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#### **OUTLAW PARTNERS & EXPLORE BIG SKY**

P.O. Box 160250, Big Sky, MT 59716 (406) 995-2055 • media@outlaw.partners **ON THE COVER:** A rider takes air during last summer's Lone Peak Revenge race, which is part of the Montana Enduro Series. This year's competition takes place at the resort on Sunday, July 29, and Big Sky officially opens its mountain biking season on Saturday, June 23, with Explorer, Swift Current and Thunder Wolf chairlifts spinning for downhill riders. PHOTO BY GABE PRIESTLEY

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1: News	6
Opinion5	
Local6	
Montana13	Fi
Section 2: Business, Sports, Health & Fun	
Business17	1

Section 3: Environment, Outd	oors & Back 40
Environment	33
Outdoors	34

Sports......21

Section 4: Arts, Entertainment & Classified	s
Arts & Entertainment	4
Classifieds	5



irelights face water crisis



## **Q&A** with Robert **Earl Keen**

Keen to perform at Wildlands Festival

Happy 91st Ruby Delzer!



#### Plus:

**Special section: Dining** under the Big Sky



Elk calves call out for their mothers, which brave a swim in the swollen Gallatin River in Big Sky on June 18. PHOTO BY ALAN JOHNSON

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



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Martha has been a resident of Big Sky since 1988 and has worked in real estate for approximately 20 years.

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**4** June 22 - July 2, 2018 **Explore** Big Sky



## Parks and Trails Gala celebrates 20 years of community work

**EBS STAFF** 

The annual Parks and Trails Gala returns to the Big Sky Community Park on July 6 at 6 p.m., celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Big Sky Community Organization.

BSCO was founded in 1998 with the name Big Sky Community Corp., but in 2016 the organization changed names to reflect its nonprofit status. Over the years, they have worked to promote recreation with the acquisition of trail property, developing outdoor programs and creating, maintaining and improving area parks and trails.

"Our organization is committed to the vision of a community built around our natural environment that is healthy, active and inclusive," said BSCO executive director Ciara Wolfe.

Last year, the Parks and Trails Gala raised \$195,000, with more than 200 people in attendance.

In addition to a farm-to-table dinner prepared by the Ennis catering company Seasonal Montana, the evening will feature a live auction of items that range from weekend excursions, to a chair from the old Shedhorn lift donated by Big Sky Resort. There will also be approximately 20 silent auction items donated by local businesses and individuals.

Local band The Dirty Shame will conclude the evening with live music beginning at 9 p.m.

Funds from the event will be used to support several BSCO initiatives. These include upgrading the Ousel Falls and Beehive Basin trailheads; creating trail connections throughout the community to be used for recreation, as well as multimodal transportation; and expand the organization in order to carry out the recently completed 10-year Master Parks and Open Space Plan.

Visit bscomt.org/gala to learn more.

## Spanish Peaks Mountain Club proposes future development plans

EBS STAFF

On June 18, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and Lone Mountain Land Company hosted an update meeting with club members to discuss future development.

The private club is divided between Madison and Gallatin counties, and development of properties within each county is guided by master development plans. With the Madison County Overall Development Plan set to expire in October, Spanish Peaks is in the process of resubmitting its development plan to the county.

On the Madison County side, the current development plan includes a total of 290 units, of which 92 have been platted, leaving 198 left to be platted and sold. The club is resubmitting this current plan, and if approved, it would be extended for 10 years.

Madison County will accept public comment on the new plan in the coming months, with a final draft slated for the fall.

During the meeting, Lone Mountain Land Company President Alex Iskenderian identified three large efforts taking place at the club this summer, all of which are within Gallatin County.

These include a 40-unit townhome called "Inspiration Point" that is currently being developed; four new lots that will be coming to market this summer under the name "Highlands Reserve," ranging in size from 10 to 20 acres; and completion of the water storage pond that will irrigate the club golf course.

When asked for an update on the Spanish Peaks hotel project, which remains in the foundation stage, Iskenderian said that significant progress is being made, but they weren't ready to make an announcement about details.

