

**Explore**

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FREE

# Big Sky

June 9 - June 22, 2017  
Volume 8 // Issue #12

**Hungry Moose owners talk  
about life with ALS**

***Applicants vie for \$7M in resort tax***

**Business profile:**  
Farm-to-table with Seasonal Montana

***Ralph's Pass trail opens in Big Sky***

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# OUTLAW

. P A R T N E R S .

June 9 – June 22, 2017  
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**ON THE COVER:** A cinnamon colored black bear cub climbs high into a hawthorn tree in Grand Teton National Park.  
PHOTO BY STEVE HINCH

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Section 1: News

Opinion.....	5
Local.....	7
Montana.....	14
Regional.....	15

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

Environment.....	17
Sports.....	22
Business.....	24
Health.....	28
Dining.....	30

### Section 3: Outdoors & Back 40

Outdoors.....	33
Back 40.....	48

### Section : Arts & Entertainment.....49

**8 Hungry Moose owners  
talk about life with ALS**

Applicants vie for  
\$7M in resort tax

13

**24 Business profile:**  
Farm-to-table with  
Seasonal Montana

Ralph's Pass trail  
opens in Big Sky **36 & 43**

**+ Real Estate Guide**



## OPENING SHOT

A paraglider soars in the smooth evening lift above Hogback Ridge in Montana's Paradise Valley in May. PHOTO BY STEFAN MITROVICH

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News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

# Big Sky PBR sells out in 1 day

BY TYLER ALLEN  
EBS MANAGING EDITOR

BIG SKY – The hottest ticket in town caught fire this year.

The Big Sky PBR sold out both nights of bull riding within 24 hours of going on sale June 1. Now in its seventh year, the PBR arena in Big Sky Town Center will host some of the world's top bull riding talent July 28 and 29—with musical acts on the SAV Stage to follow each night—as well as the second annual Big Sky Art Auction on July 27, followed by the Turnpike Troubadours on Town Center stage.

New this summer, the four-day event will kick off July 26 at the Reserve at Moonlight Basin with the Big Sky PBR Golf Tournament, benefiting the Rider Relief Fund, and the inaugural community barn dance that evening.

“The growth has been exciting to witness and is a testament to the power and importance of events in a mountain town like Big Sky,” said Eric Ladd, CEO of Big Sky PBR producer Outlaw Partners. “Big Sky lacked that signature event like a Telluride Bluegrass Festival or Jackson Hole's Rendezvous Fest. After the first year of PBR we realized this event had the opportunity to become that for Big Sky.”

This year, ticket purchases flooded in from at least 35 states, and PBR fans from Hawaii to Maine and Arizona to Florida jumped on the chance to attend the area's signature summer gathering.

Candace Carr Strauss just started as Big Sky Chamber of Commerce's new CEO on June 1, but has seen the local PBR grow over the years—and may hold the title for farthest traveled to attend. She's been to the Big Sky PBR three times and one year flew to Montana from Athens, Greece, just before the weekend started.

“Obviously, it's growing exponentially,” Strauss said. “It was a finalist for Montana Tourism Event of the Year [in 2017], which speaks volumes to the event and its economic impact on our community.”

She also cited the significant influence Big Sky PBR has on the community through its annual fundraising for charities and nonprofits, and that selling out in 24 hours speaks to the “consumer side” catching on to the secret the professional bull riders have known for some time.

Last November, Big Sky PBR was voted “Event of the Year” for the fourth consecutive time, an honor that's available to bull riding events outside of the Built Ford Tough Series, which are produced by the Professional Bull Riders organization.

“Big Sky is one of the PBR's premier summertime events, and a perennial favorite among fans and bull riders,” said PBR CEO Sean Gleason in an email. “It's an absolutely stunning setting for outdoor bull riding. Big Sky draws top riders and bulls, and it seems to bring out the best in everyone.”



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTOS

Brodey Simkins, vice president of Simkins-Hallin and director for Big Sky Town Center, remembers the first year of the event when it was a single weekday evening, and an experiment to bring Ladd's idea of bull riding to Big Sky.

“Year one it was literally just to test an idea,” Simkins said. “And to be in year seven with all of the accolades from PBR, it's as good as it gets. ... It's the one time of year Big Sky literally circles the wagons.”

Town Center Manager Ryan Hamilton added that they advise subscribers to their e-newsletter “to act now, they're going to go fast.” They couldn't have been more accurate—in previous years, fans were able to purchase tickets as late as July, but that's likely a thing of the past.

“Our goal is to turn this into a large multi-day festival that would include an addition of a headliner music act, and more of a county fair atmosphere to it,” Ladd said. “The financial impact that this event is proving to have for Big Sky is very notable. Some businesses have told us it's their most successful sales week of the year.”

Ladd stresses that those who missed out on tickets this year are encouraged to attend the free events throughout the week, including the community barn dance, Turnpike Troubadours playing Music in the Mountains, and the Big Sky Art Auction that precedes the Thursday night concert.

Tickets are also still available for the after-party music each night of bull riding, with James McMurtry playing Friday and Jamie McLean Band closing out the weekend on Saturday. And for those still itching to see the tour's bull riders in action, the Livingston Classic PBR is the following weekend on Saturday, Aug. 5.

Visit [bigskypbr.com](http://bigskypbr.com) for more information, a full schedule of events and to purchase tickets to the Big Sky PBR after-party concerts.







## Bank stabilization project on the West Fork draws to a close

EBS STAFF

After nearly two years, restorative work on the Upper West Fork of the Gallatin River between Two Moons and Little Coyote roads along the length of the Big Sky Golf Course has nearly reached completion. In May, the nonprofit Gallatin River Task Force finished their on-the-ground work, which is intended to stabilize the stream bank and reduce high levels of nitrogen found in the river. As a final component of the project, GRTF will install interpretive signs along the bank sometime in August.

The high nitrogen concentration in the West Fork was revealed in a five-year study that culminated in 2010 and was conducted by GRTF and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. The nitrogen levels are attributed to several sources, including fertilizer applications on the nearby golf course and residential properties, as well as municipal wastewater that undergoes a number of treatments before being used to irrigate the golf course.

The Gallatin River Task Force began planning and grant writing in 2014 and broke ground on the project in October 2016, harvesting willows and coordinating work on the site with the golf course's schedule.

"Vegetation benefits the river in many ways," said Kristin Gardner, executive director of GRTF. In addition to stabilizing the bank and taking up nitrogen from the soil and groundwater—which reduces the amount transported to the river—the willows provide shade to keep water cool in the summer, and habitat for aquatic insects and wildlife, Gardner said.

## Businesses to receive tax credit for supplying on-the-job training

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Montana Governor Steve Bullock held a ceremonial bill signing in Great Falls on June 1 for his apprenticeship tax credit known as HB 308. The bill aims to create good-paying jobs for Montana families, build employee skills and incentivize businesses to grow. Bullock joined Great Falls Representative Casey Schreiner, the bill's sponsor, and the Commissioner of Labor and Industry, Pam Bucy, at the event.

"Small businesses are the heart of Montana's economy and the job creators of today and tomorrow," Bullock said. "This is another opportunity to make sure that employers have access to a trained and talented workforce so that we can continue to grow Main Street Montana businesses, all while boosting earning potential for Montanans across the state."

HB 308 will provide Montana businesses with a \$750 tax credit for every position hired where the worker is offered on-the-job training through the Montana Registered Apprenticeship unit. For every veteran hired and given an apprenticeship opportunity, businesses will be provided a \$1,500 tax credit. The apprenticeship tax credit will provide veterans opportunities to apply the skills and leadership they learned while serving in the military to industry sectors across Montana.

Apprenticeships provide earn-while-you-learn training opportunities in almost 1,000 occupations. Apprenticeships have been used for generations in Montana and are a vital tool for creating a pipeline of highly trained workers. These time-honored programs provide apprentices with the chance to earn a paycheck and support a family, while learning the hard and soft skills needed to maintain good-paying jobs in a rapidly changing economy.

## Memorial Day kicks off Montana's strongest season of tourism

VOICES OF MONTANA TOURISM

Spring in Montana brings many things, but for local businesses and families who rely on tourism, increased visitors to the state are the most important ingredient to success.

The data from the 2016 Institute for Tourism & Recreation Research illustrates how strong the summer season is in relation to the rest of the year. Of the 12.4 million visitors who traveled to Montana last year, more than 7 million arrived between June and September, amounting to 60 percent of the entire year's visitors. Last year there was a 5 percent increase in visitors from the year before, and looking at the past five years there has been an 18 percent increase in visitation. Non-resident visitors spent \$3.5 billion in Montana in 2016.

"With the considerable economic impact that Montana communities enjoy in the summer months, it's a good time to reflect on the positive attributes visitors bring to main street businesses," said Dax Schieffer, Voices of Montana Tourism Director. "Tourism is a sustainable business where the experiences are the product, a model where the money is left behind by the visitor to create jobs supporting increased payrolls to circulate into the economy."

Montana's success in attracting visitors should not be taken for granted, as many states are competing for the visitor dollar. Thirty years ago Montana policy makers committed to fund tourism promotion by collecting a 4 percent bed tax. As would be expected with increasing visitation, last year saw another record in bed tax collections with a 6 percent increase from the year before.

## Missing hiker found deceased

GALLATIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Between June 4 and June 6, Gallatin County Search and Rescue conducted a two-and-a-half day search for an overdue hiker in the Beaver Creek area northwest of West Yellowstone. At 11:30 a.m. on June 6, a search team with K-9 accompaniment discovered the hiker, identified as Mike Petersen of Bismark, North Dakota, deceased a quarter-mile south of the confluence of Beaver and West Fork creeks. A Gallatin County Sheriff's Coroner will determine cause and manner of death.

The event began near 10 p.m. on June 4 with the report that the 42-year-old Petersen had failed to return to the designated rendezvous pick-up point. Petersen was reported to have been in the Beaver Creek area several times over the past four months and had backcountry experience. He left on his hike with enough survival equipment to stay in the forest and signal for help.

Initial search activity included personnel from the West Yellowstone division of Gallatin County Search & Rescue, Hebgen Basin Rural Fire District, Air Methods helicopter and Two Bear Air Rescue Helicopter from the Flathead County Sheriff's Office.

More than 40 individuals participated in the ground search effort, including Search & Rescue members from West Yellowstone, Big Sky, Gallatin Valley, Madison County and Ruby Valley; National Forest Service and Department of Livestock employees; Hebgen Basin Rural Fire District personnel; and three K-9 dog search teams.

The Gallatin County Sheriff's Office would like to offer condolences to the family affected by this tragic accident and thank all the volunteers who came together in this very large scale search and rescue event.



406  
Forum

This year, 27 organizations requested \$7,029,121 of resort tax support, and the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board has \$7,271,591 to appropriate.

## Which projects or organizations are most deserving of funding in your opinion?



**Alissa Levert**  
*Big Sky, Montana*

"I don't think Morningstar should get so much money because not everyone in Big Sky has kids. The free transportation is awesome but it needs to be more limited, and they pay [Skyline] too much. The hockey rink is awesome—keep going with it. The idea of a [recreation] center for everybody with the hockey rink in the winter would be great."



**David Reeves**  
*Big Sky, Montana*

"Big Sky Community Housing Trust. We are in a housing crisis and we need to address that immediately. We keep creating more and more jobs in this town and less and less housing. ... I think it's hugely important and it's been an ongoing thing for years now."



**Josh Berry**  
*Big Sky, Montana*

"I would say the Gallatin River Task Force. I'm a fly-fishing guide and I know the value of a clean, healthy river. I think they do a good job of keeping the river healthy for all of us to keep enjoying it."



**Mariya Provost**  
*Big Sky, Montana*

"I think more paved bike paths [and] if they could use resort tax to subsidize housing that would be great."

## Time to check in on Montana's special election.





# Letter: The federal government should be more selective in its funding

I would like to respond to Brian Hurlbut’s op-ed regarding federal funding for the arts (“We can’t afford to lose funding for the arts,” published May 26). I agree we should have vast financial support for the arts. I have supported the arts all of my adult life. I continue to do so as a resident of Big Sky. But we as a nation have no business spending federal tax dollars on a vast array of federal projects.

Our nation spends huge sums on wasteful and ridiculous programs. Funding for the arts is not wasteful or ridiculous and that is why I hope communities which value the arts continue to encourage philanthropy from the private sector. That is where support should originate. A community that believes in the value of the arts will promote such.

We are a debtor nation now \$20 trillion in debt. We fail to address our debt at great peril. There are many other beneficial federal projects that must be ended. Other than funding for law enforcement, defense, courts, legislative and executive operations, the federal government needs to be highly selective in its funding.

Doug Black  
Big Sky, Montana

# Letter: Tourism is the lifeblood of Big Sky’s economy

This place we call Big Sky. It’s magical. When people come to visit, it’s as if a spell is cast upon them, one from which they cannot break free. They are mesmerized by Big Sky’s beauty, charm and outdoor lifestyle. It is this spell that keeps them coming back year after year, and eventually, if lucky enough, relocating here permanently. This is what happened to many of us. This is what happened to me.



Tourism is woven into our community’s DNA. The aspiration for Big Sky to become a year-round, world-class, mountain resort community was born out of the initial conversation between Chet Huntley and Sam Smeding in the summer of 1968, which led to its creation.

Again on June 1, 1992, the Big Sky community intertwined its fate with tourism. It made the conscious decision to have visitors share the cost of providing vital community services and infrastructure by instituting a 3 percent Resort Area District Tax. Consequently, our mountain community has experienced transformative change thanks to the more than \$50 million in resort tax collections reinvested here over the past 25 years.

Tourism continues to be the lifeblood of Big Sky, and the second leading industry for Montana behind agriculture. In 2016, \$3.5 billion was infused into our state’s economy from 12.4 million non-resident visitors resulting in an estimated \$536 in tax savings for all Montana households.

In 2014, Visit Big Sky (VBS), a 501(c)(6) non-profit, mutual benefit corporation was created to promote economic development in the Greater Big Sky Area through tourism marketing and promotion. So for the third time in our community’s history, we recognized the importance of tourism. On behalf of VBS, we thank you for entrusting us.

Candace Carr Strauss  
CEO, Visit Big Sky  
Big Sky, Montana




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# New emergency call boxes could save lives in Gallatin Canyon

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY - Narrow and winding and pinned between the Gallatin River and the Custer-Gallatin National Forest, Highway 191 is the artery to the heart of Big Sky and also provides access to a plethora of recreational opportunities. However, the 30-mile stretch between Gallatin Gateway and Big Sky is also one of the most dangerous stretches of highway in the area, all the more treacherous for the complete inability to receive cell phone reception or clear radio signal in the event of an emergency.

As a response to frequent accidents and high use, Rotary Club of Big Sky is currently installing a new emergency call box at Moose Creek Flat, 8 miles north of Highway 64, as a part of a long-term plan to replace three call boxes and install two more at new locations along Highway 191 between Bozeman and the northwest region of Yellowstone National Park.

About 10 years ago, members of the Rotary Club installed emergency call boxes alongside the highway at Moose Creek Flat, Karst Stage Loop and Taylor Fork Road. However, advances in technology have made these older boxes obsolete.

According to Lee Griffiths, a Rotary Club member who is spearheading the 911 call box project, the new call boxes will be installed on 10-foot-tall blue posts, will be solar powered and will be serviced by 3 Rivers Communications as a one-touch call box that only makes calls to 911. They will be of value to motorists, recreationists and residents alike, Griffiths said.



Rotary Club of Big Sky recently installed this emergency call box near Moose Creek Flat in Gallatin Canyon. In addition to replacing older call boxes with these new, solar-powered units, the Rotary Club will put in two call boxes at other locations along Highway 191 in the coming months. PHOTO BY LIAM KESHISHIAN

"Route 191 is a dangerous stretch of road," Griffiths said in a Rotary Club news release. "One way to make it safer, for drivers and also for rafters, fisherman and backcountry users, is to provide 911 access in this remote area. This phone means faster access to medical care. This phone may save someone's life."

"In the event of a motor vehicle crash, previously you'd have to drive to a house or until you would get cell service," Griffiths said. "We're trying to improve response time and get folks faster medical care."

According to Sgt. Brandon Kelly with the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office, an average of one person dies in a Gallatin Canyon car accident each year. Last May, a motorcyclist was fatally injured on Highway 191 in a two-vehicle collision near the 35 mph bridge, right in the middle of the stretch that doesn't receive cell phone reception.

That area will soon get a new call box—in addition to replacing the three existing emergency call boxes, Rotary Club has plans to install a call box at the 35 mph bridge near the Lava Lake Trailhead and another near where the highway enters Yellowstone National Park south of Big Sky.

"The more of those call boxes that are out there, the faster we can respond to calls," Kelly said, adding that faster response times often lead to better outcomes.

Rotary Club volunteers will install the solar panels and batteries, as well as program each call box, with equipment and tools donated by Griffiths' company, Elevation Landscaping and Design. If completed on schedule, the Moose Creek Flat call box will be fully operational by the end of June, while the remaining installations will depend on permitting review but are expected to occur in 2018.

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# An exercise in contradictions

## The Robins discuss life with ALS

BY SARAH GIANELLI  
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY - Last July, Mark Robin was mountain biking the Mountain to Meadow connector trail with a small group of friends and his son Micah when he experienced difficulty changing the bike's gears. Mark attributed the weakness in his hand to an injury he sustained mountain biking in Israel the previous summer. Not all-too-concerned, Mark made an appointment with a hand doctor, unaware that come September, it would not be a hand specialist he would be seeing, but the first of many neurologists.

A few weeks later, one of Mark's employees at The Hungry Moose Market and Deli, a hub of the Big Sky community since Mark and his wife Jackie started the business in 1994, brought it to Mark's attention that he was limping. There were other small signs, too—difficulty grasping the deli tongs and scooping change from the register.

In August, unable to ignore the mounting physical symptoms, Mark went to see Dr. Jeff Daniels at the Big Sky Medical Clinic, who suggested he see a neurologist. On Sept. 1, 2016, Mark was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), a progressive neurodegenerative disease that attacks the nerve cells that control voluntary muscle movement, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

When I arrived for a May 31 interview, Mark was sitting in a motorized wheelchair at the kitchen table in the Robins' sunny Ramshorn home across from one of his three sons, Micah. Michele Geppert, a former "Mooser" who the Robins' employed as she put herself through nursing school, spoons vegetable soup to Mark's lips and raises a straw in a glass of orange juice for him to sip. Mark's arms—a constant source of pain—are stretched out stiffly before him; and at one point Geppert has to come over to pry Mark's curled fingers flat again.

In the nine months since his diagnosis, Mark, 55, has gone from a fully mobile, self-professed workaholic to the confines of a wheelchair unable to move the muscles below his neck. He relies on a ventilator to support his compromised breathing, a catheter to drain his bladder, and he recently had a feeding tube installed in preparation for the day he can no longer swallow. He is completely dependent on his caregivers, which include his wife Jackie, and a group of rotating "angels" who have rallied around the Robins to provide the around-the-clock attention Mark needs—although they are still in need of more.

