# April 13 - 26, 2018 Volume 9 // Issue #8

**Tourism conference comes to Big Sky**Q&A with Governor Bullock

Governing options for Big Sky

Resort wraps up epic season Pond Skim April 21

Moonlight ambassador Parkin Costain hits the big time

**Kids reflect on Expedition Yellowstone** 

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#### the longer days of April the sun is more prevalent and conditions are ripe for exploring Three Forks (at left) and the North Summit Snowfield (at right). PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

**ON THE COVER:** The north side of Lone Mountain is often called the "dark side" of Big Sky Resort, but during

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out April 11 at Lone Peak Cinema to celebrate Phil Capy's 90th birthday. A Big Sky legend, Capy (standing between the white signs) retired from patrol last year but still works for the resort in hotel maintenance. Visit mtoutlaw.com/phil-capy to see a video and read the profile of this "all-American badass" from the winter 2016 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

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.



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# School district seeks funds to pay higher salary to staff

EBS STAFF

Voters registered in the Big Sky School District have until Tuesday, May 8, to vote on a general fund levy proposed by the school district that would be used to pay teaching staff. Ballots will be mailed to voters on April 23, and will be due to the Gallatin County Elections Office by 8 p.m. on May 8.

This one-year, \$40,000 request follows last year's passage of a \$100,110 general fund levy and \$451,730 five-year building reserve levy. If approved, this levy would see a homeowner's taxes rise approximately \$3.89 for the year for a home valued at \$200,000.

Money in the general fund is used by the district for expenses including paying utilities, insurance, special education and ongoing maintenance. It is also used to pay teacher salaries and benefits, which is how the 2018 request would be used.

The general fund is set by the state of Montana and is supported by state funds that are based on the number of students enrolled in a school district—Big Sky has 382 students.

According to school superintendent Dustin Shipman, for the district's operations budget to experience even a slight increase—to pay teachers higher salaries, for example—a general fund levy is required.

"If the district has the means to provide a better salary for staff, than we want to do it, especially given the fact that we live in one of the most expensive communities in the country," Shipman said.

#### **Gallatin County holds course on wells**

GALLATIN LOCAL WATER QUALITY DISTRICT

The Gallatin Local Water Quality District will be conducting well awareness courses in Big Sky and Bozeman, designed to educate private well owners on best practices for protecting their drinking water.

Homeowners will learn how to conduct an assessment of their well's condition, identify potential contaminant sources, and discuss factors that can affect their water quality. Proper septic system maintenance and potential impacts on groundwater will also be discussed.

Informational packets and well assessment forms will be provided. Once participants have conducted their own well assessment at home after the course, GLWQD staff will be available to provide recommendations.

Courses begin at 5:30 p.m. and will be offered in Big Sky on April 17, at the Big Sky Water and Sewer District office, as well as in Bozeman on April 18, at the Bozeman Public Library.

Registration is available online at glwqd.org. For more information, call the Gallatin Local Water Quality District at (406) 582-3148.

#### **Spanish Peaks hires new GM**

#### Longtime employee Louise Astbury replaces David Mars

BIG SKY – Spanish Peaks Mountain Club announced three changes in management on April 6. Louise Astbury, who has been with the club for 10 years, will replace David Mars as general manager. After three years at Spanish Peaks, Mars is taking a general manager position at The Henderson: A Salamander Beach Resort & Spa in Destin, Florida.

"Louise has been a tremendous asset to Spanish Peaks Mountain Club since its inception," said Matt Kidd, managing director of CrossHarbor Capital Partners, the owner of Spanish Peaks. "[She] has unparalleled knowledge of the club [and] an unwavering passion for our membership and the Big Sky area. We are extremely fortunate to have someone of Louise's caliber to promote internally."

Astbury, who has a long history in the hospitality industry, had worked for the previous owner of Spanish Peaks for four years and when the club emerged in November 2013 under new ownership, Astbury started as member services director and was promoted to club director in August 2016. She is looking forward to her new role as general manager.

"I am very excited to have been given the opportunity to manage Spanish Peaks," Astbury said. "The membership is near and dear to my heart and I want nothing more than to make the membership experience incredible, from fitness to dining and kids programs to golf. Summer ... here we come!"

In addition to Astbury's new position, Tim Phelps has been promoted to director of golf and winter pursuits, and Ryan Blechta to director of mountain operations and head superintendent.

#### **Upcoming forest meeting to consider plan alternatives**

EBS STAFF

The Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision Team will hold two meetings this month that will be an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to the developing forest plan revision.

These meetings will be held on April 21 in Bozeman at the Hilton Garden Inn, and on April 28 in Billings at the Bighorn Resort. Both meetings begin at 10 a.m.

After a forest plan draft was released early this year, many public comments were received that focused on certain land allocations. In light of this, the April meetings are intended to define recommended wilderness, backcountry areas, recreation emphasis areas and others.

"We won't be getting into every detail but are looking to ensure the spectrum of comments we heard is incorporated, that people are able to help give critical feedback in the further development of these alternatives, and we are in a good place prior to moving into writing the draft environmental impact statement," said revision leader Virginia Kelly in a press release.

The Custer Gallatin is just over halfway through a four-year process to revise the forest plan, which is an overarching document that guides the management of the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

Just after the April meetings, specialists will set the alternatives and start to dive into environmental analysis, which includes months of inquiry, researching, working across many specialties and breaking down each alternative to determine the potential environmental impacts.

For more information, visit fs.usda.gov/custergallatin.



Last year, 12.5 million travelers visited Montana spending nearly \$3.4 billion in the state's retail stores, restaurants and hotels.

Tourism is vital to Montana's economy, but how do we

# Tourism is vital to Montana's economy, but how do we balance the economic benefits with the strain these numbers put on our natural resources?



**Tony Rogers**Big Sky, Montana

"Well, with Glacier National Park having record-setting number of visitors in July, I feel like Montana should be on the up-and-up. I don't feel like it should be a 'strain' on natural resources, and we should use that money to make our parks better. Just don't build hotels where they shouldn't be."



**Britta Zietlow** *Bozeman, Montana* 

"That's easy. You just use a lot of that revenue, in the public and private sector, to diversify Montana's energy portfolio and put us on a trajectory for long-term sustainability. Wind, solar and renewables—the clean stuff. Maybe a bigger tax on plastic water bottles too. Real Montanans drink tap."



Wyatt Christensen
Bozeman, Montana

"I just heard that they are considering restrictions on the [Madison] River on how many clients guides can take out—outfitter restrictions.

That seems to make sense in order to protect rivers from overuse given the influx of people. I don't know if you could do that at camping spots, but smart restrictions at the most travelled destinations seems like a good idea."



Betsy Rondeau Big Sky, Montana

"As a state economy, our biggest manufacturing industry is making memories. We need to acknowledge that by protecting our pristine, blue ribbon trout-fishing rivers, our snowcapped mountains, our wide-open spaces, and the animals that inhabit them. I also read an interesting statistic about how much 'tourism' revenue is brought in by other Montanans and that is interesting to think about in terms of policy formation."

# Op-Ed: Big Sky's infrastructure challenges and future

BY RON EDWARDS

For over 25 years, the Big Sky Water and Sewer District has maintained our commitment to meeting the needs of our water and sewer customers. Our mission is to provide efficient and reliable water and sewer service that meets or exceeds federal and state regulations.

The Big Sky Water and Sewer District currently reclaims 100 percent of our treated water by irrigating two golf courses with properly treated wastewater—also known as effluent. In addition, we irrigate the community park and dispersed landscapes within the district and at the Yellowstone Club. This year we will also begin irrigating a third course at Spanish Peaks.

As Big Sky grows, our effluent disposal needs will soon exceed our available disposal capacity, leaving the district especially vulnerable in three ways.

First, we are at-risk in extremely wet years when the irrigation season demand is reduced by abundant rainfall.

Second, all of our current disposal methods rely heavily on third party agreements, which leaves our disposal capacity vulnerable to entities and events beyond the district's control, including potential equipment or infrastructure failures.

Third, the storage ponds we utilize require regular liner repair. The liners currently installed are 20 years old and will eventually have to be replaced, which will require taking the ponds out of service for several months.

Finally, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality currently has no permitting framework for snow-making, which will increase the time to procure discharge permits for this disposal option.

Considering all of these factors, the district has chosen to think proactively and evaluate the feasibility of upgrading our wastewater treatment facility to produce

an exceptional quality of effluent. We will continue to maximize the reuse of our effluent resources and evaluate additional water reuse alternatives, including rapid infiltration and snow-making.

The district has put together a team that will evaluate this upgrade to ensure the Gallatin River's ecological health is maintained. Members of this team include water quality and fisheries experts. We will also continue to actively collaborate with other organizations from the Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum.

DEQ has the authority, obligation and established regulatory framework to set water quality standards for surface and groundwater discharges. We will be working with this agency to assess the requirements for surface discharge, snowmelt run-off and plant effluent. In the upcoming year, we will be evaluating state-of-the-art methods of advanced wastewater treatment that will exceed the standards and additional reuse opportunities.

We recognize that this is a headwater community and with that comes the added responsibility of ensuring a safe environment for our children and the future residents of the area.

Big Sky Water and Sewer has maintained its status as a zero-discharge facility for the past 40 years. We are still committed to keep doing what we have consistently done: reclaiming and reusing effluent as much as possible. The uncertainties of running a wastewater system as complex as ours forces us to evaluate groundwater, surface water and snow-making as disposal options as we continue to grow.

We cannot sit back and wait any longer. We need to invest in our infrastructure, continue to pursue all options for reuse, and maintain a healthy Gallatin River. This is our livelihood, and our mission.

Ron Edwards is the Big Sky Water and Sewer District general manager. This editorial has been edited for brevity's sake.

# **Obituary:** Grayce Eckhardt Loble

Grayce Eckhardt Loble was born July 5, 1920, to C. W. Eckhardt and Ethyl (Stein) Eckhardt. Surrounded by her family, she died of natural causes on March 10, 2018, at the age of 97. She was born and raised in Helena and lived all but the last few years of her life in Helena. Grayce was a brave, tough, independent, funny, informed, engaged and energetic person. She was a trailblazer for decades in her ability to be who she wanted to be, while at the same time respecting and teaching worthwhile traditions. True grit with great style. When asked how she would like to be remembered, she said, "It was my life. I lived it. I loved it. Criticism be damned."

Her parents were originally in vaudeville. Her mother was a singer and her father was the stage manager. Grayce inherited her mother's flair. Settling in Helena, her father managed the Marlow Theatre, which opened April 3, 1918. It was razed during Urban Renewal but was a grand theater in the tradition of theaters built during that time. Grayce had many fond memories of roaming the theater while growing up.

Following the 1935 Helena earthquakes, she went to school in railroad cars because the high school was damaged. She attended Stephens College (formerly Stephens College for Girls) BA, 1938, in Columbia, Missouri. She spent 3-3/4 years at the Journalism School at the University of Montana. She was one quarter short of graduating when she married Henry Loble in 1941. They had two sons, Les Loble of Big Sky, and Bruce Loble of Bozeman.

Henry enlisted in the Army Air Corps. The family moved as he was transferred (Redding, Pennsylvania; Merced, California; and Lincoln, Nebraska). When the war ended, the family moved back to Helena. Like many wives and mothers in the '40s, '50s and '60s, Grayce was a traditional homemaker. Since she did not work outside the home, she turned her energies and intelligence to public service.

Grayce was active in the Lewis and Clark County American Cancer Society (chair 1950), raising money and educating people that cancer is not a contagious disease. She volunteered in the annual Community and Charity Balls and later at the Holter Museum of Art. In the early '70s, she was a shareholder in the Reeder's Alley Corporation and part of the Stonehouse Restaurant located there, creating recipes, cooking lunches and serving tables. The former residents of Reeder's Ally used to complain about "them wimmin that kicked us out."

Her skills as a hostess and entertainer were legendary. Holiday dinners for family and cocktail dinner parties for friends were epic. Each legislative session for three decades Henry and Grayce hosted the entire legislature in three successive parties at their home. One ended with a Sterno "campfire" in the living room over which hot dogs were roasted. Each fall her husband and boys would bring home gamey deer, antelope, ducks and geese. She found a way to make them tasty. The trout were not nearly the challenge.

Physically active, Grayce swam, water skied, hiked and golfed (she was the first woman president of the Green Meadow Country Club). Her tradition was to swim every Mother's Day in Canyon Ferry Lake. She painted watercolors. She threw pots at the Archie Bray Foundation. Grayce was a prodigious reader, cutthroat bridge player, sports enthusiast and fan of the New York Yankees,



Grayce Loble and Chloe

prankster (particularly as a witch at Halloween), a committed patriot and president (2000-2003) of the Helena Council of the Navy League.

Grayce and Henry divorced in 1983. Following the divorce, Grayce and Jack Palmquist formed a special bond and companionship. The Lobles and the Palmquists had been social friends. Grayce was the Cub Scout den mother to Les, and Jack's son Jock. Jack was a widower. Jack taught Jock, Les and the other neighborhood boys how to build birdhouses and shoeshine boxes in his shop. Grayce and Jack spent 18 years doing stuff. Those were happy and adventurous years. They visited China, Morocco, Switzerland, Singapore, Gibraltar, Puerto Rico, Italy and Canada. They took numerous cruises.

Grayce and Jack would pile into Jack's pickup (with picks, shovels and gold pans) to explore the Montana backcountry. They panned for gold and sapphires. One of Jack's many hobbies was painting. His work adorned Grayce's condo in Helena and apartment in Bozeman.

Grayce loved dogs. Early in life the breed of choice was a Labrador retriever. In her later years miniature dachshunds were her constant companions. Chloe, her last, was snuggled up to her when she died.

Cremation has taken place and no formal service is planned, but her ashes will be interred alongside her parents' graves in Helena. She is survived by her sons, Les (Terye) Loble and Bruce (Sally) Loble and niece Leslie Eckhardt White. On Les' side, she is survived by granddaughter Rachel (Stefan) and great grandson Jules; grandson Jeremie and great granddaughters Hannah and Leah; grandson Jason (Sarah) and great granddaughters Kate and Mia. On Bruce's side, she is survived by grandson Chandler (Melissa), grandson Damon (Carolyn) and great granddaughter Eden. Her brother, C. F. Eckhardt, predeceased her.





# Governing options for Big Sky presented at 'Eggs and Issues' Increase power of resort tax board, new county, town council

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – At an April 4 forum hosted by the chamber of commerce at Big Sky Resort, the Montana State University Local Government Center presented different routes Big Sky could take to establish a more organized and effective governing body—outside of incorporation.

The purpose of this governing body, as expressed by the chamber, would be to facilitate communication and coordination across the many boards, committees, nonprofits and organizations now tackling interrelated issues independently, and create a cohesive voice for Big Sky that would more likely be heard by lawmakers.

When Dan Clark, director of the MSU Local Government Center, said incorporation was being left off the table, due to what he understood as a lack of community support, it caused a stir in the audience.

Big Sky Resort Area District tax board candidate and resident Steve Johnson said that depended on whom you talk to, and "the decision to incorporate is not up to the chamber."

Chamber CEO Candace Carr Strauss stood up to clarify that the purpose of the center's study was to present options other than incorporation, and to determine how Big Sky can better govern itself in the present.

Big Sky is "governed" by Madison and Gallatin counties, and the fact that the area straddles two counties adds to the complexity of easing the strain on Big Sky's infrastructure due to its growth.

"You're not broken," Clark said. "You're functioning quite well, actually ... [but] a governing structure may help with the sustainability of that and give it a sense of legitimacy." He added that the larger Big Sky gets, the more necessary it becomes to have something akin to a municipal government.

"You can create another board to talk about it and make recommendations, but [you] can't do anything about it, because [you] don't have that power," Clark caid

The recommended governing options included expanding the function and authority of the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board to take more of a leadership role in the community. Clark said he favored this solution because having a voter-elected board lends it legitimacy at the legislative level; it's the entity that holds the community purse strings; and that it's possible to approach the state legislature about adding governing powers to its role.

But Carol Collins, who was on the first resort tax board in 1992, and Johnson, potentially a future resort tax board member, both commented that resort tax has always been a passive process of collection and distribution, and the board was not created to be otherwise.

"But could it be more active?" Clark asked.
"Going to the legislature we find ourselves in between the county and municipality—is it possible we could give a little more power to resort tax to fill that gap?"

Other ideas presented included creating a community council, which would be fairly easy to establish as an official subdivision of county government and would be able to provide input for decisions at all levels of government, as well as request funding from the county.

Another possibility is creating a multijurisdictional district—a unit of government that could coordinate all other districts, facilitate community planning and levy taxes to support its activities.

The last few options—creating a nonprofit dedicated to cross-community coordination; Big Sky becoming its own county, or the community petitioning to change its government—all had inherently challenging aspects from the center's perspective.

Nonprofits are nimble but don't have authority to make decisions; and their legitimacy may be questioned because they're not comprised of elected officials.

While Clark said that creating a new county is "a cool idea," the political hurdles may be insurmountable.

"Removing Big Sky may decrease the tax base of Madison and Gallatin counties," Clark said. "Both counties would have to vote to release you—shall we stop there?" he laughed, looking at Gallatin County commissioners Don Seifert and Steve White who were among the meeting's attendees.

In addition to that unlikelihood, there would be the task of creating an entirely new governmental system, which would be challenging administratively, financially and legally both for this option and creating a charter form of government.

Big Sky Transportation District Manager David Kack proposed one more idea that was not in Clark's recommendations, causing an eruption of laughter in the conference room.

"How easy would it be move the county line so that Big Sky is in one county?"

"Thanks for handing me that grenade," Clark said, looking at the county commissioners once more, adding that maybe he'd add that possibility to his final report.

"We've chewed on this and chewed on this and chewed on this and still haven't gotten into the game," Johnson said. "Let's just get on with it, it's time."

The MSU Local Government Center will present their proposed solutions Tuesday, May 15, from 6-8 p.m. at the Big Sky Water and Sewer building.

"Eggs and Issues" is a monthly Chamber of Commerce breakfast forum that tackles a specific topic of interest to the Big Sky community. Visit bigskychamber. com for more information.



Dan Clark (left), director of the MSU Local Government Center, with chamber CEO Candace Carr Strauss, during a presentation of self-governing options for Big Sky. PHOTO COURTESY OF BECKY BROCKIE PHOTOGRAPHY

# **Housing survey finds 400-plus rentals lost in 5 years**Joint commissioner meeting celebrates Big Sky's \$10M TIGER grant

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – An air of celebration rippled through the April 4 bi-annual meeting of the Madison and Gallatin county commissioners about Big Sky's receipt of a \$10 million TIGER grant announced in March. The grant will fund priority road and transportation projects lobbied for by the Big Sky Community Organization, Big Sky Transportation District and chamber of commerce.

"I don't think there's any better example of the power of community and how we can all come together to [reach our goals]," said Big Sky Chamber of Commerce CEO Candace Carr Strauss, echoing her sentiments in the earlier public meeting, which was dedicated to exploring options for a more cohesive governing system for Big Sky.

Ciara Wolfe, executive director of Big Sky Community Organization, listed the projects the grant will fund, including a tunnel under Lone Mountain Trail at Little Coyote Road; a park connector trail along Little Coyote Road; a pedestrian bridge over the West Fork of the Gallatin River; the addition of seven turn lanes on Lone Mountain Trail; additional wildlife- and curve-warning signage; and the purchase of six vans and four motor coaches for Skyline transportation services.

Wolfe said that there would be no grant-related construction this summer due to state-level protocol; and Gallatin County Commissioner Don Seifert added that building would most likely not begin until 2021-2022 at the earliest.

