Outlaw Partners announces Wildlands Festival, Jackson PBR

Plus: Off-season survival guide

Resort shatters visitation record

Interact Club reflects on Nepal

Symposium addresses recreation in Greater Yellowstone
Bullard Images

The sun always seems to make an appearance for Pond Skim at Big Sky Resort, and this year’s event was no exception. Warm temperatures, huge crowds and jaw-dropping splashes made for a fun-filled weekend to end one of the best seasons yet. Photo courtesy of Bullard Images.

April 27, 2018 – May 10, 2018
Volume 9, Issue No. 9
Owened and published in Big Sky, Montana

Publisher
Eric Ladd
eric@theoutlawpartners.com

EDITORIAL
Managing Editor
Tyler Allen
tyler@theoutlawpartners.com

Senior Editor
Sarah Gianelli
sarah@theoutlawpartners.com

Creative Lead Designer
Carie Birkemier
carie@theoutlawpartners.com

Graphic Designer
Marsia Specchi
marsia@theoutlawpartners.com

Senior Video Editor
Ryan Weaver
ryan@theoutlawpartners.com

Lead Videographer
Jennings Barnmore
jennings@theoutlawpartners.com

Sales and Operations
Chief Operating Officer
Megan Paulson
megan@theoutlawpartners.com

Executive Director, Sales and Marketing
E.J. Daws
ej@theoutlawpartners.com

Executive Director, Finance and Administration
Alexis Deaton-Nelson
alexis@theoutlawpartners.com

Media and Events Director
Ersin Ozer
ersin@theoutlawpartners.com

DISTRIBUTION DIRECTOR
Doug Hare
doug@theoutlawpartners.com

Marketing Manager
Blythe Brasheen
blythe@theoutlawpartners.com

Contributors

EDITORIAL POLICY
Outlaw Partners, LLC is the sole owner of Explore Big Sky. EBS reserves the right to edit all submitted material. Printed material reflects the opinion of the author and is not necessarily the opinion of Outlaw Partners or its editors. EBS will not publish anything discriminatory or in bad taste.

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

ADVERTISING DEADLINE
For the May 11, 2018 issue: May 2, 2018

CORRECTIONS
Please report errors to media@outlawpartners.com.

OUTLAW PARTNERS & EXPLORE BIG SKY
P.O. Box 160250, Big Sky, MT 59716
(406) 995-2055 • media@outlawpartners.com

© 2018 Explore Big Sky unauthorized reproduction prohibited

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

CORRECTION: In the April 13 issue of EBS, the increase in funds available for the Big Sky Resort Area District in the upcoming appropriations cycle was reprinted in the article “Gaps in the budgeting process. The increase in funds available over last year is approximately $200,000.”
120 HOMESTEAD CABIN FORK  
Spanish Peaks Mountain Club  
Ski-In/Ski-Out  
5 Bedrooms | 7 Baths  
3,892 SF  
$ 3,150,000

28 RED FEATHER LANE  
Sweetgrass Hills - Big Sky Meadow  
Close to shopping, golf, x-country skiing & minutes to Big Sky Resort  
5 Bedrooms | 4.5 Baths  
7,170 SF  
$2,350,000

6519 BEAVER CREEK ROAD  
Big EZ Estates  
Gated Community with Privacy  
2 Bedrooms | 2 Baths  
40 ACRES  
$2,250,000

THE HIGHLANDS  
Spanish Peaks Mountain Club  
New Construction  
3-4 Bedrooms | 3-5 Baths  
2,914 SF – 3,331 SF  
From $2,025,000

2885 RED FEATHER LANE  
Sweetgrass Hills - Big Sky Meadow  
Close to shopping, golf, x-country skiing & minutes to Big Sky Resort  
Bedrooms | 2 Baths  
3,884 SF  
$1,150,000

MOUNTAIN LAKE  
Big Sky Mountain Village  
New Construction. Amazing views of Lone Peak  
2-4 Bedrooms | 2.5-3.5 Baths  
3,069 SF  
From $810,000

TBD BUCKTAIL TRAIL  
Spanish Peaks Mountain Club  
Solitude and privacy in a striking mountain setting  
Homesite  
27.77 Acres  
$1,150,000

LODGESIDE  
Moonlight Basin  
Ski-in/Ski-out next to Moonlight Lodge  
3-4 Bedrooms | 3.5 Baths  
2,555 SF – 3,288 SF  
From $1,875,000

MARTHA JOHNSON  
Vice President of Sales | Founding Broker  
(406) 580-5891 | MARTHA@BIGSKY.COM

MARTHA JOHNSON
Vice President of Sales | Founding Broker

Martha has been a resident of Big Sky since 1988 and has worked in real estate for approximately 20 years.
**Meadowview subdivision receives preliminary approval**

**EBS STAFF**

On April 24, Gallatin County commissioners unanimously approved the preliminary plat for the Meadowview Condominiums subdivision, a 52-unit affordable housing project north of the Big Sky Community Park off Little Coyote Drive.

The planned units are 14 duplexes, and 12 freestanding units with a smaller garage apartment unit, with studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom options. The owner of the property, Meadowview II, LLC, requested relaxation of certain Gallatin Canyon subdivision regulations, which was met with some objections from neighborhood residents.

But as Gallatin County Planner Tim Skop said, they were waiver requests, not variance requests. Waiver requests come from a place of not wanting to disturb the existing environment any more than necessary, he explained, while asking for a variance is more of a refusal to meet a particular requirement.

For example, Skop said the developers asked for a reduction in a road right of way—not the width of the pavement but the room left on either side of it—so they wouldn’t have to cut into the hillside any more than was necessary. To get these waivers, developers have to incorporate quality of life enhancers such as open spaces and trails into the property.

“The project was approved,” Skop said. “The commission seems to think it’s a pretty nice development.”

The developers must now meet a list of conditions and infrastructure requirements in order to receive final approval on the project, such as road building, installing fire hydrants and road signage, and putting in water and sewer connections, among many other stipulations.

“In general this stuff doesn’t happen overnight,” Skop said, referring to the requirements that need to be met before receiving final plat approval. “My guess it will take them most of the summer.”

**Nonprofits partner for annual Give Big event**

**EBS STAFF**

The annual Give Big Gallatin Valley event will return May 3 and 4 as a way to connect community members with local nonprofits. This is a 24-hour fundraising campaign intended to make it easy for individuals to donate to causes they care about.

In Big Sky, several organizations will partner together for this event.

On Thursday, May 3, from 6-8 p.m. Luxe Spirits and Sweets will host a donor lounge offering people that donate during the event a free glass of Prosecco or dessert. Individuals from the Gallatin River Task Force and Big Sky Community Organization will be on-hand to answer questions about their organizations.

On Friday, May 4, Compass Café will host a donor lounge for BSCO. From 12-2 p.m., anyone that donates $25 or more will receive a free dessert or drink from the juice bar. Complimentary coffee will be served and the BSCO staff will be available to answer questions and provide information about trail projects and programming.

Also on Friday, representatives from the GRTF will be available at Lone Peak Brewery to answer questions.

The online campaign begins at 6 p.m. on May 1 and will run for 24 hours. For more information, call (406) 993-2112 or visit givebiggv.org. Donations are accepted through the website and a donor station will be set up at Caliber Coffee in the West Fork Village from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 4 for those donating by cash or check.

**Planting scheduled at Moose Creek Flats**

**GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE**

The Gallatin River Task Force is seeking volunteers to help plant roughly 300 trees and shrubs at the Moose Creek Flat Recreational Area as a part of a large-scale stream restoration project.

The Moose Creek Flat Recreational Area Restoration Project was initiated in 2013 as a means of addressing degraded river access sites on the mainstem Gallatin River. After years of planning, design and fundraising, GRTF in partnership with the Custer Gallatin National Forest began work in the fall of 2017. Project activities include planting native willows, stabilizing streambanks with bioengineering methods, improving the trail system, and installing a stairway, boat ramp and kayak launch.

The volunteer planting event will begin on Tuesday, May 1, at 9:30 a.m. All of the holes for the trees and shrubs will be dug with an auger. Volunteers should be prepared to unload plants from the truck, haul them to planting holes, plant and backfill holes, and haul buckets of water from the river to water the trees and shrubs. Volunteers should bring appropriate clothing and layers, water, food and a shovel if they’ve got one.

For more information, contact Jack Murray, GRTF Big Sky Watershed Corps member, at (406) 993-2519 or jack@gallatinrivertaskforce.org.

**May 8 election features school district levy, resort tax candidates**

**Resort tax applications due April 30**

**EBS STAFF**

In the coming weeks, Big Sky residents will have the opportunity to cast votes on a mill levy proposed by the school, as well as decide on two members to sit on the Big Sky Resort Area district board.

Election ballots were mailed to voters April 23 and are due to the Gallatin County Election Office by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 8.

This year, the Big Sky School District is asking for a one-year general fund levy of $40,000, which will be used to pay higher salaries to teaching staff. If approved, homeowners’ taxes would rise approximately $3.89 for the year for a home valued at $200,000.

In addition to the levy, the school board will have two trustee seats on the ballot and incumbents Matt Jennings and Margo Magnant are running unopposed. Magnant interviewed for a position with the Missoula Chamber of Commerce the day after the candidate-filing deadline with the Gallatin County Election Department, and ultimately took the job. She will be moving to Missoula, and if elected, will resign from the school board and a new trustee will be appointed to serve out her term.

Voters will also select two new board members for the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board. The candidates in this year’s election are Sarah Blechta, Paul “Buz” Davis, Steve Johnson and Craig Smit.

BSRAD has a projected $7.6 million available for appropriations this year and applications for funds are due to the resort tax office by April 30. The 3-percent tax is collected on “luxury” goods and services, and funds public infrastructure, organizations and tourism initiatives in this unincorporated resort community.
What’s your secret for surviving the shoulder season?

Martin Spagat
Big Sky, Montana

“Leave. I don’t think I need a secret. This winter was so good that I can take off a month and not think about work or too much else.”

Benjamin Johnson
Big Sky, Montana

“Bike and fish and work at the [Hungry] Moose.”

Joe Muggli
Big Sky, Montana

“I like to get out and go backcountry skiing when there is almost nobody else out there. It’s peaceful out there. I like the solace.”

Mel Crugnale
Big Sky, Montana

“High water. I’ll be working for Geyser [Whitewater Expeditions] again and it should be fun.”

No bus needed.

Fifth grader Grady Towle has ridden his fat bike to Ophir Elementary School every day that he has attended school this year, usually listening to audiobooks on tape during his approximately one mile commute. “The coldest days were not that bad. It’s the days with fresh snow when it is hard to get traction that are tough.” For his determination, the school board recognized Grady as the “toughest kid at Ophir” and awarded him a gift certificate for a free tune-up at Gallatin Alpine Sports. PHOTO BY DOUG HARE
Explore Big Sky

LOCAL

Tickets on sale April 27

Inaugural Wildlands Festival to take place August 10 in Bozeman

Tickets on sale May 1

Professional Bull Riding debuts in Jackson Hole on July 17

OUTLAW PARTNERS

Outlaw Partners announced April 10 that it will co-produce the inaugural Jackson Hole PBR Touring Pro Division event on July 17 at the Teton County Fair Grounds in Jackson, Wyoming.

The Touring Pro Division is a part of the PBR Unleash the Beast Premier series which is one of the fastest growing spectator sports in the country, making stops at New York City’s Madison Square Garden and in Las Vegas. This high-octane show will be a spectacle to witness, and a treat to experience in an intimate Jackson Hole arena.

Outlaw Partners and Freestone Productions have partnered to produce this event, having produced award-winning regional PBR events in Big Sky and Livingston, Montana.

The Jackson Hole PBR will include a vendor village featuring retail booths, food and drinks, comic relief by a PBR entertainer, mutton bustin’ for kids age 6 and under, bulls from PBR’s Stock Contractor of the Year, Chad Berger, and an after-party.

“Ancient Towns are excited about having the PBR come to the Jackson Hole Rodeo Grounds this summer,” said Bob McLaurin, Jackson’s town manager. “We are also looking forward to the partnerships that the PBR is creating with some of our local nonprofits. This is one of those truly special events that cultivates the character of our community.”

Tickets go on sale May 1 for both general admission and VIP Golden Buckle seats, which include access to a hospitality tent with food and drinks, and a meet and greet with riders. A portion of the proceeds from the event will be donated to the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum.

“The Historical Society and Museum is honored to collaborate with the organizers of the inaugural Jackson Hole PBR event,” said Morgan Albertson Jaouen, executive director of the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum. “Finding creative sources of funding ensures that we will continue sharing our rough and tumble heritage, connecting people to place.”

A variety of sponsorship opportunities are available and for more information contact Josh Timon at josh@theoutlawpartners.com.

Visit jacksonholepbr.com for additional event details and to purchase tickets.

OUTLAW PARTNERS

In an effort to celebrate Montana’s wild and open spaces, and support the nonprofits that work to protect them, Outlaw Partners has announced that it will produce the inaugural Wildlands Festival concert at the Romney Oval on the campus of Montana State University on August 10.

The concert will feature dual headliners: acclaimed singer-songwriter Robert Earl Keen and country-rockers Lukas Nelson and his band Promise of the Real—three nonprofits whose missions align with the festival’s ethos.

“We are extremely excited to work with Outlaw Partners in producing the first-ever concert in Romney Oval on the Montana State University campus,” said Duane Morris, senior director of auxiliary services at MSU. “We’ve been working for several years on this concept and it’s fulfilling to see it come to fruition, particularly in that we get to work with a local company like Outlaw. We believe it will be a special night of music.”

The Wildlands Festival will bring people together who share a love of nature, outdoor recreation, parks, trails, and the enjoyment of what makes Montana special. The event will celebrate the state’s wildlands, and will be an opportunity for concertgoers to support the spaces that they cherish, while enjoying live music in a picturesque outdoor setting.

“We look forward to sharing this special celebration of music, community, and the wonder of our natural world,” said Heather White, CEO and president of Yellowstone Forever.

“Out of our mission is to not only curate an amazing night of music in an incredible venue, but to raise money for some very worthy charities that work hard to protect our beautiful landscape,” said Outlaw Partners CEO Eric Ladd.

A variety of sponsorship opportunities are available and for more information contact EJ Daws at ej@theoutlawpartners.com.

Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 27, at the Bobcat Ticket Office, online at ticketswest.com, or by phone at (406) 994-CATS.

Both general admission and VIP tickets—which include access to a hospitality tent with food and beverages, and a preferred viewing area for the show—will be offered. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets to the event. No outside food or beverages will be allowed. There will be food, beer and wine available for purchase.

Inaugural Wildlands Festival to take place August 10 in Bozeman

Tickets on sale April 27

Professional Bull Riding debuts in Jackson Hole on July 17

Tickets on sale May 1
JACKSON HOLE PBR

JULY 17, 2018 | 5:30-9:30 PM | JACKSON, WY

Tickets on sale
MAY 1 AT 9 A.M.

MORE INFORMATION, SCHEDULE & TICKETS AT JACKSONHOLEPBR.COM

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE, CONTACT ERSIN@THEOUTLAWPARTNERS.COM

A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT

OUTLAW

JACKSON HOLE MUSEUM

NONSTOP HEALTHCARE

Big Sky Medical Center
334 Town Center Avenue
Emergency Department 24/7/365

Family Medicine Clinic
Weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Retail Pharmacy
Weekdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

 tickets on sale
MAY 1 AT 9 A.M.

MORE INFORMATION, SCHEDULE & TICKETS AT JACKSONHOLEPBR.COM

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE, CONTACT ERSIN@THEOUTLAWPARTNERS.COM

A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT

OUTLAW

JACKSON HOLE MUSEUM

NONSTOP HEALTHCARE

Big Sky Medical Center
334 Town Center Avenue
Emergency Department 24/7/365

Family Medicine Clinic
Weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Retail Pharmacy
Weekdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MORE INFORMATION, SCHEDULE & TICKETS AT JACKSONHOLEPBR.COM

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE, CONTACT ERSIN@THEOUTLAWPARTNERS.COM

A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT

OUTLAW

JACKSON HOLE MUSEUM

NONSTOP HEALTHCARE

Big Sky Medical Center
334 Town Center Avenue
Emergency Department 24/7/365

Family Medicine Clinic
Weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Retail Pharmacy
Weekdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MORE INFORMATION, SCHEDULE & TICKETS AT JACKSONHOLEPBR.COM

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE, CONTACT ERSIN@THEOUTLAWPARTNERS.COM

A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT

OUTLAW

JACKSON HOLE MUSEUM

NONSTOP HEALTHCARE

Big Sky Medical Center
334 Town Center Avenue
Emergency Department 24/7/365

Family Medicine Clinic
Weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Retail Pharmacy
Weekdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MORE INFORMATION, SCHEDULE & TICKETS AT JACKSONHOLEPBR.COM

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE, CONTACT ERSIN@THEOUTLAWPARTNERS.COM

A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT

OUTLAW

JACKSON HOLE MUSEUM

NONSTOP HEALTHCARE

Big Sky Medical Center
334 Town Center Avenue
Emergency Department 24/7/365

Family Medicine Clinic
Weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Retail Pharmacy
Weekdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
An annual rite of spring, the Big Sky Pond Skim capped off an epic season for Big Sky Resort
**Big Sky Resort shatters skier visitation record**

**BY DOUG HARE**
**EBS STAFF**

BIG SKY – This winter at Big Sky Resort was one for the record books. The snow came early and did not seem to let up all season long, culminating with a bluebird weekend for Pond Skim on April 21, when the Mountain Village swelled with celebratory skiers and riders.

The ski area closed April 22 with an impressive upper mountain base depth of 123 inches.

