathead Moths, Morrish Hoppers and Purple Parachutes. Subsurface fish Lightning Bugs, Green Machines, Copper Johns and smaller Pat’s Rubber Legs.

Mostly a nymphing game on the float sections of the Upper Madison, but as moths, hoppers and other terrestrials become more active the dry fly fishing should improve. The dry fly fishing has also been hit or miss in the walk wade section, but some days you can find good hatches of PMDs, Epeorus and caddis. Nymphing with Lightning Bugs, various Serendipities, Shop Vacs, Green Machines and more.

For a little variety head to your nearest high mountain tributary or chase gulpers on Hebgen, Quake or Ennis Lakes. High mountain small creeks are in their prime right now and fishing great with a variety of dries. The gulper fishing has been somewhat inconsistent, but it should improve with a more consistent weather pattern moving in.

Tight lines and wet hands!

Spruce Moth
First impressions are lasting

BY JOHANNE BOUCHARD
EBS BUSINESS COLUMNIST

In business and in life we must be mindful of how we project ourselves – particularly the first time we meet someone. Whether you’re on a first date; meeting a client for the first time; interviewing for a board position or job; or presenting to an audience, others will make decisions largely based on their observations in that first encounter.

These perceptions during that first meeting are made in less than five seconds – it’s actually closer to one-tenth of a second!

We live in a world where etiquette is often informal and fairly forgiving, but there are still deal breakers. Preparing yourself with essential tools for making a good first impression can pay dividends in the long term. Here are some basics to consider:

A firm handshake. Your handshake establishes your level of confidence, or lack thereof. A hesitant or sweaty handshake can be an immediate turnoff. If the recipient is quick to judge, they may never gain trust in you. Women and men of all ages must learn how to give confident handshakes.

Hands speak volumes. Clean hands and nails express respect for those with whom you come in physical contact with, and indicate you have pride in maintaining your appearance. More subtly, clean hands and nails convey that you’re meticulous and won’t overlook details.

Good eye contact. Looking someone directly in the eyes expresses both your own confidence and your respect for, and interest in, the other person. Lack of proper eye contact expresses the opposite, and may suggest that you can’t effectively lead, influence or trust others. Conversely, unbreakable eye contact can be unsettling, so avoid staring with fixation and look for a happy medium.

A genuine smile. In our culture, smiling exhibits warmth and welcomes others to engage with you. A genuine smile – not a grin or an artificial smile – says you are happy to meet someone. A warm and confident smile puts others at ease, and science suggests that smiling can encourage your own happiness, even if you don’t feel that way.

A powerful stance. In a 2013 article, The New York Times’ Kate Murphy wrote, “Striking a commanding pose, whether you are in a sparkling gown or frayed jeans, can change how you perceive yourself, which ultimately influences how you are perceived by others.” Don’t be afraid to carry yourself with confidence and stand at your full height. You’ll project that you’re self-assured, and fully accountable for who you are.

In addition to these basic tools that make good first impressions, here are some of my absolute no-nos: chewing gum; playing with or having messy hair; food between your teeth; visible runs in your nylons or holes in your pants; stains that predate the meeting; showing too much chest – for both men and women; bad breath; and being preoccupied with your phone.

Present yourself authentically and take each opportunity to make a positive, lasting impression. Think about how you wish to be remembered, and don’t forget that each time you meet someone you’re being evaluated.
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Amuse-bouche refers to an appetizer, and by French translation means, “to entertain the mouth.” It offers a glimpse into what you should expect from a meal. Also it’s free, compliments of the chef.

The hospitality industry’s rising tide

BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Most of my friends know I love quotes and aphorisms. I love funny ones that make people laugh at just the right time; the intellectual quotes that give me pause and think a bit deeper; the adages that inspire my peers and team to focus on why we do what we do.

One in particular stands out, and I use it more so since moving back to Big Sky last year. John F. Kennedy famously used it in 1963: “A rising tide lifts all boats.” For me, it represents how the hospitality industry could be better nationwide, and especially here in Big Sky.

A good friend of mine, Rich Knowles, purchased a restaurant in Florida with his father last summer. We first met when I hired him as a cook nine years ago, and would subsequently bring him on at three other restaurants as my life and career took shape.

When I joined the Buck’s T-4 team as executive chef in May of 2014, I tried to hire him again but he was already chef at the restaurant he eventually purchased.

I helped him re-launch his restaurant last fall then suggested he send his sous chef and restaurant manager to spend some time at Buck’s T-4 Lodge in Big Sky. Their visit was rewarding for all of us and I felt, in a way, more rewarded than they did by mentoring two of his valued team members.

Last February, Buck’s Co-owner and Director of Food and Beverage Chuck Schommer and I were invited to a “No Kid Hungry” fundraiser in conjunction with the annual Democratic Governors Association meeting in Washington, D.C.

At the conclusion of the event, and in typical chef fashion, we went out on the town to socialize. It didn’t take long to get past pleasantries and small talk. Soon we were eating and drinking together, and trading recipes, concepts and ideas like we were in a quilting circle. We swapped iPhone photos of our food like parents show wallet pictures of their kids.

Chefs are by nature competitive. But we’re also miners and traders of information. We’re constantly watching what other chefs are doing. When I see a chef perfect a technique, or take a new direction with an ingredient or flavor, I embrace it.

I don’t envy that chef, wishing I had thought of it first. Instead, I’m excited knowing that the inspiration will spread through kitchens across the community with unbridled enthusiasm.

From mentoring Rich’s team members, to trading ideas and recipes with newly found chef friends across the country, I’m proud of the camaraderie today’s chefs can find.

The more we do for each other in hospitality, the better off we all are as an industry.

Scott Mechura has spent a life in the hospitality industry. He is a former certified beer judge and currently the Executive Chef at Buck’s T-4 Lodge in Big Sky.

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In golf, putting allows for the most personal preference regarding your setup. Nowadays we see a lot of different grips: the reverse overlap, the cross-handed or left-hand low, and the normal interlock or overlapping grip.

But no matter which grip you use to hold the putter there is one common denominator: Both thumbs must always be pointed at the ground.

The most important part of setting up to putt is bending from the hips so your eyes are directly over the ball. This allows you to see the intended target line the golf ball should travel, and allows you to read the break of the green correctly.

You should position the golf ball in the front of your stance, off the heel of your forward foot, and distribute your weight placing 60 percent on your forward foot and 40 percent on your back foot.

When making your stroke, swing the putter head straight back and straight through with the blade of the putter staying perpendicular to your target line. The pendulum motion the putter makes creates a smooth rocking of the shoulders, and by accelerating through impact with the putter head, follows through toward the target.

During the stroke, don’t move your head or lower body at all. Think about the tick-tack of the arm on a grandfather clock as it moves back and forth with the same smooth pace.

