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Sept. 29 - Oct. 12, 2017 Volume 8 // Issue #20

Big Sky youth overcomes near-fatal horse accident

**Big Horn volleyball triumphs** 

J-1 visas hang in balance

LPHS sophomore summits Matterhorn





#### Sept. 29 – Oct. 12, 2017 Volume 8, Issue No. 20

Owned and published in Big Sky, Montana

**PUBLISHER** Eric Ladd

**EDITORIAL** MANAGING EDITOR Tyler Allen

SENIOR EDITOR Amanda Eggert

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Sarah Gianelli

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT Bay Stephens

CREATIVE LEAD DESIGNER Carie Birkmeier

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER** Marisa Specht

SENIOR VIDEO EDITOR Ryan Weaver

LEAD VIDEOGRAPHER Jennings Barmore

SALES AND OPERATIONS CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER Megan Paulson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SALES AND MARKETING E.J. Daws

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION Alexis Deaton

MEDIA AND EVENTS DIRECTOR Ersin Ozer

DISTRIBUTION DIRECTOR Doug Hare

SALES ASSOCIATE Jeff Palmer

MARKETING MANAGER Blythe Beaubien

#### **CONTRIBUTORS**

Nathan Azopardi, Julia Barton, Patricia Bauchman, Lydia Bartoszek, Jana Bounds, Stephen Camelio, Anne Cantrell, Jackie Rainford Corcoran, Jeannie Counce, Jeff Daniels, Jolene Ewert-Hintz, Beth Hoffman, Stanislav Honzik, Amy Hunter, Maya Johnsen, Adam Johnson, Ted Kooser, Dorianne Laux, Derek Lennon, Scott Mechura, Colleen Montgomery, Chris Samuels, Adrian Sanchez-Gonzalez, Ethan Schumacher, Robert Staley, Patrick Straub, Katie Thomas, Matt Volz, Todd Wilkinson, Ciara Wolfe, Jessianne Wright

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**ON THE COVER:** Two consecutive springs, the same cow had twins behind the photographer's cabin along the Henry's Fork of the Snake River in eastern Idaho, about 20 miles from West Yellowstone. This photo, taken when the calves were a day or two old, was taken on May 25. PHOTO BY PATRICIA BAUCHMAN

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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor allow EBS readers to express views and share how they would like to effect change. These are not Thank You notes. Letters should be 250 words or less, respectful, ethical, accurate, and proofread for grammar and content. We reserve the right to edit letters, and will not publish individual grievances about specific businesses or letters that are abusive, malicious or potentially libelous. Include: full name, address, phone number and title. Submit to media@outlaw.partners

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Lone Peak High School's Homecoming royalty was recognized during half-time of the Sept. 22 Homecoming football game. From left: Jackson Wade, Bryn Iskenderian, Brooke Botha, Lyli McCarthy, Nolan Schumacher, Max Bowman and Katie Bagby. PHOTO BY DOUG HARE

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

**CORRECTION:** In paid content submitted by Lone Peak Physical Therapy on page 71 of the Sept. 15 issue of EBS, the sentence that begins with "When you're skiing, more pressure should be on the outside knee," should have read, "more pressure should be on the outside ski."



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#### 4 September 29 - October 12, 2017



# NEWS IN BRIEF



#### Celebrate fall with free pumpkins and fun at the Community Fall Festival

#### EBS STAFF

The Big Sky Community Organization and the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce are partnering once again to host the second annual Community Fall Festival and Great Pumpkin Giveaway on Saturday, Oct. 14, at the Big Sky Community Park.

Other local non-profits, including the Big Sky Community Food Bank, will sponsor a food drive and there will be many other family-friendly activities and games to celebrate fall.

The day begins at 10:30 a.m. with a 10-km trail run along Lone Mountain Ranch's Reflector Trail and the BSCO's Black Diamond, Little Willow Way and Crail Ranch trails.

Interested participants can register online at racemontana.com or on the day of the event.

After the race, beginning at 11:30 a.m., the activities continue with horse and wagon hayrides courtesy of Lone Mountain Ranch. Other kid-friendly activities will include old fashioned games from Historic Crail Ranch, a cookie decorating booth, bobbing for apples and story time.

From 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., the chamber presents the fourth annual Great Pumpkin Giveaway, sponsored this year by Big Sky Build. Attendees are encouraged to take home a pumpkin and take advantage of the photo opportunity.

In addition to live music, the Totally Tasty food truck will be on site and Lone Peak Brewery will be pouring the microbrews.

The winner of the Big Sky Community Pass, a prize package with a value of more than \$5,000, will also be drawn at the event. Prizes include a Big Sky Resort VIP parking pass, a summer mountain bike haul pass, a four-night stay at the Huntley Lodge, a family pack of three shows at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, and an abundance of freebies at local dining establishments and businesses.

Only 100 raffle tickets will be sold. Tickets may be purchased in advance at bscomt.org and it is not required to be present to win. All proceeds go towards enhancing BSCO programs and facilities. Through last year's sale the organization was able to expand Camp Big Sky, add additional summer programs and fund trail development plans.

Visit bscomt.prg/fall-festival for more information.

#### LPHS students start clothing drive to aid in hurricane relief

#### EBS STAFF

Lone Peak High School's Interact Club is organizing a clothing drive to lend support to the victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas.

# Award-winning author discusses wild and scenic rivers

#### GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

Award-winning author Tim Palmer will speak about the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 12 at Lone Peak Brewery. The talk will feature rivers protected under the system and highlight key people who have championed the program.

Palmer is a noted photographer and author of 25 books about rivers, the environment and adventure travel, including his latest book, "Wild and Scenic Rivers: An American Legacy."

"Wild and Scenic Rivers" presents a portrait of the world's premier system for the protection of free-flowing rivers. Palmer reveals the history and essential policies of the wild and scenic program and showcases 160 color photos of designated rivers from all parts of the country.

In 1968 Congress passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which preserves certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural and recreational values in a free-flowing condition. Less than one quarter of 1 percent of our nation's rivers are protected as wild and scenic. Montana has 368 miles protected through the program on the Flathead and Missouri rivers.

Palmer's presentation is hosted by the Gallatin River Task Force through a partnership with American Rivers and Lone Peak Brewery.

For more information contact Kristin Gardner at kristin@ gallatinrivertaskforce.org.

# Study: Montana's average temperature continues to increase

BOZEMAN (AP) - Montana's average temperature continues to increase, leading the fire and growing seasons to last longer and causing drought conditions to increase in frequency and duration, a new report said.

The Montana Climate Assessment, carried out by the Montana University System's Institute on Ecosystem, suggests Montana may need to start storing more water and farmers and ranchers may need to switch to more drought-tolerant crops or grazing grasses.

"So much of our ranging production is irrigation and timing, so the snowpack and these different variables will help us start to make more insightful decisions for our ranchers moving forward," said Errol Rice, executive vice president of the Montana Stockgrowers Association.

Interact is a Rotary-sponsored service club at LPHS. After learning of the devastation wreaked upon the southern U.S., students involved with the club were inspired to do what they could to help. The students have set up eight clothing donation boxes located around Big Sky. Those interested in participating in the clothing drive can stop by Big Sky Western Bank, American Bank, First Security Bank, the post office, Ophir Elementary School and Lone Peak High School.

Clothing of any size or color is appreciated, and everything donated will be sent directly to the victims of Hurricane Harvey. "We are very blessed in our community," said Interact Vice President Carter Johnsen. "It is important to give back and to help where we can, while we can."

Harvey was classified as a Category 4 storm and made landfall in Texas on Aug. 25 with wind speeds up to 130 mph. The storm brought devastation to southern Texas and the people living there, dropping more than 40 inches of precipitation on eastern Texas in a four-day period. While the Red Cross has been providing resources and aid in the area, LPHS student are worried relief efforts in Texas will lessen as the focus shifts to Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria.

Donations will be accepted through Nov. 1 and will be sent to Houston through a connection the LPHS club has made with another Interact club in that area. "We would appreciate any and all donations," said Interact President Katie Hoffman.

The two-year study, released Sept. 20, looked at past climate data and the impact on the state's water, forests and agriculture.

The assessment is meant to help Montanans "plan, make wise decisions and become more resilient," Montana State University Professor Cathy Whitlock said.

The authors plan to travel the state over the next year to discuss the findings.

Between 1950 and 2015, Montana saw an average 2 to 3 degree Fahrenheit increase in temperature, said Kelsey Jensco, state climatologist. "That's double what the United States as a whole has seen." The study suggests future temperature changes will be larger in magnitude and occur more rapidly.

The authors plan to expand their work in the future to address the effects of Montana's climate on tourism and recreation, fish and wildlife, human health, and energy development.

#### **OPINION**



# Shoulder season in Big Sky is here and the streets are thinning out. What's your definition of a local?



**Tom Sharp** Big Sky, Montana

"Somebody who wants to live here for the lifestyle and is not just here for just a couple weeks a year and is not here just to visit. A local is somebody who lives here yearround, participates in the activities and the culture of Big Sky."



Ashley Valentini Big Sky, Montana

"Someone who knows how to drive through the [Big Sky Conoco] gas station appropriately."



**Chris Kepler** Big Sky, Montana

"My definition of a local is somebody who lives in the community full-time, not someone who visits, not someone who owns property but somebody who lives here continuously."



Mclayn Ryan San Diego, California

"I think a local is someone who's lived here between, I don't know, five to ten years. Seven-year mark maybe."



The Big Sky Fire Department will be holding nine public information meetings regarding the November 7, 2017 Mill



**DISTRICT OFFICER POSITION AVAILABLE** 

Levy Increase request.

All meetings will be held at Big Sky Fire Station 1 650 Rainbow Trout Run in Westfork Meadows.

If you cannot attend one of these meetings but would like to speak with someone about the Mill Levy request, please contact BSFD at 995-2100 or wfarhat@bigskyfire.org.

> October 4 9:00 am, 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm

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October 23 9:00 am, 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Tours of the Station 1 facilities will also be available at these times.

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# **Letter:** Small businesses thriving in Big Sky

I was surprised to read in EBS's Sept. 15 issue that the small business landscape in our community is "in flux" ("Big Sky's small business landscape in flux"). With great respect to your paper and its staff, I wholeheartedly disagree.

As the Membership Director of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, I feel that small business is thriving in Big Sky. Our Chamber of Commerce currently has a record number of members—over 450 and counting—62 percent of which are at our small business, or "Meadow" level of membership. Small business owners from surrounding areas are watching Big Sky as an undeniable location for future growth opportunities. Current and longstanding small businesses in our community are coming off a fantastic summer season and are busy looking ahead to winter.

The three businesses mentioned in your article each have a unique story to tell. I've personally been lucky enough to have the opportunity to work directly with all of them, and remain grateful for their contributions to our business climate.

As your chamber, we are working hard every day to enhance a program of work that offers small business training and networking opportunities to support our business community. We remain committed to working together to advance our community priorities of housing, transportation, water, energy and community development.

Our doors at the corner of highways 191 and 64 are open for anyone to stop on by and chat. We're always working for you, and are grateful for your support of our mission to support the development of a world-class community that is Montana's premier location to live, work and play.

# **Letter:** Big Sky should use best available wastewater treatment technology

Several weeks ago at the Bozeman Public Library, Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions held a forum to discuss the challenges associated with protecting the water quality of the Gallatin and Madison Rivers in light of continued development in the Big Sky area. After the presentation, there was a question and answer period. The first question asked before the crowd of 50 was would they like to see treated waste water discharged into the Gallatin River. Not a single person raised their hand.

After the question and answer session the participants were asked to engage others in topics that interested them. Even with most people having a diverging interest or background, there did seem to be a consensus on two fronts. One, that people needed and wanted action and the second, the great concern about the future of water quality as a result of proposed action.

There were several options discussed; some were more favorable than others. Many of the clean water advocates agreed they should use their best efforts to ensure that treated waste water would not discharged into the Gallatin or Madison Rivers. And that is as it should be. Big Sky should use the best available treatment technology to treat the waste water. From that point, the water should then be injected into the ground and mixed with other water so that it can be diluted and reused as drinking water for Big Sky residents.

- Clint Nagel, Bozeman, Montana

WORKSHOPS & SPECIAL EVENTS

- Margo Magnant, Big Sky, Montana

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## **Obit:** Dennis Allen Jeck



Dennis Allen Jeck, age 69, of Big Sky, Montana passed away on Sept. 15, 2017. Dennis, affectionately known as Denny, was born Nov. 15, 1947, in Springfield, Illinois to parents Marvin Otto Jeck and Louis Vera Jeck. He was raised alongside his sister Karen just outside of Chicago.

After Dennis' graduation from Proviso West High School, he attended the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Afterward he began a lifelong career marked by a devotion to aviation. Denny served in the U.S. Air Force during Vietnam, flying an RF-4 from 1972-1978.

His service continued in the Air Force Reserves until 1985, at which time his aviation career continued with Eastern Airlines and later United Airlines. Denny retired from his flying career as a United Airlines Captain in 2007, although his love of aviation never dwindled.

Denny was a loving, caring and devoted husband to his wife Kathi Kihm. He never faltered in his provision of love, support, humor and guidance to his children Jennifer and Jonathan. He enjoyed fly fishing, cross country skiing, playing disc golf, traveling, trap shooting and competing as a sharp shooter. While in retirement, Denny and Kathi decided to make Big Sky their home after several beautiful fly fishing trips. Together, they moved from south Florida and completed building the home they created in 2015. Denny will be deeply missed by all who had the opportunity to know him.

Denny is survived by his better half, Kathi, his daughter Jennifer Peterson and her husband Eric of Austin, Texas; son Jonathan Jeck of Meridian, Miss., and sister Karen Gentilcore of Las Vegas; as well as four grandchildren and two greatgrandchildren.

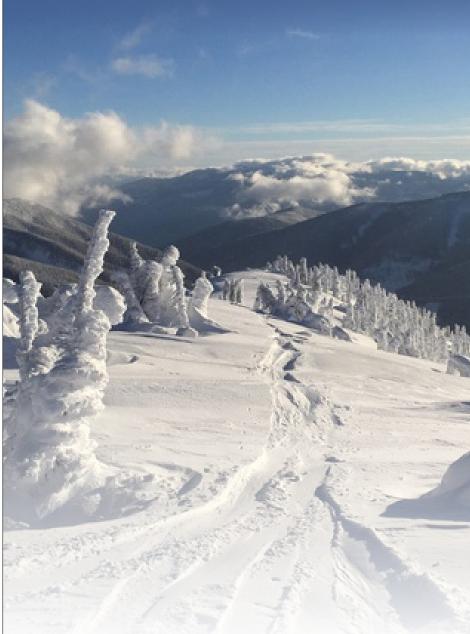
A funeral mass for Dennis was held Sept. 21, at the Big Sky Chapel. Memorials and donations may be made in Denny's honor to the American Cancer Society. Condolences and memories may be shared with his family at dahlcares.com.



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# Uncertainty over future of J-1 Visas worries resort towns like Big Sky

DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – An executive order issued by the Donald Trump administration in April called "Buy American, Hire American," signaled its intention to curtail or eliminate various visa programs for foreign workers. This was alarming to many resort towns and national parks which rely heavily on the J-1 Visa Exchange Program to staff positions during peak seasons.

Overseen by the U.S. State Department, the J-1 Visa is a non-immigrant visa category that offers approved foreigners from over 200 countries the opportunity to work in the U.S. as part of a cultural work or study exchange program. Founded in 1961 during the Dwight Eisenhower presidency, the program was intended to improve relations, mutual understanding, and cultural ties between the U.S. and foreign nations by allowing participants to work or study in the United States for a short period of time.

In late August, the Wall Street Journal reported that, in line with BAHA, senior White House staff are considering "major reductions" to, or the eliminations of certain J-1 programs, including Summer Work Travel, Au Pair, Intern, Trainee and Camp Counselor visas.

The uncertainty over the future over the J-1 program has many employers in towns with tourist-driven economies, and pronounced peak seasons, concerned about being able to operate at full capacity, with some business owners wondering if they would be able to stay open at all.

"We certainly understand the importance of 'hiring American,' and we make every effort possible to hire as many people from Bozeman and Big Sky as possible," said David Mars, general manager at Montage Hotels & Resorts, which operates the Spanish Peaks Mountain Club. "However, the reality is that we simply cannot find enough people to fill the positions. J-1 exchange participants don't displace American

workers, they supplement them."

During peak seasons at Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, Mars estimated that about a quarter of his employees are J-1 participants. Most of these J-1 Visas fall under the category of work and travel, with a few being Internship J-1s that are hospitality specific.

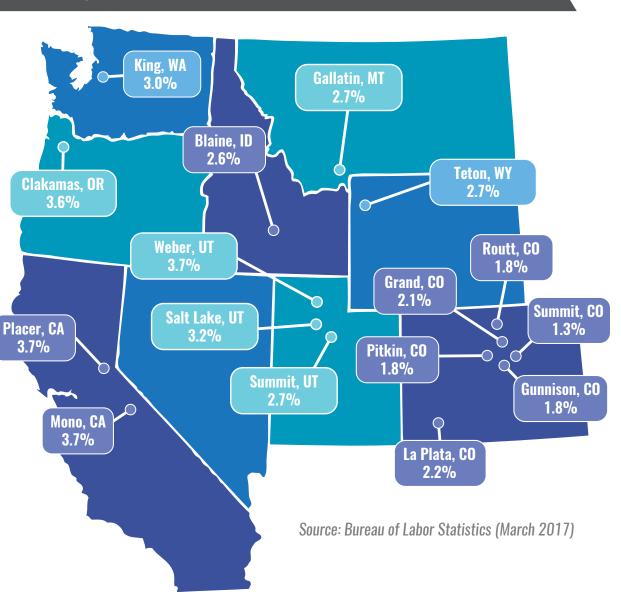
Big Sky Chamber of Congress CEO Candace Carr Strauss was also quick to point out the reliance on the J-1 program in seasonal, tourist-driven economies like Big Sky. "As a mountain resort destination, we are highly dependent upon the J-1 Visa Program to provide us upwards of 350 employees annually, who assume vital seasonal roles into late spring and late summer," she said. and Spanish Peaks, said, "It would be more than sad to shut down this program ... I've met so many kind people from different cultures. To be in a different country, speaking a different language, sometimes working full time for the first time and not living with your parents is an intense mode of learning."

Acarley pointed out that the cultural exchange goes two ways. "The people we work with sometimes didn't even know our countries existed," she said with a smile. "Trump talks about stealing jobs. That's not the case. Businesses, whether in Snowshoe [West Virginia], Park City [Utah], or Big Sky wouldn't be able to stay open without an additional means of finding workers. Most Americans are not interested in seasonal jobs in remote locations."

Each year, approximately 300,000 overseas workers are granted J-1 visas, with about one third of these falling in the categories mentioned above that are slated to be reviewed, reduced or possibly eliminated altogether.

Recently, 17 U.S. senators, including Montana's Sen. Steve Daines, and 34 members of the House of Representatives, including Rep. Greg Gianforte, have signed letters to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson urging him not to make any changes to the J-1 program.

The U.S. Travel Association, in which Visit Big Sky is a stakeholder, recently released a statement that said that while they support protecting American jobs, ending or reducing the J-1 cultural exchange program would be a mistake. The statement also noted: "Travel and tourism businesses, including attractions, parks and hotels will suffer, because they will not be able to serve as many visitors without access to these staffing resources."



## Unemployment rates in select ski counties

Strauss noted that local businesses' ability to fully staff would be greatly diminished if they were limited to a domestic labor pool. "It simply doesn't exist," she said, noting that recent estimates of the unemployment rate around Bozeman and Big Sky are hovering around 2 percent.

