Bighorn casualties persist
County commissioners convene in Big Sky
BSSD voters pass school levy
A century of autos in Yellowstone
Back 40: Montana mushroom foraging
#explorebigsky

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**To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.**

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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**ON THE COVER:**
The Spanish Peaks bighorn sheep herd gathers on Highway 64 in Big Sky on May 11. PHOTO BY WES OVERVOLD

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

**WHY:**
Explore Big Sky is a voice for Big Sky, keeping relevant topics at the forefront; while educating, engaging, and exploring Southwest Montana.

**WHAT IS THIS PUBLICATION?**
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**WHY:**
Explore Big Sky is a voice for Big Sky, keeping relevant topics at the forefront; while educating, engaging, and exploring Southwest Montana.

**Frequency**
EVE RY 2 WEE K S
Our 2 week shelf-life allows for extensive exposure for our advertisers.

**Annual Readership**
OVER 1 MILLION
Mailed to subscribers in all 50 states; including primary addresses of second home owners in Big Sky, MT

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**49,500**
Readership per issue
Give Big Gallatin Valley raises over $390,000 for area nonprofits

BOZEMAN AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

On May 3, nonprofits from across Gallatin County came together for the second annual Give Big Gallatin Valley fundraiser, the largest day of giving in the community’s history despite technical challenges.

Within hours of launching the event, the national online donation platform was overloaded by high traffic and crashed. The impact was felt across the country, but BACF quickly mobilized a team of volunteers to staff a call center at Foundant Technologies, set up a cash and check donation center at First Interstate Bank, and facilitated online giving through BACF’s and nonprofits’ websites.

Organizations throughout Gallatin County persevered to make the day a success. “We are incredibly humbly and grateful for our community and their grace, patience and ultimately their support of this year’s Give Big Gallatin Valley!” said Bridget Wilkinson, executive director of the Bozeman Area Community Foundation. “What an amazing success this initiative turned out to be - despite all odds.”

The total amount raised during the 24-hour fundraiser far exceeded the foundation’s goal of $300,000. More than 2,000 people donated to 132 local nonprofits, including a handful based in Big Sky.

Gallatin River Task Force had particularly strong community support, raising more than $18,000. Big Sky Bird Rescue, Big Sky Youth Empowerment, Gallactic/Big Sky Weed Committee and Women in Action also participated.

For more information on the event and the Bozeman Area Community Foundation, contact Bridget Wilkinson at (406) 587-6262, bridget@bozemanfoundation.org or visit givegiggv.org or bozemanfoundation.org.

WMPAC receives $10,000 National Endowment for the Arts award

WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The Warren Miller Performing Arts Center was granted an Arts Works award of $10,000 to present the 2016 Big Sky Conservatory slated for July 3 to August 6. The award is part of $82 million the NEA has awarded to fund local arts projects and partnerships in its second major funding allocation for fiscal year 2016.

“The arts are all around us, enhancing our lives in ways both subtle and obvious, expected and unexpected,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “Supporting projects like the one from the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center offers more opportunities to engage in the arts every day.”

“The NEA grant represents a new artistic high for us,” said WMPAC Artistic Director John Zirkle. “The Warren Miller Performing Arts Center finished construction just three years ago, and to receive a grant of this stature already for our programming is an incredible honor.”

The Big Sky Conservatory at WMPAC brings out a cohort of the country’s leading performing artists and fellows together in a sharply focused environment that encourages new work to emerge from a place of limited distractions.

The residencies simultaneously provide an educational experience for the fellows—who get to work one-on-one with Grammy and Tony Award winning faculty—and a platform for working artists who wish to develop and cultivate new projects.

The 2016 Big Sky Conservatory will focus on four distinct programs: dance, choral music, theater and strings music.

More information on workshops and labs and an application to the conservatory—due May 15—is available at warrenmillercpac.org/conservatory.

Montana proposes to triple wolf harvest near Yellowstone

BY MATTHEW BROWN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) - Montana officials want to triple the number of gray wolves hunters and trappers can kill in an area bordering Yellowstone National Park, citing complaints the predators are eating too many elk wanted by hunters and outfitters.

The potential change marks the latest turn in a years-long dispute that kicked off when endangered species protections for wolves were lifted in Montana in 2011.

Park officials and wildlife advocates argue wolves that spend much of their lives inside Yellowstone should be given special protections. But outfitters and hunters point to elk numbers that have fallen dramatically since the 1990s, when wolves were reintroduced in the park.

The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks proposal would increase the annual harvest from two wolves to six in a hunting district near Gardiner. That would stabilize the population – most recently tallied at 24 animals – and keep it from growing, according to the agency.

It follows complaints from park scientists that even under a smaller quota too many wolves were being killed once they stepped into Montana. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks spokesman Ron Ausheim says the agency has heard concerns from outfitters that the predators kill too many elk.

There’s no limit on how many wolves can be killed statewide. Hunters and trappers harvested 210 of the animals during the 2015 season.

Lest we forget

EBS STAFF

Standing at just over 6,000 feet in elevation, the Soldiers Chapel, Big Sky’s first nondenominational church founded in 1955, will open for the summer season on Sunday, May 29 with a Memorial Day celebration.

The service will begin at 11 a.m. and feature music by the Chord Rustlers a cappella group as well as a special rendition of taps to close out the event.

Soldiers Chapel was dedicated in 1955 in remembrance of 81 fallen soldiers from the Bozeman area 163rd infantry regiment who died in the South Pacific during WWII. The 163rd was part of the Montana National Guard during the war.

“People have so many things to occupy their time,” said chapel boardmember Barbara Hoberecht, who has lived in Big Sky for 38 years. “And they forget the men and women who gave up their lives so we can have this beautiful site in this area.”

The chapel’s back window frames a clear view of Lone Mountain.

Soldiers Chapel will hold services each Sunday at 11 a.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Chamber announces call for business awards nominations

BIG SKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce announced May 9 that it’s accepting nominations to recognize leadership and excellence in business within the community.

The chamber will accept nominations in four categories and announce the recipients June 15 during their annual meeting. Nominations can be delivered May 9 that it’s accepting nominations to recognize leadership and excellence in business within the community.

Year, Outstanding Frontline Worker, and the Chet Huntley Lifetime Achievement Award.

For the second year in a row, the chamber will name an Outstanding Frontline Worker, an award designed to honor an employee that has demonstrated a desire to go the extra mile in service to their customers.

The highest honor given by the chamber is the Chet Huntley Lifetime Achievement Award. The honoree will be an individual who has demonstrat ed leadership qualities, demonstrated willingness to serve others without personal gain and contributed to the economic wellbeing of the community.

The annual “Big Sky Big Idea” event will take place June 15 at Big Sky Resort at 6 p.m., with a keynote presentation from Gov. Steve Bullock. Tickets and sponsorships are available at bigskychamber.com.
News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

Mountain Outlaw brings hardware back from LA’s Maggie Awards

BY JOSEPH T. O’CONNOR
EBS MANAGING EDITOR

Mountain Outlaw magazine, the Outlaw Partners’ flagship publication, brought a big win home to Montana from the Western Publication Association’s Maggie Awards in Los Angeles on May 6.

The companion video to “The Shooter,” a feature story by Bozeman writer Todd Wilkinson for the winter 2016 edition of the magazine, was honored for the “Best Use of Editorial Video.”

The 4-minute, 43-second short documentary focuses on famed Jackson, Wyo. photographer Thomas Mangelsen and explores his relationship with the wild animals he locates in his viewfinder. He says the animals give him an opportunity to do what he loves.

“I feel that it’s important for me to give back,” says Mangelsen during an interview in the video.

Growing up in Nebraska and sitting with his father in a duck blind gave Mangelsen his most prized attribute, he says: patience. It’s this patience the photographer utilizes in his work to capture a specific moment in time, and it’s this patience the Mountain Outlaw production crew wanted to highlight in the film.

“There are a number of fascinating people in the Greater Yellowstone region and telling their stories through video, I feel, provides an opportunity for the viewer to get to know these people as well,” said Outlaw Partners videographer Wes Overvold, who filmed and edited the short documentary.

“Being able to work on this project and meet Thomas Mangelsen was cool enough, but being recognized with this distinguished award makes it that much more special,” he added.

Considered among the most prestigious awards in the publishing industry, the 2016 Maggie Awards drew from the 24 states west of the Mississippi River, according to a WPA press release.

“[The] Maggie Awards once again lived up to its billing as we celebrated the amazing and diverse achievements within our industry,” said Norb Garrett, president of the WPA and executive vice-president and general manager of TEN: The Enthusiast Network. “I always leave this evening more inspired to push boundaries and take creative chances.”

Visit mountainoutlaw.explorewbigsky.com/thomas-mangelsen/to view “The Shooter” and read the story.
Obituary
Jeffrey Tappero

Jeffrey Eric Tappero passed away Nov. 28, 2015. He was born Feb. 14, 1978 to Susan Colville and Jerry Tappero in Tuscon, Ariz., and is survived by his mother Susan, his father Jerry, sister Stacia and many extended family members.

Jeff loved the outdoors including fishing, hunting, hiking, camping and he was an avid snowboarder. He was a chef at numerous Big Sky restaurants and executive chef at 320 Guest Ranch for many years. He extended his love for life, music, and laughter to all that he met.

Jeff will be dearly missed by his family and uncountable friends, who are all invited to celebrate his life at the Corral Steakhouse on Friday, June 10 at 5:30 p.m. in Big Sky.

Op-Ed
Air ambulance flights add insult to injury

BY JESSE LASLOVICH

Last September, John Andrews suffered a brain aneurysm and was airlifted via helicopter by Life Flight Network from Anaconda to Missoula. He was charged $34,200. His health insurer paid almost half, and Life Flight Network billed him the balance of $18,678.

Upon arrival in Missoula, St. Patrick Hospital decided John needed to be flown via airplane to Seattle, this time by its own affiliate, Northwest MedStar. He was charged $57,867. His health insurer paid about one-third, and Northwest MedStar billed him the $37,931 balance.

John and families like his across Montana are why I’m chairing an Air Ambulance Working Group to come up with solutions to protect Montanans from exorbitant air ambulance bills. Far too many Montana families are enduring what John’s family is enduring and State Auditor Monica Lindeen’s office is working with our hospitals, health insurers, air ambulance companies, and others to stand up for these families.

Many hospitals don’t have their own air transportation. If they call Reach Air or Life Flight Network – which recently acquired Northwest MedStar – patients will receive a balance bill for their flight, sometimes more than $90,000. Reach Air will work with us in helping you and recognize that even though it’s not their legal obligation, it’s their moral obligation. Life Flight Network does not.

John’s story is like every other story we encounter in our office, whether it’s the air transport of a child or adult. They had medical emergencies, they have health insurance, none of them chose who provided their air transport, and yet they are being pushed to financial ruin. Their medical emergencies have become financial emergencies. It’s wrong, unacceptable and it must be fixed.

Without question, in a rural state like Montana, where distances separate us from our doctors, we need air ambulance companies because they save lives. But we don’t need some of their billing practices.

The problem lies in the hands of Congress and nothing is easy in Washington, D.C., even if the solution is obvious and has bipartisan support. That’s what we have, though, with a common-sense amendment sponsored by our own Sen. Jon Tester and his Republican colleague, Sen. John Hoeven from North Dakota.

Their amendment empowers states to rein in these out of control air ambulance bills. Many Montanans are strong advocates of state’s rights, for good reason, but companies like Life Flight Network resist these efforts, putting Montanans at their financial mercy.

Call Congressman Zinke and Senator Daines and urge them to support Sen. Tester’s bipartisan amendment to give Montana the ability to help ourselves when it comes to air ambulance transports.

Jesse Laslovich is chief legal counsel to Montana State Auditor Monica J. Lindeen.
Since April 30, at least two bighorn sheep have been killed on the long sweeping corner on Highway 64, less than a mile west of the intersection with Highway 191.

What are some potential solutions to keep local wildlife safe from traffic?