Your goal is to have two putts or less on each green. If you don’t make the first putt you want the ball to come to rest within an 18-inch radius around the hole, giving you the best opportunity for a “tap in.”

Mark Wehrman is the PGA Head Professional at the Big Sky Resort Golf Course.

The pro displays proper body position, bending at the hips so his eyes are directly over the ball. This allows you to see the intended target line the golf ball should travel, and allows you to read the break of the green correctly. PHOTO BY TYLER ALLEN.
Local golfer wins women’s state amateur

BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

MISSOULA – Big Sky resident and golfer Dorsey Addicks on July 23 put to rest disappointing memories of the Montana Women’s State Amateur. After losing the tournament by one stroke each of the previous two years, Addicks won the title by a commanding 10 strokes.

With a nine-stroke lead entering the third and final day at Missoula’s Canyon River Golf Club, Addicks weathered two rain and wind delays, keeping her composure to shoot a final round 78.

“It feels pretty good to finally win it,” Addicks said, adding she still felt pressure heading into the final round with such a big lead.

She didn’t have much time to celebrate the victory, as she traveled the following day to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan to compete in the Canadian Women’s Amateur Championship. She missed the cut of the four-day tournament by shooting back-to-back 82s.

“After last year, I told my dad I wanted to play in tournaments with stronger fields,” Addicks said over the phone from Saskatoon, a day before the Canadian Amateur started. “I really enjoy traveling to the tournaments [and] we have a lot of fun doing it.”

Addicks’ tournament schedule this summer has taken her to Nashville, Tenn.; Washington D.C.; Boise, Idaho; and Portland, Ore. She began competing in the Women’s TRANS Amateur Championship on Aug. 4 in Yakima, Wash. – which ended after EBS went to press on Aug. 5 – and will compete in the Canadian Pacific Women’s Open Qualifier on Aug. 17 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

After Vancouver, Addicks will be back in Montana for two to three weeks, preparing for her junior year at Seattle University.

“I’ll be in Big Sky and back to a workout routine, playing every day … [so I can] come back to school playing good golf,” Addicks said, noting that she pushes herself on the relatively flat Big Sky Resort Golf Course by hitting from longer tee boxes and playing “worst ball” – teeing off two balls and playing the hole out from her worst tee shot.

If you’re playing golf in the Big Sky meadow late this summer, keep an eye out for the reigning Montana Women’s State Amateur champ.
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BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN
ERB HEALTH COLUMNIST

Most people visit southwest Montana from lower elevations. While Bozeman sits at 4,795 feet above sea level, the base area of Big Sky Resort reaches 7,510 feet, and you can take the Lone Peak Tram or hike to the top of Lone Mountain at 11,166 feet.

While the breathtaking views are a primary reason people visit the Rockies, the altitude can also take your breath away: Oxygen levels decrease as elevation increases. Acute Mountain Sickness is very real and can affect anyone from ultramarathon runners to sedentary computer programmers. Knowing the symptoms and how to prevent it can make your Montana experience safer and more enjoyable.

Our bodies have built-in mechanisms that help them adapt to changing elevations, including an elevated breathing rate to take in more oxygen, but acclimating may take several days. Common symptoms include headache, weakness, queasiness, drowsiness, rapid pulse, and trouble sleeping.

In severe cases of AMS, these symptoms escalate. Be aware and consult a physician immediately if walking becomes difficult, you have a hard time speaking or thinking, or you experience chest pain.

Prevent altitude sickness by giving your body a chance to adjust. Plan on taking it easy for the first couple days after arriving in the mountains. If possible, allow yourself time to adjust to higher elevations slowly. For instance, spend a night in Bozeman before heading to Big Sky.

Drinking enough water is essential because the Rockies are arid and dehydration can contribute to altitude sickness. Even if you live here full time, staying hydrated is challenging. Drinking alcohol and caffeine increases dehydration so make sure you drink a glass of water along with a cocktail or coffee. For example, drink a pint of water for every pint of beer.

Don’t be afraid to drink water straight from the tap. Big Sky’s water comes from deep underground, and it doesn’t require chemical treatments like chlorine. In June, the American Water Works Association voted the area’s water the tastiest tap water in the U.S. So leave the plastic bottles on the shelves and enjoy tap water in a glass.

Traveling often throws off our sleep schedules too. As if changing time zones isn’t challenging enough, staying up late packing and taking care of last-minute business before getting on a plane or in your car is common.

When you arrive in the Rockies, schedule time to relax. Montana is one of the best places to chill out, breathe and get back in touch with nature and yourself.

Eat well. Heavy, processed foods can disrupt your digestive system, mood and sleep even without the burden of travel and adjusting to a new altitude. Feed yourself healing and nourishing whole foods that come directly from the earth before and during travel.

After several weeks at higher elevations, your body will produce more red blood cells and become more efficient at transporting oxygen. So stay awhile. Then when you return home to a lower altitude, there’s a good chance you’ll walk or run faster, feel stronger and go longer.

Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach, an NASM Certified Personal Trainer, a public speaker and health activist. Contact her at jackie@thetahealth.com, or find more information at thetahealth.org.

Explore Big Sky

HEALTH

Aug. 7 - 20, 2015 27
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By pedal and step
A conservation expedition from LA to Glacier and beyond

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JULIE HOTZ
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The Montana segment of my expedition across portions of the western U.S. began on June 23, when I rode into West Yellowstone by bicycle. On July 23, I left Montana on foot, walking out through the Purcell Mountains.

Entering the state from Yellowstone National Park, I stopped to take the obligatory “bicycle-proped-up-next-to-the-“Entering Montana”-sign” photo. As I hopped back on my bike and cycled into Big Sky Country, I cried tears of relief. A month prior I’d left my front door in Los Angeles and ridden through the heat of the Mojave Desert; circumvented the Grand Canyon; cycled through the valleys and over the mountains of Utah; pedaled for a brief stretch in Idaho; and passed the Tetons and Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming.

Arriving in the final state of my ride, relief rushed over me. I didn’t want the ride to end, but I had a deadline. On July 7, I was set to begin hiking the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail. The PNT, which begins at Chief Border Crossing in Washington, on the Olympic Peninsula.

Hiking instigated this expedition, but biking to Glacier from LA was a crucial element. It provided me with transportation to Montana; pedaled for a brief stretch in Idaho; and passed the Tetons and Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming.

On my bike ride, I began by logging data for the ASC Roadkill Survey – a collaboration with the University of California-Davis Road Ecology Center – which aims to understand how our driving habits affect wildlife in an attempt to reduce collisions. Once I was through the desert, I gathered water samples for ASC’s microplastics research, a study cataloging the amount of tiny plastic particles polluting water sources worldwide.

