

Explore

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

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Big Sky

August 19 - Sept. 1, 2016
Volume 7 // Issue #17

**Scales tip as development
outweighs workforce**



Carrying Capacity:

Big Sky construction costs to vehicles

The Grinder closes to bikers

Executive Director steps down from
Big Sky chamber

**Patrollers toss dough
into pizza company**



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ON THE COVER: Development in Big Sky is outweighing available workers. Read about potential causes on page 8. ILLUSTRATION BY TAYLOR-ANN SMITH

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Carrying Capacity:
Big Sky construction costs to vehicles

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Patrollers toss dough into pizza company

Correction: In the story “Major lift upgrades coming this winter to Big Sky Resort” published in the Aug. 5 issue of EBS, it was reported that the resort’s lift construction project cost \$10 million. The cost of the project is \$9 million.

Explore

Big Sky

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Water and sewer district has biggest permitting year to date

EBS STAFF

As of Aug. 16, the Big Sky Water and Sewer District board has approved 399 single-family equivalent permits in 2016—the most approved in the district’s 23-year history.

A single-family equivalent, or SFE, refers to the amount of water used by a family in a given day. It helps the board use an apples-to-apples comparison as it allocates water and sewer capacity.

“We have now exceeded the single biggest year of permitting in our history,” said BSWSD General Manager Ron Edwards at the board’s Aug. 16 board meeting.

The second-biggest year was 1998, when permits were granted for Big Sky Resort’s Summit Hotel. Earlier this year, the board granted 207 SFEs for a 500,000-square-foot lodge to be built in Spanish Peaks Mountain Club.

SFEs are allocated during a calendar year, and there are 43 permits remaining for the four months left in 2016, based on the district’s current capacity.

Several other topics of discussion at the meeting—including the board’s adoption of a rate change for water and sewer fees—are in a holding pattern until legal opinions are available.

Potential amendments to the 2001 agreement granting the Yellowstone Club potable water for wastewater storage and disposal are also on hold. The district is waiting for a document from Spanish Peaks clarifying its role in the agreement, as well as the outcome of the Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum’s efforts.

“The water solutions group in the community is going to come up with a [draft] in the next 16 months, which is going to guide the amendment to the [Yellowstone Club] agreement,” said BSWSD board member and Yellowstone Club Vice President of Development Mike DuCuennois.

Big Sky watershed group hosts stakeholder meetings

EBS STAFF

The Big Sky Water Solutions Forum has three upcoming stakeholder meetings scheduled, including one on Aug. 31, before a public town hall meeting planned for Dec. 9.

The voluntary collaborative effort formed to address water resources in the Big Sky area. With more than 30 stakeholders, representing diverse interests from developers to clean water advocates, the group has identified three areas of focus: sustaining the ecological health of the river system; clean water supply and availability; and wastewater treatment and disposal.

Spearheaded by the Gallatin River Task Force, the collaboration was initially funded by nearly \$16,000 from Lone Mountain Land Company and the Yellowstone Club. Big Sky Water and Sewer District, Big Sky Resort Area

HATCH Ostinato Project launches new website

EBS STAFF

The HATCH Ostinato project, a collaboration between 29 Big Sky music students and internationally renowned composers, rolled out a new website earlier this month showcasing the project and connecting interested students, educators and musicians with resources to develop similar projects.

“The project has grown very quickly from a small local project to one that has national, and in fact international, recognition,” said HATCH founder Yarrow Kraner. “We needed a clean and crisp way to tell the story.”

Last fall, musicians and composers Philip Sheppard and Russell Spurlock took melodies that the music students created with the aid of Big Sky music educator John Zirkle and developed them into polished, layered tracks. Sheppard, Spurlock, Zirkle and Kraner developed the seed idea for the project at last September’s HATCH conference, a gathering of 100 creative types from around the world.

Three tracks generated by HATCH Ostinato have been licensed, and all 10 are available on hatchostinatoproject.com.

“Everyone’s really impressed with the quality of the music and the fact that it’s actually working as a monetized model,” Kraner said. “It’s gone past intention into execution and that’s because of the quality of the music.”

Kraner said HATCH is recruiting educators, composers and music supervisors around the world and this new website—featuring a “music makes an impact” tagline—will help with that mission.

A big push to draw more eyes to the website will occur in the coming weeks as the next HATCH conference in Big Sky approaches. The conference is slated for Sept. 14-18.

Visit hatchexperience.org for more information.

Skyline receives federal and Gallatin County funding for two new buses

EBS STAFF

The Big Sky Transportation District, which runs the Skyline bus service locally in Big Sky and the Link Express between Bozeman and Big Sky, received \$50,000 from Gallatin County on Aug. 10 to match federal funding administered by the Montana Department of Transportation.

The funds will help cover the cost two new buses, a 35-passenger bus like those already in service, and a 45-passenger bus that Big Sky Transportation District coordinator David Kack describes as similar to a high school bus, but with motor coach-style seating.

Kack said it will likely be a year before the buses are in service since they’re not waiting on a lot, ready to go. “The state [places] bids and procures them on behalf of the district, so their processes can take a little longer,” Kack said, adding that there’s certainly need for them.

“This year, our ridership between Bozeman and Big Sky was up about 20 percent,” Kack said. A survey found approximately 60 percent of riders use the service for work purposes.

This is the first time in seven years of requests that the Gallatin County commissioners have agreed to fund the district, Kack said. “I’m hoping [this time] it was a combination of persistence ... and showing [commissioners] that 76 percent of the people who are riding are Gallatin County residents.”

Kack added that even though the resorts that rely on Skyline to shuttle employees to and from work are in Madison County, Gallatin County benefits from county taxes collected in the Big Sky area. “They need to do some work to support that,” he said.

Other funding allocated to the district this year includes \$80,000 from Madison County and \$525,000 from the Big Sky Resort Area District.

District, and both Gallatin and Madison counties have since provided additional funding.

All stakeholder meetings are open to the public—with a public comment period at the beginning and end—and held 1-4 p.m. in the Big Sky Water and Sewer District conference room. The Dec. 6 town hall meeting will be held at Buck’s T-4 in the evening, with a time to be determined.

The Big Sky Water Solutions Forum stakeholder meeting schedule including itineraries:

Aug. 31 - Ecological health of the river system
Sept. 28 - Water supply and availability
Nov. 3 - Wastewater treatment and disposal



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Forum

Bugaboo Café recently closed its doors due to a lack of employees. Other local business—Alberto's, Blue Moon, Choppers, for example—have truncated their hours for the same reason.

With so much growth and development occurring in Big Sky, why do you think these restaurants are experiencing an employee shortage?



Joel Tennyson,
Big Sky, Montana

"I don't think there's a shortage of employees; I think there's a shortage of housing for employees. There are plenty of people who want to be here but have no affordable place to live. The people behind all the development know this is an issue but it's not one that's going to be solved overnight."



Jordan Clay,
Four Corners, Montana

"I think there are great opportunities here. It's a great place to live—housing is just really hard to find. I have full-time employment and drive 45 minutes each direction five days a week. I've been looking for nearly a month and haven't been able to find anything in my price range or that allows a dog."



Jami Lavin,
Big Sky, Montana

"I would definitely say housing is the key. The affordable housing initiative is for 'essential' town employees such as firefighters, health center workers and teachers. It's not focused on the workers who support the tourist-driven economy. We are the majority of who the tourists interact with on a day-to-day basis in restaurants, grocery stores, outfitters, etcetera. Without us, tourists wouldn't have much to do here."



Justin Hudson,
Billings, Montana

"Maybe it's because higher paying jobs like these, in construction, are taking employees away from those small businesses. It's kind of a catch-22. You want growth in your town but it can be hindering in terms of driving up cost of living."

Greg, have you met my P.R. team? They did my commercial that was on during the Olympics.

They seem very creative, Steve. Just don't get too creative with the commercials or I'll introduce you to my team of lawyers again!



Letters to the Editor: Gallatin County Commission supports Skyline?

In what’s best described as an election year ploy, Gallatin County Commissioner Joe Skinner finally joined fellow commissioner Don Seifert to approve a one-time, \$50,000 contribution to the Skyline bus system to help purchase additional busses.

It’s the first time Gallatin County has ponied up anything for Skyline and is undoubtedly to counter public relations gaffes for a couple of “Bridge to Nowhere” funding decisions that only benefitted a few well-connected people in the northern reaches of the county.

Gallatin County gets well over a half million dollars annually in road taxes from Big Sky. About 75 percent of Skyline riders are county residents and about 60 percent are going to work. All of those paychecks help fuel the economies on the valley floor and help pay additional road taxes there as well.

Any reduction in vehicle numbers in the canyon improves safety and benefits riders and non-riders alike. Given the lack of county maintained roads in the Big Sky area, it seems only fair and logical to return some of that tax money to the community in the form of annual support for public transportation.

The county commission has a pattern of treating the county’s cities and towns—both incorporated and unincorporated—like cash cows and using the money to fund giveaways to rural development.

To promote safety and get working-class folks from affordable areas to where the jobs are, I support annual county funding for public transportation including the Skyline bus system. I would appreciate your vote in November.

Brian Leland
Candidate for Gallatin County Commissioner
Bozeman

‘Fort’ builders: dismantle fire hazard on Reflector

Sometime this spring as I was traveling my favorite trail, Reflector, here in Big Sky, I came across a fort that was built on either U.S. government or privately owned land. Boughs were cut off trees and branches were lashed together to create a roundish, no-roof “fort” that houses a fire ring. A few beer cans and cigarette butts were lying around.

I hiked Reflector again the week of Aug. 8 and now the branches are dead and dried, and this fort is a huge fire hazard. There’s also a tent erected nearby as well as more trash, including toilet paper. I’m wondering if there are any brains involved here. Whoever built this fort and set up camp has potentially created a crime on either government or private land.

If anyone knows of the people that did this please ask them to dismantle this enormous fire hazard and disperse the dead boughs and dried pine needles. This is your forest, too, and I would hate to see stupidity win out and all of us lose our precious surrounding forest.

Karen Davids
Big Sky



Send in the goats!

Big Sky Community Organization’s Camp Big Sky attendees learn how to rope on Aug. 12 from Big Sky’s Ramirez family at Crail Ranch. Ed and Kristen Ramirez’s sons, James and Lucas, are nationally competitive ropers who practice on goats. PHOTOS BY ANNE MARIE MISTRETTA



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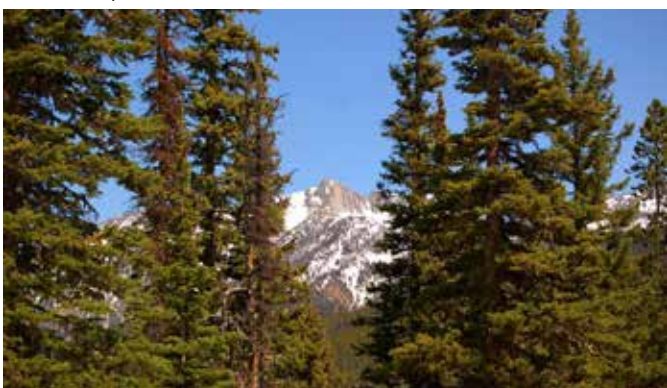
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Bye bye, Bugaboo

Local café closes doors, other businesses cut hours due to lack of employees

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – After 12 years of business, Bugaboo Café’s open sign was replaced in late July with a stark closure notice citing a shortage of workers.

Were this an isolated incident, it might be easy to blame poor management, but other local eateries—Alberto’s Mexican Cuisine, Blue Moon Bakery and Chopper’s Grub and Pub, among others—have curtailed their hours of operation claiming the same issue.

Geoff Calef bought Bugaboo Café last July and never thought his business would fail because of an employee shortage. Most businesses fail due to a lack of clientele, Calef said.

In February, Calef cut Bugaboo’s hours from six days a week to four. By May, he was down to three employees total working the full-service breakfast and lunch spot, and logging 11-hour days himself in an attempt to keep the business afloat.

“I had the business just not the employees,” Calef said. “I had to turn people away multiple times. One person can only do so much.”

Calef first looked at where he might have failed as a business owner, but knows he was not alone in his struggle to find employees and didn’t think it was because he wasn’t paying enough. He said his servers earned an hourly rate slightly above Montana’s \$8.05 minimum wage, augmented by tips, and line cooks made up to \$16 per hour.

“Why commute to Big Sky when you can get the same job in Bozeman?”

“What it boils down to is housing,” Calef said. “I had a great employee from Belgrade but he got tired of the drive. Why commute to Big Sky when you can get the same job in Bozeman? If people had places to live up here, or if there was more decent housing available, it wouldn’t be an issue. Developers seem to be building more and more storefronts and less and less housing to go with it.”

In Calef’s ideal world, Bugaboo would be open seven days a week with enough employees to sustain those hours. But he doesn’t see a resolution anytime soon to the interrelated problems of ample staffing and affordable workforce housing.

In Big Sky Town Center, Brenda Godoy, co-owner of Alberto’s Mexican restaurant, expressed similar staffing challenges during one of the busiest summers she’s seen in 10 years in Big Sky.

Even working 14-16 hour days, six days a week alongside her husband, Alberto, and employing their teenage children and other high schoolers, the restaurant was unable to keep up with lunch crowds. Exhausted after an especially busy Big Sky PBR weekend, the Godoys closed the



ABOVE: Bugaboo Café owner Geoff Calef posted this sign on its front door in late July. PHOTO BY ERSIN OZER
BELOW: Paul Cameron (at left) and his wife Kim sold the Bugaboo Café to Calef (right) in July 2015. PHOTO BY JACOB OSBORNE



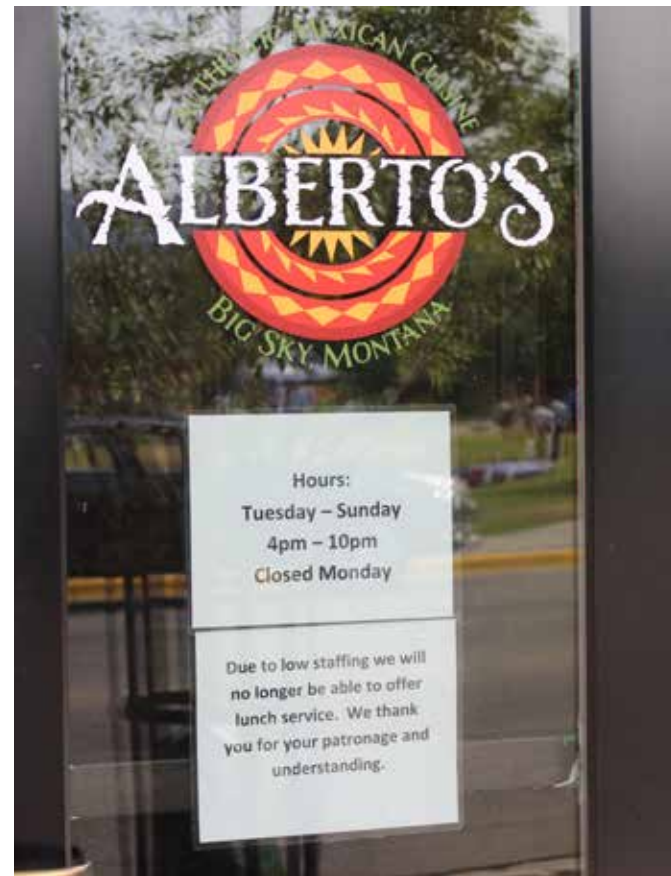
restaurant for four days, concluding that the only option was to stop lunch service and focus solely on dinner.

Brenda Godoy echoed Calef’s sentiment that housing is the main issue.

“I know because that’s what everyone asks me for,” she said. “Instead of being asked how much I pay, [potential employees] ask if I provide housing.”

Last January, the Godoys housed three kitchen staff in their own home, a three-bedroom condo already sheltering their family of four. Now, despite the added financial burden, they rent an additional condo to accommodate a small number of employees as added incentive to work at their restaurant. Reluctantly, Godoy is looking into contracting J-1 visa workers from outside the country. These young employees commit to one business for a set amount of time. The conundrum is that the employer must provide housing.

“I don’t want to do that but it’s that desperate,” Brenda said. “I have to find a way to make it work if I want to be here. I just need bodies. If I knew a better solution I would’ve tried it already.”



Alberto Godoy heats tortillas in the kitchen at his Mexican restaurant, Alberto's, on Aug. 17. He and his wife Brenda work 14-16 hours a day, and had to close the restaurant during lunch due to a lack of employees. PHOTOS BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR

On the other end of the spectrum, some restaurants such as Lotus Pad are expanding. With the help of recently acquired business partners and investors, the busy Thai restaurant is moving into a new, much larger space currently under construction on Town Center Avenue with plans to open in December.

Lotus Pad owner Alex Hoeksema is not immune to the employee shortage in Big Sky. Two winters ago, three employees quit simultaneously and left Big Sky because they couldn't find housing. One of them was living in his car until it got too cold. Last summer, Hoeksema dropped her operating hours down to six days a week because she was short staffed.

She knows that doubling her staff for the new location will be double the challenge, but Hoeksema is unflaggingly optimistic. She attributes her relative ease in attracting and retaining employees to her management style.

"We get people from other businesses that aren't paying competitive wages," Hoeksema said. "That's why I think we're able to stay staffed. As a business owner, you do what you have to. At the end of the day it's more profitable to pay people more than it is to close a day a week."

Hoeksema also strives to engender a positive work culture. Last year she bought ski passes for her committed employees, and after two years of employment Hoeksema sends her chefs on a paid trip to Thailand. She says her employees receive steep discounts at the restaurant, seasonal raises and other occasional perks.

"Still, we definitely need lower income housing," Hoeksema said. "And there are people in the community really working on that right now. It's a tricky subject and it's really affecting the small businesses—none of us have the capital to buy condos to house employees."

In late March, the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and the Human Resource Development Council announced the formation of the Big Sky Community Housing Trust to address the workforce housing issue over the long term. The trust in June received \$1.05 million in resort tax funds to move forward with the project.

Local investor Loren Bough provided an initial land donation of 10 acres in the South Fork neighborhood currently slated for 32 multi-family units and five single-family home lots. Employees in the public service sector including teachers, law enforcement, nurses and nonprofit workers will have priority, but the housing development will be open to the whole community, Bough said.

"The Bough parcel is full-steam ahead," he reported in an Aug. 17 email. "HRDC and [Lone Mountain Land Company] are thinking that the move-in date will be one year from now."

Construction costs are the biggest obstacles, according to Scott Altman, a local developer and real estate agent. For two years, Altman has been developing plans to build workforce-housing units called Big Sky Lofts, east of the new Ace Hardware building.

The development, if approved by Gallatin County Commissioners, will be located on a 16-acre plot of land presently called the Sweetgrass Hills Subdivision, and take up about eight acres. Altman has said that local employers have inquired about approximately half of the project's estimated 46 units.

But a firm timeline for the project has yet to be established, according to Gallatin County Planner Tim Skop.

Skop and Altman disagree on how long the project might take to begin construction, but Altman said he hopes to have the development housing local workers by winter 2017.

"We want to be substantially under market value for the development," Altman said, "and to make sure local businesses have first crack at this."

In the interim, the Brenda and Alberto Godoy will fly in family members from Mexico during peak times of the summer and winter seasons to alleviate the pressure of inadequate staffing.

And Calef, while trying to sell his business, will open for breakfast counter service Thursday through Sunday from 7:30-11:30 a.m., beginning Aug. 18.

Calef will cook and serve a scaled-back version of Bugaboo's standard menu with a dishwasher as his only other employee.

Carrying capacity

Big Sky grapples with construction traffic

STORY AND PHOTOS BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – Josh Stephens said when a rock shattered his windshield last fall near the intersection of Lone Mountain Trail and Ousel Falls Road, “it was like a bullet going through the window.”

