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Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

FREE

# Big Sky

May 12 - May 25, 2017  
Volume 8 // Issue #10

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Nearly \$700,000 raised in 24 hours

*Yellowstone River open for business*

*Music in the Mountains kicks off June 22*

## **Special Travel Section**

Day trips, weekend getaways and exotic locales

**Back 40:** Gardening tips for a short growing season



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# OUTLAW

. P A R T N E R S .

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Volume 8, Issue No. 10

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**ON THE COVER:** Tessa Moeckel climbs at Practice Rock, a popular crag located in Hyalite Canyon. PHOTO BY JOHN MEYER

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Section 1: News

Opinion.....	4
Local.....	5
Montana.....	13
Regional.....	15

## Section 2: Environment, Sports, Health & Dining

Environment.....	17
Sports.....	20
Business.....	21
Health.....	24
Dining.....	26

## Section 3: Outdoors & Back 40

Outdoors.....	29
Back 40.....	40

## Section : Arts & Entertainment.....41

**12** Gallatin Valley gives big  
Nearly \$700,000 raised  
in 24 hours

**Yellowstone River  
open for business**

21

**42** Music in the Mountains  
kicks off June 22

**Back 40: Gardening tips  
for a short growing season**

40

**+ Special travel section**  
Day trips, weekend getaways  
and exotic locales

## OPENING SHOT

The annual spring return of mountain bluebirds to southwest Montana is a sure sign that summer is near. These insect-eating thrushes nest in bird boxes or abandoned cavities excavated by other birds. PHOTO BY PAUL HOLDORF

**Do you want to see your photography in the pages of EBS? Submit a maximum of three images via email to [carie@outlaw.partners](mailto:carie@outlaw.partners) or use #explorebigsky on social media to be eligible. One photo per issue will be chosen for the opening shot.**



# NEWS IN BRIEF



## Anime film club meets weekly in Big Sky

**EBS STAFF**

The newly established Lone Peak Anime Club will study the Japanese culture by watching and discussing anime—Japanese animated movies—each week in the theater room at Luminous Audio and Video. Every Wednesday at 6 p.m. community members of all ages are invited to join the club in watching a selection from Kinga Wilson’s own anime collection.

Wilson established the club to study and learn about the impact of Japanese culture on Americans by way of cartoons. After each showing the group will discuss the ramifications of anime, looking at cultural references and impressions.

“I don’t just want them to look at [the movie] and say ‘that was a great movie,’ I want them to know why it was a great movie,” Wilson said.

The club will also learn Japanese phrases and will watch anime in both Japanese and English. By watching a film in the original language, as well as in English, viewers are able to understand cultural references. Something funny in Japanese, Wilson said, may not be as funny translated to English because there are cultural differences.

The first anime viewing was April 19, but each week the club watches a new movie and has new discussions. To start, Wilson will be showing Hayao Miyazaki movies, and she says movie selection will always be based on the age group in attendance.

To learn more about Lone Peak Anime Club look for the group on Facebook.

## Big Sky school levies pass

**BY AMANDA EGGERT**  
**EBS SENIOR EDITOR**

BIG SKY - Voters in the Big Sky School District approved a \$110,110 general fund levy and a \$541,730 five-year building reserve levy on May 2.

The general fund levy will be used for operating expenses and district maintenance, including additional staffing for the 2017-2018 school year. Big Sky School District Superintendant Dustin Shipman said the administration is looking to hire three teachers to split classes nearing state-mandated maximum enrollments, as well as a special education teacher.

“We’re thrilled,” said Big Sky School District Superintendant Dustin Shipman. “I think it speaks volumes about how the community values education and what we’re doing.”

The measure passed with 358 individuals voting for it and 294 opposed. With 652 responses of the 1,809 ballots mailed, voter participation was somewhat low in this election at 36 percent.

The building reserve levy will replace the current five-year levy, which is expiring this year. It will provide \$108,346 of funding per year, for five years, to fund facility maintenance and repairs, grounds maintenance and improvements, and equipment upgrades.

Specific projects identified for the funds include the installation of updated Internet cable and wiring throughout the high school, refurbishing parking lot asphalt and markings, security upgrades to exterior doors and carpet replacement at the high school gym entrance.

Stacy Ossorio will join the Big Sky School District Board as a trustee. Ossorio, a local real estate broker, was the only person who filed for the position and she’ll take the school board seat that’s being vacated by Maggie Luchini.

## Streamflow forecasts above average for spring and summer

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

After low flows in some of Montana’s rivers last summer caused issues for irrigators, anglers and recreationists, the spring and summer runoff this year looks to yield above average streamflows, according to snowpack data released by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Snowpack across the state is above normal for May 1 in all but a few sub-basins.

“Last month there was some concern over the lack of snowpack in some basins east of the Divide that provide irrigation and municipal drinking water, but April provided relief via abundant mountain snowfall and valley precipitation,” said Lucas Zukiewicz, a Bozeman-based NRCS water supply specialist.

“Delayed onset of snowmelt generally provides more efficient runoff and helps to keep the water in the mountains until it is needed to sustain streamflows later in the summer,” Zukiewicz said. “Over the last three years there has been early runoff of the seasonal snowpack, which has led to below average flows later in the season.”

As of May 1, the snow water equivalent—more commonly referred to as the snowpack—for the Gallatin River Basin is at 110 percent of normal and 124 percent of last year. The Upper Yellowstone River Basin is at 137 percent of normal and 180 percent of last year.

Precipitation for these basins as of the first of the month are:  
Gallatin River Basin: 154 monthly percent of average and 132 water year percent of average.

Upper Yelllowstone River Basin: 140 monthly percent of average and 145 water year percent of average.

*Monthly Water Supply Outlook Reports can be found at [nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/mt/snow/waterproducts/basin](http://nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/mt/snow/waterproducts/basin).*

## Local volunteers sought for National Trails Day projects

**BIG SKY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION**

Big Sky Community Organization will host a day of trail building and maintenance projects on Saturday, June 3, to improve the community trail system in celebration of National Trails Day.

Volunteers will meet at the Big Sky Community Park at 9 a.m. to participate in a variety of trail projects to suit all ages and abilities. Projects include installing new culverts, trimming branches and shrubs, repairing signposts, filling gopher holes and cutting new access paths.

After a day on the trails, volunteers can participate in a BBQ lunch at the Community Park pavilion at 12 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Volunteers should bring gloves, sunscreen, water bottles and trail-friendly footwear and clothing. Some tools are provided but additional shovels, rakes and wheelbarrows are welcome.

The first Saturday in June communities across the country participate in the annual American Hiking Society’s National Trails Day by supporting the volunteer efforts of local trail organizations. The Big Sky Community Organization is a nonprofit that has built and manages more than 19 miles of public trails in Big Sky. Trails Day is a great way for the community to come together to enhance and preserve the local trail system.

*For more information about Big Sky’s celebration of National Trails Day on June 3, call (406) 993-2112 or visit [bscomt.org/bike-bike/trail-projects/](http://bscomt.org/bike-bike/trail-projects/).*

## Annual Celebrity Golf Tournament set for July 9-10

**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF GALLATIN COUNTY**

Soon it will be time to tee it up again for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Gallatin County’s 16<sup>th</sup> annual Celebrity Golf Tournament, which will take place July 9-10.

Confirmed celebrity players include former NFL players LeRoy Irvin and Tom Newberry; NFL coaches Jeff Fisher and his son Brandon; Chris Kirkpatrick, a founding member of the pop music group NSYNC; Paul Goodloe, a meteorologist for The Weather Channel; famed Western artist Tom Gilleon; Mike Van Diest, head football coach at Carroll College; and coaches and staff from the Montana State University Bobcat Athletics association.

The event is open to the public by invitation and will kick off with a cocktail party at 7 p.m. on Sunday, July 9, at Big Sky Resort’s Summit Hotel. Guests will enjoy hors d’oeuvres, a cash bar and live music by Mike Haring.

Guests can bid on silent and live auction items to benefit the Big Sky branch of BBBS of Gallatin Valley. The live auction will start at 8:30 p.m. on Sunday. Items to be auctioned off include an autographed painting by Gilleon, and a package donated by Boyne Resorts that includes an all-expenses-paid trip to Mexico, a luxurious Big Sky dining experience for eight, and a Big Sky Resort ski valet and “rock star parking.”

The celebrity golf tournament will begin at 11 a.m. on Monday, July 10. Registration starts at the Big Sky Resort Golf Course at 9 a.m. Lunch will be provided and the day will conclude with an awards ceremony and reception at the Bunker Bar & Grill.

*Space in the tournament is still available. To register or find out more about BBBS, call (406) 587-1216 or visit [bbbs-gc.org](http://bbbs-gc.org). The event committee is calling for silent auction items from area businesses. To donate to the silent auction, contact Jolene Clark at (406) 855-6544.*





Many people leave Big Sky during the shoulder season.  
**If you could go anywhere, where would you go and why?**



**Chris Plank**  
*Big Sky, Montana*

“I think the next place I want to go is Bali and Nepal. ...Bali hasn’t quite gotten overdeveloped in terms of tourism and Nepal for the culture and the mountains ... also for evening out my farmer’s tan.”



**Chris Hanifen**  
*Gold Creek, Montana*

“Hawaii because it’s a high of 82 with a low of 68.”



**Jen Clayton**  
*Big Sky, Montana*

“Right this minute, if I could go anywhere now, I would say Florida because my niece just turned 2.”



**Michelle Laxson**  
*Bozeman, Montana*

“I just got back from Mexico for a wedding and enjoyed getting out of the cold wind of this area, being on the sandy beaches.”

**Rob Quist underreported his income by \$57,000**

A cartoon illustration of Rob Quist, a man with a mustache wearing a cowboy hat. A speech bubble next to him says "Nobody said there was going to be math!".

# Montana's Native Son

# ROB QUIST

FOR MONTANA'S CONGRESSMAN

\*\*\*\*\*

## Bringing Montana Values and Really Poor Accounting Skills to Washington

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The logo for Burlitz, featuring the word "BURLITZ" in a stylized font with "BURLITZ INK" underneath.



# LPHS cleared to offer International Baccalaureate diploma programming this fall

BY AMANDA EGGERT  
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY - Starting this fall, Lone Peak High School will join three other schools in the state offering students the option to graduate with an International Baccalaureate diploma, which meets more rigorous academic criteria than a standard state high school diploma.

LPHS was authorized cleared to offer the program earlier this spring. Big Sky School District Superintendant Dustin said it's usually a three-year process, but the district applied for accelerated authorization.

The program involves two years of specialized study and students entering their junior year this fall will have the opportunity to graduate with an IB diploma the spring of 2019. Shipman estimates 75 percent of high school students will opt to receive an IB diploma.

According to its website, the International Baccalaureate is a nonprofit education foundation that was established in 1968 and helps students “develop the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills need to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world.”

Incoming Big Sky Chamber of Commerce CEO Candace Carr Strauss said BSSD's transition to IB programming factored into her decision to relocate to Big Sky from Copenhagen, Denmark. Strauss' 14-year-old daughter Madison and 12-year-old son Hunter are currently enrolled in Copenhagen International School, which is one of the original IB schools.

Strauss said she's been impressed by the school's emphasis on cultural exchange and its holistic approach to intellectual and personal growth and development. “I want my children to be global citizens in preparation of entering the global workforce,” she wrote in an email to EBS. “The IB Program is also highly recognized globally by institutions of higher education,” she added. An IB diploma essentially replaces the first year of college at many higher-education institutions.

**“[IB students] really have the tools to chart their own path, anywhere they want in the world,” Mitchem said. “It’s what I want for my two children.”**

Strauss said she's noticed that her son and daughter engage with learning differently. “My children are no longer simply consumer of information, but instead analytical thinkers, applying what they learn to real-life situations everyday and utilizing modern-day technologies to do so.”

The academic structure is significantly different from a more traditional school, particularly in terms of the grading scale and testing, Struass said. “[There's more emphasis] on the individual child's improvement, and they're provided more tools in their approach to learning.”

BSSD hired Marlo Mitchem to help the district implement IB curriculum and facilitate the diploma program. Mitchem, who started with BSSD last July, has taught at IB schools in Bahrain, Morocco, Germany, and Portland, Oregon. She says she wishes she'd had the opportunity to study in such a program when she was a student. College professors of former IB students have asked them, “How did you learn how to ask such hard questions?” Mitchem added.



In this Outlaw Partners file photo, 40-plus community members consider changes to Big Sky School District's academic program at a Nov. 17, 2015, meeting held by administrators as they re-imagined the district's future.

“[IB students] really have the tools to chart their own path, anywhere they want in the world,” Mitchem said. “It’s what I want for my two children.”

Mithchem also noted that there's significant emphasis on professional development for teachers, which is one of the reasons administrators sought to implement the program. At a Nov. 17, 2015, meeting hosted by BSSD administrators leading up to the school board's vote to switch to IB, LPHS Principal Alex Ide said IB programming would help the district recruit students, and recruit and retain teachers.

IB diploma candidates at LPHS will take six foundational classes: English, Spanish (a second language is required), math, two science classes, and a course comparable to social studies called Individuals and Society.

Eventually, BSSD will implement the Primary Years Program for the district's youngest students and then work toward authorization for the Middle Years Program, which involves students in sixth through 10<sup>th</sup> grades.

At the November 2015 town hall meeting, several parents expressed concern that students who struggle academically wouldn't be accommodated under the IB approach.

Strauss said there's significant support from the school for students with learning disabilities at Copenhagen International School and it's done a good job dedicating resources to those students.

In addition to being the newest IB program in the state, LPHS will also be the smallest. All three schools that currently offer the program—Flathead High School in Kalispell, and Big Sky and Hellgate high schools in Missoula—are among the largest in Montana.

“It's such a unique context here,” Mitchem said. “It's a smaller contingency of people to educate and work with, so I think that's an advantage.”

She also acknowledges there will be challenges. “Wherever you are in the world, implementing change is not always easy, but you have to be very considerate and thoughtful as you're approaching change.”



# Young woman dreams of nonprofit equine center in Big Sky

BY SARAH GIANELLI  
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – Virginia Ferguson has a dream. She wants to bring a not-for-profit equine riding arena to Big Sky. The 26-year-old is currently at work on a business plan in the hopes of making her vision a reality.

Born and raised in Belgrade, Ferguson has been a horse lover since she was 7 and a cat scratch sent her running into the neighboring pastures where horses still roamed.

The youngest of seven children, her family couldn’t afford riding lessons at the nearby Covered Wagon Arabians riding arena, so Ferguson struck a deal. For every 10 hours picking stones from the pastures and cleaning stalls, she received two hours of lessons.

“It was paradise,” said Ferguson, remembering climbing through her neighbor’s fence to get to the arena, and the talent shows she put on with the friends she made there. Ferguson remained involved with Covered Wagon Arabians riding arena through high school and its transition into Epona Equestrian Center in Springhill, Montana.

“I want to bring that to this community,” Ferguson said. “That’s where this dream comes from. The ability for community members and their families to be around horses and have a place to board them, and ride them.”

After high school Ferguson worked summers as a wrangler in Yellowstone National Park and at Chico Hot Springs before ending up at Jake’s Horses in 2012. Ferguson made Big Sky her permanent residence in 2013 and current works as a housekeeping supervisor at Moonlight Basin.

In addition to providing lessons that cater to all riding disciplines, long- and short-term boarding, and hosting horse and rodeo events, Ferguson also envisions the equine arena as a therapy center. She wants to offer scholarship opportunities for local youth, and possibly urban youth that might benefit from living and working with horses while immersed in the beauty of Big Sky.

Although Ferguson is in the preliminary planning stages and has not yet nailed down a location for the arena, which would eventually entail both indoor and outdoor structures, she is optimistic after pitching her idea around the community. On March 22 she presented her vision to the Big Sky Rotary Club.

“People seem energetic and optimistic about the prospect of [an equine center],” Ferguson said. “Encouraging enough that I thought I should give it a shot.”

And she is—she’s connected with Eagle Mount about the possibility of providing a Big Sky home base for the Bozeman nonprofit that specializes



Big Sky resident and Belgrade native Virginia Ferguson dreams of building a non-profit equine center that offer riding lessons and boarding, host events and provide emotional and physical horse therapy to those in need. PHOTO BY VIRGINIA FERGUSON

in therapeutic recreational activities; and with established Big Sky horse trainer Ellie Manka.

Ferguson is undaunted by project costs and where the funds will come from.

“Someone else is going to have to pay for this if it’s going to happen,” Ferguson said. “I’m just the facilitator—I have the dream. I have the drive.”

With the help of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, Ferguson’s next step is to finalize her business plan and after that, find funding.

“A riding arena was part of Chet Huntley’s original plan,” Ferguson said. “A cool coincidence—but I’m hoping it will help me.”

*If you would like to learn more about Ferguson’s plan for a Big Sky equine center email [westforkequine@gmail.com](mailto:westforkequine@gmail.com).*



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# Big Sky Little League is in full swing



The kindergarten through second-grade teams—the Orioles and the Brewers pictured here with coaches John Romney, Steve Sigourney and Andy Liedberg—played their first game following an opening ceremony on May 10. Through June 12, games will be held at Big Sky Community Park Monday through Thursday at 4 p.m. with third- through sixth-graders playing on Tuesdays and Thursdays and kindergarteners through second-graders on Mondays and Wednesdays.

PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI



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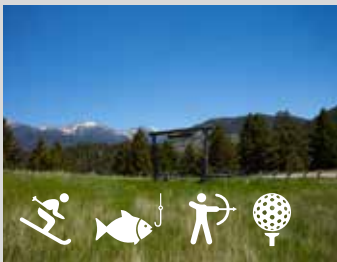
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# Music teacher John Zirkle receives national award

BY SARAH GIANELLI  
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY - Big Sky School District music teacher John Zirkle was selected as the May honoree of the national nonprofit Honored, an organization that recognizes and rewards exceptional k-12 teachers. Honorees receive a \$5,000 cash award and are the subject of a feature-length story by a writer of note, in Zirkle’s case, esteemed San Francisco Chronicle classical music critic, Joshua Kosman.

Zirkle received the award for his impact on Lone Peak High School junior Anna Alvin.

The 17-year-old, who plays the alto saxophone in the instrumental ensemble, sings in the chorus and studies music theory, has worked with Zirkle since the fifth grade, but said she probably wouldn’t have pursued music to such an extent without his support and encouragement.

“His classes are some of the most interesting and challenging classes I take,” Alvin said. “And they make me approach music and life and ask questions in ways that I wouldn’t have before.”

Ultimately, the goal of Honored is to identify teachers through online nominations by students, but only in its first year, the board is currently seeking out and selecting a diverse array of Honorees on their own.

“I was hoping to find an exceptional teacher in the Big Sky area to honor,” said Honored co-founder Karen Sonneborn. Sonneborn’s husband is from Miles City, Montana, and they spend as much time as possible in Big Sky when in the region.

“Over the years, we had heard wonderful things about John,” Sonneborn wrote in an email to EBS. “And when I asked a member of the school board to help identify an outstanding teacher in the district, she consulted with other district leaders and came back with John!”

Zirkle said that while he feels a little too young and unqualified to be honored as a teacher in the “wise old sage” sense of the word, he is passionate about a more balanced, peer-to-peer and peer-to-teacher style of educating, where the idea is to draw the student out, rather than inculcate them.

“How can we enable the people in the room to feel engaged with and connected to their instrument to create something in a meaningful way?



Music teacher John Zirkle is the May honoree of Honored, a national nonprofit organization that recognizes excellence in teaching with a focus on the impact on one particular student—in Zirkle’s case, LPHS junior Anna Alvin. PHOTO BY ERIC SCHMIDT

What’s the next project and how can we make it good? How can we make it interesting?” Zirkle said, describing his approach. “As a teacher it’s cool to be honored for this idea of playing.”

For Zirkle, who also serves as artistic director of the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, the cash award is a welcomed aspect of the recognition.

“That type of investment in saying ‘thanks to educators’ is a significant financial gift that really makes a difference in our lives—I mean [my wife] Ewa and I are going to be able to put that toward a down payment on a house. That’s a dream for all of us—to be able to afford a house here.”

*Read Kosman’s full story about Zirkle and his impact on student Anna Alvin at [honored.org/bonoree/jobn-zirkle](http://honored.org/bonoree/jobn-zirkle).*

# Senator Daines to keynote annual Chamber of Commerce dinner

BIG SKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Big Sky Chamber’s 20th annual Awards & Dinner will be held Sunday, June 25 at 6 p.m. at the Yellowstone Conference Center at Big Sky Resort.

The event will highlight work successes of the past fiscal year, speak to the year ahead, facilitate the election of new board members, and recognize significant contributions to the community via awards to the area’s top-performing businesses and individuals. An annual state of the local economy will also be given to provide specific information on projects, economic development efforts, and the business outlook prior to the evening’s featured keynote speaker, Sen. Steve Daines.

*To register for the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce Awards & Dinner and purchase tickets visit [listings.bigskychamber.com/events/register/1055](http://listings.bigskychamber.com/events/register/1055).*







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# Inside the Big Sky

By Derek Lennon

## Always keep a safe distance from wildlife in Big Sky Country

BY DEREK LENNON  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem are some of the last remaining wild places in the Lower 48, which is why it's such an appealing place to come on vacation. When you're in Big Sky Country, it's not uncommon to spot a grizzly bear while you're hiking, have to change your plans because a moose is sleeping in your driveway, or get stuck in a bighorn sheep "traffic jam."

We share our home and our vast backyard playground with large animals. It's important that people realize that Big Sky country is not one massive petting zoo. We all need to treat these wild animals with the respect that they deserve.

