

Explore

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

FREE

Big Sky

April 15 - 28, 2016
Volume 7 // Issue #8

**BSSD building reserve levy
ballots mailed**

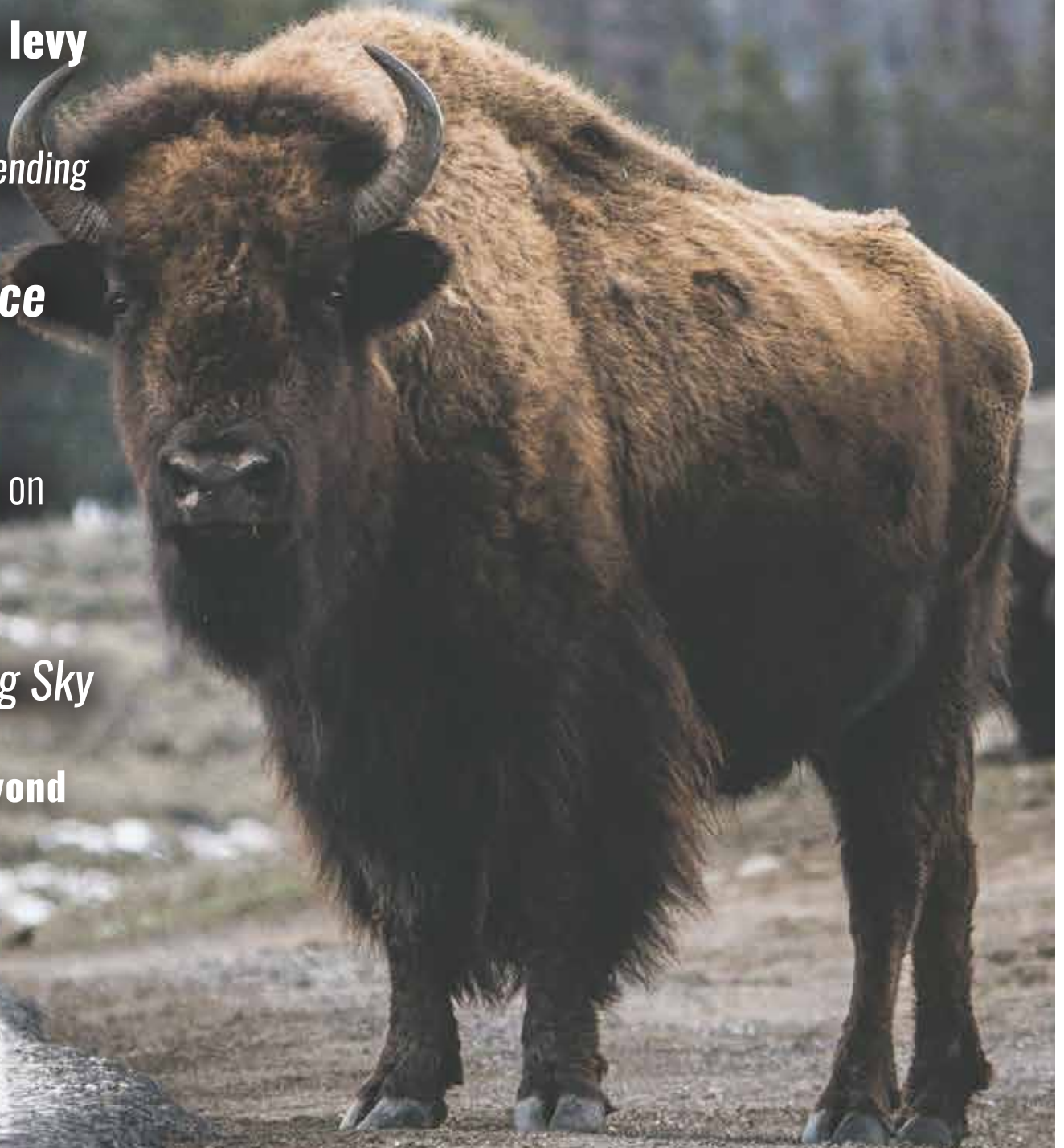
EBS breaks down proposed spending

**Montana Land Reliance
opens Big Sky office**

*Shedhorn races test athletes on
Lone Mountain*

Recycling returning to Big Sky

**Bison range to expand beyond
Yellowstone boundaries**



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ON THE COVER:

A bison considers its options near Slough Creek in Yellowstone National Park on April 3. PHOTO BY WES OVERVOLD

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Explore

Big Sky

WHAT IS THIS PUBLICATION?

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.



Frequency

EVERY 2 WEEKS

Our 2 week shelf-life allows for extensive exposure for our advertisers.

49,500

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“Ability is what you’re capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.”

-Lou Holtz



MARTHA JOHNSON Owner | Broker
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Martha has been in real estate in Big Sky, Montana for approximately 20 years and she's been a full time resident since 1988! She's an entrepreneurial spirit and is Founder, Broker and Owner of Montana Living ~ Big Sky Real Estate – the top luxury boutique real estate firm in Big Sky, Montana. Her experience includes brokering the sales, marketing and launch of resort, residential, commercial and ranch sporting properties. Call Martha now and utilize her grass roots knowledge of Big Sky for purchasing or selling your real estate.



39 SWIFT BEAR
Offered for \$3,582,000

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



180 THOMAS MORAN DRIVE - BIG EZ ESTATES
Offered for \$2,350,000

A custom built 4 bedroom/5 bath residence with over 5,000 square feet that encompasses the best that Big Sky has to offer. A handsome home located in a natural private setting that is still just a short drive to all the amenities offered at Spanish Peaks Mountain Club. (ski/social membership is available with this property). A luxurious Montana home that sits on 19 pristine acres located in the Big EZ Estates offering expansive mountain views that go on for miles.



ELKRIDGE 33
Offered for \$6,400,000

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



307 WILDRIDGE FORK
Offered for \$3,950,000

A fully furnished 6 BR, 6.5 BA home that will absolutely blow you away! With a prime location in Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, one can revel in 6,550 square feet of exquisitely decorated space that offers an open living room with gas fireplace and a dining area where you will enjoy spending leisure time with family and friends. A large chef's kitchen with dual dishwashers will make meal preparation and party hosting a joy.



YELLOWSTONE PRESERVE
Offered for \$39,900,000

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



ANCENEY RANCH
Offered for \$6,900,000

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

MARTHA JOHNSON
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MONTANA LIVING
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NEWS IN BRIEF



Big Sky Housing Trust launches with informational meeting

EBS STAFF

Approximately 20 community members, including five uniformed firemen and two uniformed law enforcement officers, attended the Big Sky affordable housing information session April 8 at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.

Hosted by Tracy Menuez and Brian Guyer of the HRDC, the meeting also officially launched what many in this small community hope will be a long-term solution to a long-lived Big Sky problem.

On March 23, the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and HRDC announced the formation of the Big Sky Housing Trust to address affordable housing issues in this resort community. The initial project will be developed on a 10-acre parcel of land donated by local businessman Loren Bough.

The approximately 30 planned housing units are meant to provide affordable places to live for year-round, essential Big Sky workers, including teachers, firefighters and law enforcement officials. The units will not be subject to rising rental costs.

Guyer explained some of the strategies the trust could use to preserve that affordability, and said he hoped BSHT could offer the units at a price of \$200,000 to \$260,000 per unit.

These strategies include deed restrictions, which would keep property taxes down but cause homeowners to make certain concessions about property decisions; capital improvement caps, meaning enhancements such as granite countertops wouldn't be an investment in the property; and a cap on home appreciation.

"You will walk away with equity – I want to make that abundantly clear – [but] there won't be a wind-fall," Guyer said. "This is an intermediate step between renting and buying a market-rate home."

Play ball!

EBS STAFF

The Big Sky Softball League is ramping up for its 14th season, and is calling for you to dust off your bat from last year, clean the sunflower seeds out of your cleats, and get signed up. And get those arms loose. The season gets underway the week of June 6.

Big Sky Community Organization (formerly BSCC) will host an official captains' meeting on Monday May 2 at 6 p.m. at its office located at 32 Town Center Avenue, Unit 2. Pick up your team signup form, complete and return it by May 20 to the BSCO office personally or by mail: P.O. Box 161404, Big Sky MT 59716.

Team fees will be due by June 1, and all team members will have to sign a waiver before playing. Roster adjustments must be made before July 1.

Major League Baseball has started, the smells of spring are returning. It can only mean one thing: softball at the Big Sky Community Park is right around the corner.

Contact the Big Sky Softball League at bigskysoftball@gmail.com with questions.

Wheat crops down because of falling prices

BILLINGS (AP) – Montana farmers say they'll plant a million fewer acres of wheat this season because of falling prices, and some plan to switch to other crops.

A plantings report says the number of acres planted in wheat will drop to about 5 million this year. Wheat prices have fallen nearly 30 percent since 2014, but even with the cutbacks, wheat is still Montana's largest crop.

In place of wheat, farmers are planning to plant about 500,000 acres of lentils, which are in growing demand around the world.

"The continued growth of pulse crops, including lentils, is reflective of the diversification by Montana farmers," said Montana Department of Agriculture director Ron DeYong.

Dry bean crops have more than doubled in two years to 80,000 acres, and barley will account for about 1 million acres. Garbanzo beans have more than doubled in acreage in the last two years to 68,000 acres.

Sugar beet acres are expected to be at 42,000, a slight decline.

The Montana Department of Agriculture is promoting lentil production and the state now is one of the nation's largest lentil producers. Farming and livestock sales contribute roughly \$4 billion to Montana's economy annually, the Billings Gazette reported.

Lola Raska, of the Montana Grain Growers Association, said malt barley is an option to farmers because of early contracts, which protect farmers from market swings during the season.

Raska said some farmers are expected to take advantage of the declining acres in spring wheat and go against the trend.

Editor of Missoulian, Ravalli Republic resigns

MISSOULA (AP) – The editor of the Missoulian and Ravalli Republic newspapers has resigned after about seven months on the job.

The Missoulian reports publisher Mark Heintzelman announced Matt Bunk's resignation April 11.

Bunk became editor at the Missoulian and Ravalli Republic in August 2015 after serving as publisher and editor of The Western News in Libby.

Previous editor Sherry Devlin has filed a wrongful discharge lawsuit arguing that

Select Yellowstone roads open to automobiles April 15 Free park entrance April 16-24

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Beginning Friday, April 15 at 8 a.m., the road segments from West Yellowstone and Mammoth Hot Springs to Old Faithful and the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone will open for the season, allowing park visitors to travel by car to two of the park's iconic locations.

Each spring, in preparation for the summer season, the Park Service clears snow and ice from 198 miles of main roads in Yellowstone; 124 miles of secondary roads; 125 acres of parking lots inside the park; and 31 miles of the Beartooth Highway outside the park's Northeast Entrance.

Additional road segments in the park will open during May as road clearing operations progress.

Spring in Yellowstone brings unpredictable weather including cold temperatures, high winds and falling snow. Even cleared sections of roads can be narrow and covered with a layer of snow, ice and debris. Visitors should use extreme caution when driving as road clearing operations can be ongoing throughout the park. In the case of extreme weather conditions, temporary road closures are also possible with little or no advance warning.

From April 16 through April 24, entrance fees to the park will be waived during National Park Week, an annual celebration honoring National Park Service sites and programs nationwide.

Heintzelman demoted her in April 2015, cut her pay and replaced her with a younger, less experienced man.

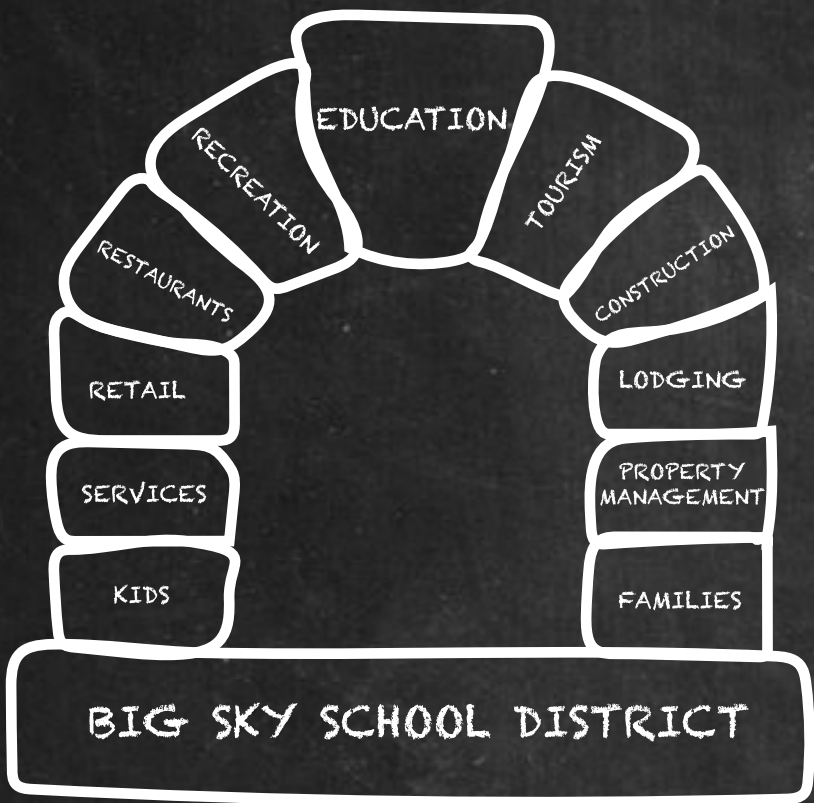
Bunk also served as president of the Montana Newspaper Association. MNA executive director Jim Rickman said April 12 he expects Bunk will submit his resignation and that first vice president Jacques Rutten will step into the president's role a couple months early.

Rutten is publisher of the Lewistown News-Argus.

Vote Yes!

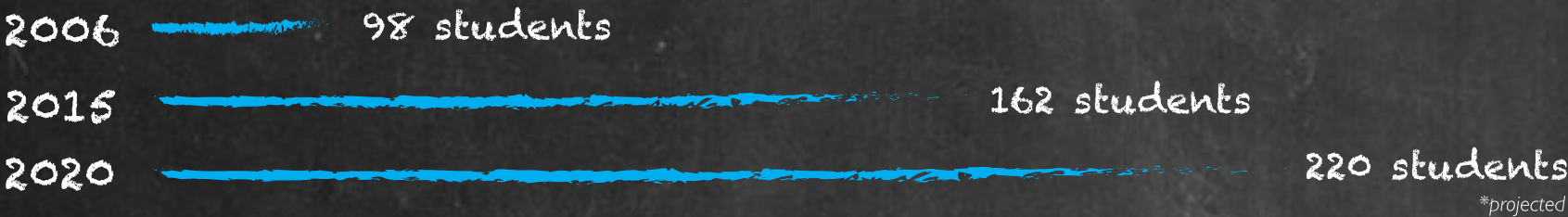
For the Big Sky School District Reserve Levy

The Big Sky School District is the building block of the Big Sky Community supporting a wide spectrum of businesses throughout the community



The annual cost to property owners for a property valued at \$400,000

ENROLLMENT GROWTH:



Community members and local businesses in support of the "Vote Yes" movement
Add your name to the List: [surveymonkey.com/r/9gzqnd9](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9gzqnd9)

Individuals:

Renee Anderson
Katie & Dave Alvin
Nicole Barker
Suzan & Peter Brester
Rocio Bellido & Carlos Mansilla
Julie & Tommie Blakely
Jeremy Blyth
Jill & Loren Bough
Krista & John Boersma
Ania Bulis
Polly Buotte
Leah & Jeff Butterworth
Melanie & Charlie Callander
Molly & Jason Carrico
Arianne & Ben Coleman
Shannon & Bill Collins
Susan & Greg Darden
Patty & Marc Dash
Ashley & Matt Dodd
Joanie & Andy Dreisbach
Gayle & Jim Eidson
Pam & John Flach
Kristin Gardner & Jeremy Harder
Karin & Kevin Germain
Cody Goettle & John Thompson
Brenda & Alberto Godoy
Kim Gunderson
Krissy & Scott Hammond
Julie & Greg Hodge
Kim & Ben Holst
Michelle & Lee Horning
Lindsie & Brian Hurlbut
Britt & Alex Ide
Julie & Alex Iskenderian

Tracy & Scott Jacobson
Erika & Matt Jennings
Amy & Christian Johnsen
Leslie & Rich Jorgenson
Judy Katany & Dan Taft
Kirsten & Mike King
Lauren & Jesse Knox
Tallie & Ken Lancey
Whitney & Will Littman
Terye & Les Loble
Mona & Mike Lovely
Jason Luchini
Sam Luedtke
Danielle & Alan McClain
Nicole & David Mars
Colin Mathews
Karen & Scott Maybee
Liz & Rob McRae
Laura & John Michel
Gabby & Ben Michel
Anne Marie & Jerry Mistretta
Heather & Matt Morris
Callie & Dave Pecunies
Jacquie & Steven Rager
Bo Redmond
Jackie & Mark Robin
Jolene & John Romney
Barb Rooney
Jeff Saad
Acra & Chris Samuels
Kathy Schauer & Mark Lea
The Rev. Miriam Schmidt
Kathy & Stephen Schramke
Rena & Steve Schumacher
Kasia & Dustin Shipman

Crystal Snook
Elizabeth Spartas
Anne & Mike Staudt
Shea & Geoff Unger
Bre & Matt Walker
Shannon & Lucas Westblade
Kim & Hans Williamson
Vanessa & Chris Wilson
Ciara & Mike Wolfe

Businesses:

Amp Electric and Lighting
Alberto's Authentic Mexican Cuisine
Alpine Property Management
Big Sky Conoco
Big Sky Vacation Rentals
By Word of Mouth Restaurant
Carole Sissons Designs
Cornerstone Management Services
Creighton Block Gallery
East Slope Outdoors
Elliot Interior Design
Hammond Property Management
Highline Partners
Hodge Distributors
The Hungry Moose Market & Deli
Ide Energy & Strategy
Lone Mountain Land Co.
Montana Chiropractic & Sports Medicine
Moonlight Luxury Rentals/Saddle Ridge Rentals
Mountain Maven
Ousel & Spur Pizza. Co.
OZssage Spa
Dave Pecunies Media
Roxy's Market



One option the Big Sky Water and Sewer District is exploring to address the community’s wastewater disposal issue is obtaining a DEQ permit and building a pipeline to the Gallatin River. This would allow them to discharge treated wastewater into the Gallatin, as is done downstream in Bozeman.

Is this a wastewater disposal option you would support?



Patrick McCauley, Big Sky, Mont.
Bartender, Milkie’s Pizza & Pub

“As long as it doesn’t hurt the fish ... It’s gray water, it’s not poisonous, it’s not toxic, but it’s not drinkable ... I would support it as long as it doesn’t hurt the ecosystem. What other option do we have?”



Kris Hinman, Big Sky, Mont.
Housekeeper, Yellowstone Club

“I would if it solved a problem, but I personally like to keep things how they were rather than manipulating them for human use ... I think [expanding wastewater capacity would create] more business opportunities, but I don’t know enough about it.”



Greg Lewis, Big Sky, Mont.
Floor Associate, Roxy’s Market

“It’s a terrible idea ... you’ve got a 55-mile, immaculate stretch [of river] from here to Bozeman. I wouldn’t want to see that affected ... I don’t understand why they [have] a golf course that’s sprayed with a million of gallons of effluent but they can’t ski on snow that’s been made with effluent.”