Uncertainty over the future of the cultural exchange program also has J-1 participants concerned over their future prospects to live and work in the United States.

Raisa Velasquez Acarley, a 25-year-old Peruvian woman who has completed the J-1 program five times and has worked at both Moonlight Basin

# Effluent snowmaking explored by water forum

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

BIG SKY - After breaking for the summer, the Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum started digging into the most controversial and challenging piece of their three-pronged effort during a Sept. 21 meeting in the Big Sky Water and Sewer District board room: wastewater.

Forum facilitators encountered resistance to a direct discharge to the Gallatin River during a well-attended meeting at the Bozeman Public Library on Sept. 18. Gallatin River Task Force Executive Director Kristin Gardner, forum facilitator Karen Filipovich and watershed scientist Jeff Dunn presented the challenges facing the 36-stakeholder forum, as well as potential solutions to address those challenges.

During the Q&A and comment portion of the meeting, little support among attendees could be found for a direct discharge solution for wastewater storage and disposal, which has been explored by the BSWSD with greater interest recently as growth in Big Sky has accelerated. The BSWSD is approaching its disposal capacity, and it could hit its upper disposal limit as early as 2022.

"This is not just in Big Sky, this is watershed-wide," said Susan Duncan, who sits on the board of the Greater Gallatin Watershed Council, at the Bozeman meeting. "It's everybody's problem."

At the stakeholder meeting in Big Sky, Dunn presented five wastewater treatment and disposal scenarios that would accommodate Big Sky's growth, and each of them contained some measure of direct discharge into the Gallatin, which would involve a permit from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the construction of a pipe that would discharge treated effluent into the Gallatin River or one of its tributaries.

Enthusiasm among the stakeholders for snowmaking with effluent—which could potentially minimize or nullify the need for a pipe to the Gallatin-grew as the meeting progressed.

"It's all about level of treatment and DEQ permitting—if those things could be resolved, then our community could embrace snowmaking," said Big Sky Resort General Manager Taylor Middleton, adding that it would be a smart move given climate change and warming temperatures across the state.

"We currently snow-make with about 100 million gallons of water, but we could snow-make with 300 million gallons of water," Middleton said. "If you really got after it up in the bowl, you might be able to make a glacier up there."

BSWSD General Manager Ron Edwards said the golf community has embraced irrigation with treated effluent for 40 years. "We play in the desert, we play all over the country and nobody thinks twice about it," he said. "The ski industry is years behind in this whole concept."

"It's going to come down to water quality, and you're going to have to have pictures of us drinking the water," Middleton said. "I'm going to have to drink a glass of the water."

"You would be the perfect person," responded GRTF Education and Communications Coordinator Stephanie Lynn, eliciting a round of laughter throughout the room.

The permit that's required from DEQ is the same one required for a pipeline to the Gallatin, said municipal engineer Ray Armstrong, who designed the plant's current facilities. He added that DEQ appeared to be on board with issuing such a permit based on earlier conversations conducted when a pilot project was pursued.

No such permits for using effluent to make snow have been granted in the state of Montana, pointed out Big Sky Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Chair David O'Connor. "I think it's important to acknowledge that this particular solution is not a tool that we have in the box that we can choose to pull out—it's a tool we would have to forge on the ground and put in the box in the first place."

"This is not going to happen immediately, even if you love it," facilitator Filipovich said.

Gardner said the forum needs more information about how much wastewater could be disposed with snowmaking to help the group move forward in their consideration of the options before them.

The next meeting of the Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum is scheduled for Nov. 3, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the BSWSD boardroom. A community information meeting with the Rotary Club of Big Sky is scheduled for Oct. 18.

EBS Contributor Jessianne Wright contributed reporting to this piece from the Sept. 18 meeting in Bozeman.

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#### LOCAL

## **Housing trust close to launching down payment assistance program** Board explores incentive packages for homeowners to shift to long-term rentals

## BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – At a Sept. 21 meeting of the Big Sky Community Housing Trust, the volunteer-based advisory board was enthused to be getting close to finalizing a down payment assistance program for potential area home buyers.

Although there's still some contractual legalese to establish and the trust anticipates having only \$100,000 to launch the program, the board plans to intensify fundraising efforts while moving forward the program. The starting amount is subject to change—depending on the level of commitment from local banks—and the trust's ultimate goal is to establish a revolving loan fund of \$500,000.

"We're not going to wait to get started," said Britt Ide, executive director of the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation advisory board. "We're going to move ahead with what we have."

The board wants to have evidence of the program's success, even if only on a small scale, when they apply for funding from the Big Sky Resort Area District resort tax board in the spring of 2018.

"I'm excited about this," said Big Sky Western Bank Manager Tim Kent, who's lending his expertise in loans to the trust. "I feel like we're that close to be able to do something here."

Brian Guyer, HRDC community development manager, announced that the organization is still pursuing the Bough Big Sky Community Subdivision in South Fork Meadows, despite a denial of the preliminary plat approval by the Gallatin County Commission last February. The developer, Lone Mountain Land Company, is planning to resubmit the project to the county in October.

The board also discussed ways to incentivize largely absentee homeowners to make their properties long-term rentals rather than short-term vacation rentals.

The board plans to cull incentive package from the community. Brian Wheeler, director of real estate and development at Big Sky Resort, said he would find out what the resort might be willing to contribute in the form of ski passes, lodging for displaced homeowners or discounts. Guyer said he would investigate whether property management services could be included in the package.

The BSCHT board decided to target a list of smaller unit, short term rental properties and contact their owners once the incentive package was solidified.

After Sarah Gaither of Big Sky Community Food Bank shared a troubling housing-related story about a family that had been living in tents because they were \$200 short on a rental deposit, the board decided to take steps to establish a deposit fund to assist individuals in this predicament.

Finally, the board unanimously agreed to hire Wendy Sullivan Consulting Group out of Jackson, Wyoming, to conduct a resort tax-funded affordable housing study.

"Their business is resort communities and that will be of great value to Big Sky," Guyer said. "I think we'll get a well-informed housing implementation package from them."

"We want hard stats," said Ide. "And more than data we want a concrete plan on how to move forward with affordable housing in Big Sky. Make that absolutely clear."

The next meeting of the Big Sky Community Housing Trust is on Thursday, Oct. 19 at 1:30 p.m. at Big Sky Western Bank.

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PHOTO: KENE SPERRY

# **HATCH returns to roost in Big Sky**

#### BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – This year when HATCH hosted its annual summit at Moonlight Basin, they started the four-day invitation-only event with a public presentation at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on Sept. 19.

In collaboration with the Big Sky School District and in honor of the new International Baccalaureate program, the event consisted of a slideshow presentation by Eric Cheng, head of Immersive Imaging at Facebook and deep sea photographer; and a soulful, loop-layered performance by Butterscotch, the first female World Beatbox Champion.

Bozeman-native and HATCH founder Yarrow Kraner also gave an impromptu talk about how an early hardscrabble life and subsequent career in the film industry career led him to the helm of a 14-year-old organization dedicated to "hatching a better world" through creativity, collaboration, cross-pollination and—a recurring theme at this year's summit—love.

HATCH is difficult to sum up in a word. The nonprofit defies barriers and borders of all kinds, bringing together the brightest minds in engineering, the arts, science, math and technology to create a melting pot of race, age, cultures and talent, with the idea that exposure to each other's unique brilliance will open new creative avenues.

"The goal is to create a pipeline in ideation and innovation from Big Sky to the rest of the world and back," Kraner said. HATCH's Latin American counterpart is in Panama, where the organization is involved in the creation of a sustainable community. Next year, HATCH hopes to expand to Europe.



Fifteen "Next Gen" students participated at the 2017 HATCH Experience, held Sept. 20-23 at Moonlight Basin. Lone Peak High School students Dounia Metje (not pictured), Myles Wilson (back row, third from left) and Kylie Spence (front center) had the opportunity to network with professionals while receiving mentorship and inspiration. PHOTO BY ROBERT STALEY

With 150 participants that must be invited or accepted, HATCH exudes an aura of exclusivity. Kraner explained that the event is not open to the public because part of its success lies in creating a bubble, "a force field of bonding that leads to further collaboration."



Lone Peak High School junior Kylie Spence performs original songs at HATCH. PHOTO BY COLLEEN MONTGOMERY

"She gave a speech that made me cry," Metje said. "Even though I'm not interested in that field it really motivated me to pursue my passions."

Juniors Kylie Spence and Myles Wilson were both impressed by the genuine interest adult hatchers took in them and the time they invested in speaking with them.

Spence, a musician and songwriter, moved to Big Sky from Laguna Beach, California, only a month ago and didn't know what to expect.

"The care and the consideration that the adults put into the next gens was really incredible and made you feel so welcome," Spence said. "Coming from L.A., in the music business a lot of people don't care what you're doing."

Wilson attended HATCH last year and said he met so many amazing people he wanted to go again. He was thrilled because there seemed to be a lot more professionals in the tech world, his area of intrigue, at this year's event.

"What I like most about HATCH is how open to chatting everyone is ... Whether you work for JoyLab, which is a pretty reputable company, everyone is on the same level. You don't have to be intimidated."

Wilson even has some possible, as-of-yet top secret collaboration projects lined up with some of the professionals he met at the gathering.

"It's one thing when they want to talk with you during the event," Wilson said. "But it's another when they want to keep that contact and connection or mentor you after the fact."



#### rarener comportation.

Three of the program's 15 "Next Gens," or student-aged "hatchers," attend Lone Peak High School. Together, they are representative of the spectrum of interests embraced by HATCH.

Dounia Metje, a sophomore drawn to documentary filmmaking and journalism, said she wanted to attend HATCH because she was seeking guidance and mentorship in her field. Although at first she felt apprehensive and overwhelmed by the hive-like atmosphere, by the time it was over she was in tears because she didn't want to leave.

One memorable experience of many was meeting a film director who spent two encouraging hours with her, Metje said.

"She took time out of her day to really talk to me and give me advice," Metje said. "She told me I have to go for and it not overthink it because if I do I'll just start doubting myself. But if I just go for it everything I tried will pay off."

Of the many impressive keynotes, including a female astronaut and the inventor of Apple's Siri, Metje said she was particularly moved by a lawyer who has spent her career fighting for the rights of women in Third World countries.

HATCH founder Yarrow Kraner with 2017 keynote speakers, oceanographer Sylvia Earle (left) and astronaut Cady Campbell (right). PHOTO BY NATHAN AZOPARDI

# The kid's got grit Big Sky local survives near-fatal horse accident

**BY JANA BOUNDS** EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY - There's a reason why seasoned medical professionals nicknamed him Chuck Norris, Jr.

Gus Hoffman talks with a raspy voice and sports a bandage on his throat, hints of what the 15-year-old has endured the past three months.

It's easy to rattle off the ingredients in the recipe for disaster that occurred in the modest young cowboy's life on June 21: a storm, a tree branch, the likely presence of a grizzly yearling, a spooked horse, a stumble and a kick delivered square to the throat.

What isn't so easy to figure out is just how, exactly, Gus was able to climb back on the horse who kicked him and ride 2 miles for help with a severed windpipe and internal hemorrhaging.

Due to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) regulations, medical personnel who helped Gus that day couldn't comment. However, Missoula physician Marc Mentel, who was attending a conference at Big Sky Resort, said he was astounded after looking at medical records provided by the family.

"What an amazing kid," Mentel said. "He's extremely lucky that he survived that level of trauma and was able to get himself to help. His windpipe was torn. The fact that he was able to get air in his lungs is a miracle."

Gus credits his life to Soldier, the ranch horse; the medical professionals who helped that day; and his own will to survive.

Born and raised in Montana, Gus is a knowledgeable horseman with over a decade of experience. He became a valuable hand at 320 Ranch, where his father Marce works as the horse operations manager.

June 21 began as a typical day. He was charged with making sure the trail was clear for the evening guest ride since a storm had blown through the night before. So he saddled up Soldier, a wrangle horse, and went to work.

He discovered a large tree branch had snapped, but was still attached to the trunk. He felt it could fall at any time.

"It was dangerous for guests," he said.

Gus dismounted from Soldier and started sawing the branch with one hand while gripping the lead rope with the other. Then, the horse spooked, he stumbled and the kick was delivered.

Gus believes the horse was reacting to a grizzly presence.

Gus quickly recognized that he couldn't breathe well. He tried to call for help over the radio, but his voice wouldn't come. Instinctively, he jumped on Soldier and rode.



Fifteen-year-old Gus Hoffman (right), back in the saddle alongside his dad Marce less than two months after he suffered a near-fatal kick to the throat by a spooked horse. PHOTOS BY BETH HOFFMAN

An emergency tracheotomy was performed and an X-ray of his lungs showed that both had collapsed.

Tubes were inserted and he was stabilized enough for a life flight to Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City.

There, the waiting game and Gus's long road to recovery began.

A June 23 journal entry posted by family friend Carla Rey on CaringBridge.org, a nonprofit that provides updates on a loved one's condition, hints at what the family endured.

"They were able to find all the pieces of his damaged parts of his larynx and put them back together—but they aren't sure how or if they will heal," Rey wrote. "They also placed a stint in his voice-box in hopes that it will repair itself around the stint. He was also placed in a medically induced coma. He has a feeding tube and is in ICU currently."

It's clear that if he had not done things just so and if a chef at 320 Ranch had not summoned help after seeing Gus struggling on his horse, Gus would not have survived.

All that was visible on the outside was a developing bruise. Beneath the skin, everything had been smashed: voice box, windpipe, larynx. As a result, he was bleeding internally.

Everything began to blur for him. He was loaded into a suburban, rushed to Big Sky Medical Center, and flown to Billings in an air ambulance. His mother Beth flew with him.

There, Beth was informed that he needed to be sent-on to a more specialized facility. "They let me go in to see him and all the sudden he just started vomiting blood profusely across the room. They kicked me out," Beth said.

Doctors thought he may never speak again.

"I know that I'm going to," he wrote for his parents after he was brought out of coma and informed of his condition.

Now, he does.

He was back on a horse, his horse Sunny, a month after the accident.

"His biggest goal was to have his [tracheotomy tube] out by November for hunting season and for snowmobiling," Beth said.

All the hope and determination has been interspersed with emergency trips to Salt Lake City. His tracheotomy became clogged, so they had him remove it, thinking he would make it to Bozeman before having trouble.

Beth was driving, and panicked when his breathing became labored. With no other option, Gus plunged it back in himself. His breathing leveled.

None of it has been easy, but Gus is facing it all with the same grit that got him through that day.

"Now, that's Gus-tough," Nick Wade, Gus's cowboy friend from school, said when he discovered what Gus had survived.

The first thing Gus did when he returned to Big Sky after the accident was visit Soldier.

"It wasn't the horse's fault, it was my fault," Gus said.

"It was no one's fault," his mother quickly replied. "You did nothing wrong. It could have happened to any of us."

Beth said a prayer chain extended across the globe and messages poured in from strangers. She said medical personnel were amazing and the family received remarkable support from the Big Sky community, 320 Ranch, and her employer Big Sky Build, which flew her to Salt Lake City repeatedly during her son's hospital stay.



Gus Hoffman celebrating with friends at the Gallatin Riverhouse Grill a few days after getting out of the hospital on July 9.

# Big Sky Fire Department seeks funds for station renovations, staffing increases

## BY JANA BOUNDS EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY - Prior to 1993, members of Big Sky's volunteer fire department would load patients into a van and speed toward Four Corners to meet responding ambulances. Although the practice was technically illegal, it was also conscionable—volunteers were providing the best care with scarce resources, Big Sky Fire Department Chief William Farhat said.

Since then, the area has been burgeoning with population growth and it's still faced with strains to provide emergency care.

To ease that strain, Farhat is asking the community to pass a \$1.5 million mill levy request when ballots are mailed to Big Sky Fire District voters on Oct. 18.

Farhat said the funds are needed for adequacy, not extravagance.

"We are a part of the critical infrastructure for the community," he said. "[Big Sky] is a growing, dynamic community under a lot of threats."

In an effort to educate the populace and support transparency around the request, he has scheduled nine public meetings and posted information on the BSFD website to argue the merits of the extra funding. There's also a calculator on the website to allow homeowners to get an approximate idea of cost.

As it is now, BSFD does not have adequate staffing to respond to incidents 41 percent of the time. Also, incidents requiring BSFD response have increased by 101 percent since 2005.

Farhat is turning to residents, hoping they will help place the final piece of a puzzle he's been laboring over for the past three years, since ESCI started their study. Those steps include an appropriation from the Big Sky Resort Area District board for a new fire engine, as well as a FEMA grant to fund three new firefighters.

Receipt of the FEMA grant demonstrates the need as they most often go to inner cities, Farhat said.

The mill levy will generate \$1.5 million for the department annually and cost property owners approximately \$3.27 a month or \$39.30 a year per \$100,000 in property value.

The department's plan is to renovate Stations 1 and 2 for 24-hour occupancy and add 11 positions in phases over the next three years: nine firefighters, one fire marshal and a fire inspector.

The improvements and hirings will allow for BSFD to adequately face demands for emergency services, Farhat said, adding that BSFD has consistently been behind the curve and approval of the mill levy will better position the community for the future.

Farhat acknowledges that the proposition of another mill levy tax for residents may be poorly received, but says that he would be remiss if he didn't present the facts and offer the potential solution.

Farhat has been absorbing data for the past few years, seeking solutions. He says there are certain industry standards of which BSFD falls short: 15 personnel are needed to respond to a small house fire within 8-10 minutes. Farhat says he's lucky to have seven responders in that amount of time. The industry standard for accidents is nine trained personnel; Big Sky residents are lucky to get four responders.

What worries him is when there are two emergencies in close succession, which happens 14 percent of the time and as high as 25 percent of the time during peak season, according to a 2015 study prepared by Emergency Services Consultants International. It That's when the personnel pinch is felt the most.

This is the third mill levy request by BSFD. The first request failed in 2008, and the second request passed in 2013.

All active registered voters who live in the Big Sky Fire District—in both Madison and Gallatin counties—will get a ballot mailed to them automatically on Oct. 18, and the results of the election will be tallied Nov. 7.

Property owners who are not registered voters but would like to vote may fill out a landowner request form found at bigskyfire.org/nr, and questions about the process can be directed to the Gallatin County Clerk and Recorder or the Madison County Clerk and Recorder.

The next meetings regarding the mill Levy request will be held at Big Sky Fire Station 1 on Oct. 4 at 9 a.m., noon and 7 p.m.; Oct. 9 at 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and on Oct 23 at 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.



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# Big Sky School District expands farm to school programming

## BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – The Big Sky School District Wellness Committee has made steady progress since it began efforts to introduce more farm to school practices into the district in December 2016, when it was bolstered with the addition of community members, teachers and parents particularly passionate about food.

In April, the committee experimented with providing supplementary fresh fruits and vegetables during school lunch. In May, they hosted the first Family Cooking Night where 10 families came together to prepare a simple, healthy meal reflective of seasonal, local ingredients that was paired with an educational component.

This year, in response to the results of a parent-student survey conducted last schoolyear, the Wellness Committee has committed to bringing in higher quality foods with an emphasis on local, seasonal and nonprocessed goods. Beginning this year, all beef served in the school will be Montana-raised.

These changes have been funded in part by a private grant, a 10 cent increase in the price per meal and pursuing creative cost-saving measures across the board, with the overall goal to increase participation in the school lunch program.

The cafeteria will offer more fresh and healthy options, and the menu expanded to include more diverse, nutritious meals that appeal to children and staff. The school is also instituting "Meatless Mondays," when the menu is dedicated to optimizing grains, legumes, vegetables and fruits; and "Fresh Fridays," when a full salad bar, homemade soup and fresh baked rolls will be offered.

The district has also added a third lunchtime block in the elementary school to provide a better eating environment.