Michelle Burger  
Big Sky  
“I know we have some flashing lights way down in the canyon. Some more flashing lights [and rumble strips] might be a better idea ... I [also] really think the speed limit should be lower in that section. I’ve almost gotten hit many times.”

Mikala Kearney  
Big Sky  
“The bighorn sheep area always there ... If they had a flashing sign that was like ‘bighorn sheep next mile’ and another sign that said ‘this many bighorn sheep killed this year,’ [that would be more effective].”

Andy and Hannah Dreisbach  
Big Sky  
Andy: “[Hannah’s] 10-year-old sister did a proposal to have a bridge built for them or a tunnel underneath so they could cross safely ... If there was a pull-off where people could take pictures, you’d have a lot less accidents and sheep being hit.”

Hannah: “[The [DOT]] said they [already] have a sign that says ‘wildlife crossing.’ I didn’t even notice the sign until like two years ago.”

Yellowstone broke its record with 4.1 million visitors last year

“OK team, it’s time to get your game faces on! We’re expecting close to 5 million selfie sticks this summer.”
Editorial
Death of an icon: Big Sky’s bighorns

BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

I grew up in a small rural neighborhood where every weekday morning my schoolmates and I would gather near the main road to wait for the bus.

One crisp fall morning I watched in horror as my best friend’s Great Pyrenees darted across the road and was struck by a station wagon. It’s giant white body skidded nearly 20 feet down the pavement before we watched the life drain out of this beloved dog’s eyes.

I was reminded of that devastating morning earlier this month when a longtime Big Sky local relayed a recent experience he had on Highway 64.

On the morning of April 30, J.C. Knaub was driving east to grab a cup of coffee from the Conoco gas station. As he approached the sweeping corner less than a mile from the intersection with 191, a large dump truck flashed its lights and Knaub slowed his vehicle to a crawl.

There he found a bighorn ram standing in the road, alive but just barely. The ram had just been hit by a vehicle.

“He’s right horn, right eye, and the right side of his face was missing,” Knaub said. “It was sad, he was suffering. We’re killing the very thing that makes this place special.”

In the March 6, 2015 edition of this newspaper, we published a story I wrote called “Bighorns in the Crosshairs.”

“It’s the namesake of the local high school’s mascot. It inspires tourists to stop and poke their cameras out of car windows. The Spanish Peaks bighorn sheep herd is a Big Sky icon,” the story began. I wrote about the dangers vehicles pose to these treasured members of our community, especially at the blind corner where Knaub witnessed this stricken ram.

In January of last year, a propane truck swerved to avoid a sheep at that corner, ending up on its side in the ditch. Fortunately, neither the driver nor the sheep were injured in this incident.

But the day before we went to press with this issue of EBS, our Managing Editor Joseph T. O’Connor drove up on the aftermath of another vehicle and bighorn collision. As you’ll see in the photo on this page, the sheep wasn’t so lucky this time.

“It’s a blind corner, it’s very dangerous,” Knaub said. “They need to have a lower speed limit and flashing lights that say ‘Wildlife on the Roadway’, or something.”

This issue has made it to the state level thanks to concerned Big Sky citizens contacting Montana Department of Transportation. But if you don’t drive Lone Mountain Trail daily, it’s difficult to comprehend the gravity of the danger to both animals and motorists.

The department’s carcass database is notoriously unreliable because motorists don’t always report wildlife deaths to law enforcement, and incidents that don’t result in human injury or property damage aren’t given much attention.

“From January 2005 to December 2014 we didn’t have any reported [bighorn] carcasses on 64,” said Montana Department of Transportation Safety Engineer Kraig McLeod, adding the department is currently finalizing 2015 data. “Back in March when we looked at this we didn’t have any data that would support flashing lights or signage.”

MDT Butte District Administrator Jeff Ebert – in charge of oversight in this area – reiterated the sentiment, saying there haven’t been enough vehicle crashes on 64 to make this issue a priority. Though he did describe a mitigation project near Anaconda where variable message signage has reduced vehicle collisions with bighorns.

Ebert says he will be meeting with Gallatin and Madison county commissions in June to discuss the Big Sky Transportation Plan.

Spearheaded by the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and David Kack of the Western Transportation Institute, the plan suggests the Gallatin County Commission should submit a speed study request to MDT. The commission voted 2-1 against such a request in the fall.

Until the commission decides to act and a study is done, the speed limit at that notorious corner will remain 50 mph. And another sheep death might not be the worst consequence.

On Aug. 17, 2015, 23-year-old Kelsey McLean died after a head-on collision with a semi truck. The accident was not the result of a bighorn in the road, but speaks to the dangers of this curve where sheep can often be found.

There may be other safety solutions in addition to lowering the speed limit on Highway 64.

“I think ultimately what you could probably do is a fence … to make [the sheep] cross where there are good sightlines,” Kack said. “If they’re going to be out in the road at least it gives the motorist a better chance.”

According to Ebert, the community could install fences within the Department of Transportation’s right-of-way with an encroachment permit. There is no cost for the permit, but the department would need to approve the plans to ensure the design meets breakaway requirements to prevent motorist injuries.

In this unincorporated resort community, the initiative to mitigate sheep and motorist incidents will fall on concerned organizations or citizens. Maybe stories like Knaub’s will motivate that initiative, and it won’t take another human death to so.

I haven’t had the misfortune, as Knaub has, to watch the life drain out of a bighorn’s eyes. I hope I never do.

Visit explorebigsky.com/bighorns-in-the-crosshairs-sheep-and-vehicles-clash-in-big-sky/14068 to read “Bighorns in the Crosshairs,” and send us an email at media@outlawpartners if you want to share your experience with bighorns on Highway 64 or 191.
6th Annual Big Sky

PBR's Best Cowboys & Bulls

Live Music

7/29: The Outlaws
7/30: Jason Boland & The Stragglers

Mutton Bustin'

Entertainment by Flint Rasmussen
PBR

JULY 29 & 30, 2016
BIG SKY TOWN CENTER

TICKETS ON SALE JUNE 1

BIGSKYPBR.COM

3X EVENT OF THE YEAR
Medicare coverage for most people includes an annual “wellness visit” just to make sure you’re doing well and to receive preventive care as necessary. Included are a number of tests and screenings to check a variety of factors that contribute to good health. With a busy ski season behind us and an active summer on the way, it’s the perfect time of year to take some time for yourself. Call Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center and arrange a visit, and talk to the doctor about staying healthy—courtesy of Medicare.

(406) 995-6995 | bozemanhealth.org | 334 Town Center Avenue, Big Sky

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Again, on behalf of the district, I express our gratitude for the participation in our objective of “hands-on” learning. Knowledge and skills in new and unique situations, which is exactly the essence through the 21st century. Tomorrow’s workers need to be able to apply experiential learning will become more important for our students as they progress through the school year. As with all learning opportunities at BSSD, our experiential learning process is one that is closely tied with learning outcomes. Experiential and participatory learning will become more important for our students as they progress through the 21st century. Tomorrow’s workers need to be able to apply knowledge and skills in new and unique situations, which is exactly the objective of “hands-on” learning.

Again, on behalf of the district, I express our gratitude for the participation in our recent levy election and we look forward to a successful remainder of the year.
Gallatin, Madison county commissioners convene over traffic, water, housing, incorporation

BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – The six county commissioners responsible for public health, public safety and public works in Big Sky did something in late April that they rarely do: gather to discuss issues in a community relatively removed from their primary constituent bases.

Such meetings typically happen once a year, but due to robust attendance and plenty of public comment, they could become more frequent. Approximately 60 people showed up at the Big Sky Water and Sewer District boardroom for the April 28 meeting.

Madison County commissioners Dave Shultz, Ron Nye and Jim Hart made the trip east to the Montana Department of Transportation' s handling of those highways.

The budget for the forum is $311,000, and Gardner said she would be putting together a proposal to each county for approximately $49,000 each. Phase one of the project—meeting with stakeholders to ascertain concerns and assess willingness to work collaboratively to address them—is complete.

Kack added that the increase in requested funding isn’t isolated to the two counties; the Transportation District is also asking for more money from Big Sky Resort Area District Tax Board, the Federal Transit Administration and other community organizations like Moonlight Basin, Big Sky Resort, the Yellowstone Club and Spanish Peaks Mountain Club.

Although they weren’t formal in nature, representatives from a number of organizations made their case for joint county funding. Both counties are in the midst of complicated budget allocations that take several months to complete.

David Kack with the Big Sky Transportation District said Skyline bus service is on track to provide the highest ridership in its 10-year history.

Skyline is considering a $200,000 ask from each county—“significantly more than it used to be,” Kack said—but he believes adding more daily round trips between Bozeman and Big Sky justifies the cost.

Last December, he told EBS that, occasionally, drivers left close to 30 people behind at Skyline stops because buses were full.

Kack said that the increase in requested funding isn’t isolated to the two counties; the Transportation District is also asking for more money from Big Sky Resort Area District Tax Board, the Federal Transit Administration and other community organizations like Moonlight Basin, Big Sky Resort, the Yellowstone Club and Spanish Peaks Mountain Club.

“We’re asking you to consider jointly funding a comprehensive transportation plan with MDT so we have basically a road map, for lack of a better term, in hand and we can start to think strategically,” Clemens said.

Developing such a model could help funnel federal Highway Trust Fund money to transportation needs in the area, she said. Clemens estimates a comprehensive transportation plan could cost more than $50,000.

Kristin Gardner, executive director of the Gallatin River Task Force, said the two counties could expect requests from the GRTF on behalf of the Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum—for resources pertaining to water and sewer issues in the area.

The scope of the working group’s concern is broad by design.

“No one is really looking at this issue holistically and how these different activities interact and relate to each other,” Gardner said, adding that Big Sky’s watershed has impacts downstream in both counties. “I really feel it’s a very important effort that needs to happen now, as we’re growing.”

The budget for the forum is $311,000, and Gardner said she would be putting together a proposal to each county for approximately $49,000 each. Phase one of the project—meeting with stakeholders to ascertain concerns and assess willingness to work collaboratively to address them—is complete.

Kittie Clemens, executive director of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, presented another transportation-related issue: the need for a long-term plan that would increase functionality and safety on highways 191 and 64, and inform the Montana Department of Transportation’s handling of those highways.

Madison County 2015 Tax District Allocations

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<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Madison County 2015 Tax District Allocations</th>
<th>Gallatin County 2015 Tax District Allocations</th>
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<td>Madison Valley Cemetery</td>
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Nearly $6 million in Big Sky resort tax requested

The Big Sky Resort Area District received 27 applications between 24 organizations for resort tax funds, totaling nearly $6 million including rollover applications from the last fiscal year. As of March, the most recent data available, the district had collected more than $3.8 million with three months of collections remaining.

Last fiscal year, the district collected $4.1 million and appropriated $5.1 million in resort tax funds including rollover requests and $1.3 million for the resort tax sinking fund.

The Big Sky Community Housing Trust applied for $1.2 million to match a private infrastructure donation and phase one of an affordable housing development project with approximately 30 units.

The next largest ask came from the Big Sky Fire Department, applying for more than $700,000 to fund operations and replace or upgrade emergency equipment. Visit Big Sky applied for nearly $700,000 for marketing campaign support, among other items, and the chamber of commerce is asking for more than $500,000 this appropriations cycle.

The chamber is seeking funds for two gateway monuments near the intersection of highways 191 and 64, five streetlights along Highway 191, money to hire a consultant to assist its transportation improvement plan, and operations support, among other needs.

The board will announce June 6 an estimated total amount of resort tax that will be appropriated this year at its Q-and-A in the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. The appropriation meeting is June 20 at WMPAC.
**Department of Transportation announces long-range planning update**

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**HELENA** – The Montana Department of Transportation on May 4 announced the launch of its update to the statewide long-range planning effort, called TranPlanMT.

An update of TranPlan 21 that was adopted in 1995, TranPlanMT defines the policy direction for operating, preserving, and improving Montana’s transportation system over the next 20 years. It serves as the basis for Department of Transportation decisions, especially those related to investing Montana’s limited transportation funds.