Always keep a safe distance from wildlife. No matter what. We can't stress this enough. Big Sky and the surrounding area may seem like a magical playground, but this is not Disneyland. Every year people get injured and even killed because they get too close to wildlife.

No matter how cute and cuddly or tame and calm an animal looks, do not ever approach it. These are wild animals and can be highly unpredictable. It only takes a split second for docile bison to go berserk or a wandering grizzly to turn and charge. Usually these wild animals have a fierce temper when they feel threatened by humans. And—they can move much faster than you. No one wants to be mauled by a grizzly bear, gored by a bison, kicked by a moose, or charged by an elk. Yet it happens more than people realize.

Our neighbors in Yellowstone National Park require that you stay at least 25 yards away from all large animals and at least 100 yards away from bears and wolves. Did you know that in Yellowstone it "is illegal to willfully remain near or approach wildlife, including birds, within any distance that disturbs or displaces the animal"?

Put yourself in the animal's shoes for a minute. How would you like it if some loud and obnoxious human came up and approached you while you were eating? Or tried to pet your baby? You'd probably freak out—and no one would blame you. So what makes it OK for you to get up close and personal with bison, elk, bighorn sheep, or other wild creatures?



Yellowstone National Park requires visitors to stay at least 25 yards away from all large animals and at least 100 yards away from bears and wolves. PHOTOS COURTESY OF MONTANA OFFICE OF TOURISM AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



Wildlife sightings are common in Big Sky Country, but don't forget to keep a safe distance while observing animals in their natural habitat.

Whether you are in a crowd, in a car, or on a hike always stay a safe distance away at all times. No one wants to get attacked by a wild animal.

Here are a few tips to help you enjoy the wildlife of Big Sky Country while keeping safety your No. 1 priority:

- Stay a safe distance away from all animals at all times.
- Invest in a good camera with a large zoom lens for photos.
- Do not ever approach large animals.
- Stay on trails and make noise as you travel.
- Keep your dogs and children close.
- Do not take selfies with any wild animals.
- Do not pet wild animals.
- Do not attempt to ride wild animals.
- Do not feed wild animals.
- Go with a tour guide who can help to keep you safe.
- Know what to do in case of a close encounter.

In the rare incident where you do randomly encounter a large animal, speak firmly and back away slowly. Do not run away. Every wild animal and every situation is different but a good general rule is if you don't terrorize the animal, they won't terrorize you. Use common sense around large animals and you'll get to see them in their natural habitat.

Please treat wild animals with the respect that they deserve at all times. It's in your best interest.

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

*A version of this story was originally published on the Visit Big Sky blog at <https://visitbigskymt.com/safe-distance-wildlife/>. Read more interesting content about the area on Visit Big Sky's blog at <https://visitbigskymt.com/category/blog/>.*



# Tell me, Tallie

## How did Big Sky’s trails evolve? Part 1 of 2



BY TALLIE LANCEY  
EBS COLUMNIST

In the beginning, there were only wild game trails. Then, the hunting trails of Sheepaters, Big Sky’s first human inhabitants, began to wind their way through the woods. Later, the Crail, McBride, Michener, and Lemon families (to name a few) rode on horseback around Big Sky. Ride after ride, their contours sketched courses to-and-fro.

Eventually, Big Sky Resort’s ski trails begat mountain biking trails. Heck, even our main artery, Highway 64, is called Lone Mountain Trail. Many of us take our trails for granted, but some of us know better. This left me wondering about the origins of our off-road network.

We can trace our trails’ roots to a highly regarded former local resident. Bill Olson was the prime mover of many of the trails we enjoy today. Back in the early 2000s, Olson began his retirement by simply enjoying Big Sky’s hiking trails. He was invited to share his vision and enthusiasm with the community via the nascent Parks & Trails Committee, which served under the Big Sky Homeowners Association.

Back then, many people resisted the notion of public trails on private property. As he recalls, detractors claimed that new trails wouldn’t serve a purpose. They said people could walk on the streets or hike on existing Forest Service trails. Letters to the editor were written about his efforts to create pathways through people’s yards, which might deteriorate public safety.

Olson responded to the opposition, in part, by building relationships with people in Sun Valley who had formed their Parks & Trails district. He learned from their law enforcement that in their community, the crime rate actually decreased after the rails-to-trails installation. He brought that information back to Big Sky and slowly but surely made headway. The groundswell grew; trails were built. It tickled him when some of the loudest opponents connected their own personal homes to the trail now known as the Crail Trail.

The tides have since turned. Big Sky now clearly values its connectivity. The entire community and visitors alike have benefitted tremendously from his,

and others’, trail evangelism. Today we enjoy 19 miles of trails thanks to at least 10 private easements. The Big Sky Community Organization estimates about 400,000 parks and/or trail user-days over the last year.

Parks and trails connect not just places, but people. I think that’s what Olson had in mind when he began his work. He was successful in creating the Ousel Falls Trail, the Town Center to Ophir trail, and Crail Trail, which runs parallel to Little Coyote Road. Carol Collins and Dee Rothschiller were effective advocates too.

“Being unincorporated made the job quite a bit more difficult, because we had no standing as a community,” he recalls. Without a municipal entity to serve as grantee to those easements, they had to craft alternatives. Nevertheless, he and the committee persevered.

Olson said the beauty was that he didn’t have an axe to grind. Not having an agenda other than getting the trails in meant that he “could get the confidence of most of the important players in Big Sky so they’d work with me.” Knowing the Blixseths, Simkins and the Taylors helped with getting the rights-of-way donated. “If I said that I was going to do something, they knew I’d do it. They’d help me and I helped them.”

Big Sky is only halfway through its build out, in terms of future residential and commercial capacity. With so much room for growth, there are many trails not yet built, not yet conceived, not yet named. You still have a chance to blaze a new trail and forge your legacy.

In next week’s column, we’ll learn about the current status and future of Big Sky’s trail connectivity.

*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.*

# Give Big Gallatin Valley knocks fundraising goal out of the park

EBS STAFF

Gallatin County demonstrated once more what a generous community it can be during the third annual Give Big Gallatin Valley fundraising event, a 24-hour giving spree dedicated to supporting local nonprofits that ended at 6 p.m. May 5.

The total raised surpassed \$698,000, well beyond the organization’s \$500,000 goal.

“We were absolutely humbled and blown away that we pretty significantly passed that goal as a community,” said BACF executive director Bridget Wilkinson.

More than 3,600 people participated in the giving, primarily through online donations—and there were no website glitches as with last year when the national online donation platform was overloaded by high traffic and crashed within hours of the website launch.

A total of 168 nonprofits, dedicated to everything from community theatre and ballet programs to victim advocacy groups and environmental conservation, participated.

Big Sky-based nonprofits that partook included Morningstar Learning Center, Big Sky Ski Education Foundation, Women in Action, Big Sky Discovery

Academy, Big Sky Community Organization, Allie’s Friends Foundation, Jack Creek Preserve Foundation, Gallatin River Task Force, Arts Council of Big Sky and Big Sky Weed Committee.

Of those, Gallatin River Task Force and Big Sky Discovery Academy raised the most money with \$8,835 and \$4,310, respectively. The top fundraiser county-wide was Eagle Mount.

“There was a great coalition of Big Sky organizations that really worked together to raise initiatives of their organizations,” Wilkinson said. “It was really fun to see the energy and momentum build within the Big Sky community.”

Giving days also happened in Missoula, Helena, Billings and Anaconda, and Wilkinson said there was also a statewide giving site for interested Montana organizations not located in one of those communities. “Together we all participated to raise \$1 million for Montana,” she said.

Wilkinson said this year they saw greater participation from not only donors (2016 fundraising totals topped \$390,000), but nonprofits, too. There were 132 nonprofits in Give Big Gallatin Valley in 2016, and this year’s nonprofit participation marked a 27 percent increase.



# Failed legislation leaves Colstrip's future largely up in the air

BY ZACHARIAH BRYAN  
UM COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

When Montana's 2017 Legislature adjourned on April 28, Sen. Duane Ankney, R-Colstrip, ended almost right where he began.

At the session's beginning, he helped draw up several bills that would help his community, which is facing the impending closure of two out of four units at its massive coal-fired electrical plant. By the time lawmakers left the Capitol, many of the bills – aimed at easing impacts on jobs, tax revenues and real estate – were dead.

"The Legislature had opportunities to intervene in this policy conversation and they chose not to do so," said Public Service Commissioner Travis Kavulla.

Last year, plant owners Puget Sound Energy and Talen Energy settled a lawsuit with the Sierra Club and the Montana Environmental Information Center over alleged violations of the federal Clean Air Act. As a result, the two utilities are scheduled to close Colstrip Units 1 and 2 by 2022, though they have hinted that it could be earlier.

Currently, 360 people work at Colstrip. At a committee hearing last month, Andy Wappler, PSE's vice president for customer operations, said between remediation efforts and moving workers to units 3 and 4, the number of jobs available should not go down. What effect there will be on local coal mining jobs is not clear.

## Next up to bat

Now Colstrip's fate is in the hands of Attorney General Tim Fox. Lawmakers allocated \$80,000 for him to intervene in Puget Sound Energy's rate case before the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission, which takes place in August. There, commissioners will consider how much PSE has to set aside for remediation efforts.

Ankney hopes they will also consider impacts on workers. But Kavulla is not hopeful that's possible at this point. Because the Legislature didn't pass a bill requiring companies to pay for economic losses due to plant closures, he added, Fox will have no legal backing for arguing that PSE should cough it up.

"If I was in the businesses' shoes, I would be hard pressed to come up with an explanation of why I should spend any money on the community of Colstrip," Kavulla said.

In a statement released in February, Fox said he wanted to ensure the companies made good on their "legal obligations to Montana's communities, workers and environment affected by the operation and potential retirement of coal-fired generating units."

Ankney said what he does next session will depend on what happens in the rate case.

But by the time the next Legislature convenes, in 2019, it may be too late to try again to demand more money from companies for the people of Colstrip, Kavulla said.

## Wins and losses

The legislature did pass several bills regarding Colstrip. Some await approval from the governor.

House Bill 209 will double the state's Coal Trust Tax Fund for impacted communities from \$1.6 million per year to \$3.2 million per year. Lawmakers also may study the impacts of the fluctuating coal market on Montana. Senate Bill 140 would allow the Board of Investments to loan money from the Coal Tax Trust Fund to Colstrip to maintain infrastructure. Other bills would provide Colstrip's elementary and high schools a \$1.7 million per year grant for an undefined amount of time.

More controversially, House Speaker Austin Knudsen, R-Culbertson, pushed through a \$10 million per year loan, up to \$50 million, from the Coal Tax Trust Fund to Talen Energy to persuade them to keep operating through 2022. The bill is currently sitting before the governor.

Ankney's biggest loss was Senate Bill 338, which passed Senate by a wide margin, but was tabled in a House committee. The bill would have required the coal plants' owners to pay to retrain workers, for the loss of residential or commercial real estate value and for the loss of revenue for state and local governments – in addition to the cost of removing and cleaning up the units.



The Colstrip power plant is made up of four units. Units 1 and 2, the older green ones in the foreground, are slated for closure by 2022. PHOTO BY ANDREW GRAHAM

In a recent phone interview, Ankney said opposition to his bill from business and environmental representatives alike was unreasonable.

"It goes back to the old days, when Montana legislators wore the copper collar," he said. "You didn't do anything big business didn't want you to do. We're still wearing the copper collar," he added, referring to the Anaconda Copper Mining Company's stranglehold on state politics.

Anne Hedges, deputy director of Montana Environmental Information Center, disputed that, saying the bill would have deterred utilities from making future investment in clean, renewable energy, such as wind and solar.

Other Colstrip-related legislation that failed would have established a retirement and benefits task force for natural resources workers, saddled Colstrip utilities with a \$60 million penalty for closing units 1 and 2, increased taxes on energy producers to fund grant programs for Colstrip, and provided \$40,000 to the community to help workers transition from coal.

For her side, Hedges said lawmakers missed a chance to look toward the future and consider how to diversify coal country's economy, particularly with clean energy.

"Instead we were figuring out how to win Colstrip the lottery," she said.

## Another Colstrip discussion looming

Kavulla said that the bigger question looming for Colstrip is what will happen to Units 3 and 4, which will also eventually face the end of their working lives – sometime in the 2030s, at the earliest.

"At some point we're going to need to have a big regional conversation about the future of this power station," he said.

Hedges said it was important to have a conversation about that economic transition and opportunities for clean energy sooner rather than later.

"We have time to think about how to do this well," she said. "Unless we start to have that conversation, the energy market is going to change on us and we're going to lose those opportunities."

Ankney isn't sure Colstrip could survive without the plant.

"Colstrip's kind of a unique little community," he said. "It was built because there was a coal mine there, and it was built bigger because there was a power plant. There's not anything else there."

*Zachariah Bryan is a graduate student at the University of Montana School of Journalism and a reporter with the Community News Service, a partnership between the school and the Montana Newspaper Association.*





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# Study yields promising results for curbing mountain pine beetle epidemic

BY EVE NEWMAN  
LARAMIE BOOMERANG

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) - The mountain pine beetle epidemic that swept through the area a few years ago has left its mark, with thousands of acres of trees dead and dying across southeast Wyoming.

The beetle's population has declined locally, but scientists are continuing to study the tiny insect in preparation for the next epidemic.

A University of Wyoming graduate student is hoping to shed light on the beetle's natural predators while also improving the methods used to study the beetle.

"The bark beetle and its natural enemies spend most of their life cycle under the bark of trees," said Larry Haimowitz, who is working on a master's degree. "It's an enormously difficult system to study. It's very difficult to figure out a way to get at the information you want about these insects when most of what's taking place is taking place inside the bark of a standing tree."

Adult mountain pine beetles emerge from a host tree in the summer to look for a new tree in which to nest. In attacking a tree, a group of beetles tunnels into the bark to lay their eggs, which emerge as adults in summer.

Beetles have several natural enemies that often share the tree, including clerid beetles, long-legged flies and parasitoid wasps. They are also preyed upon by woodpeckers.

Haimowitz, who is studying entomology as a second career after retiring a few years ago, said traditional methods for studying the beetle and its natural enemies are labor-intensive while also requiring scientists to make statistical inferences about their results.

For example, cutting down a tree and peeling off the bark to look for insects provides information about the present population, but not about insects that have already left the tree.

Another method involves layering the tree in opaque cloth with a glass jar at the only exit. When an insect exits the tree, it then flies to the light it sees and is captured in the jar. Haimowitz said the cloth layer could change the temperature of the tree because it prevents both light and air from reaching the trunk.

"You've probably altered the thermal environment the insects are in," he said. "Insects are cold-blooded, and if you alter that, you'll alter their life cycle."

Beetles are also good chewers, and cloth doesn't stand a chance if they're determined to get through.

For the last several years, Haimowitz has been working on an enclosure that allows air and light to reach the trunk while keeping insects of all sizes contained after they emerge. To solve those problems, he's been using a very fine screen made of brass, which resists rust and insects.

He used the material to conduct an experiment in which he kept all insects out of a section of a tree and then manually infected it with just beetles. Another

section of the tree was infected with beetles and their predators.

The following year, he compared how many beetles emerged from the tree where they had been separated from their predators, compared to the section where they were not protected from their predators.

"There were 90-99 percent fewer beetles coming out of the unprotected segment," he said.

Haimowitz said his methods for predator exclusion and capturing insects could be used to validate research done with other methods and less certain results.

The methods could be used for continued study of mountain pine beetle predators and the role they play in preventing or moderating epidemics. It's an area of study with many unanswered questions.

His work involves a current ecosystem with a surplus of predators and a low-level beetle population as the epidemic subsides. No one has conducted similar research during an active epidemic.

"I think natural enemies do have an effect on the severity of epidemics—even low-level mortality has an effect," he said.

Haimowitz followed a winding career path before arriving at UW. He dropped out of college the first time he attended and worked as a welder. He returned to college when he was 30, planning to become a park ranger. As part of the degree, he took an introductory course in entomology.

"I liked it so much and I was so fascinated by it that I switched my major to entomology," he said.

After graduating from San Jose State, he worked in occupational safety. He later met and married Laramie resident Robin Hill and moved to Wyoming. Hill introduced him to Scott Shaw, an entomology professor in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management. Upon retiring, Haimowitz decided to go back to school once again.

Shaw said he's enjoyed working with Haimowitz. "He's an exceptional researcher," he said.

Haimowitz isn't the first graduate student Shaw has worked with to enter the field as a second career, perhaps because the field has a draw on people.

"Entomology is a discipline that people tend to go into only when they have a passion for it," Shaw said.

Haimowitz, who plans to work on a Ph.D. after he finishes his master's degree, said he's continually fascinated by the complexity and enormity of the insect world.

"There are millions of stories, and each one is intertwined with thousands of other stories, and those stories are something you're not even aware of," he said.



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## Section 2: ENVIRONMENT, SPORTS HEALTH & DINING



Yellowstone River closure update pg. 21



Vaccinations for traveling pg. 25



Seasonal produce timeline pg. 26

# The New West: Let's help Craighead complete his important film on water



BY TODD WILKINSON  
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

For several years now, Charlie Craighead has been piecing together the complicated story of water in Wyoming.

As a society, he says, we cling relentlessly to a script of predictability, counting on rivers always running, trusting that lakes will always fill, believing that glacial melt will always yield late-summer boosts for irrigators, and counting on flows to forever be there when we need them.

But Craighead says the arid inland West is a region dwelling in deep denial.

The award-winning Jackson Hole filmmaker recently shared details of many conversations he's had with scientists in his quest to amass an accurate outlook for water in his home state, but what he's found has implications for Montana, too.

One of the experts he interviewed is Bryan Shuman, professor/researcher in the University of Wyoming's Department of Geology and Geophysics.

Shuman's specialty is paleohydrology, paleoclimatology and paleoecology. In simple terms, he studies how the availability of water shaped earlier human cultures and the landscapes they inhabited.

The quick take-home message should come as no surprise: Whenever water became scarce, the ability of a place to sustain people went down.

As part of Craighead's long-awaited documentary, "Diversion," Shuman shared insights gleaned from lake bed soil cores.

Since the end of the last Ice Age, Wyoming and the High Plains experienced a number of extended super-droughts in which appreciable precipitation failed to arrive for decades or longer. The Platte River, as just one example, stopped running and lakes either dried up or had no outflows. Impacts on human communities were likely severe.

Now climate is changing again and at a rate faster than normal variability, evidenced by rapidly shrinking glaciers in the Wind River Range, earlier runoff, rising average temperatures, low stream levels and outbreaks of wildfires. Is the past a harbinger?

Craighead offered a sneak preview of the many fascinating topics "Diversion" probes, including the fact that more than 90 percent of the water in the Upper Snake River drainage belongs to downstream users, namely farmers, in Idaho.

Another issue: much of the in-stream flows that irrigators return to rivers in Wyoming is responsible for creating wetlands important to wildlife.

And in Greater Yellowstone, we're witnessing legendary glaciers literally disappear.

"I looked [at] a lot of old photographs and films of the mountains and I spoke with Craig Thompson [recently retired professor at Western Wyoming Community College] who is studying glaciers in the Winds. They're vanishing with phenomenal speed," Craighead said, noting that to be called a glacier an ice field must be at least 25 acres in size. They're increasingly rare.

"Many glaciers in the Winds, Tetons and Absaroka-Beartooths are already



Jackson Hole filmmaker Charlie Craighead scouts snowfields in the Tetons. PHOTO BY CHARLIE CRAIGHEAD

gone," he said, pointing out that every single expert he interviewed affirms that hydrological cycles are dramatically shifting.

Craighead says "Diversion" isn't intended to be a political film. As the son and nephew of famous grizzly researchers and advocates of the federal Wild and Scenic River Act, he believes in the value of gathering empirical facts.

Wyoming and her immediate neighboring states must come to grips with tough questions, particularly in the face of those pushing to build more dams and reservoirs, and the threats posed by more populous states seeking to import water from our region to deal with their own challenges of scarcity.

"What I hope people bring when they see the film is an open mind about water. The same goes for climate change, which has been a touchy subject in Wyoming because of its economic dependence on coal and fossil fuels," he said.

"Diversion," an abbreviated version of which already won a grand prize in the Wyoming Short Film Contest, could be an important catalyst for educating the public. "If you ask most people they really have no idea where their water comes from," he says.

Craighead hopes to have his documentary out early this summer with possible airing on Wyoming and Montana PBS later, but first he needs financial help to complete the final phase of professional editing and production.

He's raising money via Kickstarter and you can help; heaven knows the West needs to have serious adult conversations about the future of our most important resource.

Let's help Craighead put this important story into circulation. Visit [kickstarter.com/projects/2057570919/diversion-the-climate-of-western-water](http://kickstarter.com/projects/2057570919/diversion-the-climate-of-western-water) for more information.

