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ON THE COVER: Autumn love: Kate O'Connor, Esme Blyth and Ursula Blyth (L-R) enjoy a crisp fall day on Oct. 16 at the Big Sky Community Park during the first annual Fall Festival. PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Montana bull riding rookie takes run at PBR world title

Inaugural Big Sky
Tech Summit balances
techie tools, outdoors



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Plus: Roll your own sushi



Big Sky local Ewa Zirkle photographed Lone Mountain and its reflection in Lake Levinsky during the early-morning light of October 7. It was one of the first days this fall depicting the mountain in her white dress. Winter is right around the corner!

Do you want to see your photography in the pages of EBS? Submit a maximum of three images via email to carie@theoutlawpartners.com. One photo per issue will be chosen for the opening shot.



LET'S PUT PUBLIC SAFETY FIRST!

Why do we need a new, up-to-date law and justice center?



OUR COUNTY IS GROWING. Our population and the sheriff and police departments have doubled since the center started serving as a courts and law enforcement facility and our rapid growth is expected to continue.



THE CURRENT BUILDING IS UNSAFE, CRAMPED AND OUTDATED. The current building is 55-years-old, structurally unsafe and cannot be cost-effectively upgraded. It lacks important safety and security features, and is not wheelchair accessible. There is simply no space to grow.



WE NEED TO PROTECT VICTIMS OF ABUSE

AND VIOLENCE. The current building does not separate victims and their perpetrators. This is at a time when the demand for victims' services rises yearly. Victims who already face severe trauma need privacy and safety during the legal process.



"As your Sheriff, the safety and security of everyone in the building is my responsibility. The current building does not provide a safe environment for our citizens and we need to correct that."

- Brian Gootkin, Sheriff

Endorsed by the Bozeman Chamber of Commerce

"We were presented with overwhelming evidence of the need to improve our current Law and Justice facilities to protect victims, provide adequate working conditions for employees and manage storage of sensitive materials appropriately."

Endorsed by Bozeman League of Women Voters

"We support the Law and Justice bond because it is good government; our community needs to know the Law and Justice center is safe and up-to-date. We need to respond to the needs of our growing community now."

Endorsed by Court Appointed Special Advocates/Guardian ad Litem Program of Gallatin County

"The lack of security and privacy in our existing court building is one of the reasons we support the Law and Justice bond measure."

Endorsed by West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce

"We will encourage our members and citizens to support the new center. We believe that the plan has been well thought out and will serve our citizens for many, many years to come."

Bozeman residents vote "YES" on both the mill levy and bond.

For more information visit: www.yesforlawandjustice.org



4 October 28 - November 10, 2016 Explore Big Sky



NEWS IN BRIEF



Forest Service to lifts Bear Creek closure in Madison Range

BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST

Forest Service officials on Oct. 19 lifted closures of the Bear Creek area leading into the Lee Metcalf Wilderness southeast of Ennis.

"We still want people to be aware that this is bear country and that there are inherent risks when visiting these remote areas," said Madison District Ranger Dale Olson. "Visitors need to take precautions to ensure they are safe as bears in this area will continue be active for at least three more weeks."

Some safety tips to keep in mind in bear country are:

- Carry bear spray and make sure it is readily available.
- Special rules apply for storing food and attractants on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge, make sure to store them appropriately.
- Game carcasses can be stored in a solid sided vehicle or horse trailer, a bear resistant container, or by hanging your carcasses 10 feet off the ground and four feet away from trees or support poles.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Use caution and make plenty of noise before approaching areas where a bear may not hear, smell or see you coming, and avoid bear food sources. Avoid areas where you smell something dead or see birds circling overhead.
- Watch for signs of bear like tracks, scat and markings on trees.
- Avoid hiking or hunting alone and never let your small children run ahead or wander.
- It may take some of the adventure out of your visit, but stay on the trail and you'll reduce the likelihood of a bear encounter.
- Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Check trailheads and other locations for current bear related information.
- If you do have an encounter with a bear, report it to 1-800-TIP-MONT, a 24-hour number.

For more information, contact the Madison Ranger District at (406) 682-4253.

Tester calls on Army Corps to protect Yellowstone

OFFICE OF SEN. JON TESTER

Sen. Jon Tester is calling on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to work with state and local officials to ensure the health of the Yellowstone River.

Tester's request comes on the heels of a large-scale fish kill in the Yellowstone River. Noting that the Yellowstone supports fishing guides, rafting companies, hotels and restaurants, Tester wants the Corps to take steps to guarantee the river remains a vibrant ecosystem.

"The Yellowstone River has been experiencing near record low flows and high temperatures, which stress fish populations and exacerbate the impacts of a parasite that causes proliferative kidney disease," Tester wrote in an Oct. 18 letter to the Corps. "As we see these very real impacts of climate change, I stand ready to work with the Corps on projects to increase the overall health and resiliency of the Yellowstone River."

Tester, a long-term advocate for outdoor recreation, is asking the Corps to use its existing authority to protect riparian areas, restore instream flows and achieve other ecosystem restoration benefits that help ease the impacts of extreme weather events and strengthen the future health of the river.

In August, the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks closed an unprecedented 183 miles of the Yellowstone after a parasite left more than 4,000 mountain whitefish dead. FWP reopened the last stretch of river to all recreation on Sept. 23.

Yellowstone visitors deter bear encounter with bear spray

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

After surprising and then being charged by a grizzly bear Oct. 22, a couple fishing along the Lamar River effectively deployed their bear spray and saved themselves from injury.

John and Lisa Vandenbos from Bozeman parked at a pullout near the Specimen Ridge trailhead in the Lamar Valley, east of Tower Junction. They walked cross-country to the Lamar River and, while scouting for fishing spots, surprised an adult grizzly bear that was feeding on a partially consumed carcass. The bear immediately charged the couple and came within 9 feet when both individuals quickly discharged their bear spray.

The bear initially left, but when attempting to charge the couple again, it ran into the original cloud of bear spray. Upon making contact with the cloud, the bear retreated across the river and up the adjacent hillside. The couple did not sustain injuries.

The Vandenboses left the area immediately, returned to their vehicle and reported the incident to a park ranger. Park rangers do not intend to search for the bear since this incident was a surprise encounter with a bear defending a carcass.

"Yellowstone visitors care deeply about preserving bears and observing them in the wild," says Kerry Gunther, the park's bear management specialist. "Carrying bear spray is the best way for visitors to participate in bear conservation because reducing potential conflicts protects both people and bears."

Visit Yellowstone's A Bear Doesn't Care Campaign at nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/ abeardoesntcare.htm for more information.

HRDC presents community needs survey results in Big Sky

EBS STAFF

Nearly 20 people gathered on Oct. 24 in the Big Sky Chapel for a Human Resource Development Council town hall meeting, to hear the results of the HRDC Community Needs Assessment survey. It was one of eight meetings held by the organization in the region, from West Yellowstone to White Sulphur Springs.

According to HRDC representative Maggie Sizemore, only 19 Big Sky residents filled out the survey that went live in early September. However, she said approximately 250 of the more than 800 respondents surveyed in Gallatin, Park and Meagher counties didn't include their zip codes, potentially resulting in the low Big Sky results.

The key findings from the survey included a lack of affordable housing in rural communities, a need for more public transportation options, and poor access to health and wellness, particularly specialists—53 percent of respondents said mental health/suicide prevention services were lacking in their communities.

At the Big Sky meeting, some attendees brought up the fact that they didn't have health insurance or they're underinsured, without the resources to deal with an unexpected medical emergency.

Affordable housing was a major talking point in Big Sky, and according to HRDC Community Development Manager Brian Guyer, people recognized that the needs for housing in this resort community are across the spectrum—seasonal and short-term rentals, as well as year-round and long-term options.

Guyer added that the Big Sky Community Housing Trust project is on schedule, though it's waiting for final plat approval from Gallatin County.



In the five years since the Affordable Care Act was enacted, more than 16 million Americans now have health insurance. The presidential candidates are split: one wants to expand it, the other would scrap it completely. With insurance premiums forecast to rise dramatically next year, what's the solution?



Kara Blodgett Gallatin Gateway, Montana

"I don't think the government should be involved in our healthcare. I appreciate the government trying to facilitate us all being part of the healthcare system, but I don't think it's worked."



David LightBremen, Maine

"Put a leash on the pharmaceutical companies and the insurance companies. Making them compete is not the answer because they're in bed together to some extent ... just like the airlines."



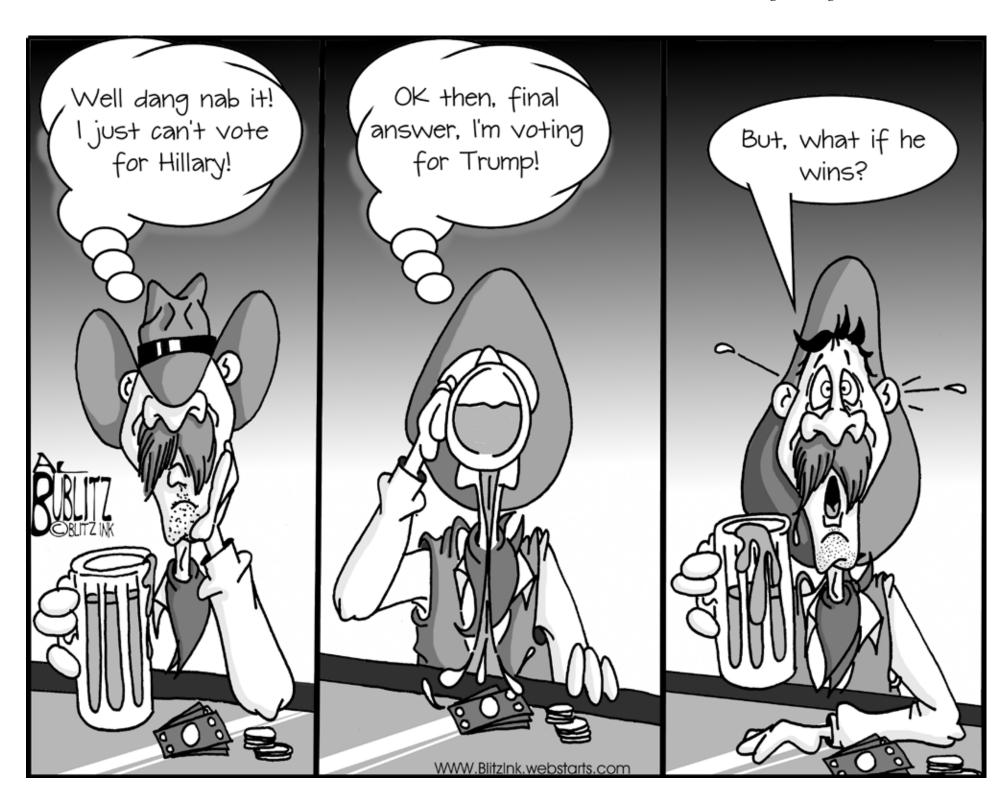
Adam Goguen *Big Sky, Montana*

"I think that the United States government should have nothing to do with your healthcare. It says in our Constitution [for our government] to provide defense and promote welfare, never to provide it ... If we wanted insurance you'd have it, but now we have to pay for it ... Now we all owe money even if we don't want it."



Samantha Weiffenbach *Big Sky, Montana*

"I've always been fortunate enough that my health insurance has always been provided by my employers. I think it's unfortunate we have one candidate that completely wants to scrap [the Affordable Care Act], when a lot of people benefit from it. But not being a business owner myself, I don't truly know the cost to business owners. I think if Hillary can expand it in a way that pleases more business owners it's a good thing."



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Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



For most the 2016 fishing season has already or will be coming to end any day now. That being said there is some great fishing to be had over the next few weeks.

The fishing season in Yellowstone National Park goes through November 6th this year. Fishing has been good on the Madison, Firehole and Gibbon for those in search of big browns headed up from Hebgen to spawn and the big rainbows that like to tag along. For those of you that have never experienced this time of year in the park be prepared for a culture shock. People on the water at day break making sure they save their spot so the next angler doesn't take it, some of the busier runs are considered rotation holes where people cycle through so everyone gets a fair share. Some people are dead drifting egg and worm

patterns while others are swinging soft hackles or streamers, often with double handed spey rods.

If you would like to check out this phenomenon it is best to go in with an open mind. Chat with nearby anglers before jumping in up or downstream to maintain good relationships and follow good etiquette. If you're a numbers person this may not be the place for you, unless inches are more important than quantity. Go there for a chance to hook into a fish of a lifetime and enjoy gorgeous scenery.

Fishing pressure on the Gallatin is almost zero this time of year, so a great time to find some peace and quiet. Depending on weather and conditions you may run into some rising fish looking up for a variety of baetis or midges. That means little dries will mostly likely fish best like little Para Adams, Sprouts and more in the 18-20 range. Nymphing has been best and they're back on the Pat's Rubberlegs in about a size 10. Good reports from streamer guys this time of year on a variety of patterns like the Mini Loop and Conehead Sculpins.

Outside of Yellowstone National Park the Madison has a lot to offer. Mostly a nymphing and streamer game there as well and good fishing can be had from the park boundary all the way to Three Forks. Small nymphs overall will be the safest bets like Green Machines, Lighning Bugs, Pheasant Tails, Zebra Midges and more. Expect some off color water below Ennis, and good fishing.

By this time next month it is likely we've experienced our first arctic blast and most have switched to thoughts of hunting and skiing or have moved on to warmer places. We'll still be here enjoying the quiet rivers all to ourselves!













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Letters:

Vote Cooper for Public Service Commission

We have an opportunity to elect a person to the Public Service Commission who may be the most qualified person in its history. Livingston resident Caron Cooper is running as an Independent for District 3 of the PSC, and is not accepting PAC money in order to maintain her independence from outside influence.

Cooper actually knows something about energy. She has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering with a concentration in thermodynamics; a master's in economics; and holds a doctorate, which combines economics and engineering, and the societal and environmental aspects on energy and natural resources.

Locally, she led the effort to keep our post office downtown and she served as chair of the city commission. She started, and has managed for the past 11 years, The Community Closet Thrift Store—with its model of putting money back into the community and creating jobs, it has generated more than \$3,000,000 in total economic impacts within our community.

As a parent she understands the importance of setting examples of service to community, to one another and to our planet. Please help put a true public servant on the Public Service Commission and cast your vote for Caron Cooper.

Jim Barrett Livingston, Montana

Presidential candidate McMullin offers alternative

The current presidential campaign has presented us with two "deplorable" candidates. Each is a septuagenarian with enough corrupt, dishonest and immoral behavior in their resumes to keep the tabloids in business for years.

It's been said, and I believe it's true, that voters are going to choose one based on distaste for the other. However, there is a principled alternative. Evan McMullin is an independent candidate touting liberty, freedom and constitutional government at every opportunity, and he has reasoned positions on the major issues.

McMullin has chosen Mindy Finn as his running mate. You've probably never heard of either of them, but their resumes are easy enough to find. Their goal is to usher in a new era of conservative leadership based on basic moral principles, something neither Clinton nor Trump can offer. This is a movement and these two dynamic, young people have the moral fiber to lead our country. They present an opportunity to vote for someone, not against.

If they can win one state and prevent the Clinton/Trump malaise from getting 270 electoral votes, they could win after a House vote. It has happened before. Wouldn't that be great? By the way, McMullin is registered in Montana as a writein candidate.

Colin McBee West Des Moines, Iowa

Excellent LPHS volleyball coverage

As the Lone Peak Lady Big Horns headed into the District 11C Tournament Oct. 27-28, seeded No. 2 (12-3 overall, 7-3 in district), I would like to commend our community's newspaper, Explore Big Sky, for the great volleyball coverage this season.

Hats off for covering all of the games, including photos and interviewing head coach Sarah Phelps. Your consistent coverage is greatly appreciated. I would also like to congratulate the girls, their parents, and their coaches on our most

winning season ever!

Op-ed: **Montana ABOTA defends** Sandefur against attacks by dark money group

The American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) is an organization dedicated to the preservation of a fair and impartial judiciary and the right to trial by jury. Recently, we have seen attacks upon Montana District Judge Dirk Sandefur, who is currently seeking election to a seat on the Supreme Court of Montana.

