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**PUBLISHER** 

Eric Ladd

**EDITORIAL** 

MANAGING EDITOR Tyler Allen

SENIOR EDITOR Amanda Eggert

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Sarah Gianelli

**CREATIVE** 

LEAD DESIGNER Carie Birkmeier

VIDEO DIRECTOR Wes Overvold

VIDEO EDITOR Ryan Weaver

**SALES AND OPERATIONS** 

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER Megan Paulson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SALES AND MARKETING E.J. Daws

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND **ADMINISTRATION** Alexis Deaton

MEDIA AND EVENTS DIRECTOR Ersin Ozer

MARKETING COORDINATOR Amy Delgrande

DISTRIBUTION DIRECTOR Doug Hare

#### **CONTRIBUTORS**

Mark Birkmeier, Bella Butler, Bobby Caina Calvan, Lucia Cherciu, Tyler Close, Jackie Rainford Corcoran, Jeff Daniels, Justin Felisko, Tom Holland, Sepp Jannotta, Tallie Lancey, Donna Lawson, Derek Lennon, Luisa Locker, Stephani Lourie, Shannon May, Anna McKay, Scott Mechura, Freddy Monares, Brandon Niles, Gabe Priestley, Cooper Raasch, Matthew Siebert, Patrick Straub, Marshall Swearingen, Nina Tucciarelli, Matt Volz, Eric Walnum, Jack Welty, Cody Whitmer, Todd Wilkinson, Ciara Wolfe, Jessianne Wright, Kristen Wyatt

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**ON THE COVER:** Big Sky ski patroller, Jeff MacPherson, along with Leela, his avalanche rescue dog in training, enjoy the spring sun at Big Sky Resort on April 4. PHOTO BY WES OVERVOLD

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### **Resort tax meeting** addresses 'Penny for Housing' failure



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## LPHS senior reflects on Nepal service trip 🤍



Big Sky Resort puts a wrap on winter

## **Celebrate Earth** Day on April 22



A sunny spring day offered the perfect opportunity to stroll along Big Sky's Ousel Falls Trail on April 2. Sounds of flowing water and birds chirping are surefire signs of springtime in the mountains. PHOTO BY SHANNON MAY

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## FOBSE awards \$46,500 in scholarships to Lone Peak seniors

**EBS STAFF** 

Friends of Big Sky Education awarded \$46,500 in scholarship funds to Lone Peak High School seniors on April 6 at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. The ceremony was followed by an informal breakfast where scholarship sponsors could meet the recipients of their scholarships.

Twelve of the 18 LPHS seniors, with GPAs ranging from 3.0 to 4.2, applied for 28 of 29 available scholarships, all of which were awarded. Students garnered multiple scholarships amounting to funds ranging from \$1,500 to \$5,500.

The scholarship donations came from more than 100 individuals, eight businesses, four foundations and four organizations in the Big Sky community, and were need and/or merit based. They were either offered in a general category or in support of specific disciplinary interests.

"During this third year of the program, we found that the number of businesses and people in Big Sky who are eager to sponsor a scholarship or donate to one is growing," said Anne Marie Mistretta, who leads the Community Scholarship Program initiative with her husband Jerry Mistretta. "People are pleased with our graduates' admissions to college, and they understand that a strong community supports students."

Lone Peak High School anticipates 26 students will graduate in the class of 2018 and fundraising efforts to replenish the FOBSE scholarships for next year's graduates are already underway.

To learn more about Friends of Big Sky Education, visit friendsofbigskyeducation.org.

## Gardiner celebrates Earth Day with free music, barbecue

GARDINER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

On Saturday, April 22, area scientists, experts and community members will celebrate Earth Day in Gardiner, Montana.

Activities include a community cleanup; fast-paced talks about land, water and wildlife; as well as live music and a barbecue. Children can participate in face painting, crafts and a trash-sculpture contest.

The event will be held in Arch Park, which was recently renovated and improved for the 2016 centennial celebration of the National Park Service. A rainy-weather backup location is at the Gardiner Community Center.

Food will be available from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the form of a zero-waste barbecue hosted by the park's official concessioner, Yellowstone National Parks Lodges.

New this year is soul-thumping music from Satsang, whose socially conscious lead singer found inspiration for much of his creative energy in Montana's Beartooth Mountains. The family friendly band has toured the U.S. and shared the stage with a variety of bands including Michael Franti & Spearhead. The music starts at 3 p.m.

Although Gardiner Earth Day is a longstanding local tradition, the town is opening its arms to nearby communities to celebrate the wonders the area has to offer with expanded opportunities. Additionally, the National Park Service is waiving Yellowstone park entrance fees during the weekend, with some roads opening, weather permitting.

Gardiner Earth Day is free and open to the public. Visit facebook.com/GardinerEarthDay or gardinerchamber.com for more information.

#### **April is Fair Housing Month**

MONTANA BOARD OF HOUSING

April is Fair Housing Month, commemorating passage of the federal Fair Housing Act as part of the 1968 Civil Rights Act.

The Housing and Community Development divisions at the Montana Department of Commerce work with property owners, landlords, developers and other private partners to make sure all the associated housing programs comply and continue to follow Montana laws.

In acknowledgement of Fair Housing Month, the Montana Board of Housing recognizes three important housing actions:

- In 2016, the Montana Department of Commerce assisted approximately 9,000 individuals or families to access affordable housing through monthly rental assistance, homebuyer assistance and reverse annuity mortgages.
- In April of 1968, Congress passed the federal Fair Housing Act. Its primary purpose is to protect people from seller or landlord discrimination.
- In Montana, housing discrimination is against the law. The Montana Human Rights Act states that it's unlawful to make decisions about housing based on a person's race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, age, disability or familial status.

Visit housing.mt.gov/fairhousing or call (406) 841-2840 for more information.

## March for Science in Yellowstone part of worldwide protest

EBS STAFF

Michelle Ciotta, co-organizer of a March for Science event that will be held at Old Faithful in Yellowstone National Park, estimates hundreds of people will attend the April 22 march, based on the response she's gotten from people employed in and near the park. Ciotta said she expects free admission to the park that weekend will also boost march attendance.

According to a press release from March for Science, more than 400 events will be held across the world on Earth Day to "defend the vital role science plays in everyday life, including in health, safety, economies and governments."

Ciotta, who bartends at the Snow Lodge in Yellowstone, said she was inspired to organize the event by President Donald Trump's climate change policies and spending priorities. "The budget cuts that were laid forth by our president really took aim at the Department of Interior," Ciotta said. She organized the event with Alexandra O'Connor, who works for the National Park Service in Yellowstone's maintenance division.

Ciotta said she's frustrated that Trump and his administration are pulling back on policies to combat climate change, including the rollback of more stringent fuel economy standards for automobile manufacturers.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will include speakers, as well as the circulation of petitions aimed at preventing budget cuts to environmental programs.

"A lot of people are feeling that scientific evidence is not being heard," Ciotta said. "I think that having something at Old Faithful, which is so iconic, will bring more people out and get more people involved."



# Earth Day is celebrated each year on April 22. What environmentally friendly practices have you adopted in your daily life?



**Barbara Rupp**Big Sky, Montana

"Probably the most important thing we try to do is recycle. However, it is difficult here, particularly with the glass. I find us throwing away a whole lot of glass, and I just hate to see that."



**Jacob Glynn**Big Sky, Montana

"I try to reduce the amount of plastic I use ... like bringing silverware somewhere if you know they only give [you] plastic silverware, like Chipotle. It's great to just bring chopsticks or something like that. At the end of the day though, I think there's a lot of more environmentally friendly practices that ... myself and the Earth could benefit from me doing."



**Paula Alexander** Four Corners, Montana

"I'm driving around with a big bag of glass in the back of my car, trying to find a place to recycle it. I usually drive it over to my friend's house because she pays for glass recycling."



**Brian Van Eps**Big Sky, Montana

"With our [Big Sky Fellowship] church we have a section of the highway that we clean, and on the  $22^{nd}$  for Earth Day, we as a church are cleaning up that section of highway. ... I'm [also] really involved with the Gallatin River Task Force and emceed their fly fishing festival last summer. ... I help out with different events that they have and [river] cleanups."



# **Op-ed:**Big Sky School District seeks support for 2 tax levies

BY DUSTIN SHIPMAN

Big Sky School District #72 has experienced unprecedented growth over the course of the last decade, nearly doubling in size in that time. The need for staff has grown, programming has evolved and infrastructure has been built to meet the needs of our students. During this election cycle, the district is running two levies and we are asking for your support.

We are running a general operating fund levy in the amount of \$100,000 for the first time since 2014. A general operating fund levy allows local taxpayers to approve additional funding for their local school districts. The funds generated through this levy will give us the ability to hire additional staff to accommodate our classes that are currently at or near the state mandated maximum enrollments.

Due to a budget shortfall and cuts in education spending by the Montana Legislature, approximately 80 percent of districts are seeking general fund levies in the spring election cycle.

In addition to the general fund levy, the district has a building reserve levy in the amount of \$108,000 on the ballot. The building reserve levy can only be used for long-term maintenance of facilities and unanticipated maintenance. This levy has been in existence for the last five years and is expiring; the district is seeking a renewal of this levy for the maintenance of our facilities.

The Big Sky School District has a commitment to excellence in all that we do. We are committed to doing the best for our students to ensure they are the best students, friends, family members and community members they can be. In order to deliver on our vision and mission, we are seeking support from our local community to partner with us and support our requests for funding at the local level. The estimated tax increase with the passing of both levies on a home with a taxable value of \$1.5 million dollars is \$16.52 a month.

Thanks for your support and remember to vote "yes" for the future.

A public listening session regarding the levies will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 26, at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.

Dustin Shipman is the elementary principal and superintendent of Big Sky School District #72.

### Letter:

## The resort tax issue—further reflection

On March 14, I testified before the Senate Taxation Committee to share my concerns about Senate Bill 343, which, if passed, proposed a potential 33 percent tax increase for all resort area districts in the state, including Big Sky. This is an issue I am deeply passionate about as a longtime, permanent Big Sky resident.

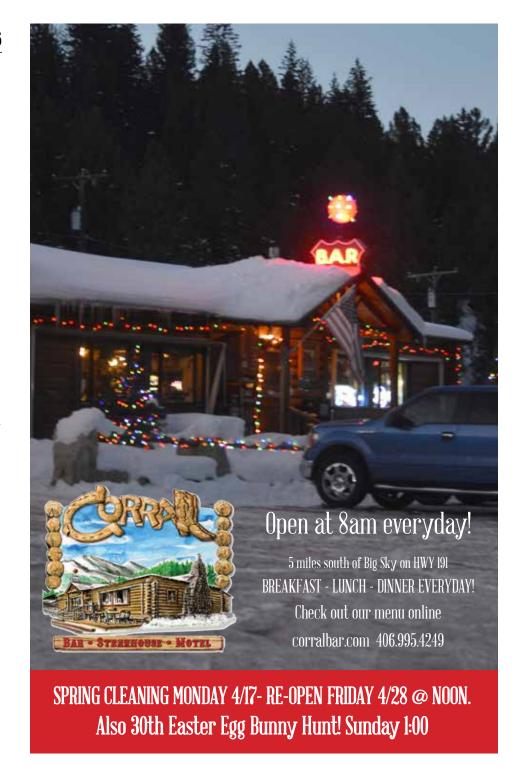
In a recent interview with Explore Big Sky, my emotions got the best of me and I inadvertently insulted some of our most valuable and important community members with my comments. For this, I sincerely apologize.

Communities are a reflection of the people in it. In most communities around our country, it's often the work of those who keep us safe, educated and energized that goes under-appreciated and unrecognized.

The teachers, firefighters and law enforcement personnel that are devoted to this public service should be celebrated, as their presence is vital to the health and sustainability of Big Sky. I am truly grateful for the inspiring and life-saving roles they play in our lives.

While I am opposed to SB 343 and fully believe that a 33 percent tax increase is unwarranted given the amount of money, over \$6 million, disbursed by the resort tax board last year, I in no way meant to suggest we should ignore the needs of some of our most important residents. My belief is that funding should be managed responsibly and allocated to potentially assist multiple builders to construct affordable rental and permanent housing. This is a critical need and my hope is that our taxes will be focused accordingly.

Alan Shaw Big Sky, Montana





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## **BSSD** implements farm to school programming

## Ophir to host family cooking night

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – The Big Sky School District Wellness Committee got a reinvigorating shot in the arm in December 2016 when it was joined by additional members of the community who are particularly passionate about improving food and nutrition education in the district.

On April 4, despite bureaucratic and budgetary challenges, the committee of 13—comprised of parents, teachers, administrators, the current lunch program manager and local chefs—took two more small steps in the direction of incorporating the farm to school ethos in the lunchroom and classroom.

On May 4, 10 families will gather at Ophir Elementary for the committee's first family cooking night and prepare a simple, healthy meal together that reflects what is in season locally, paired with an educational component.

The committee also committed to participating in Gallatin Valley Farm to School's Harvest of the Month program for the 2017-2018 school year. The nonprofit's flagship program provides cross-curricular educational programming surrounding a featured in-season, locally sourced vegetable, grain, legume or meat that also shows up in the lunchroom.

The nonprofit's executive director Sam Blomquist was present at the April 4 meeting and suggested both initiatives as good ways to begin introducing the farm to school programming to the district.

Spearheading the family cooking night effort is Eric Walnum, a personal chef at the Yellowstone Club who has been volunteering his time to be on the committee out of a fervent belief in the long-term positive effects of fruits and vegetables and the importance of forming healthy eating habits at a young age.

"Allowing children to be part of cooking (and shopping, gardening, harvesting) empowers them to take a role and become actively engaged in the process of making something to eat," Walnum said. "The result is having children more excited about tasting, trying and possibly devouring what they've helped create. We see this as an opportunity to help students learn about food and acquire skills to help their parents at home or to become competent to safely arrange a healthy snack at home."

Walnum's hope is that family cooking night will become a monthly event.

These recent steps to bring healthier, more consciously-sourced and -prepared food to the district comes on the heels of a parent and child survey the committee conducted in late January to gain insight into why the current school lunch program sees low—if on par with most Montana schools—participation.

In response to results that suggested both demographics wanted to see more fresh, healthy options in the cafeteria, the committee conducted a two month-



A grassroots community effort is underway at Big Sky School District to bring healthier food options to the school lunch program and introduce farm to school programming to the curriculum.



Ophir Elementary students take advantage of the supplementary fresh fruits and vegetables made available by the Big Sky School District Wellness Committee to determine if providing healthier options would increase participation in the school lunch program. PHOTOS BY ERIC WALNUM

long experiment that ended April 13 to see if participation in the lunch program would increase with the addition of supplementary fresh fruits and vegetables.

For the duration of the "experiment," committee members volunteered their time to prep and serve the additional fruit and vegetables, which were provided twice a week, free of charge to both hot lunch and brown bagger students.

"In the elementary school it was a huge win," said Whitney Littman, wellness committee coordinator, school board member and parent of two Ophir students. "Every kid was so curious about what was available and to learn about it. It was so special to see these kids go for carrots and cucumbers when you offer them as a side option to what they're getting in the hot lunch program."

Littman said it was harder to determine the success in the high school, which could have been due to presentation constraints, or perhaps points to the need to hook kids on healthy eating at a young age.

"The mission for the wellness program is long-term," Littman said. "It's about educating kids now so they can make a lifetime of healthy choices when it comes to what they put in their body. I think we have a lot of the key ingredients—we have a lot of interest from the community in the food and nutrition component of the school lunch program, and interest from parents and teachers in the education component. And what we learned from Gallatin Valley Farm to School is it's not hard to do a taste test once a month, and make food a topic of conversation, rather than just something you put on a plate."

Food costs and labor availability are the tallest hurdles to sourcing and preparing the kind of quality, regional ingredients that the wellness committee would ultimately like to see in the school lunch program.

Big Sky School District Superintendent Dustin Shipman, who also sits on the wellness committee, said that's why bringing farm to school practices to the district has to be supported by a grassroots community effort.

"What we're trying to do is not like flipping a switch—it's significant," Shipman said. "We have a lot of champions for it which makes it easier, but it's small steps towards a great thing. And that's with everything."

Big Sky School District's next wellness committee meeting is Monday, April 24, at 2 p.m. in the Ophir Elementary conference room and is open to the public. The first family cooking night will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 4, and is open to the first 10 families to sign up.

## **Madison and Gallatin** commissioners hear funding needs at April 6 joint meeting

BY AMANDA EGGERT **EBS SENIOR EDITOR** 

BIG SKY - On April 6, various Big Sky organizations and boards made a case for county funding for projects they've been working on, but commissioners made it known that budget demands—at least in Gallatin County—have increased.

Gallatin County Commissioner Don Seifert said that although property tax collections have been growing, the Montana Legislature has been trying to pass off more responsibilities to county governments to accommodate a decline in statecollected income taxes.

"There's always a move to take some of the duties that the state handles and move them to county responsibilities," said Seifert, who points to a slowdown in the oil and gas industry as one contributor to the state's budget shortfall. "Then the state Legislature can say, 'We didn't raise taxes.' But the reality is they passed that responsibility on to us and we end up taxing more."

Approximately 80 people attended the April 6 meeting, which was held at Big Sky Resort's Summit Hotel. Representatives were present from most of the key players in Big Sky, including the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board, the chamber of commerce, the water and sewer district, Big Sky Community Organization and the Big Sky Transportation District.

Ennion Williams, chair of the Big Sky Transportation District board of directors, said Skyline has seen a "definite increase" in the amount of employees living in Bozeman and using the bus to commute to Big Sky, which straddles Gallatin and Madison counties. In an attempt to quantify the wages earned in Big Sky and spent in Gallatin Valley, he conducted a survey of riders and employers.

Williams said 65 percent of surveyed Skyline users rode the bus for work. He estimates a total of \$4 million in wages are earned at Moonlight Basin, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, Big Sky Resort and the Yellowstone Club, and then spent in Gallatin Valley north of Big Sky.

"This is real money being earned here," Williams said. "Gallatin County funding [of] the Big Sky Transportation District is essential for us to continue the growth that we see here in Big Sky."

Big Sky Transportation District coordinator David Kack said Skyline is on track for another record-setting year. To date, Skyline's local service ridership is up 9 percent and the Link Express between Bozeman to Big Sky is up 32 percent. Approximately 8,000 more rides have been given on the Link Express this year than last. "We know that we need to increase our level of service ... from Big Sky to Bozeman and within Big Sky."

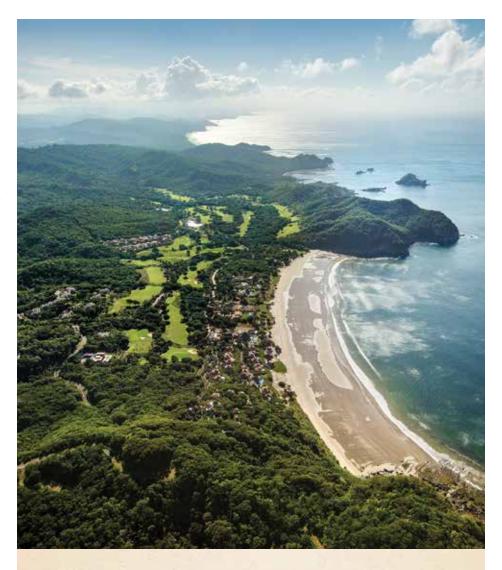
Big Sky resident Emory Sanders said his house's proximity to a bus stop was a key factor when he and his wife decided to purchase their home. He said both he and his wife, who cannot drive due to a vision problem, ride the bus regularly. "I urge the commissioners to consider the increase in transportation [funding]," Sanders said.

Ciara Wolfe, executive director of Big Sky Community Organization, spoke about findings from a survey that will inform a parks master plan. Approximately 90 percent of respondents reported using Big Sky's trails on a monthly basis and many would like to see improvement to trailheads and public restrooms, as well as the development of winter walkways. She said other items on the community wish list include an expansion of the trail system, increased river access and a recreation center.

Gallatin County Sheriff Brian Gootkin said a Montana Highway Patrol trooper is now stationed in Big Sky. He said the arrangement would increase traffic enforcement and decrease wait times for accident investigations. "Not only is that great for you, but that's great for us," said Gootkin, adding that an accident investigation can tie up a deputy responding from Bozeman, West Yellowstone or Three Forks for hours.

Funding for law enforcement and coroner services in Big Sky is shared between three entities. The Big Sky Resort Area District tax board, Gallatin County and Madison County each fund two deputies.

Commissioners are looking to late July for their next joint meeting in Big Sky, when BSCO will have more clarity about the future of transportation and parks projects they're spearheading.



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## Reflections from Nepal: Digging deep in the Himalayas

BY BELLA BUTLER EBS EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

For months, my trip to Nepal had been little more than an object: something pleasant to think about when battling through another slow shift at work, or a colorful mental picture to summon while watching the grey winter pass. I was always looking ahead, looking to that one day when I would be standing still in the glorified Himalayas, so far from everything I had ever known, but so close to everything I had ever wanted.

Then, like magic, one day became today, and the formerly intangible dream of Nepal became so real that my feet stood on its very ground.

That moment, though highly anticipated, was nothing my mind could have previously conjured. In the presence of a stranger, I stood and I stared. He was like a painting, his backdrop a peak encrusted with cascading ice and sharp black rock. He was small, maybe 5 feet tall, and he had leftovers from lunch on his left cheek. At first, he did not smile, but he met my curious stare with his own, studying my face as intently as a scientist studies his subject. Then something changed, and he smiled.