“The snowpack is still building, even in late April. There has been some runoff, promising,” said Chelsi Moy, public relations manager for the resort. The previous record was set last season with more than 478,000 skier visits. Notably, the resort was open a week later than most past ski seasons. Moy also highlighted two additional indicators of an exceptional winter of snowfall: most of the south-facing A-Z Chutes were open throughout the season, and more people skied the seldom-opened Little Couloir than ever before.

Although the resort wouldn’t release the final skier-visit tally when EBS went to press April 25, it’s expected that number will easily eclipse the 1/2-million mark for the first time in Big Sky’s history.

“We didn’t just break the skier visitation record—we shattered it,” said Chelsi Moy, public relations manager for the resort. The previous record was set last season with more than 478,000 skier visits. Notably, the resort was open a week later than most past ski seasons. Moy also highlighted two additional indicators of an exceptionally snowy winter: most of the south-facing A-Z Chutes were open throughout the season, and more people skied the seldom-opened Little Couloir than ever before.

“IT was so close to the record amount of snowfall for the season,” said Bob Dixon, ski patrol director for nearly four decades. “This winter ended up with the third most snowfall the resort has ever had, just inches away from the 2005-2006 season. And if we had been open one more day, we would have been an inch away from the all-time record set in 1996-1997.”

For anglers, whitewater enthusiasts and backcountry skiers, the future looks promising.

“The snowpack is still building, even in late April. There has been some runoff, but the freezing temperatures at night help the snow melt more slowly, which is something that is good both in terms of reduced avalanche danger and consistent runoff throughout early spring,” said Doug Chabot, director of the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center.

Chabot added that with the Gallatin River watershed at 140 percent of average snow water equivalent, it bodes well for healthy streams and good fishing in southwest Montana during the upcoming summer months. Snow water equivalent is a measurement referring to the depth of water that would theoretically result if you melted the entire snowpack instantaneously.

Two other resorts in the region also experienced above average snowfall seasons and record-breaking skier visits. Jackson Hole Mountain Resort boasted 634,500 visits this season, and Whitefish Mountain Resort also set a record with 328,000 skier visits. This winter in the Northern Rockies will likely be remembered for years to come.

**Big Sky Resort’s VP of business development seeks to build on area’s existing strengths**

**BY SARAH GIANELLI**
**EBS SENIOR EDITOR**

BIG SKY – On Jan. 22, Big Sky Resort hired a new vice president of business development, Annie Pinkert, and she’s since learned there’s a delicate balance here between catering to both locals and the visitors the resort is trying to attract.

The Chicago native brought a wealth of ski-town branding and marketing experience with her, most recently from Aspen, Colorado, where one of her projects was a re-branding campaign for the Limelight Hotel.

Her new position with Big Sky Resort entails driving demand for the resort at large, not solely lift ticket sales but also for lodging, food and beverage, activities and programs, as well as meeting the needs of the locals and destination guests.

“It works really well with my background and I feel blessed and fortunate to be working for a company like this,” said Pinkert, whose resume also includes working as a global markets reporter for Bloomberg, and for Klimpton Hotels & Restaurants, as a regional director of digital marketing.

“I think what’s so fascinating about coming to Big Sky Resort at this point in its history is that it’s reached a point of no return and is headed into completely uncharted terrain,” she said of the ski area’s recent growth. “Perhaps that’s its legacy. But how do we come together as a community and cater to this new level of demand and satisfy it in a healthy and uniquely Big Sky way?”

Pinkert has some ideas—namely, to not lose sight of the locals who make Big Sky what it is.

“Which we will never do,” she said. “Because they embody the personality and soul of Big Sky.”

At the same time, part of the “Big Sky 2025” plan is to give out-of-state visitors the food and beverage, and entertainment options they are looking for in a world-class resort.

“I think the Big Sky brand as a community and a resort is most successful when it reflects the characteristics of Lone Peak,” she said. “The hardcore characteristics of the terrain, its rawness and pristine nature. It’s an independence of spirit and character that has made it what it is.”

She said that growth is inevitable and the challenge is to manage it in a sustainable and healthy way.

“This place has something you can’t quantify,” she added. “There’s a certain magic to it that I’ve never experienced anywhere else, and it’s success is 100 percent because of the people who’ve invested their lives in making this place a destination.”
Big Sky’s marketing organization looks to secure the area’s tourism future

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY — While Candace Carr Strauss is the CEO of both the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and Visit Big Sky, and the success of each organization is mutually beneficial, they have very distinct roles and missions in the community.

“While the chamber focuses on strengthening and growing the business sector of the community, Visit Big Sky defines itself as “the official destination marketing organization for the Greater Big Sky Area.”

In short, it is the marketing engine for increasing tourism in Big Sky.

Visit Big Sky emerged from the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce/Convention Visitor Bureau (CVB) to become a separate nonprofit organization in 2013.

But the origins of its intent go back much further, explained Ryan Hamilton, president of the Visit Big Sky board of directors, and project manager of Big Sky Town Center.

“The recession is what brought us together,” Hamilton said, referring to the group of community stakeholders that joined forces in 2008 to secure Big Sky’s future as a tourist destination.

Hamilton said that from 2005 to 2007, when the global economic bubble was on its way to bursting, everyone was so busy that the community wasn’t really coming together.

“When the recession hit, we all had a lot more time,” Hamilton said. “We decided we needed to find a way to shore up our main season and decided that marketing the winter season was the best way to do it.”

One of the breakthroughs of that time was Big Sky Resort expanding with the addition of the Moonlight Basin terrain, and launching “The Biggest Skiing in America” marketing campaign.

Today, Visit Big Sky has an annual operating budget of approximately $1 million, which is funded by Montana Lodging Facility Use Tax dollars, Big Sky Resort Area District appropriations, and private individual and business investment.

The mission of VBS is to promote economic development through tourism marketing and promotion. It does this through selling Big Sky as a world-class, year-round visitor destination; improving the visitor experience; and increasing tourism-related revenues and jobs.

Visit Big Sky also works to raise public awareness of the positive impact of tourism on the economic vitality of the community, while also promoting the unique character of Big Sky.

The organization is in the process of finalizing a Tourism Master Plan that has been a process of distilling Big Sky’s identity, in order to be able to more effectively market itself to its desired visitor demographic on a regional, national and international level.

“Coming out the other side of the tourism master planning process, the plan is to put more money toward building summer tourism,” Strauss said. “Summer [tourism] has been growing faster than winter for a number of years, but there is still tremendous room for growth.”

Strauss took the helm of the chamber and Visit Big Sky in early 2017, and she’s approached both organizations as a fierce lobbyist with a clear vision and unwavering determination.

“[Visit Big Sky] has grown from its infancy into a toddler,” Strauss said. “The community got through that economic downturn, and now, the pendulum has swung in the other direction and we’re experiencing rapid growth, and [we are asking ourselves] what our role is in that, as the official destination marketing organization for the greater Big Sky area.”

Visit Big Sky is overseen by a member-elected board of directors. With the April 19 resignation of Big Sky Resort brand manager Glenniss Indreland, sitting board members include Hamilton; Dan Martin, Karst Stage; Tim Drain, Natural Retreats vacation rentals; Julie Grimm-Lisk, Jake’s Horses and Thrive; Steven Rager, River Rock Lodge and Resort Property Management; Crystal Snook, Big Sky Real Estate Co.; Krista Traxler, Yellowstone Club; and Ennion Williams, Big Sky Vacation Rentals and Big Sky Trout.

“Our board represents tourism stakeholder businesses in the community—both big and small businesses,” Strauss said. “We try to get a broad perspective so it’s representative of the community, and the canyon, meadow, and mountain destinations.”

Although this winter the snowfall did most of the heavy lifting in terms of marketing Big Sky to the rest of the world, Strauss continues to see plenty of opportunity for growth and improvement, including promoting winter recreation options other than downhill skiing and snowboarding.

“As we’ve had the most epic winter ever—thanks to Mother Nature, and the resort’s efforts—we’re looking toward shoring up other activities,” she said. “That’s where we’re be able to plug in and help.”

But, Strauss said, growing summer tourism is the next big push for Visit Big Sky. Currently, 70 percent of resort tax is collected in the winter and just 30 percent in the summer—the goal is to bring that closer to an even split.
COMPLIMENTARY HOME STAGING

We do complimentary home staging for all our listed properties.

✓ Professionally staged homes present and show better than competing houses for sale, including new construction homes and high-priced houses.
✓ Staged properties sell faster when compared with houses that have not been staged, even in a slow real estate market.
✓ Staged properties look the very best in MLS photos, and more than 90% of home buyers begin their search online.
✓ Buyers view professionally staged listings as “well-maintained”.
✓ Buyers’ agents recognize that professionally staged listings are “move-in” ready and are inclined to show staged properties.

Arison Antonucci-Burns
406.577.2520
www.aspirerealtymt.com

NEW COMMERCIAL CONDOMINIUM UNITS FOR SALE
IN THE LAZY J SOUTH COMMERCIAL COMPLEX
JUST OFF HWY 191

8 UNITS ONLY 2 LEFT
1015 TO 1150 SQ. FT.
STARTING AT $189,000
FEATURES:
• Insulated and heated
• Individually metered electric and propane
• Utility sink
• Common bathroom

5 UNITS ONLY 3 LEFT
1920 TO 1950 SQ. FT.
STARTING AT $289,000
FEATURES:
• 3 Pull-thru units
• Insulated and heated
• Individually metered electric, propane, and water
• Private bathrooms

AVAILABLE NOW!

The convenience of climate controlled storage and warehouse space
Ideal for work equipment, toys and recreational gear
2% offered to buyers agents upon closing

For more information, call 406.580.7220

BIG SKY PBR STREET DANCE
PRESENTED BY LEVI’S
WEDNESDAY, JULY 25 | AFTER THE BIG SKY FARMER’S MARKET
BIG SKY TOWN CENTER AVENUE

LIVE MUSIC BY THE DIRTY SHAME
+ VENDORS, GAMES & FUN FOR THE FAMILY

INCLEMENT WEATHER LOCATION: THE PBR ARENA TENT IN TOWN CENTER
Join Boundary Expeditions for a once-in-a-lifetime adventure on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, centered around an inspirational wellness program led by Callie Stolz, C.A.S., L.M.T.

Your inclusive week will include:

- Premier guide-to-guest ratio (1:2) allowing for customized trip
- All-inclusive wilderness river guide service & luxury camping experience
- Upgraded sleeping arrangements including cot and oversized tent
- Healthy organic meals and snacks
- Outdoor yoga & meditation
- Immersion in nature amongst 2.3 million acres of wilderness
- Massage
- Fly fishing, hiking and adventuring along the river corridor
- Leisure and river time
- Time for reflection

Cost: $3,000 per person - max of 20 people
Big Sky nonprofit supports female empowerment in Nepal

TSERING’S FUND

Tsering’s Fund is a charity based in Big Sky that works to educate children and young women in Nepal. Founded in 2007 by local dentist Pete Schmieding, his wife Karen Fellerhoff, and their friend Tsering Dolkar Lama of Kathmandu, Nepal, Tsering’s Fund locates deserving young girls from poor families and places them in private, English-medium schools in several areas of Nepal.

The threat of child trafficking puts young girls at risk in many regions of the country and Tsering’s Fund attempts to eradicate the scourge by going into remote areas and providing access to an education. The organization has found that girls who receive an English education through high school are far less likely to be enticed, sold or taken away by child traffickers and can become leaders in their villages and their country.

“There is nothing more rewarding than seeing young, at-risk girls, many the first in their family’s history to get a formal education, thriving in school just because someone half a world away decided to make a difference in their life,” Schmieding said. “Tsering’s Fund merely provides the means for concerned people everywhere to change the life of a perfect stranger—because they can.”

At present, Tsering’s Fund has approximately 150 children in classes K-12 and many girls in college studying business and hotel management. A recent donation to Tsering’s Fund has also helped fund several young women studying to be registered nurses, nurse practitioners and one, a dentist.

Because Tsering’s Fund is closely associated with the Big Sky Rotary Club, the local Interact Club at Lone Peak High School has been taking an annual trip to volunteer and experience the work being done to change the lives of Nepal’s children, the most recent of which returned to Big Sky on April 22.

Visit tseringsfund.com for more information.

Nepal has big impact on LPHS Interact Club

“I can’t believe people in Big Sky can complain about their life when there are 12-year-old Nepali kids carrying twice their body weight up a mountain each day with a smile on their face.” - Holden Samuels

“I’d have to say I was most impacted by the senior citizens’ home we visited. These people, most abandoned by their families or having no one to care for them, were just so happy to spend time with us. It made me rethink what it means to be thankful living in America in comparison to what these people have. Their attitudes and smiles brought tears to my eyes.” - Evan Redmon

“Our trip to Nepal was very eye opening. It was crazy to see the contrast between the American education system and the Nepali education system. There were girls that had to walk hours to get to school each day. It made me realize that I take a lot of things in my everyday life for granted.” - Zach Cone

“My perception of poverty has dramatically changed. Small actions, such as donating clothing and school supplies, can make a lasting impact to kids begging for an education. I have many opportunities in life, and Nepal has made me realize that I want to utilize those to be service based so that I can continue to help others in need.” - Julia Barton

“The cultural and architectural contrast from Big Sky was surreal, it truly felt otherworldly.” - Garrett Klotz
I first came to Big Sky to ski in 1973. We had to bring our own babysitter and the only lodging was at the Mountain Hostel—now The Lodge at Big Sky. After two visits we called Big Sky Resort’s general manager at the time, Gloria Chadwick, to see if the resort had any plans in the works for a daycare center—they had an unfinished space in the basement of the Mountain Mall. We sold our house in Billings the summer of 1973 and moved to Big Sky to finish the space and start the First Run Day Care Center.

Two of the major needs at Big Sky at that time were daycare and affordable housing. We were able to fill the daycare need, but the community is still wrestling with the affordable housing issue.

We provided pick-up and drop-off service for families and got the kids out skiing or sledding on the bottom of what is now Old Tippy’s. Ski Patrol roped off half the lower part of the run for our use.

The resort has since backfilled the Mountain Mall basement to make space for the Summit Hotel and there is no way of seeing where that business was. Because of the landscaping and earth-moving, it’s very difficult to visualize the location of the daycare center. Our door practically opened onto Old Tippy’s and we were steps away from what was then the Andesite chair.

One of the most influential people we met upon arriving here was Ernie Larson. Ernie had what is now the Country Market and managed the little post office. He helped us find a place to live and gave us lots of encouragement.

There were not many condos or houses built at that time. We ended up renting a trailer at Pine Grove Trailer Park which was located a mile west of the junction of Highway 191 Lone Mountain Trail on the other side of the West Fork (where the 5-B Ranch is). Finding and keeping a place to live was a big issue. We had to move practically every season and were really dependent on the good will of friends who had vacation homes here.

After selling the daycare center three years later, Jean White worked as office manager for a property management company. She also owned the storage company south of Big Sky and a snowmobile rental and tour company. In 1990 she moved to Southern California where she taught for 17 years. In 2007, she moved back to Big Sky with her husband, Joel White, to enjoy retirement.

Jean White reflects on opening Big Sky’s first daycare center

Photo by Mary Mikesell

5-B Ranch is. Finding and keeping a place to live was a big issue. We had to move practically every season and were really dependent on the good will of friends who had vacation homes here.

After selling the daycare center three years later, Jean White worked as office manager for a property management company. She also owned the storage company south of Big Sky and a snowmobile rental and tour company. In 1990 she moved to Southern California where she taught for 17 years. In 2007, she moved back to Big Sky with her husband, Joel White, to enjoy retirement.

The Rotary Club of Big Sky would like to Thank the Community, ALL of the Businesses who Contributed and Our Gold Auction Sponsors

2018 Rotary Gold Raffle and Auction Sponsors:

Gold: ($2,000) Buck’s T-4

Silver: ($1,000) Anderson Enterprises, Ace Hardware, Big Sky Resort, Firehole Properties, Olive B’s Big Sky Bistro

Bronze: ($500) 3 Rivers Communications, American Land Title Company, Big Sky Build, Big Sky Conoco, Big Sky Western Bank, Buffalo Restoration, Corral Restaurant & Bar, Dodd Law Firm, P.C., ERA Landmark Real Estate, Lindell & Associates, P.C., Lone Pine Builders, LTD Real Estate, Mia Lennon with The Big Sky Real Estate Company, Nordic Hot Tub, Elana Wexall with Realty Big Sky, Rentbiz/Snowbiz

These generous contributions will help fund current projects:

Kayak Launch - Moose Creek Campground, 911 Call Box - 35 mph bridge, Technology Equipment - Morningstar Learning Center, Updated Informational Signage in Town Center & Meadow Village, Future Projects in Town Center.
Filmmaker tells the story of a tribal renaissance
Bison reintroduction showcased in documentary film

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – The first time Bozeman filmmaker Daniel Glick saw the bison herd grazing along U.S Highway 2 between Browning and East Glacier Park, Montana, something inside him changed.

“I just remember thinking, ‘Here’s a chance. I want to film something about the buffalo,’” Glick said. He saw a sign on the burly fence that gave a name to his feelings: Blackfeet Nation Bison Reserve.

In the area while working on a film about the Badger-Two Medicine area, Glick was quick to make connections with the Blackfeet Buffalo Program. He was already inspired by a dream he’d had about making a story about bison and felt compelled to share the animal’s story of return to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.

Since that day about three years ago, Glick has joined with videographers, writers and friends to form Thunderheart Films, a production company working to advance films that foster healing, tolerance and unity for the native peoples of the U.S.