Tina Tattler reporting for 406 news. Montana’s top cop put a half nelson on an apparently intoxicated man who was throwing punches. Montana Attorney General Tim Fox held the man to the ground until police could respond, tell us more Tim.

Sorry Tina, but the first rule of Fight Club is, you don’t talk about fight club.

Vote ‘yes’ for school reserve fund levy

Despite the fact that I do not have children, I am a Big Sky resident and am fully behind supporting the school district. I was lucky enough to grow up in Edina, Minn., a community that made public education the top priority, and it’s palpable how much the community gained from it.

Ninety-eight percent of my graduating class went to a four-year college, and many of my friends have moved back home to rear their children, manage businesses, and continue the strong tradition of a well-supported, successful community. I would love to see that in Big Sky as our small town grows.

Our entire community benefits from a strong school system. Every extracurricular activity the school provides benefits not only our children’s classroom education, but broadens their perspective on the world around them. And more classrooms mean smaller class sizes, so teachers are able to spend more quality time with each student, tailoring education to each child’s strengths.

The actual construction of the school will create more economic growth in the community, in turn bringing more families with more children to our schools. Inevitably, this will have an exponential effect on the continuing progress –economic and otherwise – of this community.

I would love to see Big Sky blossom into a small version of my hometown: prioritizing education in both the classroom and outdoors, rearing productive, creative, and giving young adults. For these reasons, and many others, I am voting “yes” on the school levy.

Lizzie Peyton
Big Sky

Vote ‘yes’ for the kids and the community

Even though I do not have children in the Big Sky School District, I am supporting the upcoming reserve levy for Big Sky’s schools. Please join me by mailing in your ballot as soon as you receive it and vote “yes.” Here is why I’m in favor of the levy:

- Our entire community benefits from strong schools
- Economic growth (helping construction, real estate, banks, retail services, etc.) benefits us all and brings more families with more children to our schools
- The levy will allow classrooms to be finished to accommodate the additional children
- Firefighters, police officers, restaurant owners, and teachers have children. Good schools attract families to work in these critical roles in our community. Building costs continue to rise; building now keeps the costs down (while waiting only increases the cost). For the price of about one extra cup of coffee a month, you can invest in our community for lasting benefits.

And most importantly, our children should be our first priority. We as a community must provide them with the very best education and educational resources possible.

Patty Dash
Big Sky

Second time is not a charm

I’m compelled to again voice my strong opposition to the \$830,000 levy request coming on April 13 from the Big Sky School District. My reasoning is similar to my disapproval of the same request last year. The school board wants to complete the following:

- 1. Five thousand square feet of classrooms.** The present school size is more than adequate. Enrollment (152) this year is essentially the same as past years.
- 2. A library.** A perfectly adequate library is next door. Is it unreasonable to have students walk 200 feet to that library?
- 3. Landscaping.** Why not ask parents/volunteers to purchase the shrubs and have a planting day?
- 4. Music room.** Is this vital? The Warren Miller Performing Arts Center is adjacent with large spaces for a music experience.

Do the math: \$830,000 divided by 152 equals \$5,500 per student. Ridiculous!

Many people in Big Sky have expressed dismay and disgust with the school’s repeated efforts to simply obtain their “wish list” of funds from taxpayers. Many residents live on tight budgets and can ill afford more tax increases.

I have yet to see the school sponsor fundraising events such as car washes or bake sales to raise their own funds. Instead they look to us taxpayers as if we are their personal bank account.

Enough is enough. I urge you to vote “no” on this levy request and send a message to the board that it’s high time to live within their means.

Alan Shaw
Big Sky

Building levy a worthwhile endeavor

“I think there’s going to be more change in the next five to ten years than there’s been in the last 50.”
– Mary Barra, General Motors CEO, 2016

These are words I’m sure applied to thoughts of the Big Sky school board as they embarked on revolutionizing the local system with the addition of a high school, and anticipated the rapid enrollment growth of the k-8 school.

The school board’s task is much smaller than that of GM, but one with as many moving parts and complexities. As with any worthwhile endeavor, the path to success won’t be in a straight line despite best intentions.

The majority of Big Sky’s community members in 2013 approved the bond to build the new elementary school because they knew it was needed and was a cost they were willing to share.

Regardless of the rhetoric and circumstances about why the completion of several classrooms and a library were left unfunded, the job needs finishing and should be paid for no differently than if the building foundation work had been part of the initial cost estimate.

Libraries are not only integral to our education system, but part of the fabric of communities. They’re more than just a place to check out a book. They are where learning habits form and they create opportunity and enjoyment.

As we approach a second attempt to pass an \$830,000 building reserve levy to finish the new elementary school, I hope the original community spirit and support for building this school is not lost.

Mike Scholz
Big Sky

Be proud of your school district: it’s your community

It has been an incredible year in the Big Sky School District. Despite a heavy election blow last spring, the school board quickly rallied to put together a professional administrative team with the new hires of Dr. Dustin Shipman and Alex Ide.

A community survey from the district brought in over 700 overwhelmingly supportive and constructive responses that drove the process and design of the new strategic plan at the school.

Schools are often seen as cornerstones in communities across America. I believe that to be the case in Big Sky. Community members come to the school campus for the Big Sky Community Library and the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center; to play pickleball, indoor futsal and dodgeball in the elementary school’s gym; and to enjoy football in the fall, among other compelling reasons.

Schools are community assets and meant to be a source of pride. This area is home to Big Sky Resort and many other vacation amenities, but at its heart lies a fulltime community of people who believe in our town, our beautiful natural environment and our future.

The future rests with those being educated daily in BSSD. Let’s get behind these kids and finish what we started!

Please vote “yes” on the upcoming building reserve levy that will be mailed to your P.O. boxes. Our children deserve a finished building; they are the future and don’t deserve to be punished by the past.

Whitney Littman
Big Sky

Expedition Yellowstone a great experience for Big Sky kids

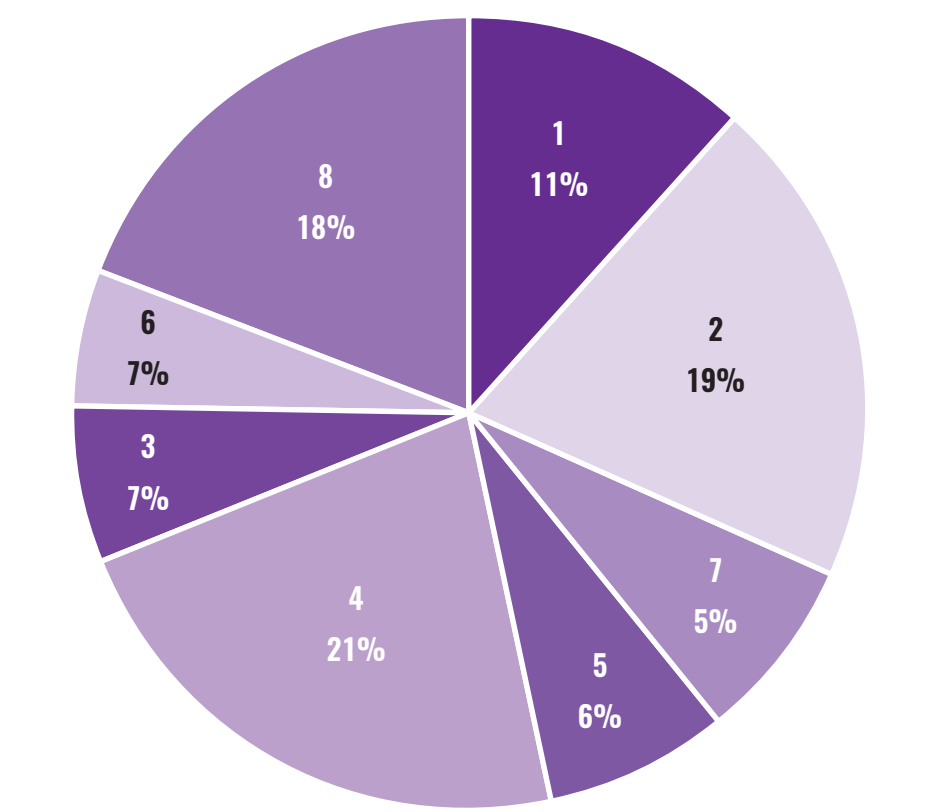
I was fortunate enough to accompany Ophir Elementary School teacher Jeremy Harder and his fourth grade class into the Lamar Valley for an adventure of learning in Yellowstone National Park during “Expedition Yellowstone,” March 28 through April 1. Not only is this an amazing experience for Ophir’s fourth graders to learn about the wonders of this national park that’s in our backyard, but also an opportunity for them to thrive as individuals and teammates.

The ability for these students to expand on the values of teamwork, independence, responsibility, and confidence makes this experience invaluable. I want to recognize the Big Sky Parent Teacher Organization for continuing to fund this program, the school administration for supporting it, and most importantly, Jeremy Harder for making it happen. It is beyond amazing.

Lindsie Hurlbut
Big Sky

Big Sky School District Building Reserve Levy spending breakdown

A ballot asking voters to approve an \$830,000 reserve fund levy to finish Ophir Elementary’s facilities will appear in Big Sky School District residents’ mailboxes on April 15. Ballots will be counted May 3. BSSD Superintendent Dustin Shipman will hold the last of three town hall meetings to discuss levy details at 6:30 p.m. in the Ophir Elementary School cafeteria on Tuesday, April 26.



Bond financing (5 years, 8%) equals \$61,828

Total Requested: \$830,000

- 1. Outdoor Space - \$95,000**
(landscaping, drainage issues, space for trash)
- 2. Gym Bleachers & Locker Rooms - \$157,000**
- 3. Complete 6 unfinished rooms - \$60,000**
- 4. Learning commons/library - \$175,000**
- 5. Technology - \$44,000**
- 6. Furniture, fixtures, & equipment - \$55,000**
- 7. Contingency - \$41,020**
- 8. Soft Costs - \$145,828**
(SMA/TD & H Design fee, bond, general liability insurance, gross tax receipts, general conditions, builders risk insurance estimate, Martel O&P, bond financing estimate)

**Percentages are approximate*

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HATCH writing workshop contest winners

This semester, Big Sky's junior high and high school students had the option of participating in a three-part writing workshop with Elke Govertsen, the publisher of Mamalode magazine. The workshops were offered as part of the HATCH Storytelling Series, which

brought accomplished writers to Big Sky to speak to students about the craft and impact of storytelling. Lone Peak High School junior Bella Butler (essay) and freshman Eva Paulson (poem) won the writing contest that was held in conjunction with the Storytelling Series.

HATCH is an invite-only conference where creative types from around the world gather to network and "catalyze creativity to hatch a better world," according to its website.

A Self-Reflection

By Bella Butler

I was a person who struggled to find the significance of one person in a world when there are over 7 billion. How the millions of breaths an individual will take in a lifetime could change the air we all breathe. I was that person, until I met her. Atop a hill in the lonely blackness of a December night. She was planted in the driver's side of a '97 beat up Cherokee, her bottom molded into the worn seat from many long drives to nowhere. Lights from the town below the hill appeared as twinkling stars in a dark sky, so far away that they almost weren't real. It was cold. I first heard nothing, a rare silence filling the shadows of the witching hour. But when my ears could not hear, I began listening with my heart, and the noise was deafening.

A story played out before my eager eyes. Humbling mountains surrounded the girl. They were meant to keep the sufferings of the real world out, but all they seemed to do was trap them inside. She calmly ran her hands through the clear waters of the Alpine spring, but the dirt she had acquired on her hands rejected the pure treatment, and the filth remained. There were echoes of voices from far away. . .but that's all they were, echoes.

I held my breath, waiting for this girl to crumble into pieces and become part of the ground beneath her, but instead, she grew taller. She paced forward, chin up and chest out. She continued on until she was suddenly out of my vision and into my world. Her face was close, intimidating. All of a sudden, there was something so whole about her brokenness, and so familiar about her struggle. She reached out for my hand, and I shook it until I was overcome with a new strength I had never felt before. I was meeting myself, and it was the most liberating moment of my life to date. On that hill on that December night, I realized my significance in this vast world had been defined; I changed myself, and that was quite enough.

Time Never Slows

By Eva Poulsen

Time doesn't stop for the weary
Life keeps it's ever going pace
Even when times are dreary.

Time doesn't slow for a pretty face
It just rolls on and on
You can never win this race.

Time doesn't speed when all is gone
Holding every painful second
Until, for you, there is none.

Time doesn't linger to reckon
That is for you to do
Even when temptations beckon.

Time is nothing old or new
It has only been
Even when there was no view.

Time does not know sin
It does not know any purpose
And it does not have an end. . .

RECYCLE



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BSSD Students of the Month: March

As part of its Student of the Month program, the Big Sky School District honored five students in February for their commitment to being balanced.

Teachers choose two “students of the month” from kindergarten through fourth grades and two in middle and high school, recognizing them based on a different theme every month.

The students are honored during an assembly before teachers and fellow students. In addition, the k-4 honorees are rewarded with a burger from The Corral, and the chosen middle and high school students get pizza from Blue Moon Bakery.



K-2 Student of the Month – Harper Morris, second grade

Harper Morris is our k-2 student of the month for March because she applies a strong work ethic in the classroom and is always ready to go above and beyond. She is also kind and compassionate, and goes out of her way to take care of her classmates.

Harper is involved in many extracurricular activities outside of school, ranging from playing multiple sports, to regularly spending time on the ski hill. She embodies the character trait of leading a balanced lifestyle perfectly. Congratulations Harper, and keep up the good work!



3-4 Student of the Month – Arlo Hurlbut, third grade

Our March balanced student of the month is Arlo Hurlbut. Arlo defines this charter trait with his ability to remain an academically sound and engaged student, while still having an active lifestyle filled with skiing, mountain biking, soccer and football.

While striving for excellence in his academics and physical endeavors, Arlo also maintains an emotional balance. He is able to communicate his needs, model good sportsmanship, and maintain positive relationships with peers – both at play and at work.



Ophir Middle School Student of the Month – Madison Rager, eighth grade

Madison Rager is the middle school student of the month for March, and maintaining balance can sometimes be a difficult task. You might take on too much and disregard other aspects of your life, yet when you do find balance in your life things tend to go pretty smoothly. Madison understands the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal wellbeing for herself and others.

Madison is an active participant in a wide range of extracurricular activities both in and out of school, yet maintains focus on her academic development. She is very successful, hardworking and compassionate about her academics, and her activities while away from school – she is a great example of what it means to be a balanced student. Congratulations Madi!



Lone Peak High School Student of the Month – Sayler Tatom, eleventh grade

Sayler Tatom is an excellent example of a balanced high school student. She is very involved at LPHS, participating in National Honor Society, Interact, and playing on the golf team, among others. She also pursues her passion of dancing outside of school and holds a job. The reason Sayler represents a balanced student is because of how she handles her busy life and the intention she has in all that she does.

Sayler has accomplished something many adults struggle to do: she’s established her daily routine to include time for work, play and her passions. She is level headed, kind, positive and helpful. Sayler has a vision and takes opportunities to better herself, and as a result, her school. As our high school develops its identity, students like Sayler who lead by their example of hard work and dedication set the bar high for future generations of LPHS students. Congratulations Sayler, we recognize your hard work and are thankful for the footprint you are leaving at LPHS.

You’ll find a Family Medicine Clinic at Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center, where our providers will coordinate care and help keep you and your family healthy.



THE FAMILY DOCTOR IS IN, IN BIG SKY

Big Sky Medical Center receives \$500,000 gift

BOZEMAN HEALTH FOUNDATION

Bozeman Health Foundation, Yellowstone Club Community Foundation and the leadership of Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center in early March announced that Leonard Hill and his wife, Dr. Patricia Gordon, provided \$500,000 to support Montana's first new hospital to be opened in 40 years.

Their gift was made to a special fund established by YCCF and its members to support Big Sky Medical Center. In recognition of their generosity, the medical center has named its six-room emergency department in their honor. Hill and Gordon consider both Los Angeles and Big Sky to be their homes.

"Big Sky is a truly special community, unique in our world today," Hill said. "In making this gift to Big Sky Medical Center, we're supporting a great community asset that will strengthen the fabric of Big Sky as a whole, and that's important to us today and into the future."

"Len and I are not just visitors anymore," said Gordon, who first came to Big Sky in 2004. "We're part of the community and we feel the need to treat Big Sky like it is our home."

As an active member of the Yellowstone Club, Gordon also reflected on the importance of looking after the wider welfare of Big Sky. "We're an increasingly integrated community, no longer just an isolated island. Big Sky Medical Center is a symbol of what's possible when we all come together around the need for great local healthcare."

The gift from Hill and Gordon will support the Fund for Excellence and Innovation in Big Sky Patient Care. This fund will help the medical center's leadership team to acquire new leading-edge equipment; train staff members in new techniques; and to more efficiently provide patients with new kinds of treatments and services that may not otherwise be available in southern Gallatin County.

Since opening on Dec. 12, Big Sky Medical Center has served more than 1,100 patients in its emergency department. The imaging center has done nearly 1,400 studies and has averaged 12.5 patients per day, with more than 100 patients served by its MRI. BSMC's family practice clinic is seeing an average of more than 24 patients daily and its retail pharmacy has increased daily filled prescriptions by 100 percent over what it experienced in its Meadow Village location.

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Discovery Academy hires new executive director

BIG SKY DISCOVERY ACADEMY

Beginning in June, Nettie Breuner will join Big Sky Discovery Academy as its new executive director and planning principal for a new facility and middle school curriculum.

The BSDA board carefully reviewed Breuner’s qualifications before hiring her as the next academy leader, and she’ll start on June 15. Breuner has a bachelor’s in human biology from Stanford University; a master’s in middle school education from Lesley University in Cambridge, Mass.; and both Montana teacher and k-12 principal certifications.

Breuner has extensive experience in education, in areas including classroom teaching; environmental education; tutoring and mentoring; curriculum and program development, as well as chairing the Big Sky School District board. Breuner also has experience in growing new schools – she was co-founder of the Chelan Valley Independent School in the small resort town of Chelan, Wash.

“Nettie is a perfect selection and she is a longtime permanent resident of Big Sky, which provides us a sense of long-term local stability to our leadership team,” said Karen Maybee, Big Sky Discovery Academy school board president.

Breuner’s hire is the first step in replacing the leadership and instructional team of academy CEO Tom Yahraes and executive director Brenda Yahraes. Tom has accepted an offer in Oregon as a school superintendent beginning in July, and Brenda plans to take a year to complete her Ph.D. in industrial and organizational psychology. Tom and Brenda say they are grateful to all the BSDA students, parents, staff and board, and they’re impressed by the accomplishments and successes that happened at BSDA in such a short time.



Nettie Breuner will become executive director of Big Sky Discovery Center on June 15. PHOTO BY SUSAN BETH BREUNER/ELEMENTS OF LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY

“Brenda and I would like to especially thank the Maybees for their extraordinary support and passionate vision for the Big Sky community and its children,” said Tom, in reference to Karen and her husband Scott Maybee, a BSDA board member and founder.

The Montessori school opened in September 2014; expanded programming to include pre-k and kindergarten in August 2015; and has experienced rapid growth. BSDA has more than quadrupled its enrollment; developed an interim educational facility until a permanent school facility opens; offered community events and learning experiences; developed a parent support team and increased board membership; and solidified continuous Montessori programming from ages 2-and-a-half to sixth grade, with high school online accredited programming.