These attacks attempt to create the impression that Judge Sandefur has given lenient sentences. The fact is, the sentences handed down by Judge Sandefur in each instance were consistent with the recommendations of the prosecuting attorneys.

ABOTA is an invitation only organization dedicated to defending the American civil justice system and elevating the standards of integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession. The organization's members are represented equally between both plaintiff and defense lawyers and includes state and federal judges. ABOTA has a long history of responding to unfair attacks on judges who cannot respond for themselves and believes that political and special interest interference in the judicial system is contrary to the American concept of justice.

The Montana Chapter of ABOTA considers this attack on a district judge to be misleading, unwarranted and unfair. As such, it is a threat to the independence of the judiciary and to the rule of law. An independent, fair and impartial judiciary is the bulwark against the whims, wishes and demands of the government and other special interests.

The Montana Chapter of ABOTA stands for respect of our judicial system and the right of trial by jury, as we believe such principles are fundamental to preserving our democracy. Our judicial system cannot function without the lawyers, the litigants and the courts treating each other with civility. It is a system upon which the public can have confidence in and accept the outcome of each case.

This should not be considered an endorsement of either candidate seeking election to the Montana Supreme Court. Montana ABOTA does not endorse political candidates, nor does it become involved in political races.

On behalf of Montana ABOTA:

Clifford Edwards, Billings Alexander Blewett, III, Great Falls Carey E. Matovich, Billings Dennis P. Conner, Great Falls Donald L. Harris, Billings Douglas J. Wold, Polson James H. Goetz, Bozeman John E. Bohyer, Missoula Jon M. Moyers, Billings L. Randall Bishop, Billings

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Educators talk technology, tools for holistic teaching at inaugural tech summit

BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – Approximately 40 educators gathered in Big Sky Oct. 20 and 21 to learn about techie tools to expand their teaching repertoire, as well tips for balancing the abundant "screen time" today's youth are accustomed to with practices to support their physical, emotional and social health.

"We appreciate you being our guinea pigs," said Jeremy Harder, a fourth grade teacher at Ophir Middle School at the summit opening. "We would like to keep this going forever."

True to its mission, summit attendees were provided with QR codes, shareable hashtags and even cardboard virtual reality goggles, while given opportunities to fly fish, mountain bike and practice yoga.

"The energy was really good," Harder said of the summit.

"People were really excited to learn the tech stuff, but also really engaged in the practices of balancing our social, emotional and physical selves."

During his keynote address, Tom Holland, the owner and director of Jackson, Wyoming-based Wilderness Adventures, reflected upon the need for time outside.





Big Sky Tech Summit attendees try out visual reality goggles at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. PHOTO BY LACEY COOK

"We as parents, as educators, as influencers set the tone for the world,"
Holland said. "If your child sees you check your phone when you wake up
in the morning, what are they going to do when they grow up?"

A review of recent trends like Pokemon Go sparked one such discussion about the balance of technology and the outdoors. Holland acknowledged that Pokemon Go users take more steps in a day than they did before using the game, but he has qualms about it, particularly that "it serves not as the tool, but as the destination."

Holland discussed how today's generation stacks up in terms of the characteristics companies look for in their workforce, i.e. critical thinking ability, communication skills "beyond the text message," collaboration, team building, creativity and innovation.

"Here's the problem: Kids right now are coming out of college—maybe because of this imbalance—not possessing these skills," Holland said. "Those are the things they struggle with the most, especially when you take their devices away.

"If I go to them and I say, 'You need to work on your critical thinking skills,' they go to Siri and they say, 'What is critical thinking skills?' That's a problem."

In closing, Holland encouraged teachers to take their students outside more frequently. "It's not just for science class. It's for history, it's for natural history, art, literature. Get outside."

Harder urged attendees to take one new idea from the summit and apply it in their home districts. In addition to tools for managing this modern balancing act, the summit provided teachers with a handful of ideas, apps and assistive technologies to use in their classrooms.

Initial feedback from the participants, roughly half of which work within Big Sky's school district, describe the summit as an alternative and important continuing education opportunity. Attendance at the conference can be applied toward continuing education credits that Montana educators must earn to keep their teaching license.

Harder predicts the turnout for next year's summit will be two times, if not three times, higher.



Inside the Big Sky | By Derek Lennon

Fear not: What to do in November

BY DEREK LENNON **EBS CONTRIBUTOR**

Are you ready for November in Big Sky? The peaks are starting to turn white and the snow line is dropping quickly. Diehard skiers are earning their turns in the backcountry, as leaves are falling from trees in the Meadow and Canyon. It's getting chillier every single day. November means that ski season is almost here.

November is far from the busiest month of the year. Now is prime time to organize employment for the winter season, find housing, and enjoy the laidback Big Sky attitude that we all enjoy. Be sure to get out and enjoy everything that's happening in Big Sky in November. Mark your calendars now so that you know what's going on.

What Big Sky events will you attend this month? Check out the events calendar on page 42 of this newspaper to learn times for many of these events during the first two weeks of November:

Nov. 1 - Department of Energy SBIR/STTR Webinar

Nov. 3 – Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum

Nov. 4 - Trivia Night @ Lone Peak Cinema

Nov. 4-6 – Bridger Ski Foundation's 49th Annual Ski Swap

Nov. 6 – Day Light Savings Time Ends at 2 a.m. (clocks fall back)

Nov. 7 – Rockstar Karaoke @ Lone Peak Brewery

- Yellowstone National Park - All roads except the road between the North and Northeast entrance close at 8 a.m.

Nov. 8 – Election Day

Nov. 9 - MSU Snow and Avalanche Workshop 2016

- Yoga For A Cause: Veteran's Yoga Project @Yoga Stone

Nov. 10 - Montana Women's Business Center - 2016 Workshop Series

Nov. 10 and 11 - Scholastic Book Fair @ Big Sky Library

Nov. 11 - Veterans Day

- Free Admission To All National Park Service Sites
- Trivia Night @ Lone Peak Cinema



Opening day at Big Sky Resort. PHOTO BY ERSIN OZER

Nov. 13 - Full Moon

Nov. 14 – Rockstar Karaoke @ Lone Peak Brewery

Nov. 18 - Trivia Night @ Lone Peak Cinema

Nov. 21 - Skyline Bus Starts Winter Schedule

Rockstar Karaoke @ Lone Peak Brewery

Nov. 23 to 25 - Big Sky School District Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 24 – 7th Annual Turkey Trot

- Big Sky Resort Opens For Winter Season

- Thanksgiving 2016

Nov. 25 - Trivia Night @ Lone Peak Cinema

Nov. 26 – Small Business Saturday

Nov. 28 – Rockstar Karaoke @ Lone Peak Brewery

Nov. 28 to Dec. 4 - Big Sky Resort Sky Card and Madison Season Pass Free Days

Did we miss anything? Contact Visit Big Sky at info@visitbigskymt. com and we'll add it to the calendar! Be sure to share your events by mid-November to ensure that we can publish them in next month's "Things To Do In December."

This list of events hits on some of the major things to do in November in Big Sky, but there are other events too. Don't miss out on live music at venues like the Gallatin Riverhouse Grill and

November is going to be another great month to visit Big Sky, Montana. See you out and about.

Derek Lennon is a skier and writer who lives, works, and plays in the mountains of the world. He is based in Big Sky, Montana, where he lives with his wife Mia and two dogs.

A version of this story was originally published on the Visit Big Sky blog at https://visitbigskymt.com/things-to-do-in-november/. Read more interesting content about the area on Visit Big Sky's blog at bttps://visitbigskymt.com/category/blog/.



Bridger Ski Foundation's Annual Ski Swap in Bozeman, Mont. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

ELECTION 2016: THE BASICS, VOL. 4



BY EBS STAFF

Gianforte sinks \$5.1 million into Montana governor's race

BY MATT VOLZ ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – Bozeman businessman Greg Gianforte has now spent more than \$5.1 million of his own money to fuel his campaign against Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, while the Bullock-backing Democratic Governors Association poured in another \$1.5 million into one of the closest governor's races in the nation.

The candidates and political action committees turned in campaign finance reports Oct. 24 that detail their contributions and spending between Sept. 27 and Oct. 19. The reports show a governor's race on track to be the most expensive in state history, as each side accuses the other of trying to buy the election.

The Montana campaign is one of the closest of the 12 governor's races in the country, with a recent Mason-Dixon poll commissioned by Lee Newspapers of Montana giving Bullock just a 2-point edge, which is well within the 3.2 percent margin of error.

Gianforte, who sold his software company RightNow Technologies to Oracle for \$1.8 billion, cut his campaign two \$1 million checks over the last month, going above and beyond his previous pledge to match campaign contributions dollar for dollar. Individual donors contributed another \$238,000 to him over the reporting period.

His campaign has funneled most of that money into buying television ad time, spending nearly \$1.25 million on ad buys during the reporting period.

Asked about Gianforte's self-funding, spokesman Aaron Flint said Gianforte is working to get his message out and to combat more than \$5 million in attack ads against him. Gianforte has raised more from individual donors in Montana than any other challenger for the Montana governor's office, Flint added.

"His opponent, meanwhile, is a career politician who is trying to buy this election with tax dollars, PAC dollars and from his dark money group friends who are working to shut down Colstrip," Flint said, referring to a southeastern Montana coal-fired power plant.

The \$311,334 that Bullock took between Sept. 27 and Oct. 19 puts the incumbent at more than \$3 million raised for the election cycle. His biggest donations for the period topped \$10,000 apiece from four union PACs and a lawyers' PAC. The Democrat's campaign also is spending heavily on television ads, at \$803,232 in ad buys for the month.

"Mr. Gianforte has to resort to using his personal fortune because Montanans are rejecting someone who wants to fundamentally change what Montanans value about our state—from public lands to public education to equal pay for equal work," Bullock campaign manager Eric Hyers said.

There have been relatively few outside groups making independent expenditures to influence the outcome of the race, but the ones who have are also spending heavily. Leading the pack is the DGA, which Bullock was chairman of from 2014 to 2015.

With the addition of the \$1.5 million it spent over the last month, the DGA has now funneled \$3.35 million into the race through the Good Jobs Montana PAC.

Good Jobs Montana also reported donations from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the National Education Association and Montana Conservation Voters.

DGA spokesman Jared Leopold said the amount of money going into Montana is a reflection of how close the race is and to counter Gianforte's personal spending.

"The DGA's very invested in winning governor's races around the country and certainly Montana's a big race this cycle," he said.

The Republican Governors Association's Right Direction PAC, another outside group spending money in the Montana race, reported spending \$92,755 for the period.

A newly formed PAC called Montanans for Truth in Public Schools is the third group that has spent money on ads on the governor's race. Its ad features renowned paleontologist Jack Horner questioning whether Gianforte would spend taxpayer money to support schools that teach creationism and intelligent design.

That group spent about \$9,500 to air that ad earlier this month.

\$68 million Law and Justice Center hinges on voters' approval

EBS STAFF

On Nov. 8, local voters will determine the fate of a new law and justice center that has been in the works for several years.

If the bond is approved, the county will issue up to \$68.3 million in bonds to design, construct, equip and furnish new court and law enforcement facilities for use by Gallatin County and the City of Bozeman.

In addition to new facilities for the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office and the Bozeman City Police Department, the bonds would fund new courtrooms for the county and city as well as costs associated with the sale and issuance of the bonds.

If approved, county property taxes for a home in Gallatin County valued at \$200,000 would increase by approximately \$40.66 per year.

Bozeman voters will decide a simultaneous measure that must also be passed for the new facility to be built. Bozeman city residents would need to approve a levy of up to 18.21 mills each year for up to 20 years to raise \$1,634,500 per year to pay down debt service on the county bond.

Proponents say the current Law and Justice Center is outdated, unsafe and overburdened; construction costs will rise if building is postponed; the county's growth rate necessitates expanded facilities for a larger law enforcement force; and victims' safety would improve with a new facility layout.

Opponents say the measure is costly and overburdens property tax payers, includes excessive features beyond what is required, and does not take current crime statistics into account.

News Guide: Governor, US House races top full Montana ballot

BY MATT VOLZ ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – After enduring months of political ads filling the airwaves, fliers clogging mailboxes and candidates knocking on doors, Montana voters get to decide on Nov. 8 who will represent them.

Absentee voting is underway for a full ballot topped by races for governor, U.S. House, state Supreme Court, four statewide offices and the Legislature. Here's a look at the choices voters face:

GOVERNOR

Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock is seeking a second term in a close race against Republican challenger Greg Gianforte, a Bozeman software entrepreneur making his first run for political office. Ted Dunlap, the Libertarian Party candidate, is considered a long shot.

Bullock touts his record of bringing together different groups to plan for the state's economic future plus record investments in public education. If reelected, he said he would improve eastern Montana's infrastructure, increase worker training, launch a statewide pre-kindergarten program and boost the state's outdoor recreation economy.

Gianforte has focused his campaign on attracting high-paying jobs to the state and said government regulations interfere with business and private property rights. He has pledged to roll back regulations, appoint government agency heads with experience in the private sector, cut personal income taxes and eliminate the business equipment tax.

U.S. HOUSE

Republican U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke is seeking a second term, and he is up against Democrat Denise Juneau. Rick Breckenridge became the Libertarian Party candidate late in the campaign after the party's first candidate, Mike Fellows, died in a car crash.

Zinke is a Navy SEAL veteran and a former state lawmaker from Whitefish. Juneau is the outgoing superintendent of public instruction. If elected, she would be the first Native American woman elected to Congress.

Zinke has portrayed himself as a national security expert and warns of terrorists slipping into the U.S. with refugees flowing out of the Middle East. He also says he is a strong supporter of coal and natural resource development.

Juneau has questioned whether Zinke's ambition for a higher office and his unabashed support for Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump are right for the constituents he represents. She said she would represent Montana's interests on issues ranging from public land issues to education and health care.

SUPREME COURT

District Judge Dirk Sandefur and University of Montana adjunct law professor Kristen Juras are competing to replace retiring Justice Patricia Cotter, who is stepping down after two eight-year terms on the state's highest court.

Sandefur cites his experience as a district judge as qualifying him more than Juras to serve on the seven-member, nonpartisan high court. Juras says justices have diverse legal backgrounds and she would bring knowledge of the legal issues faced by individuals, farmers and small business owners.

A group of Montana attorneys and the state's trial lawyers' association backs Sandefur. A pro-Juras group run by Republican operative Jake Eaton has produced an ad attacking Sandefur's record as a district judge.

Two justices are running unopposed: Chief Justice Mike McGrath and Justice Jim Shea.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Republican Attorney General Tim Fox is seeking re-election against Democrat Larry Jent, a former state legislator from Bozeman.

Fox says he has cracked down on sex offenders by instituting compliance checks and improving the sex offender registry. He also has expanded an anti-drunken driving program started by then-Attorney General Steve Bullock and hired a prescription drug abuse prevention coordinator.

Jent has said he would focus on ensuring access to public lands, cracking down on prescription drug abuse and ensuring that drug companies and health insurers do not take advantage of state residents through price gouging or mergers that eliminate competition and raise rates.

SECRETARY OF STATE

Two veteran Montana politicians—Democrat Monica Lindeen and Republican Corey Stapleton—are competing for the open post vacated by Linda McCulloch, a Democrat who served two terms.

Stapleton is a former state legislator from Billings who most recently lost in the 2014 U.S. House Republican primary against Zinke. Lindeen, the outgoing state auditor, is seeking to keep the seat in Democratic hands.

Roger Roots is the Libertarian candidate for the job, which administers elections and oversees businesses in the state.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Republican state Sen. Elsie Arntzen and Democrat Melisso Romano are vying to replace Juneau as education superintendent.

Arntzen has served five terms in the state Legislature. Romano, an elementary school teacher from Helena, is making her first run for political office.

Romano told the Bozeman Daily Chronicle that she supports the Common Core educational standards that are being implemented in Montana. Arntzen has said they should be revised.

AUDITOR

Jesse Laslovich, the chief legal counsel for the state auditor's office, is seeking to replace his boss, Lindeen. State Sen. Matt Rosendale is hoping to re-capture the seat for the Republicans.

Both candidates have served in the Legislature. Rosendale tells the Great Falls Tribune newspaper his top priority would be to protect citizens from fraud and theft, and that he would try to reduce the cost of auto, workers' compensation and health insurance.