"I've lost the ability to do anything myself," Mark said, his voice a low, strained groan at times difficult to decipher. "I used to wake up every morning and walk the dog, clean the kitchen, clear out the dishwasher. Now I can't do a thing. I can notice the messy counter, but I can't clean it up. I can't even open up mail. If I have an itch, I can't itch it. Everything has to be done for me."

The tears flow freely—but, imbued with a poet's sensibility, this is nothing new for Mark—and Jackie does not sugarcoat their acutely challenging circumstances, but the mood in the Robins' home is not maudlin. It's real; it's honest; and, in true survivor spirit, is mitigated by a determination to maintain a sense of humor and gratitude for the positive.

For Mark, the positive has been twofold. The ordeal has resuscitated a lifelong passion for writing—shortly after his diagnosis Mark resumed a blog that had languished for years and has since become the primary forum for his extended community to stay connected to his daily life and the illness' progression. Although he lost his ability to type in January, his friends continue to transcribe his poetic musings that are very much in line with the observational style that has always defined his poetry.

Although Mark has been behind a counter since he was 5 years old—his family owned a candy store that doubled as a luncheonette in the hamlet of Hewlett, New York—after studying economics and writing at Columbia University, he pursued a career in the literary arts. Mark's post-graduate



Mark and Jackie Robin, longtime owners of Big Sky's Hungry Moose Market and Deli, host a carnival and ALS awareness-raising fundraiser as part of their sponsorship of the first Music in the Mountains concert on June 22. Festivities begin at 5 p.m. in Town Center Park. PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI

years included working in New York City bookstores, teaching in "Bed-Stuy," and publishing books of poetry. He and Jackie met in New York—a touching vignette best described in his blog—and moved to Los Angeles where Jackie had a job with Dennis Publishing. Settling in Venice Beach, Mark began working at Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center. Eventually he would run their poetry workshop and publish poems in LA Weekly.

"I've always been a writer," Mark said. "It's played second fiddle to the stores and family. But now that I have ALS it's become more of a focus for me and has given me purpose."

But it has been the sheer outpouring of love and support from the people whose lives the Robins have touched intimately or tangentially—evidenced by the overflowing basket of cards and letters, many addressed in a child's scribble to "Marky Moose," and the constant flow of visitors through their home—that has truly blown him away, and in which he has found the strength to continue.

**"I used to wake up every morning and walk the dog, clean the kitchen, clear out the dishwasher. Now I can't do a thing. I can notice the messy counter, but I can't clean it up. I can't even open up mail. If I have an itch, I can't itch it. Everything has to be done for me."**

"I've struggled with the will to live," he said. "But I don't have a choice. Things have happened to me, but I really have no choice but to accept them and to work past them. Every day you battle through it but my strong will to live has made me accept my pain. I get my strength from all the people who love me and help me."

Mark has no illusions about himself or his life before ALS. He knows he was sometimes referred to as the "grumpy grocer" and both he and Jackie get snagged on the fact that so much of their lives has been consumed by work and their business.

"There's a lot of irony in my life," he said. "It's ironic that I ran my business 24/7 and now I'm out of the business 24/7. It's ironic that I've never been able to let go, and now I'm forced to let go."



But, he said, “I’ve never had any regrets; we make choices and we live by those choices. The positive thing is I’m still around and I’m still living a very full life. I could live for a week or another 10 years—we just don’t know. But I want to be around for my kids, my wife, my community, my friends—there are so many people who care about you and you stick around to enjoy them and have fun together.”

“You can sit around and talk about writing poetry and ALS all day long,” Jackie said after the half hour it took for she and two other helpers to resituate Mark in his bed for bodywork treatment. “But really it’s a lot of man-handling. It’s this, all day long. It’s hard. It still feels surreal, like an alternate universe. Then again it always feels like an alternate universe—I mean, Trump’s our president.

“You don’t expect to wake up one day and find your life has gone completely upside down. It’s been a complete exercise in contradictions—he’s writing this beautiful blog, visitors come stay for a week and say they’ve been transformed. On the other hand, the reality is it’s freaking bloody hard. He’s losing his ability to speak and eat and swallow, and despite all that he laughs and makes jokes.”

Looking ahead, the Robin family is preparing for the descent of nearly 40 family members for the Soul Shine carnival and ALS awareness fundraiser the Hungry Moose is hosting as part of their

sponsorship of the first Music in the Mountains concert on Thursday, June 22. The festivities commence at 5 p.m. in Big Sky’s Town Center Park.

*To follow Mark’s literary explorations of his ongoing journey with ALS visit [markymooseinbigsky.blogspot.com](http://markymooseinbigsky.blogspot.com). Those interested in offering their caregiving services should contact Jackie at [moose@hungrymoose.com](mailto:moose@hungrymoose.com).*



Mark Robin crossing the finish line of Harbor’s Hero Run on June 3, flanked by his two primary caregivers, his wife Jackie (left) and longtime friend Candice Brownmiller. PHOTO BY HEATHER MORRIS



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# Inside the Big Sky | By Derek Lennon

## The mountain biking in Big Sky is world class

BY DEREK LENNON  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Bring your mountain bike to Big Sky—it’s amazing here. Big Sky’s mountain biking community is smiling ear-to-ear. Over the past few years there have been major improvements to the mountain biking terrain in Big Sky and it’s putting this mountain town on the map as a mountain biking destination.

Let’s face it, summer in Big Sky rocks and one of the big reasons is that the mountain biking in Big Sky is world class. There’s a massive trail system that connects hundreds of miles of forest service trails and dirt roads with miles of cross country, single-track, and downhill trails. This trail system links Big Sky Resort, the Meadow, Town Center, Spanish Peaks, Moonlight Basin, and forest service lands seamlessly. But the best part is that the mountain biking in Big Sky is ridiculously fun.

Do you want to pedal through the forests, cruise down dirt roads, hop man-made features, flow down single-track trails, or explore the mountains on well-maintained mountain bike trails? You can do it all in Big Sky.

In 2015, Lone Mountain Land Company, Boyne Resorts, and the Big Sky Community Organization hired Whitefish-based TerraFlow Trails to take the mountain biking in Big Sky to a whole new level and create an ever-growing “village-to-village” trail experience. There is now mountain biking for every ability level from beginner to expert.

Popular mountain biking trails in Big Sky include:

- Mountain to Meadow
- Porcupine Creek
- Garnet Mountain
- Soul Hole
- Otter Slide
- Mica Creek
- Uplands Loop

And the list keeps getting longer.

Don’t miss out on the opportunity to bike at Big Sky Resort too. Big Sky Resort offers more than 40 miles of roads and trails—many that are lift accessible via Swift Current, Ramcharger, and Explorer chairs. Beginning May 30, lifts run daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with additional trails opening as conditions allow.

Did you know that the Big Sky Bike Park is a two-time top five winner at MTBparks.com Riders’ Choice Best Bike Parks Awards for the Northwest Region? The biking around here is unreal.



A biker sends it on one of Big Sky’s Resort’s mountain biking trails. PHOTO BY DYLAN HALL

If you’re new to the sport, hire a downhill coach or take a cross country tour. Visit Different Spokes Bike Shop in Big Sky Resort’s Mountain Village Plaza to arrange a coach, and purchase lift passes, rentals and gear.

If you don’t have a bike, don’t worry. Local outdoor shops like Gallatin Alpine Sports and Grizzly Outfitters can hook you up with trail maps, gear, bikes, and clothing. Grizzly also posts local mountain biking maps and current conditions. Need a tune up? Check out Brothel Bikes in the Meadow—where you can even have a beer while you wait.

If you’re a mountain biker, Big Sky has what you want and need. Grab your bike and come check out the mountain biking in Big Sky. You’ll love it here.

*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/mountain-biking-big-sky/>. Read more interesting content about the area on Visit Big Sky’s blog at <https://visitbigskymt.com/category/blog/>.*

## Obituary: Roy L. Bingman (Tiny)

Hagerman, Idaho, resident Roy L. Bingman (Tiny) died May 17, 2017 at the age of 84. Tiny was born Nov. 15, 1932, in Fruita, Colorado, to Roy J. and Hazel Bingman. He is survived by his wife Rose M. Bingman; son J.D. Bingman of Big Sky and his wife Beth; daughters Truenia G. Ryan of Dillon, Montana, and Becky Bingman of Kimberly, Idaho; brother Thomas Bingman of Fruita and his wife Conchita; grandchildren Courtney Ryan, Melainya Rayan, Travis Bingman and Breanne Stuen; nieces Patti Kendell and Charlett Bingman of Fruita; and three great-grandchildren.

Tiny was raised and educated in Fruita. Six months after his 1952 graduation, Tiny was drafted into the Army. After two years in the Army, he went to work for AT&T as a power bay installer. He was transferred to Twin Falls, Idaho, where he met Rosie in June 1957. They were married 14 days later on July 9, 1957. Their first daughter Truenia was born the following July.



Tiny and Rosie spent six years on the Navajo Indian Reservation in Arizona where their second daughter Becky was born, followed 21 months later by their son J.D. Tiny milled Vanadium and Uranium in Monument Valley, Arizona. In 1963, they moved to Crystal Mountain, Washington, where Tiny was the head of snow removal. In 1973, they moved to Big Sky, where he went to work for Chet Huntley as the head of ski run, road and vehicle maintenance until his retirement in 1995. Tiny and Rosie moved to Hagerman, Idaho, in 1996.

Tiny loved life and the good people in it. If you needed help, he would always lend a hand. We all loved him and he will be missed by all who knew him. Tiny was a big man with a little name and a huge heart. RIP.



# Big Sky’s build-out whereabouts



BY TALLIE LANCEY  
EBS COLUMNIST

My father often said, “Life is a series of plateaus.” As an idealistic teen, the concept of an indefinite string of flat stalls didn’t jive with my unbridled optimism. Over time, I discerned his meaning: success is best achieved incrementally. I wanted to get from “here to there” in lightning speed, skipping steps if need be. He encouraged me to take my time.

I’ve ruminated upon this lesson as I observe Big Sky’s growth of late. Amidst rapid building, building, building, are we skipping steps? Or to put it differently, if Big Sky is only half built-out and, to some, is starting to feel crowded, where exactly is the rest of all of this building going to be placed?

Forecasting the maximum capacity of Big Sky’s development is a hot topic. New stoplight, new commercial buildings, new high-speed lifts, new construction on your neighbor’s formerly vacant lot you wish you’d purchased years ago. Growth is happening whether you like it or not. But where, when and how are difficult to monitor for most of us.

Big Sky’s development plans have been well documented in this newspaper. As a quick re-cap, there are approximately 1,100 units left at Moonlight, several hundred in the Canyon on land that has yet to be subdivided, several hundred units at Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, and another several hundred in the Town Center. Here and there, other developable parcels exist.

All told, approximately 2,500 units can be built in the greater Big Sky area according to existing zoning regulations in Gallatin County and awarded entitlements in Madison County. That is inclusive of single family, hotels,

and commercial elements. Given our existing year-round population of about 2,500-3,500 people, depending on whom you ask, Big Sky is not even close to its maximum capacity. One day in the future, this place we call home could double in size. Hence the notion that Big Sky, as a relatively new community, is half built-out.

Those of us who live and work in Big Sky find ourselves marveling—using both positive and negative connotations—at the velocity and volume of growth. I often hear people express the sentiment that no one else should be able to move to Big Sky. Of course, we cannot and should not close the door behind us. While being territorial is instinctual, Big Sky is too wonderful to keep all to ourselves. Thus, we’re left wondering if our legal maximum capacity is the best scenario for the sustainability of our community. Will our unincorporated village voice its land use planning concerns?

As we watch a handful of developers exercise their right to build, we have to consider the practical, physical and environmental restraints of this region like floodplains, cliffs, sensitive wildlife habitat, soil conditions, slope variations and infrastructure of all kinds.

As we near Father’s Day, I’d like to give a shout out to my late father for teaching me that we can achieve much when we take things one step at a time.

*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](mailto: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.*





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# Resort tax board hosts funding applicants at Q-and-A

## Final appropriations announced June 14

BY SARAH GIANELLI  
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY - Representatives from the organizations requesting appropriations from the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board appeared June 5 to respond to questions about their 2018 applications, in a public Q-and-A at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.

The board will announce their final appropriations in a public meeting at WMPAC at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 14.

The net resort tax funds available for appropriations for the 2018 fiscal year were reported at \$7,271,591. There was a total of \$5,840,745 in new resort tax funding requests and \$1,188,376 in rollover requests, leaving a minimum surplus of \$242,470.

Resort tax supports many components of Big Sky’s infrastructure that in an incorporated town would be funded by a municipal budget. The largest request of \$1,664,430 came from the Big Sky Fire Department. BSFD Chief William Farhat was the first to stand before the board to answer questions about the department’s needs to expand its operations, increase staffing and fund a replacement for a 21-year-old fire engine.

Farhat touched on issues that would be echoed across many of the 26 organizations throughout the 5 ½-hour meeting about the challenges of attracting and retaining a qualified workforce, an issue inextricably entangled with affordable housing.

The second largest request came from Big Sky Community Housing Trust, in the form of a rollover request of last year’s funding award of \$1.05 million for the Bough Big Sky Community Subdivision. The trust also requested \$100,000 in new funding to create an affordable housing action plan based on the 2014 Economic & Planning System housing study.

Brian Guyer, HRDC community development manager and acting director of the Big Sky Community Housing Trust, estimated delays of two years for the project after the denial of the preliminary plat approval by the Gallatin County Commission in February and an indication from the legal counsel of the adjacent landowners, the Cronin family, that they would appeal any approvals moving forward.

In order to address the development variances cited as grounds for denial, the project plans have been altered significantly, notably by increasing the number of market price units and reducing the number of restricted or affordable units, so that the ratio is about even. Guyer said it’s an issue the HRDC board would take a deep look at.

BSRAD board members also questioned whether the information in the Big Sky Community Housing Trust’s original application had changed so much that it still qualified as a rollover, or if a new application was in order. A final decision had not been reached on this issue by EBS press time on Wednesday, June 7.

Other substantial asks came from Visit Big Sky, requesting \$715,000 for investment in the tourism sector in the form of a marketing campaign and strategic planning as well as administrative support; followed by Big Sky Community Organization’s request of \$620,852 for parks and trails maintenance and the establishment of a safe pedestrian crossing of Highway 64; and \$600,000 requested by the Big Sky Transportation District to expand its Skyline bus routes.

On the lower end of the funding spectrum, the Beehive Basin Homeowners Association asked for \$10,000 to assist in the maintenance and snow removal for the popular Forest Service trailhead and access road near the HOA—although a representative from the association was not present to field questions about the application. Big Sky Community Food Bank, Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association, Jack Creek Preserve Foundation, Big Sky Skating and Hockey, and Big Sky Search and Rescue all had requests at or under \$30,000.

Many requests hinged on making a case that an organization or service was crucial to the livability of Big Sky. Sarah Blechta and Matthew Dodd, representing Morningstar Learning Center, endured a long line of questioning in regards to their application for \$281,948 for a new infant center, and an additional \$90,000 for Morningstar’s tuition reduction program. BSRAD board member Ginna Hermann led the questioning about whether the daycare center rightly qualified to receive resort tax funding, or if it was in service of too-narrow a demographic.

However, voices in support of funding the daycare center were loud, especially a statement made in the public comment portion by Jennifer O’Connor, who was present as a representative of Women in Action. O’Connor, a former Morningstar employee, spoke on behalf of the service the center provides for this community’s employers—and stressed that lack of daycare is right up there with lack of housing as a deterrent to attracting a workforce.

*BSRAD’s final appropriations board meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 14, at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. A video recording of the June 5 appropriations Q-and-A can be found on Explore Big Sky’s Facebook page. Visit [resorttax.org/pub/appropriation\\_pdfs/resort-tax-2018-applications.pdf](https://resorttax.org/pub/appropriation_pdfs/resort-tax-2018-applications.pdf) for a full listing of the 2018 resort tax applicants.*

### Resort Tax 2018 Applications

<b>Big Sky Fire Department</b>	\$1,664,430
<b>Big Sky Transportation District</b>	\$600,000
<b>Big Sky Search and Rescue</b>	\$33,000
<b>Big Sky Community Organization</b>	\$620,852
<b>Gallatin County Sheriff’s Office</b>	\$276,621
<b>Big Sky Chamber of Commerce</b>	\$230,800
<b>Montana Land Reliance</b>	\$14,528
<b>Rollover: Big Sky Skating and Hockey</b>	\$129,500
<b>Big Sky Skating and Hockey</b>	\$37,840
<b>Gallatin-Big Sky Weeds Committee</b>	\$68,000
<b>Jack Creek Preserve Foundation</b>	\$18,000
<b>Arts Council of Big Sky</b>	\$157,100
<b>The Post Office, LLC</b>	\$41,500
<b>Gallatin River Task Force</b>	\$271,783
<b>Visit Big Sky</b>	\$715,000
<b>Friends of the Big Sky Community Library</b>	\$70,000
<b>Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association</b>	\$25,000
<b>Women in Action</b>	\$50,000
<b>Morningstar Learning Center: Infant Building Capital Project</b>	\$281,948
<b>Morningstar Learning Center: Tuition Reduction Program</b>	\$90,000
<b>Wildlife Conservation Society</b>	\$236,652
<b>Rollover: Warren Miller Performing Arts Center</b>	\$8,876
<b>Warren Miller Performing Arts Center</b>	\$197,691
<b>Rollover: Big Sky Community Housing Trust</b>	\$1,050,000
<b>Big Sky Community Housing Trust</b>	\$100,000
<b>Beehive Basin Home Owners Association</b>	\$10,000
<b>Big Sky Community Food Bank</b>	\$30,000

New Resort Tax requests:  
**\$5,840,745**  
Total new requests with rollovers:  
**\$7,029,121**  
Net funds available for appropriation:  
**\$7,271,591**



# Montana worker shortage starts to pinch state's employers

BY ERIN LORANGER  
HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD

HELENA (AP) - When Denice Harris started working at AAA, she had to wear nylons and men were required to wear ties. Now struggling to recruit employees, AAA is doing everything from allowing jeans to being flexible on the required qualifications for some positions.

Montana is facing a workforce shortage that will put the unemployment rate below 2 percent by 2025, according to predictions by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry.

While DLI is trying to minimize harm to the state's economy by encouraging apprenticeships and getting businesses to be more competitive with wages and work schedules, Commissioner Pam Bucy said it's not enough to offset the shortage, the Helena Independent Record reported Sunday.

Statistics provided by DLI say Montana's population of those 65 and older is expected to grow by approximately 7,000 people each year, while the typical working age population, people aged 16 to 64, is projected to grow by only 475 people each year.

"We do not have enough human beings," Bucy said.

Businesses are starting to see symptoms of a workforce shortage and how it can impede growth. Bucy said she thinks it will encourage employers to be more aggressive in recruiting employees and getting creative to appeal to young people entering the workforce.