Stephens, a Big Sky resident, thinks a piece of gravel had lodged between an 18-wheeler’s tires, which spit out the rock as he passed going the other direction.

The silver-dollar sized rock shattered the windshield and became lodged in the temperature gauge on his rearview mirror.

Stephens said shards of glass covered his face and body. “If I didn’t have glasses on, I definitely would have lost my eyes,” he said.

Although Stephens mentioned the incident to the Gallatin County Sheriff’s Office, without a license plate number or a way to track down the driver of the truck—who didn’t stop—he didn’t know how to proceed.



Total large truck traffic in July was up 16 percent from the same month last year according to the Montana Department of Transportation.

Motorists on Highway 191 have a slightly different issue to contend with—gravel falling from overloaded trucks and cracking their windshields, particularly through winding stretches of Gallatin Canyon.

This summer alone, Bozeman resident Jason Slater has suffered two cracked windshields from driving through the canyon on Highway 191, one to his personal vehicle and one to a work truck. He attributes both to gravel falling off uncovered semi loads in the canyon.

He said the situation is aggravated by the “dangerously slow speeds” some semi truck drivers travel—known as “speed differential” in transportation parlance—and their refusal to use slow-vehicle turnouts.

“You get really close to them and try to pass them and then boom, you get hit by a rock,” Slater said. “It seems like it never ends and it’s super frustrating.”

According to Montana Code 61-8-311, if four or more vehicles are trailing a slow-moving driver on a two-lane highway where passing is unsafe, the

driver is required to pull over at the nearest safe turnout and let the other vehicles by.

Some drivers contend that most pullouts in the canyon don’t have sufficient line of site behind them to re-enter the highway safely, so they don’t use them.

Slater, who delivers furniture to Big Sky from Bozeman and regularly drives the canyon to ski and kayak, is frustrated that he’ll have to replace the windshield, but he’s also concerned about safety. “Some of those rocks are big,” he said.

Sgt. Brandon Kelly said the Gallatin County Sheriff’s Office has handled some incidents involving gravel trucks and other motorists. Kelly said in the case of gravel falling out of a truck, the driver could be issued a moving vehicle violation for failure to secure a load.

Jeff Ebert, district administrator with the Montana Department of Transportation for this area, said trucking firms are required to keep material inside their truck boxes, but there isn’t a specific law on the books mandating that all loads are covered with a tarp or other material.

Ebert said drivers should stay a safe distance away from gravel trucks and added that a motorist with damage to their vehicle could file a tort claim, a legal filing made in response to a civil wrong.

Buz Davis, a Big Sky resident whose windshield was broken on Highway 191 this past June by gravel from a truck with two trailers, took down a license plate number for the truck responsible. He spoke to a Gallatin County Sheriff officer, who looked up the trucking firm and gave Davis their phone number.

Davis said he called the company and was connected to their insurance provider, who sent an adjuster to look at his vehicle in Bozeman. Davis replaced the windshield and received a check for reimbursement. “It was pretty painless,” he said of the process.

Calls to a number of gravel operations and trucking firms in Bozeman and Belgrade were unreturned. One Belgrade-based trucking operation said they don’t deliver to Big Sky due to the number of accidents in

the canyon, the high volume of traffic, and the amount of time it takes to deliver a load.

Ken Morton, owner of Canyon Auto Repair and Towing, said he notices an increase in the number of flat tires the shop repairs when construction is booming. He said the shop typically handles three to five flat tires per day during busy construction cycles, and that most of the flats the shop works on are punctured tires from nails and screws.

“When the construction stops, we don’t get that many flats,” Morton said.

Sgt. Kelly said given some larger projects underway in the area, it’s possible that construction traffic has increased, but added, “They would have to buy more [gravel] trucks to increase traffic—I think they’re all out there.”

Data from the Montana Department of Transportation traffic counters indicate that there is an increase in large truck traffic.



Skid marks darken the road next to a semi trailer parked on Lone Mountain Trail. This stretch of asphalt, just west of Ousel Falls Road, is one of the busiest intersections during Big Sky construction season.

Counters don’t parse out vehicles by the contents of their trailers, but they do differentiate between trucks by number of axles.

The trucks that deliver gravel to Big Sky typically have five or seven-plus axles, according to Dan Moore, bureau chief for the Montana Motor Carrier Service. The counter located on Highway 191 about two miles north of its intersection with Lone Mountain Trail logged an average of 232 five-axle truck trips per day this July—a 9.5 percent increase from the same month last year.

Trucks with seven or more axles took a daily average of 113 trips in July, reflecting no change from 2015. Those numbers include traffic traveling both north and south.

In the space of one hour on Aug. 11, 14 double-trailer gravel trucks and 11 cement trucks traveled between Highway 191 and Ousel Falls Road. That number could reflect multiple trips taken by the same trucks.

Ian Sandmeyer, who lives off Highway 191 seven miles north of the Lone Mountain Trail turnoff, says trucks can load gravel in Big Sky but drive loaded through the canyon from Bozeman and Belgrade instead.

“Big Sky has the ability to produce gravel,” Sandmeyer said, referring to the gravel pit located just south of the Lone Mountain trail junction on Highway 191 across from the Exxon gas station. “I don’t know why they wouldn’t just have a shorter route by taking gravel from Big Sky.”

Sandmeyer’s vehicle was dinged by gravel near the 35-mph bridge in Gallatin Canyon. It came from a truck that lost part of its load on Highway 191. “You could tell gravel spilled all the way down the canyon,” he said.

Sandmeyer, a furniture maker, has to turn left onto Highway 191 to drive into Bozeman for work. He said that on any given day he waits 5 to 15 minutes just to enter the highway due to high traffic volume.

“I hate to say it, but I almost think it should be 45 mph all the way through [the canyon],” Sandmeyer said. “People can’t handle it the way it is and I think if the speed limit was lowered it would create a safer road for everyone.

“Covered [trailers] should be required due to the fact of the tight corners in the canyon,” he said, adding that he’s also concerned that the high volume of heavy trucks are deteriorating the road surface by creating lumps and potholes. “That’s going to be pretty scary in the winter.”

Sandmeyer thinks construction traffic could slow in another 10 years. Once Big Sky is fully developed, he’s hopeful the road will be safer. He says there’s no point in even replacing windshields if you regularly drive the canyon.

“At the same time,” he acknowledges, “I make my money off construction, so it’s kind of a double-sided sword.”

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JetSuiteX, YC bring private California flights to Bozeman

BY JOSEPH T. O’CONNOR
EBS EDITOR

BOZEMAN – The Yellowstone Club is partnering with a private aircraft company to whisk jet setters from two California locations to Bozeman and back, in style.

JetSuiteX, an Irvine, California-based jet service in June began providing Embraer 135 jets to fly passengers between the Yellowstone Jet Center and California locations in San Jose and Burbank.

While the service, called the Bozeman Shuttle, is partly an attempt to offer more convenient travel to members of private clubs in Big Sky, including the Yellowstone Club, the Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, and Moonlight, the flights are also available to public travelers seeking to avoid long commercial airport lines.

“Working with the Yellowstone Club, we and they want to provide a dedicated shuttle for their members, but they’re open to the general public,” said Chris Bernabe, senior marketing manager for JetSuite and JetSuiteX.

JetSuiteX travelers can book flights by the seat, as compared with JetSuite, which requires passengers to charter flights by the hour, according to Bernabe.

Passengers aboard JetSuiteX’s 30-passenger planes will receive full attention throughout their flight, Bernabe said. Amenities include soundproofing, free Wi-Fi, and free in-flight entertainment, while flight attendants serve free gourmet snacks and beverages to travelers in plush leather seats equipped with individual power outlets.

According to a Bozeman Shuttle brochure, seats have “at least 36-inch seat pitch,” which refers to legroom. Most economy airline seats have between 28 and 34 inches of pitch.

“We want to provide a seamless experience from booking to the time they arrive at the airport until the time they leave,” said Bernabe, adding that passengers can show up 30 minutes before the flight. “We want to make flying enjoyable again.”

The partnership will continue offering round-trip flights from San Jose and Burbank to Bozeman through Sept. 18, and will ramp up again in the winter, according to Bernabe.

“Yellowstone Club has received positive feedback from our members regarding the ease of this shuttle and we look forward to continuing to support this program this winter,” said Krista Traxler, marketing director for the Yellowstone Club.

Round-trip, direct flights between San Jose and Bozeman will run travelers \$1,250, and a round-trip flight between Burbank and Bozeman, which include a layover in San Jose, cost \$1,450.

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Grinder trail closes to public use

BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – After more than two decades as a popular, unofficial mountain biking and hiking trail, “The Grinder” has been closed to the public.

The trail begins near the boundary of Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and ends at Big Pine Drive near Gallatin Alpine Sports, and is part of network of legacy trails in the forested hills above Big Sky Town Center.

Harry Longwell, of Dallas, Texas, acquired the property near the top of the trail last year—Longwell has owned a home for 20 years on a neighboring property in this area known as Gallatin Highlands.

Citing a number of safety and liability concerns, Longwell recently barricaded the section of trail on his property with a “No Trespassing” sign.

“We were very concerned about the excessive use on that trail, [people] building dangerous jumps and loading up bikes in trucks and racing down the trail,” Longwell said. “It’s a very unsafe situation.”

Longwell also noted that Sandhill Road, which accesses his property, is a private road and bikers using vehicles to shuttle the trail are trespassing.

Chaz Boutsikaris opened Big Sky’s Brothel Bikes on Rainbow Trout Run two years ago, and says he’s been riding The Grinder since he moved here in 1996. A deputy from the Gallatin County Sheriff’s Office approached him recently to talk about bikers using the trail.

“Honestly, the kids that are up there [building jumps], it’s definitely not a Brothel crew,” he said. Nonetheless, he had stickers made that say, “Blame the Brothel.”

“I understand the homeowner’s side with the liability, it’s just a bummer. They’re just riding bicycles,” he said, adding that he hadn’t ridden the trail recently or heard about the jumps being built this summer.

Boutsikaris points to the recent explosion of mountain biking in Big Sky as to why he opened a bike shop instead of investing in the ski industry. “Our winters are getting shorter and our summers are getting longer. Our business is growing exponentially every year ... if homeowners start shutting down trails they’ll put a tourniquet around this growing economy.”

The Gallatin Highlands Homeowners Association scheduled a September meeting to address the public use of its residents’ private lands, and has invited representatives of Big Sky Community Organization to join the discussion.

“There are a lot of community members that are disappointed because [The Grinder] is a longstanding trail that’s really close to where a lot of community members work and live,” said BSCO Executive Director Ciara Wolfe, adding that most Big Sky residents she’s talked to have been respectful about Longwell’s position.

“Our position is really to work with the landowners to find solutions to connect trails through our community, that work for the landowners,” said Wolfe, who plans to attend the September meeting with BSCO Project Manager Emily O’Connor. They will listen to the landowners’ concerns and share the trail connectivity and easement work their organization has done in Big Sky.

One such project is the 2.2-mile Ralph’s Pass trail, slated to break ground at the end of August, connecting Hummocks and Uplands trails with Ousel Falls Trail. BSCO worked with 10 different landowners to move existing easements, prioritizing both the trail user and landowner experience.

“We hope it’s a role model for future trail projects to come,” Wolfe said.

Additionally, BSCO is working with landowners to negotiate trail easements connecting the bottom of “Mountain to Meadow”—a popular mountain biking trail that begins at Big Sky Resort—to Big Sky Town Center, as well as working on an uphill route so hikers don’t conflict with bikers traveling downhill.

The Grinder doesn’t just exist in the Gallatin Highlands area, Wolfe said, it also connects the South Fork and West Fork neighborhoods. Longwell says he doesn’t foresee an easement on the trail where it currently exists, cutting through his existing home lot.

“We love Big Sky, but Gallatin Highlands is not a public recreation area,” he said, “and that’s what we’re going to discuss in September.”

Clemens resigns as chamber director

BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR
EBS EDITOR

BIG SKY – The executive director for the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce is stepping down.

Kitty Clemens, who has served as the organization's leader since August 2012, announced to the chamber board on Aug. 9 that she accepted a position as executive director of the Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority.

Clemens moved to Big Sky from Colorado Springs four years ago, and says the area and its residents will always have a place in her heart.

"When they called Montana 'The Last Best Place,' there's a lot of reasons why that's true," said Clemens, whose last day on the job will be Sept. 2. "In Big Sky the people are really great people. It's going to be hard to leave them behind and I hope to continue those relationships."

The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce boasts more than 400 businesses as members, and has made significant progress under Clemens' leadership, according to David O'Connor, chair of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

O'Connor pointed to an increased chamber staff size, greater involvement in large community issues, and an ability to relate to businesses as they were emerging from the economic downturn.

"Because of the infrastructure Kitty worked so hard to create it will be hard to fill her shoes," O'Connor said, "but I think the chamber is in a better place than we ever have been to seek the type of leadership we really need."

While a replacement hasn't yet been named, the board is discussing how to move forward with the job posting, O'Connor said.

In her tenure, Clemens has tackled issues foreign to many larger chambers of commerce, which spend much of their time lobbying city councils and state

legislatures. One major issue she brought to the forefront of the community's collective attention was that of affordable housing.

She organized a slew of "idea exchange meetings" beginning in winter 2013 to bring awareness to a housing shortage that remains among the top issues in Big Sky today.

"I think Kitty really started to open the door on the statewide and national scale and really moved the ball forward on attainable workforce housing," O'Connor said. "She was a collaborator and had a unique ability to bring people together and to convert talk into action."

The role of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce has changed and grown with this quickly evolving area, flush with new development and businesses on a regular basis.

"The chamber is a totally different animal than when I got here," Clemens said, pointing to now separate and clearly defined roles of the chamber and its visitors' bureau, Visit Big Sky, as well as a successful annual chamber dinner that's grown from 40 attendees to nearly 300 in four years. This year, Montana Gov. Steve Bullock gave the keynote address.

For Clemens, she says she's excited to return to Colorado Springs where she focused on economic development, destination marketing and community affairs before moving to Montana. But, she says, she'll miss more than just the big sky.

"We now have a group of full-time folks that are highly skilled, educated and motivated," Clemens said of the chamber staff. "One of the hardest things about leaving is not coming to work everyday and seeing the team that I work with."



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Student-raised meat now served in MSU dining hall

BY ERIN STRICKLAND
MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – Meat raised by Montana State University students will soon be served at the university’s own tables.

Thanks to a partnership between the MSU College of Agriculture and the Montana Made Program in University Food Services, meat from steers in the college’s Steer-A-Year program will be served in Miller Dining Commons and at other university events, and profits are used to benefit agriculture students.

Through Steer-A-Year, students care daily for steers that Montana ranchers have donated to the university, according to Hannah DelCurto, instructor and program manager. The steers live at MSU’s Bozeman Agricultural Research and Teaching Farm. DelCurto said the students are responsible for everything from feeding the animals to health checks and vaccinations.

In addition, the students provide data about the steers—such as average daily weight gain, carcass information when the meat is harvested and even genetic testing—to the ranchers who donated them.

In the past, meat harvested from the donated steers was simply available for anyone to purchase. With a larger program this year, however—the program grew from eight animals last year to 25 this year—there was more meat to sell.



Cole Ryan, a senior at Montana State University studying animal science, participated in the College of Agriculture’s Steer-A-Year program. Beef from the program will be served at MSU’s Miller Dining Commons and at other university events through a cross-campus partnership. PHOTO BY ADRIAN SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ

So, Steer-A-Year donors suggested selling meat to MSU’s University Food Services through the university’s Montana Made Program, which seeks to increase access to local food products. With the help of Montana Made, approximately 20 percent of the food purchased for the university last fiscal year—or approximately \$1.5 million worth of products—came from local vendors.

“We’re really excited about this opportunity,” DelCurto said. “We think it will be a really neat partnership.”

Approximately 3,600 pounds of beef from the Steer-A-Year program will be served at MSU,

according to Amy Bordeau, coordinator of the Montana Made Program. Pioneer Meats near Big Timber, which is owned by MSU alumnus Brian Engle, processed the meat.

Bordeau said Montana Made is pleased to partner with the College of Agriculture for several reasons. First, MSU students and faculty are requesting more local food.

“We are happy to provide our community with fresh and delicious foods from Montana,” Bordeau said.

Also important is that Montana Made is committed to supporting the local economy, she said.

In addition, profit from sales of the steers will fund student activities in the College of Agriculture, and Bordeau said Montana Made is glad to support students directly in that way.

Finally, DelCurto noted that because of the partnership, students have the opportunity to learn not only about agriculture, but also about business and economics.

“From an educational standpoint, the students are involved in every step of creating the product, even in getting the product to the consumer,” she said.

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US government sues utility to recover firefighting costs

BY MATT VOLZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – The U.S. government, facing rising firefighting costs as blazes rage more frequently and with greater intensity across the West, wants Montana’s largest utility to compensate it for a 2010 wildfire near Canyon Ferry Lake east of Helena.

Over three days in July 2010, the Lakeside Fire burned nearly 900 acres of federal, state and private land. It destroyed a cabin and two other structures and forced the evacuation of residents north of the lake. More than 200 people from various agencies and led by the U.S. Forest Service responded to the fire.

NorthWestern Energy’s negligence of a power line caused the fire, according to the lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court. A Forest Service investigation concluded the fire was started after the power line malfunctioned, severed and ignited the grass and timber on the ground.

The power line’s poles and insulators had not been properly maintained by NorthWestern Energy, the lawsuit said.

“The Ward Ranch Line would not have malfunctioned, snapped and caused the Lakeside Fire if defendant had exercised reasonable care in the maintenance and operation of the line,” Assistant U.S. Attorney Megan Dishong wrote in the lawsuit.

The government seeks \$485,855—the cost of fighting the fire—plus interest and an unspecified amount in penalties.

NorthWestern’s attorneys filed a response Aug. 8 in which the company denies any liability. Attorney Chad Adams submitted a number of possible defenses, including that the damage caused by the fire was an Act of God, the fault of others not named or caused by the government itself.

NorthWestern spokeswoman Claudia Rapkoch said she could not speak in detail about the lawsuit or the cause of the fire, but that the company strongly denies the allegation of negligence. “The company does plan to defend itself in court if it comes to that,” she said.

Fighting and preventing fires now consumes more than half of the Forest Service’s annual budget, and the agency estimates the costs could jump to two-thirds of the budget by 2025 unless changes are made. The costs have risen as fire seasons have grown longer and the size, frequency and severity of fires have increased, agency officials said in a report released last year.

But lawsuits such as the one filed against NorthWestern Energy are not part of any new strategy to cut down those costs, said Forest Service spokesman David Smith.

“If a responsible party has been identified, the government seeks to recover costs,” Smith said. “We’ve collected from energy companies, mines, and individuals over the years.”

It may not be uncommon for the U.S. government to sue to recover firefighting costs, but the government should be doing more of it, said J. Curtis Varone, a Rhode Island attorney who runs a blog called Fire Law.

“In the US we have historically looked at fire as an accident for which no one is really responsible,” Varone said in an Aug. 9 email to The Associated Press. “Many other countries look at it a bit differently: negligently causing a fire is a criminal act.”

Some states also have turned to the courts to recover firefighting costs. The Wyoming Supreme Court last year ruled the state could recover money from Black Hills Power Inc. that was spent fighting a 2012 wildfire on state land near Newcastle.

Montana also paid more than \$13,000 of the cost of the Lakeside Fire, its share for the damage to state lands, according to a cost-share agreement between the Forest Service and the state Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. The state agency is reviewing the federal lawsuit, spokesman John Grassy said. “We haven’t made a determination whether or not we’ll get involved,” Grassy said.

Three landowners previously sued NorthWestern Energy over the Lakeside Fire, making similar claims to those contained in the government’s lawsuit. One of the landowners settled with the utility for terms that plaintiffs’ attorney Thomas Budewitz declined to disclose.

One of the other lawsuits was thrown out earlier this year and the other has been suspended, according to court records.