Laslovich says he would seek transparency in health care pricing, fight investment fraud against senior citizens, protect public land access and try to bring down the cost of high air ambulance bills.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

It is a three-way race for a seat on the all-Republican commission that regulates utilities and transportation in the state.

Republican incumbent Roger Koopman of Bozeman is fighting challenges from Democratic state Rep. Pat Noonan of Ramsay and independent candidate Caron Cooper.

Republican commission members Bob Lake and Tony O'Donnell are unopposed in the general election after securing their party's nominations in the primary elections.

LEGISLATURE

Twenty-five Senate seats and all 100 House seats are up for election. Republicans now have a 29-21 majority in the Senate and a 59-41 majority in the House.



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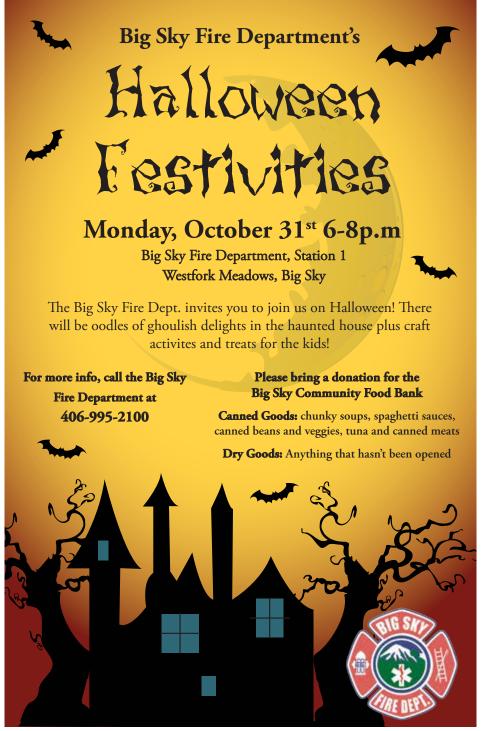
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MSU's Robert Rydell awarded Turpie Prize for excellence in American studies

BY EMILY STIFLER WOLFE MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – Montana State University history professor Robert Rydell has received many awards in his 36 years of teaching, but the Mary C. Turpie Prize is different.

A group of his students nominated him for the prestigious award, which is run by the American Studies Association and recognizes outstanding abilities and achievement in teaching, advising and program development at a local or regional level.

"I had no idea that the students had nominated me, so it means a great deal to me," said Rydell, who will receive the Turpie Prize at the association's annual meeting on Nov. 18.

Rydell came to MSU's Department of History and Philosophy after earning his doctorate from UCLA in 1980. Together with history professor David Cherry and English professor Susan Kollin, he built the university's American studies program—the undergraduate degree in 2007, and the master's and Ph.D. levels in 2009.

The interdisciplinary program investigates both historic and contemporary American life, tackling issues including racism, economic injustice and political corruption.

"American studies gives students exposure to multiple windows through which they can look at the complexity of American culture," Rydell said, explaining that the field draws on methodologies from disciplines including anthropology, the arts, archaeology, Native American Studies, geography and history.

"[The] establishment and ongoing success of the American studies program at Montana State University are almost entirely due to the herculean efforts of Professor Rydell over the course of nearly a decade," said Kollin, who is also director of graduate studies in the Department of English.

Along with the history department's doctoral program—which Rydell was also instrumental in helping establish—American Studies is the only other Ph.D. in the humanities at MSU.

Rydell's own research includes Buffalo Bill's influence on globalization through international performances later in his career, as well as world's fairs, in which he is a pre-eminent expert. In particular, he focuses on the cultural effects of the ghastly "human zoo" exhibits, in which different ethnic and racial groups were put on display and treated as subhumans.

"Our job is sometimes to take people into troubling waters and realize that those waters haven't gone away—they're still roiling in many places," he said.

An accomplished scholar, Rydell has authored or co-authored many books. His first book, "All the World's a Fair," was based on his dissertation that received the Allan Nevins Prize. "Buffalo Bill in Bologna," which he co-authored with Dutch scholar Rob Kroes, received the Ray Browne Prize from the Popular Culture Association.

His most recent, "Designing Tomorrow," co-edited with Laura Schiavo, was produced in conjunction with a major exhibition on world's fairs at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C.



Robert Rydell, professor of history and director of the MSU Humanities Institute at Montana State University, has been awarded the Mary C. Turpie Prize in American Studies. PHOTO BY ADRIAN SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ

Rydell also created MSU's museum studies minor, the MSU Humanities Institute and is one of the principals of the Western Lands and Peoples Initiative. The latter highlights interdisciplinary research focused on the Western U.S. and Canada, aiming to become a center that draws international scholars.

He teaches honors undergraduates in the Honors College; serves as chair or member on dozens of graduate committees; has participated in 50-plus invited lectures and seminars; and has presented at more than 40 conferences. His presentations have been broadcast on C-SPAN and CNN, and he has been a guest on NPR and WNYC.

His current work includes updating a history of MSU that he originally co-authored, "In the People's Interest," in time for the university's 125th anniversary in 2018, as well as building an exchange program with Utrecht University in the Netherlands. He is also writing a cultural biography of U.S. congressman Sol Bloom that he hopes will be in bookstores early in the next decade.

Beyond an insatiable curiosity, there's something else that drives Rydell: He is teaching the next generation of intellectual leaders.

In one of the many supporting letters in the Turpie nomination, a group of students compared Rydell to the movie character John Keating, as played by Robin Williams in the film "Dead Poets Society."

"Only in film do you encounter mentor-scholars like Dr. Robert Rydell," they wrote. "After much reflection on the letters supplied by other students, it became clear that our affection and admiration ring in chorus, yet for reasons entirely our own."





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Section 2:ENVIRONMENT,
SPORTS & HEALTH







As Yellowstone is poised to break yet another record, where do we go now?



BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

So now the Centennial Year of the National Park Service is coming to a close. Will 2017 deliver ever-greater numbers of visitors?

Just a few days ago, Yellowstone National Park officials announced that, for the first eight months of 2016, visitation was up 4.1 percent over 2015, which shattered a record of over 4 million total visits.

Americans have innumerable personal reasons for venturing to national parks and once they regard them as part of their inheritance, one visit may lead to another. In hundreds of millions of physical and digital scrapbooks, there are billions of photographs taken of park overlooks.

To some of us, parks are havens, places where families bond and elderly return to sigh at the memories of their youth. Others go to complete their bucket lists or to complete the wishes of loved ones who wanted their ashes spread

"Our national parks are breathing spaces in a country that is increasingly holding its breath," writer Terry Tempest Williams, author of "The Hour of Land," told me last summer.

"We see the violence in the latest mass shooting. We know the kind of madness a world at war with itself breeds. It is easy to fall into despair," she added. "But then, we stand before El Capitan in Yosemite Valley or look out at across the vast erosional beauty of the Grand Canyon where we can see the curvature of the Earth, we are returned to a sense of wholeness in the world—an enduring beauty that will not only survive us—but inspire us to be our highest and deepest selves."

Reflecting on her own childhood spent at the foot of the Tetons in Grand Teton National Park, Williams refuses to sell parks short. What they need, she notes, is more citizen defenders lending their voice as advocates.

"Each time I visit a national park, I meet the miraculous—the power and vision of human self-restraint and courage and love at a time in the world when it is lacking. And it leaves me humbled," she says. "Our national parks allow us

to remember what we have forgotten—that we are a part of nature, an extension of nature, products of nature, not separate from it. And how we take care of parks says a lot about ourselves."

Occasionally, the mere existence of parks ruffles feathers as with Mount

Rushmore being a patriotic landmark that, to the Lakota, desecrates the sacred Black Hills; or the memorial to Oklahoma City bombing victims that died as a result of domestic homegrown terrorism carried out, not by a Muslim but by a radicalized anti-government white Christian named Timothy McVeigh; or a site that was once an internment camp for Japanese Americans during World War II; or venues associated with African-Americans and slavery.

If parks are, as Williams suggests, mirrors of societal attitudes, Jack Turner doesn't always like what he sees. Even with the rebound of

grizzlies and wolves to Greater Yellowstone, the former university philosophy instructor turned internationally renowned climber who lives in Teton Village, Wyoming, has watched an erosion of respect for nature in national parks take hold. He called attention to it in his cult classic, "The Abstract Wild."

Turner, 74, scaled peaks around the world and worked in national parks for 40 years, most of that time as a mountaineering instructor in Grand Teton for the legendary Exum Guides.

For decades he has headed to Yellowstone to fly fish the Firehole River around Memorial Day, but this year he was shocked by the flood of people. Mostly, however, he was left shaken by the choke of buses and cars.

Turner shares an observation from Edward Abbey made in his classic, "Desert Solitaire": "Industrial tourism is a threat to the national parks," Abbey wrote. "But the chief victims of the system are the motorized tourists. They are being robbed and robbing themselves. So long as they are unwilling to crawl out of their cars they will not discover the treasures of the national parks and will never escape the stress and turmoil of the urban-suburban complexes which they had hoped, presumably, to leave behind for a while."

Recalling a return to some of his favorite climbing haunts in Yosemite, Turner added, "If we're not past the point of no return in some of our parks then we're close to it. Yosemite Village is as crowded in some spots as New York City or Calcutta. People who rent bicycles wanting to get out of their cars and not pollute can't ride them because it's turned into such a human anthill. It's appalling what we're doing to these places that we claim to hold as sacred."

What should happen? I don't know what the answer is. Do you?

Todd Wilkinson writes his New West column every week, and it's published on explorehigsky. com on EBS off weeks. He is author of the awardwinning 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 in time for the holidays. Wilkinson also wrote a profile of Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk for the summer 2016 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine, still on newsstands.



A crowded boardwalk in the Lower Geyser Basin in Yellowstone National Park. NPS PHOTO $\,$

in a place that lifted them up, or to celebrate a wedding anniversary or stroll across the hallowed, haunted ground of a battlefield, or get closer to their own cultural history.

Along the way, the pilgrims will cry with delight or sorrow, laugh because they can't help it, and leave satisfied because their own spiritual wells were left fuller than when they entered.

It's hard to imagine America without national parks on the map; their intangible benefits and dividends are all around us and inform our national identity—in ways too numerous to expound upon.



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Montana rookie aims for PBR gold at world finals

BY TYLER ALLEN EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – The first week of November promises to be a rowdy one in Las Vegas, Nevada, and 19-year-old Montana native Jess Lockwood is squarely in the ring.

The Built Ford Tough Series World Finals returns to Las Vegas Nov. 2-6 to crown Professional Bull Riders' world champion, and BFTS rookie Lockwood is sitting at No. 5 in the standings. A rookie has never won the title in the 22-year history of the championship.

In an Oct. 20 interview, PBR CEO Sean Gleason said he's been impressed with the freshman season from Volborg, Montana's native son.

"Raw natural talent, extremely committed to success and devoted to learning the craft of bull riding," Gleason said of Lockwood. "He's got a little bit of a hill to climb, but only due to him joining us part way through the year."

Lockwood missed the first 11 BFTS events while he was fighting his way onto the premier tour. He is 2077 points behind leader Kaique Pacheco heading into Las Vegas, and he wasn't able to close the gap Oct. 22 and 23 in Tuscon, Arizona, coming out of the weekend without a point.

A total of 3,300 points are available during the six rounds of the World Finals, with 1,500 awarded to the top rider by average, and 300 points available to the winner of each round. To win the title, Lockwood needs to be the top rider by average and win two rounds—without the other top riders scoring big points.

PBR Finals Week kicks off with the BlueDEF Velocity Tour World Finals Oct. 29 and 30, and the best three riders along with the top international rider, will qualify for the BFTS World Finals.

Montana's Big Sky PBR has been a BlueDEF stop since the tour's debut in 2015, and has been voted by the bull riders as Event of the Year three years running. Big Sky's sixth annual event, held last July, has a strong chance to take that title again, according to Gleason.

"[It's] extremely well produced and a special outdoor setting," he said. "The combination ... makes it a great experience for everybody."

The Built Ford Tough Series Finals this year moves from the Thomas and Mack Center to T-Mobile Arena, which opened in April. It's a state-of-the art facility and Gleason said this year's event is already the most economically successful World Finals in PBR's history.

Aerosmith's Steven Tyler will play the headliner concert Nov. 5, and other musical acts during the weekend include George Thorogood and the Destroyers, Casey Donahew, Colt Ford, and Warrant, among many others.

With the top 20 bull riders still mathematically in contention for the world title, it's anyone's guess who might take home the title.

While Lockwood has work to do in order to bring a gold buckle back to the Treasure State, he's impressed more than the top PBR brass throughout his rookie season.



Jess Lockwood attempts to ride Air Time in May during the third round of Helldorado Days Last Cowboy Standing Built Ford Tough Series PBR event, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Heading into the World Finals, also in Las Vegas, Lockwood is ranked fifth in the world and Air Time is the No. 3 bull in the world. PHOTO BY ANDY WATSON/BULL STOCK MEDIA

Three Forks, Montana's Andy and Jacey Watson travel with the Built Ford Tough Series documenting the competitions for Bull Stock Media. The Watsons also own Freestone Productions, which collaborates with Outlaw Partners (publisher of EBS) and Continental Construction to produce the Big Sky PBR.

"Being a 19 year old, he's kind of a phenomenon," Jacey said. "It's rare you see someone come in that young, be so assertive and get to the top like he's done. When I think of Jess I think of tenacity—he never gives up."

"What makes him stand apart from other guys we see on the tour [is] he reached out to [PBR founder] Cody Lambert ... and Cody invited him down to his ranch in Texas," Andy added. "He's not focusing just on the bull riding, but also the business side since he's been catapulted to the spotlight."

Lockwood has won more than \$172,000 on tour this year, and will be looking to add to that total in Las Vegas. Not bad for a kid who can't yet purchase alcohol.

Visit phrworldfinals.com/buy-tickets/ to book your seats at the "Greatest Show on Dirt," the PBR World Finals in Las Vegas, Nevada.



Big Horns miss playoffs, end first 8-man season with winning record

BY TYLER ALLEN EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – The Lone Peak Big Horns ended their first campaign as an eight-man program on Oct. 19, with a 74-14 loss to powerhouse Ennis High School. The defeat kept the Big Horns out of the playoffs, as they ended up fifth place in the conference with a 5-4 record.

On Oct. 15, Lone Peak handled Absarokee 63-0 in Big Sky for their final win of the 2016 season. However, they were overmatched in Ennis during an elimination game.

"Ennis, they're a really good football team. I think they're probably going to win state," said Lone Peak head coach Matt Bakken. "They're fundamentally sound and well coached. Our kids could have played better, but we're still a pretty young squad."

LPHS only dressed two seniors this season—Eddie Starz and Bridger Babcock—but they'll have as many as eight seniors next year. Bakken says the future looks bright for the Big Horns.

"We're hoping next year we get our juniors and sophomores in the weight room, getting stronger and faster," Bakken said. "I think they're going to be a good squad, we just need them to get to some camps [next summer] and improve."

Standouts for Lone Peak this season included quarterback Eddie Starz who led the team in both passing and rushing yards—as well as touchdowns in each category—and also interceptions on the defensive side of the ball.

Babcock returned this year to notch the team's second most rushing yards and touchdowns after being sidelined with a knee injury he sustained in the playoffs last season. Bakken said he wasn't sure Babcock would be able to play

this year, but the senior focused on physical therapy over the winter to get back on the field.