All curriculum also incorporates ski training and racing for kindergarten through sixth grade students.

Breuner has called Big Sky her full time home for more than 15 years. As the area grows in size and diversity, she says there is room for expanded, positive programs that support a thriving community.

“I am very excited to not only continue, but add to BSDA programming,” Breuner says, “and also to collaborate in the future design of a new environmentally connected facility to serve toddlers to middle school students, and even plan for comprehensive high school programming to meet the needs of our local and seasonal population.”

Recycling options return to Big Sky

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY - After more than five months of doing without, recycling is returning to Big Sky. Two Bozeman-based companies, Republic Services and L & L Site Services, will offer curbside recycling options starting next month.

Republic Services, which already picks up curbside garbage in Big Sky, will start offering recycling as well. As of April 6, about 200 people have signed up for the service.

Republic Services will collect plastic, aluminum, tin, cardboard and paper in unsorted containers every other Saturday; glass recycling is not available. The first pickup is scheduled for May 14.

L & L Site Services has been collecting construction-site waste in the area since 2007, and will offer curbside trash and recycling collection throughout Gallatin County in mid-May as well. Company owner Lance Johnson said a firm date for the first pickup has not been established since he’s still waiting on containers to arrive.

L & L will recycle plastic, aluminum, tin, cardboard and paper in unsorted 35-, 65- or 95-gallon containers.

Both companies offer bimonthly pickup for less than \$30 per month. The price varies depending on the size and type of container customers opt for - bearproof containers are more expensive.

Johnson said he hopes to find a viable option for glass recycling. “It is a hard market,” he said. “We’re trying to find that option right now.”

Last November, the community recycling bins on Aspen Leaf Drive in Big Sky Town Center were removed to make way for construction projects. Gallatin Solid Waste Management District provided the bins and Four Corners Recycling serviced them. They remained on that property – owned by the Simkins family, Town Center’s developers – for more than five years.

Once they were removed, Big Sky residents were faced with two primary options for their recyclables: throw them out, or haul them to

another recycling center. The closest one is located at the Gallatin Gateway Community Center.

Emily O’Connor, Big Sky Community Corporation’s project manager, said a recycling task force - comprised of interested community members and coordinated through BSCC’s Natural Resource Council - has been meeting about reviving the community bin in a new location, but nothing has been locked down yet.

“Community partners [are] trying to find a site. Once we have a potential option, the county helps us determine if it can work – if it can accommodate the bin and has the right site requirements,” O’Connor said. “[If it does], they would take site responsibility with a lease agreement with a landowner and take care of the pickup and drop-off.”

O’Connor said she should know more about potential sites and timelines in about a month.



BY DUSTIN SHIPMAN
BSSD SUPERINTENDENT

"The Ram's Horn" is a regular column by Big Sky School District Superintendent Dustin Shipman, offering news and insight from the district.

We are now in full spring mode as spring break is April 15-25, the tourist season pauses and our students prepare for this year's round of standardized tests, beginning after break. Here at the Big Sky School District we're required by the state to test each student in grades third through eighth, as well as the 11th graders.

Thankfully, 11th graders take the ACT, a test that all college-bound 11th graders should be taking anyway. The exam for grades three through eight is the Smarter Balanced test, which is used to calibrate the achievement level of our students compared to schools across Montana.

The first year of this exam in Big Sky schools was spring 2015, and due to major technical problems the district only recently received results from that session. We plan to calibrate this data with the current testing cycle to identify the areas where the district needs to focus our efforts, in order to continually evolve programming and improve results for our third through eighth graders.

In the Big Sky School District, we use some additional assessments that allow us to compare our students' results with national and international norms. We use the PSAT (pre-Scholastic Aptitude Test) once a year for all students in grades nine through 11.

The PSAT is a nationally administered exam and is used primarily as an indicator of readiness to perform well on the actual SAT – the SAT is a standardized test that measures readiness for post-secondary education. Our Lone Peak High School students scored very well on the PSAT administered in October – scores were higher than the state average and significantly higher than national averages.

Lastly, we use MAP testing on an annual, internal basis – this is used to measure growth in a student from the fall to the spring. This is the first year in some time that the district has used MAP testing, so we now have data from this spring to compare against the fall session's results.

Keep an eye on our district Facebook page and bssd72.org to stay up-to-date on the timeline for our annual report, to be presented at the June school board meeting.



bigskylibrary.org

Announcements

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Montana's biggest land trust opens Big Sky office

BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – Montana Land Reliance is the largest land trust in the state, protecting nearly 1 million acres under conservation easements. The group is now opening a regional office in Big Sky.

Jessie Wiese, the former executive director of Big Sky Community Corp., was hired as MLR's southwest manager on April 4, and will work from an office in Meadow Village expected to open April 18.

Conservation easements are a tool for private landowners to ensure preservation of open spaces, wildlife habitat, agricultural uses and other conservation values identified by both the property owner and the trust holding the easement.

"There is a lot of opportunity for good conservation projects in Big Sky [and] there are good wildlife corridors," said MLR Managing Director Rock Ringling, adding that Wiese will be working on projects in West Yellowstone and the Madison Valley, as well. "It made sense to have somebody centrally located."

Ringling said there's limited awareness about conservation easements in the region, and to have somebody that's familiar with the Big Sky community will help MLR increase exposure to both potential and completed projects, like the Jack Creek Preserve between Moonlight Basin and Madison Valley.

The land trust holds under easement 10,000-plus acres of critical wildlife corridor habitat in the Jack Creek drainage, between the Spanish Peaks and southern Madison Range.

Montana Land Reliance has an additional 4,640 acres under easement in the Big Sky area, in parcels such as the Gallatin Preserve and Yellowstone Preserve near the Yellowstone Club. The potential to conserve even more land in the region is an opportunity Wiese looks forward to in her new role.

"There's a lot of potential in the Big Sky area for land conservation, and we're nestled in between two wilderness areas close to Yellowstone National Park," she said. "It's a very ecologically important area."

Throughout the state, MLR has more than 958,000 acres under easement – including nearly 290,000 acres in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem – making it the largest national land trust accredited by the Land Trust Alliance, according to Ringling.

Accreditation involves rigorous oversight to ensure an organization meets industry standards.

"An accredited land trust can approach landowners and supporters with confidence, using the accreditation seal to demonstrate the excellence of their work," according to the Land Trust Alliance website.

When a property owner donates an easement to a land trust such as MLR, it not only preserves conservation values, but may have financial benefits for the landowner as well. It can qualify as a charitable deduction that

may reduce the donor's income, estate or gift tax burden. Property taxes are not reduced, according to Montana law.

Congress last year made permanent enhanced income tax benefits for easement donations, thanks to the efforts of Ringling and other MLR leadership. This ensures that landowners, whose donation of a conservation easement meets federal requirements as a charitable gift, will realize the tax benefits for 16 years.

Prior to 2015, that part of the tax law had to be reauthorized every third year, making it difficult for landowners to commit to an easement if they were doing it, at least in part, for tax benefits.

Landowners have a certain number of development rights on their property, and a conservation easement is considered a donation of some or all of those rights. They can include the right to subdivide a property, build new structures, harvest timber or restrict access.

A land trust like MLR will own a deed of conservation easement on those rights agreed upon with the landowner and conduct yearly monitoring to ensure the easement parameters are upheld.

Wiese's hire offers Montana Land Reliance someone on the ground in an area with large tracts of private land and in an ecologically important part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Her role will be to both educate the community about easements and focus on new land protection projects.

"The strength of the regional offices in general is that we're able to be in touch with the land and landowners, which allows for great relationships and effective monitoring of properties under easement," Wiese said.

She plans to hold a public presentation on her work later this year in Big Sky, and in addition to public meetings, Ringling says MLR also cold calls some landowners to gauge their interest in donating easements.

Property owners that put their land under easement can also benefit the greater community, according to MLR Managing Director Jay Erickson.

These include scenic viewsheds, preservation of wildlife habitat, protecting water quality, and buffering public lands, among other benefits. And occasionally they can ensure public access through private land.

"It's just up to the original landowner, if they want to allow access that's their decision," Erickson said. "In the Gallatin Preserve, one of the forks of Yellow Mule [Creek] bisects that property. The trail goes through the property, and [the original landowner] had the choice to restrict access, but didn't."

Landowners using this method to conserve property may have an emotional connection to it, Wiese said.

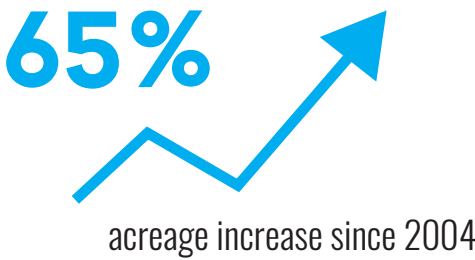
Conservation easements guarantee their successive generations will have an opportunity to make that connection, as well.

MONTANA LAND RELIANCE AT A GLANCE



825 total easements in Montana

958,104 total MLR acreage under easement



Protected ecosystem types:



Wetland Restoration:
10,069 acres
• Up 35% since 2004



Wildlife Legacy (Elk Habitat):
540,057 acres
• Up 87% since 2004



Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem:
289,724 acres
• Up 39% since 2004



Continental Divide Ecosystem:
18,763 acres
• Up 46% since 2004



Miles of Stream Frontage:
1,632 acres
• Up 60% since 2004

MSU's Jabs Hall wins sustainability award

BY ANNE CANTRELL
MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – Montana State University's Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship will host a public celebration of the sustainable features of its new building on Thursday, April 21, in Jabs Hall from 5-7 p.m.

The building was honored recently with a sustainability award from the Montana chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council. Jabs Hall won a merit/special jury award for education and outreach impact in the commercial building category.

A total of nine winning projects were chosen for exemplifying the principles of sustainability and energy efficiency in their design, construction and operation. The awards were presented at the chapter's annual meeting held this winter in Big Sky.

Jabs Hall was recognized for several sustainable features, including geothermal wells that supply ground-sourced water for heating and cooling the building, and an on-site stormwater management system recognized for its exceptional performance. In addition, the awards program noted that the project saved more than 95 percent of construction waste from the landfill, and the building's energy model anticipates an annual savings of 41 percent in energy costs.



Montana State University's Jabs Hall opened in 2015 and recently won an award from the Montana chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council. PHOTO BY KELLY GORHAM

Several companies that worked on Jabs Hall also were recognized for their contributions to the building, including Comma-Q Architecture, architect; Design 5, landscape design; Morrison Maierle, Inc., engineers; ARUP, energy modeling; Kath Williams and Associates, LEED/sustainability consultant; and Dick Anderson Construction, Inc., general contractor.

Jabs Hall opened on the MSU campus in 2015. It was funded by a \$25 million private gift from Jake Jabs, a Montana native and Montana State College alumnus, who announced the gift in 2011. The gift is also being used for new scholarships and new academic programs in entrepreneurship, professional skills development, and fostering cooperative work between business students and students in other disciplines.

With record enrollments at MSU and in the business college, Jabs Hall is helping the university begin to address a much-needed backlog of classroom space, according to Gregg Aytes, dean of the college. He noted that the building's 11 classrooms can simultaneously accommodate approximately 440 students, while informal study spaces scattered throughout the building provide room for another 220 students. The 50,830-square-foot Jabs Hall also has two computer labs.

The second annual Montana USGBC Sustainability Awards drew participation from architectural, engineering and construction professionals from across the state. Sustainability criteria for the competition were modeled on the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED rating system.

Founded in 1993, the U.S. Green Building Council is a private, membership-based nonprofit organization that promotes sustainability in buildings design, construction, and operation. USGBC is perhaps best known for its development of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating systems.



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Plan approved to allow bison outside Yellowstone year-round

HELENA (AP) – The federal, state and tribal agencies that manage Yellowstone National Park bison have agreed to let the animals stay in parts of Montana year-round.

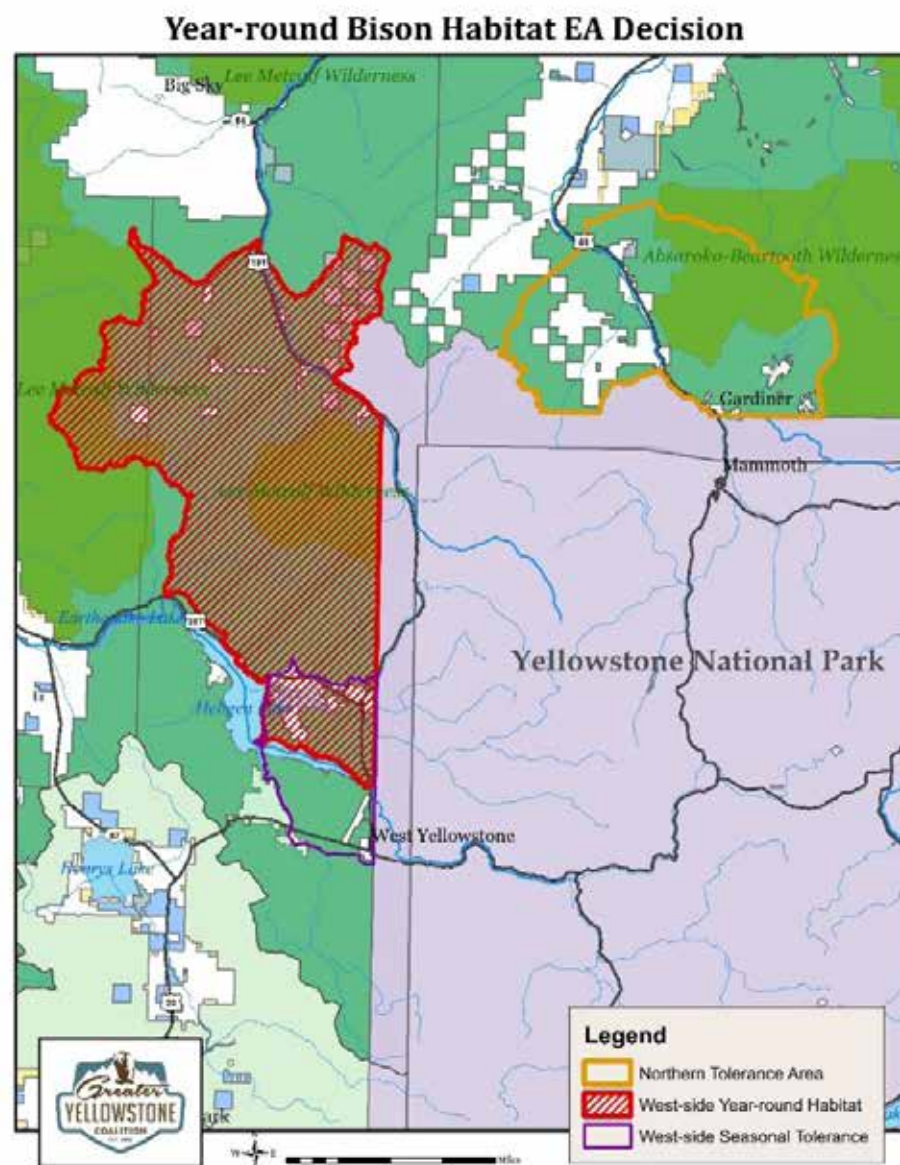
Montana Gov. Steve Bullock's issued a decision in December to allow bison that roam outside the park in search of food to remain on an estimated 400 square miles north and west of the park.

On April 6, the Interagency Bison Management Plan members verbally agreed to Bullock's decision.


Officials with the National Park Service and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks say the IBMP partners must still update and sign the changes to the bison management plan.

Supporters say it will be the first time in a century bison will be allowed year-round in the state.

Ranchers and landowners are concerned the animals will spread disease and damage property.




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Bullock outpaces Gianforte in governor campaign fundraising

BY BOBBY CAINA CALVAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – Gov. Steve Bullock again showed his fundraising prowess, collecting nearly \$160,000 during in a month in his bid for re-election.

His GOP rival, Greg Gianforte, reported raising about \$112,000 during the same period, according to campaign finance reports filed April 1 with the state's Commissioner of Political Practices. The reporting period covers from Feb. 26 through March 27.

Bullock is galloping ahead of his opponent in the race for money, but the incumbent Democrat has long worried whether Gianforte will dip into his personal wealth to help finance his campaign.

“For him not to be banking money and for him to be spending as much as he’s raising ... It’s very clear that he will be self-funding his campaign,” said Eric Hyers, Bullock’s campaign manager.

That remains to be seen, however.

Gianforte, who built a software business from his Bozeman home into a global enterprise, could certainly self-finance his bid for governor. He made millions of dollars when he sold his company, RightNow Technologies, to Oracle for \$1.8 billion.

Bullock has more than \$1.1 million stockpiled to compete against Gianforte, who reported having \$363,000 in campaign cash left in the bank.

“It’s been pretty clear that Steve Bullock has been raising money,” said Aaron Flint, a spokesman for the Gianforte campaign.

Gianforte’s campaign crowed about its own fundraising numbers, even if it found itself behind.

Gianforte is showing “his impressive fundraising support as a challenger,” Flint said, “and I think it’s proof of the ground game that he’s been running from Ekalaka to Eureka.”

About this time four years ago, when Bullock was running for his first term as governor, he had just \$522,000 to spend. To date, Bullock has raised more than \$1.5 million in his campaign for a second term – on pace to exceed the \$1.9 million he raised during his 2012 campaign.

Combined, nearly \$5.2 million in contributions flowed into the gubernatorial campaign four years ago – the most for any gubernatorial election in state history. Bullock’s Republican opponent then, Richard Hill, raised nearly \$2.1 million.

By some accounts, that record could be shattered this year as both campaigns continue to rake in money.

Both Bullock and Gianforte have opponents in their respective primaries, but neither rival raised any substantial amount.

Bill McChesney, who is running against Bullock, did not raise a single cent, according to his campaign report. Meanwhile, Terry Nelson, the other Republican candidate for governor, loaned himself \$1,000.



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Bisl pg. 22



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Most costly diseases in America pg. 26



Environment:
Delisting Greater Yellowstone bears pg. 28



MSU athlete juggles rigorous academic program, rodeo schedule

BY MARSHALL SWEARINGEN
MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – For Montana State University student Weston Brown, it’s not unusual to crunch numbers on an economics assignment and ride a bucking bronco, all in one day.

In addition to working toward dual bachelor’s degrees – one in finance through the Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship, and the other in agricultural business through the MSU College of Agriculture – Brown rides for the MSU Rodeo team, competing in saddle bronc, calf roping, steer wrestling and team roping events.

After winning multiple titles in 2015, including the “all around” title at the Northwest College Rodeo in Cody, Wyo., Brown has high hopes for the 2016 season, which kicked off with the MSU Spring Rodeo at the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, April 7-10.

Brown took eighth in the steer wrestling competition – the only competition in which he placed – but both men’s and women’s teams won decisive overall victories for MSU. And Brown is still at the top of the men’s all around standings, with a 50-point lead over Teigan Boots from Northwest College in second place

“[MSU Spring Rodeo is] the premier event all year,” said head MSU Rodeo coach Andy Bolich. “It’s

more like a pro rodeo. It’s definitely the one the kids look forward to competing in.”

Brown is fun to watch at the rodeo, Bolich says, because “he’s a really versatile cowboy, which is hard to find. He might win in the saddle bronc one weekend and the steer wrestling the next.”

Rodeo is a rush, Brown says, but it’s also an extension of his upbringing and his academic goals, which are tied to his family’s farm near Big Sandy.

