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Big Sky

June 8 - 21, 2018
Volume 9 // Issue #12

Resort tax applicants defend requests

Congratulations graduates!

Water wisdom

Q&A with water and sewer district manager Ron Edwards

Back 40: Know your noxious weeds

Plus: Real Estate special section

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ON THE COVER: With 26 seniors, Lone Peak High School saw its largest class to date graduate on June 2, packing the Bough-Dolan Athletic Center with nearly 500 family members and friends. Inspirational speeches by students and guest speakers offered words of wisdom for the students as they embark on their next adventures, near and far. PHOTO BY JENNINGS BARMORE

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OPENING SHOT

The installation of North America's first high-speed, eight-seat Doppelmayr chairlift is underway at the Mountain Village base area. Crews must first take apart the existing Ramcharger quad chairlift. Here, a crane begins dismantling the lower terminal. According to Big Sky Resort Public Relations Manager Chelsi Moy, there are no scheduled re-routes or closures of mountain biking trails at this time, and that should construction necessitate any trail re-routing, it will be very minor. Visit bigskyresort.com/webcams to live stream construction progress. PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY RESORT

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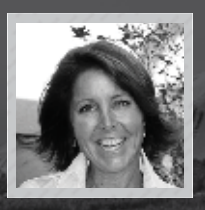

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120 HOMESTEAD CABIN FORK
Spanish Peaks Mountain Club

Ski-In/Ski-Out
5 Bedrooms | 7 Baths
3,832 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
7170 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

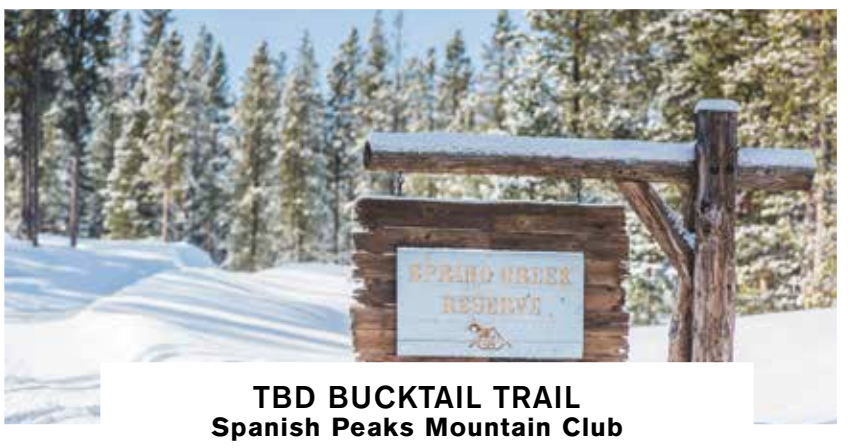
New Construction
3-4 Bedrooms | 3-5 Baths
2914 SF – 3331 SF
From $2,025,000

2885 RED FEATHER LANE
Sweetgrass Hills - Big Sky Meadow

Close to shopping, golf, x-country skiing & minutes to Big Sky Resort
Bedrooms | 2 Baths
3344 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
3069 SF
From $810,000



TBD BUCKTAIL TRAIL
Spanish Peaks Mountain Club

Solitude and privacy in a striking mountain setting
Homesite
27.77 Acres
$1,900,000

LODGESIDE
Moonlight Basin

Ski-in/Ski-out next to Moonlight Lodge
3-4 Bedrooms | 3-4.5 Baths
2555 SF – 3288 SF
From $1,875,000

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Resort tax district settles on question of private club dues

Annual collections to increase $275K

BIG SKY RESORT AREA DISTRICT

The board of the Big Sky Resort Area District recently reached resolution with the area's private club over the taxation of membership dues.

In June 2015, the resort tax board amended its ordinance to include taxation of "discretionary or voluntary ski and golf fees and dues." The Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks and Moonlight Basin were among the 10 businesses selected for audit for the 2016 calendar year. The clubs were found compliant in taxation of a number of goods and services, and had properly collected and remitted resort tax in those areas.

However, there were questions about the correct interpretation of the June 2015 ordinance regarding the taxability of membership dues, and how the portion of membership dues involved with ski and golf activities should be taxed.

In order to settle the unresolved membership dues issues, the district board and the clubs agreed that a portion of membership dues concerning ski and golf activities would be subject to resort tax. Of the three clubs, only the Yellowstone Club assesses dues for skiing, and all three clubs assess dues for golf.

At the Yellowstone Club, the board determined that 39 percent of membership dues were attributable to ski and golf, and subject to resort tax. At Spanish Peaks and Moonlight Basin, the board determined the golf valuation was the difference between golf and non-golf membership dues, and subject to resort tax.

As with other audited businesses requiring adjustment in the 2016 audits, the board required that the clubs pay any remaining unpaid back taxes for 2017 ski and golf activities; and apply, collect and remit taxes in 2018, and in the future. With present membership rates and the number of memberships, the increase in annual resort tax collection will be approximately $275,000.

BSCO retains resort tax funds to speed up TIGER grant projects

EBS STAFF

At the May 25 meeting of the Big Sky Resort Area District resort tax board, Ciara Wolfe, executive director of the Big Sky Community Organization, was authorized to retain $142,000 in resort tax obtained during the 2017 funding cycle, to speed up the $10 million TIGER grant projects along the Lone Mountain Trail corridor. With construction originally forecasted to begin in 2021 or 2022 at the earliest, the funds will move that date up by one year.

The $142,000 from resort tax was appropriated as a match for a Montana Transportation Alternative Program grant that BSCO did not receive. Typically, unmatched funding would remain in the resort tax coffers, but since it was allocated for one of the projects covered in full by the TIGER grant—the pedestrian tunnel under Lone Mountain Trail at Little Coyote Road—the board agreed to let BSCO keep the funding to expedite construction.

Gallatin County cannot expend any money on the project until the TIGER grant contract is signed in the fall, and that would delay seasonally sensitive preliminary steps, namely an assessment of environmental impacts, until summer of 2019.

"This money up front allows us to get the project designed and start engineering work this winter, instead of next," Wolfe said. "It also decreases construction inflation costs, takes care of the safety concerns, and ensures that we maximize the grant."

Wolfe said that she cannot specify exactly when construction on the TIGER grant projects will begin, but that it will be a year earlier than originally anticipated.

Voters back Rosendale, Williams, open space in June 5 primary

EBS STAFF

Montana voters on June 5 selected Republican Matt Rosendale to challenge U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, and Democrat Kathleen Williams to face U.S. Rep Greg Gianforte, in this November's mid-term election. In Gallatin County, voters overwhelmingly supported an open space ballot initiative, 62 to 38 percent, according to early results.

State Auditor Rosendale received nearly 38 percent of the votes, with his closest challenger Russell Fagg, a former state legislator and 13th District Court judge, garnering approximately 29 percent. Big Sky businessman Troy Downing received approximately 19 percent of the votes—just over 29,000—followed closely by Montana State Senator Al Olszewski with approximately 28,500 votes.

Williams, a former Montana State representative, won a close race in the Democratic primary in order to challenge Gianforte this November. Williams edged out Billings lawyer John Heenan by nearly 2,000 votes in a field of five contenders.

The open space ballot initiative will result in a property tax that will generate approximately $20 million for conservation initiatives over the next 15 years.

"When Gallatin County residents took the long view, voting to reinvest in the open space program, they voted for the future of quality of life in Montana," wrote Jessie Wiese, Montana Land Reliance's southwest manager, in an email to EBS. "MLR looks forward to continuing work with the Open Lands Board and Gallatin County's dedicated landowners."

Threatening message left at Yellowstone Club job site

EBS STAFF

A threatening graffiti message left in a portable bathroom at a Yellowstone Club construction site led the club to keep its employees at home May 31, due to security concerns.

According to a June 2 press release from the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office, its department was made aware of a message that read "Job site shooting 5/31/18 lunch bring family," in a portable toilet at a Yellowstone Club Core Village construction site.

Club employees were given the day off, while construction crews were given the option to work or not. The subcontractors that did choose to work left for home around lunchtime, said Sgt. Brandon Kelly, and there was no incident resulting from the threat. As of June 6, when EBS went to press, Kelly said there hadn't been any leads to help identify who had written the message and there hadn't been any additional incidents.

On May 31, the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office, along with Montana Highway Patrol, assisted Yellowstone Club security with additional law enforcement presence on the scene. The sheriff's office is continuing to work with the club's security team to identify the author of the threat, according to the release.

There are 25 organizations requesting resort tax funding for the 2019 fiscal year, and approximately $8 million in appropriations available. The biggest asks are coming from HRDC to address Big Sky housing challenges; Visit Big Sky, to support tourism development; the Big Sky Fire Department for operations and repairs; and Gallatin County 911 for updated dispatch technology. Also on the list, are conservation and arts organizations, public transit operators, the Sheriff's Office and post office, health services, schools, athletics, the library and more.

What do you think the funding priorities should be? Where do you think the board can shave off support?

Yasin Schultz
Big Sky, Montana

"I think we should put it into preserving the river, and just keeping it clean out here because that's the main reason people come here. It's fresh, clean, a good experience."

Kristy Baker
Big Sky, Montana

"I think they should continue to help with transportation, try to keep things cheap for people who actually live here. Tax tourists, not us."

Miles Rankin
Big Sky, Montana

"I would say the fire department, stuff like that."

Jason Hopfensperger
Big Sky, Montana

"I hadn't really thought about it. I would go with conservation probably."

Op-Ed:
Stay beautiful, use less water

BY EMILY CASEY

Big Sky's got a problem, we're too thirsty. Or more accurately, we think our lawns are.

Recent data from the Big Sky Water and Sewer District have shown that our water use skyrockets in the summer due to landscape irrigation.

Looking closer, Gallatin River Task Force and the BSWSD found outdoor water use accounted for 85 percent of total annual water use on average for 57 homes in Meadow Village last year. Combined, these single-family homes used enough water in just three months to fill four Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Why is this a problem?

Our water supplies are physically limited. Snowpack and spring rains supply water for the whole year in our semi-arid alpine environment. July and August are not only the driest months of the year, but months where we rely on water the most.

When we irrigate, a lot of water is lost to evaporation and little may actually be taken up by the plants. Water that is lost from wind, sun exposure or inefficient irrigation is unable to serve the health of our plant and soil communities or help recharge our groundwater sources, where we get 100 percent of our drinking water in Big Sky.

This water doesn't just feed our small community, but supplies water for many downstream irrigators, municipal systems, aquatic species, river recreation and businesses. Increasing concerns about how our water supply and availability may be affected by climatic shits and growth create an additional case for conservation as a whole.

There is no doubt that our outdoor landscapes and gardens mean a lot to us. Just driving around town, we observe numerous well-kept lawns. But, do you also notice irrigation sprays hitting the street or nearby sidewalks? Do you notice the sprinklers coming on at the same time each day even when it's raining?

We have a problem, and it's an important one, but the best thing is that it's solvable. Let's work smarter, not harder. Using simple strategies like these can save anywhere from 20 to 60 percent of water used outside:

- Consider site characteristics like exposure, slope areas and soils to inform landscape design.
- Be strategic about lawn placement and how/where it will best be used by your family.
- Group plants with similar needs together (water, light) and separate by irrigation zone.
- Use native, drought-tolerant plants whenever possible.
- Buy local products to enhance soils and use mulches to hold in water and nutrients.
- Check for system leaks.
- Adjust irrigation clocks to reflect local weather conditions.
- Water early to reduce evaporative losses.
- Reach out to your local nursery and irrigation experts.
- Cash in on incentives for water conservation.

We can keep our landscapes beautiful while also promoting conservation. These strategies benefit not just you, but your neighbors next door and downstream, as well as the wildlife and aquatic communities around us.

Even though we are in a culture of overuse, we can change that for the better, and we are. Big Sky Water Conservation, coordinated by GRTF, helps conserve 1.2 million gallons a year through simple high-efficiency home upgrades. Each drop saved remains in the river.

To learn more about water conservation in Big Sky, visit bigskywaterconservation.com.

Emily Casey is the water conservation coordinator for the Gallatin River Task Force, a nonprofit that partners with our community to inspire stewardship of the Gallatin River.

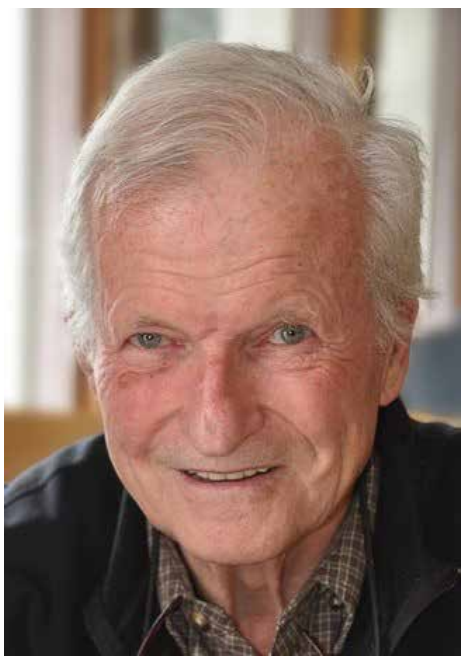
Obituary: Klaus Gump

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Klaus Gump on April 27, 2018, a father of three and grandfather of four.

Born in Vienna, Austria, on Dec. 19, 1937, as the younger son of Karl and Poldi Gump, World War II influenced much of his early childhood. Klaus graduated from a Benedictine high school selected by his parents where the emphasis was on the classics, including the study of Latin and Greek. In an early sign of rebellion, Klaus decided he wanted to be a scientist and enrolled at the University of Technology in Vienna, receiving a Ph.D. in chemical engineering in December 1964.

He met his wife Christl on a ski trip in the Arlberg region of Austria. Believing that he would find more challenging research opportunities in the United States, he and Christl left Austria in August 1966 for Riverside, California, where he spent a year as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of California. They traveled much of the American West, sleeping in the back of their station wagon.

For the next 32 years, Klaus worked for Celanese, first at their research center in Summit, New Jersey, during which time he authored quite a few patents and earned an MBA in 1973; then in Charlotte, North Carolina, where his job as marketing manager for the Far East and Oceania for smoking products entailed a considerable amount of travel, and starting in 1980 he held various managerial positions in Michigan.



After a trekking trip in Bhutan, which then had just opened to tourists, he and Christl settled in Big Sky, Montana, in November 1999.

Klaus was a superb athlete, holding Austrian national records in 100 m (10.5 sec) and 200 m (22.1 sec) sprint in races conducted on not much more than beds of ash. He was also very good in track. His retirement years in Big Sky were very happy ones for him. He skied his beloved Lone Peak and hiked all over the Gallatin Valley, enjoying the companionship of his friends. Someone once called him a renaissance man. He loved classical music and was a lifelong opera fan. Playing "his" organ at the Big Sky Chapel was one of his favorite pastimes. In the offseason he lived his adventurous side when he and Christl took extensive trips all over the world. Over his lifetime, he visited 88 different countries on four of the seven continents.

He will be missed by Christl, his wife of 50 years; his son Tom (Patricia) and grandsons Kyle and Dylan; his son Christopher and granddaughters Ana and Lexi; his daughter Karen Chang (Andrew); and his Austrian relatives: sister-in-law Gerti, nephews Wolfgang and Gerald, niece Marina, great-nephew Peter (Resi) and their children Rosa and Romy, great-niece Barbara, and several cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Hans Peter.

He wanted us to think about what he was like before Parkinson's hit him and wanted memories of his life to give us joy and not sorrow.

Resort tax board looks to trim requests during Q&A

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – With $1.5 million more in resort tax funding requests than the approximately $8 million available, every organization representative who took the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center stage June 4, to defend their application at the Big Sky Resort Area District appropriations Q&A, was asked what they could live without.

For entities like the Big Sky Transportation District and Big Sky Skating and Hockey Association seeking funds to expand operations, the resort tax board wanted to know if the burden of supporting that expansion would continue to fall on resort tax in coming years.

"I sometimes feel like the resort tax is left holding the bag," said board chair Jamie Kabisch. "Do you see the stress that puts on the community?"

In the public comment period before the Q&A, members from the community advocated passionately for the causes most important to them, namely affordable housing, conservation, health services, and "softer needs" like childcare, education and the arts. Big Sky Broadway producer Barbara Rowley said, "I get that we need the hard stuff—firemen and housing and clean water—but if you can't find or afford childcare for your kids, or your kids can't see or dream of a world outside of this place … I can't see how the rest of it really matters."

Smaller requests coming from organizations such as Montana Land Reliance; Jack Creek Preserve; the Big Sky Food Bank; Big Sky Trails, Recreation and Parks District; and Big Sky Search and Rescue, were ushered through the interview process with relative ease.

It was appropriations requests nearing or exceeding the $1 million mark that were taken to task, among them the Big Sky Community Housing Trust, Big Sky Fire Department, Big Sky Transportation District, and Visit Big Sky, though the latter had reduced their ask from $1.3 million to $750,000 after securing a lease for their current location.

Tim Kent, branch manager of Big Sky Western Bank, and HRDC Community Development Manager Brian Guyer fielded questions about the housing trust's $2.7 million request, which would allow them to move forward with the Meadowview Condominium project and create 52 affordable housing units in Big Sky.

Despite general enthusiasm for the project, when Kent started rattling off figures and providing details that were not in the application, the board asked the housing trust to revise their application to reflect the missing information.

"I sometimes feel like the resort tax is left holding the bag," said board chair Jamie Kabisch. "Do you see the stress that puts on the community?"

"It feels like it's a little hard to wrap your head around," resort tax board treasurer Sarah Blechta said, adding that based on the information in the application, she didn't even know what questions to ask. "Maybe it's because it's 6 o'clock. And you said you will provide the information tomorrow and I won't be so feisty."

Big Sky Fire Department Chief William Farhat presented charts and graphs illustrating the steep influx of emergency calls in recent years, especially last ski season—largely coming from the tourist sector—to convince the board of their need to expand operations to meet the demand. Staff was paramount, Farhat said; if he had to cut something it would be have to be refurbishing a used ambulance.

A first-time request from Gallatin County 911 for nearly $1 million, for a radio dispatch upgrade that would improve communication across county lines, was met with the suggestion that the board would be more likely to consider providing funding if the county would split the cost.

Closure on the question of whether schools and daycare establishments are eligible for resort tax funding—especially when it comes to tuition scholarships—was finally reached after receiving an opinion by the state's attorney general.

"I get that we need the hard stuff—firemen and housing and clean water—but if you can't find or afford childcare for your kids, or your kids can't see or dream of a world outside of this place … I can't see how the rest of it really matters."

"So as long as the board is satisfied that you are serving the most people, and not funding an individual but a service, I don't think we have the real educational barrier we used to," said BSRAD legal counsel Betsy Griffing.

The primary concern of the board is that financial assistance for families is need-based, which is how the Discovery Academy distributes scholarships, and encouraged Morningstar Learning Center to move in that direction as well.

Jennifer Mohler, executive director of the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance, was immediately put on the defense for the organization's request of $90,000. After being grilled about how many acres have been sprayed due to her organization's efforts, and why the county wasn't contributing more, Mohler said, "No one wants to pay for someone else's weeds. [Just saying] 'Big Sky' precludes my grant requests—they say Big Sky is a community that can afford to take care of its own weeds."

New board member, secretary Steve Johnson, seemed to understand the threat of invasive species.

"There's far too little attention to this," Johnson said, adding later that there wasn't enough "green talk" going on in Big Sky.

Candace Carr Strauss, CEO of both Visit Big Sky and the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, had to defend her $750,000 VBS request and approximately $400,000 for the chamber, while she and chamber board chair David O'Connor attempted to clear up confusion about how resort tax funds would be used to support administration costs shared between the two organizations.

In response to Visit Big Sky's tourism marketing needs, which constitutes the bulk of their request, the board questioned the aggressiveness of the marketing campaign, wanted to know if there was a way to partner with more local businesses to leverage marketing dollars, and once again asked what could be cut from the request.

"Hacking something off a limb is difficult to do," Strauss said. "I think we look at all three buckets, and look to see how we can still maintain the integrity of what we are doing with less funds."

The final appropriations meeting will be held Monday, June 18, at 6 p.m. at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.

Water and sewer manager shares insight on district's largest issues

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – In 1995, while living in Wisconsin, a 38-year-old Ron Edwards received a newspaper clipping from his mother-in-law living in Missoula. It was a small ad announcing a job opening in the undiscovered resort community of Big Sky.

"I think I faxed my resume in at 4:55 on a deadline that was 5 p.m. on a Friday," Edwards recalled. "I didn't think much of it."

The following Monday, Edwards received a call from the Big Sky Water and Sewer District President Bill Ogle, who wanted to fly him to Big Sky for an interview.

Just days after the meeting, Edwards, who has a bachelor's degree in geology from the University of Montana and his master's in water resources management from University of Wisconsin-Madison, was offered the position of BSWSD general manager. He moved to Big Sky a few days later.

Edwards was hired in the midst of a building moratorium that stretched from 1993 to the summer of 1996 as a result of Big Sky's outdated wastewater system. The facility was updated and the moratorium overturned, and Edwards has had to confront growth and its challenges ever since.

As the district's general manager, Edwards leads a team of nine in supplying the majority of Big Sky with drinking water and properly disposing of the area's wastewater.

Recently, EBS reached out to Edwards to hear his thoughts on water in Big Sky and the growing pains the district now faces. His responses have been edited for brevity and clarity.

EBS: *So far, where are we at in terms of water levels this year?*

Ron Edwards: We've got two things, we've got the drinking water system and then we've got our wastewater system. As far as water supply, this time of year is real easy because we're in the shoulder season right now and there's no irrigation going on to speak of. We can keep up with demand with one of our Meadow Village wells running, [though the district operates a total of 14 wells]. Our big stress months are July and August. We use eight times what we do in the winter, and it's all irrigation consumption that causes that.

As far as wastewater … we had a huge snowpack year—150 percent of average. Any time we get big snowpack we see an impact to the sewer system. All this runoff elevates water tables. You get water coming into the manholes and it impacts us. The result is we've got a lot of full storage ponds right now.

EBS: *What is the irrigation outlook for this summer? When will irrigation be implemented?*

R.E: We irrigate [the golf courses at Spanish Peaks and Yellowstone Club, as well as the Big Sky Resort Golf Course]. We're one of the few communities in the state that can claim that we are 100 percent reuse.