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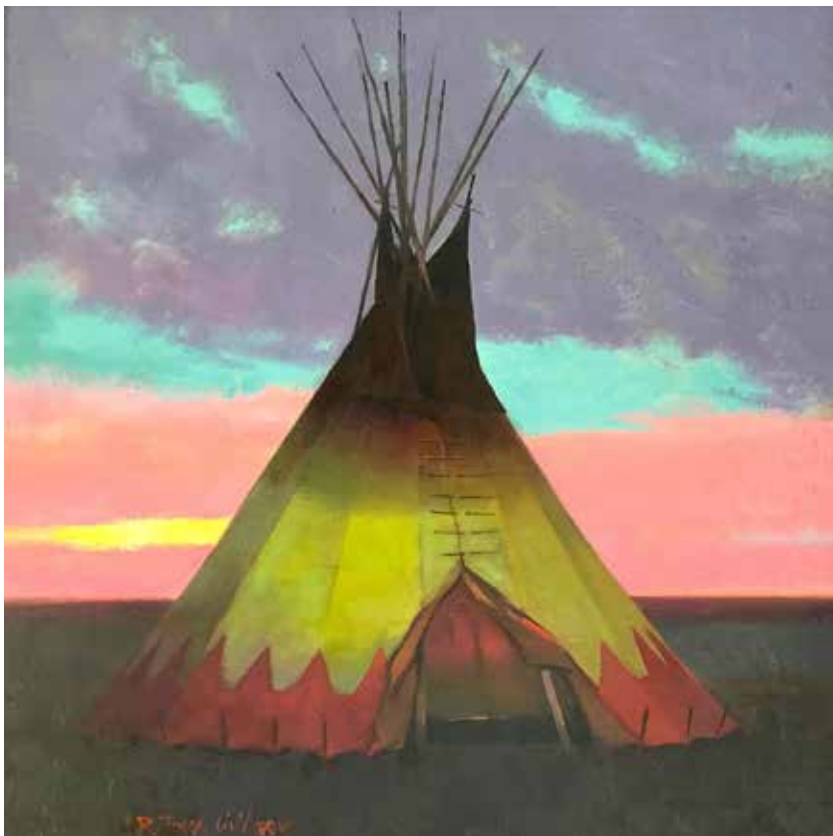
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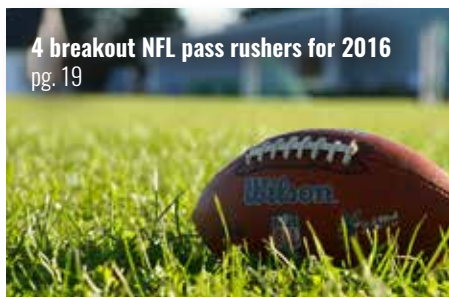
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EDITOR'S NOTE: In June, Todd Wilkinson's New West column, "Loving Bears Is Not A License For Hatred" was recognized by the National Newspaper Association as the Best Serious Column in the country for small newspapers. We are reprinting it here.

Loving bears is not a license for hatred



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

Because we say we care, does this entitle us to behave like louts?

As public outrage went supernova around this time last summer, ignited by a mother grizzly bear in Yellowstone being euthanized, we caught another glimpse of what mass hysteria looks like.

Just weeks after a Minnesota trophy hunter received death threats for illegally killing Cecil the beloved lion in Zimbabwe, a plume of unrest also rose like a mushroom cloud over America's mother national park.

While in Mammoth Hot Springs interviewing Superintendent Dan Wenk for a story in National Geographic online, I walked down the corridor to say hello to Yellowstone's chief bear biologist, Kerry Gunther.

Amid Wenk's gut-wrenching decision to have the mama griz destroyed—a frontcountry female nicknamed Blaze by wildlife watchers—Yellowstone staff was avalanched by nasty emails, phone calls and letters.

One of the vilest—anonously delivered—was a voicemail left by a woman on Gunther's phone line. Laden with expletives as vicious as any environmentalist would expect to come from anti-government, anti-wolf zealots, this message informed Gunther that basically he'd be better off dead.

I listened. I asked him to play it back again. I looked at the expression on his face.

This wasn't a verbal attack easily deflected with a shrug or written off as a joke. It's not what civil servants protecting wildlife in the public interest deserve to receive.

To suggest that such disrespect should come with being a government employee—spewed by people ashamed to use their real names—engenders no sympathy for those who want to end mistreatment of animals.

We normally maintain a buffer between what we do professionally and safe space created for our families. Before and after the death of the mother grizzly, which resulted in two orphaned cubs being sent to the Toledo Zoo, the wall of protection that insulated the families of some Yellowstone employees was breached.

I imagined how traumatic it would've been for a child to have answered Gunther's phone. Later, I learned a mother in the Yellowstone public affairs office did receive a threat that harm might come to her kids.

Last autumn at meetings in Teton Village, Wyoming, where the future of Greater Yellowstone grizzlies was discussed, Wenk and Gunther shared shock, awe, disgust and indignation.

Both are thick-skinned, strong-backed guys. But they were frustrated by a new kind of venting, fanned by social media, that in a flash gives every human on Earth a license to be a jerk, whether informed or not.

Free speech—what does it mean? Misuse it as a weapon to terrorize and, rhetorically, how is the conduct any different from those maligned for threatening animal advocates with harm?

After my story on Wenk appeared in National Geographic—and later when I wrote a piece about Chris Servheen, then the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's national grizzly bear recovery coordinator who, I noted, takes his sons to watch bears in Yellowstone every year—I received nastygrams from people who said I had gone too easy on Wenk and Servheen.

I should have portrayed them as enemies of grizzlies, I was told. Wenk ought to be condemned for taking out Blaze; Servheen deserves to be castigated for saying he believed the Greater Yellowstone grizzly population is recovered, they said.

No one should be begrudged for having deeply held passions about grizzly bears or demanding that government and public officials be held accountable.

Valid reasons exist to ask Wenk about his rationale for having the bear killed and for questioning Servheen about delisting—issues they aren't and weren't afraid to discuss.

Here's the new irony surrounding Blaze: The mother grizzly lethally removed for fatally attacking and eating a Yellowstone hiker might not actually be Blaze after all. Park officials know they caught the female bruin responsible for the death of Lance Crosby, but whether it was actually Blaze is now a matter of spirited disagreement.

No one should be begrudged for having deeply held passions about grizzly bears or demanding that government and public officials be held accountable. This includes environmentalists, tribal leaders and members of the hook-and-bullet hunting community. Wildlife needs thoughtful, stalwart defenders. Bullying, intimidation and threatening behavior has no place.

"What is objectionable, what is dangerous about extremists is not that they are extreme, but that they are intolerant," remarked Robert F. Kennedy, who referred to the assassinations of his brother and Martin Luther King Jr. before his own murder by a zealot's bullet. "The evil is not what they say about their cause, but what they say about their opponents."

EBS publishes Todd Wilkinson's New West column every week online and twice a month in the print version of the paper. Wilkinson is author of the award-winning and critically acclaimed "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek, An Intimate Portrait of 399, the Most Famous Bear of Greater Yellowstone," featuring 150 amazing photographs by Thomas D. Mangelsen. The book is only available at mangelsen.com/grizzly and when you order today you will receive a copy autographed by both author and photographer. Wilkinson also wrote a profile of Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk for the summer 2016 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine, now on newsstands.

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Oregon Department of State Lands did not overstep when they blocked the proposal for the Coyote Island Terminal project at the Port of Morrow because of potential impacts on tribal fishing grounds, Administrative Law Judge Alison Greene Webster said.

“This is a huge, huge decision,” said Brett VandenHeuvel, executive director of Columbia Riverkeeper, of the Aug. 12 action. “If you look back at some of their statements previously, these have been their No. 1 talking points.”

The Port of Morrow and Coyote Island Terminal LLC also have appealed and the Umatilla, Warm Springs, Yakama and Nez Perce tribes have all intervened.

The project was proposed by the Australian company Ambre Energy and is part of a plan to transport coal mined from the Powder River Basin in Montana and Wyoming through Oregon on its way to Asian markets. The Brisbane-based company proposed bringing the coal by train to Boardman, Oregon, where it would be loaded on barges at the Port of Morrow and then sent down the Columbia River to the Port of St. Helens, where it would be transferred to oceangoing ships.

The company said it would pay \$850,000 in annual fees to each of the two ports while paying property taxes in Morrow and Columbia counties. The project was expected to generate several hundred jobs during construction at the Port of Morrow and add about 30 port workers permanently.

Wyoming, the nation's leading coal-producing state, has been looking to Asia amid competition from cheap and abundant natural gas and tighter federal regulations on coal mining that have hurt domestic production. The state is trying to overturn the ruling, saying it hurt Wyoming's economy and violates the commerce clause of the U.S Constitution, which gives the federal government the right to regulate domestic and international trade.

Ambre's North American operation eventually separated from the parent company and renamed itself Lighthouse Resources Inc.

“This is a ruling on the motion for summary determination, not a ruling on the merits,” Lighthouse general counsel Michael Klein told Oregon Public Broadcasting. “We look forward to addressing the merits of our appeal at the hearing scheduled for November.”

None of the six coal export projects proposed in the Northwest in the past six years has been approved, the station reported. They've all struggled with public opposition, permit denials and a declining market for the product.

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EYE ON THE BALL

4 breakout NFL pass rushers for 2016



BY BRANDON NILES
EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

With the NFL preseason underway, it's time to schedule your fantasy drafts, make your predictions and don your favorite team apparel as we look toward another great season of football!

With all of the focus on quarterbacks, running backs and wide receivers, remember that the old adage "defense wins championships" is still relevant today. Last year, the Super Bowl winning Denver Broncos finished fourth in the league in points allowed, and a mere 19th in points scored. Defense still wins championships.

With that in mind, I look at some of the best defensive players in football. Last season, we saw players like Detroit Lions defensive end Ezekiel Ansah, Oakland Raiders defensive end Khalil Mack, and Houston Texans outside linebacker Whitney Mercilus all deliver double-digit sacks for the first time in their young careers.

While these young pass rushers are likely to dominate for years to come, I've identified players that might break out in similar fashion this year. Here are four young pass rushers to keep an eye on during the 2016 season.

Danielle Hunter, Minnesota Vikings defensive end

Playing only on passing downs behind starter Brian Robison last year, third-round pick Hunter flashed elite athleticism and pass-rushing skills on his way to six sacks as a rookie. Hunter looks to be in line for more snaps and production during his second season, and he's still only 21 years old.

The future is bright for this talented pass rusher out of LSU, and with an emerging defensive squad growing around him he's a prime candidate for a breakout season.

Kony Ealy, Carolina Panthers defensive end

Ealy has slowly been given more snaps and more opportunities in each of his first two seasons in the league. As strictly a pass rush specialist in select packages in 2014 he had four sacks. He followed that up with more time in the rotation and five sacks with three forced fumbles in 2015.

Then Ealy gained notoriety with three sacks, a forced fumble and an interception in the Super Bowl. Ealy is a playmaker with unique finesse considering the amount of power he puts behind his bull rush. He won't be contending with the recently retired Jared Allen for playing time this year, which should make this former third-round pick out of Missouri a star in 2016.

Preston Smith, Washington Redskins outside linebacker

Smith quietly had a very productive rookie season last year. A second-round pick in 2015 out of Mississippi State, he predominantly played on passing downs and racked up eight sacks and four forced fumbles for the Washington defense.

This year, Washington should have a little more fanfare following an NFC East championship season, which should allow Smith a little more limelight. With added help in the secondary, and the emergence of fellow linebacker Perry Riley, the powerful Smith could be in for a double-digit sack year.

Aaron Lynch, San Francisco 49ers outside linebacker

There wasn't much to like in San Francisco in 2015, but in his second season out of South Florida, Lynch managed 6.5 sacks in 14 games. Playing in the outside rush spot, he should have ample opportunity to get after the quarterback this year, and if the offense improves under new head coach Chip Kelly, opposing teams won't be able to abandon the pass early in games.

Lynch uses a relentless motor to get pressure, and the 49ers added a stout defender up front in rookie first-round pick DeForest Buckner, which should help Lynch find enough room to increase his production.

While these aren't the only players poised for breakout seasons, they're definitely the young pass rushers that I'll be watching every Sunday for the next 20-plus weeks. Look for more football content as the season inches closer, and for analysis throughout the year.

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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Golf tips from a pro

Mastering the release

BY MARK WEHRMAN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Golf is a very challenging game that's driven by mechanics and fundamentals. Our job as golfers is to learn the proper fundamentals and train the correct mechanics to develop our own feel. In my opinion, the hardest mechanic to develop a feel for is the "release."

Releasing the club is the return of the clubhead, hands and body to a position similar to the "address," or starting position. In layman's terms, it's the rotation of the forearms through the hitting area or the squaring of the clubface at impact.

The angle of the clubface at impact controls about 80 percent of the ball flight. Although our grip is what controls the clubface, we still need to return that clubface square to impact, or our ball flight will have a certain amount of curve while in the air. That curve is either in the form of a draw or fade, or more severely a hook or slice.

Starting at waist height while on the downswing, the toe of the club should be pointing at the sky with the shaft of the club parallel to the ground. From this position (for a right-handed golfer) the right forearm will start rotating over the left forearm and the clubface will eventually square at impact. This rotation continues as we follow through toward the target, with the toe of the club eventually pointing at the sky again.

One important thing to remember is that the forearm rotation is led by the chest. You must keep rotating your torso through impact or the hands and arms will take over and you will most likely pull the ball.

The two things that will prevent you from releasing the club properly are gripping the club too tightly—creating added tension in your forearms—and/or moving your swing center ahead of impact, before the hands and arms can catch up. (Your swing center is the center of your chest.)

There is one drill that will help you learn to release the club properly: Set up to the ball normally and swing the club back to waist height, with the toe of the club pointing at the sky; from there, swing through impact while rotating your forearms and squaring the clubface.

Stop the swing half way through the follow through when the club is once again waist high. At this position, your right forearm should be turned over your left forearm, the toe of the club pointing at the sky, and the club should be in front of your chest. If you get to this position, you have properly released the club and should see a straight ball flight.

If you constantly struggle with a slice or hook, practice this drill with a short iron and you will eventually develop a feel for the proper release.

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



This drill will help you learn to release the club properly: Swing the club back to waist height, with the toe of the club pointing at the sky; from there, swing through impact while rotating your forearms and squaring the clubface. Stop the swing half way through the follow through when the club is once again waist high. At this position your right forearm should be turned over your left forearm.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARK WEHRMAN

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Friday, August 26	Tournament
Saturday, August 27	Tournament
Sunday, August 28	Tournament

TEAMS		STANDINGS: Wins-Losses	
1	Riverhouse	Hillbilly Huckers	13-0
2	Yellowstone Club	Country Market	10-1
3	Country Market	Yellowstone Club	7-3
4	Cab Lizards	Jarvis	7-4
5	Michaelangelo's	Riverhouse	8-5
6	Yeti Dogs	Black Bear	8-5
7	Blue Mooners	Michaelangelo's	7-7
8	The Cave	CIA/Broken Spoke	6-6
9	Montucky Moonshiners	Montucky Moonshiners	6-7
10	Lone Mountain Land Co.	Milkie's	5-7
11	Black Bear	Yeti Dogs	6-9
12	Hillbilly Huckers	Cab Lizards	5-9
13	Jarvis	Blue Mooners	4-8
14	CIA/Broken Spoke	Lone Mtn. Land Co.	4-10
15	Milkie's	The Cave	2-9
16	Big Sky Resort	Big Sky Resort	2-10

*Standings as of Aug. 10

Gallatin County Notice of Meeting

The Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Zoning Advisory Committee ("BSAC") will consider the following items at its monthly meeting on Monday August 29, 2016 at 9:30 AM, at the Big Sky Water and Sewer District office, 561 Little Coyote Rd, Big Sky, MT. The BSAC is an advisory arm of the Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Planning and Zoning Commission and invites the Big Sky Community to attend meetings and participate in discussions concerning Big Sky planning matters.

1.Public Forum (items not on agenda)

2. Altman/Civeo Employee Housing Facility Zone Text Amendment
Text Amendment request submitted by Civeo and Scott Altman, to amend the Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Zoning Regulation.

The proposed text amendment would create a new category of high density, temporary employee housing for transient workers. The application would create standards, or rules that apply to this new type of housing and establish it as a conditional use in the Commercial-Industrial district.

Questions and comments should be directed to the Gallatin County Planning Department, 406-582-3130 or e-mail to tim.skop@gallatin.mt.gov

DOCTOR'S NOTE

Now is the time for student physicals



BY DR. JEFF DANIELS
EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Since I came to Big Sky in 1994, I've been performing "pre-participation" school physicals for the students of Big Sky schools. With a new academic year beginning Aug. 31, and sports like football and volleyball attracting numerous student athletes, many Big Sky students in middle and high school are required to get a physical.

All but one of the 50 states and the District of Columbia require students who want to participate in organized sports to get a physical exam. There are no nationwide standards, but common sense has led to the creation of a questionnaire form that tries to cover all aspects of a young athlete's health history and physical condition.

The form is also used to establish a vaccination history, including the patient's last tetanus shot—if you read my last column you know this shot also includes protection against pertussis or whooping cough. Many of us remember the pertussis outbreak that happened a few years ago in the Big Sky School District, so getting this vaccination in early teenage years is especially important.

After reviewing a health history with the student and his or her parents, anything significant that has happened in the past is documented. This includes a history of concussions, orthopedic injuries, allergies and asthma, dizziness, or previous sudden loss of consciousness.

Clues that we look for during the physical exam in order to confirm that a student athlete is in good health include assessment of the mobility of the back, neck and major joints. Balance and other neurological tests are done. Vision testing using the Snellen chart has occasionally led to the recommendation of a complete optometry evaluation. And then there's the hernia check for boys—I've actually discovered a couple of hernias in the 22 years I've been checking out Big Sky kids.

For a long time, there's been a controversy regarding the attempt to identify the extremely rare young individual who could have a cardiac event during sports. Hearing a tragic story of a sudden collapse or cardiac arrest by a youngster participating in athletics certainly causes anxiety in parents, coaches and health providers. The reasons that this might happen include an abnormal structure of the heart—hypertrophic cardiomyopathy or a defect in the origin of a coronary artery—or an electrical problem like the congenital prolongation of the electrical wave called the QT interval, that can cause a heart arrhythmia.

Should we get an electrocardiogram and/or an echocardiogram on all young athletes, to identify subtle or overt abnormalities that could lead to sudden collapse? The general medical consensus is that it's not an effective way of protecting all young athletes, and should only be done if the history or physical exam suggests any cardiac abnormality.

Suspicion can be raised if the blood pressure is too high, or if there is a significant difference in the blood pressure taken in each arm. Another important physical clue is the presence of a heart murmur that follows a certain pattern, consistent with enlargement and blockage of the heart's outflow tract.

Now that football and volleyball are starting, we've been doing plenty of these physicals. We also have kids going to camp this summer coming in for check-ups. We make it easy, just walk in with the form.

I'd like to thank the families who continue to use the Medical Clinic of Big Sky for school physicals.

Dr. Jeff Daniels was the recipient of the 2016 Big Sky Chamber of Commerce Chet Huntley Lifetime Achievement Award and 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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From Jackie *with love*



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

What if our students were taught a life skill throughout their K-12 education that developed their ability to control their emotions, solve problems creatively, increase their attention span and have more empathy?

And what if they were trained by teachers who were first taught these skills and learned to reduce their own stress levels, improve their health, and bring and embody a sense of peace and calm?