## Yellowstone superintendent Dan Wenk to keynote chamber awards dinner

EBS STAFF

The 21st annual Big Sky Chamber of Commerce dinner and awards ceremony will be held Tuesday, June 26, at 6 p.m. at Buck's T-4 Lodge.

The evening will include the election of new board members, and recognize significant contributions of the community's businesses and individuals. An update on the state of the local economy will be given to provide specific information on chamber projects, economic development efforts, and the business outlook, prior to the keynote address by outgoing Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk.

Awards to be given include Business of the Year, Business Person of the Year, Emerging Entrepreneur, Nonprofit Business Person of the Year, and the Chet Huntley Lifetime Achievement Award.

The nominees for this year's lifetime achievement award are businessman and longtime Big Sky high school basketball coach Al Malinowski, and Glenniss Indreland, the recently retired brand manager for Big Sky Resort.

Visit bigskychamber.com/about/annual-chamber-awards for more information and a full list of award nominees.

## MSU graduate receives recognition for research on wildlife movement patterns

EBS STAFF

A paper co-authored by Montana State University doctoral graduate Meredith McClure and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks biologist Robert Inman recently won the Outstanding Paper Award in Landscape Ecology from the U.S. Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology.

The paper, titled "Connecting models to movements: Testing connectivity model predictions against empirical migration and dispersal data," was based on McClure's research, which assessed the accuracy of two predictive models used by wildlife managers in understanding animal movement patterns.

"Landscape level connectivity is a major conservation challenge for the 21st century," Inman said in a June 20 statement released by FWP. "Secretary Zinke's recent focus on migration routes is part of that, as is movement between patches of public lands for low-density species like wolverine.

"These are big picture, long-term, expensive conservation actions, and research like this will help make the best use of precious conservation dollars by zeroing in on the most important wildlife travel routes," he added.

McClure was the lead author of the paper, while co-authors included Inman, who is the carnivore and furbearer coordinator for FWP, and Andrew Hansen, McClure's adviser and professor of ecology in MSU's College of Letters and Science.

"We are all honored that the research was recognized as significant," Inman said in the release.



Fifteen of the 25 organizations that applied for resort tax funding were granted their full request at the final appropriations meeting on June 18. The board was particularly divided on appropriations for the Wildlife Conservation Society, Discovery Academy, Visit Big Sky and Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance. **Given their role in the community, do you believe one of these entities should have received their full request, and why?** 



Rachel Boutsikaris
Big Sky, Montana

"They should have all been fully funded. Those are all things that can go back into the community, so I think that they should have received those appropriations. Having them go to community-based programs is great."



Cassandra Marfia
Rio Rancho, New Mexico

"I would go with conservation because I like wildlife more than I like people, and we live right near where it's all going on. All the national parks—we should be caring about that."



Chelsie DuBois
Big Sky, Montana

"I hate picking one, but I think, for my job, Visit Big Sky because they're basically the heart of promoting Big Sky for everyone. They're helping in affecting all the businesses and everyone in Big Sky by promoting us. As we're growing we need a better marketing plan and really a plan in the first place."



**Chris Bracht**Big Sky, Montana

"I would have liked to have seen Discovery Academy get all theirs because, you know, we need to be encouraging our youth to do as much as they can for their community and better their environment. You can't do that if there's no funding to get future graduates."



## Winners and losers in resort tax funding

## Board approves housing trust's \$2M request

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Resort Area District final appropriations meeting at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on June 18 sailed along at a relatively swift clip, with 15 of the 25 organizations that applied for resort tax funding granted their full request.

The largest request, coming from the Big Sky Community Housing Trust to the tune of nearly \$2 million, was 98-percent funded at \$1.95 million, minus \$45,000 that was going to be used to address Big Sky's short-term rental problem.

However, many see the housing trust's funding as a victory for Big Sky's affordable housing movement. Most of the funds, \$1.7 million, will be deposited into a land bank fund for potential acquisition of the 52-unit Meadowview affordable housing project northwest of Big Sky Community Park.