“From the time I was 5 years old, I’ve been riding horses,” Brown said, adding that managing cattle for the family’s cow-calf operation is where he learned to rope.

Brown said his MSU studies are aimed at cultivating “an analytical ability to make farming and ranching work as a business” in an increasingly competitive and challenging market. He hopes to be able to take those skills back to the farm in Big Sandy, where his family grows wheat, legumes and other crops, in addition to raising cattle.

During much of the fall and spring semester, Brown and the approximately 60 other student athletes on the rodeo team balance their studies with up to 12 hours of practice per week, plus additional hours tending to the horses and other stock they use to compete.

“Rodeo practice is kind of like studying,” Brown said. “If you want to succeed, you’ve got to put in the time and work hard.”

“Weston has done an excellent job of balancing a rigorous academic program and a demanding athletic schedule,” said Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics professor Gary Brester. “He has been a solid performer in the classroom.”

Last year, while competing in saddle bronc – an event in which the rider is scored on both the horse’s ability to buck as well as the cowboy’s ability to ride – Brown sustained a shoulder injury that required surgery.

“For him to come back from that injury, and be competitive, really says something about his determination,” Bolich said.

Now in his third year on the MSU Rodeo team, Brown says he appreciates the unique challenges and perspective that the sport offers. “You can think you know exactly what a horse is going to do, but that doesn’t mean it’s going to make that same ride out of the chute.

“When you make a good ride on a horse, it can be so smooth and fun,” he added. “You know when you’ve done a good job, because it feels easy.”



Images from the MSU Spring Rodeo. Clockwise from top left: Weston Brown, Jesse Holt, Cierra Tredway, and Cody Brewer. PHOTOS BY KELLY GORHAM AND SEPP JANNOTTA

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MOONLIGHT BASIN





EYE ON THE BALL

NFL draft preview



BY BRANDON NILES
EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

I love the NFL draft because it's a time when you can get invested in the best and brightest young talent entering professional football. It

allows you to follow a player's career from start to finish, and represents hope for every team in the league as they try to identify who will become the next transcendent superstar.

Every NFL MVP was once a draft prospect, and with very few exceptions, the draft is where the best athletes to ever play football start their legendary careers.

This year, the draft is loaded with talent on the defensive side of the ball, and as many as three quarterbacks should hear their names called in the first round. The action starts Thursday night, April 28 and there are three primary questions waiting to be answered on draft night:

Who will the Tennessee Titans take first overall?

Coming off a three-win season, the Titans hold the first pick. Unlike most teams that land in the top spot, the Titans don't need a quarterback – they took Marcus Mariota last year with the

second pick, and they'll continue to build around him in the near future. So who do they take? The best player available, Florida State's Jalen Ramsey, is on the defensive side of the ball, and Tennessee could certainly use help there. They were 27th in the league last year in points allowed.

However, it's more likely they'll protect their investment in Mariota and snatch up the top offensive lineman on the board, Ole Miss tackle Laremy Tunsil – he should be ready to make an impact immediately and improve a pass blocking unit that allowed a league leading 54 sacks in 2015.

Who is the best player in the draft?

Contrary to popular belief, the best player in this draft isn't a lineman, a quarterback, or Ohio State star running back Ezekiel Elliott. The best player in this draft is defensive back Jalen Ramsey from Florida State. Some may argue for Tunsil, while others may bring up Ohio State pass rusher Joey Bosa. All these guys are excellent prospects but only Ramsey looks like a future Hall of Famer.

Ramsey is durable, instinctive, and has the rare combination of elite skills in coverage as well as run support. He is the first cornerback at Florida State to start as a true freshman since Hall of Famer Deion Sanders, and he hasn't missed a start since. Ramsey can play in the slot, line up outside on an island, or play free safety, and would help any team that drafts him.

How good are these quarterbacks?

All three of the top quarterbacks have noticeable flaws in their game. North Dakota State's Carson Wentz comes from a small school and hasn't competed against elite teams. California's Jared Goff was inconsistent in big games and his stats were inflated by Cal's offensive system. Paxton Lynch of Memphis has elite athleticism, as well as size at 6 feet 7 inches tall, but his technique and accuracy break down under pressure.

My money is on Wentz starting for the Browns and being run out of town in three years; Goff finding a way to NFL success as a borderline pro bowler in the realm of Chicago's Jay Cutler; and Lynch being a boom-or-bust player that would benefit from a couple seasons on the bench. While not awe-inspiring, it's a talented group of potential starters who will be under scrutiny immediately.

Whether you're watching for the above questions or waiting with baited breath for your favorite team's selection, the draft presents hope and excitement for all football fans.

Brandon Niles is a longtime fan of football and scotch, and has been writing about sports for the past decade. He is a fantasy football scout for 4for4 Fantasy Football and is co-host of the 2 Guys Podcast.



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AMUSE-BOUCHE

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

When a chef looks for a “real job”



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

If any of you remember 1982’s “First Blood” the original movie in the Rambo series with Sylvester Stallone, you’ll also recall one of the final scenes. In this climactic scene, John Rambo expresses his frustration that, although he’s a military veteran and

was in charge of million-dollar equipment, he can’t even get a job parking cars back in the civilian world.

I happen to know that many chefs share this same frustration.

Chefs, more specifically executive chefs in charge of entire hotels, large restaurants or multiunit regions, possess skills that allow them to quickly assimilate to other disciplines.

And yet I know many chefs who, after many years of physical and mental toils, have tried and failed to “get out” of the industry. Potential employers think these chefs lack the skill sets required for the variety of jobs and careers they attempt to break into.

However, we, as a group, in fact possess many of the skills necessary for virtually any other line of work.

For starters, we can endure high levels of heat and stress, both literally and figuratively. Many kitchens regularly exceed 100 degrees, and we’re working in tight quarters with many other people, all equally stressed and hot. And we have to manage them.

Chefs often manage large teams of people, all the while managing a multitude of their own tasks. In doing this, we can work long hours under said stress.

We are generally a creative bunch, who think outside the box and show creativity under pressure. We put out fires and think on our feet constantly. “Hope for the best, and plan for the worst.” If this phrase is not in your head as a chef, it should be.

I’ve always said that two of a chef’s biggest adversaries are the clock and the calendar. We meet firm deadlines daily because in the long line of farm-to-table, dirt-to-dish, factory-to-fork, we are always the end user. We don’t get to say, “We didn’t get it done,” or “It will have to wait until the snow melts or the machine is repaired.” We do not have punch lists. It simply must get done.

In an industry where we, on average, make 5 cents on the dollar, we must have numbers and costs that work, and work well. All the while, we’re working with a product that’s perishing before our very eyes. Whether it is determining the price for the day’s fish, or balancing your monthly purchasing budget based on sales, we oftentimes possess the negotiating skills of a broker on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange right before final bell.

Chefs also manage an industry with notoriously high turnover. So we’re constantly retraining, mentoring, and re-educating our teams. The number one challenge for cooks and chefs, whether we’re running Buck’s or McDonald’s, is consistency.

So with all of these arrows in our quiver, why do so many chefs have trouble changing careers and finding new paths in the outside world? Well, as the “First Blood” theme song says, “It’s a long road ...”

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



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Bisl in Bozeman

Farm-to-table restaurant opens on Main Street

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KATIE THOMAS
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

As spring weather approaches, many people in southwest Montana begin thinking about growing their own food. It's time for farmers markets, gardening, community supported agriculture, and eating more fresh food after a long winter.

The ever-growing movement to eat locally and support sustainably harvested ingredients has found a place in Gallatin Valley, and we have a new restaurant where patrons can be sure this is a priority.

Bisl – which means “a little bit” in Yiddish – is an intimate restaurant in the heart of downtown Bozeman, in the space formerly occupied by Poor Richards News and Tobacco.

Opened to the public April 14, owners Davey and Kierst Rabinowitz are proud to offer an elegant yet approachable menu featuring an excellent range of tapas-style salads, bites and entrees.

The dining experience at Bisl's soft opening April 9 was outstanding. Patrons were offered a choice of still or sparkling water, and a complimentary glass of sparkling rosé. An appetizer of fried trout skin with local oyster mushrooms and roe in a delicious broth started things off perfectly – a good preview of the adventurous meal ahead.

Next came the chard dumplings: soft bites of soy sauce-infused cabbage wrapped in greens and topped with minced ginger, a hit with everyone. A glass of the Château Puech-Haut Prestige – chosen by owner and Chef Davey Rabinowitz to best accompany the meal – paired well with the beet salad, which may be the new favorite in town.

In addition to creamy house-made cheese and delicate white radish, this beet salad contains the unusual citrus component of dehydrated lemon slices, which must be experienced, rather than described.

The best quality of this dish, however, is the abundance of beets – most beet salads skimp on

their main character. Not so at Bisl – and it's divine.

Then came the octopus plate, a rarity for a Bozeman diner. Served on a bed of watercress, strawberries, cilantro, and dusted with crispy yeast, this sea creature was chewy yet light, with a hint of charred sweetness.

The strawberries meshed with the flavors surprisingly well, and although this was enough for a feast, the meal continued.

It was a hard decision, but next came the leek entrée – a good vegetarian option, among other enticing temptations. Soft, grilled leeks and skinless potatoes were piled high and complemented by a mayonnaise sauce and leek ash, which lent the dish an earthy, dark flavor.

Just when it seemed that Bisl couldn't be any better, out came the caramel cake, with whiskey ice cream and fresh parsley broth, topped by decadent and generous slices of chocolate ganache. Hints of maple in the whiskey ice cream informed the palate it was time for dessert as the parsley broth soaked into the cake, turning it green and reminding the diner of Bisl's farm-to-table focus.

Davey and Kierst Rabinowitz share a passion for fine dining and locally sourced foods. They literally met in the kitchen, working in the Portland, Ore., restaurant called Departure, eventually deciding to return to Montana and open their own establishment.

“We want people to know that a little bit goes a

long way – our food is smaller portions, meant to be shared,” Kierst explained. “Some of the items on our menu take days or even weeks to prepare.”

In addition to Bisl, the Rabinowitzes are working on Bisl Farm, an organic garden on their Bozeman property that they hope will supply the restaurant with much of its produce.

Bisl is a sophisticated and cozy space, and is sure to be a favorite for date nights. The petite confines – with a capacity of 42 diners – creates an atmosphere of closeness, and softly worn brick walls and a wood-framed ceiling flank the tables.

The ambiance is warm and personal, with simple, clean décor of subdued lighting and minimal paintings hung on the walls, the hum of diners over background music, and both the servers and chefs taking the time to answer diners' questions and explain how dishes are prepared.

Reservations are recommended, as the small space is sure to fill up nightly as locals and visitors alike hear about the culinary delights available.



Served on a bed of watercress, strawberries, cilantro, and dusted with crispy yeast, the Octopus is chewy yet light, with a hint of charred sweetness.



The chard dumplings are soft bites of soy sauce-infused cabbage wrapped in greens and topped with minced ginger.



Chef and owner Davey Rabinowitz (at left) directs the action in Bisl's open kitchen.



From Jackie *with love*



BY JACKIE RAINFORD
CORCORAN
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

Between 2013 and 2014, Connecticut, Vermont, Alaska and Maine passed laws requiring the labeling of food products sold in their states that contain genetically engineered (GE) or

genetically modified (GMO) organisms.

Let's be clear on what GE/GMO means. Unlike traditional agriculture where animals are crossbred or plants are cross-pollinated, GMO companies use technology to genetically combine species that cannot breed naturally. This creates unstable organisms, and the effects on humans are still unknown.

"It's very very bad science," according to David Suzuki, one of Canada's top scientists and geneticists. "We assume that the principals governing the inheritance of genes vertically, applies when you move genes laterally or horizontally. There's absolutely no reason to make that conclusion."

In a 2014 interview with Jaime Athos, CEO of vegetarian food company Tofurky, he said, "I think that there's very much that we don't know about the consequences of this sort of genetic manipulation, and to state otherwise is completely irresponsible.

Giving consumers accurate information is never misleading. It may cause them to make different choices than an agribusiness company might prefer, but that is ultimately the right of the consumer."

More than 60 countries, including all of the European Union, significantly restrict or ban outright the production and sale of GMOs. The U.S., however, has approved GMOs based on studies conducted by the same corporations that created them and profit from their sale.

Large food manufacturers pushed back hard against the independent state labeling laws. According to the nonprofit environmental research organization, the Environmental Working Group, between 2013 and 2014 the food and biotech industries spent \$143 million in lobbying efforts against mandatory GMO labeling.

In July 2015, food manufacturers succeeded in getting the House of Representatives to pass a bill misleadingly named the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015, or H.R. 1599. This bill was written to block states from requiring GMO labeling and make labeling voluntary. The nickname given to the bill by opponents is "Deny Americans the Right to Know" (DARK) Act.

Thanks to EWG and other like-minded organizations, Americans were made acutely aware of the threat to our food supply. Many of us read the play by play via emails, and were urged to call and email our senators and make small financial contributions.

Grassroots movement defeats corporate giants

On March 16 of this year, the Senate voted on the DARK Act. It needed 60 votes to advance to the president's desk, but only received 49 and didn't pass. We the people were galvanized, took action and won.

This vote is not only a major win for consumers, but for America as a whole. It serves as a meaningful lesson that each of our voices counts and that collectively we are more powerful than the corporate/political machine. Corporations and politicians work for the American people – sometimes we need to remind them.

Food companies know that in order to sell their products, they have to offer what we want. A 2014 poll conducted by abcnews.com showed that 93 percent of respondents said the federal government should require labeling of GMO foods.

As of April 4, Mars, Incorporated; the Kellogg Company; General Mills, Inc.; ConAgra Foods, Inc.; and Campbell Soup Company are beginning to label products that contain genetically modified foods. Check out the Mars' Peanut M&M's package, and you will see the label "Partially produced with genetic engineering."

As G.I. Joe said at the end of his public service announcements, closing each episode of the eponymous 1980s TV cartoon, "Now you know, and knowing is half the battle."

Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach, a public speaker and health activist. Contact her at rainfordcorcoran@gmail.com

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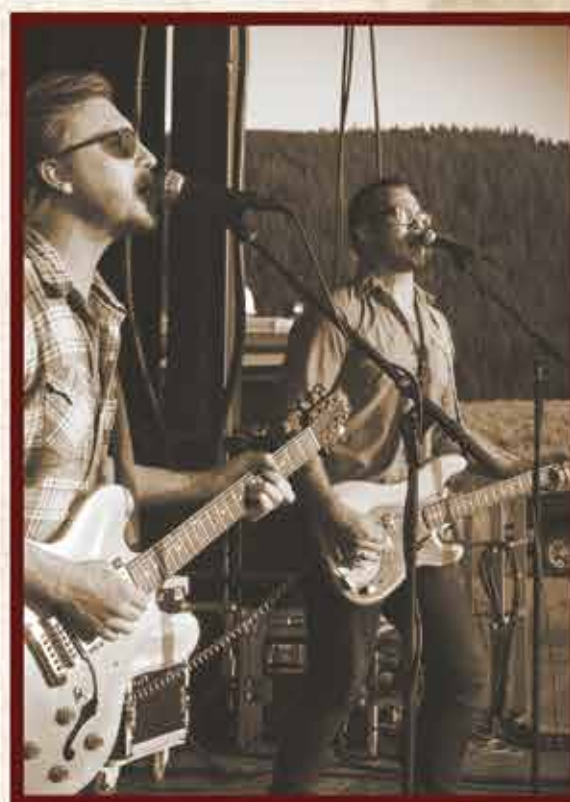


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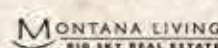
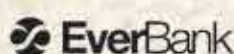
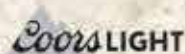


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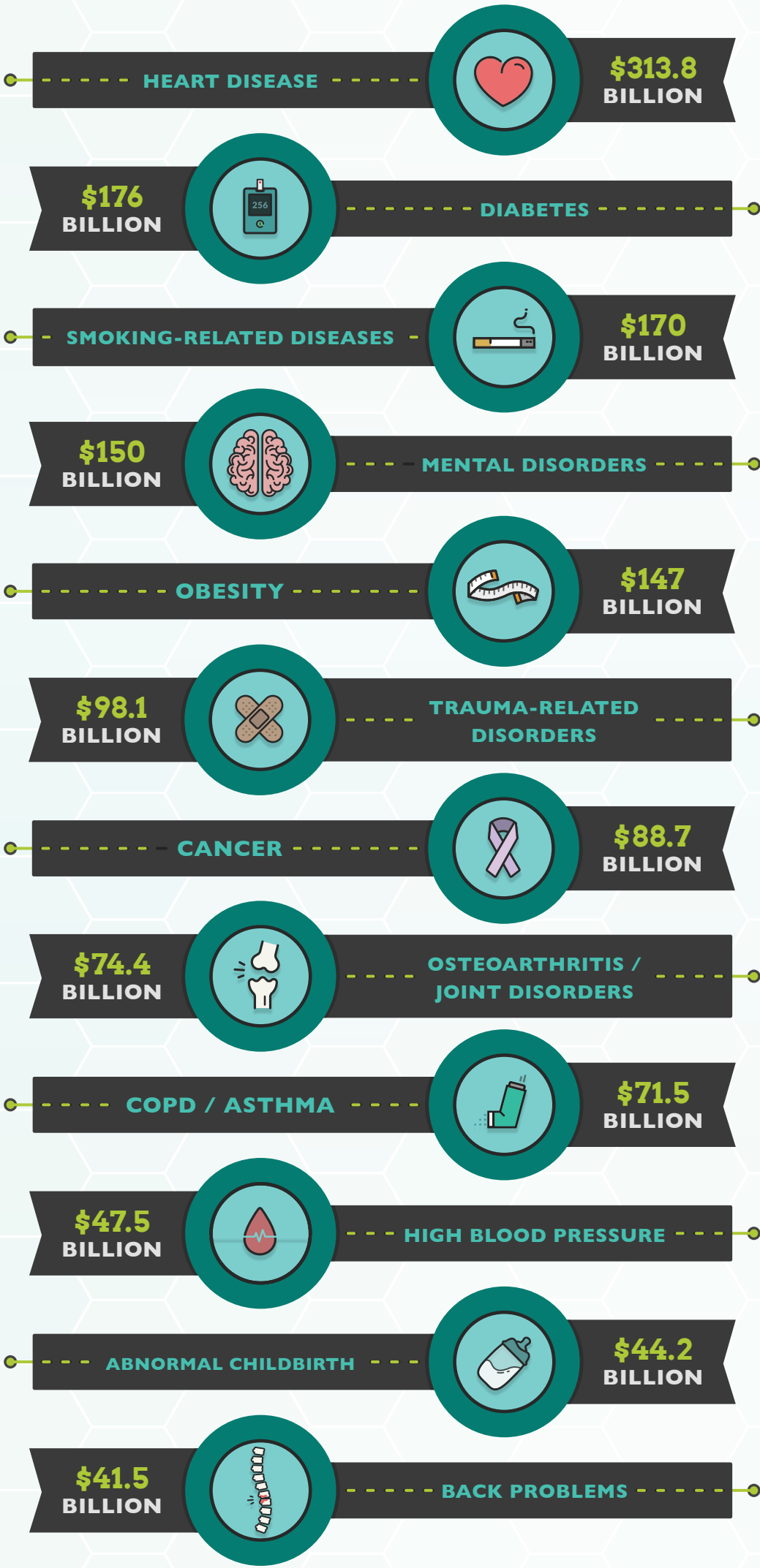


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DOCTOR'S NOTE

Precautions for travelers heading south



BY DR. JEFF DANIELS
EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

The 2015-2016 ski season at Big Sky Resort finishes April 17, and at the Medical Clinic of Big Sky we're completing our 22nd year caring for the injuries and illnesses of skiers and snowboarders who vacation here or make Big Sky their home.