We need to look no further than Ohio’s 13th Congressional District, southeast of Cleveland, to find the answer. In 2008, U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan was struggling with the stress of working on Capitol Hill and attended a five-day mindfulness retreat conducted by Jon Kabat-Zinn, the creator of the Stress Reduction Clinic and the Center for Mindfulness in Medicine, Health Care, and Society at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Ryan found the experience so profound that he authored “Mindful Nation: How a Simple Practice Can Help Us,” and earmarked nearly \$1 million in federal funds to create the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) in his school district. He has continued to champion SEL and mindfulness practice in schools and on Capitol Hill.

If you’ve ever had the experience of driving or riding your bike to work or school and you arrive without being able to recall the trip, that is an example of being on autopilot. Being consciously mindful is the opposite of that. It means that you are able to stay focused in the present moment.

In a recent “Humankind” interview aired on NPR, Congressman Ryan said that a study of more than 200,000 kids practicing SEL showed an 11 percent increase in test scores; a 10 percent increase in good behavior; a 10 percent decrease

Raising a generation of mindful leaders

in antisocial behavior; and a 20 percent increase in the “mood” of the school, measured using mental health screening tools and rating scales.

This study looked at the results of SEL but didn’t include the outcomes of mindfulness training; Ryan believes that if it did, these numbers would reflect even greater improvement.

SEL and mindfulness training begins with four full days of teachers learning to manage and improve their own emotional health. Ryan appreciates the challenges teachers face and finds that when they are empowered with tools to better care for themselves, they have more focus and vitality to bring to the classroom and are excited to share the information with their students and other teachers.

If you think your family and community could benefit from SEL and mindfulness meditation, please look to those who are having success with it. Read Congressman Ryan’s book and look further into the work being done in Youngstown, Ohio, for guidance.

Of course, new and unusual ideas such as these aren’t implemented overnight. The fastest way to help your family and community adopt new social and emotional learning tools and mindfulness practice is to bring it into your own life.

There are many books as well as live and online courses one can attend. My current favorite can be found at soundstrue.com/mbsr. This eight-week mindfulness-based stress reduction course, created by Jon Kabat-Zinn, can be done in the comfort of your own home. From my own experience it is powerful and effective.

Let’s raise a generation of children who are emotionally healthy and vibrant, because they are our future leaders.

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



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6:30-7:45pm
All Levels Yoga

7:00-8:00am
Pi-Yo

9:00-10:15am
All Levels Yoga

11:00-12:00
Sukshma Vyayama-
Fine Tune Your Circuitry

4:30-5:15
Kids Yoga (through summer break)

7:00-8:00am
All Levels Yoga

8:15-9:15am
Roll it out Pilates

9:30-10:45am
All Levels Yoga

7:00-8:00am
Pi-Yo

9:00-10:15am
Level II Yoga

11:00-12:00
Gentle/Restorative Yoga

9:00-10:15am
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All Levels Yoga

7 Spruce Farm

STORY AND PHOTOS BY EMILY STIFLER WOLFE

EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – The first time Tim Gallagher tried to grow hydroponic tomatoes, in 1971, a 180-mph wind gust lifted the edge of his greenhouse and tore it apart. Debris from the greenhouse was found 15 miles away.

Gallagher shelved the project, instead focusing on the garden center and plant nursery he owned for 26 years in Boulder, Colorado.

Four decades later, Gallagher finally has his greenhouse, this time in the field behind his home at 7 Spruce Farm in Bozeman.

“The principle behind hydroponic farming is the same as 45 years ago, but the technology is unbelievably different,” he says.

A \$15,000 computer controls the climate inside the 3,000-square-foot structure, keeping it at 87.3 degrees and 41 percent relative humidity. The watering system—or as Gallagher calls it, “the IV unit”—infuses the plant roots with fertilizer and water nine times a day.

While climate and watering are automatic, the rest of the operation is anything but.

Gallagher’s wife Darcy—a former business analyst at the University of Colorado-Boulder—also works full time on the operation; Gallagher’s stepson and his wife, Zac and Heather Collins—a GIS analyst and the development director at Eagle Mount, respectively—are involved in operations.



Tim Gallagher shows off the computer that controls the climate inside of the 7 Spruce Farm greenhouse.

7 Spruce tomatoes are a hybrid called Rebelski, a type of beefsteak with glossy skin and ribbed shoulders like an heirloom. Because they are an indeterminate variety, the vines continue growing throughout the season, unlike a determinate bush tomato that stays small. A spooled string hung from above supports the vines.

“They grow and grow and grow until they get to the top of the spool, and we let them down in two foot increments every two weeks,” Gallagher explains, adding that the bare vine, laid down alongside the rows, will be about 50 feet long by Thanksgiving. “It’s very meticulous work, because these plants with fruit weigh 50 to 60 pounds. Someone has to hold it to be sure it doesn’t fall.”

Their toil is paying off. Since finishing construction on the greenhouse in late January and planting 600 seedlings in March, Gallagher estimates they have harvested 10,000 pounds of tomatoes, all picked right before they go to market. He hopes to harvest 30,000 pounds before the season ends around Thanksgiving.



7 Spruce grows a hydroponic hybrid beefsteak strain called Rebelski.

Nearly the entire crop is spoken for by local restaurants and grocers. They include Red Chair Cafe, the Yellowstone Club, Black Bull, Open Range, Over the Tapas, Sauce Food Truck, Ale Works, Riverside Country Club, the Bozeman Community Food Co-op and Rosauers. Gallagher also makes regular deliveries to the Bozeman Food Bank.

“Visually, the tomatoes are stunning,” said Stanford Isobe, executive chef at Riverside Country Club, who contacted Gallagher when a club member told him about the new greenhouse.

“A few days later he was down here with tomatoes. We got a knife out, cut a thick slice, and touched it with salt and pepper.” One bite of the deep red, juicy fruit, and Isobe was sold. Now he uses them in salads, sauces, and a fresh tomato Pomodoro linguini.

Corey Ceccacci, the executive chef at Black Bull golf community, showcases the tomatoes in a simple Caprese salad with mozzarella and basil. “They remind me of back East, when my grandma would harvest tomatoes in August and September, and we’d have a tomato sandwich with salt, pepper and vinegar,” Ceccacci said.

With sales outpacing harvest, the Gallaghers plan to build a second tomato greenhouse this fall, and eventually, houses for peppers and cucumbers.

“It’s the way of the future,” Gallagher says, noting that his hydroponic greenhouse equals a three-acre outside plot, in terms of what he could grow. He looks around at his plants. “They’re beautiful, aren’t they?”



7 Spruce Farm has 600 tomato vines growing in its 3,000-square-foot greenhouse, and since May the farm has produced 10,000 pounds of tomatoes.

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ENERGY
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VITA
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MONTANA'S HIGHEST SCENIC OVERLOOK

LONE PEAK EXPEDITION: TRAM TO 11,166FT

Ride to
11,166ft



Photos: Michel Tallichet, Crystal Images



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BASECAMP TO YELLOWSTONE PARK

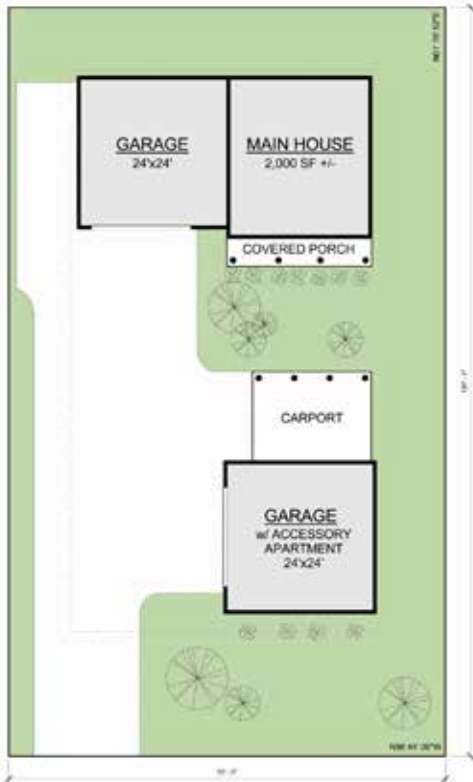
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Build a house with a detached apartment and garage all on one lot—right in the heart of Big Sky!



Conceptual Plan for Lot 16



The South Fork subdivision was created 20 years ago with full time Big Sky residents in mind. The goal was to build a residential community where locals could live and enjoy everything that Big Sky has to offer. Phase 5 will be the last lots in South Fork. Lots start at \$125,000 and have the added perk of being able to build a detached apartment with a garage! For more information, please visit: www.SouthForkSubdivision.com

*Packy Cronin is a REALTOR and licensed Real Estate Agent
Lots are agent owned and agent is related to the sellers.*



Packy Cronin ~ Sales Associate

Cell: 406.580.4136

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Bridger Canyon Masterpiece, Bozeman

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\$7,800,000 | #183385

Bridger Canyon Masterpiece

40.24± acres, 4 bd, 8 ba, 10,923± sf home, 5 fireplaces, wine room, home theater, bar, Incredible craftsmanship and attention to detail



\$3,995,000 | #199289

Diamond Bar 7, Big Timber
2,062± acre productive ranch, 5 reservoirs, irrigated cropland, owner's residence, hand's home & live water



\$778,000 | #200670

Lost Trail Retreat, Big Sky
20± acres, mid-mountain location Outstanding building site with mtn views Community water system



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Montana Properties

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PHOTO BY MATTHEW MILLMAN

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MAMMOTH 107.1**

BOZEMAN



512 Old Farm Road | Old River Farm | \$2.975M | *Located along ~1/2 mile of East Gallatin River and minutes from downtown*



ThreeSixty | Elk Springs | \$2.49M
Minimalist style home with impressive mountain views



3428 South 30th - UNDER CONTRACT | Meadow Creek | \$659K
Incredible mountain views with south side of Bozeman location

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YELLOWSTONE CLUB



River Runs Through It | Yellowstone Club | \$13M | *The largest ski-in, ski-out home available at Yellowstone Club*



388 Andesite Ridge Road | Yellowstone Club | \$6.45M | *Ski-in, ski-out home with southern exposure*

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BHHSMT.COM | 406.995.4060 | 55 LONE PEAK DRIVE | BIG SKY TOWN CENTER



JACK CREEK ROAD

\$13,750,000 | #205500 | Call Stacy or Eric
Hunt, ski, fish. 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.



48784 GALLATIN ROAD

\$7,100,000 | #215673 | Call Don
Outstanding 83± acre recreational parcel with Gallatin River Frontage & vibrant springs, one of which flows into a large stocked pond. Main house, guest house, caretakers quarters & historic barn. Direct access into public land, within minutes of Town Center.



CAMP ARROWHEAD

\$4,995,000 | #208912 | Call Stacy or Eric
25± acre Beehive Basin compound. Main house 6,000± sf, guest house 1,672± sf, and caretaker apartment. Views to Lone Mtn, Andesite and Beehive. Near Big Sky Resort and Moonlight Basin.



SILVERADO TRAIL

\$2,850,000 | #202031 | Call Stacy or Eric
5 Bd, 6 ba, 6,663± sf., on 4.7± wooded acres, views of the Spanish Peaks and Lone Mountain. Attention to detail with carved mantels and wood floors, 6 fireplaces, 3 car heated garage.



MARKET PLACE

\$2,200,000 | #207397 | Call Eric
Investment Building worth considering located in Meadow Village Center, one of the main retail centers in Big Sky, Montana. Fully leased and well managed mixed use building offering both retail and residential tenancies. 12,701± sf



NORTHFORK ROAD

\$1,800,000 | #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.



SPANISH PEAKS CONDO

\$590,000 | #213080 | Call Stacy or Eric
Upgraded 2 bd, 3 ba furnished unit. Gourmet kitchen, granite countertops, Jenn-Air appliances, hickory cabinets, main level W/D, wood burning fireplace in great room. Garage.



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!



SKYCREST CONDO

\$360,000 | #212326 | Call Don
Ground level unit, sold furnished and is virtually new as it was recently taken down to the studs and rebuilt. Underground parking, additional storage in the garage area.



HIDDEN VILLAGE CONDO

\$355,000 | #214888 | Call Don
3bd, 3ba located on cul-de-sac with good views of Yellow Mountain. New stainless steel kitchen appliances, kitchen sink, granite countertops in kitchen and powder room. Hot tub has been removed to create a den or office.



FOURPOINT ROAD, ANTER RIDGE LOT

\$240,000 | #214051 | Call Don
.35± acre ridge lot, great building site, views of Lone Mtn, Yellow Mtn, and canyon. One of the first lots sold when initially offered, rolling hillside topography with community W/S.

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Section 3: INSIDE YELLOWSTONE, OUTDOORS, & DINING



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A guide to hot springs pg. 37



Caldera Pizza & Grill pg. 45

Yellowstone: Then and now

As the National Park Service turns 100, the world's first national park prepares for the next century of service

"National parks are crucial for people to understand who they are, where they've been, and where they can go. Parks offer firsthand opportunities to immerse ourselves in these places that help shape who we are, protect our collective natural and cultural heritage, and enrich our life experiences. If a place is a national park, it is because it really matters."

-Raymond M. Sauvajot, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

GARDINER, Mont. - A good-natured rivalry has long existed between Yellowstone and Yosemite over which is truly the world's first national park. But as the National Park Service ushers in its 100-year anniversary, there's really no contesting that Yellowstone holds the honor, even if the distinction is grounded in a geographical technicality.

Both parks were established long before the formation of the Park Service in 1916: Yosemite in 1864 and Yellowstone in 1872. Although Yosemite was cordoned off first, California was already a state and therefore Yosemite was designated a state park that would not come under federal oversight until 1890. Yellowstone straddled the territories of Wyoming, Idaho and Montana. Arguments over which territory would possess the park led to its establishment as a national park under "exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior." Its establishment as such crowned it the first national park and ignited a worldwide movement that today includes 410 U.S. national parks, and some 1,200 international parks and land preserves.

In 1886, the Secretary of the Interior transferred Yellowstone's management to the U.S. Army for the 30 years leading up to the creation of the Park Service. A lasting vestige of that era can be seen in the Calvary-inspired "flat hat" still worn by Park Service rangers nationwide (its pinched, four-quadrant top is known as the "Montana peak"). By 1916, a consensus had been reached that an overarching federal body was needed to oversee and protect the growing network of parks across the country, and the National Park Service was born.

The Park Service began gearing up for its centennial anniversary in 2011 with the internal campaign "A Call to Action," designed to galvanize its 22,000 employees in preparation for a second century of service.

On a national level, the primary focus is outreach. The goal is to engage a more diverse demographic and bring awareness to overlooked park units and historic sites, many of which are within or close to urban areas. Last year the Park Service instituted the "Find Your Park"

campaign to connect people with parks close to home and provide a forum for the exchange of personal stories and experiences.

"We want to see the faces of U.S. people from all different cultures, backgrounds and ages involved with and loving their parks because they belong to everyone," said Yellowstone's Chief of Strategic Communications Jody Lyle, about the Find Your Park program.

Increasing visitation is the biggest challenge facing Yellowstone, on a number of fronts. In 2015, Yellowstone broke all its visitation records, jumping 17 percent from the previous year to 4.1 million visits. During peak season of July and August, the park saw average waits of two hours at the West Yellowstone entrance, and reports of another two hours to drive the 14 miles to Madison Junction.

"Forget about it if there were a bison or two hanging out on the side of the road," Lyle said.

In anticipation of another record-breaking summer in 2016, Yellowstone implemented short-term fixes such as installing additional bathrooms and reworking signage to promote better traffic flow. "Some of the quick fixes that we put into place are really working," Lyle said. A number of smaller changes instated at the West Yellowstone entrance this summer—rerouting lanes, keeping the entrance open longer, and increasing staff—have eased congestion.

Visitation the first half of 2016 continued at a brisk pace. January through June, Yellowstone saw a 10 percent increase from the previous year. July visitation leveled off some, increasing 1.5 percent from July 2015.

Looking ahead, administrators are beginning to ask bigger questions – Is it time to implement a shuttle system similar to that of Zion National Park? Will there come a day to impose visitation limits? And they're initiating scientific studies that will determine their answers.

continued on pg. 34



U.S. Army soldiers on the Gardiner Rifle Range outside Gardiner, Montana, circa 1910. PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



Yellowstone's Grand Prismatic Spring, the largest hot spring in the United States. PHOTO BY CURTIS AKIN

continued from pg. 33

"That steep of a jump in visitation was an eye opening experience," Lyle said of the increase from 2014 to 2015. "It stretched us to a breaking point we had never been at before ... for everything, from staffing to facilities to operations. A lot of people [saw the] effects of crowding; not everyone had the perfect Yellowstone experience ... If it gets to the point where the experience is no longer enjoyable, the whole thing collapses."

Yellowstone social scientists have begun conducting fieldwork to better understand what visitors value about Yellowstone. "The least studied mammal in this park is the human," said Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk. "What we learn will help us plan a future that balances visitor experience and protection of resources."

Yellowstone has long been a leader in the science of ecology, most notably exemplified by the groundbreaking Leopold Report published in 1963. The Leopold Report revolutionized the approach to ecosystem management as scientists began recognizing ecological processes as holistic systems.

During the 2011 Call to Action campaign the Park Service commissioned a dozen outside scientists to review the existing Leopold Report in order to apply its principles to a rapidly changing world confronting contemporary challenges. Climate change, a ubiquitous issue that will affect every park and park resource, is at the top of that list.

"Yellowstone is a reflection of nearly all of the challenges and opportunities that face parks across the system," said Raymond Sauvajot, Associate Director for Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, an environmental monitoring wing of the Park Service, from his office in Washington, D.C. "As the first park, it demonstrates the incredible success and accomplishment of the national park idea. It is also front and center with the challenges that the [Park Service] faces into the future. The first Leopold Report laid out a framework for 'letting nature take its course' in parks. Allowing native predators to return, actively restoring others, eliminating wildlife feeding, [and] controlling non-native species were all conducted in the spirit of the original Leopold Report. This approach and its consequences are nowhere more apparent than in Yellowstone."

Despite the fact that Yellowstone encompasses 2.2 million acres and is one of the largest, intact temperate ecosystems on Earth, its livelihood hinges largely

upon measures taken in the surrounding states of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. The March 2016 proposed delisting of the grizzly bear by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is a current concern. Yellowstone scientists agree that the grizzly population has rebounded (numbers are up from an estimated 135 bears in the 1970s to roughly 750 in the Greater Yellowstone region today) and support delisting, but insist that the species' ability to thrive will depend on how neighboring states manage bears outside park boundaries.

Despite the complex issues facing national parks – some universal, others site-specific – progress continues to be made. Superintendent Wenk asserts that Yellowstone is healthier today than it was 40 years ago. Wolves have been reintroduced, bison and elk populations have balanced out, and recently, biologists are witnessing a revival of the native cutthroat trout population resulting from the systematic removal of invasive lake trout introduced to Yellowstone Lake 20 years ago.

"If you look at the 100 years of the Park Service, we have matured and come a long way, in the way that we approach management and learning, and we continue to be committed to making the best decisions we can based on the most current science available," Lyle said.

Yellowstone employees are feeling a special kind of pride as they approach their anniversary celebration on August 25, precisely 100 years to the day President Woodrow Wilson signed the act creating the National Park Service. Held in Gardiner, Montana, "An Evening at The Arch: Yellowstone Celebrates the National Park Service Centennial" is a free but ticketed outdoor event expected to draw several thousand attendees for a night of live music and dignitary speeches in Gardiner's Arch Park outside Yellowstone's north entrance. Emmylou Harris and John Prine will perform. Speakers include U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell; Jonathon B. Jarvis, director of the National Park Service; and the governors of Montana and Wyoming.

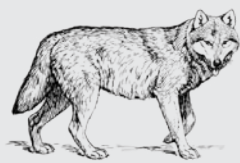
"It's a big moment," Lyle said. "And Yellowstone has been here through it all."

This story first appeared in the 2016/2017 issue of Explore Yellowstone, on newsstands now.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

ANIMAL GUIDE

Which animals have you encountered? Check them off as you see them!