BSSD has also committed to participating in the Montana Harvest of the Month program which will incorporate a featured local, seasonal vegetable into the school lunch menu a minimum of three times per month. October, which is also National Farm to School Month, will showcase kale.



Wellness Committee Chair Whitney Littman and two Ophir Elementary School second graders have fun with activities surrounding the newly adopted Harvest of the Month program. PHOTO BY LYDIA BARTOSZEK

Big Sky School District received a grant from the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation to work with Gallatin Valley Farm to School to provide nutrition education around the Harvest of the Month program for grades K-5.

"When I listened to the fourth graders engage in conversation about local farmers being important so that we can reduce our carbon footprint and preserve vitamin and mineral content by being closer to our food source, I knew the Harvest of the Month education content was relevant," said Whitney Littman, chair of the Wellness Committee and a school board trustee. "We are seeing some exciting changes; I think the kids are enjoying it too."

Littman added that the committee is asking a lot of school lunch manager Kathy Hudson, with the implementation of changes that demand time,

creativity, new product procurement and price controls.

"We are all working together to see if we can change the way families view school lunch," Littman said. "In Kathy we have a 'lunch lady' that integrates her own garden harvest into the kids' meals. She made coleslaw with her very



The Big Sky School District Wellness Committee is enthusiastic, to say the least, about expanding the district's farm to school programming. PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY SCHOOL DISTRICT WELLNESS COMMITTEE own homegrown cabbage—not many school districts can say that."

Family Cooking Night will continue in the Ophir Elementary cafeteria on the second Wednesday of each month beginning Oct. 11. The entire community is welcome but space is limited. Call Linda Nell at (406) 995-4281 to register.

The Big Sky School District Wellness Committee meets the first Monday of every month at 2 p.m. in the Ophir Elementary Conference Room. For updates visit bssd72.org.

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#### **ENVIRONMENT**

#### September 29 - October 12, 2017 17



# **The New West: Rite of Passage** To be men, real warriors don't have to kill lions



**Explore** Big Sky

BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

Daniel Ole Sambu and I were sitting in the second-floor grand room at Jackson Lake Lodge discussing predator conflicts when he said,

"American cowboys love their cows and we love our cows too."

Mr. Sambu isn't a wrangler; he's a self-identified herdsman-warrior—a member of the mighty Maasai of Kenya and Tanzania. Daniel's people for 600 years have venerated the killing of lions as a rite of passage for boys becoming men. They've also adhered to a long tradition of taking lethal revenge on big cats that eat their livestock.

Cattle are treasured assets on the same African plains where great wildlife migrations still happen—think of the Disney film "The Lion King." Yet this is the real-life region that serves as a comparative reference point for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.



Maasai herdsman-warrior Daniel Ole Sambu advocates for a cultural shift away from the killing of lions as a rite of passage. PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIEL OLE SAMBU

predators, play a role in desertification. Their grazing destroys the land's ability to support cattle and wildlife.

Just as Daniel and colleagues have made tremendous strides in resolving one dilemma they face another.

With just \$1.2 million in funding annually, Big Life is nonetheless achieving extraordinary results. It funds the predator compensation program, employs 360 community rangers involved in antipoaching efforts, and has a scholarship program for 200 students. Big Life is helping both lion and elephant populations (the latter wracked by ivory poachers) to rebound.

The Maasai's story is told in a moving new film, "Tribe Versus Pride" by Dereck and Beverly Joubert.

Every time I attend the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival, which attracts the best nature filmmakers and most innovative conservation thinkers in the world, I leave with three emotions: inspiration as a result of breathtaking work happening at a time

of global ecological crises; admiration for film fest director Lisa Samford who, together with her team, put on an extraordinary event; and tinges of sadness.

Why sadness? First, the world needs courageous underdogs like Daniel and his associates who, against overwhelming odds, are fighting battles to save wildlife. They deserve our support but don't always get it.

Second, I wonder: are we as humans capable of paying attention to the big picture?

Third, with such a profound combination of hard-earned experience, insight and talent assembled in one place, why do federal and state wildlife managers in Greater Yellowstone not use the knowledge pouring out of the film festival as a vital resource?

Answer: there is still a prevailing imperialistic/post-colonial mindset that we in the developed world have all the answers.

While lions have caused conflict with the Maasai, they are simultaneously beheld with profound reverence. However, the outlook for lions is grim.

In the span of two human generations, lion populations in eastern and southern Africa have plummeted from hundreds of thousands to just 20,000, raising fears that by the middle of this century they might cease to exist in the wild.

Finding this outcome unacceptable, Daniel became involved with an organization called Big Life Foundation where he serves as predator protection coordinator. Big Life Foundation has ushered forth two game-changing initiatives. It has a compensation program that reimburses livestock losses caused by lions. Further, it has advanced an alternative to the deeply-engrained belief that a young man must kill a lion to earn warrior credentials.

In its place is something called the Maasai Olympics where men from different clans compete with one another to earn honor and respect in their community.

Daniel knows how difficult it can be to tweak culture so that new ways of thinking are possible. During his younger years, he and his friends carried their traditional spears on five unsuccessful lion hunts. Today, he is a role model for a different way of thinking.

At age 41, Daniel holds status as a Maasai elder. He is also a father of four (two boys and two girls) and, equally as important, a mentor to young men, showing that culture can be respected and lions kept alive as assets.

Of course, land conflict in Maasai is much more complicated than just lions versus people. Hyena predation on livestock is a serious problem—and there are leopards. But there's also an insidious link to climate change that has created an epic challenge.

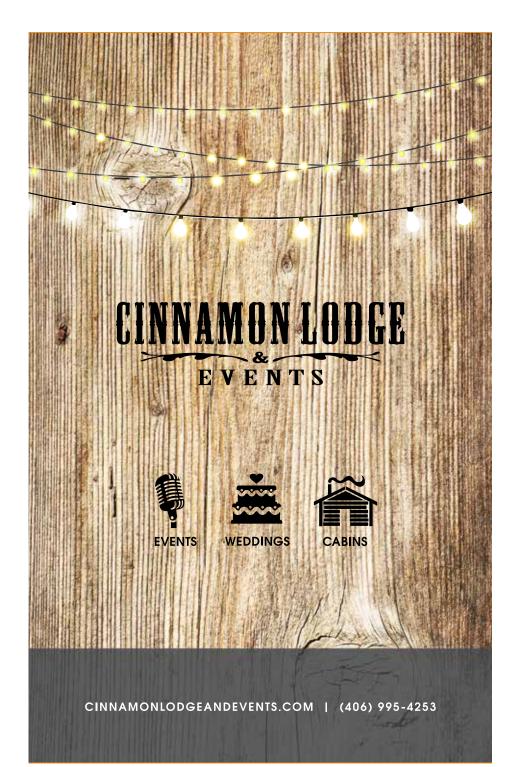
In the wake of devastating drought, many Maasai switched from herding cattle to sheep and goats, which in addition to being more vulnerable to

Yet it's clear with ongoing, often irrational mindsets prevailing in our own region with issues like "predator management" that we don't. There are a lot of rural communities in the U.S. that could learn from the Maasai by making cultural changes to achieve better outcomes for co-existence between humans and predators.

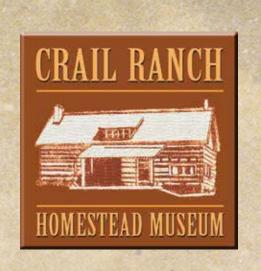
If you care about lions, elephants and the future of other iconic African species, if you believe in the power of local people to make positive change, and if you root for underdogs, then you ought to think about Daniel Ole Sambu of Big Life Foundation in your giving.

For more information, visit biglife.org.

Todd Wilkinson, founder of Mountain Journal (mountainjournal.org), 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. His profile of Montana politician Max Baucus appears in the summer 2017 issue of Mountain Outlaw and is now on newsstands.



# **LOOK FAMILIAR?**



There were cows before condos. And, yes, there was a community here before the ski and summer resort emerged in the 1970s. The Historic Crail Ranch Homestead Museum provides a glimpse of Big Sky's ranching roots.

The Historic Crail Ranch Conservators thank museum volunteers for the Summer 2017 season.

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#### Explore Big Sky

# Big Horns derailed by Tri-Cities in Homecoming game under the lights

## BY CHRIS SAMUELS EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – On Sept. 22, the Lone Peak Big Horns hosted the Tri-Cities Titans for the first ever matchup in Big Sky between teams ranked in the top 10 in the state in 8-man football.

The Big Horns came into the Homecoming game with a 4-0 record and ranked No. 10. The No. 3 ranked Titans, also sporting a 4-0 record, held a 22-19 lead with nine minutes left in the fourth quarter with heavy snow falling on the field. The Big Horns drove the ball down the field looking for the go-ahead touchdown, until they reached the 15-yard line and then misconnected on a pitch to turn the ball over. Tri-Cities scored on the next play and owned the last minutes of the game to win 42-19.

The first half featured a back-and-forth fight. The Titans senior Tucker Walter ran the opening kickoff back for a touchdown and senior running back Jordan Nees made the two-point conversion that left the Homecoming crowd somewhat



The Big Horns had their first loss of the season on Sept. 22 against the Tri-Cities Titans. There was so much snow on the field toward the end of the game that the referees struggled to find the yard lines and hash marks. PHOTO BY MAYA JOHNSEN

deflated in the opening seconds. Sophomore quarterback Frankie Starz promptly led the Big Horns down the field and senior all-purpose back Liam Germain plunged in for the score. Junior kicker Milosz Shipman converted the extra point kick and it was 8-7, Tri-City leading.

Lone Peak closed the half with senior wide receiver Howie Robin catching a spectacular 30-yard touchdown pass from Starz that was deflected by a Tri-City defender and then hauled in by Robin. The half time score stood at 16-13, Titans lead.

It started to snow just before half time and by the time the teams took the field to start the third quarter, the field was covered. Both teams channeled energy into their defense, and the Big Horns air attack was stifled as the snow piled up on the field. The Titans continued to run the ball and Lone Peak's defense stiffened.

The Lone Peak defense was led by junior middle linebacker Cole March, senior defensive end Jackson Wade and sophomore outside linebacker Austin Samuels, who made a tremendous stop on fourth and goal from the 1-yard line to keep the Big Horns in the game.

Midway through the third quarter, senior fullback Rhett Leuzinger took a screen pass at midfield and with excellent blocking and hard running took it 41 yards in for the score to cut the Titans lead to 22-19. After another stop from the Big Horn defense, the home team set out on the drive that would determine the outcome of the game. After moving the ball inside the Titans' 20-yard line, LPHS committed the turnover with nine minutes left that ended the drive and essentially ended the night for the Big Horns.

The snow and Tri-Cities' running game ruled the last eight minutes of the game. Nees wore down the Big Horn defense with his running in the last few minutes and quarterback Zack Thomas ran for big yardage as well. The snow was 3 to 4 inches deep on the field and it gave the referees fits trying to find the yard lines and hash marks. The snow-laden field favored the visitors and their groundoriented attack.

At halftime, Homecoming King Jackson Wade and Homecoming Queen Bryn Iskendarian were recognized.

The Big Horns will host Park City on Saturday, Sept. 30, at 1 p.m.

## Lone Peak defeats Manhattan Christian in Homecoming thriller

BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY - Lone Peak handed the Eagles their first conference loss of the season in a 3-2 nail-biter on Sept. 21, demonstrating their ability to step up their game before an animated hometown crowd.

"The energy in that gym on Homecoming was palpable and the girls really rose up," said Lone Peak head coach Missy Botha, adding that she nearly lost her voice during the match. "I didn't sleep the whole night [afterward]. The amount of adrenaline—it was a hard game to come down from."

The Eagles, who were 3-0 in conference play and 3-2 overall coming into the match, took the first set 25-20, aided in part by their ability to dig powerful hits. "They were a good digging team," Botha said. "We really had to target our [spikes]."



In the second set, the Big Horns did just that. Junior middle hitter Solae Swenson sent one kill after another over the net into the Eagles' court.

"When Solae goes up for a hit, the other team is visibly fearful because they know they've got a hard ball coming at them," Botha said.

The Eagles' held onto the lead until the middle of the set when they could no longer keep pace with the Big Horns' firepower at the net.

By the time the scoreboard read 16, the Big Horns had tied the Eagles and a point-for-point exchange followed, all the way to the set's 28-26 close. Lone Peak ultimately secured the set with a thrilling block the Eagles couldn't return.

In the third set, the Big Horns made the most of their improved serving skills, which they'd been working on in practice since their Sept. 16 loss to Gardiner. Junior outside hitter Brooke Botha piled on the points from the service line, leading Lone Peak on a six-point run. Despite landing a couple of strong and well-placed hits, the Eagles couldn't recover and lost the third set 25-15.

The Eagles made a resurgence to claim the fourth set, which featured a series of long volleys kept alive with remarkable hustle and impressive dives. Both teams



Lone Peak's varsity volleyball team celebrates after defeating the Manhattan Christian Eagles on Sept. 21 to bring their conference record to 4-1. PHOTO BY DOUG HARE

put their defensive skills on display, keeping the crowd on their feet by returning one seemingly impossible ball after another.

In the fifth set—played to just 15—the Eagles kept right on the Big Horns' tail, but couldn't quite catch them. Senior libero Bryn Iskendarian set Lone Peak up for success by making well-placed passes to senior setter Kuka Holder. Senior middle hitter Katie Hoffman stepped up her spiking game in that match, landing a couple of key spikes to help the Big Horns win the set 15-12.

The Big Horns had a four-way tie in total kills with Swenson, Brooke Botha, Hoffman, and junior outside hitter Madison Wagner each notching 11. Brooke led the team's aces column with six, and Holder led the blocking charge with three. After winning the match, the Big Horns' record stands 4-1 in conference play and 4-3 overall.

Lone Peak's next bome game will be on Tuesday, Oct. 3, against Harrison and Willow Creek at 5 p.m.

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#### Explore Big Sky

# Montana Food Show aims to inspire businesses and individuals to buy local

#### EBS STAFF

With the aim to get "more Montana food and beverages on Montana plates and in Montana glasses," the Montana Department of Agriculture will be hosting a food and beverage tradeshow in Bozeman at the Best Western GranTree Inn on Tuesday, Oct. 10.

More than 40 Montana fresh produce, meat, food and spirit companies will be showcasing their products to both professional buyers and the general public. The show will be open to professional buyers only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and open to the general public from 4-7 p.m.

"Based on conversations we've had with Montana food and agriculture companies across the state, there is a need for an event like the Montana Food Show to connect local food and beverage companies with statewide and regional buyers," said MDA Director Ben Thomas. "We are excited to host this tradeshow and look forward to the connections that will be made between food and beverage companies and institutions of all kinds."

The purpose of the show is to connect Montana food and beverage companies with food buyers and connect restaurants, schools, grocery stores, health care facilities, catering companies and other organizations with the resources to source more local products and ingredients for their businesses. Although the main focus of the event is for professional buyers, MDA and its partners decided to open the event to the general public beginning at 4 p.m.

"We thought that since we have all these great companies from across the state in one place, it would be a shame not to invite the general public to meet these companies and sample and/or purchase their products," said Steph Hystad, MDA marketing officer.

A list of Montana companies attending this event can be found at foodshow.mt.gov. Professional buyers from schools, restaurants, hospitals, grocery stores, catering companies and other organizations interested in local food can register at the same address.

The first annual Montana Food Show is a collaboration between MDA and Montana Farm to School, Montana Farm to Cafeteria Network, Lake County Community Development's Farm to Institution program, Montana State University's Farm to Campus program, the Montana Food and Agriculture Development Center Network, Prospera Business Network, Western Sustainability Exchange and the Montana Department of Commerce.

Visit agr.mt.gov for more information about the Montana Department of Agriculture.



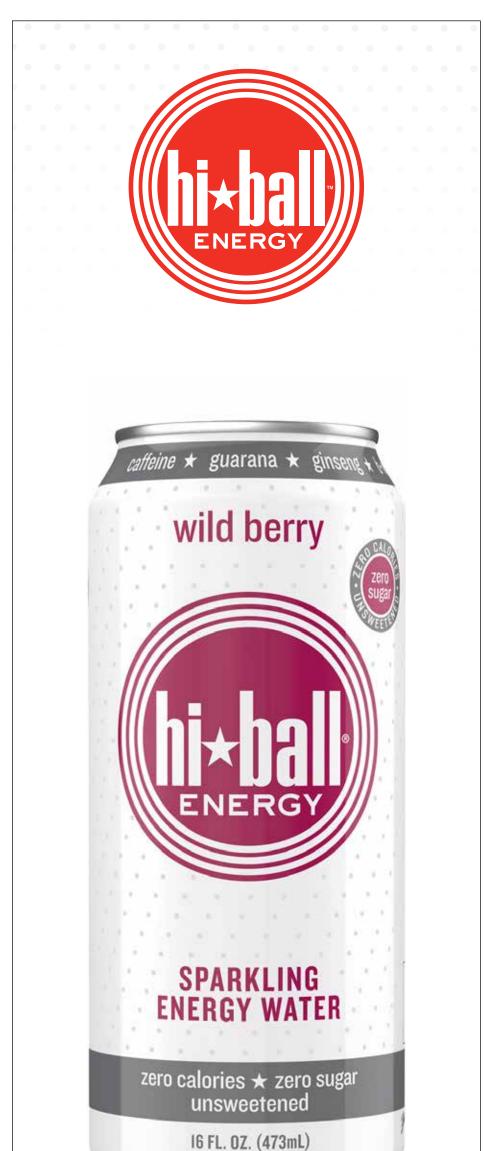




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# Celebrate national farm to school month at Rocky Creek Farm

#### GALLATIN VALLEY FARM TO SCHOOL

Bozeman's Rocky Creek Farm hosts the fifth annual Gallatin Valley Farm to School Feastival on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. This free, family-friendly event will showcase hand-crafted food from local chefs, with plenty of kids' activities, Bozone Ozone mobile greenhouse bus tours and taste tests.

A small farmers' market featuring locally grown produce will also be on site.

In celebration of National Farm to School Month, attendees will have the opportunity to learn about Gallatin Valley Farm to School's current and upcoming programs and initiatives, in between hayrides out to the Rocky Creek Farm pumpkin patch and pressing homemade apple cider.

In 2010, the U.S. House of Representatives declared October National Farm to School Month, recognizing the strong role farm to school plays in promoting good health and strong economies. Whether you are a chef, farmer, school food service professional, teacher, parent or student there are many ways to celebrate the month.

For ideas, visit the GVF2S events calendar on the organization's website and download the Farm to School Month Toolkit.

These Farm to School Month events are made possible with the support of local sponsors that include Montana Ale Works, the Bozeman Community Food Co-op, Root Cellar Foods, Food Studio, Wild Crumb and Wheat Montana.

Gallatin Valley Farm to School, a Bozeman based nonprofit organization, connects schools and farmers in the Gallatin Valley in an effort to cultivate bealthy kids, vibrant farms and strong communities. Visit gvfarmtoschool. org, email lunchbox@gvfarmtoschool.org, or call (406) 219-1010 for more information.





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Gallatin Valley Farm to School kicks off National Farm to School Month with a fall "feastival" at Rocky Creek Farm on Oct. 14. The event will showcase area chefs and local produce while serving up plenty of fun activities for kids. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN VALLEY FARM TO SCHOOL

#### **Explore** Big Sky

# **Farm to Fork**

#### BY KATIE THOMAS EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN - Lovers of eggs Benedict will happily note that a newly opened restaurant in downtown Bozeman serves up this breakfast classic into the afternoon hours. At Little Star Diner, a shining gem of an eatery tucked into a new space in an old neighborhood, the good times roll from open to close.