With available highway money expected to cover less than a third of the projected $15.8 billion in state transportation needs over the next decade, now is a critical time for Montanans to tell the department what they think is important for the state’s transportation system.

An online survey at tranplanmt.metroquest.com will provide an initial opportunity for public input on priorities and strategies for Montana’s transportation network in the future. The survey and other efforts will continue the department’s partnerships with local, tribal, and federal governments, along with transportation stakeholders.

“TranPlanMT marks an important time for [the department], our partners, and all users,” said Montana Department of Transportation Director Mike Tooley. “Transportation needs are outpacing funding three to one. Now is a critical time for us to work with the traveling public and openly discuss the future of our transportation network in the face of limited funding and mounting needs.”

The TranPlanMT update process will extend through the year and identify travel, transportation, economic, and demographic trends both in Montana and on the national scale to plan for Montana’s growing transportation needs. Public input will be considered along with other analysis and data in developing this multimodal, long-range policy plan. The plan is not project specific, but sets a policy framework for ongoing department decisions.

The public is encouraged to comment through the online survey until Aug. 4, and through the project website mdt.mt.gov/ tranplan for the duration of the effort.

*For information about the TranPlanMT effort, contact Charity Watt at cwatt@mt.gov or (406) 444-3439.*

*Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request by contacting the Office of Civil Rights, P.O. Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620; calling (406) 444-9229; faxing (406) 444-7243; or emailing aflesch@mt.gov. Those using a TTY may call (800) 335-7592 or through the Montana Relay Service at 711.*

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**Corps: Coal terminal violates tribal rights, won’t permit**

**BY PHUONG LE**  
**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**SEATTLE (AP)** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on May 9 denied a permit to a $700 million project to build the nation’s largest coal-export terminal in northwest Washington state, handing a striking victory to the Lummi tribe which argued the project would violate its treaty-protected fishing rights.

“Quite possibly there’s a long road ahead of the Corps’ decision puts an end to that federal environmental analysis. Developers could appeal the decision to a higher level of federal court.”

Meanwhile, Montana U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke and the Alliance for Northwest Jobs and Exports, a trade group, criticized the Corps for issuing a decision before the environmental analysis was complete.

Zinke said in a statement the project is “incredibly important to Montana, the Crow, and even to the blue collar workers in Washington State because it is literally the gateway to economic prosperity and rising out of poverty.”

The Crow Nation of Montana has an option for ownership in the new terminal.

Last month, project developers asked state and federal regulators to temporarily halt an environmental review that began in 2013, while the Corps heard the Lummi’s request. Buck said the Corps’ decision puts an end to that federal environmental analysis. Developers could appeal the decision by suing in federal court.

“Quite possibly there’s a long road ahead of us, but our priority is always to protect Cherry Point,” Ballew added.
Judge tosses closed primary lawsuit, but fight is not over

BY MATT VOLZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – A federal judge on May 2 dismissed a lawsuit that sought to allow only Republican-registered voters to participate in its primary elections. But the legal fight to throw out Montana’s century-old open primary system isn’t over yet.

U.S. District Judge Brian Morris dismissed the lawsuit by the Montana Republican Party and 10 GOP county central committees that claimed open primaries allow Democrats and independent voters to influence the outcome of their elections. The system violates Republicans’ freedom of association and forces candidates to change their message to appeal to “crossover voters,” the lawsuit said.

The dismissal comes at the Republicans’ request after a series of rulings by Morris, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court that ensured the June 7 primary elections will remain open to all registered voters.

The state party and the county committees filed separate motions to dismiss the case. State party officials have said their chances of winning were low, based on those earlier rulings, and they reserved the right to re-file the lawsuit at a later date.

The county committees, however, intend to appeal Morris’ previous decisions in the case to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, including his rejection of their request to issue a preliminary injunction to close the June 7 primaries. Morris had ruled the case could go to trial, but he said the Republican plaintiffs had scant evidence that crossover voting exists in Montana.

Attorneys for the state had argued against allowing the committees to appeal to the 9th Circuit, saying it would give them the benefit of avoiding a trial and going straight to the appellate court.

But Morris ruled for the GOP committees, saying the 9th Circuit looks favorably on allowing appeals from voluntary dismissals because it promotes efficient use of the judicial system.

Secretary of State Linda McCulloch, a Democrat, said closing the primaries would shift the power the voters hold to the hands of party leaders. She added that she is glad the system survived the latest attack against it.

“This isn’t that first time, and I am sure it will not be the last. But for today at least, this is a victory,” she said.

Infrastructure becomes key focus in Montana governor’s race

BY BOBBY CAINA CALVAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – The issue of infrastructure was front and center in the Montana governor’s race May 5, as the two leading candidates traded barbs over who to blame for the political deadlock over a funding source to pay for roads, bridges, sewers and other projects.

During a news conference at the steps of the Capitol, Republican Greg Gianforte again blamed Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock for stubbornly opposing GOP proposals by staking a position that Gianforte called “my way or no highway.”

Meanwhile, Bullock traveled to Butte to again pitch a $200 million plan he unveiled the last week of April. Bullock used the State Korean War Veterans Memorial in Stodden Park as the backdrop for pushing for a bipartisan infrastructure plan.

A compromise bill fell one vote shy of passage last year after wrangling over funding formulas and a list of projects that outraged conservatives.

One of those proposed projects was a veterans home that would have been built in Butte.

“Where is the veteran’s home that was supposed to be built here in town that should be bustling with construction activity and supporting hundreds of jobs in Butte,” the governor said. “It sits empty because a small handful of legislators put Montana politics ahead of Montana jobs, played fast and loose with our economy, and voted down an infrastructure bill that would have resulted in thousands of jobs and investment across Montana and right here in Butte.”

Gianforte and other Republicans have dismissed Bullock’s proposals as political gamesmanship.

“The governor had four years to get infrastructure funding done,” Gianforte said. “Let me say to the lawmakers who are with me today coming back to serve in the 2017 session: I’m sure you’re greatly frustrated.”

While Bullock and Gianforte say infrastructure funding will be a top priority, neither has yet to flesh out details of their plans.

A key obstacle is differences over a funding formula, with some Republicans balking at using bonds to borrow the money needed to finance state projects.

Gianforte said he had “no philosophical opposition” to using bonds, but said he preferred using cash to pay for a wish-list of projects he has yet to identify. He wants to start with at least $100 million in infrastructure funding, but said the amount would depend on fluctuations in state revenue.

Bullock said his visit to Butte was part of his administration’s effort to hear directly from Montanans about their priorities.

Earlier in the day, the Montana Department of Transportation announced it would be seeking public input on a long-range transportation plan, the bulk of it paid by federal money.

The five-year plan features $2.2 billion of highway and bridge improvements, including work on 13,000 miles of state and federal roads, according to Charity Watt, a state transportation planner.

But the state has millions of dollars in other infrastructure needs – not only to roads, but to sewer and water systems, schools and other needs – that both sides agree will go unfunded without a deal.
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Wyoming’s grizzly hostility should be a major concern

BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

Jackson Hole grizzly 399 emerged from her den the week of May 9, walking out from her winter sanctum in the Pilgrim Creek drainage with a single, healthy cub of the year at her side. At 20 years old, 399 is the most famous living wild bear on earth. Think about that. She is universally beloved, a marvel to millions around the world who know of her existence.

399 and other bears make wildlife conservation meaningful for large numbers of people who otherwise have little connection with nature. She is the poster child of grizzly conservation in the Greater Yellowstone region. The most passionate 399 admirers are children who, for the rest of their lives, will never forget seeing her.

This is rare. It is powerful. Why is it so difficult for politicians in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho to comprehend? Why do public officials keep trying to claim that individual animals don’t matter?

Even hunters create legendary stories around individual elk, moose and deer. The difference is that they often want to covet those animals as personal trophies. A bear like 399, while alive, can be enjoyed by huge numbers of people over and over again.

In most states, 399 would be celebrated, embraced, treated as a national treasure by elected officials, even adopted as a wild mascot. Bizarrely, not in Wyoming. Gov. Matt Mead and his administration mostly portray native Greater Yellowstone grizzly bears as liabilities imposed upon the state by the federal government.

It’s an attitude of small-mindedness reflected in the shocking behavior of some Wyoming citizens. On Dec. 28, 2015, Bill Addeo, a resident of Hoback Junction, brazenly typed a message on the Jackson Hole News & Guide website in response to a column I had written titled, “If Jesus were here, he’d defend wildlife.”

Addeo wrote: “I KILLED BEAR 399. So, if Wilkinson is doing a book on bear 399, he needs to talk to me about the bear’s last moments gasping for air as the cubs ran about. I was there taking pictures and have all the inside information.”

Most people find Addeo’s humor disturbing, though some worried he wasn’t joking. Fortunately, 399 was not poached.

Why do Americans, by a huge margin, distrust Wyoming’s ability to keep the recovery of Greater Yellowstone grizzlies going?

And who is Addeo? He’s the attention-grabbing guy who proudly shot a wolf in Wyoming’s “predator zone,” where, in 85 percent of the state, wolves could be killed any time of day by any means for any reason.

Inexplicably, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved Wyoming’s predator zone for lobos, the first time in the history of the federal Endangered Species Act the agency allowed a recovered iconic wildlife species to be treated so callously. It set a terrible precedent.

Addeo shot the wolf after it ate an antelope. He strapped the bloodied carcass to the top of his SUV, drove it into Jackson and parked his vehicle along the downtown square, the social center of the community.

His friend, the late Sam Coutts, told the Jackson Hole News & Guide to send a photographer to chronicle the spectacle. Essentially, Addeo raised a middle finger into the face of those who value wolves and grizzlies alive.

He claimed he would’ve killed the wolf’s four packmates too if only he could’ve gotten them in his gunsight. A few years earlier, Addeo’s good friend, a former Special Forces soldier and Wyoming big game outfitter, was convicted of poaching a bald eagle, the protected avian symbol of this country, after one of the wild raptors ate trout in a private fishpond.

After this column first appeared in the Jackson Hole News & Guide, I received threatening emails from people who seemed to argue that poaching public wildlife and threatening to poach private wildlife, using the mantra of shoot, shovel and shut-up, is somehow justified. Is it?

Are these folk representative of most hunters? No, of course not, but their outlaw behavior toward bears and wolves flourishes in Wyoming and it echoes in Montana and Idaho.

A few weeks ago, it was announced that famed Yellowstone transboundary bear “Scarf ace” was shot in Montana outside the national park under suspicious circumstances.

Montana also recently proposed upping the lobo quota, allowing hunters to kill more transboundary Yellowstone wolves—wolves that delight huge crowds of wildlife watchers in Lamar Valley yet can be shot simply for wandering across an invisible park border.

Daryl Hunter, a wildlife photographer in Greater Yellowstone, wrote recently: “I met a guy who wants grizzly 399’s rug on his wall, stating that because she is famous, she makes a better trophy.”

There’s also the Wyomingites who want to kill 399 for other reasons, some out of spite, because they hate the federal government and environmentalists for wanting to keep grizzlies like 399 protected.

Should American citizens, who have made a huge investment resuscitating the Greater Yellowstone grizzly population, be concerned? There is no compelling evidence—none I’ve seen—that sport hunting grizzlies will build social tolerance.

Irrational cultural hostility toward grizzlies thrives in Wyoming, a state where public officials want to suppress recovery, even preventing bears from inhabiting remote federal public lands in Greater Yellowstone because priority is given to non-native, taxpayer-subsidized private cattle.

Governors in most states would proudly tell the world their province is special because it has bears like 399 inside its borders, recognizing them as rare and powerful assets. Why Wyoming Gov. Mead can’t do that reveals a lot about who he is.