On March 21, the production company’s first film, “Drive Them Buffalo,” premiered at the Bozeman Doc Series documentary film show, having already screened at the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in Missoula in February.

The film provides a close look at the only indigenous tribal-led buffalo drive in North America, as the Blackfeet moved their herd from summer to winter rangeland.

“I didn’t make it with any other aim other than to be a film of support for the buffalo program,” Glick said, adding that he hopes the piece can be used in schools and programming to educate people about the Blackfeet’s modern-day cultural rebirth.

For millennia, the Blackfeet relied almost entirely on bison. However, their traditional lifestyle was shattered when American settlers moved in and wiped out the animals to near extinction.

Today, the Blackfeet tribe continues to seek its place amid a modern society and traditional native culture. One key aspect of this, tribal members say in Glick’s film, is the return of the bison.

“The older people would always say that the buffalo would never come back, so now I feel like we’re getting a little piece of us back,” said Kendall Edmo in the film. In addition to working with Thunderheart, Edmo is a Blackfeet Nation tribal member and works at the Blackfeet Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

During the three-day drive, members of the Blackfeet Buffalo Program stay in tipis. The Blackfeet are among more than 59 tribes in the U.S. that are working to restore bison populations to their lands. Currently, the Blackfeet care for a thriving population of bison that originally came from Alberta’s Elk Island National Park.

The bison live on two fenced ranges owned by the tribe and are descendants of a herd captured from the area and sent to Canada more than 140 years ago. In the future, the tribe hopes the herd can free roam across the nearly 4,000-square-mile area comprised of the reservation, near Glacier National Park and the Badger-Two Medicine roadless area. However, according to Glick, the bison program faces challenges with grazing regulations and non-tribal landowners, resulting in confinement for the herd between two large pastures.

Volunteers drive the herd between winter and summer ranges in the spring and fall, which amounts to a three-day event.

Filming for “Drive Them Buffalo” took place in October 2016, and the volunteers and filmmakers were hit by a surprise blizzard on the second day of the journey. Rising at about 5:30 a.m., the crew found themselves in a fog of snow. “You couldn’t see anything but the plains,” Glick said. “We could have been 1,000 years back in time. … Seeing the buffalo walk through the mist, it was like a dream.”

While many of the volunteer herders rode horseback, the filmmakers drove ATVs up to 30 mph alongside the herd.

“The older people would always say that the buffalo would never come back, so now I feel like we’re getting a little piece of us back,” said Kendall Edmo in the film. In addition to working with Thunderheart, Edmo is a Blackfeet Nation tribal member and works at the Blackfeet Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

Filmmaker Daniel Glick’s new short documentary follows this three-day drive, showcasing the only tribal-led buffalo drive in North America. PHOTOS COURTESY OF DANIEL GLICK

Every spring and fall, volunteers from the Blackfeet Nation drive their bison herd between winter and summer ranges. Filmmaker Daniel Glick’s new short documentary follows this three-day drive, showcasing the only tribal-led buffalo drive in North America. PHOTOS COURTESY OF DANIEL GLICK

“Personally, I think it was an awesome story of what the tribe is doing and their intent to bring free roaming bison back. … It’s not only the return of the bison, but it’s a cultural renaissance for the tribe.”

Thunderheart Director of Photography Zane Clampett said, “It’s beyond words, the experience of being with the animals in their own way. You don’t get to experience that these days because they’re all behind fences,” Glick said. “You can’t stop them. You’d never be able to stop them, but you can steer them. And you have to give them space.”

Thunderheart is working on a narrative short film called “Iniskim,” which follows the journey of a young girl as she recovers from trauma by reconnecting with the bison. A longer documentary feature titled “Buffalo Resurrection” is scheduled for release in 2019.

To learn more about Thunderheart or to watch trailers for these films, visit thunderheartfilms.com. To learn more about the Blackfeet Buffalo Program, visit blackfeetcountry.com.
OUTLAW PARTNERS PRESENTS

WILDLANDS FESTIVAL

DUAL HEADLINE SHOW FEATURING

ROBERT EARL KEEN
+ LUKAS NELSON & PROMISE OF THE REAL

AUGUST 10 • GATES OPEN @ 5:30 PM • MSU ROMNEY OVAL ON CAMPUS AT MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

TICKETS ON SALE APRIL 27 • STARTING AT $47
BOBCAT TICKET OFFICE, WWW.TICKETSWEST.COM, OR 406-994-CATS

WILDLANDSFESTIVAL.COM

This is a concert to celebrate Montana’s wild and open spaces and support the non-profits that work to protect them.
A wide variety of large and small businesses and nonprofits had informative and interactive booths at the conference, promoting Montana-made products, their company’s services or organization’s cause. The wide swath of stakeholders included tour operators, conservationists, marketers, retailers and representatives from the hospitality and hi-tech industries.

“Each business and entity here has a stake in promoting Montana as a place to visit or do business,” said Emile Saunders, Montana Department of Commerce communications director. “The state wants to inspire people to come to Montana, but these are the folks that make sure visitors have an exceptional experience here.”

The three-day conference had a full daily line-up of breakout sessions and lectures. Featured keynote speakers included Jay Baer, president of Convince and Convert, Marc Berejka, director of government and community affairs for REI, and members of Montana’s tourism marketing team, who share insight on how science and creativity come together to make successful marketing campaigns.

Other prominent speakers included Lt. Gov. Mike Cooney, Montana’s Director of Outdoor Recreation, Rachel VanderVoort, and Montana’s Commerce Director, Pam Haxby-Cote.

“It’s a unique opportunity because Montana is so big,” said Department of Commerce Bureau Chief Jan Stoddard. “And once the summer comes everyone is so busy. It’s a chance to network, to really talk, and share resources.”

Jeff Guengerich, president of the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce and part-owner of Yellowstone National Park’s gas and service stations, was attending the conference for the first time.

“It’s great to see the collective passion for our state,” he said. “And it’s [measuring] to realize that what’s happening in Gardiner might be happening elsewhere, and that it’s not an isolated issue. You feel less alone.”

Tourism is one of Montana’s top industries, bringing nearly 12.5 million visitors and $3.4 billion into the state’s economy last year.

Citizens of the small town of Ovando accepting the Montana Tourism Award for Community of the Year at the Governor’s Conference on Tourism and Recreation. PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The conference culminated on April 16 with the Montana Tourism Awards to celebrate the work of communities, businesses, organizations and people who did an exceptional job strengthening Montana’s tourism industry and maximizing its economic impact on the state’s residents.

Cooney opened the awards ceremony with brief, congratulatory remarks. “Tourism is one of Montana’s leading industries,” he said. “And although the landscape speaks for itself, much of the industry’s success is because of the men and women across the state who are working hard to develop tourism experiences, provide visitor services, and promote this special place. This is an opportunity to celebrate their work and their many successes.”

Visit Billings won Marketing Campaign of the Year for their “My Amazing Place” video campaign, Event of the Year went to Red Ants Pants Music Festival held annually outside of White Sulphur Springs; Virginia City and Dillon were voted most Film Friendly Community for accommodating the shooting of “The Ballad of Lefty Brown;” and the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center took home the Heritage and Cultural Tourism Award. Edward DesRosier was named Tourism Ambassador of the year. DesRosier founded Glacier Sun Tours in 1992, which offers guided tours through Glacier and Blackfeet country with a local focus and Blackfeet perspective.

But arguably the most poignant part of the award ceremony was when Ovando, a rural community about an hour northwest of Helena with a population of 72, beat out the state capital and Butte for Community of the Year for establishing themselves as a stopping point for bikers on the Tour Divide Mountain Bike Race from Banff, Alberta, to Antelope Wells, New Mexico.

Adventure Cycling of Missoula nominated the town for the award based on its international reputation for hospitality and unique amenities for cyclists and hikers.

Ovando began establishing itself as a cycle-friendly community several years ago when residents went out of their way to assist hikers passing through. Since then, cyclists and hikers crossing Montana east or west along Highway 200, or north or south along the Great Divide Mountain Bike Route, have made the town a place to rest or refuel.

When the dozen or so Ovando residents convened on the stage to accept the award, they joked they represented about half of the town’s population.

One of the community members said that 20 years ago, they thought they were going to end up like “one of those ranching towns that just dries up and blows away,” but now their town is talked about around the world.

In closing, another Ovando resident shared one of the keys to becoming a tourist destination.

“Treat tourists like they’re friends and family, and they’ll keep coming back.”
Help us preserve the Yellowstone you love for generations to come. Join our community today at Yellowstone.org/forever

OFFICIAL NONPROFIT PARTNER OF YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

MAY THEY INSPIRE

OZssage Therapeutic Spa
17 years looking after Big Sky

VOTED THE BEST SPA IN BIG SKY 2017

Off Season at OZssage Spa

We will be open Tuesday - Friday, hours will vary depending on bookings please view our availability on our website or call. We advise booking ahead so we can accommodate your requests, morning appointments please book the day before.

20% off services for OZ Members - ask about joining View our website for off season specials and availability.

OZssage will be closed May 17th - May 29th

Please book ahead so that we can accommodate your requests
32 Market Place, Big Sky  406-995-7575  www.ozssage.com
BIG SKY - Established in 1988, Wild Trout Outfitters is a fully-stocked fly shop and guiding company located on Highway 191 half a mile south of the intersection with Lone Mountain Trail.

The owner of Wild Trout Outfitters, J.D. Bingman, has lived in Big Sky since 1973, fly fishing the Gallatin River and, eventually, all the surrounding waters in Montana, Idaho and Yellowstone National Park. In 1984, Bingman began his professional guiding career on the blue-ribbon waters of southwest Montana, and soon was certain that taking visitors on guided fishing trips was something he could do for the rest of his life.

The longtime business owner shared his thoughts with EBS on what it takes to make it as a small business owner in Big Sky.

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

**J.D. Bingman:** Pay close attention to detail. Keep a positive attitude and lead by example. Surround yourself with like-minded people. Never ask an employee to do something that you would not do yourself.

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

**J.D.B.:** [The lack of] affordable housing for seasonal employees and guides.

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

**J.D.B.:** Everything changes, nothing stays the same. I started out in 1984 as a fly-fishing guide at Lone Mountain Ranch. Fast-forward 34 years and everything has changed. There is more government in today’s world. Everyone wants a piece of your action.

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

**J.D.B.:** Becoming 100-percent self-employed in 1988.

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

**J.D.B.:** It’s all about money. It doesn’t really matter how much you make, it’s about how much you get to keep in the end. If there’s nothing left at the end, then a new business will fold.

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

**J.D.B.:** Pick a career or business that you love, and you’ll never have to work again.

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

**J.D.B.:** Don’t leave anything to chance and be good at what you do.

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

**J.D.B.:** In 10 years, Wild Trout Outfitters will still be providing quality year-round fly-fishing experiences for people from all walks of life.

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

**J.D.B.:** Becoming 100-percent self-employed in 1988.
Big Sky Little League teams expand to three age groups

In their second year, the Big Sky Royals fielded three teams: the Rookies (7-8 year-olds), the Minors (9-10 year-olds), and the Majors (11-12 year-olds)—two more teams than last season—to compete in the Belgrade Youth Baseball League.

“Last year, we wondered if there were enough Big Sky boys interested to form a team. Now we are over-subscribed with 45 players. ... It’s a good problem to have,” said Minors Coach Ray Bartoszek.

This year, the Royals will play host to their first ever Little League games at the Community Park fields from May 7-10 and May 14-17. All fans are welcome. Pictured above, Owen Bartoszek practices his batting stance. PHOTO BY RAY BARTOSZEK

Green fairways and snow-capped peaks

Lone Peak High School senior Liam Germain tees off on hole #5 at the Manhattan Christian Tournament held at Cottonwood Hills Golf Club in Bozeman on April 24. The LPHS boys team finished in fifth place, and the LPHS girls team finished in second. Senior Delaney Pruitt finished fifth overall in the girls individual section. PHOTO BY GREG WAGNER
How Big Sky gets into hot water

Nordic Hot Tub

• Spa sales to fit your budget
• Pool & spa care
• Custom maintenance plans

BigSkyHotTubs.com
406.995.4892 • nordichottub@aol.com

MONTANA RANCH PROPERTIES
AGRICULTURE • CONSERVATION • LAND • SPORTING

Big Sky
DON PILOTTE BROKER | 406.580.0756 | RANCH-MT.COM

$3,200,000 | #305537

Seating vaulted ceilings, 5 bd/4.5 ba, 6,403 sf home on 20 acres near Beehive Trail, main floor master, two fireplaces, theatre, sauna, two kitchens, second bedroom suite on main floor, outstanding views.

Shields Valley

$10,750,000 | #220737

Mountain recreational ranch, 42 miles from downtown Bozeman, 2 cabins, excellent hunting property, with streams, meadows, forested rolling terrain, exceedingly private, 65261 acres.

Montana Properties

406.580.0756

© 2017 BIG SKY MONTANA ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICES BY MARK LAVIGNER REAL ESTATE SERVICES. MONTANA RANCH PROPERTIES IS A DIVISION OF BERRY MOUNTAIN INVESTMENTS LTD. ALL INFORMATION DEEMED RELIABLE BUT NOT GUARANTEED. PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN, USE AT YOUR OWN RISK. MOUNTAIN Biker using his own skills and equipment.

BIG SKY MONTANA

$119 BIKE PASS
SALE ENDS MAY 31

• 40+ MILES OF TRAILS
• 3 BIKE HAUL CHAIRLIFTS
  SWIFT CURRENT, EXPLORER, & THUNDER WOLF
• BEGINNER – EXPERT TRAILS
• BIKE & GEAR RENTAL AVAILABLE

PURCHASE YOUR PASS / MORE INFO
BIGSKYRESORT.COM/BIKE

Photo: Gabe Priestley
The gluten-free grain train

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER
ABS STAFF

The first time I saw the word “quinoa,” I remember having no idea how to pronounce it. This was probably 10-plus years ago. Today, this gluten-free grain substitute is much more common, and has made its way into the pantries of many home cooks. The same goes for the rest of this list—as their nutritional benefits are discovered, they are becoming a welcome substitute for less nutritious starches. Most of these gluten-free “grains” are actually seeds, or referred to as pseudo-grains. Because we typically prepare them similarly to true grain varieties, we refer to them as such.

Amaranth is a seed native to Peru that was a staple food of the ancient Incas, and has been harvested for between 6,000 and 8,000 years. This seed has a slightly peppery and malty taste, and lends itself well to being toasted or roasted before cooking. A popular preparation in South America is popping the seeds, similar to cooking popcorn. It can also be boiled and served in place of rice, but contains much more protein. The leaves of the amaranth plant can also be eaten as a micro-green, and its vibrant red flowers produce a natural dye. Its texture varies considerably depending on how it is cooked, so be sure to follow a recipe if you want a particular end result.

Millet, commonly associated with bird seed, is not just for the birds. This tiny grain packs a big punch in nutritional value. It’s loaded with folate and vital minerals, and contains high levels of fiber and protein with a low glycemic index. The seeds are small and yellow, and have a very mild flavor when cooked, making it a very versatile grain. Add it to soups, use it in a pilaf, or bake it into bread for added texture. Like amaranth, it can also be popped like popcorn.

Quinoa is one of few plant-based foods that is considered a complete protein, containing all nine essential amino acids. It comes in a variety of forms and colors, from whole seeds, to a flour-grind to dried pasta. It has a slightly nutty taste that can be intensified by toasting the grains before cooking. This is the “Bubba Gump” of the grain world—use it to up the heartiness of a salad, as a breakfast grain, as a substitute for rice, as a ground beef substitute … you get the idea.

Buckwheat, despite its name, is not a true grain. It’s a seed that is more closely related to rhubarb than it is to varieties of wheat. Its seeds are oddly shaped, almost resembling a pyramid, and are often ground into a flour and used to prepare starchy foods like bread, pancakes and noodles. Asian style soba noodles are made from buckwheat. Like quinoa, it is also a complete protein, making this a great dietary supplement for vegetarians and vegans.

Teff accounts for nearly 15 percent of the calories consumed in Ethiopia, and is quickly making its way into American kitchens. An Ethiopian staple, injera bread is made from teff flour, which is allowed to ferment before cooking it into flatbreads. Its fine grains can also be cooked whole and used in place of dishes made with cornmeal, like polenta or cornbread. It contains high levels of calcium and fiber, but not as much protein.
DINING

April 27 - May 10, 2018

Explore Big Sky

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.

Just when we thought we were doing good things

BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Most of us go about our lives and careers striving to do better. That may manifest itself in any number of ways. Maybe by creating and nurturing relationships. Or perhaps we study on our own, attend continuing education courses, or collaborate with others. All in hopes that we take away something valuable as well as make a meaningful contribution to a group or movement.

Then, just when you thought you were achieving real success, someone in your field comes along that is truly amazing and inspirational. For me, this person was Chef Sean Sherman, aka The Sioux Chef.

Born in Pine Ridge, South Dakota, Sherman has been cooking for more than 30 years. He has spent many years in both Montana and Minnesota.

He worked his way up through the ranks, but after several stressful chef positions, he burned out and decided to take a “self-prescribed sabbatical,” and relocated to the Pacific Coast of Mexico.

This was where he had his epiphany. He began to immerse himself in the culture of ingredients and dishes he would begin to refer to as pre-contact foods, or foods indigenous to the Americas pre-1492.

Sherman’s primary focus, from a culinary standpoint, is the revitalization of indigenous foods in relation to modern society.

As part of the civilization and religious cleansing Europeans felt was important in the New World, they also, knowingly or not, forever altered the way we eat.