*Todd Wilkinson has been writing his award-winning column, The New West, for nearly 30 years. Living in Bozeman, he is author of "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek" about famous Greater Yellowstone Grizzly 399 featuring 150 photographs by Tom Mangelsen. The book is only available at [mangelsen.com/grizzly](http://mangelsen.com/grizzly).*



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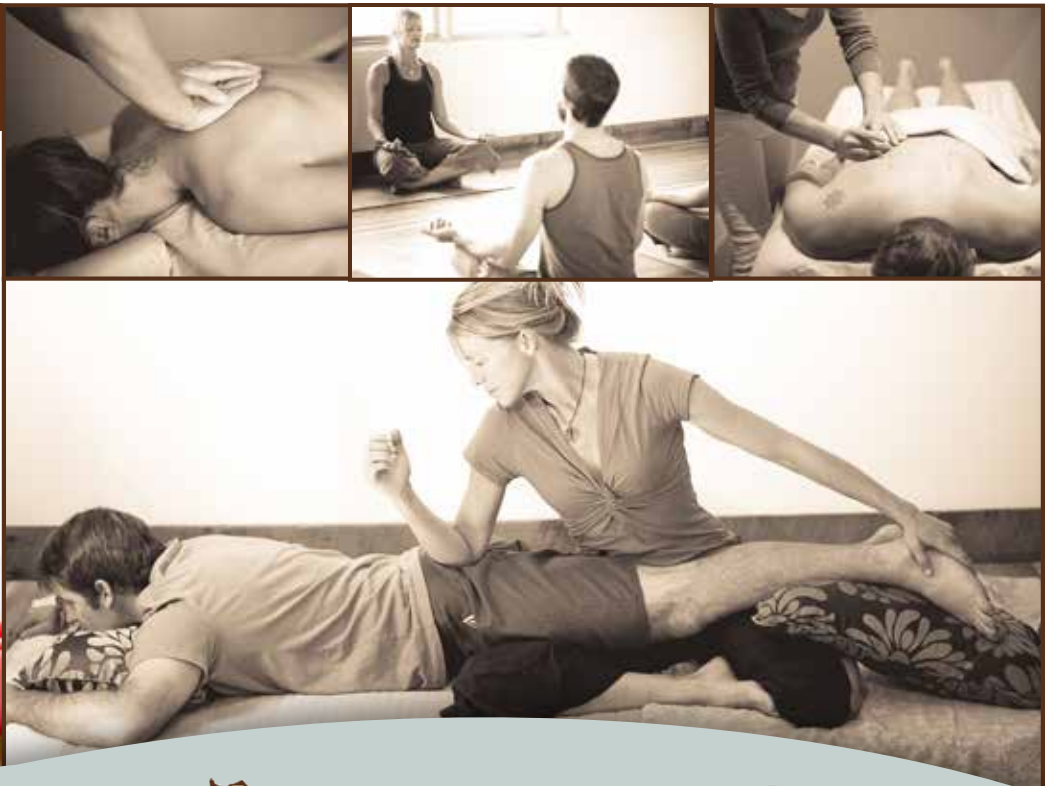
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# US plan to improve firefighter shelters falters

BY KEITH RIDLER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOISE, Idaho (AP) – Crews who battle wildfires will have to wait at least another year before getting better fire shelters than those that failed to save 19 firefighters trapped by flames in Arizona four years ago, officials told The Associated Press on May 4.

The deaths pushed the U.S. Forest Service to speed up work to get an upgraded shelter in place this year, but the effort has been delayed a year after prototypes could not outperform the shelter developed in 2002.

It comes as firefighters are facing more destructive wildfires and the struggle to protect more homes being built in or near remote areas.

“The reason there isn’t [a new shelter] is because there were no great options to choose from,” said Tony Petrilli, fire shelter project leader for the U.S. Forest Service at the Missoula Technology and Development Center in Montana.

Petrilli escaped serious injury or death by getting into a fire shelter as flames roared past on Colorado’s Storm King Mountain in 1994. His elation at emerging a survivor didn’t last long.

Within minutes, he was among the first to find the bodies of some of the 14 firefighters whose fire shelters didn’t save them. His radio message reporting the deaths rattled federal agencies and led to the development of the 2002 shelter.

The Forest Service wants to replace that shelter following the 2013 deaths in Arizona. Those two fires are among the deadliest for wildland firefighters in U.S. history and the worst since fire shelters became mandatory in 1977.

But the effort faces serious setbacks, and the agency says it won’t meet its December deadline to create an upgraded shelter for the 2018 fire season despite help from NASA, research universities and private companies.

After spending roughly \$200,000 to \$500,000 on the program, it’s possible the 2002 shelter will stay the standard, the Forest Service said.

“We’re not having a whole lot of success,” said Mark Ackerman, a former academic at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta. He helped develop the 2002 shelter and is helping the government test new designs to replace it. “Based on what we’re seeing now, I don’t think the game-changer is there.”

But several promising materials that showed up recently remain, and the extra year will allow time for testing, Petrilli said.

Scientists need to create a shelter that can repel radiant heat, which is felt standing near flames, and convective heat, felt if you put a hand into the fire.

Today’s shelters reflect 95 percent of radiant heat, and firefighters have survived in them for an hour with brief exposure to direct flames. The challenge is making them last as fire burns around them.

The shelter Petrilli used in 1994 could last only seconds in direct flames. The current 4.5-pound shelter with an aluminum foil-woven silica outer shell can withstand direct flames and 2,000 degrees for about a minute.

The Forest Service says it could save lives if it can create a shelter of equal weight that can withstand those conditions longer. Ackerman has tried for two minutes, but prototypes have not come close to that.

“What we’re talking about is buying a little more time,” he said.

Based on several years of testing, he estimated that a shelter with double the protection would be double the weight because of added insulation.

That’s a non-starter with frontline firefighters. A survey at the start of the development process found that less than 5 percent wanted to carry a heavier, more protective shelter. About half wanted a lighter shelter with the same protection, and most of the rest wanted a shelter of similar weight with better protection.

Shawna Legarza, director of the Forest Service’s National Fire and Aviation Management Program who spent 20 years battling wildfires, said putting more weight on firefighters, who already carry 40 or 50 pounds, is not an option.

Instead, federal officials have been working to reduce wildfire risks. Former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell warned homeowners who build in wild areas to create rock walls, green grass extending from homes, or rock lawns to stop approaching flames.

“I think we are making some progress across the nation in people making their homes defensible,” Legarza said. “If we have to respond to a wildfire, we’re only going to do it when we can be successful. Our No. 1 thing is our employees.”

One of them, Missoula, Montana-based smokejumper Dan Cottrell, said safety considerations have increased since he started fighting fires in 1995. He said carrying a fire shelter is worth the extra weight.

“People are pretty aware of their limitations, but it’s better than nothing,” he said.

# Wet Montana weather makes prescribed forest fires difficult

HAMILTON, Mont. (AP) – A snowy winter and a wet spring in western Montana are making it hard to conduct prescribed burns to reduce the risk of wildfires later in the year, federal forest managers said.

The Bitterroot National Forest hoped to burn about 3 square miles this spring, the Missoulian newspaper reported May 7.

“It’s still a little bit too wet to burn very well,” said Jay Wood, fire boss of the Bitterroot Hotshots, a wildfire-fighting crew. “And there’s some green coming up as well. It’s not really what you would call ideal.”

Firefighters use prescribed burns to remove dried vegetation, fallen pine needles and other material from the forest floor in areas where trees have already been thinned.

The low-intensity fires help restore the forest to more natural, fire-resistant conditions that existed before fire suppression was commonplace.

Bitterroot National Forest officials try to get their prescribed burns done early in the season, before they get called to fight wildfires elsewhere. The wet conditions have delayed that.

“This is late in the year for this to get started,” said Bitterroot Forest spokesman Tod McKay. “Our window this year is going to be really short, especially if it starts to warm up too quickly. The conditions will get too severe.”

The week of May 1, crews had to wait several hours for the humidity to drop enough for a 200-acre prescribed burn. Because of the late start, they worked nearly until dark to finish.

The day before, the humidity was too high for the fire to burn well.

The rainy weather helps in one way, Wood said, by making it easier for crews to keep prescribed burns under control.

“When we get that rain right after we burn, we don’t have to monitor afterwards nearly as long,” he said. “The opportunity for it to escape is pretty minimal. The rain just helps put it to bed.”





# EYE ON THE BALL

NFL draft winners and losers



BY BRANDON NILES  
EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

Now that the NFL draft is over, teams will be looking to see how each new addition fits onto a roster that will need to be trimmed down to 53 players before the start of the 2017 season. Between now and then, positional battles will be fought, injuries will force younger players to step up, and diamonds in the rough will be found among the more than 1,696 players who will don a uniform in the regular season this fall.

Until then, we can analyze the draft strategy of each team and try to determine which ones drafted well, which teams did poorly, and just how many rookies can make an early impact next season.

Here's a look at three teams who did well, and a couple of head scratchers in this year's draft:

Draft winners

Cleveland Browns

It helps to have the first overall pick, but by capitalizing on some creative trades, the Browns ended up with three first-round picks this year. Not only that, they picked up an additional first-round pick next year from the Houston Texans by moving down from the 12th to the 25th pick.

Even better, Cleveland was still able to draft a high-upside quarterback in the second round when they nabbed DeShone Kizer out of Notre Dame. Cleveland also snagged some talented players late, including Florida defensive lineman Caleb Brantley, and their deft maneuvering of the draft board to fill areas of need was impressive.

Houston Texans

The Texans paid a big price giving up a first-round pick next year to move up to the No. 12 spot and select Clemson quarterback Deshaun Watson, but it was a move they needed to make. Watson is ready to start right away and the Texans are a good quarterback away from competing for a title.

Houston also got quality players in the second and third rounds with athletic linebacker Zach Cunningham from Vanderbilt and prolific, bruising running back

D'Onte Foreman out of Texas. Houston's future will depend on Watson, but it was a necessary gamble to make.

Tennessee Titans

The Titans had an extra first-round pick from the Rams this year due to a draft-day trade in 2016. Throughout this year's draft, the Titans emphasized playmaking ability and helping out their young quarterback Marcus Mariota.

Their first pick, receiver Corey Davis out of Western Michigan, will give Mariota a true top option in the receiving corps, while third-round pick Taywan Taylor was my favorite slot receiver in this draft. Even seventh-round pick Khalfrani Muhammad, a running back from California, brings much needed speed to the backfield and may win a job in the return game.

Draft Losers

Mike Glennon and the Chicago Bears

Glennon, a former backup quarterback for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, signed a three-year, \$45 million contract in the offseason to be the Bears' starter after Chicago released Jay Cutler. Instead, Chicago traded a third and a fourth-round pick, along with a third-round pick in 2018, to move up just one spot in the first round to draft North Carolina quarterback Mitch Trubisky.

Trubisky is a work-in-progress and may turn into a great starter, but his lack of polish, the Glennon contract, and the price Chicago paid to get him makes for a questionable draft for the Bears.

Latavius Murray

Murray signed as a free agent with the Minnesota Vikings, trying to get out of a running-back-by-committee situation with the Oakland Raiders. With Adrian Peterson moving on, Murray was in prime position to get a full workload with the Vikings.

However, Minnesota drafted Florida State star running back Dalvin Cook in the second round, and the depth chart got a lot more crowded. Murray is going to have to beat out a younger, more versatile player in Cook, and he may find himself once again limited to two-down work.

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

# Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



We are excited for the commencement of spring runoff. It is a kind of cleansing that must take place every year, kind of like cleaning out your garage. And the more water there is, the cleaner the river gets. Seems a bit counterintuitive when the river will, for a period, look like chocolate milk.

The best part of runoff - fishing will be "off the hook" when the river begins to drop and clear. "When will that be?" you ask. It is probably safe to guess that the Gallatin will really start to turn around in mid-June. The Yellowstone will follow sometime around late June or early July. Of course, this is all a prediction based on current snowpack and most recent weather patterns. If it gets hot and stays hot things could shape up more quickly,

especially if you add a good amount of warm rain to the mix. Cooler weather, on the other hand, will prolong runoff.

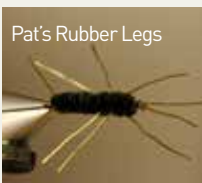
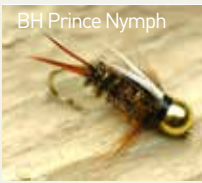
Until then there are still plenty of options. Tailwater like the Madison tend to be more sheltered from spring runoff, especially the upper Madison above the West Fork. The West Fork itself puts a fair amount of mud into the Madison, making conditions downstream a little more challenging. There is a fair amount of mud that comes in from Cabin and Beaver Creeks in between Hebgen and Quake Lakes, but that mud has to move through Quake Lake and much of the silt settles before making it out the other end. The upper Madison is one of our more consistent fisheries, even after it's been hit with the mud.

The upper Gallatin above Taylor's Fork remains in fishable shape for much of runoff, but there will be a time when even that is too big and muddy to fish.

Spring creeks in the Paradise Valley are great options, but start to get busy during runoff with guided fishing trips and folks looking to get their dry fly fix.

Hebgen, Quake and high mountain lakes can be great options during spring runoff if you're ok with stillwater fishing. Many high mountain lakes also tend to have smaller creeks feeding in and out of them that may be chock full of fish this time of year.

Don't let the high water get you down. There are always options. Yellowstone National Park will reopen to fishing on May 27th, which will open up another mix of options. Tight lines and enjoy nature's version of spring cleaning!



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# Maintaining the status quo on the Yellowstone:

## Businesses respond to last year's closure

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – After a parasitic outbreak led Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to close the Yellowstone River late last summer, tourism and recreation business owners are cautious, but say it's business as usual.

Beginning last year on Aug. 19, nearly 183 miles of the Yellowstone River were closed to all water activities, including fishing, wading, floating and boating, in response to the death of thousands of mountain whitefish and some rainbow and Yellowstone cutthroat trout affected by the parasite known as *Tetracapsuloides bryosalmonae*, which causes proliferative kidney disease. FWP lifted most of the closure two weeks later, but the stretch south of Livingston with the highest whitefish mortality rate was closed for a full month.

This short-term closure is reported by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana to have resulted in an economic loss to Park County businesses of between \$360,000 and \$524,000.

"It was like somebody turned off a faucet," said Sarah Ondrus, who owns Gardiner-based Paradise Adventure Company with her husband. With two locations, one in Gardiner and one at Chico Hot Springs, Ondrus and her husband, Patrik, take groups on rafting adventures on the Yellowstone River nearly every day during the peak season in the summer.

"You could see the impacts [of the closure] the next day," Ondrus said, estimating that between all four of Gardiner's rafting companies, about 500 people visit the town specifically to raft each day. "We lost our jobs within one phone call," she said. Faced with the indefinite closure, Ondrus said she had to let some employees go and cancel the remaining trips for the summer.

"We really took a hit," said Ondrus, whose company operates only on the Yellowstone. "If [FWP] shuts it down, there's nothing we can do."

While Ondrus's rafting company relies solely on the Yellowstone, other recreation businesses may be able to come up with backup plans if issues arise in the future, said Leslie Feigel, executive director of the Livingston Area Chamber of Commerce. "Not everything is around the Yellowstone."

Feigel noted the number of hiking and horseback riding opportunities in Paradise Valley, as well as additional fishing on the spring creeks and mountain lakes. "The river is only part of it," she said.

"It's really always a threat for many rivers to close," said Eric Adams, owner of Montana Fly Fishing Guides in Livingston. Aware of the possibility of a closure, Adams and many other fly-fishing outfitters keep permits to fish other bodies of water. For Adams, this includes the Paradise Valley spring creeks, the Boulder River and several locations in the Stillwater area.

Brian McGeehan, owner of Montana Angler in Bozeman, is also permitted on a number of rivers, including the Gallatin and Madison. Additionally, he takes float trips on the Yellowstone River, operating out of the Yellowstone Valley Lodge in Paradise Valley.

According to the University of Montana report, the Upper Yellowstone River is the most fished river drainage in Montana and accounts for nearly 11 percent of all angler days in the state.

"We haven't really seen any difference in terms of the trout fishery," McGeehan said, after taking several clients on the Yellowstone this spring. "We haven't been shy about booking people [for fishing the Yellowstone]."

Adams and his guides are also already taking clients on the Yellowstone River this year. "At this point the trout we're catching look healthy," Adams said. "In terms of our bookings, we're doing really well."



Nearly 183 miles of the Yellowstone River were closed to all recreation activities last August. So far this year, businesses that were impacted by last year's closure are cautiously optimistic that bookings will return to near-normal levels. NPS PHOTO

Surprised, Adams said most clients aren't asking about the impacts of last year's closure.

Ondrus said rafting clients aren't asking about the condition of the river, either. "That's why I think what happened last year won't affect us," Ondrus said, already seeing bookings through the summer. "As far as right now, it's business as usual."

"I hate when our river's sick," Ondrus said. "We just keep our fingers crossed and hope we'll have a healthy river and a good summer."

This April, FWP conducted an extensive survey of the Yellowstone River in order to monitor the fish population. While still analyzing the results, Region 3 Fisheries Biologist Scott Opitz said there were lower numbers of whitefish near the Mallard's Rest Fishing Access Site, which was in the middle of the highest mortality zone last year.

However, Opitz said initial analysis shows "there may have been an impact but nothing that raises immediate concern ... We see variation [in population numbers] annually."

Opitz said FWP will have a complete report from the population study toward the end of this month and further summer monitoring will be based on that data. For now, the Yellowstone River is open to all recreation activity, as it would be if the parasite outbreak had not occurred.

"There is some concern for the potential to have another outbreak," Opitz said. "We're not at a point where we have the ability to predict when or where that might occur."

Opitz did note that the Upper Yellowstone Basin had above average snowpack this winter and has seen a high runoff this spring, which could be a benefit to the health of the river and fish, as the parasite's impact appears to be exacerbated by low river flows and high water temperatures.

In light of possible future outbreaks, and to encourage awareness and dialogue among various sectors concerned with the Yellowstone River, Montana Aquatic Resources Services held a Yellowstone River Symposium on April 27 and 28 in Livingston. Executive director of the state-wide nonprofit Wendy Weaver said individuals from a variety of backgrounds attended the event, including land owners, conservationists, farmers and fishermen, and they discussed potential solutions to improve the overall health of the Yellowstone River. A summary of the symposium is expected toward the end of May.



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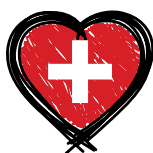
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# From Jackie *with love*



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN  
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

Raised in the American culture, I'm prone to preferring shortcuts and quick fixes if it means getting faster results in an ethical way or avoiding pain. That said, I recently gave a TEDx Bozeman talk which stressed me out so much that as I was walking down the steps from the stage I wondered, "Should I have taken a beta blocker before doing that?"

The idea to take a pill to help my performance shocked me. I'm not sure where I heard that beta blockers help reduce anxiety in public speakers; I've never spoken to anyone about using them and I didn't even really know what they were.

I soon learned that a beta blocker is a class of medication used to lower blood pressure. They're not only used by speakers but also by musicians and athletes like archers and pistol shooters to reduce performance anxiety—or at least the outward symptoms of it. While mental nervousness is usually not reduced (this is not a psychoactive drug), physical symptoms like shaky hands, a cracking voice and sweat on the brow are diminished. This, in turn, helps people feel calmer.

However, as with most drugs, beta blockers can also have terrible side effects like severe cotton-mouth, dizziness and diarrhea. For me, this is not a risk worth taking.

So I asked myself, "What could I do instead to calm my nerves before my next big speaking engagement?" My inner voice responded, "Really? You have to ask? Meditation!" I wondered why I hadn't been meditating regularly all along.

I've co-taught a "meditation to reduce stress" class and written about the incredible benefits. Knowing that I could naturally reduce stress, blood pressure and insomnia while elevating my mood, intellect and compassion without any harmful side effects, I wondered what was keeping me from maintaining a consistent practice.

Here's what I discovered: First of all, meditation is the opposite of a shortcut or quick fix. And then there's the cultural disconnect. The way I've been trained to think

# Reframing meditation to fit an American mindset

about meditation is not in alignment with my American values. Meditation practitioners teach that we need to get comfortable with "doing nothing" and "not being attached to the outcome" while doing this "effortless" exercise.

But I'm a doer. The practice of doing nothing without a greater purpose doesn't work for me at this stage in my life. I appreciate and welcome challenges. Simply sitting still without desiring benefits while emails, texts and tasks are pinging away seems like an exercise in futility. While I realize that learning new skills as an adult often requires unlearning old ways of being, I'm not motivated to let go of my drive to get things done.

It gets even worse. When I'm really amped up and force myself to sit on a cushion to calm down, I become acutely and painfully aware of just how crazy my mind is, how it darts from thought to thought. Self-awareness can be a deterrent to growth and behavior change. Who wants to witness their own mania? Yuck!

So I've decided to incorporate this ancient Eastern practice into my contemporary American mindset. I've given myself permission to think of meditation as "doing" something very important. I'm "attached" to the outcome of improved health and I realize it's OK that it's not "effortless."

In fact, I've reframed it as a challenge that requires a tremendous amount of courage—apparently even more, in my case, than getting up on a TEDx stage. This reframing suddenly makes meditation more appealing to my American mindset. I now embrace it. It excites me. And when the phone rings, I can more calmly ignore it because I believe I'm doing something extremely important from which I will reap incredible rewards.

If you've been trying to develop a meditation practice but it just isn't sticking, perhaps reframing can help you as well. While it's out of alignment with traditional teachings, if it gets us to the cushion on a regular basis and helps us build a consistent mediation practice, I believe that's OK.

*Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach, culture consultant and public speaker. Contact her at [jackie@corehealthbmt.com](mailto:jackie@corehealthbmt.com).*



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## DOCTOR'S NOTE

## Traveling? Educate yourself about required vaccinations before you go



BY DR. JEFF DANIELS  
EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Now that ski season is over, it's time to make plans to travel, and those plans might take you to some pretty exotic places. That raises the possibility of exposure to various infections that we're not used to here in Montana.

Travel doesn't have to be international to increase the risk of acquiring an infection. There are certain parts of the United States that offer recreation in an environment where certain infections are rampant. One area to keep in mind is Tennessee and Missouri. These states have become the epicenter for tick-borne illnesses, including Lyme disease, Ehrlichiosis and anaplasmosis. These are bacterial infections spread by ticks and can cause acute, but also chronic, illness.