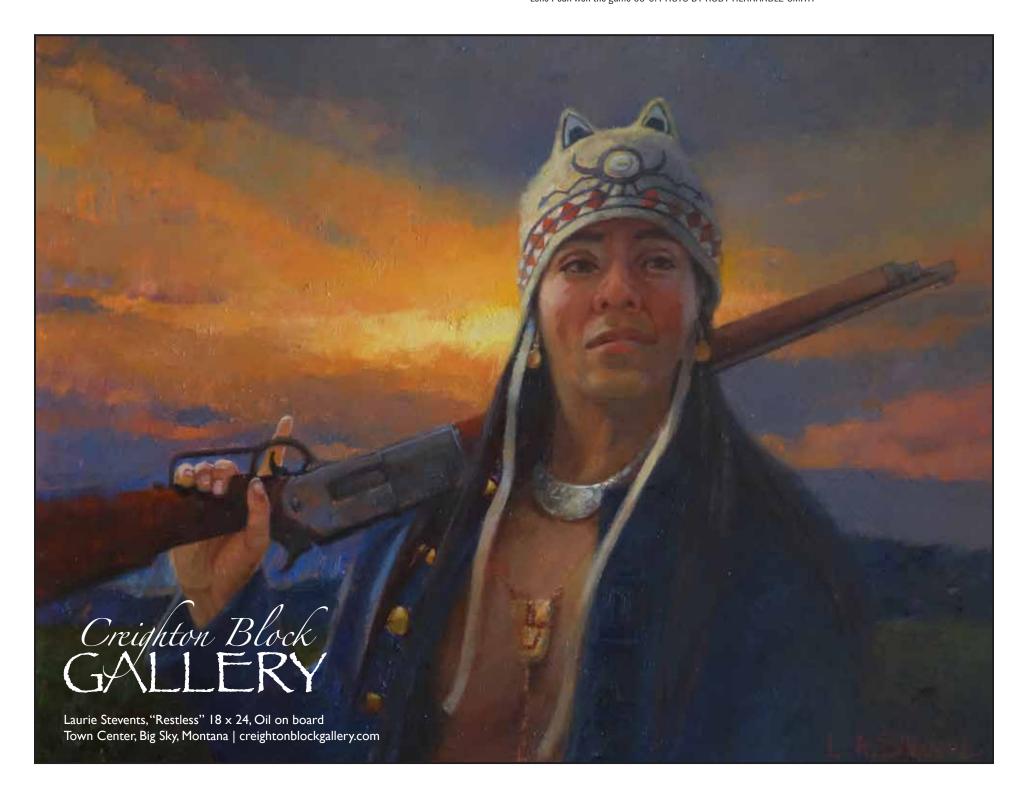
Junior Holden Samuels is slated to lead the Big Horns at quarterback next season, and Bakken said he ran the option well when he was called upon this fall

"I think he'll do a great job next year—he took over in the Tri-Cities game when Eddie got hurt and did a great job driving us up and down the field." Samuels also led the defense in tackles as outside linebacker this season.

"We didn't make the playoffs, but it was a transition year for us," Bakken said, referencing the team's move from six- to eight-man football. "It took us a bit to adjust to the new rules and new playbook, but after those first couple of weeks our kids started to click and play really well."



The Big Horns scrum with Absarokee Oct. 15 during their last home game of the season. Lone Peak won the game 63-0. PHOTO BY RUBY HERNANDEZ-SMITH



Lone Peak closes regular season No. 2 in district

BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – Lone Peak closed the regular season with a hard-fought win against White Sulphur Springs Oct. 22—the first time the Big Horns have defeated the Hornets outside of tournament play in their four-year history.

"They've been sort of a nemesis for us," said head coach Sarah Phelps.
"They're the only team we haven't been able to beat in regular season play, so this was a great way for us to end the season."

The first set was the closest, and the only one that ended in the Hornets' favor. After Lone Peak lost 25-22, Phelps made changes on defense to better counter White Sulphur Springs' offense. The adjustment paid off and the Big Horns ended the night with 81 digs to the Hornets' 41.

"Eighty-one digs is huge for us because they were hitting at us, they were attacking the ball and we were able to combat it," Phelps said. "Our defense really stepped up." Senior Luisa Locker led the defensive charge from the back row with 22 digs, and sophomore Solae Swenson led at the net with 2.5 blocks and 14 kills.

In total, Lone Peak fired 45 kills over the net to White Sulphur Springs' 25. "That's a big discrepancy when we're pulling in 20 more kills, and a big part of that was Solae and Kuka [Holder] and KP [Hoffman] killing it at the net," Phelps said.

The Hornets remained in contention throughout the game—the last three sets ended 25-20, 25-20 and 25-13, all in Lone Peak's favor—by blocking and serving aggressively. They scored 10 blocks and 12 aces on the night.

Junior Bryn Iskendarian, a consistent leader from the service line this season, scored five of the Big Horns' seven aces.

At the end of the game, Kevin Barton from Ace Hardware awarded an "Ace of the Game" to a player from each team. Barton gave the recognition to

the Big Horns' Swenson, a middle blocker who's been a reliable leader in both kills and blocks this season.

"She was a spark for us in the game," Phelps said. Swenson holds Lone Peak's record for kills with 16.

The Big Horns closed the season 7-3 in district play (13-3 overall) and were seeded No. 2 heading into the 11C District Tournament, Oct.



KP Hoffman spikes the ball during Lone Peak's Oct. 22 "Spike for a Cure" win against White Sulphur Springs. PHOTO BY MIRANDA WAGNER

27-28 at Manhattan Christian. The two teams they've lost to this season are White Sulphur Springs on the road Sept. 29, and Gardiner, the only undefeated team in the district.

Phelps was focusing on blocking and aggressive team play coming into the tournament. Their first game was scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Oct. 27, the day after EBS went to press.

Phelps said the Big Horns have to play smart, aggressive volleyball to make an impression at districts. "We could absolutely compete with Gardiner—I have no question. Anything could happen at tournament time."





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EYE ON THE BALL

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BY BRANDON NILES EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

I love the NFL draft. It's something I've always been drawn to. The concept of molding a team from the ground up, and becoming a fan at

the very beginning of a young professional player's career, are some of my favorite aspects of following pro sports.

This is why I'm so excited by the early development of Dallas Cowboys rookie quarterback Dak Prescott.

The NFL is especially perfect for draft wonks like me, because it provides so many opportunities to get in on the bottom floor. The NBA is great for the immediate star power at the top of the draft, but it's rare for more than a handful of NBA rookies to become long-term stars.

Baseball drafts are interesting, but nearly all the prospects bounce around in development leagues for a few years before seeing action on the big stage. In the NFL, 253 players were drafted this year, and in every one of the seven rounds, you can find players that are contributing to their teams in important ways right now. In the NFL draft, you never know who is going to be a difference maker.

Prescott was taken late in the fourth round of this year's draft, with the 135th overall pick. He was

a productive player at Mississippi State, with 56 touchdowns and 16 interceptions over his final two seasons, including only five picks last year.

The Cowboys were planning on developing Prescott as their third-string quarterback, but injuries to Tony Romo and Kellen Moore have forced him into the starting role. Prescott has wowed NFL fans, and led the team to a 5-1 record. He's shown excellent decision-making, helping him to the third highest quarterback rating in football.

While having the best offensive line in the NFL and an elite running game helps Prescott, his poise and leadership is evident, and clearly a big reason for his early success. Prescott is completing an impressive 68 percent of his passes and frequently works through his progressions like a veteran.

Prescott has played so well, that it's going to be hard to give the team back to Romo when he gets healthy. Romo's likely return is on Nov. 6 against the Browns, but should the Cowboys sit Prescott after a blazing hot start?

I say no. Romo has been very good for Dallas over the past decade. However, he's 36 years old and coming off a compression fracture to his vertebrae. He missed 12 games last season after breaking his collar bone twice, for the second and third time in his career.

I'm not convinced that even a healthy Romo represents the best chance for Dallas to win. In 10 years as a starter, Romo has gone 2-4 in the

postseason, and has missed the playoffs entirely in six of those seasons—albeit he's missed at least 10 games in two of those years.

Inserting Romo back into the lineup now could shift momentum without any guarantee of postseason success. The Cowboys should let Romo get healthy, play the year with Prescott as the starter, and get a full look at what the future is for them at the quarterback position. Right now, that future looks very bright, and the fan base is fully engaged.

If Romo comes in and struggles, fans will be clamoring for him to be replaced. On the other hand, if Prescott struggles, the team could always use Romo's health as justification for the timing of his return. If Prescott continues to do well, the decision gets deferred to the offseason.

Keeping Prescott as the starter is a win-win scenario for both the short-term and the long-term goals of the franchise. Dallas fans can be excited about having an heir apparent at quarterback, while remaining competitive this season. Meanwhile, Prescott can continue to gain experience and energize the fan base.

To me, keeping the rookie behind center is the only viable option in Dallas.

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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Bobcats winless in conference heading into bye week

BY COLTER NUANEZ **EBS CONTRIBUTOR**

The rebuilding process for the Montana State Bobcats is reaching rock bottom, but first-year head coach Jeff Choate is confident a climb from the basement of the Big Sky Conference is on the horizon.

MSU has one of the proudest traditions in the Big Sky Conference—the Bobcats have claimed three national championships, at three different levels of competition. Montana State's 15 Big Sky crowns are the second most since the conference was created in 1963, trailing only Montana's 18 titles.

The Bobcats have been a modern-day power as well. MSU has six Big Sky Conference titles since 2002, including three straight for the first time in school history to begin this decade. Montana State qualified for the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs as recently as 2014, capping a string of four postseason berths in five seasons.

Last fall, MSU endured its first losing season since 2001. The 5-6 finish, coupled with the inability to consistently beat fellow Big Sky powers Montana and Eastern Washington, resulted in former head coach Rob Ash's termination. He won 70 games in nine seasons at Montana State, but just two each against UM and EWU, in 18 total matchups.

The firing caused a domino effect that resonates today. A week after Choate was hired last December, most of Ash's coaching staff, including prolific offensive coordinator Tim Cramsey, was let go. Choate only retained running backs coach Michael Pitre and linebackers coach Kane Ioane, an MSU Hall of Fame player.

Choate hired a star-studded defensive coaching staff to work with Ioane, including longtime Grizzly defensive coordinator Ty Gregorak, and Gerald Alexander—a former NFL defensive back who previously coached at his alma mater Boise State.

But injuries, a lack of offensive production and a lineup that has included eight different freshmen, have ensured Montana State will take its lumps in Choate's first fall navigating the Big Sky.

Montana State put forth its most lackluster effort on Oct. 15 at Weber State, falling behind 21-0 at the end of the first quarter and 42-14 at halftime, during a 45-27 loss. On Oct. 22 in Bozeman, Montana State held a 17-14 lead with two minutes left to play in the first half, only to see No. 3 Eastern Washington run away in a 41-17 Bobcat loss and a fifth straight conference defeat. MSU enters its bye the last week 0-5 in league play, and 2-6 overall.

Still, Choate sees sunrise on the horizon, and it gives him optimism.

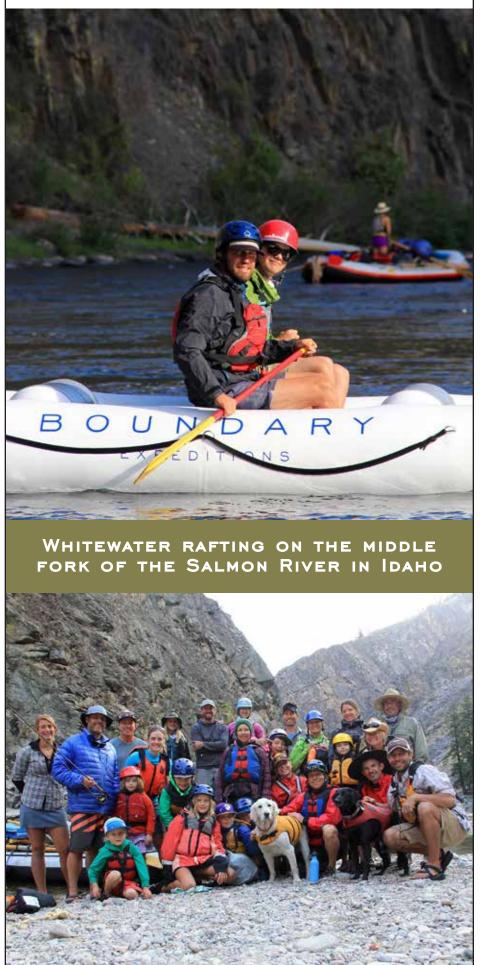
"When you are 2-6, there's not a lot to be fired up about but I also know our day is coming," Choate said on Oct. 24. "That's one of the reasons this has been so painful, because we are close."

Colter Nuanez is the creative director and senior writer for "Skyline Sports" (skylinesportsmt.com), an online newsgathering organization providing cutting edge coverage of Montana State University and Big Sky Conference sports. The award-winning sportswriter has worked for newspapers and magazines across the West and has covered the Big Sky since 2006.



Montana State cornerback John Walker leaps for a tackle during the Bobcats' 41-17 loss to Eastern Washington, on Oct. 22 in Bozeman. PHOTO BY THERESA DA SILVA

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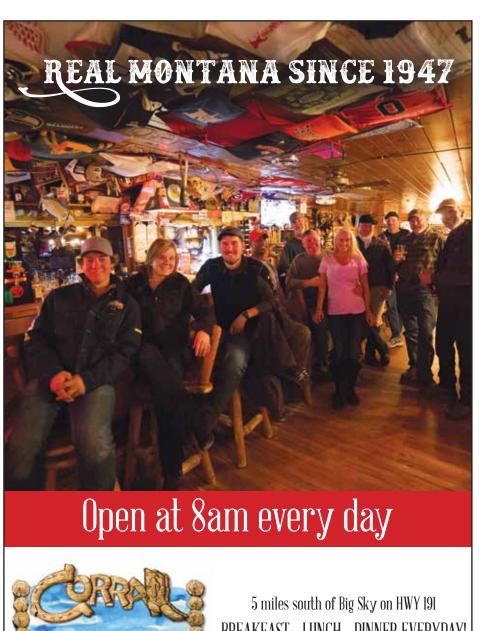


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Don't let strep throat go untreated



BY DR. JEFF DANIELS EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

A sore throat is one of the most common complaints of patients visiting an urgent care center. This problem is not restricted to just children or adolescents; there are many adults who develop one of several infections where the main manifestations are pain on swallowing, swollen glands in the neck, fever, and a feeling of general malaise. Other names for this illness include pharyngitis and tonsillitis.

The culprits causing this type of infection include a wide variety of bacteria and viruses. Viruses cause the vast majority of infections, especially in adults. Most people who catch a "common cold" will have some kind of throat discomfort, along with a stuffy nose, sinus pain and a cough. However, the likelihood that bacteria are responsible rises if there are no nasal or sinus symptoms, and no cough.

For many people, a sore throat brings up the concern about "strep," referring to an infection caused by the streptococcus group of bacteria, particularly one designated group A strep (GAS). Studies show that anywhere from 5 to 15 percent of adults with pharyngitis will have a positive culture for GAS, whereas in children and teenagers, the percentage of GAS can be as high as 40 percent.

Strep is most commonly associated with swollen tonsils covered with whitish exudate, indicating a vigorous immune attack made by the body against the bacteria. The glands in the front of the neck are usually swollen and tender.

Strep infections are often self-limited, and if left untreated, symptoms will disappear after about five days. However, it is very important to treat group A strep. Treatment with antibiotics will reduce the duration and severity of symptoms. Untreated strep is contagious, but 48 hours after antibiotics are started, a child can return to school because the risk of spreading strep is greatly reduced.

A final reason to treat strep with antibiotics is that there are complications from a group A strep infection that can be avoided. Although greatly reduced since antibiotics became widely available in the 1950s, strep complications still crop up, and the results can be devastating.

Scarlet fever, rheumatic fever, and acute glomerulonephritis, seen mostly in kids and adolescents, can result from an untreated or incompletely treated strep infection. There has even been an association noted between strep infection and an autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorder in children.

The first step to diagnosing strep is basically a common sense evaluation of the patient. Are symptoms consistent with a viral illness? Are there nasal symptoms, sinus symptoms, ear clogging, a cough, hoarseness, or ulcers on the inside surface of the cheeks or lips? These are all commonly found in viral upper respiratory infections, and not consistent with strep.

We have two ways of testing specifically for group A strep: a rapid strep detection test done right in the office, giving immediate results, and a throat culture, which can take 24 to 48 hours to give results. The throat culture is the more sensitive of the two tests, identifying strep correctly in about 90 to 95 percent of cases.

The rapid strep test can miss (come back negative) up to one in four cases of strep. In many patients, a culture will be sent if the rapid test is negative but the patient still looks like they might have strep, and clinical judgment is then used to decide whether or not an antibiotic should be started immediately.

Group A strep infection will respond to common antibiotics like penicillin, amoxicillin, and a variety of cephalosporin in all but rare cases. In some areas in the country, resistance is developing to erythromycin and azithromycin (Z-pak). Antibiotic treatment should be continued for 10 days.