To some, it may seem most important to test the waterways nearest cities, where the risk of contamination is highest and where more people reside. But as I rode through Montana, the idyllic valleys with winding rivers, and walked over small creeks and past mountain springs, I became convinced of the importance of starting with the source – what we assume must be pristine land.

In September, ASC is launching a targeted microplastics initiative in Montana’s Gallatin watershed. There, I noticed the plastic that previous travelers left behind. Unfortunately, this doesn’t come as a surprise – I cannot begin to describe the amount of trash I saw while pedaling endless stretches of highway this summer.

When I jumped into Lake McDonald upon arriving in Glacier I felt revived, and I hope generations to come have this same opportunity.

Since research can be costly, time consuming and logistically difficult, the idea is that when an adventurer is already traveling in a remote place, he or she can obtain data that might otherwise be too cumbersome to gather. This form of science is essential – not only because we need to understand how we’re affecting the world around us, but because it empowers and involves the individual.

On July 23, I left Montana on foot, walking out through the Purcell Mountains. When I bushwhacked down the backside of Northwest Peak toward Davis Mountain and saw that Montana was on fire behind me, I wanted to protect this land that had given me so much in the past month.

Montana schooled me a few times on the road and in the backcountry, but it also brought me joy. I felt at home here, surrounded by beauty ranging from delicate to grand. This is reason enough to continue research and asking uncomfortable questions:

If humans are affecting such wild landscapes, how far-reaching is our impact? Are we risking our health, even in the most peaceful of environments?

If we wish to protect the places we hold dear, the mountains that move us, and the rivers that bring us joy, we must work together to find answers.

Follow Julie Hotz’s adventures at juliebotz.com and learn more about ASC or volunteer for a project at adventurescience.org.
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LOCATED IN THE TOWN CENTER • BIG SKY
I look on drowsily as Ersin Ozer, event director of the 2015 Big Sky PBR and current insomniac, batters the cloud-grey pounder down onto the top of the week’s first warped T-post. I only know he is making progress because the nubs in the evergreen metal inch down in the direction of the Big Sky bedrock in jolts and jerks. This is slow work.

It’s Monday morning, and in only three more days, the town will go insane. More than forty bull riders will converge in the heart of Big Sky to willingly mount a few truckloads of one-and-a-half-ton bulls with the hopes of mastering the animals for eight seconds and then, consequently, dismounting without dying.

And in three days, 7,000 residents, tourists, friends, siblings, skibums, small business owners, moguls, cowboys-to-be, road trippers, romantic interests, and rodeo enthusiasts will converge in the heart of Big Sky over the course of three nights to watch it all take place.

For now, Ersin and I are focused on pounding our first post. It is, after all, my first PBR.

NIGHT 1

Twenty-plus food, drink and craft sellers spent the day setting up their 10-by-10-foot stalls in the vendor village outside of the Big Sky PBR venue, and by 5 p.m. the gravel lot was a teeming bazaar of chili dogs, microbrews, and Montana artwork for sale.

The Pro Bull Riders weekend kicked off on a charitable note under the Golden Buckle tent with a Calcutta auction sponsored by the Spanish Peaks Community Foundation. Eight teams of five riders were auctioned off to bidders, with half the pot earmarked as a donation to the Gallatin River Task Force. The local nonprofit, dedicated to the health and upkeep of the Gallatin River watershed, received a check on the arena dirt for $14,250 before the bull riding commenced.

The main event commenced, and during Flight 2 the Big Sky crowd expressed a mix of awe and fright as 25-year-old Tyler Harr, from Slovak, Ark., skillfully rode “Big Enough” for the full eight seconds, and then narrowly avoided a grisly run-in with the bull near the chute gates after dismounting.

Four rides later, Brazilian Robson “Spiderman” Aragao’s bull, “Westley’s Pet,” bucked the chute gate at the start of the ride, but Aragao managed to hold on for eight seconds, a feat that prompted him to dance a two-step after hearing his score of 85.5.

“The raw courage of the bull riders inspired this piece,” Chapman said. The painting fetched $5,000 for the aid of injured bull riders.

In the arena, announcer Brandon Bates welcomed the crowd to the fifth annual Big Sky PBR and introduced the event’s riders, bull fighters, and lead entertainer – Montana’s own rodeo clown, Flint Rasmussen. One of Big Sky Fire Department’s ladder trucks lifted a giant American flag high above the stadium, and the 2,000-strong in attendance fell silent for a powerful rendition of the national anthem by Gina Daws.

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continued on pg.35
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With all eyes on the center chute gate, Davis emerged on the back of “American Gangster” to thunderous cheers from the crowd. The rider thrashed along with his bull and stayed aboard for the eight seconds necessary to win him an extra $2,000.

BBuzzing from the successful Bounty Bull ride, spectators poured out of the arena and across the road to the free afterparty concert, performed by Bozemans Kris Clone Band. The group played a rollicking set that featured covers of artists ranging from Radiohead to Johnny Cash.


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Stetson Lawrence, 26, was the top rider of this year’s PBR, coming in with a combined score of 175.5 points over the course of the two-day event. Here, Lawrence receives his guitar, trophy and check alongside Outlaw Partners staff and Andy Watson of freestyle Productions.

I go to every event Chad Berger is at,” said Aragon, referring to Big Sky PBR’s primary stock contractor and the reigning PBR Stock Contractor of the Year. “Every one he’s at is a great event.”

Adrenaline turned to smiles and laughter as the event transitioned from bull riding to sheep riding just before intermission. Thirty children competed in the night’s Mutton Bustin’ competition, an event where young riders are scored based on how long they can remain on the back of a scampering sheep.

Six-year-old Taylor McVey of Big Sky gripped his sheep for a long ride and ultimately wrestled the animal down to the ground in an impressive feat that looped several times on the arena’s big screen.

McVey, however, was healthy enough to hoist the first-place trophy – a prize taller than him – over his head for the rest of the evening in his best simulation of a world champion bull rider.

Thursday night concluded with a final, explosive shot of excitement. Barely old enough to legally enjoy a celebratory beer, 21-year-old Cooper Davis earned a shot at the Lone Pine Builders Bounty Bull thanks to his evening-high, 88.0 ride of “Ink Spot” earlier in the night.

Whether something happened on the saddle, Davis emerged on the back of “American Gangster” to thunderous cheers from the crowd. The rider thrashed along with his bull and stayed aboard for the eight seconds necessary to win him an extra $2,000.

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With all eyes on the center chute gate, Davis emerged on the back of “American Gangster” to thunderous cheers from the crowd. The rider thrashed along with his bull and stayed aboard for the eight seconds necessary to win him an extra $2,000.

BBuzzing from the successful Bounty Bull ride, spectators poured out of the arena and across the road to the free afterparty concert, performed by Bozemans Kris Clone Band. The group played a rollicking set that featured covers of artists ranging from Radiohead to Johnny Cash.