☐

ROCKY MOUNTAIN WOLF

Adult males can weigh between 100-130 lbs, making them the largest member of the dog family.

Elk is their favorite winter meal, and a wolf can eat 20 lbs. of meat in a single sitting.

Wolves are known for their distinguishable howl, used to communicate.



☐

BIGHORN SHEEP

Their horns can weigh up to 40 lbs, making up 8-12% of their total body weight.

Bighorns are herbivores and eat grasses, sedges and woody plants.

They are known for their ability to climb steep, rocky, mountain areas.

Counting rings on their horns can determine age.



☐

BALD EAGLE

Adult eagles wingspan can reach up to 7 feet!

Eagles primarily eat fish, carrion, birds and rodents.

Their distinctive white head doesn't develop until they reach 4-5 years old.

They may use the same nest year after year.



☐

ELK

Adult males stand about 5 feet high at the shoulder.

They can run up to 45 mph.

A bull elk's antlers can reach up to 4 feet high, so that the animal towers up to 9 feet tall.

Elk lose their antlers each spring, but grow them back a few months later in preparation for breeding season.



☐

BADGER

They are 22 - 28 inches long with a wedge-shaped head.

They are adapted to digging, and create underground tunnels called setts.

They eat mainly squirrels, gophers and small rodents.

Badgers are nocturnal - they sleep during the day and are active at night.



☐

OTTER

Their long tail takes up 1/3 of their 40-54 inch body.

Otters eat mainly fish and other aquatic creatures.

Their pelt is waterproof and allows them to regulate their temperature.

Otters can stay underwater for up to 8 minutes by closing their ears and nostrils to keep water out.



☐

GRIZZLY BEAR

Adult males can weigh between 200 - 700 lbs.

Grizzlies lose up to 40% of body fat during hibernation.

They eat about 35 lbs. of food in a typical day.

Grizzlies can locate food from miles away. They have a better sense of smell than a hound dog!



☐

MOOSE

Average adult males can weigh between 850-1500 lbs.

Fewer than 200 live in YNP.

Moose can run up to 35 mph.

Their antlers can spread up to 6 feet from end to end.

A moose can keep its head underwater for 3 minutes!



☐

BEAVER

They are 35 - 40 inches long, including their long, paddle-shaped tail.

Beavers transform unsuitable habitats by building dams.

They have webbed rear feet, and large, flat tails that aid in swimming.

Beavers can stay underwater for up to 15 minutes, and have a set of transparent eyelids they use like goggles.



☐

BISON

Adult males can weigh up to 2000 lbs. That's a TON!

Bison can live from 18-22 years.

They commonly eat grasses and sedges.

Bison are known for roaming great distances.

A bison's fur coat is so thick that snow can cover their back without melting!



☐

RED FOX

Adult males average 43 inches long, but weigh only 10-12 lbs.

They have a very diverse diet from rodents and birds to vegetation, fish and worms.

Foxes use their tails for balance, as a blanket, and to signal other foxes.

Red foxes have such good hearing, they can hear rodents underground.



☐

COYOTE

They weigh less than their wolf relatives, between 25-35 lbs.

Coyote populations are likely at an all-time high.

They will eat almost anything, from rodents to fish, to fruit.

Coyotes can run up to 40 mph.

In the fall and winter, they form packs for more effective hunting.



DID YOU KNOW?

Yellowstone National Park has 67 mammal species, 285 bird species, 16 fish species, 6 reptile species, 5 amphibian species, and 2 threatened species.

SOURCES: NPS.GOV, ANIMALS.NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM, NWF.ORG, DEFENDERS.ORG

Native fish conservation program

Photos from the frontlines

YELLOWSTONE PARK FOUNDATION

One of Yellowstone National Park’s top conservation priorities is to decrease the number of non-native lake trout. In recent years, these predatory invaders have dramatically reduced the number of native Yellowstone cutthroat trout in Yellowstone Lake. As of Aug. 16, more than 260,000 lake trout have been



Lake trout caught by the crew of the NPS Hammerhead. NPS PHOTO/NEAL HERBERT



Workers lay gillnets, which are pulled twice a week to count and examine lake trout caught in Yellowstone Lake. Gillnetting has removed more than 1.9 million lake trout from Yellowstone Lake since 1994. PHOTO BY MATT LUDIN/YELLOWSTONE PARK FOUNDATION

caught this year in Yellowstone Lake. This has a direct impact throughout the ecosystem, as cutthroat are an important food source for eagles, grizzlies, otters and other wildlife. Yellowstone Park Foundation’s funding of the Native Fish Conservation Program is enabling a significant effort to suppress lake trout through gillnetting on the lake. Below are images from the frontlines of the fight to save Yellowstone cutthroat trout.



A submerged view of cutthroat trout in shallow water. Biologists estimate 41 cutthroat trout are saved each year for every mature lake trout caught. PHOTO BY JAY FLEMING



Carrington Island Lake Trout eggs. To complement gillnetting efforts, biologists are applying electronic shock to kill lake trout eggs. PHOTO BY JAY FLEMING

Five active wildfires burn in Yellowstone

EBS STAFF

Aided by hot, dry weather, wildfires in Yellowstone National Park grew significantly the week of Aug. 15.

As of EBS press time on Aug. 17, three fires were being managed with a combination of point protection and monitoring strategies, and the two newest fires—Thumb and Boundary—were being suppressed.

The Boundary Fire, which is located 4 miles north of West Yellowstone and 1/4 mile inside the park boundary, started Aug. 15 and was 223 acres at press time.

Responding or ordered resources include six smokejumpers, two 20-person initial attack crews, an engine, three fixed wing aircraft and two helicopters.

The Thumb Fire, reported Aug. 15, is located near Duck Lake north of West Thumb junction and was holding at 1 acre. Seven smokejumpers were suppressing the fire aided by a helicopter dropping water with a bucket.

The Buffalo, Maple and Fawn fires were all started by lightning during the first two weeks of August. These fires are now being managed as a complex to aid in resource sharing.

The Buffalo Fire, located 4.6 miles northeast of Tower Junction, was 1,362 acres at press time and burning in a 1988 fire scar. Fire behavior has been active and includes group tree torching and short-range spotting.

Also at press time, the Maple Fire located 8 miles northeast of West Yellowstone, was 7,593 acres and is also burning in a 1988 fire scar; the Fawn Fire

was 936 acres and burning 10 miles southwest of Mammoth Hot Springs.

“Fire behavior is going to slow down a little bit the next several days,” said Mike Johnson, an information officer with the National Park Service, on Aug. 17. “Tomorrow afternoon or the beginning of the weekend we’re supposed to get a front with potentially a little bit of moisture.”

Stage One fire restrictions are in effect throughout the park.

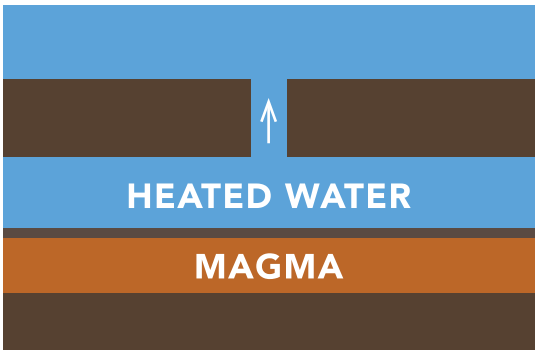
Information about current fire conditions, trail and campground closures, and a link to an air quality index is available at nps.gov/yell/learn/management/currentfireactivity

HOT SPRINGS

IN SOUTHWEST MONTANA

WHAT IS A HOT SPRING?

Hot springs are naturally occurring discharges of groundwater that are typically heated by intrusions of magma in volcanic areas.



Heated water rises to the surface via springs, and mixes with water in rivers or shallow pools to create a pleasant soaking environment, or natural hot tub.

UNDEVELOPED HOT SPRINGS

RENOVA HOT SPRINGS



This pool, located just south of Whitehall, has a drainage pipe that needs to be blocked in order to allow the pool to fill completely. The water will cool as the pool, which is 3-feet deep, fills with water.

122°F
maximum surface temperature

Usage: Low to Moderate
Note: Check the Silver Star gauge station for water levels before going. 700 cfs is an ideal river flow to soak comfortably.

NIMROD WARM SPRINGS

Nimrod Warm Springs, located just west of the Bearmouth exit on I-90, features a deep spring pool and underwater caves. This spring is rather cool compared to other Montana hot springs.

Usage: Heavy
Note: A great stop if you're close or driving by, but consider another hot spring for a special trip.

70°F
maximum surface temperature



POTOSI HOT SPRINGS



Upper Potosi Hot Springs are located west of Pony. Follow the 1-mile trail from Potosi Campground. The springs are marked by a log fence. There are two small bean-shaped pools that can fit 8-10 people.

122°F
maximum surface temperature

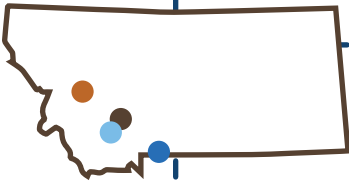
Usage: Moderate
Note: Be sure to check out the great hiking trails while you're in this area, such as Bell Lake.

THE BOILING RIVER

The Boiling River, one of the most popular hot springs in the area, is located just inside Yellowstone National Park's North Entrance. This is one of the few locations within the park where soaking is permitted.

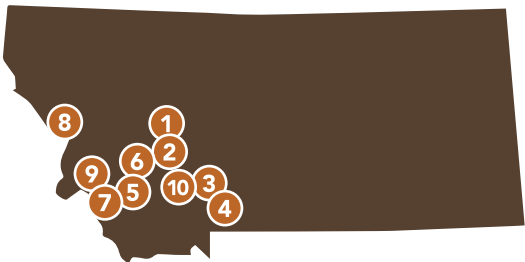
Usage: Heavy
Note: There are some extremely hot spots in this spring, so test the water and move with caution.

163°F
maximum surface temperature



DEVELOPED HOT SPRINGS

1. Broadwater Hot Springs
2. Boulder Hot Springs
3. Bozeman Hot Springs
4. Chico Hot Springs
5. Elkhorn Hot Springs



6. Fairmont Hot Springs
7. Jackson Hot Springs
8. Lolo Hot Springs
9. Lost Trail Hot Springs
10. Norris Hot Springs



Late summer transitions

Not really summer, not really fall



BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

As kids return to school, the nights get longer and the mornings cooler, and the number of visitors slowly wanes, the signs of summer’s exit are becoming more clear. As many of us shift from summer camps with the kids or constant motion—serving tourists, or hosting friends and families enjoying summer in Montana—the trout in our local waters are forced to change as well.

If our angling summer is defined by hatches—salmon flies are the kick-off, PMDs are the second act, caddis the interlude, and spruce moths the grand finale—the next few weeks are indefinable in all aspects. Our rivers, and the feeding habits of their trout, are now in transition.

After a lifetime of fishing in Montana, I’ve come to enjoy the last two weeks of August—but there has been a learning curve. Here’s some advice I’ve learned over the years.

Early on, early off. August is still summer on the calendar and with our low flows this year, water temperatures climb fast. If you want to find feeding fish, get on the water early. Fishing at dawn is not odd; it should be the norm this time of year. Chances are very good that you’ll have the river to yourself. Plan accordingly and work to be off the water by mid-afternoon, which is the perfect time for a beer and a nap before fishing the evening hatch.

Get techy. Yes, you read that correctly. Plan to fish longer leaders and lighter tippets if you want to bring more fish to hand. Educate yourself on the various materials out there: fluorocarbon is essential for subsurface fishing; Rio Suppleflex is the best tippet on the market when delicate presentations are essential; and practice your knots, because 5X and 6X can handle most situations as long as your knot holds.

Fish right down the middle. With the low flows of late summer, fish become sensitive to light and seek solace in deeper, darker water. Shade is also difficult to find as the lower flows mean water is further off the banks. I’ve enjoyed many successful dry fly days targeting water most would think too deep for a fish to rise.

Go big and have faith in it. If getting technical with little dry flies or double nymph rigs with split shot measured to the tenth of a gram isn’t your idea of fly-fishing fun, tie on a big grasshopper and fish deep, fast water. This might be the equivalent of betting the house on black, but at least you won’t lose money. Trout still need to eat and a hungry trout will at least ponder a large terrestrial floating overhead. Float it over enough of them a few are bound to eat it.

Seek out cooler water. There are ample places to fish with cooler water. Fish a high mountain lake. Venture to a small mountain stream. Hike into the high country of Yellowstone National Park. Fish one of the Paradise Valley spring creeks. Take a road trip to the Bighorn River.



Long-sleeve jackets and blue sky. Is it summer or fall? Do the fish care? Not on the Gallatin River, which is a very good option during the transition from summer to fall. PHOTO BY PATRICK STRAUB

Embrace simplicity. Fish are either going to feed or they are not. For late summer fishing, my selection is small: zebra midges in 18s and 20s; tan hoppers in 8s; CDC caddis in 16s; and a Purple Haze in 18. My standard leader is a 9-foot 5X for single dries or subsurface nymphs and 9-foot 2X for hoppers. Tippet selection is 5X and 6X Suppleflex and 5X fluorocarbon for nymphing. My waders stay at home and my pack is light.

If you’re taking a picture, look at the bigger picture. Trout require plenty of clean, cold water. This summer we saw angling restrictions on most of our local waters. As longer and cooler nights become the norm, fishing will improve daily. If you plan to photograph your catch, please keep the fish as close to the water as possible.

Years ago I would dread this time of the angling year. I spent the bulk of my angling energy insisting the fish hold onto their summer habits—forcing caddis or stoneflies along steep banks or fishing PMD emergers through riffles.

These days I cherish the transition from summer to fall. As if a preview of the quieter season to come, late August is a breather for myself and local trout.

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.

Wildfire bits and pieces:

Lightning- and human-caused starts

BY MARIANNE BAUMBERGER
U.S. FOREST SERVICE FIRE INFORMATION AND EDUCATION TECH

Recent weather patterns have brought lightning that has ignited a handful of wildfires around Bozeman, Big Sky and West Yellowstone. Lightning fires are a normal part of the ecosystem and fire crews have been timely in tackling these small starts. However, it is important for all of us to stay vigilant about fire safety.

Forest Service employees have found several abandoned campfires in the area.

As the weather warms and the summer endures, trees, grass and brush will continue to dry out and this will help fire starts grow rapidly. Talk with your neighbors and friends about how their actions could start a fire and you both could prevent the next large wildfire. One less spark, one less wildfire starts with you! This week our fire danger remains HIGH and abandoned campfires will continue to escape easily.





On the Trail: Hummocks

Explore local hiking, biking and equestrian trails with Big Sky Community Organization’s summer trail series.



The Hummocks Trail, located less than a mile from Town Center, crosses through aspen groves and two wetlands. PHOTO BY BECKY BROCKIE

BY CIARA WOLFE
BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

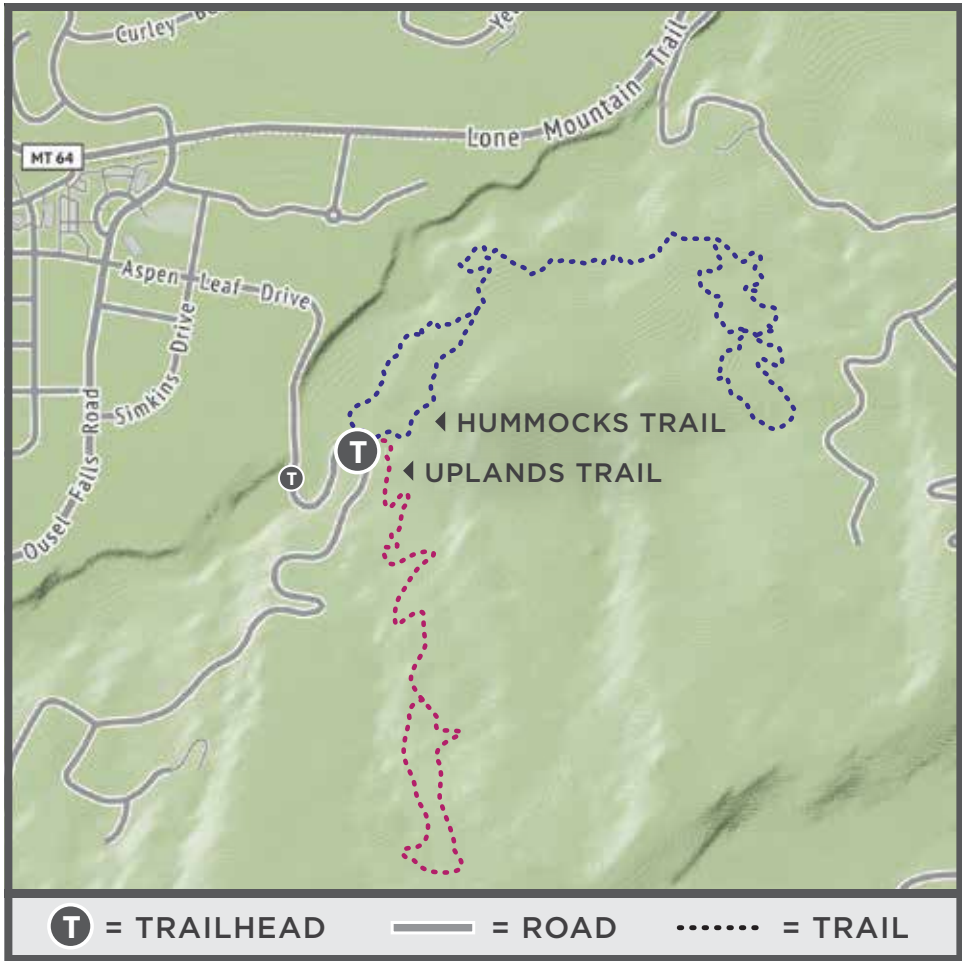
The Hummocks Trail is named for its rolling topography that creates a playful balance of ups and downs for an entertaining user experience. A hummock is a small knob or mound originally used to describe the bumpy topography found at the end of ancient glacial landslide debris. The hummocks on this 3-mile loop are shaded by forest canopy as the trail traverses aspen groves and two small wetlands.

Hummocks is a moderately difficult dirt-surfaced trail that accommodates runners, hikers and bikers. It’s known for three lollipop loops that allow users to customize the length of their workout. Those looking for more of a

challenge can tack on another 2.2 miles of dirt exploration by continuing onto the Uplands Trail, which takes off from the same trailhead.

Located less than a mile from Town Center, Hummocks will quickly become a favorite trail due to its flexibility in distance and difficulty. Novice and experts appreciate the combination of topography and scenery. Don’t let its nearness to town fool you though—moose, elk and bear sightings are frequently reported, so be bear aware when recreating on the Hummocks Trail.

For more information about Big Sky’s parks, trails and recreation programs, visit bscomt.org. The Big Sky Community Organization is a local nonprofit that connects people to recreational opportunities by acquiring, promoting and preserving sustainable places and programs for all.



TRAIL STATS

Distance 3 mile loop roundtrip	Uses Walk, run and bike	Difficulty Moderate	Elevation Gain 400 ft.	Surface Dirt

Directions: From Big Sky Town Center, head east on Aspen Leaf Drive for 3/4 of a mile, crossing a bridge over the river and continuing up the road until you see the parking area on the east side of the road.

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Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides

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This time of year marks the end of summer vacation for many families and consequently the numbers of anglers out fishing drops significantly.

This is a transitional time between summer and fall fishing. Summer hatches are about over and trout are mostly reliant on terrestrials and subsurface foods. And within the next few weeks brown trout will begin to stage for fall spawning, which is a big draw for many anglers.

Because there is not as much food on the surface this time of year finding actively feeding fish will be a rarity. That does not mean you need to put away the dry flies completely. Blind casting with hoppers, ants, and other terrestrials or attractors can still bring fish to the surface. Keep in mind that most terrestrials are blown on to the water closer to the banks of rivers vs. out in the middle. Covering more water will increase your odds of finding trout that are willing to rise to the surface for food. A hopper with a nymph dropper is a great rig that allows you to cover more water and possibly keep you more entertained throughout the day.