"So there will be some time when it looks like nothing is happening on the ground," Seifert said, adding that the progress would be happening elsewhere.

Big Sky Transportation District Manager David Kack expressed cautious pleasure that the district would able to increase their fleet of vehicles.

"As great as the news is, it doesn't mean all the problems go away," Kack said, noting that the ultimate question is where to locate the funding to operate the new vehicles as frequently as needed to meet the demand.

The commissioners expressed their surprise of the grant award news.

"With jaws dropping we were jumping up and down [when we heard the news]," Gallatin County Commissioner Chairman Steve White said. "I can't underestimate the incredible outcome of that application ... you have six county commissioners who give you great applause for your tenacity."

Wolfe introduced Joe Gilpin with Alta Planning and Design, who gave an update on the Master Trails Plan being developed for Big Sky.

The study, initiated in June 2017, looked at how Big Sky uses trails for recreation as well as transportation, and will culminate in a five-year strategic plan that focuses on increased trail and destination connectivity, streamlined signage, and a diverse range of trail experiences.

Another update on the plan will be delivered in May or June, and in July or August the draft will be up for public comment; the dual county adoption process is slated for September through November.





Gallatin County Commissioner Steve White addresses the community at a joint meeting of the county commissioners on April 4. PHOTO COURTESY OF BECKY BROCKIE PHOTOGRAPHY

Brian Guyer, HRDC community development manager and acting director of the Big Sky Community Housing Trust, gave an insightful breakdown from a housing survey that garnered what he deemed an impressive 1,100 responses from the community.

Guyer reported that there are 1,200 more jobs in Big Sky than there were in 2012, and 977 new housing units. While Guyer said that the number of new units should be able to meet those needs, only 177 of those units were valued at under \$1 million.

The study also found that just 30 percent of Big Sky housing is occupied by year-round residents, with the remaining 70 percent either occupied part time or designated as a short-term rental.

Guyer also said there are 4,000 jobs currently in Big Sky, and only 3090 employees, which speaks to how many people have to work two or three jobs to make ends meet.

According to the findings, half of Big Sky's employees commute here, and 39 percent of them said that they would prefer to live in Big Sky. Twenty-six percent of survey respondents said that they lost a rental to an owner selling; and another 20 percent lost a rental unit to a short-term conversion. More than 400 rentals have been lost due to one of those reasons in the last five years.

The study concluded that 560 to 650 affordable housing units must be built over the next five to 10 years to address the deficiency and meet the needs of projected growth.

A working group is now striving to come up with a set of short-, medium- and long-term goals, and have an internal deadline of April 30 so the plan can inform their resort tax application. The final report will be released in June.



Resort Tax applications for funding the fiscal year starting July 1, 2018 are due to the Resort Tax office by Monday, April 30th at 3:00p.m.

Questions? Contact Kristin Drain at Kristin@resorttax.org

# Resort tax board candidates take center stage at April 2 forum

BY TYLER ALLEN EBS MANAGING EDITOR

BIG SKY – When voters in the Big Sky Resort Area District choose two new board members in the May 8 election, the new electees will quickly be thrust into the public spotlight.

The appropriations process begins with an applicant Q&A on June 4 at 1 p.m., held at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, where the board will grill applicants in front of the community.

The four candidates in this year's election had their first chance to take center stage at an April 2 forum at Buck's T-4 Lodge, hosted by Top Shelf Toastmasters and broadcast live on EBS Facebook. They answered three questions supplied in advance by the Toastmasters, as well as a number of questions written and submitted by some of the approximately 60 community members in attendance.

Sarah Blechta, Paul "Buz" Davis, Steve Johnson and Craig Smit introduced themselves to voters and described their qualifications for managing the resort tax funds, which will have a projected \$7.6 million available for appropriations this year. The 3-percent tax is collected on "luxury" goods and services, and funds public infrastructure, organizations and tourism initiatives in this unincorporated resort community.

After an introduction of the two school district board candidates running unopposed for two open seats—Matt Jennings and Margo Magnant—resort tax board member Jamey Kabisch took the podium to speak about the heavy workload expected of these volunteer positions. After mentioning how the new board members will immediately jump into the appropriations process, he joked that they will also be expected to attend "very short monthly meetings" that can last up to four or five hours.

Blechta highlighted her long history in Big Sky, growing up here but having had to leave for secondary school, since Lone Peak High School was not built at the time. With the only two female BSRAD members—Ginna Hermann and Heather Budd—leaving the board, she said, "I think I pretty clearly represent females as the only female candidate."

As the director of property owners associations at the Yellowstone Club, she was specifically asked about a conflict of interest, given her employer. "I can honestly say the Yellowstone Club did not ask me to run," she said. "I can't vote on issues that are a conflict of interest. You abstain. And I can't say that enough."

Davis became a part-time Big Sky resident in 2012 and moved here full time in 2015. He said he's been a community consultant for more than 30 years, work that included leading the resort tax board through a strategic planning process in 2012 and 2013.

"I've always loved Big Sky and now that I've retired I want to be able to give back to Big Sky," he said.

Johnson has lived in Big Sky fulltime for 17 years, following a career with the professional consulting firm Accenture. He is a former Big Sky Community Organization board member, and current member of the Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Zoning Advisory Committee, a trustee of the trails and parks district, and a fire district board member. He said he's "been a student of this place" through his volunteer work.

"I've been unemployed and retired completely since I moved to Big Sky," he said. "I don't work for anybody here, so I'm completely independent."

After attending Montana State University, Smit moved here in 1990 and stressed that he's in touch with the locals and the importance of "fair and equitable taxation." He's the former owner of the Conoco gas station, and currently owns LTD Real Estate and sits on the board of the South Fork Phase II homeowners association—with Blechta—as well as the Blue Grouse Condos homeowners association.

"Being here for 28 years, and having a real estate company of my own here, it's important for me to see growth in the area and the money well spent [to] enhance all our lives."

Watch the candidates discuss their positions on resort tax funding priorities, the use of bonding authority, and the board's future role in the community at facebook.com/explorebigsky/videos/1731828146856332/.

Resort tax applications are due by April 30 and the district will mail a newsletter in mid-May to all voters in the district—this newsletter will include all of the applications and details of the public appropriations process.

Election ballots will be mailed to voters in the Big Sky Resort Area District on April 23, and due to the Gallatin County Election Office by Tuesday, May 8, at 8 p.m.



# BSRAD estimates appropriations funds at more than \$7.5M

### Reallocation of Visit Big Sky funding for visitor center approved

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – At a meeting of the Big Sky Resort Area District resort tax board April 9, Operations Manager Whitney Brunner estimated that \$7,690,505 will be available for the 2019 appropriations cycle, an increase of nearly \$2 million from last year.

Candace Carr Strauss, CEO of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, approached the board on behalf of Visit Big Sky regarding the uncertain future of the corner parcel at Highway 191 and Lone Mountain Trail, where the visitor center is currently located.

Strauss has persistently lobbied for assistance to acquire the land—which is newly under contract with an undisclosed buyer—billing it as prime marketing real estate for the community.

"That [corner] is the gateway to our community," Strauss said. "It's Big Sky's front door."

Strauss requested permission to reallocate an additional \$240,000 to the \$160,000 previously reallocated from other marketing efforts for property-related issues.

Board Director Jamie Kabisch asked what other projects would suffer if funds were reallocated for this purpose. Strauss said that no other





The Clark's nutcracker has a unique pouch under its tongue used to carry seeds long distances. The nutcracker collects seeds from pine trees and carries them away to hide for later uses

This bird hides thousands of seeds each year, and studies have shown that they can remember where they have hidden nearly all of their seeds.

The Clark's nutcracker is one of the only members of the crow family where the male incubates the eggs.

Local declines in Clark's nutcracker populations may be due to a pine beetle epidemic and the arrival of white pine blister rust, both of which kill the whitebark pines that many nutcrackers depend on.

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initiatives would be affected because the need for winter marketing was minimal, and funding from state lodging taxes jumped \$150,000 from last year.

While the board seemed empathetic to Strauss' request, a caveat of resort tax funding is that, with rare exception, it has to be used within the one-year cycle, otherwise those funds are returned to the appropriations coffers for the following year.

Applicants can request a rollover of funds not used, but only if they are designated for the same projects described in the original application.

Strauss offered another idea: to let their nonprofit partner the Big Sky Gateway Foundation hold onto the funds until they could be used.

The board approved the new request, bringing the total funds reallocated for land concerns to \$400,000, but it has to remain in the pockets of Visit Big Sky and it was left undetermined if those funds, if not used by the end of June, would qualify for a rollover.

Big Sky Fire Department Chief William Farhat was up next to discuss a draft of a non-binding agreement that would give the BSFD additional security in long-term funding.

"[It is my understanding that] this board really saw the fire department needing a base amount for their budget," said BSRAD legal counsel Betsy Griffing. "Basically this is a letter of intent that states that [the board] won't decrease the previous year's funding without good financial cause—so you still have an out."

Although Kabisch said that this seemed like "just another piece of paper," Farhat appeared comforted by the agreement, which factored in an annual increase in resort tax funding by 3 percent.

"It's a step toward a goal," Farhat said. "For me it provides a basis to create a budget every year—I recognize that the next board might have an issue with it and I'd have to make a case to preserve that funding."

By striking the word "financial" from the "good cause" stipulation for backing out of the handshake deal, the motion passed.

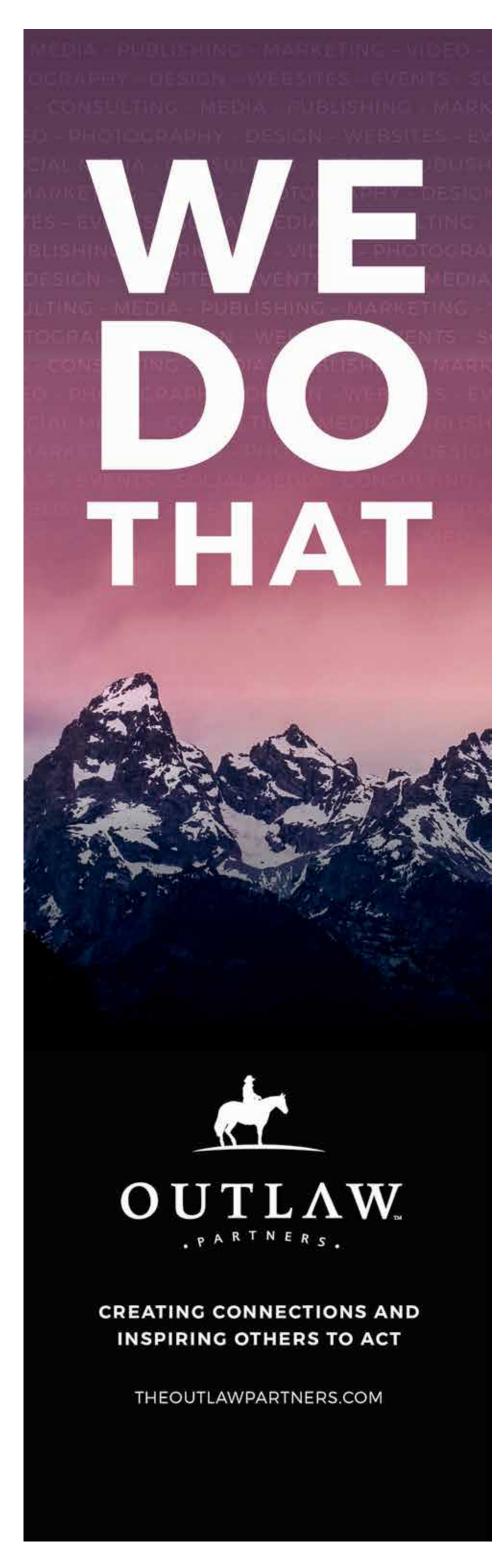
Finally, Kristin Gardner, executive director of Gallatin River Task Force, gave a summary of the Big Sky Area Sustainable Watershed Stewardship Plan, an outcome of the Sustainable Water Solutions Forum process.

The three-pronged plan focuses on the ecological health of the Gallatin and Madison rivers, water supply and conservation, and wastewater use, all of which are quickly being recognized as among Big Sky's most pressing issues.

"How we are going to implement it all is the big question," Gardner said, which includes determining GRTF's role in that process. Gardner mentioned the formation of subcommittees, and possibly bringing on the facilitator of the Water Solutions Forum, Karen Filipovich, to coordinate planned action steps.

"I'm really excited for this to come to fruition," Gardner said. "It's ambitious but I like challenges and I'm excited to make this happen."

The complete Big Sky Watershed Stewardship plan can be found at gallatinrivertaskforce.org. The next meeting of the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board will be an appropriations Q&A session for applicants on Monday, June 4, at 1 p.m. at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.





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PHOTOS COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

# LOCAL LOOK BACK

# The Mistrettas fall in love with Big Sky

#### BY ANNE MARIE MISTRETTA

It was the summer of 1993, and the Mistrettas were taking the "grand tour" of the Northern Rockies with one teen and two "tweeners." We had come to fish the fabled waters of the Gallatin!

When we found a Silverbow condo for a nightly rate of \$100, we grabbed the deal. Relaxing on a deck overlooking the Big Sky Golf Course clubhouse, we noticed light reflecting off what we thought must be a ski lift snaking up the mountain. Émigrés from the pinball slopes of Vermont, we investigated and were delighted with the friendly and expansive resort in the Rockies.

First we came to fish. Next we came to ski. Then, in 1994, we came to buy a condo at the base of the mountain—Skycrest unit 1712.

Lone Peak called to us, and in '94 we hiked Bone Crusher to the scree-ridden ridge to "seek the peak," when hiking was the only way to the top.

Each time we visited Big Sky, we stayed a little longer, and in the summer of 1995 we had arranged our work lives back East so that we could stay for weeks. Our internal time clocks never switched to Mountain Time that summer, because each morning we heard the whir of the chopper blades as they lifted off from the free skier parking lot, dangling loads of wet cement for the tram foundation and disassembled construction equipment. The mountains rang with excitement.

Although our kids continued to hike the peak, my husband and I elected to ride up 1,450 vertical feet to some of the most spectacular views and radical skiing terrain in the country.

Anne Marie and Jerry Mistretta sold their condo in 1996 when they built a home in Big Sky. They transplanted permanently in 2003. Anne Marie became the Big Sky School District school superintendent, and Jerry worked as fly-fishing guide. They are now productively retired.



Built in 1995, the Lone Peak Tram required the aid of 3,000 helicopter flights and hundreds of specialized high-altitude workers. PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY RESORT





GET IN & GO



### The LPHS Interact Club is on its annual service trip in Nepal

The LPHS Interact Club is in Nepal through April 22 to donate their time and goods to the country's schools, orphanages and nursing homes before trekking between villages below Mt. Everest.

From left to right (top row): Pete Schmieding, Evan Redmon, Rhett Leuzinger, Howie Robin, Holden Samuels, Katie Hoffman, Garrett Klotz; (middle row): Tashi Sherpa, Zach Cone, Sarah Maynard, Julia Barton; (bottom row): Michelle Mulvehill, Beverly Bishop. PHOTO COURTESY OF LPHS INTERACT CLUB



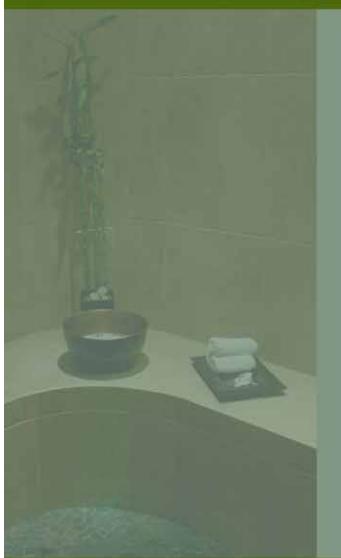


# Big Sky community, businesses, private donors support LPHS seniors through FOBSE

Friends of Big Sky Education (FOBSE) awarded \$70,000 in scholarships to 23 Lone Peak High School seniors yesterday through the FOBSE Community Scholarship Program. The program is supported by many Big Sky businesses, nonprofits and individual donors. Congratulations recipients! PHOTO BY JACKIE ROBIN

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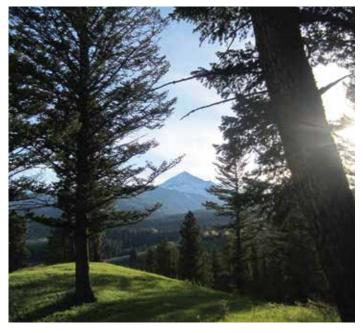
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# **Section 2:**BUSINESS, DINING, HEALTH & SPORTS







# **Q&A with Gov. Steve Bullock**Montana tourism industry vibrant, growing

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – Montana's recreation and tourism industry will gather at Big Sky Resort on Sunday, April 15, through mid-day Tuesday, April 17, for the annual Governor's Conference on Tourism and Recreation. The convention features leading voices in the industry, breakout sessions, outings, and representatives from businesses and organizations across the state.

The event culminates in the Montana Tourism Awards banquet at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 16, featuring Lt. Gov. Mike Cooney.

Last year, 12.5 million travelers visited Montana spending nearly \$3.4 billion in the state's retail stores, restaurants and hotels. Although Gov. Steve Bullock will not be in attendance at the conference, EBS reached out to the governor for his thoughts on one of Montana's leading industries. His comments have been edited for brevity and clarity.

Explore Big Sky: What do you see as Montana's greatest tourism asset?

**Steve Bullock:** Montana's spectacular unspoiled nature, our charming towns, and the people across our state that serve as ambassadors to visitors from across the country and around the world.

**EBS:** How do we increase tourism while preserving the natural environment that draws people to the region?

**S.B.:** We are promoting Montana with a focus on sustainable growth of the tourism industry, by highlighting the incredible places to visit and things to do [in] the national parks, in different regions of the state, and at different times of year.

Visitors seek out Montana because they place a high value on the ability to create their own authentic experience, whether that's hiking across public lands, fly-fishing on one of our blue-ribbon trout streams, or enjoying a pint of locally-grown craft beer at a Montana brewery.

**EBS:** What are the opportunities and challenges for the tourism and recreation industry in Montana?

**S.B.:** Montana has an incredible opportunity to keep telling its story and showing the world that this is the premiere place to bring your family for an epic adventure, or simply a weekend road trip. With increased air service [in recent years], it's easier than ever to get to Montana.

Visitors seek out Montana because they place a high value on the ability to create their own authentic experience, whether that's hiking across public lands, fly-fishing on one of our blue-ribbon trout streams, or enjoying a pint of locally-grown craft beer at a Montana brewery.

We know there's an increasing demand, particularly among international visitors, to experience authentic American Indian history and culture. The state is working closely with its tourism partners and tribal tour operators to make these experiences more accessible and promote them in a sustainable and respectful way.

We are competing globally for the same visitor as some states and countries with very hefty budgets. This means we need to continue to make every dollar work extra hard for Montana ... by continuing with research-based decision making and being on the leading edge with new technologies and ideas, bringing the best return on investment to our state and local economies.

EBS: What do you see as key to strengthening tourism in Montana?

**S.B.:** Montana's tourism industry is strong and growing. The Department of Commerce is making data-driven decisions and innovating in exciting ways to make sure we're reaching high-potential travelers more efficiently, which is resulting



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOVERNOR BULLOCK

in a renewed excitement for visitors to book their Montana trip. We also rely on the folks like those gathered at this conference who serve as ambassadors of this special place we call home. Their work makes an incredible difference in sharing first-hand the authentic adventures Montana has to offer.

**EBS:** What does the state of Montana consider its most important and effective way to communicate with visitors and potential visitors?