"Name?" he asked.

"Bella," I replied, happy to exchange words. "And yours?"

He mumbled something back to me that I could not recreate with my own English-burdened tongue, but I nodded in comprehension nonetheless. We were at a soccer field in Namshe, a mountain village settled in the nook of a hill at about 11,500 feet.

Field might be a generous term for our location, as what really lay beneath us was a medium-sized plot of dirt. After touring some of the classrooms at the Namshe school, our group of eight American students claimed the space for a pick-up soccer match in a quest to make use of the treasured afternoon sunlight.

Five minutes into our amateur play, we noticed some eyes peering out at us from the doorway to the school above. We gestured for them to come down and join us, only half expecting them to accept. Sure enough, the peering eyes rapidly transformed into sprinting bodies, and within minutes, we had ourselves a game.

During our time in Nepal, we experienced a plethora of stark contrasts from our quaint little town of Big Sky in our even quainter state of Montana. I remember holding a crying baby, orphaned just months before, her twin just barely recovering in the bassinet below from a major heart defect; distributing small t-shirts and toys to children in a village that's been set back hundreds of years by a tragic earthquake; and driving past a man, clothed in torn blankets



Eight Lone Peak High School seniors traveled to Nepal on March 12, including Eddie Starz (right). PHOTO BY BELLA BUTLER



Bella Butler (right) said she the March trip to Nepal was her first, but it won't be her last. PHOTO BY LUISA LOCKER

and washed in dirt, stripped of life, his last moments spent begging on the side of the road.

These disparities were far from anything on my radar in the comfort of my "first world" country. But the disparities revealed in those moments provide for something bigger. Tsering Dolkar Llama, the center of the service aspect of our experience, shared a bit of wisdom. "The poverty, the cremation, the death, it is right in your face," she said during a particularly dusty cab ride through the city center of Tamal. "But that being said, it keeps you grounded, it keeps you relevant to life."

This, just one of the many insights Tsering imparted during our time with her, resonates with me. For it is these things that make the Nepalese people who they are. In my own town, I waved to each car I passed on my ride home from school one day, and received only one wave in return. On the trails in the Khumbu, each individual in passing wastes no time greeting you with "Namaste," an acknowledgment that translates roughly to "I bless the divine in you," and eye contact.

Nepalese people are gratuitous beyond measure; I was dumbfounded by a band of women who traveled miles out of their way to thank us for providing education for their children through Tsering's Fund. The people we saw, and even the people we didn't, appear to be living the simplest of lives. While beyond image, they each possess a treasure box with countless stories worth telling.

In the face of so many differences—religion, race, values, lifestyles, and the lot—the Nepalese people pushed us to dig deeper than we knew we could to find a common ground, one that exists for all of us across humanity.

This was revealed to me by the kids on the soccer field who blended themselves into our game, communicating through passes, cheering and high fives. It came out in other ways, too:, in the elderly Tibetan home we visited, I ate lunch with a woman named Tsering Choten, and over our meal we talked, but not in the conventional manner. "Do you know the language," her eyes seemed to beg of me. "The language with no words?"

The general break from my routine life was enough the give me a new peace of mind, but the interactions, the things I witnessed and the things I felt brought me to an entirely new place I never knew existed.

Now, back in my home, back in school, back in my routine, all that I can do is miss it. From the people that won my heart to the views that stole my breath and the realities that captured my attention, Nepal opened a new door for me—one that will lead to many more adventures, near, far, and back to the place where it all started. Namaste.

Isabella (Bella) Butler is a senior at Lone Peak High School. The outdoor-oriented community of Big Sky she grew up in has shaped her life, and she loves to snowboard, hike, rock climb, and practice her writing outside. Butler is also a member of many clubs and organizations at her school.



## Inside the Big Sky | By Derek Lennon

## 8 things to do during mud season in Big Sky

BY DEREK LENNON **EBS CONTRIBUTOR** 

There's no way around mud season. It's part of the natural cycle of mountain town life. While many skiers and riders get the mud season blues after the ski slopes shut down for the season, others find this is to be a prime to relax and recharge before summer kicks in.

For those that don't know, mud season is the offseason between the ski season and the summer season. It's called mud season because the snow is melting rapidly and creating a muddy and dirty place to play. Mud season typically runs from mid-April to mid-to-late May.

Most people think Big Sky grinds to a total halt during mud season. Sure, a good chunk of Big Sky residents take off for road trips to Moab, head home to see family, or take a well-deserved vacation to a far flung locale, but the people who stick around or the guests who come into town are in for a special treat because mud season is actually a great time to visit Big Sky.

If you're looking for things to do in mud season in big sky, here are a few ideas:

Spring biking in Yellowstone National Park: Before the roads open to vehicle traffic, they are open to bikers. Grab your cycle and head into the park for an experience that few people ever have.

Wildlife spotting: Did you know that the majority of animals have babies in the spring? Head to the Lamar Valley in YNP to spot wildlife.

**Hot spring tours**: Big Sky Country is home to lots of hot springs. You can access both commercial and natural hot springs with a quick and easy drive from Big Sky. Chico Hot Springs and the Boiling River are always a hit.

Fly fishing: Fly fishing is a year-round activity. Hire a fly-fishing guide and have them show you the best fishing in southwest Montana.

Whitewater rafting: As the rivers swell, the rapids get bigger. Many of the rafting companies start the season in April or May.

**Backcountry skiing**: Many people put their skis away when Big Sky Resort closes, but there is still plenty of skiing to be found in the region. Whether you head to Beartooth Pass or explore deep in the backcountry of the Madison Range, it's easy to find snow until May.

Road biking: While the trails may still be muddy, the roads are typically dry. Grab your roadie and go for a spin. Of if you want to check out the trails, grab a fat bike and see what happens.

Low elevation hiking: Many of the hikes at lower elevations or on south aspects will be dry and ready to go by May. Bring your waterproof hiking boots and go exploring.

While mud season may not sound appealing, it's still a fun time of the year to visit Big Sky. The crowds are gone, there are plenty of discounts on food and lodging, and there are still so many things to do. While we still may get the occasionally snow storm, the weather is typically ideal for getting outside and having an adventure in Big Sky's backyard. For some people, this might be the perfect time to plan your trip.

Don't dread the day that the lifts stop spinning. Instead of letting mud season get you down, embrace mountain town life and make the most of the off season. What will you do first?



Mud season in Big Sky means taking advantage of fewer crowds, early Spring hiking and fishing, and the abundant opportunities for wildlife sightings. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BIG SKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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 bttps://visitbigskymt.com/mud-season-big-sky-montana/. Read more interesting content about the area on Visit Big Sky's blog at https://visitbigskymt. com/category/blog/.

## **Organizations defend funding at April 5 resort tax board meeting**Project updates and 'Penny for Housing' failure also discussed

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – In the wake of the failed "Penny for Housing" legislative effort, approximately a dozen members of the Big Sky community sat in on the public comment portion of the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board meeting April 5.

The meeting began with representatives speaking on behalf of the Big Sky Skating and Hockey Association, the chamber of commerce and the Arts Council of Big Sky, largely in response to comments made by opponents of Senate Bill 343 at the March 14 public hearing in Helena.

BSSHA president Ryan Blechta said he was commenting about statements made by Big Sky resident Alan Shaw that questioned the legality of resort tax funding of his organization.

"This is the first time anyone has questioned the right of resort tax to provide funding," Blechta said. "We find it shocking that [Shaw] questioned the funding of organizations like the Arts Council and Big Sky Ski Education Foundation." He added that unlike Bozeman, Big Sky has no other means to fund such organizations.

After the board assured Blechta that all resort tax appropriations are fully vetted by legal counsel, David O'Connor, chair of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce board of directors, stood up to correct a "mischaracterization of history" in regards to insinuations made by opponents of SB 343 that moves to present the bill were done discreetly and without community support.

"To intimate that this was done quickly in a dark room is simply not true," said O'Connor, adding that it's a matter of "public record" that affordable housing has been considered a critical issue in the community since 1992. "I want to point out to anybody who is concerned about these processes, that they have been very public and apologize to you for any allegation that has been made otherwise."

Following the public comment session, Big Sky Community Organization Executive Director Ciara Wolfe provided an update on BSCO projects that have been appropriated resort tax funds.

## "To intimate that this was done quickly in a dark room is simply not true."

Wolfe reported that the addition of a traffic light at Highway 64 and Ousel Falls Road was on track for a May 1 installation. Weather permitting, the light is anticipated to be fully functional by early June before the onset of the busy summer season. The project was co-funded by resort tax and local developers.

Wolfe also shared that a grant to fund the remaining construction costs of the BSCO pedestrian tunnel and trail project, beyond the \$213,000 appropriated by the resort tax board, had been submitted to the state of Montana. Wolfe was optimistic about the state's fall decision—if the \$900,000 grant is awarded, it would reduce the resort tax funding for the project to \$140,000, and BSCO would be shooting for a summer 2018 construction date.

David Kack, coordinator of the Big Sky Transportation District, said Skyline bus service reported a record-breaking year and saw a 32 percent increase in rides between Bozeman and Big Sky. He also said Skyline is

looking to add another roundtrip to the local Link Express service, as they anticipate an increased employee demand for the service.

The resort tax board then announced their available funds estimation, reporting that of the \$8.5 million in their combined bank accounts, \$2.6 million was appropriated for 2016 projects, leaving \$5.85 million currently available for 2017 appropriations, a figure that includes the sinking fund of \$811,439. If the forecasted amount of an additional \$1.3 million in collections before June appropriations is accurate, board member Jamey Kabisch said 2016-2017 was on track to be another recordbreaking fiscal year.

The board closed the meeting with old business, the first item being a debriefing on the life cycle of the defeated "Penny for Housing" bill.

Despite it failing in the third, and most important, public hearing on its way to the House, both BSRAD tax board members Kevin Germain and Mike Scholz stressed the overwhelming support from the community and beyond, as evidenced by the 50 supporters who showed up at the Senate Taxation Committee hearing, which was the only opportunity for public comment, and a bound book of 140 letters in support.

Germain said some heavy lobbying must have been at play between Saturday, March 25, when the bill looked like it would pass to the House and Monday, March 27, when two senators changed their vote to oppose the bill, stalling it in a 25-25 tie.

Germain and Scholz cited a current political environment in the state that's unfriendly to taxation of any kind, and the waters getting muddied by the suggestion that incorporation would solve Big Sky's affordable housing issue, as reasons the bill failed.

But in reference to the beginning of the meeting, it was the successful spread of misinformation that hurt SB 343 the most, according to Scholz.

This included suggestions that the bill initiative was started by the resort tax board on their own volition, accusing the resort tax board of frivolous, or worse, unauthorized spending; and that there's no real need for affordable housing in Big Sky.

Also being widely circulated and, according to Scholz, echoed on the Senate floor was that Big Sky's private clubs—the Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and Moonlight Basin—only began collecting resort tax in 2016.

Scholz said those contributions have been coming in for 13 years, and mentioned that Big Sky's private clubs collectively paid \$825,000 last year, making them the second largest tax collector.

Scholz also read from two 1992 letters—from Stephen Kircher, now president of Boyne Resorts eastern operations, and Big Sky Resort's current general manager Taylor Middleton—to demonstrate the resort's longstanding opposition to resort tax.

"They obviously weren't for 3 percent," Scholz said. "And certainly not for the 1 percent."

"We lost; I'm sure they're proud they won, but I'm not so sure our community is proud they won," Scholz added. "We weren't there to beat Boyne; we were there to win for the community. We're going to keep at it."

## Tell me, Tallie

## Whose sign is it anyway?



BY TALLIE LANCEY EBS COLUMNIST

"Stop," "Bighorn Sheep Crossing," "Trailhead,"
"Whoa!": these are the messages we read on signs
around Big Sky. Many of them are now toppled,
crumpled or have inexplicably disappeared—the
spring thaw reveals street signs, directional signs,
wildlife and pedestrian signs that have been damaged
from dutiful snowplows and/or errant motorists.

As the daughter of a printer (father) and a sign maker (mother), I'm particularly perceptive of signage in general. It's left me wondering: Who is responsible for road signage in the Big Sky area? As with other topics I've discussed, the answer is complicated.

First, the Montana Department of Transportation oversees Highway 64, aka Lone Mountain Trail, and Highway 191 through Gallatin Canyon. Their road signs must follow the letter of the law. Sizes, colors and placement are dictated by federal mandates. As a font nerd, I was interested to learn the official typeface of the DOT is Highway Gothic. Its legibility is marvelous and makes me swoon!

However, I learned that the way-finding signs and some crosswalk signs along those roadways are the responsibility of the chamber of commerce and the Big Sky Community Organization, respectively. They install, maintain and replace those signs as needed, at their expense. The pedestrian sign that was damaged near Kircher Park will be repaired soon, incrementally improving the safety of that perilous intersection.

Secondly, and perhaps more surprisingly, all other road signs are the dominion of their respective homeowner associations. The design, procurement and installation are their responsibility. Yes, even stop signs, posts and pilings are paid for and adjudicated by the many HOAs throughout Big Sky.

The largest HOA here is the Big Sky Owners Association with approximately 1,500 members. There are even HOAs within that HOA. For example, Silverbow Condos have their own signage, above and beyond BSOA.

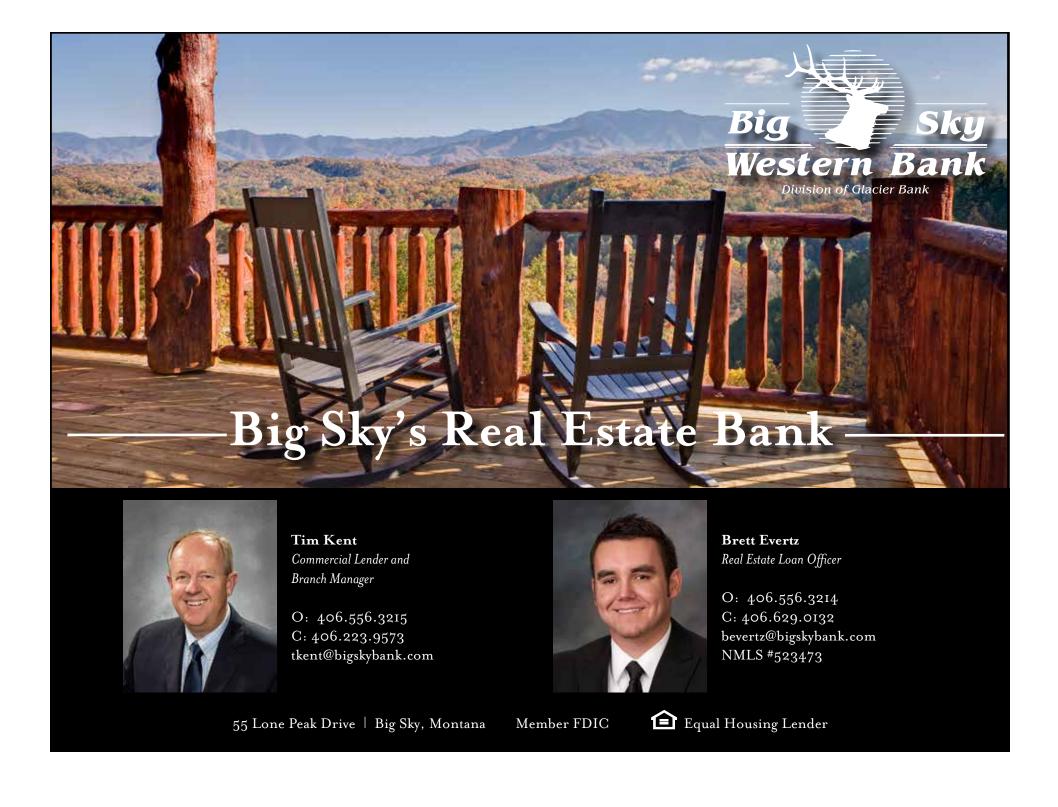
BSOA uses approximately \$3,000 from their annual budget for signs, which pays for approximately four or five signs. A dedicated private contractor handles their stop, speed limit and road names signage.

In our neighborhood, South Fork, we recently raised our HOA dues, partly in order to replace damaged street signs. West Fork is an adjacent neighborhood and faces a similar conundrum, but with the additional responsibility of streetlights.

We live in a harsh climate and it's expensive to maintain things that face exposure to Big Sky's weather. Just like the exterior of a home, a simple stop sign covered in stickers needs costly and regular attention.

Are you wondering why something is particularly unique to our community? You want to know and I'm eager to learn. This column commits to answering your burning questions about why Big Sky exists the way it does. Ask me at tallie@reallybigsky.com.

Tallie Lancey is a broker with Big Sky Sotheby's International Realty and serves on the boards of Big Sky Community Organization, Top Shelf Toastmasters, and the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.



## Montana lawmakers tackle pervasive poverty on tribal lands

BY BOBBY CAINA CALVAN ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) - Montana's unemployment rate may be among the lowest in the nation, but joblessness remains a pervasive problem across the state's tribal communities—more than twice or three times the state's roughly 4 percent unemployment rate.

Dissatisfied with the job the federal government is doing to help reservations build their economies, Montana officials acknowledge that they need to do more to foster entrepreneurship and boost economic opportunities to lift Native people from persistent joblessness and poverty.

"We know that poverty creates a lot of social problems. And we've seen it impact our reservations in an extreme manner. Poverty results in increased drug use, a break down in the family, kids dropping out of school. Whatever we can do to improve the economic activity on our reservations across the state—we need to go down that road," said Republican Rep. Greg Hertz, who hails from the town of Polson on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

Hertz went before the Senate Taxation Committee on Thursday to get its support to give additional tax credits to businesses that could help employ more Native Americans.

"When it comes to reservations, we have to provide businesses with extra incentives to locate on or adjacent to reservation to provide some job opportunities for tribal members," said Hertz, whose bill is titled "The Montana Indian Reservation Economic Development Act."

The proposal, among other things, would give businesses on reservations and communities within a 10 mile band of tribal lands as much as an additional \$2,000 in tax credits for every worker making at least \$15 an hour.

A bill by Sen. Lea Whitford, a Democrat from Browning and the Blackfeet Reservation, sought to place a tribal representative on the state's tourism advisory board to help draw visitors, jobs and economic development to reservations. The proposal, however, is stuck in a legislative committee.

Frustrated by some of the inaction to help their communities, the Legislature's nine Native American members are pushing for a deeper look into the economic challenges.

Earlier this week, Republican Sen. Jason Small of Busby and a member of the Northern Cheyenne, urged lawmakers to dedicate a legislative committee over the next year to study and better understand the factors behind the high unemployment rates among the state's Native residents.

While Native Americans in the Legislature say many of the reasons are apparent, a lot of the hard data is missing from discussions that seek to address the employment challenges faced by Montana tribes.

"I'm really wanting a good hard look at things," Small said. "Everyone knows what's going on, but we don't have the statistical proof a lot of the times to move forward."

Some of the data is already prompting wide concern. In Small's owns reservation, 13.1 percent of residents were unemployed – although that rate could be even much higher because it does not count people who had given up looking for work.

"We're in areas that are geographical segregated, and we aren't terribly close to areas where there is a lot of work," Small said.

The Rocky Boy's reservation also had a 13.1 percent unemployment rate. Fort Belknap and the Crow reservations each recorded 11 percent unemployment, and at least 11.9 percent of residents were unemployed in the Blackfeet Reservation.

Few Montanans fathom the realities of life on reservations, said Democratic Rep. Shane Morigeau of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

"They don't understand the struggles that tribes have," he said. "They don't realize that tribes are trying to get into the business sector because it's better for tribes, but it's also better for Montana. When tribes do better, Montana does better."

## Tester's opposition to Gorsuch may be a re-election gamble

BY MATT VOLZ ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) - Sen. Jon Tester says he believes Montana voters will understand his opposition to Judge Neil Gorsuch's nomination for U.S. Supreme Court, though he may be taking a gamble in a state that elected President Donald Trump by a 20-point margin.

Tester is one of 10 Democrats up for re-election in 2018 in states that Trump won, forcing them into a difficult political position when choosing to support or oppose the president's choice to replace Antonin Scalia on the nation's highest court.

But in the case of Tester, who has spent more than a decade representing Montana in the Senate, most voters made up their minds about him long ago—and his decision to oppose Gorsuch only reaffirms their views.

To Tester supporters, his opposition to Gorsuch shows that the state's senior senator votes his conscience without regard for how it will affect his election chances. To his opponents, the decision on Gorsuch confirms that Tester toes the Democratic Party line and that he is out of touch with the state's voters who elected Trump by a 20-point margin in November.

Marlene Johnson, a 65-year-old Helena resident, said she hopes Tester's opposition to Gorsuch will hurt his 2018 re-election bid, but she herself is already an entrenched Tester opponent. She has been glued to Fox News to track the confirmation of Gorsuch, whom she called a decent person who is qualified to sit on the Supreme Court.

"He's definitely letting Montana down, he is letting our nation down with his decision," Johnson said of Tester.

But for Barbara Wetherill of Helena, who opposes Gorsuch's confirmation, Tester's opposition will factor positively for Tester in her decision in 2018, she said.

"I like to look at what people have done in the past," Wetherill said of how she will evaluate Tester in the voting booth.