Of course aquatic nymphs are always available to trout and always a good option. The trick is knowing which ones to choose. Because most aquatic insects are relatively inactive this time of year this can be a tough choice. Often smaller nymphs that imitate midges or baetis are a good call, but larger flies like Pat's Rubber Legs can come into play as well.

We recommend playing with a streamers a bit too. Whether you choose to fish single articulated streamers with 7wt rods and sinking lines or simply tie a streamer on as your point fly on a nymph rig. Fishing with streamers will often mean fewer trout, but sometimes bigger ones and the takes tend to be more aggressive and exciting.

Cold nights, warm days, fewer people and beautiful rivers. What more could a person ask for!

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- 20 TBD
- 21 Wyatt Hurts • EVERYTHING
- 22 Wyatt Hurts • EVERYTHING
- 25 Quenby • Country/Honky Tonk
- 26 Tom Marino • EVERYTHING
- 27 The Last of the Rusty Strings • Country/Honky Tonk
- 28 Wyatt Hurts • EVERYTHING
- 29 Wyatt Hurts • EVERYTHING

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Jeff Bellino • Country/Honky Tonk
- 2 Milton Menasco BIG Fiasco
- 3 Tom Marino • EVERYTHING
- 4 Wyatt Hurts • EVERYTHING
- 5 Wyatt Hurts • EVERYTHING
- 8 Mike Haring • EVERYTHING
- 9 Double Barrel • Country/Honky Tonk
- 10 Dan Dubuque • Blues/Rock
- 11 Wyatt Hurts • EVERYTHING
- 12 Wyatt Hurts • EVERYTHING

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The Rut returns

EBS STAFF

On Sep. 2-4, three second-place finishers from last year’s Rut Mountain Runs will make another attempt at a championship during the fourth-annual event at Big Sky Resort.

Racers to watch in the 50K include Hillary Allen of Colorado, who ran a 6:30:16 race in 2015 and finished less than five minutes behind Swede Emilie Forsberg; and Spaniard Cristofer Clemente Mora, who finished 2.5 minutes behind Franco Collé last year.

Neither Forbserg, who’s consistently dominated Skyrunning events she’s entered in the U.S., nor Collé, who in 2015 entered his first ultramarathon not held in Italy, are competing in the 2016 Rut. Laura Orgué, winner of last year’s “Vertical K” and second-place finisher in the 28K, will be another competitor to watch.

Chelsi Moy, Big Sky Resort’s public relations manager, said the 28K is rivaling the 50K in the level of competition racers have demonstrated in both men’s and women’s events. The 50K covers much of the same ground as the April 9 Shedhorn ski mountaineering race.

Registration for adult Rut races is full; approximately 1,800 men and women will run, scramble, climb and claw up and around Lone Mountain the first weekend of September.

More than 1,000 competitors hail from the Last Best Place. Other Western states represented include Washington, California, Colorado and Idaho. An international contingent from countries including Italy, France, Spain, Bulgaria and Turkey will also be out in force.

The Rut is the only International Skyrunning Federation event held in North America, which is part of the reason it draws a sizable crowd from far afield. There are four races open to adults—a 50K, 28K, 11K, and straight-to-the-top “Vertical K”—and a 1-kilometer Rut Runts Race for the younger set that will cruise through the Big Sky Resort Base Area.

Moy said race directors Mike Foote and Mike Wolfe of Missoula estimate racers will down 1,000 gallons of water, 50 pounds of gummy bears and 50 bags of potato chips during the weekend.

A medical team of approximately 50 individuals, including a contingent of Big Sky ski patrollers and four ER physicians, will be on hand to treat illnesses and injuries. Approximately 100 volunteers will staff aid stations and assist with other logistics.

Scenic day passes for the Ramcharger and Swifcurrent chairlifts will be available for spectators and there will be a post-event shindig open to the public at Montana Jacks starting at 8 p.m. on Sunday.

Visit runtherut.com for more information about the race.



Competitors at the start of the 2015 Vertical K Challenge, one of four races to be held at Big Sky Resort Sept. 2-4. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

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.

Now that’s reality. Or is it?



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

I love Gordon Ramsay. But not for the reasons you may think.

Sure, he’s a famous reality TV cooking show star whose restaurants have garnered 16 Michelin stars (the third most ever). And yes, his culinary skills and standards still put him at the top of his game. Forbes magazine in 2015 listed Ramsay as the 21st highest earning celebrity in the world. Not bad for a boy who’s first passion was soccer.

I love chef Ramsay because he tells it like it is. He’s tough, demanding and without compromise, the way I was brought up in this business: by hard-nosed, no-excuses chefs who treated me like a child but expected me to work like an adult. But is this still an acceptable and effective way to lead?

Is Gordon Ramsay and others like him ruining our profession?

I recently read an article in the Los Angeles Times in which the great French chef Jacques Pepin expressed his displeasure with the on-screen persona of chef Ramsay. Yes, Pepin himself was tough, rigid, and without compromise. But he was a realist.

In this article, Pepin specifically calls out chef Ramsay for his egregious behavior; his lambasting of his disheveled staff; and his frequent, what can only be described as temper tantrums. While it may make for entertaining television, it leaves a bad taste in the mouths of young, eager, would-be culinarians.

At the opening of the first fine dining restaurant I worked at, I met Jacques Pepin. He was friends with our investor. I was 18 years old and eavesdropping on our chef’s conversation with him. Our chef asked him how he dealt with a young cook doing something wrong. He said with a smirk, “All I have to do is walk up behind them and say, ‘Don’t let me catch you doing that again.’”

Much like the doctor’s right of passage wherein young residents work 24-hour shifts because their chief resident had to do it, Ramsay may be cut from the same cloth, or apron so to speak. After all, another famed—some say outright crazy—chef by the name of Marco Pierre White once famously made a young upstart cook by the name of Gordon Ramsay cry!

But this is no longer an effective method of mentorship. And it’s certainly not attractive to millennials—those born between approximately 1983 and 2000. It was effective for me, but with one caveat: it was simply how it was at that time. It was the only way it was then. You were berated, talked to like a child, and made to feel as though you had no place not only in that chef’s kitchen, but in any kitchen. In retrospect, we actually worked harder and better than most anyone entering the business today.


As recently as 1998, myself and others in one particular restaurant’s kitchen were spoken to in such a manner and with such frequency that, in today’s world, you’d have human resources in your smartphone’s favorites. Or worse yet, most likely in your “recent” list.

But most of us have since learned how to more effectively communicate with each other and our co-workers. Once I reached a certain level of maturity and awareness, I’d tell myself I would never lead a team this way. Ever. I will coach. I will teach. I will mentor. I will not belittle, insult, or throw things.

Given the millennial culture today, what young person wants to come up in one of chef Ramsay’s kitchens, despite his talent? I don’t know any.

I am a fan of Gordon Ramsay. I’ve read from his books and learned many things, but leadership is not one of them.






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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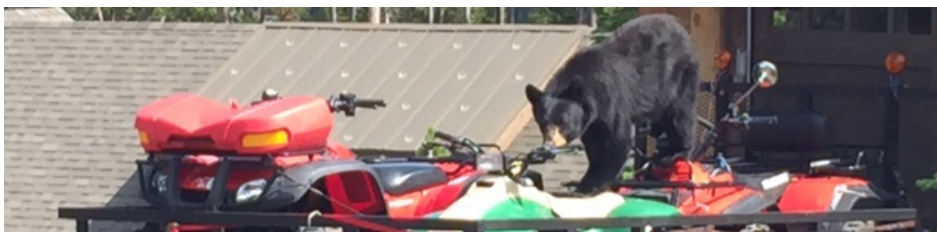
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While hiking or biking

- Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return
- Travel in groups of 3 or more and stay together
- Make sure everyone has bear spray
- Carry bear spray in an accessible location (hip or chest holster) and know how to use it
- Stay alert
- Always keep children & pets close & within sight
- Make noise to avoid surprising a bear



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Patrollers find culinary opportunity in West

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TYLER ALLEN

EBS SENIOR EDITOR

WEST YELLOWSTONE – Beneath the maze of ziplines and towers of Yellowstone Aerial Adventures, and three blocks from the west entrance to Yellowstone National Park, two Big Sky Resort ski patrollers are experimenting with a new summer vocation.

Ben Anderson and Noah Ronczkowski have nearly 20 years of patrolling the slopes of Lone Mountain between them, and on July 6 they opened Caldera Pizza & Grill, offering locals and visitors to West Yellowstone made-from-scratch culinary fare. Selling wood-fired pizza, salads, sandwiches and burgers, the two are diversifying their extensive mountain resumes.

When they hang up their red coats for the winter season, Anderson and Ronczkowski both leave Montana to guide clients in the mountains of Alaska.

Ronczkowski works for Alaska Mountain School on the slopes of Denali, North America's highest peak; Anderson is co-owner of Southeast Alaska Backcountry Adventures (SEABA) helicopter skiing operation, based in Haines.

In past years, Ronczkowski returned from Alaska to spend his summers leading clients into the high peaks of the Tetons for Jackson Hole Mountain Guides, but he's hoping Caldera will be a good business opportunity that allows his body a break from the rigors of guiding.

"Ben and I are getting old and our bodies hurt," Ronczkowski says with a smile.

Anderson attended England's Orchard School of Cookery in fall 2013, with the intention of rounding out SEABA's culinary operation and offering his

clients a better product, he said. Opportunities followed in Big Sky for personal chef gigs, and Anderson parlayed that into an all-inclusive tour company called Caldera Adventures, which offers trips in Haines, the big island of Hawaii and Big Sky, as well as Jackson, Wyoming.

Caldera Pizza & Grill became an extension of that business when Anderson approached Geyser Whitewater's owner Eric Becker about parking his wood-fired pizza oven at Becker's rafting headquarters on Highway 191, south of Big Sky. Becker had a better idea, suggesting they open in West on the Geyser-operated Yellowstone Aerial Adventures property.

Anderson and Ronczkowski built the small restaurant space this spring and park the oven outside a side door. "Park" is the operative word—the oven was constructed in the bed of an old Toyota pickup truck Anderson found on Craigslist.

It took Anderson four years to build the oven—he calls the experience "mortar therapy"—drawing inspiration from a pizza oven he saw in Hawaii. "I bought a trailer and started putting bricks together. If I had to do it again, I'd probably just buy one," he said.

Caldera is the first wood-fired pizza in West, and the patroller/pizza chefs are finding a niche by offering food made from scratch featuring regional and



Ronczkowski chops wood to keep the pizza oven hot during service hours.

Montana products. They use Montana Wheat flour in their pizza crust, and regionally raised bison or beef in their burgers. The buns and bread products are delivered from Bozeman's On The Rise bakery.

Ronczkowski said it takes nearly two hours from when they light the fire to get the oven hot enough for a perfect crust, and they're often chopping wood while cooking pies.

However, the biggest challenge for Caldera is getting customers to find the restaurant off West Yellowstone's beaten path. Set back from South Faithful Street, away from the throngs of foot traffic that swarm town in the summer, the duo has reached out to local hotel managers with free pies, gaining valuable word-of-mouth advertising.

Caldera plans to expand by offering catering and towing the pizza-oven trailer to events in West Yellowstone and Big Sky, Anderson said. Both he and Ronczkowski know there are no guarantees in the restaurant business, but failure at Caldera means a burnt pizza and not extracting an injured client from an alpine environment.

"It's a nice systematic way of operating, just like in the mountains," Anderson said. "But it's safer."



ABOVE: Caldera Pizza & Grill is located on the Yellowstone Aerial Adventure property in West Yellowstone. BELOW: Noah Ronczkowski poses with a Caldera pizza before sliding it into the restaurant's hand-built oven.

A photograph of a rustic interior. In the foreground, two wooden rocking chairs with slatted seats and backs are positioned on a large, patterned rug. To the left, a wooden stool with a dark seat is visible. In the background, a wooden dining table with several stools is set up. The walls are decorated with several framed pictures and posters, including one of a person skiing. A large, dark, curved object, possibly a lamp or a decorative piece, is on the table. The overall atmosphere is warm and cozy.



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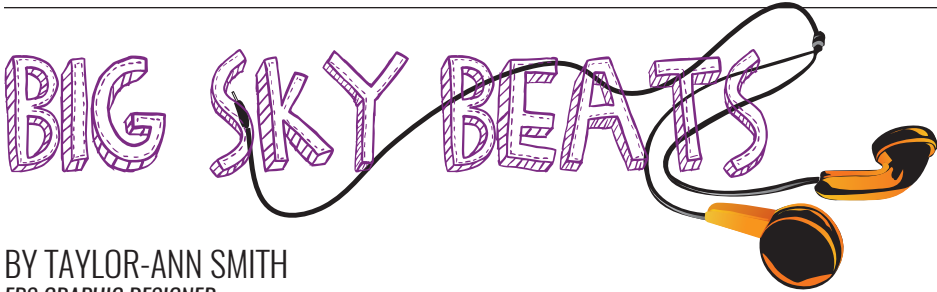
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A wide-angle landscape photograph showing a lush green meadow in the foreground, dotted with small white flowers. A thick line of tall evergreen trees separates the field from a range of rugged, snow-capped mountains in the distance. The sky is a clear, vibrant blue.

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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 summer barbecue, we’ve got you covered.

Deriving its name from the color of soil common in Oklahoma and Texas, Red Dirt Texas Country is a genre with a distinctive sound pioneered by the likes of Waylon Jennings, Jason Boland and the Stragglers, and Bob Childers. A fusion of rock, blues, and folk, Red Dirt Texas Country was founded by rebelling against Nashville’s standards for country music and focuses heavily on the artists’ life experiences.

One of my favorite bands in this genre is the Turnpike Troubadours from Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Each of their songs is artfully layered with sound, from a guitar to harmonica and fiddle, and tells a story that I always learn a lesson from.

“Our songs are real life, applied to stories, applied back to real life,” the band’s lead singer and songwriter Evan Felker explains. “I might get a plot line from several short stories I’ve read. Then I’ll build fallible characters into the midst of all that. They’re never archetypes. They’re real. It’s all about character.”

Below are some of my favorite songs from the Turnpike Troubadours and other Red Dirt Texas Country artists:

1. “7 & 7,” Turnpike Troubadours
2. “Too Young,” Thieving Birds
3. “Every Other Memory,” Eli Young Band
4. “ Backroad,” Fat Dixie
5. “Bottom Of The Fifth,” Curtis Grimes
6. “Smoke ‘Em If You Got ‘Em,” Mike and the Moonpies
7. “ Simple Life,” Green River Ordinance
8. “Mud,” Whiskey Myers
9. “Fire Away,” Chris Stapleton
10. “Whole Damn Town,” Turnpike Troubadours

American Life in Poetry: Column 595

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

Roy Scheele, one of Nebraska's finest poets, has a new chapbook called “The Sledders: Thirty Sonnets.” One of any writer's most valuable tools is memory, and this poem shows it being put to work to breathe life into an afternoon from long ago.

In Possession (Minnesota)
By Roy Scheele

Something almost Flemish about that water,
a golden brown but clear into its depths,
the plank-ends of the dock a fading gray
beside it, and a boat moored at the end;
something, it seems to me in looking back,
about a murky bullhead on a stringer,
one of those rope ones you can hardly see,
so that the fish appeared to scull in place;
something (the details start to widen now)
about white wooden clapboards on the side
of that inn or tavern where my dad had stopped,
a neon beer sign staring out through glass—
late in the afternoon, I drinking deep
of everything I saw, now mine to keep.

We do not accept unsolicited submissions. American Life in Poetry 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 ©2016 by Roy Scheele, “In Possession: Minnesota,” from “The Sledders: Thirty Sonnets” (Three Sheets Press, 2016). Poem reprinted by permission of Roy Scheele and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2016 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.

Sudoku

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		5	9					
2		3			4		1	
7		1	2					9
					2	3		
3				8			4	
		2	1	4		5		7
				5	7	4		
		7			3	8		

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Section 4:
EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT
BACK 40



Painted teepee comes to Big Sky pg. 51



Telluride Mountainfilm on Tour pg. 57



Back 40:
Optimize your home theater pg. 64

Big Sky Farmers Market continues to flourish

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – What started eight years ago as an experimental market with approximately 60 vendors has grown into a thriving weekly event featuring 105 regional merchants. The weekly summer event attracts thousands of visitors to Big Sky’s Fire Pit Park on Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m., held between June 22 and Sept. 28 this year.

The eclectic mix of artisans at the Big Sky Farmers Market includes photographers, jewelers, wood workers, custom furniture makers, painters, sculptors, clothiers, antler artists and florists, among others. The array of

lacking. However, the farms that attend bring a unique variety of high quality, locally grown fruits, vegetables, farm fresh eggs and other cottage industry commodities.

Callie Stolz, owner of Big Sky’s Santosha Wellness Center, never misses the opportunity to support the farmers at the Big Sky Farmers Market.

“Eating local is always a benefit, not only to our community but to our bodies,” Stolz said. “The produce from the farmers markets holds a much higher nutritional value [than store bought produce]. You can taste—and feel—the difference.”

Montana farms at the Big Sky Farmers’ Market include Cedar Rose Farms out of Helena, West Natural Farms from the Bitterroot Valley, Bozeman’s Harvest House Farms, Flathead Lake Cherry Growers and Manhattan Greenhouses.

Getting farmers to commit to the Big Sky Farmers Market has been a challenge due

to the region’s short growing season, as well as Big Sky’s remote location and questionable profitability. To counteract those factors, Big Sky Town Center—the presenter of the market—is working with a few larger regional farmers that are growing specifically for this market, and have increased production to accommodate its extended season.

“It’s really exciting to see how this event has grown,” said market organizer Erik Morrison. “We have more consistent farmers and produce than ever before and they are finding great success here.”

Morrison said they are already planning for next season’s market.

“Our team is working to further refine the architecture of the market to optimize our small space and scout more local and regional vendors that embody the Big Sky mountain culture,” he said.



Now in it’s eight season, the Big Sky Farmers Market celebrates Big Sky’s mountain culture in the heart of Town Center. PHOTO COURTESY OF LOVE STREET MEDIA

boutique food vendors has expanded to include wood fired oven pizzas, barbecue, organic cold pressed juices, baked breads and desserts, all offering creative menus that highlight premium locally sourced ingredients.

Photographer Ryan Turner has had a booth at the Farmers’ Market since the beginning. Earning his living as a commercial adventure photographer, he credits the market with providing the impetus to share his nature photography, and to opening a gallery in Big Sky’s Big Horn Shopping Center in 2010.

“This farmers market was the first place I really showed my artwork,” Turner said. “It was always something I did on the side, but when people started seeing it here and wanting to place custom orders, that’s why we grew to [open] a gallery and store.”

Hosting five produce stands at the most, the farm aspect of the famers market may seem



Sam Noland Greeting cards to gold

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Farmers Market is Sam Noland’s “best market.” The 5 year old from Anaconda, Montana, sells out of his handmade, colored bookmarks and marbled paint greeting cards nearly every week.

A few months ago he reached his goal of purchasing a metal detector with his earnings.

Noland has only unearthed a rusty nail, a staple and a battery thus far, but he remains undeterred.

“I want to find gold!” Noland said.