While a dress code might seem like it wouldn't be a big deal to potential employees, a shortage of people means applicants can be picky when choosing an employer, which forces businesses to be more accommodating.

AAA is also following recommendations the Department of Labor said are proven to improve employee efficiency and prevent high turnover rates. The company updated policies on short-term disability and maternity leave and offers part-time work and flexible schedules.

Harris, the vice president of Brand and Membership at AAA in Helena, said she thinks there's several factors that make it particularly difficult to find employees. Since Helena isn't a traditional college town, there aren't as many graduates looking for an entry-level position like the insurance and other sales jobs for which AAA is almost constantly hiring.

When they do graduate from the flagship universities, Harris said it's difficult to sell someone on moving to a smaller town. If they are looking for work in Helena, young people entering the workforce are less likely to want a job in sales, she said.

"We're noticing that millennials don't like to sell. They look at it as slimy," she said.

All of the positions at AAA ask for at least a two- or four-year degree, and higher level positions require a master's degree. Harris said they've been more willing to forego the education requirements in sales jobs if people demonstrate they can interact with clients.

Harris said low wages also keep people from taking a position or from staying long. Although AAA has increased pay over the last few years, she said applicants often say it's not enough.

"We've increased our wages so that we can be competitive," Harris said. "I'm sure there's people out there who think we're not."

Wage growth has increased in Montana over the last six years, but the state is still 20 years behind, Bucy said. Because there has always been an influx of workers, Bucy said employers have gotten away with paying people less because there was a pool of people looking for work. But that's quickly changing.

"If you can't get people," Bucy said, "you have to wonder if you're paying enough."

Some state legislators have been advocating for a minimum wage increase for numerous sessions, but lobbyists concerned the increase would put too much of a burden on small businesses have effectively killed the legislation each time. A bill this session to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 died in committee.

Bucy said the minimum wage conversation often results in state leaders saying the first priority should be to keep graduates from leaving the state for work. But it's a misconception that the majority of educated people leave the state when it's time to enter the workforce, she said.

About 74 percent of two- and four-year college graduates are working in the state five years after they graduate. Montana does lose a higher portion of graduates with master's and doctorate degrees, however.

"That absolutely has a lot to do with wages," she said.

Bucy said there is good data on cases where improving the minimum wage can both help and hurt businesses.

"This is a tough catch 22," she said.

The state is working on providing tax incentives to employers to offer apprenticeships. More people can stay in the workforce while getting trained, instead of leaving for several years for schooling.

Gov. Steve Bullock recently signed legislation to provide Montana businesses with a tax credit of \$750 for every employee hired and offered training through the Montana Registered Apprenticeship unit. Businesses will receive a \$1,500 credit for each veteran they hire.

He also signed a bill giving local governments the option to waive up to 75 percent of a new or growing business's equipment tax for the first five years. Ideally, the cost savings will allow businesses to increase wages.

DLI also encourages businesses to get creative with recruitment strategies.

Now employees are looking for meaningful jobs, especially if they're millennials, Bucy said. Instead of only talking about job qualifications and duties in descriptions, the state is crafting their government job descriptions to talk about responsibilities and potential impact an employee will have. Bucy said it's made a difference, and DLI now encourages other businesses to rewrite their own job descriptions.

Other strategies, such as offering flexible hours for people who want to work part-time, increase the pool of people applying for jobs and minimizes turnover.

Bucy said she recently had a conversation with an in-home health care provider who found lasting employees by offering flexible schedules and advertising at ski areas.

"They marketed their flexible schedules to outdoor people," she said. "Businesses are required to be much more creative."



# Work starts again on Wyoming wind power project after winter

RAWLINS, Wyo. (AP) - With Wyoming's harsh winter weather in the past, work has resumed on a massive onshore wind development in the United States.

"We have about 40 pieces of equipment and about 30 or 40 operators," said Bill Miller, CEO of Power Company of Wyoming, a Denver-based subsidiary of the Anschutz Corp. "We started up in early April for this year's infrastructure construction."

However, it will be at least a year before any turbines are erected, Miller said.

Once complete, the Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project will have as many as 1,000 turbines and generate up to 3,000 megawatts, or enough electricity to power nearly 1 million homes, he said.

The electricity would go to Southern California over a major power-line project under development by TransWest Express, LLC, another Anschutz subsidiary.

Construction on the project's extensive infrastructure began last September and ended in December because of winter, and environmental restrictions slow progress in the spring and early summer, Miller said.

"Come July 15, most of the restrictions on the project will be lifted and then the project will speed up at that point," he told the Rawlins Daily Times. "We'll operate on through until we're shut down due to weather, which could happen any time between Labor Day and Christmas. We're very pleased with how it's proceeding at this point."

Miller said that the goal is generating wind power by 2020, but he's aware that for a project its size, the timetable may have to be pushed back.

Miller said that "some issues will come up with any project of this size and scope."

The entire project is expected to create 1,200 jobs at peak construction and is also expected to create more than 100 permanent positions in operations and maintenance.

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## Section 2: ENVIRONMENT, SPORTS HEALTH & DINING



Big Sky Water Conservation pg. 18



Golf Tips pg. 23



Seasonal Montana pg. 24

# The New West: Study refutes Trump administration claim that monuments are liability to communities



BY TODD WILKINSON  
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

Public lands: a boon for communities in the New West or a bane to our existence?

With the value of nature-related tourism alone worth billions of dollars annually to the regional economy of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, we know the dividends of having national parks, national forests, wildlife refuges, tracts administered by the Bureau of Land Management, and healthy landscapes all around us.

Still, the oft-made assertion advanced by some politicians is that federal public lands are a liability to the wellbeing of rural counties. These same people, including members of Congress, also claim that protected landscapes impinge upon the economic vitality of local communities. And they insist that creation of national monuments by presidents, using authority granted them under the federal Antiquities Act of 1906, are destroying future job prospects, undermining prosperity and preventing folks from making a living.

These are arguments invoked by President Donald Trump—who obviously hasn't spent much time out here—and by his Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in ordering that 27 national monuments designated since 1996 be placed under review for possible revocation.

A new economic study prepared by analysts with Headwaters Economics challenges the very heart of those contentions.

Far from being economic yokes, public lands, especially those bestowed with higher levels of environmental protection, are actually shown to be huge assets for attracting new residents and job creators. They also foster economic resiliency, as a contrast to the notorious boom and bust cycles of traditional Old West communities wholly dependent on natural resource extraction.

Every three years, Headwaters Economics completes a review of data in different Western states related to the presence of national monuments and has distilled their impacts, positive or negative, down to the local level. Rather than wait until autumn 2017 to complete its latest deep dive into numbers, the renowned data-crunching think tank, based in Bozeman and led by economist Ray Rasker, decided to scrutinize the claims made by the Trump administration and national monument opponents.

The report's newly released findings titled "The Economic Importance of National Monuments to Communities," are available free at [headwaterseconomics.org](http://headwaterseconomics.org) and they come replete with interactive maps.

The organization's communications director, Chris Mehl, who is also by night an elected member of the Bozeman City Commission, says it's important to separate fact from mythology.

"This latest analysis builds upon lots of other work that has already been done showing that, in general and maybe with only a few exceptions, rural counties in the West with more public lands inside their borders outperform other counties that have a smaller percentage of public lands," he said.

In 2011, 2014 and again in 2017, Headwaters analyzed the economies surrounding 17 national monuments in 11 Western states that are larger than 10,000 acres and were created between 1982 and 2001. It includes Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah and the Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument in Montana.

Local economies surrounding all 17 of the national monuments in the study expanded following monument designation. Population, employment, personal income, and per-capita income in the vast majority of counties increased after monument creation.



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PHOTO

In two-thirds of the communities located next to national monuments (13 of 17), those key economic indicators mentioned above grew at the same or a faster pace compared to similar counties in the same state; four counties did experience a slow-down in some of the indicators.

"While the results showing continued growth in nearby communities does not demonstrate a cause-and-effect relationship, the findings show that there is no evidence that the new national monuments prevented economic growth," the authors concluded.

That's significant because opponents of national monuments have portrayed pictures of economic devastation resulting from land protection.

In Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante Region, which members of Utah's Congressional delegation and governor claimed has caused economic calamity and depopulation since President Bill Clinton created a national monument there, facts tell another story.

Between 2001 and 2015, the number of residents grew by 13 percent; real personal income grew by 32 percent; jobs grew by 24 percent, with jobs related to services representing the biggest leap; and real per capita income rose by 17 percent.

Notably, agriculture accounted for just 6 percent of total employment, mining 0.4 percent of total private employment and timber only 0.2 percent.

"One of the largest and fastest growing sources of new personal income in the Grand Staircase-Escalante Region is non-labor income, which is made up of investment income such as dividends, interest and rent, and government transfer payments such as Social Security and Medicare," Headwaters wrote.

"For people with investment income and many retirees, protected public lands and recreation provide important aspects of a high quality of life. Non-labor income already represents more than a third of all personal income in the West—and will grow as the baby boomer generation retires."

This, of course, raises many questions that will be explored in future columns.

*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 bear 399 featuring 150 photographs by Tom Mangelsen, available only at [mangelsen.com/grizzly](http://mangelsen.com/grizzly). His profile of Montana politician Max Baucus appears in the summer 2017 issue of Mountain Outlaw and is now on newsstands.*



# Every drop counts

## Big Sky nonprofit's plan to conserve water

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY - According to Emily Casey with the Big Sky nonprofit Gallatin River Task Force, Big Sky's water use increases threefold during the summer because of outdoor watering and lawn irrigation. For this very reason, GRTF has expanded its water conservation program this year, and now offers rebates for watering systems labeled under the name WaterSense, a certification that the products meet the Environmental Protection Agency's specifications for water efficiency and performance.

The Outdoor Rebate Program, launched this spring, is similar to the existing Indoor Rebate Program developed by GRTF. Rebates will be offered to participating homeowners who have purchased water-wise products for their lawns specifically labeled to conserve water. These products include weather-based smart controllers, rain sensors and sprinkler heads and nozzles.

Participants are also eligible for a rebate if they perform a spring outdoor audit and system checkup with one of several approved local providers. In order to qualify for 2017 outdoor rebates, homeowners need to have installed products by July 1, 2016, and submit applications by June 30.

"It's really important to look at the easy ways we can reduce water use," said Scott Savage, who conducts spring outdoor audits and lawn irrigation installs through his company Paso Irrigation. For outdoor water use, Savage explained one easy way to conserve water is to be aware of actual water needs. Plant types, sun and shade dynamics and weather all play a role in lawn irrigation needs, he said.

Casey said GRTF will host a workshop about landscaping options that minimize water use in July.

Casey and Savage both recommend installing weather-based smart controllers as a way to conserve water. The controller connects with local weather stations and has custom inputs that allow it to regulate the amount of water used by the sprinkler system based on actual lawn needs.

"One commercial client tried a smart controller for a year and it took them two months to recoup the cost of that controller ... and they're going to be saving [money and water] for years," Savage said. "In addition to saving water you can also save a little in the pocket."

Combined with the Indoor Rebate Program, GRTF's water conservation program includes 24 participants who are saving a combined 1,530 gallons of water every day, as of May 31.

"Our slogan is 'Each drop of water saved is one that remains in the river,'" Casey said, noting the interrelationship between groundwater, surface water and overall water use.

"We have such a large tourist, second-home owner and seasonal population, that people may come here for a short time and not realize the kind of impacts they are having," Casey explained, referencing the 2015 Sewer District's Source Capacity Plan that stated the average person in Big Sky used 125 gallons of water per day in 2015, as compared with the U.S. average of about 100 gallons of water used each day by a single person.

Big Sky's water comes from a number of groundwater wells, said Ron Edwards, general manager of Big Sky Water and Sewer District. "Water



Emily Casey and Stephanie Lynn of Gallatin River Task Force hand out shower timers and information about a water conservation program offered by GRTF at the Big Sky Post Office on March 7, 2017.  
PHOTO BY AMANDA EGGERT

saved through leak repairs and conservation is equivalent to drilling new wells for source capacity."

Big Sky could face threats to our water supply, Casey said, noting how water sourced from the Meadow Village aquifer is connected to recharge from snowpack and could be impacted by low-precipitation winters.

"Increasing development and growth puts more stress on groundwater supplies," she added. "If we can take steps and strategies every day to promote water conservation, then we are better prepared to face those threats in the future."

Big Sky Water Conservation Program is just the second municipal water conservation program in the state, following a similar program started in Bozeman. In addition to its outdoor component, Big Sky's program offers rebates for water conservation inside the home and new water-wise appliance installs could be eligible. The indoor residential rebate program began last fall after GRTF secured funding from the BSWSD and Big Sky Resort Area District tax. These sources are also funding the Outdoor Rebate Program.

GRTF hopes to expand the program even further by offering a commercial rebate program in the future and is excited to make partnerships with stakeholders in the community, Casey said.

*To learn more about Gallatin River Task Force's Big Sky Water Conservation Program, visit [gallatinrivertaskforce.org/projects/waterconservation](http://gallatinrivertaskforce.org/projects/waterconservation).*



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# Study: Focus should be on elk in Yellowstone infection fight

BOZEMAN (AP) - Wildlife managers around Yellowstone National Park should focus more on elk than bison in their efforts to prevent the transmission of an infection that causes cattle to abort their offspring, a new study recommends.

The report, released May 31 by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, says agencies should consider reducing the elk population through hunting, contraception and other methods. It also recommends gradually reducing the use of supplemental winter feed grounds in Wyoming to avoid the creation of large concentrations of elk where brucellosis could spread.

However, the study acknowledges the feed grounds could also offer managers an easy way to test and kill female elk that have been exposed to brucellosis and to administer a contraceptive to those that do not test positive.

Brucellosis has been eradicated from the U.S. with the exception of areas of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. It is spread through contact with aborted fetuses and birthing tissues and fluids.

Elk have transmitted the disease, but there has never been a documented case of bison transmitting the disease to cattle in the wild.

Current management efforts are focused on bison, in part to reduce the population in Yellowstone and because cattle producers fear bison will infect their herds as they graze near the park. Cattle that graze in the area are subject to additional testing requirements.

“However, until tools become available that would simultaneously allow for an eradication program in elk, additional aggressive control measures in bison seem unwarranted,” the study says.

Glenn Hockett of the Gallatin Wildlife Association in Bozeman and Stephany Seay of the Buffalo Field Campaign were concerned because the report puts the focus on managing wildlife.

Seay said the simplest solution is not to allow cattle to graze in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

The report says further studies are needed to monitor elk migration patterns, how the disease spreads in elk and bison, and what management efforts produce results.

The effort could benefit from improved vaccines, contraceptives and rapid field tests for exposure to brucellosis.

The report acknowledges that addressing the issue is difficult because it involves numerous agencies and an interconnected ecosystem.

Eradicating brucellosis might be an ideal long-term goal, but it’s not a feasible short-term goal for scientific, social, political and economic reasons, the study said.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine are private, nonprofit institutions that provide independent, objective analysis and advice related to science, technology and medicine.

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# EYE ON THE BALL

## Chris Paul and the Spurs



BY BRANDON NILES  
EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

The NBA Conference Finals were notable this season because of the lack of competitiveness. In the Eastern Conference, the Cleveland Cavaliers rolled to a 4-1 victory over the Boston Celtics, after sweeping both the Indiana Pacers and the Toronto Raptors in the first two rounds. In the Western Conference, the Golden State Warriors rattled off 12 straight victories against

the Portland Trailblazers, Utah Jazz and San Antonio Spurs to make it to a third consecutive NBA Finals matchup with the Cavs.

While no team seems to be a legitimate threat to the powerhouse Cavs and Warriors, the team that seems closest is the San Antonio Spurs. Had MVP-candidate Kawhi Leonard not been injured in Game 1 of the Western Conference Finals, the Spurs would have had a stronger showing against the Warriors, and Leonard is just now entering the prime of his career.

How the Spurs have remained so good through the retirement of All-Pro big man Tim Duncan has been impressive, but despite Leonard’s injury, it’s clear that they’ll need to do something this offseason to close the gap that separates them from the Warriors.

Rumors are swirling that Los Angeles Clippers point guard Chris Paul has interest in joining the Spurs. Paul has long been an elite player at his position, and even though he is now 32 years old, he’s averaged at least 16 points and nine assists per game in each of his last six seasons, including 18.1 points and 9.2 assists last year.

Paul has struggled with injuries at times during his career, but he’s an excellent defender and is one of the best facilitators in the game during an era where that skillset has become less defined. He shot 41 percent from beyond the arc this

past season as well, a career high, and an indication that he’d be a perfect fit in the Spurs’ flow-offense.

The Spurs will need to figure out how to make the money work if they’re going to sign Paul, as he will likely command a max-level contract. But if the interest is mutual on both sides and Paul wants to go somewhere with a chance to challenge the dominant Warriors before his window closes, the Spurs may be his best, and only opportunity. No other team has the firepower to contend with this Warriors team over the next two seasons, and Paul may be running out of time.

Paul has never been to a conference finals in his 12-year career, and going to the Spurs, who have been perennial contenders for nearly two decades, must be appealing for the veteran. The Spurs should also return a healthy Tony Parker and former All-Star LaMarcus Aldridge to help Leonard next season, and they have one of the greatest coaches in league history in Greg Popovich.

No one gets more out of his players than “Pop,” and Paul’s famous competitiveness would be a welcome addition to a team that expects to compete every game. Pop has also shown that he knows how to limit the minutes of his veteran players to help them stay fresh for the playoffs without hurting the team. At Paul’s age, and with injuries affecting him in five of the past six seasons, his career longevity may improve in San Antonio.

The Spurs need to do something if they’re going to compete over the next two years, and Chris Paul will need to flee the Clippers if he wants a legitimate shot at a deep playoff run before he hits the twilight years of his Hall of Fame career. While many would lament the creation of another so-called super team in the NBA, the Spurs and Paul may need to take this approach in order to make the Western Conference more competitive.

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

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# Golf tips from a pro:

## The golf industry is changing and Big Sky is on board

BY MARK WEHRMAN  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

When most people think of golf they think of stuffy old country clubs, plaid, pleated pants, hard collared shirts, and a long slow game that's too expensive. Well, I'm here to tell you that the times are changing and Big Sky Golf Course is intent on leading that charge.

The two biggest challenges in golf are time and money. Playing 18 holes takes too much time, and green fees and equipment are too expensive. At Big Sky Golf Course we have a more relaxed dress code by only requiring golfers to wear collared shirts, and jeans are allowed. You can play music on the course, as long as the decibel level is only heard in your group.

You can play five, nine, 13 or 18 holes. No one has to keep score and if you want to drop your ball on the other side of a hazard we encourage you to do so. Whatever you want to do to increase your enjoyment on the course we recommend it.