It's been an interesting year, and we were as busy as ever – now we can take a breather after another successful season.

Many of those lucky enough to live in Big Sky will have plans to escape for a couple of weeks, some of us to warmer parts of the world.

When visiting other countries, you must be prepared to protect yourself against infections that you've never encountered before. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website keeps up-to-date information on what dangers lurk out there, be it exposure to mosquitoes that transmit malaria and yellow fever, or the need to get a vaccine to prevent typhoid fever.

Traveling right now presents a challenge that we didn't have to consider as recently as a year ago. The Zika virus is a concern when going to the tropics, and even some areas of the southern U.S. It seems to make the health news headlines nearly every day and I imagine, as we get closer to the summer Olympics in Brazil – from Aug. 5 through Aug. 21 – we'll be hearing even more about this virus.

I'm sure Brazil will do more, but according to the Wikipedia page for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, the plans to prevent the spread of Zika "would be daily inspections of Olympic venues to prevent puddles of stagnant water that allow mosquitoes to breed." You'd think officials would also hand every athlete and spectator a six-pack of Off! insect repellent.

Other mosquito-borne diseases go hand-in-hand with the Zika virus, so when you take precautions against getting bitten, you will help prevent such illnesses as Dengue fever, Chickungunya, and even malaria.

Methods to avoid mosquito bites include wearing long pants, long-sleeve shirts and head covering, as well as sleeping under a mosquito net that contains permethrin insect repellent. Staying in hotels with air conditioning and screens on the windows is a more luxurious way to travel, as well as a way to prevent being bitten.

Vaccination against hepatitis A keeps down the risk of getting traveler's diarrhea, and has been recommended by the CDC since the vaccine was developed in the early 1990s. Getting two doses, six to 18 months apart, can give permanent immunity to this virus that is very common in the tropics.

We have plenty of mosquitoes here in Montana, at least for a couple of weeks in the summer, along with black flies and other biting insects. The precautions mentioned above will work for protecting you here, as well as south of the border.

On a final note, and without mentioning names – that's never been my style – I'd like to tip my hat to my editor at Explore Big Sky, who gave me the distinct pleasure of reducing his dislocated shoulder April 1. I hope it heals quickly.

Have a great and relaxing offseason!

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.

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Democracy falters in delisting of Greater Yellowstone bears?



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL
COLUMNIST

Nowhere in the legal framework of the federal Endangered Species Act does it mandate that animals removed from federal protection be subjected to trophy sport hunting.

America spent millions of dollars reversing the downward spiral of bald eagles. Indeed, someone today could argue that the majestic white-crowned raptors would be fun to shoot and look stunningly beautiful as dead stuffed prizes of avian taxidermy.

Yet when the great birds were finally declared biologically recovered in 2007, society didn't celebrate by turning around and initiating sport seasons on eagles, selling licenses to generate revenue for the coffers of state wildlife agencies.

Why not?

Earlier in our country's history, bald eagles were regarded as pests, killed by bounty hunters and eliminated from landscapes because they ate domestic chickens and young lambs in sheep flocks.

But the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service didn't allow states to harvest bald and golden eagles, nor peregrine falcons, nor, likely ever again, whooping cranes, California condors and black-footed ferrets should the latter reach stable populations again. Why not also turn them into cash crops?

Why must Greater Yellowstone grizzly bears, a large mammal notoriously slower to reproduce than eagles, be sport hunted if the bruins are removed from federal oversight and their care handed over to states?

Societal values have changed markedly since bears were brought under ESA protection in 1975. Grizzlies, the premiere animal icon of America's first national park and surrounding wildlands, haven't been hunted here in 41 years.

Besides growing and overwhelming public opposition to sport hunting grizzlies, there is another aspect about proposed bear delisting that society isn't addressing – a topic that makes government wildlife officials uncomfortable because it causes citizens to question their abilities as both stewards of "public" wildlife, and as responsible, transparent civil servants. The topic involves the indisputable fact that the switchover of bear management from federal to state control represents a radical diminution of democracy.

Right now 319 million Americans – the current population of the United States – are proud legal stakeholders and investors in the management of Greater Yellowstone grizzlies.



A grizzly sow and her yearling seen on a boardwalk at Daisy Geyser in Yellowstone National Park. NPS PHOTO

Because of their classification as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act along with the Fish and Wildlife Service's role as chief custodian, these bruins belong to all of us, every U.S. citizen, no matter where we live.

They aren't "federal" grizzlies; they are our grizzlies, the same way federal public lands belong to all Americans.

But if bear management is handed over to the states of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, that will radically change.

In essence, delisting means 319 million Americans who by and large have supported grizzly conservation will be replaced by a shockingly small number of individuals.

In Wyoming, just eight people – Gov. Matt Mead and seven of his political appointees to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission – will wield unchallengeable authority.

None are particularly sympathetic to bears – some run livestock – nor do they seem willing or able to accept the fact that grizzlies in Greater Yellowstone are worth far more alive than dead.

Those eight people in Wyoming will decide whether grizzlies will be sport hunted, where they will be tolerated on the landscape (including federal public lands) and whether bears will live or die.

Famed primatologist Jane Goodall remembered in a recent phone chat how certain hunters resisted calls to end sport hunting of gorillas in Africa. Highly intelligent animals with feelings and emotions, Greater Yellowstone grizzlies, she says, similarly should also not be regarded as trophies.

I asked Robert Keiter, a nationally renowned environmental law professor at the University of Utah, for his take.

"With trophy sport hunting of grizzlies, we would be allowing states to convert a symbol of our national wilderness heritage into a mere economic commodity. Many people find that repugnant," Keiter said.

The vast majority of my fellow hunter friends – all of whom hunt big game – are opposed to sport hunting Greater Yellowstone grizzlies. They say it will give both the states and the hunting community a black eye. And they note there is little, if any, empirical evidence to support the contention that bringing back a sport hunt will build more "social tolerance" and result in less poaching.

Were the issue of sport hunting Greater Yellowstone grizzlies put to a national poll, Goodall and Keiter believe American citizens would overwhelmingly reject the killing of their bears for fun.

Dan Ashe, the Fish and Wildlife Service's national director, does not answer to Gov. Mead. His clients are 319 million American citizens. They want to know why the most iconic bears on Earth could be sport hunted if they don't need to be. Whose interests, they ask, is Ashe representing?

New West columnist Todd Wilkinson is author of "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 issue of Mountain Outlaw magazine now on newsstands.

Lawsuit challenges approval of Montana copper, silver mine

BY MATTHEW BROWN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) – Environmentalists are challenging U.S. Forest Service approval of a \$500 million copper and silver mine in northwest Montana, citing concerns from state officials that it could drain surrounding waterways and potentially harm a species of trout protected under federal law.

The lawsuit filed April 1 in U.S. District Court in Missoula challenges the Montanore Mine south of Libby near the Idaho border. Sponsor Mines Management Inc. of Spokane, Wash., has been seeking a mining permit for the project since 2004.

But three groups said in the lawsuit that the government’s authorization for Montanore ignored studies of the mine’s environmental effects.

Those government-sponsored studies concluded the mine potentially could drain groundwater supplies that feed into creeks and a river in the pristine area, an effect that could linger for centuries.

Earthworks, the Clark Fork Coalition and Save Our Cabinets said the water depletions would cause severe damage to the habitat of federally protected bull trout.

“It’s simply not smart to treat wilderness waterways this way,” said Karen Knudsen with the Clark Fork Coalition. “There are laws in place that require the Forest Service to make sure any action complies with state water laws. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality thinks the project that’s proposed doesn’t.”

Kootenai National Forest Supervisor Chris Savage said April 4 that he has not yet had a chance to review the lawsuit.

But Savage said the agency will not finalize an operations plan for Montanore until Mines Management obtains permits needed from state regulators and other federal agencies, which includes approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

So far, Montana regulators have granted only conditional approval, pending more evidence from the mine’s backers that it won’t drain overlying creeks.

Work on the site began around 1990 under different ownership and was suspended in 1991 due to low metal prices. Mines Management later took over and has been seeking a mining permit since 2004.

Mines Management Chairman Glenn Dobbs said the company has spent about \$46 million to bring the project into compliance with new mining regulations. He said the mine would be “environmentally benign” and accused those behind the lawsuit of raising the alarm over “worst-case scenarios” that bear no resemblance to the realities of modern mining practices.

During its decades of operations, the mine would disturb more than 1,500 acres and remove up to 120 million tons of ore.

The state’s action on Montanore has drawn a backlash from Republicans hoping to unseat Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock. They’ve accused the administration of stalling on a project that would employ approximately 500 people during construction and about 350 people during mining.

Judge: Climate change imperils wolverines and feds must act

BY MATTHEW BROWN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) – The Obama administration brushed over the threat that climate change poses to the snow-loving wolverine when it denied protections for the elusive predator also known as the “mountain devil,” a federal judge ruled April 4.

U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen ordered wildlife officials to act as quickly as possible to protect the species as it becomes vulnerable to a warming planet. Wolverines need deep mountain snows to den, and scientists warn that such habitat will shrink as Earth heats up.

The ruling comes two years after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rejected the views of many of its own scientists and decided not to protect the wolverine under the Endangered Species Act, saying the effects of climate change on the animals remained ambiguous.

The judge said in his 85-page order that the “time is now” to take action to protect the wolverine. “No greater level of certainty is needed to see the writing on the wall for this snow-dependent species squarely in the path of climate change,” Christensen wrote.

The case carries potential ramifications for other species affected by global warming – including Alaska’s bearded seals, the Pacific walrus and dozens of corals – as scientists and regulators grapple with limits on computer models of climate change. Based on those models, some wolverine researchers predict almost two-thirds of the species’ denning habitat will disappear by 2085.

Fish and Wildlife Service officials were reviewing the April 4 ruling and did not have immediate comment, agency spokeswoman Serena Baker said.

Christensen pointed to “immense political pressure” from Western states that appeared to drive the

government’s decision not to protect the wolverine. He also rejected the government’s assertion that the species’ small population size and low genetic diversity pose no threat to its long-term viability.

Wolverines, a member of the weasel family, once were found throughout the Rocky Mountains and in California’s Sierra Nevada mountain range. They were wiped out across most of the U.S. by the 1930s due to unregulated trapping and poisoning campaigns.

They have since recovered in parts of the West, but not in other areas of their historical range. In the Lower 48 states, an estimated 250 to 300 wolverines survive in remote areas of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon and Washington state, according to wildlife officials.

Individual wolverines have been documented in Colorado and California, but there has been no evidence of breeding populations in those states. Larger populations live in Alaska and Canada, and those animals were never proposed for federal protection.

Fish and Wildlife officials declared in 2013 that future temperature increases could melt snowfields occupied by wolverines in some high-elevation mountain ranges in the Lower 48. They called for increased protections to keep the species from going extinct – a conclusion backed by most outside experts and the agency’s own scientists.

The government reversed course when a Fish and Wildlife regional director in Denver overturned her staff’s recommendations to protect wolverines. Regional Director Noreen Walsh cited uncertain climate models that prevented accurate predictions of whether future den sites would be available to female animals.

Officials from Western states including Montana, Wyoming, Utah and Idaho opposed federal



PHOTO BY JONATHAN OTHÉN / CC 2.0

protections, saying the animal’s population had increased in some areas in recent decades.

The judge’s ruling sends a message to federal officials that politics don’t trump science, said Matthew Bishop with the Western Environmental Law Center, who represented some of the environmentalists who sued over the decision not to protect the wolverine.

“Our hope is that if they apply the best available science and look at the threats, they’ll make the right decision,” Bishop said.



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Washington Gov. Jay Inslee signs Colstrip bill with partial veto

BY PHUONG LE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE (AP) – Washington state’s largest utility will be able to set aside money to pay for the future shutdown of two coal-powered electricity plants it co-owns in Montana under a bill Gov. Jay Inslee signed April 1.

However, before signing the bill, Inslee vetoed a section of the legislation that had said Puget Sound Energy, Colstrip’s largest owner, couldn’t use that money if it closed two aging units before Dec. 31, 2022.

As he prepared to sign the bill, Inslee said the measure “represents an important step towards ending Washington’s reliance on coal-fired electricity and transitioning to cleaner energy sources.”

Senate Bill 6248 lets Puget Sound Energy create a fund to cover future decommissioning and cleanup costs at the Colstrip plant in Montana. The Bellevue-based utility owns half of units 1 and 2, which were built in the mid-1970s.

“To be clear, no decision has been made on when the older Colstrip units might close,” Inslee said in a written statement issued after the signing. He noted that the Utilities and Transportation Commission must conduct proceedings before they can approve any closure decision. Those proceedings have been delayed until next year, Inslee said, and Montana is welcome to participate.

The future of the oldest units at Colstrip has been a heated debate in Montana and Washington, and it is looming large in the governor’s race in Montana.

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock in late March asked Inslee to veto the bill over concerns about its effect on Montana. Republican candidate Greg Gianforte has used the issue to pounce on Bullock, a Democrat seeking a second term.

Montana lawmakers traveled to Olympia to testify against the bill this year, telling their Washington counterparts a partial shutdown would have dire economic consequences on the southeastern Montana community of Colstrip and on industrial users across the state that depend on cheap power.

In an emailed statement April 1, Bullock said he was disappointed with Inslee’s decision to sign the bill. “Now we need to redouble our efforts to fight for Montanans whose

livelihoods depend on coal and develop responsible, Montana-made energy that will keep our economy competitive and create more good-paying jobs,” he wrote.

Colstrip, the second-largest coal-fired plant in the West, is under pressure from a weak coal market and increasing federal regulations. Puget Sound Energy and five other companies own Colstrip’s four coal-fired plants.

The bill initially authorized Puget Sound Energy to file a plan to decommission units 1 and 2 and allowed the utility to buy additional ownership in one of the two newer units.

But the state Legislature ultimately passed a version dealing with setting up “a retirement account” to help pay for the future costs associated with closure. The bill does not require the units to be closed nor does it set a timeline for shutdown.

Supporters say the measure will ensure that utility customers are protected in case federal regulations and other factors force an early closure.

“It provides an important tool for PSE to manage risks for the community and costs for consumers that will result in more timely closure and ensure responsible cleanup,” said the Sierra Club’s Bill Arthur.

Washington state currently gets only about 15 percent of its electricity from coal, but Inslee and others have pushed utilities in the state to phase out the coal-fired power they get from out of state.

Separately, Puget Sound Energy must tell Washington state utilities regulators in early January its plan for the Colstrip units, including “a narrow window of dates for the planned [retirement] of Units 1 and 2,” as well as how much it costs.

“The data will speak for what the best next step is for Colstrip 1 and 2,” said Grant Ringel, a company spokesman.

Puget Sound Energy has previously said shutting down the plants and cleaning them up would cost between \$130 million and \$200 million.

Inslee said that he took Bullock’s concerns into serious consideration but that the bill was needed to protect Washington ratepayers.

AP reporters Rachel La Corte in Olympia, Wash., and Bobby Caina Calvin in Helena, Mont., contributed to this report.

Group seeks funding for battle against invasive species

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – An assessment of invasive species management by the Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council said a lack of money is one of the biggest obstacles to protecting Montana's environment from noxious weeds and other unwanted biological invaders.

The council was created by Gov. Steve Bullock in 2014. A Governor's Summit on Invasive species was held April 12 and 13 in Helena, followed by development of a statewide action plan by the end of the year.

"Montana's vast outdoor recreation and wide-open spaces are an important part of what makes Montana great and they play a crucial role in our growing economy," Bullock said in a statement. "The threat of invasive species to our land, water, native species, and economy is real, and I will always fight to protect them."

The council includes federal, state, county and tribal agencies, along with environmentalists and private landowners.

The initial report recommends finding ways of early detection and rapid response. It also recommends setting priorities and incentives for private landowners who participate.

The group also wants the public to help, the Helena Independent Record reported.

"Education and awareness are always a challenge, but I think we have a very interested public in Montana that is very aware of these issues going on. These aren't just agency problems, they're issues that the public has to deal with and make sure they have a role in invasive species management," council chair Bryce Christiaens said.

Chair Tom Boos, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks aquatic invasive species coordinator, said Montana is relatively free of aquatic invasive species compared to many other states.

"In the aquatic world, we don't have a huge problem like in the Midwest where every lake has some sort of problem," he said. "So sometimes it's hard to convey just how bad it can be unless you can see it."



Noxious weeds affect recreational value and uses. Top: Leafy Spurge can be spotted by its clusters of small, greenish flowers at the tips of small branches. Right: Russian Knapweed is identified from June to September with pink to purple flowers that, when mature, becomes more cream colored. CG 2.0 PHOTOS



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The team at AHL has also created the Architect's Wife, Bozeman's destination for furniture, lighting, and decor. The Architect's Wife services AHL 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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Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



It's officially fishing season! The season never ends for us here at Gallatin River Guides, but many of you have been trying to squeeze out that last bit of winter before the skis and boards get put away until next season.

Fishing has been good, period. We've had great days on the Gallatin, Madison, Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers. Baetis are popping off in good numbers almost everywhere you go, a few

Skwallas can be found if you know where to look and Mother's Day Caddis are right around the corner.

If you're anything like me it's hard to know which fly boxes to keep in the pack this time of year. You may need your small midge box, not a bad time of year to start blindly throwing a Chubby Chernobyl and it's streamer time too!

This is a fun time of year to be in Montana.

Some advice before making the call to make a long drive to your favorite river though. Do your research. Water conditions are starting to fluctuate daily due to warmer temps and snow melt. Check the weather, keep your eyes on the Montana USGS Streamflow charts and talk to your local fly shops. Be flexible and always have a backup plan.

For those of you who like to fish ice-out on Hebgen and Quake Lake we're about there.

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Section 3: EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Red Ants Pants lineup announced pg. 42



Pond skim closes season at Big Sky Resort

BIG SKY RESORT

The annual pond skim marks the finale of another ski season at Big Sky Resort. Pond skim 2016 is held near the base of Ramcharger chairlift on the headwall of the Ambush ski run and will start at noon on Saturday, April 16.