**S.B.:** [The Department of] Commerce's Office of Tourism and Business Development uses groundbreaking research tools and technology to deliver stunning advertisements to the right audiences at the right time. The state's job is to inspire travelers to visit Montana, and local tourism marketing partners then provide onthe-ground services to travelers while they're here.

**EBS:** What kind of shifts have you seen geographically in terms of tourism?

**S.B.:** Though we are largely targeting visitors behaviorally, not geographically, we are seeing strong arrivals in response to our ads [in] California, Washington, Colorado, neighboring states and Canada. We are seeing opportunities in Portland and Phoenix looking forward. And it is likely no surprise that we see upticks in markets with direct air service, such as Dallas.

We continue to have a presence in seven overseas markets and have piloted additional direct-to-consumer advertising in the U.K., Germany and Australia given their affinity for U.S. travel, and a specific desire for what Montana has to offer.

**EBS:** Are there additional resources you would deem important to increasing visitor satisfaction during their stay in Montana?

**S.B.:** Glacier and Yellowstone national parks are still the driving force for first-time visitation to Montana. However, we are starting to see a shift toward the parks being just one part of the overall trip. ... The parks are experiencing high volumes of traffic and are putting systems in place to mitigate those impacts while maintaining a magical experience for visitors. We encourage visitors heading to the parks to check out the information [Yellowstone and Glacier] provide for parking, any closures, or other useful information to help plan their experience in advance.

**EBS:** How are you going to help small businesses that rely heavily on tourism remain vibrant and healthy?

**S.B.:** The Montana Department of Commerce supports small businesses in a variety of ways including financial and technical assistance to help companies grow or retain jobs. Commerce connects wholesale buyers with Made in Montana members to get more locally made or grown products on the shelves of stores across the state. Plus, support is available for communities to further develop tourist destinations or repair critical community infrastructure.

# 2017 Big Sky PBR draws 15,000 spectators

## Economic impact ripples through community

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – The lights were bright and the flames were hot last November as team members from Outlaw Partners were called to the stage during night three of the PBR World Finals at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas to accept "Event of the Year" for Big Sky PBR.

This was the fifth year in a row that the Big Sky-based marketing, media and events agency was honored with the award, chosen over more than 300 events nationwide. The votes are cast by the bull riding professionals, many of whom competed in Big Sky last July.

Event producers and organizers were honored by the recognition.

"2017 was the year of PBR for Montana, from Jess
Lockwood winning the world championship title to
Big Sky being chosen as No. 1 event—big things for
Big Sky Country," said Outlaw Partners CEO Eric
Ladd. "We have big plans for the 2018 event and
want to continue to raise the bar for this great community event."

Candace Carr Strauss, CEO of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and Visit Big Sky expressed her gratitude for the event's economic impact on the community.

"It's truly a testament to the unique experience that this place we call home, Big Sky, brings to a PBR tour event," Strauss said, adding that the impact of the



The 15,000 spectators in town during the 2017 Big Sky PBR had an estimated economic impact of \$2.6 million. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

15,000 spectators who attend is enjoyed by the area's lodges, restaurants, retailers and nonprofits.

An analysis prepared by Circle Analytics calculated the economic impact of the 2017 PBR event to be \$2.6 million, approximately \$1.5 million of which was retained within the county.

This year's Big Sky PBR will take place July 25-28, with three nights of professional bull riding on July 26-28. The first two nights sold out in a record 9 minutes—prompting Outlaw Partners to add a third night of bull riding to meet the demand.

The week's festivities will kick off with a community barn dance on July 25. The third annual Big Sky Art Auction will take place on July 26, with over \$500,000 of curated art and proceeds going to local charities. Auxillary events also include a charity golf tournament at The Reserve at Moonlight Basin and live music following each night of bull riding.

"Big Sky PBR is the best event of the year," said Bill Simkins, the primary developer for Big Sky Town

Center, which is the central location of the event. "The town is really rocking and rolling that whole week—and it keeps it expanding every year. We're thrilled that we can make Town Center available for the PBR—it brings the whole Big Sky community together."

Tickets are still available for the bull riding event on Thursday, July 26. Visit bigskypbr.com for details.





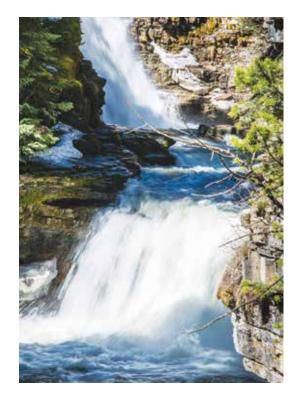
# **Explore and experience Big Sky** Not-to-miss visitor highlights

**EBS STAFF** 

**Shop:** Grab a coffee at Compass Café at 25 Town Center Ave. and browse the offerings at contemporary outdoor retailer Montana Supply.

Hike: Take a short hike to Ousel Falls on your own, or with Visit Big Sky and local nonprofit representatives at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 15. This trail is accessible year-round and is one of Big Sky's gems.

**Play:** Not into downhill skiing? Explore the extensive Nordic trail system and snowshoeing opportunities at Lone Mountain Ranch.



Ousel Falls is one of Big Sky's main attractions and offers a different experience in each season. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

**Drink:** Sample Big Sky-made craft beers at Beehive Basin Brewery and Lone Peak Brewery.

**History:** Catch a screening of the documentary "Homesteads to Huntley" at Lone Peak Cinema on Sunday, April 15, at approximately 2:30 p.m. The film tells the evolution of Big Sky from ranchland to resort under the guiding vision of Chet Huntley.

**Wellness:** Drop in for a yoga class, or book a treatment, at Santosha Wellness Center.

**Art & Culture:** Check out Creighton Block Gallery and Gallatin River Gallery, both located in Big Sky Town Center.

**Après-ski:** Enjoy the atmosphere, live music and half-priced food and drink at Rainbow Ranch Lodge from 4 to 6 p.m. daily.

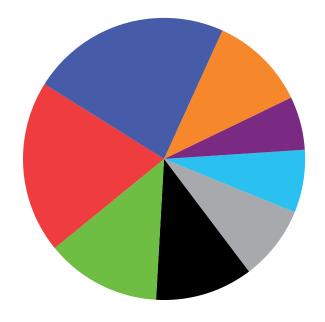
**Eat:** If you don't want to venture outside of Big Sky Resort, try Andiamo Italian Grille or, if you're willing to take a chairlift to lunch and can get a reservation, Everett's 8800 perched at the top of Andesite Mountain is a unique dining experience open for lunch in the last weeks of the resort's season. Town Center also has abundant dining options—two local favorites are Lotus Pad and Ousel and Spur Pizza Co.

# 2017 Montana nonresident traveler expenditures

\$3.36B

TOTAL SPENT by nonresidents in 2017 \$4.7B

ESTIMATED TOTAL contribution to Montana's economy



Gas	<b>23</b> %	\$769M
Restaurants	<b>20</b> %	\$667M
Hotels	13%	\$449M
Outfitting	11%	\$374M
Retail	9%	\$296M
Groceries	<b>7%</b>	\$239M
<b>Licenses/Entrance Fees</b>	<b>6%</b>	\$193M
Other Including: Auto rental, condo rental, made in MT, campgrounds, misc. services, vehicle	11%	\$378M

# Outfitting: A major driver in Montana tourism

MONTANA OUTFITTERS AND GUIDES ASSOCIATION

According to University of Montana's Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research, outfitting and guiding accounted for 11 percent of the \$3.4 billion that non-residents spent while visiting Montana in 2017.

That places the outfitting industry in fourth position in the state behind fuel, food and lodging.

"When you recognize that people don't just come here to drive, eat and sleep, it is evident that outfitting is one of the primary drivers of tourism in Montana," said Mac Minard, executive director of the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association. "We hope that lawmakers, commission members, decision makers and county commissioners consider the importance of outfitting to Montana's economy as they move forward with legislation and regulatory activities."

Outfitted non-residents who visit Montana spend an average of \$806 per day. That money creates a boost to local economies by contributing to the tills of everything from lodges and restaurants to car rental businesses and retail stores.

repair, gambling, farmer's market and

transportation fares

Outfitting and guiding has been rising in the rankings for several years. In 2014, it was ranked number six. Two years later, it occupied the number five ranking and accounted for nearly \$236 million of expenditures. This most recent data puts the total expenditures at \$374 million annually.

The Montana Outfitters and Guides Association includes more than 200 of Montana's professional licensed outfitters and guides with operations that span the state's regions. Visit montanaoutfitters.org for more information.



# Making it in Big Sky

### The Cabin Bar & Grill

BY SARAH GIANELLI **EBS SENIOR EDITOR** 

BIG SKY - The Cabin Bar & Grill evolved out of The First Place Restaurant, which opened in one of the first buildings in the Meadow Village Center approximately 32 years ago.

The Cabin's co-owner Curly Shea started working for the Fursts (hence the name The First Place) in 1982 and bought the business from them six years later. He owned and operated it in the same location for 17 years. In 2003, Curly and his wife Kelly Shea relocated the restaurant to the Mountain Village in the Arrowhead Mall and changed the name to The Cabin, where they have been running it together ever since.

**Explore Big Sky:** What has been the key to your success?

Curly Shea: A lot of hard work, great employees, and consistently great food and service.

**EBS:** What are the biggest obstacles to operating a small business in Big Sky?

**C.S.:** Getting employees and the off seasons.

**EBS:** How has the business landscape changed since you started out?

**C.S.:** There is a lot more competition and the price of doing business has skyrocketed.

**EBS:** What is it about Big Sky that compels you to stick it out through the bard times?

**C.S.:** Big Sky is a wonderful place to live, work, play and raise a family. Sticking it out through the hard times was really not that hard; I was lucky and got into my business and housing early on before prices got so crazy.

**EBS:** Why do you think so many new businesses fold relatively quickly?

**C.S.:** Because people don't realize how difficult it is to run a small business and how long it takes to start making money. You also have to be hands-on and present, which Kelly and I are on a daily basis.

EBS: What advice would you give to small business owners just starting out in Big Sky?

**C.S.:** Keep your set costs as low as you can, then stay the same month to month—your income goes up and down with the seasons. Be ready to work a lot of hours to make your business survive.

**EBS:** What's the best piece of business advice you've received?



Curly and Kelly Shea opened The Cabin in the Arrowhead Mall in Mountain Village in 2003. Prior to that, they owned and operated one of the oldest restaurants in Big Sky at the time, The First Place. PHOTO COURTESY OF **KELLY SHEA** 

**C.S.:** Unfortunately I didn't get a lot of advice from anyone that stands out, but a few people gave me some: Don't be afraid of change—go with it and embrace it. There is always something good about change and something to learn from it.

**EBS:** What do you think your business will look like in 10 years?

C.S.: Even busier.

**EBS:** What is one of the most memorable experiences you've had as a resident or business owner in Big Sky?

**C.S.:** I have lived in Big Sky for 40 years, so I have had a lot of memorable experiences ... spending the night on Lone Peak when the tram was not there and skiing the North Summit Snowfield in the summer; the 1988 fires in Yellowstone; raising my family in Big Sky; hiking Wilson Peak with my son Cooper on the eclipse.

### THE CABIN BAR & GRILL - BY THE NUMBERS



**20-30** 



**YEARS IN BUSINESS:** 



**LONGEST SERVING EMPLOYEES:** Natasza Wisniewska, 15 years

# The Wrap Shack changes hands, stays in the family

BY ANNA HUSTED EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Former Wrap Shack owners Don Mattusch and Karen "K-Mac" Macklin have sold the business to their longtime employee, Kimi Hueftle. Heuftle, who has worked at the Wrap Shack for 11 years, longer than Mattusch and Macklin have owned it, plans to keep it a place for locals and families.

"The Wrap Shack has been a huge part of my life," Hueftle said. "All the people I have worked with at the Wrap Shack—K-Mac, Don, and the original owners Josie [Bolane], Lindsie [Hurlbut] and Jason [Luchini]—have had such a huge impact on the person I have become. I look up to all of them."

Mattusch and Macklin have owned the Wrap Shack for seven years and are excited for Hueftle to take over ownership, as well as sad to part ways with the business and people they love.

"We are going to miss being a part of the community," Macklin said. "More than 50 percent of our business is return local customers and we're going to miss them. Don and I are changing gears to have more time for family and more flexibility in our schedules. We want to enjoy Big Sky for why we moved here—more outside time."

Hueftle plans to bring the breakfast menu back. She also wants to stay open through the off-season for the nine-to-five Big Sky worker, as they are a large part of her customer base. She plans to keep the Wrap Shack the same place that everybody knows.

"Kimi has been at the Wrap Shack longer than we have," said Macklin, who has full faith in their successor. "She is fully in tune with what people need. She already knows our regulars' names and their orders before they say it. She is more qualified than anyone else I could think of."



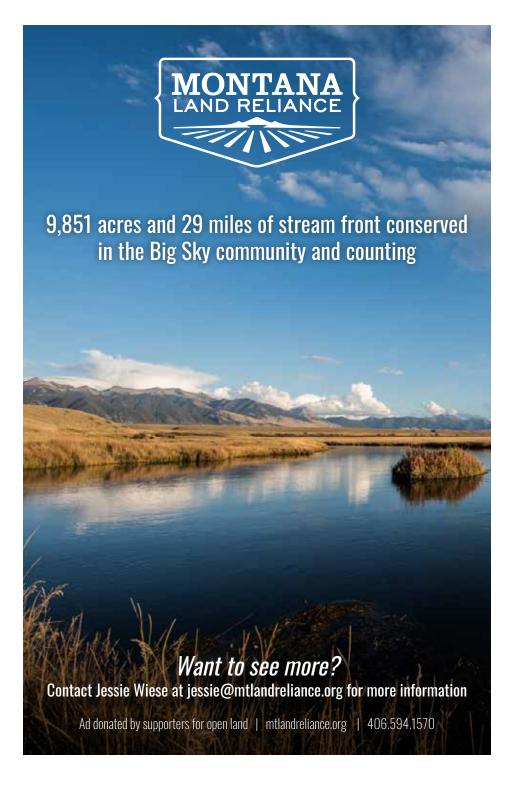
Former Wrap Shack owners Don Mattusch (left) and Karen Macklin have sold the business to their employee of 11 years, Kimi Hueftle. PHOTO BY ANNA HUSTED

"I am very excited," said Hueftle. "I didn't even think buying the Wrap Shack would be possible a few months ago, but once the ball got rolling, it got a little less scary with every day."

The Wrap Shack is open daily from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Anna Husted loves the "peanut gallery" wrap at the Wrap Shack. In Big Sky she can be found behind the bar at Lone Peak Cinema or slinging hot dogs at Yeti Dogs.









# A fresh look at ancient wheat

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER **EBS STAFF** 

When you hear of "ancient grains," you might think of the bag of rice that's been in your kitchen cabinet for three years. But there are a vast range of whole grains that have been consumed for centuries, even millennia, that are making a trendy comeback in many home kitchens.

Quinoa, amaranth and millet are some common grains that don't come from the wheat plant, but here are some varieties of the wheat grain itself to try that will also add a punch of fiber and protein to your diet. If you're gluten intolerant, you'll want to avoid these options.

**Farro** comes from emmer, einkorn or spelt wheat that is left as a whole kernel. Like barley, farro maintains a slightly chewy texture when cooked, and these two grains can be used interchangeably. It is available in whole grain, which is the least processed; semi-pearled' and, the most common type, pearled—which refers to the removal of the fibrous outer hull and bran. This grain is particularly high in iron, and completely cholesterol free, making it a heart healthy option. A single cup of farro contains up to 24 grams of protein, making it a great supplement to plantbased diets.

Wheat berries, like farro, are whole kernels of wheat, but come from the common wheat plant rather than a specific variety. Because they are largely unprocessed, they maintain their high levels of fiber. This grain requires a longer cook time than others; soaking it beforehand can help expedite the process. The end product is a slightly firm and chewy grain that works well in salads and soups, or as a fiber-rich alternative to rice.

**Bulgur** is a further processed, and pre-cooked, form of wheat that is cleaned, steamed, dried and crushed before going to market. This process has been around for thousands of years, originating in the Mediterranean region. It can be purchased in different levels of coarseness, all of which lend themselves to different applications. Coarsely-ground bulgur is a great starch addition for soups, while fine is better suited as a rice substitute. Commonly used in tabbouleh salad, this grain contains copious amounts of fiber and protein—up to 75 and 25 percent of the recommended daily value, respectively.

**Kamut** is an oversized grain almost three times as big as a common grain of wheat. Its name is trademarked, and actually refers to the grain from Khorasan wheat, originating in northern Africa. Its grains are used to create flour and in their whole form, they are abundant in protein and essential nutrients. Kamut is similar to bulgur and is a nice alternative to oatmeal for breakfast when mixed with fruit, nuts and a touch of honey.

**Freekeh**, pronounced "free-kah," is wheat that is harvested while still green. After harvest, it is roasted, rubbed of its hull, and either left whole or cracked. Because it is harvested young, freekeh maintains more protein and fiber content than wheat that has matured. Because it is pre-cooked during the roasting process, this variety cooks quite quickly, especially if its cracked, making it a good option when you're in a hurry. Freekeh is versatile, and can be used as a substitute for quinoa, oats and rice.

### **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 milk actually do the body good?



BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Over the last 40-plus years, product advertising and marketing campaign councils have come up with some memorable food mimes. Remember "beef—it's what's for dinner," "cheese, glorious cheese," and the "incredible edible egg?"

But there is one that trumps them all.

According to the California Milk Processor Board's website, the 1993 campaign "Got Milk?" is recognized by more than 90 percent of the American public. And Ad Age lists "Got Milk?" in the top 100 advertizing campaigns of all time, for any product, worldwide. To my estimation, no other slogan has been mimicked more.

A lesser, though still memorable campaign states "Milk. It does the body good."

But does it? Well, yes and no.

A comment I hear regularly and debate frequently is that humans are the only animal that consumes another animal's milk. This is not true. However, we are the only animal that consumes another animal's milk habitually, and the only species capable of milking another animal.

In fact, only a small portion of humans are lactose tolerable; and most heavily concentrated in parts of Africa and northwest Europe. As juveniles, all animals, including humans, possess lactase, an enzyme that allows us to break down milk sugars. But many of our bodies stop producing it, or produce less of it, once we reach adulthood. To me, this is nature and evolution telling us we shouldn't drink milk into adulthood.

Human milk consumption beyond childhood originated in central Europe, and was born out of the need for vitamin D in areas with little sunlight in the winter months.

The way I see it, not many foods have such an even split of pros and cons.

Other foods contain the nutrients that milk does, but many still perceive milk as nature's one stop shop in nutrition. However, not only is it extremely low in iron, but it impairs the body to ingest it. Dairy is hard on our digestive tracts to begin with, and it can actually cause blood loss in small children.

Some physicians believe that multiple servings of milk per day promote bone development and growth, warding off osteoporosis. Yet others find no connection to healthy bones at any point in life, but rather to the amount of physical activity done as children and adolescents.

There are some pediatricians who believe that flavored milk, such as chocolate, is positive, even though there is added sugar. To them, at least they get children to consume milk rather than soda. Other doctors believe the amounts of sugar in flavored milk is too high, and that it is often just as much as soda. In addition, milk contains lactose, a naturally occurring sugar not easily digested after age 4. And you know how I feel about sugar.

Milk contains something called insulin growth factor, or IGF-1. Again, this is regarded as a positive with regards to children's growth, but antithetically can also be responsible for stimulating cancer cells in adults.

Large consumption of milk in adults has been linked to reduced risk of inadequate blood flow and strokes, yet this same amount of consumption has been attached to an increase in coronary heart disease.