Little Star Diner is Bozeman's newest breakfast and lunch destination. Opened in early September by husband-andwife team Charley Graham and Lauren Reich, Little Star Diner is a gourmet yet relaxed spot for genuinely local food in an upscale atmosphere.

A mini-farm in Bozeman, Montana? Absolutely. Reich has been in the business of small, restaurant-oriented market gardens for years. Her Star Pudding Farm has

developed to the point that it provides much of the food for Little Star Diner. What can't be grown on-site is purchased from small, family-run operations, including pork from the Shields Valley, beef from Cardwell, trout from Paradise Valley and chicken from Wilsall. All breads are made in-house with locally grown grains.

At a recent breakfast for two, the fried egg sandwich and eggs Benedict were must-haves, as were the ricotta doughnuts. The sandwich, with cheddar and mizuna greens, absolutely hit the spot—aided in no small part by the addition of local bacon. Bright green basil sprigs and tiny red and orange cherry tomatoes brilliantly accentuated the Benedict, which was at once delicate and filling. As for the truly mouth-watering ricotta doughnuts served with applesauce and maple syrup? Let's just hope those are never swapped out of the regularly and seasonally-updated menu. The same goes for the plum-and-raspberry mini pies.



The eggs Benedict at Little Star Diner, one of Bozeman's newest breakfast and lunch establishments. PHOTO BY KATIE THOMAS

Little Star Diner, designed by local architects at Pearson Design Group, is a pleasing, contemporary space with a rooftop garden and patio located on the east end of Babcock Street near Heeb's East Main Grocery and Lockhorn Hard Cider. The stylish yet unassuming structure includes an open kitchen, counter seating and a spacious dining room, which is soon to be expanded to a ground-level outdoor patio as well. Although dinner is not offered, private catered events are, and booking the rooftop patio for a sunny soiree is a particularly worthy goal.

Before starting Little Star Diner, Graham worked at Blackbird Kitchen, where he ran the kitchen for five years. Reich is also familiar with the restaurant business-her grandmother owned a diner-so opening Little Star with Graham felt like a good fit. They set their plan in motion to open Little Star Diner about three years

ago. "We wanted to do something that was basically fine dining, yet casual and fun," Reich said.

"Our motto is something along the lines of, 'Good food, no big deal," Graham said.

Yet good food is a big deal to some; it has become fairly common knowledge that the quality of food that doesn't have to travel far is superior in every way. That may be why Little Star's food tastes incredible, looks like an advertisement for decadent dining, and is presented well and at affordable prices. The concept of "farm-to-table" dining means many things to many people, and rarely has a local restaurant succeeded in making it so accessible.

Little Star Diner is located at 548 East Babcock Street and is open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. seven days a week.



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| 10/7 - 6:30PM                | vs. Shields Valley (Spike for a Cure) |
| 10/10 - 6:30PM               | @Philipsburg                          |
| 10/13 - 6:30PM               | @Manhattan Christian                  |
| 10/14 - 6:30PM               | vs. Gardiner (Senior Night)           |
| 10/17 <mark>- 6:3</mark> 0PM | @White Sulphur Springs                |
| 10/21 - 6:30PM               | @Twin Bridges                         |
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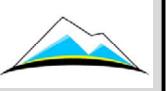


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DINING Explor



# The shakedown on salt

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER EBS STAFF

Salt, a staple in most kitchens, is a mineral that consists of the elements sodium and chlorine. Essential for human life, most of the world's salt is harvested from one of two sources—the sea or salt mines.

Salt is arguably one of the most important ingredients in cooking. Add too little and your dish is likely to be bland, but add too much and you will push your dish past the point of no return. Adding the right amount of salt to a dish can bring out the flavors of the main ingredients, so use it wisely. There are several varieties of salt that can and should be used for different purposes. Here are some of the more common ones.

Table salt is highly refined salt, usually consisting of 95-99 percent pure sodium chloride. It is harvested from underground salt deposits and highly refined to remove impurities and other trace minerals. Iodine, a vital nutrient, is almost always added, along with anti-caking agents so that it pours and sprinkles freely.

Table salt isn't the best option for directly applying on food, but rather for purposes such as salting boiling water or baking. Its fine grain allows for precise measurements and to be more evenly distributed.

Despite its name, kosher salt is not necessarily kosher. Its name comes from its original purpose which was koshering meat. Because its grain size varies, don't use kosher salt when you need a precise measurement as in baking.

The kosher variety lends itself well to seasoning ingredients, especially meats, as its coarse grain size allows for bursts of flavor to be released. As an added bonus, the large and more slowly dissolving granules allow you to see where and how much you have applied to your food.

Sea salt is exactly what it sounds like—salt that has been harvested from evaporated sea water. It often contains a higher mineral content than other more refined varieties, which comes from the seawater from which it was harvested, giving it a more complex, almost briny flavor. Fleur de sel is a specific type of sea salt that is hand-harvested off the northwest coast of France. These salt crystals rise to the surface and are delicately removed with a very labor intensive and weather sensitive technique. Because of the extensive process, this variety will run you about \$20 dollars per pound, which earned it its nickname, "caviar of the sea."

Among the purest salts in the world, Himalayan pink salt is mined from the Himalaya in Pakistan and has spiked in popularity in recent years. It ranges in color from white to deep pink, and its rich mineral content bestows a more robust flavor than table salt. Its distinct flavor makes it a perfect finishing salt. In addition to preground cooking varieties, Himalayan pink salt is also sold in blocks or slabs that can be heated to high temperatures and used as a cooking surface.

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There are countless varieties of specialty salts on the market such as black Hawaiian salt, Celtic sea salt and flake salt. One of my favorite things to do is infuse salt at home, creating a product that packs a surprising punch without the price tag. I have infused salt with a number of items from vanilla, rosemary and lemon to red wine. A quick Google search will provide plenty of ideas for infused salts. The following recipe is for a great and easy-to-make salt to have in your pantry for the next time you make some tacos, fajitas, or margaritas with a salty rim!

#### Chili lime salt

1 cup kosher salt 1 tablespoon grated lime zest 1 teaspoon chili flakes

Combine ingredients well in a mason jar. Depending on how coarse you'd like the end product, you can pulverize the ingredients in a food processor or with a mortar and pestle first. Wait three days before using. Flavor will become less intense with time, but keeps for over a year.

**DINING** Sep

## 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.

# Does barbecue make you smarter?



BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

As we have abruptly squashed summer in the way only Big Sky can do, it occurred to me that I've wanted to write about a certain topic for the past couple of months.

While other things that get associated with being American can easily be debunked, such as fireworks, hot dogs and apple pie, in a recent debate with a friend

he insisted that at least barbecue was "dude, totally 'merican." I hated to break it to him, but not even close.

The act of cooking medium to large pieces of meat, historically pig, lamb and goat, low and slow using indirect heat from a fire or green wood that would not catch fire but rather smolder, was brought to us by European explorers Christopher Columbus and Hernando de Soto.

Later, the British of all people, brought modern barbecue as we know it to the New World. And many of them settled along the eastern seaboard and in the south, bringing barbecue pork, now a staple of southern food and culture.

Some use wood, while others use charcoal or briquettes, but either are acceptable. It was E.G. Kingsford and his cousin-in-law Henry Ford that built the first charcoal briquette plant when they realized it could be an outlet for all the wood scrap from the automobile running boards.

Barbecue purists argue that true barbecue is only pork, but I bet several million Texans—where beef brisket is king—would argue otherwise.

The United States has about 20 regions we refer to as belts. Some are more well known, like the Sun Belt, Bible Belt, Banana Belt and Rust Belt, while others are less known, like the Unchurched Belt and the Jell-O Belt.

But there's another one we seldom talk about. It's the Barbecue Belt, which loosely stretches from the Carolinas to west Texas and as far north as Missouri.

So, does barbecue really make us smarter? Well, maybe at first.

There is evidence of a clear historical break where early man learned the act of cooking meat low and slow.

There is a direct link between the time when man began to cook meat low and slow and the period when man was getting smarter exponentially.

Scientists believe that initially man charred meat quickly over high heat and flame, leaving the outside hard to digest, but the interior still raw. Both textures



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were hard to digest and took a lot of the body's energy. But slow-cooked meat was much easier to digest, and with its arrival on the culinary scene, the body's energy could be directed to brain development. And more time spent cooking meant more time socializing, which early man also began to do.

Today, the ritual of a social gathering in which family, friends or peers congregate around a smoker or any other barbecue apparatus, debating and learning from each other, is maintained by Americans more so than most other cultures. It is part of our culinary, racial and social cultures likely more so than any other.

As a friend from the South once told me, "just go in to any barbecue establishment and look around. It is one of the most diverse groups you'll ever see. All enjoying the same thing, and talking about it."

Scott Mechura bas 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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# Two restaurants and two boutiques to occupy Town Center's newest development

#### BY BAY STEPHENS EBS EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

BIG SKY - Like the seasons, Town Center is in the midst of change. In partnership with the Simkins family, Lone Mountain Land Company broke ground on Sept. 20 for the newest addition to Big Sky's downtown: The Plaza Lofts. A mix of commercial and residential space, the building is scheduled to be completed during the 2018-2019 ski season.

The Plaza Lofts are designed to look like a rustic warehouse converted into a commercial and residential space. Exposed ceilings and steel will highlight the industrial style in the residences.

"The Plaza Lofts will merge the design of the newer contemporary buildings built in the Town Center with a more historical slightly urban aesthetic," Bayard Dominick, LMLC's vice president of planning and development, said in a press release.

The 9,000-square-foot ground-level floor will host five new businesses, four of which have already signed leases.

Two restaurants, a fashion boutique and a boutique marketplace, comprise the committed businesses so far. The Blue Buddha Sushi Lounge will serve fresh

seafood and Asian cuisine while The Barrel Room, owned by a Bozeman winemaker, will serve wine and cocktails accompanied by fare described as "tapas-style bites."

The locally-owned Sky Boutique will offer current women's fashion inspired by European and mountain living. A boutique marketplace carrying handcrafted, American-made art and accessories will increase gift-buying options for Town Center shoppers.

The upper levels of The Plaza Lofts will consist of 20 one- or two-bedroom apartments for year-round Big Sky residents. In a phone interview, Dominick said rent will likely be similar to the building next door, where one-bedroom units are rented for \$1,300 and twobedroom units for go for \$2,000 per month.

LMLC's other Town Center projects include the 47 Town Center building and the Lone Mountain Land Company Building, homes to The Lotus Pad and Compass Café, respectively. The Wilson Hotel is another project in the works, slated for a June 2019 grand opening.

The Plaza Lofts will build upon a larger plan for Town Center calling for commercial and residential development along Town Center Avenue, starting at its intersection with Ousel Falls Road and continuing east to Roxy's Market.

The local development branch of CrossHarbor Capital Partners, LMLC manages the planning, entitlement, building, marketing and sale of real estate communities around Big Sky. They oversee CrossHarbor's development of Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and Moonlight Club and have partnered with the Simkins family for the master planning and development of Town Center.

Dominick said the commercial space "will help add to the downtown, pedestrian-friendly shopping and restaurant scene," while the residential element will result in more people living in and vitalizing Big Sky's downtown.

The Plaza Lofts will be located between the Wilson Hotel and the 47 Town Center building that houses the Spice and Tea Exchange and The Lotus Pad.



The Plaza Lofts, which will combine commercial and residential units, is slated for completion during the 2018-2019 ski season. RENDERING COURTESY OF BECHTLE ARCHITECTS AND JIM COLLINS





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# 'Big Sky, Big Ideas' tech summit returns to Bozeman

#### PFL

The Livingston, Montana, technology company PFL presents its second annual "Big Sky: Big Ideas Customer Engagement Summit" on Oct. 5 at The Commons located at 1794 E. Baxter Lane in Bozeman.

The summit is a public half-day event designed for companies looking to achieve the next frontier of customer engagement which comes with the awareness that entrepreneurs, marketers and technologists are becoming stewards of the customer journey, not its architects.

With the added insight of local and national figures in business and technology who are reimagining customer engagement, the summit attempts to answer how marketing, sales and business technologies can overcome new challenges while taking advantage of new opportunities.

Speakers at this year's summit include keynote Peter Coffee, vice president of Salesforce, and Terminus co-founder Sangram Vajre, alongside PFL founder Andrew Field. Additional speakers include Full Circle Insights CEO Bonnie Crater, author Tara-Nicholle Nelson, Tawheed Kader, global vice president of strategy at Marketo and founder of ToutApp, Global Marketing Operations Manager Todd McMurtrey and Devin Holmes, founder of Big Sky Code Academy.

These speakers will lead a discussion on the future of business and the power of technology to build a better world.

"We live in this crazy digital, mobile, social world, and have infinite channels," said PFL founder and CEO Andrew Field. "You can't blast your way through it. We know mass-market is dead, or dying, and as marketers we need to find innovative ways to create customer engagement. PFL ... look[s] forward to connecting with other disruptors who recognize the power of this change."

A Montana born-and-raised company, PFL believes there's no place like the Mountain West to explore new ways of thinking.

"We decided the Livingston/Bozeman area was the perfect place to bring together the best minds in business and technology to create a brighter future for ourselves, our customers and our broader community," says PFL Chief Evangelist Marne Reed.

Visit pfl.com/Big-Sky-Big-Ideas-Summit.html for more information.



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# From Jackie with love Raising healthy kids

#### BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

Perhaps the most effective way for Americans to deal with obesity and diabetes is prevention. Teaching our children to eat well will keep them from the physical and emotional struggles that come with unhealthy weight gain and unbalanced hormones.

As a health coach, after weeding out all of the macro and micro advice on how to eat well, it comes down to a few simple guidelines: eat mostly plants, eat clean meats, drink clean water (hopefully not from plastic bottles that end up in dumps, which ultimately pollute your water), drink alcohol and sweetened drinks sparingly, and limit deserts and processed foods to occasional treats.

I like the 80/20 rule in which you eat and drink healthy foods and beverages 80 percent to the time and allow for wiggle room the other 20 percent of the time.

But the problem I often hear from parents is that it's hard to get their children to eat whole foods—especially vegetables. If this is a challenge you face, here are a few tips to set your children on the right course.

**First and most importantly, set a good example.** Children often mimic the behavior of their parents. If you have a great diet, you will directly influence theirs.

**Give them choices and let them help with meal prep when possible.** We all love having choices and autonomy. Not only does this promote buy-in and a sense of empowerment, it also teaches kids that they can cook for themselves rather than relying on fast and processed foods.

**Enforce the one bite rule.** If you're introducing something green to the plate, it's helpful for children to know that all they have to do is give it try—one bite. This requires patience but it highlights the importance of being open-minded

and it builds trust. When the rule has been followed, praise them for their willingness. This will create a positive emotional response in them and help the next time around.

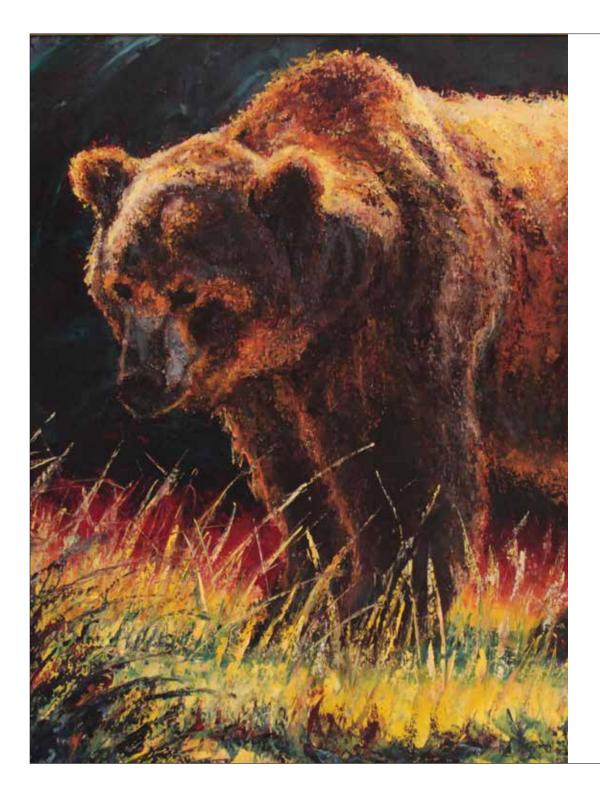
**Be conscious of pairing.** If you're introducing broccoli for the first time and it's next to French fries, the green stuff is going to seem much less appealing. Also, after eating the hyper-palatable crispy fries, the taste of broccoli by comparison might even seem wretched. Consider leaving the other side dish off the plate until the "one bite rule" has been followed.

Talk to kids about "eating the rainbow." Who doesn't love a rainbow? The benefits of eating the rainbow are that colorful plants contain anti-cancer and anti-inflammatory properties. They're also naturally high in fiber, which will help children maintain good gut health and regular bowel movements. Many health experts agree that good health begins in the gut.

**Get creative.** Turn kale into kale chips. Make zucchini noodles (a.k.a., "zoodles") by using a simple and affordable spiralizer. Cauliflower is easily transformed into "rice" with a good old-fashioned hand shredder. Carrots and snap peas are fun to eat with hummus or a yogurt dip and apples and celery are delicious with nut butters.

The better kids eat, the healthier they will be throughout their school years and throughout their lives. It's not uncommon for learning, emotional and physical problems to be traced back to nutrition. Let's give American kids a huge advantage by teaching them great eating habits from the outset.

Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach, culture consultant and public speaker. For a complimentary bealth consultation, reach ber at rainfordcorcoran@gmail.com.





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# Vaccinate early to prevent illness from influenza

BY JEFF DANIELS EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

As we start the autumn season, it appears that winter's already trying to push itself in, and we can expect over the next few months to start seeing cases of influenza. That means now is the time to get the influenza vaccination, or flu shot, so that you decrease the risk of getting sick from this potentially lethal illness. It's a good idea for your health as well as the health of those around you.

It's not possible to predict when the flu will hit this year and how severe it will be. The start of the flu season, how long it will last, and how severe it will be differs from year to year. We do know that historically a particularly severe form of influenza comes along about every 30 years, and we are now overdue for that.

This year, there are several new recommendations and several new versions of the influenza vaccine. Every year, the flu vaccine's makeup of various strains of the influenza virus changes, and this year is no exception. In creating and mass-producing the various strains (three or four, depending on the vaccine manufacturer), new techniques are being employed. Not all vaccine is made in chicken eggs; other cell cultures with less chance of causing a reaction are being employed, and now recombinant DNA technology is used to create viral particles that can stimulate an immune response against the flu virus.

Like last year, the Center for Disease Control is not recommending the use of the nasal spray form of the influenza vaccine, called FluMist. The vaccines we are using at the Medical Clinic of Big Sky must be administered intramuscularly by a shot—a relatively painless one at that! There is a form of the vaccine that can be administered into the top layer of the skin, known an intradermal vaccine.

There are other major changes with this year's flu vaccine, in terms of the recommendations of dosage and immune potency based on age. For those over age 65, there is a high potency flu shot, which has been proven to get a higher immune response in a population particularly susceptible to the ravages of the flu. There is also a pediatric form of the vaccine for kids younger than 4, and also a form we'll use for youth 4 to 18 years old.

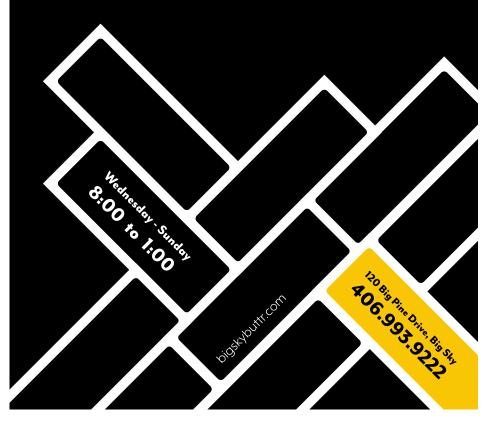
Now is the time to get the influenza vaccination because flu outbreaks can start as early as October. Although the flu season typically peaks between December and February, cases can also present into the spring months, as they did in the infamous Mexican swine flu outbreak in April and May of 2009.