The biggest change this season at Big Sky Golf Course is the purchase of four brand new GolfBoards. The GolfBoard is new to the industry and it's like having your own personal golf cart. It rides like a skateboard or snowboard and is controlled by leaning towards your toes or heels to turn. There is a stability bar to hang on to with a small throttle control that can power you up to a maximum speed of 10 mph. The handle bar also acts as a bag stand for your clubs, and you have your own cooler and cup holder on the board as well.

The most exciting thing about the GolfBoard is its ability to speed up your round. Myself and two others played 18 holes on the boards recently and we finished in less than two-and-a-half hours. We never were rushing and we all found it much easier to focus on our own game versus the distractions that occur when riding in a golf cart with someone else. Not only is the GolfBoard something new and fun to golf, but it also parallels the culture that we love about Big Sky: skiing, snowboarding, biking, hiking and a general love for the outdoors.



Mark Wehrman shows off one of Big Sky Golf Course's four new GolfBoards, which can help speed up the pace of play. PHOTO BY TOM CONWAY

Like I said earlier, the golf industry is changing for the better and Big Sky Golf Course is working to break down those old barriers and make the game more affordable, fun and less time consuming for everyone!

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

## Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



What a great time to be in Montana! The mountains are green, wildflowers are in bloom, rivers are dropping and fish are hungry.

The Gallatin will be dropping and clearing very soon, if not already. This is a very fishy time of year. Fish are gorging themselves on all the food that is now available to them. Before we know it hatches of caddis, salmonflies, golden stones, yellow sallies and more will be out in full force.

If you're itching to spend some time in the boat the Madison is the place to be. The lower (below Ennis Lake) is the first to see some of the hatches we're all waiting for. Once salmonflies get going on the lower, the Gallatin

and Yellowstone Rivers aren't far behind. However, not sure how fishable the Yellowstone will be this year during the salmonfly hatch due to high water.

Walk wade fishing options on the upper Madison will continue to be great from Yellowstone Park all the way to Ennis. As runoff starts to die down a bit they'll start to decrease the water flow out of Hebgen making for some easier walk wade accessibility.

Yellowstone Park is another great option in June before the really big crowds of tourists arrive. Big bugs, caddis, PMDs, White Miller Caddis and more can be expected this time of year. Below the falls is where you want to be during salmonfly time. You'll also have some shots at bigger fish that make their way up from Hebgen Lake down there. Above the falls expect slow, spring creek like water with some of the most picky, smallish fish you'll ever run into.

The rivers in the Northeast corner of the park probably still need a little more time before they are fishing great.

Not really sure when we'll be floating the Yellowstone River again this year. It happened in mid June last summer, but more snowpack and a slow runoff may push that start date until after July 1...

Just a reminder that Yellowstone Park fishing licenses need to be purchased every season and if you purchased a Montana fishing license prior to May 19th you may need to head back and purchase an Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Stamp available from all Montana license vendors.

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# Fresh and seasonal

## Farm-to-table catering service offers the best of southwest Montana

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – For chef Melissa Harrison, who grew up on a horse farm north of Baltimore, there’s something powerful about the places where our food is grown.

“I grew up in this amazing world where living on a farm was very special,” said Harrison, owner of the Ennis-based farm-to-table catering service Seasonal Montana. “That was my inspiration.”

After studying at the Baltimore International College and receiving her culinary arts degree, Harrison started working her way up the business ladder. She expanded her kitchen prowess at the Big Red F Restaurant Group and in 2008 was asked to appear on the hit television series “Top Chef.” But despite her success, Harrison realized something was missing.

“As a creative person, you can lose focus,” she said. “At the time, I was doing everything everyone else wanted me to do and I wanted to find out what I wanted to do.” In 2009 Harrison traveled to Latin America, working as a chef in Costa Rica as well as Patagonia, Chile.

“When I got to Chile I got excited again,” she said, recalling the way eggs were delivered weekly, regular market trips produced fresh, seasonal produce, and protein was delivered on the hoof, so to speak. Harrison spent the next five winters working at the Martin Pescador Lodge, meeting her husband Garrett Blackburn, a head fishing guide for the Chilean lodge, along the way.

In 2011 the couple made their offseason home in Montana.

“I was really inspired by the farmers’ markets and the local food community,” Harrison said. “People in Montana actually live by [farm-to-table]. Everyone is growing, farming, ranching.”

Excited to make a start outside of Chile, Harrison started her own catering business, Seasonal Montana, and began by hosting four farm-to-table dinner events at Three Hearts Farm in Bozeman in 2011. Forty-four people came to Harrison’s first event, and six years later Seasonal Montana hosts a summer series of farm-to-table dinners able to feed 300 people each.



Chef Melissa Harrison adapts her menus to highlight seasonal produce that is perfectly ready in the moment of preparation, as pictured here in her seasonal harvest salads.



Each farm-to-table dinner is all about Montana, from the food to the location. The first dinner will be held on June 21 at Willow Spring Ranch in Belgrade. PHOTOS BY MELISSA HARRISON

This summer, Harrison will hold her first dinner of the season on June 21 at Willow Spring Ranch in Belgrade, and will feature different cuts of the ranch’s organically raised, grass fed and finished lamb.

Dinners are held at various farms and ranches throughout the summer, and after the Willow Spring Ranch event, this year’s series includes Sabo Ranch in Harrison on July 12, Gallatin Valley Botanical in Bozeman on Aug. 2, Jack Creek Preserve between Ennis and Big Sky on Aug. 23, and Two Dot Land and Livestock in Harlowton on Sept. 6. Harrison will highlight the products of each location with her cooking, and the menu isn’t planned until the week of the event so she can prepare the meal with in-season ingredients.

“I want to know what’s in season in that moment. I want the freshest at that moment,” Harrison said. “I try to make sure people are getting a really special Montana experience, whether they’re from Montana or not.

“There are certain items you have to buy at Costco, like oil and salt and pepper,” she added. Otherwise, she tries to buy ingredients directly from the producer. “It’s the healthiest, best ingredients you can find, from people who are doing food the right way,” Harrison said.

In addition to the farm-to-table dinner series each summer, Seasonal Montana is a full catering service between April and December, and Harrison teams up with her husband to offer lodging and catering services as a package for Blackburn’s fishing clients through Hooked Outfitting in Ennis.

While garnering recognition and new clientele in southwest Montana, Harrison is also expanding her reach in South America. In 2015 she started Seasonal Puerto Rico, which offers dining, Caribbean adventure and Tarpon fishing guided by Harrison’s husband. In the future she plans to start farm-to-table dinners in Puerto Rico as well.

“I’m inspired by the seasons and by the ingredients,” Harrison said. “I love it.”

*To learn more about Seasonal Montana or to view a full schedule and purchase tickets for the farm-to-table dinner series, visit [seasonalmontana.com](http://seasonalmontana.com). To learn about Seasonal Puerto Rico, visit [seasonalpuertorico.com](http://seasonalpuertorico.com).*

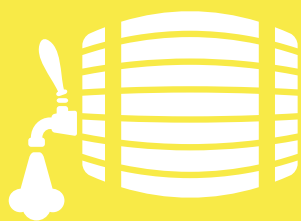


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# From Jackie *with love*

# US government takes the ‘P’ out of EPA



BY JACKIE RAINFORD-CORCORAN  
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

The Environmental Protection Agency was founded in 1970 by Richard Nixon and his administration. America’s environmental quality was at an all-time low. Polluted lakes and rivers, smog-filled cities, and heavy auto exhaust were causing health issues. In response, the agency sought to clean up the environment and protect human health.

The Trump administration seems to go against what this agency stands for. On March 29, 2017, two days before a court ordered deadline, newly appointed head of the EPA Scott Pruitt reversed the order to ban the pesticide chlorpyrifos (klor-PY’-ruh-fahs). He did this despite the overwhelming evidence that it harms children, workers and the environment.

Pruitt said that there isn’t enough evidence to back up the harmful effects and he’d like to continue to look at the science. He also said the ban would put undue financial burden on businesses currently using the pesticide.

Chlorpyrifos is a neurotoxin that is in the same chemical family as sarin gas—the nerve gas developed by Nazi’s during World War II. It acts on the nervous system of the living organism it comes into contact with if it’s touched, inhaled or eaten.

In 2014, the EPA acknowledged the peer-reviewed science relating chlorpyrifos exposure with brain damage to children. Alarming, the brain damage occurs at exposures far below the EPA’s minimum standard. And the study found acute poisoning risks to workers who handled it.

In 2016, the agency concluded that children 1 to 2 years old are being exposed to up to 140 times the safe levels of chlorpyrifos through food alone. It also stated that there is no safe level of chlorpyrifos in drinking water—in spite of the fact that it’s readily found in ground water and even in drinking water in some areas.

Here’s a list of some of the crops grown using this neurotoxin: sweet potatoes, almonds, apples, oranges, grapes, strawberries, soybeans, cotton, corn, wheat,

sprouts, cranberries, broccoli and cauliflower. Studies show that melons and citrus sprayed with chlorpyrifos, even after being washed and peeled, still contained toxic residue.

Those most at risk are fetuses, infants, growing children and women who are pregnant or nursing. But all adults can experience negative side effects.

Health risks range from common cold-like symptoms (nausea, dizziness, headaches and rashes) to birth defects, attention deficit disorders, asthma, infertility, autism, Parkinson’s Disease, Alzheimer’s disease, and various cancers including brain cancer, breast cancer, non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma and leukemia. In extreme cases, chlorpyrifos exposure has resulted in death.

Clearly, the EPA isn’t going to protect us from this. What can we do?

First and foremost, we can buy organically grown food. As a capitalist society, we vote with our dollars. More and more major agriculture companies are moving toward organic farming because the demand continues to rise.

Second, use organic non-toxic products on your home plants and lawn. Avoid products with chlorpyrifos, which Dow Chemical Company labels as Dursban.

Third, the EPA is funded by our tax dollars. Send messages to your congressional representatives, governor and state attorney general asking them to hold the EPA accountable and ban this neurotoxin.

Third, if you golf or live near a golf course, ask management if chlorpyrifos or Dursban is used. Ask them what measures they’re taking toward organic grounds keeping.

Even if politicians and businesses agree with Scott Pruitt that the scientific evidence is not yet conclusive, let them know that we should be erring on the side of caution and not using it until it’s 100 percent proven to cause no harm. The bottom line is that the EPA should be using extreme precaution—but it’s not.

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

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## DOCTOR'S NOTE

## Some painful shoulders respond well to steroid shots



BY JEFF DANIELS  
EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

The shoulder is one of the most sensitive joints in the entire body. Its design, which enables us to do so much, like swing the arm in a complete circle, throw a ball, throw a frisbee and lift over our head, makes the shoulder joint very vulnerable to “wear and tear” injuries, which accumulate as we age. Because we use our arms throughout the day for multiple tasks, a painful shoulder often results in a visit to the medical clinic.

Direct trauma to the shoulder is very common here in Big Sky, especially in the skiing and snowboarding season, when we dispense more shoulder immobilizers than knee braces. Activities like mountain biking and horseback riding account for acute injuries in the summer, but everyday tasks without direct trauma like using a broom, swinging a hammer or pushing a lawnmower can result in weeks of shoulder pain.

Even if you’ve never had a problem with your shoulders and you’re over 40, odds are that there’s lots of pathology in the soft tissue that surrounds the bones of the shoulder. We know this from looking at MRIs of normal people. The tendons that make up the rotator cuff get frayed, and sometimes severed, without producing symptoms—at least initially. The labrum of the shoulder, a ring of firm tissue that surrounds the glenoid bone and forms a socket for the ball of the humerus, can tear in various places, which can lead to pain and instability. The tendons from the biceps muscle in the arm pass through the shoulder, and are vulnerable because the sheaths they pass through can be torn.

These abnormalities are not seen on a plain X-ray, but are diagnosed with an MRI. Aside from diagnosing fractures and dislocations, X-rays can help understand changes in the actual bones of the shoulder. Just like the hips, knees, and vertebrae of the spine, over time, arthritic changes in the bones will produce distinct changes easily seen on an X-ray.

One of the most common shoulder problems I treat is pain caused by the impingement of the structures of the shoulder on one another, often inducing inflammation and swelling inside the joint. It is commonly referred to as an impingement syndrome, and can occur following minor strain or trauma.

The diagnosis of an impingement syndrome is usually made from the nature of the shoulder symptoms and by examining the shoulder. A good shoulder exam will often tell as much as an MRI, which needs to be done with an injection of dye into the joint, a process known as an MR arthrogram. Testing for pathology of the rotator cuff tendons and muscles, for bicipital tendinitis, for labral tears, and for any neurological abnormality should be done when impingement is suspected.

If the tests for impingement are positive and all else is negative, I will usually recommend a steroid injection into the shoulder. This is done easily, safely and painlessly. In most patients, it will result in immediate relief of pain because most of the injection is local anesthetic. Within a few hours, the steroid kicks in and suppresses the inflammation inside the shoulder joint, resulting in several months of improvement, which may last much longer.

Don’t let shoulder pain stop you from enjoying the summer.

*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 Clinic of Big Sky.*



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# MIX IT UP

## Putting the ‘rad’ back in radish

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER  
EBS STAFF

Providing a unique, peppery crunch, radishes come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors. Most people are familiar with the typical grocery store find—the small, pinkish-red variety with white flesh, which are commonly known as table radishes.

Radish varieties can be broken down into four categories: western, oriental, leaf and rats-tail. Of these, western and oriental varieties are most commonly eaten and leaf varieties are reserved for feedstock. Rats-tails are solely cultivated for their seeds.

Many smaller varieties of radishes are unique for their fast growing cycle, which allows growers to harvest them in as little as 20 days. They are also seemingly impervious to light frost, which means they can be planted outdoors earlier than other vegetables. Larger roots, such as daikon and Chinese radishes, take longer to harvest—around 60 days.



CC PHOTO

In addition to being low-maintenance and speedy growers, raw radishes provide a welcome crunch and bite to salads, sandwiches and other cold preparations. Cooking radishes is often overlooked as a cooking method, but roasting or sautéing the vegetable can mellow its flavor and soften its texture.

Next time you’re at the famers’ market, grab a bunch of a less common variety of radishes. Watermelon radishes get their name from their trademark colors—they have a green outer flesh with a bright pink interior color. Daikon, a larger white radish, is gaining popularity in the U.S. and provides a smoother and less crunchy texture than other varieties. Sparklers are bright pink with a white tip, and provide a beautiful presentation in addition to their characteristic radish flavor.

Don’t just eat the plants’ tubers, though—the greens can also be eaten. They can be used similarly to spinach, processed raw into a salad or pesto, or cooked and wilted as a tender side dish. The greens’ flavor is similar to the root’s, but mellow.

Although radishes are typically prepared raw, roasting the vegetable mellows out their spicy flavor and doesn’t take long.

### Roasted Radishes with Brown Butter & Lemon

- 2 bunches small radishes, tops attached
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- Juice and zest of half a lemon
- Salt and pepper

Preheat oven to 450 F. Wash radishes and greens well and set greens aside. Cut radishes in half lengthwise and toss with olive oil, salt and pepper. Arrange radishes on a baking sheet and roast for 15-20 minutes, until browned on the outside and tender inside.

Meanwhile, melt butter in a saucepan with a pinch of salt. Continue to cook the butter over low heat, until the butter becomes brown and fragrant (but not burnt). Roughly chop the radish greens.

Toss the cooked radishes together with the brown butter, radish tops, lemon juice and zest.



# 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.*

## Flavor: Is it just a state of mind?



BY SCOTT MECHURA  
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Is flavor essentially passed down by cultures and generations like habits?

At some point, our palates grow, mature and evolve, which means some flavors can fall in or out of favor.

As a child, I can remember my grandmother harvesting beets from her garden and roasting them in the oven—the smell of which was already a turn off—and then she would try to get me to eat them.

Aside from the fact that the initial color of red beets is unappetizing psychologically, those beets tasted like dirt and well, vegetables.

But as I grew older and my palate changed, a roasted beet became one of my favorite salad ingredients or vegetables drizzled with a little extra virgin olive oil, or better yet, truffle oil.

I tell this story because I’ve noticed that many flavors are essentially passed down from generation to generation, and more specifically, from our mothers.

I’ve heard that there is a belief in the scientific world that as infants, we’ll eat almost anything that is physically handed to us by our mothers. The theory is that we are hard wired to trust that whatever our mother is feeding us must be safe, or they wouldn’t be giving it to us.

I believe flavor goes hand in hand with this. By that, I mean our affinity for particular flavors may initially come from our mothers, but it’s easy for us to simply accept foods and flavors as appetizing or not, based on our own cultural and family influences.

At one restaurant I worked at years ago, we had a fair number of Vietnamese cooks, which is no surprise for a French restaurant. They refused to handle any blue-veined cheese without donning rubber gloves. And every time they touched it, they did it with the same disgusted face. They wondered how anyone could eat something that “tasted like vomit.”

One day, Tham, who worked in our pantry, brought in something called fermented tofu from a local Vietnamese market. “Hmmf, sounds cool,” our French chef said.

But as she opened it, the entire atmosphere changed. The room filled with an odor that made all of us who were not Vietnamese look at each other, as if to say, “I’m scared, how ‘bout you?”

We all tried it simultaneously. There is no word in the English language that describes how awful it tasted. The chef leaned over the garbage can, and in his classic French accent, said “and you think blue cheese tastes like vomit?!” (He was speaking to the Vietnamese cooks in the room.)

Another time, while working at Aquavit, one of the Swedish cooks passed out licorice candies his mother had sent him from back home. The Swedes couldn’t get enough of them, but every American immediately spit theirs out. They tasted like your worst black jelly bean on steroids. They couldn’t understand why we didn’t find them as enjoyable as they did.

Not long after that, we took them for American barbecue and we ordered pitchers of root beer. They had never heard of root beer, so they were excited to try it. Their reaction was the same as ours was to the candy. We were dumbfounded. Carl, one of the Americans, told them we chose root beer specifically because it’s based in the same flavor as their Swedish candies—but to no avail, they hated it and refused to drink it.

By dictionary definition pertaining to food, flavor is “taste, especially the distinctive taste of something as it is experienced in the mouth.”

But as we go beyond the literal palate definition of flavor, the dictionary goes on to describe flavor as “a particular quality noticeable in a thing.” This refers to something like a writer’s style, or someone’s experience. I would therefore make the argument that this second definition may be more closely tied to flavor.

*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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9:00 -10:00 am Registration

10:00 am Mandatory Competitor Meeting

10:30 am Gallatin River Downriver Race

12:30 pm House Rock Boatercross

## 2:00 pm Community Raft Slalom

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2:30 pm Kayak / C-1 Slalom

5:00 pm Awards at the Gallatin River Trailhead



The Gallatin Whitewater Festival is permitted by the Gallatin National Forest



Section 3:  
OUTDOORS & BACK 40



Wolf death reward increases pg. 34



Audubon Bird Festival pg. 37



On the trail: Ralph's Pass pg. 43

# INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



## The other half of Yellowstone: Viewing the park's night skies

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN - Nighttime summer skies in Big Sky country are a stargazer's paradise and in an effort to highlight the Yellowstone area's night skies, Yellowstone National Park will offer astronomy programs throughout the summer. This programming, offered in cooperation with the Museum of the Rockies and known as Stars Over Yellowstone, is designed to help park visitors find and locate constellations, share stories, and view celestial objects through the lens of a telescope.