For me? The jury is still out on milk. On the one hand, I was a very healthy child and was raised on copious amounts of milk, yet I know at least three people of varying ages who have had physical discomfort vanish within 48 hours of removing milk from their diet.

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





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# **Get your spice on at Thai Basil**

BY KATIE THOMAS EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN - It's a good sign when you walk into a restaurant and can smell authenticity. Upon entering Thai Basil, the keen observer will immediately recognize the fragrance of curry, mixed with the sweetness of Thai iced tea and other special secret ingredients that Thai restaurants use to seduce our senses—my guess is lemongrass and kaffir lime leaves.

Thai Basil is Bozeman's newest Asian dining establishment, located on the corner of North 19th Avenue and Oak Street in the Smith's Shopping Center. The restaurant was formerly a food truck and owners Jason and Jen Alexander opened the brick and mortar establishment in mid-March, much to the delight of Thai food fanatics throughout the valley.

After selling her culinary creations out of her food truck from 2015-2017, Jen realized they needed a larger, permanent space. They moved into what was the Corner Bakery, joining a busy conglomerate of businesses.

On a recent evening, curious diners were drawn into the bright, modern space, bringing appetites and palates prepared for traditional Thai spice. The beverage choices are limited (hot tea, Thai iced tea and Coke products only), but why would anyone want anything besides the concoction of strong, spiced black tea and sweetened condensed milk?

Among the enticing appetizer options were the fried spring rolls (veggie or pork), which were wonderfully flaky and flavorful. In an effort to conjure a tropical Thai beach, I selected the green papaya salad next, which was abundant with tangy lime juice and kicky hotness.

The curry aromas I detected earlier determined the first entrée choice: panang



Drunken noodles with beef are one of many traditional offerings at Thai Basil, a popular food truck business that recently opened a brick and mortar location in Bozeman at 19th Avenue and Oak Street. PHOTO BY KATIE THOMAS

curry with chicken. A thick, salty and sweet variety of red curry, Thai Basil's panang had the perfect combination of vegetables in its creamy broth: bell peppers, zucchini and mushrooms.

In contrast, the drunken noodles with beef can be ordered completely mild—for most dishes diners can choose their desired level of heat—but these diners opted for three stars out of five. Our fiery palates were extinguished with a dessert of mango sticky rice, which arrived warm, sweet, and satisfyingly chewy.

The atmosphere at Thai Basil is casual, which is comforting for anyone new to Thai food. The main dining room is large and welcoming, with colorful art on the walls and large windows. It looks and feels as brand new as it is.

Jen, whose Thai name is Kanchana Srichandi, met her husband when he was vacationing in Thailand. After

marrying they decided to move back to Jason's hometown of Bozeman, where they began sharing Jen's culinary gifts out of the food truck in 2015.

They gained quite a following in Bozeman, as well as in Livingston and Big Sky, where they would park their truck at farmers' markets and music events. The Alexanders sold the food truck shortly before opening the restaurant.

If the prospect of well-executed, exotic Thai food isn't enough motivation to try the Alexanders' new restaurant, perhaps the challenge of who can tolerate the highest level of spice is. As a longtime waitress at a Thai restaurant myself, I've rarely met an American who can enjoy five stars—but the attempts always make for an interesting meal.

Thai Basil is located at 1805 W. Oak St. in Bozeman. The hours are Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and 5-9 p.m.; and Sundays from 12-3 p.m. and 5-8 p.m. For more information, call (406) 624-6815.



### Traditional and Contemporary Western Art







### BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

Did you know we can have toxic levels of formaldehyde in our bodies? I found this shocking. Unless you're a funeral director who's business it is to embalm the deceased, I couldn't imagine how this is possible.

Formaldehyde is a simple compound made of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen and is a colorless, strong-smelling gas. It belongs to the family of chemical compounds called volatile organic

compounds. Our bodies produce small amounts of formaldehyde. It serves as a chemical building block for cells to live and grow, and exists naturally in the air we breathe and the water we drink.

But the man-made world we live in has increased the levels of formaldehyde so much that it can be hazardous to our health. Overexposure can irritate our eyes, skin, nose and throat and can increase the risk of cancer. My intention isn't to create fear here—it's to create awareness so we can make informed choices.

Widespread information about the dangers of formaldehyde circulated in the mid-1970s when people experienced respiratory problems from urea foam formaldehyde insulation. Although UFFI was banned in 1982, the ban was lifted a year later and formaldehyde continues to be used in building materials and products.

It makes its way into our homes through plywood, fiberboard, particleboard, glue, timber paneling and laminates.

When building a home, the Environmental Protection Agency recommends using "exterior grade" pressed-wood products. They give off less formaldehyde because they contain phenol resins rather than urea resins. However, even though certified by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, these products still expose users and workers to formaldehyde at lower levels.

Look for furniture, cabinetry, flooring and upholsteries made without ureaformaldehyde glues; pressed-wood products that meet ultra-low emitting formaldehyde or no added formaldehyde requirements; products labeled "No VOC/Low VOC," and insulation that does not have urea-formaldehyde foam.

Formaldehyde and formaldehyde-releasing preservatives are also used in bath, body and beauty products as a preservative that helps prevent bacterial growth. They can be found in shampoos, nail polish, conditioners, toothpastes, sunscreens, perfumes, cosmetics, soap and baby-wipes. It's worth noting that the European Chemical Agency has banned the use of formaldehyde in beauty products.

Products containing synthetic fragrances like dryer sheets, laundry/dish detergents and air fresheners can all release formaldehyde into your environment. Synthetic fabrics used to make clothing, sheets, pillows and curtains are often treated with urea-formaldehyde resins.

So what are we to do? It seems that many companies brush the dangers off by claiming that the amount of formaldehyde in their products is too low to be a health risk. And while that's probably true, health issues can result from exposure coming from so many different sources.

Unfortunately, the Food and Drug Administration doesn't regulate these products so they're usually permitted to use chemicals as they please. That said, it's up to us, the consumers, to get informed, read labels and buy products that we trust, made by companies that care about our health and the environment.

Also, there are ways we can take care of our bodies to ensure they're working optimally and filtering out impurities. Read the next edition of Explore Big Sky where I'll write about how to keep your body's internal filtration system as clean and healthy as possible to prevent chemical overload.

Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach, culture consultant, TEDx speaker and coach. For a complimentary health consultation, visit corcoranhealth.com and schedule your meeting today.



# The treasure my ex-boyfriend left behind



BY DARYN KAGAN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

She wasn't the gift I was expecting. Not from my boyfriend. A very long ago boyfriend, I should clarify.

This is a story about where we get our people. About how ugly can sometimes, sometimes, leave behind a treasure.

There was so much wrong with this particular relationship—red flags from the beginning. And yet I

stayed—for years. I, the columnist who writes about a healthy marriage, raising kids, you know, normal-ish stuff.

I'm so disappointed when I look at that much younger me. I cringe at all that I put up with; I'm ashamed, really. I think I was hoping the joy I felt hanging around the super fun guy would transform him into a stand-up man. It never happened.

His ex-girlfriend was one of the first red flags. They were still friends. "Oh, heck, no!" I insisted, seeing things in a 22-year-old's black and white way.

Boyfriend looked unfazed. "No one gives up Lois," he explained. "To meet her is to love her. You'll see."

Of all the crazy stunts he pulled over the years, I have to say, Lois turned out not to be one of them.

I met her and instantly knew he was right. You can't not like Lois. She's like a fairy godmother, a sugary pixy stick, and giggly delight wrapped up into one person. Boyfriend and I kept Lois. Even long after we let go of each other, which was way too long after we should have.

He and I stayed friends, in a way, too. We'd check in from time to time over the years, until his bad choices, the things he insisted he could handle, got the best of him and he died.

It's been years now. In the unexpected way life can twist, Lois was recently in the city where I live for a work thing.

"Dinner?" she texted, pointing out it was the anniversary of the day he passed.

"Absolutely," I replied.

She pranced into the restaurant, as sparkly as if I'd seen her yesterday. We toasted him, briefly bemoaned his demons, and then had our own night.

He was wrong about just about everything—except Lois. He couldn't give himself fully to either one of us, but somehow, he gave us each other.

In that, he was right, so very right. No one gives up Lois.

I suspect I'm not alone in having a special person walk through an unexpected door. You too, Dear Reader? You, who survived too long in a bad relationship, and came out with scars, regrets, and possibly shame.

And, hopefully, some treasure that broken person left behind—a friend, a former in-law, your kid.

There's no them without him. A different kind of clarity all these years later. For that, I'm thankful. For the lessons. For the love. For the gift I wasn't expecting.

Daryn Kagan was a featured speaker at TEDxBigSky 2018. She is author of "Hope Possible: A Network News Anchor's Thoughts on Losing her Job, Finding Love, a New Career, and my Dog, Always my Dog," and the founder of darynkagan.com, a resource for uplifting and positive news.





# Spring conditioning for a successful summer sports season



BY MARK BROWN PHYSICAL THERAPIST, BOZEMAN HEALTH REHABILITATION SERVICES, BELGRADE

Whether you spent the winter sprinting along ski trails, ascending ice-slick rock, shredding slopes on your snowboard or sitting on the couch, it's time to change course and get ready for warm weather sports and the pursuit of healthy outdoor activities.

Spring conditioning is the way to improve your success and enjoyment of summer efforts, whether you like to swing a club or racquet, swim laps, cycle trails or hike mountain terrain. No matter what outdoor activity you choose, conditioning will make you better at it.

In my experience as a physical therapist, I have found the best strategy is to condition all muscle groups, no matter what sport you are pursuing. This can prevent muscles you might ignore from becoming weak, which can lead to injury.

By getting in shape for the upcoming season, you can enhance your core strength, agility, accuracy, balance, endurance, explosiveness and overall athletic performance, as well as your mental fortitude.

Irrelevant of the sport or fitness level, we encourage clients to use these general principles to guide their conditioning program:

**Progression** – increase intensity (reps/weights) gradually to increase physical capacity

**Consistency** – regular exercise is more effective than sporadic efforts **Overload** – work harder than normal to help your body adapt and improve while allowing for adequate rest

**Intensity** – work harder for short periods of time

**Safety** – focus on safe techniques and use proper equipment

Proper conditioning includes sport-specific techniques—ways of swinging a bat to best connect with a pitch or improving a rock climbing hold, for example—and building strength to improve performance.

There are three keys to increasing your power: resistance training such as working out with weights to build basic muscle strength, and stretching to increase flexibility and improve range of motion. Regularly practicing both develops the third key—improved endurance.

Aerobic endurance is the result of cardiovascular exercise, which allows your body to process oxygen and produce energy at a higher level, and helps you practice your sport at greater length with less effort and fatigue. Anaerobic endurance is muscle endurance, or your muscles' ability to perform exercises repeatedly in quick bursts.

Good conditioning programs begin with a focus on these three key areas. We recommend that this part of the program be started in early spring and performed three to five times a week.

A month or two before your season kicks off, workouts can shift to sport-specific conditioning, agility drills and movement skills. Stability, action and reaction speeds, and accuracy and agility are movement skills that improve with practice. Together, these conditioning steps will help you perform well from the start of the season.

Remember, you don't have to be an elite athlete to benefit from good conditioning. Better strength and flexibility make any activity more enjoyable, no matter your level of participation.

For more information, inspiration and healthy outdoor lifestyle suggestions, check out Bozeman Health's #outdoorhealthylife on social media.

Mark C. Brown, PT, bas 21 years of experience in his field. He has certification through the Duffy-Rath System of assessment, treatment and prevention of musculoskeletal disorders and disability. Brown is IASTM certified and Level 2 certified for Functional Dry Needling. He provides orthopedic/manual therapy emphasis including spinal manipulation and BPPV/vestibular rebabilitation.





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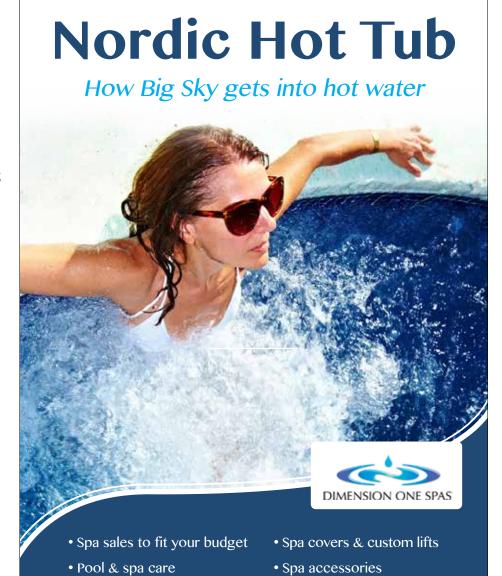
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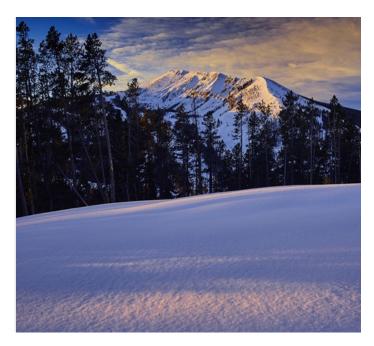
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# **Q&A** with professional skier Parkin Costain

**EBS STAFF** 

Moonlight Basin ambassador Parkin Costain recently spoke with Explore Big Sky, covering everything from how he got his season pass pulled at his home resort, to his meteoric rise in the professional skiing industry as an 18-year-old Montana native.

**Explore Big Sky:** When and where did you learn to ski? Who was instrumental in helping you to become an elite skier?

**Parkin Costain:** I put my first pair of skis on at 2, but had spent plenty of time before that riding in a backpack with my dad. I grew up in Whitefish, Montana, and learned to ski on the local hill.

**EBS:** You were successful while competing in junior freeride events. Do you plan on returning to competitive skiing in the future?

**P.C.:** I started competing when I was 9 years old on the [International Freeskiers and Snowboarders Association] circuit. My last year on IFSA was two years ago at 16. I've always loved competing and the group of guys that come along with it. There's no better feeling than landing your run and coming to a finish full of a huge group of hyped friends. Right now I'm definitely focusing most of my time into filming, but if the opportunity comes along to fit competing back into my schedule then I'm all for it.

**EBS:** You won the 2015 Teton Gravity Research Grom Contest. ("Grom" refers to a young, competitive freeskier.) Why did you decide to enter the video contest and who helped you film it?

**P.C.:** I decided to enter the TGR Grom Contest after I watched a friend of mine, [Daniel Tisi], win it and get a sick segment in a TGR film. I came in second the first year I entered the contest, and then was able to take the win the next year. Unfortunately I wasn't able to get a segment in their film for winning, but I did get the opportunity to meet and become friends with everyone in that crew. That was almost more valuable because it has gotten me to where I am now.

**EBS:** You recently had the chance to film with TGR in Terrace, British Columbia. How did that opportunity materialize?

**P.C.:** Last year I had a really great season and was able to win the Quiksilver Young Guns ski contest with [a video edit]—that was definitely the turning point for me becoming pro and getting to shoot with TGR this year.

**EBS:** Currently, you're beli-skiing in Haines, Alaska. For the uninitiated, can you describe the feeling of cruising down a steep, Alaskan spine?

**P.C.:** When it comes to heli-skiing, Haines is unlike any other place on the planet. If you're looking for a super drawn-out run you can go ski these



Whitefish ski phenom Parkin Costain in his element—backcountry skiing lines that have gained him a reputation as one of the most impressive winter athletes of his generation.



After signing on as an ambassador for Moonlight Basin, Parkin Costain was handed the keys to a brand new, custom-wrapped Chevy Silverado. PHOTOS BY KENE SPERRY

6,400-[vertical-feet] glaciers all day long. As the day goes on and you decide to venture out to the spines the feeling is euphoric as you're shredding down the steepest line of your life. It's a bit like falling out of the sky except you're in control of the decent.

**EBS:** You recently became an ambassador for Moonlight Basin. How did that come about?

**P.C.:** The way the Moonlight deal came about was a combination of a few things and a pretty funny story. Last year, I had a few pivotal moments in my ski career that got me to where I am today. It started early in the season when I hit this chairlift jump on [Whitefish Mountain Resort] where I grew up and the management there really didn't like it. I was out of town when they watched the video so I didn't know they had pulled my pass until I got back home and tried to ski. It was not a very warm welcome home.

Throughout the rest of the season, I was able to win the few freeride [competitions that] I did and then started to focus on filming. I entered this film contest (Quiksilver Young Guns Ski Competition) that I saw a mention of on Instagram. I entered two days before the competition ended and was able to get selected as one of the top 10 finalists. Over the next two months, my dad and I went out as much as we could to film. The two months of trying to film were coming to an end. We didn't have any footage to put in the edit—weather and timing were not working for us. Within the last week of available time to film we took our last trip from Big Sky to Cooke City and in two days shot the entire edit.

There was a month of online voting after that so I just let it be and waited for the results. The season was coming to an end and I got the chance to ski [the Yellowstone Club] and that was when they announced I won the Quiksilver contest. Everything started to happen really fast after that. I was getting phone calls from ski brands like Blizzard and 4FRNT offering me contracts with actual money, which is something I had never had happen before. People knew that the years to come were going to be awesome and they wanted to be a part of it.

I had been up to [Alaska] once before and had plans of going again but didn't know it would be in the next week after I partnered with SEABA Heli. Literally within the week after winning the contest I signed a new ski contract with Line [Skis], partnered with SEABA Heli for five years and had interest from Moonlight Basin. I spent the last three days of the season up in Haines and was able to feel comfortable and ski well enough that Moonlight decided it was a go, and wanted to have me be a part of their team.

EBS: What are your goals as a winter athlete in the near future?

**P.C.:** For the rest of this season, and as far as I decide to take this ski thing, I just really want to stay healthy and keep progressing as a skier. I want to keep working with TGR and producing even higher quality individual edits on my own. I have a passion for filming and want to have that in my back pocket as something I can offer to ski brands and any other sponsors.

# Big Sky's young winter athletes finish season strong

EBS STAFF

The Big Sky Ski Education Foundation capped off another successful winter, with numerous athletes garnering invitations to regional and national championships.

"We had a great season with some ups and some downs. There is a lot of enthusiasm in the programs with the successes we have had and continue to build on," said Jeremy Ueland, now in his 10th season as program director for BSSEF.

The foundation is a nonprofit that offers instruction in alpine, freeride and Nordic skiing programs for junior athletes in Big Sky.

"Becoming a great skier, whether it is alpine, freeride or Nordic, is all about the process and journey to becoming that athlete," Ueland said. "These things don't just happen overnight. It takes a lot of time, commitment and dedication."



Mazie Schreiner had a strong racing season that earned her an invitation to compete in the Western Region Championships at Alyeska Resort in Girdwood, Alaska. Here, she is pictured competing in a Super-G event on Hangman's at Big Sky Resort. PHOTO BY CRYSTAL IMAGES

#### **2018 Western Region Championships**

U14 - Luke Kirchmayr, Skylar Manka

U16 - Caleb Unger, Ryan Beatty, Franci St Cyr, Mazie Schreiner

U19 - Maci St Cyr, Madison Winters, Mackenzie Winters, Sam Johnson

#### **2018 IFSA North American Junior Championships**

U12 - Elijah Singer, Preston Smith, Brayden Maybee

U14 - Andrew Smith

U18 – Nehalem Manka, Luuk MacKenzie

Ueland was quick to praise his fellow coaches and the volunteers who made the season a success. Many BSSEF racers qualified for the U14, U16 and U19 Western Region Championships held at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, Alyeska Resort in Girwood, Alaska, and Schweitzer Mountain in Idaho, respectively.