So many foods that are consumed globally originated here in the Americas. Some noteworthy examples are squash, avocados, bison, turkey, pineapples, blueberries, cranberries, chile peppers, cotton, maize, potatoes, sunflowers, barley, chocolate, vanilla and maple.

As with any people that get conquered or assimilated into a dominant culture, indigenous foods are an essential piece of their identity.

I was fortunate to attend Chef Sherman’s presentation at Montana State University a couple weeks ago. He spoke for well over an hour, and with his easy demeanor and vast knowledge of the topic of his lecture, it felt like he could have gone on all night.

I also attended a dinner in honor of Sherman’s visit to Bozeman, also on the MSU campus, the following night. Many fellow chefs were there. We were all in agreement that it was important we attended, both to show our support for The Sioux Chef cause, but also because the work Sherman is doing is vitally important to the roots, so to speak, of what is native to our continent. For me, it felt like historically important continuing education.

When I put my chef hat on, I tend to combine ingredients in nontraditional ways. For many years I’ve maintained the philosophy that dishes can be their most exciting when foreign ingredients you generally would not associate together share the spotlight on a plate. In fact, one of the most talented and inspiring chefs I’ve ever worked with, like Marcus Samuelsson, believed that sometimes the best dishes were ones that brought non-indigenous methods and foods together.

I believe that part of what makes global cuisine what it is, is the fact that humans have been able to grow and spread throughout the world while taking their native foods with them.

Yet the integrity and passion for accurate history that The Sioux Chef works for every day cannot be overlooked—and his efforts should not go unnoticed.

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.
Bozeman Craft Beer Week features over 20 beer-centric events
Cross-brewery collaboration beer released

Bozeman Craft Beer Week, a celebration of craft beer, open space and trails, will take place from Saturday, May 5, through Saturday, May 12, at multiple venues around town.

To commemorate the week, 10 local breweries have come together to create a special collaboration beer they’ve dubbed Gallatin Valley Lager. Brewed with locally-grown malt from Bridger Malt House and hops from Crooked Yard Hops, the beer is a refreshing, crisp Montana pale lager with a citrusy hop aroma.

The collaboration lager will be available on tap and in cans at Bozeman Brewing Company, the host brewery for the beer project, and at sponsor businesses and retailers from late April through the end of Craft Beer Week.

Proceeds from events throughout the week, and from the sale of the collaboration beer, will be donated to Gallatin Valley Land Trust to support their mission of protecting open space and creating trails across the community.

Craft Beer Week begins with a kickoff party at Sidewinders American Grill on Saturday, May 5 at 6 p.m. Starting earlier that day and throughout the rest of the week are 27 events that include home-brewing lessons, “beer-lympics,” a Hop Hole tournament, food- and beer-pairing meals, a “beerd and mustache” contest, a stein-holding competition, live music, beer trivia, kombucha and cider tastings, and much more.

The celebration culminates with the Spring Brewers’ Rendezvous, hosted by Montana Brewers Association at Gallatin County Fairgrounds, beginning at 4 p.m. Friday, May 11.

Bozeman Craft Beer Week kicks off May 5 and features a week’s worth of celebratory beer-centric events at various venues around town. PHOTO BY STEPHANIE MILLER

The week-long party winds down on Saturday, May 12, with a yoga and meditation class—followed by beers of course—and a people’s choice awards ceremony later that day at 4 p.m.

To assist beer lovers on their week of beer- and brewery-related fun, Fermentana has created an official Bozeman Craft Beer Week Passport. The pocket-sized guide contains a full schedule of events, special discounts and its purchase serves as entry into the Bozeman Craft Beer Week Giveaway which boasts more than $2,000 worth of prizes.

Passports are available for purchase at Sidewinders American Grill, MAP Brewing, Dee-O-Gee, and online at bozemancraftbeerweek.com, where you can also view a complete schedule of events.
Love your liver

BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

Our bodies are elegantly designed to filter out impurities: our skin, lungs, blood and digestive tract work around the clock to remove waste and foreign substances in order to keep us alive.

But in today’s modern world, environmental toxins are all around us. How can we best prevent these toxins from building up, and stay healthy?

Being a conscious consumer is a great place to start. Buying “low VOC” or “no VOC” products means less toxic “off gassing” in our living and working environments, by avoiding volatile organic compounds. It also sends a message to manufacturers letting them know that this is a priority. Buying fragrance-free laundry products and avoiding synthetic scents and fabrics also helps.

Another thing we can do is invest in an air purifier and/or grow plants in the home and office that naturally filter the air. English ivy, spider plants and peace lily’s are good options. Also consider opening windows and using fans to circulate the air.

When it comes to the body itself, we have many systems in place to filter out impurities, but the organ doing the lion’s share of the work is the liver.

The liver is located in upper right area of the abdomen, under the ribcage. It’s the second largest gland in the body—the skin is the largest—and it weighs approximately 3.5 pounds.

It performs hundreds of vital functions, but removing toxins from the blood is one of its most critical jobs. From everyday digestion to exposure to toxic pesticides, the liver is constantly working on removing waste from your body.

If the liver stops working, we die, so we want to keep this organ in tip-top shape. To do so, we should first be aware that chronic alcohol consumption taxes the liver and makes it work overtime.

Certain foods help support and cleanse the liver. Here are some that are easy to come by:

- Fresh lemon juice helps your liver produce detoxifying enzymes.
- Beets are excellent for liver maintenance and repair. Beets are the richest food source of betaine, a natural liver detoxifier and bile thinner. They also increase the liver’s efficiency in processing fats. Shredded raw beets combined with lemon juice make a great liver-support dish. Beets can be roasted, boiled, grated raw or steamed and used as a side dish, in salads, or juiced with other vegetables.
- Turmeric protects the liver and aids in liver regeneration. Add it to sauces, vegetables, stews, soups and smoothies.
- Garlic activates liver enzymes responsible for absorbing nutrients and cleansing waste and toxins in liver tissue.
- Leafy green vegetables like chard and kale, as well as broccoli, cabbage and Brussels sprouts are high in anti-oxidants, vitamins, minerals and other phytochemicals that the liver needs for the detoxification process.
- Apples are high in soluble fiber, which binds with fats and cholesterol. The pectin in apples also helps bind heavy metals, which then assists the liver in detoxification.

Give your body all the help it needs to keep toxins from building up. If you're looking for a spring cleanse to get on the right track, visit santoshabigsky.com for a guided cleanse that starts in May. You can begin anytime and from anywhere.

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.
It’s possible I’d save my dog first

BY DARYN KAGAN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

It’s one of the earliest memories of me horrifying my kids. Not the last, but the earliest. I am, after all, a mother. A conversation about fire safety started this particular episode. It began with something like, “How would you get out of the house in an emergency?” Once I was satisfied with their proposed plans, I shifted to the philosophical. “What is the one thing you would want to save?” I asked. The girls made me go first, which was easy, because my answer was simple. The dog.

“The dog?” Both girls were appalled. “You would save the dog before you would save us?”

I tried to make the case that the very fact we were having a conversation on how to get out of the house, and what they would save first, meant they were capable of saving themselves. The dog, not so much.

Made sense to me. They, however, were now convinced they had exhibit A in the case for my being a horrible mother. And yet, I can now say I have science on my side. I’ve come across research that shows perhaps I’m not so horrible, after all.

 Turns out I am simply human. Two studies show that when it comes to making a choice, people have more empathy for their pup than their fellow humans. One British study ran two ads. Each one asked the question, “Would you give money to help save Harrison?”
One ad had a picture of a little boy. The other had a picture of a dog. The ad for the dog got twice as many clicks as the one for the boy. Researchers for Northeastern and University of Colorado showed headlines to more than 250 students. One had a story about a dog that had been beaten up. The other was about a person. The results? Undergrads felt more empathy for the dog. Many people see dogs as innocents, the scientists explained.

The scientists also said, “Dogs provide unconditional love and many times people form stronger bonds with their pet than with another human.”

That, I will confess. I do love and like my dog more than a lot of people I know. I mean, have you met some of the people out there in the world, Dear Reader?

As for loving my dog more than my children? Let’s leave it at: it’s a different kind of love. Dog love. A chamber of my heart unto itself. She’s certainly happier to see me than my teenagers usually are. Can’t remember the last time one of them wiggled their butts and squealed simply because I walked through the front door.

That kind of love is the kind of thing I’d walk through fire to protect and save—while also, for the record, making sure my human children were safe.

It’s what we mothers do. Fiercely love, protect—and horrify—the best souls we know.

Daryn Kagan was a featured speaker at TEDxBigSky 2018. She is the 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.
American Life in Poetry: Column 683

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

In 13 years of publishing this column we’ve never selected a poem about mental illness, but neither have I come upon one that feels so true. I am especially taken by the third stanza, which remarks upon how differently each of us imagines the world. Leland James lives in Michigan and this poem appeared in Rattle, a very good literary journal.

The Sanitarium Window
By Leland James

A small stand of trees, unremarkable. I don’t know their names. They’re like a knot of folks waiting for a train, or for a store to open—a gathering, that’s all. They don’t seem to know each other. They didn’t plan to be together there in a field of weeds.

Yet, on second look, they are remarkable, having stood the invisible winds of winter, stood the bitter season that comes to each alone, that separateness of sickness—mind and soul—there in the bent of trees.

The trees seem to know all about winter. Seem to have winter in their bones.

Perhaps someone else would see them differently, a different reflection, a family gathering, not just a knot. Some might see them that way. Some might see them differently. And I too, perhaps, on a different day.

The others around me, others by the window, silently looking out—I can see us reflected in the window when the light is just right. Another stand of trees, a knot, not planning to be together here in a field of weeds.

©2018 Satori Publishing

DIFFICULTY: ★★★☆☆
FISHING PROPERTIES

5x5 Ranch  |  $7.5M
485.16 ACRES
The best Montana offers in one location, uniquely situated near Bozeman

Osprey Cove Lakehouse  |  Hebgen Lake, MT  |  $1.495M
1.03 ACRES  |  4,628 SQ FT  |  2 bedrooms  |  3 bathrooms
Recently remodeled home at Hebgen Lake within minutes of Yellowstone Park

25 Lower Dudley Creek  |  $1.65M
9.74 ACRES  |  4,376 SQ FT  |  5 bedrooms  |  3 bathrooms
Spacious log home with Gallatin River views

L&K Real Estate
LKRerealEstate.com  |  406.995.2404

All information given is considered reliable but because it has been supplied by third parties, we cannot represent that it is accurate or complete and should not be relied upon as such. These offerings are subject to errors, omissions, and changes including price or withdrawal without notice. All rights reserved Equal Housing Opportunity. If you currently have a listing agreement or buyer broker agreement with another agent, this is not a solicitation to change ©2016 LK REAL ESTATE, llc. lkrealestate.com

*Membership upon approval

All information given is considered reliable but because it has been supplied by third parties, we cannot represent that it is accurate or complete and should not be relied upon as such. These offerings are subject to errors, omissions, and changes including price or withdrawal without notice. All rights reserved Equal Housing Opportunity. If you currently have a listing agreement or buyer broker agreement with another agent, this is not a solicitation to change ©2016 LK REAL ESTATE, llc. lkrealestate.com

*Membership upon approval
The New West:
A common place to celebrate our ecosystem

BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

We are Greater Yellowstoneans. We share an ecosystem and yet often it seems as if we dwell in different worlds.

Consider the differing politics of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, the three states that converge to form our 22-million-acre region. Consider the different community affinities: how the social vibe of Jackson Hole is different from that of Cody or Lander, which, in turn, is different from Riverton and Dubois, which are dramatically different from Rexburg and Ennis, certainly distinct from that swelling burg to the north, Bozeman.

Think of how different a trip to Yellowstone feels versus a traipe around Grand Teton or how distantly remote the Red Desert, located on the south end of Greater Yellowstone, feels from Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Montana’s Centennial Valley.

Or how the Crazies are just as much of an obscurity for denizens of Star Valley as the Salt River Range is to those in Red Lodge. Or how the Absaroka-Beartooths, national park-caliber wildlands in Montana, command as much devotion as the Wind Rivers, which were once candidates for a national park.

Even though federal land managers long resisted the term “Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem” in favor of “Greater Yellowstone Area,” because those in charge thought using the word “ecosystem” sounded too green and therefore unacceptable to politicians, our common region possesses a centrifuget allure.

Like it or not, the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, this vast geographical island of clustered mountains, high plateaus, headwaters for major rivers rising from its interior, wildlife migrations, native trout, unmatched still-functioning geothermal phenomena, and a rare caliber of solitude, is unique.

Every Western state has pretty scenery and fine places to play, but none with that kind of national park-caliber congestion that is the opposite of the idyll they are selling.

The question is how does society reward/compensate/honor/recognize ranchers for the valuable services they safeguard and deliver, which give them economic peace of mind, self-satisfaction and keeps them on the land?

Our county commissioners allow people to build second, third or fourth vacation homes on the edges of national forests, yet we expect American taxpayers to spend vast sums of money protecting the structures from burning.

Some developers push growth and chastise land use planning and zoning, yet try to wash their hands of the negative impacts their projects bring.

Meanwhile, our state tourism bureaus spend millions, using misleading pictures, touting summer vacations in Yellowstone without reflecting on the reality that no more promotion is needed. Roads already are filled with jarring congestion that is the opposite of the idyll they are selling.

All of the above are just a few of the inspiring, remarkable and disturbing realities converging in our backyard. They are complicated but not intractable.

What’s missing? A cohesive thoughtful cross-boundary adult dialogue that isn’t being advanced. Not long ago, the online magazine Mountain Journal created a Facebook page called Greater Yellowstone Forum.

It’s not earth shattering. It’s merely an easy-to-access “place” to celebrate the things we love about Greater Yellowstone and share good ideas of how to solve problems to existing challenges.

Your passion is invited, differences of opinion welcomed, civility required and demanded. If your modus operandi is launching personal attacks, pushing only personal interest ahead of public interest, or you don’t behold Greater Yellowstone with the reverence it deserves, no worries. There are certainly other, better places for you to wield an opinion.

Todd Wilkinson, founder of Mountain Journal (mountainjournal.org), is author of “Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek” about famous Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear 399 featuring 150 photographs by Tom Mangelsen, available only at mangelsen.com/grizzly. His feature on the delisting of Greater Yellowstone grizzlies appears in the winter 2018 issue of Mountain Outlaw and is now on newsstands.
The National Parks Conservation Association will host conservation work days on May 11 and 12 at the Raynolds’ Pass Fishing Access Site on the Madison River, located at the junction of highways 287 and 87 near Three Dollar Bridge. This work will open up migration corridors for pronghorn and other wildlife in the area.

During these two field days, volunteers will remove a large section of fence so pronghorn can move across the landscape easily and without harm. Unlike deer and elk, pronghorn generally prefer to crawl under fences rather than jump over them. This preference can lead to conflicts when pronghorn attempt to migrate from winter to summer ranges and they encounter multi-stranded barbed wire fences.

Since 2010, NPCA has removed or modified over 32 miles of fencing outside of Yellowstone National Park, working with private landowners and public land managers to remove fences that are no longer needed or make necessary fences more wildlife-friendly.

NPCA engages over 100 volunteers each season and relies on these individuals to help move the fence removal program forward. Volunteers for the Raynolds’ Pass field days should plan for a full day outside and dress accordingly. There will be lunch, drinks and snacks provided.

If approved by voters, funds from the 2018 open space levy would be used to acquire space for parks and trails, as well as pay for conservation easements—a process by which landowners can sell or donate their land to protect the property from development.

In 2000 and 2004, Gallatin County voters approved two $10 million bonds used to protect open spaces. Over the past 17 years, these funds were used to conserve 50,000 acres, create the 100-acre Gallatin County Regional Park, and establish the Chestnut Mountain and North Cottonwood trailheads. Locally, the Big Sky Community Park was partially funded with dollars from these bonds. However, the last of the funds for the Gallatin County Open Lands Program ran out last year.

“As we know, Gallatin County’s population is growing very fast. It’s projected that we’re going to add 12,000 people in the next three years,” said Jessie Wiese, southwest manager of Montana Land Reliance, which is partnering with the Gallatin Valley Land Trust and Trust for Public Land to advocate for the open space levy.

“A big part of this is matching the acceleration of growth of the valley,” she added. “We all moved here for a certain reason. I think protecting the land, parks and wildlife is an important decision for the future.” Absentee ballots for the primary election will be mailed May 11. The Gallatin County Elections office must receive ballots by June 5 at 8 p.m. to be counted.
Yellowstone National Park raises entrance fees
Peak season fees to remain less than originally proposed

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY - On April 12, the National Park Service announced that Yellowstone National Park will increase its entrance fees, though to a much lesser degree than originally proposed.

Effective June 1, the park entrance fee will increase from $30 to $35 per vehicle or from $25 to $30 per motorcycle, good for seven days. This new charge will remain in effect year-round.

An annual park pass will increase from $60 to $70, while the price of the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass and Lifetime Senior Pass will remain $80.

As of the April 12 announcement, Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks have not yet determined how this new pricing structure will affect the combined parks’ seven-day entrance pass.

Last October, NPS proposed a plan to adopt seasonal pricing at Yellowstone and 16 other national parks to raise additional revenue for infrastructure and maintenance needs. The initial proposal was to more than double entrance fees at these national parks. However, in response to the public outcry over the fee hike, the agency abandoned the original fee structure, opting to increase entrance fees by only a few dollars.

A release sent by Yellowstone’s Office of Strategic Communications stated that the new fee structure “addresses many concerns and ideas provided by the public on how best to address fee revenue for parks.”

In Yellowstone, 80 percent of entrance fees stay in the park and are used for maintenance and infrastructure. The remaining 20 percent is used at other national parks, many of which do not charge for admission.