Lyme disease involves a circular rash where the tick bite occurred, followed by a variety of problems like knee swelling, infection of heart tissues and neurological problems. Ehrlichiosis and anaplasmosis present with fever, headache and malaise, liver damage and blood cell damage. Avoiding tick bites by using a good DEET tick repellent and checking your skin after being outdoors is the best way to prevent these illnesses, but if suspected, doxycycline is used to treat all three.

As global warming increases and areas in the southern United States with subtropical conditions expand, infecting organisms like bacteria and viruses—as well as the vectors that spread them—are becoming more common. Three mosquito-borne flavivirus infections have been making the news: Dengue fever, Chikungunya and Zika virus infection. These three are predominantly confined to tropical countries, but they're starting to be reported more in Florida and along the Gulf Coast.

Referred to as “breakbone fever,” Dengue fever can cause tremendous pain in the bones, a rash, headache and malaise. It usually clears after a week or two, but in some unlucky individuals who have been exposed to Dengue numerous times, the immune system begins to attack the circulation and hemorrhaging results. Chikungunya is similar to Dengue (without the hemorrhagic complications), but can result in chronic joint pain, lasting months or years. You've likely heard about the birth defects caused by Zika virus infection. That should make anyone pregnant or thinking about getting pregnant avoid areas where Zika is prevalent. Most cases of Zika in adults are asymptomatic, but in some it is confused with Dengue fever.

When traveling outside the U.S., it's important to check the Center of Disease Control website to find out which vaccinations are necessary or required, and what you might be up against. Most importantly, figure out if you will need to take prophylactic medication to prevent malaria.

If you happen to be traveling to sub-Saharan Africa or the Amazon basin, you'll have to consider another mosquito-borne flavivirus that causes yellow fever. The virus most often causes minor symptoms, but one out of six people exposed to it will get extremely ill, and some yellow fever epidemics have had a 90 percent mortality rate.

We have a vaccine to prevent yellow fever, but it's in very short supply until Sanofi-Pasteur, the U.S. manufacturer, completes its new facility in mid-2018. The vaccine is currently being imported from France, and it's distributed sparingly. If you think you might be traveling to a place where you'll need it, give yourself plenty of time between your doctor visit and your trip since it takes 10 days to become immune once you've been administered the shot.

Yellow fever vaccine is relatively safe, although there are more side effects for travelers over age 60. It used to be recommended every 10 years for those visiting areas where it's endemic, but it's now thought that one shot gives lifetime protection.

Finally, we recommend that any traveler going to a developing country get vaccinated for Hepatitis A, a safe intramuscular injection, and typhoid fever, a safe series of capsules to raise immunity in the gut to Salmonella typhi. One more note: If you were never given the measles or polio vaccines in childhood, you might want to consider getting vaccinated since these diseases are still out there and can do tremendous harm to those who are not vaccinated.

I hope I haven't scared you into not leaving Big Sky!

*Dr. Jeff Daniels was the recipient of the 2015 Chamber of Commerce Cbet 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 of Big Sky.*



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# AMUSE-BOUCHE

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

## Wait, don’t throw that away!



BY SCOTT MECHURA  
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

One day not that long ago, as I was pumping gas in Bozeman, I saw an employee wheel a large Rubbermaid cart through the parking lot. It was packed with frozen pizzas, Hot Pockets and some other freezer items not easily identifiable.

I triangulated her trajectory. She was headed for the dumpster. I watched as she held the lid open with one hand and began tossing the boxes in with the other.

I approached the woman. “Those must be expired,” I said.

“Yep,” she said.

“I would take some of those off your hands,” I said with a smile. I wasn’t interested in personally consuming any of the items, but I knew I could find someone who would.

Her answer was shocking.

“Oh no, sir,” she said. “No one is allowed to take expired foods.”

By her conviction and apparent adherence to whatever rules she followed, one would have thought she was being asked to hand over government secrets, mishandle biochemical materials or worse yet, tear the tag off a mattress.

“Well I’d like to take them to the homeless man I just saw on the corner,” I said. Now, simply out of principle, I was as irritated as she was.

“Sir, I cannot allow you to take these!” She was clearly agitated by now.

“Well that’s unfortunate,” I said.

As I walked away, I reflected that not long ago, I wrote about what to do with leftovers in the refrigerator. And yet this employee’s rule was to discard a cart full of frozen foods. Not fresh, but frozen foods.

Why such ardent fear?

You might be wondering who would want to eat a Hot Pocket in the first place, let alone an expired one. While I agree, the fact is that it’s highly unlikely there was anything wrong with the food being tossed in the dumpster.

Through my profession, travels and all-around curiosity, I’ve come across many statistics that fascinate me. Friends say I accumulate useless information. But this particular fact I learned in a film entitled “Just Eat It” is truly astounding. According to this documentary, 40 percent of all food grown, raised or produced in the U.S. goes to waste. When I heard that, I didn’t even know what to think.

Worse yet, there are no federal laws on expiration dates. Consequently, each state’s date labeling laws are not based in science. “The practice around dating of foods in this country is just a complete mess,” says Don Schaffner, food scientist at Rutgers University, in the short film “Expired? Food Waste in America.”

And while we have much to be proud of in Montana, food labeling is not one of them. Montana is one of the worst states when it comes to sensible food labeling.

Take milk for example. Milk is a fully pasteurized product. That means that as awful as it may taste, it cannot make you physically ill. Yet its expiration dates in Montana are over a week earlier than other states. And not only is it not salable, it’s also illegal to donate.

According to No Kid Hungry, there are 13 million malnourished children in the U.S., yet we pour milk down the drain days earlier than other states. Perhaps this could move up on the list of things to do in Helena.

With items such as peaches, bananas and tomatoes regularly discarded simply because marketers have deemed them aesthetically unpleasing, imagine how many underprivileged children could be fed with even a fraction of food that’s been unwisely tossed out.

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



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1:30 pm - **Great Gallatin Pedal, Paddle, Run-Off Relay Race**  
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5 pm - **Live Music by Low Water String Band**  
Big Sky Town Center Park

SUNDAY, JULY 2<sup>ND</sup>  
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## Section 3: OUTDOORS & BACK 40



Bear trapping for research pg. 30



Wilderness walks pg. 33



Get your garden started pg. 40

# INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



## Intimate tours of Yellowstone: New Big Sky tour company takes small groups to the park

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

**BIG SKY** - For Big Sky residents Laura Callaghan and Mikala Kearney the best part of Yellowstone National Park is showing it to others.

After seven years guiding tours for outfitters in the park, as well as locations in Montana, Tennessee and North Carolina, Callaghan is leading tours under the business name Yellowstone Scenic Tours this summer. Callaghan and Kearney, her business partner, will celebrate a ribbon cutting with the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, May 13, at 12 p.m. to kick off their new start-up, having taken their very first tour on May 9. Community members are invited to attend the event.

"I'm excited to be in the park more," said Kearney, who enjoys watching wildlife and has a personal goal to visit all 58 National Parks in the United States. To date, she has visited 14. "I want to teach people to love the park as much as I do," she said.

Yellowstone Scenic Tours, which is certified by the Department of Transportation as a woman-owned small business, will offer group or private tours of up to 10 guests, who will pile into a 2017 Ford Transit Passenger Wagon to tour the park's lower or upper loop.

Alternatively, guests can opt for a fully customized trip that could integrate less driving time and more walking in order to see areas of the park beyond Old Faithful and Mammoth Hot Springs. The small group size allows Yellowstone Scenic Tours to access locations that many tour buses cannot.

The Lower Loop tour takes visitors through the largest geyser basins of Yellowstone National Park, and includes the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone, Hayden Valley, Lake Hotel, Old Faithful, Fountain and Artist Paint Pots and Grand Prismatic Spring. This tour is approximately 270 miles roundtrip, Callaghan said.

The Upper Loop traverses the northern region of the park. Offered as a private tour option, the Upper Loop highlights Norris Geyser Basin, Mammoth Hot Springs, Lamar Valley, Tower Fall and the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone.



Yellowstone's Lamar Valley is a popular spot for viewing wildlife like bison. Yellowstone Scenic Tours offers private tour options that traverse the northern region of the park. NPS PHOTO



The Grand Canyon of Yellowstone is one of a handful of impressive geological sites included in Yellowstone Scenic Tours' Lower Loop tour. Co-owners Mikala Kearney and Laura Callaghan completed a five-day course called 'A Guide's Guide to Yellowstone' to beef up their knowledge on the park's geology, wildlife and human history. NPS PHOTO

Tours are scheduled as a full day of sightseeing and are available seven days a week, May through October.

The duo picks up their clients at any location in Big Sky or West Yellowstone, coming directly to their doorsteps, and every trip includes a picnic sack lunch. "Everybody wants to have a picnic in the park," Kearney said.

Already an experienced guide, Callaghan is excited to be more involved with the entire process, she said. "I'm looking forward to being there at every step of the tour, including booking."

Prior to the scheduled trip, Callaghan and Kearney will speak with their clients in order to plan a trip that meets client goals and expectations. They have also been doing their homework, so to speak, and are prepared to share stories about the park's history, attractions and wildlife.

"There's always something new to learn [about Yellowstone]" Callaghan said. "Most people who come to the park know nothing about it."

Both women have taken the five-day Yellowstone Forever course, A Guide's Guide to Yellowstone, which is taught by area experts and covers the geology, wildlife and human history associated with many of the attractions in the park.

Kearney said so far Yellowstone Scenic Tours has been well-received, and while the business certainly isn't booked for the season, Kearney and Callaghan know that visitors to the area may not book their tours until actually getting to Big Sky or West Yellowstone.

*To learn more about Big Sky's new tour company, Yellowstone Scenic Tours, visit [yellowstonescenictours.biz](http://yellowstonescenictours.biz).*



# Wyoming wolf hunts to start again after US court decision

BY MEAD GRUVER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) - Wyoming will hold a wolf hunt for the first time in four years this fall now that a federal court has lifted endangered species protection for wolves in the state, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department said April 26.

Planning is now underway for the hunt in northwestern Wyoming, which will probably be similar to the state’s last wolf hunting seasons in 2012 and 2013, officials said.

In 2013, the department allowed hunters to kill as many as 26 wolves in an area outside Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks and northwest of the Wind River Indian Reservation.

Hunters who were among the 2,153 who purchased licenses that year got 23 wolves. Another wolf that was killed illegally also counted toward the 2013 quota.

The upcoming wolf hunting season will not “change in terms of quotas very much. People shouldn’t expect that that’s going to change because they were removing a lot of wolves while they were under federal control,” said game and fish spokesman Renny MacKay.

During the two-year period that wolves were brought back under federal control in Wyoming, wildlife managers continued to kill wolves that preyed on livestock and caused other problems.

The tightly regulated hunting season only applies to wolves’ core territory in the Greater Yellowstone area. Elsewhere in Wyoming, where wolves aren’t nearly as numerous, unregulated hunting will take place year-round. Wolves there may now be shot on sight.

Outside of the wolves’ core habitat, they are classified as predators of livestock, like coyotes.

The shoot-on-sight provision in effect for most of the state has been particularly bothersome to wolf advocates who want to know the state will maintain a viable population.

The state decision to plan for its next wolf hunting season came after the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia on Tuesday put wolves back under the state’s control.

The decision lifted one in 2014 by a federal judge who had sided with environmentalists concerned Wyoming’s plan would not require it to maintain a minimum number of wolves in the state.

A three-judge panel of the court ruled in March that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service adequately took into account concerns raised about Wyoming’s wolf-management plan. Environmental groups including the Natural Resources Defense Council declined to appeal.

Instead they plan to focus on stopping efforts in Congress to keep wolves off the endangered list and prohibit legal efforts to keep wolves listed.

“Congress needs to stop meddling with species protection and allow the law to work the way it was intended. And that means allowing the courts to review decisions, and make decisions, and allow the agencies to use the best available science to determine whether a species needs protection,” NRDC attorney Rebecca Riley said.

The 2014 ruling put wolves back under federal control in Wyoming days before that year’s wolf hunt was scheduled to begin.

The game and fish department plans to draft this fall’s wolf hunt for the state Game and Fish Commission to consider over the summer. The commission will hold a series of public meetings around the state on wolf hunting before voting on the plan in time for hunting this fall, MacKay said.

The fish and wildlife service would not need to sign off on the plan. Wyoming remains pledged to maintain at least 100 wolves, including 10 breeding pairs, outside Yellowstone and the Wind River Indian Reservation. The state currently has about 400 wolves.

About 5,500 wolves, many descended from wolves reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park in the 1990s, now inhabit the continental U.S., where they were once hunted to near extinction.

# Biologists begin bear trapping for research

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

BOZEMAN – As part of ongoing efforts required under the Endangered Species Act to monitor the population of grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, biologists with the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team and Yellowstone National Park are conducting scientific grizzly bear and black bear research operations in Yellowstone National Park from May 7 through July 30.

Team members will bait and trap bears at several remote sites in Yellowstone National Park. Once trapped, the bears are anesthetized to allow wildlife biologists to radio collar them and collect scientific samples for study. All trapping and handling is done in accordance with protocols developed by the IGBST.

None of the trap sites in the park will be located near established hiking trails or backcountry campsites, and all trap sites will have posted warnings for the closure perimeter. Potential access points will also be posted with warning signs. Backcountry users who come upon any of these posted areas need to heed the warnings and stay out of the area.

The IGBST was established in 1973 to collaboratively monitor and manage bears of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem on an interagency basis. The team is composed of representatives of the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribal Fish and Game Department, and the states of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

For more information regarding grizzly bear research efforts call (406) 994-6675.



A grizzly bear walks through Hayden Valley, a large sub-alpine valley in the middle of Yellowstone National Park. Through July 30, the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team is running trapping operations in parts of Yellowstone National Park to radio collar bears for data collection. NPS PHOTO



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# Montana Wilderness Association announces 2017 Wilderness Walks

## MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

Beginning this month and lasting throughout the summer and into the fall, Montana Wilderness Association is offering more than 100 free day hikes, overnight trips and trail-building and maintenance projects across some of the state's most magnificent backcountry. These events are for members and nonmembers alike.

"It's hard to beat the Bozeman area for great hiking because there are so many places in our part of the state to choose from," MWA's southwest Montana field director Sally Cathey said. "This year, we'll be highlighting a number of areas we think deserve special attention in the next Custer Gallatin Forest plan, especially places in the Crazies and the Gallatins."

Since the program's beginnings in July 1962, when MWA founders Ken and Florence Baldwin led 40 hikers on the first Wilderness Walk to Table Mountain in the Spanish Peaks, the intention of the Wilderness Walks program has remained the same: to build grassroots support for wilderness and public lands by uniting a community around Montana's special places. Now in its 55th season, MWA's Wilderness Walks program continues to offer hikers of all ages and experience levels an opportunity to participate in traditional recreation opportunities while enjoying Montana's quiet beauty and remaining wild places.

Below is a brief list of 2017 Wilderness Walks held near Bozeman, Livingston and Big Sky.

To view the entire Wilderness Walks schedule and to sign up, visit [wildmontana.org/walks](http://wildmontana.org/walks). For more information, contact Amanda Hagerty at (406) 443-7350, ext. 108 or at [ahagerty@wildmontana.org](mailto:ahagerty@wildmontana.org).

### Big Creek, Emigrant

Sunday, June 4

Wildflowers abound on this gently rolling trail that traverses the hillside above Big Creek, on the east side of the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area. Colorful lava rock formations and cliffs streaked with orange and red appear on both sides of the river. Distance: 9 miles, moderately strenuous.

### Sunlight Meadows, Bozeman

Friday, July 14

Explore a petrified forest in one of Montana's finest Wilderness Study Areas. The Tom Miner Basin and Buffalo Horn Pass are in the middle of the Gallatin Petrified Forest, just north of the Yellowstone National Park boundary. Distance: 6.5 miles, moderately strenuous.

### Eaglehead Mountain and Windy Pass, Big Sky

Sunday, July 16

A hike to the summit of Eaglehead Mountain showcases spectacular landscape views. Return along the Gallatin Crest to Windy Pass and then back to the

trailhead. During the descent to Windy Pass, enjoy a kaleidoscope of wildflower meadows and more impressive views. Distance: 9 miles, extremely strenuous.

### Crater Lake, Bozeman

Thursday, Aug. 3

This hike passes through the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area, as well as through virgin forests and across several small streams and high mountain meadows to the spine of the Gallatin-Yellowstone River divide. Distance: 9 miles, strenuous.

### Swan Creek, Big Sky

Friday, Aug. 11

A family hike along Swan Creek provides lots of shade as you gradually gain elevation. Swan Creek is located in a canyon area with mossy rock walls, lush meadows and wildflowers where one may see beaver and other wildlife. Distance: 4 to 6 miles, moderate.

### Wild Gallatins, Big Sky

Saturday, Aug. 12

This hike will take you into the core of the wildest part of the Gallatin Range. Start by ascending the valley of Dailey Creek in Yellowstone National Park. After crossing a valley in the Gallatin Range, descend into Buffalo Horn Creek, exiting along a gurgling stream. Distance: 10 miles, strenuous.

### Cabin Creek, West Yellowstone

Saturday, Aug. 12

Help locate a portion of the Hebgen Lake fault scarp that crosses Cabin Creek and the Cabin Creek Trail. The adventure will find you leisurely exploring a canyon just north of Earthquake Lake, the epicenter of the 1959 Hebgen Lake earthquake. Distance: 6 miles, moderate.

### Millie Burn and Divide Peak, Bozeman

Saturday, Sept. 16

Learn about the Millie Fire with U.S. Forest Service experts. After the discussion hike the Storm Castle drainage into the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area and on to Divide Peak Ridge, an area that provides wonderful vistas of the Hyalite alpine zone and the Gallatin crest. Distance: 10 to 11 miles, extremely strenuous.

### Passage Falls and Wallace Divide, Livingston

Saturday, Sept. 16

This waterfall hike travels up Wallace Creek to Wallace Pass. The pass connects trails in the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness, north of Yellowstone Park. The area has spectacular views both down-valley and of rocky cliffs where mountain goats can occasionally be spotted. Distance: 14 miles, extremely strenuous.



Thursday, Aug. 3 the Montana Wilderness Association will lead a 9-mile hike to Crater Lake, which is located in the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area. PHOTO BY TOM ROSS



YELLOWSTONE CLUB



River Runs Through It  
13,349 SQ FT / \$13M



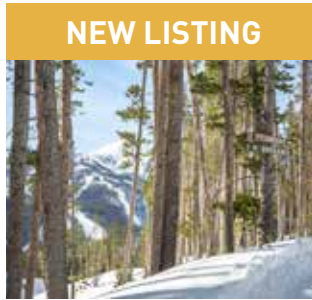
388 Andesite Ridge Rd.  
4,852 SQ FT / \$6.45M



Lot 338 Bristlecone Dr  
14.6 Acres / \$4.95M



Lot 86 Andesite Ridge Rd.  
2.64 Acres / \$3.3M



NEW LISTING  
Lot 472 White Spruce Dr.  
2.9 Acres / \$3.3M

SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB



Ski Tip Lot 8  
1.11 Acres / \$825K



Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.  
3.13 Acres / \$450K

MOONLIGHT BASIN



Luxury Suite 1B  
2,563 SQ FT / \$1.445M

BIG SKY



Kandahar at  
Beehive Basin  
5,409 SQ FT / \$3.45M



NEW LISTING  
25 Lower Dudley Creek  
4,076 SQ FT / \$1.65

BIG SKY



330 Beaver Mountain Trl.  
2,293 SQ FT / \$780K



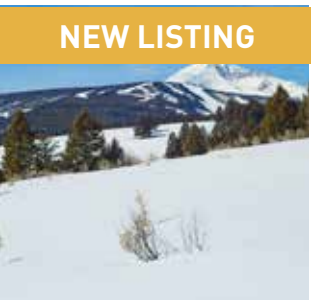
49850 Gallatin Rd.  
2,499 SQ FT / \$595K



281 Village Center  
473 SQ FT / \$295K



Lot 287A Rising Bull Rd.  
1.04 Acres / \$529K



NEW LISTING  
Lot 15 Bobtail Horse Rd.  
.88 ACRES / \$445K

BIG SKY



UNDER CONTRACT  
Lot 26 Little Coyote Rd.  
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Limestone Creek  
40 ACRES / 10,297 SQ FT  
\$12.9M



1800 Skunk Creek Rd.  
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Lahood Park Home  
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Homestead Cabin #2  
3,635 SQ FT / \$2.675M



Homestead Cabin #6  
2,585SQ FT / \$2.2M



Ski Tip Lot 10  
1.02 Acres / \$875K

BIG SKY



245 Rain in Face  
3,446 SQ FT / \$1.595



214 W. Pine Cone Terrace  
4,268 SQ FT / \$1.35M



Mountain Selah  
4,574 SQ FT / \$1.35M



100 Crail Ranch Dr.  
3,730 SQ FT / \$1.29M



Black Eagle Lodge  
2,549 SQ FT / \$1.35M

BIG SKY



Lot 3 Windy Pass Trl.  
5.63 Acres / \$449.9K



Lot 1 Ciel Drive  
8.03 ACRES / \$415K



Lot 3 Joy Rd.  
6.83 Acres / \$415K



Gallatin Rd. Parcel 1  
2.63 ACRES / \$255K



Gallatin Rd. Tract 4  
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GREATER MONTANA



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Hebgen Lake  
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Gallatin Gateway, MT  
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Craig, MT  
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RANCH & RECREATION

COMMERCIAL



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Gallatin Canyon, MT  
5.46 ACRES / \$640K



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1,204 SQ FT / \$470,580



Lahood Steakhouse  
Cardwell, MT  
~3,500 SQ FT / \$369K



RJS Tower Unit 205/207  
Big Sky, MT  
961 SQ FT / \$339K



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# EDDY Line

## Things are about to get nasty— runoff season is here

You can still fish, it just requires a little extra effort



BY PATRICK STRAUB  
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

We hoped for snow and we got it, albeit a little later than normal. The late-season skiing action eclipsed the past few years and now we are left with copious amounts of snow. This is a beautiful time in our area as valley floors are green and mountaintops are white. It

brings back memories of the Montana I remember as a kid—when May and early June saw rivers raging with mountain snowmelt and pastures green and full.