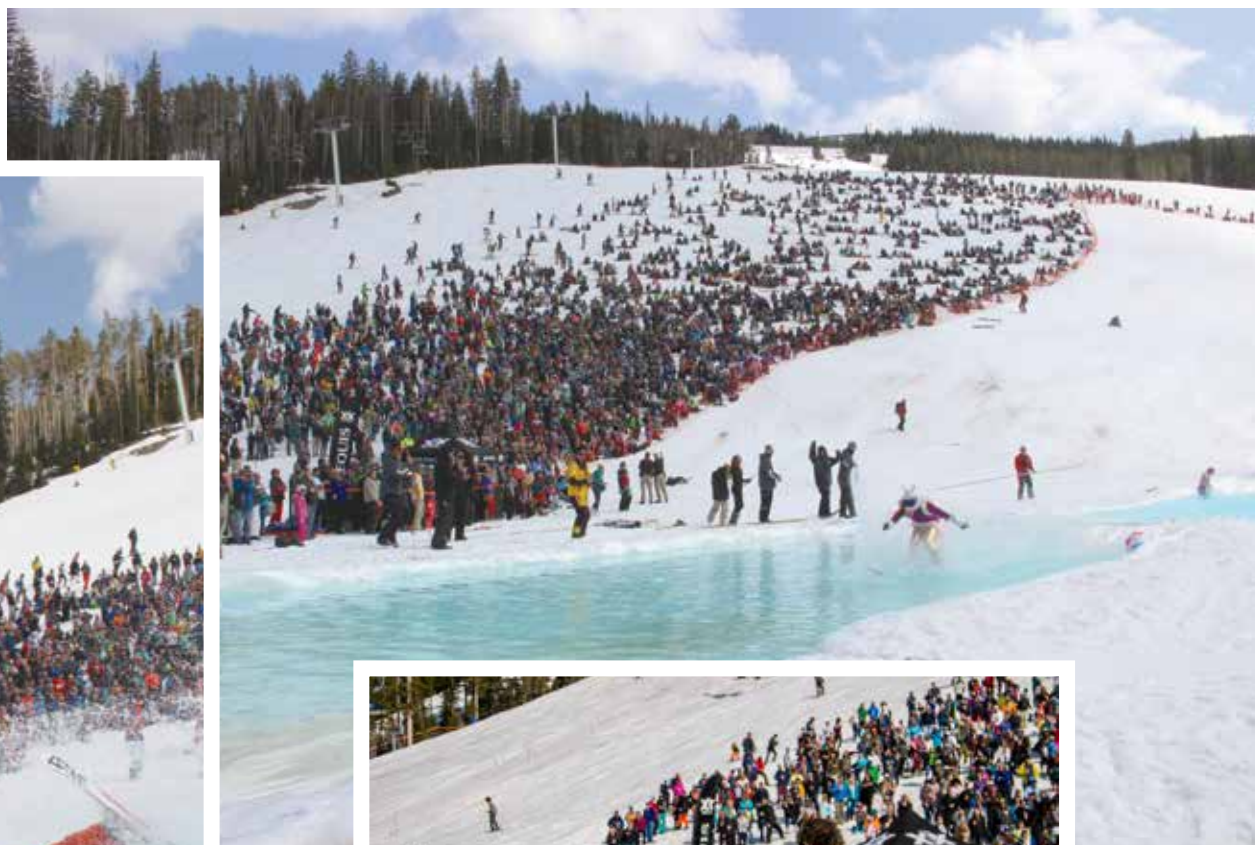
Registration is first come first served for the first 100 people who sign up at Basecamp in the Mountain Village starting at 9 a.m. Saturday. A valid lift ticket or season pass and entry fee is required for registration, and each participant will receive a piece of swag.

Participants and spectators alike are encouraged to dress in costume and cheer on skimmers as they attempt to cross the chilly waters on skis or a snowboard. Expect to see impressive skill or absolute soaked failure, and some skimmers might try to douse the crowd.

Immediately following pond skim, check out the Dos Equis après ski party in Mountain Village plaza with Bozeman band Milton Menasco and the Big Fiasco.

Big Sky Resort's last day of the season is Sunday, April 17.

Visit bigskyresort.com/pondskim for more registration and event information.



Pond Skim is an end-of-season staple at Big Sky Resort. Above are some highlights from Pond Skim 2015. PHOTOS BY TAYLOR-ANN SMITH

Montana’s craft distillers descend on Chico

CHICO HOT SPRINGS RESORT

PRAY, Mont. – Preparations for The Last Best Spirit Fest are in full swing in the kitchen at Chico Hot Springs Resort.

Chef Will Standage is working with expert mixologist Kelby Downey on a unique menu that pairs the spirits of Montana craft distilleries with delicious local foods. Together they are conjuring up a five-course meal with a flight of cocktails to complement each dish.

During this two-day event that starts at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 15, the state’s best craft distillers will serve handcrafted local vodka, gin, rum, whiskey, moonshine and specialty liqueurs.

Open to the public, the distiller’s festival will launch at 6:30 p.m. with the aforementioned “Spirited Dinner.” Hotel accommodations are encouraged and available at Chico.

On Saturday, April 16, members of the Montana Distillers Guild will showcase samples of their products and lead mixology classes from 1-5 p.m. A microbrew garden will also be on site.



Kelby Downey is lending his mixology skills to the Last Best Spirit Fest taking place at Chico Hot Springs on April 15. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY

This is an opportunity to taste a plethora of handcrafted Montana products, as producers from Bigfork to Billings and many places in between will participate in the event.

Call Chico Hot Springs Resort at (406) 333-4933 for more information or to make reservations and arrange hotel accommodations.

Spring into Yellowstone

Experts to showcase public lands surrounding Cody

CODY COUNTRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CODY, Wyo. – Registration is now open for Cody Country Chamber of Commerce’s annual Spring into Yellowstone, a five-day event celebrating the unique geology, wildlife and landscapes of the public lands surrounding Cody and the East Gate of Yellowstone National Park.

The May 11-15 festival will feature in-depth experiences and small group tours led by biologists, geologists, wildlife experts and

photographers. These experts work with Shoshone National Forest, the Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming Game and Fish, Buffalo Bill Center of the West and other public, private, and non-profit partners.

“We are thrilled about this year’s breadth of experiences our partners have offered,” said Tina Hoebelheinrich, executive director of the Cody Country Chamber of Commerce.

“Participants from all over the world will have the opportunity to fish in our world-

class streams with expert guides, hike through Shoshone National Forest with Wyoming Game and Fish bear experts, see and understand the incredible layers of exposed earth such as Precambrian granite and more – right on the doorstep of Yellowstone National Park,” Hoebelheinrich added.

In its fourth year, Spring into Yellowstone has a few changes in the works. Participants in years past often carpoled or caravanned to experience locations and meet their guides.

This year, group transportation will be provided for all experiences taking place outside the town of Cody. This allows out-of-town participants to relax without worrying about finding the right location and provides festivalgoers the opportunity to socialize with one another.

Breakfast or lunch will be available to those leaving on tours very early in the morning or continuing through the typical lunch hour.

More social activities are also being offered this year in the evenings, including an opening reception at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West; cocktail and stargazing party at the Buffalo Bill Dam Visitor Center; and a workshop on making fresh botanical cocktails at Juniper Bar+Market+Bistro in downtown Cody.

For more information, visit springintoyellowstone.net or contact the Cody Country Chamber of Commerce at info@codychamber.org. Registration is available online at springintoyellowstone.net/registration



A group of hikers resting near the top of Bald Ridge outside Cody, Wyo. PHOTO BY RAYMOND HILLEGAS

Foundation aims to host largest giving day in local history

BOZEMAN AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

BOZEMAN – On May 3, community members from around Gallatin County will come together in what could be the largest day of giving in the community's history.

In just 24 hours during Give Big Gallatin Valley Day, the Bozeman Area Community Foundation hopes to raise \$300,000 for 133 participating nonprofits from Bozeman, Belgrade, Big Sky, Three Forks and Gallatin Gateway.

Last year, the foundation's \$100,000 goal was more than doubled during the area's first Give Big event. More than 1,600 donors rallied to contribute \$237,615 to 133 local nonprofits.

"With a minimum gift of \$10 during Give Big Gallatin Valley on May 3, anyone can be a philanthropist for causes they care about in our community," said Bozeman Area Community Foundation Executive Director Bridget Wilkinson. "The goal is simple – inspire neighbors to come together, show their pride in their communities, and contribute to support the life-changing work of local nonprofit organizations."

Give Big Gallatin Valley is a 24-hour online and live celebration of giving that connects

community members with participating nonprofits. Community members have the chance to find and support an organization whose mission aligns with their passion, or to make an amplified impact to an organization they already support with the help of the "Stretch Pool."

Many local businesses and organizations have contributed funds to this Stretch Pool to incentivize the community to give to important causes. This means every dollar donated on May 3 will get a boost from this added pool of funds.

Donors can also help their favorite nonprofits win cash prizes that will be added to their total at the end of the day.

This year, the nonprofit that has raised at least \$5,000 and has the most individual donors will win the foundation's new Stephen R. Hample Give Big grand prize, which includes \$12,500 to start an endowment fund at the Bozeman Area Community Foundation.

Many local businesses are opening their doors to host official donor lounges to make giving easy and fun. Volunteers with iPads will staff these lounges to help community members give easily and securely.

The finale celebration will be from 6-8 p.m. at the Baxter Hotel, where Gallatin County residents are invited to celebrate the area's nonprofit community and the funds raised during the event.

"[Give Big Gallatin Valley] has given us a collective voice that is much louder and effective than our individual one," said EJ Porth, Gallatin Valley Land Trust's communications and outreach manager. "As a nonprofit community with our donors by our side, [we] can make a big impact on the place we call home."

For more information about joining the Bozeman Area Community Foundation in Give Big Gallatin Valley, contact Bridget Wilkinson at (406) 587-6262 or bridget@bozemanfoundation.org, or visit givebiggv.org, which includes a full list of donor lounges.

Established in 1998, the Bozeman Area Community Foundation connects people to the causes that matter most to them. The foundation serves Bozeman, Big Sky, Belgrade, Manhattan, Churchill, Three Forks, and the rural areas in between. Since its inception, it has distributed more than \$300,000 in grants to 100-plus local nonprofits. Learn more at bozemanfoundation.org.



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Bobcat Fest returns to downtown Bozeman April 29



PHOTO COURTESY OF DOWNTOWN BOZEMAN ASSOCIATION

At 6 p.m. Tarantino’s Pizzeria invites all revelers to its Main Street location to participate in its sixth annual pizza-eating contest. Whoever eats an 18-inch cheese pizza the fastest will be crowned “The Biggest Pizza Eater in Bozeman” and given a Tarantino’s gift certificate, as well as a three-month membership to the Ridge Athletic Club.

Bobcat Fest is a cooperative effort with more than 40 businesses and organizations participating in the day’s events or offering donations. The celebration is free and open to the public, and will go on rain or shine. However, live music may be canceled if it rains.

Need a ride to the Bobcat Fest or back to campus after the event? “Catch the Current” to this year’s celebration by hopping on the Streamline bus.

For more information, contact the Downtown Bozeman Association at (406) 586-4008 or visit downtownbozeman.org. Information is also available from the MSU Alumni Office at (406) 994-2401 or alumni.montana.edu. Bus schedules can be found at streamlinebus.com.

DOWNTOWN BOZEMAN ASSOCIATION

BOZEMAN – Montana State University, its alumni association and athletics department will join the Downtown Bozeman Association to host Bobcat Fest on Friday, April 29. This gathering of MSU students, faculty and Bozeman community members on Main Street in Bozeman will be held from 5-8 p.m.

Main Street will be closed to traffic to make space for food vendors, live music and fun. There will be free Redneck sausages, hot dogs and hamburgers, as well as other giveaways, raffles and prizes – including “Senior Send-Off” glasses and beverage tickets, Bobcat spirit T-shirts, koozies and more.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 15 –
THURSDAY, APRIL 28

***If your event falls between
April 28 and May 13, please
submit it by April 22**

Big Sky

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

Kent Johnson
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Brian & Benny
Chet's Bar & Grill, 4 p.m.

Lauren Jackson
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

James Salestrom
The Broken Spoke, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16
**Pond Skim
Big Sky Resort, 12 p.m.**

Milton Menasco and the Big
Fiasco
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Pig Roast
Choppers, 6 p.m.

**Staycation
Choppers, 7 p.m.**

Jeni Fleming
Carabiner Lounge, 8:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17
**Closing Day
Big Sky Resort, 4 p.m.**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20
Wine Wednesday
Mountain Maven, 11 a.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21
Biz to Biz
First Security Bank, 9 a.m.

Business After Hours
Scissorbills Saloon, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22
Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28
Biz to Biz
First Security Bank, 9 a.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29
Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Bozeman

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

Sonny Holland Spring Game
Bobcat Stadium, 6 p.m.

Warlords of Ivory
Museum of the Rockies, 6:30 p.m.
Joe Schwem
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Cappadonna of the Wu-Tang
Clan
Cat's Paw, 7 p.m.

Film: Goodfellas
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

MSU Symphony Orchestra
Concert
Reynolds Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

The Rocky Horror Show
(7th Annual)
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Paige and the People's Band
American Legion, 9 p.m.

Congo Sanchez of Thievery
Corporation
The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

Sugar Daddies
Eagles Lodge, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16
Winter Farmers' Market
Emerson Ballroom, 9 a.m.

E.B. White's Stuart Little
Verge Theater, 2 p.m.

Texas Hold 'Em Charity
Tournament
Mixers, 2 p.m.

Great Ballet Classics –
Montana Ballet Company
Willson Auditorium, 4 p.m.

Eagles 113th Birthday Bash
Eagles Lodge, 6 p.m.

Spring Soiree – Montana
Ballet Company
Baxter Ballroom, 6 p.m.

Neil Filo Beddow
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Creative Writing Showcase
Barnes & Noble, 7 p.m.

The Cashore Marionettes
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

The Rocky Horror Show
(7th Annual)
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Paige and the People's Band
American Legion, 9 p.m.

Sugar Daddies
Eagles Lodge, 9 p.m.

FOAMAZON 2 feat. Ampathy +
DJ Schon Long + Nintendeaux
+ Dubuddha
The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

Bluebelly Junction
Sacajawea Bar, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17
The Rock Horror Show
(7th Annual)
Verge Theater, 12 a.m.

2016 indepenDANCE
Auditions
Jazzercise Fitness Center,
10 a.m.

Astronomy & Aerospace Day
Museum of the Rockies, 1 p.m.

Great Ballet Classics –
Montana Ballet Company
Wilson Auditorium, 2 p.m.

Yoga for Stress Recovery Series
Bozeman Aerial Fitness, 4 p.m.

Family Circus Time
The Emerson Center for the
Arts & Culture, 5:30 p.m.

Broadway in Bozeman: Blue
Man Group
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7 p.m.

Russ Chapman
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

No More Excuses (CO) + The
Permians + 6P3
Whistle Pig Korean, 8 p.m.

Brothers Gow
The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 18
Pints with Purpose
Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Teen Sexual Assault
Adolescent Resource Center,
6:30 p.m.

Music Mondays with James
Salestrom
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

Improv on the Verge
Verge Theater, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19
Montana Nutrition Conference
and Livestock Forum
Best Western Grantree Inn

Yoga for all
Bozeman Public Library, 11
a.m. & 12 p.m.

Resilient Retirement Planning
and Investing
MSU Gaines Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Tim Kliphus & Sam Miltich
The Story Mansion, 7 p.m.

19th Pecha Kucha
The Ellen Theatre, 7:20 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20
Montana Nutrition Conference
and Livestock Forum
Best Western Grantree Inn

Bozeman SCORE Business
Workshop
Bozeman Public Library,
11:45 a.m.

Music & Mussels
Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Dynamite Dads
Cashman's Nursery, 6 p.m.

Pickin' in the Parks
The Story Mansion, 6:30 p.m.

Paul Collins Beat + Dany Laj
and The Looks + The Sleepless
Elite + Bearcat 9000
The Filling Station, 7 p.m.

Tim Kliphuis & Sam Miltich
St. Andrew's Church, 7 p.m.

19th Pecha Kucha
The Ellen Theatre, 7:20 p.m.

Cannabis Rights Jam featuring
cure for the Common, Megan
Hamilton and Hemingway
Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21
Extreme History Project Lecture
Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Growing a Green Juice Garden
Broken Ground, 6:30 p.m.

Bluegrass Thursdays with The
Bridger Creek Boys
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Claude Bourbon
The Ellen Theatre, 8 p.m.

Indigenous Eric
The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22
Meet the Hawker:
Speech and Debate
Emerson Ballroom, 7 p.m.

Tevin Apedaile
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**Luke Bryan
Brick Breeden
Fieldhouse, 7:30 p.m.**

Debussy, Wolf, Shostakovich
Chamber Recital
Reynold's Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Comedian Christopher Titus
The Ellen Theatre, 8 p.m.

Laney Lou & The Bird Dogs +
Hollowtops
The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23
Free Electronic Waste
Collection
Logan Landfill, 7:30 a.m.

**Bozeman Annual Clean
Up Day
Bozeman Library, 8 a.m.**

Maurice Hilleman Vaccine
Symposium
MSU Procrastinator Theater,
9 a.m.

E.B. White's Stuart Little
Verge Theater, 2 p.m.

Bramble & Rye
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Film: Singin' in the Rain
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

The Best Damn Punk Show
The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

**Pinky & The Floyd
Emerson's Crawford
Theatre, 8 p.m.**

www.Twang
Sacajawea Bar, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24
Acousticals
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Student New Music Concert
Reynold's Recital Hall,
7:30 p.m.

Scott Pemberton Trio
The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 25
Pints with Purpose
Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Extreme History Project
Lecture: Yellowstone's
Obsidian Cliff
Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Music Mondays with Alex,
Adam & Dave
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26
Yoga for all
Bozeman Public Library,
11 a.m. & 12 p.m.

Resilient Retirement Planning and Investing
MSU Gaines Hall, 6:30 p.m.

MSU Gamelan Sekar Gunung
Reynold’s Recital Hall,
7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27
Music & Mussels
Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Spring Parenting Institute
Hope Lutheran Church, 6 p.m.

Pickin’ in the Parks
The Story Mansion, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28
Film: Amadeus
The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Bluegrass Thursdays with The Bridger Creek Boys
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Easy Star All-Stars performing “Dub Side of the Moon”
Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 9 p.m.

The Lil’ Smokies with
The Last Revel
The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29
Sacajawea Orchid Show
JC Penney’s Courtyard, noon

Blunderbuss Science & Maker Faire
The Baxter Hotel, 4 p.m.

Bobcat Fest
Downtown Bozeman, 5 p.m.

The Adventures of Robin Hood
The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Farch + Chairea + Heartless_3
The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

Quenby & the West of Wayland Band
Eagles Lodge, 9 p.m.

Cory Leone Johnson
Sacajawea Bar, 9 p.m.

RECURRING EVENTS:
Burgers & Bingo
Eagles Lodge, Friday Nights, 5:30 p.m.

Open Mic Night
The Haufbrau, Sundays, Mondays, and Wednesdays at 10:30 p.m.

Karaoke
American Legion, Mondays at 9 p.m.

Karaoke
Eagles Lodge, Thursdays at 8:30 p.m.

Yoga for All
Bozeman Public Library, Tuesdays at 11 p.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, 5 p.m.

Livingston & Paradise Valley

FRIDAY, APRIL 15
Larry Hirschberg
Neptune’s Brewery, 5 p.m.

Last Best Spirit Fest Dinner, 6 p.m.
Chico Hot Springs

Second Chance Prom
Elks Lodge, 7 p.m.

Rumors
Blue Slipper Theater, 8 p.m.

The Max
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

Wartime Blues
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16
Last Best Spirit Festival, 1 p.m.
Chico Hot Springs

GT Hurley
Katabatic Brewing Company, 5:30 p.m.

Rumors
Blue Slipper Theater, 8 p.m.

Someday Miss Pray
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

The Max
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17
Yellowstone Ballet Company at the Movies
Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 11 a.m.

Rumors
Blue Slipper Theater, 3 p.m.

Soup & Song Fundraiser
The Northern Pacific Beanery, 4 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 18
Cottonwood Line
The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

Bluegrass Jam
Katabatic Brewing Company, 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19
Beer for a Cause
Katabatic Brewing Company

Livingston Film Series: Beast of the Southern Wild
Shane Lalani Center for the Arts,
6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20
J-Bird
Katabatic Brewing Company, 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21
Donkey Basketball Fundraiser
Park High School, 5:30 doors

Mark Kilianski
The Murray Bar, 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22
Sean Eamon
Neptune’s Brewery, 5 p.m.