“Yellowstone uses revenues from entrance fees collected to improve visitor facilities,” said Superintendent Dan Wenk in the release.

“Visitors benefit when park roads, trails and boardwalks are maintained and provide access to the park’s treasures.”

National parks across the U.S. have experienced record-breaking visitation in recent years, which puts a strain on many of the parks’ aging infrastructure. Maintenance deferred on facilities like roads, bridges, buildings, campgrounds, water systems and bathrooms amounts to an $11.6 billion nationwide backlog.

During the 2016 fiscal year, entrance fees collected by the NPS totaled $199.9 million. The NPS estimates that once fully implemented, the new fee structure will increase annual entrance fee revenue by about $60 million.

Yellowstone National Park has had an entrance fee since 1916, at which time seasonal auto permits were available for $10, roughly an equivalent of $230 today.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yellowstone National Park Entrance Fees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per Vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Park road improvements ongoing
Anticipate delays

A variety of road improvements are planned in Yellowstone National Park this summer in order to widen narrow roads, improve entry and exit points into developed areas, provide for better scenic viewing opportunities along the road, and repair the historic Fishing Bridge.

Work is scheduled on a 3.5-mile section of the East Entrance Road between Fishing Bridge and Indian Pond. The East Entrance Road to Fishing Bridge and Lake is scheduled to open to the public on May 4, weather permitting. Throughout the season, visitors should expect 30-minute delays between Fishing Bridge and Indian Pond due to construction. This excludes Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day weekends when work will be postponed.

From Oct. 15 through Nov. 5, the road between Sedge Bay and Fishing Bridge will be closed. During the closure, the East Entrance Road will remain open from the entrance to Sedge Bay, weather permitting. Visitors traveling to and from Cody will need to use the Northeast Entrance during this closure. Tower Fall to Canyon (Dunraven Pass) typically closes on Oct. 9. Depending on weather, staff may keep it open after Oct. 9 to allow for an additional route to and from Cody.

There is also work planned from Norris to Mammoth. Expect possible 30-minute delays between Roaring Mountain and Willow Park, with nightly closures from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. from June 1 to Oct. 8, excluding Saturdays and holidays.

Additionally, several destinations in the Canyon Village area will be unavailable during the summer season as a part of the Canyon Overlook and Trails Restoration Project.

To see a full list of closures or to get up-to-date road reports, visit nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit or call (307) 344-2117.

Yellowstone invites anglers to annual spring meetings

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone National Park staff will travel to nearby communities to talk with anglers and other interested individuals about ongoing efforts to restore native fish species, the threat of aquatic invasive species, and the park’s fishing regulations.

The general public, local fly shop employees and fishing guides are encouraged to attend one of these outreach meetings:

- Monday, April 30, in Bozeman at the Hilton Garden Inn
- Tuesday, May 1, in West Yellowstone at the Holiday Inn
- Wednesday, May 2, in Jackson, Wyoming, at the Wort Hotel
- Thursday, May 3, in Cody, Wyoming, at the Cody Hotel

The meetings will begin at 7 p.m. with a brief presentation about native fish restoration projects. A discussion on angling regulations and a question-and-answer session will follow.

Fishing season in Yellowstone opens Saturday, May 26. Information on fishing regulations, fisheries science and fish conservation in Yellowstone is available at http://go.nps.gov/fish.
Symposium considers effects of recreation
Diversity in the spotlight as tool for conservation

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – An unlikely group filled the ballrooms of Montana State University’s Strand Union Building on April 23 and 24. Hikers and backpackers sat alongside dirt bikers, hunters and land managers, all in the name of conservation.

The gathering was the first of its kind in the Greater Yellowstone and was an opportunity for recreationists of all backgrounds to come together and discuss the effects of increasing recreation on the still wild places of the region.

The Greater Yellowstone Coalition, a Bozeman-based conservation organization, partnered with MSU to host the event, titled “Our Shared Place: The Present and Future of Recreation in Greater Yellowstone.”

Brooke Regan, special projects organizer for the GYC, opened the symposium with a presentation about her recreation inventory. This research was conducted over several years throughout the Greater Yellowstone and was an effort to understand where and how people are using the land.

“For the most part, there’s very little data on recreational use,” Regan said, adding that without this data it’s difficult to fully realize the impacts of increasing land use.

“We know that there’s pretty major growth happening in many places of the Greater Yellowstone area,” she said, also noting that climate change and limited funding for land managers threaten the region.

“We really can’t afford to be splintered in our alliance as conservationists and recreationists. … Ultimately, all of us who care about conservation, recreation and our public lands need to come to a common understanding about the challenges we might be facing and the potential opportunities.”

Regan briefly mentioned some of the negative impacts of outdoor enthusiasts, which include conflicts with wildlife, reducing habitat connectivity and resource degradation.

Following the morning session and presentations from local recreationists, Governor Steve Bullock gave the keynote address.

“I fundamentally believe that our public lands are one of our great equalizers, meaning it doesn’t matter who you know or how wealthy you are, these lands, these rivers and these trees belong to certainly each and every one of us,” Bullock said. “Setting lands aside for public benefit is one of America’s greatest ideas and now I think it’s up to us to pay it forward, to make sure that those future generations have the opportunity to wander, to contemplate, to create lifelong memories on those prized public lands.”

In an email sent to EBS prior to the event, Bullock addressed some of the issues arising out of recreational growth. “What’s clear is that most user groups are increasing their demand for opportunities—and so we need to find ways to meet those demands that aren’t in conflict with other resource management goals or with one another,” he wrote.

“We can better disperse more of our state’s recreation visitors and users beyond some of our most iconic spots to reduce pressures on the resources, while offering new outdoor experiences and supporting community economic development at the same time,” the governor added.

On the second day of the symposium, a panel discussion focused on the future of recreation in the Greater Yellowstone.

The panelists included Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk; Nicol Rae, dean of MSU’s College of Letters and Science; Caroline Byrd, executive director of the GYC; Mary Erickson, supervisor for the Custer Gallatin National Forest; Rachel VandeVoort, the director of the Montana Office of Outdoor Recreation; and Angelina Gonzalez-Aller and Frances Kim, co-founders of Earhtone Outside Montana, a group dedicated to ensuring access and representation in outdoor recreation for all Montanans.

“Greater Yellowstone, home of the first national park, the first national forest; home to the idea of wilderness. It should be home to where this conversation takes off and gets legs, we need to lead on grappling with this,” Byrd said. “We need to know what the impacts are, where people go, how it affects wildlife, water … This needs to be a conversation with everyone.”

Gonzalez-Aller and Kim added to Byrd’s last statement. Beyond including individuals from every facet of recreation, from biking to hiking to rock hounding, Gonzalez-Aller and Kim said it’s critical for there to be more diversity in the conservation world.

“One recurring theme is how, for many people, recreation is that first step into the conservation or preservation world,” Gonzalez-Aller said. “By becoming invested with public lands … we really build a lifelong devotion to these places that turns into advocacy, attention and action.

“One missing point from this perspective, however, is that ‘our shared place’ doesn’t always include us,” she added, referring to herself and her colleague, who represent a diverse community of various ethnic backgrounds.

“We firmly believe that the lack of diversity in recreation and conservation circles must be addressed if the movement is to prepare itself for the challenges that face us in the coming years,” Kim said. “In an increasingly multiethnic and multicultural society, failure to create a more inclusive environment for people of color and the outdoors will significantly limit the foundational support we need to ensure the continued protection of the GYE. … People of color and their communities represent the largest untapped resource for the conservation movement.”

The symposium concluded with diversity still on the minds of the speakers.

“There’s no one person who is going to help us address the issues we’ve discussed over the last two days,” said Scott Christensen, Greater Yellowstone Coalition director of conservation. “It needs to be crowd sourced, it needs to come from a lot of helpful people getting in a room and having some difficult, at times, conversations.”
BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – On April 19, the Fish and Wildlife Commission unanimously rejected Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks’ newest proposal to add commercial fishing regulations to the Madison River. The decision came after the commission received wide opposition from fishing outfitters.

“We’ve heard loud and clear that we are directed to wade into the social issues of our rivers,” said FWP Director Martha Williams after the commission heard public comment during their regular meeting in Helena. “What I’ve heard is it’s not that we shouldn’t do it, but that [the Madison River Recreation Plan] needs more work and more input.”

A large group of commercial fishing outfitters traveled to Helena to speak in opposition to the proposal, which would have limited commercial fishing, and added new walk/wade and boating regulations.

The proposal included establishing a cap on the number of commercial outfitters; restricting commercial use based on the reach of river and 2016-17 levels of use; designating one stretch of the river every day for non-commercial use; prohibiting any commercial use from Greycliff Fishing Access Site to the confluence of the Jefferson River to preserve its uniquely primitive nature; prohibiting the use of any vessel or float tube to gain access for angling in the two walk/wade sections to help eliminate conflicts between boats and wade anglers; and prohibiting the use of glass containers on the river.

Those in opposition pointed to current statistics that say total commercial use on the Madison amounts to roughly 13 percent overall in an entire year.

“Eighty percent or more of the use on the Madison is by private noncommercial users,” said former director of the Madison River Foundation Richard Lessner, during the public comment portion of the meeting. “I’m not sure that targeting merely commercial users of the Madison will get at the problem, which is some crowding and conflicts during a six-week period in the summer.”

The failed proposal came in response to years of public input indicating a decline in the user experience on the Madison due to crowding and high levels of commercial outfitting.

In 2012, the department organized a citizen advisory committee tasked with aiding in the development of a new recreation plan. While the citizen committee represented fishing outfitters, landowners, business owners and anglers, concern was raised during the commission meeting that the committee’s recommendation was five years old.

“What we do here could be the blueprint for other [rivers] in the state,” said Vice Chairman Richard Stuker. “We need to take the time to get it right moving forward.”

Big Sky local and owner of Gallatin River Guides, Patrick Straub, gave input during the meeting, stating, “We as outfitters all want the same thing: a resource that is protected and an upward process of going from guide to outfitter to growing a business.”

Following the commission decision, Straub, who has guided on the Madison for 22 years, added, “I believe we all feel it’s time we regulate commercial use on the Madison. … There will need to be a shared sacrifice by all so we protect the river and we can all enjoy it.”

In an interview with EBS, Region Three Supervisor Mark Deleray said the department will begin development of another plan by convening a new citizen advisory committee as soon as possible.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BIG SKY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skiers Paradise</td>
<td>13,349 SQ FT</td>
<td>$18.95M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakeside Lodge Unit C-104</td>
<td>3,981 SQ FT</td>
<td>$8.995M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 338 Bristlecone Dr</td>
<td>14.6 Acres</td>
<td>$4.95M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ski Tip Lot 10</td>
<td>1.02 Acres</td>
<td>$975K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 38 Bitterbrush Trail</td>
<td>1.27 ACRES</td>
<td>$800K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moose Ridge Lodge</td>
<td>3,900 SQ FT</td>
<td>$2.45M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Lower Dudley Creek</td>
<td>4,074 SQ FT</td>
<td>$1.65M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Eagle Lodge #30</td>
<td>2,549 SQ FT</td>
<td>$1.35M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 Upper Whitefish</td>
<td>2,656 SQ FT</td>
<td>$895K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit Hotel 911/912</td>
<td>1,303 SQ FT</td>
<td>$695K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GREATER MONTANA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beeline Ridge Lodge</td>
<td>3,900 SQ FT</td>
<td>$2.45M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 42: $339K / 20 ACRES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 43: $375K / 20 ACRES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined: $679K</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RANCH &amp; RECREATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sold</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 40 Ciel Drive</td>
<td>8.03 ACRES</td>
<td>$415K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 1 Ciel Drive</td>
<td>8.03 ACRES</td>
<td>$415K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 63 Silverado Trail</td>
<td>4.22 ACRES</td>
<td>$390K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.</td>
<td>3.13 Acres</td>
<td>$450K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 39 Diamond Hitch</td>
<td>1 ACRE</td>
<td>$595K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 38 Bitterbrush Trail</td>
<td>1.27 ACRES</td>
<td>$800K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 39 Diamond Hitch</td>
<td>1 ACRE</td>
<td>$595K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.</td>
<td>3.13 Acres</td>
<td>$450K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 39 Diamond Hitch</td>
<td>1 ACRE</td>
<td>$595K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.</td>
<td>3.13 Acres</td>
<td>$450K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 39 Diamond Hitch</td>
<td>1 ACRE</td>
<td>$595K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.</td>
<td>3.13 Acres</td>
<td>$450K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 39 Diamond Hitch</td>
<td>1 ACRE</td>
<td>$595K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.</td>
<td>3.13 Acres</td>
<td>$450K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 39 Diamond Hitch</td>
<td>1 ACRE</td>
<td>$595K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.</td>
<td>3.13 Acres</td>
<td>$450K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 39 Diamond Hitch</td>
<td>1 ACRE</td>
<td>$595K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.</td>
<td>3.13 Acres</td>
<td>$450K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 39 Diamond Hitch</td>
<td>1 ACRE</td>
<td>$595K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.</td>
<td>3.13 Acres</td>
<td>$450K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 39 Diamond Hitch</td>
<td>1 ACRE</td>
<td>$595K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.</td>
<td>3.13 Acres</td>
<td>$450K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 39 Diamond Hitch</td>
<td>1 ACRE</td>
<td>$595K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.</td>
<td>3.13 Acres</td>
<td>$450K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 39 Diamond Hitch</td>
<td>1 ACRE</td>
<td>$595K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.</td>
<td>3.13 Acres</td>
<td>$450K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 39 Diamond Hitch</td>
<td>1 ACRE</td>
<td>$595K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.</td>
<td>3.13 Acres</td>
<td>$450K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 39 Diamond Hitch</td>
<td>1 ACRE</td>
<td>$595K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.</td>
<td>3.13 Acres</td>
<td>$450K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 39 Diamond Hitch</td>
<td>1 ACRE</td>
<td>$595K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.</td>
<td>3.13 Acres</td>
<td>$450K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 39 Diamond Hitch</td>
<td>1 ACRE</td>
<td>$595K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.</td>
<td>3.13 Acres</td>
<td>$450K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 39 Diamond Hitch</td>
<td>1 ACRE</td>
<td>$595K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.</td>
<td>3.13 Acres</td>
<td>$450K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 39 Diamond Hitch</td>
<td>1 ACRE</td>
<td>$595K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.</td>
<td>3.13 Acres</td>
<td>$450K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 39 Diamond Hitch</td>
<td>1 ACRE</td>
<td>$595K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.</td>
<td>3.13 Acres</td>
<td>$450K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 39 Diamond Hitch</td>
<td>1 ACRE</td>
<td>$595K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.</td>
<td>3.13 Acres</td>
<td>$450K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 39 Diamond Hitch</td>
<td>1 ACRE</td>
<td>$595K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.</td>
<td>3.13 Acres</td>
<td>$450K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 39 Diamond Hitch</td>
<td>1 ACRE</td>
<td>$595K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.</td>
<td>3.13 Acres</td>
<td>$450K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 39 Diamond Hitch</td>
<td>1 ACRE</td>
<td>$595K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As the snowpack recedes and the grasses emerge, so do the trails. While it has been a winter for the books, record snow means the trails may be muddy and soft for some time.

No matter which method of recreation you chose, using wet and muddy trails can produce erosion and damage to the trail surface. Once dried out, muddy footprints, tire ruts or hoofprints can be very difficult to smooth out and fix, leading to rough trails that can last all summer.

To ensure our trails will be smooth and durable for the upcoming summer, it’s important to remember springtime trail etiquette while we negotiate the mud season.

There are a few indicators to pay attention to when determining if a trail is dry enough to recreate on.

**Leaving tracks.** A quick way to check the trail is to take a few steps or pedals—depending on your chosen mode—and see if you leave any marks on the trail. If you find you’re leaving a track, rut or footprint, this indicates the trail is too wet to be hiking or riding on.

**Slipping.** Additionally, here in Big Sky, many of our trails are comprised of soils that have a lot of clay. When saturated, this clay is slippery. If you find yourself slipping while going uphill or coming downhill, this indicates that the trail is too wet.

If you determine a trail is ready for use, keep these tips in mind:

**Remember the effects of temperature.** During early spring, temperatures at night will still be below freezing. Remember that when water freezes, it expands and loosens the top layer of dirt on the trails. Riding or hiking when the trails are frozen is a great time to be out there, just plan to be back to the trailhead before the things begin to thaw. Once the melting starts, you can quickly damage a trail’s surface.

**Go through muddy patches.** Inevitably, you’ll be on a dry trail and come across unforeseen puddles and muddy sections. When you do, stay on the trail and continue right through. Trying to go around these sections makes the trail wider, creating more exposed soil that will become more mud next year. Remember to keep a single track single!

**Trails dry at different rates.** As warmer weather comes, go enjoy the trails but keep in mind the trails in Big Sky dry at different rates depending on different soils and access to direct sunlight. Ousel Falls, Crail Ranch and Little Willow Way are gravel-surfaced trails which dry quickly once the snow disappears and are great places to start out on.

Others, such as Hummocks and Uplands, have lots of clay and take a lot more time to dry out. Be patient with these. They require a few days to maybe more than a week to dry out after the last of the snow has melted.

Bozeman and the rest of the Gallatin Valley is usually ahead of Big Sky and trails in those areas are a great option while giving our local trails a chance to recover from the winter. Check out the trail at Lewis and Clark Caverns or Copper City Trails for early season adventures.

Before you head out to the local trails, check out the Big Sky Community Organization’s weekly trail reports. Visit bscomt.org for more information.
THANK YOU FOR A GREAT WINTER SEASON!