The second largest portion of the funding, \$235,000, will support the trust's burgeoning down payment assistance program. The remaining \$95,000 will be designated toward hiring a fulltime Big Sky-based housing trust manager.

In a rare exception the board only makes for long-term and large-scale capital projects, the housing trust will be able to apply the funds to these projects and programs for three years, as opposed to the typical one-year appropriations cycle.

The motion to grant the amount carried unanimously. The decision came on the heels of two public presentations by Wendy Sullivan Consulting—one specifically for the resort tax board—that detailed the severity of the housing problem in Big Sky, and provided a step-by-step strategic plan to address it for every income level.

Other big requests in the range of \$700,000 to nearly \$1 million that sailed through the allocation process included the Big Sky Fire Department, Big Sky Transportation District, and Big Sky Community Organization.

Vice chair Kevin Germain attempted to shave \$145,000 off the fire department's request by questioning the necessity of adding another ambulance for the department. His query was cut off by board chair Jamey Kabisch's comment that it was the only asset that actually made the department money; and board member Steve Johnson's quip: "How about it's a life saver?"

Board member Sarah Blechta added, "As much as it pains me to give away \$1 million, most calls come from tourists ... I can get behind it, but I'd love to see some savings in the budget."

In what seems to be a pattern in the board's reception to large, first-time funding requests that come from organizations without a strong Big Sky presence, the nearly \$1 million request from Gallatin County 911 to improve emergency service communication within Gallatin County and with Madison county, was met with heavy questioning during the applicant Q&A, and again during final appropriations—not about the necessity of the upgrade, but as to why both counties were not contributing their share.

Ultimately, the board reached consensus to fund half of their request, nearly \$500,000, to fund the first phase of the project, with encouragement from Big Sky Fire Department Chief William Farhat that it would likely help them gain some leverage with the counties.

The question of funding schools and daycare facilities such as Morningstar Learning Center and Big Sky Discovery Academy saw a fair amount of discussion and dissent among the board, with reiterated concerns about providing tuition scholarships for families who do not need financial assistance, and the higher price point of a private school such as Discovery Academy.

Morningstar received all of its \$200,000 request, which included a rollover from last year; while Discovery was granted \$52,000, solely for the tuition

## Final Resort Tax Appropriations for fiscal year 2019

Organization	New Amount Requested	Approved Funding	Percent Funded
Arts Council	\$195K	\$190K	97%
Chamber of Commerce	\$409K	\$340K	83%
Community Food Bank (HRDC)	\$32K	\$32K	100%
Community Housing Trust (HRDC)	\$1.985M	\$1.945M	98%
Community Organization (BSCO)	\$694K	\$694K	100%
Discovery Academy	\$70K	\$52K	74%
Fire Department	\$952K	\$952K	100%
Gallatin County 911	\$938K	\$463K	49%
Gallatin County Sheriff's Office	\$286K	\$286K	100%
Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance	\$91K	\$57K	63%
Gallatin River Task Force	\$600K	\$507K	85%
Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association	\$25K	\$25K	100%
Jack Creek Preserve Foundation	\$3.5K	\$3.5K	100%
Library	\$74K	\$74K	100%
Montana Land Reliance	\$15K	\$15K	100%
Morningstar Learning Center			
Rollover: Infant Building Capital Project	\$90K	\$90K	100%
Tuition Reduction Program	\$113K	\$113K	100%
Morningstar Total	\$203K	\$203K	100%
Post Office	\$61K	\$61K	100%
Search and Rescue	\$25K	\$25K	100%
Skating and Hockey	\$281K	\$281K	100%
Trails Recreation and Parks District	\$5K	\$5K	100%
Transportation District	\$700K	\$700K	100%
Visit Big Sky	\$758K	\$640K	84%
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center	\$205K	\$200K	97%
Wildlife Conservation Society	\$75K	\$48K	64%
Women In Action	\$60K	\$60K	100%
Other Resort Tax Funding			
Sinking Fund		\$876K	
New Requests Total Rollover Requests Total	\$8.653M \$90K	\$8.644M	100%
Total Requests	\$8.742M	\$8.734M	99.9%

\*numbers have been rounded; approved funding includes \$876K into the sinking fund

## Approved Requests: \$8,734,207

assistance portion of its \$70,000 request.