The Golden Buckle tent filled once again on July 31, and the second time around the Calcutta auction sent $17,625 to the Arts Council of Big Sky.

Another auction, in which people could buy the chance to ride with the world’s top rider and get a picture with the rodeo’s new champion, sent $8,000 to the Rider Relief Fund.

Afterward, Julie Chapman auctioned another pickup for $8,000, to once again benefit the Rider Relief Fund.

Relief Fund.

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EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Explore Big Sky

continued from pg.33

Lawrence plans to dwell on this win, however. “I’ve just got to stay healthy, [and] keep rolling down the road,” he said.

The soundtrack for Friday night’s afterparty was all Led Zeppelin, as tribute band Zoso played the opening notes of “Rock ‘n Roll” just moments after Lawrence received his winnings. Spectators and Zeppelin fans stayed out listening to classics late into the night.

“(The Big Sky PBR) is an event that both locals and visitors can enjoy,” said Jenny Pelej, director of marketing at the Montana Office of Tourism. “This is what [Montana’s] all about: recreation during the day, and hospitality at night.”

continued on pg.35

5-year-old Kelsey Ladd competed in the Mutton Bustin’ competition on Friday night, and took home the winning title for the second year running.
EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT
Aug. 7 - 20, 2015

NIGHT 3

Concertgoers flowed into a rearranged arena on Aug. 1, as local bluegrass group Two Bit Franks took the stage. The ensemble played a varied and energetic set as crowds settled down at their bleacher seats, cocktail tables, hay bales, or in the standing section in front of the stage where official venue signs commanded audience members to “bust a move.”

As the evening light dimmed, New York rock ‘n’ roll trio the Jamie Mclean Band hit the growing throngs of listeners with a mix of sounds, some with soul and some with bite. At one point, the East Coast rockers engaged in a twenty-minute improvisational session that exhibited the spontaneity, confidence, and playfulness of a private garage jam.

The entire weekend ultimately generated $13,046 in funding for the Big Sky Community Food Bank. All together, the three-day event and all of its donors raised $57,809 for local nonprofits.

For the 2015 Big Sky PBR’s final act, country and bluegrass legend Robert Earl Keen walked out in front of a crowd of nearly 2,000 dressed in an all-white suit, from his hat to his shoes, save a green tie. To promote his new album, “Happy Prisoner,” Keen is touring with a seven-piece bluegrass ensemble.

Keen chatted and joked with the Big Sky crowd in his low, silky, Southern speech, and alternated between new tunes and classics.

The sky was a dark navy and the orange moon burst over the horizon when Keen played “The Road Goes on Forever,” the 1989 hit that many know him for. He took his time with the crowd favorite, offering every instrumentalist on stage a chance to showcase his skill in an extended solo.

Brian Hurlbut, the executive director of the Arts Council of Big Sky, has seen Keen perform several times, including once at a venue in Keen’s hometown of Houston, Texas.

“The energy in Big Sky was just as good as it was in Texas,” Hurlbut said after Saturday’s concert. “Everybody up front knew all the lyrics to his music.”

As glow sticks flew above bobbing heads, and shooting stars rushed down into the black silhouettes of distant peaks, Keen finished a second encore, strolled off the stage, and officially concluded one of biggest parties in Big Sky history.

But, during his final song, Keen had smiled at the hundreds dancing on the bull-trodden dirt and promised he would be back.

So, too, will the Big Sky PBR.

Reporting was contributed by Joseph T. O’Connor and Tyler Allen.
#bigskypbr Photography Contest

Visitors to this year’s PBR event were asked to tag their photos with “#bigskypbr” to be entered in a contest to win a set of tickets to next year’s Big Sky PBR. The winning photo is displayed below as well as a few of Explore Big Sky’s other favorites.

“Successful weekend of whiskey, cowboys, and music.” PHOTO BY MELINDA TURNER

2015 Big Sky PBR by the numbers

42 bullriders
75 bulls
25 mutton busters
7 live bands

$57,809
60 volunteers
70 sponsors
repeat mutton bustin’ champions
Kelsey Ladd (2014-15)

7,000 + total attendees

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E-mail address
**Events Calendar**

**Big Sky**

**FRIDAY, AUG. 7**
Big Sky Classical Music Fest - WindSync Wind Ensemble
Town Center Park, 6 p.m.

**THURSDAY, AUG. 13**
Far the Peaks Golf Tournament - The Preserve at MLB, 10 a.m.

**Vine & Dine Wine Festival**
Big Sky Resort, 6 p.m. (thru Sun.)

**SUNDAY, AUG. 9**
Enduro Race
Big Sky Resort, 9 a.m.

**Tuesday Talks:** What Is A Noxious Weed? - Big Sky Landscaping, 5:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 12**
Community Yoga - Town Center Park, 11 a.m.

**Bozeman**

**FRIDAY, AUG. 7**
Sweet Factory Fridays - Museum of the Rockies, 10 a.m.

**Sweet Pea Festival**
Lindee Park, 4 p.m. (thru Sun.)

**SUNDAY, AUG. 16**
Vine & Dine Wine Festival - Big Sky Resort, 9-10 a.m.

**TUESDAY, AUG. 12**
HRDC Carnaval - Story Mansion, 5 p.m.

Sir Mix-A-Lot Faultline North, 8 p.m.

Jeremy Morton
14 North, 8 p.m.

The Innocents
Eagles, 9 p.m.

Scott Pemberton Trio + One Leaf Clover - Filling Station, 9 p.m.

Davd Della G + Hemingway & Organix - The Zebra, 9 p.m.

**FRIDAY, AUG. 14**
Sweet Factory Fridays - Museum of the Rockies, 10 a.m.

Garden & Home Tour - The Emerson, 4 p.m.

Art Walk - Downtown Bozeman, 6 p.m.

Christy Hays
Wild Joe’s, 7:30 p.m.

Boeing Boeing - The Ellen, 8 p.m.

The Innocents
Eagles, 9 p.m.

Delta Saints
The Zebra, 8 p.m.

Patrick Sweeney
Live From the Divide, 9 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 12**
Lunch on the Lawn - The Emerson, 11:30 a.m.

Film: Nevada Smith - The Ellen, 6 p.m.

Picket’n in the Parks - Story Mansion, 6-8:30 p.m.

Author Event w/Craig Lancaster - Country Bookshelf, 7 p.m.

Open Mic - Haufbrau, 10:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, AUG. 13**
BAHA Golf Tournament - Bridger Creek, 8 a.m.

Sweet Pea Festival - Linddy Park, 11 a.m.

Boeing Boeing - The Ellen, 3 p.m.

Boeing Boeing - The Ellen, 8 p.m.

American Aquarium
Live From the Divide, 9 p.m.