"It was cool to go to Alaska and a fun race to compete in," said Caleb Unger. "I tore my ACL last year, so it was great to have success this year. I actually think I'm racing better than where I was at last year." Unger won the Super G event for his age bracket at the Big Sky Speed Series on his home turf this season.

From April 11-14, many BSSEF freeride athletes will compete in the International Freeskiers and Snowboarders Association's North American Championships at Snowbird Sky Resort, which concluded after EBS went to press April 11.

"We are a small team compared to some of the 100-plus athlete teams in the IFSA, so obviously I'm very excited that we have so many athletes here," said BBSEF freeride coach Jordan Aid. "I believe our athletes have a great shot to hit some podiums here."





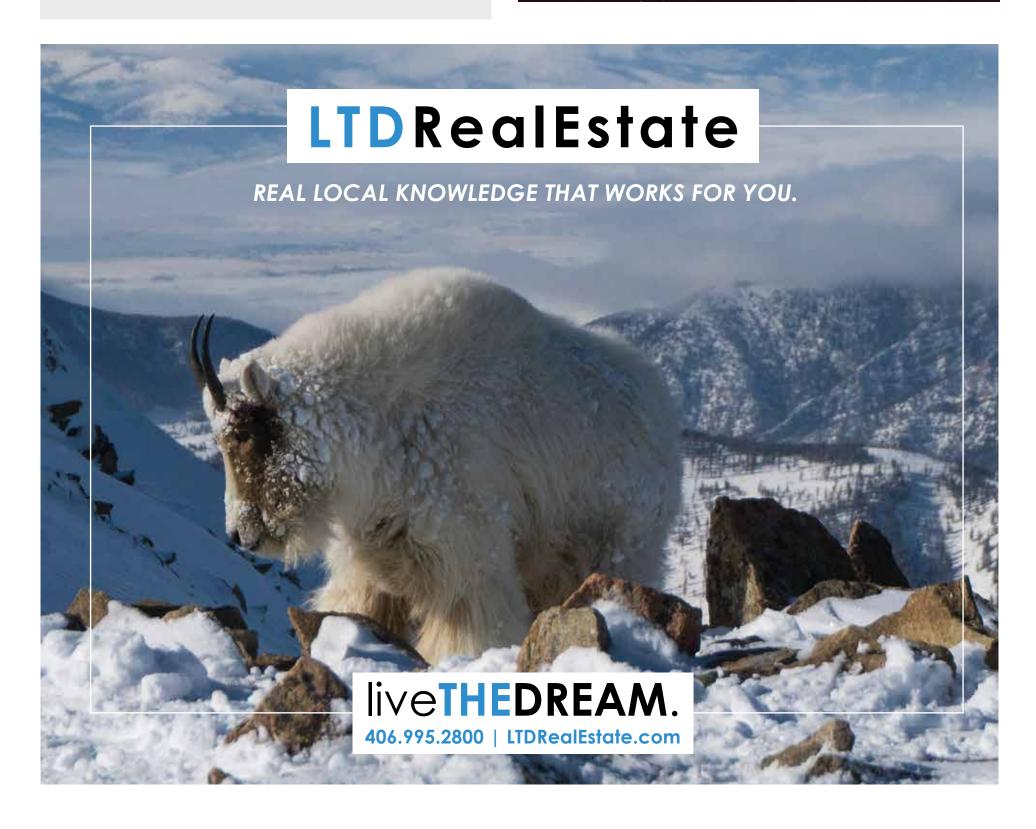
### A young Lone Peak High School tennis team prepares for first match

Due to the extended winter weather, the LPHS tennis team had been practicing in the elementary school gym. Pictured above, head tennis coach Joe Gorman offering some serving advice to junior Kodi Boersma during the team's first outdoor practice on April 9. PHOTO BY DOUG HARE

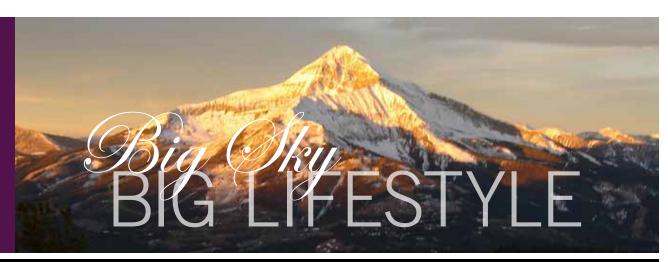
# Sam Adams Big Air and Après returns to Big Sky Resort

On April 7, after a weather delay, Big Sky Resort's base area saw a visually stunning performance with professional skiers and riders launching off a massive jump alongside cutting-edge 3D projection mapping, with snowflakes falling and fireworks bursting across the night sky. PHOTO BY GABE PRIESTLEY









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Ridge home in Antler Ridge with views of Lone Mountain. Reclaimed beams, granite, high-end appliances, convenient mid-mountain location. Designed by Jerry Locati. 3 bd, 4.5 ba.



#### 5 BANDIT WAY | \$1,650,000 #311037 | CALL DON

Incredible views of the Spanish Peaks from one of the highest and most scenic locations in Cowboy Heaven. Completely remodeled, 4 bd, 4 ba, 2,629± sq. ft. Excellent ski access.



#### NORTH FORK RD, LOT 8 | \$1,300,000 #301292 | CALL STACY OR ERIC

Simply stunning 20± acre lot in coveted, private Triple Triangle Ranch in the North Fork. Gently sloping with mature Doug Fir trees. Driveway, and all utilities in place.



# 10 ROSE BUD LOOP | \$1,249,000 #216776 | CALL STACY OR ERIC

Beautifully furnished Powder Ridge Cabin with direct Ski-in (Bozeman Trail)/ Ski-out (White Otter Lift) access. Ponderosa plan on 3 levels with 2,567± sq. ft. of livable area. 4 bd, 3 ba.



#### 9 BANDIT WAY | \$799,000 #311070 | CALL DON

Terrific views from one of the highest Cowboy Heaven Cabins. Sold fully furnished. Professionally decorated in a true western flavor. Hot tub on deck. Ski-in/Ski-out.



#### LITTLE COYOTE RD, 52B | \$619,000 #317311 | CALL STACY OR ERIC

A chance to own a rarely available Spanish Peaks Club Condominium. Well maintained 2 bd, 3 ba plus lower level bonus room with patio access. Convenient Meadow Village location.



#### SUMMIT #10402 | \$599,000 #312593 | CALL DON

Big Sky Mountain Village's premier hotel, with the best location in the Mountain Village. This west facing, 2 bd, 3 ba, condo has impressive views of Lone Mountain and the surrounding area.



#### LOT 114A, CASCADE | \$339,000 #309556 | CALL DON

Beautiful lot in the highest part of Cascade Subdivision. This lot borders Ulery's Lakes Subdivision to the North. Great views of Lone Mountain and the Mountain Village area.



#### LOOKING GLASS RD | \$275,000 #300099 | CALL STACY OR ERIC

Invision building your custom dream home on this beautiful, flat, and deep 0.3± acre homesite in the desirable "Looking Glass" neighborhood of Big Sky's Meadow Village.



#### HILL CONDO #1258 | \$215,000 #220805 | CALL STACY OR ERIC

2 bd, 1 ba, 3 level Hill Condo Loft. Chefs kitchen with new cabinets, SS appliances and breakfast bar. This unit is perfect for year-round living or as a secondary home.

# **Section 3:**ENVIRONMENT & OUTDOORS







### The New West:

# Wyoming's oracle of cyberspace searched for a better community



BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

At the Fillmore in San Francisco, the city where he established himself as a modern thinker, John Perry Barlow's spirit was released into the cosmic ether with a celebration staged by his friends and admirers

I was not there April 8. I cannot claim my relationship with Barlow was close, though over

the years we had many conversations related to stories I was writing.

Most of the pieces had to do with the environment, his identity as a Wyomingite and, of course, his rise as an oracle in pondering the limitless potential of cyberspace.

Barlow would often stop by the Jackson Hole News during the 1980s on trips north from Pinedale. He'd say hello to photographers David J. Swift and Ted Wood, managing editor Angus Thuermer, Jr., and the paper's publisher Michael Sellett.

He always strolled in dapperly attired, wearing jeans and cowboy boots, a Western shirt, scarf tied neatly around the neck and tweed coat. He possessed mystique; here was a lyricist for the Grateful Dead; a man who served as a friend and mentor to John F. Kennedy Jr., at Barlow's ranch in Sublette County during Kennedy's impressionable adolescence; and a self-styled redneck Libertarian Republican who served as a board member on the Wyoming Outdoor Council at the behest of founder Tom Bell.

It was owed to Barlow that I opened my first email account—a hastily created AOL address that I still hold today. I had to get one because that was how Barlow wanted to do one of our interviews, via a dial-up server that connected to his address with the Electronic Frontier Foundation.

In the mid 1990s, I wrote a profile about Barlow for an airline magazine. I interviewed his New York City friend, the late writer and monologue performer Spalding Gray. Gray referred to Barlow reverentially as a deceptively deep post-modern philosopher who had an ability to look around corners into the future.

I wasn't interested then in discussing Barlow's lyrical feats with the Dead, or the role he played in Kennedy's life. My piece was prompted by an essay he had written for the Utne Reader, titled "Is There a There in Cyberspace?"

The narrative offers a beautiful description of why he became intrigued with the promise of cyberspace liberating and democratizing the flow of information, ostensibly free of interference and control by governments and corporations.

The fact that so much changed was of major horror to Barlow who, in recent years, became a good friend of Edward Snowden.

In utopian theory, the internet offered a way in for everyone, for it belonged to no one, much like the high seas. Interestingly, at the same time Barlow became a leading figure in championing the internet, he was among those who insisted Greater Yellowstone be viewed as an "ecosystem."



John Perry Barlow CC PHOTO

"Diversity is as essential to a healthy community as it is to healthy ecosystems (which are, in my view, different from communities only in unimportant aspects)," he wrote in Utne, believing that cyberspace, like nature, could serve as a welcoming home of interconnection for all.

In recent years, he grew disappointed, angry and disillusioned by government intelligence eavesdropping, and social media entities severely betraying the public trust.

More troubling, he lamented, was that the virtual community where ideas and opinions could be shared also brought out the vilest impulses in people.

In the 1990s, he observed, "I have no idea how far we will plunge into this strange place [the internet]. Unlike previous frontiers, this one has no end. It is so dissatisfying in so many ways that I suspect we will be more restless in our search for home here than in all our previous explorations."

Over the years, Barlow's thinking about cyberspace, intellectual property, privacy, security, and creativity continued to evolve and world leaders sought him out for conversation.

A century from now, his philosophical posits, I am certain, will be as highly regarded as those by existentialist John-Paul Sartre.

Much of Barlow's cannon can be read, for free, at the Electronic Frontier Foundation (eff.org/john-perry-barlow). There, you'll find plenty of fodder relating to these uncertain times and the big questions facing us.

What Barlow wanted most was achieving community to which we all belonged equally, brought together by free will and a spirit of love.

Todd Wilkinson, founder of Mountain Journal (mountain journal.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 feature on the delisting of Greater Yellowstone grizzlies appears in the winter 2018 issue of Mountain Outlaw and is now on newsstands.



Division of Glacier Bank

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**Brooke Anderson** Real Estate Loan Officer

Direct: 406.556.3816 Email: banderson@bigskybank.com NMLS#1631849

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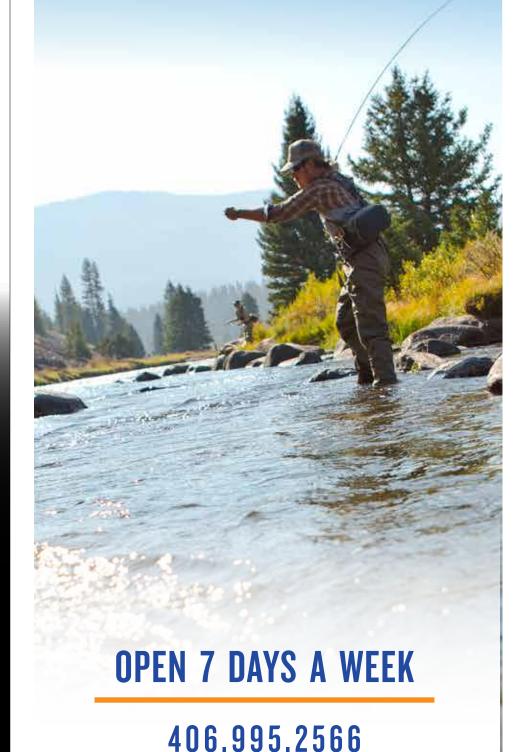
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# Brucellosis monitoring in Montana's wild elk

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – The Greater Yellowstone is home to tens of thousands of elk, and their range extends from the far reaches of Wyoming and Idaho, to the core of Yellowstone National Park. While known for its rich wildlife ecosystem, the Greater Yellowstone is also the only place in the U.S. where the highly contagious brucellosis infection continues to thrive.

This bacterial disease is localized in the reproductive track of female cattle, elk and bison and can induce abortion in pregnant animals. Though no longer common in the U.S. due to pasteurization, brucellosis can also be transmitted to humans, causing fever, joint pain and fatigue.

Wildlife officials continue to monitor the impact of brucellosis on the region's elk population and earlier this spring, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Park biologists completed a series of annual elk captures in partnership with the Montana Department of Livestock in order to better understand the disease.

"There's just a lot of unknowns with how the disease is circulating," said Kelly Proffitt, FWP wildlife biologist and one of the lead researchers on the brucellosis study.

Up until about the year 2000, she said, scientists attributed brucellosis transmission to feeding grounds in Wyoming and exchange with bison. "But in the last 10 years, we've seen that it's circulating in free-roaming elk. Current management of bison has really taken them out of the equation.

"The primary mode of transmission between elk and cattle is an abortion event," she said, adding that an infected cow elk will expel a big load of viable *Brucella abortus*—the bacteria that causes brucellosis—at the birth site. Domestic livestock could then sniff and lick the area and eat the grass, introducing the bacteria into their system.

Following exposure, a pregnant female will develop an infection and likely abort her pregnancy that year. Because her body has mounted an immune response to the disease and antibodies are present in her blood, she will likely test positive for the presence of the disease well into the future.

"For the most part, most of the seropositive animals—[those who test positive for the presence of brucellosis]—go on to have healthy births [following the first abortion]," Proffitt said. However, it's possible seropositive animals could continue to shed *Brucella* even during normal births, and some infected elk have gone on to never calve again.

"Working with wildlife is really difficult. Like everything else, elk are unpredictable ... the common pattern is not always followed," she said, adding that "pregnancy rates aren't what drives elk populations, so it's a pretty low consequence for elk, but of really high consequence for livestock."

Within the Montana portion of the Greater Yellowstone is an identified area where brucellosis is common and cattle producers are required to vaccinate their livestock and test them prior to transport.



In March wildlife officials captured nine collared cow elk living near Mill Creek in Paradise Valley. Seven were confirmed pregnant and will be monitored this spring for brucellosis. PHOTO BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT

Positive test results in this designated surveillance area could have implications for mandatory testing and shipping holds statewide. Delayed or canceled shipments could see producers lose millions of dollars, said Eric Liska, brucellosis program veterinarian for the Department of Livestock. In 2008, he added, producers lost \$12.3 million because two cattle herds tested positive.

Beginning in 2011, FWP and the Department of Livestock have worked to identify high-risk populations of elk, which are then monitored for five years. Initially, 100 females are captured using nets shot from a helicopter. They are tested in the field for brucellosis and pregnancy and if positive, the cows receive a GPS collar.

In the years following, these elk are recaptured and tested once again. Those who are pregnant receive a vaginal implant transmitter that allows researchers to track the location of an abortion or birth. Between March and June, technicians gather samples from the afterbirth to determine if the female is shedding *Brucella*.

Following the five study years, the elk are euthanized and taken to the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for biological sampling, though Proffitt said cows are often harvested by hunters or die of natural causes before the five years are up.

"They need the actual tissues from a dead animal," she said, adding that about 30 samples are taken from various lymph nodes throughout the body. "That's the real determination of whether that animal was infectious or not."

Within the Greater Yellowstone, Mill Creek south of Livingston is one of several very high-risk areas where the disease presence is high and interactions with livestock are very likely. This spring, seven pregnant elk will be monitored. A single seropositive elk in the Madison Valley north of Ennis is being tracked through her pregnancy as well.

Liska said that this study has been incredibly helpful, as segregation of cattle and livestock is the best way to prevent brucellosis transmission. "Timely separation from potentially infected wildlife is ideal. So we need to know who's contagious, where they are, and what livestock are at risk," he added. "Unfortunately, livestock are completely at the will of wildlife."

# Museum hosts talk on rainmaking bacteria

GALLATIN VALLEY FRIENDS OF THE SCIENCES

Droughts and wildfires are persistent threats in states like Montana. But can high-flying bacteria potentially mitigate such natural events by inducing more rainfall?

David Sands, professor of plant pathology at Montana State University, will discuss the possibilities of such bio-precipitation in the fourth presentation of the winter/spring Science Inquiry Lecture Series.

The talk will be held at the Museum of the Rockies on Wednesday, April 18, at 7 p.m. in the museum's Hager Auditorium.

The series, sponsored by the Gallatin Valley Friends of the Sciences, explores cutting edge science topics, their latest developments, and their relevance to society through speaker presentations followed by conversations between speaker and audience. The talks are free to the public.

In his presentation, "Flying Bacteria as Potential Rainmakers," Sands will discuss how certain plant-infecting bacteria that end up circulating high in the atmosphere may also promote the formation of ice crystals needed to produce rain. This has potential implications for reducing drought and fire danger.

Sands holds a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. Founder of the biotechnology curriculum at MSU, his research interests include plant bacteriology, biological control of weeds, and biotechnology. He has worked on biocontrol methods in the U.S. and 11 other countries.

Sands is a recipient of a Bill and Melinda Gates Grand Challenges Explorations grant for work on plant pathogens in Kenya and a Charles Lindberg Award for significant contributions in balancing technology and nature.

To learn more about the Science Inquiry lecture series, visit gallatinscience.org.

# INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



# Insider's tips for visiting Yellowstone in spring

BY JENNY GOLDING FOR YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK LODGES

Spring is one of the most dynamic times of year in Yellowstone. As the park begins to turn green and the days grow longer, the landscape changes almost daily. Rivers run high, snow lingers in the mountains, and baby animals speckle the landscape—along with the predators that hunt them. Here are a few tips for how to make the most of your spring visit.

#### Rise Early

One of the most important things you can do to take advantage of all that spring offers is to rise early—before sunrise if possible. Yellowstone provides unparalleled opportunities to observe animals in their natural habitat, and late April through early June boasts some of the most exciting wildlife watching of the entire year—but you have to get up when the animals do for the best chance at seeing them.

From a base at Lake Yellowstone Hotel or Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, rise early and drive toward Hayden or Lamar valleys. Find a quiet pullout, turn off the engine, and get out of the car. Scan the landscape, looking for movement and listening for sounds.

Watch the behavior of any animals you see—you'll be surprised at what they'll tell you. For example, elk that are bunched together instead of peacefully grazing can clue you in to the presence of a bear or wolf.

Maintain a safe distance from animals. The park requires visitors to stay 100 yards from bears or wolves and 25 yards from other wildlife. Parking in designated pullouts and using binoculars and telephoto lenses allows you to closely observe the animals without disturbing them.

#### Leave the Car Behind

A whole different Yellowstone experience awaits just a few steps away from the road. Walk five or 10 minutes, or a few hours from your car. Then sit and watch. You'll be surprised at what appears when you quiet your body and mind.