Runoff in mountain country is a fact of life and with our cooler spring, much of the snowpack has remained. This is a good thing because the later runoff begins, the higher the likelihood we'll have ideal summer flows. Fishing options still exist locally and within an easy drive, but not every river or stream will be an option. Here's some help in muddling through our muddy waters.

**Local knowledge.** We are fortunate to have several quality fly shops serving our local community and the rivers we fish. Internet fishing reports are reliable, but a quick phone call might garner more info. Better yet, pay a visit.

**Tailwaters and spring creeks.** Rivers like the Missouri, Bighorn and Beaverhead, and spring creeks such as DePuy's, Armstrong's and Nelson's, will run clear when other rivers are muddy. For a moderately experienced do-it-yourself angler, the spring creeks will offer a challenge. For any angler fishing with a guide, the spring creeks serve up a unique angling experience. If you've never fished a spring creek, now is a good time. For the larger tailwater rivers, plenty of information exists and there's certainly no shortage of great fly shops serving them.

**Go big or go home.** Runoff fishing demands an adjustment in your tackle. Fish stouter tippets—unless you're on DePuy's spring creek, leave the 5X at home. Expect to fish subsurface more often than not. My standard leader this time of year is a 9-foot 2X. Invest in quality Fluorocarbon tippet material such as Rio Fluorflex, TroutHunter, Scientific Anglers or Orvis Mirage. But before you do, practice your knots because fluorocarbon ain't cheap and you want to spend time a-stream fishing, not tying knots.

**Geek out on streamflows.** This one is pretty simple and only requires an internet connection. Make a daily habit of checking local streamflows and forecasts. Watch for rising and dropping trends. If flows are rising on the river you hope to fish, look elsewhere. But if the general trend is a dropping streamflow, the fishing should improve. A small drop can serve up just enough clarity along the edges of the river for fish to get back on the feed.

**Weather watcher.** If I paid as much attention to my stock portfolio as I did the weather and streamflows, my dream of spending winter in the Bahamas might be a reality. For our larger freestone rivers, the Gallatin and Yellowstone, to drop and clear enough to fish this time of year, daytime highs need to hover around 60 F and the nighttime lows need to reach or drop below freezing. If you observe this weather pattern for a few days, expect fishable conditions.

**Love the worm.** Most of my regular anglers know fishing with weighted nymphs below an indicator is like fingernails on a chalkboard. Yet they also know I like to catch fish. This time of year with snowmelt and rain causing dirty water, fish are eating worms. And can you blame them? To a trout a worm is a high-protein meal.

**Fish it anyway.** Even if things look challenging when you see the water, fish it. Some of my best days have occurred when others had written them off. While abundant food exists in swollen and muddy waters and the fishing can be great, rising rivers are no place for experimentation. A good way to gauge if conditions are safe for wading is if you can stay below the median high-water mark while on the riverbank. If the water level makes it difficult to navigate, conditions could be unsafe.

**Keep hope alive.** The sooner runoff starts and gets rolling the sooner it will be over, and you are not alone in your search for clean water. Be congenial and share the water out there—a little friendly conversation with a fellow angler might yield a hot fly or tackle adjustment or a new place to fish.

As our area rivers rise, keep sight on the prize: significant snow in the mountains now means good late summer fishing and healthy summer streamflows for all. Enjoy the green, fish through the mud or discover some new water.

*Pat Straub is the author of six books, including "The Frugal Fly Fisher," "Montana on The Fly" and "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Fly Fishing." He owns Gallatin River Guides in Big Sky with his wife and operates a guide service on the Missouri River with a partner.*



Fishing smaller waters or spring creeks such as Armstrong's Spring Creek is a fine way to fish during runoff. Be sure to know your regulations as some small streams are closed until late May. If you opt for a spring creek, consider hiring a guide. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES



# Horse drive, bbq, cowboy poetry slated for May 27

## Unusual eagle rescue brings together Bozeman nonprofit and Yellowstone-area outfitters

BY AMANDA EGGERT  
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

Hell's A-Roarin' Outfitters, a ranching and guiding outfit located on the doorstep of Yellowstone National Park, is holding their third annual horse drive on Saturday, May 27.

In addition to a horse drive, the event will include a barbecue dinner, cowboy poetry with Sandy Sallee and Gwen Peterson, and live music fit for dancing from Wylie and the Wild West.

The Hell's A-Roarin' Horse Drive will begin at the Gardiner Rodeo Grounds at 1 p.m. and continue to the Hell's A-Roarin' ranch in Jardine later in the afternoon.

The event will serve as a fundraiser for the Montana Raptor Conservation Center and Western Montana Search Dogs.

Approximately 450 attendees attended the 2016 horse drive, 100 more than were anticipated by Sue Johnson, who owns Hell's A-Roarin' with her husband Warren. This year Sue expects about 500 people will attend.

There's an incredible story behind the outfitting business's connection to the Montana Raptor Conservation Center, a Bozeman-based nonprofit.

November of 2014, Warren came across a golden eagle with a fractured wing during a backcountry elk hunt in Deckard Flats. When it became clear that the eagle wouldn't recover on its own, Warren roped it with his lariat, brought it home and called the game warden.

The juvenile female golden eagle was taken to MRCC, where it recovered. Warren visited it at the MRCC facility and participated in its release near the Hell's A-Roarin' ranch several months later.



Yellowstone National Park's Electric Peak towers over the Hell's A-Roarin' Horse Drive, an annual event in Gardiner, Montana, that's expected to draw 500 attendees this year. PHOTO BY JEAN MODESETTE

"He came out to the Raptor Center to visit the eagle and he kind of ended up being [bound] up with her, so he decided to put us as the recipient [for this year's horse drive fundraiser]," said MRCC board member Jeannie Counce.

The eagle still hangs around near the ranch. "[Warren's] seen it a couple of times," Sue said. "He can tell because of the one wing."

*To learn more about the horse drive and attending festivities, visit [facebook.com/bellsaroarinhorsedrive](https://facebook.com/bellsaroarinhorsedrive).*



Creighton Block  
GALLERY

Jacqueline Rieder Hud, "A Light Born Of Darkness," 24 x 30, Acrylic on Canvas  
Town Center, Big Sky, Montana | [creightonblockgallery.com](http://creightonblockgallery.com)





# On the Trail: First Yellow Mule

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

BY CIARA WOLFE  
BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

First Yellow Mule is Big Sky’s off-the-beaten-path river walk. If you enjoy the Ousel Falls scenery but are looking for a more secluded hike with a little more difficulty, this is the trail for you. First Yellow Mule is one of the closest access points into the Custer Gallatin National Forest from Big Sky and leads to Buck’s Ridge Trail and Second Yellow Mule, both of which are longer and more difficult. Starting from the Ousel Falls trailhead, this 4-mile out-and-back trail travels through rolling terrain along the South Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin River.

From the Ousel Falls trailhead, you’ll walk 0.5 miles on a wide gravel trail until you hit the well-marked turnoff to First Yellow Mule. Stay to the left and you’ll climb a couple of short switchbacks and then meander along the west side of the river for over a mile.

Along the way, you’ll pass the top of Ousel Falls and travel past beautiful swimming holes. You’ll also pass under the impressive Big EZ vehicle bridge, and cross three smaller bridges. As you start to meander away from the river, you’ll begin a short climb ending at a road crossing.

Once you’ve crossed the road, the remaining 0.75 miles climbs steadily through switchbacks and straightaways and passes a large boulder field. At the intersection with Bucks Ridge trail, you can return the same way you came for the shortest and least technical trail. Alternatively, you can continue up the Bucks Ridge trail for an additional 5 miles to the top of the ridge, or turn your hike into a loop by descending Second Yellow Mule Trail.

Please note that spring trail conditions can be extremely variable. On my early May hike, I encountered muddy trail and slick compacted ice and snow deep enough to post-hole up to my knees. This is a common trail for grizzly sightings, so be bear aware when recreating on the trail.

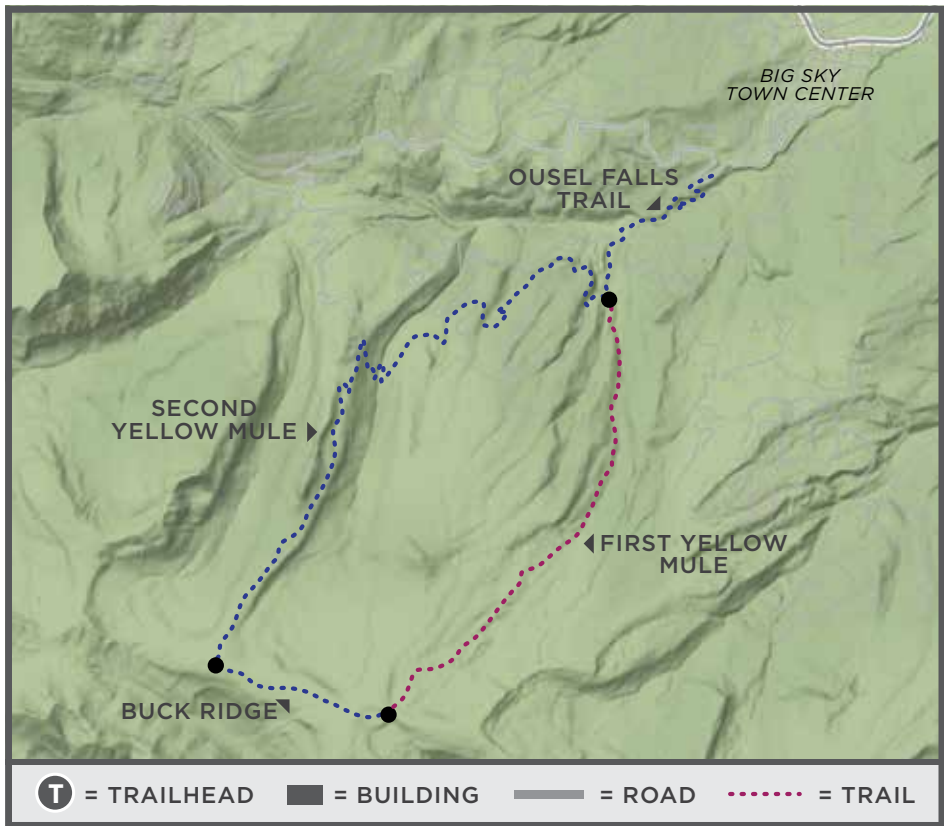
First Yellow Mule is one of the only trails in the area that allows horses and it’s also a popular mountain biking trail. Please respect trail etiquette and other users by practicing proper right-of-way. Bikers yield to hikers and both bikers and hikers yield to horseback riders.

Keep your eye out for the Ralph’s Pass trail extension coming this summer. It will connect First Yellow Mule to Ralph’s Pass, Big Sky’s newest trail. This will allow bikers and runners to stay off the popular and heavily-used Ousel Falls Trail and continue directly onto an additional 3 miles of trail that ultimately tie into Uplands Trail near Town Center.



Hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders who venture up First Yellow Mule Trail can enjoy beautiful scenery without the crowds that are drawn to an adjoining trail to Ousel Falls. PHOTO BY CIARA WOLFE

For more information about Big Sky’s parks, trails and recreation programs, visit [bscomt.org](https://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.



**BIG SKY**  
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

## TRAIL STATS

<b>Distance</b>	<b>Uses</b>	<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Elevation Gain</b>	<b>Surface</b>
4 miles out and back	Hike, run bike and horse	Difficult	575 feet	Dirt

**Directions:** From Highway 191, head west to Town Center and turn left onto Ousel Falls Road. Continue south for approximately 2 miles and turn left into the Ousel Falls trailhead parking lot.



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Outlaw Partners is hiring a ticket manager to oversee ticket sales and Will Call for the Big Sky PBR event. This is a part time temporary position 10-20 hours/wk from May-July with full time hours during two weeks leading up to the event July 17-30. Email [ersin@theoutlawpartners.com](mailto:ersin@theoutlawpartners.com) or call (406) 451-4073.

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# BACK40

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”

## 5 tips to get your garden started

BY KAREEN ERBE  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Spring has finally arrived in Montana, which means that gardening season is underway. If you don’t already have a garden and want fresh food for yourself and your family, I’d highly recommend you give it a try this season.

Gardening has many benefits. In addition to eating homegrown nutritious vegetables, you cut down on your grocery bill, spend more time outdoors, get exercise, and when the vegetables you’ve grown are on your dinner plate, you’ll feel an indescribable sense of accomplishment! Plus, if you have kids, it’s a great way to get them involved and eating their veggies.

Having taught people how to garden for several years, here are my top five tips to get your garden started this spring:

### Sun

Choose a south-facing spot in your yard that gets at least six to eight hours of sunlight per day. Fruiting vegetables such as tomatoes and peppers need a minimum of eight hours and rooting vegetables (e.g., carrots and beets) require a minimum of six. Leafy vegetables like lettuce, spinach and kale can be planted in more shaded areas of your yard as they only need four hours of sunlight.

Design and plant according to sun and shade patterns in your yard, keeping in mind that they change with the season. In addition, observe what microclimates exist in your yard—can you use reflective walls or create sun traps to enhance your growing space?

### Soil

Your soil is the foundation of your garden. A healthy soil is a living soil full of microorganisms that protect your plants from disease and give it nutrients. Yet growing vegetables draw a significant amount of nutrients out of the soil. These nutrients can be replaced by adding compost and manure every spring, but can also be supplemented by introducing nitrogen-fixing elements like peas, legumes and clover and mineral-accumulating plants like comfrey, borage and lupine. Don’t use synthetic fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides in your garden—these products will destroy the living microorganisms in your soil.

### Seeds

Grow what you and your family eat on a regular basis and what can mature during our shorter growing season. Cool season crops like peas, lettuce, spinach, kale and broccoli do really well in our climate, whereas warm season crops like tomatoes and peppers are a little more challenging. However, since my family loves fresh, vine-ripened tomatoes, these obviously figure prominently in our garden.



Cool season crops like lettuce, kale, mustard greens and radishes are easy vegetables to grow for a beginner gardener. PHOTO BY KAREEN ERBE



Cherry tomatoes are a great garden treat and are fairly easy to grow, even with our short growing season. PHOTO BY MARY SCHAAD

I also consider my budget for groceries. A pound of potatoes or onions from my local farmer is a lot less expensive than a pound of tomatoes. If I’m limited on space, I’ll dedicate more garden space to tomatoes and other high value crops like lettuce mix, spinach, basil and cilantro.

Take seasons into consideration, too. Do you want your garden to supply just summer food or winter storage crops as well? Potatoes, onions, carrots and winter squash are good options if you intend to continue enjoying your bounty through the fall and winter.

### Stay close

The proximity of your garden to your house will ensure that you maintain it. We are far more likely to care for what we see every day.

Make watering easy and site your garden as close to the water spigot as you can. Alternatively, think about installing an automatic irrigation system if your lifestyle doesn’t lend itself to getting in the garden every couple of days. Brainstorm ways to set up a rainwater collection system or divert water from your downspouts into a rain barrel or perennial beds.

Keep your garden well mulched during the summer with straw or leaves. Placing a layer of leaves between your plants, for example, will maintain more consistent soil moisture and cut down on how often you water.

### Start small

If you are new to gardening, it’s always good to start with a small garden that’s close to your house. A 4-foot by 8-foot bed is a great size for a beginning gardener. This will give you a sense of the time and energy involved in maintaining it. A lot of food can be grown in a small space if you put some time into soil building and path design. Remember, aim for small successes rather than large failures. You can always expand as your experience and appetite for garden-fresh food grows.

The field of gardening is vast and it’s easy to get overwhelmed. However, like anything new, the best thing to do is to go ahead and try. Just know that seeds want to sprout and plants want to grow. I recommend you start with three to five vegetables this season and see how it goes. Plant a seed and watch it grow. Best of luck!

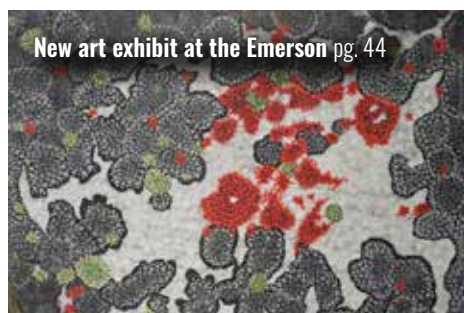
*Kareen Erbe is the owner of Broken Ground, a Bozeman-based business that teaches gardening and permaculture workshops and offers garden consultations and edible garden design services for clients. For more information, visit [brokengroundpermaculture.com](http://brokengroundpermaculture.com).*



## Section 4: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Music in the Mountains lineup pg. 42



New art exhibit at the Emerson pg. 44



Animated feature commemorates WWII pg. 45



# Barbara Rowley: Curator of community

BY SARAH GIANELLI  
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – Barbara Rowley eschews the spotlight but taking center stage—whether literally stepping in to sub during a youth theater rehearsal or to spearhead a community initiative—seems to come naturally to the founding producer of Big Sky Broadway.

Rowley says if pressed to name her art form, it would probably be community development. In her 27 years in Big Sky, Rowley has been integral in getting the playground built in Big Sky Community Park, establishing the first preschool program and creating the path that runs along Highway 191 in front of Ophir School.

She also founded Camp Big Sky, a summer-long day camp now in its 11th year and run by the Big Sky Community Organization. In 2009 she and longtime friend John Zirkle added a musical theater component to Camp Big Sky called Big Sky Broadway.

“I’m a person who responds to need and creates things,” Rowley said.

But Rowley was a writer first.

She has worked as a staff writer for Outside magazine, and as a busy freelancer for the Sierra Club and Powder magazine. It was during that era, in 1990, while also working as a director for Sanborn Western Camps in Colorado, that she got a call to do a story on a ski area called Big Sky from Snow Country magazine, then an affiliate of The New York Times.

On a January research trip she met Taylor Middleton, who was Big Sky Resort’s marketing director at the time, and is now its general manager.

“That’s just a whirlwind romance for you—everybody wants to hear that story,” said Rowley, who moved to Big Sky in May of the same year after maybe “12 days in each other’s presence.” They married the following year and have since raised two children here—Anna, 21; and Katie, 17—while having an impact on the lives of many others.

Rowley’s combined passions for parenting, children and journalism are expressed in pieces she has written for Parenting and FamilyFun magazines; and two published books that include “Baby Days,” an activity idea book for parents with toddlers published by Hyperion in 2000. She also advises and teaches college preparatory classes at Big Sky Discovery Academy, and of course, is deeply entrenched in kids’ community theater.

“I want to write my books,” said Rowley, who is still tinkering with a young adult novel she started nearly a decade ago. “But I really dig being with kids and working hard. It’s always been a push-pull between my own work and creative desires, and really being an active person engaged with other people.”

With a flair for the dramatic and a keen ability to identify resources, Rowley is the perfect person to act as producer for the student theatrical performances presented by Big Sky Broadway.

As producer, Rowley handles the financial aspects of the production, hires the staff, selects and licenses the show, coordinates costuming and makeup, designs the set, does all the publicity and marketing, plans the cast party and the clean-up schedule, and even brings the snacks.



In addition to spearheading many volunteer efforts in the community, Barbara Rowley is a founder of Big Sky Broadway, which involves local youth in four musical theater productions and offers a two-week summer camp each year. PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI

Big Sky Broadway has come a long way since she and Zirkle launched the program with a Broadway review staged in the resort’s ballroom in 2009.

With Zirkle as director, vocal instruction by Sarah Mitchell, choreography by Jennifer Waters and music direction by pianist Klaudia Kosiak, Big Sky Broadway now puts on four productions at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center and hosts a two-week summer camp each year.

The summer of WMPAC’s grand opening in 2013, local youth performed “Peter Pan,” for which Big Sky Broadway hired professional flying company Flying by Floy.

“Since then it’s just become a huge thing for the kids,” Rowley said. “It was tragedy when they hit eighth grade and couldn’t go any further.” Increasing class sizes have allowed Big Sky Broadway to expand into high school productions with a bit more mature content.

What Rowley is most proud of is the effect she believes exposure to theater has had on kids in the community. She mentions alumni Rachid Schultz, who is studying theater design at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle; and Ben Michel at Boston’s Berklee College of Music; as well as current students approaching graduation.

“I think we’ve changed our kids’ trajectory,” Rowley said. “Particularly, I think there’s value for both genders—a lot of girls find themselves in theater and it becomes their thing. Some of them will say it’s their sport. Some of our young men discover something beyond getting good grades and doing sports. They try something—and I think trying something new is worthwhile.”

Although Rowley admits she still thinks about her own creative endeavors, clearly she is fulfilled by the direction she has chosen to funnel her efforts.

“I like building community, and theater is the only activity in this school in which kids of all ages and genders work together on a project and all feel really vested in it,” she said. “And we hear all the time that this is more fun than basketball.”



# Arts Council announces Music in the Mountains season lineup

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

The Arts Council of Big Sky’s Music in the Mountains summer concert series kicks off Thursday, June 22, at Center Stage in Town Center Park with a performance by Missoula-based quintet the Lil Smokies and an opening set by local bluegrass rippers the Gallatin Grass Project.

This will be the first of 15 free events presented by the arts council between June 22 and Sept. 1, which include 11 Thursday night concerts, the sixth annual Big Sky Classical Music Festival and a performance from Montana Shakespeare in the Parks.