New West columnist Todd Wilkinson is author of the critically acclaimed “Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek: An Intimate Portrait of 399, the Most Famous Bear of Greater Yellowstone” featuring photos by Thomas Mangelsen and only available at mangelsen.com/grizzly. Mangelsen is featured in the current, award-winning issue of Montana Outlaw magazine still on newsstands.
BOZEMAN (AP) – Montana wildlife officials have released draft regulations for grizzly bear hunting in anticipation of the bears’ possible removal from the endangered species list.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is proposing spring and fall hunting seasons in seven districts near the border of Yellowstone National Park. Each district would have a quota on the number of bears that can be killed, reported The Bozeman Daily Chronicle.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released a draft proposal for removing the grizzly bear’s Endangered Species Act protections in March. It includes caps on how many bears can be killed within a 19,279-square-mile area that includes Yellowstone National Park and parts of Idaho, Wyoming and Montana. The caps will depend on population within the area.

The draft plan would give Wyoming 58 percent of the total number of bears that can be killed, Montana 34 percent and Idaho 8 percent.

The federal plan also requires that the states have management plans in place, according to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks spokesman Ron Aasheim. “This is a first attempt at hopefully a management option that we’re going to have here down the road,” Aasheim said.

The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission will consider the proposal at its next meeting and take an initial vote. If approved, it will be open for public comment.

Grizzly bears have been listed as a threatened species since 1975, although they were briefly delisted in 2007 before a lawsuit reinstated the protections. “I think the agency has put in a lot of safeguards to ensure we don’t have an overharvest,” said Nick Gevock, conservation director for the delisting organization Montana Wildlife Federation.

But the Sierra Club’s Bonnie Rice said the grizzly population is still vulnerable. She opposes delisting and hunting grizzlies. Rice called it “completely misguided” to begin hunting when 61 bears were killed last year even though no hunting took place.

Ranch buy adds to huge Montana wildlife reserve

BY MATTHEW BROWN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) – A huge Montana nature reserve added a 47,000-acre historic ranch to its patchwork of lands along the Missouri River on May 6, a significant step in a privately funded effort to stitch together a Connecticut-sized park where bison would replace livestock and cattle fences give way to open range.

The PN Ranch north of Winifred sprawls across rugged badlands, tall grass prairie and cottonwood-filled valleys. It’s almost wholly within the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.

It includes the remnants of the Montana Territory’s first military post, Camp Cooke, and was reportedly a rendezvous point for American Indian tribes on the Great Plains.

Its purchase by the American Prairie Reserve comes amid tensions with some in central Montana who see the project’s rapid expansion over the past decade as an encroachment on their way of life.

For now, reserve representatives said, it will be managed as a livestock operation. But the long-term goal is to restore the land to its natural state and open it to the public – campers, bird watchers and others seeking a glimpse into how the West once looked.

“This is a first attempt at hopefully a management option that we’re going to have here down the road,” Aasheim said.

The PN Ranch – inside the 378,000-acre Upper Missouri River Breaks – continues the organization’s strategy to use private real estate deals to leverage public lands. Other reserve holdings are within and adjacent to the million-acre C.M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge.

The reserve has 620 bison, which currently don’t have access to the refuge or national monument. That herd is expected to increase to 1,000 bison within the next two years and more than 10,000 animals by late next decade.

Whether wild bison re-inhabit the public lands around the reserve will be largely up to state wildlife officials.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks officials said last year that they would consider bison on large-scale landscapes like the C.M. Russell refuge. But there’s no timeline for a decision, agency spokesman Ron Aasheim said.

Terms of the sale were not disclosed. The cattle ranch founded in the late 1800s had been listed for more than $20 million.

Since 2001, American Prairie Reserve has raised $95 million and established a 353,000-acre footprint of leased and private land stretching across five counties.

The purchase of the PN – inside the 378,000-acre Upper Missouri River Breaks – continues the organization’s strategy to use private real estate deals to leverage public lands. Other reserve holdings are within and adjacent to the million-acre C.M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge.

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ENVIRONMENT

MSU Extension warns livestock owners to be aware of toxic plant

May 13 - 26, 2016 19

BOZEMAN - A native wildflower with a foreboding name is abundant on Montana rangelands this spring. Death camas (Zigadenus spp.), a plant that resembles wild onion, has caused at least four cattle deaths in Yellowstone County so far this year.

“Montana livestock owners may want to take extra precautions and adjust when and how pastures with death camas are grazed this year,” said Jeff Mosley, Montana State University Extension range management specialist.

The plant is highly toxic to cattle, sheep and horses during spring, especially the underground onion-like bulb. When soils are moist, livestock can pull the bulb out of the ground and ingest it. Death camas greens-up early, making it more accessible and palatable than other plants in early spring, contributing to livestock eating toxic amounts.

“Toxicity is less likely if livestock turn-out can be delayed to allow other forage to grow more,” Mosley said. “Toxic levels of ingestion commonly occur in pastures where grass is in short supply.”

There is no treatment for death camas poisoning and the only way to avoid it is to minimize the concentration of the toxin in an animal’s diet.

“Death camas poisoning can be minimized by making sure livestock grazing intensity is light to moderate on rangeland with death camas,” Mosley said.

The concentration of toxins in death camas and other plants varies with weather.

“This year appears to be a year when growing conditions have caused death camas to be more toxic and more abundant than usual. Livestock owners should try to avoid spring grazing this year in pastures where death camas is abundant,” said Mosley.

Death camas usually must dominate livestock diets to reach a lethal dose. But sub-lethal doses of the plant have subtle and significant negative effects, decreasing animal weight gain and milk production and inhibiting reproduction, according to Mosley.

Some evidence indicates that death camas is more toxic to livestock during cool, stormy weather.

“The chemical structure of the toxins in death camas becomes more toxic when the barometer drops, increasing chances of livestock poisoning even when livestock don’t eat very much [of the plant],” warned Mosley.

Other evidence indicates that genetic resistance to toxic plant poisoning varies.

“Livestock owners should be cautious with death camas if they have purchased livestock from outside their herd,” Mosley said. “Livestock new to the area likely have less genetic resistance to the death camas that is growing on their rangeland.”

Death camas is difficult to control with herbicides. Dicamba and 2, 4-D can be effective when applied in early spring when plants have three to six leaves and before flowering stalks appear.

For more information or questions, contact a local MSU Extension agent or visit newextension.org.

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Brine spills from oil development in western North Dakota are releasing toxins into soils and waterways, sometimes at levels exceeding federal water quality standards, scientists reported April 27.

Samples taken from surface waters affected by waste spills in recent years in the state’s Bakken oilfield region turned up high levels of lead, ammonium, selenium and other contaminants, Duke University researchers said. Additionally, they found that some spills had tainted land with radium, a radioactive element.

Long-term monitoring of waters downstream from spill sites is needed to determine what risks the pollution might pose for human health and the environment, geochemistry professor Avner Vengosh said. But the study revealed “clear evidence of direct water contamination” from oil development using the method known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, he said, describing the problem as “widespread and persistent.”

Wastewater spills are a longstanding yet largely overlooked side effect of oil and gas production that worsened during the nation’s recent drilling boom, when advances in fracking technology enabled North Dakota’s daily output to soar from 4.2 million gallons in 2007 to 42 million gallons in 2014.

The Associated Press reported last year that data from leading oil- and gas-producing states showed more than 175 million gallons of wastewater spilled from 2009 to 2014 in incidents involving ruptured pipes, overflowing storage tanks and other mishaps or even deliberate dumping. There were some 21,651 individual spills. The numbers were incomplete because many releases go unreported.

The wastewater is often much saltier than the oceans and kills nearly all vegetation it touches, rendering sections of crop and ranch lands unusable. It also contains toxic chemicals, some of which are injected during fracking to release oil and gas from rock deposits and others that exist naturally underground.

In their report, published in the journal Environmental Science & Technology, Vengosh and other Duke researchers said their findings were based on an analysis of water samples from four areas affected by spills, two of which – in July 2014 and January 2015 – were the largest on record in North Dakota.

They identified unique chemical “fingerprints” that showed the contaminants came from brine spills and not some other source, Vengosh said. In most samples, toxic selenium was measured in concentrations up to 35 times the level that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers safe for freshwater aquatic life, the report said.

And other elements were found in concentrations above the EPA limit for drinking water.

“The results of this study indicate that the water contamination from brine spills is remarkably persistent in the environment, resulting in elevated levels of salts and trace elements that can be preserved in spill sites for at least months to years,” the report said.

Dave Glatt, chief of North Dakota’s environmental health section, said it was well known that oilfield wastewater is laced with toxic substances. But most spills don’t endanger the public because they are quickly cleaned up and don’t reach waterways, he said. Work continues on three of the sites from which the Duke researchers drew samples and drinking water has not been contaminated, he said.

Kerry Sublette, a University of Tulsa chemical engineering professor and expert on oilfield wastewater spills who wasn’t involved with the Duke study, said the team’s methods could help other researchers establish clear links between the spills and changes in stream chemistry.

Sublette recently completed a study that found toxins from spills in streams flowing through Oklahoma’s Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, which will disrupt food chains by killing insects, worms and other small animals, he said.
Researchers in 4 states unite for rare wolverine study

GREAT FALLS (AP) – Researchers are working on a plan to study wolverines in four Rocky Mountain states to see if the animals that look like small bears with big claws can be reintroduced to some regions to boost their numbers and see how they might travel between mountain ranges.

Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Washington state are working together because there are so few wolverines and they are spread across a wide area, a researcher with Montana’s wildlife agency said.

“It doesn’t occur that often that four states start to think about managing a species together,” said Bob Inman, carnivore and fur bearer coordinator for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

The study is expected to begin next winter, using trail cameras to capture images and copper brushes to collect DNA when the animals pass by.

Wolverines are rarely seen by humans and roam in deep snow and steep terrain. There are now up to 300 in the four states.

The work will be done in the winter when bears are hibernating so researchers can focus on the wolverines.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation are helping pay for the study.

Representatives from the states began discussing what could be done for wolverines and came up with a study proposal about a year ago, the Great Falls Tribune reported.

“We’re identifying places that are good habitat that don’t have wolverines so we might be able to put them there to increase population size,” Inman said.

Under the plan, the states will come up with a map of wolverine habitat that will be useful for land trust organizations working with private landowners on conservation easements to prevent development.
Explore Big Sky

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – The Lone Peak High School golf team wrapped up its regular season of play with a stellar showing at the Park City Invitational in Columbus on May 9.

LPHS golf coach Jenny Wilcynski said the girls’ first place finish at the event put them in a good position for the upcoming District C state tournament. All three girls on the team—senior Katie Reid, junior Sayler Tatom, and sophomore Delaney Pruett—will be representing LPHS at State in Hamilton May 17-18.

“They’re really going to be competitive,” said Wilcynski. “All three girls could finish in the top 10.”

Wilcynski said she’s also expecting a strong performance from senior Charlie Johnson, whose low score for the season was 76. That round earned him second place at the Manhattan Varsity Invitational at the Bridger Creek Golf Course in Bozeman on April 26.

“It’s likely Charlie will finish in the top 10 at State,” said Wilcynski, adding that sophomores Nick Iskendarian and Harry Schreiner will join Johnson at the tournament.

To qualify for State in Class C, the girls must score below 120 and the boys must shoot below 100.

“If everybody goes out and shoots their best round, we’re going to have a chance at it, but this is definitely a rebuilding year for us with the boys,” Wilcynski said.

LPHS faced challenging golf conditions on several occasions throughout the regular season. Most of the six varsity invitations the team participated in took place in rainy, windy, or cold conditions—and occasionally all three.

“I think we’ll just keep our fingers crossed for the weather,” Wilcynski said. “We should be in good shape and we’ll just do our best. We’re pretty excited.”

Greg Wagner and Nick Berasi are also on the LPHS golf coaching staff.

LPHS golf team preps for state tourney May 17-18

Senior Charlie Johnson, a standout on the LPHS golf team, will be competing at the state tournament May 17-18.

PHOTO BY JENNY WILCYNSKI

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Montana State's Sandland has great opportunity with Panthers

BY BRANDON NILES
EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

Sandland isn’t a proven commodity by any means, but I had given him a fourth round grade due to his size and ability to run after the catch. He was an excellent value for the Panthers near the end of the draft – he plays with a nasty streak, showing physicality at the point of attack and enough explosiveness to punish defensive backs in the open field.