The Spanish Peaks golf course is new and they're going to be moving to using treated water for their irrigation so we now have another pond near Spanish Peaks that we can pump to.

It's always a challenging thing. If it's a wet spring, we're getting a lot of rain, it cuts down on our ability to irrigate. We're always concerned about that. Irrigation has been charged up and the golf course [in the Meadow] is irrigating.

The Big Sky Water and Sewer District provides drinking water to the majority of Big Sky and also disposes of the area's wastewater. One hundred percent of the effluent is discharged via irrigation on three golf courses in the community, making Big Sky one of only a few in the state that is a fully reuse system. OUTLAW PARTERS PHOTO

As far as irrigating at Spanish Peaks, they still have to set their pumps. The Yellowstone Club is in the process of starting.

EBS: *Where is the district at in terms of developing snowmaking as a way to utilize effluent? What is your opinion on this method?*

R.E.: I think it's a viable option for us. I like it in the fact that it gives us a winter disposal option. We're also looking at groundwater disposal and we're still looking at surface water disposal. We're basically keeping everything on the table to examine it, do engineering on it, and give us options moving forward. We're pretty early in the process of that.

EBS: *Currently, BSWSD is conducting studies on the water quality at Cascade Wells 5 and 6. Why is the district conducting these tests?*

R.E.: They're very deep wells. … Those are our biggest wells up there but we've got hydrogen sulfide in the water. It's not a public health related thing, but it's very volatile so when you run that water into your home, [it could] create an odor.

We run the wells and blend the water with wells near Lake Levinsky. We're trying to figure out a way to treat that water to remove hydrogen sulfide so that we can run those wells a lot more than we currently do.

EBS: *What do you see as the biggest water and sewer challenges facing Big Sky in years ahead? What needs to happen in order to mitigate them?*

R.E.: There's two things. On the water supply side … at some point, you need more water. You can't just go drill a well in Big Sky, you have to mitigate for that water somehow because we are in a closed basin.

You could mitigate through groundwater recharge where we're taking treated water, putting it into the groundwater system, and getting a credit for that. In the case of the snowmaking option, that could potentially become a claim for water rights to drill new wells.

On the wastewater side, the biggest issue for us here is disposal. What do we do with all this disposal? How do we dispose of it in a manner that meets all state requirements?

Local Tip: Understanding and maintaining septic systems

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

A seldom discussed, but integral part of a home water program, is the septic system.

A typical septic system consists of a buried tank and a drain field, and this infrastructure is the only form of wastewater treatment for homes that are not connected to centralized sewer systems.

According to Tom Moore of the Gallatin City-County Health Department, there are an estimated 1,133 individual septic systems in the Big Sky area, creating roughly 300 gallons of sewage each day. The remaining households are connected to the Big Sky Water and Sewer District where all effluent is treated and discharged through irrigation, while the remaining sludge is converted into land-applicable compost.

For those relying on septic systems to treat wastewater from your home, it's critical to follow several maintenance protocols in order to keep your system operating efficiently and effectively, and to prevent hazards from entering the local ecosystem.

"If designed, maintained and appropriately sized, [septic systems] are an approved method to effectively treat wastewater," said Lori Christenson, director of the Gallatin City-County Health Department. "It's a pretty simple science."

Wastewater from the home travels into the septic tank and clarified effluent is pumped out into the drain field, where naturally occurring bacteria and microbes break down the waste. The water percolates through the soil as a natural filtration system, eventually returning to the groundwater. Solids remain inside the tank and require periodic removal in order to keep things operating correctly.

The county does not have regulations on septic system maintenance, but Christenson recommends pumping the tanks every three to five years in order to keep waste from backing up in your toilets and sinks, or pooling on the ground surface. Further maintenance is recommended for advanced, pressurized systems. For these units, the lines should be flushed every five years to remove sediment or grease, and filters should be changed every six months.

Christenson added that homeowners shouldn't dispose of grease, diapers or other unflushables, and that they need to be aware of where their drain fields are, and avoid driving over them to prevent soil compaction.

On occasion, septic systems do fail, resulting in waste backing up in the home, surface pooling, or direct wastewater dumping into the groundwater system. This latter failure is a particular concern as it can go unnoticed.

"We're potentially seeing an increase in trace pharmaceuticals in the valley," Christenson said, adding that unless specifically designed to do so, even a functioning septic system can't treat pharmaceuticals or nitrates like a wastewater facility can.

"We're concerned because of increased transmission of illness and disease and the cumulative effects of nitrates and pharmaceuticals," she said. "There's an impact on overall water quality."

To learn more about maintenance for your septic system, visit healthygallatin.org/healthy-homes/wastewater-septic.

Annual race celebrates life of local child and raises funds for youth in Big Sky

The annual Harbor's Hero Run on June 9 at 10 a.m. is a 5K color run that honors the life of Harbor DeWaard, a six-year-old Big Sky child who passed away in 2015. The benefit event begins at the Big Sky Community Park and will be followed by Harbor's Festival, complete with food and live music.

Organized by the Lone Peak High School National Honor Society, Harbor's Hero Run has raised funds for Big Sky youth four years in a row. Proceeds from this year's event will benefit Women in Action to use for scholarships to help local youth pursue community activities.

Pictured, Mark Robin crosses the finish line of Harbor's Hero Run in June 2017, flanked by his wife, Jackie (left), and Harbor DeWaard's mother, Candice Brownmiller. Robin passed away in December 2017 due to complications caused by ALS. PHOTO BY HEATHER MORRIS

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LOCAL LOOK BACK

A surprise Turkey Day dinner

BY DAVE HOUSE

It was Thanksgiving Day 1977 in Big Sky. We volunteered for maintenance that day mainly because the four of us—Tom "Gipper" Gibson, Kevin "Spike" Breen, Paul "Gus" Gustafson and myself—were away from home for the holiday.

We had been shoveling snow and running a sand truck up and down the spur road—Lone Mountain Trail before it was paved—for most of the day, when a call came in to head to the trailer park next to Hidden Village for special detail. Upon our arrival, we were waved down by the "Fatman," Roy "Tiny" Bingham, who told us to get inside for a meeting.

Once inside, we found that Rosie "Sarge" Bingham, and their kids J.D. and Trina, had prepared the best surprise Turkey Day feast you could imagine. Tiny said a group prayer before we ate, and all were thankful. Hospitality like that continues to make Big Sky people the very best!

Dave House has owned The Corral Bar, Steakhouse and Motel for 30 years, originally with his partner Devon White, until White passed away in September 2017. The Corral hosts an annual Thanksgiving Day dinner where new memories are made every year.

Dave House (center) and Devon White, his partner in The Corral for nearly 30 years, sport their Hawaiian best back in the '80s. PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVE HOUSE

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Weed committee changes name, expands vision

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Within a matter of a couple years, tiny mollusks like zebra mussels and Eurasian mud snails can blanket an entire shoreline and drastically alter a water body's ecosystem.

Zebra mussels have been identified on at least five watercrafts in the state of Montana this year, and Eurasian watermilfoil and New Zealand mud snails have already entered watersheds throughout the state.

Recognizing the threat of aquatic invasive species to the Gallatin River, the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance, formerly the Gallatin-Big Sky Weed Committee, has reconfirmed its commitment to protect Big Sky from their detrimental effects.

The committee board elected to change the organization's name so as to better reflect the issue of all invasive terrestrial and aquatic species.

"There's a lot of [whitewater] boat use on the Gallatin. There's thousands of fishing days on the river too," said John Councilman, GISA board chair. "Some very invasive species have already been found in the state. We've been familiar with the issue for a long time."

For the time being, the alliance will continue to focus on invasive nonnative plants, but in the future, they plan to develop programs with the Gallatin River Task Force that target aquatic species as well.

"Any kind of disruption to the soil is a kind of vector for invasive species. [Big Sky] is surrounded by wilderness. It's surrounded by some very high valued areas," Councilman said, adding that Big Sky is a critical area to protect due to the soil disruption that occurs during construction or development. "There are so many places in the state that are already overcome with noxious weeds."

GISA executive director Jennifer Mohler is a wealth of information for identifying and managing nonnative species and she says the alliance, which was originally formed in 2004, is still the local source for any questions pertaining to invasive species in our area.

Mohler is available for onsite consultations and will also have a booth at the Big Sky Farmers Market every Wednesday this summer to provide resources and identify plants. In the past 15 years, she says she's only visited one property in the area that didn't have any noxious weeds present.

Beyond providing education about invasive species, the alliance takes an active role in eradicating noxious weeds.

This summer marks the eighth year of a habitat improvement program on the hillside west of Highway 191 and north of Lone Mountain Trail, which serves as important winter range for bighorn sheep.

"Weeds got a foothold during early development," Mohler said, adding that the plants quickly spread up the hillside and pushed out native plants. "Every winter range is really critical for wildlife, that's what they survive on. [Noxious weeds] directly impact the amount of available forage."

Volunteers from the committee have spent the past seven summers treating the noxious weeds, and Mohler said they've seen impressive results. They've also planted test plots to monitor how and if native plants can successfully return to the ecosystem.

"If we wait, the noxious weed population has an opportunity to get healthier … and at some point, it's not about elimination, it gets to be a point of just keeping it at bay. Every new development provides an opportunity for spread. I'm seeing the tsunami on the horizon," she said. "But if we keep this ball rolling, we can keep Big Sky beautiful."

The Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance will hold volunteer weed pulls on Saturday, June 9, at Portal Creek Flats at 10 a.m., and Tuesday, June 19, at the Big Sky Community Park at 4:30 p.m. There will also be three Wildflower and Weed Walks this summer, where hikers can learn to identify native plants, held June 21 at Deer Creek, July 24 at Ouzel Falls, and Aug. 16 at Beehive Basin. These walks begin at 10 a.m.

To learn more about the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance, visit gallatinisa.org.

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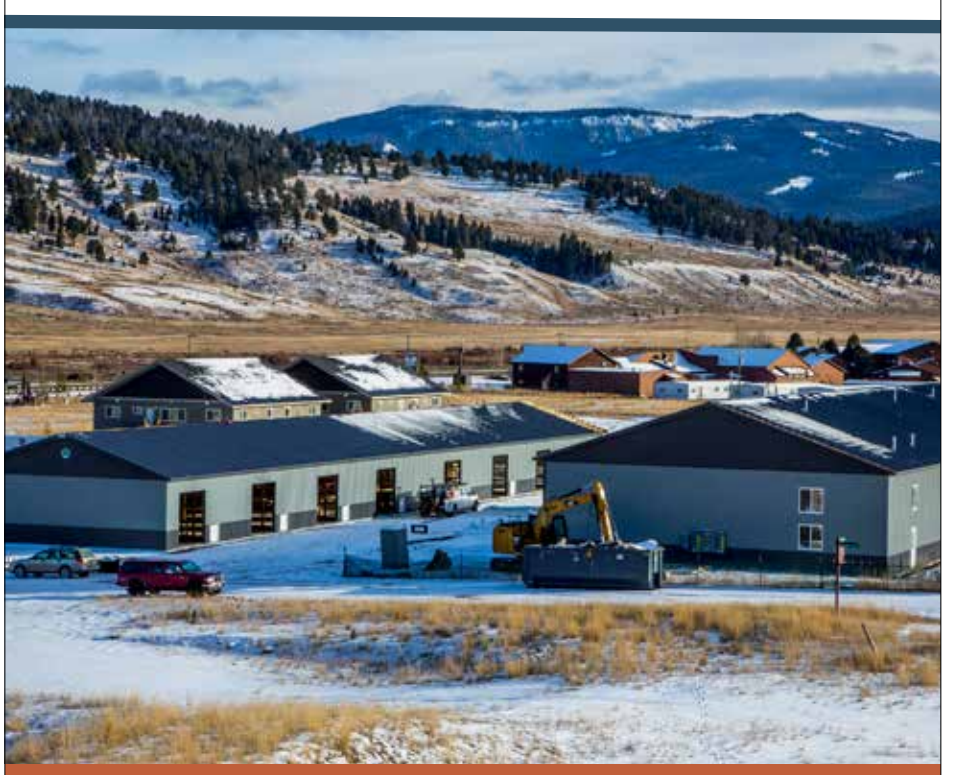

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Elk cause injuries in the park

EBS STAFF

Two people were injured by cow elk in Yellowstone during the first days of June. Both incidents occurred near Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel.

Charlene Triplett (51) of Las Vegas, Nevada, was attacked by a cow elk on June 3 behind the hotel. According to a Yellowstone National Park press release, the elk reared up and struck Triplett several times with its front legs on her head, torso and back.

A calf was bedded down roughly 20 feet from the incident and it's not known if Triplett, who is an employee at the hotel, saw the calf or the cow prior to the encounter. Due to her injuries, she was flown to the trauma center at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center.

On June 5, Penny Allyson Behr (53), from Cypress, Texas, was also attacked by a cow behind the hotel. She was walking between two cabins when she was surprised by an elk bedded near a cabin wall with a calf nearby.

Behr reportedly tried to back away but the elk pursued her and struck her in the head and torso with its legs. Behr was taken by ambulance to Livingston Memorial Hospital.

Rangers hazed the elk away from the cabins and continued to monitor the area. It's not known if the same elk was involved in both incidents.

"It's very common for cow elk to aggressively defend newborn calves and hide them near buildings and cars," park officials said in a statement. "Be extra cautious anywhere elk and calves are present. Approach blind corners slowly and maintain a safe distance—at least 25 yards."

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BIG SKY MONTANA

BIG SKY MONTANA

Grizzly hunts approved in Wyoming and Idaho

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – After a period of scientific review and public comment, wildlife officials in Wyoming and Idaho are preparing for the first grizzly bear hunting season in over four decades.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission on May 23 unanimously approved a fall hunting proposal to harvest 22 grizzlies. This decision came just weeks after the Idaho Fish and Game Commission also approved a grizzly season in which only one male may be harvested.

Montana officials considered opening up grizzly bear hunting in the state as well. However, the commission determined not to allow hunting in 2018 due to a limited number of harvestable bears. Based on the number of grizzlies found throughout the Greater Yellowstone, Montana could have harvested one female and six males.

"Holding off on hunting for now, I believe, will help demonstrate our commitment to long term recovery and at the same time allow us the science-based management flexibility we need," said Martha Williams, the director of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, in a February statement.

In 2017, the Greater Yellowstone's grizzlies were removed from the Endangered Species List. At the time, biologists from the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team estimated there were 718 bears in the ecosystem and federal management of the species was transferred back into the hands of the states of Montana, Wyoming and Idaho.

Despite a number of lawsuits against the delisting, state officials have been directed to proceed with developing management plans that entertain the possibility of hunting as a management tool.

However, according to Toby Boudreau, assistant chief of wildlife for Idaho, the approved hunts could be canceled depending upon court decisions later this year.

"There's a lot of unknowns with grizzly bear hunting, especially with litigation," he said. "Ultimately, I think that it's just a huge success story that we should be celebrating. … The best thing about, even the concept of a grizzly bear hunt, means that we were successful in recovering a species."

Only Idaho residents will be eligible to apply for the random draw tag to hunt a single grizzly bear, an opportunity that Boudreau says is once-in-a-lifetime. The application period is June 15 through July 15, with the season running from Sept. 1 to Nov. 15.

Boudreau said biologists will work with the successful applicant to ensure the hunter can appropriately identify a grizzly bear and distinguish male bears from females.

Representatives for Wyoming Game and Fish were unable to provide comment by EBS press time on June 6; however, according to the department website, hunting regulations have been adopted but will not become effective until Gov. Matt Mead has signed and approved them.

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Section 2:
ENVIRONMENT, SPORTS, OUTDOORS, BUSINESS & BACK 40

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Becoming an outdoor woman **pg. 25**

Back 40: Invasive plants **pg. 32**

The New West:
Water and sewer manager shares insight on district's largest issues

BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

As a baby boomer that came of age during the last half of the 20th century, Don Snow witnessed the rise of the modern environmental era. A thought leader in pondering issues facing the West, Snow was the founding publisher of Northern Lights magazine and today he's a professor at Whitman College in Washington. Recently, we had a conversation about young people and the conservation movement.

Don Snow, a former professor at the University of Montana and the founder of Northern Lights magazine.
PHOTO COURTESY OF DON SNOW

Todd Wilkinson: *A criticism leveled at younger generations is that they seem to hold less regard for how 650 million acres of public land, that they own, got protected in the first place.*

Don Snow: I have been dealing with those younger generations for 30 years in the college classroom, both at the University of Montana and at Whitman College. They are not the cause of American indifference to history, but they certainly reflect it. If your parents, teachers and mentors don't emphasize the value of history and the sense of contextualization, which history uniquely brings, then it's no wonder that you carry the same disease.

The public lands are remarkably easy to take for granted, but if you study their history—the distinct histories of how all four domains of federal lands came into being—you'll readily see how vulnerable these "given" lands actually are. The public lands are ceaselessly under attack by forces of privatization, incompetence and indifference.

T.W.: *Was there more excitement by previous generations in going to work for a government natural resource agency?*

D.S.: Teaching at a very environmental college, I see practically no students today with goals to work for federal environmental agencies. Trump didn't start the spread of this poison, but he has been ordering it up by the train load and spraying it everywhere. The crops are falling alongside the weeds. This administration hates all green things.

T.W.: *Politics has hardened tribal identity. Is it reflected on campus?*

D.S.: My students today are utterly shocked to learn that the Endangered Species Act, perhaps the strongest of all the federal environmental laws passed in the '70s, went through with hardly a dissenting vote. Nixon, a Republican, signed it and the Clean Water Act, too. The etceteras go on and on.

T.W.: *So, are generational comparisons exaggerated?*

D.S.: I do see some helplessness, and I do hear some tones of despair, but what I mostly hear are questions and pleas for meaningful involvement. I do not agree that so-called millennials are jaded, cynical or disconnected. I think many are rightfully confused, in ways I was not, because so many avenues that were open to my generation now seem either closed or futile. I push back pretty hard.

T.W.: *Academia, especially urban universities, pay a lot of attention to environmental social justice issues, but what about concern for other species?*

D.S.: It's true—there is generally less interest and enthusiasm for wildlands conservation, per se. In fact, students today are being taught to sneer at it. There's a potent literature out there which depicts the original wildlands conservation movement as privileged, white, racist, nativist, and four or five other "ists" we've been taught to despise.

When the emphasis is placed only on the human side of the wildlands conservation argument, it's very easy to—as we like to say in academia—"problematize" most conservation histories and strategies. But this is what I tell students: I quote an old Grace Slick line from a Jefferson Airplane classic, which essentially says it doesn't mean jack to a tree.

T.W.: *And the translation is?*

D.S.: Pay more attention to the non-human side of the wildlands conservation argument. The lands—and waters—themselves; the wildlife and plant life, fungi, soil ecologies. In a word, habitat.

Wildlands conservation efforts, from the 19th century until today, have tried to be responsible for what David Abram calls the more-than-human world. That attention to the non-human doesn't excuse or forgive insensitivity to people, but noticing its deeper implications can really help restore some contemporary faith in wildlands protection.

The center of the target happens to be the original center of the conservation-environmental movement in the first place: human concern for the non-human world, in the face of exploding human populations, technologies, economies, cities, footprints. It doesn't make you a misanthrope to say so.

T.W.: *If a Whitman student says, "I don't care about the survival of a grizzly bear. I want another trail to mountain bike on?" What do you suggest they consider?*

D.S.: Restoring faith and interest in quietude, contemplation, solitude, natural beauty, respect toward beings outside of ourselves.

Aldo Leopold said, in reference to species extinction, "For one creature to mourn the passing of another is a new thing under the sun." He penned that line en route to his articulation of a land ethic in "A Sand County Almanac." I consider it to be one of the most radical and profound lines in the book.

What is not a new thing under the sun is the gluttonous feeding of the human ego. Wild places were not set "apart" for the mere purposes of human pleasure and self-gratification. The Bob Marshall Wilderness Area should not be renamed Fun Hog High Speed Wheeled Machine Place. It's true that things change over time. It's not true that all change is for the better.

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.

Golf Tips from a Pro: Does your putter fit?

BY MARK WEHRMAN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

When most golfers think about club fitting, the putter usually doesn't come in to mind. Understandable, I mean, how much difference can the putter length actually make?

The answer is a lot! Putting allows for the most feel during any golf game. Just because you're used to something, doesn't mean that it provides the feel needed to produce the best swing or stroke.

Let's start with some facts. Most putters sold off of the rack are 35 inches in length. It may be hard to believe, but the reason for the standard length is that all golf bags are 34 inches tall. This is just one example of how equipment manufacturers are making and designing clubs with sales as their first priority, not fit.

Now, the numbers change a bit for ladies' equipment. Most ladies' putters bought off the rack are going to measure 34 inches in length, because ladies' bags are 33 inches tall.

Bottom line, most people are using putters that are too long for them.

Very few men will need a 35-inch putter and very few women will need a 34-inch putter. Even if you're on the taller side—over 6 feet for men and over 5 feet 8 inches for women—it still doesn't mean you'll need a longer putter.

For example, I'm 6 feet 2 inches tall and use a 34-inch putter. Because I have long arms and bend a good amount from the waist at the address position, a 34-inch putter fits me best.

Mark Wehrman demonstrates the proper fit for a putter. The putter should be short enough that your arms hang comfortably beneath your chin, without feeling like you have to reach for the ball. PHOTO BY TOM CONWAY

So, how do you know what length putter you need?