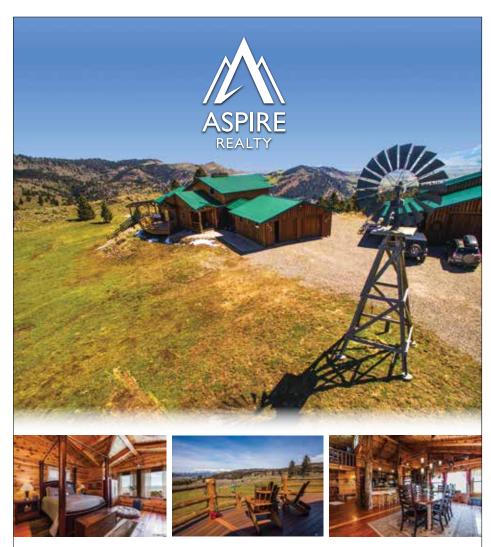
We know that not everyone will get vaccinated, and the CDC estimates that between 9 million and 35 million cases of influenza occur in the U.S. each year. In my experience, almost everyone I've diagnosed with flu—we have a quick office test to confirm the diagnosis—was not vaccinated, but occasionally either the vaccine doesn't work perfectly, or a different strain not found in the current vaccine spreads around.



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As mentioned above, in some years, the flu can be lethal. In the 2012-2013 flu season, the CDC estimated that 56,000 Americans died of influenza. In 1918, it is estimated that one-tenth of the world population got sick from influenza, and approximately 50 million people died!

My feeling is that the more we get the yearly influenza vaccination, the greater chance we have of staying safe if a particularly virulent influenza virus hits us.

The Medical Clinic of Big Sky has always been a walk-in, no appointment necessary clinic, so come in and get vaccinated.

Dr. Jeff Daniels was the recipient of the 2015 Chamber of Commerce Chet Huntley Lifetime Achievement Award and has been practicing medicine in Big Sky since 1994, when he and his family moved here from New York City. A unique program he implements has attracted more than 800 medical students and young doctors to train with the Medical Clinic of Big Sky.

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# INSIDE YELLOWSTONE

# Flame's role in Yellowstone

## BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN - As autumn rain and snow put a majority of Montana's wildfire flames to bed, in many cases, the seed for regeneration has already been planted. Often caused by lightning, wildfires play a natural role in the ecosystem of the West, where the commonly dry conditions influence fire activity year to year, and plant and animal species draw direct benefits from fire when it burns.

#### Conditions that make for a fire

This year has been one of the more active fire seasons state-wide in several years, with over 1.2 million acres burned throughout the state at EBS press time Sept. 27. However, while flames lit up Montana's northwest, in particular, regions such as Yellowstone remained pretty tame.

"It's been a very quiet year here in the park," said Yellowstone National Park Fire Ecologist Becky Smith. As of EBS press time, there have been six human-caused fires and two caused by lightning this year, all eight of which burned less than one-tenth of an acre.

Even with the drier months of late summer, Smith said lightning didn't strike in the park at times or locations that were dry enough to carry flame. That said, 2016 was a completely different story.

"It was the most active fire season after '88 in the written history of the park," Smith said about last year's fires. Twenty-two wildfires burned about 63,000 acres, she said, and the largest of these fires, the Maple fire, burned over 45,000 acres.

"It will be very interesting to see what comes back in these areas," Smith said, noting that much of the burned acreage is in areas where '88 fires burned and were experiencing re-growth. Lodgepole pine, which makes up nearly 80 percent of the park's forest, begins producing cones at about 20 to 25 years of age, so those burned last year should have released seeds during the fire, she added.

Philip Higuera, professor of fire ecology at the University of Montana, says the biggest factor impacting wildfire year-to-year is drought, which means it isn't uncommon to see such variability in fire activity each year.

"Big picture, the reason that Montana has experienced such an extreme fire season this year is because of an extreme drought," he said. Fuels dry out and



Leftover ash and charcoal after a wildfire adds mineral nutrients to the soil. Plants will sprout from surviving root systems, most often the next spring. NPS PHOTO

"We don't really like to label fires as good or bad," Smith said. "There are just different effects of fires."

One effect of a wildfire on the environment is a transfer of carbon storage. An element that is known as the basic building block of life, carbon is utilized by plants in photosynthesis and is either stored within the plant or respired back into the atmosphere in what is called the forest carbon cycle.

During a wildfire, a portion of the forest's carbon is released into the atmosphere through combustion, while some of it remains in the dead trees that are left and some is stored in the charcoal that is produced, says Andrew Larson, professor of forest ecology at the University of Montana.

Carbon stored in the dead trees and charcoal will be released through decomposition over time, slowly returning the element back into the atmosphere and soils. Debris left after a fire, such as charred wood and charcoal contributes to increased soil moisture retention and decreases the density of the soil, Larson added.

#### After the fire

According to Smith, our region has evolved around fire, meaning that the seemingly destructive flames of a wildfire are actually key factors in shaping the ecosystem. "Within Yellowstone and the Greater Yellowstone Area, it is well documented that fire has long been a part of the ecosystem and has shaped it," she said.

precipitation doesn't stifle the flames.

Last year, Higuera said, the Yellowstone area experienced drought conditions, while this year the region was much closer to average in terms of precipitation. In contrast, the northwest and eastern parts of the state experienced a "flash drought" wrought by exceptionally low precipitation this summer.

#### When the flames burn

Yellowstone National Park must balance the role fire has on the ecosystem with threats to developed areas when determining a reaction to a fire. Smith says they might manage different sides of a fire in different ways, perhaps suppressing one side in order to protect a structure, while letting another side burn "to restore fire to the ecosystem."

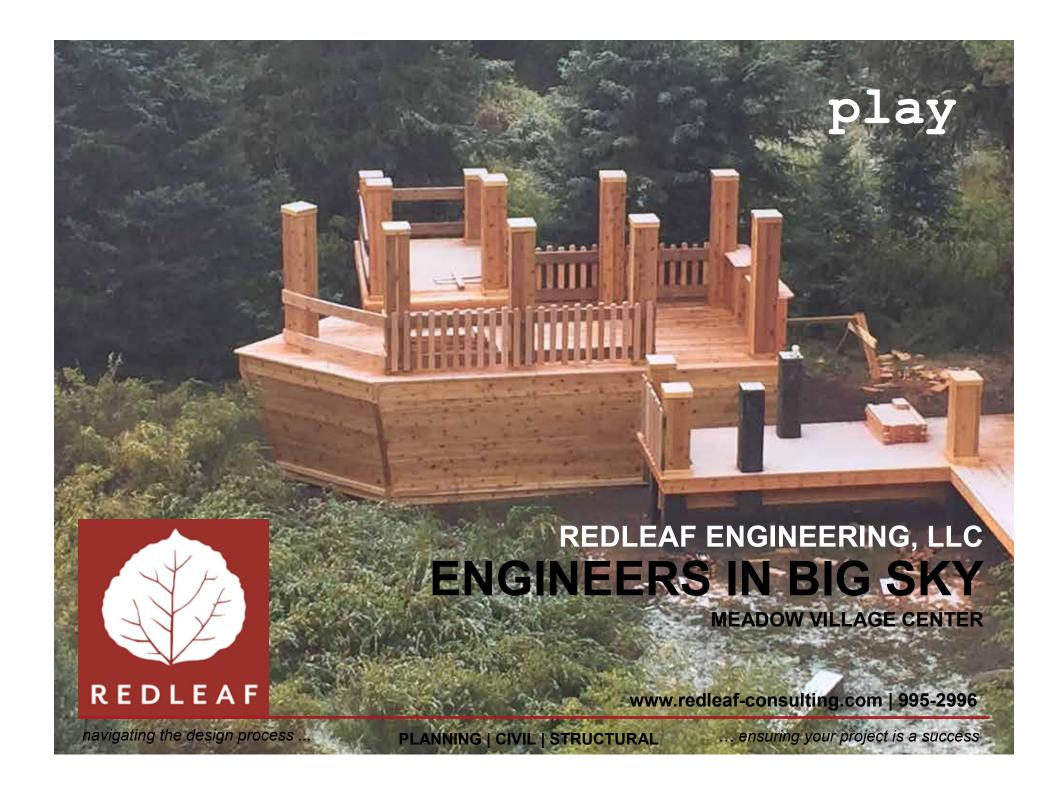
During a fire, ecologists monitor what is going on with field tests, gathering live and dead fuel sources in order to measure moisture content and understand how the fire is burning. They might collect herbaceous plants and duff—the layer of decaying needles, leaves and other material on the forest floor.

Understanding what a fire is burning, as well as looking at the terrain, can help to predict how it will burn, where the fire will travel and its severity level, Smith said. These factors determine a fire crew's response. Known as fire-dependent, the Northern Rockies subspecies of the lodgepole pine produces a serotinous cone that will not release seeds until its resin has melted at a high temperature, only reached during a fire. Burning at this temperature, a fire will create favorable, open, sunny areas for the new seedlings that are released, Smith said. "It's evolved to reproduce that way."

Early-fill plant species, such as fireweed and lupine, will come in after a fire pretty prolifically, she said.

"One of the important things to recognize is that most fires only consume about 20 to 30 percent of total forest," Larson said. "There's a lot of biomass left. ... In many even very severe wildfires, the below-ground plant matter is still alive and will sprout."

In the Northern Rockies, Larson added, shrubs and aspen trees will regenerate from their root systems after the flames stop burning. Depending upon how much of the growing season is left, Larson said, that usually begins the next spring. "There are legacy materials that persist through the fire event. They're ready to go back to work when the snows melt the next spring."





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# **Lone Peak sophomore summits Matterhorn**

## BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Beneath a bluebird sky on Aug. 30, then 15-year-old Riley Becker took a deep breath of thin mountain air. Standing at 14,692 feet, Becker took in her surroundings: the steep faces of the mountain cascading down on all sides, the ice and glaciers nearby, and the expanse of Italy stretching to the south amidst a swirl of storm clouds, Switzerland rolling out to the north with clear blue skies.

Becker had just completed her ascent of the Matterhorn, one of the highest summits in the Alps, fulfilling a dream she'd had since she was a small child.

#### Years in the Making

When she was about 4 years old, Becker visited Switzerland with her parents and grandparents, and that's where the dream began, she said. "The Matterhorn was just really, really pretty and intriguing." Becker was fortunate enough to make several trips with her family to ski and hike in the area, but the striking face of the Matterhorn continued to call to her.

Becker laughs now, saying the real motivation to climb the Matterhorn is perhaps a little more trivial. Becker says she really loves chocolate, and as a joke, she climbed the Matterhorn "so when I eat a Toblerone I can say I climbed that mountain," referring to the triangular shape of the Swiss chocolate bar and the Matterhorn logo on the packaging.

In fact, there was nothing trivial about the Big Sky youth's trip up the Matterhorn. Riley and her father Eric decided to make the trip about a year in advance and took that entire year to train.

The father and daughter were preparing for a climb that would take them nine hours, a difficult journey of fifth class climbing that would see the duo gain 4,000 feet in elevation on fixed lines and roped together, followed by a weary descent across ice, snow and rock.

In addition to her regular fitness program for free skiing and soccer, Riley began stacking on the miles hiking and climbing. During the peak of their summer training regimen, she and Eric would get up at 2 or 3 a.m. "We'd go summit Beehive or Wilson Peak, then I'd have to be at work at 8 or 9," Eric said. "Then Riley would go back to sleep," he added, Riley's quiet smile perhaps a confirmation.

Beyond reaching a high level of physical fitness, it was critical for Becker to achieve a level of mental preparation for high-exposure climbing. "It's hard for kids to have the mental fortitude to concentrate that long," Eric said.





Becker summited the Matterhorn with her dad after taking a year to train together. They took the trip just before her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ERIC BECKER

To prepare for high-exposure climbing and get beyond any fears of height, Riley and Eric spent a week in Chamonix, France, prior to the Matterhorn climb. In Chamonix, they acclimatized and trained with Miles and Erin Smart, the brother and sister guiding duo that would take them to the top of the pyramid-shaped Matterhorn.

Eric, who owns Geyser Whitewater Expeditions, says he is more of a kayaker and skier than a climber, but he and Riley trained together in order to fulfill a dream and share an adventure. "That's really the great thing about it, the fatherdaughter relationship, the adventure. We're very fortunate to do that together," Eric said. "It's a special thing to be able to do with a child."

#### To the Top

The day before their ascent, Riley and Eric hiked to the Hörnli Hut, a base camp for the Hörnli Ridge route located at 10,700 feet.

Eric says before the climb Miles was worried if Riley would be able to make the summit, concerned her young age might add to an already challenging climb. Pulling out a photograph of Riley at about 4 years old with the image of the Matterhorn grasped tightly in her hand, Eric said, "the day before, I showed him that and said, 'that's your motivation, Miles.'"

On climbing day, Riley and her dad set out at 4:40 a.m. with their guides, falling in line with about 30 or 40 other climbers hoping to summit. Eric said they were the only American climbers that day, and Riley was the only young adult. She is believed to be among the youngest American climbers to summit the Matterhorn.

Traveling along the Hörnli Ridge, the Beckers scrambled up rocky pitches overlooking glaciers, and scaled the lower and upper Moseley slabs. They donned crampons and relied on their ice axes for the last two hours of the ascent, struggling through fresh snow and ice as they reached the Shoulder, a knifeblade ridge just before the summit.

Riley Becker's dream of summiting the Matterhorn, straddled on the border between Switzerland and Italy, began at an early age on her first trip to Switzerland.

A forecasted storm moved in quickly and clouded the Italian views from the summit, Riley says. After a few photographs and some smiles the party quickly turned around to begin the descent, passing a statue of St. Bernard, patron saint of alpinists, along the way.

Riley says throughout the climb there were moments of stress when climbers would bottleneck. Anxious climbers—Riley described them as "very pushy" would shuffle each other about, and sheer drop-offs were on either side. At other times, a group climbing directly above would inadvertently kick rocks and ice down onto the party below.

She says the hardest challenge was to overcome mental obstacles. "When you're going up there, it feels like it's taking a while. You're breathing hard. You just have to remember, time is time. Nine hours is nine hours, whether you are climbing or sleeping.

"There were times when I felt like I wasn't a good enough climber, then I'd just do it, and I realized I was," Riley said.

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# Top streamers for fall fishing and their distant cousins

Fish any of these patterns to find the big fish



#### BY PATRICK STRAUB EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

As the morning frost thickens when September passes and October begins, a die-hard group of anglers grow increasingly excited.

Junkies, addicts, thugs and strippers show their true colors. I'm not talking about criminals, gang-bangers or folks breaking the law. I'm exposing a sub-culture of fly fishing—the committed streamer angler.

"Streamers" is the common term used to describe flies tied to imitate other baitfish or larger food, such as crayfish and baitfish. This is not a new concept in fly fishing; using large flies to catch fish has roots with the birth of fly fishing. The first anglers to use feathers on a hook to catch a fish did so by tying their flies to imitate other fish. Many of these original baitfish patterns were longer than 4 inches.

These anglers are devoted to matching two things: big fish on big flies.

Today's streamer junkies and tug thugs may think they have broken new ground in fly fishing with the creation of several new streamer patterns, but they've simply re-purposed old hits into new ones, à la Dr. Dre and Diddy. Here's my list of the best streamers to have in your box and their pattern of origin.

**The Conehead Muddler Minnow.** Rooted in a traditional sculpin pattern, the Conehead Muddler Minnow took an oldie and turned it into a chart sensation. The conehead adds weight to the fly to help it get down, and the flash in the body and wing imitate a myriad of baitfish. Because the fly is not articulated, it can be fished as a lead fly on a two-fly rig and tangles less. Locally, this fly tied with a smaller nymph as a trailer is a fish-catching machine on the Lower Madison.

**Coffey's Sparkle Minnow.** Tied with lots of flash and with marabou as its key element, the Sparkle Minnow owes its lineage to the Wooly Bugger. Using ice dubbing in flashy colors and adding a conehead, the Sparkle Minnow imitates other baitfish. Best fished stripped or swung, this pattern helps many young guides rack up Facebook likes.

**Sculpzilla.** This is my favorite pattern for streamer fishing on smaller waters. Its origin is a partial hi-jacking of the Zonker and the Wooly Bugger, but it's so much more than those two now. With a heavily weighted conehead containing oversized red eyes and an articulated body, when stripped in the water the fly imitates an injured sculpin or baitfish. Predatory trout actively search for injured prey...fish a Sculpzilla and you'll have plenty of stories to tell. My favorite colors are black and white. A Sculpzilla is best fished single as the articulation creates havoc for trailing flies tied to the bend of the hook.



Now is the time to get a big brown trout on a streamer. A conehead Muddler Minnow, pictured here, is ideal for enticing aggressive brown trout. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

**The Circus Peanut.** Name recognition on this enlarged streamer is easy. Tying it is another story. With either a spun dyed deer hair or chenille head, articulated body in multiple segments and hooks, this fly is not one you give up easy if snagged. With articulation, large dumbbell eyes, stinger hooks, and rubber legs the Circus Peanut has roots in a variety of traditional patterns. The Circus Peanut is surely responsible for many damaged egos of hundreds of large brown trout.

**Clouser Crayfish.** A list of top streamer patterns is not complete without a true crayfish pattern. Many exist, but my favorite is the simple Clouser Crayfish, created by Bob Clouser. Clouser also created the Clouser Minnow, a great pattern for saltwater species. The Clouser Crayfish is best fished deaddrifted, drug along a bank, or swung up at the tail-end of a deeper run. Rooted in a variety of crayfish patterns, this streamer can be tied with a foam back or a turkey quill back. Most are tied with lead on the hook shank to help it reach maximum depth.

If there is one thing a streamer addict can be accused of it's a commitment to the game. Casting large flies for long periods of time takes dedication. Creating unique streamer patterns requires patience, time at the vise and refined fly tying skills. Choosing the right waters at the right time with the right fly takes knowledge. All this means that streamer fishing ain't easy, but, when it all comes together the rewards can be worth the effort.

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.

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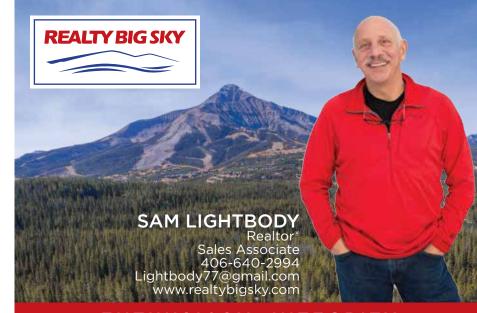
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## **Bridger Raptor Festival celebrates Montana raptors**

#### EBS STAFF

Live Montana raptors will show their feathers at this year's Bridger Raptor Festival held Oct. 7-8 at Bridger Bowl. The annual event features nature walks and talks, educational programs, and an opportunity to see powerful birds of prey up close.

Staff and volunteers from the Montana Raptor Conservation Center will be at the festival with several education birds—rescued raptors that are unable to return to the wild—both Saturday and Sunday. MRCC favorites Pilgrim the turkey vulture, Bu the great horned owl, Watson the American kestrel, Chaco the Swainson's hawk and Otis the northern saw-whet owl will all be on hand during the festival.

MRCC will offer a chance to win a free ski pass and other prizes through the Wingin'-It Raffle, which supports the raptor center and its birds. Founded in 1988, the MRCC strives to improve the welfare of raptors across Montana through rehabilitation of injured birds, community education and partnerships for raptor conservation and research.