In the Cal Poly game, the first of Sandland’s two touchdowns came on a 63-yard bomb from quarterback Dakota Prukop, where Sandland left the defender in the dust. That kind of speed can make him a matchup nightmare for opposing linebackers and safeties at the next level.

The Panthers, and Newton in particular, have demonstrated a willingness to utilize the tight end position. They used Jeremy Shockey consistently early in Newton’s career, and Olsen has become one of the top five players at the position since arriving in a 2011 trade with the Chicago Bears.

The last two weeks in May haven’t historically given us very many fishing options around Big Sky with spring runoff typically in full swing. 2016 is a little different with the changes to central Montana’s fishing regulations. For the first time in many years the Madison and most of our local tributaries are now open year-round to fishing.

This changes to regulations have brought on some mixed emotions. Some people are excited at the opportunity to fish the upper Madison in spring, while others are concerned that anglers will negatively impact spawning trout and the rivers they live in. The way we fish the current angling population, leaving more fish in the river.

Fly shops and fishing guides are obviously in the business of taking people fishing and showing them a good time, so having more options this time of year makes our job a little easier. That being said I think it is very important for us to continue to respect the resources we so heavily rely on. Here are some ways that all of us can minimize our impact on local rivers:

- Clean, inspect and dry your fishing gear when moving from one body of water to the next.
- Avoid wading as much as possible. Our rivers tend to get a little off color this time of year, so identifying redds may not always be cut and dry. Stick to the banks when you are uncertain and avoid excessive wading. Many fish are holding closer to the banks right now and can be caught without wading.
- Keep ‘em wet. Keep fish in the water and avoid handling as much as possible.

Some of the reasons for the changes mentioned were to simplify regulations for anglers, river traffic tends to be low this time of year, so impact is expected to be low and catch and release is very popular amongst the current angling population, leaving more fish in the river.

Visit our blog for good things: BigSkyFishBlog.com
DINING

AMUSE-BOUCHE

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

The Prostart Nationals
When little becomes big

BY SCOTT MECHURA
CBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Earlier this winter I wrote about Prostart, a high school program through which students can learn the basics of culinary arts, as well as the tools to plan, design and open a fictional restaurant. To showcase what they have learned, Prostart holds a statewide competition for the high schools willing and able to compete.

Six teams from Montana squared off this past winter, and Belgrade High School—no strangers to winning this competition in the past—won again and went on to compete at the national level. And as a late participant to the season, being a mentor for the Belgrade team, I was fortunate enough to be invited with the team and instructors to attend the national competition this year in Grapevine, Texas.

I say fortunate because, more than just having this incredible opportunity, I am truly fortunate that the event opened my eyes to the camaraderie, talent, drive, professionalism and sportsmanship that this competition embodies. Once you see these kids compete, you quickly forget they are high school students.

The Prostart occupies a grand ballroom in one of the largest non-gaming hotels in the U.S., and one quickly realizes the magnitude of this wonderful competition. With nearly all 50 states competing, (lack of funding or intimidation prevent one or two schools each year from making the trip), it has all the energy of a national sporting championship.

Watching the students' faces as they entered the vast competition floor, I was reminded of the scene in "Hoosiers" when the small-town basketball team walked into the coliseum-sized arena. They were wide-eyed, but I reminded them that—much like the court and rim were the same size as the Hoosiers' court back in Indiana—our students' competition space was the same size it's always been.

As I walked the competition floor early on day one, it became apparent that our team was up against several serious adversaries. While Montana does have 19 Prostart programs currently, some states have many more along with well-funded, commercial facilities within which they thoroughly groom their students for what has become a competition of immense rivalry and pride.

Our Montana team did not place, but that didn't matter, at least to me. The competition, knowledge, relationships and insight these students are exposed to are experiences; real, useful experiences they can take with them the rest of their lives.

In an industry that will statistically employ two-thirds of the competitors in this event at some point, they are furthering life skills in real, valuable, practical ways. I was proud of not only our Belgrade team representing the great state of Montana, but every single young adult I saw over the course of the weekend.

As we sat during the closing ceremony, organizers announced the winners to a crowd of well over 1,000 people. I turned to our hard-working Montana team.

"Take a moment, take it all in," I said. "Even though you didn't win, this is for all of you. Hold your heads high, for very few students your age will ever experience anything like this in any school program."

They looked around. I think they got it.

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.
Seven-day mind-body detox

BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN  EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

Spring is the perfect time to remove accumulated toxins from the body and mind. As the days become longer and warmer, you will feel healthier by moving from heavy winter meals to lighter seasonal foods. In preparation for an energized and active summer, consider the following seven-day mind/body detox.

This simple and sustainable detox can recalibrate your cravings, as well as sleep and thought patterns, and help you build healthier long-term eating and hydration habits.

Let’s start with cleansing the body. The basic premise is to use whole foods to “crowd out” the empty calories of refined and processed foods.

1. Eat only whole foods for seven straight days. For example, at breakfast prepare eggs – if your body digests eggs well – with chopped veggies and black beans instead of toast with jam or cereal; snack on nuts rather than chips; have a salad instead of a sandwich for lunch; and eat steak and greens in place of a cheeseburger and fries for dinner.

2. Replace sweetened drinks such as fruit juice, sports drinks, sodas and lemonade with water, or fizzy water if preferred. Add lemons or cucumbers for flavor.

3. Remove alcohol to give your liver a rest.

4. Be prepared: Make a seven-day meal plan using whole foods that you and your family enjoy. Create a shopping list and have your food on hand – sorry, there are no quick fixes here. Remember that regularly eating “convenience foods” causes weight gain, premature aging, lethargy and disease. Ultimately, they are the opposite of convenient.

And now, just as importantly, let’s move on to detoxing the mind.

1. Take a broadcast news fast. For seven days, skip television, radio or Internet streaming news. Much of the mainstream news is filled with stressful and depressing information and if anything really important happens, you will find out about it. If this truly is not possible for you, then at least try to take a break while you’re eating.

2. Meditate everyday for a minimum of five minutes. This simple exercise is grounding, reduces stress and helps focus the mind. Not sure how to meditate? Search YouTube for “Simple guided meditation for beginners” to get started.

3. Take a complaining fast. We are all dealing with stress throughout the day – whether it’s in the moment, or worry about the past or future. Complaining creates stress in your own body and spreads it to the consciousness of others.

4. De-clutter. If you have spaces at home or work that are stressing you out, clean them out and organize them. This simple act will do wonders for your mind.

My clients often tell me that when they “can’t eat whatever they want” – which is different for everyone but often means empty calorie junk foods – they feel deprived and even resentful. This is faulty programming of the mind. Here is a mind hack to help you shift these negative thoughts if they occur: repeat to yourself, “Nothing tastes as good as healthy feels.”

The body and mind are one. Detox them together this spring with this simple and sustainable seven-day mind/body detox. Decide on a start date, invite an accountability partner to join you and enjoy the process.

Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach and Consultant, a public speaker and health activist. Contact her at jackie@corehealthmt.com.
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WEDNESDAY
7:30-8:30am
All Levels Yoga
9:00-10:15am
All Levels Yoga
Noon-1:00
All Levels Yoga

THURSDAY
8:30-10:45am
All Levels Yoga
5:30-6:30pm
Pi-Yo

FRIDAY
8:30-9:30am
Level II Yoga
10:30-11:30am
Vinyasa Flow
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SATURDAY
9:00-10:15am
Ashtanga Vinyasa Flow
All Levels Yoga

Santosha Spring Community Cleanse
May 4 - 17th

Register today!
Avoiding and treating eye injuries

BY DR. JEFF DANIELS
EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Minor eye injuries are common, and in most instances preventable. We’re all susceptible to these types of injuries because all it takes is a careless rub across the surface of your eye when you’re waking up in the morning.

Scrape away a layer or two of your cornea, and it will be very painful for a couple of days, make the eye tear continuously, and cause the white of the eye—called the sclera—to turn red from inflammation.

When a patient comes into the clinic with an irritated eye, it can be difficult at first to determine whether the eye is infected by a bacteria or virus, or it’s traumatized. One finding that easily differentiates between infection and trauma is crusting of the eyelashes, typically when waking up in the morning. Infection always causes crusting, whereas injury to the eye almost never does.

Most of the minor eye injuries we see are work related, particularly when sawdust or stone is involved. The other common cause is due to wearing contact lenses.

First, I’ll discuss work-related injuries. Use of proper protective eyewear will often eliminate contact of the eye with foreign objects that can either scratch the cornea directly, or lodge underneath the upper lid and carve a scratch with every blink of the eye.

Wearing glasses or sunglasses is not sufficient, because small objects often find their way around the edges of the lenses. However, I’ve seen even the most elaborate protective goggles fail on occasion, but at least they reduce the risk.

Sometimes a foreign object, like a small fragment of stone or tiny metal shaving, can hit the eye and stick directly to the cornea. Interestingly, this doesn’t hurt as much or cause other symptoms immediately—but over time, the eye gets redder and more irritated. Using a slit lamp, which magnifies the eye and lets us do a careful examination, we can see the foreign object embedded within the surface layer of the cornea.

If the object is iron or steel, as you might expect in a welder’s eye, the oxygen in the cornea can cause a rust formation. This will form a ring around the foreign body, and the discolored area of cornea has to be removed along with the metal. This is easy to do using the high magnification of the slit lamp, once a topical anesthetic is put in the eye.

The other procedure we commonly perform is to remove sawdust or stone from under the lid. This takes less than a minute and involves flipping the upper lid inside out. We then use a sterile swab to wipe away the foreign material. Pain relief is immediate, but the cornea is still scratched and will hurt for a couple of days.

Contact lenses can sometimes lead to corneal abrasions—most often by sticking to the cornea when they’re too dry—so when the lens is removed, it takes some cornea with it. Thousands of tiny puncture holes can be seen on the surface of the cornea in some cases. In others, the scratch is roughly the same as if something struck the eye. Occasionally, a lens will migrate off the cornea and lodge in one of the corners of the eye, or under the upper lid.

In all cases of contact lens trauma, leaving the lens out of the eye for about a week is very important. We treat all abrasions with an antibiotic ointment, but they will nearly always heal by themselves without infection.

So, wear protective goggles if exposed to situations where something might fly up into your eyes. Take proper care of your contact lenses and don’t rub your eyes too hard when you’re tired. Hopefully you’ll avoid traumatizing this very important and delicate part of your body.

Dr. Jeff Daniels has been practicing medicine in Big Sky since 1994, when he and his family moved here from New York City. A unique program he implements has attracted more than 700 medical students and young doctors to train with the Medical Clinic of Big Sky.
Explore Big Sky

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Lost Trail Retreat, Big Sky
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Sotheby’s International Realty®
Most anglers want the glory shot with a big grin and an even bigger fish. In today’s world of selfies, social media posts, and mega-sharing, the desire is strong to photograph our catch.

For those of us who’ve been fishing a long time and have caught plenty of big trout, photographing every catch is a thing of the past. But even for us more experienced anglers, you can bet we want to share a pic of a trophy trout. For folks new to fly fishing, a photograph is a fine way to document the experience.

Our wild trout are beautiful creatures and deserve a large part of the angling spotlight. The more we prominently feature our local fish in social media, the more awareness and protection they’re likely to receive. However, be very aware of proper fish fighting and handling techniques if you plan to photograph and release a trout.

Here’s some help to ensure you get a good pic and the fish survives to be caught another day.

Learn to fight fish quicker. A general rule is to be sure the rod has a full bend to it while applying pressure at a sideways angle to the current. Use your thumbnail as a guide – when a fish is hooked have your thumbnail pointing upstream against the current and not up to the sky. This application of sideways pressure tires a fish more quickly and allows you to pull the fish in the desired direction.

Get their head above water. The moment you feel the fish begin to rise to the surface, use their upward momentum to your advantage. If their head breaches the surface, quickly raise your hand above you to keep their head out of the water. If a trout’s head is above the water they can’t steer themselves and you can net them faster.