Open Mic - Haufbrau, 10-30 p.m.

**MONDAY, AUG. 10**
Hikes to Yoga w/Flow Outside - Church Ave. Parking Lot, 5-30 p.m.

Jazz & More w/Kelly Roberti - Museum of the Rockies, 7 p.m.

Cocoa & Café - Museum of the Rockies, 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY, AUG. 9**
Whistle Pig, 9 p.m.

Local Comedy Night - Whistle Pig, 9 p.m.

Hallowtops + Dedry Mountain Men - Filling Station, 9 p.m.

**SATURDAY, AUG. 8**
Dawn Tall Buildings - Wild Joe’s, 7:30 p.m.

Boeing Boeing - The Ellen, 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, AUG. 14**
The Innocents
The Zebra, 9 p.m.

Mandarin Dynasty
The Zebra, 9 p.m.

**THURSDAY, AUG. 13**
Live From Divide, 9 p.m.

HRDC Carnaval - Story Mansion, 5 p.m.

Crime Friction Writer Karin Salvaggio
Bridge Brewing, 6 p.m.

Music on Main - Cure for the Common - Downtown Bozeman, 6-30 p.m.

Cocoa & Café - Museum of the Rockies, 7 p.m.

Boeing Boeing - The Ellen, 6 p.m.

**FRIDAY, AUG. 14**
Sweet Factory Fridays - Museum of the Rockies, 10 a.m.

Downtown Bozeman, 6:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, AUG. 13**
Hoop & Modern Sons - Filling Station, 9 p.m.

Songwriters in the Round - Live From Divide, 9 p.m.

**SUNDAY, AUG. 9**
The Zebra, 9 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 12**
Lunch on the Lawn - The Emerson, 11:30 a.m.

Film: Nevada Smith - The Ellen, 6 p.m.

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Davd Della G + Hemingway & Organix
The Zebra, 9 p.m.

**FRIDAY, AUG. 14**
Sweet Factory Fridays - Museum of the Rockies, 10 a.m.

Garden & Home Tour - The Emerson, 4 p.m.

Art Walk - Downtown Bozeman, 6 p.m.

Christy Hays
Wild Joe’s, 7:30 p.m.

Boeing Boeing - The Ellen, 8 p.m.

The Innocents
Eagles, 9 p.m.

**PLANNING AN EVENT? LET US KNOW! EMAIL: MARIA@THEOUTLAWPARTNERS.COM, AND WE’LL SPREAD THE WORD.**
**EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

**Aug. 7 - 20, 2015**

**SUNDAY, AUG. 16**

*Cruise* on Main Annual Car Show

**Downtown Bozeman, 8 a.m.**

Bozeman Boxing
The Ellen, 8 a.m.

**Haufbrau, 10:30 p.m.**

**Filling Station, 9 p.m.**

**Today**

Pimps of Joytime +

**Tomorrow’s Pickin’ in the Parks**

**Townshend’s Tea House, 6 p.m.**

The Emerson, 12 p.m.

**Bozeman’s Historic Manors**

**Gracious Gables:**

The Emerson, 11:30 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 19**

*Live From the Divide, 9 p.m.**

Dave McGraw & Mandy Fer

**Ivan Doig Tribute**

Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

**Music Tuesdays**

Bogert Park, 5 p.m.

**The Ellen, 8 p.m.**

Bluegrass Band

John Jorgenson Bluegrass Band

The Ellen, 8 p.m.

**Open Mic**

Haufbrau, 10:30 p.m.

**MONDAY, AUG. 17**

**Jaz & More w/Kelly Roberti**

Bozeman Public Library, 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 19**

**Share Your Stories:**

**Quenby & Sean Divine**

**The Ellen, 8 p.m.**

**Bogert Park, 1 p.m.**

**ERA Agents of Hope Carnival**

**satellite**

**SUNDAY, AUG. 16**

**TUESDAY, AUG. 18**

**MONDAY, AUG. 17**

**THURSDAY, AUG. 20**

**MONDAY, AUG. 17**

**TUESDAY, AUG. 18**

**MONDAY, AUG. 17**

**FRIDAY, AUG. 14**

**SATURDAY, AUG. 15**

**SUNDAY, AUG. 9**

**SATURDAY, AUG. 8**

**FRIDAY, AUG. 7**

**THURSDAY, AUG. 20**

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 19**

**RECURRING EVENTS**

**Historic Walking Tour**

**Historic District, self-guided, daily**

**Explore Yellowstone! With A YNP Ranger**

**Yellowstone Park, daily**

**Experiencing Wildlife in Yellowstone Workshop**

**30 Yellowstone Ave., 9 a.m. & 3 p.m. daily**

**Yellowstone Nature Connection Programs**

**Smokejumper Program, 10 a.m. & 3 p.m. (daily)**

**Naturalist Program, 1 p.m. (daily)**

**Reading in Nature, 4-30 p.m. (Thursday)**

**10 Yellowstone Ave.**

**Wild West Yellowstone Rodon Rodeo Arena, 8 p.m., Wed. – Sat.**

**Live Performances at the PlayNTail Theatre**

**Mon – Thurs., 6-30 p.m.**

**Fri. – Sat., 6:30 & 8:30 p.m.**

**THURSDAY, AUG. 13**

**Kilt Night**

Send It Home, 6 p.m.

**Dan Dubuque**

**Wild West Saloon, 9 p.m.**

**FRIDAY, AUG. 14**

**Sugar Daddies**

**Wild West Saloon, 9 p.m.**

**SATURDAY, AUG. 15**

**Wild West Saloon, 9 p.m.**

**MONDAY, AUG. 17**

**Yoga for Everyone**

**Powhatan Community Center, 6:15 p.m.**

**Karaoke Night**

**Wild West Saloon, 8:30 p.m.**

**TUESDAY, AUG. 18**

**Pick Up Ping Pong**

**Community Protestant Church, 7 p.m.**

**Fribbee Football**

**Pioneer Park, 7 p.m.**

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 19**

**Community Painting Class**

**Powhatan Community Center, 6:30 p.m.**

**Speaker: Paul Shea**

**W. Yellowstone Public Library, 7 p.m.**

**Club Night - DJ**

**Wild West Saloon, 10:30 p.m.**

**THURSDAY, AUG. 20**

**Kilt Night**

**Send It Home, 6 p.m.**

**Adult Co-Ed Volleyball**

**W. Yellowstone School Gym, 7 p.m.**

**Fish Camp Boys**

**Wild West Saloon, 8 p.m.**
YELLOWSTONE CLUB

River Runs Through It / $13M / 13,349 SQ FT

SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB

Ski Tip Lot 8 / $825K / 1.11 ACRES
Lot 156 Seclusion Point $545K / 3.36 ACRES
Lot 107 W. Elk Valley Rd. $399K / 2.48 ACRES
Ranch Lot 99 / $545K / 4.06 ACRES