Have a healthy November, and start getting in shape for ski season!

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.

Community cleanse chronicle: part 2

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Patterns, habits and routines—healthy or unhealthy—take hold of me quickly. When nearing the end of the Camino, the walking pilgrimage across Spain I mentioned in part one of this chronicle, I never wanted to stop walking.

Halfway through the seven-day kitchari phase of the Big Sky Community Cleanse, I felt like I could go on eating the Indian-spiced rice and lentil dish forever.

By day nine, I was feeling clear-headed, bright and light, finally having shrugged off the muck I had to slog through during the first phase of the two-week cleanse. That night I had the horrifying thought that alcohol was the culprit—and gasp!—that maybe I would have to give up my beloved wine. (This despite the fact that I was already daydreaming about the special bottle I would treat myself to after the cleanse, having saved a pretty penny in that regard.)

Dreams became incredibly vivid during this time; and this was to be expected, the idea being that while your body is detoxifying, so is your subconscious. In my case, a significant ex-boyfriend for whom I had not had a conscious thought about in 10 years, showed up in my dreams two nights in a row "wanting to talk."

Part of me now wishes I did not suggest writing about my cleanse experience for this newspaper: Even though I started day 10 with a yoga

class, I felt restless, agitated and pent-up all day. Everything was tempting in the kitchen where I work, and while I was able to stick to the dietary regimen, that night I poured myself a glass of wine and had a smoke. It felt good to soften the edges of my mind, and feel warm and hazy in my body. And it didn't take much.

The next day I felt awful—due in part to the alcohol, but even more so because I felt like I had failed myself, and was being terribly hard on myself about it. I kept thinking about our Ayurvedic guide through the cleanse, Callie Stolz, and her reminder that there's the "ideal" and then there's the "real." The idea is to be gentle and forgiving with ourselves if we need to loosen the restrictions of the cleanse, and to not give up entirely if we do.

So I got back on the wagon and stayed on for the remainder of the cleanse, while doing my best to ignore the self-defeating words from my inner perfectionist. I feel great. My body feels clean and lean and my energy levels are up.

A week later I'm still eating more consciously and selectively. And while I did treat myself to a spendy bottle of Italian Barolo, it lasted a whole lot longer than it would have before the cleanse.

Read part one of Sarah Gianelli's community cleanse chronicle at explorebigsky.com/community-cleanse-chronicle-part-1/19503.



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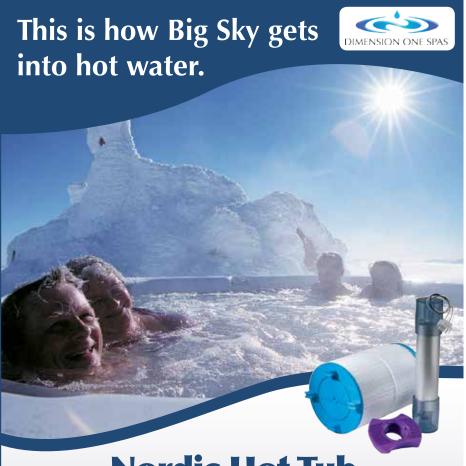
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A controversial plant

Medical marijuana's fate to be decided by voters



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

There is a complex initiative on our ballot this fall, called the Montana Medical Marijuana Initiative or I-182.

Voting yes on I-182 would repeal the limit of three patients for each licensed provider and remove the authority of law enforcement to conduct unannounced inspections of medical marijuana facilities. See ballotpdedia.org for a full description.

An obvious complication is that federal law states there is "no accepted medical use" for cannabis, yet our federal government holds a patent proving its medicinal qualities.

In 2003, the United States of America, as represented by the Department of Health and Human Services, was assigned U.S. Patent 6630507 titled "Cannabinoids as antioxidants and neuroprotectants."

It states: "Cannabinoids have been found to have antioxidant properties ... This new found property makes cannabinoids useful in the treatment and prophylaxis [disease prevention] of a wide variety of oxidation associated diseases, such as ischemic [restriction of blood supply], age-related, inflammatory and autoimmune diseases.

"The cannabinoids are found to have particular application as neuroprotectants, for example in limiting neurological damage following ischemic insults, such as stroke and trauma, or in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and HIV dementia."

Yet, paradoxically, our federal government continues to list marijuana as a Schedule I drug. According to the Drug Enforcement Agency website:

"Schedule I drugs, substances, or chemicals are defined as drugs with no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse."

Due to the illegal status of the drug, it's challenging for researchers to get the approval and funding necessary for clinical studies.

Pharmaceutical companies have found a way around this by creating synthetic versions of the active ingredients in marijuana and putting it in a pill form.

In a 2011 Public Broadcasting Service documentary, "Clearing the Smoke: The Science of Cannabis," physicians and patients alike said that the synthetic drugs are ineffective.

Another complexity is that in 2004, 61 percent of Montanans voted for the legalization of medical marijuana.

However, in 2011, the Montana Legislature amended the initiative via Senate Bill 423, which repeals Montana's Medical Marijuana Act that a majority of us voted for. SB 423 bans medical marijuana advertisements, limits dispensaries to having three clients, and requires state review of doctors who prescribe marijuana to more than 25 patients per year. After being tied up in the courts for five years, the legislature's bill went into effect Aug. 31.

After hearing stories from those affected by medical marijuana, I have a newfound respect for its medicinal benefits.

A young woman with several autoimmune diseases told me, "Medical marijuana saved my life." Before it, she was on several prescription drugs that had negative side effects and didn't alleviate her pain or depression.

Another woman who was left with intractable nausea after chemotherapy and radiation treatments for brain cancer says that she tried every anti-nausea drug but still couldn't keep food down. Her oncologist suggested medical marijuana and she says it helped.

"It's the only medicine that keeps me from starving," she explained. "My caregiver worked with me to find the right strain for my particular issues."

One might argue that recreational users have taken advantage of the legalization of medical cannabis. I believe that misses the point. This plant has scientifically proven healing properties and should be available to the public without the fear of criminalization.

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

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.

All I really need to know I learned in ... a kitchen



BY SCOTT MECHURA **EBS FOOD COLUMNIST**

There are books and poems that tell us we learned everything we need to know in kindergarten. I'm not sure about the rest of you, but I don't find that to be true. Sure, I learned how to play kickball, to avoid pulling a girl's hair, and not to bite. But I don't particularly reflect on these life lessons on a daily basis.

As I look at how I treat people and how I've been treated in my life and my career, I've observed some areas that have allowed me to succeed in one form or another. I also recall traits I've experienced or observed from the über-talented and driven people I have called "chef" along the way. Here are a few:

Patience - Everyone learns differently and at a different pace. Acquire the skills not only to communicate with, but also to teach those around you. Some will know everything the first time; some will not and feel too intimidated or embarrassed to ask. Learn to recognize those individuals and approach them before they fail to approach you.

Work for the best – I've been fortunate to work with many talented chefs. Some were incredibly driven, while others lacked drive but were naturally gifted behind the stove. Find those people. Work for those people. Align with those people. Even if they have one specific thing they do, observe it. Learn it and use it.

Experience other cultures - Chefs are naturally inquisitive, so traveling to foreign countries should be at the top of any chef's list at some point in their life. Food is the epicenter of any culture. The most creative chef I ever worked for, Marcus Samuelsson, once told me he was often inspired in his travels by street food in second and third world countries.

Pay attention to successful people – "Everyone has the will to win, but do you have the will to prepare?" One of my all-time favorite quotes—not from another chef or restaurateur—is actually from Mark Cubin, owner of the Dallas Mavericks. Much can be learned from every successful person no matter his or her business or discipline.

If you don't know the answer, find it - Guests will have questions. Cooks will have questions. Servers will have lots of questions about food, ingredients, cooking temperatures, and history of dishes. Don't make up an answer out of pride just because you don't know. First, you'll look foolish. Second, a guest loves when you don't know the answer but take the time to find it. This shows them a great deal of respect.

Listen - Chefs have lots of ideas. Chefs have many good ideas. We are naturally a talkative bunch, but to truly be effective teachers and students, we must listen: Listen to the cook, listen to the server, listen to the guest, listen to your team.

Outwork the other guy – I come from a long line of hard-working family members, who passed down this strong work ethic. When I was a young dishwasher, a young cook, and a young sous chef, I always got promoted. This was not because I was the most talented, but because I came in earlier, I stayed later, and I offered to cover for someone else. I simply outworked the other guy.

Lose the ego – I've had the pleasure of working in other chef's kitchens around the country. My interaction is always the same. I am in their kitchen. I am in their house. We do things their way. Period.

Remember your beginnings – I always say it's better to look through the windshield, not the rearview mirror, but I also value reflection. Part of reflection is that while I'm interacting with a young team member, I remember where I came from, what I've learned, and how it was sometimes difficult.

Kindergarten is a good place to learn sharing, taking naps, and coloring within the lines, but a kitchen has taught me all I need to know about life. And sometimes that includes coloring outside the lines.

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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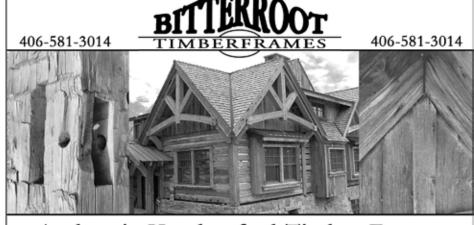
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LOST PET - REWARD

Honey has missing in Bozeman, MT since October 10, 2016. She was adopted from the Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter and escaped the car when we arrived home. She is a small yellow lab/retriever mix. She is on the shorter side, has some

white on her chest, and is about 50 lbs. She has a bright pink collar on with our numbers on her tag. She is also chipped. She has possibly been spotted on the south side of Bozeman in the areas of South 3rd, Goldstein, Nash, and Sourdough. There is currently a reward being offered for her return! Please call or text (406) 581-1146 or (406)570-2004 if seen!





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Section 3: OUTDOORS, EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT, BACK 40







INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



Foundation with Yellowstone National Park roots gives \$4 million endowment to MSU

MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN - Montana State University announced Oct. 20 that The Haynes Foundation has established a \$4 million endowment with the Montana State University Alumni Foundation. The endowment will be used to provide scholarships to undergraduate students who have graduated from a Montana high school.

The Haynes Foundation is a charitable foundation founded by Jack Ellis Haynes and Isabel May Haynes in 1958. Since its inception, its goal has been to assist in providing scholarships to deserving Montana students, according to the Haynes Foundation.

Jack and Isabel Haynes owned and operated The Haynes Picture Shop in Yellowstone National Park, which was a continuation of a photo shop originally started by Jack Haynes' father, Frank J. Haynes, in 1884. The Haynes' family photographs, post cards, guidebooks and souvenirs opened the wonder of Yellowstone National Park to generations worldwide, The Haynes Foundation noted.

The establishment of the endowment demonstrates the more than 50-year commitment of The Haynes Foundation to promoting higher education in the state of Montana and helping to prepare MSU students for a lifetime of success, according to the foundation.

"Montana and Yellowstone National Park were an integral part of the Haynes family history, and Jack and Isabel Haynes demonstrated a strong work ethic, entrepreneurship and commitment to continuing a successful business, which enabled them to establish The Haynes Foundation," said Chris Murray, president and CEO of the MSU Alumni Foundation. "The endowment will benefit students for many generations to come and continue to ensure that the goals of The Haynes Foundation will continue to be fulfilled in perpetuity."

For more information on the scholarship and criteria, interested students and their families may contact Brandi Payne in the MSU Office of Financial Aid Services at bpayne@montana.edu.



The Haynes Picture Shop near Old Faithful in Yellowstone National Park is pictured circa 1962. The shop was built in 1927. PHOTO

COURTESY OF THE HAYNES FOUNDATION COLLECTION, MHS RESEARCH CENTER

Feds charge **Yellowstone vandals** for filming without a permit

CASPER, Wyo. (AP) – Three of the four defendants with the Vancouver, B.C.-based High On Life/SundayFundayz who illegally walked on the Grand Prismatic Spring in Yellowstone National Park in May were charged recently with another crime committed that same day, according to federal court records.

The three—Charles Gamble, Alexy Lyakh, and Justis Price-Brown—each were charged on Oct. 7 with one count of taking a motion picture or television recording without a permit.

National Park Service rules allow people to take pictures for their own enjoyment. But the Park Service requires businesses and certain other groups to obtain permits to record images for commercial purposes. Violating the permit requirement is a misdemeanor.

KTWO-AM reports the new charges are in addition to those filed after they filmed signs telling people to stay on the boardwalk and then walked on the Grand Prismatic Spring. That violated rules about not leaving boardwalks and causing "a hazardous or physically offensive condition." Their actions damaged the sensitive bacterial mat of the spring.

They posted the video on their website, which promotes their adventures and a clothing line. After the incident garnered international outrage, they issued an apology and took down their website until early July.

The three are scheduled to appear before U.S. Magistrate Judge Mark Carman in the federal courthouse in Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone National Park, on Nov. 1, according to court records.

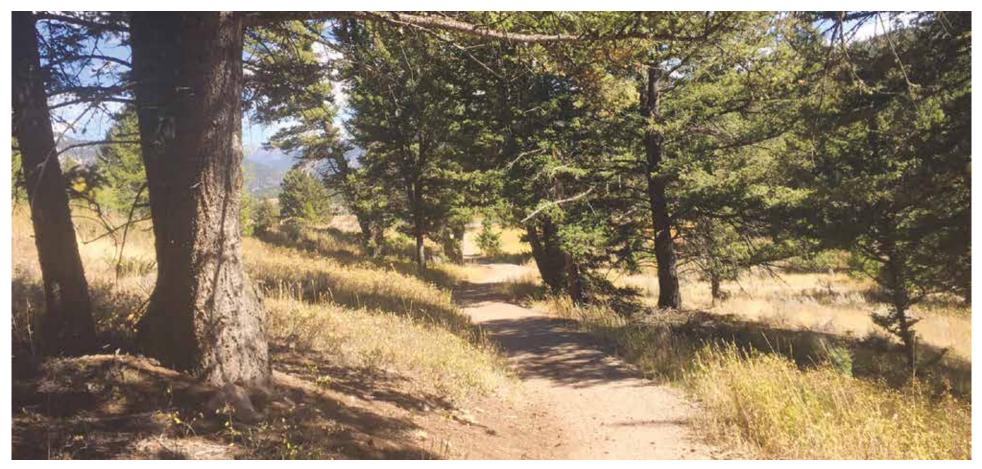
That is also the day the three and Hamish McNab Campbell Cross are scheduled to appear for their initial appearances and arraignments on the charges of walking on the spring. If convicted, they each face up to six months imprisonment and/or a \$5,000 fine.

Two days after that hearing, Gamble will plead guilty in federal court in Durango, Colo., to operating a drone in Mesa Verde National Park, according to the court records filed in Colorado U.S. District Court. Operating a drone is a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months imprisonment and/or a \$5,000 fine.



On the Trail: Ousel Falls Trail

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



Ousel Falls Trail is a 2-mile hiking, biking and running path that connects Town Center with the trailhead to Big Sky's most well known waterfall. PHOTO BY AMANDA EGGERT

BY CIARA WOLFE **BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The Ousel Falls Trail from Town Center is a popular path for walkers, runners and bike riders. It not only serves as a commuter trail allowing individuals to safely walk and bike throughout Town Center, but also as an enjoyable trail for all abilities to tour this part of Big Sky.

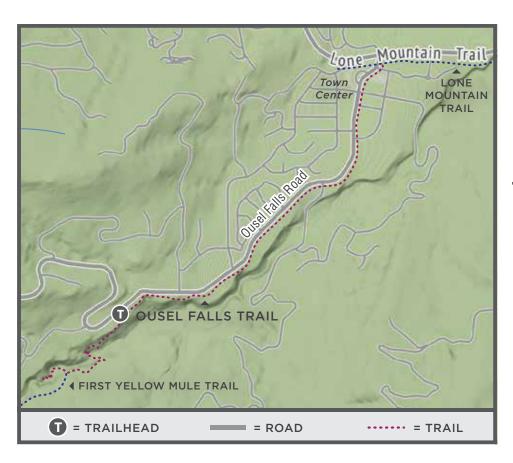
The 5-foot-wide improved gravel trail starts in a residential and commercial area of Big Sky (Town Center) and leads to the Ousel Falls open space park, with overlooks of the South Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin River along the way.