When testing your putter to see if it fits you properly, take these factors into consideration:

1. Your overall height
2. Arm length
3. Distance from your finger tips to the ground when you bend over in your putting posture

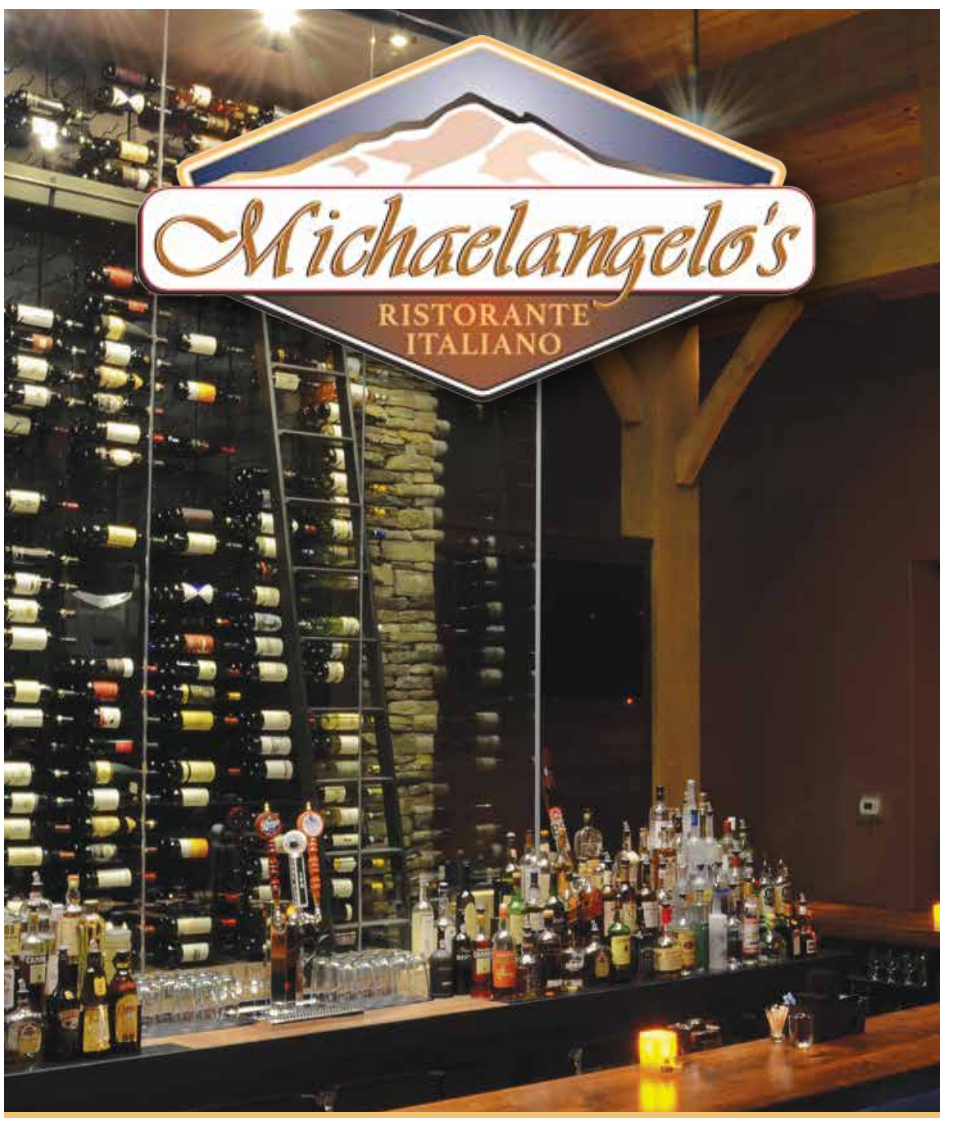
Considering these factors, a proper fit would allow for your arms to be slightly bent, but for the most part hanging comfortably underneath your chin. You don't want to be reaching for the ball, and make sure the sole of the putter head is resting flat on the putting surface.

When taking your grip, with your arms hanging in this position, your hands should meet in between the top and bottom of the putter grip. Lastly, if the butt end of your putter is even close to touching your belly or chest, your putter is too long for you and needs to be cut down.

Remember, putting equates to almost half of the shots you take in a given round. The importance of putting is often overlooked but the statistics prove its importance.

Here at the Big Sky Resort Golf Course we sell putter grips and, if needed, we have the tools to add or subtract length to your putter. For any questions or if you want to see if your putter fits, call the Pro Shop at (406) 995-5780.

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



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Golf clinics at Big Sky Resort Golf Course

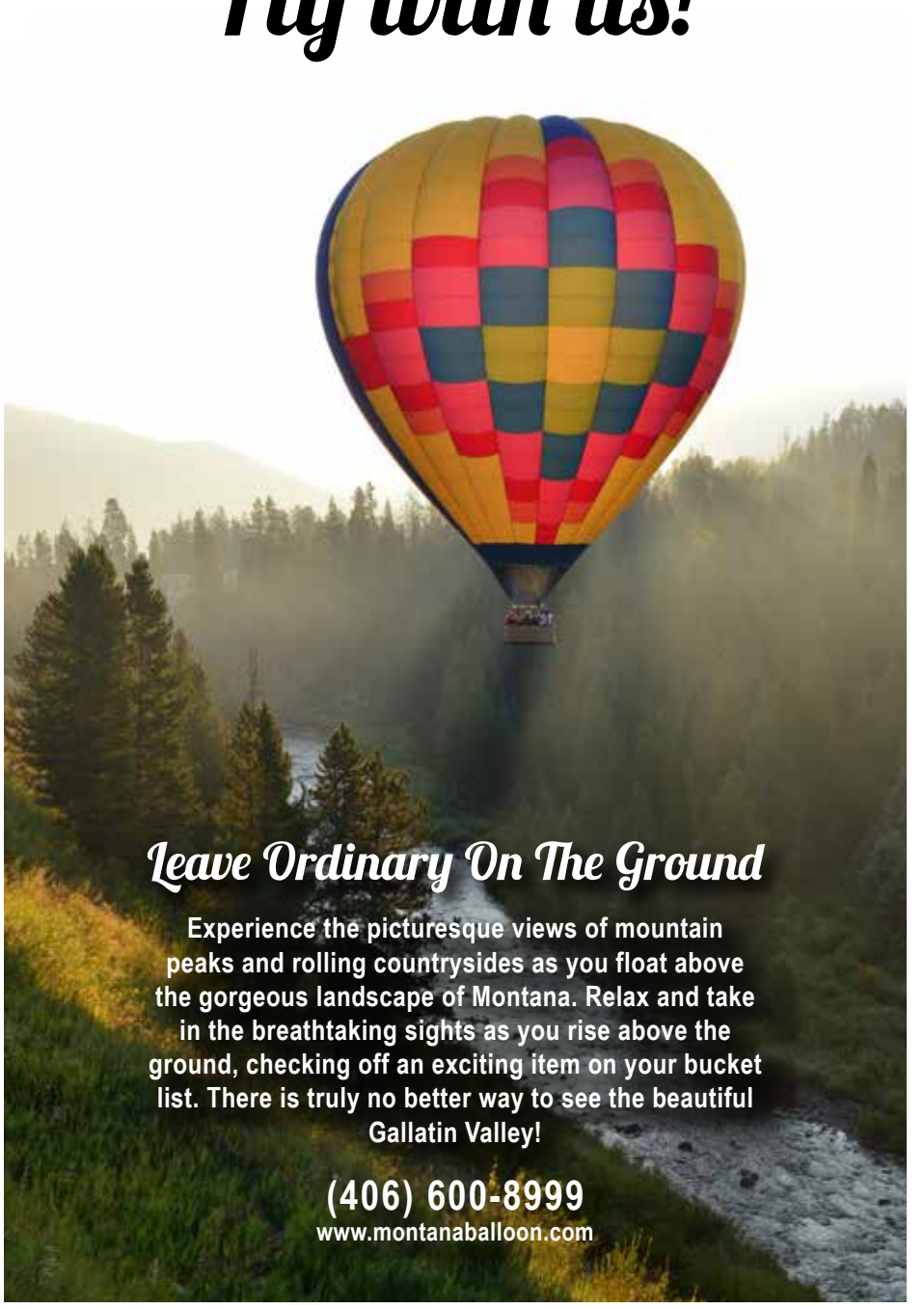
Saturday Open Clinic
Sessions begin at 12 p.m.

June 23: Grip and posture
June 30: Ball position and alignment
July 7: Full swing: Path, shape and finish
July 14: Chipping
July 21: Pitching
Aug. 4: Putting
Aug. 11: Bunker play
Aug. 18: Releasing the club
Aug. 25: Clubface and path
Sept. 1: Golf clubs and specific uses
Sept. 8: Drills and training aids

Tuesday Ladies Clinic
Sessions begin at 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

June 19: Grip and posture
June 26: Ball position and alignment
July 3: Full swing: Path, shape and finish
July 10: Chipping
July 17: Pitching
July 24: Putting
July 31: Bunker play
Aug. 7: Releasing the club
Aug. 14: Golf clubs and specific usage
Aug. 21: Drills and training aids
Sept. 4: Tournament, lunch party and awards

Each week tee times will be set aside for those that would like to play 9 holes after both the open and ladies clinics.



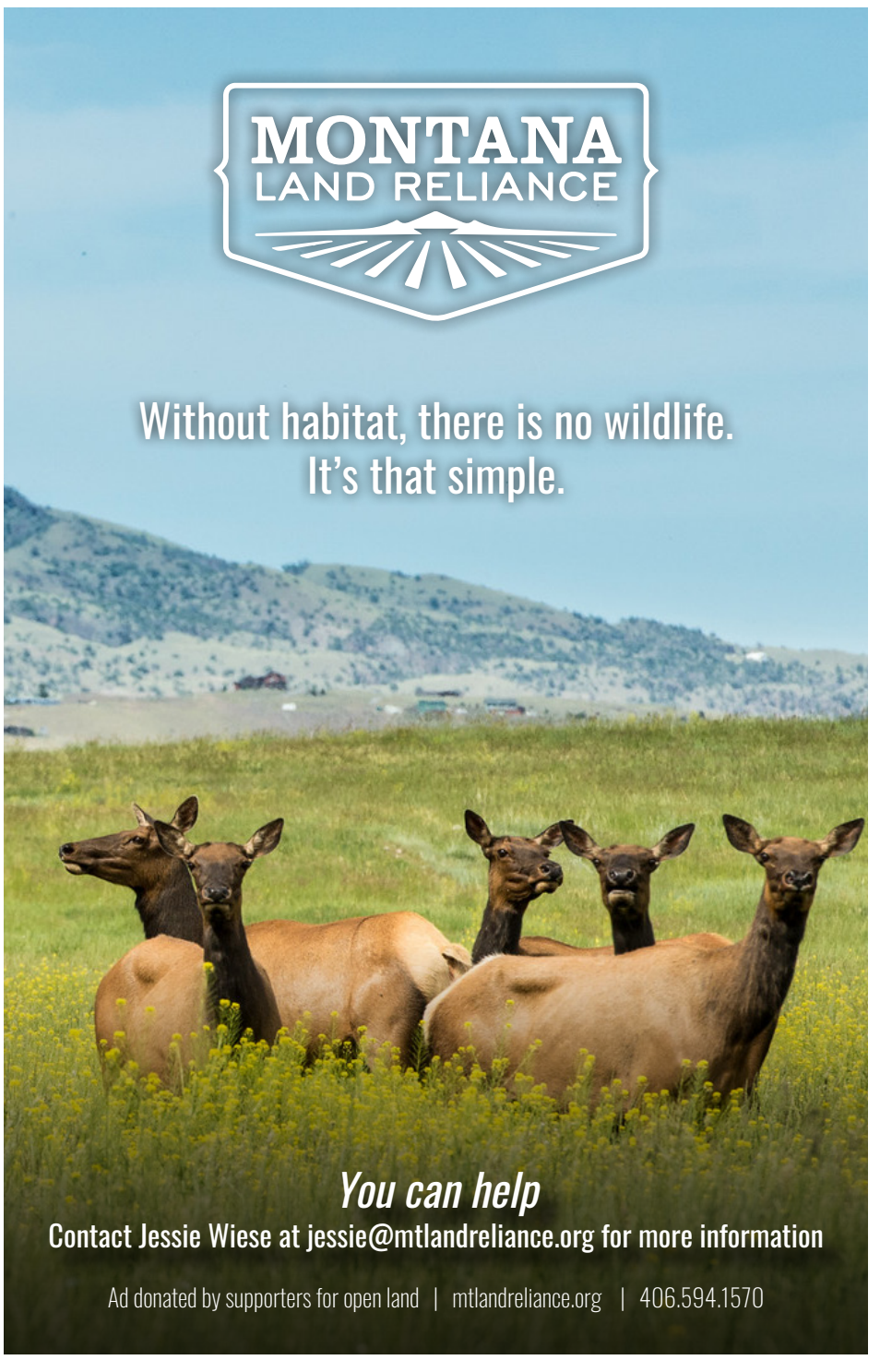
Softball season gets underway

On June 4, the Big Sky Softball League kicked off its 16th season, and as usual, there was plenty of friendly competition, cheering, and smiles to go around. Pictured above, Milkies Big Dogs outfielder Zack Landen waits patiently on a pitch before getting a hit against the LPC Golden Goats. LPC won 11-9 in a nail-biter of a game. Games will be played every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday on the fields in the Big Sky Community Park this summer until the end-of-season tournament Aug. 24-26. PHOTO BY DOUG HARE

Big Sky Royals rookies show promise

Although the Belgrade Little League does not technically keep score for their age division (7-8 year olds), the youngest division of the Big Sky Royals does keep statistics. Head coach Bart Mitchell and many proud parents of the team members were quick to point out that the team would have gone undefeated (11-0) in the regular season if scoring had been official.

On Saturday, June 2, in the end-of-season tournament the Battle in Big Sky, the rookies played four exhausting games, and would have won them all—had the score boards been turned on. PHOTO BY MARA MITCHELL



INSIDE YELLOWSTONE

Park Superintendent Dan Wenk announces 2019 retirement

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

On June 1, Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk announced his decision to retire on March 30, 2019. At that time, Wenk will have more than 43 years of public service dedicated to the national park system.

"I've had an amazing career with the National Park Service," Wenk said. "It is an honor and a privilege to preserve national park resources and provide incredible visitor experiences, and I'm not done yet. I'm in the midst of several important projects that I will finish before I depart to ensure the smoothest transition for Yellowstone."

Over Wenk's remaining tenure, his areas of focus will be implementing the bison quarantine program by sending live animals to the tribes at Fort Peck; collecting data and developing community support for the long-term visitor use management planning effort; negotiating concessions contracts; managing transboundary wildlife issues; and working with park staff to improve workplace culture.

As the superintendent of Yellowstone National Park since 2011, Wenk manages more than 2.2 million acres, a staff of 800, and an annual budget of more than $60 million.

Wenk served as Deputy Director of Operations for the National Park Service in Washington D.C. from 2007 to 2011. He served as Acting Director of the National Park Service for nine months in 2009. In these national roles, Wenk received the Department of the Interior Secretary's Executive Leadership Award and the Presidential Rank Award.

Wenk's career with the National Park Service began in 1975 as a landscape architect. He was named Superintendent of Mount Rushmore National Memorial in 1985, where he served for 16 years. In 2001, he was appointed the Director of the Denver Service Center, which is the National Park Service's central office with responsibility for planning, design and construction.

Superintendent Dan Wenk has provided leadership for Yellowstone National Park for seven years and following his retirement in 2019, he will conclude 43 years of public service for the national park system. NPS PHOTO

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Joe Russo's Almost Dead
Karl Denson's Tiny Universe
funky METERS
The Wood Brothers
JJ Grey and Mofro
Hard Working Americans
The Dirty Knobs
Sister Sparrow and The Dirty Birds
James McMurtry
The Teskey Brothers
Rhiannon Giddens
The Main Squees
7come I I
Brandon "Taz" Niederauer

BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL
AUGUST 10 - 12, 2018

Greensky Bluegrass
The Infamous Stringdusters
I'm With Her
Fruition
Keller Williams' Petty Grass
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The Mammals
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The Music of Jerry & Dawg ft. Stu Allen, Scott Law, and Samson Grisman
Tony Trischka at Large!

Catch the wildlife action with Yellowstone Day Adventures

BY CHRISTINE GIANAS WEINHEIMER
YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

Binoculars? Check. Camera? Check. Full tank of gas? Check. You're heading out for a day in Yellowstone, hoping to see the park's legendary wildlife. But do you know where to find them?

Luckily, the naturalist guides from the Yellowstone Forever Institute do, and they're ready to help you catch all the wildlife action with a brand-new program. Yellowstone Day Adventures offers a convenient, affordable, expert-led wildlife watching experience for visitors to Yellowstone National Park.

Pickup begins in Gardiner, Montana, at dawn, when wildlife activity is at its peak, then the group departs for Yellowstone's famed Lamar Valley. The route offers the possibility to see several species including elk, pronghorn and bison, as well as those charismatic carnivores: bears and wolves.

Yellowstone Forever has launched a new program that pairs naturalist guides with visitors and state-of-the-art spotting scopes to provide an expert-led wildlife watching experience in the park. PHOTO COURTESY OF YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

"Many visitors spend a great deal of time and money to travel to Yellowstone, and this tour will help ensure that the visit is a truly inspirational experience," said Zachary Park, Yellowstone Forever's assistant director of institute operations.

"The guides will make the most of your time by knowing right where to go to view the latest wildlife activity, and providing you with the use of top-quality optics," Park added.

Park explained that the tour includes the use of state-of-the-art spotting scopes and the latest digiscoping technology, which allows you to capture what you're seeing in the scope on your smartphone, and share the images later with friends.

He noted that the animals visitors most want to see, such as wolves, will likely be far from the road, so top-quality optics will ensure that guests enjoy an enhanced wildlife viewing experience.

Guests should plan to take home more than pictures, though, as they will also learn from fascinating commentary on the behavior and ecology of Yellowstone's wildlife, as well as in-depth, facilitated group discussions based on their interests.

"Compared to other wildlife tours in the park, the expertise of the Yellowstone Forever Institute's naturalist guides is second to none," Park said. "This half-day tour is a rare opportunity to get in the field with professionals of this caliber, who work closely with park researchers to bring the most recent scientific findings to the park tour experience."

Yellowstone Day Adventures are offered on Wednesdays and Fridays this summer through Aug. 31. Tours include early morning pickups in Gardiner, breakfast and hot beverages, specialized instruction, all transportation, scopes and binoculars, and digiscoping equipment. This program is available for people 8 and older.

To sign up, visit the Yellowstone Forever Park Store in Gardiner or call (406) 848-2844. You may sign up as late as 5 p.m. the day before the tour, and full payment is due upon registration.

Yellowstone Forever is the official nonprofit partner of Yellowstone National Park. Learn more at yellowstone.org.

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Inside the Big Sky

Trail running in Big Sky

VISIT BIG SKY

Big Sky is a trail-running paradise. Lace up your trail-running shoes, grab your water, and get out there.

Big Sky has hundreds of miles of trails that snake through our mountainous backyard. There are trails that lead to distant summits, meander through alpine basins, weave through thick Montana forests, cruise across wildflower-covered meadows, follow flowing streams and rivers, and roll along endless ridge lines. Pick a trail, any trail, and you're sure to have a good time.

Trail running opportunities abound in Big Sky, with options for every skill level. PHOTO COURTESY OF VISIT BIG SKY

Millions of people go trail running every year. There's something magical about moving effortlessly through mountain terrain on trails covered in dirt, rock, or other natural features. Plus, the views you'll see while you're out and about can be astounding.

The great thing about trail running in Big Sky is that there are trails for every level of runner. From rookie to world champion, you're going to love trail running in Big Sky. All you have to do is get out and explore. Here are a few popular options:

Ousel Falls Trail. Perhaps Big Sky's most popular trail, Ousel Falls takes runners on a well-maintained, wide trail that parallels the West Fork of the South Fork of the Gallatin River. The out and back trail ends at the scenic Ousel Falls.

Spanish Peaks Loop. For a more adventurous run, start at Spanish Creek and head uphill to Beacon Point. Then drop down toward Summit Lake and follow Mirror Basin back to Spanish Creek. This loop starts and ends at the Spanish Creek Trailhead.

Lone Mountain. Perhaps the most classic trail run in Big Sky begins at Big Sky Resort's Mountain Village at 7,500 feet and climbs to the 11,166-foot summit of Lone Mountain. This trail run traverses broad ski runs, winds through forest, scrambles across scree slopes, and across exposed ridges. As an added bonus, you get to tag the summit of Big Sky's most iconic mountain.

Let these trails be the start of your Big Sky trail-running adventures. Grab a trail-running buddy, fill up your water bottle, bring your bear spray, and go trail running in Big Sky. Bring your dog too—they love trail running as much as we do.

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

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Becoming an outdoors woman

National program celebrates 25 years in Montana this summer

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – What is the value of competency and independence in the outdoors? For many women, it's worth its weight in gold.

"I think it can be intimidating to go [into the outdoors] by yourself," said Sara Smith of Helena. "Maybe you aren't big enough to lift your kayak all the way up and down from your car, or maybe you didn't have anyone to show you how to hunt. … I think it's really important for women to feel like they can do it."

With this sentiment in mind, Smith leads Montana's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program, an initiative aimed at teaching adult women a variety of outdoor skills.

From fly fishing and archery, to Dutch oven cooking and plant identification, skijoring, using GoPros or how to handle a gun, the BOW program offers entry-level classes and experiences, with gear provided. This allows women to try any number of skillsets in a non-competitive environment.

As a part of Montana's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program, adult women have the opportunity to try their hand at a variety of outdoor activities, learning important skills, safety tips and confidence in the wild. PHOTO COURTESY OF BECOMING AN OUTDOORS-WOMAN

"They're very popular and there's a definite need for these hands-on skills classes," said Smith, who grew up hunting, fishing, camping and backpacking in Sheridan, Montana.

"I thought I was already an outdoors woman, but I'd never kayaked or cooked on a Dutch oven," she added. "You can always expand your skills. Even I'm still learning new skills, all the time."

BOW is a program made available through Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, with workshops scheduled year-round throughout the state.

The original BOW program started at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1991, when a group of women got together and wanted to know why there weren't more females involved in outside activities. These pioneers, according to Smith, determined to change the face of the outdoors community by engaging more women in organized activities.

Since then, 38 states and six Canadian provinces have adopted the program, with Montana coming on board early, in 1994.

Twana Bourke of Billings and her sister, Connie Carson in Helena, have been involved with BOW for nearly 15 years, first as participants and now as instructors.

"I feel more confident setting up a tent, starting a fire. My daughters and I go camping. … Bringing the younger generation up in anything is more fun doing it together," Bourke said, adding that she volunteer instructs BOW workshops on gun handling and vehicle preparedness.

Carson, who works as a BOW staff member, also has reaped rewards from the program. "All and all, it's one heck of a good time," she said. "It's valuable because a lot of women that don't get outdoors don't know what there is out there. [The program] is great for them because they can try something for a couple hours and see if they enjoy it. And they aren't being taught by their spouses or significant others. It's great women teaching great women."