Visit Big Sky CEO Candace Carr Strauss came down to the front row to prepare to respond to the board, when Johnson motioned to grant the organization 38 percent, or \$289,872 of its \$758,000 request.

After some hashing out of resort tax's responsibility to fund marketing Big Sky as a tourism destination—to which board member and longtime resident Mike Scholz said was one of its original purposes—and a plea from Strauss, the board compromised by keeping in line with the amount of funding provided last year, approximately \$100,000 less than Visit Big Sky requested.

At 8:26 p.m., the funds-available cell in the spreadsheet projected above the stage dropped to zero, closing resort tax appropriations for the 2019 fiscal year.

Visit resorttax.org for more information or watch video footage of the final appropriations meeting on the EBS Facebook page.

# **Firelights face water supply crisis**Utility looks to Big Sky district for help

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – Two representatives of Westfork Water and Wastewater, the private utility company that owns and operates the water supply system for the Firelight development, presented an ominous situation to the board of the Big Sky Water and Sewer District at a June 19 meeting.

Utility owners Matt Huggins and Kevin Loustaunau explained that the company is addressing the water supply shortage in the near term by supplementing their two drinking water wells with water from a separate irrigation well—which irritates some homeowners who want to retain green landscaping. But if this doesn't sufficiently meet the spike in demand, they will likely need to purchase water from the district.

In the long term, Westfork Water and Wastewater has received approval from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to drill an additional well, and are in the process of securing a contractor for the project. They're also installing water usage meters for each unit, which will detect any isolated leaks that may be contributing to the low supply.

In a phone interview following the meeting, Huggins explained that the water demand from users during high-occupancy times, such as ski season and summer vacation, is greater than what their well pumps can supply.

Big Sky Water and Sewer District Manager Ron Edwards put it into perspective by saying that a single district well in the Meadow Village can produce 200 gallons per minute, while the two Firelight wells combined are currently producing only 27 gallons per minute. Huggins said that the Firelight wells were designed to be low-supply wells, and that prior to the development's construction, engineers projected they would adequately meet demand.

The Firelight utility had to tap into the district's water this past winter when a water pump failed and depleted their stored water to the low level limit. The same water used for drinking is also for fire protection. "Whenever it goes below the low limit, it constitutes as an emergency situation," Huggins said.

With the time that it took to replace the pump, Huggins said that they were barely able to keep up with the winter demand. They weren't able to fully replenish the tank until the shoulder season, and by early June increasing demand was already putting strain on the supply.

Firelight residents receive a health advisory notification any time the irrigation well is used to augment the wells officially vetted by the DEQ as public water supply wells, as they did on June 18. After samples from the irrigation well met the safety standards of an Environmental Protection Agency-approved lab, the utility received permission from the DEQ to temporarily use that water after it's treated and disinfected according to DEQ guidelines.

At this point, Huggins said they are uncertain whether they will require additional water from the district. It will depend on if the irrigation water can sustain the community until the new well is drilled and its production capacity is determined.

If they do require water from Big Sky Water and Sewer, a district fire hydrant will transport water through a hose into a Firelight hydrant and be used to charge their system, for a bulk rate of \$10 per 1,000 gallons. When the district has surplus water, as it does currently, it can sell it to entities outside the district, an arrangement it has with the Yellowstone Club.

While the board seemed amenable to temporarily helping out their neighbor in need, Jim Muscat, Big Sky Sewer and Water District superintendent, emphasized that a surplus today does not mean a surplus tomorrow, and the priority will always be serving the district first.

Another option kicked around during this recent, and previous meetings, is the potential for the Firelight development to be annexed into the district and permanently merge with its system.