Tester told reporters Sunday that he doesn't believe that Montanans want a Supreme Court justice who believes corporations are people, who would loosen search-and-seizure restrictions and who would seek to influence women's health care decisions. Tester said those are the conclusions he drew about Gorsuch after studying the judge's past decisions and hearing from his own constituents.

"I think that Montanans have always expected me to have a reason for why I voted and I have plenty of them on Judge Gorsuch," Tester said.

David Parker, a political science professor at Montana State University, said outside groups trying to unseat Tester may try to make Gorsuch a campaign issue with television ads and fliers, but he doesn't believe it will be important to most voters.

"We're going to hear about it, without a doubt," Parker said. "But is it going to resonate? Unless you're an activist or really politically engaged, I don't think it will."

Tester does not yet have a Republican challenger next year after Trump plucked former U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke to become Interior Department secretary. Republicans in the state and in Washington have been courting Attorney General Tim Fox, and State Auditor Matthew Rosendale is also a potential challenger.

## Bills on health insurance, brewery limits, air ambulance debated in Legislature's 14th week

BY MICHAEL SIEBERT UM COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

HELENA -- With health insurance costs rising, one lawmaker is proposing a solution that would allow Montana residents to purchase health care plans from other states.

Senate Bill 340, introduced by Sen. Cary Smith, R-Billings, passed the House Human Services Committee last week. The bill would allow out-of-state providers to sell plans within Montana.

SB 340 would "help to drive down the cost of health insurance," Smith said.

Smith said the bill provides measures to ensure providers are in good standing in their home state, and that the Insurance Commissioner will be responsible for allowing providers to sell policies.

"We think that more competition in Montana will bring cost down, [and] allow consumers more choice in finding the policy that will suit their lifestyle and their needs," said supporter Zach MacQuarrie, representing Americans for Prosperity.

However, critics of SB 340 said it would open the door for confusion and the possibility of purchasing a plan that doesn't cover necessary services.

Al Smith, representing Montana Trial Lawyers, said buyers will tend to opt for the lowest cost, regardless of whether it covers essential services. He also said mandated services vary from state-to-state, and therefore plan-to-plan.

"We're not talking about car insurance. If you screw up on your car insurance and don't get comprehensive, you're out a car," Al said. "If you screw up on one of these and don't have the proper insurance, you could be losing a family member."

The bill passed on a vote of 9-6. It will now be heard by the House.

#### Brewery laws spark controversy in the Senate

The Senate amended and passed a bill last week that would increase the number of barrels a brewery can produce and still be able to sell in a taproom.

House Bill 541, introduced by Rep. Adam Hertz, R-Missoula, originally would have allowed breweries to brew up to 60,000 barrels of beer per year while still maintaining their taproom. Under current law, breweries can only produce 10,000 barrels and still sell beer on premises.

The bill was amended several times before reaching the full Senate, decreasing that number to 12,000 barrels.

The bill was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Fred Thomas, R-Stevensville, who successfully proposed amendments to restore that number to the original 60,000.

"It is smart for us to raise the limit on production from breweries, allowing them to brew more, because ... it adds to our base of economy in Montana," Thomas said.

Thomas said the amendments were drafted before last Thursday's hearing, with both tavern and brewery owners present to help work out a compromise.

That compromise means that in addition to capping production at 60,000 barrels, the bill now also allows a maximum of three taproom locations per brewery, and only allows for 2,000 barrels' worth of on-site sales in taprooms.

Thomas said the bill would likely go to a special conference committee, so the public could testify on the proposed amendments once they are sent back to the House.

Nineteen of 50 senators opposed the amendments. As amended, the bill passed third reading 40-9.



Rep. Adam Hertz, R-Billings, introduced House Bill 541, which would have allowed breweries to brew up to 60,000 barrels of beer per year while still maintaining their taproom.

PHOTO BY FREDDY MONARES/COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

#### Air ambulance bill passes both houses

The Montana House of Representatives passed a bill last week that would remove the financial responsibility from patients who are forced to use out-of-network air ambulances.

Senate Bill 44, introduced by Sen. Gordon Vance, R-Belgrade, would require insurance companies to cover excess charges from air ambulance providers. The bill has also passed the Senate.

"Senate Bill 44 is the most important air ambulance bill that we've heard yet," said Rep. Vince Ricci, R-Laurel, who carried the bill in the House.

Air ambulances, sometimes referred to as "life flights," provide emergency transportation to hospitals in life-threatening situations in which regular ambulances would not be quick enough. They often transport patients from rural hospitals to those with necessary services.

However, air ambulance providers are not always in Montana insurance networks, which can leave patients and families saddled with significant debt.

Ricci said the bill would only require patients to pay their deductible on air ambulance services. Air ambulance providers and insurance companies would then have to come to an agreement on payment for services between themselves.

During the bill's first hearing in January, several Montanans spoke on the high cost of using air ambulances.

Benjamin Power, a Dillon resident, said he was life flighted to Salt Lake City for an emergency neurological procedure.

"Within a few weeks of the procedure, when I was at my absolute worst, I received a bill for \$56,000," Power said.

Six others spoke at that hearing, all saying the service cost them into the tens of thousands of dollars. One woman, Sonia Moscolic-Andrews of Anaconda, only saw reprieve from the cost of her husband's life flight to Missoula after he died

However, opponents of the bill argue SB 44 would only send the debt back to

"When you tell health plans to just pay up, the cost is passed through to taxpayers of Montana," said Bruce Spencer, representing America's Health Insurance Plans. "That is a public policy decision you have to make, and I guess I'm asking that you take a deep breath."

Michael Siebert is a reporter with the UM Community News Service, a partnership of the University of Montana School of Journalism and the Montana Newspaper Association.

## Ski industry sees another big consolidation with Aspen deal

BY KRISTEN WYATT ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER (AP) - A ski resort company that stretches from Quebec to Colorado was purchased Monday by the Aspen Skiing Co., setting up seismic changes in a sector with few multistate ski operators.

Aspen Skiing Co. is partnering with Denver-based KSL Capital Partners to acquire Intrawest Resorts Holdings for about \$1.5 billion, including debt, Aspen Skiing said in a statement.

Intrawest owns Steamboat Ski Resort in Colorado, Snowshoe in West Virginia, Stratton Mountain in Vermont, Mont Tremblant in Quebec, Blue Mountain in Ontario and the Canadian Mountain Holidays heli-skiing operation in British Columbia. Intrawest also operates Winter Park ski area in Colorado.

KSL Capital Partners owns Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows in the Lake Tahoe area.

Aspen Skiing Co. owns the Snowmass, Aspen Mountain, Aspen Highlands and Buttermilk resorts.

The consolidation gives the industry a huge new player. Aspen Skiing has long resisted consolidation with larger owners, focusing on its smaller size and mix of ultra-wealthy out-of-town visitors and ski-savvy locals.

After Monday's acquisition, the company now stretches coast to coast and in two countries, though the acquired resorts will retain the Intrawest name. The heli-skiing operation that was sold is the world's largest operator of helicopter ski trips that put skiers atop mountains so they can ski virgin snow.

The Aspen Skiing Co. acquisition gives its main competitor, Vail Resorts, a challenge.

Vail recently acquired North America's biggest and busiest ski resort, Canada's Whistler Blackcomb Holdings Inc. The purchase brought Vail Resorts to a dozen ski areas, all of them destination resorts that court overnight guests.

The consolidations – not new in a ski industry that has seen long periods of consolidation in the past – won't be noticed by customers in the short term, said Mike Kaplan, Aspen Skiing's president and CEO.

There are no immediate plans to change lift ticket prices or amenities at any of the acquired resorts, he said.

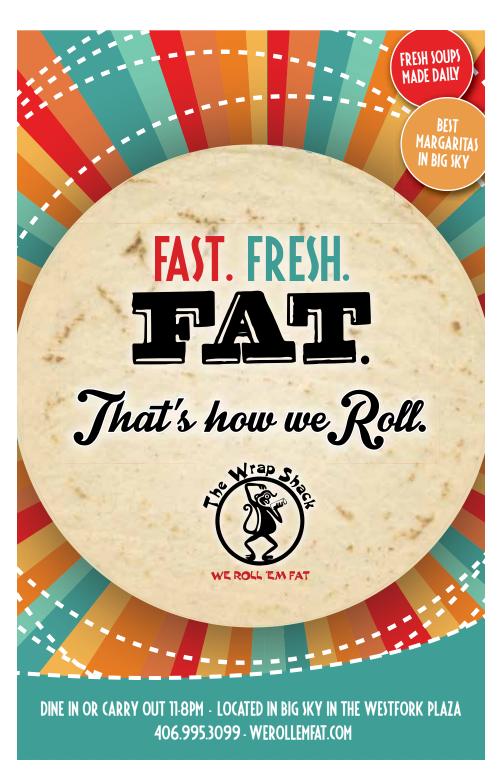
"What's unique about each community and each mountain, we're going to preserve that," Kaplan said. "We'll make sure they're authentic and present to a long-term customer, 'This is why I love this place.'"

It's unclear whether Aspen Skiing will try to use the purchase of the resorts to imitate Vail's wildly popular Epic pass, which allows skiers to buy one pass to ski multiple times at its different resorts.

Kaplan said Intrawest's Super Pass will continue as usual next year. It skiers access to Eldora, Copper Mountain and Winter Park plus days at Steamboat Springs and Crested Butte.

Aspen Skiing Co. will continue to offer its Max Pass, which offers just a couple days at 44 resorts spanning North America, from Taos, New Mexico, to Mont-Sainte-Anne near Quebec City, Canada.

Editor's note: Mammoth Resorts announced in an April 12 press release that it was acquired by Aspen Skiing Company and KSL Capital Partners. Mammoth Resorts owns Southern California ski areas Mammoth Mountain, Snow Summit, Bear Mountain and June Mountain.











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COMPLIMENTARY PARKING AFTER 2 PM
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**Section 2:**ENVIRONMENT, SPORTS, HEALTH & DINING







## **The New West:**

## Yes, we're all addicts but do we have the will to unplug?



BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

Those ingenious marvels of technology we carry in our hands—the deceivingly addictive screens of Huxleyan soma that literally, according to scientists, are rewiring our brains and altering the way we behave; the gadgets so many can't live without or put down, accompany us everywhere, in order to confirm we exist.

How are cell phones disrupting the outdoor experience and becoming a bane to those who wish to unplug? I offer two seemingly disparate data points that invite reflection.

To begin, imagine this: You have reached a backcountry hideaway few others know about. You've pulled out the phone, posed for the requisite selfie and then posted it to Instagram along with a geotag. For a place you once held dear as special and secret, the result of your action is you've just provided GPS coordinates—therefore the location—to all of your friends and, if they share your picture, all of their friends too.

How many sanctuaries have been despoiled by loose lips or guide books? And how could this seemingly benign little feature of Instagram accelerate the loss of more?

Maybe you read the recent story "Is Instagram Ruining the Great Outdoors?" on Outside magazine online? Christopher Solomon's excellent piece begins: "The great outdoors is all over social media. On Instagram, the hashtag #nature has been used more than 20 million times. Attach a geotag to your photo of last weekend's campsite, and your followers can tramp to the exact same spot."

Solomon interviewed Ben Lawhon, education director at the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, who said, "Most people do not wake up and say, 'How can I harm the earth today?' What it boils down to is a lack of awareness, a lack of knowledge."

That's hard to argue, but what's the solution?

Should there be cellphone-free wildlands? I've been doing some spring hiking in the Bridger Mountains near Bozeman and each morning encountered the same group of mountain bikers with wireless ear buds, the sounds of muffled heavy metal so loud I could almost feel the guitar riffs as they passed.

When I offered salutations, one pointed to his helmet and waved his hand, indicating he couldn't hear a word I was saying. (It could just as easily have been trail runners or equestrians because I've seen both with headphones.)

If one desires a workout accompanied by an artificial soundtrack, why does it have to happen in a wildland? What's the point of cruising a national forest trail if you're unaware of the singing meadowlarks or the perilous crashing sounds of a large mammal hidden in the brush only a few feet away?

Now, data point No. 2: The Masters Golf Tournament. A few years back, the folks at Augusta National Golf Club, where The Masters is played, pre-emptively implemented a ban on cellphones, deeming them disrespectful nuisances and distractions.

Despite protests, the rules have remained firm: "Cell phones, beepers and other electronic devices are strictly prohibited on the grounds at all times. Cameras are strictly prohibited on Tournament days (Thursday-Sunday) but allowed on practice rounds days (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday). Anyone violating this policy will be subject to removal from the grounds and the permanent loss of credentials (tickets)."

Analogous to a poaching offense, some offenders have been permanently banned from ever being able to get tickets again.

Is drawing lines in the sand (trap) really such a bad thing? "I just don't think [allowing cell phones] is appropriate," tournament chairman Billy Payne said in a recent story published by Business Insider. "The noise is an irritation to not only the players, the dialing, the conversation, it's a distraction. And that's the way we have chosen to deal with it."

Libertarians might argue that one person's right to have their cell phone ring or their selfie taken at a golf tournament, theater, church or wilderness shouldn't be abridged by those who find it offensive.

Is an experience in nature all about us, or does it involve giving ourselves over to a place on its elemental terms? If we don't chronicle ourselves standing on the mountain, does it mean we weren't there? If we don't mug for the viewfinder holding a fish in our hands and post it on Facebook, does it mean the trip to the river wasn't "successful" or that our memory of the catch and, more importantly, quiet time on the water, wasn't good enough?

Getting away from it all clearly doesn't mean the same as it used to.

Todd Wilkinson is an award-winning journalist who has been writing about the West for more than 30 years and his column the New West has been widely read in the Greater Yellowstone region for nearly as long. He writes his column every week, and it's published on explorebigsky.com on EBS off weeks. You can also read and get signed copies of his latest book, "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek," a story about famous Greater Yellowstone grizzly 399 featuring photographs by Thomas Mangelsen at mangelsen.com/grizzly.

## Tester and Daines take another run at wild and scenic designation for East Rosebud Creek

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN - Legislation that would designate 20 miles of East Rosebud Creek as wild and scenic, thereby protecting the river in its free-flowing state, recently passed from the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and is now open on the Senate floor.

The wild and scenic designation comes from the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which safeguards the special character of rivers possessing outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic and cultural values. Rivers designated wild and scenic are preserved in a free-flowing state. Approximately one-quarter mile of land on either bank is managed in a way that keeps the water clean and augments the river's outstanding values.

"The East Rosebud Wild and Scenic Rivers Act will protect 20 miles of public land along the creek from future proposed dams and prevent federal projects from impacting clean water and the remarkable values of the creek such as recreation, scenery and fish and wildlife habitat," said Greater Yellowstone Coalition waters conservation associate Charles Wolf Drimal.

"East Rosebud lends access to some of the most stunning, jaw-dropping scenery in Montana," Drimal said. "It is a glacially carved valley surrounded by steep granite walls. Alpine lakes dot the drainage from the valley floor all the way up to its headwaters."

Drimal said the river is a refuge for native trout, moose and bear, and a 26-mile trail along the East Rosebud that connects to Cooke City is a popular destination for recreationists. "Hundreds of hikers and backpackers hike [the Beaten Path] annually to experience its wildness."

Senate Bill 501, East Rosebud Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, passed from the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on March 30, garnering bipartisan support from Senators Jon Tester and Steve Daines.

"When Montanans work together, we get things done and this is a great example of on-the-ground collaboration," Tester said in a March 30 press release. "Montanans know we need to protect the East Rosebud for our kids and grandkids—and we are one step closer to making that a reality."

"Protecting the East Rosebud Creek is important to the local community and ensures future generations can enjoy it," Daines said in the press release.
"I'm looking forward to making this Montana's first wild and scenic designation in over 30 years."

This is the third time the East Rosebud Wild and Scenic Rivers Act has made it to Congress. The last time Congress passed a piece of legislation to designate a new Montana river as wild and scenic was 1976. Rivers in neighboring states, such as Wyoming, Idaho and Utah, have been named wild and scenic as recently as 2009. Less than one-half of 1 percent of Montana's approximately 170,000 miles of river is designated as wild and scenic.

"My personal view is that Montana has not had a new wild and scenic designation since 1976 because there has not been a robust effort to add Montana rivers to the system since then, and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is not widely known or well understood by most people. It's not a household name," said Mike Fiebig, associate director of American Rivers' Northern Rockies chapter.

The effort to designate the East Rosebud as wild and scenic stems from repeated proposals to develop hydropower projects on the creek. The most recent proposal was in 2009, and would have included construction of a 100-foot wide diversion dam, a 2-mile long penstock, a substation, a powerhouse and transmission lines.

"Local residents were pretty upset," Fiebig said. In order to protect the creek, individuals formed the conservation and non-profit group Friends of East Rosebud Creek, gaining statewide support from individuals, as well as interest groups such as American Rivers.

"Support for a wild and scenic designation in the East Rosebud valley is unanimous," Drimal said. "Cowboys to kayakers are ready to stand up for East Rosebud Creek and this legislation. ... Clean water, fishing, public lands, outdoor recreation and wildlife are core values that all Montanan's care about."

"Having [SB 501] pass will show that Montana is ready for more," Fiebig said. "It's exciting for rivers like the Gallatin, Taylor Fork, Yellowstone and Madison ... rivers that people really love in Montana. I think that if East Rosebud can get the wild and scenic designation, it will pique people's interest in getting the designation for rivers that they love."

Montanans for Healthy Rivers, a coalition of businesses, watershed groups, private land owners, sportsmen and conservation groups, is working alongside American Rivers, Greater Yellowstone Coalition and other interest groups to get a bill introduced that will protect a suite of rivers under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

"Rivers like the Gallatin, Taylor Fork and segments of the Madison and Yellowstone have significant public support to be included in this future bill," Drimal said.



Bipartisan legislation that will preserve the wild and scenic qualities of the East Rosebud River has passed out of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natura Resources and is heading to the Senate floor. PHOTO BY DONNA LAWSON





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### **Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides**

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



And just like that it's off-season in Big Sky! This is the time of year locals take time to fish more, get out of town, hike, bike and more. The gang at Gallatin River Guides will certainly be taking time for all of the above. Much of that recharging takes place on the water of course and this is a great time to be out there, especially if you allow yourself to be flexible.

We love spring fishing, but conditions change quickly and often. Taking time to check the weather, look up USGS streamflow charts for any significant changes and calling the nearest fly shops for up to date reports are key to maximizing your time on the water.

What to expect over the next couple of weeks?

One thing to know is that trout are spawning in our local rivers and creeks, so be extra cautious when wading around and please give spawning fish a wide birth to ensure we continue to have healthy populations in the future.

The Gallatin has been in great shape. We've had just enough warm weather to maintain a beautiful green color, but not so much that the river has been unfishable at any time. That could change at any point right now, but I predict we have at least a couple more weeks until spring runoff really starts to take over.

Not a lot of activity on the surface as of late, but we are seeing some scattered baetis, skwallas, midges and micro stones. The standard nymph rigs will reign over the next couple of months, but those stubborn enough to track down sippers or tie on a Chubby Chernobyl with a Rubberlegs in tow should be rewarded with a few dry fly opportunities. Mother's Day Caddis are just around the corner as well.

The upper Madison is a champion. Hard not to make this river a regular part of your fishing routine. And as our local freestones begin to swell and dirty due to snowmelt this section remains a consistent producer. They will release more water out of the dam and its turbidity will increase, but the fish never stop doing what they do up there. This is a good time of year to start to spread out though. The Raynolds and \$3 area have seen a good amount of pressure already, so checking out some new territory is a good idea. The Valley Garden area is quite popular this time of year, but keep in mind this is an area littered with spawning redds.

This is the time of year to get some time in on the Yellowstone. Mother's Day caddis are right around the corner and the river is sure to get big and nasty by the middle of May. You streamer junkies have been hitting it for weeks already waiting for the big bite. Get it while the getting is good! That drainage has a lot of snow yet to melt.

Happy off-season!













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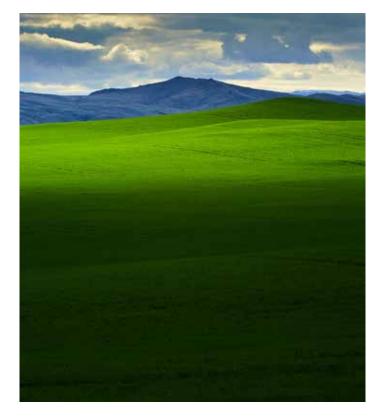
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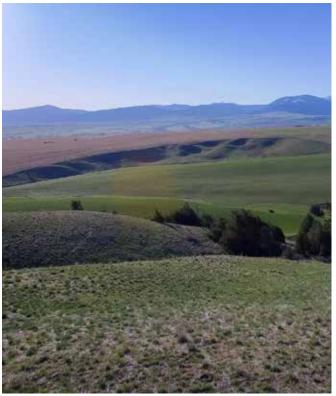




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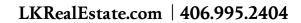


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### Jess Lockwood puts up 90-point ride where his BFTS career began

BY JUSTIN FELISKO EBS CONTRIBUTOR

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – One year later and Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was once again home to a first for Jess Lockwood on April 1.

Last year, Lockwood made his PBR Built Ford Tough Series debut here as a wide-eyed 18-year-old.

This year, the then No. 2 ranked bull rider in the world standings returned to competition following the first significant injury of his professional career. And he put up the third-highest score of the weekend.

"I have been at home going to physical therapy since after Iron Cowboy," Lockwood said prior to the event in Sioux Falls. "Luckily, it has been moving ahead of schedule each week, and I am ready to go now. There is no pain or anything."