On Oct. 6 Yellowstone Forever will sponsor a kick-off event at The Ellen Theatre with the showing of "The Eagle Huntress" at 7 p.m. This film follows the story of a 13-year-old Kazakh girl from Mongolia as she seeks to compete in a Mongolian eagle festival.

The Bridger Raptor Festival centers around the largest known golden eagle migration in the U.S. According to MRCC Board Member Jeannie Counce, the Bridger Mountains are located in the middle of one of the most frequented flyways for migrating golden eagles, a migration path known as the Rocky Mountain Flyway.

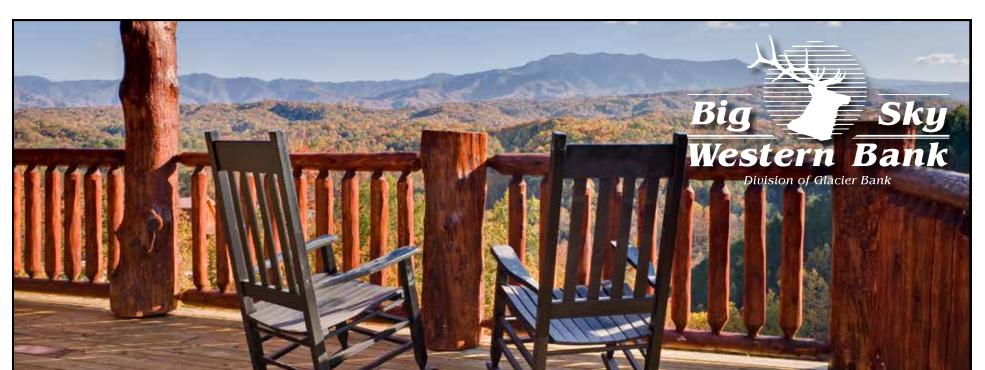
Since 1991, volunteers from Hawkwatch International and Montana Audubon have been conducting bird counts in the Bridger Mountains, and each season bird



The annual Bridger Raptor Festival Oct. 6-7 pairs kids' activities with educational programs in a celebration of Montana raptors and the annual golden eagle migration. PHOTO BY JEANNIE COUNCE

watchers tally between 1,200 and 1,900 golden eagles passing through, Counce said. The migration typically runs from the beginning of September through the end of October, with the peak activity period occurring in October, coinciding with the Bridger Raptor Festival.

For more information on the Bridger Raptor Festival, go to bridgerraptorfest.org.



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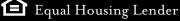


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## **On the Trail: Trail Ethics**

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

BY CIARA WOLFE BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As a frequent, avid trail user, trail ethics are a high priority for me. After a week of variable weather that included snow and rain, I was reminded how quickly poor trail ethics can damage a community trail system, and the importance of respecting trail conditions to preserve their quality over the long term.

With fall bringing some of Montana's most variable weather conditions, and the season being one of our favorite times to be out on the trails, I thought it was appropriate to share some of the more important trail ethics so that users can care for the trails they are on.

1. Respect the trail conditions. If the trail is saturated from snow and rain, every step or pedal you take makes an imprint that may not wash away quickly. Know when to turn around or stay off the trail altogether.

2. Stay on the trail. If you are on a semi-wet trail, make sure to stay on the trail through the puddles rather than walking around them. Every individual that walks around puddles creates an additional path next to the existing trail, which ultimately widens the path, killing unnecessary vegetation. The same goes for cutting switchbacks. Even if a user-created trail exists between switchbacks, it is never a good idea to go off trail and create further damage.

3. Clean the mud off your shoes, gear and dogs at the trailhead or when you return home. Many noxious weeds go to seed in the fall. These seeds can easily be carried by your furry friends or the mud on your shoes. If you hike several trails and don't clean off your shoes in between, you can be carrying the seed of a deadly noxious weed to every beautiful place you go. To find out more about the noxious weeds in our area visit bigskyweeds.org.

4. Respect trail user right of ways. Remember the yellow triangle when on the trail to ensure all users have an enjoyable and safe experience. Bikers yield to horses and hikers. Hikers yield to horses, and horses always have the right of way. Remind your friends and family who recreate to do the same.

Big Sky's community trail system is one of our most treasured assets. The trail system is maintained through a combination of volunteer efforts, local business sponsorships and resort tax funding. The damage that can be done to a trail system during the wet season can impact its quality for years and require additional time and resources to fix. Please do your part and practice responsible trail ethics while enjoying our trail system during one of the most beautiful times of year in Big Sky.

For more information about Big Sky's



A Big Sky trail shows the impact of wet-weather recreating. Practicing trail etiquette helps maintain trail conditions and ensures all users have a safe and enjoyable experience. PHOTO BY ADAM JOHNSON

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

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a random October Caddis or two. If you are in the right place at the right time you could get into some fish sipping small emergers or spinners on the surface. Otherwise nymphing with small bugs and Pat's Rubber Legs will likely be the most effective way to bring fish to net.

The Madison on the other hand is a popular fall destination, especially in the park and in between Quake and Hebgen Lakes. These sections of the Madison provide exceptional opportunities to catch larger fish, both browns and rainbows. Fish will be caught on patterns ranging from 6" long articulated streamers down to size 22 baetis and midge patterns. Although we also enjoy searching for fall browns it is important to remember that they are busy working on future generations of trout.

We encourage anglers to give a wide birth to actively spawning trout and steer clear of spawning redds. Decrease the amount of wading you do during spawning periods in order to reduce the damage to redds and trout eggs. Our actions greatly effect the



JuJu Midge



Lightning Bug

Mini Loop Sculpin

Fishing conditions and weather have made a complete about face in the last couple of weeks. Great news for fish and fall anglers that are willing to bundle up and brave the elements. Winter-like conditions in the mountains have cooled water temps and flushed some fresh water into our local rivers. This has also triggered brown trout to start moving towards their spawning grounds.

Since there is a relatively small population of brown trout that inhabit the upper Gallatin it isn't a popular destination for fall anglers. This means that if you're looking for a quiet angling experience the Gallatin isn't a bad place to look. The only hatches we can expect this time of year are fall baetis, midges and maybe

future of our trout.

We may still have some opportunities for terrestrial fishing, but we'll mostly be relying on hungry, opportunistic trout to make that happen as many of those insects have vanished with the colder weather. The upper Yellowstone River and streams in the NE corner of the park will probably be your best bet at getting a fish to rise to a hopper or ant. Cutthroat like dry flies.

And if you need to mix it up this isn't a bad time to hit the Paradise Valley Spring Creeks, hit the Missouri around Craig or take a couple days for the Big Horn or Big Hole Rivers.

Bundle up and enjoy some fall fishing.







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## Are the northern lights visible in Big Sky?

BY DEREK LENNON EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The northern lights are perhaps the ultimate natural phenomena. This dazzling display of dancing lights paints the night sky with vibrant greens, blues, reds and yellows. It's an otherworldly experience to see the night sky come alive with this all-natural light show. If you've never seen the northern lights, add it to your bucket list—it's mind blowing.

While many people head to Alaska, Canada, Iceland, or Norway to view the northern lights, it's also possible to see them without leaving Big Sky.

While it's not an everyday occurrence, the northern lights are most certainly visible in the great state of Montana. If you're in Big Sky Country, you might just catch a glimpse of the legendary northern lights. You just have to time it right.

According to Canada's Northern Lights Centre, the northern lights or aurora borealis "are actually collisions between electrically charged particles from the sun that enter the earth's atmosphere. The lights are seen above the magnetic poles of the northern and southern hemispheres."

The best time to see the northern lights in Big Sky is when the K-index is high. According to the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks website, "the K-index (Kp) is a measurement of the relative fluctuation in Earth's geomagnetic fields. The higher the K-index (on a scale of zero to nine), the better your chances of seeing the northern lights at lower latitudes. For regions of Montana south of I-90, a K-index of seven or higher is generally required to see the northern lights."

To best view the northern lights, you'll want a cloudless night ideally around the time of a new moon when the sky is at its darkest. You'll also want to watch from a secluded place far away from any light pollution and that offers an unimpeded view to the north. Don't forget your camera and be sure to dress appropriately.

One of the best ways to view the northern lights in Big Sky Country is to plan a backpacking trip that takes you off the grid. This way you can find the ultimate, panoramic vantage point and the blackest night sky. Take a look at a map or chat with folks at the local outdoor retail shops who can help you find the perfect spot to watch the night sky come to life.



A K-index—a measurement of the fluctuation in Earth's geomagnetic fields—of seven or higher is generally required to see the northern lights in Big Sky. PHOTO BY ETHAN SHUMACHER

When you see the northern lights in Big Sky or surrounding region, it feels as if you can reach out and touch the entire galaxy. Can you do that at home? It might be time to plan a trip to Big Sky.

For more information on the aurora borealis, visit noaa.gov, aurora-service.org, spaceweather.com. There are also a number of apps that provide alerts when viewing conditions are prime.

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 visithigskymt.com/northern-lights-big-sky-montana/. Read more interesting content about the area on Visit Big Sky's blog at visithigskymt.com/category/blog/.



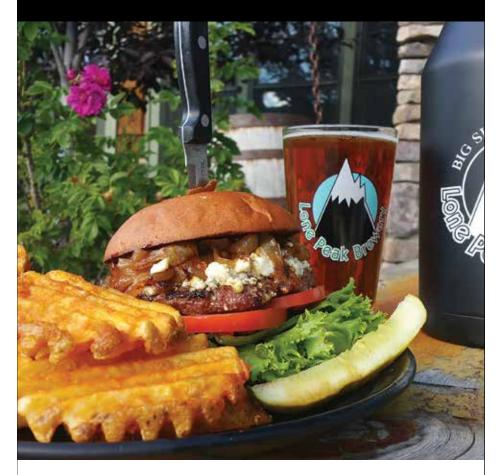
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## **Getting kids to pedal** Nationwide event makes its first appearance in Gallatin Valley

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – According to Melissa Cronin, mountain biking is a lifelong journey.

"Unlike team or other sports, you can mountain bike until you are physically incapable," Cronin said.

"It kind of pushes your boundaries in that you have to try really hard." Even on an easy trail, Cronin described challenges such as getting a tire over a stubborn rock, or pedaling farther than you have before. "When you challenge yourself and bump up on those barriers, there is a sense of confidence building that I've especially seen in kids."

Cronin is a member of the board of the Southwest Montana Mountain Bike Association and is one of the ringleaders responsible for bringing a national kid's mountain biking day to Bozeman.

On Oct. 7, SWMMBA will host Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day for the first time in Gallatin Valley, partnering with the Gallatin Valley Land Trust, Bozeman Youth Cycling, Bozeman Pedal Project and Buddy Pegs. The event is a part of a larger, national movement organized by the International Mountain Bicycling Association. Every year on the first Saturday in October, Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day is celebrated throughout the U.S.

From 2 to 4 p.m. kids ages 6 to 18 are invited to the East Gallatin Recreation Area near the toes of the Bridger Mountains to try out bikes, ask questions, participate in trail challenges, and get out and pedal. With a number of beginner trails around the East Gallatin Recreation Area, youth of all skill levels will be able to hit the trail.

"I think it is a great atmosphere to introduce kids to mountain biking. The trails are easy and attainable," said GVLT Trails Project Manager Jeff Hough, who worked with Cronin to bring the event to Bozeman. "I think when there are other kids, they all want to get out there with the group and have fun.

"Being in nature and on the trails is very different than riding on the road," Hough added.

"It exposes [kids] to a natural world, which is becoming more and more difficult," Cronin said. "It's a really amazing way to go out and see an environment and appreciate nature."

Youth are encouraged to bring their own bikes and helmets, from strider bikes to mountain bikes, but Hough said there will also be a small selection of loaner bikes and helmets on hand.

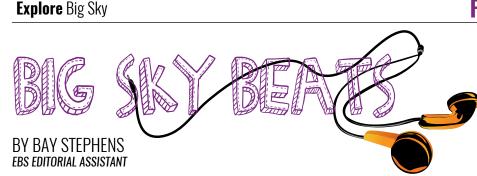


#### www.lonepeakbrewery.com

Added to the mix, the bicycle repair center Bozeman Bike Kitchen will bring its expertise to the event, offering repair and tune-up services as well as bike and helmet safety checks.

IMBA's national Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day started in 2004 and is a celebration of youth cycling as inspired by Jack Doub, an avid teenage mountain biker from North Carolina who was passionate about the sport and sharing it with others.

After Doub's untimely death in 2002, Sen. Richard Burr of North Carolina introduced a resolution to Congress declaring the first Saturday in October as National Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day. The resolution was established in 2004 and since then, IMBA estimates nearly 100,000 youth have taken part in the national events.



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.

It's off-season in Big Sky, and with business slowing down, it's quieter around town. For some of us, the quiet is something to relish in, allowing time to enjoy the mountains and forests and to spend with family.

The quiet may unsettle others, especially those who've lived the transient life for a good while. The changing seasons beg for a change of scenery as a fear of getting stuck moves in.

In the case of the former, the first five songs are to accompany contentment and enjoyment in the place you've put down roots. For those who feel the soul-call to get out of town, the last five songs can be travel companions for restlessness. Get out there!

- 1. "Sweet Baby James," James Taylor
- 2. "Sugar Mountain," Neil Young
- 3. "Lovin' In My Baby's Eyes," Leftover Salmon
- "This Cowboy's Hat," Chris LeDoux 4.
- 5. "House of Winston," Shakey Graves
- 6. "Already Gone," Wild Rivers
- 7. "Wolf," First Aid Kit
- 8. "The Fear," Ben Howard
- 9. "Columns," Portage
- 10. "My Life, My Love," Family Friends

## **American Life in Poetry:** Column 653

#### BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

I'm very fond of poems in which the poet stands at a distance from whatever is going on and offers a report. This poem by Dorianne Laux, from her book "What We Carry" (BOA Editions, Ltd.), gives us the flavor of an entire high school homecoming by observing just one father and daughter. And the third person in this third-person poem is, of course, the poet. Laux lives in North Carolina.

#### Homecoming

By Dorianne Laux

At the high school football game, the boys stroke their new muscles, the girls sweeten their lips with gloss that smells of bubblegum, candy cane, or cinnamon. In pleated cheerleader skirts they walk home with each other, practicing yells, their long bare legs forming in the dark. Under the arched field lights a girl in a velvet prom dress stands near the chainlink, a cone of roses held between her breasts. Her lanky father, in a cordurov suit, leans against the fence. While they talk, she slips a foot in and out of a new white pump, fingers the weave of her French braid, the glittering earrings. They could be a couple on their first date, she, a little shy, he, trying to impress her with his casual stance. This is the moment when she learns what she will love: a warm night, the feel of nylon between her thighs, the fine hairs on her arms lifting when a breeze sifts in through the bleachers, cars igniting their engines, a man bending over her, smelling the flowers pressed against her neck.

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## DOG OF THE MONTH





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#### 44 September 29 - October 12, 2017

OUTDOORS

Explore Big Sky

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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"

## The Glory Days of Comet, Montana

#### BY JOLENE EWERT-HINTZ EBS CONTRIBUTOR

An afternoon drive along a gravel road in the High Ore Gulch will lead you to a true Montana ghost town and a piece of its history. As one nears the town, remnants of a once thriving mining community pop out among the looming sagebrush and dry terrain. The silence speaks volumes, accompanied by the voices of the tumbling cabins and abandoned mill.

It all started around 1869 when John W. Russell located a claim in the area. The rich lode wasn't developed until a few years later after Russell had sold the claim to the Alta-Montana Company. They got things rolling by building a 40-ton per day concentrator which would separate the ore from the dirt and rocks. However, early mining efforts showed little profit as high costs of transportation, equipment and living expenses took their toll.

In 1883, the Helena Mining and Reduction Company bought the struggling business and constructed a new smelter in nearby Wickes. At first, silver and lead ore were transported by wagon to Wickes, but a year later a rope tramway began to carry the heavy loads. When the Northern Pacific Railroad opened their line between Helena and Wickes, mining operations began to grow.

The town of Comet was officially surveyed and platted in 1876, and its first post office opened the following year. By the 1880s, Comet and Wickes held a combined 300 people. Comet was once home to a school with 20 pupils, numerous homes and businesses, and of course, it's fair share of saloons. By 1900, the ores had started to play out.

By 1913, the town was described as a ghost town. A revival came about in 1926 when the Basin Montana Tunnel Company took over operations and built a 200-ton concentrator. Described as "the most modern in Montana," the mill became the second largest mining venture in Montana, after Butte. The local mines would go on to produce over \$20 million in silver,





In the 1880s, Comet and neighboring Wickes had a combined population of 300 people. Comet's current population is three, as just one family lives there. PHOTOS BY JOLENE EWERT-HINTZ

lead, zinc, gold and copper. Work continued off and on until 1941. People started moving away and Comet became a ghost once more.

Such a large venture did not come without a cost. Toxic metal wastes and tailings eroded into High Ore Creek for more than 80 years according to reports by the Department of Environmental Quality. In 1997, a reclamation project was done to ensure the safety of people, livestock and wildlife in the area. In 2006, DEQ earned a national award for their cleanup efforts.

Comet still holds much intrigue for the local adventurer. The two-story boarding house can be seen to your left from the "main drag." Miners could find room and board here for 75 cents of their average workday wage of \$4. On the opposite side of the road you can view the old mill and bunkhouse. Many cabins and their scattered remains still dot the 12 block radius of the town. Home now to just one family, the town's current population is three.

Comet is privately owned so please take only photos, leave only footprints

Mining kept Comet alive, in fits and spurts, for about 70 years. Depicted is a loading dock, where metals like silver and lead ore would be loaded up before continuing on to other destinations in Montana.

and respect the owners and the town itself.

As is the case with many of Montana's ghost towns, Comet has been victim to vandalism, bad weather and time. Comet has been neither preserved nor restored and many buildings are collapsing into disrepair. But even as the town fades away, the memories and stories live on. For now, the wind still whistles through the cracks of yesterday's old buildings.

Directions: Comet is located about 40 miles northeast of Butte, between Boulder and Basin. From Interstate 15, take exit 160. Then follow High Ore Road, a gravel road, the final 5 miles to town.

Jolene Ewert-Hintz is the editor/publisher of "Ghost Towns of Montana" and Beyond Magazine. She shares her passion for Montana through stories and photographs on her Facebook page: Ghost Towns and History of Montana. You can visit her storefront, The Ghost Town Gallery at 427 Main St. in Deer Lodge, or visit her website, joleneewert.wixsite.com/gthofmt.

#### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

#### **Explore** Big Sky

**Section 4:** 





## Keep it honest and paint what you know The art and ethos of Ed Anderson

#### **BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR**

BIG SKY - Every September, artist Ed Anderson books out the guest lodge he bought with his father on the Payette River south of McCall, Idaho, for a week of solitude and sketching, interspersed with visits from hunting and fishing friends.

Although his gestural renditions of wildlife in paint and ink that spring from illustrated journals suggest otherwise, Anderson doesn't "jones for fishing or hunting."

"Right now I'm looking out at the river in a rain storm with the mountains coming in and out of the fog," Anderson said during a Sept. 20 phone interview. "That's enough reason to be up here-the hunting is more of an excuse."

Anderson has found a way to blend his affinity for outdoor adventure with the narratives he's compelled to tell through art. Whether fishing in Cuba, Florida, Mozambique, Mexico or his backyard, for Anderson it comes down to chronicling his experience or, as he puts it, "cataloging Americana."

What constitutes "Americana" is ill-defined, but that's part of what Anderson likes about it.

"Americana describes an iconography I'm constantly searching for," Anderson said. "It's a broad big swath ... it's everything really."