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Montana initiative, and to celebrate, program leaders will hold three weekend workshops this summer in June, July and August.

While the three-day event in Boulder Hot Springs on June 8-10 is full, there are still opportunities for women to participate later this summer. The workshops will be held July 13-15 at Lone Pine State Park near Kalispell, and Aug. 3-5 at Birch Creek Civilian Conservation Corps Camp near Dillon.

These workshops are held in a camp setting where meals and lodging, or tent and camper space, is provided. There will also be a selection of day classes available throughout the summer.

For more information about Montana's Becoming an Outdoors Women program or to view an upcoming schedule, visit fwp.mt.gov/education/bow.

Pretty Wildflowers? THINK AGAIN!

Hoary Alyssum is an annual, biennial, or perennial in the mustard family, and southwest Montana is the epicenter of invasion. It's aggressive reproduction ability results in reduced plant diversity and degraded ecosystems.

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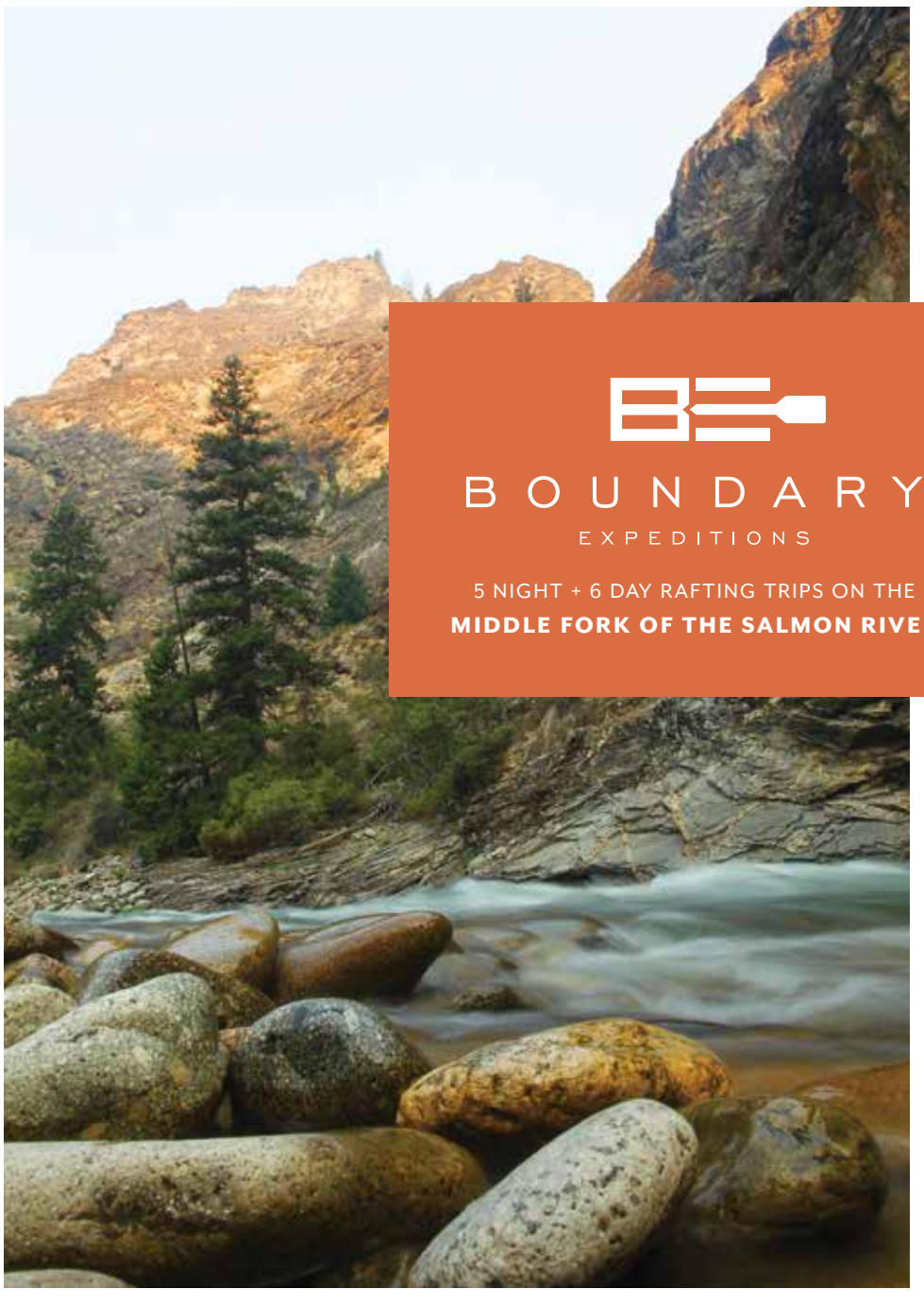

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THE EDDY Line

Salmon-fly showdown: The five best patterns

BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

My first float trip as a Montana fly-fishing guide occurred 20 years ago on the Yellowstone River outside of Gardiner. The flow was high and fast, clocking in at just under 10,000 cubic feet per second. Thankfully salmon flies were abundant, the trout hungry, and the anglers in my boat were decent casters and even better listeners—my inaugural float trip was a success. Little credit went to me, as the true champion of the day was the salmon fly.

Beginning soon on many of our local waters, hatches of this large aquatic insect will signal the start of another summer fishing season in Montana. Over the next few weeks, salmon fly nymphs will migrate toward the banks of the rivers. As stream levels drop, and water temperatures rise, the nymphs will metamorphose into large flying insects in which anglers delight—trout gobble these salmon flies en masse, excited for food after a long runoff.

With the appeal of such a gigantic insect—some of the adults measure up to 3 inches long—over time, myriad salmon fly dry fly patterns have been developed. Here are my favorites.

Salmon flies, and the fly patterns that imitate them, are going to be commonplace very soon on our local waters. Be sure you have the best patterns so that you can enjoy this once-a-year hatch. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

Parks Salmon Fly. A variation of the original Pat Barnes' Sofa Pillow, but tied with elk hair instead of squirrel tail, this fly is the creation of Richard and Merton Parks of Parks Fly Shop in Gardiner. It's also the first, and only, salmon fly I fished on my first guide trip. Today, it effectiveness proves useful as it fishes well as a dry, but because it is absent of foam, it will become submerged and trout will feed on it under the surface as well.

Rogue Foam Stone Fly. Created by Jack Schlotter, a Colorado angler, this fly features a bullet head and segmented foam body. If you're not an experienced fly tier, purchase these to save you time so that you can fish more. This pattern is best fished as a single rig, and is great for fishing tight to the banks or among the willows. Tied with a sheet of foam under the hair wing, this pattern is ideal when adult salmon flies are seen fluttering on the surface. It casts well and can float low enough that it can represent a partially submerged insect.

Fat Frank. Tied with regular and furry foam, rubber legs, a large wing, and even eyes, this fly floats high and matches the profile of an adult salmon fly perfectly. Nearly unsinkable, I first started using this fly on the Madison River as part of a two-fly rig, tying a Pat's Rubber Legs to it, and fish ate both flies. But the Fat Frank's ability to float high allowed me to fish a larger rubber legs than with any other big dry fly.

Compared to the Rogue Foam or Chubby Chernobyl, the Fat Frank is a relative newcomer. I've found that this is a good thing—it's just a little out of the box from many of the current patterns and I believe it sparks some curiosity as it floats by a hungry trout.

Chubby Chernobyl. For most millennials, this fly is their traditional salmon fly. But there's nothing traditional about this fly—it is foam, with a poly or antron wing, rubber legs, and flashy Z-lon synthetic material. Like millennials, this fly wasn't around before they were born, but it catches fish and is ideal for use in fishing two-fly rigs.

Whether you fish two-flies or not, the Chubby Chernobyl should be in your arsenal. And if you fish with any millennials, be prepared to get funny looks if you don't fish with two flies because they've always known a world where two-fly rigs are standard, along with their Netflix and chill.

Salmon Fly X. This is the wildcard pattern. Each year there is always one pattern that stands out from the rest. Some years it's a more commonly known pattern like a Noble Chernobyl or a Cat Puke. Other years a lesser-known pattern, such as a Water Walker or Bloom's Barely Kicking, can be the most successful. How do you know what the pattern is this year? Spend more time on the water with your own trial and error, and if you can't do that, hang out at your local fly shop.

In nearly a quarter century of guiding the salmon-fly hatch, one thing is clear—you cannot plan for it. All you can do is watch streamflow charts for a drop in level, contact your local fly shop for daily fishing reports, arm yourself with these five flies, and when chatter of the hatch begins, drop all responsibility and head to the river.

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

Closing the loop on compostable waste

Return to Nature Compost provides pickup and delivery service across region

BY MATTHEW HODGSON
EBS EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

BOZEMAN – W.J. Woods was raised to respect the environment, and had an epiphany while living in Chicago in 2011 that would eventually redefine composting in southwest Montana.

Composting is the practice of reusing food waste as fertilizer, and once the seed of his idea was planted, Woods began brainstorming how to create the perfect compost service.

Originally from Colorado Springs, Colorado, Woods studied at St. Lawrence University in New York and now works during the winters for the Yellowstone Club ski patrol. He fell in love with the beauty and splendor of Montana, and decided to tailor his idea to meet the needs of his fellow residents and prevent waste in the region.

In November 2017, Woods set his idea in motion and by February of this year his business, Return to Nature Compost, was up and running. The young business, designed to collect compostable food waste from customers so they don't have to take care of it themselves, is already experiencing success with clients across Belgrade, Big Sky and Bozeman. Woods' customer-convenient process allows him to serve a wide clientele from all over the region.

"If there's a need for it, I'll go to Big Sky, Livingston, Ennis, anywhere," he said, touting his ability to cater to the needs of residents who are interested in reducing food waste that would otherwise be put in landfills around the state. Woods uses his days off from ski patrolling in the winter, and working as a fly-fishing guide in the summer, as pick-up days.

W.J. Woods collects food waste from his clients around Gallatin County, and offers them each 5 gallons of composted fertilizer every month. PHOTO COURTESY OF W.J. WOODS

He explained that his process is quite simple, giving his clients a bucket to collect their food scraps and other compostable waste to collect until pick-up time. "You don't have to worry about it and you feel better about what you're doing," Woods said, adding that gardens profit from the waste, which is repurposed as fertilizer once it has undergone the decomposition process.

Woods monitors and tends to one large compost pile created from his clients' waste. He keeps the pile in a facility near the Bozeman airport. After his weekly collections, he tends to the pile by turning it over and unsettling it, which oxygenates the compost to encourage decomposition. Woods hopes to expand and experiment with different methods such as bacterial and fungal composting. He wants to see what type of compost pile is most effective for the Montana climate.

"It's a trial and error sort of thing," he said. "It's a pretty simple process and it starts just when you toss your extra food and stuff outside, and then the compost pile gets hot as everything is decomposing. A big thing is time and temperature."

Return to Nature Compost provides clients with a free 5 gallon bucket of compost per month for use in home gardens, indoor plants, or any other soil that needs nutrients. "Compost . . . has a variety of different kinds of nutrients," Woods explained. "It will help plants grow to their highest potential," which, for customers, means creating healthier plants with a free natural resource they'd otherwise discard.

Visit returntonaturecompost.com for more information.

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BACK 40

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

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

A threat to the ecosystem

Noxious weeds in Big Sky

BY JOHN COUNCILMAN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Invasive non-native plants, animals and diseases are getting more press and for good reason. Native ecosystems and all that depend on them are at risk.

Years ago, as a U.S. Forest Service land manager in Idaho, weeds weren't on my radar screen. The scope of the problem didn't sink in until I transferred to the Bozeman Ranger District and was given the responsibility of managing the district weed program. It didn't take long to realize we have a problem.

There are many threats to our local environment, however, I think the top threat is invasive species. The Center for Invasive Species Management reports invasive species are the second leading cause of animal population decline and extinction worldwide.

I have seen landscapes recover from every major calamity except invasive species. Once invasive species get established, nature has no mechanisms that enable landscapes to restore ecological balance. Evolution works slowly. Several weeds now established in the Big Sky area have the potential to completely transform our landscape.

It's difficult to raise awareness about this issue. Weeds aren't a glitzy endangered species that get a lot of press. However, fighting weeds protects the habitat these species live on.

Noxious weeds are plants designated as injurious to agricultural or horticultural crops, natural habitats or ecosystems, humans or livestock. There are hundreds of noxious weeds in North America, with 32 listed in Montana.

Noxious weeds come from all around the world. Those that thrive in similar growing conditions to the Big Sky area can become established here, often invading disturbed areas like roadsides, powerline clearings, trails, construction sites, and burned or logged areas. However, because they are so competitive, they can get established almost anywhere. And unlike native plants, they usually have no natural control like bugs that eat them or diseases that keep their populations in check.

In 2017, Canada thistle was the most common noxious weed found in Big Sky, followed by the oxeye daisy, hoary alyssum, houndstongue, musk thistle and spotted knapweed.

Noxious weeds, among other things:

– Replace native plant communities
– Degrade water quality
– Reduce forage for wildlife
– Decrease property values
– Increase the severity and frequency of wildfires
– Eliminate recreational opportunities

(LEFT) Last year, the invasive yellow flag iris was found for the very first time in Big Sky, growing among cattails in a private pond in the Beaver Creek area. The species forms dense monotypic colonies in riparian areas, crowding out native species, altering the ecosystem, and reducing habitat for wildlife, birds, fish and pollinators. (RIGHT) Poison hemlock is increasing in abundance in the Big Sky area. All parts of this plant, which can grow as tall as 10 feet, are highly toxic. Use protective gear and extreme caution when removing, and be sure to dispose of the tap root and all plant material. CC PHOTOS

Weeds spread easily via cars, ATVs, motorcycles, dogs, heavy equipment, livestock, hay, contaminated topsoil and gravel, hiking boots, clothing, fishing waders, etc.

Once noxious weeds are established along a river, their seeds float downstream, infesting gravel bars and river banks. This increases soil erosion and negatively affects fish habitat.

For example, research shows runoff increases by 150 percent and sediment yields by 300 percent in areas of invasive spotted knapweed.

Other wildlife is also affected. Spotted knapweed can reduce winter forage for elk by 50 to 90 percent. This can change seasonal elk distribution patterns.

Habitat decline is also a primary threat to our local bighorn sheep population. That's why the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance—formerly the Gallatin-Big Sky Weed Committee—partners with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the Custer Gallatin National Forest to treat weeds on their winter range.

Things you can do:

– Learn to identify invasive species
– Clean plant materials and mud from boots, gear, pets and vehicles before and after using trails
– Drive only on designated routes
– Use local firewood and certified weed-free hay
– Plant native plants in your garden and remove invasive plants
– Avoid dumping aquariums or live bait into waterways
– Clean and dry your fishing waders and wading boots after each use
– Drain all water from your boat, including in the engine's cooling system, live wells, and bilge

Getting educated is key. Learn to identify weeds to protect Big Sky from this severe problem. The Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance will visit your property in Big Sky for free and help you with weed issues.

Visit bigskyweeds.org for more information and additional resources.

John Councilman is a retiree from the U.S. Forest Service where he worked for 32 years, the last nine of which were spent as part of the Custer Gallatin National Forest Bozeman Ranger District. He has over 40 years of experience working in the northern Rocky Mountain area on a wide variety of vegetation and wildlife management issues. Councilman is currently the vice chair of the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance.

Section 3:
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT,
FUN, HEALTH & DINING

Shakespeare in the parks **pg. 35**

Music in the Mountains kicks off June 21 **pg. 42**

Morningstar graduates **pg. 43**

IN THE **SPOTLIGHT**

Liz McRae: A mother refocuses on art

Artist collective opens in north Bozeman

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

Big Sky artist Liz McRae in front of Grainhouse Art, a new artist collective and gallery space in north Bozeman she opened with fellow artist friends Molly Stratton, Anna Patterson and Laurel Hatch. PHOTO BY MOLLY STRATTON

BIG SKY – When you meet Liz McRae for the first time, it quickly becomes evident that she's a woman who gives 110 percent to whatever she commits to, whether it's starting a business, making art, raising her kids, or her latest venture—opening Grainhouse Art, an artist collective and gallery in north Bozeman's historic Misco Mill.

But being fully focused can also mean having to place other interests on the backburner.

Without a touch of regret in her voice, McRae talked about selling her company Wizbang Hats when she had her second child in 2010.

At 11 and 8, McRae's children Fin and Maeve have reached an age that has allowed her to turn her attention back to a lifelong passion for art and writing.

"I'm sort of emerging from being a full-time mom back into this world," said McRae, who knew it was time when she realized that her kids were beginning to be able to take care of themselves.

"I almost needed to find my independence in order for them to find theirs," she said.

While preoccupied with mothering, McRae remained involved in the arts. She started the Art Harvest program at Ophir School, sits on the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center's visual arts committee, and helps execute Mountainfilm on Tour when it comes to Big Sky.

After selling her business, she built a studio in her backyard, as if planting the seed for her art to flourish years later.

"It was maybe more of a space to get out of the house," she said. "Outside of the space I identified with mother, caregiver, wife."

McRae considers herself equal parts writer and visual artist, and pairs short poems with her paintings. Currently working in encaustic and mixed media, she says her paintings are typically representative of whatever she is celebrating or struggling with in her life.

While her art is "less pointed" now than it was in college—she described mummifying and shaving the heads of Barbie dolls and attempting to return them to Toys R Us—they remain conceptual and thought-provoking.

The series on display at Grainhouse Art is largely abstract and explores notions of division and unification.

Conjuring thoughts of fences, road crossings and intersections, the series asks the viewer to see lines not only as means of dividing space, but also as a place of coming together.

The haiku paired with a painting of bold intersecting lines on a neutral ground reads, "roads cross and split land / touch and fold over themselves / I hope we meet there." Another poem reads, "scars that divide us / can also be exactly / where we meet to heal."

While the series has larger political implications, McRae used an example from motherhood to illuminate her meaning: "Being a mom, I'm on one side of the fence [but] you have to figure out how to come together … to move through that anger or emotion to something more positive."

For McRae, art fosters that process. "Some people heal broken bones," she says, "there are people who do all sorts of things to make the world a better place … my role as a human is swimming around in the arts."

McRae said that adding a literary component to the visual helps her figure out where she stands on an issue, develop an idea, or gain emotional clarity.

"It's a very full experience for me … because mainly what I am is a storyteller," she said. "Whether it's visual or words, the stories are what compel me to move through the process of creation."

Another process of creation culminated on June 1 with the opening of Grainhouse Art, a collaboration between McRae and longtime artist friends Molly Stratton, Laurel Hatch and Anna Patterson. In addition to their own distinctive work, the gallery will showcase an outside artist each month, and have items on consignment from area artists.

Along with McRae's abstracts, the first exhibit features bright, poppy still lifes, subdued landscapes and intricate compositions created out of stitching on paper.

"There's a language there that we're all speaking in different ways," McRae said about what unifies their different aesthetics. But, she said, the plan is to have the artwork change on a monthly basis to keep the space fresh—and keep her painting.

"We were all really wanting a place to not only show our work and see other beautiful work, but also where we could critique each other and learn together," said McRae, describing the vision behind Grainhouse Art. Although not sure exactly where it will go, McRae sees a dynamic space of creative inspiration, with guest speakers, parties and outdoor movie screenings.

"We really want to be thinking outside of the box," McRae said. "[Grainhouse] is not just going to be a gallery—we're hoping it's going to be a place of collaboration and creation."

Grainhouse Art is located at 601 E. Cottonwood Street in Bozeman. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. Visit the Grainhouse Art Facebook page for more information.

BEEHIVE BASIN PROPERTIES

30 Beehive Basin Road | $2.95M
20 ACRES | 6,203 SQ FT | 5 bedrooms | 6 bathrooms
Spacious home with commanding views in a beautiful mountain setting

Kandahar at Beehive Basin | $3.45M
19.9 ACRES
Main Home: 5,409 SQ FT | 3 bedrooms | 3 bathrooms
Guest Home: 2,165 SQ FT | 3 bedrooms | 2.5 bathrooms
Stunning creekside location in Beehive Basin

Beehive Basin Lots 11A & 12A | 40 +/-ACRES | $1.495M
Top of the world mountain views bordering Forest Service land

Lot 4 Beehive Basin Road | 2.86 ACRES | $350K
Versatile property with Lone Peak and Pioneer Mountain views

L&K Real Estate

LKRealEstate.com | 406.995.2404

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* Membership upon approval

BZN International Film Festival screens 70-plus films June 7-10

Big Sky producer's 'Mankiller' documentary showcased June 9

"Mankiller," a documentary film celebrating the life of Wilma Mankiller, the first woman to be elected principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, screens at 8:15 p.m. Saturday, June 9 at The Emerson's Crawford Theater in downtown Bozeman. A Q&A with Executive Producer and Big Sky homeowner Gale Anne Hurd and Director/Producer Valerie Red-Horse Mohl will follow the screening. Visit bozemanfilmcelebration.com for a complete schedule of events. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WILMA MANKILLER FOUNDATION

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks kicks off summer tour in Bozeman

Troupe performs 'Othello' and 'Love's Labour's Lost' on the road

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks opens its 46th season in Bozeman with free performances of Shakespeare's "Othello" and "Love's Labour's Lost" at the Montana State University Grove. From June 13-16, the touring troupe will perform "Othello," and "Love's Labour's Lost" from June 20-23. All performances begin at 8 p.m. They will bring "Love's Labour's Lost" to Big Sky's Center Stage at Town Center Park on July 31. For a complete schedule visit shakespeareintheparks.org. PHOTO BY ADRIAN SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ

EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JUNE 8 – THURSDAY, JUNE 21

***IF YOUR EVENT FALLS BETWEEN JUNE 22 AND JULY 5, PLEASE SUBMIT IT BY JUNE 13 BY EMAILING MEDIA@OUTLAW.PARTNERS.**

BIG SKY

FRIDAY, JUNE 8
Opening Day
Big Sky Resort

Locals Lowdown: Live music
Rainbow Ranch Lodge, 5 p.m.

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9
Gallatin River Weed Pull
Portal Creek Flats, 10 a.m.