Two miles in, the trail enters the park where you'll find picnic tables, benches and designated viewpoints along with a bathroom and parking area at the actual trailhead. Ousel Falls Trail is maintained throughout the winter to provide for year-round recreation in Big Sky. If you're looking for distance without too much difficulty, this is the trail for you.

The Ousel Falls Trail also connects Big Sky to the Custer Gallatin National Forest. Once you reach the park, you can take another 0.8 miles of natural surface trail to Ousel Falls waterfall or venture on to First and Second Yellow Mule trails, which are part of the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

The First Yellow Mule trail junction is located approximately 0.5 miles beyond the Ousel Falls waterfall trailhead. The Second Yellow Mule Trail junction is another 1.5 miles down First Yellow Mule. The Ousel Falls trailhead is the closest access to Forest Service land from the heart of Big Sky and the only horse-friendly access point for First and Second Yellow Mule.

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





2 miles one-way (the falls are an additional 0.8 miles from

trailhead)



Uses

Walk, run, and bike



Difficulty Easy



Elevation Gain



Surface Improved gravel 265 ft

Directions: Park near the restaurants and shopping center in Big Sky's Town Center and follow the trail as it travels southeast and generally parallel to Ousel Falls Road.



BY PATRICK STRAUB EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

Fall fishing conditions are dominated by low flows, cooler water temps, and daily fluctuations in weather conditions

During just one recent week on the water, I rowed my boat in shorts and flip flops, wore two layers of long

underwear and my down jacket on a Gallatin walk-and-wade excursion, and peeled off layers while guiding a Paradise Valley spring creek the next day. I call these variable conditions "weather roulette." It's only fitting that the method for the most success is also dictated by the day's weather conditions.

As a young guide in the '90s, I forced my angling hand. I often ignored the immediate conditions and went straight for what worked yesterday. As I've grown older and my dislike of blindly fishing weighted flies below an indicator has grown, I've learned to pick apart the weather forecast to choose fishing scenarios that fit my current angling style.

Not being one to judge another's desire to get enjoyment out of fly fishing—what matters most is you get outside and just go fishing—I do not look down upon those who do not follow my progression. In fact, my house is just as glassy as others', as conditions often dictate I hang an indicator and bob it down the river.

Here's some advice on matching angling method to current conditions.

Fishing the dry fly. The most obvious reason to fish a dry fly is rising fish are prevalent. Before you approach the stream, look for rising fish. If you see feeding trout, fish a dry fly. Observe the type of rise form. If they're splashy, consider fishing a caddis dry fly. If they're subtle or you see a nose or a tail, perhaps they're eating mayfly duns or emerging mayflies. If you don't see rising fish, observe the water. Are insects in the air or on the water? Perhaps insects like salmon flies and grasshoppers are hanging out in the bushes. If enough bugs are on the water, in the air or on riverside structure, keep the floatant handy and fish a dry fly.

Fishing the nymph—blindly or by sight. Too often people commit to blind-fishing nymph rigs without riverside observation. If you fish nymphs, do it as a result of accurate and up-to-date first-hand knowledge. If you know a hatch will not occur



Choosing a fishing method for current conditions takes consideration. PHOTO BY ALLEN MORRIS JONES

for a few hours or not at all, then a nymph rig might be the best first choice. The "they don't eat dry flies here" excuse is not enough for me. I'd rather hear "you might catch more blindly fishing nymphs than prospecting with dry flies."

Seeing a fish eat a dry fly on the surface is enjoyable and exciting, but decoding what is happening underwater takes patience and a higher level of problem solving. At first impression blind-fishing a nymph rig may seem like an easy way out, but the opposite is true—there's a lot more going on below the surface than on it. To successfully fish a deep nymph rig you must tackle the trio of fly selection, how deep to fish your flies, and where to fish your flies.

Dry fly, nymph or streamer? The choice is yours. Here's some help.

Sight-fishing nymphs requires increased skill in seeing fish and more technical rigging. There are certain waters where this is an essential skill, like Paradise Valley spring creeks and the Gallatin River.

As hatches occur, fish may or may not break the surface yet still feed on active nymphs. A long leader with flies fished shallow under a small indicator can be very effective.

Fishing the streamer. Anglers who consistently catch big fish often consistently fish streamers. Big fish eat big flies. Few experienced anglers argue that. Committing to fishing streamers should be based on a few factors, a primary one being whether you're a good enough caster to handle a heavy fly and often sinking or sink-tip lines. I would choose streamers when I know a hatch will not occur, it is too windy to blind fish a nymph rig (indicator, weight, and two weighted flies often tangle more), and I'm in need of a big fish photo to update my digital world.

Whatever style you choose to use, fish the way you want. I'm a firm believer in angling faith—faith in fly fishing is good for the soul and the psyche; faith in fly fishing is good for conserving our local resources; and faith in making individualized angling decisions will help you get the fishing enjoyment you want.

No one way of fishing is correct, because angling success is in the eye of the rod holder.

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







SHIFT festival tackles conservation, recreation, cultural diversity and public lands

BY AMANDA EGGERT **EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR**

JACKSON, Wyo. - In its third year, Jackson's signature conservation summit, SHIFT (Shaping How we Invest For Tomorrow), brought more than 30 young people into the fold. During a weeklong program, participants in the Emerging Leaders Program were inspired and challenged to broaden the conservation and recreation discussion in their own communities, from Atlanta, Georgia, to Arcata, California.

SHIFT founder and director Christian Beckwith framed the cultural relevancy discussion—one of the summit's focal points—by noting that 85 percent of Americans live in urban areas and statistically the average member of The Wilderness Society is a 71-year-old Caucasian female.

"That's not setting [the conservation movement] up for success," Beckwith said. "It is going to take all of us to do it, and that is the challenge we have before us."

The summit, which takes place in Jackson—the "crucible of conservation"—every October, was titled "Outdoor Rec and our Public Lands" and held Oct. 13-15 at Snow King Resort Hotel. The Emerging Leaders Program started three days prior with workshops at Teton Science School.

A crowd hailing from all over the U.S. and primarily outfitted in ski town business casual—a mix of jeans, leggings with skirts, button-up shirts and Patagonia vests under puffy coats—attended workshops and panel discussions on topics ranging from the intersection of mountain biking and wilderness, to the public lands takeover movement and the nuts and bolts of establishing a statewide office of outdoor recreation.

The latter workshop was led by representatives from states that have already established such offices—Utah, Colorado and Washington—and attended by people in states interested in getting one, including Montana, Wyoming, Minnesota, Maine, Oregon, North Carolina and California.

Just a few hours later, Gov. Matt Mead announced in his opening remarks that Wyoming is taking steps in that direction by establishing a task force to promote outdoor recreation, improve access to public lands, invest in outdoor recreation infrastructure, and recruit outdoor equipment manufacturers and distributors.

The economic development argument for fostering a healthy outdoor recreation industry is a formidable one. According to Beckwith, it's a \$646 billion a year industry and the third largest economic sector in the U.S.

Colorado's governor, John Hickenlooper, used an economic argument for supporting the outdoor industry, but he brought "topophilia," or love of place, into the discussion as well.

"We keep talking about the [money] the outdoor recreationists spend or the jobs that they allow or help create, but it's also [about] the folks that come out and they want to be closer to where that action is," Hickenlooper said.

"They might write software, they might write code for the Internet. They might be musicians or lawyers," he added. "But they're drawn by that same topophilia that the rest of us are. I think right now the Rocky Mountain West has the opportunity to be the international symbol of what a balanced, healthy lifestyle looks like."

Leading that charge in Colorado is Luis Benitez, a former international mountain guide who has summited the tallest peaks on all seven continents. Hickenlooper appointed Benitez to head up the state's Office of Outdoor Recreation almost a year and a half ago.

"Based on my own evolution of passion that I ultimately think we all share, I have a pretty simple and fundamental belief: I believe the outdoor industry can save the world," Benitez said to a chorus of claps and whoops at the conference close.

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Tips for hunters from the Forest Service

BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST

Looking for that trophy bull elk or other game animal in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest? The Forest Service hopes you have a good hunt and offers some tips for making your hunt even more enjoyable.

Get a map

Stop by a Forest Service office to get the latest visitor maps and information. The Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest has three maps—northern, central, and southern—and each map show the latest travel rules. Forest maps can also be ordered at nationalforestmapstore.com.

PDF Maps Mobile App is available as a free download from iTunes and the Android Play store and provides access to Forest Service maps.

Rules for vehicles

The Forest Service has many roads and trails open to motorized travel, but some roads and trails are closed this time of year. All vehicles must stay on designated routes and not drive cross-country on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

In most areas of the national forest, you may drive up to 300 feet off a road or trail to reach a temporary camping spot, but special rules in the Gravelly and Snowcrest ranges in Madison County allow driving off roads only at designated locations to reach a signed camping spot. The ranger stations in Sheridan or Ennis have information about where those designated camping spots are.

For all other activities, including for firewood cutting, your vehicle must remain within a vehicle-length of the road.

Throughout the national forest, vehicles are prohibited on roads or trails that are narrower than the vehicle, or 50 inches. An ATV doesn't belong on a single-track trail, for example.

Remember that according to state laws, drivers and vehicles must be licensed and street legal when traveling on numbered Forest Service roads. ATVs and motorcycles on Forest Service trails don't have to be licensed or street legal, but must have a valid Montana off highway vehicle sticker.

Use a dump station

Don't empty your sewage and wastewater tanks in the national forest. Dump your waste down a proper drain, not on the ground.

Travel light on the land

Use Leave No Trace camping practices to protect your national forests by following these guidelines:

- Pack it in, pack it out. Dispose of trash and garbage properly at approved garbage dumps, not in the national forest. Be extra clean in bear country.
- Properly dispose of what you can't pack out. Bury human waste in a "cat hole" or latrine at least 6 inches deep and 200 feet from water. Avoid contaminating water sources when washing.
- Leave what you find. Minimize site alterations when camping. Avoid damage to trees and plants. Leave natural objects and cultural artifacts where you find them.
- Minimize the use and effect of fire. Use only dead and down wood for fuel. In high-use areas, use existing fire rings. In remote areas, use fire pans or other Leave No Trace fire techniques.
- Minimize the impact of your horses. Don't tie horses to trees for more than half an hour—horses can damage trees by rubbing, pawing and trampling roots. Use an electric fence, highline, hobbles, or picket pin to hold horses in areas with durable surfaces such as rocky ground or dry meadows. Scatter manure and leftover feed when breaking camp.

For more information on the Leave No Trace program, visit lnt.org.

Avoid spreading weeds

Only certified weed-free hay, straw, seed and feed can be brought into the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. To qualify, your hay bales must be tagged. Letters from growers won't be accepted.

Noxious weeds, like spotted knapweed, have the potential to destroy the habitat that makes southwest Montana's hunting among the country's finest. Report patches of weeds you find on public lands to the nearest Forest Service office.

You can also help stop weeds by washing your vehicles thoroughly before you head off on your hunting trip. Weed seeds can lodge under ATVs, and in pickup beds and wheel wells.

Camping

You can camp almost anywhere in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, with just a few exceptions. Be a good neighbor and don't set up your gear at campsites you aren't really using.

There's a 16-day limit on camping in any one site. If that's in a campground, then you have to leave the campground for at least seven days before returning. If you're staying somewhere other than a campground, after 16 days you must move your camp at least 5 miles for the next two weeks.

Keep your camp at least 200 feet from any lake or stream to avoid harming the soft soils near the water.

A complete list of Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest campgrounds is available at fs.usda.gov/bdnf.

Fires

Choose a site for a campfire carefully—near water if possible—and clear it of combustible material. Never walk away from a smoldering campfire. Always make sure a fire is dead out. Mix water, earth, and embers and stir them until they're cool enough to hold in your bare hand.

Most human-caused fires in southwest Montana start in the fall, either from cigarettes or warming fires. Also, watch out for catalytic converters starting fires under vehicles. Remember to bring along a shovel and bucket.

Rental cabins

You can rent some of the cabins in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest during hunting season. To reserve a cabin, call (877) 444-6777 or go to recreation. gov. For a complete list of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge cabins, go to fs.usda.gov/bdnf.

Food storage

Storing food out of a bear's reach keeps the bear wild and at a distance, where it belongs. Special rules apply for storing food and attractants throughout the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Food and other attractants must be:

- 1) stored in a closed, solid-sided vehicle or horse trailer
- 2) stored in bear-resistant containers certified by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, or:
- 3) hung 10 feet off the ground and 4 feet out from any tree or support pole.

If your hunt is successful, keep animal carcasses at least 100 yards from your camp, from places people will sleep, and from trails. Between 100 yards and 1/2 mile from your camp, you must hang or store your animal carcass just like other items that can attract bears. No matter where you are, never assume you'll never see a bear.

Hunter safety tips

Don't become someone our local search and rescue crews need to find. Here are some tips for your own safety on your hunt this fall:

Plan ahead. Pick a route in advance, and leave a trip itinerary with family or friends. Always include the time when you expect to return, as well as a final time when your family or friends should assume an emergency has occurred and notify the authorities.

Be prepared. Everyone knows that the best hunting is off the beaten path, but heading off-trail without a map is pushing your luck. The weather will change, so travel prepared for winter.

These are the 10 essentials every hunter should carry: map, compass, flashlight, extra food and water, extra clothes, sunglasses, first aid kit, pocket knife, waterproof matches and fire starter.

If you plan on drinking water from streams or lakes, don't forget a water filter or chemical purification, such as iodine tablets or chlorine drops. All of these are available from your local outdoor store and can prevent you from getting Giardia and other water-borne parasites.

Your cell phone can save your life, but don't depend on having coverage, especially in the remote areas of southwest Montana. Always travel ready to spend time out in the cold, and don't assume you can be rescued quickly.

Ensure you have a set of chains and a shovel in case it snows. Even the most experienced drivers could get stuck in snow or icy conditions.

Learn navigation skills. Don't just carry a map and compass or global positioning unit (GPS)—know how to use them. Never been lost? Try pointing to your exact position on a map. If you can't, then maybe it's past time to learn how.

Take a wilderness first aid course. Know how to treat backcountry injuries, coordinate a self-rescue, or facilitate an organized rescue if necessary. You owe it to yourself and to your hunting partners to take a course.

Visit one of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest's offices in Dillon, Wisdom, Butte, Ennis, Sheridan and Philipsburg weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for more information.

Important dates for the 2016-17 hunting season



These dates are provided only as a general

	eference. Check current regulations for specific lates. Visit our website @ <u>http://fwp.mt.gov</u>		
	2016 Big Game Seasons		
	Antelope		
	900 seriesAug 15-Nov 13		
	archerySept 3-Oct 7		
	generalOct 8–Nov 13		
	Bighorn Sheep		
	archerySept 3-Sept 14		
	generalSept 15-Nov 27		
	BisonNov 15-Feb 15, 2017		
	Black bear		
	springApr 15– Varies		
	(May 31 -June 15)		
	fall archerySept 3-Sept 14		
	fallSept 15-Nov 27		
	Deer & Elk		
	archerySept 3–Oct 16		
	youth, deer only,		
	two-day huntOct 20–Oct 21		
	generalOct 22–Nov 27 backcountry – HD's 150, 151, 280, 316*		
	archery Sept 2 Sept 14		
	archerySept 3-Sept 14 generalSept 15-Nov 27		
Elk Shoulder Seasons – Could occur before and after the archery a			
	Mountain GoatSept 15–Nov 27		
	Mountain Goat		
	archerySept 3–Oct 16		
	fallOct 22–Nov 27		
	winterDec 1–Apr 14, 2017		
	2016 Wolf Seasons		
	Dates will be adopted in July, 2016		
	Date will be despited in early, 2010		

HD 316 does not have an Archery Only Season

These dates are provided only as a general reference. Check current regulations for specific dates. Visit our website @ http://fwp.mt.gov

2016 Upland Game Birds Seasons

Mountain Grouse	Sept 1-Jan 1, 2017
Partridge	Sept 1-Jan 1, 2017
Pheasant	Oct 8-Jan 1, 2017
Sage Grouse	Sept 1-Sept 30
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Sept 1-Jan 1, 2017
Turkey	
spring	
fall	Sept 1-Jan 1, 2017

2016 Montana Fishing Seasons

LakesOpen entire year
Rivers** and streams 3rd Saturday in May - Nov. 30
**some rivers are open entire year
 check the fishing regulations

2016 Montana Furbearer Seasons

(where open) ...