On select evenings in June and July, the National Park Service will offer thematic educational astronomy classes in the Madison Amphitheater, and topics include cosmic updates, water and life, touring the night sky and preparation for the August total solar eclipse. Each course will be followed by a night sky observation session at the Madison Information Station parking lot, weather permitting. Evening educational sessions begin at 9:30 p.m. and observation begins at 10:30 p.m. on June 16 and 17 and July 21 and 22. The Park Service will also host observation sessions of the sun on June 17 and July 22 at 12 p.m. at the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center.

While the NPS astronomy programming is held on select days during the summer, park visitors can gaze at the sky each and every night on their own. According to Yellowstone National Park spokesman Jonathan Shafer, there are just a few simple tips that beginners need to know.

The first, Shafer said, is being aware of light pollution. "Here in Yellowstone, there are fewer artificial lights than you might find in a big city, but the [lights] we have can still have a significant impact on dark sky experiences," Shafer added that natural light can impact star observation, and it can be helpful to check what time the moon will rise and set, and time stargazing for moonless periods.



The Milky Way above Grand Prismatic Spring. NPS PHOTO

"Visitors should allow their eyes to adjust to the darkness by keeping all lights turned off after they pick a spot to stargaze," Shafer added. "Far more stars are visible when your eyes get used to the darkness."

While difficult to predict, cloud and smoke conditions can drastically impact star visibility as well.

The best stargazing can be done at large, empty areas in the park, well away from developed areas, where views of the sky will be unobstructed. Several locations that are easily accessible and recommended by Shafer include the open area beneath National Park Mountain behind the Junior Ranger Station at Madison Junction; Swan Lake Flats, about 6 miles south of Mammoth Hot Springs on the road toward Norris Geyser Basin; Hayden Valley between Canyon Village and Lake Village; or along the shores of Yellowstone Lake away from Fishing Bridge or Lake Village.



The Milky Way rising over Roosevelt Arch. Many celestial bodies can be identified stargazing in Yellowstone. NPS PHOTO

Another way to see the sky is to embark on moonlight hikes. "Full moon viewings of geysers and other thermal features will help visitors avoid daytime crowds and see the park in a new light," Shafer said. "Be ready for nighttime chills, though. Yellowstone's nighttime temperatures can dip below freezing in any month of the year."

"It is important for visitors to park legally in pull-outs or parking lots," Shafer added. "Never stop in the middle of the road. A bear doesn't care if you're stargazing, so visitors should carry bear spray on walks at night."

"If conditions allow, visitors who stargaze will be rewarded with spectacular views of the park's 'other half' in the skies above," Shafer said.

To learn more about night skies in our National Parks, visit [nps.gov/subjects/night skies](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/night skies).



# Park increases reward for information about wolf death

EBS STAFF

Yellowstone National Park is now offering a reward of up to \$25,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual(s) responsible for shooting the Canyon Pack alpha female on the north side of the park, near Gardiner, Montana. National Park Service law enforcement believes the incident happened sometime between 1 a.m. on April 10 and 2 p.m. on April 11.

“Due to a tremendous desire by groups and individuals to donate for this reward, the park has established a Yellowstone Resource Rewards Fund through our charitable partner Yellowstone Forever,” Yellowstone Superintendant Dan Wenk said in a National Park Service press release.

Up to \$25,000 from the fund will pay for the reward in this case if there is a conviction and any money left over in the fund will be held for future resource violation cases in the park, Wenk said.

According to YNP officials, the 12-year-old female was one of the most recognizable wolves in the park and frequently sought after by visitors to view and photograph. She lived to more than twice the average age of a wolf in the park.

Hikers discovered the mortally wounded white wolf on April 11 and park staff euthanized the animal due to the severity of her injuries. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon, performed a necropsy and an investigation surrounding her shooting is ongoing.

The Park Service is urging individuals with information that could aid the investigation to contact the National Park Service Investigative Branch. Tips can be confidential and can be called in to (888) 653-0009, emailed to [nps\\_isb@nps.gov](mailto:nps_isb@nps.gov), or texted to (202) 379-4761.



Yellowstone National Park’s reward for information about the death of the alpha female of the Canyon Pack, shown here in April of 2016, has increased to \$25,000. NPS PHOTO

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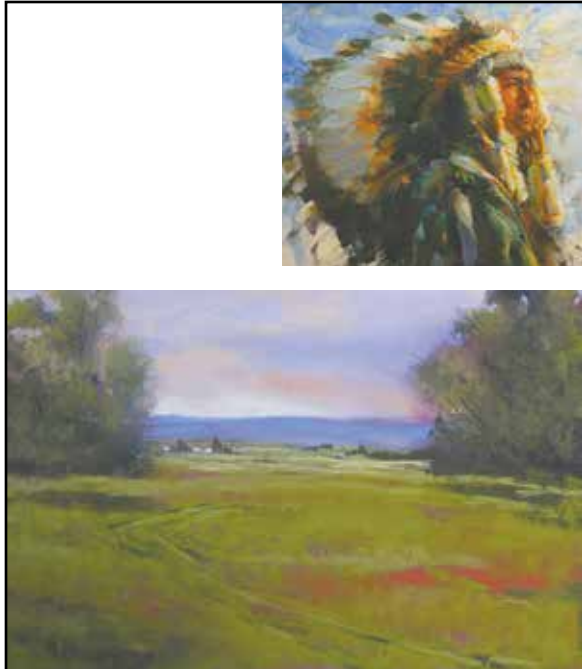
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# Increasing livability with connectivity

BY AMANDA EGGERT  
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – When Big Sky’s newest trail officially opens to the public, it will mark an expansion of a concept that’s been gaining traction locally and nationwide, and it’s something that Beth Shumate, the Helena-based trails program manager at Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, has been looking forward to.

“The buzz word is ‘livability’ and [enhancing] livability within our communities,” said Shumate, who plans to attend the 4 p.m. Ralph’s Pass kick-off celebration at the Ousel Falls trailhead on June 15.

Ralph’s Pass is a natural-surface pathway that will connect two popular trail systems: Ousel Falls, Big Sky’s most popular hike; and Uplands Trail, a favorite for hikers, bikers and trail runners due in part to its proximity to Town Center and woodsy feel.

Shumate played a role in the funding of the Hummocks and Uplands trails in her post on the State Trails Advisory Committee, which allocates several million dollars of Recreation Trails Program funding to motorized, non-motorized and mixed-use trails around the state as well as education-based projects each year.

According to Big Sky resident Katie Morrison, a citizen member of STAC whose three-year term times out this year, a broad mix of projects and organizations in the area have benefitted from RTP funds, including Big Sky Community Organization, snowmobile and Nordic trail grooming in West Yellowstone, trail maintenance projects in Hyalite and Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center.

“That’s the one for me that I think is so huge,” Morrison said, citing the potentially life-saving impact of avalanche education offered for free by GNFAC. “I would be hard pressed to [agree with] people who say we shouldn’t help fund that.”

Deciding on allocations can make for difficult decisions, as there tends to be far more requested each year than there is available. “I think we [typically] end up having about



Sawyer Wolfe checks out the view from Uplands Trail, a loop located less than a mile from Town Center that connects into the newly-finished Ralph’s Pass Trail, which will officially open June 15. PHOTO BY CIARA WOLFE

\$1 million more in requests than we have in actual funding,” Morrison said.

Shumate doesn’t think the demand will fall off anytime soon.

“I anticipate that the importance of active communities and trail-related infrastructure will continue to increase, placing a greater emphasis on the need for additional funding for this type of infrastructure,” Shumate said, adding that maintenance can be an often-overlooked component to a healthy trail system.

Shumate takes it a step further, though, equating access to trails to an active and thriving population that lessens the strain on our nation’s health care system.

“The importance of trails as simple and inexpensive solutions is even more compelling as [we see an increase in] the disconnect between today’s youth and nature, and the health impact of a sedentary lifestyle,” Shumate said. “It is even more critical to educate, motivate and engage the health industry

through citizen volunteers, organizations and the outdoor industry to plan, create, use and maintain local trail networks and consider new funding solutions.”

By all recent indications Big Sky community members are on board with that future.

At an April 6 meeting of Gallatin and Madison county commissioners, BSCO Executive Director Ciara Wolfe said a community needs assessment survey confirmed that trails and parks are “extremely valued in this community” and highlighted the fact that 90-plus percent of the survey respondents use Big Sky’s trails multiple times every month.

And they’re hungry for more. Wolfe said the survey found that additional mileage and trail linkages topped the community’s list of recreation priorities.

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# Great Falls hosts 18th annual Montana Audubon Bird Festival

## MONTANA AUDUBON

Montana Audubon's 18th annual Wings Across the Big Sky bird festival takes place Friday, June 9, through Sunday, June 11, at the Best Western Plus Heritage Inn in Great Falls. Co-hosted by Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon (UMBA), this longstanding event draws birders and wildlife enthusiasts from around the region to celebrate Montana's 400-plus bird species and their diverse habitats.

Keynote speaker David Ringer, chief network officer with National Audubon, will give a talk on Friday evening entitled, "Protecting Birds and the Places They Need: Today and Tomorrow." His address will touch on conservation issues related to birds and habitat in the Northern Great Plains and Northern Rocky Mountains region.

Throughout the weekend, there will be additional presentations on the education, public policy and conservation work of Montana Audubon as well as an overview of a Central American raptor project.

Nearly 30 field trips into the prairies and mountains of north-central Montana are scheduled this year during the event. Guided excursions to the Rocky Mountain Front, the Little Belt range, and several local hotspots like the Missouri River and Giant Springs State Park are available. Festival registrants are encouraged to reserve their desired outings as soon as possible as these outings tend to fill up.

2017 marks the conclusion of Montana Audubon's 40th anniversary year of conserving birds and other wildlife in Montana. At this year's festival, Montana Audubon will revisit some of their past successes and other notable events in their long history of becoming one of the most trusted conservation organizations in the state. They will celebrate the organization's birthday with a barbecue on the evening of Friday, June



Montana Audubon's Wings Across the Big Sky bird festival takes place Friday June 9, through Sunday, June 11, in Great Falls. The weekend of lectures and field trips celebrates Montana's 400-plus bird species and their diverse habitats. PHOTO BY BOB MARTINKA

9. Montana Audubon is also taking this opportunity to host their 40<sup>th</sup> "birthday party barbecue" on Friday evening. For a full schedule of Wings Across the Big Sky events and registration information, visit [mtaudubon.org](http://mtaudubon.org) or call (406) 443-3949.



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# Celebrating whitewater: Annual Gallatin Whitewater Festival returns

WAVE TRAIN KAYAK TEAM

The Gallatin River flows through the Bozeman and Big Sky area out to the Missouri River, providing an abundance of recreational opportunities. This year’s Gallatin Whitewater Festival, held June 24, will highlight the area’s whitewater resources with a series of events designed to challenge whitewater kayakers, canoers and rafters as well as provide avenues for non-paddlers to participate.

Whitewater events on the Gallatin River have been a staple for river enthusiasts in southwest Montana for nearly forty years and 2017 marks the fifth year of the Gallatin Whitewater Festival organized by Wave Train Kayak Team. Attendance and participation continues to grow annually and the organizers report that with the Gallatin National Forest five-year event permit, Wave Train Kayak Team will continue to expand the festival throughout the coming years.

The whitewater festival extends beyond the day of the competition, serving as a fundraiser for Wave Train Kayak Team’s nonprofit youth whitewater kayaking program.

On the day of the event, competitors can begin registration at 9 a.m., convening at the Gallatin River Trailhead, with the various race events following throughout the day. Races include:

Gallatin River Downriver Race: A timed, two-mile down river race that takes competitors through the Mad Mile.

House Rock Boatercross: A mass start sprint race from the Gallatin River Trailhead through House Rock Rapids.

Community Raft Slalom: An event in which local river guides will lend a hand and a raft to pre-registered teams of five to six comprised of local



Competitors in the Community Raft Slalom, a Gallatin Whitewater Festival event that allows teams of friends without prior whitewater experience to get involved in the action, navigate through gates as they charge downstream. PHOTO BY DIANA PROEMM

businesses and groups of friends. The teams and their guides will power their race boat through a series of gates on their way down river.

Kayak/C-1 Slalom: A race that requires competitors to navigate gates on their way downstream from the Gallatin River Trailhead access above the 35 mph bridge near the Lava Lake turnoff.

For more information about the Gallatin Whitewater Festival or to see a full schedule visit [gallatinwhitewaterfestival.com](http://gallatinwhitewaterfestival.com) or contact Dave Zinn at (406) 539-4333 or [davidzinnkayaks@gmail.com](mailto:davidzinnkayaks@gmail.com).



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\*Financial assistance may be available. Please inquire.  
To register, email [nancy@bigskydiscoveryacademy.org](mailto:nancy@bigskydiscoveryacademy.org) or call (406) 993-2008.





# On the Trail: Ralph's Pass

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

BY CIARA WOLFE  
BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Big Sky's newest trail, a 2.7-mile intermediate dirt pathway connecting two of Big Sky's most popular community trails, opens June 15. Ralph's Pass, which runs between Ousel Falls and Uplands trails, provides an excellent experience for all users. Quality trail construction and design make for a delightful hike, run or bike ride through exceptional and diverse scenery.

As the culmination of three years of work securing easements from 10 private landowners and garnering funding from multiple sources, Ralph's Pass exemplifies Big Sky's commitment to trails and the collaboration present in our community.

My Ralph's Pass hike started at the Ousel Falls trailhead. I headed down the Ousel Falls trail for one-third of a mile and then took a left. From there, I followed the South Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin River through a heavily forested area. Please leash your dog after you pass through the gates here onto private property. After passing through the gates, you'll travel across some of the longest boardwalks in Big Sky, crossing wetlands and climbing up several switchbacks until you reach a gravel road that serves as a private driveway.

After crossing the road, you'll climb a little more and continue through a wooded area with excellent views of a meadow below and the steep cliffs carved by the South Fork of the West Fork. After a short descent you'll come to a road crossing. Cross the road and continue on your journey. In the remaining mile of this trail, you'll meander through several small meadows and climb approximately 800 feet on three series of switchbacks. The switchbacks are designed to be user-friendly with wide corners and berms. Make sure to stop and enjoy the scenery on the third series of switchbacks; Lone Mountain, Pioneer Mountain and Beehive Basin are all visible from here.

At the end of this climb, you'll reach a beautiful mountain meadow with abundant wildflowers and lots of wildlife signs. The end of Ralph's Pass is marked by a gate located at the top of the Uplands Trail. Follow Uplands for a 1-mile descent to the Hummocks and Uplands trailhead.

Start from the Ousel Falls trailhead for a consistent 2.7-mile climb to Uplands followed by a steep 1-mile descent to the Uplands trailhead. I would recommend that trail runners and bikers traveling one-way start at Uplands trailhead for a quick climb and then pleasant gradual descent on Ralph's Pass. You can also connect the two trailheads on Aspen Leaf Drive using the Ousel Falls Road trail to create a 7-mile loop on the community trail system from Town Center.

With abundant moose and elk tracks on the trail, and reports of bear sightings in this area, please be bear aware. Also note that the trail is only open from June



Ralph's Pass, which officially opens to the public June 15, will connect Ousel Falls and Uplands trails. Ten private landowners donated easements in support of Big Sky's newest trail. PHOTO BY CIARA WOLFE






15- Oct. 14 each year to protect this sensitive environment during moose and elk calving season.

Please join our community Thursday, June 15, at 4 p.m. to celebrate this new trail with a grand opening at Ousel Falls trailhead. Later this summer, stay on the lookout for another extension to this trail system—Ralph's Pass will expand by another third of a mile to connect straight into First Yellow Mule Trail.

For more information about Big Sky's Parks, Trails and Recreation Programs visit [bscomt.org](http://bscomt.org). The Big Sky Community Organization is a local non-profit that connects people to recreational opportunities by acquiring, promoting and preserving sustainable places and programs for all.



## TRAIL STATS

 Distance	 Uses	 Difficulty	 Elevation	 Surface
4 miles one-way	Hike, bike, run	Moderate	6,450 ft at Ousel Falls Trailhead 6,285 at Uplands Trailhead	Dirt

**Directions:** The Ousel Falls Trailhead is located 2 miles south of Lone Mountain Trail off of Ousel Falls Road. The Uplands trailhead is located near Town Center. Head east on Aspen Leaf Drive, cross a bridge over the river and continue up the road until you see the parking area and trailhead on the east side of the road.



SUMMER BUS SCHEDULE

5/29/17 - 9/29/17

Town Center ↔ Mountain Village

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WHERE BIG SKY COMES TOGETHER

Town Center to Mountain Village Bus Schedule

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ARRIVING MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

7:44a / 8:54a / 9:54a / 11:54a / 2:54p / 4:54p  
5:54p / 6:54p / 8:54p / 10:54p

Mountain Village to Town Center Bus Schedule

Heading Down

DEPARTING MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

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# Watershed Festival and Fishing Derby scheduled for June 10

MONTANA OUTDOOR SCIENCE SCHOOL

The 19<sup>th</sup> annual Watershed Festival and Fishing Derby, an event dedicated to promoting awareness and responsible stewardship of the natural resources found within our watersheds, is slated for Saturday, June 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The festival, which drew more than 2,200 people last year, will take place in Bozeman at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Technology Center on Bridger Drive. The event is co-hosted by MOSS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In addition to fly casting lessons, food trucks face painting and duck races, there will be music and a fishing derby for kids—which has proven to be one of the festival’s most popular offerings. Attendees can keep two rainbow trout caught from the Fish Technology Center, and USFWS staff will be on hand to help clean them.

Visit [outdoorscience.org/program-calendar](http://outdoorscience.org/program-calendar) for more information.



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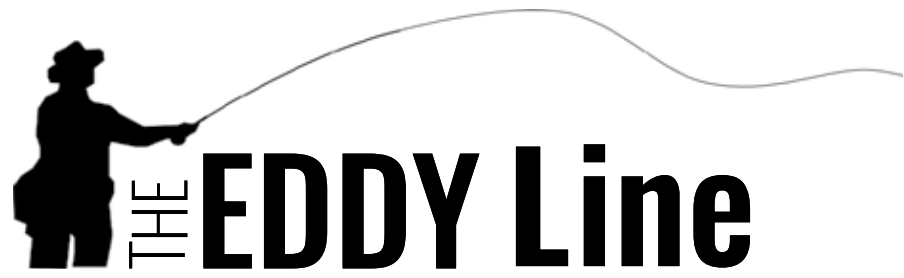
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# Plan a destination fly-fishing trip right for maximum enjoyment

## Part 1 of a 2-part series



BY PATRICK STRAUB  
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

I’ve spent a lifetime fly fishing our local waters. Trout and Montana’s rivers are my first love, but I’ll take just about any opportunity to travel to far-off places to cast to fish other than trout. My passport has been well used: for trout in South Africa and Chilean and Argentine Patagonia; tigerfish in Botswana and Zimbabwe; bonefish in the Bahamas and Belize; tarpon

and snook in Mexico; steelhead in Alaska; and now fly fishing for permit in Honduras ... and using a helicopter to do so.