Tom Catmull
Katabatic Brewing Company, 5:30 p.m.

Rumors
Blue Slipper Theater, 8 p.m.

The Band of Drifters
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Justin Case Band
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23
Winter Festival presented by McNair Skate Park
Park County Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.

Rumors
Blue Slipper Theater, 8 p.m.

Depot Railroad Swap Meet
Livingston Depot Center, 9 a.m.

Big Ol’
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Justin Case Band
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24
Rumors
Blue Slipper Theater, 3 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 25
Chris Holm & Javier Matos
The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

Steph Yeager
Neptune’s Brewery, 5 p.m.

Bluegrass Jam
Katabatic Brewing Company, 5:30

TUESDAY, APRIL 26
Beer for a Cause
Katabatic Brewing Company

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27
John Dendy
Katabatic Brewing Company, 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28
Kalyn Beasley
The Murray Bar, 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29
Bramble & Rye
Neptune’s Brewery, 5 p.m.

The Fossils
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Western Electric
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

West Yellowstone

FRIDAY, APRIL 15
West Yellowstone Historic Walking Tour
West Yellowstone Historic District, all week

Yellowstone Opens for Motorized Travel
Yellowstone National Park

SATURDAY, APRIL 16
National Park Week – Free Admission
Yellowstone National Park, All Week

Annual Park Opening Free Dinner
First Baptist Church, 5:30 p.m.

Donkey Basketball
West Yellowstone School, 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 18
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

Knit Night
Send it Home, 6 p.m.

Yoga for Everyone
Povah Center, 6:15 p.m.

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball
West Yellowstone School Gym, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21
Earth Day Celebration
Holiday Inn, 3:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23
Garage Sale
Yellowstone Lodge, 10 a.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24
Garage Sale
Yellowstone Lodge, 10 a.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 25
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

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Town Center, Big Sky, Montana

Blitzen Trapper to play Music in the Mountains June 30

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS STAFF WRITER

When Brian Hurlbut, Arts Council of Big Sky’s executive director, contacted Blitzen Trapper’s booking agent about playing a Thursday night Music in the Mountains event this summer, he didn’t expect a “yes.”

“I honestly didn’t think I’d be able to get them,” Hurlbut said of the band, one of his favorites. “I’m pretty surprised.”

Hurlbut has been a fan since he discovered their 2008 album “Furr,” which was named “one of the most gorgeous rock albums of the year” by Rolling Stone magazine. “Furr” prompted comparisons to Neil Young and Fleet Foxes; it was one of three Blitzen Trapper albums to make it onto the Billboard 200.

Hurlbut said Portland, Ore.-based Blitzen Trapper plays “music of the Western landscape.”

“It’s really good road trip music,” he said. “In Montana, we drive a lot, so it’s almost like a soundtrack to Montana.”

After attending a handful of the band’s live performances, Hurlbut was sold on the quality of their live show, but he’s only seen them play smaller venues. “I feel like they’re ready for a bigger Montana audience. To picture them on the stage in Big Sky – for me personally, that’s awesome,” he said. “And I kind of want to get the stage rocking a little bit.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLITZEN TRAPPER

“All Across this Land,” Blitzen Trapper’s 2015 studio album and latest in a highly varied eight-album discography, hearkens back to 2008, when “Black River Killer” and the title track from “Furr” made waves in the indie-folk scene.

According to the band’s website, “All Across This Land” is a “tightly defined piece of classic rock and roll, full of big riffs, bigger hooks, and compelling, instantly relatable lyrics.”

Hurlbut said most of the Thursday night Music in the Mountains acts have been booked. A mix of returning and new-to-Big Sky musicians will take to the stage in Town Center Park this summer, and attendance is free. The Black Lillies, Jamie McLean Band, DeadPhish Orchestra, The Band of Heathens, Fruition and Amy Helm have all signed on.

“Everyone says last year was the best year, and this gives us a reason to try to make this year even better,” Hurlbut said. “We’re excited to kick it off June.” The Black Lillies will play the first show of the season on June 23.



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Red Ants Pants announces 2016 lineup

Wynonna and The Big Noise to headline July music fest

RED ANTS PANTS FOUNDATION

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, Mont. – For the first time in its six-year run, the Red Ants Pants Music Festival held a block party on Main Street in White Sulphur Springs to announce its 2016 lineup.

On April 2, hundreds gathered in person while people around the globe viewed a live webcast streaming the news of this year’s lineup, which includes Grammy award-winning country legends Wynonna and The Big Noise; global superstars The Mavericks, The Lone Bellow, Hayes Carll, and Corb Lund; Montana’s own Mission Mountain Wood Band; and a host of Americana legends and rising stars.

“Fans are going to hear some of the most unforgettable voices in Americana music today paired with rising stars who might just become their new favorite bands,” said festival founder and producer Sarah Calhoun. “Come connect with good folks and celebrate rural Montana with us this summer.”

Held in a cow pasture on the Jackson Ranch, and surrounded by the Big Belt, Little Belt, and Castle Mountain ranges, the festival will bring in more than two dozen artists performing on separate stages.

The festival benefits the Red Ants Pants Foundation, a nonprofit organization in support of women’s leadership, working farms and ranches, and rural communities. The weekend-long, grassroots music festival brings in millions of dollars to the rural economy. Last year’s festival drew a record 14,000 attendees.

Fifty VIP weekend passes for the festival will be sold on a first come, first served basis. VIP passes entitle festivalgoers to an outstanding view of the main stage, shaded seating, and complimentary beer and wine.

Visit redantspantsmusicfestival.com for more information or to purchase tickets.



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Photo Jeff Engerbretson | Skier: Amie Engerbretson

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Diamond Bar 7, Big Timber
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\$778,000 | #200670

Lost Trail Retreat, Big Sky
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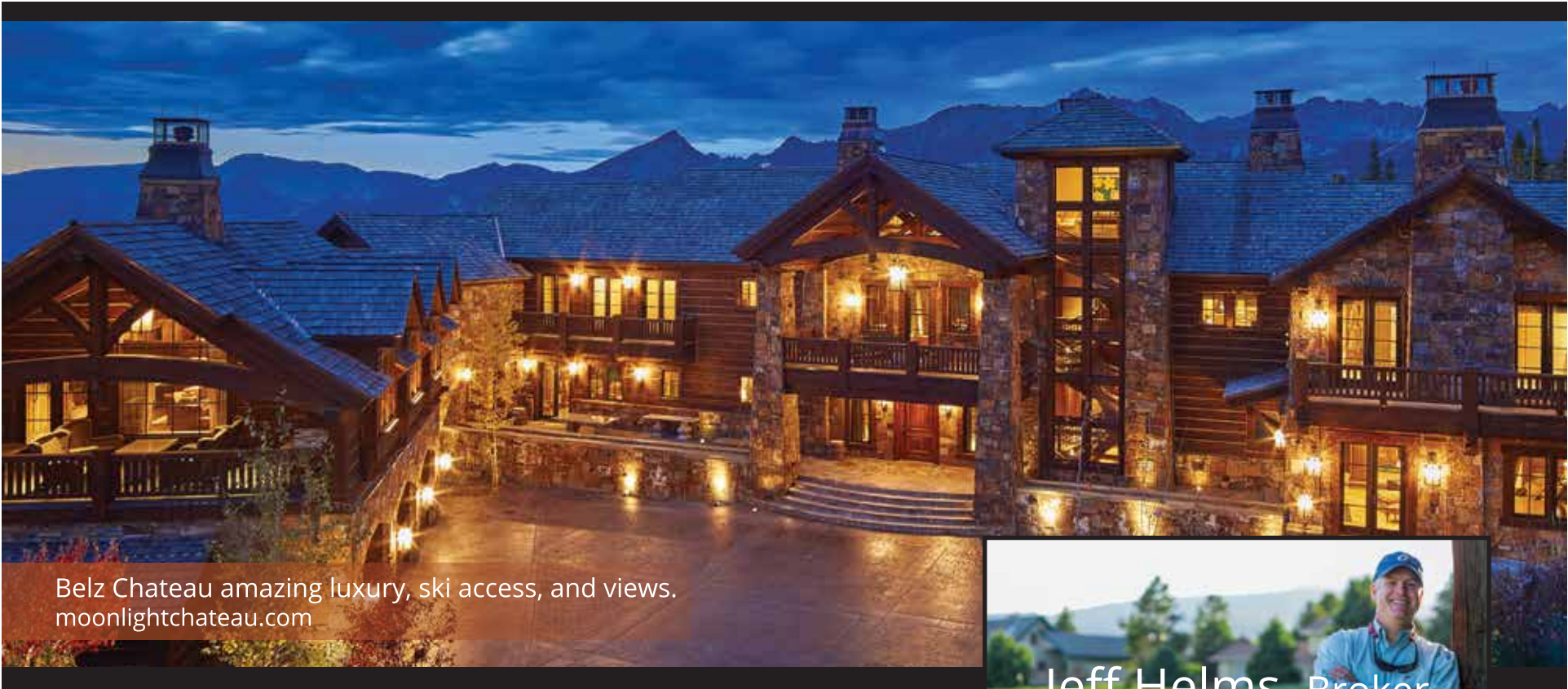
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JACK CREEK ROAD

\$13,750,000 | #205500 | Call Stacy or Eric

Located between Ennis and Big Sky. 1,916± acres, via a private gated road. The Ranch includes a custom log home and several other building locations with spectacular mountain vistas. Co-listed with Swan Land Co.



CAMP ARROWHEAD

\$8,350,000 | #208912 | Call Stacy or Eric

25± acre Beehive Basin compound. House, guest house, caretaker apartment. Views to Lone Mountain, Andesite and Beehive. Near Big Sky Resort and Moonlight Basin.



TIMBERLOFT ROAD

\$2,750,000 | #208466 | Call Don

120± acres sited in an alpine meadow overlooking Big Sky. Incredible views of the resort area including Lone Mountain. 3 selected home sites each on their own 40± acre parcel.



NORTHFORK ROAD

\$2,495,000 | #209944 | Call Don

216± Acres, heavily forested with meadows, approx. ¾ mile of Northfork flows through. Borders public land, great cross country ski property.



TIMBER RIDGE LOT 2

\$1,350,000 | #208218 | Call Stacy or Eric

20.46± buildable acres in Moonlight Basin. Spectacular views to both Lone & Fan Mtns. Access through private, gated road along with deeded access along Jack Creek Road to Ennis.



TWO GUN WHITE CALF ROAD

\$1,275,000 | #211665 | Call Stacy or Eric

Custom designed home overlooking Big Sky's Meadow Village w/ a lovely garden setting adjacent to open space. 3 bd, 3.5 ba, office & bonus room, great room w/ rock fireplace and vaulted ceiling.



LOST TRAILS RETREAT LOT 8

\$778,000 | #209887 | Call Don

20± acre property between the Meadow and Mountain Villages at Big Sky! Lot has been partially cleared for evergreen management and to create view corridors. Community water system with fire flow



BEAVER CREEK WEST, LOT 13

\$499,000 | #195161 | Call Don

20± acres, spectacular views, located on gentle slope, private driveway, ideal for a new home, well is drilled, short distance to NFS land/trails.



BIG BUCK ROAD LOT 2

\$475,000 | #209474 | Call Don

Beautiful 20± acre property with views of Lone Peak and the Spanish Peaks as well as the Gallatin Canyon. Some older growth trees are still on the property and were not harvested. A well has been drilled, great build sites!



34 LOW DOG ROAD

\$280,000 | #199205 | Call Stacy or Eric

Lovely homesite opportunity to the rear of the lot offers privacy and open views. Close to Big Sky's Mountain Village, conference centers, hotels and restaurants.



CURLEY BEAR CONDO

\$230,000 | #204817 | Call Stacy or Eric

Centrally located Glacier Condo in Big Sky's Meadow Village near the golf course, hiking trails and cross country skiing. This 2 bd, 2.5 ba unit has deck and balcony with eastern views.



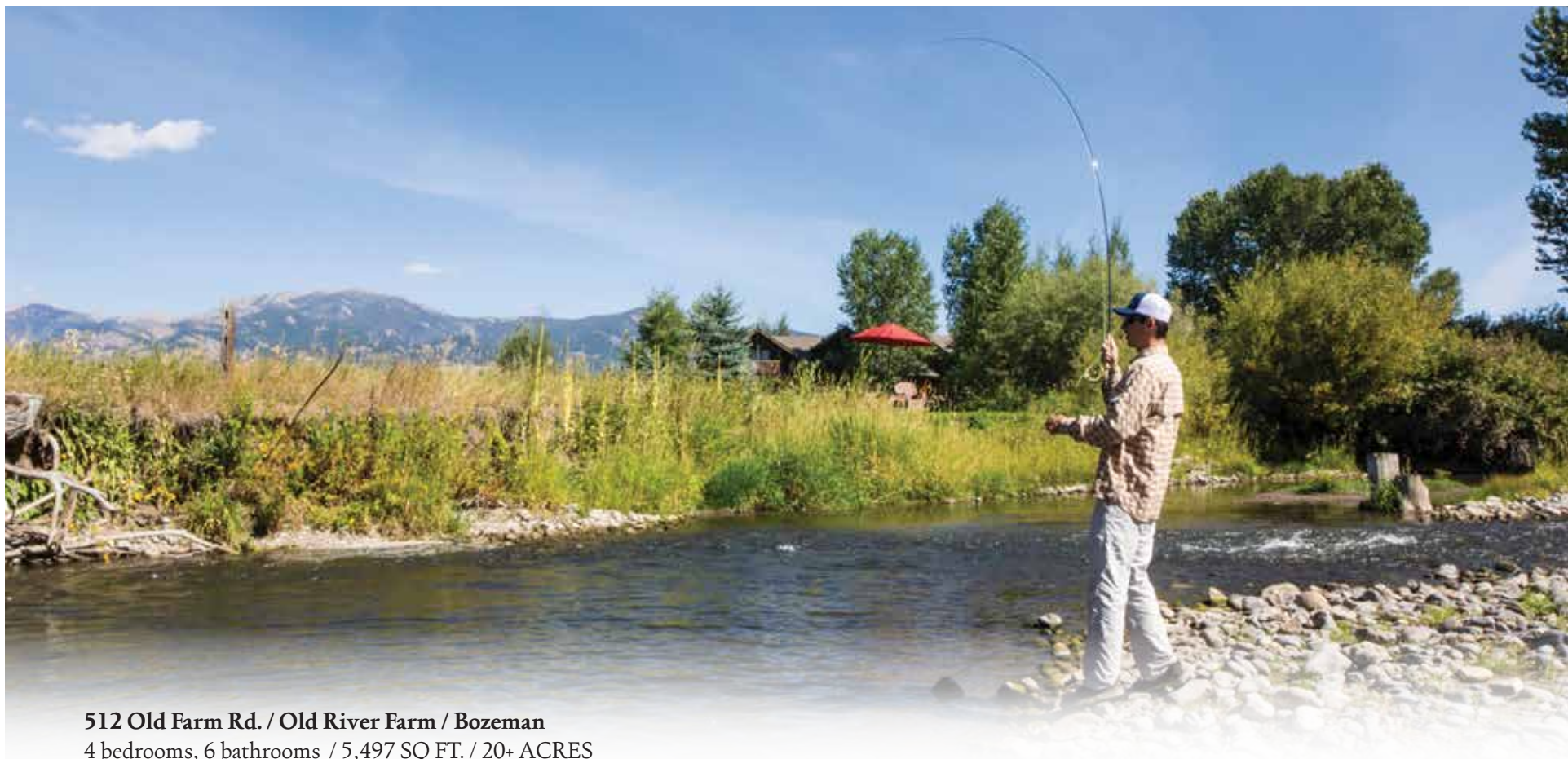
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Yellowstone Ranch Preserve / Hebgen Lake / W. Yellowstone
 753 +/- ACRES
 Whiskey Jug Cabin: 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms / 2,702 SQ FT
Private marina on Hebgen Lake
 \$19,500,000



Lot 43A Half Moon Court / Meadow Village / Big Sky
 1.22 ACRES
Creekside location in Meadow Village
 \$399,900



Kandahar / Beehive Basin / Big Sky
 Main home: 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms / 5,409 SQ FT
 Guest home: 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms / 2,165 SQ FT
 19.9 ACRES
-20 acres with Beehive Creek running through the property
 \$3,450,000



330 Beaver Mountain Trail / Gallatin Canyon / Big Sky
 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms / 2,293 SQ FT + workshop / 2.95 ACRES
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Buck Ridge Lodge / Gallatin Canyon / Big Sky
 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms / 4,144 SQ FT / 18.67 ACRES
Snowmobile access to Buck Ridge and Forest Service land / \$839,000

Mountain Lifestyle



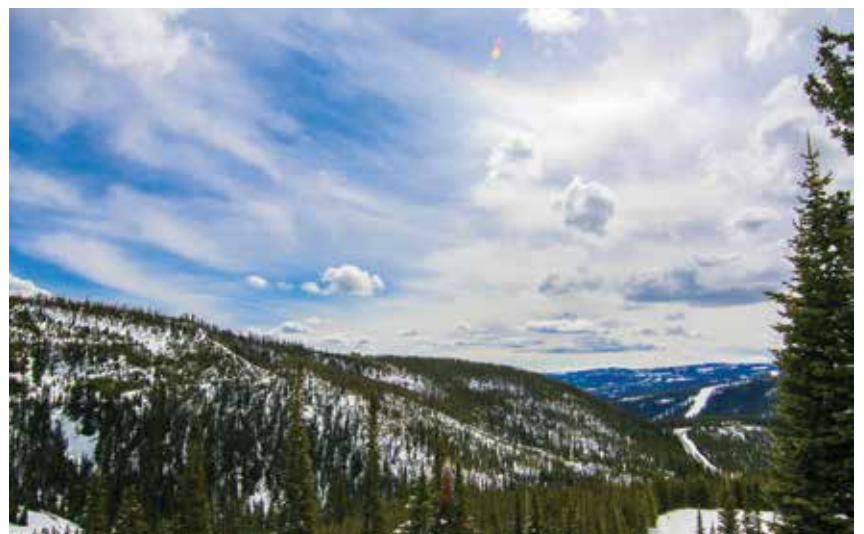
214 W. Pine Cone Terrace / Meadow Village / Big Sky
 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms / 4,268 SQ FT
Mountain Modern style in a private setting in Aspen Groves
 \$1,395,000



Mountain Meadows / Gallatin Canyon / Big Sky
 120 ACRES
Large acreage lot with Lone Peak view
 \$3,495,000



Lot 119 Old Barn Road* / Spanish Peaks Mountain Club
 3.13 ACRES
Private creekside location
 \$450,000



Lot 3 Joy Road / Big Sky Mountain
 6.83 ACRES
Creekside location near Beehive Basin trailhead
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Lot 338 Bristlecone Drive* / Yellowstone Club
14.6 ACRES
Largest available residential lot at Yellowstone Club
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Treehouse Condo at Warren Miller Lodge* / Yellowstone Club
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Unbeatable location as the only condo available in the Warren Miller Lodge
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Lot 144A Pumice Road* / Yellowstone Club
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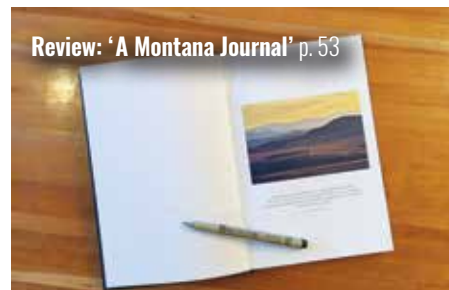


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Section 4: OUTDOORS, BACK 40



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Review: 'A Montana Journal' p. 53

Back 40:
Bear spray works p. 56

Ski mountaineering race draws elite athletes and fit locals

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – Shedhorn Skimo race co-directors and longtime climbing partners, Noah Ronczkowski and Casey Heerdt, imagined Lone Mountain without ski lifts when they designed the course.