Use a net. By using a net the fish are brought in quicker; less prone to flopping on the bank and causing injury, or ingesting sediment into their gills; and a net allows a safe place for fish to be held in the water while you ready the camera.

Keep the fish wet at all times. Do not take a trout out of the water until the camera is on, the photographer is ready, and the angler has a gentle hold of the fish before taking it out of the net. Raise the fish out of the net quickly, give a big grin, snap a shot, and get the fish back in the net quickly. If you can see water dripping from the fish in your picture, you know you’ve succeeded.

Gently grip and grin it. When holding a trout for a picture, place one hand underneath the fish between the head and belly, and have the other hand gently grasping the underside of the body where the tail begins. Do not try to grip the top or side of the fish, as this will squeeze its vitals and also cause it to struggle more. Think about it – the harder someone squeezes you, the more you want to get away.

Keep the fish as close to the water as possible. Pictures with fish in them always look better when the fish is as close to the water as possible.

If you’re in a boat, do your best to get out of the boat or lean over the side so the fish is near the water. If you’re wading, kneel into the water. Both the fish and your Facebook friends will like the photo that much more.

Release properly. Allow the fish time to recover in slow-moving water before its release. If a fish shows few signs of breathing – gills opening and closing – and the tail isn’t moving side to side, move it forward and backwards in the current to get water flowing through the gills. The fish will begin to swim with its tail when it’s ready to swim on its own. Never release a fish in calm, dirty water or very fast-moving water.

Catching trout is fun and taking a nice photograph is an ideal way to hold onto a memory. By practicing proper catch and release techniques, you can keep the fish alive and still be the darling of the World Wide Web.

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, he is co-director of the Montana Fishing Guide School, and co-owns a guide service on the Missouri River.

Practicing proper techniques for fish you plan to photograph and release ensures your catch will live to fight another day.

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Catch and release: Do it right
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**Bozeman company builds climbing boulder on MSU campus**

Peter Mathews drops his welding hood. Blue sparks fly as he connects the frame on what will soon be a new rock-climbing boulder on the Montana State University campus.

Mathews works with Bozeman-based Stronghold Fabrication, which built five of the six artificial climbing boulders in Bozeman city parks, as well as synthetic rocks in Big Sky, Livingston and Great Falls.

The boulder is located beside a small creek between the dorms, and precedes the completion of Yellowstone Hall, MSU’s new 400-bed freshman dorm.

“This boulder will have the most difficult climbing of any we’ve done yet,” says Pat Wolfe, who owns Stronghold with Whit Magro. The two met while attending MSU, and are accomplished climbers.

Funded by Associated Students of Montana State University and the Outdoor Recreation program, the boulder is a clear statement by the university about the value of outdoor recreation.

“The boulder interests me because it is a heartfelt manifestation of the value we place on outdoor recreation at MSU,” said ASMSU Outdoor Recreation Program Director Ryan Diehl, who has been the driving force behind the project. “It will bring better quality of life to the students in high density housing, and provide an opportunity to climb on campus.”

MSU is lacking in climbing facilities compared to other institutions of similar size, Diehl said.

A small climbing wall in MSU’s Marga Hosaeus Sports and Fitness Center is the only other on-campus facility. Built in a converted racquetball court, it sees an average of 65-70 climbers a day, according to MSU Assistant Director of Recreational Sports and Fitness Abbey Keene, who oversees the wall.

The boulder was the brainchild of Jordy Hendrikx, Associate Professor of Geography and Director of the MSU Snow and Avalanche Lab. He initially proposed it as a memorial for graduate student Olivia Buchanan, who died in a Colorado avalanche in 2015.

Hendrikx worked with Diehl and architecture professor Michael Everts, who spearheaded the work of customizing Stronghold’s structural design. Professional climber Conrad Anker, a Bozeman resident, also had input, as did MSU architecture students and climbers.

Included in the design is a feature for adaptive climbers, Everts explained, with large handholds on an overhanging wall, so people without the use of their feet can climb with only their arms.

“We all came together and designed it to be pretty cutting edge for a bouldering rock,” said Candace Mastel, project manager for the boulder. “It’s not your standard cookie cutter thing you buy out of a magazine.”

“We’re proud that it was a collaborative project,” she added. “It’s a good legacy for everyone to be able to work on this.”

After Stronghold sprays concrete and sculpts the climbing holds into it, the boulder will cure for a couple of weeks while the landscapers fill the landing area with mulch and build a path. It will be open for climbing by July.

For more information on Stronghold Fabrication boulders, visit strongholdfabrication.com.
EVENTS CALENDAR

PLANNING AN EVENT? LET US KNOW! EMAIL MEDIA@THEOUTLAWPARTNERS.COM, AND WE’LL SPREAD THE WORD.

FRIDAY, MAY 13 – THURSDAY, MAY 26

*If your event falls between May 27 and June 9, please submit it by May 18.

Big Sky

FRIDAY, MAY 13
Trivia Night
Low Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 14
Gear Consignment Sale
Ophir Elementary Cafeteria
Shop-off: 6 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Sale: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Pick-up: 5 p.m. – 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 17
3rd Annual Big Sky Wild Summit
Big Sky Chapel Community Room, 2 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 19
Visit Big Sky Board Meeting
Big Sky Chamber, 8:30 a.m.
Bu to Bu
First Security Bank, 9 a.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 20
Golf Course Opening Day
Big Sky Golf Course, all day

Bozeman

FRIDAY, MAY 13
Resilience Conference
MSU SUB Ballroom, all day

Emerson Open House & 23rd Birthday Celebration
The Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, 5 p.m.

Sharon Hits
Willie’s Distillery, 9 p.m.

The Vibe Quartet
Emerson’s Crawford Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18
Music & Mussels
Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Pickin’ in the Parks
The Story Mansion, 9:30 p.m.

George Winston
Emerson’s Crawford Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

BFS presents: Born to be Blue
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 19
Bike Rodeo - Learn to Bike Safely
Mead Brook Elementary, 4 p.m.

You Know Me When
406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

The Bridge Creek Boys
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Film: The Middle Kingdom
Emerson’s Crawford Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Neil Fred Bedford
Haufbrau, 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 20
Running Free From Cancer
Soda Cafe, 5 p.m.

Flow Fest 2016
Townshend’s Bozeman Teahouse, 5:30 p.m.

The Vibe Quartet
406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

Chad Ball
Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Music & Mussels
Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Pickin’ in the Parks
Emerson’s Crawford Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, MAY 21
Big Brothers Big Sisters: The Big Event
Broken Hart Ranch, 6 p.m.

Live From the Divide
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

K9 9 Run / Walk
Bergert Park, 8 a.m.

ALMR Run for Recovery 5K / 10K
The Commons at Baxter and Live 9:30 a.m.

Robby Hood (A Puppet Show)
Verge Theater, 2 p.m.

Jack Horner Family Day
Museum of the Rockies, 2 p.m.

Joe Schwen
Norse Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Play: Just Add Water
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Play: Row After Row
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Shaunwell w/ Mikel Wright & The Wrongs
The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

Yoga for All
Bozeman Public Library, Tuesdays at 11 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Open Mic with Eric Bartz
Lockhorn Cider House, Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Bingo
American Legion, Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Free Friday Nights: Children’s Museum Children’s Museum, Fridays at 5 p.m.

Livingston & Paradise Valley

FRIDAY, MAY 13
Yellowstone NP Road Opening
Yellowstone National Park, all day

Leif Christian
Neptune’s Brewery, 5 p.m.

Matt Ridgeway
Gourmet Cellar, 6:30 p.m.

Musical 9 – 5
Shane Lawn Center for the Arts, 8 p.m.

Groove Wax
Chios Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

Gary Small & The Coyote Brothers
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 14
26th Annual Upper Yellowstone Banquet
Park County Fairgrounds, 5 p.m.

Sean Devine
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Veterans Appreciation Benefit
Elks Lodge, 1 p.m.

Musical 9 – 5
Shane Lawn Center for the Arts, 8 p.m.

Groove Wax
Chios Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

Gary Small & The Coyote Brothers
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 15
Musical 9 – 5
Shane Lawn Center for the Arts, 3 p.m.

Jay’s Lounge
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 16
Shelley Riker & Tony Pelacastro
The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

Keith & Libby
Neptune’s Brewery, 5 p.m.

bluegrass Jam
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18
You Know Me When
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Larry Hirsberg
The Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 19
Symphony at the Gene
Shane Lawn Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m.

PARIS HILTON
EAGLE ROCK RESORT
May 20-22

PARIS HILTON
BOZEMAN, MT.
May 29-30

PARIS HILTON
KABATICA BREWING
June 1-2
FRIDAY, MAY 20
The Fossils
Neptune’s Brewery, 5 p.m.
Fur Ball
Stafford Animal Shelter, 5:30 p.m.
Slim Ruthless
Gourmet Cellar, 6:30 p.m.
Left Coast Country
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.
Sam Platts and the Kootenai Three
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.
SATURDAY, MAY 21
Sister City Golf Scramble
Livingston Golf & Country Club, 9 a.m.
Jeremiah & The Red Eyes
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.
John Ondy
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 25
Sister Otis
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.
Ira Wolf
A Shroud’s Throw Bed & Breakfast, 6 p.m.
THURSDAY, MAY 26
National Public Works Week Celebration
Livingston Civic Center, 11 a.m.
Kalyn Beasley
The Murray Bar, 8:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, MAY 19
Water Aerobics
Holiday Inn Swimming Pool, noon
Youth Baseball
Pioneer Park, 4 p.m.
Yoga For Everyone
Peach Community Center, 6:15 p.m.
Adult Co-Ed Volleyball
WY School Gym, 7 p.m.
MONDAY, MAY 23
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Community Center, 6:15 p.m.
TUESDAY, MAY 24
Youth Baseball
Pioneer Park, 4 p.m.
Martial Arts Classes
Peach Community Center, 6:15 p.m.
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The AHI philosophy is about creating for the family rather than imposing a personal preference for a trend or style. It’s a malleable approach to decorating, perfect for clients seeking a partner in crime rather than someone who will make all the decisions for them. After years of working in the industry, AHI has built a portfolio that reads more like a family album than a company prospectus.

The team at AHI has also created the Architect’s Wife, Bozeman’s destination for furniture, lighting, and decor. The Architect’s Wife services AHI clients, customers in the Gallatin Valley and beyond, and other interior designers and industry professionals looking to snag the perfect piece on the spot.

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abby@hetheringtoninteriors.com
Obama signs legislation designating bison as national mammal

BY KEVIN FREKING
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) – The bison has become the official national mammal of the United States under legislation signed into law by President Barack Obama on May 9.

Lawmakers spearheading the effort say the once nearly extinct icon deserves the elevated status because of its economic and cultural significance in the nation’s history.

Millions of bison once roamed the Great Plains. About 500,000 now live in the U.S. but most of those have been cross-bred with cattle, and are semi-domesticated. About 30,000 wild bison roam the country, with the largest population in Yellowstone National Park.

Supporters of the legislation say they believe the recognition will elevate the stature of the bison to that of the bald eagle, long the national emblem, and bring greater attention to ongoing recovery efforts of the species.

“I hope that in my lifetime, thanks to a broad coalition of ranchers, wildlife advocates and tribal nations, we will see bison return to the prominent place they once occupied in our nation’s shortgrass prairies,” said Democratic Sen. Martin Heinrich of New Mexico, who worked with Republican Sen. John Hoeven of North Dakota to pass the Senate version of the legislation.

Emmylou Harris and John Prine headline NPS Centennial event

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Grammy award winning singer-songwriters, Emmylou Harris and John Prine will headline “An Evening at the Arch: Yellowstone Celebrates the National Park Service Centennial” in Gardiner, Mont. Held on Aug. 25 at 7 p.m., the event will be broadcast live online.

“This very special event will kick off the second century for the National Park Service, highlight the importance of public/private partnerships, and recognize the completion of the Gardiner Gateway Project Phase One,” said Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk.