BIG SKY

PRICE REDUCED
Spanish Peaks Club Condo #11 $549K / 2,314 SQ FT
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Lone Peak Town Home #59 $535K / 2,115 SQ FT
13 Beartooth Rd. / $450K / 2,782 SQ FT

BIG SKY

Mountain Meadows $3.495 M / 120 ACRES
Lot 287A Rising Bull $529K / 1.04 ACRES
Joy Road Lot 3 / $415K / 6.83 ACRES
Elk Ridge Ranch 28 $399.9K / 1.08 ACRES

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Yellowstone Ranch Preserve 753 +/- ACRES
Whiskey Jug Cabin 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom / 2,702 SQ FT + 9 homesites
Waterfront conservation property near Yellowstone National Park $19,500,000

Osprey Cove Lakehouse $1.69M / 4,628 SQ FT
14 Choke Cherry Lane $973K / 1.08 ACRES

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406-995-2404
Lot 338 Bristlecone Drive
$4.95M / 14.6 ACRES

Lot 332 Upper Cedarview Dr
$4.4M / 4.6 ACRES

Lot 36A Copper Court
$3.3M / 5 ACRES

Yellowtail Development / $2.4M / 3.5+ ACRES

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Yellowtail Development / $2.4M / 3.5+ ACRES

Spruce Cone Development / $420k
Platted for 3 duplexes

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Residential:

**1214 SILVERADO TRAIL**  
$2,600,000 • #202031 • Call Stacy or Eric  
5 bd, 4 ba, 6,063 +/- s.f., on 4.76 +/- wooded acres  
Hand carved mantels, fir beams, expansive views of Spanish Peaks and Lone Mtn.; wine cellar, 3 car heated garage, 3 x 1000 buried propane tanks

**50 CLIFF MANOR**  
$1,770,000 • #203027 • Call Don  
4 bd, 5 ba, 5,212 +/- s.f., 1.54 +/- acres  
Custom Gallatin River home w/ 2 master suites  
Gourmet kitchen combined w/ great room  
East side virtually all windows looking at river

**SPANISH PEAKS CLUB #23 E**  
$679,000 • #200659 • Call Stacy or Eric  
3 bd, 3 ba furnished end unit 2,548 s.f.  
Private end unit overlooking creek; patio w/ hot tub  
Gourmet kitchen, wood burning fireplace  
Complex pool, clubhouse, equipped exercise room

**17C HEAVY RUNNER RD, ALPENGLOW**  
$559,000 • #202378 • Call Stacy or Eric  
3 bd, 2.5 ba furnished 2,320 +/- unit sleeps 12  
Gourmet kitchen with S.S. appliances, granite  
Large outdoor deck w/ hot tub & Lone Mtn views  
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**61 WOODBINE PLACE**  
$382,000 • #207186 • Call Don  
3 bd, 2 ba, 1,928 +/- s.f. Hidden Village Condo  
Partially furnished unit with great views of Yellowstone Mtn.  
Upgrades to kitchen and master bathroom  
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Land Listings:

**NORTH FORK, COS 1740, TRACT 2C**  
$975,000 • #199007 • Call Stacy or Eric  
20 +/- acres on private access gated North Fork Rd  
Direct creek frontage, beautiful building site  
Adjacent to Lone Mountain Ranch trails  
Triple Triangle Ranch; Agent owned

**LOST TRAILS, TRACT 8**  
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20 +/- acres, sunny, south-facing building site  
Between Mountain and Meadow Villages  
Spectacular views all around  
Community water system with fire flow

**LITTLE COYOTE ROAD, LOT #37**  
$210,000 • #200028 • Call Stacy or Eric  
.28 +/- acres Meadow Village lot  
Flat south facing lot backing to green belt  
Easy walk to park, tennis courts, restaurants  
In the heart of Meadow Village; Community W/S

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$799,900 • #203656 • Call Don  
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Lot has never been on the market previously  
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Rare opportunity to fish or kayak from your backyard  
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Mother-son duo to rock Bozeman

BY CHRISTOPHER J. DAVIES
CBS CONTRIBUTOR

I’ve been writing about wine for 15 years. This journey has taken me around the world several times to world-famous wine regions as well as lesser-known growing areas.

Until recently, we’ve learned most of what we know from vintners, winemakers, and other writers and wine book authors. Many writers have made their bones this way and frown upon wine certification programs. Their biggest excuse for not getting certified is that they don’t plan on working in a restaurant.

While I don’t plan on seeking a restaurant job anytime soon, I do spend quite a bit of time in restaurants eating and drinking wine. I love chatting with sommeliers about their wine programs and favorite pairing suggestions.

The Court of Master Sommeliers is an elite organization of the world’s consummate wine professionals. North America has only 147 master sommeliers – 124 men and 23 women – out of 229 professionals. North America has only 147 master sommeliers – 124 men and 23 women – out of 229 professionals. North America has only 147 master sommeliers – 124 men and 23 women – out of 229 professionals.

Wine tasting the master way

Vine and Dine Wine Festival returns to Big Sky for second year

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BIG SKY CLASSICAL MUSIC FESTIVAL
AUGUST 7-9, 2015
BIG SKY, MONTANA
“Beethoven Meets Brahms in the Mountains”

AUGUST 7
WINDSYNC WIND ENSEMBLE
FREE CONCERT OUTDOORS IN TOWN CENTER PARK • 6 P.M.
Hailed as “revolutionary chamber musicians...” by the Houston Chronicle.
North America’s foremost emerging wind quintet!

AUGUST 8
RACHEL BARTON PINE & MATT HAIMOVITZ
WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER • 7:30 P.M.
With guests Angella Ahn, Gillian Gallagher, Kathe Jarka, and David Wallace performing
Brahms String Sextet No. 1 in B-flat Major, Op. 18 as well as solo compositions
Tickets at warrenmillerpac.org

AUGUST 9
BIG SKY FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA with MAESTRO PETER BAY
FREE CONCERT OUTDOORS IN TOWN CENTER PARK • 5 P.M.
Performing Brahms Double Concerto in A minor, Op. 102 with Rachel Barton Pine and Matt Haimovitz, and the
Egmont Overture and Symphony No. 8, both from Beethoven

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Explore Big Sky

EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

BY PATRICK STRAUB

When divvying out our local trout species, the trout gods smiled upon our corner of the fly-fishing universe. Europe received brown trout, which aided by humans are found the world over. Rainbow trout and steelhead originated from the tributaries of the northern Pacific Ocean. Brook trout, though technically a char, migrated west from the eastern U.S. Bull trout are a char, as well, so they don’t count.