Harbor's Hero Run
Big Sky Community Park, 10 a.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10
Live Music
Compass Café, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 11
Industry Night
Lotus Pad, all evening

TUESDAY, JUNE 12
Big Sky Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting
Chamber of Commerce board room, 8:30 a.m.

Bear Smart Committee Meeting
BSCO office, 9 a.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13
Trails Committee Meeting
BSCO office, 2 p.m.

Chuckwagon BBQ
320 Guest Ranch, all evening

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

Big Sky Community Housing Action Plan Final Report Presentation
Big Sky Chapel, 5 p.m.

Awareness Wednesday
Santosha Wellness Center, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14
Bridge
Big Sky Water and Sewer District, 10:30 a.m.

Employee Appreciation Golf Tournament
Big Sky Resort Golf Course, 5 p.m.

Parks Committee Meeting
BSCO office, 5:30 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 15
Locals Lowdown: Live music
Rainbow Ranch Lodge, 5 p.m.

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 17
Live Music
Compass Café, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 18
Resort Tax Final Appropriations
Resort Tax office, 6 p.m.

Industry Night
Lotus Pad, all evening

TUESDAY, JUNE 19
Top Shelf Toastmasters
Town Center Sales Office, 12 p.m.

Annual Invasive Weed Pull
Big Sky Community Park, 4:30 p.m.

Business After Hours
Creighton Block Gallery, 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20
Chuckwagon BBQ
320 Guest Ranch, all evening

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

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 21
Visit Big Sky Board Meeting
Chamber of Commerce office, 8:30 a.m.

Wildflower and Weed Walk
Deer Creek, 10 a.m.

Bridge
Big Sky Water and Sewer District, 10:30 a.m.

Soul Shine Celebration
Music in the Mountains: Kitchen Dwellers, music
Town Center Stage, 5 p.m.

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

BOZEMAN

"OTHELLO," SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARKS
MSU GROVE, 8 P.M.
JUNE 13-16

"LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST," SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARKS
MSU GROVE, 8 P.M.
JUNE 20-23

FRIDAY, JUNE 8
Finding the Magic in Materials, lecture
Bozeman Public Library, 9:30 a.m.

BZN Film Celebration
Downtown and MSU, June 7-10

Art Walk
Downtown, 6 p.m.

Kevin Red Star: Native American Women, exhibition
Old Main Gallery, 6 p.m.

Jazz Night
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9
Gallatin River Weed Pull
Simms, 9 a.m.

Eagle Mount Western Rendezvous
Eagle Mount, 4 p.m.

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

"Mankiller," film
Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture, 8:15 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10
"The Brave Little Toaster," film
Ellen Theatre, 2 p.m.

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

Band of Drifters, music
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 11
Music on the Plaza
Museum of the Rockies, 12 p.m.

Executive Director Candidate Open Forum: Christopher I. Dobbs
Museum of the Rockies, 5:30 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 12
Bogert Farmers' Market
Bogert Park, 5 p.m.

Native Art Now, lecture
Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Adam & Dave, music
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13
Little Big Horn, lecture
Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

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

"The Leisure Seeker," film
Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14
Hunting Film Tour
Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture, 6 p.m.

"Giselle," Yellowstone Ballet Co.
Willson Auditorium
June 14, 6:30 p.m.
June 15, 7:30 p.m.

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

Fox & Bones, music
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 15
Jazz Night
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Iceage and Mary Lattimore, music
Rialto Bozeman, 7 p.m.

"Open Range," film
Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 16
Gallatin Valley Farmers' Market
Gallatin County Fairgrounds, all morning

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

Robbie Fulks, music
Live from the Divide, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 17
"The Sandlot," film
Ellen Theatre, 2 p.m.

Music on the Green: Band of Drifters
Bozeman Public Library, 5 p.m.

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

Cole & The Thornes, music
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, music
Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 18
Lang Termes, music
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 19
Bogert Farmers' Market
Bogert Park, 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20
Comedy Night
Red Tractor Pizza, 7:30 p.m.

"Kissed by God," film
Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21
STEAM & Suds, science and brews
Children's Museum 5:30 p.m.

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

Hawthorne Roots, music
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous can help if you think you might have a drinking problem.
Call (888) 607-2000 to talk to a member of A.A., or go to aa-montana.org for meeting times and locations.

The Big Sky Resort Area District tax board will release final appropriations on
Monday, June 18, at 6 p.m.

WORTH THE DRIVE

Gardiner, MT

Annual Rodeo
Jim Duffy Arena | June 15-16, 6 p.m.
Enjoy a weekend of bull riding, bronc riding, steer wrestling, roping, barrel racing, and more. The 40th annual Gardiner Rodeo is held just off Highway 89 and is complete with a parade on Saturday afternoon.

Red Lodge, MT

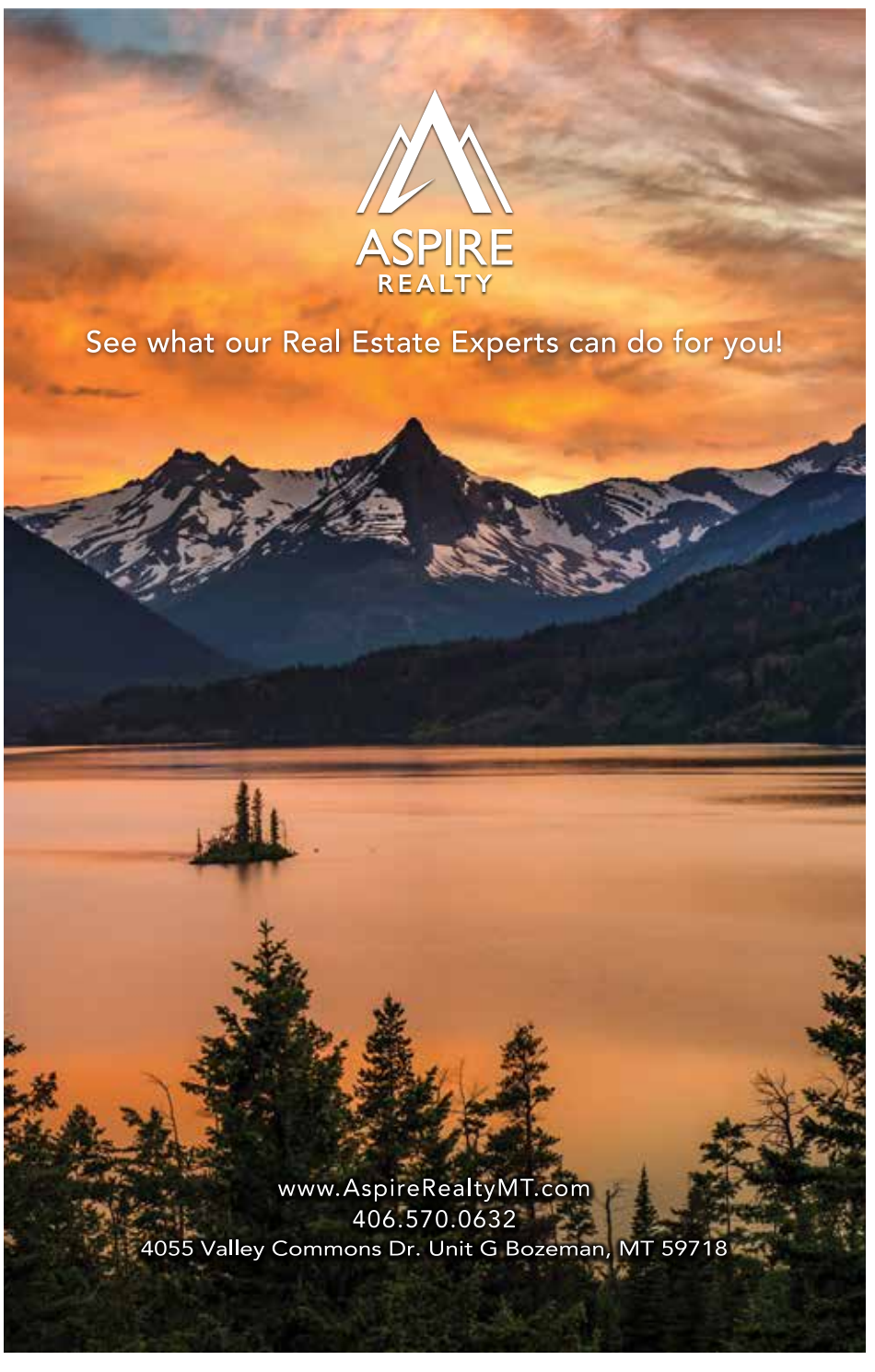
Songwriter Festival | June 21-23
The annual Red Lodge Songwriter Festival will feature music from some of country music's best hit songwriters, along with some of the very best that Montana and Wyoming have to offer. Fifteen different performances will be held over the three-day event, featuring musicians like Nashville Songwriter Hall of Fame member Hugh Prestwood, and returning songwriters James Dean Hicks and Montana's own Kostas. Visit redlodgesongwriterfest.org to learn more.

Butte, MT

Miners' Union Day
World Museum of Mining | June 16
Celebrate Miners' Union Day at the World Museum of Mining and enjoy free admission to the museum and reduced rates for the underground tours. There will also be a historical slideshow, demonstrations, and kid's activities. Call (406) 723-7211 for reservations.

Emigrant, MT

Whiskey Myers
Old Saloon | June 23, 8 p.m.
Enjoy the southern country rock band Whiskey Myers in their first Montana appearance. These guys hail from Texas and feature searing guitars, soulful vocals and indelible hooks. Held in beautiful Paradise Valley near the Yellowstone River, this show is sure to be a good time. Visit oldsaloonmt.com/whiskey-myers to learn more.



Bozeman Film Society closes June with new Wes Anderson film

EBS STAFF

"The Leisure Seekers" stars Helen Mirren and Donald Sutherland in a road trip film about rediscovery, romance and revelation. PHOTO COURTESY OF BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY

Wednesday, June 13 @ The Ellen Theatre
7:30 p.m. "The Leisure Seekers"

A runaway couple goes on an unforgettable journey in the faithful old RV they call the Leisure Seeker in this film starring Academy Award-winner Helen Mirren and two-time Golden Globe-winner Donald Sutherland. Traveling from Boston to the Ernest Hemingway Home in Key West, Florida, they recapture their passion for life and their love for each other on a road trip of surprises and revelation.

Wednesday, June 20 @ The Ellen
7:30 p.m. "Andy Irons: Kissed by God"

Teton Gravity Research partners with BFS to present "Andy Irons: Kissed by God," a film about bipolar disorder and opioid addiction as seen through the life of three-time world champion surfer Andy Irons. Struggling with the same demons that millions of people battle worldwide, this is not a film about surfing, but about a person who lived life to its fullest at the top of his industry while facing insurmountable internal challenges. This screening features a special introduction and a Q&A with area experts in the field of opioid addiction and bipolar disorder.

Sunday, June 24 @ The Rialto
7:30 p.m. "Isle of Dogs"

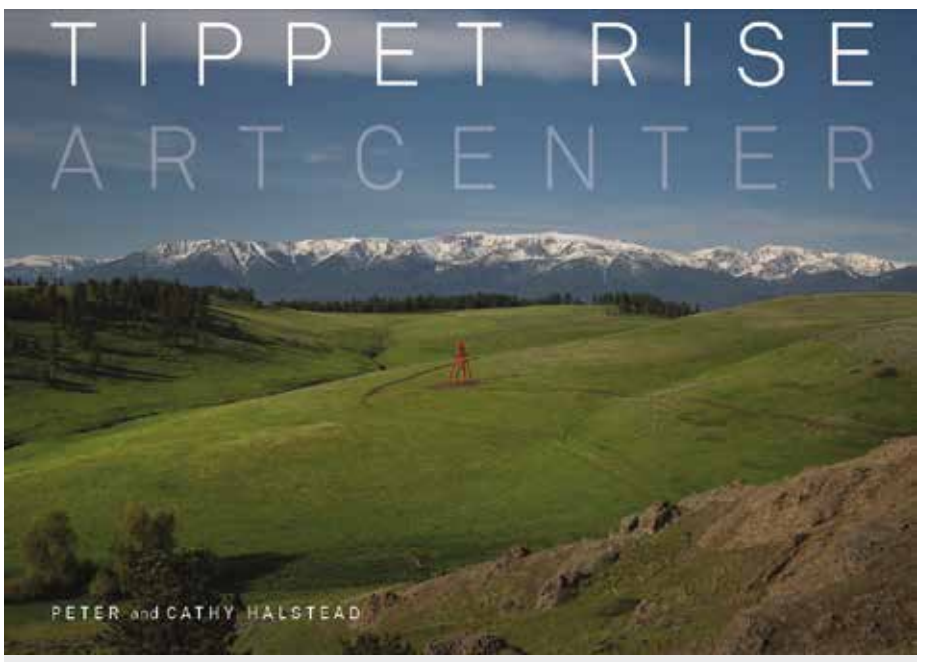
In Wes Anderson's acclaimed new animated comedy, an outbreak of canine flu in Japan leads all dogs to be banished to an island. The outcasts soon embark on an epic journey when a 12-year-old boy arrives at the colony to find his beloved pet. The all-star voice cast includes Bryan Cranston, Edward Norton, Bill Murray, Scarlett Johansson, Tilda Swinton, Greta Gerwig and Yoko Ono.

Visit bozemanfilmsociety.org for more information.

Big Sky Broadway presents 'Shrek the Musical'

Sponsored by the Spanish Peaks Community Foundation and featuring 47 local children, Big Sky Broadway returns for its 9th season with a summer production of 'Shrek the Musical.' Performances are 7 p.m. Friday, June 22, and Saturday, June 23, at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. Visit warrenmillerpac.org for more information.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



New book celebrates Montana's Tippet Rise Art Center

The 224-page monograph from Princeton Architectural Press includes essays, poems and more than 200 photographs that document the sweeping landscapes, mammoth sculptures, and concert venues of Fishtail, Montana's Tippet Rise. Books are available for purchase online and at the Tippet Rise Art Center visitor center in the Olivier Music Barn.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TIPPET RISE ART CENTER

REEL REVIEW

‘Songs my Brothers Taught Me’

BY ANNA HUSTED
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

American Indian representation in Hollywood is lacking at best and prejudiced at worst, reflecting its representation in the United States’ political system. Whether it’s protesting the construction of a pipeline through already second-rate reservation land, or continuous court battles over rights to the Black Hills, being an American Indian often means a life of injustice. “Songs my Brothers Taught Me” explores the reality of everyday life on the reservation, from daily tasks to commonplace burdens. While “Songs my Brothers Taught Me” is a fictional film, it taps into the true pulse of life on a reservation.

The debut feature film of writer and director Chloe Zhao is set on South Dakota’s Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, located in one of the poorest counties in America. While the sale of alcohol is illegal on the reservation, it’s not hard to find a local bootlegger who has crossed over into Nebraska to buy alcohol and sell it door-to-door on the reservation. This is Johnny Winter’s afterschool gig, at least until he can head to Los Angeles with his girlfriend, Aurelia.

When his absentee, bronco-riding father dies unexpectedly, Johnny picks up the emotional and intellectual baggage of the family in order to protect his younger sister, Jashaun, making it more difficult to tell her about his imminent plans to move to Los Angeles, and harder to quit drinking.

Although Johnny and Jashaun’s mother, Lisa, cooks dinner for them occasionally, she is ever-tearful and absent, even when present. Played by a somber Irene Bedard, Lisa struggles to give the two children under her roof the attention they need because she is consumed by her oldest son’s imprisonment and hatred of her.

With an almost entirely amateur cast, “Songs my Brothers Taught Me” has a visceral, edgy aura. From the long shots of the Badlands to the close-ups of Jashaun’s face as her hair blows in the dusty wind, “Songs my Brothers Taught Me” is far from an amateur film.

Although Johnny is the protagonist, Jashaun’s character is the titular perspective. After her father dies she reconnects with her dozen or so stepbrothers who take her under their wings in uncommon and, at times, irresponsible ways. They teach her all she didn’t know about her absent father including songs the siblings need to sing, play and hear in order to process losing their father and sense of tribal history.

Alcohol is also a main character in the film—both in its true-to-life role and impact on the reservation, and its powerful grip over the socio-economic status of both the bootleggers and abusers. Like many groups of people who have lost their homeland, the bottle provides solace and erases a memory that historically has been hard to hold on to.

I’ve had “Songs my Brothers Taught Me” on my Netflix list for about two years, but found the motivation to watch this placed-based film when I first started hearing praise for Zhao’s second feature film, “The Rider,” which is also shot on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and is now playing at Art House Cinema in Billings.

“Songs my Brothers Taught Me” is available for streaming on Netflix.

Anna Husted has a master’s in film studies from New York University. In Big Sky she can be found at the movies at Lone Peak Cinema or reading a book on her porch. When not gazing at the silver screen or watching her new favorite TV show, she’s running, fishing or roughhousing with her cat, Indiana Jones.

The debut feature film of writer and director Chloe Zhao explores the everyday realities of reservation life in the shadow of a father’s death, alcoholism and a band of siblings that come together to heal. PHOTO COURTESY OF “SONGS MY BROTHERS TAUGHT ME”

DID YOU KNOW?

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

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

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

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

RESPECT. PROTECT. CHERISH.

Paid for by the animals in your backyard.

Join us
for the 6th Annual
Big Sky Community Park Weed Pull!

Help cleanup the community parks & trails and enjoy a BBQ dinner on us!

When: Tuesday, June 19 4:30-6pm with dinner following

RSVP @ www.gallatinisa.org by Monday, June 18 so we can feed you!

Bring: Gloves, sun protection & long sleeves recommended.

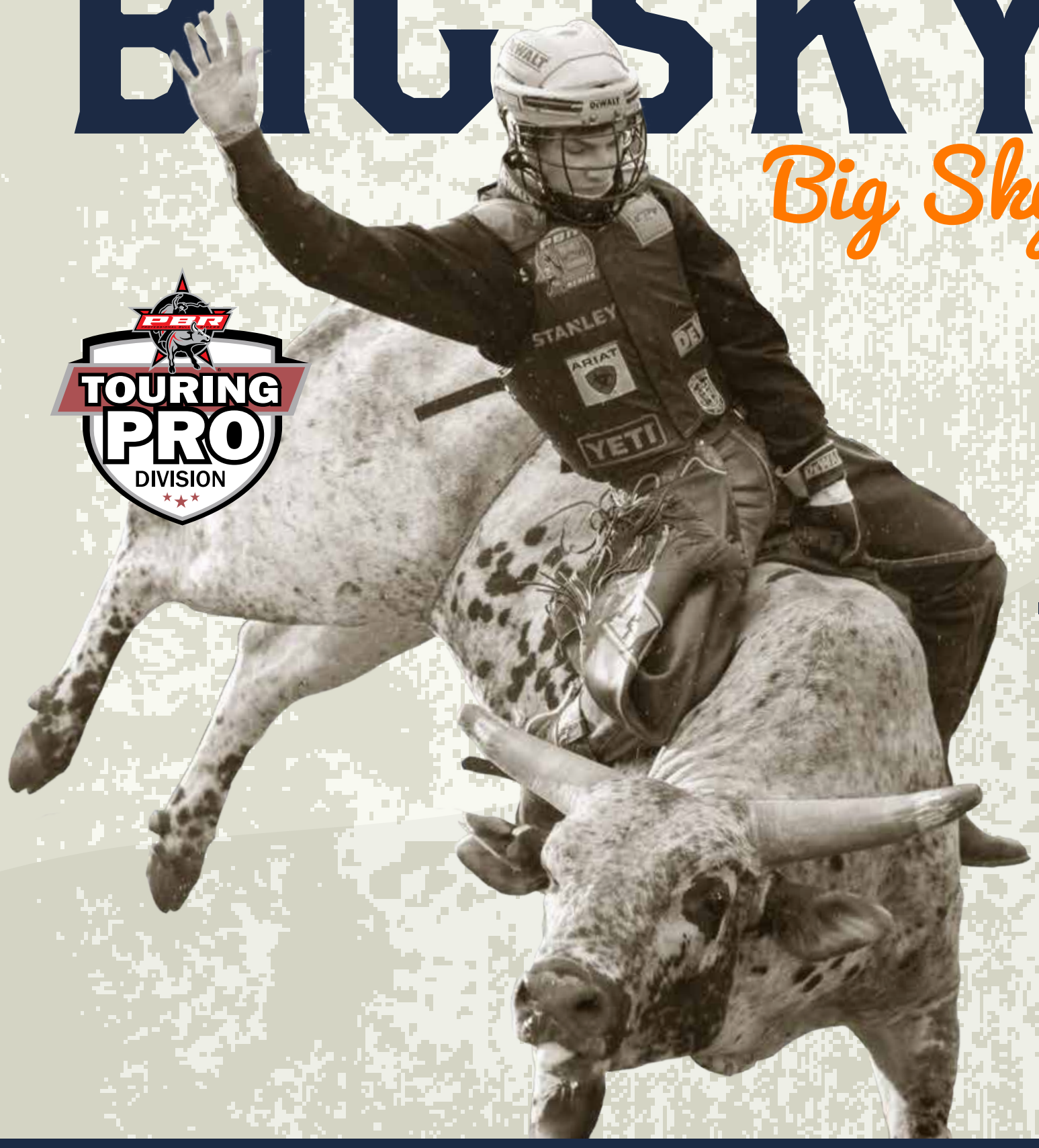
GALLATIN INVASIVE SPECIES ALLIANCE

Help us #KeepItNative

We couldn’t do it without our partners:
Big Sky Community Organization
Big Sky Owners Association
Big Sky Resort Tax
Gallatin County Weed District
Yellowstone Club

BIG SKY PB

Big Sky's Biggest



TOURING PRO DIVISION

WEDNESDAY **JULY**

Big Sky PBR Golf Tourna
to Benefit the Western Sports Foundation
Moonlight RESERVE Golf Course,
Registration at 9am | Shotgun Start at
bigskypbrgolftournament.eventbrite.co

Big Sky PBR Street Danc
presented by LEVI'S®
Town Center Ave | Big Sky Town Center
7 pm | FREE

OUTLAW PARTNERS

CONTINENTAL CONSTRUCTION

SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB

YELLOWSTONE C

LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH · Levi's · Big Sky Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY · SAV DIGITAL ENVIRONMENTS · YETI COOLERS · BIG SKY MONTANA · ERA Landmark REAL ESTATE BIG SKY · erika & company · Summit Avia

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ACE Hardware BIG SKY · BLUE RIBBON BUILDERS · GE JOHNSON CONSTRUCTION COMPANY A Joint Venture Jackson CONTRACTOR GROUP, INC. · L&K Real Estate · LONE PINE BUILDERS INC. · Rum DeSigns INC www.rumdesigns.com · FAY RANCHES Inc. · BRENDA H BROWN PERFORMANCE HORSES · CONC

Explore Big Sky · PRG GROUP · Airport Valet & Storage · SP COMMUNITY FOUNDATION · Martha Johnson, Broker THE BIG SKY REAL ESTATE CO. · JGB JARVIS CUSTOM BUILDERS · RHINESTONE COWGIRL A Montana Chic Boutique · Ania Bulis THE BIG SKY REAL ESTATE CO.