Everything the artist has experienced firsthand that is. And fortunately for Anderson that has been a lot-from being an in-house artist for Professional Bull Riders to increasingly frequent partnerships with companies like Patagonia and conservation organizations, which seek to protect the land and waterways where he finds the inspiration for his artwork.

"I think art is an experience of what is around you," Anderson said. "I get frustrated by artists that aren't cataloguing their experience; they're painting pretty pictures. What gets missed is the experiential part [which] I think is really important."

For Anderson, that means shying away from most commissions because they are not a part of his story, and keeping his work as honest as possible is one of his tenets.

"As an artist the line between that fiction is so easy to cross," he said. "I can tell stories about Indians in the 1850s, but I might as well be painting dragons and fairies—it's not honest."



Anderson uses a combination of paint and ink to achieve his signature quick finish style that often features the wildlife of the many regions he likes to explore. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ED ANDERSON ART

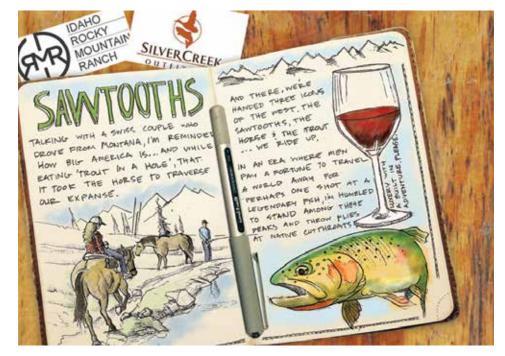
The experiential aspect is most evident in Anderson's journals that blend colorful sketches and storytelling. Although he often bases his larger works off of these illustrations, pages from his books have been made into prints that belong on a gallery wall as surely as the resultant paintings. Conservation groups have also commissioned custom journal pages to capture their message. Anderson is currently working on a project for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, focusing on the proposed Paradise Valley mine, which will be made public in June 2018.

"It happened naturally," Anderson said. "I'm lucky to be able to help them get their mission promoted and journal stories are a good way to tell their story. Any time I can help the organizations that do what I like to do, I do whatever I can."

Anderson's career is currently blasting off with so much velocity he isn't able to paint fast enough to meet the demand. And while he's made art his entire life, his newfound success stems from a style that broke open for him only five years ago.

At an opening for a show in Ketchum, Idaho, the gallery owner suggested Anderson do some sketching on the street. The exercise led to doing more live art and evolved into the quick draw, sketch aesthetic that defines his current work.

Anderson begins by applying copious amounts of watered-down acrylics that he lets drip down the canvas, creating what he calls a "controlled mess." He finishes by going over the top with ink, a simple Sharpie marker these days, to detail the form.



Most of Anderson's large-scale paintings stem from illustrated journals that are works of art in and of themselves.

"The ink gives me a sense of control to bring it back in," he said.

It also gives the impression of movement and a fast looseness of line, although there is nothing hasty about his process.

Finding himself in a period of exponential growth, Anderson is amazed by how far his style has evolved in a few short years and awed by where it might go from here.

Today, his work can be found all over the country, but that's not to say the artist hasn't experienced his share of failures too-and like all creative types he has to battle self-doubt from time to time.

"The hard part is I don't know how the style is going to evolve," Anderson said. "The scariest thing for me is trying and failing ... in my mind's eye it has a long way to go but it really comes down to whether I'm able to execute it at the level I want to."

But press on an artist must. Quoting painter Chuck Close who famously said, "Inspiration is for amateurs," Anderson added, "Even when you're scared and depressed and you don't think you can create anything good you just have to."

Ed Anderson's art work can be found locally at Horse of a Different Color in Big Sky. More of bis work can be seen at edandersonart.com.

## American West series begins at MSU with lecture by author Claire Vaye Watkins

#### MSU NEWS SERVICE

The Center for Western Lands and Peoples at Montana State University will kick off its 2017 "Perspectives on the American West" lecture series with an evening with Claire Vaye Watkins at 6 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 2, in the Museum of the Rockies' Hager Auditorium.

Watkins's lecture, which is free and open to the public, will be preceded by a book-signing at 5:30 p.m. and followed by a reception, both in the museum's lobby. Doors open at 5:15 p.m.

Watkins is an award-winning author and faculty member at the Helen Zell Writers' Program at the University of Michigan. She will read selections from her fiction that reflect the inspiration she draws from her Western roots, and discuss regionalism and the West in her work.

Watkins was born and raised in the Mojave Desert. A graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno, Watkins earned a Master of Fine Art from Ohio State University, where she was a Presidential Fellow. She is the author of the novel "Gold Fame Citrus" and the story collection "Battleborn," which won the Story Prize, the Dylan Thomas Prize, New York Public Library's Young Lions Fiction Award, the Rosenthal Family Foundation Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and a Silver Pen Award from the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame.

Her stories and essays have appeared in Granta, Tin House, Freeman's, The Paris Review, Story Quarterly, New American Stories, Best of the West, The New Republic, The New York Times and many others. A Guggenheim Fellow, Watkins was also named one of Granta's Best Young American Novelists. A recipient of fellowships from the Sewanee and Bread Loaf writers' conferences, she was also one of the National Book Foundation's "5 Under 35" in 2012.

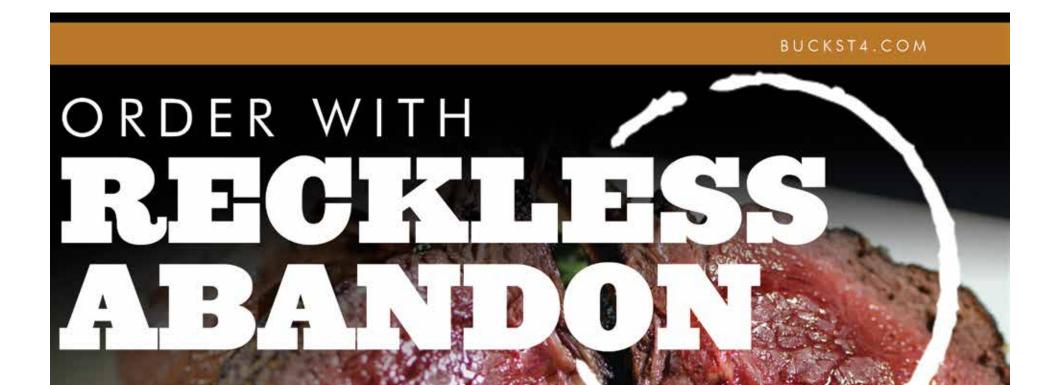


On Oct. 2, Claire Vaye Watkins, an award-winning novelist, short story writer and faculty member at the University of Michigan, will read selections from her fiction that reflect the inspiration she draws from her Western roots. PHOTO COURTESY OF CLAIRE VAYE WATKINS

Watkins is also the co-director, with Derek Palacio, of the Mojave School, a free creative writing workshop for teenagers in rural Nevada.

The American West lecture series features experts from around the country discussing the history, literature and culture of the West; issues affecting the wildlife and fisheries of the region; and the West's geography, geology and resources. Co-sponsored by the Burton K. Wheeler Center, the series is a program of the Center for Western Lands and Peoples, an interdisciplinary research center within the College of Letters and Science.

Visit montana.edu/west/speakers/2017.html for more information about MSU's "Perspectives on the American West" lecture series.



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## **Glass installation, portraits of Native Americans added to MSU** parking garage

**BY ANNE CANTRELL MSU NEWS SERVICE** 

BOZEMAN - Granite Peak. Turner Mountain. Bridger Bowl. These are some of Montana's prominent geographic features documented in a colored glass installation that has helped transform the Montana State University parking garage into an innovative art museum.

The installation, "Welcome," by Tad Bradley, assistant teaching professor in MSU's School of Architecture in the College of Arts and Architecture, appears on windows on the south side of the garage's stairwell.

"Welcome" is comprised of 7-foot-tall glass panels of varying width. Together, the panels feature the

names of Montana's counties and county seats, the license plate number assigned to each county and the traditional names of Montana's American Indian tribes. It also includes elevations—called out to scale—of some of the tallest mountains in Montana, the elevation of Montana ski resort summits and the lowest point in Montana, which is the bottom of the Mountain Consolidated Mine in Butte at 160 feet above sea level.

Three geometric shapes—which change from warm red and orange hues to cooler blues and purples—form the backbone of the installation.

Bradley said that he hopes his installation will help encourage people entering campus through the parking garage to become more acquainted with Montana.

"The parking garage is a very utilitarian structure. It is also a structure that many people visiting MSU will go to in order to park and take a tour of campus," he said. "Because of this, I believe it is appropriate to take advantage of the opportunity of people moving through [the] space to invite them to become acquainted with the state."

The geometric shapes cast colorful shadows in the stairwell, adding another dimension to the work.

"Small children that may not read or be interested in the information ... can find wonder and beauty by the sunlight illuminating the colors and washing across the white walls, changing each level into a new experience," Bradley said.

Bradley is an architectural designer who creates mixed-media sculptural installations. His installations on campus include a 25-panel fused glass installation on the second floor of Gaines Hall and a sculpture north of MSU's Danforth Chapel. An architect who has worked in firms in Montana and Boston, Bradley also maintained a parttime job as an apprentice blacksmith while teaching full time in the MSU School of Architecture.



The lastest addition to the public art initiative in the Montana State University parking garages is comprised of 7-foot-tall glass panels with topographical and informational data about Montana by artist and professor Tad Bradley. PHOTO BY ADRIAN SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ

initiative. To date, three other installations have been created.

This summer Matika Wilbur, a Seattle-based photographer from the Swinomish and Tulalip tribes, worked with nine MSU students to install more than a dozen photographs on the fourth floor of the parking garage. The photographs include portraits of Native Americans as well as photographs of hands. The installation's centerpiece is a dramatic photograph of a woman's eyes.

Noah Jackson, an MSU music education and music technology student from Fort Belknap, was one of the students who assisted Wilbur with the project. As part of their work, the students traveled with Wilbur to the Flathead Reservation, where they interviewed and photographed people from the Confederated

Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Jackson's grandmother, Rita Adams, is one of the people they interviewed, and it is her eyes that are featured in the installation's centerpiece.

Jackson, who is an enrolled Salish, said he was honored to contribute to the project.

"I'm really proud of the work," he said, adding that he hopes the art will help raise awareness of native culture.

When they returned, Wilbur and the students spent an intense week choosing, printing and installing the photographs.

Earlier in the summer, the Colombian graffiti muralist Ledania completed murals on the second level of the new parking structure. The murals seamlessly combine colors and themes from her native country with symbols and imagery from Montana and the Yellowstone region.

And in April, South American graffiti muralist Marina Zumi used more than 200 cans of spray paint to transform the first floor of the parking garage into a massive mural depicting the world of mathematics, cosmology and the spiritual dimensions of Montana.

MSU College of Arts and Architecture Dean Royce W. Smith said each of the college's four schools-the School of Music, School of Art, School of Film and Photography and School of Architecture-will eventually have installations in the garage that will bring together sound, image and space.

For his part, Bradley said he hopes "Welcome" will help inspire a spirit of discovery.

"I hope this installation will inspire further inquiry into this state and allow people to feel welcome here," he said. "It may be the first physical structure of MSU that some people may ever enter, and I feel it is essential that this moment and experience are special and memorable."

## **Explore** Big Sky

Bradley's "Welcome" installation is just one part of the garage's permanent public art

#### Depression-era Midwest comes to life in Copland opera 'The 1 11 G **Tender Land'**

#### EBS STAFF

Intermountain Opera Bozeman opens its 40th season with a production of Aaron Copland's "The Tender Land" on Friday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m., and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 15 at Bozeman's Willson Auditorium.

An American classic, "The Tender Land" offers a vivid portrait of a farm family in the rural Midwest during the Great Depression. Inspired by photographs in James Agee's 1941 book "Let Us Now Praise Famous Men," the opera is a coming-of-age story that highlights an episode in the lives of Laurie Moss, her family and two migrant workers through a score rife with the melodic, folkish music that has become synonymous with Copland.

At the start of the opera, along with a delivery of Laurie's high school graduation dress, the postman brings gossip about a neighbor's daughter being frightened by two strangers to the area. After initial suspicion, Ma and Grandpa Moss agree to hire itinerant workers Top and Martin to help out with the harvest. Laurie and Martin meet and eventually fall in love, much to Grandpa's disapproval.

Even though it has been proven Top and Martin are not the men who frightened the local girl, Grandpa Moss tells them they have to leave.

Laurie and Martin fantasize about eloping, but in the end Top and Martin steal away in the night. The opera ends with Laurie leaving home and striking out on her own, and her sister Beth dancing by herself as in the opening scene.

Director Steven Daigle and Conductor Steven Byess weave this story into an operatic performance appropriate for audiences of all ages. Tenor Joshua Kohl performs the role of Martin, and bass-baritone Joseph Beutel plays Top, while Laurie is performed by soprano Lindsay Russell. Mezzo-soprano Sarah Larsen is Ma Moss, and bassbaritone Jan Opalach completes the cast as Grandpa Moss.

Both performances of "The Tender Land" will take place at the Willson Auditorium located at 404 W. Main Street in downtown Bozeman. For tickets call Intermountain Opera Bozeman at (406) 587-2889 or visit intermountainopera.org. Remaining tickets will also be available at the door.

**Explore** Big Sky

# EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY. SEPTEMBER 29 – THURSDAY. **OCTOBER 12** 

**\*IF YOUR EVENT FALLS BETWEEN OCT. 13 AND 26, PLEASE SUBMIT IT BY** OCT. 5 BY EMAILING MEDIA@OUTLAW. PARTNERS.

## **BIG SKY**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29** Oktoberfest Ranch Hall, Lone Mountain Ranch, 5:30 p.m.

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

#### **BIG SKY, MT**

#### **Oktoberfest** Sept. 29, 5:30 p.m. Lone Mountain Ranch

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 Poker Tournament** Lone Mountain Ranch, all evening

Just Add Water WMPAC, 7:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1** Just Add Water WMPAC, 2 p.m.

#### BIG SKY, MT

**Just Add Water** Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 1, 2 p.m. **WMPAC** 

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 2** Service Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

#### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3**

Top Shelf Toastmasters

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6 Walk to School Day

Buck's T-4 to School, 8:15 a.m.

Fish Fry BYWOM, all evening

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7** Oktoberfest Ironman Open Big Sky Resort Golf Course, all day

STEM Saturdays Big Sky Discovery Academy, 10 a.m.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 9** Service Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10** Big Sky Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, 8:30 a.m.

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

#### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

Lone Peak Anime Club TBA, 6 p.m.

Louise Harrison WMPAC, 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12** Wild and Scenic Rivers: An American Legacy Lone Peak Brewery, 7 p.m.

#### **BIG SKY, MT**

**My Kid Brother's** Band Oct. 11, 7 p.m. **WMPAC** 

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14** STEM Saturdays Big Sky Discovery Academy, 10 a.m.

## BOZEMAN

Lost Dog Street Band, Live From the Divide, 9 p.m.

**SUNDAY. OCTOBER 1** Acony Belles Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 2 Claire Vave Watkins** Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Jacob Rountree Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

Grizzly bears in the Gobi Desert Story Mansion, 7 p.m.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3** Larry Kiff Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY. OCTOBER 4**

Montana: In the Movies, Boxing Ring, & Football Fields Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Waterfowl Identification Class FWP Region 3 Headquarters, 6:30 p.m.

**Rick Bass: Activism and Fiction** Emerson Cultural Center, 6:30 p.m.

#### **BOZEMAN, MT**

Columbus Oct. 4, 7 p.m. The Ellen Theatre

Columbus The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5** Big Sky Big Ideas Summit The Commons, all afternoon

Who was A.B. Hammond & Why Should You Care? Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Drop Everything Emerson Crawford Theater, 6:15 p.m.

**Bridger Creek Boys** 

Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day East Gallatin Recreation Area, 2 p.m.

Oktoberfest Bridger Bowl, 3 p.m.

James Blair: Our Threatened Inheritance Reception Old Main Gallery & Framing, 5 p.m.

Howard Beall & The Fake News Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Jake Johannsen The Ellen Theatre, 8 p.m.

#### **BOZEMAN, MT**

**Color Me Fun 5k** Oct. 7, 9 a.m. **Ridge Athletic Club** 

#### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8**

**Raptor Festival** Bridger Bowl, all dav

Lazy Owl String Band Red Tractor Pizza, 6 p.m.

Aaron Williams Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 9** Brice Pufahl Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

**TUESDAY. OCTOBER 10** Montana Food Show Best Western GranTree Inn, all evening

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

#### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

Fossil Festival Museum of the Rockies, 5 p.m.

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

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

#### BOZEMAN, MT

Town Center Sales Uffice, 12 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

Design and Craft Pop-Up The Outpost, Lone Mountain Ranch, all day

Lone Peak Anime Club TBA, 6 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5**

**Thermal Grass Bluegrass Music** Ranch Hall, Lone Mountain Ranch, 5:30 p.m.

#### **BIG SKY, MT**

**Thermal Grass** Oct. 5, 5:30 p.m. Lone Mountain Ranch

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 MSU Homecoming Pep Rally Downtown, 5:30 p.m.

The Meyer Trio Tounshend's Teahouse, 7 p.m.

Family Movie: Mary Poppins The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30** Gallatin Valley Farmers' Market Haynes Pavilion, Gallatin County Fairgrounds, all morning

**MSU Homecoming Parade** Downtown, 10 a.m.

Date Night: When Harry Met Sally The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Red Tractor Pizza, / p.m.

Diamond Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6 The Eagle Huntress The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Jazz Night Red Tractor Pizza, 7 pm.

**SATURDAY. OCTOBER 7** Raptor Festival Bridger Bowl, all day

Winter Farmers' Market Emerson Ballroom, all morning

Color Me Fun 5K Ridge Athletic Club, 9 a.m.

**Fossil Festival** Oct. 11, 5 p.m. Museum of the Rockies

**THURSDAY. OCTOBER 12** Bridger Creek Boys Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

A Journey Through the Lens of Cory Richards Emerson Theater, 7 p.m.

Mathias Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Gentri: The Gentlemen Trio The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Warren Miller's Line of Descent The Ellen Theatre, Oct. 13 and 14 at 8 p.m.

# WORTH THE DRIVE

#### NATIONAL PARKS

#### **National Parks Free Entry Day** All National Parks Sept. 30

To celebrate National Public Lands Day on Sept. 30, the National Park Service will waive entrance fees into all U.S. national parks. Take a day trip through Yellowstone, or perhaps plan to check out the snow accumulating on the Tetons in Grand Teton National Park.

#### LIVINGSTON, MT

#### **Wild Weed Harvest Feast**

Livingston Oct. 1

Livingston's Paradise Permaculture Institute will host a benefit gourmet weed lunch at 1 p.m. on Oct. 1 as a celebration between wild plants, sustainable food and personal health. PPI supports sustainable food production and is passionate about sharing techniques and knowledge about edible plant species. Preregistration is required for the Weed Feast, and the location address will be supplied upon registration. Visit paradisepermaculture.org to learn more about this event.

#### WEST YELLOWSTONE, MT

## West Yellowstone–Old Faithful Cycle Tour

#### Oct. 7

The 20th annual West Yellowstone–Old Faithful Cycle Tour is comprised of a 60-mile route along the Madison and Firehole rivers, offering breathtaking scenery of Yellowstone in the fall. Pedal past gurgling geysers, bugling elk and golden aspen trees for a truly unique national park experience. As of EBS press time Sept. 27, registration was still open for this event. To learn more about the Old Faithful Cycle Tour or to register, visit cycleyellowstone.com.