If you're feeling active, hike the Beaver Ponds Trail in Mammoth Hot Springs. This 5-mile loop is a favorite hike in the spring because of the varied terrain and the chance to see wildlife. The trail passes through forest and meadow, and past several ponds full of waterfowl. We almost always spot a blue grouse displaying his feathers and—if we're lucky—a black bear or two. Elk, deer and colorful spring wildflowers are also common.



Calving season usually begins for bison in April after a 9-month gestation period. PHOTO COURTESY OF YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK LODGES

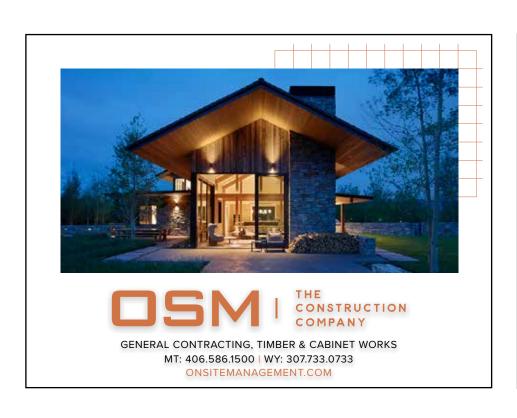
Spring is also one of the best times to visit Yellowstone's thermal features. In midsummer, cars can line up for a half-mile to get into the parking lot at the Midway Geyser Basin. But in May, you'll share iconic features such as Old Faithful and Grand Prismatic Spring with far fewer people.

#### Be Prepared

Spring weather is unpredictable—sunny and 60 degrees one day, snowing the next—and trails can be wet and muddy. Pack in layers, wear hiking boots, and carry a warm jacket. If you plan to hike, make sure to remember bear spray, water, sunscreen and rain gear. Yellowstone is a mountain wilderness, and you'll have a much more enjoyable trip if you come prepared.

If you're unsure about exploring the park on your own, join a guided tour or lodging and learning program. You'll explore the park with local guides who can teach you where to look for springtime highlights and how to enjoy the park safely. You can always take what you've learned and explore on your own

Jenny Golding is a former director of education for Yellowstone Forever. She currently runs the website A Yellowstone Life, and writes from her home in Gardiner, Montana, on the border of Yellowstone National Park.





## **Expedition Yellowstone**

On April 2-6, Ophir's fourth grade class took a trip to the nation's first national park, participating in Expedition Yellowstone, a curriculumbased, residential outdoor program offered by the National Park Service. This annual trip is organized by fourth-grade teacher Jeremy Harder and is widely anticipated by students. Here, students share their perspectives and favorite memories from the trip.



#### Geno

"Of the many things that we did on EY, the one that sticks out the most is probably when we saw the bison standing right in front of the bus, right when we were about to leave. One of the bison started to scratch its head on a traffic cone and then it got scared and jumped up and down."



#### **Baker**

"I had never been this far away from my parents. Because it was around my birthday, and I had all my friends with me, I was fine and I had fun. I connected with all sorts of people. That helped me to be the kid I am today. I learned all sorts of stuff like geothermal activity and about bison. EY was amazing!"



#### William

"EY was really fun, I was sad that it had to end. A life skill I took away from the trip was to stay 25 feet away from bison. I will never forget I saw a black wolf."



#### Eli

"My favorite experience in Yellowstone was seeing bighorn sheep follow close behind the bus. I don't think anyone else saw them. I will take this with me throughout life because I think it is special if you are the only one to see something."



#### Lauren

"Expedition Yellowstone was a great experience, from seeing all types of animals like bison, coyotes and a wolf. But the next thing you know it's time to go. I will have good memories of this place."



#### Kaylee

"When I first came to Yellowstone, I was nervous but excited at the same time. However, when I got to my cabin and set up, I knew I would have fun and I did. On the last night we all sat around 'Bob' the campfire, balling our eyes out."



#### **Poppy**

"My favorite experience of EY was seeing a black wolf on the ecology day. Ranger Lauren taught us to put your thumb up and if it covers the entire animal then you are a good distance away from the animal."



#### **Avery**

"When I arrived at EY18 it was nerve racking. I stepped off the bus and looked around at bison on the hill, the tiny cabins and the river. We took a tour around camp. I was nervous for the first night. We went to the bunkhouse to eat and I walked back to my cabin. It took me a while to fall asleep but I finally drifted off to sleep."



#### Mickey

"I felt like I made a big connection with the park and my friends. We saw cool animals in Yellowstone. In my opinion it was the best time of my life."



#### Hana

"My favorite part of EY was seeing all of the animals. My life skill was communicating with others because we did a lot of working together."



## RESORT ROUNDUP

Your guide to events, activities and news at Big Sky Resort

## **WORD FROM THE RESORT**

## A sendoff to winter, looking ahead to summer

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Catch the last days of the season at Big Sky Resort and enjoy the mix of snow and sun that typically ushers in spring.

Even with closing day on April 22, there are still plenty of things happening on the mountain. The Montana Pass is ongoing for those who purchased this direct-to-lift option, and Sunset Saturdays will run April 14 and 21, extending closing time to 5 p.m. on Andesite Mountain's Ramcharger lift.

On April 14, the nonprofit SheJumps Wild Skills will hold a junior ski patrol camp for girls between the ages of 8 and 16. This is an opportunity for girls and young women to learn mountain safety and first aid under the mentorship of women in ski patrol. Structured as a full day camp, girls will be split into teams based on skier ability and will rotate through stations, learning a range of outdoor skills.

The annual Pond Skim on April 21 will celebrate the end of a memorable ski season. This tradition is great for participants and on-lookers alike. Get your best costume together and see how far you can skim across the pond after speeding down the Ambush headwall. Registration begins at 10 a.m. and is open to the first 100 participants.

Even with the 2017-2018 winter season coming to a close April 22, there are many things still ahead.

Season passes for 2018-2019 are on sale now and discounted prices will run through April 30.

For the 2018 summer season, Big Sky Resort will offer continued lift services on the mountain for scenic rides and mountain biking. This year, in lieu of Ramcharger—which is being replaced by a new eight-place chairlift—the resort will operate Thunder Wolf, as well as Swift Current and Explorer chairlifts for bike haul beginning in June, if conditions allow. This plan to run Thunder Wolf will give riders access to all of the terrain on Andesite Mountain.

There are over 40 miles of mountain biking trails open at Big Sky Resort, which includes lift-accessible downhill trails and cross-country trails that extend beyond Mountain Village. Lifts run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Riders will find mostly advanced and expert downhill trails off of Swift Current lift, intermediate to expert trails accessed by Thunder Wolf, and a beginner and new intermediate flow trail off of Explorer. Bike rentals are available at Different Spokes Bike Shop, and lift tickets will go on sale in May. An early-bird bike haul pass price will be offered through May 31.

Look no further than bigskyresort.com to see all of the summer events scheduled at Big Sky Resort.

## J LIVE MUSIC

#### Friday, April 13

Milton Menasco Duo Chet's Bar, 4 p.m.

Mike Haring Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

#### Monday, April 16

Lauren & Jeff Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Mike Haring Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

#### Tuesday, April 17

Kenny Diamond Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Lauren Jackson Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

#### Thursday, April 19

Kent Johnson Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Kenny Diamond Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

#### Friday, April 20

Lauren Jackson Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

#### Saturday, April 21

The Well Mountain Village Plaza

## **ACTIVITIES**

#### **WILD SKILLS JUNIOR SKI PATROL**

#### APRII 14

This day camp is sponsored by SheJump's Wild Skills and is intended to get young girls outdoors. Girls between the ages of 8 and 16 will learn mountain safety and first aid while working with the strong women of the ski patrol community. See explorebigsky.com/new-youth-program-teaches-snow-safety-to-girls for the full story.

#### **Sunset Saturdays**

**APRIL 14, APRIL 21** 

Ski until 5 p.m. on Andesite Mountain. This includes terrain served by Ramcharger chairlift.

#### **Pond Skim**

APRIL 21 | 2:30 P.M.

#### **Sunday Church Services**

MOUNTAIN CHURCH SERVICE MAIN CHAPEL AREA, 1:30 P.M.

MOUNTAIN CHURCH SERVICE MOONLIGHT BASIN CHAPEL AREA, 3 P.M.

#### **Lift Closures**

**APRIL 15** 

Headwaters and Lone Tree lifts close for the season.

APRIL 22

**WINTER CLOSING DATE** 

## Summer Schedule Opening Dates

#### **JUNE 8**

Opening day for the modified version of Lone Peak Expedition, nature zip tours, adventure zip tours, guided hikes (weather permitting) and gemstone mining, as well as the bungee trampoline, giant swing, climbing wall, putt-putt and archery (weather permitting).

#### **JUNE 23**

Opening day for mountain biking using Thunder Wolf and Explorer chairlift as a bike haul. Also, the opening day for disc golf.

#### **JUNE 25**

Opening day for mountain biking using Swift Current chairlift as a bike haul. The full Lone Peak Expedition experience begins with scenic lift rides, as well.

## Wilderness first responder certification offered in May

EBS STAFF

In May, Desert Mountain Medicine will offer two wilderness first responder courses in Big Sky, held at the headquarters for Big Sky Search and Rescue.

On May 3-7, Big Sky local and lead instructor Chris Moon will teach a wilderness first responder course that is valid for three years and includes certification in wilderness anaphylaxis training and CPR.

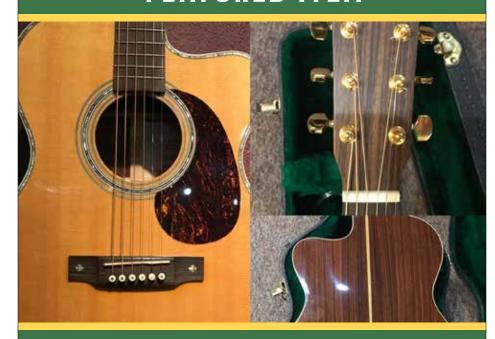
This course will be offered in a hybrid format whereby participants complete 30 hours online before spending the remaining 50 hours in the classroom or with the instructor outside. Part of the in-person training will include a night scenario that provides students the opportunity to respond to a mock emergency from beginning to end.

In addition to learning and practicing medical skills, students will also learn about wilderness improvisation, evacuation and calling for advanced rescue.

On May 12-14, Moon will lead a wilderness first responder recertification course. Since recertification students have already completed the full 80-hour training, this curriculum will be condensed into three days and focus on review and practice, as well as introduce new protocols and concepts that have become standard. Upon successful completion, students will receive a three-year certification for wilderness first responder, wilderness anaphylaxis training and CPR.

Wilderness first responder courses often fill quickly and advanced registration is required. To learn more or to sign up, visit desertmountainmedicine.com/wilderness-medicine-courses.





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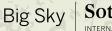






































































## JULY 25-28, 2018 | BIG SKY, MT

THURSDAY JULY, 26
PBR BULL RIDING
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## 2018 Schedule of Events

25

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| FREE

Music in the Mountains
Featuring Shovels & Rope
Presented by Big Sky PBR
Town Center Park | 8:30pm | FREE

PBR Arena Tent | 3-6pm | FREE

www.bigskyartauction.com

PBR Arena | 6-8pm

**Third Annual Big Sky Art Auction** 

Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 1

THURSDAY JULY 26

FRIDAY JULY 27

Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 2
PBR Arena

 5pm – Vendor Village opens and Golden Buckle gates open
 6pm – Calcutta auction in the Golden Buckle tent and General Admission gates open

**7pm** – Bull Riding Begins

Big Sky PBR After Party & Music Featuring Steel Woods SAV Stage | 9pm

SATURDAY JULY 28

Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 3
PBR Arena

5pm – Vendor Village opens and Golden Buckle gates open
 6pm – Calcutta auction in the Golden Buckle tent and General Admission gates open
 7pm – Bull Riding Begins

Big Sky PBR After Party & Music Featuring Thunderpussy SAV Stage | 9pm

## MORE INFORMATION, SCHEDULE & TICKETS AT BIGSKYPBR.COM













































































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# Symposium to consider recreational balance in the region April 23-24

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – A journey through Gallatin Canyon on most summer days reveals a river lined with fishermen, helmet-wearing adventurers bounding rapids in rafts and kayaks, and turnouts and trailheads full of vehicles registered to nature lovers.

Recreation is becoming the heart and soul of many a town in the Greater Yellowstone. But more people playing in the forests and on the trails also puts a strain on the very lands we enjoy.

"The Greater Yellowstone is becoming a more popular place to visit, live and play," said Brooke Regan, special projects organizer for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, a Bozeman conservation group dedicated to protecting the lands, waters and wildlife of our region.

In recent months, Regan has worked to inventory recreation in the Greater Yellowstone and is surprised by how little actual information exists.

"There's just not a lot of data on recreational use, so we don't know what's going on," she said, adding that despite maps of trail systems and access points, no one really knows the intensity of recreation and the types of recreation going on. This becomes a problem, she said, when trying to assess the impacts of our presence on the land.

In light of this, the coalition will host a two-day symposium on April 23-24 in partnership with Montana State University, that will consider the role recreation plays in the Greater Yellowstone.

"We all care about our public land but we need a vision that will balance our recreation with the health of the ecosystem," Regan said.

The symposium, "Our Shared Place: The Present and Future of Recreation in Greater Yellowstone," will be held in MSU's Strand Union Building Ballrooms. Representatives from the outdoor industry, as well as land managers, scientists and recreationists will have the opportunity to share and discuss their various perspectives.

Key speakers include Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk; environmental historian and MSU's Wallace Stegner Chair in Western American Studies, Mark Fiege; Ray Rasker, executive director of Headwaters Economics; and Rachel Vande Voort, director of the new Montana Office of Outdoor Recreation. Montana Gov. Steve Bullock will give a special keynote address.

Nicol Rae, dean of MSU's College of Letters and Science, said he is excited the symposium will be offered at the university, which has a mission as a land-grant college to engage the community. Students are encouraged to attend and will be admitted for free.

"Our students are attracted here because of the opportunity for recreation, so I think these issues are very important to them. They are also drawn here because they care about the environment," he said, adding that ecology is the fastest growing major in the department.

Beyond the Bozeman community, stakeholders throughout the region are invited to the gathering.

"This is a very important discussion for our state because our economy relies so heavily on the use of our outdoor recreation," said Vande Voort, who is responsible for growing and enhancing the state's outdoor economy in partnership with the Montana governor.

"When we talk about the outdoor recreation economy, it's something that grew out of our shared passion for recreation," she added. "Really we're talking about our Montana way of life."

For more information or to register for "Our Shared Place," visit greateryellowstone.org/events/symposium.

## **Volunteers blaze the Continental Divide Trail**

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL COALITION

It can be hard to find your way along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, which runs from Mexico to Canada along the spine of the Rocky Mountains.

The trail is completely unmarked in some sections, and in others, blown-down trees and bleaching from the sun have made the existing trail markers—or blazes—difficult to spot. But this year, in honor of the trail's 40th anniversary, the Continental Divide Trail Coalition is trying to change that.

CDTC is recruiting volunteers from across the country to take part in a project called "Blaze the CDT." Throughout 2018, these volunteers will install thousands of signs along approximately 750 miles of trail. Thanks to efforts by the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, youth conservation corps and volunteer trail adopters, over 2,000 miles have already been signed.

Amanda Wheelock, CDTC marketing and communications specialist, said that Big Sky is a prime location for recruiting volunteers. "Along the entire trail, the two highest priority sections are both just a few hour's drive from Big Sky," she said. "Over 100 miles of the CDT in the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat wildernesses are still in need of blazing, as well as almost 130 miles of trail in Wyoming's Bridger-Teton National Forest."

The entire CDT is 3,100 miles in length, and while it has been marked in various ways throughout its 40-year history, the trail has never been completely and consistently signed from end to end.

"The CDT is an incredible natural and recreational resource owned by all Americans," said Teresa Martinez, executive director of the CDTC. "By making sure the trail is well-signed, we hope to encourage more people to explore the CDT and the beautiful Rocky Mountain landscapes it traverses."



A trail marker indicating the Continental Divide Trail in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. PHOTO BY THOMAS GATHMAN

While 2018 is a big year for the CDT, this year is also significant for all of America's trails, as 2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act. The National Trails System provides outdoor recreation opportunities, promotes natural resource preservation and public access, and encourages the appreciation of America's history and cultural diversity. Since its creation in 1968, over 81,000 miles of trails have been included in the National Trails System.

To learn more about Blaze the CDT, or to volunteer, visit continental divide trail. org/blaze-the-CDT.







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## **Don't 'tredd' on me**Be aware of spawning fish



BY PATRICK STRAUB EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

Spring season is a delightful time for local area anglers—the opportunity to ski exists for a few weeks, spring-time hatches run the gamut from Blue Winged Olives to March browns to skwalas to caddis, and trout are hungry and plentiful in our local waters. Yet one of the reasons our local trout are hungry is due to the abundance of

rainbow trout staging to spawn, actively spawning, or recovering from spawning.

Except for a strain of rainbow trout in the Upper Kootenai River drainage, all of the rainbow trout in Montana were introduced as stocked fish as early as 1889. Despite the species dominance over native cutthroat trout causing a decline in cutthroat populations, rainbow trout are a sought-after gamefish in our local waters. They are a resilient species, but an awareness of their spawning habitat and behavior is crucial to protecting healthy populations.

**Know spawning habitat and seasons.** Rainbow trout will spawn in main river channels, side channels and smaller tributaries. Most of our local rainbow trout will begin spawning in early April and will continue well into May. They prefer areas of a river with small gravels between 1/2- and 3-inches in size.

Using her tail, a female rainbow trout digs a depression in the small gravel, called a "redd." These redds are recognizable as lighter patches of river bottom, a result of the female exposing the slightly buried gravel. Riffle and pool tail-out habitats with well-aerated gravels free of sediment are ideal spawning habitat.

**Don't tread on the redds.** Redds are the future of our rainbow trout fisheries, so stay clear of them. A female deposits a portion of her eggs into the redd, as an attending male fertilizes them. The fertilized eggs are covered by gravel as the female excavates yet another redd just upstream. Trout deposit eggs throughout a range of depths and current velocities to ensure viable reproduction—a sort of hedging of their bets.

Sufficient water depth and sediment-free spawning gravels are critical to ensure that water can percolate through the spaces in the gravel, bringing oxygen to the eggs and removing metabolic wastes associated with in-





Rainbow trout are in their mode of spring spawning and anglers must exercise caution to avoid disrupting their crucial spawning habitats. Redds, pictured here, are areas where trout have moved small gravel and are actively spawning, or have spawned. Never walk on a trout redd and avoid disrupting them. PHOTO COURTESY OF BRANT OSWALD FLY FISHING

cubation and hatching. After hatching, young trout remain in the gravel until most of the yolk reserves they are born with are used up. For these reasons know what a redd looks like and do not wade on or even near them.

**Target non-spawning species.** With an abundance of spawning rainbow trout, brown trout will opportunistically position themselves downstream of redds. Now that you know how to look for redds, you can target actively feeding brown trout downstream of redds without disrupting actively spawning rainbow trout.

If you do catch a spawning fish, practice proper catch and release tactics by bringing them in as quickly as possible, keeping them in the water at all times, do not photograph them, and release them near their redd as quickly as possible—all while not physically disrupting the redds.

Exercise special caution on a few of our local waters. The Upper Madison River, the Gallatin River, and the Paradise Valley spring creeks, all feature healthy populations of rainbow trout, yet all are open to fishing during spawning season. The Upper Madison downstream from Quake Lake to around Ruby Creek Campground is vital spawning habitat for the entire river system. If you fish it regularly, educate yourself and steer clear of redds.