With their roots submerged in the thick buttery mud of traditional bluegrass, the Lil Smokies have sonically blossomed into a leading player in the progressive acoustic sphere, creating a new and wholly unique, melody-driven sound of their own.

The Lil Smokies have been hard at work writing, touring and playing to an ever-growing fan base for the past six years. The fruits of their labor recently culminated in wins of the 2016 International Bluegrass Music Association Momentum Award for Best Band and the 2015 Telluride Bluegrass festival band competition. The band also won The Northwest String Summit band competition in 2013.

“We’re very excited to kick off the summer with a Montana band,” said ACBS Executive Director Brian Hurlbut. “The Lil Smokies are blowing up on the national scene and Big Sky will be a great venue for them.”

The series continues when the New Orleans Suspects roll into town on Thursday, June 29. New Orleans Suspects began playing together in 2009 as a pick-up band at the Maple Leaf in New Orleans. Comprised of some of the most seasoned, highly respected players in New Orleans, their chemistry was undeniable and by the summer of 2011 they decided to tour full-time.

They quickly began attracting large crowds from New Orleans to San Francisco to New York. In four years they released three CDs and established themselves as one of New Orleans’ best supergroups. The band’s fourth and most recent album,



The Missoula-based quintet the Lil Smokies kicks off the Music in the Mountains summer concert series on Thursday, June 22 with their unique progressive acoustic stylings. PHOTO BY KIRSTEN COHEN

“Kaleidoscoped,” is being hailed as their best and most original to date, being added to more than 100 radio stations in North America and receiving rave reviews.

Other weekly concerts throughout the summer include the Tiny Band on July 4; the Quebe Sisters on July 6; Assembly of Dust on July 13; Dirty Revival on July 20; the Turnpike Troubadours on July 27; the Last Revel on Aug. 3; DeadPhish Orchestra on Aug. 10; Andy Frasco and the U.N. on Aug. 17; the Ghost of Paul Revere on Aug. 24; and Con Brio to close out the concert season Aug. 31.

The seventh annual Big Sky Classical Music Festival, with special guests the Mambo Kings, will take place Aug. 11-13. A free performance of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks will be at the park on Sept. 1.

For more information about this summer’s events, contact the Arts Council of Big Sky at (406) 995-2742 or visit [bigskyarts.org](http://bigskyarts.org).





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# LPHS students perform musical murder mystery 'Curtains'

EBS STAFF

On Thursday, May 25, and Friday, May 26, the Lone Peak High School Thespian Society and Theater Club presents a production of "Curtains," a comic musical murder mystery that premiered on Broadway in 2007 to Tony Award acclaim.

Featuring the most experienced cast in the high school's short musical theatrical history ("Curtains" is its fourth show), with 20 participating actors, the production is also the largest cast ever staged. Veterans of the Big Sky Broadway summer stage make up more than half of the cast, which includes graduating seniors Ellie Quackenbush, Luisa Locker and Dasha Bough, who have been performing with the local company since 2009. Senior Bridger Babcock, returning for his second show, is also featured in the lead comic role of flamboyant theater director, Christopher Belling.

Babcock, whose girlfriend convinced him to perform in last spring's "The Drowsy Chaperone," was surprised by how much he enjoys the stage.

"That's why I'm back this year," Babcock said. "My heart races when I'm on the stage which is a cool feeling; it's a different group of people than with sports—and you don't have to run when you mess up."

Senior Evan Redmon, who has been involved in theater since the fourth grade and is playing the role of detective, agrees. "I enjoy the different groups of people," Redmon said. "You get to sing and be goofy and no one judges you for it."

"Curtains" is a parody of musicals and murder mysteries that follows the story of an on-stage murder being investigated by a Boston detective (Redmon) who falls in love with its leading lady (Anna Alvin/Ava King). Quarantined on stage after members of the cast and crew start disappearing, the show's cast tries to figure out "whodunit" while continuing to rehearse for their Broadway premiere.

Producer Barbara Rowley, a founder of Camp Big Sky and Big Sky Broadway, picked the show because she knew she would be able to cast it—small class sizes at LPHS can be challenging, especially in casting male roles—and comedy is always a hit.

"People will often say to me, 'this is better than Broadway,'" Rowley said in regards to the youth productions she has worked on. "I'm thinking, 'you must have never seen a show on Broadway,' but truly, the kids are amazing."

Another production, starring 41 Big Sky fourth through ninth graders in "The Little Mermaid" is slated for June 30 and July 1. For "Curtains," Rowley is joined by director John Zirkle, pianist and musical director Klaudia Kosiak and choreographer Jennifer Waters. Performances are 7 p.m. Thursday, May 25, and Friday, May 26, at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.

*Tickets are available at [warrenmillerpac.org](http://warrenmillerpac.org) or at the door.*



Seniors Ellie Quackenbush and Luisa Locker return to the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center stage for Big Sky Broadway's high school production of the musical comedy 'Curtains' on May 26 and 27. PHOTO BY JILL BOUGH



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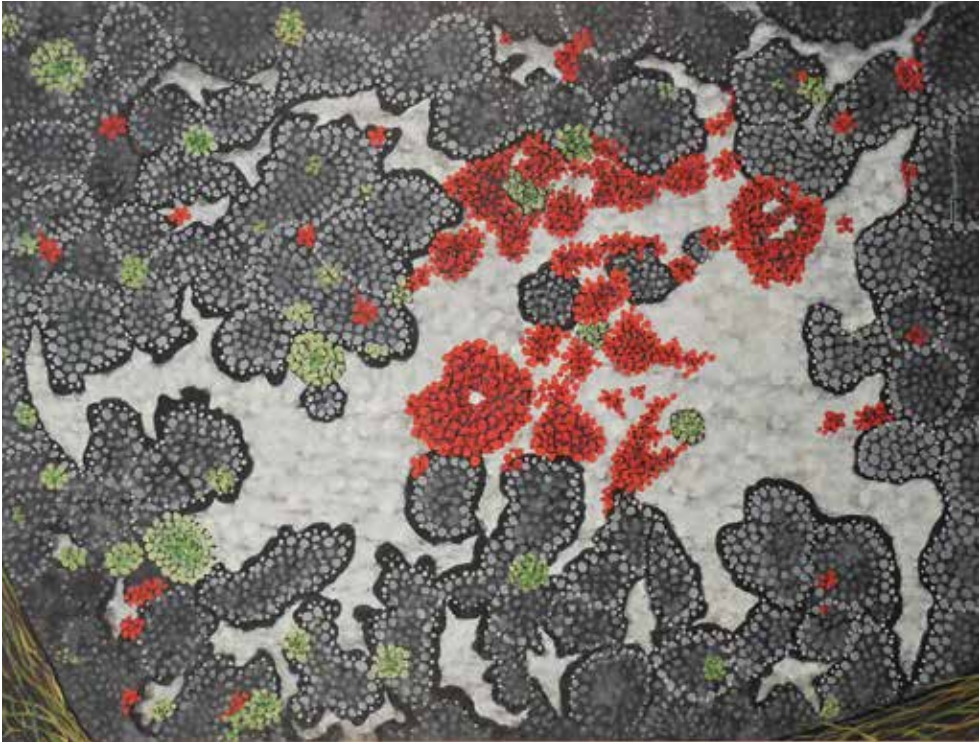
# New exhibits open at the Emerson May 12

THE EMERSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS & CULTURE

Three new exhibitions featuring four Montana artists open at The Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture on Friday, May 12 with a reception from 5 to 8 p.m. The work of Danielle O’Malley, Steve Osman, and a collaboration between Meghan Purcell and Lauren Lipscomb will be showcased for nearly two months in the center’s various galleries.

Through July 7, the Jessie Wilber Gallery will house “Efflorescence,” an exhibit featuring the ceramics of Danielle O’Malley. O’Malley’s work reflects her interests in the natural world and morphology. She is drawn to horticultural imagery and the alluring qualities of a plant’s unusual shapes and mutations. Her work combines movement, fragility, fluidity and tactile qualities into a single, convincing form. Since graduating with her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, O’Malley has traveled the globe as a resident artist, teaching assistant and demonstrator. She currently lives and works as a professional artist in Bozeman.

Oil paintings by Steve Osman will occupy the lobby gallery. Osman’s exhibit, “Ancient Lifeforms,” will also run through July 7. Osman is a self-taught artist and Bozeman resident for 17 years. A degree in environmental biology and the 11 years he lived in Costa Rica cultivated a deep interest and appreciation for nature.



Oil painter Steve Osman explores two of the oldest lifeforms on earth—lichen and sandhill cranes—in a two-month exhibition that opens at the Emerson May 12. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE EMERSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS & CULTURE

This series explores two of the oldest life forms on earth—lichen and sandhill cranes. Both species have contributed to Osman’s exploration and development of his unique artistic style. Lichen has given him the opportunity to work with bold, impressionistic shapes; while capturing the beauty of cranes fostered both representative and impressionistic styles.

The Weaver Room gallery hosts “Behind the Wool: Honoring the Integrity of Montana Sheep Ranchers,” featuring fiber art by Meghan Purcell and the photography of Lauren Lipscomb through June 30. The joint work of Purcell and Lipscomb is cultivated through the ideals of sustainable and intentional practices. Shaped from a collective vision, “Behind the Wool” is an artistic investigation into the challenges Montana sheep farmers face in

present times. With cooperation from six local farmers, this vision developed into an opportunity to understand their personal efforts to combat these struggles, and the adaptations required to preserve and sustain Montana sheep ranching.

*The opening reception on May 12 is in conjunction with the Emerson’s annual open house and celebration of the organization’s 24th birthday. Visit [theemerson.org](http://theemerson.org) for more information.*



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BY KATHY HOUSE  
BIG SKY SCHOOL DISTRICT LIBRARIAN

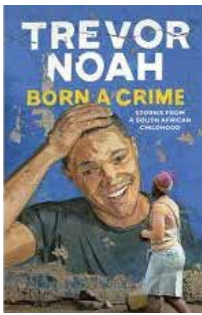
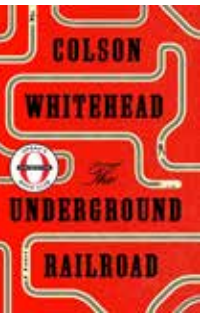
Big Sky Community Library recently established an account with OverDrive, a digital library company that enables any library cardholder to access classic eBooks, digital audiobooks, new releases and more. These are available 24/7 from the library’s digital collection at [bssd72.lib.overdrive.com](http://bssd72.lib.overdrive.com).

You can now browse our collection, borrow with your library card, and then enjoy reading your selection on a computer, tablet, smartphone or eReader. Many borrowed eBooks and audiobooks can be enjoyed immediately in your web browser or downloaded to the free OverDrive app for mobile devices. Digital titles can also be enjoyed on a number of tablets and eReaders such as the iPad, NOOK and Kindle. No matter how you plan to enjoy them, titles will automatically expire at the end of the lending period so there are no late fees or lost books!

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The titles below are available at the Big Sky Community Library.



# Sip suds and spirits at Tap into Ennis

EBS STAFF

A kick-off to summer and the fly fishing season, the fourth annual Tap into Ennis Brew and Spirit Festival will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, at the Lions Club Park in Ennis. Hosted by the Ennis Chamber of Commerce, the festival features seven Montana distilleries, eight breweries, as well as food vendors and live music.

Willie’s Distillery, Bozeman Spirits, Dryhills Distillery, Glacier Distilling Co., The Montana Distillery, Montgomery Distillery and Wildrye Distillery will be providing the spirits; and Bozeman Brewing Company, Madison River Brewing Company, Muddy Creek Brewery, Outlaw Brewing, Philipsburg Brewing Co., River Valley Brew, White Dog Brewing and Beehive Basin Brewery, the suds.

Madison Smokehouse, Grille 406, and Thai Basil will be serving food in addition to an ice cream truck. The event will also include live music by Madison Range (aka the Jack Creek Coyles), Ethan Kunard, and Left for Dead; and a silent auction. Rain, shine, or wind, the fest goes on.

Visit [ennischamber.com](http://ennischamber.com) for more information.



**Big Sky  
Community  
Library**

[bigskylibrary.org](http://bigskylibrary.org)

**hours.**

Sunday 1-5p.m.  
Monday 10a.m.-6p.m.  
(Toddlers Storytime 10:30 a.m.)  
Tuesday 4-8p.m.  
Wednesday 4-8p.m.  
Closed Thursday-Saturday


**Announcements**

**Volunteers Meet  
Wednesday 5/17  
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# EVENTS CALENDAR

PLANNING AN EVENT? LET US KNOW! EMAIL [MEDIA@THEOUTLAWPARTNERS.COM](mailto:MEDIA@THEOUTLAWPARTNERS.COM), AND WE'LL SPREAD THE WORD.

**FRIDAY, MAY 12–  
THURSDAY, MAY 25**

**\*If your event falls between  
May 26 and June 8 please  
submit it by June 2**

## Big Sky

**SATURDAY, MAY 13**  
Yellowstone Scenic Tours Ribbon  
Cutting Celebration  
Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, 12 p.m.

**MONDAY, MAY 15**  
Industry Night  
Lotus Pad, 8 p.m.

**TUESDAY, MAY 16**  
Community Learning Center  
Big Sky Discovery Academy, 4 p.m.

Bingo  
Riverhouse Grill, 6:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 17**  
Porco Rosso  
Luminous AV, 6 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MAY 18**  
Visit Big Sky Board Meeting  
Big Sky Chamber, 8:30 a.m.

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

Business After Hours  
Lone Peak High School Cafeteria, 5 p.m.

**FRIDAY, MAY 19**  
Opening Day  
Big Sky Golf Course, all day

**MONDAY, MAY 22**  
Industry Night  
Lotus Pad, 8 p.m.

**TUESDAY, MAY 23**  
Community Learning Center  
Big Sky Discovery Academy, 4 p.m.

Bingo  
Riverhouse Grill, 6:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 24**  
Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions  
Forum  
Big Sky County Water & Sewer  
Conference Room, 1 p.m.

Lupin the Third: The Castle of  
Cagliostro  
Luminous AV, 6 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MAY 25**  
Community Learning Center  
Big Sky Discovery Academy, 4 p.m.

## Bozeman

**FRIDAY, MAY 12**  
Creative Ways to Promote Behavior  
Change  
Bozeman Public Library, 8:15 a.m.

GVLТ Sensational Senses Kid's Walk  
Bozeman Pond, 9:30 a.m.

MT Brewers Spring Rendezvous  
Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 5 p.m.

Tosca  
Willson Auditorium, 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, MAY 13**  
CPR and First Aid with Bozeman Fire  
Department  
Beall Park Recreation Center, 10 a.m.

Gallatin Roller Girlz  
Haynes Pavilion, Gallatin County  
Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY, MAY 14**  
Tosca  
Willson Auditorium, 3 p.m.

**MONDAY, MAY 15**  
City Commission Meeting  
City Hall Commission Room, 6 p.m.

HRDC Make Your Voice Heard  
HRDC, 6:30 p.m.

Kevin Grastorf  
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

**TUESDAY, MAY 16**  
Tails & Trails dog hikes  
Dee-O-Gee, 5 p.m.

GVLТ Walk to Yoga with Jen DuCha-  
rme  
Peets Hill, 5:30 p.m.

Richmond Slim  
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 17**  
Power Up: Create Your Business,  
Financial and Marketing Plan  
MSU, MMEC Building 2, 5:30 p.m.

GVLТ Walking into Fitness with Jess  
Benoit  
Bozeman Pond, 6 p.m.

Micky and the Motorcars  
Live From the Divide, 8 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MAY 18**  
Cole & The Thrones  
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Jalan Crossland  
Live From the Divide, 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, MAY 19**  
GVLТ Story Mill Community Park Tour  
Story Mill Community Park, 5:30 p.m.

Tim McGraw and Faith Hill  
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, MAY 20**  
GVLТ Girls Only Walk  
Peets Hill, 10 a.m.

Brianna Moore  
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY, MAY 21**  
GVLТ Wildflower Walk  
Mt. Ellis Trail, 9 a.m.

Lane Norberg  
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**MONDAY, MAY 22**  
GVLТ Aquatic Invasive Species  
Cherry River Trail, 10 a.m.

City Commission Meeting  
City Hall Commission Room, 6 p.m.

Renne Seacor  
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

**TUESDAY, MAY 23**  
Left on Tenth  
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 24**  
GVLТ Walking with Babies and  
Toddlers  
Gallagator Trail, 9 a.m.

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

And We Were Young  
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MAY 25**  
Cultural Geography of the Medicine  
Wheel Country  
Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Chelsea Hunt & Joe Knapp  
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**RECURRING EVENTS:**  
Remote Control Car Racing  
Bozeman American Legion, Sundays  
at 12 p.m.

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

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

Badminton  
Hope Lutheran Church, Mondays and  
Thursdays at 9 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Old Time Bluegrass  
Pub 317, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Karaoke  
Bar IX, Tuesdays at 9 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.

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

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

Pickelball  
Southside Tennis Courts, Fridays at  
9 a.m.

Walk for the Health of It  
Peet's Hill, Fridays at 12 p.m.

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

Jazz Night  
Red Tractor Pizza, Fridays at 7 p.m.

## Livingston & Paradise Valley

**FRIDAY, MAY 12**  
Erin & The Project  
Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar, 6 p.m.

Theodore Waddel: My Montana  
Elk River Books, 7 p.m.

The Dirt Farmers  
Music Ranch Montana, 7:30 p.m.

South Pacific  
Dulcie Theatre, 8 p.m.

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

**SATURDAY, MAY 13**  
Chad Okrusch  
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

South Pacific  
Dulcie Theatre, 8 p.m.

Solidarity Service  
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

**SUNDAY, MAY 14**  
South Pacific  
Dulcie Theatre, 3 p.m.

Livingston Film Series  
Dulcie Theatre, 6:30 p.m.

Caroline Reese  
The Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

**MONDAY, MAY 15**  
Gregory Rawlins & Mike Surber  
The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

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

**TUESDAY, MAY 16**  
Beer for a Cause  
Katabatic Brewing, all night

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 17**  
Sean Eamon  
The Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MAY 18**  
Virginia Warner  
Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar, 6 p.m.

Sixth Anniversary Poetry Reading  
Elk River Books, 7 p.m.

WYAmericana Caravan  
The Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, MAY 19**  
Humanities Montana Board Meeting  
Shane Lalani Center Ballroom, 8:30  
a.m.

Matt Ridgeway  
Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar, 6 p.m.

South Pacific  
Dulcie Theatre, 8 p.m.

Hayes Collective  
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

**SATURDAY, MAY 20**  
Wilderness Walk  
Mount Ellis and Limestone Creek, All  
Day

Travis Yost  
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

South Pacific  
Dulcie Theatre, 8 p.m.

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

**SUNDAY, MAY 21**  
South Pacific  
Dulcie Theatre, 3 p.m.

**MONDAY, MAY 22**  
Bluegrass Jam  
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Shelly Besler & Tony Polecastro  
The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

**TUESDAY, MAY 23**  
Beer for a Cause  
Katabatic Brewing, all night

**THURSDAY, MAY 25**  
Quenby  
Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar, 6 p.m.

Swamp Dawg  
The Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

## West Yellowstone

**SATURDAY, MAY 13**  
Opening Day  
Yellowstone Historic Center &  
Museum, 11 a.m.

Live Poker  
Buffalo Bar, 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MAY 18**  
Knit Night  
Stagecoach Inn, 6 p.m.

**SATURDAY, MAY 20**  
Live Poker  
Buffalo Bar, 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MAY 25**  
Knit Night  
Stagecoach Inn, 6 p.m.

## Ennis

**FRIDAY, MAY 12**  
You Knew Me When  
Willie's Distillery, 5:30

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

**SATURDAY, MAY 13**  
Tom Kirwan  
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY, MAY 14**  
Johnny Dango  
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**FRIDAY, MAY 19**  
Kid Gloves and Brass Knuckles: The Life of  
Nancy Cooper Russell  
The Elling House, Virginia City, 7 p.m.

Shea Stewart  
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Dave Horton  
Willie's Distillery, 5:30

**SATURDAY, MAY 20**  
Tap Into Ennis  
Downtown, 3 p.m.

Charlie and Chuck Denison  
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY, MAY 21**  
Aaron Williams  
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**Big Sky Resort Golf Course**  
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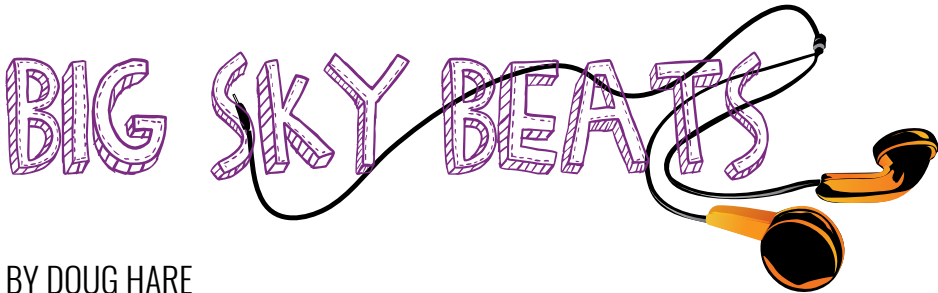
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BY DOUG HARE  
EBS STAFF

Find out what tunes we’re bumping! In Big Sky Beats, Explore Big Sky staff offers suggested track 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.

I spend a lot of time on the road. Whether I’m driving to Jackson Hole, Gardiner or Red Lodge, good music makes the time spent behind the wheel more enjoyable. As of late, I’ve been exploring two genres on Spotify: Newgrass and Americana.