Lockwood missed five weeks after tearing his left groin in February attempting to ride Cooper Tires Brown Sugar at the Iron Cowboy in Arlington, Texas.

The 2017 world title contender rehabbed with Kristy Elgin in Broadus, Montana, three times a week.

The physical therapist put Lockwood through various exercises to strengthen his left groin involving ankle weights, resistance bands and medicine balls during his one-hour sessions.

"Holy crap was it tough," Lockwood said. "She had me dripping in sweat each day. It sucked, but it was good."

Lockwood also got on his bucking machine but admitted, "that isn't much of a test," compared to a 1,800-pound bucking bull.

Outside of rehab, Lockwood kept things pretty low key.

He watched PBR events sparingly to see how his buddies, 2016 World Champion Cooper Davis or Derek Kolbaba, rode in competition.

Lockwood was also getting up at midnight and at 2 a.m. to check on his 15 cows that are in the calving process—he bought them after the 2016 World Finals.

"It was nice, but [I'd] rather be going [to compete] each weekend and be home during the week," he said.

Lockwood didn't drop any spots in the world standings while out with injury, but he lost significant ground on world leader Eduardo Aparecido.

The 26-year-old from Brazil earned 880 points toward the standings during Lockwood's absence and expanded his lead to 1,217.5 points.



Lockwood rides Jeff Robinson/TNT Bucking Bulls's Alligator Arms for 89.5 points to win the third round of the 2016 event in Billings.



Jess Lockwood celebrates after a 90.5-point ride during the championship round of the Stanley Performance in Action Invitational in Billings on April 17, 2016, to win both the round and the event. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BULL STOCK MEDIA

"He has been riding good," Lockwood said. "I have to get back there and do the same."

Lockwood was 11-for-21 (52.38 percent) with two victories and a fifth-place finish heading into the First PREMIER Bank/PREMIER Bankcard Invitational in Sioux Falls.

The 19-year-old entered the event with no intention to try and press to earn points or worry about trying to make up ground immediately in the world title race.

"I am just going to show up and try to ride every bull," Lockwood said before the first bucking chute swung open. "That is all I can do, is just ride my bulls. It doesn't matter what [Aparecido] or anyone else does. My job is to show up and ride."

Like many, nine-time world champion and PBR co-founder Ty Murray was interested to see how Lockwood would come back.

"I am curious to see what Jess is going to do," Murray said leading up to Lockwood's return. "I am really interested in Jess. There is so much pressure on him to be this perfect human and perfect kid. He needs to go have some fun. He has a lot of freaking potential."

While the teen was bucked off all three of his bulls in the main event, in the fourth 15/15 Bucking Battle of the season he regained the form that led him to two event wins earlier in the season.

Lockwood rode BC Circular Insanity for 90.25 points, his second 90-point ride of the season. His first monster ride at PBR's elite level also came on BC Circular Insanity when he rode the bull for 90 points in the championship round to clinch his second victory of the season Jan. 29 in Sacramento, California.

Lockwood understands there is always the chance of re-injuring his groin, but he believes he did all he could to get ready.

"I wasn't worried at all," Lockwood said. "[Eglin] strength-tested me and actually my left leg is stronger than my right leg now—left leg is 110 percent and right leg is 100. We are trying to work on the right leg too."

The risk of re-injury is why Lockwood listened to two-time world champion Justin McBride's advice.

"He said, 'I know you want to come back early and get some points. But don't come back too early or you will get hurt again and be out longer than you want,'" Lockwood said.

For his performance in South Dakota, Lockwood earned 90 points and as of EBS press time on April 12 was ranked No. 4 and trailed Aparecido by 1,127.50 points in the world standings.

Lockwood will look to further cut into the Brazilian's lead at the next Built Ford Tough Series stop in Tacoma, Washington. The Tacoma Invitational, presented by Cooper Tires, takes place April 22-23 at the Tacoma Dome, with the event's 15/15 Bucking Battle set to air on CBS on April 23 at 2 p.m. ET and Championship Sunday on CBS Sports Network on April 23 at 8 p.m. ET.

Justin Felisko is Senior Writer/Editor for Professional Bull Riders, the world's premier bull riding organization. He has contributed to SiriusXM Radio, 120 Sports, The New York Times, USA Hockey, the Colorado Springs Gazette and the Emmy-nominated documentary series, "Fearless." He would name a bull "Caffeine-a-holic" if he were given the chance.



## EYE ON THE BALL

#### 5 under-the-radar NFL draft prospects



BY BRANDON NILES EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

The NFL draft is nearly upon us, with round one set to begin on April 27, and it's time to start seriously looking at who teams may be targeting with each pick. The draft is probably my favorite sporting event of the year, as it brings renewed hope for all football fans. A great draft can lead to a dynasty of success, while a bad draft can set your team back for multiple seasons.

Since the players projected to go in the first round of the draft are already heavily publicized, I thought I'd take a look at five of my favorite players that may not hear their names called until late in the process. These may not be names you've heard of yet, but I'm convinced that they'll each have long NFL careers.

#### Taywan Taylor, wide receiver, Western Kentucky

Taylor caught 98 passes for 1,730 yards and 17 touchdowns last season for the Hilltoppers and came up big in the Boca Raton Bowl against Memphis, helping them to a 51-31 victory. The 5-foot-11-inch Taylor won't wow you with his size, but he has tremendous short-area quickness and was the top receiver at the combine in the three-cone drill

Taylor is skilled with the ball in his hands, and while he may not come off the board until the fourth or fifth round, he has big-play potential and could thrive in the right system. He'll likely be a slot receiver at the next level, but a smart offensive coordinator should be able to make use of this dynamic playmaker.

#### Duke Riley, linebacker, LSU

Aside from having one of the most football names you can possibly have, Riley has the speed and tenacity to thrive as a pro. He could stand to get a bit stronger, but he was the second fastest linebacker at the combine in the 40-yard dash and showed excellent range and instincts last season after emerging as a starter.

Riley would fit best as a weak-side linebacker in a 4-3 defense, where he can use his versatility without getting swallowed at the line. If he can bulk up a little without losing his elite speed, Riley could be a long-term starter. Expect him to go off the board in the fourth round.

#### Isaac Asiata, offensive guard, Utah

Another excellent combine performer, Asiata was the best among offensive linemen at the bench press. He also has remarkable quickness given his wide, 323-pound frame. Asiata can play with a lack of discipline, sometimes showing aggressiveness that causes problems in pass protection, but he's tenacious at the point of attack and is as strong as an ox.

Asiata's already an accomplished run blocker who drives through defenders and moves his feet well when he pulls. He'll likely be a middle-round pick, but has the physicality to be a starter early in his career.

#### Dalvin Tomlinson, defensive tackle, Alabama

Tomlinson might sneak into the third round, but I'd take him higher. I love nose tackles and feel they're underappreciated in the league considering the dirty work they do up front. Tomlinson is a stout, 310-pound monster.

He offers nothing as far as rushing the passer, but he occupies multiple blockers as a one-gap space-eater and disengages easily to stop inside runs. Tomlinson should be an immediate two-down impact player as a run-stopper in the NFL.

#### Trevor Knight, quarterback, Texas A&M

Any draft list wouldn't be complete without a quarterback and Knight is one of my favorite dark horse candidates to win a spot in the league—he's an excellent athlete with an above average arm. While he's only 6-feet-1-inch tall and 219 pounds, he plays bigger than his frame and has exceptional pocket awareness.

Knight's season was cut short due to a shoulder injury, but the Aggies were 7-1 until he got hurt against Mississippi State last year. Knight will be drafted late, if at all, but I see him as a potential diamond in the rough.

Keep an eye on each of these players during NFL draft weekend, and good luck to your favorite team as you watch the stars of tomorrow don their first NFL uniforms.

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-bost of the 2 Guys Podcast.



## Big Sky freeride athletes finish season strong

## Holden Samuels wins his second Junior NorAm title

BY AMANDA EGGERT **EBS SENIOR EDITOR** 

BIG SKY - For the second consecutive year, Big Sky snowboarder Holden Samuels won the Junior NorAm Championship event of the International Freeskier and Snowboarder Association tour.

Big Sky Ski Education Foundation freeride head coach Cooper Raasch said the win grants Samuels access to the Freeride World Tour event next year, as it did when he won the 2016 NorAm Championships in Whistler, British Columbia. Raasch said he's heard the next world tour will be helicopter-shuttled at Snowbird Resort in Utah or held at the last venue, Grandvalira in the Principality of Andorra. Samuels took home seventh place there in February.

The Kirkwood, California, event was invite-only and scheduled for April 5-9, but weather constraints—Raasch called it a "full blizzard"—effectively closed down the resort for two days. Although wind and snow restricted each athlete to one judged run instead of two, it also opened up access to a venue that's virtually always closed to the public.

"Kirkwod has so much snow right now that they let the kids ski the professional venue [which] has only ever been [skied] on the world tour," Raasch said.

Samuels, 17, made the most of his opportunity to ride the Kirkwood Cirque, laying down a clean run with airs off two 20-foot cliffs and one 10-footer. He scored nearly four full points ahead of second place; Raasch said that big of a point difference is typically seen between first and 30<sup>th</sup> place finishers.

Samuels is sponsored by Never Summer snowboards and has been tapped as a potential athlete for film company Teton Gravity Research out of Jackson, Wyoming, Raasch added.

Nehalem Manka, 14, finished the event in seventh place but earned enough points on the tour throughout the season to secure fourth place overall in the 12-14 skier division.

"She had a real nice, straight line through some rocks, took some air off some cliffs, stomped it all [and] skied a great run," said Peter Manka, Nehalem's father and coach.

Eleven-year-old skier Andrew Smith finished in 25th place out of nearly 50 athletes in the 12-14 division. "He had a great run and he's going to train really, really hard this summer and he's going to come back [and] do way better next year," Raasch said.

Nehalem's younger sister Skylar wrapped up her competition season at Grand Targhee Resort on April 2, finishing as the top North American IFSA skier in the under-12 division.

Manka said it was a good year for Big Sky freeriders. They competed against athletes from all over the U.S. and Canada and closed the season with two champions and one top-five finisher. "Big Sky kids know how to ski," he said.



Andrew Smith finished 25th in the NorAm Championships at Kirkwood, California. Smith's home base is in Minot, North Dakota, but he spends the majority of the winter in Big Sky to be closer to the Big Sky Freeride team. PHOTO BY COOPER RAASCH



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### Is salt the devil?



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

The American Heart Association has worked long and hard to educate people on the importance of a low sodium diet. But a 2016 study published in The Lancet, a long-standing medical journal, has shaken things up in the nutrition world.

The study concludes that only people with hypertension who eat a high in sodium diet should

be advised to lower their sodium intake. Study authors also say that whether or not you have hypertension, following a low sodium diet increases risk of cardiovascular complications and death.

It's easy to see how this, like much of the nutritional information we get, can cause confusion. President of the American Heart Association Mark Creager publicly criticized the study with the following statement on AHA's website: "The link is proven between excess sodium and high blood pressure, and I find it worrisome that adoption of the authors' recommendations may reverse the progress that has occurred in modifying dietary sodium intake and reducing the risk of high blood pressure and its effect on heart disease and stroke. Today's widely accepted sodium recommendations are based on well-founded scientific research—and that's what people should understand."

Eating too much sodium causes it to accumulate in the body. In order to dilute the excess sodium, the body retains water. This increases the amount of fluid surrounding cells as well as the volume of blood in the bloodstream. Increased blood volume causes the heart to work harder and adds pressure in blood vessels. This extra work can cause blood vessels to stiffen, which can lead to high blood pressure, heart attack and stroke. According the Center for Disease Control, one in every four American deaths is caused by heart disease.

We need salt to stay alive. It's an essential nutrient. But very little is needed in the diet. It's estimated that the body needs less than 500 milligrams of sodium per day to perform its functions. One teaspoon of salt contains 2,300 milligrams of sodium. The AHA recommends limiting sodium to 1,500 milligrams with the caveat that people with high blood pressure, diabetes or cardiovascular diseases should consume less. Yet the average American gets more than 3,400 milligrams of sodium per day—more than double the AHA's generous recommended limit.

So what gives? Why are we eating too much salt? The answer: processed foods. It's estimated that 10 percent of the salt we eat is naturally present in foods, 15 percent is added during cooking and at the table, and the remaining 75 percent comes from processed foods. Not only does sodium show up in canned foods, processed meats, cheese, salad dressings and packaged snacks, but also in products that we don't think of as "salty" foods like pasta, bread and cereal.

Sodium provides economic benefits to most companies. It's used as a preservative, prevents food-borne pathogens from developing, helps bind ingredients and enhances the color of the food. But perhaps most importantly, it improves the taste of processed foods.

I wish the message that the AHA blasted wasn't so much "eat less sodium" but instead, "eat more fresh fruits and vegetables and less processed foods." While sodium increases blood pressure, potassium helps relax blood vessels, excrete sodium and decrease blood pressure. Fruits and vegetables are naturally high in potassium and low in sodium. This is where the rubber meets the road. Eat fresh foods that you've prepared as often as possible. Adding a bit of salt from the salt shaker goes a long way compared to the sodium mashed into packaged foods.

Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach, culture consultant and public speaker. Contact her at jackie@corehealthmt.com.

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## Ligament tears rare when children injure their knees

BY DR. JEFF DANIELS EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

As we near the end of the ski season, I've been looking back at some of the more interesting injuries we've had in the clinic. Most injures have been minor tragedies for those involved, and luckily, there have been very few major tragedies. It's hard not to let every injury we see affect us in some way.

Of all the injuries that come through, the ones that get to me the most are when kids get hurt. They are only a small percentage of patients we treat, and none this season resulted in a long-term tragedy. Most often the patient's concern is, "How will I play baseball (or hockey, or lacrosse) with my broken wrist when I get home?" But there were some I remember for one reason or another.

Unlike adults, kids between 5 and 15 rarely injure their knees the way adults do. We see many adults who come in with a torn anterior cruciate ligament, more commonly known as an ACL, but this rarely happens in children. When it does, it presents in several ways and poses some unusual problems.

Most kids are small enough not to generate the amount of torque it takes to tear the ACL. Either that, or they are built with ACLs that are more resistant to tearing, possibly because the part of the tibia that the ACL attaches to gives and breaks before the ligament has a chance to tear.

Kids who present with this injury are usually brought in by the ski patrol with their injured leg wrapped in a brace. Even through ski clothing, we can tell that the knee is very swollen. Most haven't heard the "pop" that adults hear, or sense, when they tear their ACL. Also, most kids won't attempt to stand on the injured leg, while most adults are in denial and will try to get up and ski down with the immediate realization that the leg is unstable and they had better call ski patrol.

When an adult comes in with a torn ACL, I can usually move their knee around, often painlessly, and get a feel for the damage done. With kids, you can't even breathe on the injured knee; they just won't let you near it! So we have to rely on the clinical presentation, and then X-rays to get to the diagnosis.

Most kids who injure the ACL haven't torn it, but have pulled apart the surface of the tibia where the ACL attaches. This is usually obvious on the X-rays. The tibia can have several different types of fractures associated with this injury. Sometimes we see a thin band of bone floating inside the knee joint. In others, we see a fracture line through the entire tibial spine complex, a ridge of bone where the ACL attaches. Whatever we see, we know we are dealing with a significant injury, and it's going to take a long time to heal. Surgery is also an option.

The close of this season marks my 23rd ski season at Big Sky taking care of the injured and the sick on the mountain. Brad Poore and Myra Lemke on my office staff have chalked up their 21st ski seasons. Our physician assistant Cary Wilson, who has been in Big Sky longer than I have, just completed his third ski season as a provider of health care—prior to that, he helped injured skiers as a ski patroller. Kathryn Cody, Josie Gunderson, Katie Daniel and Yasmin Irazabal on my office staff, along with volunteers Greg Erickson and Johnny Perez, have kept the office running smoothly.

The program I created in 1998 for senior medical students, residents and sports fellows has helped the clinic provide the best care to all who've sought treatment here. This season, more than 60 health care professionals participated in this program, contributing to a total of more than 800 in the past 19 years.

I hope to continue this service to the Resort and to the Big Sky community, in one way or another, for many years to come.

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 800 medical students and young doctors to train with the Medical Clinic of Big Sky.





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### Incoming chamber CEO says growth presents opportunities, challenges

BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS SENIOR EDITOR

months a year in Montana.

BIG SKY - Candace Carr Strauss is crossing eight time zones to take the helm as CEO of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce in June.

Strauss has spent nearly a decade of her adult life in Montana—she was the director of marketing and development for the Billings Symphony, and later served as the director of development at Bozeman's Museum of the Rockies—but she'll be leaving Copenhagen, Denmark, to serve as the voice of Big Sky's business and tourism community.

Strauss moved to Copenhagen last August for her husband's job at Maersk Oil. Strauss spent a month in Big Sky with her family last summer and two weeks here over Christmas. "We've always kept a foot here in Montana,"

PHOTO COURTESY OF Strauss said. "My children consider this home." Her husband will continue to be based in Copenhagen, but will spend two to three

Britt Ide has been serving as interim chamber CEO since September, when former CEO Kitty Clemens left the post to take a position as the executive director of the Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority. The chamber announced Strauss' hire in March.

"I'm excited to come at a time of unprecedented growth," said Strauss, adding that she's been thinking at length about what smart growth looks like for Big Sky. "To be a part of that—it's a very special time."

Strauss, who will also lead Visit Big Sky in her new role, acknowledges that Big Sky's growth also represents the greatest challenge before her. In reference to the assortment of boards, committees and nonprofits that perform various



PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

functions of a city government in this unincorporated community, Strauss said she aims to "be an active participant and at the same time be a student of the system."

During Strauss' tenure in what she calls "the experiential economy," she's been tracking a shift in how the tourism industry courts consumers, manages their expectations and experience, and interfaces with residents. She said that the sharing economy, and technology furthering peer-to-peer information gathering, have changed the role of a convention and visitor's bureau.

Strauss said stewardship, rather than management, might be a better way to think about the role of a convention and visitors bureau when it comes to tourism. "It's one thing to manage what's being done in a destination to provide that great experience to a consumer, but it's another to be thoughtful to the

residents and the community [about] what kind of experience [we're] putting out there and is it the best for us to preserve who we are?"

Strauss said her daughter Madison and son Hunter will enroll in Big Sky School District's International Baccalaureate program, another selling point for their move. Madison, 14, and Hunter, 12, are currently enrolled in an IB program in Copenhagen.

Once she gets settled, Strauss said she's looking forward to fly fishing, playing golf and logging some kilometers on Lone Mountain Ranch's cross-country ski trails.

She said she's also looking forward to showcasing Big Sky when the Montana Governor's Conference on Tourism and Recreation comes here April 15-17, 2018.



## New Big Sky distributor opens markets to Montana goods

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY - Local business owner Alex McKenzie is excited to announce that his new food and beverage distributing company, Montana Prime, is beginning operation as an offshoot from his Big Sky ice cream company The Emperor of Ice Cream.

"Getting products in and out of Montana at a volume that makes sense for startups like [The Emperor of Ice Cream] can be prohibitively expensive for many small producers," McKenzie said. "It's about the economies of scale found in the commercial trucking industry. Many distributors have volume minimums that are impractical for small producers."

McKenzie's first startup, The Emperor of Ice Cream, opened last summer as a mobile ice cream cart that sells customized flavors like bourbon pecan pie and mojito sorbet at the Big Sky Farmers Market, the summer concert series Music in the Mountains, and other outdoor events. McKenzie partners with a creamery in Washington that makes each of the flavors he develops and for nearly a year McKenzie has trucked his custom ice cream from Seattle.

"I won't tell you how much I pay to have a single pallet of ice cream delivered to me here in Montana, but it's a lot," he said. "Two pallets is a bit cheaper, and eight pallets is much cheaper. But I don't really have a need for eight pallets of ice cream yet, you see?

"I know many other small Montana producers face the same challenges, and are either limited by the ingredient volumes they can actually use, or have to mark up their prices considerably to offset those shipping costs," he said.

Already driving a truck from Montana to Seattle, McKenzie spotted an opportunity to use his regular route to bring some of Montana's consumer goods to a larger market.

"It makes more sense to make that drive with a full truck rather than an empty truck," McKenzie said. "There's an opportunity to cover our traveling costs by carrying other products in to the Pacific Northwest, and we happen to believe in the Danny Meyer approach to the food and beverage business: that by investing in our community and supporting other Montana producers, we can all benefit."

"Montana is a huge state with not a lot of people. It's why I live here, but it can be difficult for small businesses like my own," said Patrick Burr, owner of Roots Kitchen and Cannery in Bozeman. Burr recently signed with Montana Prime and will begin by distributing three jam flavors and two types of pickles.

"Montanans are very proud of the products made in this state and are very supportive, but it can be hard with a population that is so spread out," Burr said. "For us, expanding our distribution to the Northwest is huge. It will allow us to reach a whole new demographic and show them a unique view into Montana's food culture."

The new distributors will focus on bringing Montana products to markets in the greater Pacific Northwest, including Seattle and Portland, and as the company grows, Montana Prime hopes to bring products back to Montana with The Emperor of Ice Cream's pallets of ice cream. As of EBS press time, seven Montana producers have signed and will be represented by Montana Prime, including McKenzie's own company, The Emperor of Ice Cream.