#### THREE FORKS, MT

#### Copper City Trails Opening Copper City Trailhead Sept. 30

With the first phase completed on a multi-year trails project near Three Forks, Southwest Montana Mountain Bike Association will host a grand opening event and work day to coincide with National Public Lands Day. There will be children's activities, trail work projects, a barbeque lunch, and the opportunity to ride the first trail loop of the Copper City Trails Project, Green Eagle Trail. Visit coppercitytrails.org to learn more.

#### LIVINGSTON, MT

## Livingston Film Series: 'Young Frankenstein'

Shane Lalani Center for the Arts Oct. 8

The Livingston Film Series will host a free screening of the film "Young Frankenstein" at 7 p.m. Respected medical lecturer Dr. Frederick Frankenstein (Gene Wilder) learns that he has inherited his infamous grandfather's estate in Transylvania. Arriving at the castle, Dr. Frankenstein recreates his grandfather's experiments and a he creates his own monster (Peter Boyle), new complications ensue with the arrival of the doctor's fiancée, Elizabeth (Madeline Kahn).

#### BILLINGS, MT

#### **Autumn ArtWalk** Yellowstone Art Museum Oct. 6

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YAM's Autumn ArtWalk features fresh exhibitions and prized works from Renoir, Lichtenstein and Warhol. The ArtWalk begins at 4 p.m. and live music by singer-songwriters Maddie Alpert and Chad Zigweid, light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will carry through the evening. "Modernist Intersections: The Tia Collection" draws from a private collection of contemporary works by Roy Lichtenstein and others, while "My Hero: Contemporary Art & Superhero Action" is a collection celebrating iconic superheroes. For the full list of exhibitions, visit artmuseum.org. Tickets are available at gvfarmtoschool.org/diningfordirt/.

## Adult Mountain Soap Box Derby coming around the bend a second time

#### BY BAY STEPHENS **EBS EDITORIAL ASSISTANT**

BIG SKY - Flying down a rocky mountain road in a home-built soap box car may sound like a bad idea—or a really good one. Although soapbox derbies are a classic American tradition, the Adult Mountain Soap Box Derby is one of a kind, pitting garage-rig against garage-rig on a course as rugged as Montana.

Scheduled for Oct. 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Axtell Road-five miles south of Four Corners-food, music and a Halloween costume contest will accompany the spectacle of buggies barreling down the mountain road.

Creek to Peak Wear, a Bozeman apparel company, is hosting the derby in partnership with the Gallatin Valley Land Trust, an organization devoted to protecting open land for the enjoyment of future generations. Together they hosted the first Adult Mountain Soap Box Derby this past April near Livingston.

The event went so smoothly that Frank Gazella, owner of Creek to Peak Wear, said they're looking to make a mountain series out of the races with races already scheduled for next year in Livingston, Bozeman and Manhattan. Proceeds from the October race, in which at least six cars are slated to compete as of a Sept. 6 interview with Gazella, will benefit GVLT.

EJ Porth, GVLT communications and outreach director, said the race in Livingston was a blast.

"We were in the Paradise Valley right on the river, looking at this beautiful backdrop of open space," she said. "I think it was a good reminder for people of why they live here. And they felt glad to be participating in something that helped protect that."

Gazella is excited to host another race and provide something unique and fun for the Gallatin Valley. He sees building a soapbox car as a solid way for a business to advertise their company and build teamwork.

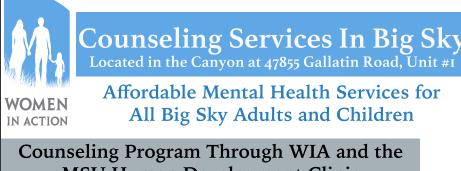
"The car that they build does not have to be super difficult to build or very technical," Gazella said. "The simplest, lightest car won our Livingston event."

The deadline to register for the race is Oct. 1. Winners will walk away with cash while spectators-and especially those with Halloween costumes—stand to win all sorts of swag, including a free pair of shoes from Oboz Footwear.

Porth is excited about the race's location because Axtell Road is adjacent to several of GVLT's conservation projects.

"People will be inevitably driving by land that's been protected and will be open in perpetuity forever," she said.

For more information about the Adult Mountain Soap Box Derby, visit creektopeakwear.com. For information about the GVLT's mission to preserve open space, visit gvlt.org.



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## **Bozeman Film Society presents select flicks from near and far**

#### **BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY**

In addition to the anticipated screenings of the Montana-made "Walking Out" on Oct. 15, the Bozeman Film Society is also presenting two other critically acclaimed films during the month: "Columbus," by South Korean director Kogonada on Wednesday, Oct. 4, and "Marjorie Prime" on Tuesday Oct. 17, both at 7 p.m. at The Ellen Theatre.

In Kogonada's directorial debut, when a renowned architect falls ill during a speaking tour, his son Jin, performed by John Cho, finds himself stranded in Columbus, Indiana—a small midwestern city celebrated for its many significant modernist buildings. A chance meeting with an architecture student, played by Haley Lu Richardson, allows Kogonada to fuse the sheer physicality of Columbus' famed buildings with emotion in this quirky boy-meets-girl drama.

BFS presents "Marjorie Prime" as part of One Book One Bozeman, produced by Bozeman Public Library, Montana State University Renne Library and Country Bookshelf.

This month-long series of programs, based on Louisa Hall's novel "Speak," explores what it means to be human against the backdrop of Artificial Intelligence. Set in the future, "Marjorie Prime" tells the story of an elderly woman (Lois Smith) who uses a service that creates holographic projections of late family members in order to reconnect with her deceased husband (Jon Hamm).

The two revisit their most intimate memories, but the relationship between human and artificial intelligence creates surprising results for



"Columbus," the directorial debut by South Korean filmmaker Kogonada screens at The Ellen Theatre at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 4. The film fuses architecture and emotion in a unique boy-meets-girl tale. PHOTO COURTESY OF BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY

all involved. The film also stars Geena Davis, Tim Robbins and Stephanie Andujar. There will be a post-film discussion with Bozeman Actors Theater member Cara Wilder and Beth Boyson, outreach coordinator for the Bozeman Public Library.

Visit bozemanfilmsociety.org for additional information.

# <section-header>





Inspired by the West, the 320 Steakhouse features a menu of Montana cowboy cuisine with entrees such as Bison Tenderloin, Rainbow Trout, and the Cowboy Cut Ribeye. In the summer, take a wagon ride to the Wednesday night riverside bbq or enjoy the nightly bonfire with S'mores. Daily lunch buffet offered in the summer. Last Wednesday bbq on September 24th and 320 Steakhouse summer season ends October 7th.

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## **Montana filmmakers get real with 'Walking Out'** Film premieres in Bozeman Oct. 15

## BY STEPHEN CAMELIO EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Following a snowy path deep into the woods in January 2016, an older man turns to a boy and says, "This is about as real as it gets."

The remark wasn't part of the script. Filmmaker Andrew Smith was stunned when he heard actor Matt Bomer say these words between takes on the set of "Walking Out." "I thought, 'Wow, that's a compliment that I'll take,'" Smith says.

Co-writers and directors of feature films "The Slaughter Rule," "Winter in the Blood" and now "Walking Out," Andrew Smith and his twin brother Alex have been nominated for two of the most prestigious awards in independent film—Sundance Film Festival's Grand Jury Prize and Film Independent's John Cassavetes Award.

But as storytellers who pride themselves in capturing the true nature of Montana and the West, Bomer's words hit home in a way no award ever will.

Alex, who lives in Woodstock, New York, with his wife and dog, tends to focus on a story's bigger picture.

Andrew, who teaches at the University of Montana's School of Media Arts and splits his time between Missoula and being with his wife and two daughters in San Francisco, gravitates more to "the poetry of the moment," as his brother puts it. More often than not their opposing styles complement their films. And their upbringing on a remote ranch in the Blackfoot River valley outside Missoula informed their storytelling.

"We didn't have a TV and there was no Internet so there was a lot of playing in the woods, reading and playing Dungeons & Dragons," Alex says. "We started creating worlds and creating characters and bouncing them off each other—essentially doing what we do today."

This remote, independent childhood didn't always mesh with other kids their age, making the Smiths a lot like the outsiders in their films.

"That sense of being outsiders allows us to identify with folks on the margins and who are underrepresented," Alex says. "We don't hunt, we don't fish, we don't cowboy, but we're Montanans—we just ... had different influences from the kids that we grew up with."

Those influences have a lot to do with their family. Before their father David passed, he was a professor of literature at the University of Montana who had started dabbling in screenwriting and documentary filmmaking.

Their mom is a writer and filmmaker whose long-time partner is William Kittredge, the renowned Montana writer and academic who taught creative writing at the University of Montana, and who co-edited with Mrs. Smith the collection of Western tales called "The Last Best Place: A Montana



Director Alex Smith directs actor Josh Wiggins on the "Walking Out" set in Hyalite Canyon, January 2016. Bozeman Film Society presents two screenings of "Walking Out" on Oct. 15. PHOTO BY STANISLAV HONZIK

Filming at the actual location where a movie is set may sound inconsequential, but it is almost unheard of in the film industry. "The history of Hollywood is movies not made where they take place, from 'Brokeback Mountain,' backward," Alex says referring to the 2005 Western set in Wyoming but filmed mostly in Canada.

On their first film, "The Slaughter Rule," which starred Ryan Gosling and David Morse, the Smiths were pressured by a producer to shoot in Texas. Instead of giving over control of their script, they decided to make it themselves in and around the Great Falls area. When it came time to shoot "Winter in the Blood," the brothers were told to bring the production to Canada for the tax breaks, but telling a Montana story outside of Montana didn't make sense to them.

"We get so much in-kind support from locals excited about us making a film in their backyard ... There is just such goodwill when we shoot here you can't put a value on it."

"Walking Out" hits U.S. theaters this fall, including Bozeman's Ellen Theatre on Oct. 15. In the movie, the majesty of Paradise Valley, Livingston and Bozeman are on full display along with Montana's formidable wildlife, imposing weather and challenging backcountry.

"Walking Out" is the third installment of what the twins hope will be a quintet of tales from The Treasure State. "We've envisioned a long omnibus of Montana stories," Andrew says. "We hope to shoot each in a different part of the state and have them take place in different eras."

Anthology."

Indeed, while writers are often told to write what they know, the twins were in the fortunate position to write whom they know. The brothers chose James Welch, the Native American author, for their second feature film, "Winter in the Blood," an adaptation filmed along Montana's Hi-Line and on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation.

Following that project, the brothers again stayed close to their roots with David Quammen's short story, "Walking Out," the first version of which Kittredge edited in the early '80s. Alex and Andrew read it as kids, and the father-son relationship at the center of the story made an instant impact on the boys.

And with Quammen's blessing Alex and Andrew didn't have to go far to shoot it: The twins remain committed to filming their Montana stories in Montana. To that end, Alex and Andrew's next project is a jazz-era Western about a sheriff who also happened to be an outlaw. Though they don't dive into details, you can bet it will be as "real" as the brothers can possibly make it. They seek the truth, and expect to find it time and again in Montana.

A version of this story was first published in the winter 2016-2017 issue of Mountain Outlaw magazine. To read the full story visit mtoutlaw.com/as-realas-it-gets/.

Tickets to the Oct. 15 screening at The Ellen Theatre are available at bozemanfilmsociety.org, theellentheatre.org, or by calling (406) 585-5885.

#### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Statewide tour of 'Walking Out' starts in Bozeman

#### EBS STAFF

In an anticipated new feature film by Missoula brothers Alex Smith and Andrew J. Smith, an estranged father and son are forced to rely on one another to survive in an unforgiving wilderness after a series of extreme events turns a hunting trip meant to be a bonding experience into a matter of life and death.

"Walking Out" makes its first stop on the five-day Roadshow Tour—an extension of Missoula's Montana Film Festival—at The Ellen Theatre on Sunday, Oct. 15, at 2 and 6:30 p.m. Presented by the Bozeman Film Society, the screening will be followed by guest appearances from the cast and crew and a reception. "Walking Out" will make tour stops in Livingston, Helena and Deer Lodge before closing the tour in Missoula.

Based on 1980 short story written by award-winning writer David Quammen, "Walking Out" tells the story of 14-year-old David, played by Josh Wiggins, who travels once a year from his mother's home in Texas to visit his reclusive father Cal, performed by Matt Bomer, in the remote mountains of Montana. There, the two embark on their annual hunting excursion, during which the taciturn Cal attempts to connect with his smartphone-addicted son. But when a terrifying turn of events leaves Cal critically wounded, it's up to the teenager to summon enough strength for both of them.

Infused with a deep reverence for the rugged beauty and harsh realities of the Montana landscape, deftly captured by cinematographer Todd McMullen, "Walking Out" is both a tense survival saga and a moving father-son tale. The film also features Bill Pullman, Lily Gladstone, Alex Neuestadter, Scott McMillion and Bart the Bear.

Not rated, the film runs 96 minutes. Tickets are available at bozemanfilmsociety. org, theellentheatre.org, or by calling (406) 585-5885.



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- In some areas, bobcats are still trapped for their soft, spotted fur. North American populations are believed to be quite large, with perhaps as many as one million cats in the United States alone.

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#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

On September 14, 2017, Chris Nelson filed with the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C. an application for consent to the assignment of the license of FM translator station K222CJ, 92.3 megahertz, Big Sky, Montana, to Ted W. Austin, Jr. K222CJ is authorized to operate with an effective radiated power of 155 watts, from a transmitter site located at the following coordinates 45'-16'-24'N x 111'-23-40W', and will rebroadcast primary FM broadcast station KOUW(FM), Island Park, Idaho. Interested parties may file comments on the application with the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C.

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## **Growing up with The Beatles** An evening with Louise Harrison at WMPAC

#### BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY - The Big Sky community will have a chance to hear first-hand accounts of growing up with The Beatles from Louise Harrison, the late George Harrison's older sister, at a special presentation at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 11.

Moderated by Eric Funk, the Emmy Award-winning host of the Montana PBS music program "11th and Grant," the evening will be a combination of stories and song, performed by Funk, that illuminate the Beatles' trajectory from Louise's insider perspective.

"I'll be wanting to personalize George Harrison through his sister through asking her about touring with The Beatles, when she was in that 'big sister' advisory role, how much he looked to her, and what the dynamics were," Funk said.

Funk, who has been teaching a course in American popular music at Montana State University for 15 years, will also reflect on the politics, culture and society of the Beatles era and the impact of the British Invasion on the United States.

Countless myths, rumors and legends swirl around the Beatlemania phenomena-which is what inspired Louise to write "My Kid Brother's Band a.k.a. The Beatles" in 2014.

"So many of the stories that have come out about the Beatles are just total nonsense," said Louise, who was present for the band's revolutionary debut on the Ed Sullivan Show in 1964, and their first U.S. concert at the Washington Coliseum less than 48 hours later. "I've been spending my life telling the truth about things that were a bunch of lies."

Louise recalls how she and the Fab Four attended a fundraiser at the British Embassy prior to that performance in Washington D.C. While sitting next to Lady Sylvia Ormsby-Gore, wife of then British Ambassador Lord Harlech, a teenager approached Ringo Starr from behind and snipped off a chunk of his hair.

"The story going around on the radio was that Lady Sylvia Ormsby-Gore had wrestled Ringo to the ground and cut off a lock of his hair," said Louise, who immediately corrected the story on the newswires and rescued the reputation of the ambassador's wife.

Soon Louise, who had been trying to get American radio stations to play Beatles' records since settling in Indiana in 1963, received a call from a radio program director who asked her to give Beatles Reports, which spread until Louise was debunking fake Beatles news on more than 20 radio stations nationwide.

At WMPAC, Louise-who "never got any older than 26, but in earth years [is] 86"—will share stories like these but says she would rather hear what the audience is interested in and let that guide the evening's content.

One thing she will say is that audiences can expect to have a lot of fun.

"You might be getting on in your years," Louise said. "But when you go bouncing out of here you'll be 16 again."



George Harrison's sister, Louise Harrison, shares stories, songs and her insider's perspective on life with The Beatles at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on Oct. 11. PHOTO COURTESY OF LOUISE HARRISON

A Big Sky resident with a connection to the Harrison family approached John Zirkle, artistic director of the Warren Miller Arts Center, with the idea of having Louise speak at the venue.

"To have that type of closeness with one of the most iconic musical groups of the 20th century is such an incredible connection; it was too hard to pass up," said WMPAC Artistic Director John Zirkle.

To craft an evening out of it, Zirkle called Funk who didn't hesitate to take the opportunity to spend an evening with Louise on stage at WMPAC.

"As Big Sky continues to grow its full-time community, it is important to find opportunities like these to continue to keep our local audiences entertained throughout the shoulder seasons," Zirkle said. "We have to be careful with risk ... but with an opportunity like this, we had to take it. Given the monumental connection to a real global cultural icon, I think we might even fill the house."

Visit warrenmillerpac.org for more information.



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# Russell Rowland: Writer by choice

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

When he was 28 years old, Bozeman-born Russell Rowland decided to become a writer while working a desk job in the U.S. Navy. He gave himself one year to publish something. More than a decade later, in 2002, he finally published his first novel, "In Open Spaces."

Literary critics from New York and San Francisco took notice of Rowland's impressive debut. The quintessential ranch story, set on the unforgiving prairies and stingy soil of eastern Montana, the book examines a family's struggle through the Depression, two World Wars, and personal tragedy with an understated elegance and astute psychological understanding.

Even with the success of his first novel, Rowland had trouble finding a publisher for the sequel, "The Watershed Years" (2007), an equally impressive book about the Arbuckle family post-World War II.

His third novel might be his best work of fiction to date. "High and Inside" (2013) follows a former Boston Red Sox pitcher who decides to move out to Montana to "get away from it all," leaving his demons in the rear view. So the protagonist relocates to a plot of land a few miles outside of Bozeman with his three-legged dog, intent on building his own house despite any relevant experience, his demons not far behind.

Most recently, the Billings-based author published "56 Counties: A Montana Journey" (2016), a nonfiction account of visiting every county in Montana over the course of two years. It is not a travelogue by any means. More than any contemporary author, Rowland diagnoses Montana's bipolarity, its residents' dangerous optimism, and the ubiquitous alcoholism in a land settled by damaged souls. Rowland points out that we are consistently voted one of the "happiest" places to live, while also having one of the highest suicide rates.

With colorful characters from small, forgotten towns in the Badlands in the east to the tourist-driven ski towns, fascinating historical asides, and insights into the various industries that drive the economies across our sprawling state, Rowland has a knack for uncovering in a few short pages what makes our state so diverse and variegated, only to reveal what brings

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Of all the books I've picked up this year, "56 Counties" is one that explains why Montana is Montana. Hopefully, Rowland will have no trouble finding a publisher for his next book.

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

#### **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**



#### **BY AMY HUNTER** ASSISTANT COMMUNITY LIBRARIAN

From National Book Month and Dyslexia Awareness Month to International Walk to School Month, there are several national observances on the books in October. It's also Mystery Series Week the first week of the month.

There are mystery series for all ages at the library. For the younger readers, a couple of examples are the "A to Z Mysteries" by Rob Roy and the "Magic Tree House Mysteries" by Mary Pope Osborne. For our middle readers, we have the "Spy School" series by Stuart Gibbs and "The Mysterious Benedict Society" by Trenton Lee Stewart.

Young adult readers can check out the "Alex Rider" series by Anthony Horowitz or "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children" by Ransom Riggs, which was recently made into a feature-length film. Our adult readers can choose from a number of titles by mystery writers including Lee Child, Michael Connelly, C.J. Box, Keith McCafferty, Louise Penny and Janet Evanovich, to name a few.

Come to the library to find a book to keep you guessing during the fall season. Or, if mystery isn't your thing, come find a book to keep you company this autumn. Whether you're hoping to be entertained, looking for a distraction, or have your sights set on learning something new, there's something for everyone at the library.

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