BIG SKY’S BEST BURGER & WILLIES BOURBON BARREL STOUT WINNER
3 YEARS RUNNING

KITCHEN HOURS: 11:30AM TO 9PM | BAR IS OPEN TILL 10PM OR LATER.
OPEN 365 DAYS A YEAR | PRIVATE EVENT SPACE AVAILABLE IN THE LOFT

48 MARKET PLACE, BIG SKY MEADOW VILLAGE | LONEPEAKBREWERY.COM | (406) 995-3939
Give Big Gallatin Valley is a 24-hour online and live celebration of giving created to connect generous community members with the causes they care about most. The goal is simple - inspire people to come together, show their pride in their communities, and contribute to support the life changing work of local nonprofit in Gallatin County. The event kicks off May 3rd at 6:00pm and ends May 4th at 6:00pm. Please visit your favorite nonprofit's website/social media page for day of event details. To donate, please visit https://www.givebiggv.org/.

Who will you #GiveBigGV to?

Presented by

Powered by

2018/19 SEASON PASSES

ON SALE NOW

Lock in the best price on your winter season pass before April 30!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Purchase</th>
<th>Thru April 30</th>
<th>Thru Sept 30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult (19-64 yrs)</td>
<td>$699</td>
<td>$799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen (13-18 yrs)</td>
<td>$289</td>
<td>$379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior (6-12 yrs)</td>
<td>$239</td>
<td>$329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior (65+)</td>
<td>$389</td>
<td>$479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Full-Time</td>
<td>$299</td>
<td>$399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child (5 &amp; under)</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>FREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nordic Pass</td>
<td>$119</td>
<td>$139</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

800.TARGHEE (827.4433) GRANDTARGHEE.COM
Big Sky has a long history of attracting visitors to the area during the winter time. But while Big Sky’s population sees a dramatic influx during the snowy months, water use is significantly higher in the summer.

Ron Edwards, general manager of the Big Sky Water and Sewer District, estimates that water use increases seven to eight times in the summer. The reason for this, he said, is unnecessary landscape irrigation.

BSWSD and the Gallatin River Task Force have joined together in an effort to increase public awareness about water usage in the summer, and both say that there are many steps a homeowner can take to reduce the amount of water used for irrigation, while still maintaining an appealing landscape.

“You can still have the beautiful human landscapes that you take pride in, that also use water more efficiently,” said Emily Casey, water conservation coordinator for GRTF.

**Xeriscape**

District Water Superintendent Jim Muscat said that many property owners are used to seeing green lawns around their homes.

“We’re a 7,000-foot high plain desert,” Muscat said. “You’re not going to have a Florida-looking lawn around here without pouring a crazy amount of water on it.”

Instead, Muscat said homeowners might be interested in xeriscape, a landscape design that requires little or no irrigation, or other maintenance.

Xeriscape integrates drought-tolerant plant species with rock landscaping and reduces lawn sizes in order to create water-efficient sites that are still attractive.

A major aspect of this kind of landscaping is overall design. Plants with similar water requirements should be located together and mulch can be used to hold moisture in the soil.

**Native reclamation**

Reintroducing native plants into your landscape can be an especially good way to reduce water use.

When you add native plant species to your outdoor environment, you are including plants already adapted to local conditions. This means that once established, native trees, shrubs, groundcover and grass will flourish without the use of extra fertilizer or irrigation. Native plants are also resistant to most local pests and diseases.

For Big Sky, plant species should be selected that are adapted to dry summers and are rated to a zone 3 hardness. Some common native plants to the Gallatin Valley include bluebunch wheatgrass, sweetgrass and blue wildrye. Native flowers include lupine, arnica, aster, columbine and blue flax.

It’s important to note that for the first few years, any plant will require irrigation. But once established, native plants won’t need a high volume of water to survive and flourish.

**Sprinkler systems**

For many homeowners, an irrigation system is an integral part of the outdoor landscape. It is an easy tool for keeping plants watered and healthy throughout the season, and with several water-smart considerations, these systems can also help to conserve water.

The latest technology in landscape irrigation pairs rain sensing with advanced programming so that you can set water schedules that match the needs of specific plants. These controllers can use local weather reports to adapt watering schedules day to day, helping to eliminate overwatering issues.

GRTF offers a number of rebates for homeowners who install WaterSense irrigation systems. This includes weather-based controllers, rain sensors, and sprinkler heads and nozzles. Homeowners are also encouraged to do a spring outdoor audit and system checkup, which can be performed by local certified irrigation technicians.

**District actions**

While the above steps are active measures homeowners can take for water conservation, the BSWSD has several internal methods to encourage efficient water use.

“The more water we save in terms of irrigation, the more we can stretch the water,” Edwards said.

Muscat added to this, saying that in addition to increasing water demand as Big Sky develops, the area is in need of a water reserve in case of a wildfire. “I think we have to be hyperaware of having water in case of forest fire.”

The district imposes a tier-grade system for supplying water to its customers, whereby the cost per gallon increases once a household exceeds a given threshold. Muscat said this is an effort to reduce excessive water use.

Throughout the summer the district also adopts irrigation restrictions, which are routinely posted and can be found online.

For more information about the GRTF rebate program, visit gallatinrivertaskforce.org. To learn more about the BSWSD irrigation restrictions, visit bigskywatersewer.com.
BIG SKY – Painter Virginie Baude remembers the moment wolves captured her imagination. She was six years old and a mobile library came to her small town in the south of France. She came across an edition of the Jack London classic “The Call of the Wild” with an image of a howling wolf on the cover.

Baude’s fascination with wolves never left her, and fueled a dream to live in Yellowstone National Park and study the animal in its natural habitat.

She pursued this end by earning a master’s degree in wildlife biology from a French university, but remained uncertain about how she would make her dream a reality.

But getting to Yellowstone turned out to be a matter of serendipity. A college friend told her about the J-1 Visa Program that gave foreigners the opportunity to work in the U.S. for five months and travel for another two.

Baude applied to numerous national parks, and the only one she received a job offer from was Yellowstone.

She was ecstatic, but her parents were not. She had a master’s degree and was going to bus tables?

“I didn’t care,” Baude said. “All I wanted to do was go to Yellowstone—if I had to start at the bottom I was going to do that.”

She didn’t get any closer to working with wolves, but returned for a second season anyway, and began sketching in her free-time.

Upon a friend’s suggestion, Baude decided to spend a season in Alaska, where she started assisting mushers with their sled dogs.

“That’s where it really all started,” she said of her deepening affinity for the wild. “I was out in the middle of nowhere with the dogs and it’s so quiet and peaceful, and there are the northern lights—I felt an overwhelming love for nature and wildlife and began sketching animals.”

In addition to her passion for wolves, Virginie Baude also enjoys painting other wildlife such as coyotes, bears and fox. PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIE BAUDE

Baude went and began painting wolves out of a longing to see them. One day, in what was only her third sighting, she saw a big black wolf running across a frozen river.

“It was amazing,” she said. “I wish I could’ve stopped time; it was a fleeting moment and it was gone.”

That was 2006; Baude was 28 and still hadn’t gotten any closer to becoming a wolf biologist.

Then she went to Canada on a one-year work visa to be a biologist’s research assistant. In the winter she’d return to Alaska to guide dog-mushing expeditions.

There was a radical break in her story when she married and moved to the East Coast, where she couldn’t find meaningful work. Then, a near-fatal car accident landed her in a wheelchair for three months.

She remembered the words of an aboriginal man she knew in Australia.

“If you were a millionaire, what would you still do?” he had asked her. She answered without hesitation: She would paint.

“I decided life was too short. I was going to go for it,” she said.

She took a painting workshop in Montana’s Flathead Valley, and began to think that instead of studying wolves, she could honor them in paint.

Her wolf paintings were quickly picked up by galleries in Jackson, Wyoming, and Whitefish, Montana. Since 2011, the value of her paintings has increased from $5,000 to upward of $20,000.

“Since I read that book, [wolves] are the only animal to me that represents the spirit of the wild. I didn’t become a painter because I love painting,” she said. “I became a painter because I love my subject so much I want to give it justice on the canvas. For most painters it’s the other way around.”

Baude is now settled in Driggs, Idaho, where she’s close to Jackson’s thriving art scene and has easy access to the parks and wildlife that feed her artistic soul.

The artist’s work can be found locally at Creighton Block Gallery in Big Sky Town Center. Visit creightonblockgallery.com or amongthewolves.com for more information.
**Tribute bands, film, a bicycle fiesta and more at the Rialto**

**EBS STAFF**

**Friday and Saturday, April 27-28 @ 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.

**Sunday, April 29 @ 6:30 p.m.**
“**Gimme Shelter**”

The classic rock ‘n’ roll documentary follows the Rolling Stones on their notorious 1969 U.S. tour. When 300,000 concert-goers collided with a few dozen Hells Angels at San Francisco’s Altamont Speedway, pioneer filmmakers David and Albert Maysles and Charlotte Zwerin captured the violence that transformed the free-love generation’s dreams into disillusionment.

**Sunday, April 29 @ 8:45 p.m.**
“**Neither Wolf Nor Dog**”

Bozeman Film Society presents the screen adaptation of the best-selling Native American novel by Kent Nerbern. In the film, a 95-year-old Lakota elder known only as Dan summons a white writer to help him write a book about his people. During a road trip through the heart of the Dakotas, the author is forced to come to a deep understanding of contemporary native life.

**Thursday, May 3 @ 8 p.m.**
**Mike Love, Cas Haley**

One of reggae music’s rising stars, Mike Love was born and raised in Oahu, Hawaii, to a musical family that spans generations. Love brings a multitude of influences to the stage, unified by the common goal of making the world a better place.

Texas native, Cas Haley, opens the evening with his soulful blend of upbeat, Motown-inspired tunes, rhythmic guitar riffs, and surf-roots sound.

**Friday, May 4 @ 8:30 p.m.**
**The Waiting, Jason Wickens**

A motley mix of Bozeman musicians, The Waiting has been “bringing the Petty” to stages across the Treasure State since 2013. Whether performing one of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers’ big hits, a sampling from his solo albums, or collaborating with the Traveling Wilburys, The Waiting delivers the goods of a missed musical legend.

Singer-songwriter and host of the public radio program “Live from the Divide,” Jason Wickens kicks off the evening with his folksy country licks.

**Saturday, May 5 @ 8:30 p.m.**
**Cycle de Mayo: A Bicycle Fiesta**

The Rialto has partnered with Alter Cycles, Summit Bike and Ski, and Sklar Bikes to kick off the biking season with an afternoon critical mass-style ride that will wind through town with stops at Bozeman’s bike meccas. The ride concludes at the Rialto for a night of information, short films, a local slide show, and performances by Wire Rider, The Dead Yellers, and DJ Dave Hollier.

**Thursday, May 10 @ 8 p.m.**
**The Songwriter’s Roundtable: All-female edition**

The second cabaret-style Songwriter’s Roundtable features an all-women line up that includes Claire Kleese, Jessica Joyce, Katherine Taylor and Madeline Hawthorne Kelly, with Elaine Kelly on violin.

**Friday, May 11 @ 8:30 p.m.**
**ZoSo**

Led Zeppelin tribute band ZoSo was formed in 1995 and has been perfecting “the ultimate Led Zeppelin experience” ever since. Each band member has been selected for their ability to capture the appearance and playing styles of the rockers that inspired them. They have performed 2,400 live shows around the world, including a slot at Bonnaroo in 2003.

Visit rialtobozeman.ticketfly.com for more information about events at Rialto Bozeman.
“Wind River” was one of my favorite movies of 2017. In my opinion, it should have been nominated for a number of Oscars including best supporting actress for Elizabeth Olsen’s performance. However, “Wind River” is a Weinstein Company film, and was rumored to be unofficially boycotted by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences because of the sexual assault and harassment scandal involving the company’s co-founder, Harvey Weinstein.

The irony is, “Wind River” is about the assault and murder of women on Indian reservations in Wyoming, and brings attention to the very abuse it was boycotted for.

“Wind River” has more to say about the abuse of women than any other film released last year, and deserves to be seen in support of victims of abuse, but also simply because it’s a really good film.

“Wind River” is about Wyoming Game and Fish Department tracker Cory Lambert (Jeremy Renner) who helps an inexperienced FBI agent Jane Banner—Elizabeth Olsen at her best—to figure out who murdered a young Native American woman found in the Wind River Mountain Range.

The hunt for the killer opens up a sad and dark history for Lambert, whose own daughter went missing years earlier and had been best friends with the deceased young woman. The search also exposes the sad and dark history of the treatment of Native Americans, especially women. While “Wind River” is not based on an actual event, writer and director Taylor Sheridan makes a point at the end of the film to say it’s based on thousands of events just like it.

Executed with bravado, Sheridan’s beautiful filmmaking addresses issues faced by those forced to live on the fringe of American society through intimate close-up shots and firmly establishes a sense of place with long-wide shots. In a scene where FBI agent Banner is sprayed with mace, Sheridan conveys what being sprayed with mace might actually look and feel like—Banner’s mascara dripping and her chest pumping.

While the naturalistic filmmaking and realistic portrayal of violence caused me to cringe more than once, Sheridan’s delicate approach to sensitive issues is worth facing the violence thousands of women experience every year. Sheridan should be applauded for his strong female characters because he is a male filmmaker telling a strongly female tale.

Sheridan is an up-and-coming director to watch. He has an exacting eye that reveals more about ourselves than we are willing to admit about our continuing history of violence toward Native Americans, especially women. Although Sheridan closes the FBI case, to much satisfaction, he also leaves a gaping wound that needs to be processed by the characters in the film—and in the real world, by the nation as a whole.

With one of the best supporting casts featuring Graham Greene as a no-nonsense sheriff and Tantoo Cardinal as a grief-stricken mother, “Wind River” hits home through excellent acting and filmmaking.

“Wind River” is available to stream on Netflix.

Anna Husted has a master’s degree 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.

Director Taylor Sheridan makes audiences look at the history of violence again Native American women in his film “Wind River.” PHOTO COURTESY OF LIONGATE MEDIA
Big Sky – On May 5, Big Sky School District art teacher Megan Buecking and history teacher Tony Coppola will take 25 eighth grade Ophir Middle School students to Washington D.C. where they will visit national landmarks and institutions, and participate in a series of workshops.

The annual, weeklong trip to D.C. started fifteen years ago, and this year marks Coppola’s fifth time leading it. In prior years the trip has focused primarily on history and civic studies, but this year an artistic element was added.

Buecking saw an opportunity to collaborate across disciplines, and decided to plan her art curriculum around the D.C. trip, with emphasis on the students’ visit to the National Gallery of Art.

Buecking selected a series of master artists, such as Vincent van Gogh, Pablo Picasso and Leonardo da Vinci, then built a lesson around the style and works of each artist. The students then chose a painter whose work is currently represented in the National Gallery of Art, researched the artist’s style and technique, and created an original piece inspired by what they had learned.

During their visit to the museum, the students will find and be photographed with the painting that inspired their project. Samantha Suazo, one of the students anticipating the trip, drew inspiration from late 19th century French painter Albert Marquet. Samantha said she wanted to “think outside of the box” and not exactly copy the painter but put her own ideas into it.

“It was so much fun [and] awesome to be able to learn something new,” she said.

The field trip is sponsored by Close Up, a Washington-based organization dedicated to educating young people about their rights and responsibilities as citizens in a democratic society. The trip programming is structured, research oriented, and focused on improving students’ public speaking abilities.

The students will also participate in a variety of recreational activities, including visiting George Washington’s Mount Vernon mansion and attending a baseball game. Soon after their arrival, the students will be assigned a “program buddy” from a different part of the country. Since the Close Up trips began in 1971, the organization has brought more than 850,000 students to explore the nation’s capital and connect with students from various regions.

The remainder of the week consists of Close Up workshops and outings that include a tour of Capitol Hill, sitting in on a congressional session, meeting Montana Sen. Jon Tester, and visits to the National Archives and a diverse assortment of museums.

Students will also get to see D.C.’s monuments and memorials lit up at night, a new addition to the itinerary. Buecking said that “kids talk about it for years [after].”

Suazo said she’s most looking forward to seeing the monuments that represent the United States and hopes to be inspired to make a change in the world.

As opposed to Expedition Yellowstone, which immerses Ophir fourth graders in the wonders of the national park in their own backyard, the trip to D.C. exposes students to a bustling metropolis.

“It gets kids out of their ‘Big Sky bubble,’” Coppola said.

Both Buecking and Coppola expressed gratitude for the support of the Big Sky community that came in the form of many donations from individuals, local businesses and the PTO Pie Auction. The students also actively raised funds for the trip through several events and sales.
**Big Sky**

**Friday, April 27 – Thursday, May 10**

*If your event falls between May 11 and 24, please submit it by May 2 by emailing media@outlawpartners.com.*

**Big Sky**

**Friday, April 27**
- Trivia Night
  - Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

**Sunday, April 29**
- Live Music
  - Compass Café, 11 a.m.

**Monday, April 30**
- Big Sky Homebuyer Education Class
  - Buck’s T-4 Lodge, April 30 – May 1, 5 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 1**
- Moose Creek Volunteer Planting Day
  - Moose Creek Flats, 9:30 a.m.

**Thursday, May 3**
- Give Big Gallatin Valley
  - A.A. Meeting
    - Big Sky Chapel, 8 p.m.
  - Bozeman
    - Big Sky Bravery Tribute Dinner
      - Hilton Garden Inn, 6 p.m.