Newgrass is essentially modern bluegrass that blends folk, rock, and improvisational stylings often with electric instruments, drums and other instruments not traditionally associated with bluegrass. Americana is harder to pin down. But it generally incorporates distinctly American folk, blues and roots-rock elements. Americana sounds a lot more authentic to me than pop country.

The first five recommended songs are a good introduction to Newgrass music and the last five are a sampling of some of my favorite singer-songwriters. So try to find live versions of these songs and remember to play it loud.

- 1. “Black Rock,” Infamous Stringdusters, Andy Hall
- 2. “Warhead Boogie,” Railroad Earth
- 3. “Wildfire,” Mandolin Orange
- 4. “Sidewalk Stars,” Yonder Mountain String Band
- 5. “Long Hot Summer Day,” Turnpike Troubadours
- 6. “Speed Trap Town,” Jason Isbell
- 7. “Harlem River Blues,” Justin Townes Earle
- 8. “Beauty in the Ugliest of Days,” Jonah Tolchin
- 9. “The Promise,” Sturgill Simpson
- 10. “Fortunate Son,” Todd Snider

# American Life in Poetry: Column 633

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

Here’s a celebration of one day in the week, the kids with the father, a brownie for breakfast, everything right with the world. January O’Neil lives in Massachusetts, and this poem first appeared in Rattle magazine. Her most recent book is “Misery Islands” (Cavankerry Press, 2014).

Sunday  
By January O’Neil

You are the start of the week  
or the end of it, and according  
to The Beatles you creep in  
like a nun. You’re the second  
full day the kids have been  
away with their father, the second  
full day of an empty house.  
Sunday, I’ve missed you. I’ve been  
sitting in the backyard with a glass  
of Pinot waiting for your arrival.  
Did you know the first Sweet 100s

are turning red in the garden,  
but the lettuce has grown  
too bitter to eat. I am looking  
up at the bluest sky I have ever seen,  
cerulean blue, a heaven sky  
no one would believe I was under.  
You are my witness. No day  
is promised. You are absolution.  
You are my unwritten to-do list,  
my dishes in the sink, my brownie  
breakfast, my braless day.

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 ©2013 by January O’Neil, “Sunday,” from Rattle, (No. 41, Fall 2013). Poem reprinted by permission of January O’Neil 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.

# Sudoku

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

				3				1
			1				8	
	8		5			7		
		3				1		2
		7		6		5		
	5		3	8	7	6		4
			8		3			
3					2			7
				4			5	

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Lynx // *Felis lynx canadensis*



## DID YOU KNOW?

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.

## RESPECT.PROTECT.CHERISH.

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Clearing Skies by Michael Coleman.  
18x36; Oil.



Dancing on the Edge by Ezra Tucker.  
60x40; Acrylic.



Pine Ridge Sunset by R. Tom Gilleon.  
48x48; Oil.

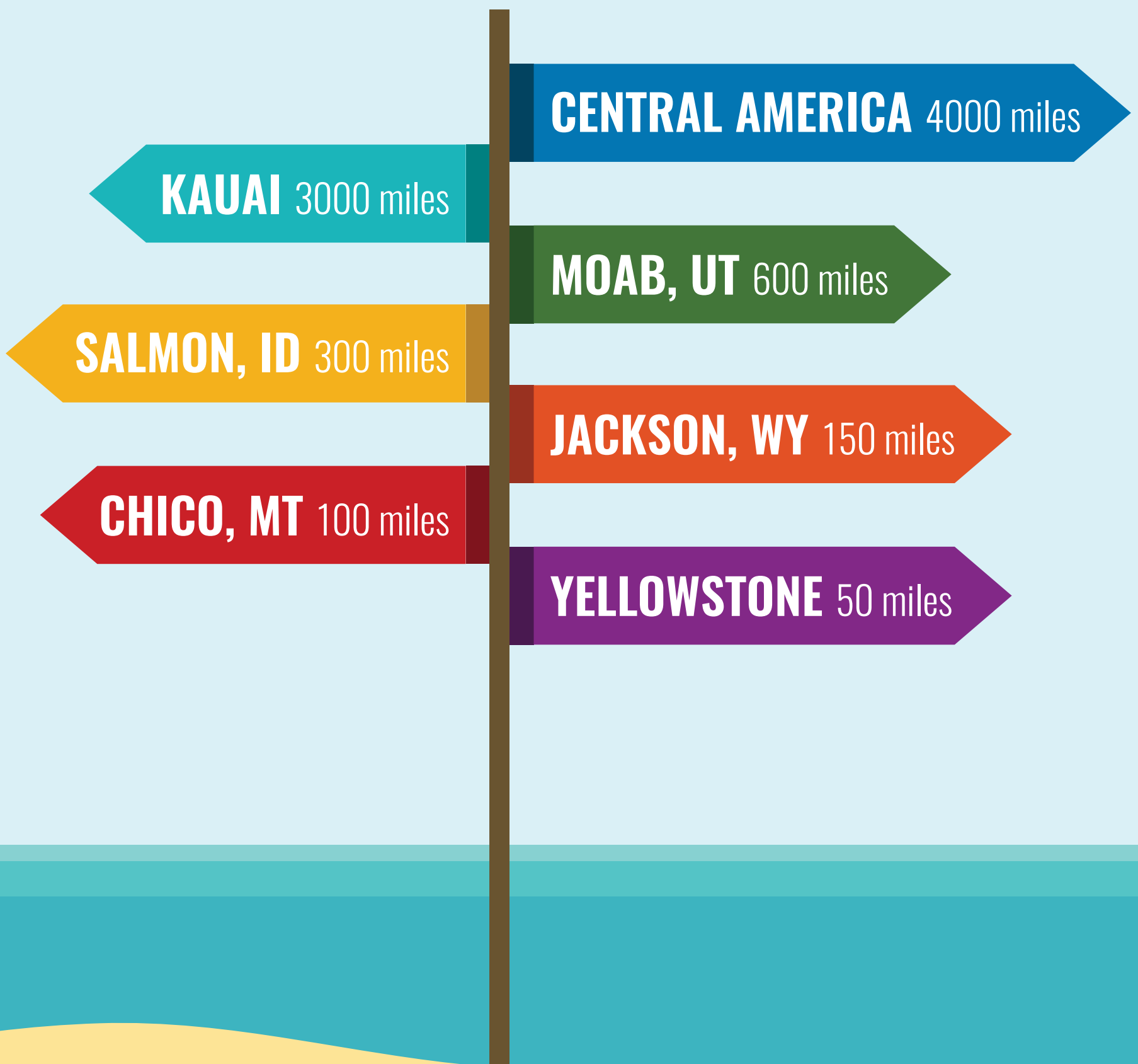
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# travel

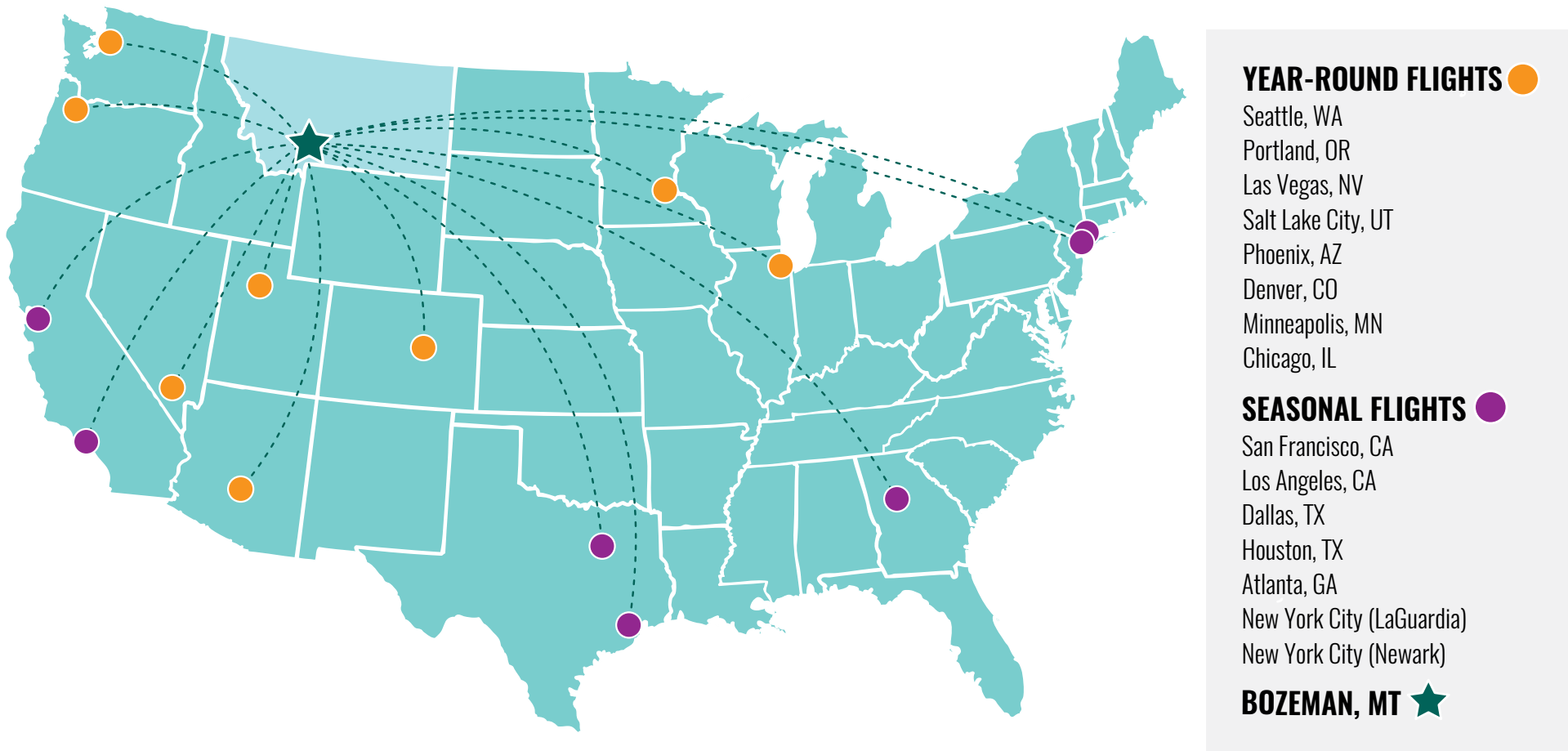
## SPECIAL SECTION





# Direct flights from Bozeman International Airport

In 2016, a record 1.1 million passengers passed through the Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport, making it Montana’s busiest airport. BZN services flights from Delta, United, Alaska Airlines, Allegiant Air, Frontier and American in addition to more than 3,500 chartered flights annually.



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# Biking Jackson Hole

BY KRISTIN POPE  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Whether you’re looking for a teeth-rattling downhill ride or a tranquil family outing, the Jackson Hole Valley has something for every biker.

Families and beginners can enjoy paved paths and simple cross-country rides, while more adventurous riders can find thrills on downhill and backcountry routes.

Jackson Hole Mountain Resort’s bike park—which opens June 10 for the summer season—is a great place for beginners and intermediates to take a lesson, hone their skills and gain confidence for downhill riding before venturing to Teton Pass’s more challenging trails.

For advanced riders wanting to head straight to the goods, Teton Freedom Riders founder Kevin Kavanagh suggests the downhill-only Lithium Trail off the pass, or the 19-mile Cache-Game-West Game-Ferrins loop for a cross-country challenge.

“Biking in Jackson is unbelievable, because we have one of the best, most diversified trail systems in the country,” Kavanagh said.

Maps and more information on paths and trails are available at [friendsofpathways.org/resources](http://friendsofpathways.org/resources).

### Suggested rides

#### Paved paths

A network of pathways and roads connect Jackson, Wilson and Teton Village, including a pedestrian- and cyclist-only bridge over the Snake River. Grand Teton

National Park offers a popular family-friendly path from Moose to Jenny Lake, and riders of all ages and abilities will enjoy the views from the ride alongside the National Elk Refuge.

#### Cross-country mountain biking

Both Teton Pass and Jackson Hole Mountain Resort trails have seen major upgrades in recent years. The connector trail at JHMR links the resort’s two cross-country trails forming an approximately 5-mile loop. JHMR beginners can enjoy the Saratoga Trail, while advanced riders will find technical challenges and jumps on True Grit. On Teton Pass, the Phillips Ridge and Arrow Trails are popular options.

#### Downhill and lift-accessed riding

JHMR offers lessons for beginners and intermediates on both cross-country and lift-accessed downhill trails. For advanced riders, there is plenty of adrenaline to be found here, or on Teton Pass with trails such as Lithium, Fuzzy Bunny and Jimmy’s Mom, which offer technical terrain, big jumps and gaps.

#### Backcountry riding

Just outside of town, the Cache Creek area has backcountry riding for all abilities. The Cache Creek Sidewalk Trail to the Putt Putt Trail is perfect for beginners, while intermediate riders can link Putt Putt to the Hagen Trail. Looking for a longer ride? Head up the Cache Creek Sidewalk Trail to the Cache Creek Trail, and then around the back of Snow King to Game Creek, coming out south of town on Highway 89. Be aware that the Cache Creek Trail enters the Gros Ventre Wilderness at mile six, and bikes are not allowed beyond that point.

*A version of this story first appeared in the summer 2013 issue of Mountain Outlaw magazine.*

## Where to stay, eat and play during a Jackson weekend getaway

EBS STAFF

First time in Jackson? Don’t sweat it. EBS has you covered with our staff picks on where to stay, eat and, of course, play!

### STAY – HOTEL JACKSON

A few blocks off Jackson’s downtown square, Hotel Jackson is a 58-bedroom boutique inn with a trendy design, relaxing rooms and attentive service in an incredible location. Rooms at Hotel Jackson are comfortable, quiet and appointed with the rustic, modern mountain luxuries you seek. Hotel Jackson’s lobby also features a quaint and quality restaurant, FIGS, serving Mediterranean-inspired, Wyoming fare.  
120 N. Glenwood Street, Jackson, Wyoming. [hoteljackson.com](http://hoteljackson.com) (307) 733-2200

### BRUNCH – CAFÉ GENEVIEVE

Located in a historic log cabin one block east of Town Square, Café Genevieve strikes the perfect pitch of class and comfort. Serving southern-inspired classics fit for a foodie, Café Genevieve offers brunch from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily and is renowned for its scrumptious egg benedicts with options like smoked salmon or house-made Cajun sausage. Miss the brunch cut-off? Don’t fret—Café Genevieve segues directly into Jackson’s earliest happy hour, followed by a dinner menu sure to satisfy any appetite. Whatever you do, don’t leave without trying their signature Pig Candy or grab a package of the tender, sugar and spice-coated bacon and take it with you.  
135 E. Broadway, Jackson, Wyoming. [genevievejh.com](http://genevievejh.com) (307) 732-1910

### LUNCH – SNAKE RIVER BREWING CO.

Wyoming’s oldest brewery offers one of Jackson’s best, and most affordable, lunches. Since opening in 2008, head chef Ryan Brogan has been satisfying locals and visitors alike. Favorites include the Roper brisket sandwich and the Salumi wood-fired pizza. Check out the daily rotating beer and lunch specials and wash your lunch down with award-winning Zonker Stout.  
265 S. Millward Street, Jackson, Wyoming. [snakeriverbrewing.com](http://snakeriverbrewing.com) (307) 739-2337

### DINNER – ORSETTO

One of Jackson’s newest dining hot spots, Orsetto Italian Bar & Eatery opened in December 2016 to rave reviews for its fresh house-made pastas, friendly and knowledgeable service and chic bistro atmosphere. Spruced up like the “little bear” in a suit for which the restaurant is named, Orsetto serves classic Italian cuisine that will delight the traditionalist and excite the adventurous.  
161 N. Center Street, Jackson, Wyoming. [orsettojh.com](http://orsettojh.com) (307) 203-2664



The Antler Arches in “Town Square” are a favorite photo destination for visitors to Jackson.  
PHOTO BY TAYLOR-ANN SMITH

### CHECK OUT:

#### MOUNTAIN MAN TOY SHOP

Inspired by the outdoor heritage and lifestyle of Jackson, this shop features an array of handcrafted tools, gifts and accessories for the modern day outdoorsman that make any adventure possible.  
98 Center Street, Jackson, Wyoming. [mtnmengifts.com](http://mtnmengifts.com) (307) 733-4193

#### STIO

Stio was founded in Jackson to inspire connection with the outdoors through functional products. From insulated jackets to wear-around-town, lightweight backcountry softshells and stylish trucker hats, the Stio Mountain Studio in the heart of town is the perfect stop for local apparel and gifts.  
10 E. Broadway, Jackson, Wyoming. [stio.com](http://stio.com) (307) 201-1890

#### ANTLER ARCHES

A photo in front of one of the iconic antler arches is a must for new Jackson visitors. Located in George Washington Memorial Park, commonly known as “Town Square,” the first arch was built in 1953 and the group of four arches have been beloved downtown Jackson monuments ever since. Comprised of shed elk antlers collected from the nearby National Elk Refuge, the arches are an artistic marvel comprised of about 2,000 antlers each and weighing 10,000-12,000 pounds.



# Yellowstone in a day

## From Bozeman or Big Sky

BY ABBIE DIGEL  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Don't have time to spend a week exploring Yellowstone, the nation's first national park? It's easy to take a day and see all of the hot spots, get off the beaten track, and make it back in time for dinner. This itinerary involves long hours in the car, but a visit to the park is well worth it, and there's always something to see. Try to travel on a weekday—there will be fewer crowds—and book hotel rooms and campsites months in advance as they sell out quickly in the summer. Don't forget to check out the guest ranches along Highway 191 and in Big Sky.

### Morning:

From Bozeman, drive east on I-90 toward Livingston. Want to encounter a griz the safe way? Stop briefly at the Montana Grizzly Bear Encounter, a bear rescue center. On the Jackson Creek exit, just a few miles from Bozeman off of I-90, you can't miss the huge sign. Stay a while and watch the bears play, then chat with one of the caretakers; it's a great way to learn the animals' habits and take in their size. Stop in Livingston for an early lunch at Mark's In and Out at the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Park Street. They serve cheap, old-fashioned burgers, fries and shakes that will hold you over until dinner.



It would be hard to spend a full day in Yellowstone without encountering two of its most iconic features: hot springs and bison. PHOTO BY JOHN LAYSHOCK

### Mammoth Area:

Onward to Yellowstone. Take a right on 89 South, which hugs the Yellowstone River, toward Gardiner. In Gardiner, refuel at one of the many coffee shops at the edge of the entrance to the park. Also, stop by the chamber of commerce for information and literature about the Yellowstone.

Time to hit the road. Just past the entrance find the hidden entrance to the Boiling River, an off-the-map and favorite destination for locals. Take time to soak in this unique spot, and then get back on the road and drive five miles south to Mammoth Hot Springs. There is plenty to do and see here. Head into the Albright Visitor Center and Museum, which has undergone renovation and will have its grand reopening celebration on June 14. Spend some time talking to a ranger and visiting the exhibits, then check out the park's most dynamic hydrothermal areas, with features that change constantly.

Still have time to spare? Hit the trail. The easy-to-moderate hike to Bunsen Peak is 4.2 miles, and the top provides panoramic views of other park destinations and the Gallatin Range. Find the trailhead at the entrance of the Old Bunsen Peak Road, five miles south of Mammoth toward Norris.

### Canyon Village

This is a must-see, but make it a quick trip in order to take in Yellowstone's most iconic geyser, Old Faithful. The fastest way to see the canyon is to drive approximately five minutes from Canyon Village to North Rim Drive and walk along the paved paths to Red Rock Point, Lookout Point



A wolf crosses the road in Yellowstone National Park. PHOTO BY JOHN LAYSHOCK

or Grand View. From here you can catch a glimpse of the expanse of the canyon, see the waterfall and look northeast down the Yellowstone River.

### Old Faithful Area

It's best to check at Canyon Village Visitor Education Center for Old Faithful eruption times (approximately every 90 minutes). From the Canyon Village center, it's about 45 minutes to Old Faithful by car. Arrive early and score a good seat. Check out the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center—the interactive exhibits are great for the kids, and a nice break from the car. Plan accordingly, and you'll be able to make stops along the way to see the world's highest concentration of active geysers.

### Fountain Paint Pots

After Old Faithful stop at the Fountain Paint Pots, a favorite feature among Yellowstone guides. It's best to park and walk the boardwalk to view these geothermal features, but there is also an option to drive along the Firehole Lake Drive, a one-way side road that yields great views. The paint pot is located among other features, including the Great Fountain Geyser, another erupting geyser that reaches up to 200 feet.

### Old Faithful Area

Exit the park through the west entrance and enter West Yellowstone. The local shop owners here are friendly and informative. Stop for reasonably priced Spanish tapas at a favorite spot, Cafe Madriz, located at the north end of town, then stash the car and walk to the Playmill to catch community theater at its best. The small stage and interactive performances are a relaxing and fun way to end the evening.

*A version of this story first appeared in the summer 2015 issue of Explore Yellowstone.*



At 10,969 feet, Electric Peak is the tallest mountain in the Gallatin Range and a prominent feature of the park's northwestern corner. NPS PHOTO



# Soak it all in at Chico Hot Springs

BY AMANDA EGGERT  
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

In my exploration of Montana's hot springs, I've found that there are two main classes of hot springs: older facilities that have become run down and older facilities that have been lovingly maintained.

Chico Hot Springs in Pray, Montana, falls into the latter category. Its halls hold plenty of history—the original lodge was built in 1900 and rumors have it that a ghost still makes the rounds in the Old Lodge—without feeling like the inn's glory days are long gone.

In fact, despite several rounds of additions to increase lodging capacity, last-minute weekend bookings are increasingly hard to come by. Make room reservations several months in advance if you plan to stay on a Friday or Saturday night, when Chico Saloon bustles with live music and dancing.