BR

t Week!

JULY 25-28, 2018 | BIG SKY, MT

THURSDAY JULY, 26
PBR BULL RIDING
TICKETS AVAILABLE!
BIGSKYPBR.COM

2018 Schedule of Events

25

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11am
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THURSDAY JULY 26

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

Big Sky PBR Local's Night Bull Riding Night 1
PBR Arena | 6-8pm

Music in the Mountains Featuring Shovels & Rope
sponsored by Big Sky PBR, presented by Arts Council Big Sky
Town Center Park | Shovels & Rope to start playing immediately following that night's bull riding | FREE

FRIDAY JULY 27

Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 2
PBR Arena
4pm – Vendor Village opens
5pm – 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
4pm – Vendor Village opens
5pm – 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

MOONLIGHT BASIN

SIMKINS HALLIN
BOZEMAN, MONTANA

BIG SKY TOWN CENTER
MONTANA

CLUB

ation
TRUCTION

HIGHAltitude PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
LOHSS CONSTRUCTION
OSM | THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
DORSEY always ahead
BIG SKY LUXURY RENTALS by NATURAL RETREATS
Shelly Bermont
SMARTHOME SYSTEMS
UCM UNITED CARGO MANAGEMENT

SHILOH MEDICAL CLINIC
TOP 1% coolsculpting
SOUTHERN CHAMPION
First Security Bank Success. Together.
liveTHEDREAM. LTDRealEstate.com
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Kitchen Dwellers, The Well, kick off Music in the Mountains June 21

EBS STAFF

The Arts Council of Big Sky's first Music in the Mountains concert of the summer opens with local band The Well taking Center Stage in Town Center Park at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 21, followed by the Bozeman-based Kitchen Dwellers for an evening of high-energy, bluegrass-bending jams.

The park will open at 5 p.m. for the second annual Soul Shine celebration, a fundraiser for ALS research and support hosted by the concert's sponsor The Hungry Moose Market and Deli, which will feature kids' activities, food and fun for the whole family.

Bozeman's Kitchen Dwellers kick off the Arts Council's summer concert series on June 21 with their progressive bluegrass-blending sound. PHOTO COURTESY OF KITCHEN DWELLERS

The Kitchen Dwellers is a four-piece band comprised of Shawn Swain on mandolin, Max Davies on guitar, Torrin Daniels on banjo and Joe Funk on upright bass.

"We like to use the term 'Galaxy Grass' to describe our sound," Swain said. "We like to take the ideas of traditional bluegrass music and turn them into something our own which is generally a more progressive, rock 'n' roll style approach to the genre. We are huge fans of extending jams, adding some psychedelic effects … we like to have fun with it. This is definitely not your grandfather's bluegrass band."

To satisfy fans who might attend a stretch of shows, and to keep themselves inspired, the Kitchen Dwellers are committed to providing a unique experience at each one of their shows.

"We put a lot of emphasis in making sure that when we play somewhere we don't play the same show we played last time we were there," Swain said. "We are usually trying to play new songs, introduce new covers, or just sometimes play things differently than we normally do. Sometimes our goal is to keep an audience wondering what the band will play on a given night."

The Kitchen Dwellers are excited to embark on their busy summer tour, but looking forward to playing a concert close to home, and their first performance at Music in the Mountains.

"We are definitely fired up to play at this epic outdoor venue right in our backyards for our hometown crowd," Swain said. "There's not many places more beautiful than that for a band to play."

Formed in November 2017, The Well is one of Big Sky's newest rock bands made up of some of its most familiar musicians: Brian Stumpf on guitar, Ben Macht on electric mandolin, Shane Stalling on drums and Lauren Jackson on bass and vocals.

Coming from very different musical backgrounds has given their original music a unique sound according to Stumpf, who said he would describe it as alt/psych rock. "A high energy funky sound with just a touch of instrumental improvisation."

Although Stumpf has been known to play in a number of local bands, he said he's so excited about this new project he has stepped aside from all other musical commitments to focus on writing new material for The Well and practicing to get ready for a packed summer tour.

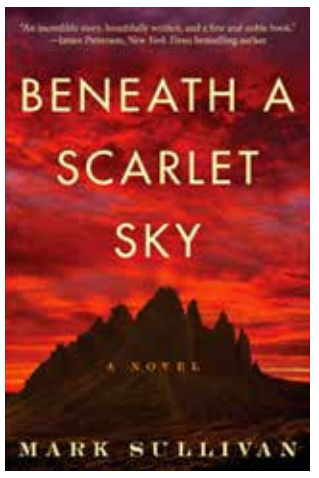
Town Center Park opens at 5 p.m. for the Soul Shine festivities, with an opening artist performing at 6 p.m., followed by The Well at 7 p.m., and the Kitchen Dwellers at 8:30. Visit bigskysoulshine.org or bigskyarts.org for more information.

Between the shelves

BY AMY HUNTER
ASSISTANT COMMUNITY LIBRARIAN

Libraries rock! We will have three different summer reading programs (SRP) this summer, one for grades K-5, one for grades 6-12, and one for adults. Each program will have special events and reading goals to accomplish.

All of the K-5 Ophir Elementary School students have received information about their SRP. Any Big Sky Discovery Academy students or parents who are interested should stop by the library as soon as possible to get the information. The first K-5 SRP event is June 19 beginning at 4 p.m.



The young adult (YA) program challenges students to read at least four different kinds of books in at least one unique setting, and attend three events this summer. The kick-off event is 6 p.m. June 19 at the library.
For adults, we are offering reading Bingo. Each square is a different type of book; once you get Bingo, stop by the library for a raffle entry. Other events this summer include "One Read Big Sky" to launch a new library book club featuring "Beneath a Scarlet Sky" by author Mark Sullivan. Sullivan will visit the library in August.

Join us this summer for one of our summer reading programs and visit bigskylibrary.org for updates.

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DOGS OF THE MONTH

SHEDDY

Age: Almost 2 years old
Breed: Black Lab
Owners: Albert and Diane Bartzick
Likes: Hiking, backcountry skiing, playing with his furry siblings, butt rubs and eating paper towels
Dislikes: Water, small children (especially when they're screaming) and not being fed on time
Claim to fame: Accidentally running full speed into very hard objects

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Family member
4 Signed (abbr.)
7 Atlantic (abbr.)
10 Amorphous mass
11 Haw. garland
12 Thunderfish
14 Apropos
16 Besides
17 Soft drink
18 Keen
20 Thus (Lat.)
21 Query
22 Charity
24 Weapon
27 Native
30 Wings
31 Skate
32 Berne's river
33 Wall
35 Inside
36 First principles
37 Kind of lettuce
38 Alas (Ger.)
40 Welsh onion
42 Limb
45 Bath cake
47 Madness
49 Work (Sp.)
50 Rubber tree
51 Love of Radames
52 This one (Lat.)
53 Sup
54 Before common era (abbr.)

DOWN

1 Rosebud, e.g.
2 Captive of Hercules
3 Compass direction
4 Loose
5 Bend
6 Aromatic herb
7 One hundred square meters
8 Magic charm
9 Continue
10 Bikini top
13 Drug Enforcement Admin. (abbr.)
15 Container
19 Ancient times
21 Sharp
23 Resources
24 Science class
25 According to (2 words)
26 4th incarnation of Vishnu
27 Auricle
28 Fury
29 Wax (pref.)
31 Leavings
34 Interstate Commerce Commission (abbr.)
35 Daughter of Eurydice
37 Santa's reindeer
38 Jap. volcanic crater
39 Cork County port
41 Firstborn of Benjamin
42 Of the kind of (suf.)
43 Journey
44 Sheep's cry
46 Lumberman's boot
48 Capture

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

■	A	K	A	■	N	R	A	■	O	C	H	■
A	G	E	R	■	O	U	R	■	R	O	U	E
D	U	C	K	L	U	R	E	■	A	N	G	L
E	E	K	■	E	R	I	C	A	■	S	E	S
■	■	■	A	V	I	■	A	M	B	I	■	■
C	O	N	C	I	S	E	■	I	O	D	I	N
A	N	O	A	■	H	E	B	■	N	E	V	A
G	E	N	R	E	■	L	A	T	E	R	A	N
■	■	S	A	S	H	■	L	B	S	■	■	■
A	W	E	■	P	I	P	A	L	■	A	P	T
P	E	N	D	■	S	E	N	S	I	B	L	E
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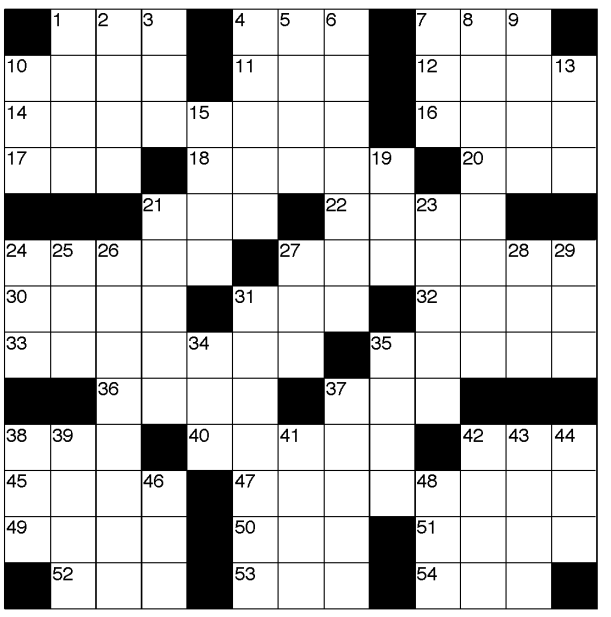
■	K	E	A	■	A	G	E	■	E	S	E	■



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Morningstar graduates on their way to Ophir

Left to right: Cedar, Cora and Jasper are three of 20 preschoolers who graduated from Morningstar Learning Center on June 1. They will attend kindergarten at Ophir Elementary School this fall. PHOTO COURTESY OF MORNINGSTAR LEARNING CENTER

American Life in Poetry: Column 689

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

If God is in the details, well, so is love. What makes this poem by Susanna Lang feel fresh and new are the specific details of not only one love, but of one morning, and of even a few specific moments in that one morning. Susanna Lang lives in Chicago, and this poem is from her new book, "Travel Notes from the River Styx," from Terrapin Books.

After You Get Up Early on Memorial Day

By Susanna Lang

You take the cats out with you, shut
the door: I have the whole wide bed, all
the covers to fall back asleep in, while you
cut up and sugar the strawberries, grind
the coffee, leave the radio off
so I won't be disturbed. The room is still
dark, rain forecast for the entire day,
other people's family picnics cancelled,
barbecues moved into basements, parades
rerouted to avoid flooded viaducts, the iris
losing petals beside newly cleaned graves,
their mason jars spilt into the saturated ground.
But here is my holiday, this drift back beneath thought
while I lie in the warm impression of your body.

We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts. American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2017 by Susanna Lang, "After You Get Up Early on Memorial Day, "from "Travel Notes from the River Styx," (Terrapin Books, 2017). Poem reprinted by permission of Susanna Lang and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2018 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.

From Jackie *with love*

BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

The key to becoming a better communicator

Excellent health is built on strong, loving relationships with ourselves and others. At the heart of stable relationships is good communication—clear, thoughtful communication can build trust and connectedness, and poor communication can result in toxic relationships.

While communicating is a two-way street, the only control you have in a conversation with another person is what you say and how you listen.

As a health coach, I've learned that the key to becoming a great communicator is becoming a great listener, but it takes practice. Being from New Jersey, where interrupting each other mid-sentence is a cultural norm, I'm still a work in progress.

In his book, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People," Stephen Covey lists the five ways in which we listen:

1. Ignoring: Making no effort to listen.
2. Pretend listening: Making believe you're listening.
3. Selective listening: Hearing only what interests you.
4. Attentive listening: Paying attention to what's being said and comparing it to yourself.
5. Empathic listening: Hearing with both the heart and the mind, with the intention of fully understanding not only the speaker's words but also their feelings.

Notice how the first four levels define the listener as not being fully present to the speaker, but instead, hearing them through personal filters and biases.

The Zen master and spiritual leader Tich Nhat Hanh refers to level-five listening as "compassionate" or "deep listening." In an interview with Oprah Winfrey on "SuperSoul Sunday," Hanh says that our single purpose in listening is to help others empty their hearts in order to bring transformation and healing.

He goes on to say that even if we have a solution for that person, it's best to reserve that thought for another time and practice staying fully present and listening without telling the speaker what to do.

Here are some tips you can practice every day to become a better listener:

- Don't complete someone else's sentence and don't interrupt: In her book, "Listen to Succeed," Leslie Shore says that not only does this type of communication keep us from fully understanding what someone is trying to say, it also sends the message that we're more important than they are.

- Stop judgmental thoughts by noticing them when they arise: This is challenging, and it takes diligent self-awareness—not only when you're in conversation with others, but in your own internal dialogue.

- Notice when you're preoccupied with your agenda, and making what someone else is saying all about you.

- Accept the emotions and stories of the speaker, without wanting to change them.

- Ask if they'd like to hear your advice before offering.

- If someone does want your advice, try saying, "I have some ideas, but first I'd like to hear what you have in in mind." This empowers the speaker by letting them know you trust them, and gives them space to come up with their own solutions.

The wise Greek philosopher, Epictetus, sums it up beautifully in this quote: "We have two ears and one mouth so we can listen twice as much as we speak."

Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach. Check out her new website corcoranhealth.com where you can schedule a free 30-minute health coaching session.

The hardest part of loving a cat

BY DARYN KAGAN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

I don't know if I made the right decision. Chances are I'll never know. I only know I made a different decision. A choice I've never had the fortitude to make before. A crushing dilemma that I figure you've faced, too, Dear Reader.

When do you let your beloved pet go?

Pisa was a different sort of cat. A three-legger who came to me eight years ago when I thought I wasn't yet ready for another cat. My third three-legged cat, actually. Why, how, the three-leggers find me is a mystery. A topic for another day.

This day, the only question was, "When? When to let go?" The downslide had started months before. The list of maladies layering upon each other. "The number one priority," the veterinarian told me, "we need to take care of these teeth." Teeth that were beginning to decay. Teeth, I was assured, that were incredibly painful to her, even though she didn't say so.

And so, I agreed. To surgery. To take them. "You can feed her tonight when you get home," the vet told me when I went to pick her up. I so looked forward to that moment. This cat, who could be cranky, who didn't like many people or things besides me, loved to eat. Only, the moment didn't come. She wouldn't eat that night. Or the next. Wouldn't drink either.

By the time the weekend ended, I drove an hour to my old vet who I trusted more, kicking myself for why I didn't start there in the first place. It was obvious she needed to stay. IV's. Syringe feeding. Nothing was the jump start we were looking for. Enough, I decided, enough. I brought her home. To sit in the clover in the backyard watching our chickens. To sleep under the stars on her favorite place on our deck. To make her happy. Again. And she was. Not happy enough to eat. But happy enough to make me question if I should keep the appointment I had made when I picked her up.

"She's not suffering," my sister assessed as I FaceTimed with her.

Which is when I knew. This time, with this pet, I had to do this differently. With other beloved pets, I squeezed every last moment. If I'm honest, too many moments, out of their time here on this planet. "Are you saying she has to suffer before I let her go?" I asked myself. "Is that not the cruelest standard of all?" Even if I could get her to eat or drink, there were uncomfortable treatments waiting for her for other challenging ailments.

And so, I kept our appointment. I let her go. Let her go on this side of suffering. Was it right? I look forward to one day getting to ask her.

Meanwhile, I trust she is in a place gobbling buckets of wet food, hunting frogs, free of our pesky puppy. She's on the other side of happy.

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.

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.

More things every (non)cook should know

BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Two weeks ago, I gave you some simple tips on entertaining, hosting friends or just expanding your options. This time, we are going to go a bit deeper. Now, you won't just entertain, you will also impress.

A great burger. First, don't undervalue a quality bun that is the same size as the final cooked patty. Next, purchase quality beef. When patting, do not over squish or mold in your hand, it will take on a texture like meatloaf and will be chewier, which is not always ideal. A pan seared burger will always be more moist and flavorful than a grilled one, unless the grill uses wood rather than gas flame. And incorporate a couple ice cubes and a tiny spoon of peanut butter in the meat as you season it. Trust me.

At least one dessert. Panna cotta is an easy custard thickened with gelatin rather than egg yolks, and if you use coconut milk, it can also be dairy free. Use equal parts heavy cream and milk, and one eighth of that amount of granulated sugar, with either one tablespoon of extract of choice, or one cup of any fruit flavor you want. Place gelatin in 1/2 cup cold water for five minutes. Heat remaining ingredients to boil and stir in gelatin. Pour into cups and set for a minimum of four hours or overnight. For an upgrade, add a bit of additional fruit in the bottom of your dish before pouring in the hot liquid.

A good sauce, any sauce. Here's a secret of mine. If you make a hollandaise with warm oil rather than butter, it will be far more stable until you are ready to serve it.

The principles of global ingredients. There are three universal vegetables that, despite their origin, you will find on every continent. They are onions, peppers and tomatoes. From there, many ingredients have ethnic crossover, it's just a matter of how they are incorporated. For example, cilantro and coconut milk are used from Mexico to Asia, while hot peppers are used throughout the world.

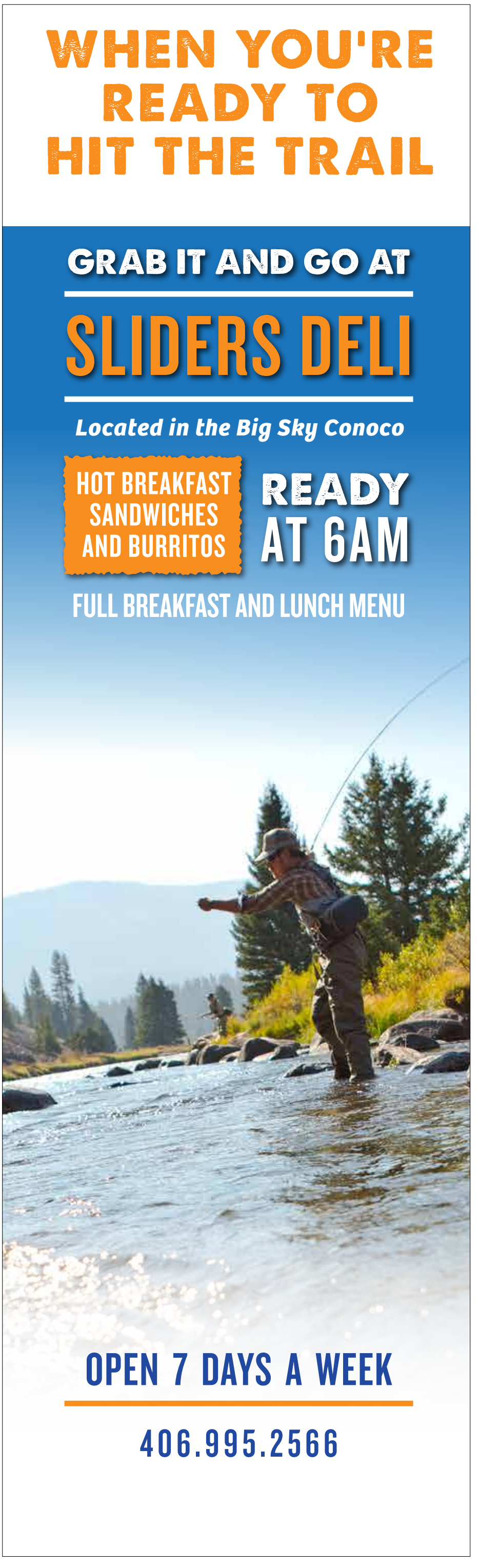
Ethnic braising. Put simply, cooking at a low temperature for a long time in liquid to tenderize tougher but flavorful cuts of meat. A good standard is 225 degrees for six hours. A basic rule that covers a lot of ground is to use red or white wine along with thyme and garlic with Western European braises, particularly Spain and France. Use thin animal-based stocks such as chicken and pork for Latin braises, and use coconut milk for east Asian dishes, particularly Vietnamese and Thai.

Food and wine pairings. One that fits us well in America is Cabernet Sauvignon and a rib eye steak. Another pair to remember is pinot noir with game birds, or pinot and poultry. Third, an acidic Sauvignon blanc does well with any goat cheese or flat flavor on the palate. Two more guidelines are that the wine should match the color of the meat. And if pairing with dessert, the wine should be the sweeter one.

Pickling and curing. This is a great way to add depth and texture to otherwise common foods, such as salmon or garden vegetables. Scandinavians wrote the book on pickling and preserving. And their pickling method is as easy as one two three. Or in other words, one-part vinegar, two parts sugar and three parts water.

Heat the water until it is warm enough to dissolve the sugar. Stir together those three ingredients and cool. Add any fruit or vegetable for as short as 48 hours but you can also leave them in the mixture and eat as desired.

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



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5 pointers for first-time homebuyers

EBS STAFF

Buying a house can be an exciting—and daunting—undertaking, especially for first-time buyers. Here are a few key tips to help make the process more manageable. Having your financial ducks in a row will expedite the steps of making your dream home a reality.

1. Determine your credit

Your credit score is one of the most important factors in qualifying for a loan, and paying your bills on time every month doesn't necessarily translate into an excellent credit score. Your credit utilization ratio—the amount of credit you're using of your available credit limit—will impact your overall credit score.

The less available credit you are using, the higher your score. Ideally, first-time homebuyers will have a high available credit limit, and use less than a third of it.