The evening features a talented lineup of performers, including Emmylou Harris, John Prine, Leyla McCalla, the children’s chorus The Singing Angels from Cleveland, Ohio, and Teddy Roosevelt reenactor Joe Wiegand, with more performances and details to be announced. Local, state and national dignitaries will also speak at the event.

Advance tickets are required and are free, but limited.

The first ticket release was May 15 at ticketriver.com/event/19359, and additional releases will occur on June 15 and July 15.

Event organizers strongly recommend that people secure lodging before getting a ticket because area lodging is limited. Residents of Gardiner and Jardine are encouraged to get tickets from the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce, which will distribute tickets held especially for local residents as a thank you for their patience and flexibility during the Gardiner Gateway Project construction.

For the safety and comfort of all attendees, no alcohol, coolers, umbrellas, or dogs will be allowed at this event. Qualified service animals are welcome; however, they must be leashed and under control at all times.

“An Evening at the Arch” is a great example of the countless ways there are to “find your park.” Launched in March 2015, Find Your Park is a public awareness and education movement to inspire people to connect with, celebrate, and support America’s national parks and community-based programs.

Celebrating the National Park Service Centennial and setting the stage for the service’s next 100 years, Find Your Park invites people to discover and share their own unique connections to our nation’s natural landscapes, vibrant culture and rich history.

Forever stamp highlights Yellowstone bison

A stunning photograph of two bison silhouetted in Yellowstone National Park’s winter morning sun was previewed April 25 as the last of 16 Forever Stamp images to celebrate the National Park Service’s 100th anniversary.

The image was captured by Art Wolfe of Seattle, Wash., who described it as, “a perfectly backlit bison standing on a small rise in Yellowstone’s Lamar Valley.”

Wolfe said he captured the February 2000 image by rising at dawn and braving -30 F temperatures, before catching the first rays of the morning sun.

“The bitter cold of a long winter’s night had left the animals encased in a mantle of thick frost. I had scouted the area the day before and [the bison] had bedded down there all night and now were standing and trying to shake off the cold as the sun came over the horizon,” Wolfe said. “These are the serendipitous moments I wait for as a photographer.”

Wolfe shot the image during the days of film, and says he didn’t know if he’d been successful until he returned to Seattle and had the film processed.

The June 2 first-day-of-issue ceremony for the National Parks Forever Stamps pane will take place at New York City’s Javits Center. The ceremony is part of World Stamp Show-NY 2016, taking place May 28 to June 4, the world’s largest stamp show that only occurs in the U.S. once a decade.

Dedication ceremonies will also take place at or near each of the National Parks depicted on the stamps. Individuals are encouraged to celebrate the news on social media by using the hashtags #NPSStamps, #FindYourPark or #NPS100.
A century of automobiles in Yellowstone
End of the stagecoach era and start of the great American road trip

BY MARK WILCOX
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

It may have been a backfire, but it sounded more like the end of the world.

At least that's what one historian likened it to when the first automobile chugged its way into Yellowstone National Park, beginning to trace over the lines made by stagecoaches throughout the park.

“The best of all possible worlds came to a shaking, rattling, backfiring end at exactly 7 p.m. on the evening of July 31, 1915,” wrote historian Richard Bartlett in the summer 1970 issue of Montana the Magazine of Western History.

The erasure of the coach lines didn’t come until a year later, when commercial transportation switched from dust-encrusted stagecoaches to motorized vehicles, at the end of the 1916 season. This year marks the centennial of that world-changing transition in the first national park, for better or worse.

Historians diverge in their acceptance of the change, but all agree that it was a major transition making access to the park more affordable and altered the nature of who came to Yellowstone.

“The automobile democratized the park—made it so anyone could get here,” said Leslie Quinn, an interpretive specialist and historian for Xanterra Parks & Resorts, the current hotelier in Yellowstone.

Author and avocational historian Robert Goss said the change untied people from strict travel schedules and allowed them to avoid high prices from monopolistic hotels and railroads.

“Common folks could eventually enjoy the wonders of nature along with the upper crust,” Goss said.

Coach class

Today, “taking coach” is synonymous with roughing it, but in the early days of Yellowstone it was the only way to travel. It was very expensive and coach-class travelers had to be pretty wealthy.

From relatively nearby Salt Lake City, a round-trip rate to Yellowstone in 1899 was $58, including rail and stage travel on the Monida & Yellowstone Stage Line. For comparison, hotel stays in the park were $4 per night.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics’ inflation calculator only converts dollars as far back as 1913, but at that time $58 equated to nearly $1,400 in today’s dollars. At that price, flying coach from Salt Lake City today could take a traveler to London and back.

Stagecoaches, while seen in a romantic light now, were anything but.

“The stagecoach experience was a slow, really dirty, kind of arduous trip,” said Marin Aurand, a historian who manages the Yellowstone Historic Center Museum in West Yellowstone. “It was a hard way to travel through Yellowstone.”

Dust pulverized by steel-rimmed wagon wheels and iron-shod horse hooves clung to the air, a miasma that coated everything and never seemed to settle. It was the kind of dust that coated lungs and made people long for open water and fresh air. The omnipresent dust was by far the chief complaint of wagon tour riders, most of whom came from high socioeconomic backgrounds.

Author Rudyard Kipling visited the park in 1889 and called the dust “as dense as fog,” despite spacing of at least 500 yards between each stagecoach. The few who lived close enough to Yellowstone to take their own buggies into the park were derisively referred to as “sage brushers.” This name came from their tendency to camp in the sagebrush rather than frequenting establishments like Lake Hotel, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.

While the rides themselves may not have been glamorous, the company was colorful. Riders often mentioned their drivers stashing whiskey under the driver’s seat. That was before open-container laws were in effect.

In the coach, camaraderie developed between the riders and the coachmen were the original interpreters of the park. They shared stories that could only be gotten from a tour— even if some of them were patently false. Kipling wrote of one driver who went by “Geyser Bob” Edgar. The man would drop a handkerchief in one geyser before “retrieving” it from another miles down the trail, creating the illusion of an underground network of thermal features.

Robert Goss has adopted the name “Geyser Bob” for his website documenting Yellowstone’s history, though he hasn’t carried forward the handkerchief trick.

continued on pg. 41
Sharing the road

Getting cars on the road in Yellowstone represented no small challenge, especially since most of the roads weren’t paved until the 1930s. Opponents argued that cars on the road would spook horses and create logistical problems and they weren’t entirely wrong.

Goss said no deaths resulted from cars and stagecoaches sharing the dirt roads, but the Livingston Enterprise told of one incident in July 1916 shortly before the commercial swap to automobiles.

A commercial four-horse stagecoach from the Wylie Permanent Camping Co. left Mammoth headed toward the train depot in Gardiner. A mile or so into the short, but steep descent it came upon a stalled automobile.

“The horses panicked and cut loose down the hill, almost going over the edge into the canyon,” Goss said. “The coach flipped on its side and all the passengers were thrown from the coach, crushing many of them between the coach and a rock outcropping. All were injured to some extent and three of the people suffered serious fractures.”

Aurand of the Yellowstone Historic Center said that regulations had progressed slowly before cars came into the park, and Yellowstone ended up being one of the last parks to allow automobiles. When cars came in it marked the “end of the world,” but the start of a new era.

“Essentially this is the start of the great American West road trip,” Aurand said. “It feels more American almost to be able to go by car.”

Rattling into history

The end of the 1916 season marked the end of commercial stagecoach access to Yellowstone. While sage brushers could still come, and did so for decades longer, concessionaires flipped the historic switch. The results mostly speak for themselves.

“There is a sense that the relative peacefulness and tranquility of stage travel mostly disappeared when the noisy and smoke-belching autos arrived on the scene, signaling the end of a sometimes romanticized travel era,” Goss said. “The increasing reliance on private automobiles over commercial transportation has led to significantly over-crowded roads, huge swaths of land paved over for parking lots and probably a greater disturbance to the wildlife.”

But that is not entirely a bad thing, as millions of people now enjoy a national treasure each year compared to the 20,000 visitors the park had in 1914, the last year before cars were allowed. The following year, visitation jumped to more than 52,000.

“It’s always a toss-up between allowing access and preserving the landscape,” Aurand said. “It’s a really tough balance.”

She predicted a time when the finite space in the park will be overwhelmed and some sort of limit will be placed on the amount of people coming through the gates. But for now, “those infernal internal combustion machines,” as the historian Bartlett called them, have given relatively free access to a natural wonder.

Mark Wilcox is a storyteller who grew up in Jackson, Wyo. and the founder of Sheen Startups (sheenonline.com). He avoids Yellowstone during peak season because of “those infernal machines,” preferring trips in May and October.
Bozeman Hot Springs celebrates facility expansion

**EBS STAFF**

Bozeman Hot Springs recently opened three new outdoor pools and a new stage, and owners are marking the occasion Sunday, May 22 with live music, food trucks, free outdoor yoga, and reduced admission.

The grand opening festivities begin with a 10 a.m. yoga class that will take place on the new outdoor stage overlooking the recently completed pools. BHS hopes to offer yoga and Pilates classes on the stage during the summer for an outdoor fitness experience.

At noon, food from Grille 406 will arrive on scene. Throughout the summer, food trucks will be stationed at BHS on Sundays and potentially Thursdays as well.

Live music begins at 1 p.m., when Kenny and Collette Diamond bring their rock, country and soul sound to the outdoor stage. From 7-10 p.m., Groove Wax will take over with their mix of rock, country and blues.

Emily Yaggy, with Member Services at BHS, said there are plans in the works to bring kombucha and a juice truck to the facility. She’s also hoping to get a movie night rolling, where they’ll show movies like “Finding Nemo” on an outdoor projector.

Yaggy said part of BHS’s intention when they built the outdoor pools was to bring in more summer soakers during a time that’s typically been their slow season. “We have a lot of really nice lounging and sunbathing furniture coming in,” she said, adding that they opted for a Montana-themed patio, complete with fire pits and a fire wall, a low rock and cement wall with fire coming out of the top.

Staff will be giving tours of the facility throughout the day. Yaggy said they’re expecting a crowd for the grand opening. “It’s going to be a big event,” she said.

Bozeman Hot Springs is located at 81123 Gallatin Rd. Visit bozemanhotsprings.com for more information or call (406) 586-6492.

May 21 race celebrates the life of local child

**LPHS NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

Harbor’s Hero Run celebrates the life of a dear child that graced the community of Big Sky, Harbor de Waard. Harbor’s laugh could be heard echoing throughout the ski area during winter and along hiking and biking trails and the community park in the summer. Harbor loved Big Sky and we love and celebrate the memory of Harbor.

Harbor’s Hero Run is a fundraiser organized by the Lone Peak High School chapter of the National Honor Society for a community nonprofit that helps children in Big Sky. Proceeds from the Hero Run will be donated to Big Sky Eagle Mount.

We look forward to seeing the community out in force at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 21 at the starting line in Town Center. There will be a 1.6k fun run, plus 5k and 10k color runs for those participants looking to get a little more serious.

Interested parties can sign up at bssd72.org/harbors-hero-run or register at the event.

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Museum of the Rockies celebrates Jack Horner

MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES

BOZEMAN – Museum of the Rockies will honor the career and achievements of Dr. Jack Horner during Jack Horner Family Day on Saturday, May 21 from 2-5 p.m. at the museum.

After 33 years in the field with MOR and Montana State University, the museum’s curator of paleontology will retire on June 30. Horner’s remarkable lifetime of scientific research and many of his most famous discoveries will be celebrated during the event.

The public is invited to participate and the Jack Horner Family Day event is included with museum admission.

Since 1982, Horner has expanded the museum’s three-specimen dinosaur fossil collection to an internationally recognized, scientifically significant collection containing more than 35,000 specimens.

“It’s astounding to think of all the things Jack did for MOR, the university, our community and even the state of Montana,” said Mark Robinson, the museum’s director of marketing and engagement.

During his career, Horner also built the largest paleontology field program in the U.S., sending out as many as nine field crews during one season. His former students and postdoctoral fellows are now leading paleontology programs throughout the world, including Mongolia, France, England, Canada and Argentina.