McKenzie said Montana Prime is focusing on all-natural products that can command a competitive price with similar products produced in Washington and Oregon. "With the increasing consumer desire for locally made products, we feel that having a great product backed by a clean ingredient statement and attractive packaging are all vital to being able to compete outside of Montana," he said.

The Good Stuff Botanicals, based in the Flathead Valley, is excited to join with Montana Prime in selling organic skin care products to new communities.

"We've tried a couple other distributors but they didn't care about our products or us, so we didn't have a lot of confidence that they would be able to sell us," said Maranda Johnson, co-owner and operator. "The folks behind the curtain at Montana Prime are eager and show a genuine interest in our company. We finally feel comfortable opening up the gates and doing business with them on our team. We're excited to get into new territory, pick-up some new accounts so we can expand a little more and hire a couple employees so we can really get rocking."

McKenzie is meeting with retail buyers in Washington in order to secure new accounts for some of Montana Prime's new purveyors. The company has also



Alex McKenzie (below), owner of the The Emperor of Ice Cream, recently opened his second startup, Montana Prime, a distributing company that will focus on bringing Montana goods to the Pacific Northwest. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALEX MCKENZIE



applied for a federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade permit so as to share Montana beer and distilled spirits with the Pacific coast.

Montana Prime is solidifying a delivery route and product catalog and is continuing to add retailers and wholesale producers to their client list.

For more information about Montana Prime or to inquire about a partnership, visit montanaprime.co or call (406) 595-3392.





### **Sous Vide**

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER **EBS STAFF** 

Sous vide (SOO'-veed) is a French term that means "under vacuum." It is a cooking technique in which vacuum-sealed foods are cooked at a very precise, controlled temperature in a water bath. This technique was once only an option for restaurant chefs but it has recently become more accessible to home cooks.

A sous vide provides unparalleled control over whatever food you choose to cook, whether it's meat, eggs or vegetables. The vacuum sealing process also allows flavors to be more intensely infused into foods. Additionally, this device removes any guesswork that might be involved in your cooking process by controlling temperature down to one-tenth of a degree.

You might be wondering why on earth it would be necessary or beneficial to cook things that precisely.

Poached and soft-boiled eggs are great examples of foods that benefit from the precise, controlled environment of sous vide. The white of an egg cooks at a lower temperature than the yolk. By setting your sous vide at 147 degrees Fahrenheit, the whites of the egg will set up, while the yolks, which require a higher temperature to coagulate, will remain runny. This temperature can be adjusted down 1 to 2 degrees, depending on how soft you prefer your egg whites.

Another great use for the sous vide technique is for preparing meat. Many home cooks struggle with getting meat to their desired level of doneness. A steak, for example, will be a perfect medium rare when it reaches 130 to 135 F. Place a vacuum-sealed steak into your sous vide at 130 F and once it's done, place it on a hot grill just to get grill marks on the outside and to achieve that charred grill flavor.



Soft boiled eggs heating up to temperature in a sous vide water bath. Since eggs already have a shell that makes the inpenatrable by water, a ziploc bag rather than a true vacuum sealed bag will do the trick. PHOTO BY MARK BIRKMEIER

Once a kitchen appliance only available to restaurant chefs, sous vide cooking has become more mainstream and available for home cooks. You can purchase a household sous vide device just as you might any other kitchen appliance. Non-commercial versions are more portable. Attach them to a large pot of water, punch in the desired temperature and you're set.

Regardless of what ingredients or flavor profiles you're preparing, a sous vide machine is a great appliance to add to your kitchen. Many food blogs and recipe books are picking up sous vide as a cooking technique, making it easy to find something that will appeal to your taste buds and skill level. It will certainly make whipping up an eggs benedict brunch—a once-tedious chore—an easy task that your family will love!

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.

## In the end, we're just not that important



BY SCOTT MECHURA **EBS FOOD COLUMNIST** 

I was recently reflecting on my writing for EBS, and how, as well as writing about food and cooking, one of my goals was to give the reader a look behind the swinging doors of a restaurant: what goes on behind the scenes, how we operate daily, and just what goes on in a chef's head.

Food TV has been, for better or worse, the key player in glamorizing chefs and the restaurant world. And yet, what we do is simply not that important when put into context.

Recently, after an evening of service at Buck's T-4, I was approached by a gentleman while I was enjoying a glass of wine at the bar. He heard that I was the chef, and wanted to praise Buck's for the "unbelievable" meal he and his friends had just had. I told him how much I appreciated the compliment and that I would pass it along to the staff, as they are the ones who generally do the heavy lifting.

But it didn't end there, as these conversations are often just the beginning. He started to talk about wild game and how great it would be to have a restaurant like Buck's where he lived in Brooklyn, New York.

Being fascinated by chefs in general, he started asking me about my life—what got me here and where I came from. He was fascinated by my military high school experience, and the fact that I didn't go to culinary school; that I learned my work ethic from my grandfather, father and younger brother, simply by example; and at times what a difficult business this is.

I tell you this because the conversation then moved to him and his group of friends, who by this point were truly immersing themselves in the Buck's après dinner experience at our bar. It turned out they were all retired New York City firemen. I discovered that all of them were on "the pile"—a term I had never heard before—of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

I don't think that would have come out had I not pressed him about his past, the way he did me.

I told him how I had just visited the Newseum in Washington, D.C., and was moved by the 9/11 exhibit. He then spoke in detail about being on the scene in the minutes, days and hours after the attacks; how with each overturned piece of concrete and steel, they hoped to find someone, anyone, alive.

Sometimes they did find survivors, other times a glimpse of an arm or a leg was met with nothing more than a lifeless victim. In the 20 minutes that we talked, he became too emotional to speak three separate times. It was one of the most moving conversations I've had in a long time.

I couldn't help thinking that here he was talking about his amazing time at Buck's and how impressed he was with the hard work we put forth everyday, while this group of men were part of the team that worked for days at a time, doing everything they could to save lives.

"I never got your name," he said finally. "Scott" I replied.

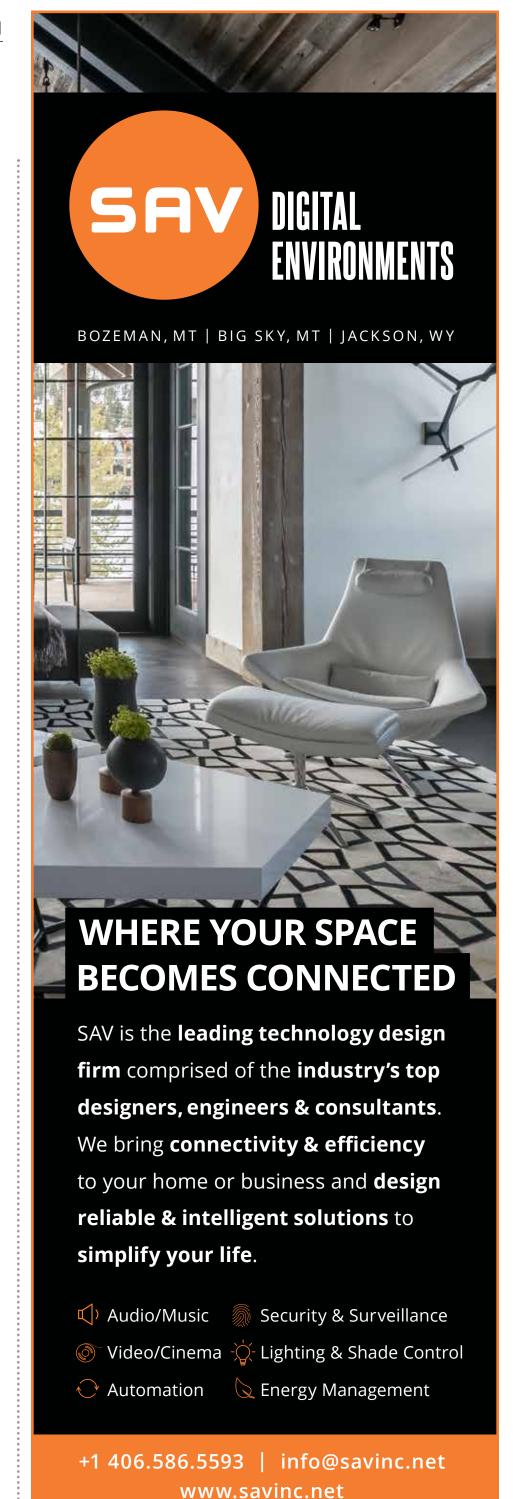
"Tommy, Tommy Burke," he responded.

"Thank you for everything all of you did," I said, still shaking his hand. He got a little teary one last time as we said goodbye.

All the stress and frustration that I feel at times in my profession seemed so unimportant and trivial in that moment. Honestly, I almost felt embarrassed.

"It's only food," I sometimes tell myself in times of pressure. Those words never rang louder in my head than as I turned to walk away.

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.





## THANK YOU BIG SK

For your support of Lone Peak Interact's outreach trip to Nepal

The Interact Club will present what they learned from the experience during a free community event

Monday, May 1 at 6 p.m. WMPAC, Free Admission











## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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**Section 3:**OUTDOORS, FUN
& BACK 40







## INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



## Yellowstone roads start reopening to vehicle traffic April 21

Entrance fees waived April 15-16 and 22-23

**EBS STAFF** 

Entrance to Yellowstone National Park is free during two weekends in April. The entrance fee to the United States' 59 national parks is waived April 15-16 and April 22-23 in recognition of National Park Week, a nine-day celebration of America's national park system.

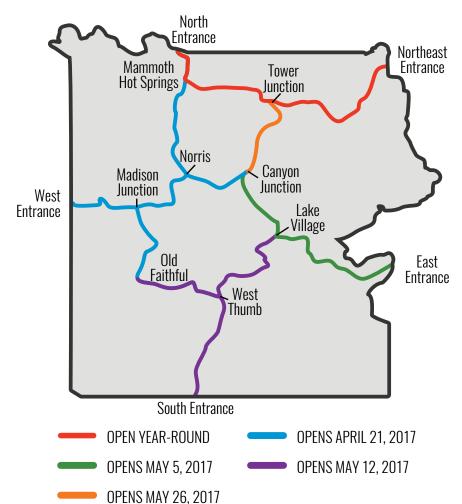
Weather permitting, about half of the roads through Yellowstone National Park will be open to vehicle traffic on April 21. The following roads in the northwest corner of the park are slated for an April 21 opening: the West Entrance to Madison Junction, Mammoth Hot Springs to Old Faithful and Norris to Canyon Junction. The North Entrance at Gardiner, Montana, through Tower Junction and into Cooke City, Montana, is open year-round.

On May 5, Sylvan Pass connecting Lake Village to the East Entrance will open. Canyon Junction to Lake Village will also open.

Roads in the southern end of the park will reopen May 12, including the South Entrance to West Thumb, Tower Junction to Tower Fall, Lake Village to West Thumb, and Craig Pass connecting West Thumb to Old Faithful.

Dunraven Pass, which is located in the heart of the park and connects Tower Fall to Canyon Junction, will open May 26. The Beartooth Highway east of Cooke City is also slated to open May 26, the Friday preceding Memorial Day.

For the most up to date information on road conditions, visit nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/parkroads or call (307) 739-3682.



## Scientists predict expansion of US grizzly bear habitat

JACKSON, Wyo. (AP) - Grizzly bears continue to expand their range amid an ongoing effort to turn over management of the bears from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the states of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, a federal official said.

"We've seen an 11 percent change in increasing range in just a couple of years," Frank van Manen, head scientist of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team, said last week at a meeting in Jackson.

Since coming under the protection of the Endangered Species Act, grizzlies have steadily expanded their habitat outward from the population's core in Yellowstone National Park.

The fringes of the grizzly range, van Manen said, are typically occupied by dispersing young boar bruins. Typically, he said, there's a multiyear lag before female bears will fill in territories already settled by males.

"Given what we've seen in the Wind River Range [with male bears], I wouldn't be surprised if females were close behind within a matter of five years," van Manen said.

The Wind River Range is located in west-central Wyoming, southeast of Yellowstone.

Van Manen anticipated continued expansion into the Wyoming Range, a livestockdense landscape where he said bear conflicts with livestock and humans are inevitable. "Bears are simply entering a landscape where the potential for conflict is greater," he said.

Twenty-seven percent of grizzly range within the region is now outside a "demographic monitoring area" where bear numbers are assessed annually.

The population of grizzlies within the monitoring area has fallen for two consecutive years, from about 750 animals to 690.

But van Manen noted that grizzly numbers outside the monitoring area are not counted and said he is confident the population is now at the highest point in decades.

"Since listing, there's no doubt that we are now at a point that we have the largest population size," he told the Jackson Hole News & Guide.

Center for Biological Diversity attorney Andrea Santarsiere said that she was concerned by the decline in grizzly numbers, and worried that hunting could soon occur near the Yellowstone and Grand Teton park boundaries if states gain management authority.

"We are made to believe that hunting and management are synonymous," Santarsiere said. "I would say that they're not. Agencies here are touting a recovered population, and we got where we are today without hunting."

A final rule to delist the Yellowstone-area grizzly bear as a federally protected endangered species will be released as early as June, federal officials said at the meeting.

# #EDDY Line



BY PATRICK STRAUB EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

In my 20s, I spent a lot of time fishing alone. From long day hikes to the meadows of Slough Creek to late nights fishing mouse patterns on the East Gallatin after the band at the Filling Station ceased playing, very few anglers could match my frantic fishing pace. Anytime I wasn't

working to make money to spend on fishing, I was wetting a line in our local waters.

As I reached my 30s, fishing became more social. Logging 130-plus days a year as fishing guide forced that hand a little, but I enjoyed a boat full of friends and beer more than the solitude of heading off on foot. Now that I'm in my 40s, having my wife and two kids with me in the boat is as good as it gets. When I do choose to fish with others, I choose wisely.

We can all use more friends, but choosing the best angling partner can involve a little trial-and-error. Here's some insight for both you and your angling friend.

**Similar angling interests.** You obviously share a love of fly fishing. Be sure to choose an angling companion who shares a complimentary passion—chucking streamers, technical dry-fly fishing, hiking miles into remote waters to catch a native Grayling, into the carp game, and so forth. If you're polar opposites, it will be tough to maintain the angling friendship. While fishing together you certainly fish differently, as it's OK for one of you to deep nymph with a worm or an egg and the other to prospect with dry flies.

Not identical interests. Similar interests are one thing, but identical interests can be cause for trouble. If you both only enjoy fishing size 10 dry flies on secluded waters, you might be vying for the same hole every time you fish. I enjoy fishing with others who have a slightly different take on the best ways to catch fish. It allows me to learn from them, and if what they're doing isn't working, it's a feather in my cap that I'm doing something right.

Don't choose a cheapskate. A day of fishing usually entails burning some gas to get to a river. There might also be a sack lunch during the day or après fishing cocktails or dinner. Choose a companion who offers to drive every now and then. One who doesn't flinch at buying a round when you catch a 2-footer. And, always look in the mirror—make sure you're the guy driving some and buying some. This also applies if you have a friend with a boat. If you can row, row your fair share. If you cannot row

## Angling companions: Choose wisely



Choosing the right angling companion can mean the difference between bent rods and smiles and frustration and fishless days. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

and you're fishing in your friend's boat, you better learn to row if you want to be invited back.

**Secrets are for loners.** A surefire way to always fish alone is to catch fish but never be willing to share the love. I'm a firm believer in fishing karma and sharing information is a foundation of good fishing karma. If your angling companion is one worth keeping and you're always catching and they are not, share the good news. Tell them what fly they're biting on... but also let them self discover; you don't always have to tell them what size tippet you are using and exactly where to place the fly.

A dog also counts as a fishing companion. Most of our fly fishing, at its core, is an experience between an angler, a river and the hope a fish will rise. Bringing your dog on a fishing trip with other anglers is not always the best idea, but an angling session with just you and your dog is often ideal. A dog will never comment on your back cast, is always happy to go fishing, and will most likely fall asleep on the way home.

With a family and two businesses, finding personal time to fish—where it's just me, the river and the flies I choose to tie on—is hard-fought time to come by. I'm lucky because I can fish anytime I want. I'm unlucky because I'm too choosy about fishing companions but I've also had well over half my life to find out what I like and whom I want to enjoy it with.

Pat Straub is the co-founder of the Montana Fishing Guide School and the author of six books, including "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Fly Fishing." He and his wife own Gallatin River Guides in Big Sky and he co-owns Montana Fishing Outfitters.



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## Upper Gallatin Drought/Water Supply Focus Group Meeting



April 27th
10:30-12 pm
Big Sky Water and Sewer
District Conference Room

**Meeting Objective:** Participants will work to develop a vulnerability assessment and prioritize sectors most susceptible to drought conditions in Big Sky

RSVP to Emily Casey at emily@gallatinrivertaskforce.org

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



#### JACK CREEK ROAD \$18,750,000 | #205504 | Call Stacy or Eric

The largest parcel in Moonlight just got larger! 2,636± acres, via a private gated road. The Ranch includes a custom log home and several other building locations with spectacular mountain vistas. In between Big Sky and Ennis, co-listed with Swan Land Co.



#### 235 FOUR POINT ROAD \$2,100,000 | #219569 | Call Don

3bd/5ba home in Antler Ridge with views of Lone Mountain from all three bedrooms, the great room and from the sunny south facing deck. In-floor radiant heating, each bedroom is a suite. Reclaimed beams, granite, high end appliances, convenient mid-mountain location!



#### 48784 GALLATIN ROAD \$7,100,000 | #215673 | Call Don

Outstanding 83± acre recreational parcel with Gallatin River Frontage & vibrant springs, one of which flows into a large stocked pond. Main house, guest house, caretakers quarters & historic barn. Direct access into public land, within minutes of Town Center.



#### NORTHFORK ROAD \$1,800,000 | #209944 | Call Don

216± Acres, heavily forested with meadows, approx. 34 mile of Northfork flows through. Borders public land, great cross country ski property.



#### 4 LITTLE PLUME RD, CASCADE HIGHLANDS \$2,900,000 | #216922 | Call Stacy or Eric

Fantastic custom, hand built, true post and beam timber frame ski in/ski out home on 1.7± acres with unobstructed views of Lone Mountain. 4 BR/5 BA/3 car attached garage plus 1 BR/1 BA guest suite apartment over the garage. Great rental income!



#### TIMBER RIDGE LOT 2

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

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



#### SUMMIT VIEW PH 3, LOT 5 \$498,000 | #211526 | Call Stacy or Eric

One of 5 lots in private, gated, Summit View Phase 111. This 4.5± acre lot is in a premier location in Big Sky Mountain Village and has views toward Lone Mtn and Beehive Basin.



#### SUMMIT CONDO 701 & 702 \$315,000 | #217952 | Call Stacy or Eric

East facing luxurious ski/ in ski/out unit in 4-star Summit Hotel. Two queen beds, full bath and wet bar in Room 702. Connecting Room 701 has a Murphy bed plus sleeper sofa, fully equipped kitchen, full bath and gas fireplace. Full service building, walking proximity to dining and shopping.



#### TIMBERLOFT DRIVE RECREATIONAL \$475,0000 #206525 \$425,000 #206527 | Call Don

Outstanding views of Lone Mountain/ Spanish Peaks, grassy meadows with forested building site! Accessed by private electronically gated road. Additional acre-

age available up to 140± more acres.



#### FOURPOINT RD, ANTLER RIDGE LOT \$240,000 | #214051 | Call Don

.35± acre ridge lot, great building site, views of Lone Mtn, Yellow Mtn, and canyon. One of the first lots sold when initially offered, rolling hillside topography with community W/S.



#### SNOWY MOUNTAIN CIRCLE \$455,000 | #214881 | Call Eric

Great location in Westfork's high traffic Blue Grouse Commercial. Space is laid out with reception, offices and open space. Flexible floor, open floor plan with 2,467± sf. Private egress and main entry. Full bath, kitchen, laundry areas.



#### TBD ANACONDA \$159,000 | #208052 | Call Don

Great building site, across the street from a park, views of the surrounding mountains will be preserved. Large over 15,000± sf lot in a rectangular format to allow a great deal of flexibility in positioning a home!



## On the Trail: How to be bear aware

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

#### BY CIARA WOLF **BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

While out on the trail April 2, I was quickly reminded that this is the time of year to brush up on your wildlife identification skills, check your equipment and spend some time refreshing your memory about what it means to be bear aware. About a ¼-mile into a hike up Porcupine Trail with my son and two dogs, we ran into fresh bear tracks.

After the bears' long winter hibernation, we're not necessarily accustomed to grabbing bear spray and being on the lookout for bear signs while we recreate, but I encourage you to spend a couple of minutes reviewing the following information now that bears are emerging from their winter dens.

- 1. Check your bear spray expiration date. Bear spray only keeps it's potency for four years. When the only thing between you and a grizzly is a can of spray, I can guarantee you will want the highest level of potency possible. Replace your can if it has expired and recycle your old one at Grizzly Outfitters here in Big Sky.
- 2. Review the bear identification card that Bear Smart Big Sky put together so you can recognize differences between grizzlies and black bears. You can find this info at bscomt.org/bear-smart. Confidence in your identification skills will allow you to make educated decisions and reactions if an encounter occurs.

- 3. Review what you can do if you encounter a bear or see signs of bear activity while you are recreating. Knowing and memorizing how to react will make these habitual no matter what situation you're in. (See the chart below for more info.)
- 4. Report sightings to keep your fellow recreation partners safe and informed of bear patterns and locations here in Big Sky. Reports can be made online at bscomt.org/bear-smart and will go directly to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- 5. Remind your friends and family who recreate to do the same!