Only westslope and Yellowstone cutthroat trout were “born and raised” here. And while I hate to break it to westslope cutthroat lovers out there, the Yellowstone cutthroat trout is the greatest in the world. The best way to truly appreciate a Yellowstone cutthroat is to catch and release one, but here’s why they take the cake:

Accessibility for beginners. Inhabiting many of the streams of Yellowstone National Park and the Yellowstone River, the Yellowstone cutthroat trout can be targeted on foot or in a boat. The rivers and creeks of Yellowstone National Park can be fished with an inexpensive fishing permit, and the abundance of water near a road there is surprising. The willingness of a cutthroat to eat dry flies off the surface tips the scales in their favor, as few things in fly fishing hook a new angler more than seeing a trout eat a dry fly.

Challenge for experienced and adventurous anglers.

Among some anglers, the Yellowstone cutthroat’s willingness to eat dry flies is mistaken for dumbness. Any angler who has fished the lower or first meadows of Slough Creek might argue that. Light tippets and perfect presentations are necessary to catch the 18-inch fish inhabiting the crystal clear water. Additionally, if you want to find fish over 20 inches you’ll need to earn it with a hike into the Black Canyon of the Yellowstone or the far reaches of the Lamar – or invest in the right guide and time a Yellowstone float perfectly.

Their beautiful habitat. If a backdrop of Electric Peak, Paradise Valley, the pastoral setting of spring creeks south of Livingston, or the splendor of fishing in Yellowstone National Park’s northeast corner doesn’t give you pause, you may never appreciate how special these trout are to our rivers.

A vital species. Not only are Yellowstone cutthroat important to the psyche, health, and general wellness for local anglers, they are a food source for several wildlife species. In early summer as fish move into smaller creeks and tributaries to spawn, grizzly bear, osprey and river otter prey on large spawning-sized fish in shallow water.

They’re downright gorgeous. As these fish grow in size, they often develop a unique, golden hue. The namesake red slash under their gills is obvious and the buttery-yellow color these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over their gills is obvious and the buttery-yellow golden hue. The namesake red slash under their gills is obvious and the buttery-yellow color these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over their gills is obvious and the buttery-yellow color these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over their gills is obvious and the buttery-yellow color these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over their gills is obvious and the buttery-yellow color these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over their gills is obvious and the buttery-yellow color these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over their gills is obvious and the buttery-yellow color these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over their gills is obvious and the buttery-yellow color these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over their gills is obvious and the buttery-yellow color these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over their gills is obvious and the buttery-yellow color these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over their gills is obvious and the buttery-yellow color these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over their gills is obvious and the buttery-yellow color these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over their gills is obvious and the buttery-yellow color these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over their gills is obvious and the buttery-yellow color these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over their gills is obvious and the buttery-yellow color these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest. Big brown trout gloat over these fish take on is peerless in any trout beauty contest.

Everyone loves an underdog. And these fish are just that. The most obvious challenge is the illegal introduction of lake trout into Yellowstone Lake. Lake trout are voracious predators, grow fast, and require many calories. Their impact on Yellowstone cutthroat is apparent in the numbers of fish migrating out of Yellowstone Lake into the river north of Fishing Bridge.

As a kid and into college I could observe thousands of migrating Yellowstone cutthroat daily. Today, their numbers are in the double digits. In other Yellowstone River drainage rivers, these fish require high water quality. As demand for water increases and our climate changes, habitat for these fish is a major concern. But there are many ways to help, including joining your local chapter of Trout Unlimited, helping the Yellowstone Park Foundation with their efforts to eradicate lake trout, and working locally to keep water in the Yellowstone River’s smaller tributaries.

As a career fishing guide, I’m often asked, “What is your favorite fish to catch?” To remain focused on the task at hand, my first response is “the one I’m fishing to.” However, to be fair to my first true love of trout, I then tell them why I love Yellowstone cutthroat.

Pat Straub is the author of six books, including “The Frugal Fly Fisher,” “Montana On The Fly,” and “Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Fly Fishing.” He and his wife own Gallatin River Guides in Big Sky and he co-owns a guide service on the Missouri River.

Yellowstone cutthroat trout have a distinct red slash under their gills. As the fish ages they also develop a buttery yellow color under their mid-section, and this author refers to them as “big ole yellow-bellies.” PHOTO BY WALTER WIESE/PARKS’ FLY SHOP
Stargazing in the Big Sky
Perseid meteor shower

BY ASHLEY OLIVERIO
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The nights of Aug. 12-14 bring the peak of the annual Perseid – pronounced “PER-see-id” – meteor shower. Occurring during the summer’s warm weather, the Perseids are the most widely observed meteor display of the year.

Named for the constellation Perseus, the location in the sky where the “shooting stars” all seem to emanate, the Perseids originate from dust, ice and rock left in the wake of Comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle. The comet passes through our inner solar system every 133 years, and its last flyby occurred in 1992. Each year from about mid-July to late August, Earth slams into Swift-Tuttle’s castoff debris stream.

On the mornings of Aug. 12 and 13, we will hit the dense center of the comet’s rocky path, and watchers under dark skies will likely count up to 100 meteors per hour from midnight to dawn. If staying up late or rising early is unappealing, take heart: Perseids will appear starting about 10 p.m. as their common starting point, or radiant, in Perseus rises over the northeastern horizon.

Moonlight will not interfere with the Perseids this year. The moon will be near its new phase, rising and setting with the sun, during the apex.

To successfully observe the Perseids, go to a site free of manmade lights. Bring a coat and blanket, bug repellent, snacks, plenty of warm beverages and a lawn chair for comfortable sky gazing. And don’t forget your friends and family! Telescopes and binoculars are unnecessary: Since the Perseids zip across the sky so swiftly and soar in all directions, your eye’s naturally wide field of view is best.

While they bear a constellation’s name, the Perseids have nothing to do with the distant suns that form the star pattern Perseus. Comet Swift-Tuttle’s jettisoned rubble lies close to Earth and encounters us from the general direction of the sky where the stars of Perseus are found twinkling trillions of miles away.

We see the Perseids spray out of Perseus just like you’d see snowflakes fly at you from a seemingly common point beyond your car windshield, as you drive through a blizzard.

The “falling stars” we glimpse during a meteor display might seem huge and close to the ground, but this is an optical illusion. Most meteors are caused by tiny comet and asteroid particles burning up high in our atmosphere.

The impact speed of those little shards produces tremendous power: The frozen, stony detritus that creates the Perseids crashes into Earth’s atmosphere at 37 miles per second – or more than 130,000 mph – making this one of the fastest of all meteor showers.

At this impact speed, the Perseid particles heat up and fly approximately 60 miles above us, with dazzling glowing streaks marking their flight paths. Also, due to the Perseids’ velocity, these meteors often manifest with exceptionally bright, long flashes before dissolving into darkness. This spectacle is also an illusion: A Perseid meteor trail is typically only about 1 yard wide, but tens of miles long.