Whether you live in Wyoming and travel to the saltwater; live in Brooklyn and are headed to Montana; and are fishing with guides or going it alone, a trip to a distant fly-fishing locale requires some pre-planning. In my case, my helicopter-flats-fly-fishing trip popped up on short notice, leaving me fewer than five days to pack and plan. Thankfully, I’ve had 20-plus years of experience to draw from. You may not. Here’s some help.

**Up-to-date passport.** This seems obvious, but you never know when you might get an invite. Always ensure your passport is valid. And since most, if not all, countries (including Canada) now require United States citizens to have passports, don’t be left out. A few years ago a friend was invited on a free fully guided Elk River trip due to a last-minute cancellation. He couldn’t go because he let his passport lapse.



A bonefish on a fly is a sought-after prize of many fly fishers. They do not live close to most folks so a destination trip is essential. Proper planning, skill and attitude are all crucial to enjoying this, and other, exciting species on a fly rod. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

**Gear—know what you need and what is provided.** If you’re planning to fish with guides or stay at a destination lodge, do your research ahead of time and know what is provided and what is not. Sleuth it out—all the way down to flies and tippet. For example, fluorocarbon has proven very effective for saltwater flat fishing and many guides in international destinations will be very happy if you arrive armed with fluorocarbon. Many western trout guides provide gear like rods and reels, but it’s rare for a saltwater guide to supply rods and reels and flies.

**Attitude makes the difference.** Keep a positive attitude throughout the trip, from planning to on-the-ground-fishing. If you’re hiring out your fishing and lodging, trust your hosts to have your best interests at heart. If you’re going it alone, be prepared for changing conditions and putting forth extra effort if curveballs occur—locally, the one we see most often is the Gallatin River being blown out due to rain in the Taylor Fork. Flexibility and a “roll with it” attitude are important.

**Communicate ahead of time and during your trip.** Having honest and open dialogue before your trip regarding your expectations and goals is crucial. If fishing dry flies to rising trout is important, you must communicate that to your guide or ask local sources if that will occur during your visit. If tarpon are your target, be sure to ask if it’s likely that they’ll be around. Will your fishing be mostly on foot or out of a boat? What will happen if adverse weather affects fishing conditions?

**Take your health seriously.** This is an often overlooked component of any destination trip. It might seem like advice from a nagging grandma, but it’s actually pretty darn crucial. Sunscreen, hydration, proper clothing for hot or cold climates, eating right and getting sleep all add to the success or failure of a trip. Don’t spend time and money to travel only to spend a day hungover or sun burnt. Drunk and sick might be fine back home, but not when tailing bonefish are within casting range.

**Be honest with yourself about your ability.** Don’t spend thousands of dollars traveling across the globe if your 30-foot cast won’t cut it. An honest look at your own skill level is the first step in deciding where to travel and what species to pursue. If you’ve always wanted to catch a bonefish but can’t cast 40 feet and further on a consistent basis, you should practice more before investing in a trip.

Traveling to fly fish is one of the many joys of the sport. From the planning to the anticipation to stepping into new water for the first time, fishing a new destination is an added bonus of our chosen pastime. But, before you make those first false casts on a first-time trip, do your homework so you ensure there will be a second time.

*Pat Straub is the author of six books, including “The Frugal Fly Fisher,” “Montana On The Fly,” and “Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Fly Fishing.” He and his wife own Gallatin River Guides in Big Sky. He also co-owns Montana Fishing Outfitters and the Montana Fishing Guide School. He has traveled the world fly fishing and caught trout, steelhead, tiger fish, tarpon, bonefish and snook, but has yet to catch a permit.*

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\* Explore Big Sky reserves the right to edit letters

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# BACK 40

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

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

## Conservation easements and taxes

BY JESSIE WIESE  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

In the last issue of Explore Big Sky, we explored how conservation easements work and introduced potential benefits available to landowners who donate a conservation easement to a land trust. In this installment, we'll take a look at associated tax benefits and touch on the process involved to set up an easement.

From a land conservation perspective, conservation easements are the only tool with the capacity to perpetually prevent inappropriate development on private lands containing some of the richest habitat and soils in the state. These lands are integral parts of ecosystems spanning both public and private land, and provide critical resources and habitat connectivity for Montana's fish and wildlife.

Like all other types of easements, conservation easements are governed under Montana real property law, but federal tax law determines whether the donation of a conservation easement qualifies as a tax-deductible charitable gift. Parties interested in a conservation easement should consult an attorney or other professional with knowledge of the federal requirements, which include the following:

1. The conservation easement must be granted in perpetuity, meaning it is of perpetual duration, applies to all future owners, and takes priority over the rights of mortgage and contract-for-deed holders, who must agree to subordinate their rights to the easement.
2. The easement must provide at least one of the following four conservation purposes:
  - Protection of relatively natural habitat for fish, wildlife, plants, or similar ecosystems
  - Preservation of open space that will yield a significant public benefit, for the scenic enjoyment of the general public and/or pursuant to a clearly delineated governmental conservation policy
  - Preservation of land areas for the education of, or outdoor recreation by the general public
  - Preservation of a historically important land area or structure
3. The easement must be granted to a qualified organization, such as a nonprofit land trust or governmental entity.
4. The easement must prohibit uses which would destroy the conservation values protected by the easement, including all surface mining. If the easement donor does not own all of the mineral rights, the possibility of surface mining must be determined “so remote as to be negligible.”
5. Resource data documenting the condition of the property must be collected prior to donation of the easement.

When a conservation easement meets these federal requirements, and the donor of the easement demonstrates the value of the easement by a detailed appraisal, the donor may be entitled to a reduction in income and/or estate taxes.

### Tax benefits

The value of the easement is determined by a qualified appraiser who values the property before and after the easement restrictions are applied. The difference between these two values is the amount of the charitable gift for tax purposes.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTANA LAND RELIANCE

Landowners donating conservation easements may deduct the value of the easement against 50 percent of their adjusted gross income, or AGI, for 15 years, in addition to the year in which the easement is completed. Landowners who earn more than 50 percent of their income from agricultural operations may deduct the value of the donated easement against 100 percent of their AGI. Farm and ranch corporations may also be eligible for the 100 percent deduction.

Conservation easements will ordinarily result in a reduction of the property value for estate and gift tax purposes, and can ease the financial burden of passing the property onto heirs, making conservation easements a significant and useful estate planning tool. An additional estate tax incentive for conservation easements can further reduce the taxable estate by up to \$500,000.

### How to donate an easement:

Once the decision has been made to donate a conservation easement, the landowner and the land trust agree on specific terms, keeping in mind the federal requirements above.

Once the easement is finalized, the land trust and the landowner begin a working relationship to assure that the intended conservation becomes a reality. The easement limits only the broad parameters of land use, such as subdivision and construction, while the landowner continues to preside over day-to-day property management decisions.

Annual monitoring visits are conducted by land trust stewardship staff to foster good communication with the landowner and provide an opportunity to answer questions or respond to concerns. Mutual respect and clear understanding of easement terms help avoid potential conflict and allow for the continued use of this excellent tool for conservation of important lands throughout Montana.

*For more information about easements and the work being done in Big Sky, please contact Jessie Wiese at The Montana Land Reliance at [jessie@mtlandreliance.org](mailto:jessie@mtlandreliance.org).*

*The Montana Land Reliance (MLR) partners with private landowners to permanently protect agricultural lands, fish and wildlife habitat and open space. MLR serves all of Montana with satellite offices in Bigfork, Bozeman, Big Sky, and a main office in Helena.*



## Section 4: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Big Sky PBR will feature Barn Dance pg. 51



Water-themed art installation pg. 53



Mission: Montana debuts documentary pg. 55



# Impressions of time, memory and the rivers that run through it The art of Gesine Janzen

BY SARAH GIANELLI  
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BOZEMAN – There’s an otherworldly quality to Bozeman artist Gesine Janzen’s work, a sense of peering into the past through the soft haze of time, especially the recent pieces that diverge from her primary medium of traditional woodblock print-making. Through a process of abstraction, her exquisite prints, which are often landscape-referenced, distill a scene to its Zen-like essence of line, form and color, while retaining their wholly Western context.

But in recent years Janzen, an associate professor of art and head of printmaking at Montana State University, has expanded her creative reach to more fully explore her personal ancestral history as well as the collective, in an attempt to weave together the past and present. In the process, she’s discovering that rivers often provide the stitching.

Janzen, a native of Lawrence, Kansas, moved to Bozeman from Kansas City, Missouri, 15 years ago for a position at MSU. A 2011-2014 series of woodblock prints that track the Missouri River as it winds its way eastward from its Montana headwaters enabled her to find a connection between where she came from and where she found herself to be.

“It was a way for me to connect to Montana,” Janzen said about focusing on the river that connected the two regions. “Not really an umbilical cord, but some kind of tie to my past.”

Janzen reached even further back into her past with “Passages: I am Here; You are Here; We are Here,” an antiqued eight-page “newspaper” composed of letters written by Janzen’s Prussian ancestors in the late 1800s, and photographs of the area alongside the Vistula River, now in modern day Poland, where they lived and farmed prior to emigration. Janzen produced the work in collaboration with the Peabody Printing Museum, which printed the combination of digitally produced relief plates, painstakingly handset letter press type and photographs on the museum’s 1880s Babcock Reliance newspaper press.

“It was a way to create a dialog between me and them, past and present,” Janzen said. “Maybe I’m just a nostalgic person to begin with, but I feel that reaching back is a way for me to figure out who I am, and my place in the world. The past is something we can know something about, but the future ... who knows?”

The use of newsprint highlights the ephemeral nature not only of the piece itself, but the passage of time. Part of Janzen’s attraction to printmaking is that it toys with the artist’s intrigue with time.

“There’s this idea of making an impression on a piece of paper from another surface that is kind of like capturing a moment in time,” Janzen said.

Recently, Janzen has been amassing paper reliefs of rural Montana tombstones, stiffened sheets of white calligraphy paper impressed with the stone’s lettering.

She doesn’t yet know what to make of them, so for now she’s grouped them under artwork entitled “Current Experiments,” a burgeoning collection of objects that also includes paperweights embedded with vintage artifacts.

Near her hometown in Kansas, Janzen found a barrel of individually-wrapped glass paperweight blanks cast in the 1800s, some with the decaying, brown paper still clinging to the exterior. She has begun creating little “memory capsules”



Print-maker and multi-media artist Gesine Janzen reveals a series of woodblock prints that reference nearby Sourdough Creek. Behind the artist is a piece that will be featured in the storefront of Montana Home in downtown Bozeman as part of a public art initiative that explores municipal water usage in Gallatin Valley.  
PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI

out of the glass cartridges, incorporating photographs or sweet, small objects—a remnant from a rhinestone broche, a fragment of string—that strike a chord of sentimentality that is both intimate and universal.

“The experiments and the collage work have really freed me up,” Janzen said. “I decided to do whatever I wanted to do, and use objects and not just be tied to the printmaking only.”

Janzen is also one of 13 artists participating in “Upstream,” a public art exhibition exploring municipal water usage in Bozeman opening on June 16.

For the piece, Janzen met with Lain Leoniak, the water resource manager for the City of Bozeman, before composing a large canvas that combines organic forms based on a wintry photograph of nearby Sourdough Creek with information gathered during a tour of Bozeman’s water treatment plant.

“I tend to look at water as an aesthetic thing, a thing of beauty,” Janzen said. “But I don’t necessarily think of it as something that might have bacteria, and need to be filtered or cleaned so we can consume it. Art is another way to communicate, present information and invite dialogue. I thought my piece might provoke some thought about how we use water and what it is for.”

Janzen’s piece “Raw Water/Filtered Water/Service Water” will be on display in the storefront of Mountain Home on Main Street in downtown Bozeman from June 16-30. Visit [gesinejanzen.com](http://gesinejanzen.com) to see more of the artist’s work.



BIG SKY

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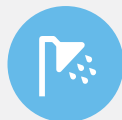
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Science on Screen series wraps up with ‘Whale Rider’

BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY

On Tuesday, June 20, at 7:30 p.m. the Bozeman Film Society wraps up its 2017 Science on Screen (SoS) series with a showing of the family-friendly film “Whale Rider” at The Ellen Theatre.

In this award-winning 2002 film, director Niki Caro paints an effective picture of the challenges modernity brings to indigenous cultures. Rooting her characters in the boundless New Zealand landscape and incorporating stunning ocean photography, the film beautifully illustrates the power of myths to adapt, and is a mystical, gentle movie that goes beyond the boundaries of a typical coming-of-age film.

Guest speakers include Gianna Savoie, filmmaker and executive director of Ocean Media Institute, and MSU Professor Dr. Michael Reidy, whose historical research interests include science and technology, mountaineering, and oceans. They will open the evening with a talk entitled “Waves of Change: Myth, History and Culture in Ocean Science.”

Geared toward all ages, SoS offers creative pairings of contemporary, classic, cult and documentary films with lively presentations by notable experts from the world of science and technology. The only Montana recipient of a SoS grant from the Coolidge Corner Foundation (an initiative of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation), this is the second season Bozeman Film Society has produced this pioneering, nationwide program.

Tickets are available at [thellentheatre.com](http://thellentheatre.com) or at the box office. The Ellen Theatre lobby opens at 6:30 p.m. for concession and bar; with shows beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Visit [bozemanfilmsociety.org](http://bozemanfilmsociety.org) for more information.

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# Kick up dust at 1st annual Hometown Hoedown

## Big Sky PBR adds community barn dance to schedule of events

OUTLAW PARTNERS PBR COVERAGE

BY AMANDA EGGERT  
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

**BIG SKY** – After first drawing inspiration from a program on NBC’s “Today” show featuring Bynum, Montana, and its longstanding practice of meeting regularly for community dances, Eric Ladd decided to start a similar tradition in Big Sky.

Envisioned as an event that will promote and build a sense of community around a shared gathering space, the inaugural community barn dance on Wednesday, July 26, is fit “for young to old, no skill required,” said Ladd, CEO of Outlaw Partners, producer of Big Sky PBR and publisher of EBS.

“It was inspired from a scene in ‘A River Runs Through It’ where the community comes together to enjoy live music and dancing under the veil of white lights and star-filled skies,” he added.

Two days prior to Big Sky PBR’s first night of bull riding, long-time dance instructors Veda Barner and “Dancing Dan” Schlapkohl will coach even the greenest of dancers on the Montana Cowboy Swing and the Texas Waltz.

“[They’re] pretty easy to learn, you just have to come with a good attitude and a smile on your face,” Barner said. “Even if you think you have two left feet, you don’t.”

Barner and Schlapkohl used to hear from impressed onlookers that they looked so sharp on the dance floor, they should consider teaching. They took it to heart. “We thought we would try it for one time and see how it went, and it went for 21 years,” Barner said. During that time, they’ve taught open classes at Buck’s T-4 Lodge in Big Sky, and private classes for groups as well as betrothed couples preparing for their wedding day.

“It’s exciting to be having a community barn dance,” Barner said. “I think it’s something we should do annually [and] we’re going to do our best to make that happen.”



The Beet Tops formed three years ago, but members of the old-time string band have been playing together for more than a decade. They’ll take the stage at the PBR Golden Buckle tent and lead the community in a good old-fashioned square dance. PHOTO BY BESS BIRD

“We guarantee it’s fun or your money back,” she added with a laugh. “It’s free!”

After the lesson wraps up, old-time string band the Beet Tops will take the stage, playing Appalachian fiddle tunes with a signature sass and energy that’s garnered them a reputation for getting folks moving on the dance floor.

Comprised of Claire Baer and Chelle Karcher on fiddle, Rob Terwilliger on banjo, guitarist Brian Herbel and bassist Travis Yost, the Missoula-based band will bring their unique sound to the Golden Buckle tent at the PBR arena.

Karcher will put her calling skills on display, leading dancers of all abilities through a Southern-style square dance, an old folk tradition that’s been enjoying a recent resurgence. First she’ll go through the dance without music to allow people to get the hang of it, and then they’ll add the strings.

“Some people might associate square dancing with something that’s really complicated and busy [where] people get lost, but this is going to be more accessible,” she said.

“It always puts a big smile on my face and I look a little bit silly, which is part of what’s fun about it for me.”

Square dancing is a great way to feel connected to the people around you, of all ages, Karcher said. “It’s a really unique way of interacting with people and it’s truly a community event.”

*The first annual community barn dance will take place in the Golden Buckle tent at the PBR arena on Wednesday, July 26. There will be free dance lessons in the Montana Cowboy Swing and Texas Waltz from 6-7 p.m., followed by square dancing led by the Beet Tops from 7:30-10 p.m.*

Visit [bigskypbr.com/schedule](http://bigskypbr.com/schedule) for more information or contact Ersin Ozer at [ersin@theoutlawpartners.com](mailto:ersin@theoutlawpartners.com).



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# First in series of water-themed art installations opens in Bozeman June 16

BY SARAH GIANELLI  
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BOZEMAN - On Friday, June 16, Mountain Time Arts kicks off a summer-long public art initiative with the opening of “Upstream,” the first in a series of innovative group exhibitions and interpretive events collectively entitled “WaterWorks” that reflect upon the beauty and science, history and future of the rivers, streams and watersheds of Gallatin Valley.

Running through June 30, “Upstream” features the work of 13 regional artists who, after collaborating with area water conservationists and scientists, have created storefront window exhibits and interactive installations on Main Street that uniquely respond to the themes of spring runoff, Bozeman Creek and municipal water usage within the city.

In addition to 10 storefront window installations on Main Street between Rouse and Willson avenues, Bozeman artist Dalton Rank will project a video installation onto the east side of the Lark Hotel at 10 p.m. on six evenings throughout “Upstream’s” two-week run. Rank’s video “What We Remain” is a visual juxtaposition of the various phases and forms of water with those of human life, highlighting the essential role of water to our existence.

Michael and Caroline Running Wolf, a team of artist-software developers, have created seven augmented reality installations on the sidewalks of Main Street that provide literal insight into municipal water pathways and the challenges to the city’s water supply and treatment due to drought and population growth.

For example, “Bozeman Creek @ Bar IX” employs the sidewalk mosaic in front of the business as a trigger for an associated augmented reality mobile app. After downloading the app, users can hover their smart device over the sidewalk mosaic and, as if the device has X-ray vision, see Bozeman Creek flowing beneath Main Street.