Those who live in or visit Big Sky are choosing to cohabitate with lots of wildlife. It's one of the many special aspects of Big Sky that make it so unique. However, in making that choice, it's your responsibility to be educated and prepared for an encounter with a bear or moose. BSCO hopes that through its community education and preparation efforts, you can continue to enjoy recreating, while staying safe and keeping our local wildlife safe and healthy too.

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.

### BEAR ENCOUNTERS

#### IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BLACK BEAR OR GRIZZLY BEAR IN THE WILD:

- Back away - Do not run
- Do not climb a tree
- Stay in a group
- Stay Calm
- Have your bear spray ready

If you have time to distinguish between a grizzly bear or black bear:



#### THE GRIZZLY BEAR APPROACHES YOU

- Speak quietly
- Avoid eye contact
- Back away
- Have your bear spray in hand and ready

#### THE GRIZZLY BEAR CHARGES YOU

- Remain standing
- Use your bear spray

#### THE GRIZZLY BEAR ATTACKS YOU

- Use your bear spray
- Experts recommend lay flat on your stomach or curl in a ball
- Cover your neck and head with your hands
- Avoid eye contact
- Keep backpacks on as added protection between you and the bear



#### THE BLACK BEAR APPROACHES YOU

- Appear bigger by raising your arms
- Have your bear spray in hand and ready

#### THE BLACK BEAR CHARGES YOU

- Stand your ground
- Have bear spray ready and

#### THE BLACK BEAR ATTACKS YOU

- Use your bear spray
- Fight back

#### Bear conflicts are a community issue.

Big Sky, visit us online at





Bears are emerging from their winter hibernation, and their tracks can be found on local trails like Cinnamon Mountain (pictured) and Porcupine. PHOTO BY AMANDA EGGERT



NPS PHOTO





### **Big Sky**

83± acre recreational parcel w/ Gallatin River frontage, which flows into a large stocked pond. Main house, guest house, caretakers quarters & historic barn. Within minutes of Town Center.



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





### First Security Bank

### **Lunch & Learn:**

### INTO TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR NON-PROFITS

Learn the basics of financial statements and what potential funders are likely to consider. A resort tax board representative will be available for Q&A.

> Monday, April 24th | 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM First Security Bank, Big Sky

> > Lunch provided Please RSVP to elexm@ourbank.com For more info call 406.993.3350

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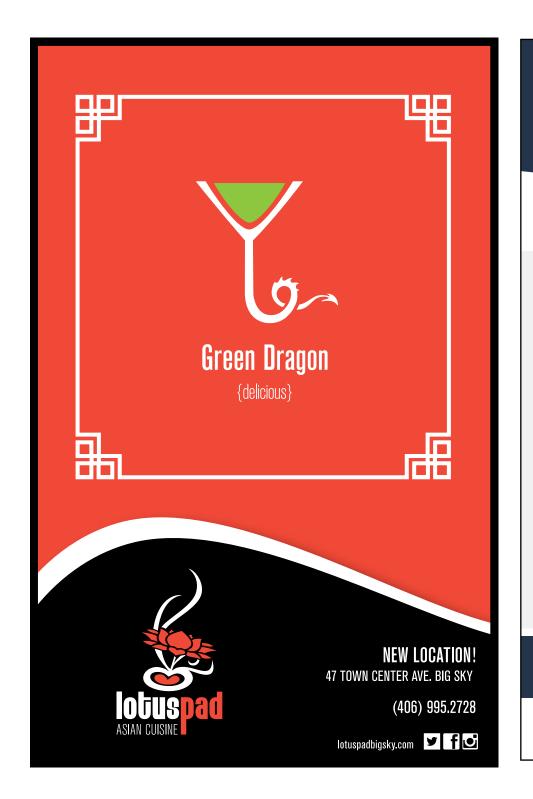




# MOUNTAIN OUTLAW

SUMMER ISSUE ON SHELVES JUNE 2017

**RUN WITH THE BEST** EMAIL ERSIN@OUTLAW.PARTNERS TO GET INVOLVED



# WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Gallatin River Task Force awards cash rebates to Big Sky residents, who choose to make water conservation a priority at home. **Each drop of water saved is one that remains in the river.** 

### **Indoor Rebate Program**



### Toilets: Up to \$250 per installation address

- \$150/ toilet for homes built in 1996 or earlier
- \$50/toilet for homes built after 1996
- All WaterSense labeled products qualify



### Clothes Washers: \$150 per installation address

 Washers must be Tier 1, 2 or 3 or have a water factor of less than 4



### Shower Heads: Up to \$40 per installation address

- •\$20 per head
- All WaterSense labeled products qualify

### **Outdoor Rebate Program**



Outdoor Audits & Sprinkler System Checkups:

• \$100 off from qualifying providers



Smart Controllers: Up to \$250 value per installation address

• 50% off retail



Rain Sensors: Up to a \$50 value per installation address

• 50% off retail



Sprinkler Heads & Nozzles: 50% off retail for each

Apply today at gallatinrivertaskforce.org/projects/waterconservation/
Contact Emily Casey at bigskywaterconservation@gmail.com | (406) 993-2519











## Big Sky Resort closes another successful season April 16



Two new high-speed lifts were added at the resort this year to replace the old Triple chair and Challenger lifts. Big Sky's 2025 plan will include an additional 10 lifts, night skiing and 10 new restaurants. PHOTO BY CODY WHITMER



(ABOVE) Big Sky Resort's SnoBar took après-ski to a new level for the 12<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Hundreds of partygoers gathered for two back-to-back weekends of festivities in a bar created solely from snow and ice, in the shadow of Lone Peak. PHOTOS BY GABE PRIESTLEY



(ABOVE) Ski mountaineers from around the world gathered to participate in the Shedhorn Skimo race in March. The race is designed to put contestants' mountaineering, skiing and endurance skills to the test.

(BELOW) The Headwaters Spring Runoff showcased local junior freeride talent from near and far as they demonstrated their technical abilities on the difficult, tight lines of some of Big Sky's steepest terrain.



(BELOW) A new event at the resort, the Sam Adams 3-D Air and Après Show Tour, drew a huge crowd. The event combined world-class skiing and snowboarding alongside 3-D graphics that were projected onto the faces and sides of the jumps. Live music, fireworks and an athlete meet-and-greet rounded out the event.



### Fishing gear manufacturer launches initiative to protect waterways

SIMMS FISHING PRODUCTS

On March 3, Simms Fishing Products, the Bozeman-based manufacturer of waders, outerwear, footwear and technical fishing apparel, launched a campaign titled Save Our Streams to raise money and awareness for the protection and preservation of America's most iconic waterways.

Across the United States, a multitude of watersheds beloved by anglers and relied upon by fishing-focused businesses face threats in the form of mines, pollution, closure and more. Anglers have a special appreciation of these bodies of water, but the reality is that their health has a direct effect on more than just the fishing community.

"The health of our rivers and streams doesn't only have an effect on our business here at Simms, it has an effect on any and all businesses that rely on clean water," said Simms owner and CEO K.C. Walsh. "It's my hope that the fishing industry as a whole, and the greater fishing community, can come together, take action and make a difference so that future generations can enjoy the same privilege that we have."

Through Save Our Streams, Simms aims to lead by example. Each month, Simms will launch a limited edition T-shirt of a threatened river or stream, designed by renowned artists from across the country. A portion of every T-shirt sale will go back to a non-profit partner fighting on the front lines toward the conservancy of that particular body of water.

Save Our Streams will first focus on a river very near and dear to Bozeman-based Simms Fishing Products, the Yellowstone. Presently, two foreign-backed gold mining companies, Lucky Minerals and Crevice Mining Group, are planning to explore along the banks of the upper tributaries of the Yellowstone River. Both exploration and large-scale mines would put hundreds, if not thousands, of jobs that rely on this river at risk and could threaten the ecological health of the river.

To bolster efforts against the proposed mines on the Yellowstone, Simms has partnered with the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. Founded in 1983, GYC is the



The Yellowstone River will be the focus of the Simms Save Our Streams campaign during the month of April. NPS PHOTO

only locally based group that advocates full time for the 20-million-acre, Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

"We're honored to be working with Simms to protect the Yellowstone River," said GYC's executive director Caroline Byrd. "Anglers are passionate about protecting their home waters and they understand that gold mines and the Yellowstone River don't mix."

Simms will shift their Save Our Streams focus to Minnesota's Boundary Waters in May, followed by Montana's Smith River in June.

Learn more at simmsfishing.com/sos and greateryellowstone.org.

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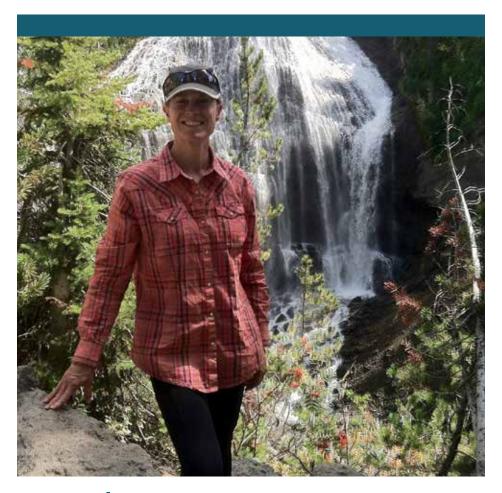
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WHEN

League starts Late May Final Team Fee due June 1st, 2017



COST \$600/team

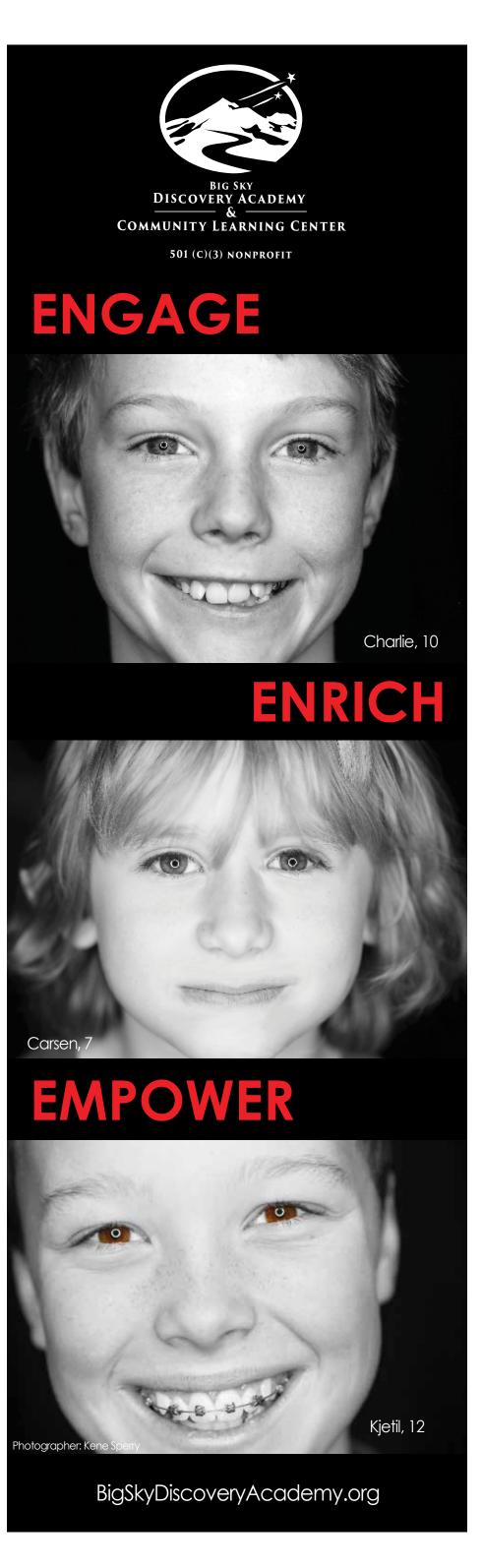


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### WORKSHOPS & SPECIAL EVENTS

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Participants welcomed from near or far.

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### We will be closed the week of April 16-23rd

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# NEW CONSTRUCTION IN TOWN CENTER -Similar unit pictured.

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# GEAR REVIEWS

### Slumberjack In-Season 2

When the temperature drops and the snow starts flying, it's time to dust off the burly four-season tent. Enter Slumberjack, a gear manufacturer that has been in the game of outdoor sleep systems for over 50 years.

With a sturdier pole structure and sloped vestibules to withstand gusting winds, the two-person, 9-pound In-Season 2 is designed to withstand the harshest weather year-round while providing a comfortable and spacious backcountry shelter. Geared toward the late season hunter on a cold-weather mission, this tent could serve as a great remote base camp solution for any number of low-temp pursuits.

Typical of most winter activities, doing much of anything with gloves on presents a considerable challenge. However, the In-Season 2 incorporates large clips and over-sized strips of velcro, allowing for easy set up while maintaining critical warmth. The only task that may be difficult with gloves on would be attaching the included guy-lines to tie-on points on the outside of the rain fly, although the seasoned explorer would know that tying them on beforehand would be to their advantage.

While other tents become inadequate when the temperature drops, Slumberjack's In-Season 2 gives any adventurer the ability to sleep comfortably all winter long.

-Wes Overvold

### \$270 slumberjack.com



PHOTO BY WES OVERVOLD

### **Jelt Belt**

The sharp, simple Jelt Belt boasts a host of snazzy features that will make anyone wearing it feel good. Eco-conscious consumers will appreciate that Jelt Belts are made out of recycled plastic water bottles and, working with the Montana Correctional Enterprise Program at the Montana Women's Prison, manufactured largely here in Montana. The Bozeman-based company also donates \$1 of every Jelt Belt purchase to Warriors and Quiet Waters Foundation, a nonprofit that employs fly fishing to heal combat veterans.

Practical people on-the-go will rejoice in Jelt Belt's stretchy comfort and versatility while zipping through airport security with one less article of clothing to remove—Jelt Belts are completely metal-free. Finally, whether you fancy stripes or solids, fashionistas will dig the retro-inspired design and flat clasp that eradicates any unseemly buckle bulge. And get this—grippy gel lettering holds the belt in place, providing the freedom to accessorize, loops or no loops.

–Sarah Gianelli

### \$30 jeltbelt.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF JELT BELT





### SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



### GET OUT, LEARN AND GROW!

Women In Action is offering Summer Camp Scholarships to boys and girls aged 4 to 17 who want to attend the summer camp of their choice—whether it is a day camp, over-night camp, camp in Big Sky or one in the surrounding area. Get out, learn and grow! Summer Camp Scholarships are based on financial need.

Summer Camp Scholarships are provided by the **Camp Angel Scholarship** fund.

### APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MAY 1, 2017!

Send completed Summer Camp Scholarship Applications to *info@wiabigsky.org* OR to:

WIA Summer Camp Scholarships
PO Box 161143
Big Sky, MT 59716

Applications are available at Big Sky School, Morningstar Learning Center, and on the **Women In Action's** website—www.wiabigsky.org



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Montana Cabin Caretakers - Big Sky Property Management Company now hiring caretakers. This is a full time/year round job. Candidates must live in the Big Sky area, have good communication skills, be well organized, and able to multitask in a fast paced environment. Construction, homeowner or handyman experience preferred. Must have a clean driving record and pass a background check. Benefits package/bonus available. Pay DOE. Part time positions also available. Email resume to info@mtcaretakers.com

**Family Outreach** is hiring a Children's Autism Trainer to work approximately 20 hours per week. For inquiries, contact Cassie Lovejoy 406-587-2477 or clovejoy@familyoutreach.org

### **LEGAL**

Resolution of Intent to Impose an Increase in Levies (SB 307)

As an essential part of the budgeting process, the Big Sky School District #72 Board of Trustees is authorized by law to impose levies to support its budget. The Big Sky School District #72 Board of Trustees estimated the following increases/decreases in revenues and mills for the funds noted below for the next school fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 (FY18), using certified taxable valuations from the current school fiscal year as provided to the district:

Fund Supported	Estimated Change in Revenues*	Estimated Change in Annual Mills*	Estimated Anual Impact, Home of \$100,000*	Estimated Annual Impact, Home of \$200,000*	
Adult Education	\$0 increase	O mills	\$0 increase	\$0 increase	
Bus Depreciation	\$30,000 increase	1.41 increase	\$1.90 increase	\$3.80 increase	
Transportation	\$0 increase	O mills	\$0 increase	\$0 increase	
Tuition	\$0 increase	0 mills	\$0 increase	\$0 increase	
Building Reserve	\$66,900 increase	3.14 increase	\$4.24 increase	\$8.48 increase	
Total	\$96,900 increase	4.55 increase	\$6.14 increase	\$12.28 increase	

\*Impacts above are based on current certified taxable valuations from the current school fiscal year.

- Regarding the increase in the Bus Depreciation levy referenced above, the school district purchased a new school (yellow) bus this year with these funds. The Bus Depreciation Fund is, in effect, the bus replacement savings account based on depreciation dollars. This is a non-voted, permissible levy with purpose to accumulate funding for future bus replacement.
- Regarding the increase in the building reserve levy referenced above, the following are school facility maintenance projects anticipated to be completed:
- 1. Replace carpet at high school gym entrance
- 2. Install updated internet cable and wiring through-out high school building
- 3. Repair and refurbish parking lot asphalt
- 4. Update and improve parking lot striping and markings

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91 PAINTBRUSH - RAMSHORN

- Custom 3,304+/- sf log home w/ 4 car garage - Family friendly with 4BR/Office/2.5BA
- Within walking distance to Big Sky schools \$699,500 | MLS 210321



**SPANISH PEAKS CLUB #15** 

- 2,969+/- sf, 3BR/3BA, large family room
- Spacious kitchen with large windows
- Attached garage & sold furnished \$597,250 FURNISHED | MLS 209628



**MEADOW VILLAGE - LOTS 23 & 24** 

- 2 side-by-side .25 acre lots w/ million dollar views
- Located in the heart of Meadow Village
- Purchase 1 or both & build on .5 acres \$168,900 EACH | MLS 214190, 214191



113 BEARTOOTH CRT - RAMSHORN

- Terrific 1,520+/- sf 3BR/2B home on . 49 ac
- Wood & slate floors, new appliances & paint
- New landscaping, fenced back yard & great views \$499,750 | MLS 218214



**720 PEAKS VIEW - GALLATIN GATEWAY** 

- 5,633+/- sf main house w/ 4 bedrooms, 4 baths
- 1,136+/- sf guest house w/ 2 bedrooms, 2 baths
- Fenced for horses & shop space on 20 acres REDUCED! \$1,125,000 | MLS 216924



PRIME CANYON COMMERCIAL

- 2 commercial buildings located on 1.027 acres
- Building #1 has 3,230 sq. ft.
- Building #2 has 5,808 sq. ft.

\$1,195,000 | MLS 204402



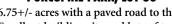
**FOREST SERVICE CABIN** 

- 2 bedroom cabin tucked in the trees
- Next to Tamphery Creek & near Gallatin River
- Charming setting bordering National Forest \$65,000 | MLS 217600



**PORCUPINE PARK, LOT 36** 

- 6.75+/- acres with a paved road to the lot
- Excellent building site and lots of trees
- Horses allowed & sensational views



\$499,900 | MLS 215272

- BLACK EAGLE #8 SKI-IN/SKI-OUT - 3,744+/- sf condo with great ski access with 3 bedrooms & 3.5 baths, 527+/- sf garage
  - Best stream side location and sold furnished
  - Incredible views of Lone Mountain & a short walk to restaurants and shops \$1,995,000 | MLS 210575



FRANK ROAD - BELGRADE

- 60+/- acre tract at the end of Frank Road - Can be subdivided. Flat tract of land.
- Great Bridger mountain views!
  - \$1,400,000 | MLS 218112



**BUCK RIDGE RANCH - LOT 32A** 

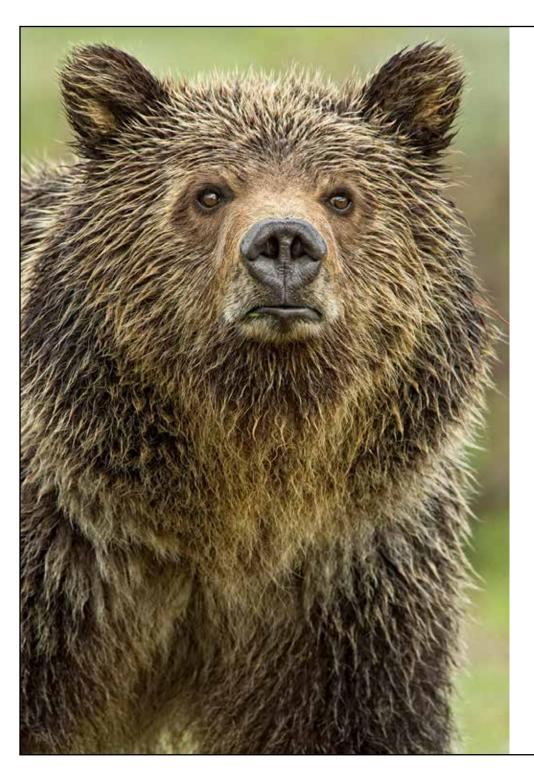
- 39.66+/- acre tract that allows horses - Direct access to Forest Service Land
- Gated road insures privacy & quiet living
  - \$900,000 | MLS 156618







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"Eyes of the Grizzly" Tom Mangelsen, Photograph, 48x72





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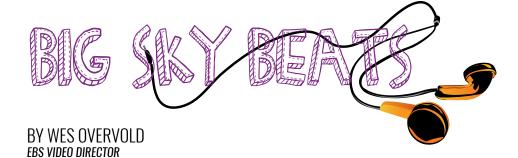
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Find out what tunes we're bumping! In Big Sky Beats, Explore Big Sky staff offers suggested tracks for your next playlist. Whether you need to freshen up your music library, want to expand your collection, or just need some tunes for a spring bike, we've got you covered.