**Friday, May 4**
- Fish Fry
  - BYWQM, all evening
- A.A. Meeting
  - Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

**Saturday, May 5**
- Annual Document Shred Day
  - Big Sky & Greater Yellowstone Welcome Center, 11 a.m.
- Give Big Gallatin Valley
  - Santosha Wellness Center, 7 p.m.

**Sunday, May 6**
- Live Music
  - Compass Café, 11 a.m.
- Service Industry Night
  - Lotus Pad, all evening

**Tuesday, May 8**
- Big Sky Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting
  - Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, 8:30 a.m.
- Top Shelf Toastmasters
  - Town Center Sales Office, 12 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 9**
- Family Cooking Night
  - Ophir Elementary Cafeteria, 6 p.m.
- Awareness Wednesday
  - Santosa Wellness Center, 7 p.m.

**Thursday, May 10**
- Visit Big Sky Inaugural Marketing Outlook Luncheon
  - Horn and Cantle Saloon, 11:30 a.m.
- A.A. Meeting
  - Big Sky Chapel, 8 p.m.

**Friday, April 27**
- Bobcat Fest at Main Downtown Bozeman, 5 p.m.
- Jazz Night
  - Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.
- “The Realistic Joneses,” play
  - Rialto Bozeman, 8 p.m.
- Animia Figarova Sextet, music
  - Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, April 28**
- Winter Farmers’ Market
  - Emerson Ballroom, all morning
- A Taste of Columbia, cooking class
  - Fork & Spoon, 5 p.m.
- Sportsman’s Banquet, dinner and fundraiser
  - Gallatin Gateway Auction Barn, 6 p.m.

**Sunday, April 29**
- The Waiting, music
  - Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
- “The Death of Stalin,” film
  - Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

**Monday, May 1**
- Larry Kiff, music
  - Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 2**
- Give Big with Bob, kickoff event
  - Big Sky Resort Area District tax office, 5 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 3**
- Bozeman Business and Professional Women's Social Springhill Suites by Marriott, 4:30 p.m.

**Thursday, May 4**
- Jazz Night
  - Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.
- “Fight Club,” film
  - Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
- The Waiting, music
  - Rialto Bozeman, 8 p.m.

**Friday, May 5**
- Bozeman Craft Beer Week
  - May 5-12

**Saturday, May 6**
- Big Sky Bravery Tribute Dinner
  - Hilton Garden Inn, 6 p.m.
- Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.
- The Dusty Pockets, music
  - Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.
- Cycle De Mayo: A Bicycle Fiesta
  - Rialto Bozeman, 8:30 p.m.

**Monday, May 7**
- Estate Planning for Everyone, class
  - Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 8**
- Mike & Mike, music
  - Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 9**
- Gallatin History Museum
  - Lecture: East Gallatin/Hamilton Cemetery
  - Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.
- Growing Great Tomatoes, class
  - Broken Ground, 6:30 p.m.

**Friday, May 10**
- Dan Henry, music
  - Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.
- Bridger Creek Boys, music
  - Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.
- The Songwriter’s Roundtable: All Female Edition
  - Rialto Bozeman, 8 p.m.

**Saturday, May 11**
- “The Realistic Joneses,” play
  - Rialto Bozeman, 8 p.m.
- Animia Figarova Sextet, music
  - Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
- “The Hollow Crown,” film
  - Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
- Mike Love, music
  - Rialto Bozeman, 8 p.m.

**Sunday, May 12**
- “The Death of Stalin,” film
  - Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.
- Comedy Night
  - Red Tractor Pizza, 7:30 p.m.
- Mark Stuart, music
  - Live From The Divide, 9 p.m.

**Thursday, May 10**
- Dan Henry, music
  - Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.
- Bridger Creek Boys, music
  - Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.
- The Songwriter’s Roundtable: All Female Edition
  - Rialto Bozeman, 8 p.m.

**Friday, May 11**
- Larry Kiff, music
  - Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

**Saturday, May 12**
- Bozeman Craft Beer Week
  - May 5-12

**Sunday, May 13**
- Big Sky Bravery Tribute Dinner
  - Hilton Garden Inn, 6 p.m.
- The Latin Project, music
  - Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.
- Pat McGann, comedian
  - Ellen Theatre, 8 p.m.
- The Dusty Pockets, music
  - Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**Monday, May 14**
- Estate Planning for Everyone, class
  - Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 15**
- Give Big with Bob, kickoff event
  - Big Sky Resort Area District tax office, 5 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 16**
- Grow Great Tomatoes, class
  - Broken Ground, 6:30 p.m.
- “The Death of Stalin,” film
  - Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.
- Comedy Night
  - Red Tractor Pizza, 7:30 p.m.
- Mark Stuart, music
  - Live From The Divide, 9 p.m.

**Thursday, May 17**
- Dan Henry, music
  - Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.
- Bridger Creek Boys, music
  - Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.
- The Songwriter’s Roundtable: All Female Edition
  - Rialto Bozeman, 8 p.m.

**Friday, May 18**
- Larry Kiff, music
  - Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

**Saturday, May 19**
- Bozeman Craft Beer Week
  - May 5-12

**Sunday, May 20**
- Big Sky Bravery Tribute Dinner
  - Hilton Garden Inn, 6 p.m.
- The Latin Project, music
  - Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.
- Pat McGann, comedian
  - Ellen Theatre, 8 p.m.
- The Dusty Pockets, music
  - Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**Monday, May 21**
- Estate Planning for Everyone, class
  - Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 22**
- Give Big with Bob, kickoff event
  - Big Sky Resort Area District tax office, 5 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 23**
- Grow Great Tomatoes, class
  - Broken Ground, 6:30 p.m.
- “The Death of Stalin,” film
  - Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.
- Comedy Night
  - Red Tractor Pizza, 7:30 p.m.
- Mark Stuart, music
  - Live From The Divide, 9 p.m.

**Thursday, May 24**
- Dan Henry, music
  - Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.
- Bridger Creek Boys, music
  - Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.
- The Songwriter’s Roundtable: All Female Edition
  - Rialto Bozeman, 8 p.m.

**Friday, May 25**
- Larry Kiff, music
  - Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

**Saturday, May 26**
- Bozeman Craft Beer Week
  - May 5-12

**Sunday, May 27**
- Big Sky Bravery Tribute Dinner
  - Hilton Garden Inn, 6 p.m.
- The Latin Project, music
  - Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.
- Pat McGann, comedian
  - Ellen Theatre, 8 p.m.
- The Dusty Pockets, music
  - Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.
Pearl Jam Announces Rock2Vote at Washington-Grizzly Stadium
Sold-out Missoula show for Montanans who believe every voice should be heard

PEARL JAM

On April 18, Pearl Jam announced that their sold-out Aug. 13 show at Missoula’s Washington-Grizzly Stadium would be recognized as Rock2Vote. As a Rock2Vote concert, a portion of its proceeds will be donated to four Montana nonprofits that support youth and Native American voting, land conservation and women’s health.

Pearl Jam bassist and Montana native Jeff Ament said, “The band is super excited to come to Missoula and help energize the voters as we believe it’s a critical time in our democracy. Every vote is important. We’ll be doing what we do, supporting the issues we believe in, and we want our fans to join us by voting and participating in the election and coming to a big rock show at Washington-Griz stadium.”

In addition to bringing fans together, Rock2Vote will highlight Pearl Jam’s commitment to supporting those who are making their voices heard and ensuring all Montanans are represented through grassroots organizing and mobilization in advance of the 2018 elections.

To that end, Pearl Jam has partnered with four progressive Montana organizations that have a proven track record engaging voters and turning them out to vote:

Forward Montana empowers young people to have a loud and clear voice on issues important to them through educating, organizing and mobilizing young Montanans.

Montana Native Vote encourages all tribes, regional, and inter-tribal organizations to mobilize early through voter registration, understand their rights ensuring every voter has the opportunity to cast a ballot on election day, and assists native voters to become educated on candidates, and candidates to be educated on issues of importance to Native Americans.

Montana Conservation Voters mobilizes conservationists that care about clean air and water, open spaces, wildlife and public health while promoting responsible stewardship of Montana’s natural assets.

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana engages in education and mobilization activity through advocacy, voter education and grassroots organizing in the belief that all people should make private reproductive health care decisions. They provide quality care, accurate education and advocacy for individual rights.

“From Big Sandy to Browning and Butte to Baker, the band and I believe that every voice and every vote matters,” Ament said.

Visit rock2vote.com for more information.

NOW ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS:
BIG SKY ART AUCTION | JULY 26, 2018

Creighton Block Gallery is now accepting consignments for the upcoming Big Sky Art Auction. Limited space is available. If you are considering selling any Western or contemporary art, please contact us via text at 678.551.0120 or call us at 406.993.9400 to discuss a consignment.
Between the shelves

BY AMY HUNTER
ASSISTANT COMMUNITY LIBRARIAN

Research continues to reveal the detrimental effects of screens—not only on children, but all of us. When I am honest with myself, I confess that I use a screen more than I am comfortable with admitting. Screen-time is often necessary for work or school, but using a screen for passing time, playing, socializing and distracting ourselves is another story.

Every year the library participates in “Screen-Free Week” to encourage the Big Sky community to take a break from all kinds of screen technology. This year, the initiative runs April 30 through May 6, and coincides with Children’s Book Week, a great opportunity to revisit your favorite books from childhood and share them with others. It is also a good time to check out that book you have been wanting to read, but couldn’t find the time during the busy ski season.

Some favorite books from my own childhood include “Where the Wild Things Are” by Maurice Sendak, “Bunnicula” by James and Deborah Howe and “A Wrinkle in Time” by Madeleine L’Engle, all stories that expanded my imagination. As an adult, “Deadwake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania” by Erik Larson is a favorite.

‘Give Big’ event benefits the Emerson, Sweet Pea Festival and S.L.A.M.

THE EMERSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS & CULTURE

On May 3-4, all of Gallatin Valley will come together for a 24-hour fundraiser to support nonprofits across Gallatin County.

In Bozeman on Friday, May 4, the Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture will host a special celebration called “Give Big with Bob” to benefit its own organization, the Sweet Pea Festival, and the local arts collective, S.L.A.M.

Named after the iconic PBS painter, Bob Ross, the three organizations are leading a series of public art classes. The community is invited to create a work of art under the instruction of a local artist and are encouraged to wear big hair or come dressed as their favorite artist. A kid-friendly session will be held from 4-6 p.m.; and two adult sessions from 6-8 p.m. and 8-10 p.m. Participants will paint a work of art, be able to make donations through Give Big Gallatin Valley, and purchase adult refreshments. A fee is required to cover the cost of art supplies.

The community is also invited to stop by Rocking R Bar on Friday, May 4 between 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. to further show their support of the arts and arts education.

Give Big Gallatin Valley runs from 6 p.m. Thursday, May 3, through 6 p.m. Friday, May 4. Visit givebiggv.org for general fundraiser information. Visit themerson.org for specific information about the Bozeman event.

By AMY HUNTER
ASSISTANT COMMUNITY LIBRARIAN

Research continues to reveal the detrimental effects of screens—not only on children, but all of us. When I am honest with myself, I confess that I use a screen more than I am comfortable with admitting. Screen-time is often necessary for work or school, but using a screen for passing time, playing, socializing and distracting ourselves is another story.

Every year the library participates in “Screen-Free Week” to encourage the Big Sky community to take a break from all kinds of screen technology. This year, the initiative runs April 30 through May 6, and coincides with Children’s Book Week, a great opportunity to revisit your favorite books from childhood and share them with others. It is also a good time to check out that book you have been wanting to read, but couldn’t find the time during the busy ski season.

Some favorite books from my own childhood include “Where the Wild Things Are” by Maurice Sendak, “Bunnicula” by James and Deborah Howe and “A Wrinkle in Time” by Madeleine L’Engle, all stories that expanded my imagination. As an adult, “Deadwake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania” by Erik Larson is a favorite.

‘Give Big’ event benefits the Emerson, Sweet Pea Festival and S.L.A.M.

THE EMERSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS & CULTURE

On May 3-4, all of Gallatin Valley will come together for a 24-hour fundraiser to support nonprofits across Gallatin County.

In Bozeman on Friday, May 4, the Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture will host a special celebration called “Give Big with Bob” to benefit its own organization, the Sweet Pea Festival, and the local arts collective, S.L.A.M.

Named after the iconic PBS painter, Bob Ross, the three organizations are leading a series of public art classes. The community is invited to create a work of art under the instruction of a local artist and are encouraged to wear big hair or come dressed as their favorite artist. A kid-friendly session will be held from 4-6 p.m.; and two adult sessions from 6-8 p.m. and 8-10 p.m. Participants will paint a work of art, be able to make donations through Give Big Gallatin Valley, and purchase adult refreshments. A fee is required to cover the cost of art supplies.

The community is also invited to stop by Rocking R Bar on Friday, May 4 between 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. to further show their support of the arts and arts education.

Give Big Gallatin Valley runs from 6 p.m. Thursday, May 3, through 6 p.m. Friday, May 4. Visit givebiggv.org for general fundraiser information. Visit themerson.org for specific information about the Bozeman event.

By AMY HUNTER
ASSISTANT COMMUNITY LIBRARIAN

Research continues to reveal the detrimental effects of screens—not only on children, but all of us. When I am honest with myself, I confess that I use a screen more than I am comfortable with admitting. Screen-time is often necessary for work or school, but using a screen for passing time, playing, socializing and distracting ourselves is another story.

Every year the library participates in “Screen-Free Week” to encourage the Big Sky community to take a break from all kinds of screen technology. This year, the initiative runs April 30 through May 6, and coincides with Children’s Book Week, a great opportunity to revisit your favorite books from childhood and share them with others. It is also a good time to check out that book you have been wanting to read, but couldn’t find the time during the busy ski season.

Some favorite books from my own childhood include “Where the Wild Things Are” by Maurice Sendak, “Bunnicula” by James and Deborah Howe and “A Wrinkle in Time” by Madeleine L’Engle, all stories that expanded my imagination. As an adult, “Deadwake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania” by Erik Larson is a favorite.

‘Give Big’ event benefits the Emerson, Sweet Pea Festival and S.L.A.M.

THE EMERSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS & CULTURE

On May 3-4, all of Gallatin Valley will come together for a 24-hour fundraiser to support nonprofits across Gallatin County.

In Bozeman on Friday, May 4, the Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture will host a special celebration called “Give Big with Bob” to benefit its own organization, the Sweet Pea Festival, and the local arts collective, S.L.A.M.

Named after the iconic PBS painter, Bob Ross, the three organizations are leading a series of public art classes. The community is invited to create a work of art under the instruction of a local artist and are encouraged to wear big hair or come dressed as their favorite artist. A kid-friendly session will be held from 4-6 p.m.; and two adult sessions from 6-8 p.m. and 8-10 p.m. Participants will paint a work of art, be able to make donations through Give Big Gallatin Valley, and purchase adult refreshments. A fee is required to cover the cost of art supplies.

The community is also invited to stop by Rocking R Bar on Friday, May 4 between 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. to further show their support of the arts and arts education.

Give Big Gallatin Valley runs from 6 p.m. Thursday, May 3, through 6 p.m. Friday, May 4. Visit givebiggv.org for general fundraiser information. Visit themerson.org for specific information about the Bozeman event.

By AMY HUNTER
ASSISTANT COMMUNITY LIBRARIAN

Research continues to reveal the detrimental effects of screens—not only on children, but all of us. When I am honest with myself, I confess that I use a screen more than I am comfortable with admitting. Screen-time is often necessary for work or school, but using a screen for passing time, playing, socializing and distracting ourselves is another story.

Every year the library participates in “Screen-Free Week” to encourage the Big Sky community to take a break from all kinds of screen technology. This year, the initiative runs April 30 through May 6, and coincides with Children’s Book Week, a great opportunity to revisit your favorite books from childhood and share them with others. It is also a good time to check out that book you have been wanting to read, but couldn’t find the time during the busy ski season.

Some favorite books from my own childhood include “Where the Wild Things Are” by Maurice Sendak, “Bunnicula” by James and Deborah Howe and “A Wrinkle in Time” by Madeleine L’Engle, all stories that expanded my imagination. As an adult, “Deadwake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania” by Erik Larson is a favorite.

‘Give Big’ event benefits the Emerson, Sweet Pea Festival and S.L.A.M.

THE EMERSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS & CULTURE

On May 3-4, all of Gallatin Valley will come together for a 24-hour fundraiser to support nonprofits across Gallatin County.

In Bozeman on Friday, May 4, the Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture will host a special celebration called “Give Big with Bob” to benefit its own organization, the Sweet Pea Festival, and the local arts collective, S.L.A.M.

Named after the iconic PBS painter, Bob Ross, the three organizations are leading a series of public art classes. The community is invited to create a work of art under the instruction of a local artist and are encouraged to wear big hair or come dressed as their favorite artist. A kid-friendly session will be held from 4-6 p.m.; and two adult sessions from 6-8 p.m. and 8-10 p.m. Participants will paint a work of art, be able to make donations through Give Big Gallatin Valley, and purchase adult refreshments. A fee is required to cover the cost of art supplies.

The community is also invited to stop by Rocking R Bar on Friday, May 4 between 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. to further show their support of the arts and arts education.

Give Big Gallatin Valley runs from 6 p.m. Thursday, May 3, through 6 p.m. Friday, May 4. Visit givebiggv.org for general fundraiser information. Visit themerson.org for specific information about the Bozeman event.
Big Sky PBR Golf Tournament to Benefit the Western Sports Foundation
Moonlight RESERVE Golf Course, Registration at 9am | Shotgun Start at 11am
tbigskypbrgolftournament.eventbrite.com

Big Sky PBR Street Dance presented by LEVI’S®
Town Center Ave | Big Sky Town Center
Immediately following Farmer’s Market
FREE

Third Annual Big Sky Art Auction
PBR Arena Tent | 3-6pm | FREE
www.bigskyartauction.com

Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 1
PBR Arena | 6-8pm
Music in the Mountains
Featuring Shovels & Rope
Presented by Big Sky PBR
Town Center Park | 8:30pm | FREE

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

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

July 25-28, 2018 | BIG SKY, MT
Big Sky’s Biggest Week!