“Besides the ‘wow’ factor, you’ll also learn something about how water works in the city of Bozeman,” said Mountain Time Arts Producer Dede Taylor. “And that’s what ‘Upstream’ is all about—revealing the creek and where our water comes from, where it goes, and how we capture, deliver and treat it in municipal systems.”

Daily tours of Bozeman Creek that provide insight into the history and hydrology of the creek will also be offered.

Coinciding with the completion of the Bozeman Creek Enhancement Project at Bogert Park, “Upstream” will also include two creek-side aerial dance performances in the park pavilion by San Francisco-based Zaccho Dance Theatre on June 23 and 24.



“Spring,” one part of Wendy Red Star’s series, “Four Seasons,” will be on display in the window storefront of Heyday on Main Street as part of “Upstream,” a public art initiative combining storefront art exhibitions and interpretive events in downtown Bozeman June 16-30. PHOTO BY WENDY RED STAR

After “Upstream,” the series moves outward from its urban focus for “Wetlands,” a multiscreen video and sound installation by Bently Spang at Manhattan’s Dry Creek Schoolhouse from July 21-30. The series will close with “Gabriel Canal,” a performance piece by Mary Ellen Strom and composer Greg Young staged on a historic homestead on the West Gallatin River from August 23-25. Related tours will accompany both projects.

“WaterWorks” was funded by a \$350,000 grant from the ArtPlace America Creative Placemaking Fund. It was one of 29 projects funded nationwide out of nearly 1,400 applicants.

“The concept of running out of water is kind of inconceivable to humans, but we may really struggle with finding solutions,” Taylor said, noting Gallatin Valley’s steep anticipated population growth in coming decades. “We have all of the facts and data and arguments, but we believe art is the thing that can stir people’s imaginations and emotions and add that element that will make them care—not only open their minds to the reality of it, but offer a more creative approach to how to deal with it.”

*An opening celebration for “Upstream” takes place from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, June 16, at Soroptimist Park on the corner of Main Street and Rouse Avenue in downtown Bozeman from 6-8 p.m. Visit [mountaintimearts.org](http://mountaintimearts.org) for a full schedule of events and to sign up for associated tours.*

## Red Lodge Songwriter Festival Bringing Nashville to Montana

EBS STAFF

The second annual Red Lodge Songwriter Festival—which brings together professional Nashville songwriters and top regional musicians for a weekend of workshops, performances and collaborative jam sessions—runs Thursday, June 22, through Saturday, June 24, in various venues across the community of Red Lodge, Montana.

The lineup of participating Nashville hit songwriters is headlined by Even Stevens and Hugh Prestwood, both inductees of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame. James Dean Hicks, Tony Lane and Montana’s own Kostas return to the Red Lodge Songwriter Festival, joined by newcomer Brice Long.

These songwriters will perform their hit songs and share the stories behind songs that have been recorded by chart-topping country artists such as George Strait, Trisha Yearwood, Conway Twitty, Dwight Yoakam, the Dixie Chicks, Kenny Chesney, Blake Shelton, Patti Loveless, Tim McGraw and Faith Hill, and many more.

The Nashville songwriters, along with nine of Montana and Wyoming’s most-seasoned songwriters—Sean Devine, Tom Catmull, Al Cooper, Cory Johnson,

Annalisa Rose, Matt Strachan, Kalyn Beasley, Chuck Oliver and Charlie Brandine—will perform a total of 11 shows in seven local venues over three days, with most of the shows free and open to the public.

Aspiring songwriters are invited to attend workshops and participate in the songwriting contest. A total of ten songwriters will be selected to perform their song in front of one or more of the Nashville songwriters and receive analysis and feedback on their work. The writers of the top two best-written songs will have the opportunity to perform on the main stage Saturday night during the Nashville Songwriters in the Round show.

“If you’re a songwriter, you get to network with other songwriters and learn from those that have successfully made their living writing songs for some of the biggest names in country music,” said festival founder Mike Booth. But one needn’t be a songwriter to enjoy the festival. “You may love Faith Hill and Tim McGraw’s recording of ‘I Need You,’” Booth added. “But when you hear Tony Lane tell the story behind the song and listen to him perform it, you make a connection with that song that is indescribable.”

*For tickets and a full schedule of events visit [redlodesongwriterfest.com](http://redlodesongwriterfest.com).*



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# 'The Durfees: Saving a Montana Public Land Treasure'

## New documentary by Bozeman team premieres at The Emerson June 13

EBS STAFF

Mission: Montana's debut documentary film—"The Durfees: Saving a Montana Public Land Treasure"—premieres at The Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture on Tuesday, June 13, at 7 p.m.

The film explores the fight to save the Durfee Hills—the local name for a patchwork of public land parcels scattered southeast of Lewistown, Montana, amounting to nearly 5,000 acres—from a land exchange proposed by the billionaire Wilks brothers that would render the popular elk hunting area inaccessible.

The parcels are entirely surrounded by the Wilks Ranch, and the brothers—who made their fortune in the Texas fracking boom and now rank second on the list of Montana's largest landowners—have been pursuing a land transfer deal with the Bureau of Land Management that would eliminate those public inholdings in the Durfees, resulting in the near-complete loss of public access to an elk herd numbering about 6,000.

The story centers on Doug Krings, a traditional bowhunter from Lewistown, and his 12-year-old daughter Emma, who goes on her first elk hunt in the Durfees.

"The Durfees" explores the background story of the Wilks' land exchange proposal and the community that rose up to stop it in its tracks. The film also explores the larger context of the national public land transfer agenda and the complex web of challenges that public lands are likely to face in coming years.



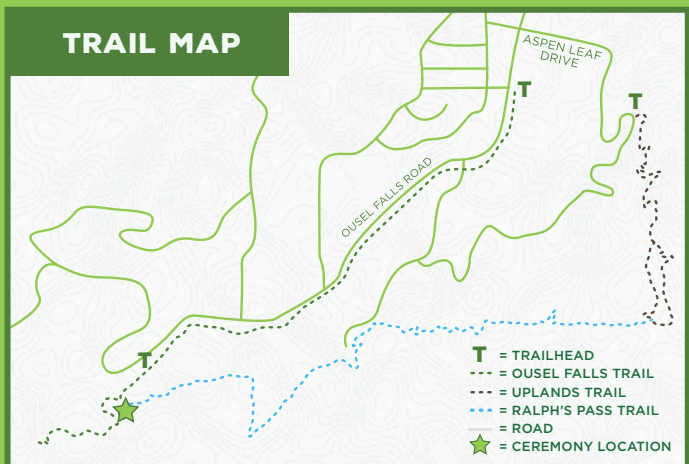
"The Durfees" follows father-daughter hunters into public lands that are the subject of a hotly contested land swap proposed by billionaire landowners, the Wilks brothers. Mission: Montana's debut documentary premieres at The Emerson on June 13. PHOTO BY GREG CAIRNS

*Mission: Montana is an outdoor media collaborative founded by a Bozeman team comprised of journalist Elliott Woods and filmmaker Greg Cairns. Tickets for "The Durfees" are available on [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) and at the door.*

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# Lil Smokies’ dobroist Andy Dunnigan on life on the road—and not being a bluegrass band

BY SARAH GIANELLI  
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – The Missoula-based Lil Smokies kick off Big Sky’s widely-anticipated Music in the Mountains summer concert series on Thursday, June 22. In recent years, recognition from the International Bluegrass Music Association and the Telluride Bluegrass Festival has catapulted the quintet to the next level of professional musicianship.

EBS caught up with dobroist and founding band member Andy Dunnigan mid-tour “somewhere in northern Illinois” on May 31. The Whitefish, Montana, native, whose chosen instrument is an acoustic cousin of the pedal steel guitar, talked about the reality of being on tour, trying not to be a bluegrass band, and how good it feels to come back home.

**Explore Big Sky: Any stand-out moments from the tour thus far?**

**Andy Dunnigan:** We played a gigantic festival in Illinois called Summer Camp, alongside a lot of our musical heroes. We rolled in moments after it was announced that Greg Allman had passed away and proceeded to watch multiple sets paying tribute to him, including the Infamous Stringdusters and Gov’t Mule.

It was definitely a heavy day, but the silver lining was seeing some incredibly passionate and emotionally-driven performances.

**EBS:** Last year you played something like 176 shows, spending nearly 200 days of the year on the road. How are you adjusting to touring life?

**AD:** I think we’re all starting to realize how wholly-consuming the touring life is—it’s a gigantic sacrifice. I think it really sank in the last couple months for us collectively. That said, we couldn’t be happier and more grateful for this opportunity.

**EBS: Why the dobro?**

**AD:** I had an emotional connection with the dobro—it was such an expressive instrument. Much more than all the other instruments I was playing earlier on. It sounded like somebody crying at times. Men aren’t supposed to cry in public so perhaps it was my way around the rule.

**EBS: Are you looking forward to getting back to Montana?**

**AD:** Definitely—even more so now than ever. We’ve been hitting the road



Missoula-based band The Lil Smokies perform the first Music in the Mountains concert on June 22. EBS caught up with dobroist and founding member Andy Dunnigan (center) mid-tour in the Midwest. PHOTO COURTESY OF DOG DAZE PHOTO

so hard this year; I think we’re a lot more appreciative of our time home, especially in the summer—we all know how magical Montana is in the summer. We’re really looking forward to playing these stages, and seeing our friends and family...and our own beds.

**EBS: How would you describe The Lil Smokies’ sound?**

**AD:** That’s always slightly hard to answer. Broadly speaking, It’s progressive acoustic ... I tend to stay away from “bluegrass” because there is such a stigma behind traditional bluegrass music. We’re trying to put a new twist on an old genre. We all play traditional bluegrass instruments, but if you dissect [our music] melodically, lyrically, there’s a lot more going on. We’re trying our damndest to not be a bluegrass band, but simultaneously pay homage to the roots of the tradition that got us here. We’re searching for sonic genre transcendence.

**EBS: Where do you see The Lil Smokies going from here?**

**AD:** Oh, the mystery. We’re in this for the long haul, literally and metaphorically. Touring has been such an incredible experience; I think we’re all getting thoroughly addicted to the unknown and the adventure that comes along with this lifestyle.

## Between the Shelves

BY KATHY HOUSE  
BIG SKY LIBRARY DIRECTOR

School will soon be out for the summer, but don’t forget the library stays open and the doors for reading are wide open! The Big Sky Community Library will once again offer summer reading programs, and this year’s K-fourth grade theme is “Build a Better World!”

Every Tuesday from June 20 to July 25, a special program will be offered at 4 p.m. This summer’s schedule includes a magic show, a program titled Recycling with Rob, and a visit from Montana Raptor Conservation Center, among others.

For Build It!, the summer’s first program on June 25, students will design, create and assemble contraptions of their choice using a variety of building materials: K’nex, Legos, Magna Tiles, Tinkertoys, Lincoln Logs, etc. On June 27, magician Walt Woolbaugh will be here to perform his magic.

The library’s ever-popular story time, designed for toddlers to pre-K, will continue every Monday at 10:30 a.m. with a weekly theme. West Yellowstone’s

Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center will visit on Monday, June 19, with something new and exciting to share.

From preschoolers to adults, this summer’s library programs offer something for everyone! All programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Library and are free and open to the public.

We’re all set for a great summer at the library; we hope you’ll join us!

Stop by the library to see the new releases. A few of them include:







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5 pm - Live Music by Low Water String Band

**Big Sky Town Center Park**

**SUNDAY, JULY 2<sup>ND</sup>**

6 pm - Hooked on the Gallatin Banquet

Music by Double Barrel

**Gallatin Riverhouse Grill Outdoor Tent**

JULY 11-13 | Hooked on the Gallatin: Youth Fly Fishing Camp

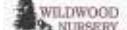
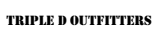
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**CUTTHROAT TROUT**



**RAINBOW TROUT**



**BROWN TROUT**

Big Sky Landscaping | Bozeman Distillery | Dr. Amy Kinney Dentistry | Josh Berry

Museum of the Rockies | Rick & Michelle Donaldson | Ron & Sheryl Bowlin | Valley of the Flowers

**BROOK TROUT**

Blue Ribbon Nets | Dee-O-Gee | Derek DeYoung

Ken McCafferty | Monica's Salon | Mountain Arts Pottery | Santosha



Celebrate fly fishing and river conservation  
Brought to you by the Gallatin River Task Force

For more information about this festival, visit [gallatinriverflyfishingfestival.com](http://gallatinriverflyfishingfestival.com)

**WHEN YOU'RE  
READY TO  
HIT THE TRAIL**

**GRAB IT AND GO AT**

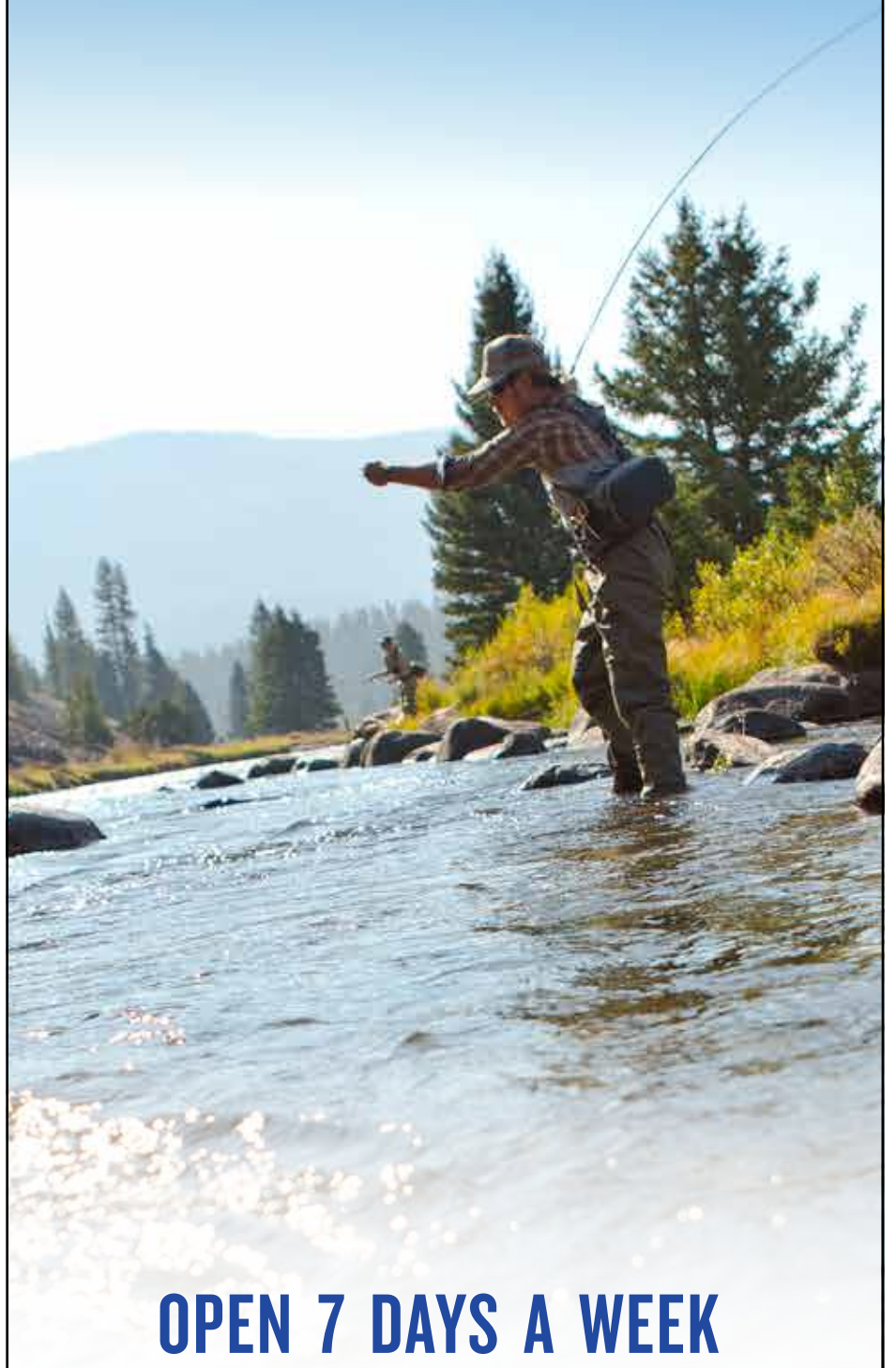
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40.24± acres, 4 bd, 8 ba, 10,923± sf home, 5 fireplaces, wine room, home theater, bar, incredible craftsmanship and attention to detail.



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# Call for entries: Festival of the Thread

## FESTIVAL OF THE THREAD

The fourth annual Festival of the Thread—a free exhibition of textile art at Livingston’s Shane Lalani Center for the Arts held Sept. 1-3—is calling for original fiber, fabric, thread, yarn and mixed media textile works for entry in a juried exhibition held during the festival.

The deadline for submissions is July 1, and all artists must be from Montana, Idaho or Wyoming.

This unique juried exhibition showcases regional fiber and decorative artists and work that encompasses quilts, mixed media textile art, weaving, batik, knitting, fashion, furniture and other mediums not widely represented in a gallery setting. Many of the featured artists have been recognized for mastery of their craft and for the diversity of styles and mediums they bring to this exhibit.

The September 2017 Festival will include an opening reception for the Festival of the Thread Textile Exhibition on Friday evening, and a fashion show and live performance of George Bernard Shaw’s “You Never Can Tell” by Montana Shakespeare in the Parks on Saturday evening. There will also be lectures, craft and food vendors and live music throughout the weekend-long event.

Visit [thefestivalofthethread.com](http://thefestivalofthethread.com) for complete submission guidelines or contact [tbreadfestival@gmail.com](mailto:tbreadfestival@gmail.com) for more information.



The Festival of the Thread, a fiber arts celebration held Sept. 1-3 in Livingston, is accepting submissions for a juried textile exhibition through July 1. PHOTO BY COLLEEN STORY

# CELEBRATE SUMMER.

Free music and more in the shadow of Lone Peak.

JUNE 22  
JUNE 29  
JULY 4  
JULY 6  
JULY 13  
JULY 20  
JULY 27  
AUGUST 3  
AUGUST 10  
AUGUST 11-13  
AUGUST 17  
AUGUST 24  
AUGUST 31  
SEPTEMBER 1  
SEPTEMBER 15-16

THE LIL SMOKIES + Gallatin Grass Project  
NEW ORLEANS SUSPECTS  
THE TINY BAND + kids activities, fireworks!  
THE QUEBE SISTERS  
ASSEMBLY OF DUST  
DIRTY REVIVAL  
TURNPIKE TROUBADOURS  
THE LAST REVEL  
DEADPHISH ORCHESTRA  
BIG SKY CLASSICAL MUSIC FESTIVAL  
ANDY FRASCO AND THE U.N.  
GHOST OF PAUL REVERE  
CON BRIO  
SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARKS  
TELLURIDE MOUNTAINFILM ON TOUR

Join us each week in Town Center Park for free, family-friendly music served up in a beautiful outdoor setting! For more information about our full summer schedule of events, please visit:

BIGSKYARTS.ORG  
Big Sky's tastemakers since 1989



PHOTO: SKYLAB MEDIA



# Glenn Miller Orchestra, classic westerns and more at The Ellen in June

EBS STAFF

The Ellen Theatre in downtown Bozeman presents a full roster of film screenings and live musical events throughout the month of June. On Friday, June 9, the Summer Western Series continues with Henry Fonda in "My Darling Clementine" at 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, June 10, The Ellen Theatre presents a Dad's Pick screening of "The Great Escape." The 1963 American World War II epic is based on an escape by British Commonwealth prisoners from a German prisoner-of-war camp and stars Steve McQueen, James Garner and Richard Attenborough. The film begins at 7:30 p.m.