For general reference only. 2016 dates adopted in July, 2016. Trapping District 1, 2 & 3 .Nov 1 - April 15, 2017 Beaver Bobcat Dec 1 - Feb 15, 2017* Trapping Districts 4, 5, 6 & 7 Sept 1 - May 31, 2017 Bobcat. .Dec 1 - March 1, 2017* Portion of Trapping District 6 ...Nov 1 - March 1, 2017* Swift Fox.... Fisher, Marten, WolverineDec 1 - Feb 15, 2017*

Mink, Muskrat, Otter.....Nov 1 - April 15, 2017*

* May close earlier when the quota is reached.

Bozeman Film Society brings 'Beatlemania' to the big screen

BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY

On Friday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m., Bozeman Film Society presents "The Beatles: Eight Days a Week - the Touring Years." In the film, Ron Howard takes a lively and nostalgic look back at the early days (1962 -1966) of the iconic rock 'n' roll band that forever changed the music business, the art form and the culture at large.

The film combines restored archive footage and new interviews with the band's two surviving members and diehard fans to chronicle John, Paul, George and Ringo's inner workings while exploring The Beatles' unique musical gifts and remarkable, complementary personalities. Ty Burr, film critic for The Boston Globe, calls "The Touring Years" "a long, jangling, melodious soak, rich with backstage incident and wall-

Produced with the cooperation of Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, and Beatle widows Yoko Ono Lennon and Olivia Harrison, the film also includes 30 minutes of footage shot by celebrated cinematographer Andrew Laszlo for the band's 1965 concert at Shea Stadium, the firstever recorded and broadcast rock concert. Laszlo's crew captured the concert with 14 cameras on 35 mm film, a feat that left many of them with hearing loss.

The footage has been digitally restored to 4K resolution for this documentary. The BFS will honor the late Andrew Laszlo filmmaker, teacher, author and Montana resident—with a short onstage presentation.

Tickets for "The Beatles: Eight Days A Week - the Touring Years" are available online at theellentheatre.com, by calling The Ellen Theatre box office at (406) 585-5885, or at the box office Wednesday through Saturday from 1-3 p.m., and two hours prior to any performance. Visit bozemanfilmsociety.org for a schedule of upcoming events.

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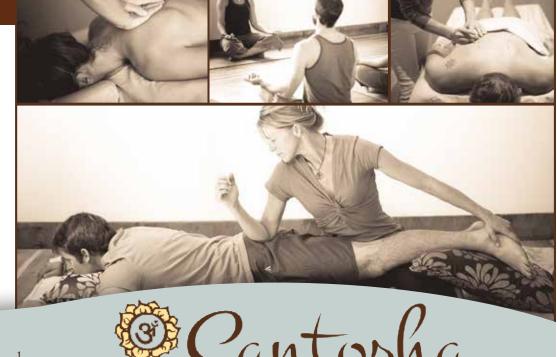
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MONDAY

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5:45-6:45pm Pi-Yo

TUESDAY

7:00-8:00am All Levels Yoga

9:30-10:45am Ski conditioning yoga

> 6:30-7:45pm All Levels Yoga

WEDNESDAY

9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga

11:00-12:30 The Practice (Yoga level 2-3)

THURSDAY

7:00-8:00am All Levels Yoga

9:30-10:45am Ski conditioning yoga

FRIDAY

7:00-8:00am Pi-Yo

9:00-10:15am Level II Yoga

11:00-12:00

Gentle/Restorative Yoga

3:15-4:00

3rd-5th Kids Yoga

4:15 - 4:45 K-2nd Kids Yoga

SATURDAY

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Jamie Mathis: Finding connection and community through film

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY - Jamie Mathis' love of film—and his chosen life as a ski bum—stem from a life heavily steeped in the armed forces.

As the son of an Air Force master sergeant, Mathis moved every two years in his youth, living in Florida, South Carolina, Maine and Alaska before spending the formative years between age 9 and 15 on Air Force bases in Italy and Greece.



PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI

Eventually his father's career landed the family in Great Falls, Montana. Before Mathis graduated from high school, he too enlisted the Air Force, and would serve two of his three years in medical supply at a hospital in Wiesbaden, Germany.

As a boy, film was a medium through which he could remain connected to the culture of his American peers. Later he rebelled against the rigidity and discipline imposed on him while in the military by choosing an easy-going life in the mountains.

"When you are deprived of things that normal U.S. kids have on a daily basis—malls, McDonalds, MTV—and you get to go to the movies, it makes you not as homesick," Mathis said.

Skateboarding and breakdancing were other activities that kept him up to date with American youth culture. (It's been many years since Mathis and his brother Joey won a competition for breakdancing on a base in Italy, but Mathis threw down on the slick movie theater floor, proving he's still got the moves.)

Although Mathis had only planned to be a ski bum for a year or two, it's been 24.

"While I was in the military one recurring thought was, I can't wait to be out and find some place where I could have fun every day for the rest of my life," Mathis said. "Having that kind of structure really made you crave being completely free of that."

Since moving to Big Sky in 1992, Mathis has worked as a bartender in more than 20 bars and restaurants, many now defunct, others with different names and owners, as well as most of the stalwart establishments still in existence today.

Mathis is currently pouring drinks at Brothel Bikes and working at Lone Peak Cinema, where he bartends, works the projectors, changes the marquis, provides creative input and pitches in wherever necessary. With a degree in film from Montana State University, Mathis said he bugged Sally and Scott Fisher for a job since they opened the movie theater in 2011 and in the spring of 2015 they hired him on.

"It's my favorite job I've ever had," Mathis said. Although his goal in college was to make films, he's since given that up, but always wants to stay connected to movie making in some fashion.

Mathis is also a musician, performing vocals and guitar in a local band named Nobody and in Artists of Antiquity, a new trio that will perform a live, original score to "Haxan," one of the featured films during Lone Peak Cinema's "Horrorfest" weekend.

"It doesn't feel like a job," he said. "It feels like home."

Big Sky also feels like home, where Mathis has found a sense of community that matches what he experienced living on Air Force bases. And, of course, there's the powder.

"It's strange because I can't even come up with an answer to why I love snowboarding so much," said Mathis, who got his first snowboard in 1984. "It's pure happiness when you're out there 100 days a year riding with your friends and brother, having fun, and being outside. It's what's kept me here for 20-plus years."

Despite how it's changed, Mathis doesn't foresee leaving Big Sky. "When I first moved here you could ski powder all day long—and you still can," he said.



The American West has produced some of the most thoughtful and moving literature in U.S. history. Read on and enjoy the Cowboy's Quill: insight into the best writers, books and poetry this side of the Mississippi.

Ralph Beer: Jack of all trades

BY DOUG HARE **EBS STAFF**

Ralph Beer's recently published "Jackson Creek Road" is a collection of his essays and short stories, mainly written in the '80s and '90s, about how life in central Montana has changed in the last century.

Beer earned a Master's of Fine Arts from the University of Montana in Missoula, published two books, "The Blind Corral" and "In These Hills," and teaches at Carroll College outside of Helena. But for the most part he has made a living with his hands.

The backdrop for much of the collection is his family's ranch where his father and grandfather have worked the land for more than 90 years. Beer understands both the frustration of making a living in the rural

> West with one's back, and the inherent dignity of a hard day's work.

"Jackson Creek Road" is about people, their sense of place, their struggles, and stories well told and nearly forgotten. The tone throughout is elegiac. Beer is nostalgic for simpler times. He laments a way of living that is all but lost and mourns the irrecoverable

But it's not only sorrowful; it's prophetic as well. The author is not so much interested in taming the West

as he is in finding ways to endure and abide in it.

The Jackson

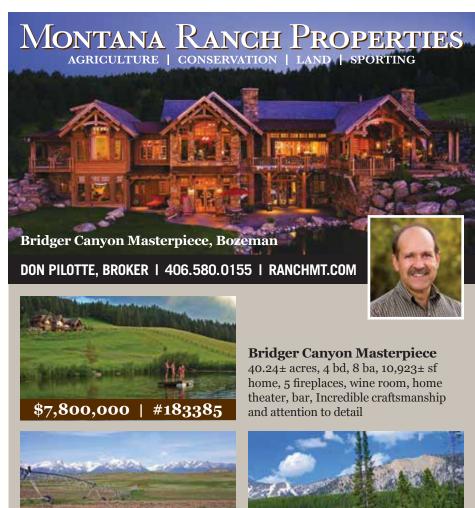
Ralph Beer

Beer's prose is clean, gritty and muscular. Whether his is remembering his friendship with the late James Crumley, writing odes to pickup trucks and motorcycles, or discussing the history of literary culture in Montana, Beer has a knack for reminding the reader of the importance of questioning our values. He returns to the idea that land is not just a source a wealth but a source of life itself.

Few writers have better described the schizophrenic situation of modern day Montana: "...our shaky sense of place and our wobbly sense of ourselves ... our alternating lusts for open spaces and wider highways, for untamed wilderness and greater access."

Beer's latest publication deserves a wide audience. His ability to convey the importance of open country, a sense of frontier, silence, and craftsmanship is a much-needed antidote to the unbalanced clutter of modern America.

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





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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28 -THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

*If your event falls between **November 11 and November 24** please submit it by November 4

Big Sky

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

Back to Basics: Considerations for **Every Painter** Creighton Block Gallery, 9 a.m.

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY. OCTOBER 29

Un-Haunted House Morningstar Learning Center, 10 a.m.

Lone Peak Horrorfest 2016 Lone Peak Cinema, 2 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

Lone Peak Horrorfest 2016 Lone Peak Cinema, 2 p.m.

MONDAY. OCTOBER 31

Haunted House Big Sky Fire Department, 6 p.m.

Riot Act The Broken Spoke, 10 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Department of Energy SBIR/STTR Webinar Online at businessresources.mt.gov/ MTIP, 10 a.m.

OMS Basketball LPHS Athletic Center, 4 p.m.

Halloween King Crab Feast Lone Peak Brewery, 5 p.m.

Bingo Night Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum Big Sky Water & Sewer District, 1 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5 TGR's "Tight Loose"

Lone Peak Cinema, 6 & 8 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7

PIR Day: No School for Students Big Sky School District, all day

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Big Sky Chamber Board Meeting Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, 8:30 a.m.

Bingo Night Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Yoga for a Cause: Veteran's Yoga Project Yoga Stone, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Fall Celebration Trove West, 3 p.m.

Bozeman

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

Governor's Local Food & Agriculture Summit MSU Bozeman, all day

Anderson School Haunted House Anderson Red Schoolhouse, 5 p.m.

Little Bear Antique Fair & Vintage Market Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 5 p.m.

Second Annual Dead Poets Slam Townshend's Bozeman Teahouse, 6:30 p.m.

Mix & Mingle: Masked Mixer & Maze Midtown Tavern, 6:30 p.m.

Quick Draws, Cocktails & Costumes Emerson Ballroom, 7 p.m.

Friday Night Jazz Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

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

Charlie Parr and Hillstomp Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 8 p.m.

Spencer Bohren Live from the Divide, 8 p.m.

Belgrade Haunted House Belgrade High School, 8 p.m.

Madchild The Molly Brown, 9 p.m.

Left on Tenth: Benefit for the HRDC Warming Shelter The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

MOR After Dark for MSU Students Museum of the Rockies, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

Governor's Local Food & Agriculture Summit MSU Bozeman, all day

Run for Your Life 5k & 10k MSU Bobcat Stadium, 9 a.m.

Little Bear Antique Fair & Vintage Market Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Gallatin Valley Mall, 9 a.m.

Montana Bridal Tour Riverside Country Club, 10 a.m.

Growl-O-ween Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply, 10 a.m.

The Boy Who Loved Monsters & the Girl Who Loved Peas Verge Theater, 2 p.m.

Family Grossology Halloween Party Museum of the Rockies, 2 p.m.

Belgrade Haunted House Belgrade High School, 3 p.m.

Anderson School Haunted House Anderson Red Schoolhouse, 5 p.m.

Quarantine with Barely Alive, Jayceeoh & Riot Ten Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 6 p.m.

Dead Poets Slam - Poetry Competition Townshend's Bozeman Teahouse, 6:30 p.m.

Cinematic Lunacy with MT Jazz Collective The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Sinfonia Concertante Willson Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Shakewell + MOTH + Sneaky Pete & The Secret Weapons Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 8 p.m.

Kickboxer The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

Little Bear Antique Fair & Vintage Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.

Sinfonia Concertante Willson Auditorium, 2:30 p.m.

Petty John's Underground MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Bridger Mountain Big Band Eagles Lodge, 7 p.m.

Paul Taylor 2 dance Company The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31

Downtown Trick or Treating Downtown Bozeman, 4 p.m.

Halloween Carnival Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 5 p.m.

FBC Harvest Carnival Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 5:30 p.m.

Bozeman Paranormal Halloween Bozeman Public Library, 6 p.m.

Lang Termes Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

Kickboxer The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

SW MT Crohn's & Colitis Community Support/Education Group Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital, 5:30 p.m.

Cribbage Night Eagles Lodge, 6:30 p.m.

Play: Save the Country Bozeman Public Library, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Karma Kids Mountain Yoga Bozeman, 5 p.m. The Fundamentals of Successful Investing MSU Gaines Hall, 6:15 p.m.

THURSDAY. NOVEMBER 3

The Prospera Awards Best Western Grantree Inn, 5:30 p.m.

Artist Reception: Creating with Fire and Light Zoot Art Gallery, 5:30 p.m.

The Vibe Quartet 406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

Distinguished Lecture: Avatar: The Edges of Yellowstone Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Northside Speakeasy Whiskey Faultline North, 6 p.m.

Art on the Rocks The Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, 6:30 p.m.

Art on the Rocks: Pints & Photo Transfer Rockin' R Bar, 6:30 p.m.

Head for the Hills The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

Echodrive with Guests Jake Fleming & Eddie T Wild Joe's Coffee House, 7 p.m.

WhiskeyDick The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Claudia Williams Kountry Korner Café, 5:30 p.m.

Bozeman Actors Theatre: "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?' MSU Black Box Theater, 7 p.m.

Beatlemania Onscreen The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5 Bozeman Winter Farmers Market Emerson Ballroom, 9 a.m.

Bridger Ski Foundation Ski Swap **Gallatin County Fairgrounds,** 10 a.m.

Archaeology & Ash Family Day Museum of the Rockies, 10 a.m.

Big Sky Resort Pass Printing Chalet Sports, 11 a.m.

Bozeman Flea Winter Wear Pop Up Market Wilder Goods, 11 a.m.

The Boy Who Loved Monsters & the Girl Who Loved Peas Verge Theater, 2 p.m.

Eagle Mount's Crystal Ball Eagle Mount, 5:30 p.m.

Film: Sing Street The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Artificial loe The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Bridger Ski Foundation Ski Swap **Gallatin County Fairgrounds.** 10 a.m.

Jay Alm MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Bridger Mountain Big Band Eagles Lodge, 7 p.m.

Bozeman Doc Series: All This Panic Emerson's Crawford Theatre, 7 p.m.

The Rats The Filling Sation, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Pints with Purpose Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Roosevelt Comes to Bozeman Gallatin History Museum, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Tours for Tots: Sweet Ceratopsians Museum of the Rockies, 10 a.m.

Acony Belles MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Cribbage Night Eagles Lodge, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Musician Wellness Event Health in Motion Physical Therapy and Wellness, 5:30 p.m.

The Fundamentals of Successful Investing MSU Gaines Hall, 6:15 p.m.

Pecha Kucha 21 The Ellen Theatre, 7:20 p.m.

Gregory Young, Faculty Clarinet Recital MSU Reynold's Recital Hall

Sista Otis The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY. NOVEMBER 10

Tours for Tots: Sweet Ceratopsians Museum of the Rockies, 10 a.m. Digisaurus Wild Joe's Coffee House, 5 p.m.

MSU Faculty and Staff Night Museum of the Rockies, 5:30 p.m.