If you owe more than lenders like to see based on your income, your credit may need some work. It's advised to start improving your credit at least six months before seriously shopping for a house.

Once you get your credit report, read it closely for mistakes, and unpaid or collection accounts.

2. Assess your financial standing

Another good idea is to take a close look at how you spend your money. How much goes out and how much comes in? Do you have a surplus of funds at the end of every month, or are you living paycheck to paycheck?

It's wise for first-time homebuyers to track their spending for a couple months to get a clear idea of where their money is going.

Buyers should also have a sense for how mortgage lenders will view their income. Self-employed individuals or those who rely solely on commission may find it more difficult to obtain a loan than others. If you fall into either category, be prepared with two years of earnings history to present to a lender.

3. Get your paperwork together

Homebuyers must have proof of income and taxes when applying for a mortgage. Lenders typically want to see two recent pay stubs, W-2s from the previous two years, tax returns, and bank statements from the past two months, including every page of the statements, even the blank ones.

4. Qualify yourself

First-time homebuyers should already know what is within their budget before the mortgage lender tells them how much they qualify for. If you don't yet know, there are many resources online that can help you calculate how much you can afford, both upfront and monthly.

Once you determine how much you can put down and the monthly payment you can afford, you can figure out the third variable—the home price.

5. Secure your down payment

One of the biggest obstacles for potential homebuyers is scraping together the down payment. If you find yourself in this situation, there are programs that can offer financial assistance to help buyers qualify.

Assistance loans, many of which resemble grants, can be interest- and payment-free, and forgivable after five years. Many are supported by the HOME Investment Partnership Program, a federal block grant to make housing affordable. At the local level, HRDC offers a down payment assistance program based on income, and assists potential homebuyers in acquiring area properties within their means.

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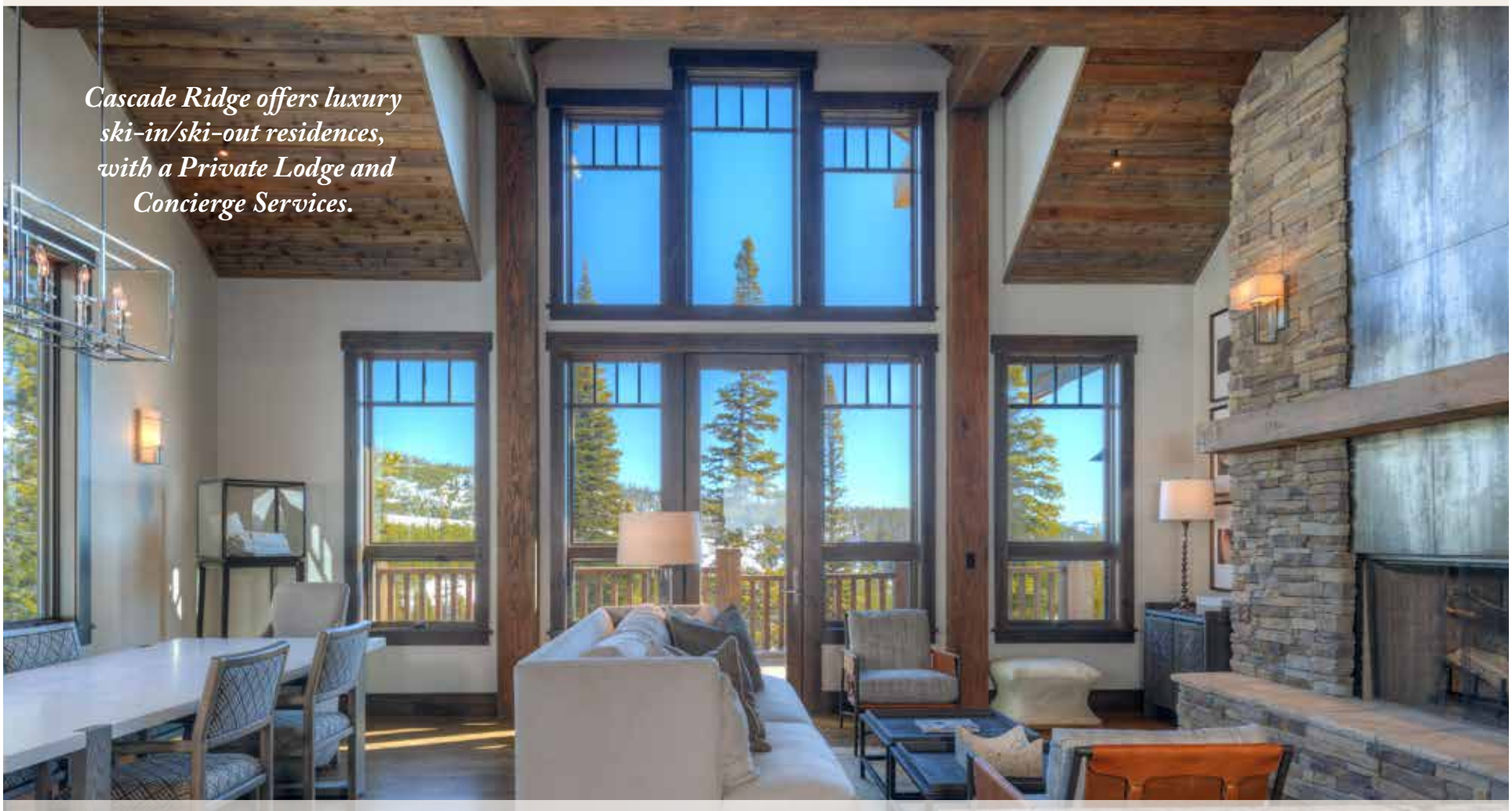

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SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

Architect's Wife
Cabin Fever

Where the pavement ends, the Montana dream begins in this mountain cabin hideaway. Fishing poles are stacked by the back door, and Patsy Cline plays from an old tape deck that came with the cabin—just one of the many folksy charms of this rustic retreat.

Abby Hetherington, owner and founder of Abby Hetherington Interiors and Architect's Wife—and bona fide cabin enthusiast—sees this type of mountain cabin as a remedy for the hectic pace of our modern lives.

"People crave places removed the from the noise and pressures that surround us, so they can be restored in nature," Hetherington says. "There is a nostalgia that comes with smaller, cozy spaces that are in relatively remote locations."

This welcoming cabin on the Boulder River is a reminder you don't have to travel far to find solace and calm in an environment away from the stress of your everyday life. A short, scenic drive from the growing city of Bozeman takes you to this oasis nestled among soaring peaks and the expansive sky. The close proximity to the owner's everyday life allows an for easy escape from the bustle of the week, into an environment prioritizing connection to family and nature.

The cozy cabin nestled in the woods invites you to get comfortable and stay awhile. PHOTOS BY SETH NEILSON

The simple charms of this humble fishing cabin have been blended with a contemporary aesthetic, creating an environment that feels at once authentic and stylish. The owner wanted to create a timeless space for friends and family to gather year after year - and they've done just that with weekends filled with outdoor adventures, followed by intimate dinner parties and nights gathered around a fire. The cabin exudes the old romance of scaled down living, with the owner and guests feeling happier and rejuvenated after each visit.

Cabin living and retreats are once again making a comeback.

"We're seeing a lot of cabin projects and remodels," Hetherington says. "Cabin living offers an escape from preoccupations with work and our reliance on technology. The need to get back to nature and get some clarity is becoming more and more prevalent."

Architect's Wife, located in downtown Bozeman, was the source of most of the furnishings.

"Our goal is to always help support the design process. We are here so that our clients can come in and feel, touch, and experience the products. We want our customers to love what they have chosen, and a hands-on approach is always best," said Allison Frederick, Architect's Wife manager.

"We spend a lot of time with designers and customers alike to educate them on every aspect of our product lines—we listen and help guide," she added. "We're here as the ultimate resource for furniture, as well as the one-of-a-kind finds that create personality in your space."

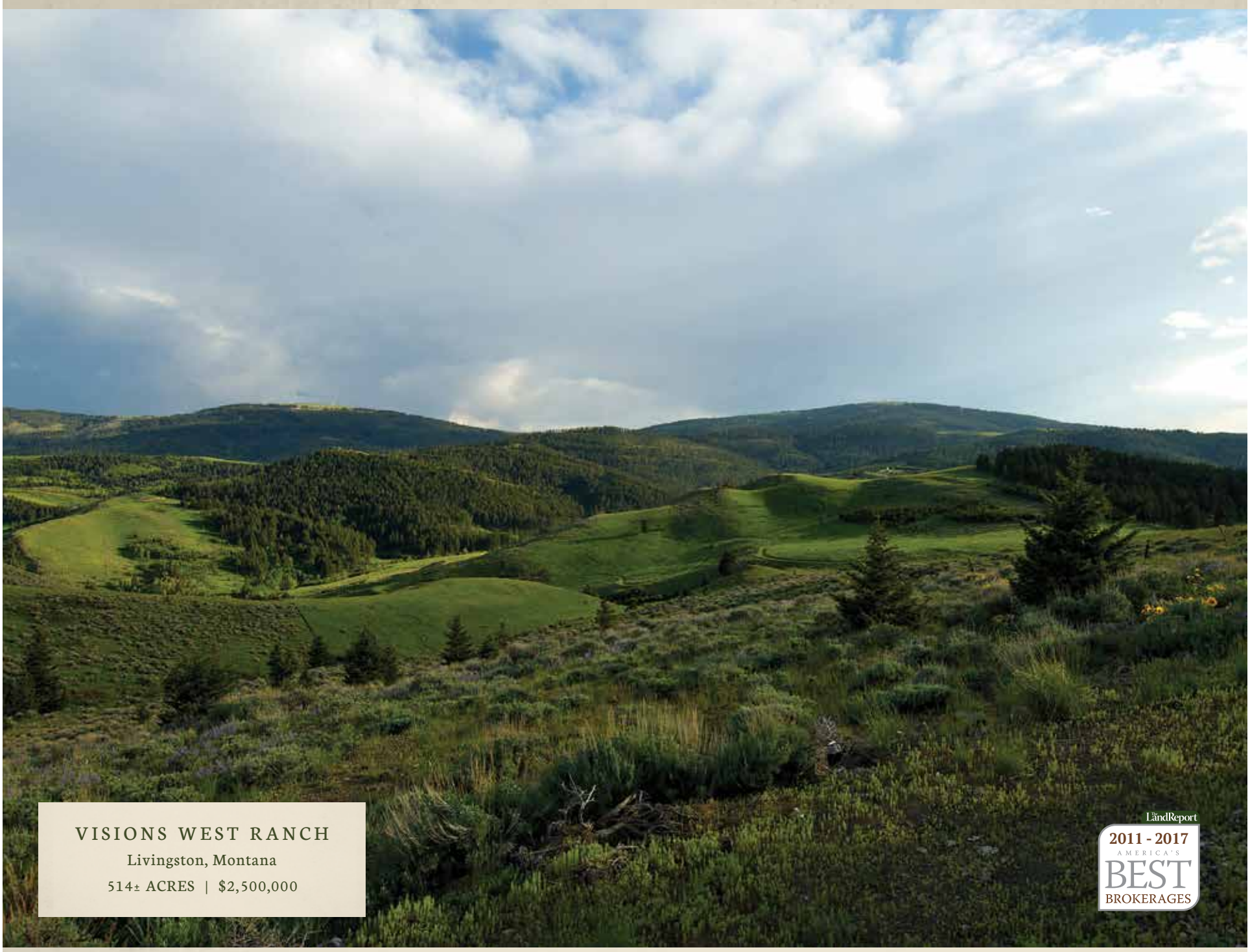
Abby Hetherington Interiors and Architect's Wife partnered on the Boulder River cabin to combine great interior design with perfectly curated home furnishings, creating a space that feels welcoming, unique and beautifully functional.

The Architect's Wife is located in the historic Montana Motor Supply building at 23 West Babcock Street in Bozeman. Visit architectswife.com or call (406) 577-2000 for more information.

For interior design services, contact Abby Hetherington Interiors at abby@betheringtoninteriors.com or call (406) 404-1330.

A mix of deluxe bedding, antiques and unique custom pieces furnish the cabin bedrooms. A vintage twist brings a feeling of nostalgia to this weekend retreat. Interior Design by Abby Hetherington Interiors.

FARMS ■ TIMBER ■ RANCHES ■ PLANTATIONS



VISIONS WEST RANCH
Livingston, Montana
514± ACRES | $2,500,000

The LandReport
2011 - 2017
AMERICA'S
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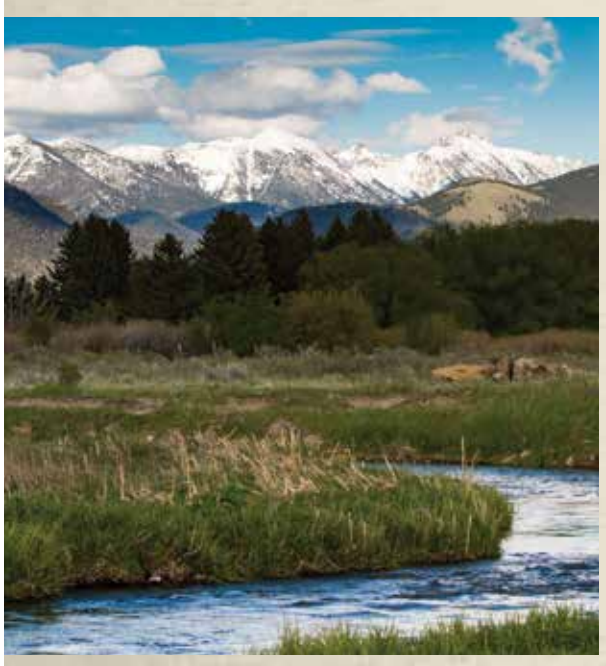

O'DELLS SPRING CREEK
SAUNDERS RANCH
Ennis, Montana
89± ACRES | $2,890,000

JEFFERSON RIVERBENDS
PRESERVE
Waterloo, Montana
120± ACRES | $1,295,000

WADE LAKE OVERLOOK
Cameron, Montana
20± ACRES | $995,000

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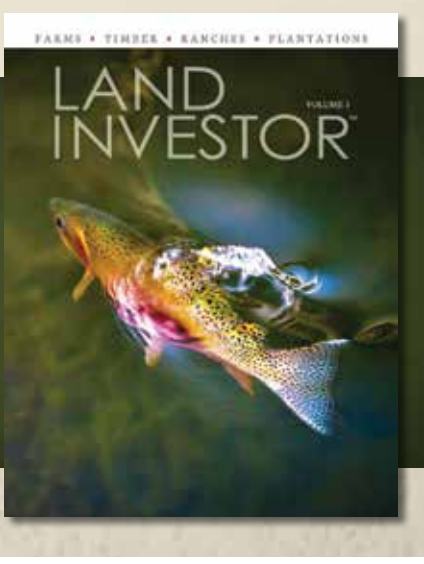


Making it in Big Sky

Blue Ribbon Builders

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY - Blue Ribbon Builders began in Big Sky in the mid-1970s. According to owners JoDean and Doug Bing, there was open space everywhere and not too many local builders or clients. They started doing jobs for some of the resident ranchers and Big Sky Resort, as well as building homes for second home owners. They rolled with the times and went on to build many fine homes, condominiums and commercial buildings in the area. Their business continues to thrive in the custom home market today.

As part of this ongoing series, the Bings shared their thoughts with EBS on what it takes to make it as a small business owner in Big Sky over the long term. They collaborated on the responses below.

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

Blue Ribbon Builders: Open and honest communication, exceeding customers' expectations, quality craftsmanship and safety.

EBS: *Do you remember your first customer or first sale?*

BRB: Yes, we built a nine bedroom home for a couple with eight children at the mouth of the Gallatin Canyon.

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

BRB: The obstacles have changed over the decades. In the first years of Big Sky it was a lack of year-round economic opportunity. Now the impediment is finding homes to keep our local craftsmen and women in Big Sky.

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

BRB: Cabins to lodges, simplicity to complex, rustic to contemporary.

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

BRB: Home, sweet, home. We moved here in our late teens, married here, and raised three children here. We have a plethora of friends, family and memories here.

EBS: *What is one of the most memorable moments you have had as a resident/business owner in Big Sky?*

BRB: 1973—the first time driving through Gallatin Canyon. There were very few cars or people, no highway signs and no guardrail. So scenic and so beautiful—a slice of heaven!

Doug and JoDean Bing started Big Sky's Blue Ribbon Builders in the mid '70s and continue to thrive in the custom home building market today. PHOTO COURTESY OF BLUE RIBBON BUILDERS

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

BRB: Always do what you say you're going to do.

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

BRB: Understand the commitment of running a business. It requires an enormous amount of time, resources and you must wear many different hats.

EBS: *Where do you see your business in 10 years?*

BRB: Building some of the most beautiful homes in Big Sky! We have a young energetic group.

EBS: *Where do you see Big Sky in 20 years?*

BRB: Will Big Sky really be built out in 20 years? If so, Blue Ribbon Builders will continue to update and remodel the homes they built in the earlier years of Big Sky.

EBS: *Would you do it all over again?*

BRB: Yes, of course. It's been a very rewarding and satisfying career.

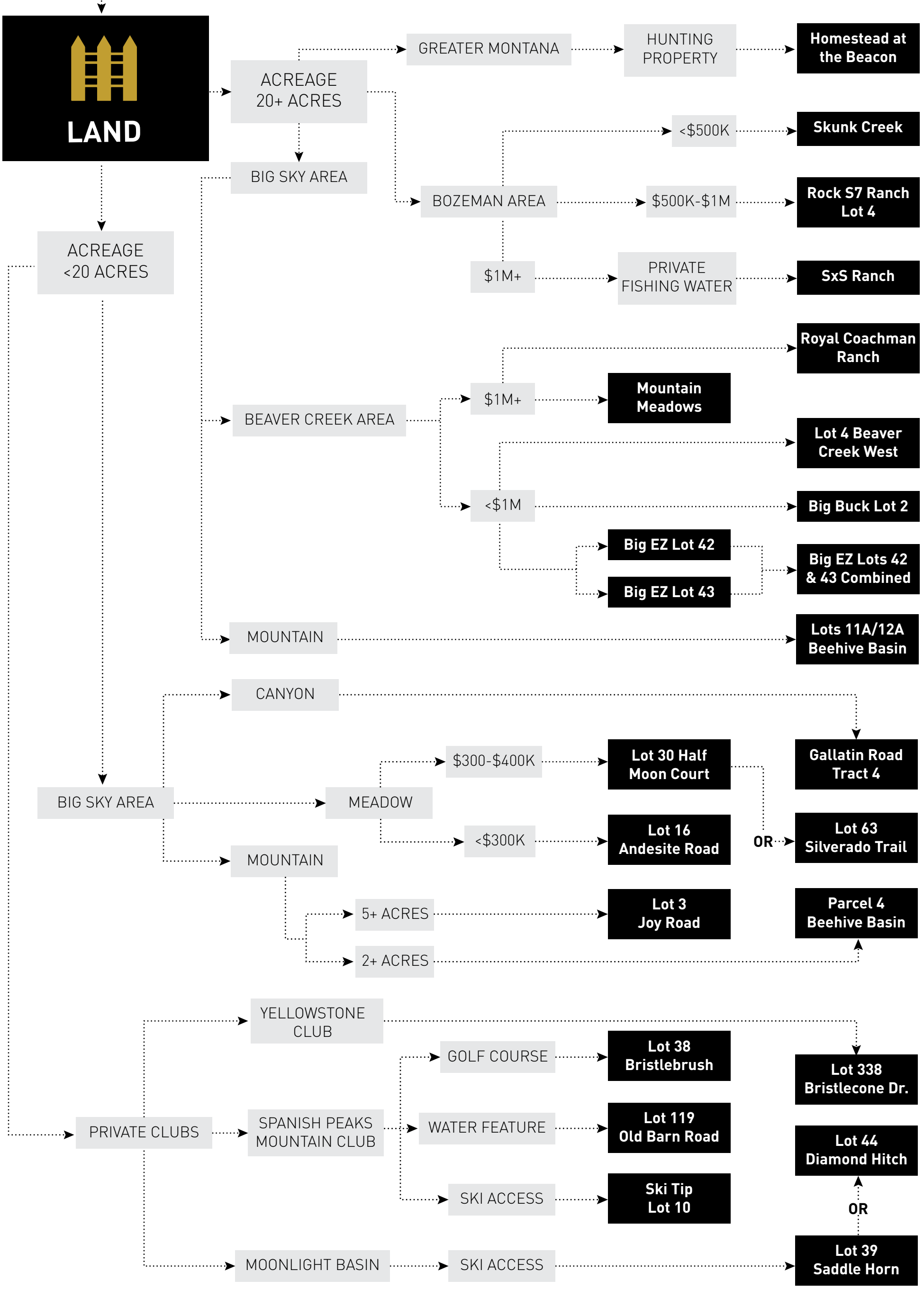
BLUE RIBBON BUILDERS - BY THE NUMBERS

STAFF:
40

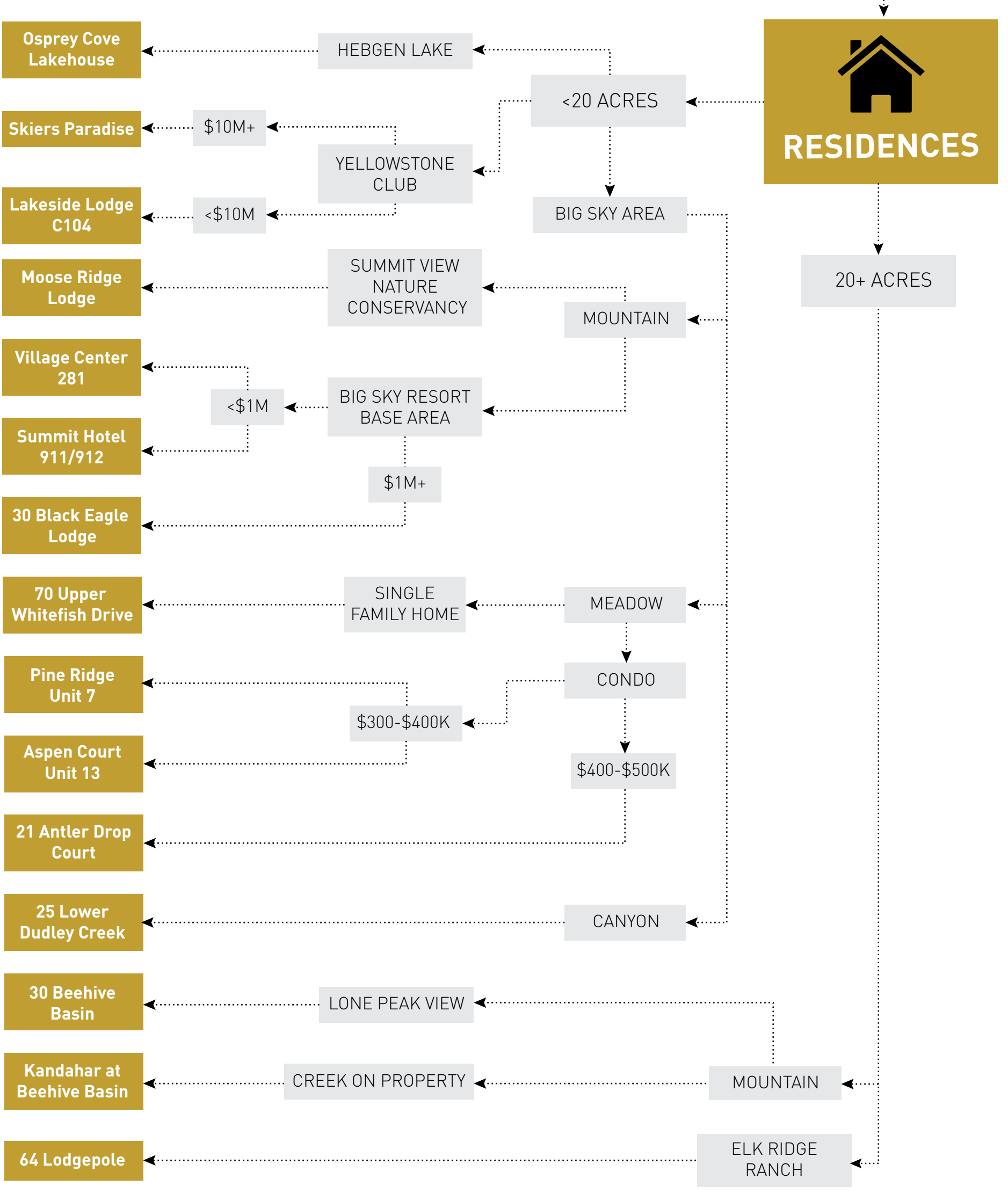
YEARS IN BUSINESS:
43

LONGEST SERVING EMPLOYEE:
Andy Cox, 38 years

Which L&K listing is t



the perfect fit for you?