MORE INFORMATION, SCHEDULE & TICKETS AT BIGSKYPBR.COM
Big Sky PBR Golf Tournament to Benefit the Western Sports Foundation
Moonlight RESERVE Golf Course, Registration at 9am | Shotgun Start at 11am
bigskypbrgolftournament.eventbrite.com

Big Sky PBR Street Dance presented by LEVI'S®
Town Center Ave | Big Sky Town Center
Immediately following Farmer's Market | FREE

Third Annual Big Sky Art Auction
PBR Arena Tent | 3-6pm | FREE
www.bigskyartauction.com

Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 1
PBR Arena | 6-8pm
Music in the Mountains Featuring Shovels & Rope
Presented by Big Sky PBR
Town Center Park | 8:30pm | FREE

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

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

July 25-28, 2018 | BIG SKY, MT

2018 Schedule of Events

THURSDAY JULY 26

Third Annual Big Sky Art Auction
PBR Arena Tent | 3-6pm | FREE
www.bigskyartauction.com

Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 1
PBR Arena | 6-8pm
Music in the Mountains Featuring Shovels & Rope
Presented by Big Sky PBR
Town Center Park | 8:30pm | FREE

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
Rainbow Ranch to stay open all year
Featuring local specials, live music, tasting events

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

Big Sky – For the first time in its history, Rainbow Ranch Lodge will keep the kitchen and bar open year-round.

Every Friday in May, they will host a “Locals’ Lowdown” event from 5 to 7 p.m. The evening will feature a complimentary tasting by a Montana distillery or brewery with a special food pairing and live music. Rainbow Ranch happy hour and its discounted food and beverage offerings will continue from 4-6 p.m. daily.

“It’s never been done before and I wanted to try something new,” said General Manager Carrie Bishop about taking the leap and deciding to remain open, adding that she expects more and more businesses to follow suit. “I think with the growth we’re having, now is the best time to try it—you can’t say it doesn’t work until you do.”

Bishop has only seen the shoulder seasons shrink in her three years in Big Sky. When she started working at Rainbow Ranch, they would close the restaurant and bar from April 1 through June 15; and Oct. 1 through Dec. 15. In 2017 the business stayed open a week later in April and re-opened the beginning of June, and in the fall, only closed for the month of November.

“We have guests here all year, so we decided to take the menu down a notch and keep it casual, mostly in lounge, in the hopes to get the local crowd that normally wouldn’t come,” Bishop said. “That’s what I want people to realize—we don’t do the white linens on the tables; it’s casual and affordable.”

Wedding bookings are also up and seeping over into months outside the traditional wedding season. The addition of the heated tent has expanded their capacity to host events year-round.

Dale Roberts, who has worked his way up the ranks from bartender to operations manager since he started working at Rainbow Ranch in 2012, said that he thinks their May occupancy has been high enough in recent years to warrant keeping the restaurant open, adding that sometimes they’d have to turn away 150 guests who would’ve liked to dine there.

“It’s what everyone wants—a shorter off-season, something to do, entertainment, somewhere to go, some food and lots of beverages—it still is off season after all. I don’t think we’re going to lose anything—will we do it again? We’ll see.”

Visit rainbowranchbigsky.com for more information.

EBS has your off-season food, drink and fun covered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EATS</th>
<th>ENTERTAINMENT</th>
<th>PROVISIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caliber Coffee</td>
<td>Lone Peak Cinema</td>
<td>Hungry Moose Market &amp; Deli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily</td>
<td>Lobby concession and bar opens at 4 p.m. daily. Visit lonpeakcinema.com for showtimes.</td>
<td>Town Center location: open 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compass Café by Sola</td>
<td>Live Music at Rainbow Ranch</td>
<td>Country Market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serving coffee, breakfast and lunch daily 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.</td>
<td>Fridays from 5-7 p.m.</td>
<td>Open 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Corral Bar, Steakhouse &amp; Motel</td>
<td>Trivia at Lone Peak Cinema</td>
<td>Roxy’s Market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning May 4, breakfast, lunch and dinner 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily</td>
<td>Fridays at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ByWom</td>
<td>Bingo at Gallatin Riverhouse Grill</td>
<td>The Cave Spirits &amp; Gifts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch Monday through Friday beginning at 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Open 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1 and May 8</td>
<td>Open Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serving dinner Monday through Saturday beginning at 5 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mountain Village location: open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lone Peak Brewery</td>
<td>Lotus Pad</td>
<td>Beehive Basin Brewery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serving lunch and dinner 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily</td>
<td>Open at 5:30 p.m.; starting Friday, April 27th</td>
<td>Open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrap Shack</td>
<td>Ousel &amp; Spur Pizza Co.</td>
<td>The Cave Spirits &amp; Gifts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, closed weekends.</td>
<td>Beginning May 2, open for dinner daily beginning at 5 p.m.</td>
<td>Open Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Moon Bakery</td>
<td>Rainbow Ranch Lodge</td>
<td>Hungry Moose Market &amp; Deli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning May 1, serving breakfast, lunch, bread and pizza from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.</td>
<td>Open daily from 4 p.m. to close for drinks, small plates and dinner</td>
<td>Town Center location: open 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moe’s Original Bar B Que</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mountain Village location: open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily with the exception of two days in early May, dates to be determined</td>
<td></td>
<td>Roxy’s Market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rainbow Ranch Lodge</td>
<td>Open 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ace Hardware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hardware store open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**SHOULDER SEASON SCHEDULE**

**APRIL 23 - JUNE 3**

**SEP 29 - NOV 18**

**BIKES ON THE BUS**

Most buses have the ability to carry 6 to 8 bikes, some up to 10. Racks are on a first-come, first-served basis. Riders with bikes should not expect that they will be able to get their bike on the bus at all times during the day. Groups of riders should especially be aware of this situation. The racks are easy to use and are designed for riders to load bikes independently. Assistance is available.

**CANYON-MOUNTAIN SHOULDER SEASON ROUTES**

Big Sky local demand response service is available during the shoulder season from Apr 23 - June 3 & Sep 29 - Nov 18.

- The bus operates Monday through Friday with the first available pick-up at 8:00 am and the last drop off at 6:00 pm.
- To schedule a bus ride please contact Skyline at 406.995.6287 by 4:00 pm the day before the ride is needed.
- Rides to be scheduled for Monday must be called in by 4:00 pm on the previous Friday.

**LOCAL SERVICE IS PROVIDED BY DEMAND-RESPONSE • MON-FRI • APR 23 - JUNE 3 & SEP 29 - NOV 18**

**LINK EXPRESS**

**SUMMER & SHOULDER SEASON • BIG SKY & BOZEMAN • SEE DAYS OF OPERATION BELOW**

**BOZEMAN TO BIG SKY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Link 2</th>
<th>Link 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walmart - Depart</td>
<td>7:00 a</td>
<td>3:00 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSU (Roskie Hall)</td>
<td>7:15 a</td>
<td>3:15 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardinal Distributing (Four Comers)</td>
<td>7:35 a</td>
<td>3:35 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallatin Gateway Inn</td>
<td>7:50 a</td>
<td>3:50 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Sky Chamber Visitor Center</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>w</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadow Village Center</td>
<td>8:30 a</td>
<td>4:30 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Center (Ousel Falls Road)</td>
<td>8:35 a</td>
<td>4:35 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Lodge/Hill Condos</td>
<td>8:50 a</td>
<td>4:50 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Village Center</td>
<td>8:54 a</td>
<td>4:54 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moonlight Lodge</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>w</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LINKS 2&4 OPERATE • MON-FRI • AP R 23 - JUNE 3 • 7-DAYS-A-WEEK JUNE 4 - SEP 28 • MON-FRI • SEP 29 - NOV 18**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Link 2</th>
<th>Link 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moonlight Lodge</td>
<td>dr</td>
<td>dr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Village Center</td>
<td>9:15 a</td>
<td>5:15 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Condos</td>
<td>9:17 a</td>
<td>5:17 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Lodge/Hill Condos</td>
<td>9:19 a</td>
<td>5:19 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Center (Ousel Falls Road)</td>
<td>9:35 a</td>
<td>5:35 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadow Village Center</td>
<td>9:40 a</td>
<td>5:40 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conoco</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>w</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitewater Inn</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>w</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buck’s T-4</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>w</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallatin Gateway Inn</td>
<td>10:20 a</td>
<td>w 6:20 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardinal Distributing (Four Comers)</td>
<td>w 10:35 a</td>
<td>w 6:35 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSU (Roskie Hall)</td>
<td>w 10:35 a</td>
<td>w 6:35 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walmart - Arrive</td>
<td>w 11:30 a</td>
<td>w 7:30 p</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

w = whistle stop - the bus will not stop at this location unless requested by a passenger on the bus. Buses will not leave earlier than scheduled times.

dr = Demand Response stop - Call at least two hours before the approximate scheduled time to request a pick-up.
Spring is upon us and our fluffiest and fiercest neighbors are waking up and starting to roam. Bears are a very real part of our lives in Big Sky. We live, work and play in bear country. Though bear encounters are rare, they can lead to serious injury, even death—especially if cubs are nearby.

These words of warning are not meant to frighten you or encourage you to stay indoors, but rather promote recreational safety by being bear aware.

Bears generally try to avoid humans and most people will never see a bear. But because bears can be a threat, it’s best to learn about bear safety. Here are a few tips that can help you avoid a dangerous encounter with a bear.

- Travel in groups of 3 or more.
- Stay on the trail.
- Make a lot of noise at all times.
- Carry bear spray and know how to use it. Keep it easily accessible at all times.
- Watch for signs of bears such as prints, scat and animal carcasses.
- Do not approach any wildlife.
- Keep children and dogs close by.
- Avoid carrying strong-smelling food items.
- Always hang food, trash, and any scented products away from camp and use a bear proof container.
- Know the difference between a black bear and a grizzly bear.
- Do not feed bears.
- Be aware of bear management areas in Yellowstone National Park.
- Don’t hike at dawn, dusk or at night.
- Don’t hike alone.
- Properly dispose of trash in bear-proof bins.
- Keep pets on a leash.

According to the National Park Service, if you do encounter a bear, stay calm, stay still, and do not run away. Bears are much faster than you are. If the bear is in the distance, walk upwind and detour away from the bear. If the bear spots you, back away slowly with bear spray in hand. Speak to the bear in a calm and firm manner to let it know that you are a human. Make yourself appear big and watch for any signs of aggression—clacking of teeth, puffing lips, huffs, woofs, slaps. Do not drop your backpack or any of your things.

You can learn more about grizzly bears in a safe environment at the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center in West Yellowstone. Other helpful bear safety resources are available at the Yellowstone National Park website, the Parks Canada website and BearSmart.com.

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

Bears are a part of life in Big Sky Country. Your best weapon is to be educated on how to avoid bear encounters and how to act in a bear-related situation. PHOTO COURTESY OF VISIT BIG SKY
WE DO THAT

SLIDERS DELI
FULL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MENU
Located in the Big Sky Conoco
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
406.995.2566

WHEN YOU'RE READY TO HIT THE TRAIL
GRAB IT AND GO AT
SLIDERS DELI
Located in the Big Sky Conoco
HOT BREAKFAST SANDWICHES AND BURRITOS
READY AT 6AM
FULL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MENU

CREATING CONNECTIONS AND INSPIRING OTHERS TO ACT
THEOUTLAWPARTNERS.COM
Depending on if you’re a glass half full or half empty type of angler, you either enjoy or bemoan the next several weeks on our local waters. Now is the time when all the frosty white stuff we enjoyed for the past six months comes rushing out of the mountains and causes high river flows and muddy waters.

Those of us who make our living chasing trout relish this time of year and the challenges it provides—finding great fishing when fair-weather anglers take the easy way out and head to Craig or Fort Smith and their tailwater rivers. But if you’re willing to work a little harder and want to fish closer to home, this time of year provides plenty of rewards. Here are some tips to find fishable water and sleep in your own bed at night.

Weather watcher. Weather and streamflows are yin and yang. If I paid as much attention to my stock portfolio as I did the weather and streamflows, my dream of spending January and February in the Bahamas might be a reality, but for starters, there first has to be money in the bank. For our main freestone rivers, the Gallatin and Yellowstone, to drop and be clear enough to fish this time of year, the daytime highs need to hover around 60 F and the nighttime lows need to be at or below freezing. Those combinations don’t always occur, but if they do and run for a few days, expect fishable conditions.

Geek out on streamflows. Make a daily habit of checking local streamflows and streamflow forecasts. Watch for trends in flows, both rising and dropping. If the flows are rising on the river you desire to fish, keep looking elsewhere. But if the general trend is a dropping streamflow, the fishing should improve. Unlike a sudden rise in flow, a small drop can serve up just enough clarity along the edges for fish to get back on the feed.

Buy (and talk) local. It is almost cliché in my columns, but it’s the honest truth: your local fly shop is your best resource for current conditions and fishing options. Website reports and social media can be helpful, but if you truly want the skinny on where to fish when conditions seem less than ideal, visit your favorite fly shop. The staff will have “been-there-done-that,” potentially as recent as yesterday, or they will have had guided trips out recently with first-hand reports. They could also know of a few places to fish that you may not have known about.

Fish it anyway. This sounds simple, but some of my best days occurred when others had written off fishing. Abundant food exists in high and muddy waters; however, don’t be careless or unsafe. Muddy water can produce some great fishing, but rising rivers are not a place for experimentation. There is a difference between off-color water and high, raging water.

Your local fly shop is a great resource for knowing what is safe and what isn’t. Once you’re out there, a good way to know if conditions are safe for wading is if you are on the bank and if you can easily stay below the median high-water mark. If the level of the river makes it difficult to get around, perhaps conditions are truly unsafe.

Stick to spring creeks, tailwaters and lakes. If deciphering weather reports and streamflows, and investing time talking with fly shop staff is just not in your DNA, or time allotment, there are plenty of places to fish. The Paradise Valley spring creeks, the Missouri and Bighorn rivers, and the Upper and Lower Madison typically all run clear enough to fish when other area waters are mostly unfishable.

Herein is the blessing and the curse for the next several weeks in southwest Montana—great fishing can be had, but much of it requires that you quickly drop all responsibilities and go fishing. Amazing Mother’s Day caddis hatches and fishable conditions occur once every few years. That’s a good thing, because having a job is important and most mortgage lenders don’t accept dry-fly addiction as cause for delinquency.

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.
If you’re planning to stick around during Big Sky’s spring shoulder season, a great way to spend the time is to get outdoors. With fewer visitors around and many residents traveling, the area’s trails and recreation areas offer a unique experience of solace and a great opportunity to explore.

**Hitting the trails**

Lone Peak Trail and Gallatin Canyon Trail are almost clear of snow and will be a great option in the coming weeks. Crail Ranch Trail, Ousel Falls, Ousel Falls Road, Black Diamond and Little Willow Way are nearly melted out as well, and tend to stand up to wet conditions due to their gravel surface.

South Fork and Porcupine Creek will be ready for use soon, though Porcupine is closed to biking until June 15. Daily Creek, just inside the park, and Tepee Creek, just outside the park, are starting to dry out as well.

Hummocks and Uplands are very clay rich and will take a little bit of time to dry. If you go out and find yourself slipping or leaving footprints, please give the trail a little bit more time to dry.

For the off season, don’t forget that the Gallatin Valley is usually ahead of Big Sky and their trails tend to dry out before ours. There is a great network of trails around Bozeman that is ready for use now.

Additionally, check out the trail at Lewis and Clark Caverns as well as the newly built Copper City Trails near Three Forks, a great spot for any level of mountain biking.

**Pitching the tent**

An early-season camping trip is awaiting you just outside of Norris. Just over one hour’s drive and you’ll find yourself amid the sagebrush desert lands of Revenue Flats. Surrounded by the stunning view of the Tobacco Roots, this area gives you a chance to find the perfect camp spot, tucked away behind boulders and granite outcroppings.

In addition to camping, this area is an ideal spot for exploring in general. Recreational opportunities include mountain biking, rock climbing and hiking.

To get to Revenue Flats travel north on Highway 191 for 34 miles. At the Four Corners intersection, turn left onto Highway 84. Travel 29 miles to the intersection of highways 84 and 287. From here, continue west onto Sterling Road. The dirt road will follow Hot Springs Creek and then turn toward the granite rocks of Revenue Flats. Four-wheel drive vehicles are recommended.
30 BEEHIVE BASIN RD $2,950,000
#305537 | CALL DON
Beautiful lodge style home with vaulted ceilings, and incredible views of Lone Mountain. Large great room with floor to ceiling wood burning fireplaces. 5 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.

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.

LOT 114A, CASCADE $339,000
#309556 | CALL DON
Beautiful lot in the highest part of Cascade Subdivision. This lot borders Uley’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.

SUMMIT VIEW DR, LOT 9 $395,000
#218470 | CALL STACY OR ERIC
Spectacular Lone Mountain views from this large 3.17± acre lot located in the highest point of Summit View. A gated entry and conservation land contiguous to the lot provides the ultimate in privacy.

HILL CONDO #1258 $215,000
#220805 | CALL STACY OR ERIC
2 bd, 1 ba, 3 level Hill Condo Loft. Chef’s kitchen with new cabinets, SS appliances and breakfast bar. This unit is perfect for year-round living or as a secondary home.