The Chico Dining Room puts on an incredible spread for Sunday brunch—we're talking eggs benedict, fresh fruit, French toast, made-to-order omelets and a bread pudding that's tough to top—and the dinner is nothing to sneeze at, either. Seafood is flown in fresh, all baking is done on the premises and much of the restaurant's produce is grown in Chico's own garden.

If you want to earn your soak, consider booking a horseback ride, wetting a line in the Yellowstone River or taking a hike in the aptly-named Paradise Valley. In nearby Emigrant, Follow Yer' Nose BBQ, which is run by a pair of brothers from Georgia, serves up some of the best barbecue in Montana.

If outdoor concerts are more your speed, drive 11 miles north to Pine Creek Lodge, which regularly books bands from around the West at their outdoor venue. Their events schedule is available at [pinecreeklodgemonntana.com/events](http://pinecreeklodgemonntana.com/events).

No matter how you plan your Chico getaway, quality opportunities for tasty food, outdoor adventure and oh-so-enjoyable soaking abound. 163 Chico Road, Pray, Montana. [chicohotsprings.com](http://chicohotsprings.com) (406) 333-4933



Once touted as a curative for everything from kidney troubles to blood disease and skin orders, the pool at Chico Hot Springs is indisputably relaxing. PHOTO BY AMANDA EGGERT



# Montana's Getaway




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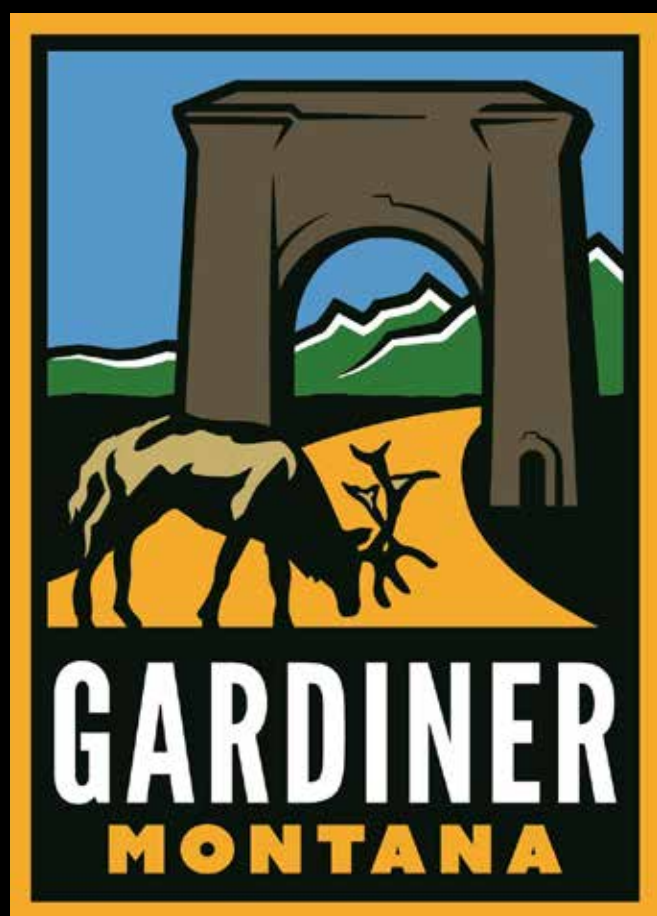
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# Salmon, Idaho: Central Idaho’s hidden secret

BY ERIC LADD  
EBS PUBLISHER

Imagine a setting like the Bozeman valley. This place is nestled among lush farm valleys, surrounded by soaring peaks and adjacent to millions of acres of protected public lands. Now cut the population by 90 percent. Welcome to Salmon, Idaho.

Salmon boasts miles upon miles of buffed mountain bike trails that rival any Utah experience—and empty trailheads are the icing on the cake. Stop by the Hub, Salmon’s only bike shop, and Max Lohmeyer will get you dialed on his private riding mecca.



Die-hard mountain bikers prep for the starting gun at Discovery Hill in Salmon, Idaho, for “12 Hours of Disco,” a 12-hour endurance race held every May. PHOTOS BY SCOTT ELLIOTT



Fill up on veggies at the farmers' market in Salmon City Park, which runs every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. all summer long.

Downtown Salmon is trapped in time, still embracing the slower-paced Western lifestyle with flat bed trailer trucks and horse trailers filling parking lots. Hidden gems like rivers with steelhead trout and remote hot springs make any weekend getaway even better.

Finish the day at the Pork Peddler, a good spot for a pulled pork sandwich or fried mac ‘n cheese washed down with a cold beer.

Surrounded by so much national forest, campgrounds abound, but if you want a more civil place to lay your head, get a room at the Stagecoach Inn, a pet-friendly accommodation located along the Salmon River.

Get it now before the rest of Bozeman discovers it!



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## Weekend getaway to Moab, a mecca for rock climbers and mountain bikers

BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Nestled between Arches and Canyonlands national parks, Moab is both a sightseer's dream and an outdoor recreationalist's mecca. The parks offer thousands of sandstone arches and canyons for those seeking a beautiful drive peppered with a few hikes, and be sure to look for ancient petroglyphs when you're out walking around. Nearby, the mountain biking, climbing and four-wheeling are unparalleled, with endless scenic trails and rock formations.

### Getting here

Drive – 9.5 hours south and bring bike, climbing gear, etc.  
Fly – Can be pricey, but flights into Moab's Canyonlands Field Airport, Grand Junction, or Salt Lake City could save you some travel time.

### Dining: Desert Bistro

Built in an adobe structure that was once Moab's first dance hall, Desert Bistro specializes in southwestern cuisine. Stop in for smoked rabbit quesadilla, handmade Agnolotti pasta in Marsala wine, or free-range chicken breast with mole, roasted peppers and corn salsa. Desert Bistro features an extensive wine collection.

Tip: For a more intimate setting reserve the wine cellar table, available for up to six people.

### Lodging: The Gonzo Inn

The Gonzo Inn, located in the heart of downtown Moab, provides a comfortable and welcoming stay with a 70s-style art deco feel. Go big with the Gonzo Suite, which sleeps up to six, has a jetted tub and offers broad views from a spacious balcony; or take it down a notch in one of its cozy King rooms. With a large outdoor pool and hot tub, you'll be lodging in style and, as its website describes, have found a "funky place to crash."

### Featured activity: Mountain biking

Pro—The Slickrock bike trail may be the most famous – and one of the most challenging – mountain bike rides in the nation. A 10.5-mile loop, sections of this epic trail are named "Faith in Friction" and "Steep Creep." Bring your full-suspension, your "A" game, and some Advil for afterward.

Novice—The Bar M Loop is a beginner's double-track trail with outstanding views of Arches National Park. It's approximately 8 miles long and is a perfect introductory trail to get your tires under you.



Stay in the heart of downtown Moab at The Gonzo Inn for a comfortable, convenient stay with a 70s-style art deco feel. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GONZO INN





A typical sunset at Hanalei Bay. PHOTO BY AARON FEINBERG

# Kauai, baby

BY ERIC LADD  
EBS PUBLISHER

Definition: Aloha  
alo: sharing, in the present  
oha: joyous affection, joy  
ha: life energy, life, breath  
The true meaning of this famous Hawaiian term is “in the presence of life.”

When you visit Kauai, you feel the ‘Aloha’ spirit in many ways.

Located on the northern end of the Hawaiian chain, Kauai is 562 square miles and geologically the oldest island. Often referred to as the “garden isle,” it’s blessed with ample fresh water and is truly an island getaway.

With diverse natural resources, Kauai is known for its spiritual nature, lush jungles, the stunning Na Pali coastline and nearby Kalalau Valley overlook. Ancient Taro plant fields dot the landscape, and romantic Hanalei Bay Beach is one of the world’s most beautiful.

Accommodations range from well-organized campgrounds to pampered spa resorts overlooking the ocean. The island’s various adventures are also suited for a range of interests, from families exploring the ocean with dolphins, to adrenaline junkies surfing Kauai’s legendary North Shore breaks.

Here are three ways I recommend to explore Kauai:

## Backpacking the Na Pali Coast

Spanning 15 miles and protecting 6,175 acres of isolated, roadless wilderness, the Na Pali coastline is a treasured stop for any visitor to Kauai. As you explore the narrow, winding roads of the North Shore, you’ll end up at Ke’e Beach, which is where the Kalalau Trail begins. Known as one of the most arduous and scenic hikes in the world, the 11-mile trail is a backpacker’s dream.

Farmers and fishermen first settled this region in 1200 A.D. The dramatic setting is home to the largest valley on the North Shore, Kalalau Valley. While many choose to see the Na Pali Coast via helicopter or boat tour, hiking the Kalalau Trail is a journal-worthy adventure.

A solid day, or a civilized two-day journey, this challenging hike is filled with stream crossings; narrow, slick trails; sheer drop-offs and scenic ocean views. The trip takes most hikers an average of five to eight hours each way. While regulated, the trail has become popular—be prepared for a mini-Woodstock style campground at Kalalau Beach, fronted by a mile-long strip of pearl white sand. If you have more time, worthy side activities include hikes to hidden waterfalls and lush jungle pools, bartering with local Kalalau dwellers, and cribbage on the beach.

### Tips:

Pack light, bring plenty of water, be prepared to guard yourself from the sun and rain and take extra time to stop and cherish this journey. Treat all drinking water, bring a deck of cards and get ready to see the best sunset of your life.

After mile two, the crowds subside and you’ll have the trail to yourself. Rumor has it you can pay locals to shuttle your gear to the beach via boat.

Must-bring gear: Sarong and hiking poles.

## Pampered at the St. Regis Princeville

Blessed daily with the last sunset in the United States, the St. Regis overlooking Hanalei Bay is arguably one of the finest luxury resorts in the world.

With a 93 percent return ratio for employees, and guests arriving from around the globe, this is a special place. Its motto: “Anticipating your expectations.”

Every sunset, St. Regis butler Kaleo Guerrero sabres a bottle of champagne on the resort patio, sharing tales of native Hawaiians in Hanalei and the area’s mystical nature.

The St. Regis Princeville boasts 51 suites with butler service and a cleaning station for hiking boots in the lobby entrance. Sophisticated, yet at home with the laid-back North Shore vibe, its amenities include poolside service, a private, quiet beach and a valet team that helps make the stay at St. Regis both refined and memorable.

You’ll plan to go back.

**Tip:** Get a taro butter couples massage in the 10,000-square-foot St. Regis Spa. [stregisprinceville.com](http://stregisprinceville.com)

## Exploring the South Shore from Koa Kea

Along the bustling South Shore near the town of Poipu lies a tranquil oasis, Koa Kea. Recently rebuilt after being leveled in the 1992 hurricane Iniki, this small resort has a swank, yet minimalistic style, many of its 121 rooms with intimate oceanfront decks. A quiet pool courtyard in the heart of the resort offers guests an exquisite private setting.

Highlights include in-room Nespresso machines, clean, modern décor, quiet, clamshell shaped beaches, calm swimming waters and direct access to some of the best beginner surf. The resort is ideally located near trails, golf, parks and other attractions.

Translated, Koa Kea means “white coral”—a perfect match for the style, look and location of the luxury oceanfront resort.

**Tip:** Visit the gift shop for jars of Hawaiian-made red salt as a gift to bring home. [koakea.com](http://koakea.com)

## Where to eat on Kauai

### North Shore – The Dolphin

The Dolphin in Hanalei is a fish market, restaurant and sushi lounge. Couple a teriyaki-glazed tuna steak with a coconut porter from the Maui Brewing Company. [hanaleidolphin.com](http://hanaleidolphin.com)

### South Shore – Red Salt

Red Salt, a quaint restaurant in Koa Kea Resort, serves up massive six-ounce martinis, sushi and mushroom bisque. [koakea.com/dining-at-red-salt](http://koakea.com/dining-at-red-salt)

### Fish tacos – Island Taco

Island Taco in Waimea is a must-stop locals’ favorite. Grab a drink from the smoothie stand across the street and pair it with a seared wasabi ahi taco for mid-day meal perfection. [islandfishtaco.com](http://islandfishtaco.com)

### Hip – Tortilla Republic

With locations in Poipu, Kauai, as well as Laguna Beach and Hollywood, California, this fast-moving establishment features guacamole made fresh at your table, an extensive margarita list and live house music. [tortillarepublic.com](http://tortillarepublic.com)

## Good for the soul

### North Shore – Yoga Hanalei

Multiple classes are offered daily; the smell of fresh-roasted coffee surrounds the studio. [yogahanalei.com](http://yogahanalei.com)

### South Shore – Kalaheo Yoga

Look for a class led by Paul Reynolds in this well-appointed studio. [kalaheoyoga.com](http://kalaheoyoga.com)

*This story was first published in the summer 2013 issue of Mountain Outlaw magazine.*



Special advertising section

# Nicaragua:

## Land of beaches, blue lagoons and volcanoes

BY PATRICK HIEBERT

In the words of Monty Python, if you remember back that far: Now for something completely different!

Have you ever thought about investing in a second home, future retirement home, or just a nice place by a tropical beach to get away for vacations and earn rental revenue, too?

Has that place in your mind ever been Nicaragua? That's right, I said Nicaragua. While some only remember Nicaragua as a land of revolution—that was many decades ago, by the way—today, Nicaragua is listed as one of the safest countries in the Americas.

Nicaragua is still quite undiscovered, but that's changing quickly. This tropical paradise country has one of the fastest tourism growth rates in the world and is quickly becoming the new “it” place for travel. And from an investment standpoint, Nicaragua is seen as “the next Costa Rica,” which has seen an incredible growth in real estate value over the past decade and a half.

Let me tell you a quick story of my experience getting in—or, rather barely getting in—to the foreign real estate market. Maybe it will help you make a decision rather than procrastinating like I did.

In the very early '90s, I went on a vacation to Puerto Vallarta in Mexico. It was one of my first visits to Latin America and I immediately fell in love with the pace of life, friendliness of the people, and of course the climate. I stayed in a resort and decided to walk around and look at the neighborhood.



The sun sets over the Pacific at Gran Pacifica Beach and Golf Resort.

I had no thought of buying a property; it had never crossed my mind. But I came across a for sale sign on a nice home that backed up against a golf course and faced the beautiful Pacific Ocean waves. I remember it like it was yesterday because I really loved the location and the home. It was designed in a Spanish Colonial style with lots of amazing tile work.

I asked what the selling price was and they said, “Well, amigo, it is only \$142,000 and we're quite sure we are going to see some big increases as more people discover our country.” First of all, I didn't have \$142,000. But more importantly, I thought I would never risk that amount of money on a property in a developing country, so I didn't buy it.

Less than three years later, I came back to that same resort and went for pretty much that same walk. You guessed it, that same home was back on the market...but this time they were asking over \$600,000. And the story doesn't end there. A few years later, I made the trek back along that same street in Mexico out of curiosity. I couldn't believe that the home was for



Las Perlas Condominium Suite is one of Gran Pacifica's beach properties nestled along 3.5 miles of Pacific coastline. PHOTOS COURTESY OF GRAN PACIFICA

sale again. They were asking over \$1 million dollars this time. Not that many years had gone by from when I had first seen the home.

I told myself that if I ever encountered a similar situation, I would jump on it. Time went by and I didn't have any luck. It took 20 years before I found those same raw ingredients again, this time in Nicaragua. The country is safe, full of friendly and happy people, and has some of the most incredible sites, like the only active volcano in the world that you can drive to the edge of and peer into. It also has some of the best surf breaks in the world, including one right in front of the resort I live on; amazing cultural cities like Granada, the oldest city in the Americas with streets lined with outdoor restaurants; and of course, tropical beaches and amazing climate.

The piece that makes it complete is the inexpensive real estate and low cost of living. Nicaragua is one of the least expensive places to find amazing properties, but that is changing. I'm glad I lived long enough to find this opportunity twice in my life. I missed the booms of Mexico, Panama and Costa Rica but I'm in on the “next Costa Rica” known as Nicaragua. You may want to consider it, too.

I now live full-time at Gran Pacifica Beach and Golf Resort in Nicaragua and I'm loving it. I go for weekends to Panama, Costa Rica, Belize and many other beautiful Central American destinations. I travel quickly and inexpensively since I'm based in the center of them all. It's a great life and investment. Both capital and rental revenues continue to grow alongside the booming tourism industry.

Consider Nicaragua, and if you decide to go for it you can buy me a drink at the beach bar in trade for having done the many years of research for you!



Heading out to surf the empty Asuchillo beach break of central Nicaragua.



# Finding Room to Breathe in Sayulita

BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Locals in Sayulita, Mexico, have a saying that you come for a visit but you stay forever.

A small fishing and surf town of approximately 4,000 residents, Sayulita is set in a cove between Punta Mita and San Pancho, 26 miles north along the Pacific coast from Puerto Vallarta, in the state of Nayarit.

The surf break is a two-minute stroll from downtown, where white and burnt orange, adobe-style buildings line cobblestone streets. Early in the morning, the plaza comes alive, the smell of fresh coffee and baked goods filling the warming air.



Set on miles of private beach, the elegant Villa Milagros also boasts a large swimming pool, an infinity pool, and a hot tub on the moon-viewing deck. PHOTOS BY BRIAN NILES

The Huichol, Nayarit's indigenous people, sell colorful art, dolls and handcrafted bowls, jewelry and blankets around the square. Dressed in their traditional white, loose clothing embroidered in bright red, yellow and blue stitching, the Huichol are originally from the Sierra Madre Occidental Mountains in the northeastern corner of Nayarit.

A block west, surfers of all abilities catch the Punta Sayulita break in front of Captain Pablo's Restaurant. Here, ex-pats Paul Southworth, aka Pablo, and his wife Patricia operate an all-things-adventure shop adjacent to their eatery. Hailing from Portland, Oregon, the couple guides surf and snorkel expeditions, as well as sport- and fly-fishing trips, and also rents out sea kayaks and stand-up paddleboards.

Taco stands chock-full of the day's catch grill sizzling tuna and mahi mahi steaks on nearly every street corner. Between them, restaurants with full menus attract dinner guests with sunset ocean views and thatched roofs. Miles of sand beaches beckon hikers with their low-tide rock formations and palm-covered bluffs.

There's a sense of calm in the air here, there's room to breathe.

## ALOJAMIENTO

### Hotel Kupuri

In the heart of downtown Sayulita, Hotel Kupuri is just steps away from the plaza's restaurants and shopping. Open since 2011, its broad, private courtyard and pool surrounded by tall palms provide peace in the village center.

Kupuri's rooms surround the courtyard's three levels, each one offering wi-fi, air conditioning and sophisticated decor. But the real goods are on the upper tier: The honeymoon suite spans half of the third floor, with a king-sized bed, flat-screen TV and deck overlooking the pool and courtyard.

On the adjacent rooftop patio, a bar and dining area offer an eclectic cocktail list and panoramic views of the ocean and town. [hotelkupuri.com](http://hotelkupuri.com)

### El Palacio/Casa Milagros

Architect Rogelio Romana designed Villa Milagros to flow seamlessly with the nature in which it stands, the finest Mexican craftsmanship in mind.

This world-class estate has seven bedrooms and 11 bathrooms between its two vacation properties, El Palacio and Casa Milagros. Set on miles of private beach, the elegant villa also boasts a large swimming pool, an infinity pool and a hot tub on the moon-viewing deck.

Guests soak in ocean breezes through the open-air dining room and windows; watch orange-fronted parakeets play among the palms; and fall asleep to set after set of crashing waves.

Complete with a game room housing card, pool and air hockey tables, Palacio—at 8,000 square feet—has three floors with four bedrooms, each with its own flair. Next door, Milagros offers three unique, king-sized bedrooms inside a 2,500-square-foot living space; French doors open onto a patio overlooking the pool, which in turn overlooks the Pacific. [sayulitalife.com/palacio](http://sayulitalife.com/palacio), [sayulitalife.com/milagros](http://sayulitalife.com/milagros)

## ACTIVIDADES

**Wet a line/Hang 10.** Catch mahi mahi, tuna and sailfish with one of Captain Pablo's fishing tours, and any local restaurant will cook them up on the spot. Or rent a surfboard or standup paddleboard from Patricia's Surf Lessons and Board Rental. Professional instructors will teach you the intricacies of riding a wave at the Punta Sayulita break. [captainpablo.com](http://captainpablo.com)

**Blaze a trail.** Stroll 15 minutes from downtown Sayulita to Playa de los Muertos, the beautiful local cemetery. Fresh flowers adorn brightly painted crypts and lead to a beach hidden by rock outcroppings. Smaller waves are perfect for kids, and the secluded area is just right for a quiet read in the sun.

**Be at one.** Yoga Los Sueños, located in the Hotelito Los Sueños, offers a number of classes for you to find your Zen, including Morning Flow, Vinyasa Flow and Kundalini. Vanessa Morrett, one of five instructors, will put your mind and body at ease with her gentle teaching style and expansive knowledge of this ancient practice. [hotelitolossuenos.com](http://hotelitolossuenos.com)

## TIPS:

**Getting there:** To get from Puerto Vallarta to Sayulita, either hire a ride with Jose Ramos Taxi Service ([sayulitalife.com/ramos-taxi](http://sayulitalife.com/ramos-taxi)), or take the bus (cross the footbridge over Highway 200 and grab a seat).

**When to go:** November through May is dry in Sayulita, with high temperatures averaging around 80 F. June through October is the rainy season, with hot and humid conditions.

*A version of this story was first published in the winter 2013/2014 issue of Mountain Outlaw magazine.*



With the Pacific stretching west to the horizon, the view from El Palacio's expansive second floor open-air living room/dining room/kitchen area is broad and unobstructed.





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