The Gallatin River is a mountain freestone, so many of its trout spawn in deeper runs and holes, and inadvertent damage to redds is minimal; yet an unaware angler can still damage them. One spot in particular is the river near Snowflake Springs near the Yellowstone Park boundary. The Paradise Valley spring creeks are an incubator for Yellowstone River rainbow trout, and the owners of the creeks do a fine job of posting sensitive areas.

Fly fishing shouldn't feel like school or a pastime in which someone tells you what to do—many of us go fishing to get away from feeling that level of responsibility. However, in order to maintain healthy fish populations, we all need to practice responsible fishing, and that means steering clear of spawning fish and their spawning habitat.

Pat Straub is a 20-year veteran guide on Montana's waters and has fished the world-over. He's the co-founder of the Montana Fishing Guide School, 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.



## On the Trail: Moose Alley

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

#### BY CIARA WOLFE BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This time of year, moose are often found along the willows in the Meadow, and one of the best trails for spotting these critters is Moose Alley.

This 2.5-kilometer beginner Nordic ski trail is located on the Big Sky Golf Course and is accessed via the Chapel Loop or off of the Crail Trail. Moose Alley forks off of Chapel Loop soon after passing behind the chapel.

Moose Alley meanders along the south side of the south fork of the west fork of the Gallatin River, between the Silverbow and Little Coyote ponds, ending at the Crail Trail.

With willows engulfing the streambank and the solitude found on the golf course, this is a common wintering area for local moose—so common they earned the namesake of the trail. Be wildlife aware, keeping your eyes out for moose at all times, and do not approach if you spot one.

For those visitors or residents who are not able to access the Nordic trail system via their home or lodge, parking can be found in the Meadow Village Center—the commercial shopping area located along Little Coyote Road—or at the Historic Crail Ranch parking lot located off of Spotted Elk Road. There is also public parking and a restroom at the Big Sky Community Park, with the Far East Trail directly connecting from the parking lot to Crail Trail and the golf course trail system.

Moose Alley is not open to dogs and an annual season or day pass is required. To purchase a pass, stop at the Lone Mountain Ranch Outdoor Shop or go to lonemountainranch.com/nordic-ski-trail-passes. All proceeds from pass sales go toward the cost of grooming the winter Nordic trail system.

For a complete map of Big Sky's 85 km of groomed Nordic trails, go to lonemountainranch.com/the-ranch. For more information about Big Sky's parks, trails and recreation programs, visit bscomt.org. The Big Sky Community Organization is a local nonprofit that connects people to recreational opportunities by acquiring, promoting and preserving sustainable places and programs for all.



lan Pecunies spots a bedded moose just off of the Nordic ski trail Moose Alley. PHOTO BY CALLIE PECUNIES















2.5 km

cross-country skiing, wildlife viewing

y skiing, easy Pwing 6,500 ft Gain: none

classic track includes both skate and classic groomed trails

**Directions** From the Canyon take Lone Mountain Trail west. After approximately 2.5 miles, turn right onto Little Coyote Road at the Meadow Village Center. Parking is located within the commercial center or at the Big Sky Community Park 1 mile further down the road.







## Inside the Big Sky

## What to do during mud season in Big Sky

VISIT BIG SKY

There's no way around mud season. It's part of the natural cycle of mountain town life. While many skiers and snowboarders get the mud season blues when the lifts stop spinning at Big Sky Resort, other residents find shoulder-season to be a prime time to relax and recharge before summer kicks in.

If you're looking for activities to do in mud season in Big Sky, here are a few ideas:

**Spring biking in Yellowstone National Park:** Before the roads open to vehicle traffic, they are open to bikes and foot traffic. Grab your cycle, or

your boots, and head into the park for an experience few people are fortunate to have.

Wildlife spotting: Did you know that the majority of animals have their babies

in the spring? Head to the Lamar Valley in YNP to spot wildlife.

**Hot spring tours:** Southwest Montana is home to a lot of natural hot springs. Both commercial and undeveloped hot springs are within a short drive from Big Sky. Chico Hot Springs and the Boiling River are always a hit.

Fly fishing: Fly fishing is a year round activity in Big Sky Country. Hire a fly-



Got the mud season blues? Fly fishing is only one of many activities to keep you occupied until summertime arrives in Big Sky. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

fishing guide and have them show you the best spring fishing in the region.

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

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

**Low elevation hiking:** Many of the hikes at lower elevations or on south aspects will be dry

enough by May. Storm Castle in Gallatin Canyon is a great spring hike. Bring your waterproof hiking boots and go exploring.

And you know what happens after mud season, right? The wildflowers come out and it's summertime in Big Sky—and all the fun in the sun that season brings.

Read more about Big Sky and southwest Montana at Visit Big Sky's blog, visitbigskymt.com/category/blog/.





#### Discovery students win 1st place at **Destination Imagination tournament**

Next stop: Global Finals

On March 24, the Big Sky Discovery Academy team won first place in their structural engineering challenge for the middle school age division at the Destination Imagination state tournament in Dillon, Montana. The BSDA team, Discoveria, will compete in the Global Finals in Knoxville. Tennessee. May 23-26.

Destination Imagination is an international competition in which student teams spend up to nine months creating an in-depth solution to an open-ended challenge that can range from designing a load-bearing wooden structure to writing and performing a musical. At the competition, the teams present their solution in the form of a skit in front of a live audience and are scored by official appraisers.

The BSDA team is comprised of 6th. 7th. and 8th graders: Joev Walton, Samantha Avres. Brayden Maybee, Kjetil Hassman, Nate McClain, Finn Perry and team manager Chris Corona. PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY DISCOVERY ACADEMY

### **American Life in Poetry:** Column 681

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

There's lots of fine writing about fly fishing, from "A River Runs Through It" on down, but good old pole-and-bobber fishing gets short shrift. Here's a bobber-fishing poem by P. Ivan Young, who lives in Nebraska. It's from his book "Smell of Salt, Ghost of Rain," from BrickHouse Books.

#### Fishing for Bream

By P. Ivan Young

We sit on the spillway, the red and white bobbers lilted by the wind, while some force beneath the water

brings everything to attention, the tight line, the echoed rings conjuring tension inside us. And when I touch the rod,

a living strangeness, a quivering unseen tugs at my imagination, not receiving but sending some impulse down the line,

into the muddy water, and when the sunfish erupts I've made the spangles of water the verdant scales, the shudder

of tail fin and light. We build fish all afternoon, threading hooks, looping line into a tight noose, running gills down the stringer

into an opalescent chain of glimmering emerald bodies. Soon our mothers will call with their icy vodka voices

and we will carry them home like the weight of guilt, but for now night closes around us.

We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts. American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2015 by P. Ivan Young, "Fishing for Bream," from "Smell of Salt, Ghost of Rain," (BrickHouse Books, 2015). Poem reprinted by permission of P. Ivan Young and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2018 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.

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- 55 Longitude



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## DOGS OF THE MONTH



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**Breed:** Black Lab and German **Shorthaired Pointer** 

Owner: Megan & Troy Paulson Likes: Grady - leather couches, birds, snacks | Hidey - hunting, humans, belly rubs

**Dislikes:** Grady - cats, not getting

enough snacks | Hidey - thunder and lightning, beeping noises

Claim to fame: Grady - jumping out of a car window at 45mph into a ditch, eating a 10lb box of milkbones in one setting, sleeping with all 4 paws in the air | Hidey - escaping the noise of thunder from inside a house through a 4" window screen gap

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## BACKUI

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"

## **Identifying Big Sky's birds**

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

This April, many birds will return to the alpine terrain of Big Sky. Some species simply move from higher to lower elevations on the mountains, while others travel thousands of miles from winter feeding grounds to summer breeding grounds.

EBS spoke with Lou Ann Harris, a member of Bozeman's Sacajawea Audubon Society, to learn more about a selection of migratory birds that are returning to Gallatin County. Here is what she had to say.

#### Mountain Bluebird

Wingspan: 12 inches Weight: 1.1 ounces

Against the backdrop of a dull, brown Montana landscape, the blue flash of a male mountain bluebird is a welcome sign of spring. The mountain bluebird winters in New Mexico and Texas and begins its spring migration early, with the males arriving in late February or early March.

Once the male establishes his breeding territory, he waits for a female to come around,



The male mountain bluebird is a bright florescent blue. PHOTO BY LOU ANN HARRIS

courting her by singing, flight displays or offers of food. Female bluebirds select a mate based on the location and quality of the nesting cavity he offers her, not on his appearance or singing ability.

The mountain bluebird's diet consists mostly of insects, with a preference for caterpillars and grasshoppers. In the winter and early spring, they will eat small fruits, seeds and earthworms. The birds use a foraging technique called "sallying" in which they fly down from a perch to snatch an insect on the ground, returning to a perch to eat.

Bluebirds are secondary cavity nesters, meaning they use old woodpecker holes to nest. In the absence of natural cavities, they will use manmade nest boxes.

Sacajawea Audubon members maintain and monitor over 300 bluebird boxes in Gallatin County and also band nestlings and adult females. Recaptures of banded bluebirds show that the same birds return every year to the same nesting territories and sometimes to the exact same nest box.

#### Western Tanager

Wingspan: 11.5 inches Weight: 0.98 ounces

There are not very many birds that breed in Montana that can beat the Western tanager for its sheer gaudy plumage.

The male sports a bright yellow body, an orange-red head and black wings, back and tail. The female is more understated, with a gray back and greenish-yellow rump and nape.

They primarily eat insects during the nesting season, especially wasps, grasshoppers, beetles and dragonflies. Before swallowing dragonflies, the birds clip off the bug's wings, and sometimes the legs and head as well.

This long-distance migrant spends its winters in Mexico and Central America. It migrates north at night, usually alone or in small flocks.

Western tanagers range farther north than any other tanager, breeding northward to a latitude of 60 degrees, where they spend as little as two months before migrating south. In Montana, these birds nest in open coniferous forests.

The song of the Western tanager is reminiscent of an American robin, but shorter and raspier in tone.



The Western tanager gets its scarlet head feathers from a rare pigment called rhodoxanthin, which likely comes from insects. PHOTO BY JOHN HARRIS

#### Western Meadowlark

Wingspan: 16 inches Weight: 3.6 ounces

The flutelike song of the Western meadowlark, Montana's state bird, is always a welcome sound in the spring. This chunky robin-sized songbird is often more easily heard than seen.

The meadowlark is a bird of native grasslands, prairies and agricultural fields.

It is a colorful member of the blackbird family, with a bright yellow breast crossed with a black "v."



John James Audubon gave the Western meadowlark it's scientific name (Sturnella neglecta), claiming that most Western explorers and settlers overlooked this common bird. PHOTO BY LOU ANN HARRIS

Meadowlarks are ground nesters. The female uses her bill to shape a cup-like depression in the soil, often using an animal's footprint to start. She then lines the hole with soft, dry grasses and pliable stems. She will sometimes create a waterproof dome over the nest by weaving together grass and shrub stems. This will take her 6-8 days to complete.

Meadowlarks are varied in their diet. They will forage for grain in winter and early spring, insects in late spring and summer, and weed seeds in the fall. During hard winters, they may even feed on roadkill.

Like other blackbirds, meadowlarks use a feeding behavior called "gaping." This involves inserting their bill into the soil and forcing it open to create a hole, giving them access to insects that most birds can't reach.

Lou Ann Harris is a member of the Sacajawea Audubon Society in Bozeman and has been an avid bird lover since 1997. She honed her birding skills in Washington state, learning to identify most species by their calls and songs. Sacajawea Audubon hosts numerous bird-related events, classes and field trips. For more information, visit sacajaweaaudubon.org.

## **Section 4:**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT









## Pop and past superimposed: The art of Holly Manneck

#### BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – A dozen years ago, when artist Holly Manneck started spending summers on a ranch outside of White Sulphur Springs, the aesthetic of her work shifted dramatically.

Then an abstract artist originally from Vermont who had settled in Naples, Florida, Manneck felt captivated by the foreignness of her Western surroundings.

"There were cowboys riding down the road with cows and sheep," she said. Although Manneck has traveled extensively and lived in Europe and exotic locales like the Cayman Islands, she had never encountered such a lifestyle within the United States.

"You have to be so strong to carve out a life out West," she said. "You have to drive three hours to go to the grocery store ... it was so different from what I had known. All of it impacted me. It made me think about art differently. It made me think about people differently."

Inspired by imagery that felt completely "fresh" to her, Manneck began taking photographs of the town—buildings, fire hydrants, people—but wasn't sure how she was going to approach them artistically.

She ended up finding a way to merge her background in graphic design and fine art with her love of photography, which evolved into the multi-media paintings she makes today—a superimposition of vintage imagery and contemporary commentary with a pop aesthetic.

"It's the new Western art," she said. "The imagery may be in a contemporary mode but you can still recognize the Western theme."



Whether featuring bathing beauties, rodeo queens or cowboys, Manneck's paintings combine vintage imagery, pop culture icons, and modern-day commentary in a pop art aesthetic.

Intrigued by this idea of layering past and present, Manneck searches for historical images from a time that interests her and combines them with her own photographs to create a digital montage. She then applies it to an art panel using a monotype process. Using that digital collage as a base layer, she builds it up into something more painterly with silk screening, acrylic paint and ink.



Holly Manneck resides in Naples, Florida, but spending the past 12 summers on a ranch outside of White Sulphur Springs has had a tremendous impact on her art. PHOTOS COURTESY OF HOLLY MANNECK

After figuring out "the how," Manneck was able to grow into her style and embed more subtleties—or what she calls "soul"—into her works.

Manneck often infuses her historical or vintage imagery with messaging related to the contemporary world. Many of her pieces touch on themes of female empowerment, and feature women that range from iconic purse-lipped Marilyn Monroes to cowgirls, ski patrollers and Wonder Woman.

She is currently starting a series in which historical images of Native Americans are overlaid with social media icons.

"It's everywhere; we can't get away from it," Manneck said. "Warhol would've done it—he would've had a field day with it. I'm always trying to push the envelope in a meaningful way."

Manneck believes that intermingling past and present allows different demographics to connect with her art.

She recalled a painting she did called "Mister Softee," in which two women sit on blocks of ice eating ice cream cones. The piece resonated so strongly with an older gentleman who had worked on ice block delivery trucks for 20 years, that he bought it—despite Manneck's impression that he probably didn't buy art very often.

"The way he connected with that piece made my heart twinge," Manneck said. "People bring their own stories to the work. There's a human quality to the old photos; a simplicity, and [a reference to] simpler times that I think brings a sense of relaxation. The colors are bold but the imagery is peaceful."

She uses color to convey the sensory experience of the scene. For instance, for "Rodeo Queen"—a tribute to 1920s rodeo legend Vera McGinnis—she used a palette of hot yellows to make the viewer imagine what those cowboys and cowgirls must've felt, dressed from head to toe in a dusty arena with the summer sun beating down.

She said younger people might connect more with her comic book-pop imagery, humorous content, or Warhol-esque celebrity pieces of rock stars like David Bowie or Mick Jagger. They may also related to her subtle commentary on socially relevant issues.

For Manneck, all of her artwork is about connection—about breaking things down to be able to see that ultimately, "the complexity of life reveals we are all simply human."

"The more you travel, the more you see we are all really the same," Manneck said, speaking of an awareness she also attributes to holding a degree in social work. "No matter what year we were born or what cultural background we come from, we're all pretty much the same."

Manneck's work can be found at Gallatin River Gallery in Big Sky Town Center and at By Word of Mouth in the Westfork Plaza. Visit hollymanneck.com to see more of the artist's work



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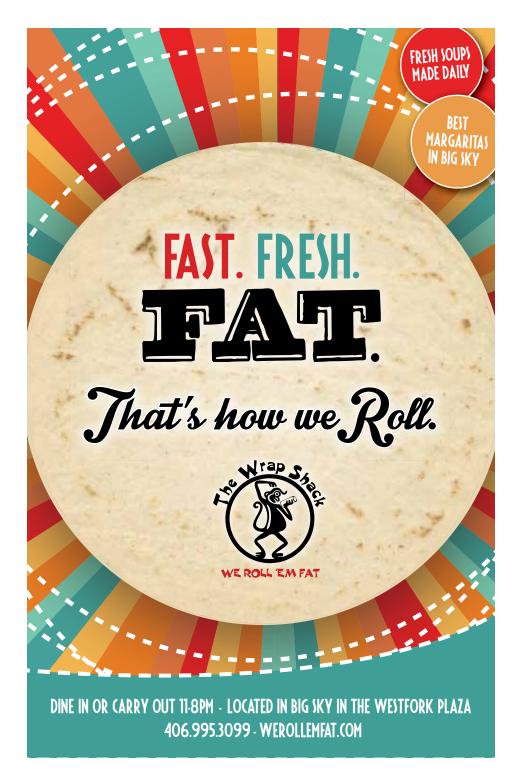
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## EEL REVIE

### 'Ready Player One'

BY ANNA HUSTED **EBS CONTRIBUTOR** 

The year is 2045. People spend more time in virtual reality than the real world. This virtual reality is called the Oasis.

The Oasis was created by a Steve Jobs-like super-genius named James Halliday, who dies and leaves his fortune to whomever can find it in the virtual realm. The hunt for the "Easter egg" fortune begins with a young avatar named Parzival (a fantastic Tye Sheridan) in a search for the first of three keys required to find the fortune.

Before all of this starts sounding too nerdy—which to much delight it is—"Ready Player One" is directed by Stephen Spielberg and co-written by the author of the book the movie is based on, Ernest Cline. Cline's screenplay condenses his book into a two hour and 20-minute film in a clear and entertaining fashion, and Spielberg brings his classic Spielbergian magic—a moviemaking gift no one else possesses.

The hunt for the first key begins with a race through the virtual streets of New York City that incorporates homages to Spielberg's own '80s films. We meet Parzival's Oasis friends: Art3mis, Aech, Sho and Diato, all of whom become invaluable friends and allies. The NASCAR-like contest is a CGI masterpiece unlike any videogame or movie to date.

"Ready Player One" impresses with its seamless transitions between the avatar VR and live action worlds, even tricking us into thinking we are in the real world until a character removes his mask to reveal he is actually an avatar.

This masking and unmasking is a metaphor for the various masks that we as human beings hide behind to protect ourselves from the world's judgment. Spielberg expertly illuminates the detrimental effects of concealing one's true self—and in a family-friendly way. A simple yet important theme develops about loving others for their internal worth instead of judging them by their external looks.

With social media and new VR technology so ubiquitous in America today, "Ready Player One" shows us the perils of abusing technology, but also how it can be used for good.

"Ready Player One" opens up a technological can of worms that will spark great discussion among families that watch it together.

Serving up more pop culture references than most of us can swallow, "Ready Player One" is a nerd's fantasy. Anyone who knows all the John Hughes movies, played "Pitfall!" or "Adventure," or knows not to go behind door 237 is going to love this film.

"Ready Player One" is showing at Lone Peak Cinema in Big Sky through April 19 and at Regal Gallatin Valley Cinemas in Bozeman.

Anna Husted has a master's in film studies from New York University. In Big Sky she can be found behind the bar at Lone Peak Cinema or slinging hot dogs at Yeti Dogs. When not gazing at the silver screen or watching her new favorite TV show, she's skiing, fishing or roughhousing with her cat, Indiana Jones.