His parents Christine and Steve Noland, of C&S Noland Lapidary and Jewelry Design Studio, sell their hand-cut and handcrafted jewelry at a table adjacent to their aspiring artisan son. This is their second season having a booth at the Big Sky Farmers’ Market. – Sarah Gianelli



PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI





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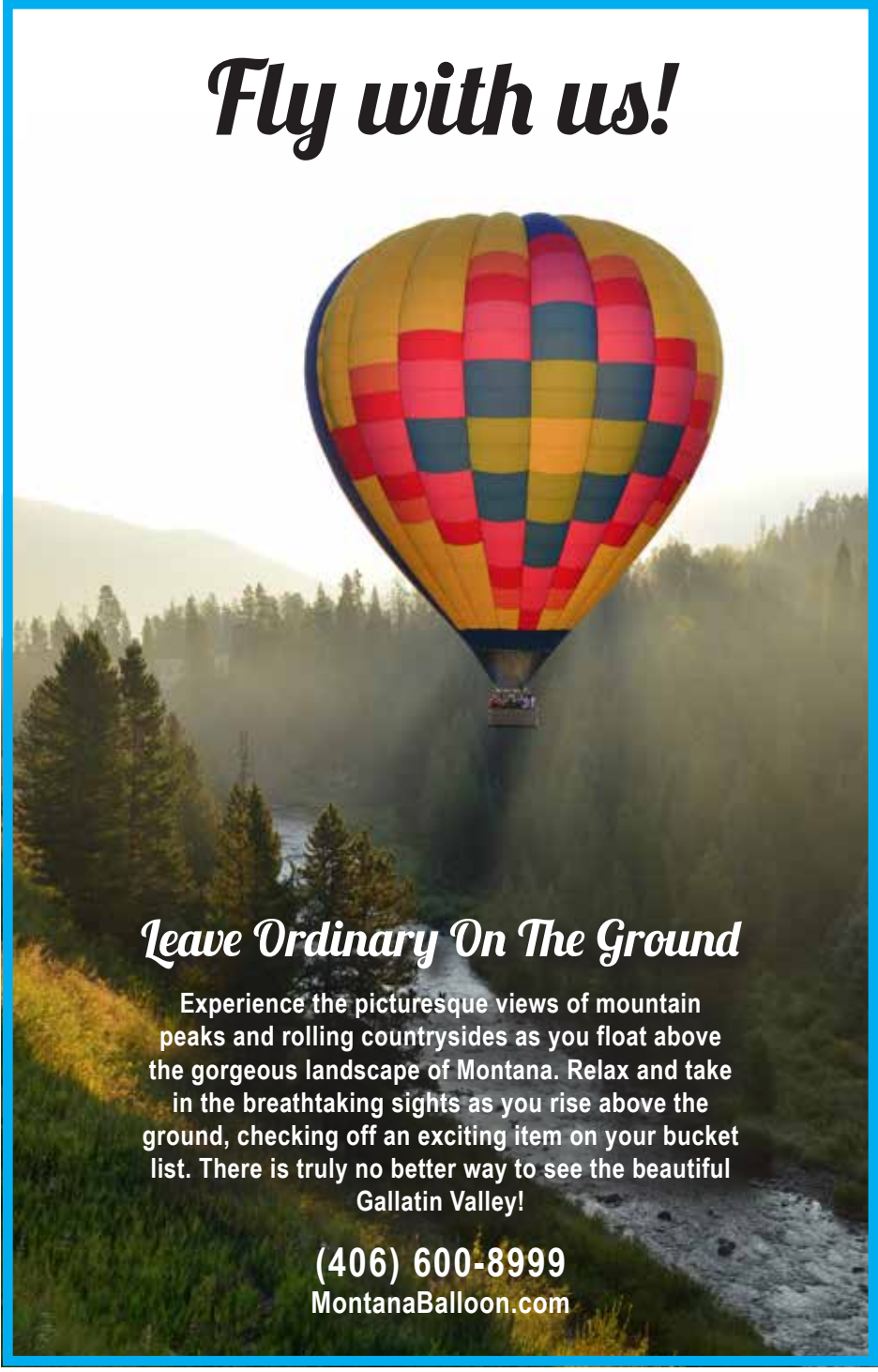


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EYE IN THE SKY
PHOTOGRAPHY

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Artist Katie Lee raises teepee in Big Sky

BY ASHLEY OLIVERIO
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – During the last week of July, Montana-born artist Katie Lee gave the mountain town she loves a permanent art installation that has locals talking.

Lee's hand-painted teepee was years in the making, inspired by her personal spiritual journey guided by Native American friends and punctuated by stirring encounters with earthly and otherworldly beings.

The daughter of Big Sky homeowners Merrilee and Randy Brown, Lee felt the ideal spot for her artwork would be near her parents' home in the Brownstone Loop across Highway 64 from the entrance to Lone Mountain Ranch.

The 18-foot-high teepee reflects Lee's lifetime obsession with the effect of light and vivid color on human perception. Lit from within at night, the vibrantly painted canvas shows off its celestial themes as if interpreting the star tales unfurling each clear night overhead.

A self-taught artist with works adorning the walls of homes and businesses in Montana and across the Midwest, Lee had previously painted images of teepees. But she had never thought of painting on an actual Native American lodge until four years ago, when a Big Sky family asked her to make one to display in their yard. Pregnant with her first child and not physically up to



Artist Katie Lee's hand-painted teepee was erected in Big Sky on July 26. PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATIE LEE

on a bluff overlooking a river on her parents' western North Dakota ranch was actually a medicine wheel—a place where tribal people would gather to worship and gain spiritual enlightenment.

Drawing from a spiritual predawn experience of her own at the site, Lee selected the medicine wheel as one of her teepee's primary symbols. And as a result of her medicine-wheel experience, Katie was invited to a sweat lodge ceremony led by descendants of Sitting Bull's Sioux tribe from South Dakota.

"As my mother, my friends and I traveled to the sweat lodge in November 2015, we saw 10 bald eagles soaring and guiding us all the way to the ceremony. This led me to use an eagle for another of the teepee's main symbols," Lee said.

The last of the teepee's three leading images is the bison skull shield, honoring the animal that provided food, shelter, tools and much more to High Plains tribes. From the elders at the sweat lodge, Lee learned that the people so revered the bison that they thought of them as ancestors sent to teach them.

"In retrospect, the three main symbols I chose for the teepee actually chose me," Lee said.

On July 26, as a watchful hawk flew overhead, Jeffrey Feldman and his assistant John Peterka of Custom Canvas Design began the two-and-a-half-hour teepee raising by joining the three heaviest poles into a tripod that would mark north, south and east. After tying on additional poles, they draped the frame with Katie's handpainted canvas and pushed it skyward.

A local shaman led a blessing ceremony with Lee and her family in attendance, along with a few Big Sky neighbors. With a door facing east to wake sleepers with the sunrise, the structure's west wall shields the interior from the wind—all in keeping with the logical engineering style of High Plains teepees meant to protect families from the elements.

The utility of Lee's artwork was put to the test just a few hours after the raising ceremony, when a windstorm blew through Big Sky, sending lawn furniture flying but leaving the teepee unfazed.

"Raising the teepee was the culmination of a journey I would have never expected and will never forget," Lee said. "Although it seems the project has now come full circle, a big part of me feels this is just the beginning of something even greater."

Visit gallerybykatielee.com for more information on Katie Lee and her work.

Ashley Oliverio is a freelance writer based in Big Sky and a writer/editor for the Wild Sheep Foundation in Bozeman.



Lee paints the teepee canvas in her Grand Forks, North Dakota, studio.

the task, Lee turned down the project, but the idea never left her. Ultimately, she purchased a canvas from Custom Canvas Design in Four Corners. Based on a mix of Cheyenne- and Sioux-styles, the canvas was the product of consultation between the company's co-owner Judy Feldman and Native American elders. Lee brought the semi-circle canvas home to her Grand Forks, North Dakota, studio and began contemplating ideas while waiting for inspiration. It came with the total lunar eclipse of September 2015.

That eclipse received widespread media coverage because of its rarity during a "super moon," with our lunar neighbor appearing larger than usual during its closest approach to Earth. Internet rumors dubbed it a "blood moon" with apocalyptic meaning.

"I realized through personal experience how humans and their emotional energies are connected to the phases of the moon, especially women," Lee said. "This rare event was the beginning of a string of impactful events in my life, and I decided to incorporate its symbolism toward the very top of the teepee."

Her research into the ancient art of teepee painting revealed that Native people would often create their work based on visions they experienced during meditation or dreams. Lee also learned that the "teepee ring" of rocks

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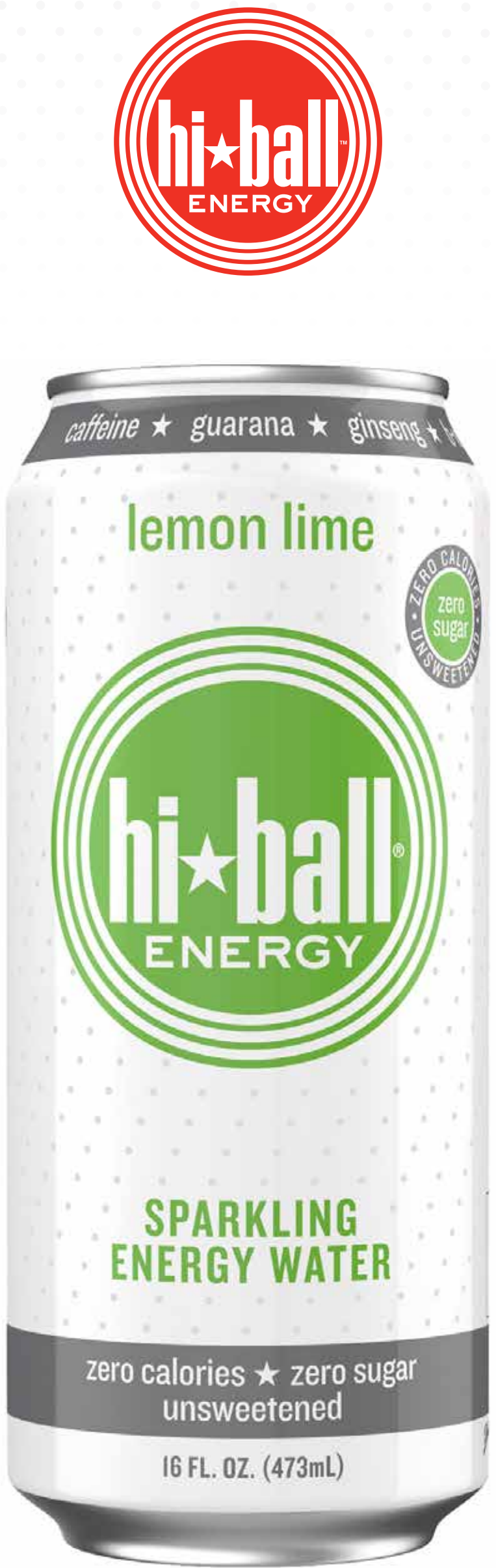


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Big Sky hosts Shakespeare in the Parks Sept. 2

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks will perform “The Comedy of Errors” at 5:30 p.m. in Big Sky’s Town Center Park on Friday, Sept. 2. This free performance is being presented by the Arts Council of Big Sky and the Big Sky Resort Tax District.

As one of the summer’s most anticipated events in the region, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks brings professional productions, at no cost to the public, to communities throughout Montana, northern Wyoming, eastern Idaho, western North Dakota and eastern Washington.



A Montana Shakespeare in the Parks rehearsal at the MSU duck pond in Bozeman. PHOTO BY GRACE DUVAL

The company features 10 professional actors selected from national auditions who tour without technical assistance to bring live theater to mostly rural communities. This summer, two-thirds of the communities reached by the troupe have populations of 5,000 or fewer.

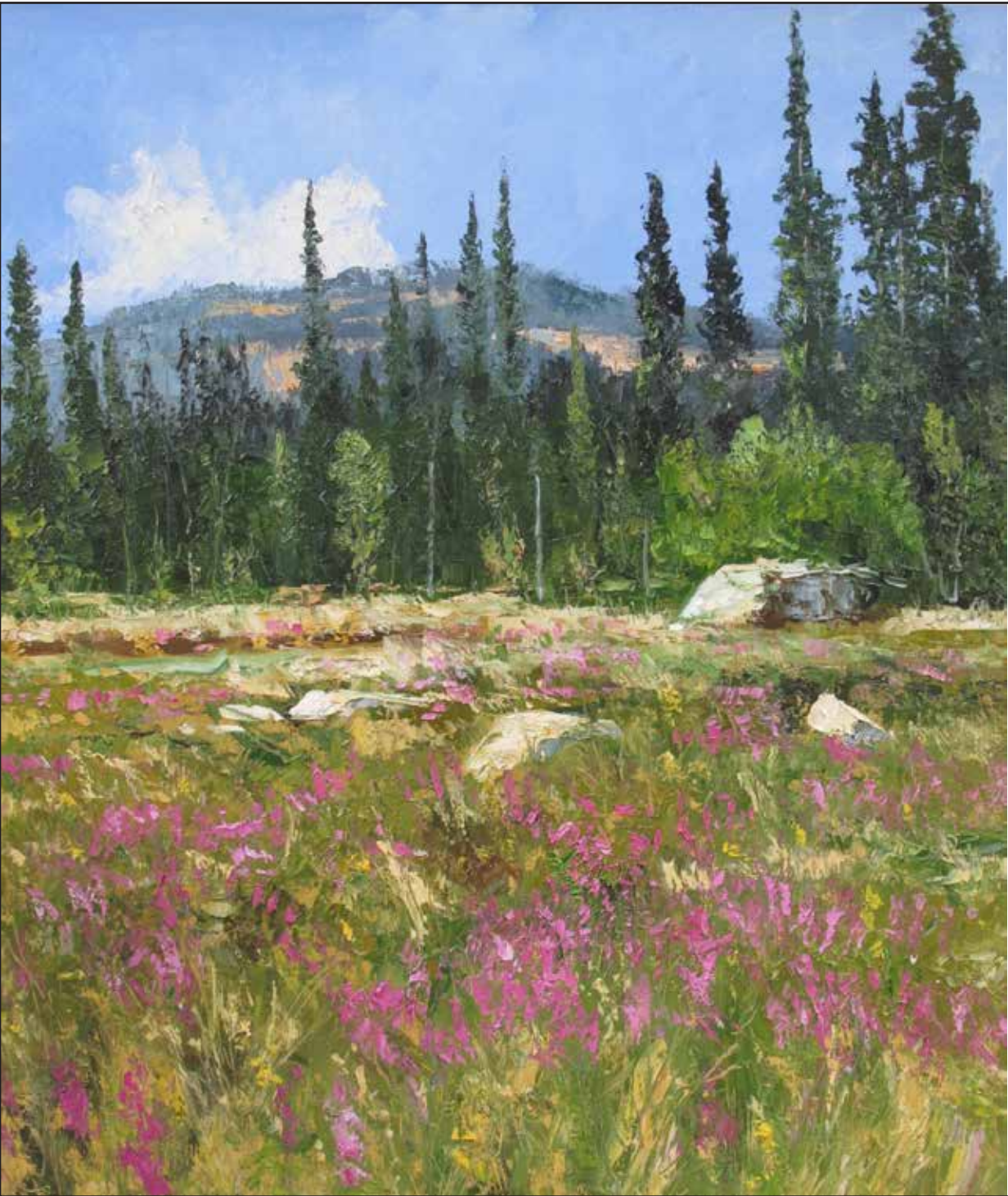
Chris Duval, a University of Utah professor with many credits at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, will direct “The Comedy of Errors,” which the company has not performed since 2002.

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks opened its first season in the summer of 1973. Since that time, the company has performed more than 2,250 times to nearly 750,000 people, becoming a mainstay of Montana culture. The company’s contribution to the cultural fabric of the state, and its unique ability to serve the most remote rural areas of the region, has been chronicled by Montana PBS, “NBC Nightly News,” The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times and many others.

In 1991, the company was named the recipient of the Montana Governor’s Award for the Arts, the highest honor that can be bestowed on an arts organization in the state.

All performances of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks are free and tickets are not needed for admission. Audiences are encouraged to show up prior to the appointed curtain time with chairs, blankets, a picnic supper, and friends and family to enjoy the evening.

Visit bigskyarts.org for more information on this event and the Arts Council of Big Sky.



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“Centennial Loco Weed,”
James Pringle Cook, Oil on Canvas, 50 x 40

EVENTS CALENDAR

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**FRIDAY, AUGUST 19-
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1**

***If your event falls between
September 2 and September 15,
please submit it by Aug. 26.**

**Big Sky
FRIDAY, AUGUST 19
Vine and Dine Festival
Big Sky Resort, all day**

Pebble Count with Gallatin River
Task Force
47855 Gallatin Road, 9 a.m.

Jeff Belino
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 20
Vine and Dine Festival
Big Sky Resort, all day**

Summer Saturdays
Big Sky Resort, all day

Big Sky Open
Big Sky Resort Golf Course, 10 a.m.

Rocky Mountain Pearls
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 21
Vine and Dine Festival
Big Sky Resort, all day**

Big Sky Open
Big Sky Resort Golf Course, 10 a.m.

Wyatt Hurts
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 22
Pebble Count with Gallatin River
Task Force
47855 Gallatin Road, 9 a.m.**

**Monday Night Pig Roast
320 Guest Ranch, 5 p.m.**

Wyatt Hurts
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 23
Hike & Learn: Search & Rescue
Canine Demo
Hummocks Trail, 10 a.m.**

Annual Big Sky Community
Appreciation Lunch
First Security Bank, 11:30 a.m.

Concerts at the Chapel: I-90
Collective
Big Sky Chapel, 8 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24
Big Sky Farmers Market
Fire Pit Park, 5 p.m.**

Whiskey Wednesdays
Buck's T-4, 5 p.m.

Riverside BBQ & Wagon Ride
320 Guest Ranch, 5:30 p.m.

Wine Dinner
Andiamo Italian Grille, 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 25
Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting
Luminous AV, 5 p.m.**

Music in the Mountains: Fruition
Town Center Stage, 6 p.m.

Quenby
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 26
Tom Marino
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.**

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 27
Dusty Sturges and the Last of the
Rusty Strings
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 28
Wyatt Hurts
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 29
Annual Upper Gallatin River Cleanup
Big Sky Community Park Pavilion,
2 p.m.**

Monday Night Pig Roast
320 Guest Ranch, 5 p.m.

Wyatt Hurts
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 30
Hike & Learn: Outdoor Portrait
Photography
Uplands Trail, 10 a.m.**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31
Big Sky Farmers Market
Fire Pit Park, 5 p.m.**

Whiskey Wednesdays
Buck's T-4, 5 p.m.

Riverside BBQ & Wagon Ride
320 Guest Ranch, 5:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
Music in the Mountains:
Cure for the Common
Town Center Stage, 6 p.m.**

Jeff Belino
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

**Bozeman
FRIDAY, AUGUST 19
The Period Performance Workshop
First Presbyterian Church, 5 p.m.**

Mandy Rowden
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 20
Rampage the Roots: Montana's Ultra
Challenge
Pony, MT, 5 a.m.**

Gallatin Valley Farmers Market
Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.

Mobile Health Screenings
MV Medical Center Lobby, 10 a.m.

The Period Performance Workshop
First Presbyterian Church, 10:30 a.m.

Gallatin Roller Girlz Bout
Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 5:30 p.m.

Tom Kirwan
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Sunraiser + Sigmund + Panther Car
+ Ranges
Zebra Cocktail Lounge, 9 p.m.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 21
Rampage the Roots: Montana's Ultra
Challenge
Pony, MT, 5 a.m.**

**Cruisin' on Main: Annual
Car Show
Downtown Bozeman, 9 a.m.**

The Period Performance Workshop
First Presbyterian Church, 1:30 p.m.

The Cooks
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Thermal Grass
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Mathias
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 22
Problem
Zebra Cocktail Lounge, 9 p.m.**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 23
Service Industry Night
Wildrye Distilling, 3 p.m.**

Bogert Farmers Market
Bogert Park, 5 p.m.

Walcrik
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Diarrhea Planet
Live From the Divide, 7:30 p.m.