While the earliest record of Perseid activity comes from the Chinese in A.D. 36, a more familiar reference to them is found in John Denver’s hit song “Rocky Mountain High.” While composing a new album, the then 27-year-old musician observed the Perseids from a lake near Aspen, Colo. The meteor display that August night inspired him to write the lyrics “I’ve seen it raining fire in the sky.”

If we get cloudless nights, hopefully we will all see it rain fire in Big Sky during this event.

Ashley Oliverio recently moved to Big Sky and was the former president of the Helena Astronomical Society, and head of public relations and communication for Carroll College. She has more than 20 years of experience as a writer, editor and astronomy columnist for Helena newspapers.

Scat Belt

Before I discovered Scat Belt, my bear spray was buried deep in my backpack along with sunscreen, water bottles, and snacks.

The spray was out of reach and unlikely to protect me from a bear attack. I understood how poor this setup was, but convinced myself how lighting fast I would grab my bear spray if a situation arose.

Luckily I didn’t have to test this lighting-fast theory before I smartened up and got a Scat Belt.

When I took the belt for a spin around the 3-mile trail near my house, it was lightweight, comfortable, and barely noticeable. I tested the Griz model, which has more features than the original Cub version, including a place to carry small personal items such as keys and a phone.

If you need to carry more, the belt fits comfortably under a backpack. Don’t take any chances! The Scat Belt’s ready for whatever awaits you on the trail.

$39.95  –  Emily O’Connor
American Life in Poetry: Column 541

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

Any new book from New York-based Robert Morgan, be it poetry or prose, is a delightful event. And “Dark Energy,” recently published by Penguin, has lots of wonderful poems. Here’s a portrait I especially like.

Heaven’s Gate
By Robert Morgan

In her nineties and afraid of weather and of falling if she wandered far outside her door, my mother took to strolling in the house. Around and round she’d go, walking into corners, backtrack, then turn and speed down hallway, stop almost at doorways, skirt a table, march up to the kitchen sink and wheel to left, then swing into the bathroom, almost stumble on a carpet there. She must have walked a hundred miles or more among her furniture and family pics, mementos of her late husband. Exercising heart and limb, outwalking stroke, attack, she strode, not restless like a lion in zoo, but with a purpose and a gait, and kept her eyes on heaven’s gate.

American Life in Poetry does not accept unsolicited submissions, and is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. “Heaven’s Gate,” from “Dark Energy,” by Robert Morgan, copyright © 2015 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction’s author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.

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Competitive lease prices offered for beautiful commercial spaces. You feel like you are in Montana with 24-foot tall timbered ceilings accentuated by a grand stone fireplace. Call 995-4580 for more details. Units are located in the heart of Big Sky’s Meadow Village Center.

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What’s the biggest problem with prescription drug abuse in Montana?

Try one of these, I know it really helped me.

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Find out what tunes we’re bumping! In Big Sky Beats, Explore Big Sky staff and guests offer suggested tracks for your next playlist. Whether you need to freshen up your music library, want to expand your collection, or just need some tunes for the next backyard barbecue, we’ve got you covered.

The playlist below is comprised of folk, blues, country and pop music. Artists include Americana staples like Doug Seegers and Townes Van Zandt, whose music is steeped in the country and blues artists they grew up with in the ’60s and ’70s. It also includes groups such as Austin, Texas rockers Spoon, and Scotland-based Paolo Nutini who blends opera, jazz, punk and R&B with American folk to create a new, yet familiar sound.

Sometimes I have a hard time switching gears from bluegrass to electronic to country, and vice versa. And sometimes I get bored listening to only one genre. This playlist remedies that problem through the songs’ subtle similarities and folk/sky blues roots that the multi-genre artists build upon in different ways. It makes for a mix that jumps around with ease, and serves as an introduction for someone interested in expanding their musical pallet.

1. “Jacksonville Skyline,” Whiskeytown
2. “Going Down to the River,” Doug Seegers
3. “Lungs,” Townes Van Zandt
4. “Waiting on June,” Holly Williams
5. “A House is a Home,” Ben Harper, Ellen Harper
7. “Home (Leave The Lights On),” Field Report
8. “Three More Days,” Ray LaMontagne

Visit explorebigsky.com/beats for a sampling of the playlist.
Why you should love art parties

Creating a space for people to paint who might otherwise never explore their creative side is exhilarating. The Art Party is similar to the popular “Canvas and Cocktails”-type events, where a group of adults gets together for a couple of hours, enjoys some wine or water, and socializes with others while creating their own artwork.

When people first sit at their easel, with a blank canvas staring back at them, they feel anxious. I give people a lot of credit for showing up since this unfamiliar territory is daunting for most new artists.

I’ve heard countless people say, “I don’t have an ounce of creativity” or “I can’t draw a stick figure.” But I disagree – we’re all artists and our minds and souls crave making art. Sure, if you haven’t painted since you were 5 years old, your first painting probably won’t hang in The Metropolitan Museum of Art, but don’t let that stop you.

Art parties provide a safe place to be creative without negative consequences. And even better, it’s a great place to practice creative problem-solving skills.

The Art Party is a bit different from others, possibly because I’ve been teaching private oil-painting lessons to guests at Big Sky’s Lone Mountain Ranch and other resorts for 16 years.

While I do provide a demo painting and offer guidance in drawing and painting, I like to say that you don’t get extra credit for making it exactly the same as the demo. Make it your own – that’s where your true creative process happens. If you want to paint something entirely different than the demo, I say, “Have at it!”

We start each event by going around the table and introducing ourselves, and everyone states what they’d like to accomplish in the two hours we have together.

This serves several purposes: it allows each person to be heard and acknowledged, giving them a sense of significance; it connects them to the rest of the group, offering a feeling of community; and it allows them to clearly state their purpose.

Perhaps the most important take away from the Art Party is the one rule I enforce: You are not allowed to say anything negative about yourself or your artwork. When we are in the creative process, we’re working at a very high vibrational energy.

When we have negative thoughts or speak negative words, it causes the energy in the room to plummet – not only affecting your own experience but everyone else’s. The inner critic will get its chance to offer constructive feedback, but mercilessly condemning ourselves stops creativity in its tracks.

Art Party-type events are happening all over the U.S., and you should attend many. Don’t let the inner voice that says you’re not an artist stop you. It’s about the experience. Let go of the unknown outcome and you’re sure to have an excellent time.

Our next Art Party in Big Sky is at Ousel and Spur on Tuesday, Aug. 18, from 5-7 p.m. You can reserve your easel online at iloveartparties.com. Come paint and party with us!

For more information, contact Jackie Rainford Corcoran at rainfordcorcoran@gmail.com.

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