Horner is also well known for his role as the scientific advisor for all of the Jurassic Park films, including the franchise’s most recent “Jurassic World.”

Visitors will be able to see the heavy-duty trucks and vehicles used at Horner’s dig sites, as well as meet members of Horner’s former field crews, and participate in hands-on activities that highlight his discoveries.

The world-renowned paleontologist will also be present at the event to sign autographs and speak personally with visitors young and old.

“Jack Horner Family Day is one way all of us at Museum of the Rockies can say thank you to Jack for his countless contributions to our success,” said Robinson.

Museum of the Rockies is both a college-level division of Montana State University and an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit institution. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, MOR is one of just 776 museums to hold this distinction from the more than 17,500 museums nationwide. The museum is also a Smithsonian Institution affiliate and a federal repository for fossils.

Dr. Jack Horner, perhaps the most well-known paleontologist in North America, will be retiring from his post at the Museum of the Rockies. His achievements will be celebrated with a May 21 event at MOR. PHOTO COURTESY OF MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES
African Children’s Choir to perform throughout Montana
Bozeman performance scheduled May 25

THE STAFF

The African Children’s Choir will be performing lively African songs and dances at nine locations throughout Montana this May. The program features well-loved children’s songs, traditional spirituals and gospel favorites sung by 18 African children aged 7 to 9.

On Wednesday, May 25, the choir is coming to the Bozeman Seventh Day Adventist Church for a 7 p.m. performance.

The African Children’s Choir is a non-profit humanitarian and relief organization dedicated to helping Africa’s most vulnerable children today so they can help Africa tomorrow.

Music for Life, the choir’s parent organization, works in Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa. The organization has educated more than 52,000 children and impacted the lives of more than 100,000 people through its relief and development programs. MFL’s purpose is to help create new leadership for tomorrow’s Africa by focusing on education.

Tina Sipp, the choir manager, said touring gives children the opportunity to have experiences they wouldn’t normally have, like swimming in a pool, visiting a zoo and going horseback riding.

Sipp said the opportunity to learn English while touring has a positive impact on the children’s prospects. “It’s a huge help to them academically for their future.”

The choir has performed before presidents, heads of state and most recently the Queen of England for her diamond jubilee. It’s also had the honor of singing alongside artists such as Paul McCartney, Annie Lennox, Keith Urban, Mariah Carey, Michael W. Smith and other famous performers.

Before their arrival in Bozeman, the choir will sing in Great Falls, Helena, Roundup, Sidney, Red Lodge and Billings. Details about those dates can be found at africanchildrenschoir.com/shows/choir-45/.

Concerts are free and tickets are not necessary. A free-will offering is taken at the performance to support African Children’s Choir programs.

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**BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY**

The Bozeman Film Society continues to roll out indie, art-house and specialty film events in May, at downtown Bozeman’s Ellen Theatre.

On Wednesday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m., Ethan Hawke lights up the screen as jazz legend Chet Baker, whose tumultuous life is thrillingly re-imagined with wit, verve and style in “Born to Be Blue.”

In the 1950s, Baker was one of the most famous trumpeters in the world, renowned as both a pioneer of the West Coast jazz scene and an icon of cool. By the 1960s he was all but washed up, his career and personal life in shambles due to years of heroin addiction.

In this innovative anti-biopic, director Robert Budreau zeroes in on Baker’s life at a key moment in the 1960s, just as the musician attempts to stage a hard-fought comeback, spurred in part by a passionate romance with a new flame played by Carmen Ejogo.

Creatively blending fact with fiction and driven by Hawke’s virtuoso performance, “Born to Be Blue” unfolds with all the stylistic verve and improvisatory genius of great jazz.

According to Peter Traverse of Rolling Stone, “Everything that makes Ethan Hawke an extraordinary actor – his energy, his empathy, his fearless, vanity-free eagerness to explore the deeper recesses of a character – is on view in ‘Born to Be Blue.’” The R-rated film runs 98 minutes.

On Wednesday, May 25 at 7 p.m., “The Martian” screens as part of the BFS Science on Screen (SoS) film series. BFS is one of only 23 independent nonprofit cinemas across the country awarded SoS grants. The series aims to expand film and scientific literacy by creatively pairing screenings of popular culture and documentary films with lively presentations by local scientists.

“The Martian” features guest speaker Dr. Mac Burgess, of the Montana State University Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology.

The film is set on Mars, where astronaut Mark Watney—played by Matt Damon—is presumed dead after a fierce storm and left behind by his crew. But the protagonist has survived and finds himself stranded and alone on the hostile planet.

With only meager supplies, Watney must draw upon his ingenuity, wit and spirit to subsist and find a way to signal to Earth that he is alive.

Millions of miles away, NASA and a team of international scientists work tirelessly to bring “the Martian” home. In his presentation “From Mars to Montana: The Dirty Secret Behind Soil,” Burgess will share the reality of growing food in poor “Martian” soil — and draw a few parallels with soil closer to home.

The presentation of the “The Martian” is a collaboration with Gallatin Valley Farm to School. Rated PG-13, the film runs 134 minutes.

Tickets are available at theellentheatre.com, by calling The Ellen Theatre box office at (406) 585-5885, or by visiting the box office Wednesday through Saturday, 1-3 p.m. They may also be purchased two hours prior to any performance. Visit bozemanfilmsociety.org for more information.
REGISTER NOW!
Big Sky Little League starts Monday, May 2!
Contact John Romney at mjromney@gmail.com to register, for more information, or if:
- you are interested in coaching
- you are interested in sponsoring a team
- Existing Kindergarten through 6th grade
- First practice: May 2, 4 p.m. at Community Park Softball fields

NOW HIRING
Big Sky Fire Department – NOW HIRING
Big Sky Fire Department has an opening for a Part-time Administrative Assistant. An original, completed application must be submitted to the Big Sky Fire Department Office Administrator by May 20, 2016 @ 3:00pm. If mailing/shipping, the envelope must be postmarked by May 16, 2016. For complete details, the position posting, description and application is available on our website http://bigskyfire.org/administrative-assistant/
Application packets are also available for pick-up at 630 Rainbow Trout Run, Big Sky, MT 59716

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American Life in Poetry: Column 581

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

Here’s a fine poem about the fleshy pleasures of adolescence by Ginger Murchison, from her book “a scrap of linen, a bone,” from Press 53. Murchison lives in Florida.

River

By Ginger Murchison

Late afternoons, we’d tuck up our hems under Minisa Bridge, scrape our white knees on scrub brush and drowned trees to slide down the dirt bank past milk-weed gone to seed, cattails and trash to sit on stones at the edge of the river and giggle and smoke, waiting to wolf-whistle North High’s rowing team. In the shadows where the milk-chocolate river unfolded, ooze between our toes, we’d strip, risk long-legged insects, leeches and mothers for the silt slick on our thighs, the air thick with the smell of honeysuckle, mud—the rest of the day somewhere downstream. We didn’t know why, but none of us wanted to go home to polite kitchens and mothers patiently waiting for what happened next, the way women have always waited for hunter husbands, kept vigil and prayed at the entrance of mines.


BY TAYLOR-ANN SMITH

EBS GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Find out what tunes we’re bumping! In Big Sky Beats, Explore Big Sky staff offers 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 a spring barbecue, we’ve got you covered.

If I could go back in time and experience any decade, it would definitely be the 1940s. I love everything from the post-war fashion of full skirts with cinched jackets, the iconic Duesenberg luxury car with its signature bowtie bumper, and the jitterbug dance craze. With swing, big band, and jazz dominating the music scene, it would’ve been an impressive time to enjoy live music and dance the night away.

Unfortunately, I was born in 1991. However, my generation has played a large role in one of my favorite musical genres—electronic dance music. Much to my excitement, I’ve recently discovered a genre that blends my love of the ‘40s and EDM known as electro swing.

Electro swing takes the rhythm and sounds of big band swing music from the 1930s and ‘40s and pairs it with modern electronic beats, creating catchy tunes that will have you doing the Lindy hop and wishing you were in a speakeasy.

This playlist features a few electro swing songs that will have you hopping across a dance floor:

1. “Booby Swing,” Parov Stelar
2. “Make My Day,” Waldeck
3. “Clash,” Caravan Palace
4. “Kaika,” Bonobo
5. “Rausenfreund,” Toca
6. “Tickle It,” Mocan Worker
7. “High Noon,” Kruder & Dorfmeister
8. “Gin Tonic,” Parov Stelar
9. “Sometimes,” Klischée
10. “Shake My Hand,” Extra Medium

Explore Big Sky

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Explore Big Sky

For Explore Big Sky, the Back 40 is a resource: a place where we can delve into subjects and ask experts to share their knowledge. Topics include regional history, profiles of local artists and musicians, snow and avalanche education, how-to pieces for traditional or outdoor skills, and science.

Foraging Tips

1. KNOW YOUR TREES
   If you’re able to tell the difference between a lodgepole pine and a Douglas fir, you’re more likely to find a good hunting spot. Certain mushrooms tend to grow under specific trees, as well as on decaying wood.

2. CHOOSE YOUR BAG CAREFULLY
   Mesh bags or even old onion bags are great for collecting. Mushrooms spread through the dispersal of spores, and the more spores that are dropped, the more likely it is that future mushrooms will grow.

3. BRING YOUR SMARTPHONE
   Many species of mushrooms such as morels and chanterelles often grow in the same location each year. If you find a sweet spot, drop a pin on your GPS so you can find them again next year.

4. SAFETY FIRST
   Carry bear spray and be sure to check yourself for ticks. It’s easy to get turned around in the woods, especially when you’re looking at the ground, so carry a compass or GPS so you don’t get lost!

5. KEEP LONGEVITY IN MIND
   It may be tempting to pick every last mushroom you find, but by leaving a few in each location, you allow the remaining mushrooms to deposit their spores, which provides a better chance of enjoying them in the future.

6. PROPER STORAGE
   Store fresh mushrooms in a sealed paper bag in your refrigerator. Mushrooms can also be frozen or dried so that you can enjoy your harvest well past the season’s end.

Mushroom Foraging 101

Morels (morchella)

- Color: Brown, to grey, to golden
- Shape: Cone shaped with pits and ridges
- Habitat: At the base of trees, in burn sites, location can be random
- Qualities: Typically hollow
- Poisonous Look Alikes?: YES

The elusive morel is one of the most sought after wild mushrooms. They have several poisonous lookalikes so take care when searching for this species. Solid or fuzzy filled stalks and wrinkled rather than porous caps are telltale signs of a false morel. They can be found under trees, especially aspen and Douglas firs, as well as in burn sites. If you see a morel, there are likely more, so stop and scan the area before moving on.

Oysters (pleurotus)

- Color: White, to grey, to tan, to brown
- Shape: Rounded to oblong
- Habitat: On the sides of dead, decaying, or living trees
- Qualities: Grow in shelf-like clusters
- Poisonous Look Alikes?: NO

Oyster mushrooms are saprophilic, meaning they feed and feed off of other living matter. Because of this quality, you can often find them growing on the sides of trees, the contrast of their light flesh easily spotted against the dark bark. If you’re hunting oysters, it may be helpful to bring a small saw along to aid in the removal of more mature, thicker mushrooms. Oysters can be found throughout the year.

Chanterelles (cantharellus)

- Color: Commonly golden, rarely red
- Shape: At maturity, funnel shaped
- Habitat: At the base of trees, both hardwoods and conifers
- Qualities: “Pseudo Gills”
- Poisonous Look Alikes?: YES

Being mycorrhizal, chanterelles form a symbiotic relationship with trees, providing nutrients for each other. This also means that they can grow back in the same place each year. Chanterelles are found throughout the summer, with most fruiting in July. They possess pseudo gills, which are similar to gills, but are blunt and rounded rather than long and sharp. The jack-o-lantern mushroom is the most common poisonous lookalike, but they’re more common in the East, and possess true gills.

Graphics and information by Cara Stöhr, who is a certified wild mushroom identifier and former chef.