West Coast Swing
Townshend's Bozeman Teahouse,
8 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24
Summer Western Series: Quigley
Down Under
The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 25
Catapalooza
MSU Centennial Mall, 10 a.m.**

The Vibe Quartet
406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

Extreme History Project Lecture:
Command on the Montana Frontier
Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Walcrik
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Jeff Austin Band
Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 26
Catapalooza
MSU Centennial Mall, 10 a.m.**

**MSU Community Cat Walk
Downtown Bozeman, 11 a.m.**

Aran Buzzas
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Pinky and the Floyd: Back-to-School
Block Party
Bridger Brewing, 7 p.m.

Diamond
Staceys Old Faithful Bar, 7 p.m.

The Watters with One Leaf Clover
The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 27
Gallatin Valley Farmers Market
Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.**

K9 Care Montana's Wounded
Warrior Benefit Dinner & Auction
Best Western Grantree Inn, 4 p.m.

Dan Dubuque
Wildrye Distilling, 5:30 p.m.

Mike Gurzi & Friends
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Story Under the Stars
Story Mansion Park, 7 p.m.

Diamond
Staceys Old Faithful Bar, 7 p.m.

Aaron Williams
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Fruit Bats
The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 28
Tara Novellas
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.**

Amanda Stewart
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Ginstrings
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

An Evening with Darrell Scott
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Steep Ravine + Alex and Bridger of
Hollowtops
The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 29
Music Mondays with Quenby
landiorio
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 30
Service Industry Night
Wildrye Distilling, 3 p.m.**

Bogert Farmers Market
Bogert Park, 5 p.m.

Ripple
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31
Film: John Wayne's Red River
The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.**

Fred Eaglesmith
Live from the Divide, 9 p.m.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
The Vibe Quartet
406 Brewing, 6 p.m.**

MSU 206 Convocation
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7:30 p.m.

**RECURRING EVENTS:
Public Guided Tours
Museum of the Rockies,
Daily, 12:45 p.m.**

Pints with Purpose
Bridger Brewing, Mondays at 5 p.m.

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

Burgers & Bingo
Eagles Lodge,
Friday Nights at 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.

Music Mondays w/ Aaron Williams
Red Tractor Pizza,
Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

Music & Mussels
Bridger Brewing,
Wednesdays at 5 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

Bingo
American Legion, Wednesdays at
7 p.m.

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

Food Truck Fridays
Architects Wife, 11:30 a.m.

Roman Fridays
Museum of the Rockies,
Fridays at 10 a.m.

Livingston & Paradise Valley

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19 Art Walk to Yellowstone Livingston, all day

The Max
Pine Creek Lodge, 7:30 p.m.

Gary Small and the Coyote Brothers
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

Quenby & The West of Wayland Band
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Little Jane & The Pistol Whips
Music Ranch Montana, 7:30 p.m.

Neptune’s 3rd Annual Block Party
Neptune’s Brewery, all day

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20
Food, Fun & Suds in the Park
Livingston, all day

Fundraiser: The Mane Event
Park County Fairgrounds, 5 p.m.

Bramble & Rye
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Big Ol’
Pine Creek Lodge, 7:30 p.m.

Gary Small and the Coyote Brothers
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

Becky Sappington & The Bitter Road
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21
Bark in the Park
Livingston, 10:30 a.m.

18th Annual Neighborhood Block Party Chico Hot Springs, 5 p.m.

Jay’s Lounge
The Murray Bar, 5:30 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 22
Bluegrass Jam
Katabatic Brewing, 5:00 p.m.

Kalyn Beasley
The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23
Beer for a Cause: Emigrant Neighbors
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Food, Music, Art!
Livingston Center, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24
Livingston Farmers Market
Sacagawea Park, 4:30 p.m.

Nathan Kalish & The Last Callers
The Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25 Gardiner Gateway 2016 Centennial Celebration Gardiner, all day

Picnic in the Park
Miles Park, 3 p.m.

Scott Tecca
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Michael & Cierra Myers & The Calamity
James
Music Ranch Montana, 7:30 p.m.

Ginstrings
The Murray Bar, 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26
Dance by The Dirt Farmers
Music Ranch Montana, 7:30 p.m.

Laney Lou & The Bird Dogs
Pine Creek Lodge, 7:30 p.m.

Milton Menasco & The Big Fiasco
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

Big Ol’
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27
Amanda Stewart
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Leif Christian
Pine Creek Lodge, 6 p.m.

The Shane Lalani Spotlight Gala
The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 7 p.m.

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 29
The Carousers
The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30
Beer for a Cause: Night Owl
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31
Livingston Farmers Market
Sacagawea Park, 4:30 p.m.

Forlorn Strangers
The Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
Christy Hays
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Fred Eaglesmith
Pine Creek Lodge, 7:30 p.m.

West Yellowstone

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21
Adult Co-Ed Volleyball
West Yellowstone School Gym, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 22
Knit Night
Send it Home, 6 p.m.

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

Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Water Aerobics
Holiday Inn, noon

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28
Adult Co-Ed Volleyball
West Yellowstone School Gym, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 29
Knit Night
Send it Home, 6 p.m.

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

Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Water Aerobics
Holiday Inn, noon

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

RECURRING EVENTS:
West Yellowstone Historic Walking Tour
West Yellowstone Historic District, daily

Experiencing Wildlife in Yellowstone
West Yellowstone Visitor Center, daily, 9:30 a.m.

Afternoon Talk with a Yellowstone Park Ranger
The Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center, daily, 2 p.m.

Thunder Mountain Traders Show
Public Library, daily

Explore Yellowstone! With a Yellowstone Park Ranger
West Yellowstone Visitor Center, daily, 9 a.m.

Naturalist Program
Yellowstone Nature Connection, daily, 1 p.m.

Mike Breyers Exhibit
Public Library, Ongoing

Junior Smokejumper Program
Yellowstone Nature Connection, daily, 10 a.m. & 3 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
West Yellowstone Rodeo Arena, Tuesday - Saturday at 8 p.m.



Big Sky
Community
Library

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Bozeman Film Society presents outdoor showing of ‘Timber the Treasure Dog’

BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY

BOZEMAN - Bozeman Film Society’s “Story under the Stars” returns to Story Mansion Park at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27, with an outdoor showing of locally produced children’s film “Timber the Treasure Dog.”

Shot in Montana by Bozeman film director/writer Ari Novak (“Cowboys vs Dinosaurs”), the story follows Mikey and his friend Billie on a wild treasure hunt to save the family ranch, with the help of Timber, a talking dog.

“Timber the Treasure Dog” stars Belgrade actors J.D. Hoppe and Sage Chase, along with award-winning actor Wilford Brimley, and Kix Brooks as the voice of Timber. The evening will feature an introduction by the director and actors, and a special shout out to Bozeman’s Heart of the Valley animal shelter.

Arrive early with your low-back chairs and blankets for an evening of fun that will include food trucks, kids’ activities and nonprofit tables beginning at 7 p.m.; a meet and greet with the director, actors and crew members at 8 p.m.; and the film presentation at 8:45 p.m. In the event of rain, the showing will be rescheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 30.

“Story under the Stars” is underwritten in part by the Bozeman Kiwanis, PechaKucha, West Paw Design, City of Bozeman, Bozeman Film Society and The Friends of Story Mansion.

Visit bozemanfilmsociety.org for more information.

Baroque with a twist I-90 Collective performs free concert at Big Sky Chapel

EBS STAFF

I-90 Collective, a period instrument band comprised of touring Baroque soloists, performs a free concert at the Big Sky Chapel at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 23.

Founded in 2009 on the interstate highway that links Seattle and Bozeman, I-90 Collective’s repertoire extends from the dawn of the baroque to the works of Bach and Boccherini, and its fresh, improvisatory style blends the virtuosity of violins and cello with the intimacy of the lute.



PHOTO BY PAUL LACHAPELLE

On the heels of leading a period performance workshop in Bozeman, the ensemble presents “Yarns and Melodies,” a baroque concert of rustic, folksy yarns from England and sensuous, sophisticated melodies from France—featuring works by Couperin, Rebel, Leclair, Matteis and Locke.

“Yarns and Melodies” is presented by the Peggy Dicken Schwer Memorial Fund, the Carroll Toepffer Memorial Fund and the Arts Council of Big Sky.

Visit i90collective.com for more information.



Telluride Mountainfilm on Tour comes to Big Sky Sept. 24

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

Telluride Mountainfilm on Tour, a traveling collection of the best short films from the acclaimed Telluride Mountainfilm Festival, will be landing in Big Sky for the first time on Saturday, Sept. 24, at Lone Peak Cinema.

“We are really excited to bring such an amazing collection of films to our mountain community,” said Brian Hurlbut, executive director of the Arts Council of Big Sky. “It has been our goal for a long time to bring the art of film to Big Sky. This is the beginning of an effort that we hope will grow into something very special in the years to come.”

Mountainfilm on Tour features a selection of documentary films from the annual festival that will explore the themes connected to Telluride Mountainfilm’s mission to use the power of film, art and ideas to inspire audiences to create a better world. Each year, the tour reaches more than 65,000 people on six continents.

“I have no doubt our audience will be inspired by what they experience,” said Rich Addicks, who is overseeing the “Mountainfilm in Big Sky” effort. “This year’s films will cover a lot of ground. There will definitely be something for everyone, whether it be adventure, adrenaline, environment, humor or inspiring profiles.”

Accompanying the tour is Mountainfilm for Students, a free educational outreach initiative for K-12 schools that involves learning through film. The Big Sky School District has enthusiastically welcomed the effort with several classes taking part.

Started in 1979, Telluride Mountainfilm is one of America’s longest-running film festivals. Through the years, the festival has always been best described by one unchanging word: “inspiring.”

Big Sky’s Grizzly Outfitters Ski & Backcountry Sports is the main sponsor of Mountainfilm in Big Sky with help from the Yellowstone Country Regional Tourism Commission and Big Sky Resort. The event is a collaborative effort between the Arts Council of Big Sky and the Gallatin River Task Force.

The show begins at 7 p.m. with a happy hour event starting at 6 p.m., and a free band and after-party at 10 p.m. A Mountainfilm presenter will introduce the films and engage the audience in discussion following the films.

Tickets go on sale Sept. 1 and can be purchased at Lone Peak Cinema or by calling (406) 995-4478. For more information, contact Rich Addicks at (404) 281-0694 or Brian Hurlbut at (406) 209-0189.

RECYCLE



Enjoy our publication and please remember to recycle.

Seventh annual Cat Walk set for Aug. 26

DOWNTOWN BOZEMAN ASSOCIATION

Montana State University and the Downtown Bozeman Association will host the seventh annual Cat Walk on Friday, Aug. 26, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Main Street in Bozeman.

MSU President Waded Cruzado, Champ the Bobcat mascot, the MSU Spirit of the West Marching Band, students and student-athletes, and community members will make their way down Main Street to create “Bobcat Buzz” throughout downtown.

The group will visit businesses along the way, play the fight song and pass out Bobcat gear, treats for kids and game schedules. Also, attendees will have a chance to meet the new MSU Athletic Director Leon Costello and head football coach Jeff Choate, and get autographs from your favorite Bobcat football, basketball and volleyball players.

The walk will begin at 11 a.m. at First Interstate Bank—located at Grand Avenue and Main Street—and move east down the south side of Main Street, stopping into several businesses along the way. Midway through the event, walkers will make a 30-minute stop at Soroptimist Park, located at Rouse Avenue and Main Street, for refreshments and autograph signing by athletes.

Walkers will then head west down the north side of Main Street finishing at Wells Fargo Bank, located at Grand Avenue and Main Street. Bobcat sports fans are encouraged to join in the Cat Walk and spread the Bobcat Spirit.

This event is free and open to the public, and will take place rain or shine.

Visit downtownbozeman.org or msubobcats.com for more information.



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Tickets go on sale Sept. 1 @ Lone Peak Cinema

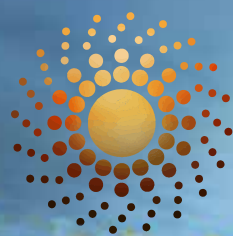
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Music in the Mountains ends on high note

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY - Bozeman’s Cure for the Common plays the final show of the 2016 Music in the Mountains free summer concert season on Thursday, Sept. 1, with a show that is likely to turn Town Center Park into one big dance party.

The five piece funk-rock arsenal combines an affinity for deep dance grooves with a love for searing progressive rock peaks. The widespread appeal and originality of their “Montana-grown electro thunder funk” sound has earned CFTC a home on the national touring circuit and an ever-growing following that matches the band’s ambitious resolve to make it big.

A groundswell of grassroots momentum has landed CFTC gigs at festivals including Arkansas’s Wakarusa Music and Camping Festival, Contour Music Festival in Jackson, Wyoming, and Florida’s Purple Hatters Ball. They’ve appeared in line-ups alongside heavier hitters including Thievery Corporation, Big Gigantic, Sound Tribe Sector 9 and Umphrey’s McGee, among others.

This will be the band’s first time performing at Big Sky’s outdoor summer concert series.

“It’s very exciting to finally be playing Music in the Mountains,” said Cure for the Common drummer Joe Sheehan. “We’re looking forward to the opportunity to bring a strong finish to a killer season of music. When people leave, we want them to feel fulfilled, excited, inspired, and maybe a little bit exhausted—like they just went on a hike through some epic peaks and beautiful valleys.”

Town Center Park opens at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 1, with Cure for the Common taking the stage at 7 p.m.

Visit cftcband.com for more information on the band.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CURE FOR THE COMMON



“Peur Aeterneus,” Tracie Spence, Photography, 40 x 60

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William Kittredge: Rancher turned writer

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

William Kittredge grew up working on his family’s sprawling MC Ranch in the Warner Valley of southern Oregon, only deciding to pursue a writing career at the age of 33.

“I thought it was about sentences and paragraphs, fashioning elegance out of what you already knew. I didn’t yet see that writing like any art is chancing to know freshly. As such it’s always worth doing; it’s worth finding gestures that suggest understandings,” Kittredge wrote in “Hole in the Sky,” a memoir recounting his decision to leave the ranching life behind.

After studying creative writing at Iowa Writer’s Workshop, “not a discipline anybody ever heard of in our part of the world,” Kittredge wrote, he taught for three decades at the University of Montana and still resides, at the ripe age of 83, in Missoula.

Currently working on a quasi-sequel to “Hole in the Sky” called “Another Summer to Run,” Kittredge has produced a body of work that both dispels the myths of the Lone Ranger American West, and poses profound questions about the future of the last, best place.

Although he changed careers, the author never left his roots behind. His narratives are burnished and tight-lipped much like the ranch hands he worked with and the cowboys he idolized growing up. He is erudite without coming across as a pretentious intellectual critical of the changes he has seen during his lifetime. And as Western culture moves away from an authentic relationship to the land, Kittredge portrays a sort of show-business parody without ever sounding self-righteous.

Like any good writer from this region, his words evoke the sanctity of majestic landscapes and praise the self-reliance and rugged individualism that are still at the heart of the Western experience.

I just finished reading Kittredge’s “The Next Rodeo,” a collection of new and selected essays, which I had trouble putting down. While his nonfiction works, “The Nature of Generosity” and “Who Owns the West?” and his only novel “The Willow Field,” each represent his distinctive voice, the author is most at home writing essays that move effortlessly between the personal, political and philosophical.

“Drinking and Driving” takes a hard look at the author’s battles with alcohol and extramarital affairs, while “Owning it All” is a searing account of the author’s relationship to his father and grandfather.

The namesake piece of “The Next Rodeo” tells the story of a rural Oregon rodeo but ends up revealing how the changing economic landscape of the West reflects an untenable situation for a healthy democratic culture. He writes: “The quandaries westerners face will have to be flexibly resolved by the raggedy and the rich, up-country and downtown.”

Pick up anything by William Kittredge and you can’t help but agree that he has earned his reputation as the Bard Laureate of the American West. We should all be grateful that he left the ranch and that his influence from teaching generations of writers and his many brilliant contributions to Western literature will continue to impact the literary world long after he puts his pen down.

Doug Hare is the Distribution Coordinator for Outlaw Partners. He studied philosophy and American literature at Princeton and Harvard universities.

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

Advertisement

Optimize your home theater with these easy tips

BY AUSTIN PETTIT
LUMINOUS AUDIO AND VIDEO OWNER

The definition of a home theater varies from person to person. To some, it’s simply a living room TV with the most basic functionality. To others, it’s a dedicated room with the latest surround sound, a state of the art control system, and a projector. With a few simple improvements, even the most modest setup can truly become your own personal “home theater.”

Cables

Ever wonder why your equipment doesn’t look or sound like you remember it at the store? Often times, using the wrong type of cable is to blame. I’ve been to many homes with beautiful, modern equipment paired with old style RCA cables—the ones with the little red, white and yellow plugs.

RCA cables are great if you want two-channel sound on an old tube television, but to take full advantage of your high definition TV and surround-sound features, you’ll need to connect your devices with the latest HDMI (High-Definition Multimedia Interface) cables. You’ll be astounded by the difference from that simple and inexpensive upgrade.

Calibration

Use your existing audio/video receiver’s auto-calibration feature to drastically improve an existing setup’s sound qualities by implementing bass management, adjusting crossover frequencies, sound delays, and much more. The improvements can be dramatic, yet this important step is not utilized nearly enough and is usually pretty easy to do.

Typically, you just plug in the microphone that came with your receiver and follow the on-screen instructions. I like to verify the measurements with some additional equipment, but in most cases the receivers do a pretty good job.

Display height

We often allow aesthetics to win the battle between form and function. In Big Sky, we frequently see the family’s primary television installed prominently over a grand fireplace. The heat and soot are hard on your TV and this setup is even less ideal for your neck.

For movie viewing, I prefer the center of the screen to be closer to eye level. Fortunately, it’s a pretty painless procedure to drop the mount a few inches to



Television placement is crucial for an enjoyable viewing experience. Visit Luminous AV to see their articulating TV mounts, which allow you to pull out or angle your TV for each viewing. PHOTO COURTESY OF SONY CORPORATION OF AMERICA

make your movie viewing far more enjoyable. One of my favorite (and easy) methods to place my TV before installation is to “frame out” the television with painters tape. It not only gives me a good feel for what it will be like to watch TV at that height, but also shows me what that size TV will look like in relation to the room.

Appropriately sized and powered subwoofers

If your bass isn’t up to snuff, usually an undersized subwoofer is to blame. When you have an appropriately sized subwoofer for the cubic footage of your room, you should be getting bass that blows away commercial cinemas.

With music, the bass should seamlessly blend in with your speakers and allow you to feel the lows of the bassoon and the pounding of the timpani. I’ve been to homes where a cavernous room is outfitted with a tiny, underpowered subwoofer better suited for a small dorm room. With that combination, it is little wonder the homeowner is unhappy.

Upgrading your subwoofer is the single item that will give you the largest improvement in your home theater—a new sub (or two) can really be the showstopper that blows away your friends.

Speaker placement

Improper placement, angles or the wrong type of speaker are some of the most common home theater sins I see. The good news is that speaker issues are some of the easiest things to fix.

I’ve had customers tell me that they can’t hear dialogue very well—most of a movie’s dialogue comes from the center channel speaker, so by simply angling that speaker toward the listener’s ears clearer voices can be achieved.

The vast majority of in-ceiling speakers aim straight down, which can make it difficult to hear your audio clearly. Swapping out those down-firing speakers with some angled versions—which send sound to the listener’s ears instead of to the floor—can create clear sound without cranking the volume.

For more tips, tricks, advice and demonstrations, stop by Luminous Audio and Video’s new retail showroom at 33 Lone Peak Drive, Suite 203 in Big Sky Town Center, or visit luminousav.com. We can guide you in selecting and installing new hardware that may suit your living space more optimally to get the most out of your home theater.



An SVS subwoofer located tidily next to the couch—Luminous AV also offers in-wall subs, which are perfect for new construction. They create big sound, big power and a small footprint! PHOTO COURTESY OF SV SOUND