The Vibe Quartet 406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

National Geographic Photographer Ronana Donovan Emerson's Crawford Theatre, 6:30 p.m.

Rittz/Jarren Benton The Molly Brown, 7 p.m.

Pecha Kucha 21 The Ellen Theatre, 7:20 p.m. Random Acts of Improv Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

RECURRING EVENTS:

Pints with Purpose Bridger Brewing, Mondays at 5 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.

Monday Metamorphasis Mountain Yoga Bozeman, Mondays at 4 p.m.

American Legion, Mondays at 9 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.

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.

American Legion, Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Bowl for Kids' Sake Bozeman Bowl, Fridays at 4 p.m.

Learn to Skate Classes Haynes Pavillion, Sundays at noon

Livingston & Paradise Valley

FRIDAY. OCTOBER 28

Wine Tasting Event Blodgett Canyon Cellars, 5 p.m.

Chamber of Commerce / CVB Awards Banquet Yellowstone Pioneer Lodge, 5:30 p.m.

Bramble & Rye Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar, 6 p.m.

Macbeth

The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 8 p.m. Way Station

The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Walcrik Pine Creek Lodge, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

Junior Pumpkin Carving Contest Kenyon Noble Lumber & Hardware, 10 a.m.

Halloween Family Fun Fair Miles Park, 11 a.m.

Ford Boozer Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Macheth The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 8 p.m.

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

DJ Benefit The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

Macbeth The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 3 p.m.

Quenby Landorio Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar, 6 p.m.

Blackwater Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

Jay's Lounge The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Zombie Run Livingston Civic Center, 9 a.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31

Harvest Festival Park County Fairgrounds, 6 p.m.

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

Shelly Besler & Tony Polecastro The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Shelter Day RX Coffee, all day

Sleeping Giant Middle School Choir Concert Sleeping Giant Middle School, 6 p.m.

Walcrik The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Walcrik

Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar, 6 p.m.

Wine and Beer Tasting Livingston Depot Center, 6 p.m.

Macbeth

The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 8 p.m.

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

www.TWANG Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

First Friday Party 49er Diner, 9 p.m.

Christy Hays Pine Creek Lodge, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Early Bird Christmas Gift Show Park County Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.

Mathias Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 8 p.m.

www.TWANG Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

Tsunami Funk The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Macbeth

Maracuja

The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 3 p.m.

Friends of the Library Dinner Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 6 p.m.

Jay's Lounge The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7

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

The Murray Bar, 9 p.m. **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8** Election Day Party with Left Coast Country The Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Erin & The Project The Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

West Yellowstone

SATURDAY. OCTOBER 29 Beer Fest in West Holiday Inn, 3 p.m.

SUNDAY. OCTOBER 30

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31

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, NOVEMBER 1

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Yoga for Everyone Povah Community Center, 5:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7

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, NOVEMBER 8

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Yoga for Everyone Povah Community Center, 5:30 p.m.

RECURRING EVENTS:

West Yellowstone Historic Walking Tour West Yellowstone Historic District, daily

Ennis

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

Live Music Willie's Distillery, 5:30 p.m.

Shea Stewart Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

Tom Kirwin

Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

Mathias

Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31

Lions Club Halloween Carnival Ennis Elementary School, 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Winter Workshop: Estate Planning The Moraine Center, 12 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Business After Hours: Annual Meeting Braggin' Rights Guns, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Live Music

Willie's Distillery, 5:30 p.m. Chad Ball

Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Mathias Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

7th Annual Veterans Appreciation Breakfast Madison Valley Baptist Church, 9 a.m.

Walcrik Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Chamber Board Meeting First Madison Valley Bank, 8 a.m.

Fall Celebration The Trove West

Meadow Village Center Nov. 10, 3-8 pm

Enjoy the fire pit, fall refreshments and participate in the first annual Trove harvest costume contest! Judging will take place at 7 pm and the winner will receive a Trove gift certificate.









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Town Center, Big Sky, Montana

"Artist Reconstructed," Pam Caughey, Mixed Media, 39 x 29

Keeping the jam alive

Eric Kofer and the growth of ChickenJam West

BY KAREN WILSON EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – When Eric Kofer saw a job listing for Associated Students of Montana State University's Campus Entertainment Director in fall 2013, he applied because it sounded more interesting than a regular job.

"I'm not a musician and I'm not a sound guy, so I knew I would have to fit in there somewhere else," Kofer said of his desire to get involved in the music scene. He got the job and used his budget the first year to bring in bands Greensky Bluegrass, Steel Pulse and English Beat.

Then on Valentine's Day in 2014, Kofer tried his hand at promoting a show at the Filling Station with Missoulabased bluegrass band The Lil' Smokies. It was a success and Chicken Jam West Productions was launched.

Kofer was 8 years old when the original ChickenJam was born, a party his parents organized in New Hampshire for 10 years.

Their friends' band Big Chicken provided entertainment and the name, other family friends with a large property provided the location, and eventually up to six bands played each year in the style of a one-day festival.

Kofer estimates close to 500 people attended in the later years, when he also helped to plan it. "It was a private party, but the whole town knew about it because it was so loud," he said.

When Kofer moved to Bozeman in 2010, he studied architecture at MSU. Midway through his second year, he decided to switch his major to environmental studies and go to school part-time while gaining Montana residency.

In fall 2013, he returned to full-time student status, which enabled him to get the ASMSU position. He was barely old enough to go to a bar when he promoted his first show at the Filling Station, and breathed new life into the ChickenJam name.

"Grant Gilmore, who had Compound Productions, helped me out quite a bit doing Filling Station stuff, so that was a good way to start," Kofer said. Compared to working on campus, he found working in bars to be more fun.

In the first year of ChickenJam West, Kofer said he averaged one show per month, mostly reaching out to bands touring in the region with off days near Bozeman. After consistent success, he sought to increase his number of shows.

In March 2015, Kofer's high school friend Dylan MacNevin moved to Bozeman to help build the brand. He built the website chickenjamwest.com, made business cards, did graphic design work and generally made it more legitimate, according to Kofer. The two bought the assets of Compound Productions



ChickenJam West owner Eric Kofer across the street from Bozeman's Redbrain Media, home of his basement office. PHOTO BY KAREN WILSON

from Gilmore in September 2015, and were able to increase the frequency of their events, averaging 10 per month. MacNevin has since moved to Oakland, California, but the momentum he helped build continues.

"I've started to get a lot more Friday and Saturday shows for really big names, so it's definitely paid off," Kofer said, citing The Lil' Smokies' recent two night run and the upcoming New Years Eve show at the Emerson Cultural Center with Led Zeppelin cover band Zoso. This summer he brought Beats Antique, Fruition and Twiddle to town, and has an Elephant Revival show scheduled for March.

Kofer now rents an office in the Redbrain Media building on North Broadway Avenue to help him focus and organize, and recently hired a street team manager so he can work toward refining his promotional skills and the business side of the company.

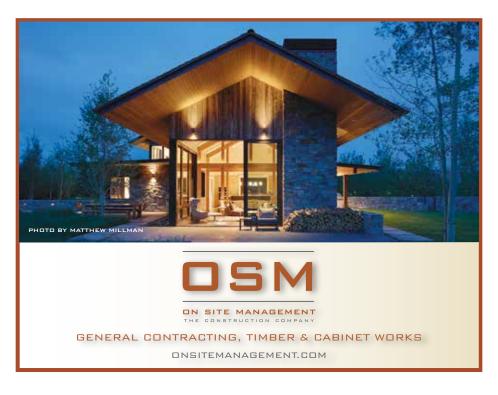
"I feel like if I try to grow too quickly doing it by myself things could get out of hand," Kofer said. "I want to keep doing the best I can at the Filling Station—there's a few other promoters [working there] but it's mostly me, so I need to keep it moving and it's my favorite place to work."

You can find Kofer at almost every ChickenJam West show, and he always offers the band the opportunity to stay at his house. He has 20 credits left to fulfill his environmental studies degree, but stopped going to school when promoting events became his full-time job. He plans to stay in Bozeman and continue to build the music scene he has become intertwined with, bringing artists of all genres to town.

Karen Wilson moved from Anchorage, Alaska, to Bozeman in 2008 for the snowboarding. She graduated from Montana State University with an English degree and enjoys telling stories of Montana locals.









WINTER CAMP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Women In Action is offering scholarships to boys and girls aged 3 - 15 who want to attend winter ski schools at Big Sky Resort. Scholarships for equipment rental are also available.

Scholarships are based on financial need.

For more information on available classes, go to:

www.bigs kyresort.com/the-mountain/mountain-sports-and-lessons/youth-local-programs

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 2, 2016!

Please fill out an application and mail to:

WIA Winter Ski School Scholarships

PO Box 161143 Big Sky, MT 59716

Applications are available at:

- Big Sky School
- Morningstar Learning Center
- WIA's website—www.wiabigsky.org



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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 an autumn adventure, we've got you covered.

Since I'm of the age in which trick-or-treating is frowned upon, I must now resort to themed adult parties in which the trick is finding a creative costume, and the treat is some form of candy that's been soaked in alcohol for hours.

Nonetheless, Halloween is the one holiday we get to dress like fictional characters or inanimate objects and eat more sugar in one evening than we have in the past year combined.

If you're still trying to think of a costume, one of my favorites is to dress entirely in one color and pick a funny Crayola Crayon name—such as "tickle me pink" or "purple mountain majesty,"—and claim to be the famed elementary school supply.

Now that you've got your costume, here are some spooky tunes to get your Halloween party crawling:

- 1. "Monster," Lady GaGa
- 2. "This is Halloween," Marilyn Manson
- 3. "Heads Will Roll," Yeah Yeah Yeahs
- 4. "Thriller," Michael Jackson
- 5. "Monster Mash," Bobby Pickett, The Crypt-Kickers
- 6. "I Put a Spell on You," Screamin' Jay Hawkins
- 7. "Ghostbusters," WALK THE MOON
- 8. "The Monster," Eminem, Rihanna
- 9. "Walking With a Ghost," Tegan and Sara
- 10. "Hollow Hollow Eyes," Crocodiles

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

American Life in Poetry: Column 605

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

Beginning writers often tell me their real lives aren't interesting enough to write about, but the mere act of shaping a poem lifts its subject matter above the ordinary. Here's Natasha Trethewey, who served two terms as U. S. Poet Laureate, illustrating just what I've described. It's from her book "Domestic Work."Trethewey lives in Georgia.

Housekeeping By Natasha Trethewey

We mourn the broken things, chair legs wrenched from their seats, chipped plates, the threadbare clothes. We work the magic of glue, drive the nails, mend the holes. We save what we can, melt small pieces of soap, gather fallen pecans, keep neck bones for soup. Beating rugs against the house, we watch dust, lit like stars, spreading across the yard. Late afternoon, we draw the blinds to cool the rooms, drive the bugs out. My mother irons, singing, lost in reverie. I mark the pages of a mail-order catalog, listen for passing cars. All day we watch for the mail, some news from a distant place.

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 © 2000 by Natasha Trethewey, "Housekeeping," from "Domestic Work," (Graywolf Press, 2000). Poem reprinted by permission of Natasha Trethewey 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.

CROSSWORD PUZZ

ACROSS

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- 8 To (Scot.) 11 Monster
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- (suf.) 27 Volcano crater 31 Comprehensive
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- 36 Affirmative
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money Science of (suf.) Sole of a plow

Farewell, Brit. So be it!

A|M|T

Anil (2 words)

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©2016 Satori Publishing

40

29 Berne's river 30 Back 32 Caper 37 Cloche

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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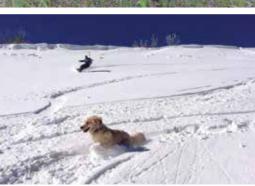
40 Moor

- 42 Sound (pref.) 43 Down with (Fr., 2 words) 44 Mother of Brunhilde 45 Thoroughfare
- 46 Head
- 48 Jap. porgy 50 Tender loving care (abbr.) 51 Office of Economic

Development (abbr.)

DOG SE MONTH







BIRDIE

BREED:

Golden Retriever

AGE:

3 years old

OWNER:

Tim & Kristin Drain

LIKES:

People, snow, long walks, swimming and smiling

DISLIKES:

Vegetables and long road trips without walks

CLAIM TO FAME: Birdie just became a certified therapy dog with Alliance of Therapy Dogs. She can visit schools, hospitals, or other facilities to bring happiness and cheer to anyone she meets.

BACKLI

For Explore Big Sky, the Back 40 is a resource: a place where we can delve into subjects and ask experts to share their knowledge.

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

Making sushi is easier than you think

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER EBS STAFF

Rolling sushi at home can seem like an intimidating process to the average home cook. Although many dishes at contemporary Japanese restaurants are very impressive, it's actually pretty easy to recreate some of the less complicated rolls at home. Additionally, it's a relatively cost-effective meal.

Rice is the main component, and aside from that, you don't need a ton of ingredients. A cup of rice, three sheets of nori (dried seaweed), half a cucumber, a few slices of avocado, a couple ounces of fish and some soy sauce will make a satisfying dinner for two.

Follow these steps to see just how easy it is.



Consider prepping your fillings and rice the night before to save on time. Be sure to keep fish and vegetables separate until you're ready to roll. PHOTOS BY WES OVERVOLD

Make the rice on the stove

You'll need short-grain sushi rice, which can be found at most grocery stores in the Asian food aisle. Make sure it says sushi rice on the bag—there are other types of short grain rice that won't produce the sticky quality necessary to create a solid roll.

Ignore the cooking instructions on the back of the bag. I've found that the ratio of rice to water at this elevation in Big Sky is a bit water-heavy in the case of several brands.

Rinse 1 cup of rice in a mesh strainer a few times until the water runs clear. Place in a pot and cover with 1 cup and 2 tablespoons of water. Bring this mixture to a boil, reduce to simmer and cover, cooking on low for approximately 10 minutes, or until the water is absorbed. Remove from heat, and let it steam covered for another five minutes.

Spread the rice out onto a baking sheet to let it cool. By increasing the surface area, you allow the rice to stop cooking and prevent it from becoming mushy. Season the rice with a bit of salt and rice wine vinegar, and place in the fridge to finish the cooling process.

Prepare your fillings

What's great about sushi is that you can fill it with whatever you want—it's a perfect medium for getting creative in the kitchen. Some of my favorite fillings are avocado, cucumber, mango, jalapeno, and fresh sushi-grade yellowtail tuna.



When rolling, remember to apply pressure without squishing the roll—practice makes perfect!

You'll want to cut your ingredients into 1/4-inch long strips. In culinary terminology this would be considered a batonnet knife cut. Depending on which flavors your want more or less prevalent, you can cut certain ingredients thinner.

Get rollin'

Place a piece of nori on a sushi-rolling mat, and cover about two-thirds with the cooled sushi rice. Depending on whether you want a maki roll (nori on the outside) or urumaki roll (rice on the outside), you can either leave the rolling mat as is, or flip the nori with rice over, respectively.

Place the fillings on the one-third of exposed nori, and using the mat, slowly begin rolling the nori around the fillings, applying a light amount of pressure. Pull on the mat that now lays atop the roll, and keep rolling while continuing to apply pressure to the roll.

Nail the presentation

With a very sharp knife, cut the roll in half, and then cut the halves in half, and finally the quarters in half. This will ensure eight equal sized pieces. It's also helpful to wipe off your knife in between cuts to ensure the rice stays white and pretty.

Consider topping each piece with a dot of sriracha or wasabi. You can also go the more Americanized route and mix either of these ingredients with mayonnaise to create a creamy sauce to drizzle over the top.

Dig in

Chopsticks and fingers are both considered acceptable utensils to enjoy sushi with. If you're superstitious, don't pass a piece of sushi from one set of chopsticks to another—it's considered bad luck!

If you enjoy soy, dip just a corner of your roll into the sauce and place the roll cut side down onto your tongue to maximize the flavor.

Sushi may seem like a complicated dish to make, but it's really one of those things that you have to make once to see how easy it is. So next time your friends are over for cocktails or game day, surprise them with a spread of sushi rolls. I'm sure they'll be impressed with the results and excited to dig in!

Carie Birkmeier is a Graphic Designer for the Outlaw Partners. She worked as a chef at Big Sky's Rainbow Ranch after graduating from Michigan's Les Cheneaux Culinary School, and now keeps her knife sharp by teaching sushi-rolling classes.