With its collection of horns, guitars, expressive melodies and raspy vocals, soul has long been a cornerstone of the American sound. Established with the likes of recognizable artists, such as Otis Redding, Aretha Franklin, James Brown and Ray Charles, soul channels a deeper resonance that few other genres of music can reach. The syncopated rhythms combined with passionate vocals are captivating in a way that forces you to get up and groove.

Fortunately, soul is alive and well today with the 10 artists included in this issue's column, each contributing their own unique and modern flair to the storied style.

- 1. "Flow with It (You Got Me Feeling Like)," St. Paul & The Broken Bones
- 2. "Nobody Sweeter," Grace Love and the True Loves
- 3. "I Did It," Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats
- 4. "Don't Wanna Fight," Alabama Shakes
- 5. "Tell Me," Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings
- 6. "Sexual Tension," Black Joe Lewis & The Honeybears
- 7. "Keep on Shining," Curtis Harding
- 8. "Make Some Room," The Suffers
- 9. "Changes," Charles Bradley
- 10. "Rouse Yourself," JC Brooks & The Uptown Sound

# DOG SE MONTH \*







### REX 💸

### BREED:

Great Pyrenees mix

AGE:
3 next month

OWNER:

Cassandra Werner

### LIKES:

Cross country skiing, hiking, meeting new people and visiting the brewery

### **DISLIKES:**

Baths, long car rides and angry squirrels

### **CLAIM TO FAME:**

Half of East Slope Outdoors' four-legged staff. He's usually found laying right in the doorway for maximum attention.

### Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

		3		6				
9					7			8
				5	8			
6 2	5						4	3 9
2			4				<b>4 5</b>	9
		7			6			
				8			7	4
		9	2	4				
					5	2		

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DIFFICULTY: ★★☆☆

# American Life in Poetry: Column 629

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

Surely you've seen those Japanese scroll paintings in which tiny figures trail up the side of an enormous mountain? Here's a poem about one such life by Lucia Cherciu, who lives in Poughkeepsie, New York. She gathers an enormous amount of human experience in these few lines. Her most recent book is "Train Ride to Bucharest" (Sheep Meadow Press, 2017). This poem appeared first in The Broadkill Review.

### The New Church

By Lucia Cherciu

The old cupola glinted above the clouds, shone among fir trees, but it took him an hour

for the half mile all the way up the hill. As he trailed, the village passed him by, greeted him,

asked about his health, but everybody hurried to catch the mass, left him leaning against fences

measuring the road with the walking stick he sculpted. He yearned for the day when the new church

would be built—right across the road. Now it rises above the moon: saints in frescoes

meet the eye, and only the rain has started to cut through the shingles on the roof of his empty

house. The apple trees have taken over the sky, sequestered the gate, sidled over the porch.

We do not accept unsolicited submissions. American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright © 2016 by Lucia Cherciu, "The New Church," from The Broadkill Review, (Vol. 10, Issue 2, 2016). Poem reprinted by permission of Lucia Cherciu and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2017 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.

# 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"

### **Striving for balance**

BY TOM HOLLAND EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Each summer in my line of work, we conduct an important experiment in adolescent behavior. This experiment is not based on the fact that we bring students from all over the country together for multiple weeks, put them in the middle of our nation's best natural ecosystems, and offer them the opportunity to experience great outdoor adventures. No, for them, that's usually the easy part. The experiment, for kids—and sometimes for their parents—starts when they arrive and we take away their electronics for the duration of the trip.

Everyone who comes to our program knows this moment will happen. Our students are aware they will live in the outdoors, in an electronics-free environment, for their whole adventure. Their parents, too, have been informed of this, and we work with them to provide updates throughout the journey. Still, the experiment is an interesting one.

Some make the transition seamlessly. Others feel a sense of loss during the first few days as they try to understand how to communicate with those around them. They approach their new friends with apprehension and struggle without the glow of a screen to hide behind. Still others, too nervous about life without a screen, do not make the transition at all. They circumvent the rules as they have packed a secondary device (sometimes supplied by parents), to maintain their "connection" with the world.

Why is this rule even necessary? Why is it a part of who we are as an organization? It's because as a society, we often struggle to find a healthy balance with our electronics. We let them rule our lives instead of serve as a tool for our lives—and this often extends to our children. While I long for the days of the rotary telephone and the U.S. Postal Service, I fully understand that the connected world has the potential of informing us in a greater way and bringing us closer together. Still, we are at the dawn of our connectivity. We are still sorting out the implications of being too connected, or not connected enough.

Consequently, we have established electronics-free programs so we can help our students realize how to balance their lives with electronic devices. We do not seek to eliminate them, as we know that is unrealistic. However, we





The average child aged 5 to 16 spends more than six hours a day in front of a screen. Wilderness Adventures runs electronics-free camps to bring children back into balance with a different kind of connectivity. PHOTOS BY TYLER CLOSE

embrace the opportunity to educate our students in the great outdoors without the distraction of a screen. Here, in nature, our kids learn to connect with themselves, others and the environment without their connection to Siri. In these moments, they are forming positive habits for the future and a great sense of self-confidence as they learn to trust their own decision making.

In addition to modeling appropriate behavior with our own devices, we help campers manage the transition by providing physical games and conversation topics to get their bodies and brains moving. Since some campers develop anxiety about special moments that are unrecorded by their devices, we urge them to recognize and share those moments when they happen and journal about them.

It astonishes many adults that children aged 5 to 16 spend more than six hours per day in front of a screen on average. Additionally, more and more children are spending time indoors with their screen rather than in the outdoors. Gone are the days of sandlot baseball, fort building and neighborhood bike rides. But this should not be that shocking for us as adults, because we are modeling the same behavior. The average American spends over 12 hours connected to a device and less time getting back to nature. With these stats, it's clear we have not figured out how much screen time is too much, and how decreased time in nature is detrimental.

One result of this imbalance is that historically "electronics free" spaces like our nation's most pristine ecosystems leave people feeling anxious and disconnected. In the future, many of these pristine areas may become connected. People deep in the backcountry of Yellowstone could have cell and data service—and that could be a good thing for safety emergencies.

Despite this benefit, we believe that our sacred outdoor public spaces should remain wild, without connectivity to the wired world. These spaces allow us important time to disconnect from our screens and reconnect with nature, our companions and ourselves. Moreover, we need to model this healthy behavior for our children, because they likely don't have the benefit of a memory colored by landlines and rotary phones. They look to us to show them the path of a healthy and balanced life. Let us be the example that they deserve and protect our outdoor spaces.

Tom Holland is owner and president of Wilderness Adventures. As the former CEO of the American Camp Association, Tom is known as a leading expert on the camp experience. Tom has spoken at both national and international conferences on youth development, the camp experience and children in the outdoors.

# **Section 4:**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT









### Jack Welty: Engraving the path to success

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Big Sky – If you have been out and about in Big Sky, it's likely you've seen the imprint of Jack Welty. His one-man company Jack Creek Engraving is responsible for projects large and small throughout the community such as Beehive Basin Brewery's rough-hewn tap handles, trail signage at Spanish Peaks and the menu boards at Moonlight Tavern as well as the club's golf course signs.

Welty has also made high-profile custom trophies for a variety of Big Sky tournaments and events, including the etched antler awards for The Rut Mountain Runs, and custom-branded water bottles and travel mugs for local businesses like Big Sky Landscaping and Hussey Plumbing.

All this, and Welty only seriously began developing his custom engraving business in November 2016.

As illustrated by the eclectic spectrum of his work, Welty is firmly planted in the practical but can't conceal the innovative, entrepreneurial spirit that has propelled his career path thus far.

"I guess it depends what you consider art," Welty said when asked if he considers himself an artisan. "I haven't had anyone come to me and say 'build me a sculpture out of metal.' But most of the time, clients don't know what they want so I get to be creative in that way. I like learning new things and making things that are unique and not like anything else. So tell me, is that art?"

Welty's creative expression and craftsman-level skills shine in a particularly sculptural piece he made for Big Sky Build owner John Seelye. The impressive interior sign features the company's name and mountain-saw-blade logo in an artful, backlit composition of brushed and patinaed steel and reclaimed lumber.

Jack Creek Engraving was born out of a concurrently successful business Welty started in 2013 manufacturing athletic equipment. Mil-Spec Fitness Gear's top-selling product is a military-grade jump rope. Assembled in Big Sky, they can be found on U.S. Army and Air Force bases all over the world. In 2015, frustrated by his inability to fulfill a lucrative order for customized purple jump ropes for the Baltimore Ravens, Welty broke down and invested in a laser engraver.

He soon realized he could engrave much more than jump ropes—and make a better return on his \$17,000 investment in the machine. While the laser allowed him to do highly precise inscriptions on wood, glass and leather, he felt impeded by the inability to work on a larger scale with materials like steel. His next move



Welty's custom sign for Big Sky Build incorporates the company's name and logo in an artful composition of steel and reclaimed lumber. PHOTO BY JACK WELTY



Jack Welty of Jack Creek Engraving creates unique custom signage, gifts, awards and trophies, and promotional items for Big Sky businesses and individuals. PHOTO BY ANNA MCKAY

was to purchase a plasma table, which allows him to cut through electrically conductive metals with an accelerated jet of hot plasma.

In his garage workshop at the Yellowstone Club property he caretakes, the brawny 40-year-old has recently completed hefty steel signage that will hang on the Gallatin Riverhouse Grill's new outdoor bar area, and a prototype of a cornerstone inlay for Centre Sky Architecture that will be used as a "tattoo" of sorts for their houses.

Even during a previous career in law enforcement—Welty spent five years in uniform, followed by another five as a detective assigned to the gritty underbelly of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania—he owned and operated an archery business as a "side hobby." Welty sold archery gear, provided bow maintenance and crafted handmade, custom arrows to satisfy a lifelong enjoyment of working with his hands that he traces to Boy Scouts and further cultivated during many years working alongside his uncle in construction.

His passion for police work is palpable as he reminisces about the days working informants, SWAT team raids, investigating homicides, and being involved in undercover operations that cracked open far-reaching human trafficking and credit card fraud rings.

Although family circumstances compelled Welty to leave his life fighting crime behind and relocate to Billings in 2013, he did so stoically, opting not to return to police work because it would not have been a lateral move.

"I don't have a big ego," Welty said. "But with the amount of experience I have [in law enforcement, coming in as an entry level cop] would've been really hard." And likely not as exciting as what he was used to.

In 2015, Welty moved to Big Sky, where he had been visiting childhood friend and Gallatin Riverhouse Grill owner Kyle Wisniewski since 2008. While moonlighting as a security guard at Moonlight Basin, word got out about Welty's skills and earned him a series of engraving commissions.

"I see opportunity," said Welty, whose goal to construct all the large-scale custom signage for area builders and clubs is already coming into view. "There's no one up here doing what I'm doing. And Big Sky's a growing place."

Visit jackcreekengraving.com to see more of Welty's custom creations.

### ARTventure opens students' eyes to career possibilities in the arts

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

On March 29, seven Lone Peak High School juniors journeyed to Seattle for a new adventure. Four days and a dozen immersive experiences later, these students returned to Big Sky inspired by potential careers in the arts.

The trip included writing, acting, and music workshops; Seattle Public Theater and Seattle Symphony performances; a visit with Seattle Art Museum professional staff; interactive tours of public radio station KEXP, Museum of Pop Culture and Seattle Center; and an exclusive tour of the Dale Chihuly Boathouse Studio, where all the glass artist's works are created.

Students had to apply for the opportunity, and seven were selected by a blind panel of Arts Council board members with no connection to the student body. Anna Alvin, Julia Barton, Abi Hogan, Rhett Leuzinger, Evan Redmon, Howie Robin, and Jackson Wade participated in the trip.

The students made up the first cohort of a new Arts Council program called ARTventure, designed to demonstrate the variety of career paths for students with a strong interest in the arts. The program has been a dream of Executive Director Brian Hurlbut's for years. Thanks to strong community support, this year it finally became a reality.

Hurlbut not only runs the Arts Council, but is a writer and a musician as well. He knows firsthand about the limitations of pursuing the arts in smalltown Montana, and has always wanted to help young people learn about the opportunities available to them.

"Seattle has such a vibrant arts scene and I thought it was an obvious place to explore arts careers," Hurlbut said.



Big Sky students participating in the Arts Council's educational ARTventure program spent March 29-April 2 in Seattle exploring the urban art mecca, pictured here at the Olympic Sculpture Park (from left: Howie Robin Julia Barton, Anna Alvin, Abi Hogan, Jackson Wade, Rhett Leuzinger, Evan Redmon).PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

He led the excursion with ACBS's program outreach and education director Katie Alvin and Lone Peak High School art teacher Megan Buecking.

The trip proved eye-opening for many of the students. "I've spent time in Denver visiting family," Hogan said. "But you don't get to really be part of the city when you are a tourist. I feel a lot more comfortable with the city after this weekend [in Seattle]."

Many aspiring artists don't realize how to have an arts career if you are not the artist yourself. The trip helped students learn more about these supportive roles. For at least one student, this made an impact. "I honestly never thought it would be interesting to have a job where I wasn't the artist," Barton said. "Now I see that's not the case."

Increasing student interest in the arts is the broadest goal of the ARTventure program, and partnership with local schools is key. The Arts Council has already taken three groups of sophomores to Bozeman as part of the program, and will expand in the coming year.

"Since we started our ARTventure trips last year I have seen a growth in interest and personal investment in the arts among the students," Buecking said. "I look forward to seeing how they will contribute to our own developing culture in Big Sky."

For more information about ART venture and other Arts Council education efforts, visit bigskyarts.org.



### **American Indian Council Powwow at MSU April 14-15**

**MSU NEWS SERVICE** 

The 42nd annual American Indian Council Powwow at Montana State University will be held April 14 and 15 at MSU's Brick Breeden Fieldhouse. The event—featuring music, dance competitions, artisan vendors, raffles, a basketball tournament, and a race—is open to the public.

The American Indian Council Powwow is one of the largest in Montana. The powwow begins at 6 p.m. Friday, April 14 with a grand entry. There will also be grand entries at noon and 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 15. The festivities will include dance and drum competitions with cash prizes.

Northern Cree will be the host drum group with lead dancers Trisheena Kills Pretty Enemy (Crow), and Dion Killsback (Northern Cheyenne). The masters of ceremonies will be Jason Goodstriker (Kainai) and L. Jace Killsback (Northern Cheyenne).

The head dance judge is Jay Old Coyote (Crow) with Michael Spears (Lakota) as the head singing judge.

Booths located in the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse will offer a variety of artisan work for sale, including a limited number of powwow posters signed by Crow artist and MSU student Ben Pease. Non-profit and government organizations also will share information with concessions available for purchase.

The American Indian Council has organized a bison rifle hunt raffle with proceeds going to help fund the powwow. The bison is donated by the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and the winning bison rifle hunt will take place on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. Two hundred raffle tickets will be available for purchase with the winner announced between 7 and 8 p.m. Saturday.

The American Indian Council Powwow Fun Run with 5-kilometer, 1-mile and walking categories, will be held on Saturday, April 15, beginning at the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse parking lot. Registration begins at 8 a.m. the day of race with the race beginning at 9 a.m.



Held at MSU's Brick Breeden Fieldhouse on April 14 and 15 the annual American Indian Council Powwow is one of the largest powwows held in Montana. PHOTO BY SEPP JANNOTTA

The annual MSU Powwow Basketball Tournament, with cash prizes, will also be held April 14 and 15. Visit the tournament website at montana.edu/aic/bball\_ tourney.html for details.

The Presidential American Indian alumni brunch, set for 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 15, in the Hall of Fame Room of the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, will feature keynote speakers Dion Killsback and Anita Moore-Nall, both MSU graduates. Killsback, a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe who graduated from MSU in 2000, is a lawyer specializing in Indian law at the Rosette Law Firm. He is based in New Mexico. Moore-Nall, a member of the Crow Tribe, recently earned her doctorate degree in Earth sciences at MSU. Her dissertation was on uranium deposits on the Crow Reservation.

For a full schedule of powwow events visit montana.edu/aic/index.html.

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### Disney's 'The Lion King Jr.' premieres at the Emerson

ANDERSON SCHOOL

Disney's "The Lion King Jr.," performed by a cast of students from Anderson School, is playing at Bozeman's Emerson Cultural Center on Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22. The slightly abbreviated musical, designed for younger performers, is based on the Broadway production directed by Julie Taymor and the 1994 Disney film. The Anderson School cast contains approximately 80 students led by directors Laurie Kinna and Stephani Lourie.

In its 23rd year of producing full-length musicals, Anderson School has been filling up the Emerson with crowds that have grown to expect outstanding production qualities for shows including "Mary Poppins," "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Beauty and the Beast." "The Lion King Jr." will not disappoint, as rehearsals and construction have been underway for months in order to prepare for this exceptional project.

"Students of Bozeman are chanting and singing in Swahili in three part harmony. It is chilling," Lourie said. "The sophistication of artistry regarding the set, light and costume design is unmatched by any of our previous productions, even 'Mary Poppins."

"The Lion King Jr." tells the story of the epic adventures of a curious cub named Simba as he struggles to accept the responsibilities of adulthood and his destiny as king. Along the way, the young lion encounters a colorful cast of characters including spunky lioness Nala, charismatic meerkat Timon and loveable warthog Pumbaa. "The Lion King Jr." features classic songs from the 1994 film such as "Hakuna Matata" and the Academy Award-winning "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," as well as additional songs penned for the Broadway production.

"The Lion King Jr." will be performed at the Emerson Cultural Center on Friday, April 21, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 22, at 12 and 7 p.m. Tickets are available at ShowTix4U.com, or at the door. For additional information, call Anderson School at (406) 587-1305.



Approximately 80 students from Bozeman's Anderson School will perform in Disney's "The Lion King Jr." on April 21 and 22 PHOTO BY STEPHANI LOUBLE

### LPHS students take home first place in Lone Peak Cinema 'Shootout!'

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

BIG SKY - On April 8, Lone Peak Cinema showcased six short films from local skiers and snowboarders in their fifth annual Big Sky Shootout! film contest.

The 2017 screening kicked off with a Big Sky Resort production highlighting some impressive drone footage from this year's season. With all the seats in the big theater filled, and some patrons sitting in the aisles, the anticipation to watch this year's local productions was palpable.

The top three films were decided by an audience vote and each earned cash prizes for their efforts. All of the entries had the crowd applauding and laughing in equal measure, with a host of talented riders willing to take a humorous look at their favorite winter recreation.

Top prize went to five local high school students, who skipped their prom to attend the event, but donned their tuxedos nonetheless. Filmed by Ethan Shumacher and featuring Holden Samuels, Harrison Schreiner, Zach Cone and Cole March, the fan favorite blended big drops, huge air and a trip back in time in their "Dirt Bag Time Machine." A cameo from the legendary skier Scot Schmidt was a nice touch, but the Ophir students' big lines and self-deprecating humor were the highlights of the winning entry.

Second place went to Chris Kammen of SkyLab Media's "Form of a Champion," which chronicled a fictional fastest-time-down-the-mountain. With plenty of hilarious footage of Dan Greene and Tim Chamberlain going full tuck, the crowd could barely stop laughing at the french-fry technique taken to the extreme.

Third place was clinched by "Ski Bois," an alpine rap video complete with stacks of cash, champagne, luxury cars and enough crashes in the terrain park for a full-length feature.



Taking second place at Lone Peak Cinema's 2017 Shootout! film contest, Chris Kammen's "Form of a Champion' culminated with Dan Greene celebrating an epic run from top-to-bottom of Lone Peak. Turning optional. PHOTO COURTESY OF SKYLAB MEDIA HOUSE

Teams of five or less had the last week of March to film their maximum 12-minute submissions within the boundaries of Big Sky Resort. Each team then had the first the week of April to edit and submit their projects.

After the showing, local duo Waylon MacNaughton and Kelsey Rice of StayKation performed reggae and hip-hop inspired music while most in attendance stuck around to talk about their favorite entries, dance, and wait to hear the results.

Get your tickets early next year. Given the quality of submissions this year, it's safe to say that this is one event that will continue to gain in popularity.

Visit lonepeakcinema.com for upcoming events and showtimes.

# EVENTS CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 14 – Thursday, April 27

\*If your event falls between April 28 and May 11, please submit it by April 21

### **Big Sky**

### FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Tom Marino Scissorbills, 3:30 p.m.

St. Joseph's Good Friday Service Big Sky Chapel, 5:30 p.m.

All Saints Good Friday Service Big Sky Chapel, 7 p.m.

Double Barrel Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 15 Faster Foo Hunts

Easter Egg Hunts Big Sky Resort, 9 and 10 a.m.

### Pond Skim Big Sky Resort, 2 p.m.

Dan Dubuque Scissorbills, 3:30 p.m.

All Saints Easter Vigil Big Sky Chapel, 5:30 p.m.