They asked themselves, ‘What mountains would we want to climb? What ridges would we want to ski?’

The answer is a daunting piece of geography in both horizontal and vertical dimensions: Shedhorn’s course stretches across 18 miles and climbs 9,000 vertical feet. To complete the race, skiers must navigate technical terrain, climbing and descending Lone Mountain not once, but twice. And most competitors manage the downhill on short, skinny skis better suited to speedy ascents than stable descents.

Particularly firm snow in the morning and sunny, slushy conditions in the afternoon presented some small challenges during the April 9 race, but on balance, Shedhorn went off without a hitch its second year. Apart from some blisters, no injuries were reported.

Heerdt said he received positive feedback from competitors. “A lot of the racers say it’s one of the more challenging races in North America,” he said. “They thought it was a really well-planned, well-thought-out race.”

Although it’s shorter, Shedhorn covers much of the same ground as the Rut 50K ultramarathon,



Twenty-four skiers raced in the second annual Shedhorn Skimo on April 9, an 18-mile test of endurance that challenged competitors’ mountaineering skills, skiing chops and overall toughness. PHOTO BY AMANDA EGGERT

a mountain climbing and descending sufferfest that’s gaining international notoriety in the high-altitude, endurance-sports circuit.

“[When I entered Shedhorn], I didn’t really know what to expect,” said racer Eric Carter, who’s working toward a Ph.D. in exercise physiology from the University of British Columbia. “A lot of races are pretty mellow, so this is pretty different.”

Four years ago, Carter decided to combine two favorite pursuits – climbing and Nordic skiing – and dove into skimo, short for ski mountaineering.

The shift in focus has paid off: Carter, 28, is now the top American in the International Ski Mountaineering Federation’s rankings, and races for the U.S. National Ski Mountaineering Team.

He added \$2,000 to his racing spoils when he won the Shedhorn by a not-small margin.

With a time of 3:52:12, Carter finished the race more than eight minutes ahead of second place, Teague Holmes, and improved upon 2015 Shedhorn winner Tom Goth’s time by two minutes and 25 seconds.

During the first ascent, Carter was right on Goth’s heels, but while descending the Big Couloir, Goth’s ski boot reportedly broke, forcing him to bow out.

“We were together and after [Goth dropped out], I skied by myself and sweated for a while,” said Carter, who entered 37 ski mountaineering races when he lived in Europe last winter. “And that was that. It’s sunny here.” Currently, Carter lives in Squamish, B.C., “where it’s still winter,” he says.

Meredith Edwards finished first in the women’s division and sixth overall with a time of 4:58:04. In total, 36 people registered for the race, 24 showed up on race day, and four did not finish due to blisters, exhaustion, or gear issues.

In the days leading up to the race, Ronczkowski and Heerdt –both avalanche techs with Big Sky Ski Patrol’s Snow Safety Department – climbed, skied, skinned and boot packed up the entirety of the course. Starting Tuesday before the race, ski patrollers and a handful of volunteers set the skin tracks and boot packs.

Five Big Sky ski patrollers entered the race, including Nathan Opp, who snagged fourth place. Heerdt estimates about half of the 2016 racers live in the area.

As far as next year’s plans go, Heerdt and Ronczkowski hope to attract a broader pool of racers. They’re also scheming ways to make Shedhorn a little more hairy: they’re toying with the idea of adding a rappelling segment.



Course features included boot packs, steep descents and miles and miles of skinning. PHOTO BY JOHN MEYER

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THE EDDY Line

Trout food 101: Give them what they want



BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

Despite a childhood spent on the banks of the Gallatin River, during my teenager years I spent more time thinking about

the girls that might be calling me on a given night than appreciating the mountains, trees, and rivers that framed my life.

When I fished, I cared not what insects were hatching or why one fly fished better than another, all I knew was that sometimes a Royal Wulff worked better than an Elk Hair Caddis, and sometimes it didn't. The more I learned, the more I needed to know.

Trout have to eat to survive, just like us. And like humans, they often have specific eating habits based on the food that's readily available. A basic understanding of trout food sources is essential to catching more fish. Here's some help.

Unmask matching the hatch. Matching the hatch is nothing more than observing which insect trout are feeding on. Insects such as mayflies, caddisflies or midges can hatch in great numbers and prompt heavy feeding activity by trout. When these thick hatches occur, trout respond by "keying in" on the insect that's hatching at the time.

Know your basic types of insects. Mayflies, caddisflies, midges, crane flies, dragonflies, and damselflies are described as waterborne

insects that are available to trout. Then you have your terrestrials, which are land-based insects, such as grasshoppers, crickets, bees, ants and beetles. Crustaceans are also important, such as scuds, sowbugs and crayfish. Finally, smaller baitfish such as sculpins and other fish are a food source.

Ride the life cycle. You must learn the basic stages of a bug's life: larvae, nymph, and adult. Larvae are basically worm-like in appearance and are found in the life cycles of caddisflies, midges and crane flies – they hatch from eggs that are laid in the water by an adult of its kind. The caddisfly larvae of many species build protective cases of natural materials around them.

Nymphs are aquatic insects that live in water. Although fly fishermen tend to apply the word "nymph" to all underwater flies, a true nymph belongs to insect groups such as mayflies, stoneflies, dragonflies and damselflies. Nymphs hatch from eggs that are laid in the water from an adult insect, and live in weeds, bottom structure, and some even burrow into the mud of streams or lakes.

Adults are the final result of an insect's life that has reached maturity – they have wings and can fly at will. Adults are what we should be concerned with when trying to imitate surface flies.

Fish other fish. Small fish can make up a trout's diet once it reaches a certain size and age. Sculpins, dace, chubs, and small trout provide larger trout with a big meal that can sustain them for a day or more. Rocky

Mountain whitefish are in most of our local streams and larger trout prey on small whitefish. I have seen trout no more than 4 pounds eat fish half their size. I once caught and cleaned an 18-inch brook trout that revealed an 11-inch rainbow trout inside.

Wind can be your friend. Later in the angling season, as hatches dwindle, land-based insects make up a good portion of a trout's diet. Bees, ants, beetles, crickets, cicadas and grasshoppers are blown into a river or stream by the wind. There are times when a large hopper explosion occurs and trout will key on imitations for a month or more. Other times of the season, a flying ant hatch can carpet the water's surface and trout will gorge themselves like starving lions.

Many afternoons during my high-school years the trout would cease eating my Royal Wulff or Elk Hair Caddis flies. When that occurred, I would lie on the bank and think about what my high school crushes were doing at the moment, hoping part of their day was doing the same about me. If I had known more about trout foods I might have caught more fish. But that wouldn't have made the girls call me any more than they already didn't.

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.



As water temperatures warm, the hatches will increase and trout will enjoy new food sources. The highly anticipated Mother's Day caddis hatch is right around the corner, but caddis can show up well before then. PHOTO BY GREG LEWIS

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REVIEW

'A Montana Journal'

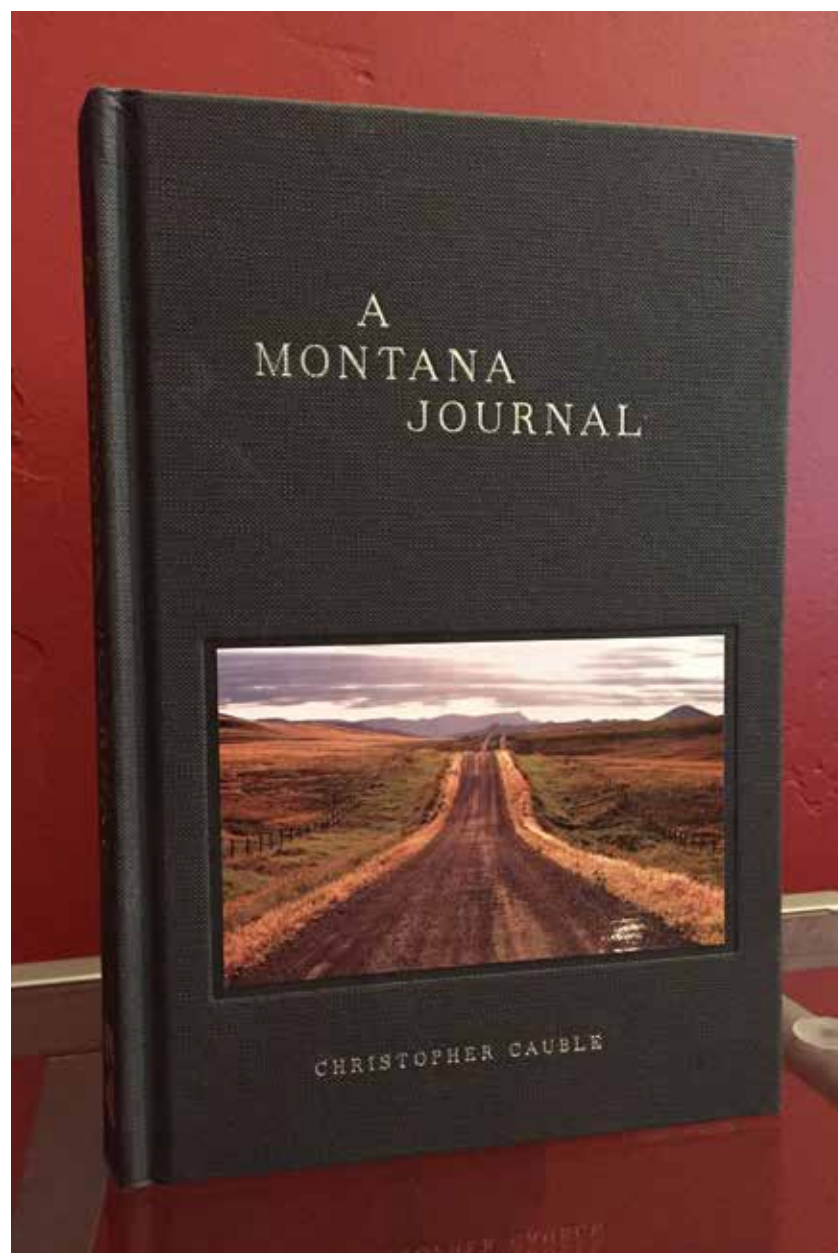
"Something about this extraordinary land accommodates a desire for privacy without loneliness, seclusion without solitude." - Ellen Meloy, "The Place Within: Portraits of the American Landscape"

Combining inspirational vistas from around Montana and quotes from notable writers with space for creative musings, "A Montana Journal" captures the unbridled spirit of the West.

It's just the right size to carry by hand to a coffee shop or pack along in your backpack while camping. I find myself constantly inspired by this journal, as the images and quotes hidden within make me want to explore and enjoy such views for myself.

Whether you're from Montana or just visiting, be sure to pick up a copy of this journal and make it a keepsake for your wild adventures in the last best place. -Taylor-Ann Smith

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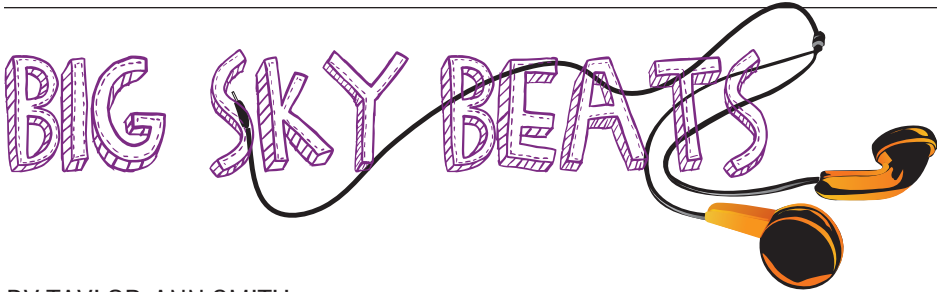
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BY TAYLOR-ANN SMITH
EBS GRAPHIC DESIGNER

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.

While I love electronic dance music, as a graphic designer sometimes I enjoy stepping away from the digital world to gain some inspiration and reset.

Some of my favorite ways to decompress after spending the day on my computer is to go for a drive, or take an evening hike up Bozeman’s Drinking Horse Trail, while listening to acoustic music. The slow tempos – combined with the pure sounds of a guitar and raw vocals – help me open my mind and feel more connected to my surroundings.

The playlist below features some acoustic songs I enjoy winding down to.

1. “Only Love,” Ben Howard
2. “Lost in My Mind,” The Head and the Heart
3. “Fever To The Form,” Nick Mulvey
4. “Gone,” The Show Ponies
5. “When We Were Young,” Falls
6. “Runaway,” Ziggy Alberts
7. “How You Love Me - Acoustic,” 3LAU, Bright Lights
8. “American Oxygen,” X Ambassadors
9. “Home,” Johnnyswim
10. “Wild Ones,” Bahari

Visit explorebigsky.com/beats for a sampling of the playlist.

American Life in Poetry: Column 577

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

My father spent his life in the retail business and loved almost every minute of it, so I was especially pleased to see this poem by David Huddle, from his new book, “Dream Sender.” The poet lives in Vermont.

Stores

By David Huddle

Fifteen I got a job at Leggett’s, stock boy, fifty cents an hour. Moved up—I come from that kind of people—to toys at Christmas, then Menswear and finally Shoes.

Quit to go to college, never worked retail again, but I still really like stores, savor merchandise neatly stacked on tables, sweaters wanting my gliding palm as I walk by, mannequins weirdly sexy behind big glass windows, shoes shiny and just waiting for the right feet.

So why in my seventies do Target, Lowes, and Home Depot spin me dizzy and lost, wanting my mother to find me, wipe my eyes, hold my hand all the way out to the car?

American Life in Poetry does not accept unsolicited submissions, and is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2015 by Louisiana State University Press, “Stores,” from “Dream Sender,” (Louisiana State Univ. Press, 2015). Poem reprinted by permission of David Huddle and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2015 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction’s author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Compass direction

4 Caviar

7 To be announced (abbr.)

10 Other (Sp.)

11 Yale student

12 Heat

14 Charged lepton

15 Apt

17 Aid to Dependent Children (abbr.)

18 Flexible wood

19 Noun-forming (suf.)

20 Ironwood

22 Nose (pref.)

24 Fort

27 19th century rifle bullet

31 Blue (Fr.)

32 Stool pigeon

34 Estrade

35 Showy flower

37 Therm

39 Crab-eating macaque

41 Wool (Lat.)

42 Dead on arrival (abbr.)

45 Aloe derivative

47 Possesses

50 Slub (2 words)

52 False friend

53 Half a ticket

54 Indo-Chin. language

55 Trolley

56 This one (Lat.)

57 Finesse

58 Trouble

DOWN

1 Detachable button

2 Upholstery fabric

3 Eternity

4 Roe (2 words)

5 Strong-scented

6 Iron (Ger.)

7 Brace

8 Low

9 Son of Zeus

10 Tumor (suf.)

13 Physicians, for short

16 Carriage

18 Old times

21 Seal with oakum

23 Ancient Syrian port

24 Can. Broadcasting Corp. (abbr.)

25 Bantu language

26 Shellac

28 4th incarnation of Vishnu

29 3 (Rom. numeral)

30 Compass direction

33 Palm

36 Russ. inland sea

38 Swed. county

40 Bastard wing

42 Abnormal (pref.)

43 Pledge

44 Aoudad

46 Mosque in Jerusalem

48 Bedouin headband cord

49 Benedictine title

51 Television channel

52 Thus (Lat.)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

AMASAALSVEN

COLUMBETAMA

HUACOBARLIP

TEEHERRATITE

BLONDE

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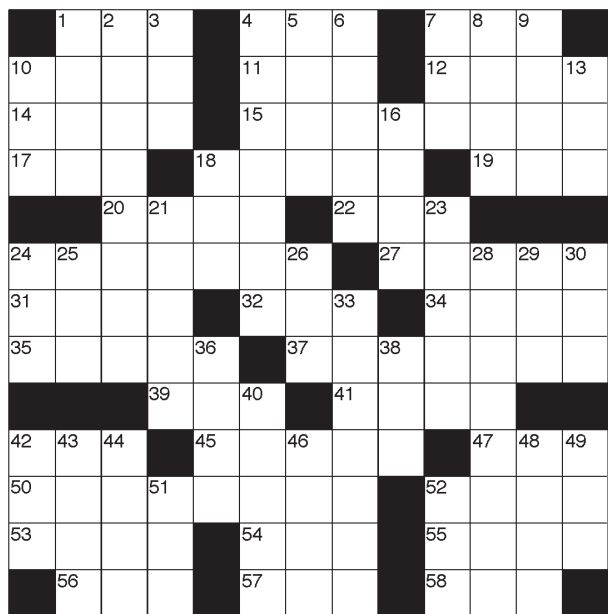
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BACK 40

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.

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

Bear spray works Here's how easy it is to use

BY CHUCK BARTLEBAUGH
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

When used correctly, bear spray has worked 98 percent of the time, even against aggressive, charging or attacking bears. It has saved many people, including numerous visitors to Yellowstone National Park.

The 2 percent of encounters when it didn't work, were related to wind or more than one bear charging.

Kerry Gunther, who is in charge of bear management for Yellowstone National Park, advises visitors to carry bear spray and travel in groups of three or more. “Hike during daylight hours and be aware of your surroundings,” Gunther said. “Watch for bear scat, bear digging sites, rocks and logs turned over, claw marks on trees, and paw prints along creeks and rivers.”

As a certified bear spray instructor, when I conduct my training, I emphasize these few critical steps to use bear spray quickly and properly:

1. Only purchase “bear spray.” Generic pepper spray is not the same as bear spray, which is regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. I recommend bear spray with at least seven seconds of spray duration and a spray distance of at least 25 feet.

2. Carry bear spray in a hip holster, chest holster or an outer winter coat pocket when in the cold. During winter months, store your bear spray inside to keep it warm.

3. Practice makes perfect. Practice withdrawing the bear spray canister out of the holster, holding the can firmly in one or two hands, and placing your thumb in front of the safety tab until this process can be done with little hesitation or effort.

4. Direct the bear spray downward in front of a threatening, charging or attacking bear. The powerful expanding cloud will billow in front of it. As the bear passes through the cloud, the inflammatory and irritating chemicals will fill its eyes, nose, mouth, throat and lungs, causing the bear to divert its charge.

5. If a bear is closer than 30 feet in a charge, there is a possibility of contact, but bear spray will reduce the length and severity of confrontation. Be prepared to lie on the ground and play dead until the bear is gone. When getting up, have your bear spray ready. Remember, every year millions of Yellowstone National Park visitors never have a confrontation with a bear, but responsible hikers and campers prepare just in case.

Chuck Bartlebaugh is the director of the Be Bear Aware Campaign and conducts bear avoidance and bear spray presentations for state and federal wildlife agencies.