The big band sounds of the Glenn Miller Orchestra return to The Ellen for a night of jump, jive and lively entertainment on Thursday, June 15. The 19-piece powerhouse group will play a selection of popular hits from The Glenn Miller Songbook including "In the Mood," "Little Brown Jug," "Moonlight Serenade," "Chattanooga Choo-Choo," "I've Got a Gal



The Glenn Miller Orchestra performs at The Ellen Theatre on Thursday, June 15. The rest of the month features Friday film screenings of cowboy classics and family favorites. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ELLEN THEATRE

in Kalamazoo" and "Tuxedo Junction" beginning at 7 p.m.

Sponsored by The Western Cafe of Bozeman, the cowboy classics continue with a Father's Day weekend screening of "Blazing Saddles," starring Gene Wilder, on Friday, June 16; followed by another installment of The Ellen Classics Series with "The Wizard of Oz" on Saturday, June 17 at 7:30 p.m.

The following Friday, June 23, Montana's own Gary Cooper appears in "Man of the West." "Support Your Local Gunfighter," starring James Garner, closes out the month on Friday, June 30. The Summer Western Series continues through August.

*The Ellen Theatre is located at 17 W. Main St. in Bozeman. All movies start at 7:30 p.m. The Ellen Saloon opens for refreshments at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available at [theellentheatre.com](http://theellentheatre.com). For questions or to purchase tickets over the phone, call The Ellen box office at (406) 585-5885.*

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# EVENTS CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 9 –  
THURSDAY, JUNE 22

**\*If your event falls between  
June 23 and July 6, please  
submit it by June 16**

## Big Sky

FRIDAY, JUNE 9

Jimmy Smith System  
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

Pinky and The Floyd  
Rainbow Ranch, 8 p.m.

Trivia Night  
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

9th Annual Gallatin Weed Pull  
Portal Creek Flats, 10 a.m.

Lone Peak High School  
Graduation  
Lone Peak High School  
Gym, 1 p.m.

Mike Haring  
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

The Red Elvises  
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 12

Monday Funday  
320 Guest Ranch, 5 p.m.

The New Rules of Networking  
Buck’s T-4, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 13

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

Women’s Weekly Golf Clinic  
Big Sky Golf Course, 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Top Shelf Toastmasters  
Town Center Sales Office, 12 p.m.

Bingo  
Riverhouse Grill, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

Big Sky Farmers’ Market  
Fire Pit Park, 5 p.m.

Lone Peak Anime Club  
Luminous A/V, 6 p.m.

Resort Tax Final Appropriations  
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center,  
6 p.m.

Moana, Movie on the Lawn  
Rainbow Ranch, 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

Ralph’s Pass Grand Opening  
Ralph’s Pass Trail, all day

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

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

Midnight River Choir  
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

Cars 3 Starts  
Lone Peak Cinema, showings TBD

Ribbon Cutting at HAIR Shop of Big Sky  
HAIR Shop of Big Sky, 5 p.m.

Tom Marino  
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

Trivia Night  
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

Weekly Golf Clinic  
Big Sky Golf Course, 12 p.m.

Junior Weekly Golf Clinic  
Big Sky Golf Course, 3 p.m.

The Sugar Daddies  
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 18

Wyatt Hurts  
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 19

Monday Funday  
320 Guest Ranch, 5 p.m.

Wyatt Hurts  
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 20

Women’s Weekly Golf Clinic  
Big Sky Golf Course, 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Top Shelf Toastmasters  
Town Center Sales Office, 12 p.m.

Bingo  
Riverhouse Grill, 6:30 p.m.

Brian Stumpf  
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21

Farmers’ Market  
Fire Pit Park, 5 p.m.

Lone Peak Anime Club  
Luminous A/V, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 22

Soul Shine Celebration  
Town Center Stage, 5 p.m.

Music in the Mountains: The Lil Smokies  
Town Center Stage, 7 p.m.

The Sweet Lillies  
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

## Bozeman

FRIDAY, JUNE 9

Finding Your Creative Community  
Bozeman Public Library, 8:15 a.m.

Kids Birding Walk  
Cherry River, 9:30 a.m.

Art Walk  
Downtown, 6 p.m.

My Darling Clementine  
Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Introduction to Birding  
Sourdough Trail, 8 a.m.

Blunderbuss Yard Sale & Barter Faire  
Blunderbuss, 9 a.m.

Watershed Festival and Fishing Derby  
Fish Technology Center, 9 a.m.

Brianna Moore  
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

The Great Escape  
Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

Artist Reception with Kara Tripp  
Lockhorn Cider House, 5 p.m.

Charles Ellsworth  
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 12

Trail Tracking Kids Walk  
The M Trail, 9:30 a.m.

Tom and Chelsea Cook  
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 13

Mike & Mike  
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

The Durfees  
Crawford Theater, Emerson Cultural  
Center, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

Walking for Injury Prevention  
Gallatin Regional Park, 11:30 a.m.

Nike’s Echo  
Hager Auditorium, Museum of the  
Rockies, 6 p.m.

Paw-Casso  
Dee-O-Gee, 6 p.m.

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

Macbeth, Shakespeare in the Parks  
MSU Grove, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

Tour of the Bozeman Sculpture Park  
Gallagator Trail, 5:30 p.m.

Composting and Soil Maintenance  
Workshop  
Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Art on the Rocks  
Rocking R Bar, 6:30 p.m.

Glenn Miller Orchestra  
Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

The Dirt Farmers  
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Macbeth, Shakespeare in the Parks  
MSU Grove, 8 p.m.

Folk Family Revival  
Live From The Divide, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

Bugging Out Kids Walk  
Drinking Horse Mountain Trail, 9:30 a.m.

Blazing Saddles  
Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Macbeth, Shakespeare in the Parks  
MSU Grove, 8 p.m.

Kimberly Dunn  
Live From The Divide, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

Gallatin Valley Farmers’ Market Starts  
Haynes Pavilion, Gallatin County  
Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.

Railroad History with Rufus Cone  
Gallagator Trail, 10 a.m.

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

The Wizard of Oz  
Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Macbeth, Shakespeare in the Parks  
MSU Grove, 8 p.m.

Joseph Huber  
Live From The Divide, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 18

World Premiere  
Ellen Theatre, 5:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Bluebelly Junction  
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 19

Wonderful Water Kids Walk  
Tuckerman Park, 9:30 a.m.

Major Minor  
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

Flathead Cavalry  
Live From The Divide, 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 20

Tails & Trails Dog Hikes  
Dee-O-Gee, 5 p.m.

Wildflowers and Invasive Weeds  
Drinking Horse Mountain Trail, 5:30  
p.m.

Stand Up Paddle Board Clinic  
East Gallatin Recreation Area, 5:30  
p.m.

Dusty Pockets  
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Whale Rider  
Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Shane Smith on the Saints  
Live From The Divide, 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21

Stand Up Paddle Board Yoga  
East Gallatin Recreation Area, 5:30  
p.m.

Solstice Stroll  
East Gallatin Recreation Area, 6 p.m.

You Never Can Tell, Shakespeare in  
the Parks  
MSU Grove, 8 p.m.

Walt Wilkins  
Live From The Divide, 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 22

Walking into Fitness  
Bozeman Pond Park, 6 p.m.

Kevin Grastorf  
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

You Never Can Tell, Shakespeare in  
the Parks  
MSU Grove, 8 p.m.

Sam Riggs  
Live From The Divide, 9 p.m.

RECURRING EVENTS:

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.

Mobile Mondays  
North Lawn, Emerson Cultural Center,  
Mondays at 11 a.m.

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

Bogert Farmers’ Market  
Bogert Park, Tuesdays at 5 p.m.

Cribbage Night  
Eagles Lodge, Tuesdays at 6:25 p.m.

Bingo  
Rocking R Bar, 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.

Bluegrass Night  
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, JUNE 9

People of Yellowstone  
Book Signing  
Yellowstone Gateway  
Museum, 5:30 p.m.

Travis Yost  
Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar, 6 p.m.

Crazy Mountain Express  
Music Ranch Montana, 7:30 p.m.

Tessy Lou & The Shotgun Stars  
Chico Saloon, 9 p.m.

Tom Catmull  
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Maintain the Shane Volunteer Project  
Shane Center, 1 p.m.

Some Day Miss Pray  
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

The Red Elvises with Joey Fender &  
The 55’s  
Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

People of Yellowstone with Jim  
Halfpenny  
Track Education Center, Gardiner, 7  
p.m.

Tessy Lou & The Shotgun Stars  
Chico Saloon, 9 p.m.

Way Station  
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.



# EVENTS CALENDAR

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11**

Whitewater Ramble with Walcrik  
Pine Creek Lodge, 6 p.m.

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

Erin & The Project  
Chico Saloon, 8 p.m.

**MONDAY, JUNE 12**

Christy Hays  
Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

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

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14**

Livingston Farmers' Market  
Miles Band Shell Park, 4:30 p.m.

Danny Bee  
Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

Calista & Donny  
Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 15**

Sapphire Meyer  
Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar,  
6 p.m.

The Bus Driver Tour  
Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

The Kitchen Dwellers with Sweet  
Lillies  
Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 16**

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

Upper Yellowstone Roundup  
Rodeo  
Gardiner, 6 p.m.

The Fossils with Cool McCool &  
The Spies  
Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

A Musical Journey Through Latin  
America  
Dulcie Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

www.Twang  
Chico Saloon, 9 p.m.

Los Marvelitos  
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17**

Maintain the Shane Volunteer  
Project  
Shane Center, 1 p.m.

Tom Catmull  
Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar,  
6 p.m.

Upper Yellowstone Roundup  
Rodeo  
Gardiner, 6 p.m.

M.O.T.H. with the Salamanders  
and King Ropes  
Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

www.Twang  
Chico Saloon, 9 p.m.

TransZend  
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 18**

Ian Thomas  
Chico Saloon, 9 p.m.

Monday, June 19  
Paul Lee Kupfer  
Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

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

**TUESDAY, JUNE 20**

Jamie Harrison Reading  
Elk River Books, 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21**

Livingston Farmers' Market  
Miles Band Shell Park, 4:30 p.m.

Juan M. Soria  
Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 22**

Wes Urbaniak  
Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar,  
6 p.m.

Joshua James with Rivvrs  
Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

Charles Ellsworth  
Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

## West Yellowstone

**SATURDAY, JUNE 10**

Peter and the Starcatcher Starts  
Playmill Theatre, various show  
times through Aug. 31

Yellowstone Half Marathon  
Old Airport Road, 7 a.m.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11**

Train Day  
Yellowstone Historic Center, all day

**MONDAY, JUNE 12**

People of Yellowstone book  
signing  
Old Faithful Inn, all day

**TUESDAY, JUNE 13**

People of Yellowstone book  
signing  
Old Faithful Inn, all day

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14**

People of Yellowstone book  
signing  
Old Faithful Inn, all day

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo  
Highway 20, 8 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 15**

People of Yellowstone book  
signing  
Old Faithful Inn, all day

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo  
Highway 20, 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 16**

People of Yellowstone book  
signing  
Old Faithful Inn, all day

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo  
Highway 20, 8 p.m.

Stars Over Yellowstone  
Madison Campground, 10:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17**

Safe Solar Observing  
Old Faithful Visitor Education  
Center, 12 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo  
Highway 20, 8 p.m.

Stars Over Yellowstone  
Madison Campground, 10:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21**

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo  
Highway 20, 8 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 22**

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo  
Highway 20, 8 p.m.

## Ennis

**FRIDAY, JUNE 9**

Irish Festival  
Virginia City, 5 p.m.

Unfortunate Cookies  
Willie's Distillery, 5:30 p.m.

Richard Flager Artist Reception  
Elling House, Virginia City, 5:30 p.m.

Mike Dowling Concert  
Elling House, Virginia City, 7 p.m.

Aran Buzzas  
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 10**

Irish Festival  
Virginia City, all day

Nathan North  
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11**

Irish Festival  
Virginia City, all day

Terry the Frog Dog  
Willie's Distillery, 2 p.m.

Aaron Williams  
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14**

Madison Farm to Fork Farmers'  
Market  
Ennis High School, 4 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 16**

Dan Dubuque  
Willie's Distillery, 5:30 p.m.

Fox and Bones  
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17**

Brothel Days  
Virginia City, all day

Heather Lingle  
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 18**

Ennis Lions Club Father's Day Fishing  
Derby  
Lions Club Park, 10 a.m.

Ed & Katie Coyle  
Willie's Distillery, 2 p.m.

Erin and the Project  
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 20**

Wild Skills Ennis  
Ennis Lions Club Park, 8:30 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21**

Madison Farm to Fork Farmers'  
Market  
Ennis High School, 4 p.m.

## Monday Funday

320 Guest Ranch  
5 p.m. on Mondays

## Art Exhibit: Shawna Moore

Gallatin River Gallery  
Big Sky Montana  
June 13 - July 29, 2017

## 9th Annual Weed Pull

June 10 at Murdoch's in  
Four Corners

## 4th Annual Ice Box Open

Big Sky Golf Course  
June 23

## Lone Peak High School Graduation

June 10 at 1 p.m.  
WMPAC



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

### Announcements

Toddler Storytime  
Monday 6/12 and 6/19  
10:30 A.M.

### 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

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Photo by Matthew Millman

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## Cowboy's Quill

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

# Alex Honnold and Tommy Caldwell: On the evolution of climbing

BY DOUG HARE  
EBS STAFF

If you asked the mountaineering community who the best living climber in the world is, the two most common answers would likely be Alex Honnold and Tommy Caldwell. (Unfortunately, the recent death of the “Swiss Machine” Ueli Steck near Mount Everest makes that question easier to answer.)

Caldwell and Honnold are old friends and climbing partners. Last month they were training in the mecca of the climbing world, Yosemite National Park, logging countless pitches on terrain that few would even consider climbable.

On June 3, Honnold did something thought to be impossible. He free-soloed the Freerider route on Yosemite's El Capitan. With nothing but rubber shoes and a chalk bag, he scaled over a half-mile of vertical granite in less than four hours—an almost incomprehensible feat. Caldwell, who was at home with his wife and children in Colorado, called the achievement the “‘moon landing’ of free soloing,” in a June 3 National Geographic story.

Both Honnold and Caldwell have recently published autobiographical books that examine their roles as the preeminent climbers of their generation. Honnold's “Alone on the Wall” recounts many of his accomplishments that led up to his ropeless ascent of “El Cap.” What emerges is not a portrait of a reckless daredevil but more so an athlete trying to test himself, and an artist who sees rock formations as canvases. His kind of artistry just requires more physical endurance and mental stamina than most mediums.

In the end, Honnold's motivations for climbing, and the secrets of his seeming fearlessness, remain obscure. “I don't claim to understand the inner workings of Alex's mind, but I know one thing for certain, Alex lives to climb, not to cheat death,” wrote Caldwell, in a June 5 story published by Outside.

Caldwell's “The Push” might be a more satisfying book. His introspective musings provide a window into the psychology of elite climbers—and what drove him to spend seven years to successfully make a first ascent of the Dawn Wall on El Cap. Perhaps it's his wife and kids, or having sawed off his finger and re-learned how to climb without it, but Caldwell comes off as more relatable, more human and more down-to-earth than his superhuman climbing buddy.

We can learn from both of them. These two friends share an incredible ability to focus, a humility despite their enormous talents, and a pioneering spirit that would help anyone achieve excellence in whatever field of endeavor they chose. Both memoirs hold insights into how perseverance and resolve are essential to overcoming adversity and living life without regret.

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



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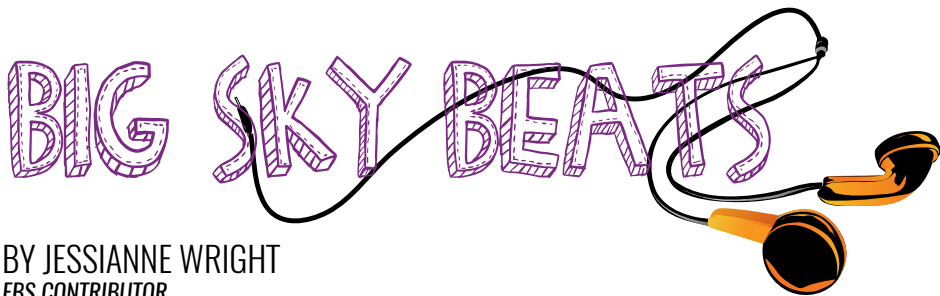
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BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

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

For many Americans the open road is synonymous with fun and adventure. It means travel. It means unknowing. And often times it means summer. Perhaps you’ll take a road trip this summer, driving from coast to coast across the U.S. Maybe you’re trying to visit every town or county in the state. Or maybe you just plan to take a day trip to a special place across the way.

Whatever your plans this summer, we hope the open road takes you where you want to go and offers you plenty of laughter along the way. Here’s a selection of songs just right to kick-off a summer on the open road. Enjoy it with the windows down and the music turned up.

- 1. “Born to Run,” Bruce Springsteen
- 2. “Roll on Down the Highway,” Bachman-Turner Overdrive
- 3. “Interstate Love Song,” Stone Temple Pilots
- 4. “Where the Streets Have No Name,” U2
- 5. “Life is a Highway,” Tom Cochrane
- 6. “4th of July,” Shooter Jennings
- 7. “America,” Simon & Garfunkel
- 8. “Road Trippin’,” Red Hot Chilli Peppers
- 9. “Wicked Twisted Road,” Reckless Kelly
- 10. “On the Road Again,” Willie Nelson

# American Life in Poetry: Column 637

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

Judith Harris’s poetry has appeared in this column several times. She lives in Washington, D.C. Here’s a meditation from her most recent book of poems, “Night Garden,” from Tiger Bark Press.

How Quiet  
By Judith Harris

How quiet is the spruce,  
the wind twills  
through the uppermost tier  
of splayed leaves.  
Now the song of a bird  
like the squeaky lock  
over a canoe’s oar,  
followed by startling chirps,  
the sky pushing its clouds  
like sailboats,  
and I think, what kind of God  
keeps himself secret  
so that to find him out  
we have to seek, as children do  
for something like the beetle  
scuttling between grass,  
hidden in plain sight.

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 Judith Harris, “How Quiet,” from “Night Garden,” (Tiger Bark Press, 2013). Poem reprinted by permission of Judith Harris 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.

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