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

St. Joseph's Easter Vigil Big Sky Chapel, 8 p.m.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 16 Winter Closing Day Big Sky Resort

Big Sky Chaplain's Association Sunrise Service Big Sky Resort, 6:30 a.m.

St. Joseph's Easter Service Big Sky Chapel, 8 a.m.

All Saints Easter Service Big Sky Chapel, 9:30 a.m.

Big Sky Christian Fellowship Easter Service Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 10 a.m.

30th Annual Corral Easter Egg Hunt Corral Bar, 1 p.m.

Big Sky Resort Ministries Easter Service Big Sky Resort, 1:30 p.m.

Stumpy Sunday Scissorbills, 3:30 p.m.

Easter Dinner Enoteca, 5 p.m.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 18

Community Learning Center Big Sky Discovery Academy, 4 p.m.

### TUIIDCDAV ADDII 20

**THURSDAY, APRIL 20**Community Learning Center
Big Sky Discovery Academy, 4 p.m.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 21

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

### **MONDAY, APRIL 24**

Intro to Financial Statements for Non-Profits First Security Bank, 11:45 a.m.

Tuesday, April 25 Community Learning Center Big Sky Discovery Academy, 4 p.m.

Bingo Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 6 p.m.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 27

Community Learning Center Big Sky Discovery Academy, 4 p.m.

### **Bozeman**

### FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Free Friday Night Children's Museum of Bozeman, 5 p.m.

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

### MSU American Indian Council Powwow Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 6 p.m.

Ky Burt Wild Joe's Coffee Spot, 6 p.m.

Tutu Cool The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Ty Stevenson Lockhorn Cider House, 7 p.m.

Jazz with Alex Robilotta Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Spring Awakening MSU Black Box Theater, 7:30 p.m.

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 15**

Bozeman Winter Farmers' Market Emerson Cultural Center, 9 a.m.

Bring Back BOB Tour Emerson Cultural Center, 9 a.m.

Photo Organizing 101 F-11 Photo, 10 a.m.

Asanas & Ales Outlaw Brewing, 11 a.m.

MSU American Indian Council Powwow Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 12 and 6 p.m.

The Emperor's New Clothes Verge Theater, 2 p.m.

Open Mic Night Wild Joe's Coffee Spot, 5 p.m.

Vessel: Women on Waves MSU Procrastinator Theater, 6:45 p.m.

Brianna Moore Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Spring Awakening MSU Black Box Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Gallatin Valley Bike Club Swap Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 9 p.m. Shakewell & Dirty Revival The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

Sera Cahoone Live From the Divide, 9 p.m.

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 16**

HAVEN Swim for a Purpose Bozeman Hot Springs, 8 a.m.

Kidabaloo Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 10 a.m.

Easter Egg Surprise Wildrye Distilling, 12 p.m.

Spring Awakening MSU Black Box Theater, 3 p.m.

Ky Burt MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

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

### **MONDAY, APRIL 17**

Jeff & Willy Outlaw Brewing, 6 p.m.

Mike Comstock Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

The Unanswerable Questions St. James Episcopal Church, 7:30 p.m.

### **TUESDAY, APRIL 18**

Depression is Treatable; Suicide is Preventable Willson School, 12 p.m.

Diane Elliott & Friends Poetry Night Country Bookshelf, 7 p.m.

Richard Slim Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

The Unanswerable Questions St. James Episcopal Church, 7:30 p.m

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

Power Up: Create Your Business, Financial and Marketing Plan Foundant Technologies, 9 a.m.

Dynamite Dads: April Cashman Nursery & Landscaping, 6 n m

Pollinators at Risk: An Evening with Experts Emerson Cultural Center, 6 p.m.

Edible Backyards Series Broken Ground, 6:30 p.m.

Pecha Kucha The Ellen Theatre, 6:40 p.m.

Science Inquiry Series Museum of the Rockies, 7 p.m.

One the DJ Lockhorn Cider House, 7 p.m.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 20

Wonderlust Nordic Crime Fiction Series Country Bookshelf, 1:15 p.m.

Ales for Trails: Copper City Fundraiser MAP Brewing, 4 p.m.

The Vibe Quartet 406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

On Using History Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Backcountry Women Series: What's in Your Pack REI, 6 p.m.

Art on the Rockies: Whiskey & Watercolor Rockin' R Bar, 6:30 p.m.

Pecha Kucha The Ellen Theatre, 6:40 p.m.

Mac Mall Zebra Cocktail Lounge, 7 p.m.

Weston Lewis Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Bridger Creek Boys Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

The Unanswerable Questions St. James Episcopal Church, 7:30 p.m

Head for the Hills Molly Brown, 8 p.m.

The Rocky Horror Show Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 21

Annual Student Research Celebration MSU SUB, 9 a.m.

Sacajawea Orchid Society's Annual Orchid Show and Sale Gallatin Valley Mall, 12 p.m.

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

Thrive's 13th Annual Lily Ball Hilton Garden Inn, 6:30 p.m.

Jazz with Alex Robilotta Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

The Lion King Jr. Emerson Cultural Center, 7 p.m.

Couples Night, Country Swing Lessons The Baxter Hotel, 7 p.m.

Spring Awakening MSU Black Box Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Peter Mawanga The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

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

The Rocky Horror Show Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Comstock Lode American Legion, 9 p.m.

Shook Twins The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

Mike Murray Live From the Divide, 9 p.m.

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 22**

33rd Annual Bozeman Clean-Up Day Bozeman Public Library, 8 a.m.

Permaculture Design Series Broken Ground, 9 a.m.

Sacajawea Orchid Society's Annual Orchid Show and Sale Gallatin Valley Mall, 10 a.m.

The Lion King Jr.
Emerson Cultural Center, 12 and 7 n.m.

The Emperor's New Clothes Verge Theater, 2 p.m.

Matthew Frantz Wild Joe's Coffee Spot, 6 p.m.

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Askaban The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Spring Awakening MSU Black Box Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Contra Dance Senior/Community Center, 7:30 p.m.

The Rocky Horror Show Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Comstock Lode American Legion, 9 p.m.

### Moon Hooch The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
Sacajawea Orchid Society's Annual
Orchid Show and Sale
Gallatin Valley Mall, 11 a.m.

The Rocky Horror Show Verge Theater, 12 p.m.

Spring Awakening MSU Black Box Theater, 3 p.m.

Make Your Own Pizza with BOB Red Tractor Pizza, 4 p.m.

Squirrel Gravy MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Charlie Denison

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

Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Yarn with Moonshine Mountain

The Filling Station, 7 p.m.

MSU Student Composer Concert MSU Reynolds Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

### MONDAY, APRIL 24

Bem Mckee Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Improv on the Verge Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 25

Kevin Grostorf MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Brews & The Big Sky: Agriculture & Ales Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Bozeman Camera Club Willson School, 7 p.m.

Left on Tenth Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26**

Peter King Outlaw Brewing, 6 p.m.

Comedy Night Red Tractor Pizza, 7:30 p.m.

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 27**

Drug Trends in the Gallatin Valley: What Parents Need to Know Willson School, 12 p.m.

The Vibe Quartet 406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

Extreme History Project Lecture Series Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Russel Pyle MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Alluvion Wild Joe's Coffee Spot, 6 p.m.

Backcountry Woman Series: Women Belong in the Mountains REI. 6 p.m.

Chordwood Cricket Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Bridger Creek Boys Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

MSU Gamelan Sekar Gunung Spring Concert MSU Reynolds Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Jack Klatt Live From the Divide, 9 p.m.

### **RECURRING EVENTS:**

Public Skating Haynes Pavilion, Daily at 1:30 p.m. through April 22

Remote Control Car Racing Bozeman American Legion, Sundays at 12 p.m.

Badminton

 $\label{thm:church} \mbox{Hope Lutheran Church, Mondays at 9 a.m.}$ 

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

Music Monday Red Tractor Pizza, Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Rocking R Bingo Rocking R Bar, Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Beer and Breadsticks Red Tractor Pizza, Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Free Dream Interpretation Lockhorn Cider House, Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Karaoke Bar IX, Tuesdays at 9 p.m.

Music and Mussels Bridger Brewing, Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

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

Bozeman's Original Pub Trivia Pub 317, Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Trivia Night Rocking R Bar, Wednesdays at 8 p.m.

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

Pickelball Hope Lutheran Church, Fridays at 9 a.m. Walk for the Health of It Peet's Hill, Fridays at noon

Burgers & Bingo Eagles Lodge, Fridays at 5:30 p.m.

SwingCats Dance Romney Dance Studio, Saturdays at 7 p.m

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

# **Livingston & Paradise Valley**

### FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Bob Britten Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar, 6 p.m.

L-Town Soup Livingston Food Resource Center, 6 p.m.

The Fossils The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Groovewax Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 15

### National Parks Free Entry Day Yellowstone National Park, all day

Dan Henry Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

The Brown Bottle Two Neptune's Brewery, 5:30 p.m.

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

Groovewax Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 16**

### National Parks Free Entry Day Yellowstone National Park, all day

Easter Egg Hunt Sacajwea Park, 1 p.m.

### MONDAY, APRIL 17

Peter King The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

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

### TUESDAY, APRIL 18

Get Lean! Make Your Business More Efficient The Spurline, 9 a.m.

Beer for a Cause Katabatic Brewing, 12 p.m.

Wednesday, April 19 Shelly Besler & Tony Polecastro The Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

Trivia Night Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 20 Ian Thomas Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar, 6 p.m.

It Happened Here Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 6:30 p.m.

Songwriters Dinner Show featuring Cory Leone Johnson The Buckhorn, 7 p.m.

Greg Klyma Elk River Books, 7 p.m.

Sundae & Mr. Goessl The Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 21

Walcrik Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar. 7 p.m.

Longhorn Band Music Ranch Montana, 7:30 p.m.

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

Under the Bleachers Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 22**

### National Parks Free Entry Day Yellowstone National Park, all day

Food Forest Paradise Permaculture Institute, 8 a.m.

Annual Yellowstone River Clean-up Feed Lot 49 at The Pop Stand, 9 a.m.

Skaterpalooza Park County Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.

Pour Painting with Grey Wilson Livingston Center for Art & Culture, 11 a.m.

Scavenger Hunt Katabatic Brewing, 4 p.m.

Larry Hirschberg Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

1st Annual Guns & Horses Basketball Game Livingston Civic Center, 6 p.m.

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

Under the Bleachers Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 23**

### National Parks Free Entry Day Yellowstone National Park, all day

Pour Painting with Grey Wilson Livingston Center for Art & Culture, 11 a.m.

### **MONDAY, APRIL 24**

Bill Hudson The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

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

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

Montana Nonprofit Association Nonprofit Management Series The Shane Center, 8:30 a.m.

Creek & River Writer's Night: Ilona Popper Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

Headwaters The Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 27

Yellowstone River Symposium Livingston Depot Center, 8 a.m.

Ken Egan, On Writing Livingston Park County Public Library, 6 p.m.

Sip and Sew Thimbelinas, 6:30 p.m.

Virginia Warner Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar, 7 p.m.

North of Crazy, by Neltje Elk River Books, 7 p.m.

Trivia Night Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

Fox and Bones The Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

### **West Yellowstone**

### SATURDAY, APRIL 15

### National Parks Free Entry Day Yellowstone National Park, all day

Live Poker The Buffalo Bar, 7 p.m.

### **SUNDAY. APRIL 16**

### National Parks Free Entry Day Yellowstone National Park, all day

TUESDAY, APRIL 18
Town Council Meeting
Town of West Yellowstone Offices, 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 20**Knit Night
Stagecoach Inn, 6 p.m.

Game Night Bullwinkles, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 21 West Entrance Opens Yellowstone National Park

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 22**

### National Parks Free Entry Day Yellowstone National Park, all day

Live Poker The Buffalo Bar, 7 p.m.

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 23**

### National Parks Free Entry Day Yellowstone National Park, all day

**THURSDAY, APRIL 27**Knit Night
Stagecoach Inn, 6 p.m.

Game Night Bullwinkles, 6 p.m.

### **Ennis**

### FRIDAY, APRIL 14 Joe Schwem Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 15 Ennis Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt

Lions Club Park, 11 a.m.

The Lucky Valentines
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Wine Pairing Dinner Madison Valley Ranch, 7 p.m.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 16 Mathias Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 21 Nathan North

Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

### Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Willy James

**SUNDAY, APRIL 23** Chad Ball Norris Hot Springs 7 p.m.

### **BINGO IS BACK**

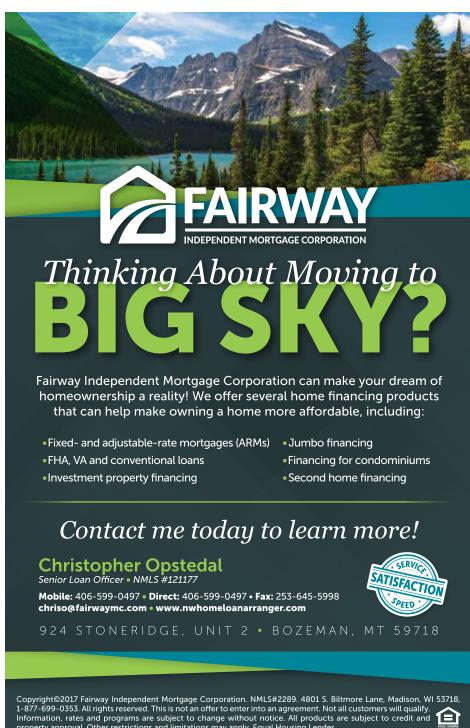
Starting April 25 @ The Riverhouse Tuesdays at 6 p.m.



Lone Peak Performance + Fitness
is a full-service gym that offers gym memberships,
physical therapy, personal training, and nutrition
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# Contemporary dance, world music and film trivia at The Ellen

THE ELLEN THEATRE

Bozeman's historic Ellen Theatre will host three ticketed events this month, which encompass high-energy dance, fusion African rhythms and film trivia.

On Saturday, April 15 the high energy, collaborative performance by Tutu Cool comes to The Ellen. Tutu Cool is a Montana dance collective that brings together ballet, modern and contemporary dance. This year features exciting works by local and out-of-town choreographers and dancers, including a special appearance by members of The Ellen's own TATE Academy. The doors open at 6 p.m. and the performance begins at 7 p.m.

Friday, April 21 Peter Mawanga and his band will kick up a musical storm on stage at The Ellen. Their sound is a fusion of African rhythms, composition and vocal arrangements with modern instrumentalities. Mawanga is recognized globally for sharing Malawian sounds with the world, as well as for his philanthropy, working with orphans through UNICEF and Plan International. Doors will open for this event at 6:30 p.m. with music beginning at 7:30 p.m.

A special trivia night will be held Saturday, April 22 with the third installment of the beloved series, "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban." The film follows Harry, Hermione and Ron as they enter their third year at Hogwarts and face a brand-new assortment of qualms and quandaries, from teenage angst to combatting pure evil. Doors will open at 6 p.m. with show time at 7 p.m.

For more information or to purchase tickets visit the ellentheatre.com or call The Ellen box office at (406) 585-5885.



Tutu Cool, a collaborative dance performance, is among three other events held at The Ellen in April. Tutu Cool premieres April 15, Peter Mawanga and his band perform April 21 and the third Harry Potter film plays April 22. PHOTO BY NINA TUCCIARELLI



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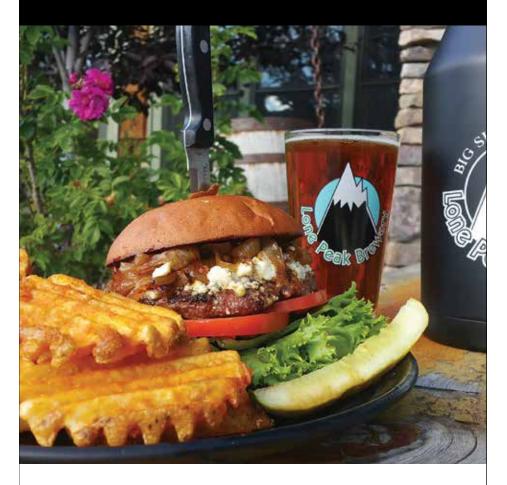
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# Grand Targhee Resort announces summer music lineup

**EBS STAFF** 

Grand Targhee Resort will host two annual music festivals this summer, complete with music, dancing, biking, hiking, camping and more.

Started in 2005 as a musical celebration of mountain culture and lifestyle, the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Targhee Fest is set for July 14-16 and will feature three days of roots, rock, Americana and funk. This year's headliners include Michael Franti and Spearhead, Karl Denson's Tiny Universe and Leftover Salmon. Tickets are on sale now for this widely anticipated event.

The 30th annual Grand Targhee Bluegrass Festival is three full days of bluegrass and dancing, August 11-13. Targhee's bluegrass festival has been a mainstay for bluegrass aficionados for over two generations. During the week leading up to the festival, many of the stage performers and artists participate in a very unique camp and music teaching experience by attending the Targhee Music Camp.

Tickets are also on sale for this music event and the lineup boasts a variety of bluegrass musicians, from classic to modern. Featured artists this year include The Infamous Stringdusters, Sam Bush, Del McCoury Band and Railroad Earth, along with fast up-and-comers like Sierra Hull and Mandolin Orange.

Both festivals are held in the high-alpine setting of Grand Targhee Resort, which offers camping and lodging, dining and lift-serviced hiking and biking throughout the festival dates.

For a complete schedule of the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Targhee Fest or to purchase tickets visit grandtarghee.com/summer-music-festivals/targhee-summer-music-fest. More information on the 30th annual Grand Targhee Bluegrass Festival, including artist biographies or ticket information, is available at grandtarghee.com/summer-music-festivals/bluegrass-festival.







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

### **Emily Ruskovich: Rising star**

BY DOUG HARE **EBS STAFF** 

Growing up in the Hoodoo Mountains in the panhandle of Idaho, Emily Ruskovich came to love the beauty, isolation and danger of rural living. Recounting her childhood in a strange, hostile landscape in a February interview with Electric Literature, Ruskovich said, "I remember that one day, our half-built chicken house simply disappeared. Even the cinderblocks that formed the foundation, all of it gone."

Now a creative writing professor at the University of Colorado Denver, Ruskovich wrote the first chapter of her first novel as a graduate student while in the universally acclaimed University of Iowa MFA program. Another of her first short stories, "Owl," won the O. Henry Prize, widely regarded as America's highest honor for short fiction.

Set in a fictional town in the northern part of the state, her debut novel "Idaho" hit bookshelves last year and has been garnering national attention ever since. In the same vein as Toni Morrison's "Beloved," it is a story about an unspeakable tragedy that transforms into a story about finding love, grace and compassion amid grief, sorrow and despair.

It is a murder mystery, a romantic thriller, and an exploration of the fragility of memory and imagination in shaping the narratives of our lives. Centered around the relationship of Ann and Wade, a British piano teacher and a man slipping into early-onset dementia, "Idaho" spans four decades and is told in a non-linear fashion. It moves back and forth, mimicking the way the past is constantly intruding on the present.

One day while collecting firewood, Wade's first wife Jenny murdered their 6-year-old daughter May with a hatchet, and their second daughter June ran off into the woods, never to be seen again. As Ann attempts to figure out what could have caused such a senseless, horrendous act, we are treated to a lyrical exploration of loss and wrenching search for consolation and hope.

From chapter to chapter, the changing perspectives of various narrators are reminiscent of William Faulkner's classic "As I Lay Dying." With a stroke of brilliance, one daring chapter is narrated by a bloodhound: "Off duty, head up, the bloodhound is a different dog. The wrinkles fall open. The forehead is smoothed, the scent let go. This is how the dog forgets. This is how a dog moves on. He lifts his head."

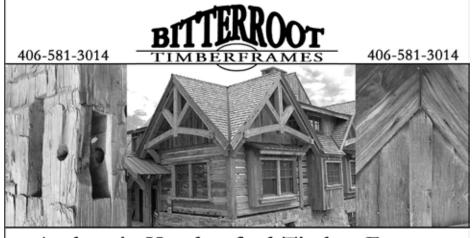
While the book might be considered slow moving by some, the poetic, rhythmic prose never feels indulgent or excessive. To write beautifully about a heinous act of violence is proof of Ruskovich's raw talent. "Idaho" might be dark, haunting, and melancholic in tone, but in the end this book has much to teach us about how to deal with guilt, loss and forgiveness.

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



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In 2000, the US Fish and Wildlife Service listed the lynx as "threatened" in the lower 48 states

Lynx are one of the rarest species seen in Yellowstone, with only 112 known observations

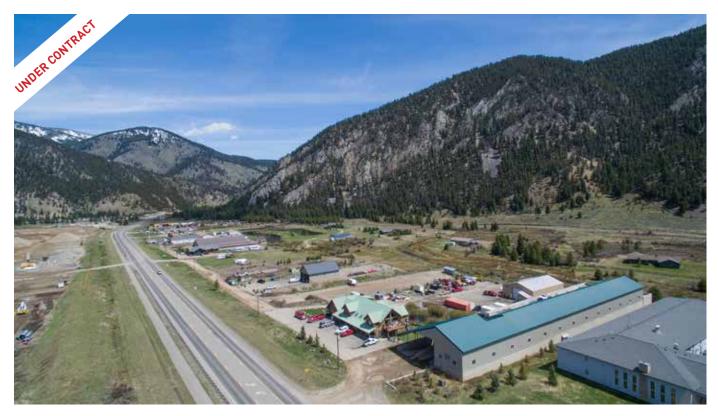
Distinguish from bobcat: tail tip is solid black; longer ear tufts; larger tracks

Portions of the park and surrounding area are considered critical habitats for this species in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

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