Stephen Spielberg's "Ready Player One" impresses with its seamless transitions between the avatar VR and live action worlds. PHOTO COURTESY OF AMBLIN ENTERTAINMENT

## Theater, film and live music at Rialto Bozeman

**EBS STAFF** 

#### Friday, April 13 @ 6 and 10 p.m. Pinky and the Floyd

If you've lived in the area for any significant amount of time, you've probably at least heard of the sound-scape spectacle that is Pinky and the Floyd. This weekend the "Northwest's hottest Pink Floyd tribute band" plays four shows in two nights at the Rialto. The first evening, the early show is a performance of the full album "Wish you were Here," plus a montage of songs from the 1960s. At 10 p.m. the band rolls out "Animals," followed by a '90s medley.

#### Saturday, April 14 @ 6 and 10 p.m. Pinky and the Floyd

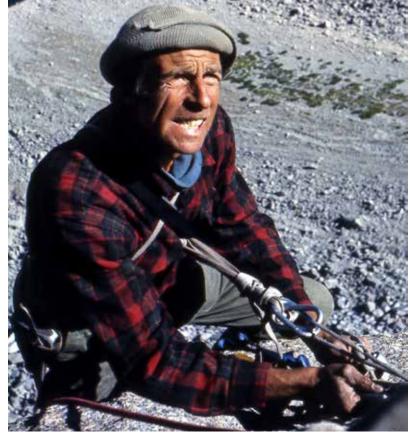
The 6 p.m. show is a performance of "Meddle" followed by a vignette of Pink Floyd tunes from the '80s. At 10 p.m. the band takes on "Dark Side of the Moon" with additional singles from the 1970s.

#### Sunday, April 15 @ 8 p.m. A night of gypsy jazz with Tim Kliphuis and Alfonso Ponticelli

Celebrate a night of gypsy jazz with violinist Tim Kliphuis and guitarist Alfonso Ponticelli, a duo from across the Pond known for their virtuosity and passion. After their performance, the floor will be cleared for dancing to the sounds of local gypsy jazz aficionados, Montana Manouche.

#### Thursday, April 19-21; April 26-28 @ 8 p.m. "The Realistic Joneses"

A Bozeman Actors Theatre production directed by Joel Jahnke, "The Realistic Joneses" is about two suburban couples who have more in common than their identical homes and same last name. As the relationship between the two couples (played by Mark Kuntz, Cara Wilder, Miles Duffey and Claire Barley) gets more complicated, all of the Joneses must choose between their idyllic fantasies and imperfect realities.



On Sunday, April 22 the Rialto hosts two screenings of a documentary that chronicles the life of Fred Beckey, considered by many to be America's original "dirtbag" and for inspiring generations of outdoor adventurers. PHOTO COURTESY OF FRED BECKEY ARCHIVES

Sunday, April 22: Film Society Sundays

#### 11a.m. "Castle in the Sky"

In continuation of the Studio Ghibli series, Bozeman Film Society presents Hayao Miyazaki's animated tale of a young boy and a girl with a magic crystal racing against pirates and foreign agents in search of a legendary floating castle.

### 6:15 and 8:45 p.m. "Dirtbag: The Legend of Fred Beckey"

Filmmaker David O'Leske's documentary tells the groundbreaking life story of Fred Beckey, considered by many to be America's original "dirtbag," who inspired generations with his monumental first ascents, books and the lifestyle he fearlessly pioneered. Guest speakers to follow the screening.

### Tuesday, April 24 @ 7 p.m. "Disturbing the Peace"

In 2006, Israeli and Palestinian former combatants laid down their weapons and established Combatants for Peace, the only worldwide organization in which former fighters on both sides of an active conflict

have joined together for peace and justice.

After the documentary film that tells this story, founder and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Suliman Khatib and Israel Defense Forces veteran Rami ben-Ari, will join the audience via Skype for a Q&A and a Photos for JH Historical Society discussion of what they are doing to bring peace to their homeland.

#### Wednesday, April 25 @ 7 p.m. Paddling Film Festival

Montana State University's Whitewater Kayak Club presents the Paddling Film Festival 2018 World Tour. From packraft expeditions to huge whitewater in Pakistan, the festival features a diverse array of paddle-centric documentary films that capture sea kayakers exploring remote coastlines, northern river canoe expeditions, grueling kayak fishing battles, the lighter side of paddling life, and much more.

Visit rialtobozeman.ticketfly.com for more information about events at Rialto Bozeman.

## Red Ants Pants Music Festival announces 2018 lineup

### Tickets on sale now

RED ANTS PANTS FOUNDATION

On April 7, Red Ants Pants announced a lineup for its July 26-29 festival that includes Dwight Yoakam, Pam Tillis, Lorrie Morgan, Shovels & Rope, Steep Canyon Rangers, Junior Brown, Jim Lauderdale and many others.

Held in a working cow pasture on Jackson Ranch just outside of White Sulphur Springs, Montana, the eighth annual Red Ants Pants Music Festival has grown from 6,000 attendees in its first year, to 16,500 last year.

"We're absolutely thrilled with this year's lineup and are certain that everyone who joins us will know many of the songs by heart while also finding their next favorite band," said Sarah Calhoun, Red Ants Pants Music Festival founder and producer. "We take great pride in making sure the stars feel like locals and the locals feel like stars."

In addition to 30 live music performances, the festival includes local food, beverages, arts and crafts; agriculture and work skill demonstrations, a yodeling contest, and a beard and mustache and sawing competitions.

The festival benefits the Red Ants Pants Foundation, a nonprofit organization in support of women's leadership, working farms and ranches, and rural communities.

Visit redantspantsmusicfestival.com for ticket information and a full schedule of events.



The eighth annual Red Ants Pants Music Festival returns to the White Sulphur Springs area July 26-29 with an all-star lineup that includes country greats Dwight Yoakam and Pam Tillis. PHOTO BY ERIK PETERSEN

## EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, APRIL 13 -Thursday, April 26

\*IF YOUR EVENT FALLS
BETWEEN APRIL 27 AND
MAY 10, PLEASE SUBMIT IT
BY APRIL 18 BY EMAILING
MEDIA@OUTLAW.PARTNERS.

#### **BIG SKY**

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 13 Live Music

Horn and Cantle Saloon, all evening

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, APRIL 14**

Brian Stumpf, music Choppers, 4:30 p.m.

Jon Parvin, music Rainbow Ranch Lodge, all evening

Live Music Horn and Cantle Saloon, all evening

Big Sky Shootout Ski and snowboard film contest

#### The Magpies, music Lone Peak Cinema, 11 p.m.

Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 15 Montana Governor's

Montana Governor's Conference on Tourism & Recreation Big Sky Resort, April 15-17

Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

Live Music Horn and Cantle Saloon, all evening

#### **MONDAY, APRIL 16**

Service Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

#### **TUESDAY, APRIL 17**

Top Shelf Toastmasters Town Center Sales Office, 12 p.m. Locals Lowdown: Mathias, music Rainbow Ranch Lodge, all evening

Are You Well Aware? class Water and Sewer District Office, 5:30 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18**

Caregivers Support Group Santosha Wellness Center, 7 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, APRIL 19**

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

A.A. Meeting Big Sky Chapel, 8 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 20

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 22**

Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

#### MONDAY, APRIL 23

Service Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 24 Town Center Open House Town Center Office, 9 a.m.

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

Locals Lowdown, live music Rainbow Ranch Lodge, all evening

#### **THURSDAY, APRIL 26**

A.A. Meeting Big Sky Chapel, 8 p.m.

#### BOZEMAN

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 13

"How to Pursue Your Best Ideas," lecture Bozeman Public Library, 9:30 a.m.

Pinky and the Floyd, music Rialto Bozeman, 5 and 9 p.m. April 13-14 Jazz Night Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Hitchcock's "Vertigo," film Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, APRIL 14**

Winter Farmers' Market Emerson Ballroom, all morning

Juice Box Band, music Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 15**

"Ben-hur," film Ellen Theatre, 2 p.m.

Dan Dubuque, music Red Tractor Pizza, 6 p.m.

Chris Cunningham, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

A Night of Gypsy Jazz Rialto Bozeman, 7 p.m.

Jesse Dayton with Scott H. Biram, music Live from the Divide, 8 p.m.

#### MONDAY, APRIL 16

Unifying Sustainability, presentation Procrastinator Theater, MSU, 4 p.m.

Travis Morrison, music Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 17

"Adventures in Greater Yellowstone," presentation Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture, 7 p.m.

Kirtan with Krishna Das, music Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

Pecha Kucha 27 Ellen Theatre, 6:40 p.m. April 18 and 19

"Flying Bacteria as Potential Rainmakers," lecture Museum of the Rockies, 7 p.m.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 19 "Antiquities on Montana's Public Londo" locture

Public Lands," lecture Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

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

"The Realistic Joneses," performance Rialto Bozeman, 7 p.m. April 19-21

Lang Termes, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

#### **FRIDAY, APRIL 20**

Bozeman Without Borders 5K Run Lindley Park, all evening

Jazz Night Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

"The Little Mermaid," play Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture, 7 p.m. April 20-21

#### **SATURDAY, APRIL 21**

Bozeman Cleanup Day Bozeman Public Library, 8:30 a.m.

#### Custer Gallatin National Forest plan revision meeting Hilton Garden Inn, 9:30 a.m.

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

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 22**

"Castle in the Sky," film Rialto Bozeman, 10:30 p.m.

"ReEnvisioning the Outdoors," lecture SUB, MSU, 5:30 p.m.

#### "Dirtbag: The Legend of Fred Beckey," film Rialto Bozeman, 6:15 and 8:45 p.m.

Aaron Williams, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, APRIL 23**

Our Shared Place: The Present and Future of Recreation in Greater Yellowstone, symposium Montana State University, April 23-24

Jay Alm, music Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

Acupuncture and the Opioid Crisis, lecture Bozeman Public Library, 7 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, APRIL 24**

Brews and the Big Sky: Yellowstone Tourism and Red Lodge Ales Museum of the Rockies, 5:30 p.m.

"The Art of Surviving," art show Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture, 5:30 p.m.

Weston Lewis, music Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

"Disturbing the Peace," film Rialto Bozeman, 7 p.m.

The Brevet, music Live from the Divide, 8 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25**

"Neither Wolf nor Dog," film Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

2018 Paddling Film Festival Rialto Bozeman, 7 p.m.

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

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 26

"How do Voters Cope with Media Bias?" lecture Barnard Hall, MSU, 5:30 p.m.

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

Fan Mountain Frog Dogs, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

"The Realistic Joneses," performance Rialto Bozeman, 8 p.m.



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to view a complete schedule of events at Big Sky Resort, complete with a summer schedule.

## Alcoholics Anonymous can help if you think you might have a drinking problem.

Call (888) 607-2000 to talk to a member of A.A., or go to aa-montana.org for meeting times and locations.

## **BIG SKY SHOOTOUT**

Ski and snowboard film contest
Saturday, April 14 | Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

**Resort Tax Applications** are due to the Big Sky Resort Area District tax office by Monday, April 30, at 3 p.m.

## WMPAC wraps another successful season

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – Since the end of December, a parade of Broadway talent, comedic jugglers, avant garde choral ensembles, virtuoso musicians, and contemporary and international dance troupes has swept across the stage at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.

Their most successful season to date closed on March 31 with Che Malambo, a powerhouse Argentinan dance company that delivered a jaw-dropping performance of foot-stomping grace, song and light-show acrobatics.

The WMPAC performances brought in approximately 3,000 patrons this year, up 15 percent from the previous season, which also saw record-breaking numbers. Sixty percent of attendees are full-time local residents.

The organization also experienced a record growth of 45 percent in revenue. Executive Director John Zirkle finds it staggering that their inaugural season five years ago had a budget of \$75,000, and today that number is closer to \$800,000.

"The ambition of Big Sky and the growth of Big Sky is intoxicating," Zirkle said. "Our goal was to really push the limits in every area you can imagine—artistically, professionally and the ability of our little organization to play in the big leagues. We met our goals and we are still standing."

The 2017-2018 season was perhaps the most rewarding for Zirkle, but it was also the most challenging. WMPAC produced three of the season's shows: "Concert for America," "Levity" and "[Title of Show]." This means that rather than buying a packaged production from another company, the concept is developed, organized and financially backed to some degree by WMPAC.



Big name celebrities like Vanessa Williams helped draw record-breaking crowds this season at WMPAC. PHOTO BY TORI PINTAR

For Zirkle, the musical within a musical "[Title of Show]" was one of the highlights of the season.

"Musicals are challenging," he said. "But I think we pulled it off ... It had all the right elements—the right type of humor, it tied in with WMPAC's story of getting things off the ground, and it was beautifully designed and executed."

In his opinion, James Sewell Ballet with the Ahn Trio was probably the most successful event overall.

"It was a really successful artistic collaboration and the culmination of five years of integrating James Sewell in the town."

Looking ahead to season six, Zirkle said they plan to bring back a few artists from prior seasons now that they have a better sense of what type of productions are the best fit for Big Sky audiences.

"We know that a big name really draws crowds," he said. "And we have another one lined up for next year."

He also said they will scale back the number of original productions WMPAC takes on, having a better understanding of the workload their limited staff can handle; and might reduce the number of performances from nine to eight to further refine the WMPAC experience.

"What did we learn this season?" he asked. "Stay the course."



## WINTER AT THE GHEE

#### SPRING SESSIONS: March 22 - April 22

Spring Sessions is here! Present your season pass from your home mountain and receive 50% off the purchase of an all-day lift ticket. Only two more weekends left of our regular season, but Grand Targhee Resort is also offering up a bonus ski weekend on Saturday, April 21 and Sunday, April 22 while we put on the 5th Annual Crazy Horse Snowmobile Hillclimb. Winter isn't over quite yet!

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING

APRIL 7 18th Annual Cardboard Box Derby

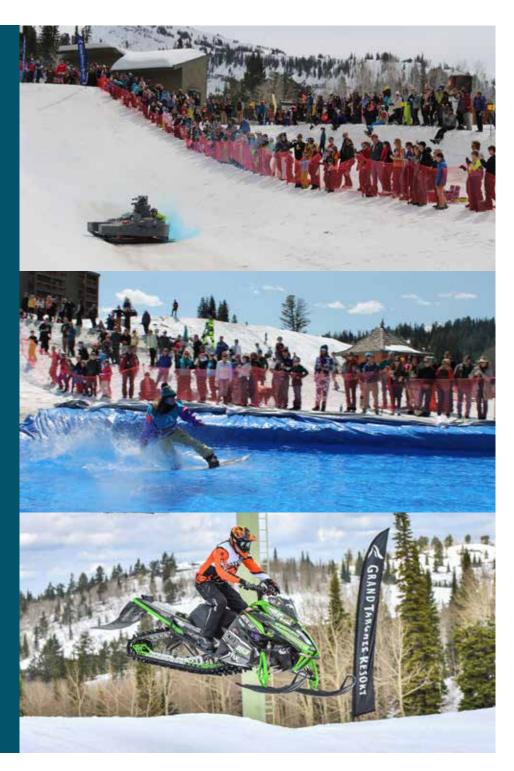
APRIL 14 7th Annual Pond Skim

APRIL 14 Teton Adaptive Fundraiser & Race

APRIL 15 Winter Closing Day!

APRIL 21 - 22 5th Annual Crazy Horse Snowmobile Hillclimb & BONUS WEEKEND

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## 'Whitefish Review': Alpenglow bound

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

While you shouldn't judge a book by its cover, the American Society of Magazine Editors does hold a Best Cover Contest. This year, the winter/spring issue of "Whitefish Review" was the Readers' Choice winner in the "Brainiest" category.

The cover features Robert Bissell's "Blowdown!" with six bears hoisting a fallen tree amid a clear-cut forest, reminiscent of Joe Rosenthal's iconic photo of the second flag raising on Iwo Jima in 1945.

Nonprofit literary journals like the "Whitefish Review," unlike big-city, commercial magazines, are not beholden to advertisers, which gives Brian Schott,



founder and editor-in-chief, the freedom to celebrate wild rivers, mountain culture, and wide-open spaces in Montana and beyond in any way he sees fit. For 21 issues now, with the tagline "Illumination from the Mountains," he has provided a sounding board for voices often overlooked by commercial publishers.

Sure, some publication covers can be deceptive about what is on the inside. But this one reminds me of wrapping paper on a birthday present. Once you peel it back, you will find Montana's literary titans are allowed free rein to push their stylistic boundaries, while emerging authors and artists are discovered seemingly every issue.

Now in its 21st iteration, "Whitefish Review" has also garnered a reputation for producing some hard-hitting, A-list interviews with the likes of Tom Brokaw, David Letterman, Russell Chatham and John Irving—to name a few.

Montana Poet Laureate and lead editor for this issue, Lowell Jaeger, writes that he "sent forth a call for poems, stories, essays and images which illustrate the powerful and mysterious force within us that wants us to move, make noise, shape the earth and arrange words on a page."

Alongside interviews with Pulitzer Prize-winner David Farenthold and actor Michael Keaton, nearly 40 authors, poets, photographers and artists responded to the call with work that illuminates the "rising voices" that animate and move us, whether to destroy or create.

For more than a decade, this literary journal has been collecting the best that the New West's mountain culture has to offer with an understated sophistication, and last year Barnes and Noble started carrying it in 160 stores, signaling the publication's arrival on the national stage.

Aspiring short story writers should take note of the \$1,000, winner-takesall Montana Prize for Fiction judged by none other than Rick Bass—a master practitioner of the literary form himself.

"I'm so hungry for good stories, I will simply choose the best submission regardless of theme," Bass writes. "What makes me smile? The basics. Beauty. Attentiveness. Crystalline specificity in an era of great uncertainty ... Hold the adverbs."

Copies of "Whitefish Review" are available in Montana bookstores and can also be ordered at whitefishreview.org, where back issues and subscriptions are available.

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



## **Between the shelves**

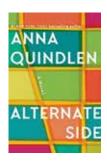
BY AMY HUNTER ASSISTANT COMMUNITY LIBRARIAN

I have worked in school environments for most of my professional life. This means that my calendar year is often September to June, with July and part of August as a dead zone, or a time for rejuvenation. But for most people living in this winter and summer playground, the months for rejuvenation and reflection are May and June, and October and November. As the library prepares for the upcoming off-season, we want to highlight some of the resources available through the Big Sky Community Library and ask you to help us identify any other community needs that we can fill.

Currently, through the library website, book lovers can access booklists and OverDrive to check out e-books and audiobooks. We have Rosetta Stone for community members who want to study a foreign language. We can also provide access to databases for many of your research needs.

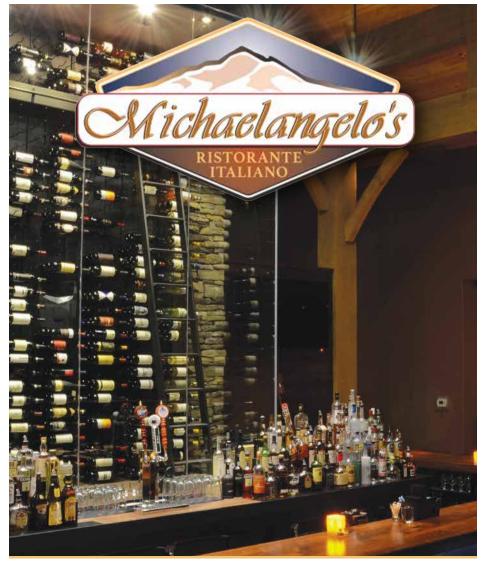
We'd like to know what additional resources and services you'd like to see from the library. Please stop in and put your recommendations and thoughts in our new recommendations box. While you are here, check out these new books: "Alternate Side" by Anna Quindlen, "The Woman in the Window" by A.J. Finn, and "The Flight Attendant" by Chris Bohjalian.

Visit bigskylibrary.org for more information.









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- Ability to prioritize tasks as assigned for maximum efficiency
- Strong communication skills both verbally and written
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