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Concierge Auctions announces summer sale

Featuring an exclusive collection of mountain properties

Concierge Auctions will be accelerating the sale of a collection of homes this summer through a bidding event exclusively featuring mountain properties. Properties in the sale will launch in June, with bidding open from July 27 to July 30, and hosted via the Concierge Auctions' online marketplace, conciergeauctions.com, allowing prospective buyers to participate in real-time from anywhere in the world.

"With a decade in business and nearly $2 billion in sales achieved since our inception—one-third of which were of mountain properties across the United States, Canada and in Europe—our team is deeply experienced in matching active buyers to premier properties in some of the most sought-after mountain destinations around the world," said Concierge Auctions Senior Vice President of Business Development Nick Leonard.

(ABOVE AND RIGHT) Vail, Colorado: Previously $5.699 million, without reserve.

"Our global platform is sure to deliver a successful sale, benefiting sellers and buyers who are ready to bid on choice, one-of-a-kind properties alike," he added. "We look forward to releasing the full collection in June."

The sale will kick off with the launch of two exquisite properties—a light-filled retreat located just 10 minutes from Vail Village and in close proximity to world-class skiing, and an English manor estate in Cherry Hills Village with stunning mountain views and exquisite wood details.

As part of Concierge Auctions' Key for Key giving program, in partnership with Giveback Homes, each sale will result in a new home built for a family in need.

Cherry Hills Village, Colorado: Previously $5.25 million, without reserve. PHOTOS COURTESY OF CONCIERGE AUCTIONS

Concierge Auctions is the largest luxury real estate marketplace in the world. Powered by state-of-the-art technology, the company has generated nearly $2 billion in sales and is active in 38 U.S. states and territories, and 19 countries. Concierge curates the best properties globally, matches them with qualified buyers, and facilitates transparent, market-driven transactions in an expedited timeframe. The firm owns what is arguably the most valuable, ultra-high-net-worth client list in real estate and has been named one of America's fastest-growing companies by Inc. Magazine for the past four years.

Concierge Auctions offers a commission to both the sellers' and buyers' representing real estate agents—see auction terms and conditions for full details. To view all of the properties in Concierge Auctions' mountain summer collection, visit conciergeauctions.com.

BIG SKY BUILD

EST. 1997

BIGSKYBUILD.COM

RE/MAX

Pat is starting his 15th year with RE/MAX in Bozeman. Prior to moving to Bozeman, Pat sold real estate in Illinois with his mother and father, both at public auction and private treaty. With the Big Sky's rocketing price please consider giving Pat a ring for all of your Bozeman needs. More bang for your buck.

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406-580-9262

BUSBY AUCTION GROUP

PATRICK "PAT" BUSBY
Lead Auctioneer

Pat has been in the auction business for almost 45 years. He specializes in benefits and charitable events across the country and here in the Big Sky country. Pick up the phone and give him a call, you won't be disappointed.

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BOZEMAN, MT
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PBUSBY1961@GMAIL.COM

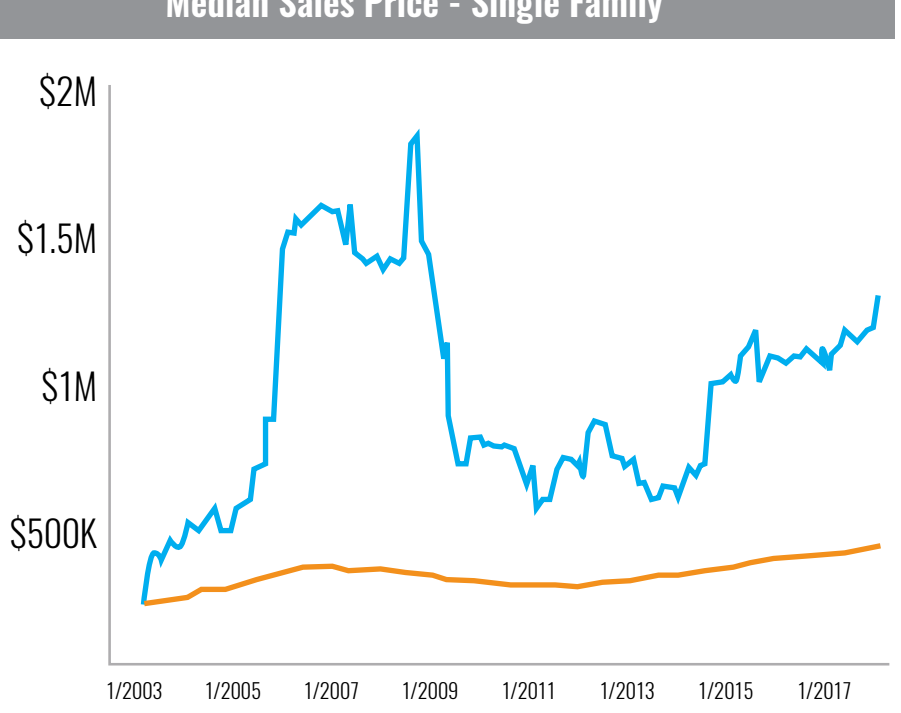
Greater Big Sky Market Update - April 2018

Single Family	April			Year to Date		
Key Metrics	**2017**	**2018**	**% Change**	**Through 4/2017**	**Through 4/2018**	**% Change**
New Listings	7	4	-42.9%	30	36	-20%
Pending Sales	8	13	+62.5%	25	45	+80%
Closed Sales	6	10	+66.7%	18	27	+50%
Days on Market Until Sale	192	151	-21.4%	172	157	-8.7%
Median Sales Price*	$2,135,000	$1,518,000	-28.9%	$1,067,500	$1,471,500	37.8%
Average Sales Price*	$2,107,500	$2,210,356	+4.9%	$1,469,327	$1,830,341	+24.6%
Percent of List Price Recieved*	93.3%	94.9%	+1.7%	95.1%	97.3%	+2.3%
Inventory of Homes for Sale	78	49	-37.2%	---	---	---
Months Supply of Inventory	12.3	6.0	51.2%	---	---	---

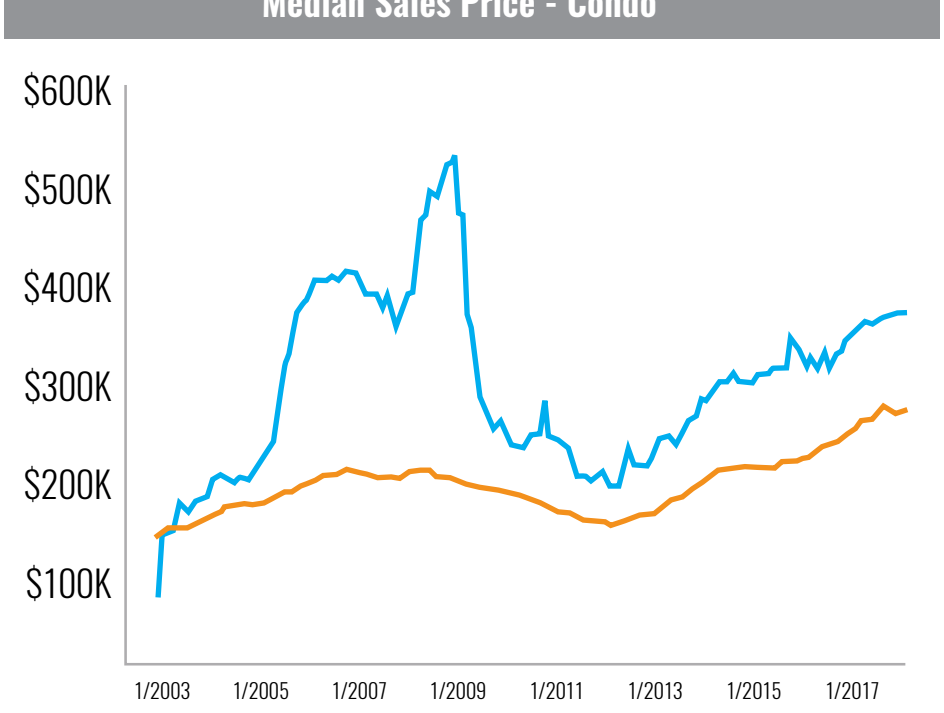
Single Family	April			Year to Date		
Key Metrics	**2017**	**2018**	**% Change**	**Through 4/2017**	**Through 4/2018**	**% Change**
New Listings	11	10	-9.1%	65	62	-4.6%
Pending Sales	18	8	-55.6%	73	73	0%
Closed Sales	15	25	+66.7%	51	62	+21.6%
Days on Market Until Sale	85	157	+84.7%	166	122	-26.5%
Median Sales Price*	$413,000	$460,000	+11.4%	$372,500	$387,900	+4.1%
Average Sales Price*	$464,037	$582,531	+25.5%	$475,912	$487,195	+2.4%
Percent of List Price Recieved*	99.3%	96.5%	-2.8%	96.6%	96.7%	+0.1%
Inventory of Homes for Sale	97	93	-4.1%	---	---	---
Months Supply of Inventory	6.3	6.5	+3.2%	---	---	---

**Does not account for sale concessions and/or downpayment assistance. Percent changes are calculated used rounded figures and can sometimes look extreme due to small sample size.*

Median Sales Price - Single Family



Median Sales Price - Condo



A rolling 12-month calculation represents the current month and the 11 months prior in a single data point. If no activity occured during a month, the line extends to the next available data point

The spectrum of the Big Sky housing market

According to the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) at EBS press time, these are the least and most expensive homes available to the public on the Big Sky market*. If neither suits your taste or budget, contact a local realtor to explore the options in between.

Big Sky Mountain
440 SQ FT
Studio, 1 bathroom
$152K

Located in the heart of Mountain Village at Big Sky Resort, this ground level Hill condominium is all about easy access to the slopes. This studio provides all you need to have your very own ski vacation condo—fantastic views of Lone Mountain and within walking distance to the ski hill, restaurants, and shops. Listing agent: Jerry Pape, Triple Creek Realty, (406) 995-4848, jpape@triplecreek.com

Moonlight Basin
6,971 SQ FT, 2.43 ACRES
7 bedrooms, 8 bathrooms
$7.5M

Perched above Cowboy Heaven ski run in Moonlight Basin, this custom home has been built to be both elegant and comfortable. Large timbers accentuate exterior and interior spaces, and are complemented by two massive stone fireplaces spanning all three stories of the home. Six bedrooms, two of which are bunk rooms, flank each side of the home while a large living area, kitchen, game room, dining area, theater, ski room and laundry encompass the lower level. Guest quarters above garage. Listing agent: Ania Bulis, Big Sky Real Estate, (406) 580-6852, ania@bigsky.com

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. *Does not include properties for sale at The Yellowstone Club

Down payment assistance available in Big Sky

EBS STAFF

The federal HOME down payment assistance program became available to homebuyers in Big Sky in March. Originally capped for properties of $272,000 or less, the maximum sale price has recently been raised to $285,000.

"This should open up more of the Big Sky housing market to potential down payment assistance via HRDC," said Brian Guyer, HRDC community development manager and a guiding member of the Big Sky Community Housing Trust advisory council.

"The biggest barrier is the down payment," he said. "Scraping together $30,000 is not an easy task for many people working and living in Big Sky."

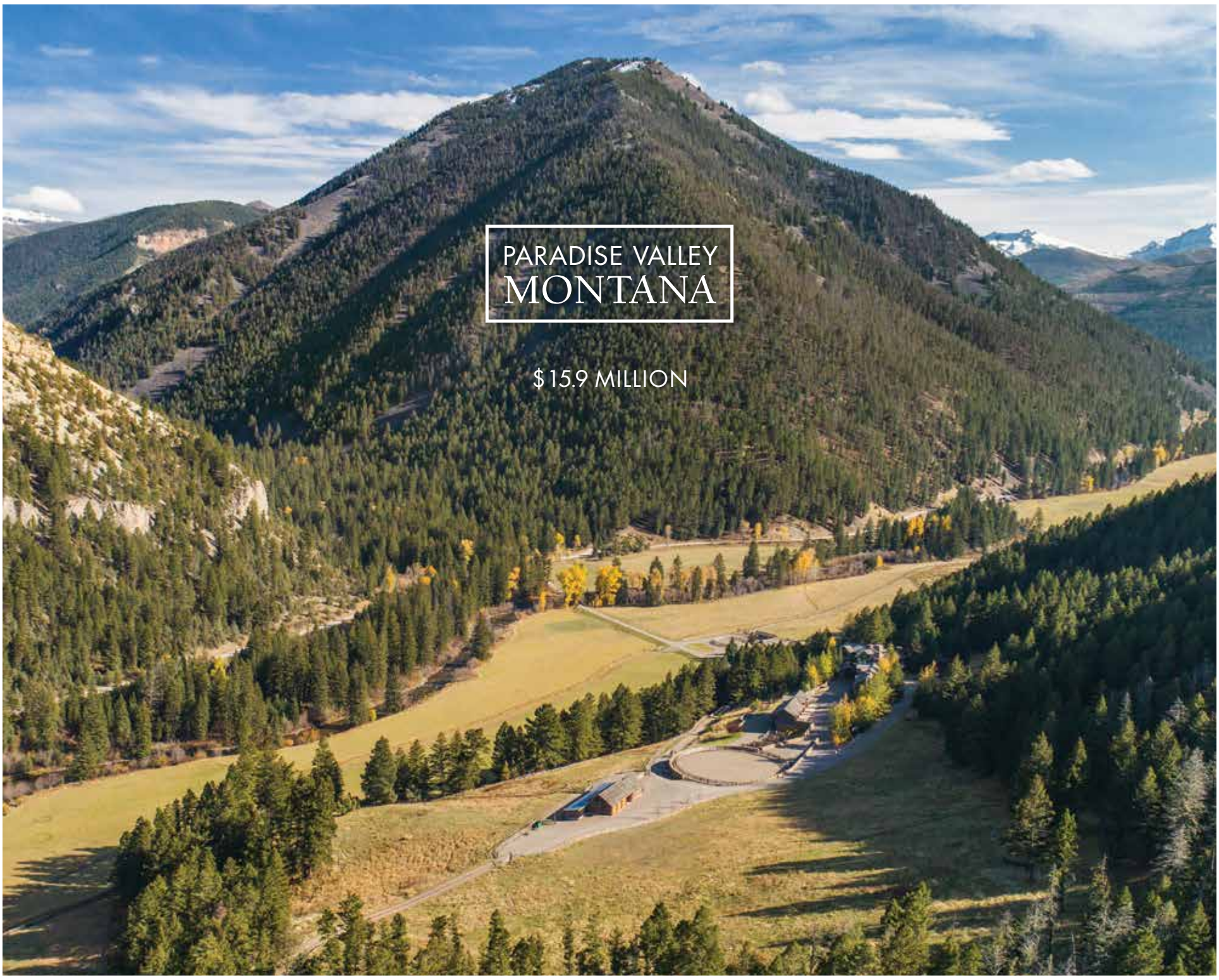
The financial assistance will act as a second mortgage for approved parties. That amount is then rolled into a home loan and paid back as part of the monthly mortgage payment. Guyer said interested buyers could qualify for as much as $30,000 in down payment assistance.

The BSCHT advisory council is still working toward crafting a Big Sky-specific down payment assistance program with NeighborWorks, HRDC and Big Sky Western Bank that would more accurately reflect Big Sky housing market prices.

For those interested in benefiting from the program, the first step is taking the Homebuyer Education Course offered by HRDC, a prerequisite for consideration.

The next courses will be held 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 16; 5 to 9 p.m. Monday and Tuesday June 25-26; and 5 to 9 p.m. Monday and Tuesday July 30-31, at Gallatin County Detention Center Community Room, 605 S. 16th Ave. in Bozeman.

Contact HRDC housing counselor Roselle Shallah at (406) 585-4895 to register or visit thebrdc.org for more information.



5 Bar 6 Ranch

922 MILL CREEK ROAD | PRAY, MT

The 5 Bar 6 offers sanctuary from the outside world yet is just 25 miles from downtown Livingston. World-class amenities, sterling recreational attributes and extensive adjoining National Forest lands create a grand vacation lifestyle accessible all year round. Pristine Mill Creek flows through the ranch for +/- 2 miles offering exceptional fly fishing. Three homes and 2 vintage cabins provide a total of 17 beds and 18.5 baths. Beautiful equestrian facilities, irrigated meadows, bountiful wildlife and striking views of mountain peaks dominate this magnificent +/- 240-acre property. The 5 Bar 6 Ranch is one of the most beautiful and rare properties to come to market in Paradise Valley. This offering presents a once-in-a-lifetime investment opportunity for those seeking an extraordinary Montana lifestyle.

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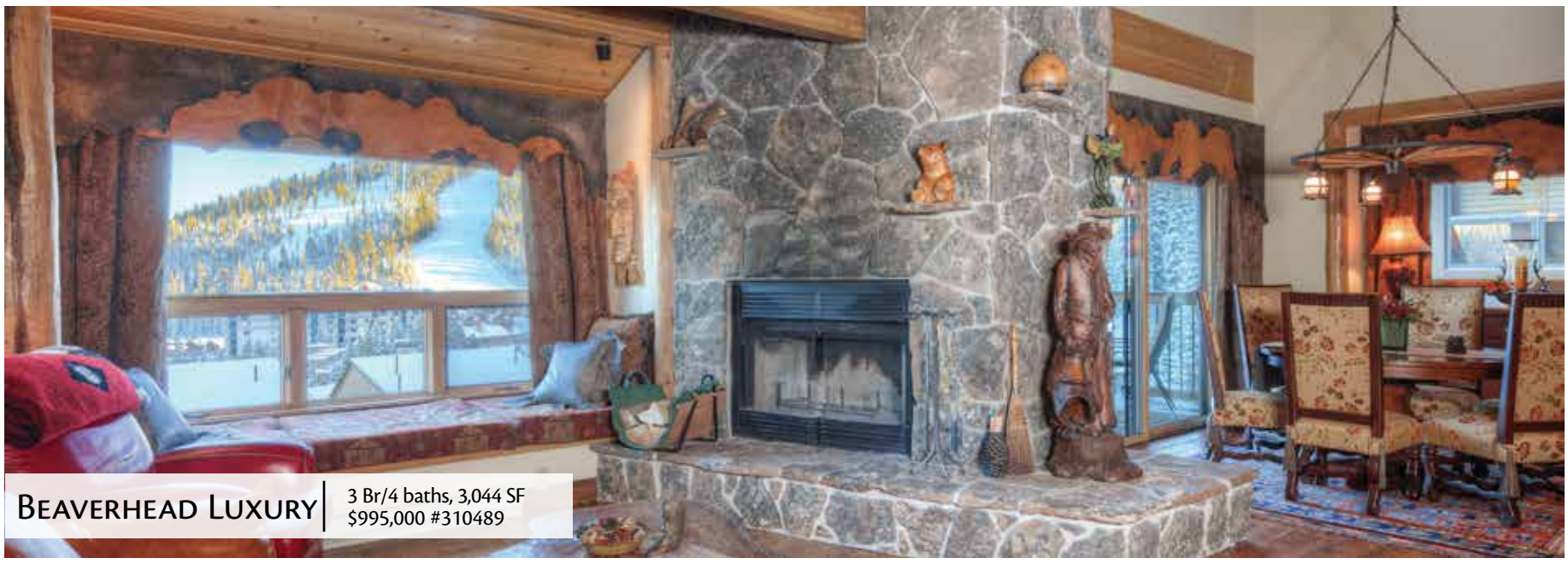

Beaverhead Luxury | 3 Br/4 baths, 3,044 SF
$995,000 #310489

Gallatin River Frontage | Mixed Use on 5+ Acres
$2,590,000 #319338

Beaver Mountain | 3 Br/2 baths, 1,697 SF
$735,000 #300955

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