But, Edwards said, that possibility is a long way off and only speculation at this time.

The next meeting of the Big Sky Water and Sewer District is July 17 at 8 a.m. in the BSWSD office.

## **Local Tip: Living with lithium-ion batteries**

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Lithium-ion batteries, a popular choice in many portable devices for their long-lasting charge, are also a potential fire risk when the battery contents are released and explode. This can happen when the batteries are damaged, mishandled or improperly disposed of.

"I'm unaware of any fires in the Big Sky area being caused by lithium batteries, but I have dealt with them previously," said Big Sky Fire Department Chief William Farhat. "The fires are caused when the lithium metal within the battery is exposed to air, as lithium naturally ignites when exposed to oxygen. This occurs when the case is bent or broken, which can occur in smaller, thin or flexible devices.

"Lithium batteries can be used safely as long as the battery is not abused, and used as designed," he added. "As with all devices, appropriate caution should be used."

Due to the fire risk these batteries present, it's important to follow several safety measures when using devices with lithium-ion batteries.

#### Safety guidelines for lithium and lithium-ion batteries:

- Don't charge cellphones or laptops on couches, beds or other flammable
- Don't leave phones or laptops in cars where they can overheat.
- Don't overcharge devices.
- Don't dispose of these batteries or devices in the trash. It can cause fires in your garbage can, in garbage trucks, or at landfills.

Lithium and lithium-ion batteries can be recycled, independent from regular trash, by taking them to the Gallatin Solid Waste Management District at the Logan Landfill and the Bozeman Convenience Site at 2132 Story Mill Rd. Prior to disposal, Gallatin Solid Waste asks that you place tape over both ends of all batteries.

Batteries turned in for recycling will be broken down and the remaining material will be reused for remanufacture.

# Yellowstone Club Community Foundation continues to grow with Big Sky

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – In the unincorporated resort town of Big Sky, organizational funding remains a hot commodity. Approximately \$1.5 million more than the nearly \$8 million available was requested in resort tax funding this spring alone, and the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation is seeing a sharp increase in requests as well.

This spring, the foundation received a record number of grant applications, with 62 organizations asking for more than \$900,000.

That dollar amount is nearly double what the foundation has seen in past years, said Anna Shipley, the foundation's communications coordinator. Originally planning to award \$200,000, the foundation was able to come up with an extra \$46,500, granting funds to 34 local groups in support of education, arts and culture, conservation and community service.

"It's the first year we've exceeded \$200,000," Shipley said. "Your club or organization is only as strong as your community, and the two need to go hand in hand to be successful. ... There's a need for mental health services, affordable housing and smart growth."

Shipley said one of the favorite aspects of her job is helping the foundation with the grant awards. "Seeing the impact it makes in our community, it's totally amazing to see that," she said.

Since its inception, the foundation has provided funding to support, among many others, conservation initiatives by the Gallatin River Task Force; the International Baccalaureate Diploma program at Lone Peak High School to support critical, innovative thinking; and mental health programs through Women in Action.

Each spring, the Yellowstone Club's foundation also awards four education scholarships. This year, Bozeman High School seniors Avery Berg and Liam

Diekmann and Belgrade High School senior Katelyn Hoppe received funds to put toward higher education this fall.

Lone Peak High School freshman Sara Wilson is the recipient of the Big Bald Dave Scholarship, and is traveling to Vietnam and Cambodia this summer to teach English, and help install filters in the drinking water systems in several remote villages.

The foundation emerged out of the Great Recession as a grassroots effort by members of the Yellowstone Club to provide economic support for the community. Officially established in 2010, the nonprofit has continued to support organizations in Big Sky, and throughout the Gallatin Valley.

The foundation accepts donations from Yellowstone Club members and the Big Sky community. Additional funds are raised during the invitation-only summer Weiskopf Cup golf tournament in September, the March Wine and Song members-only benefit, and the New Year's Eve Name That Run members-only auction.

While the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation has established itself as a support network for Big Sky, Shipley said the foundation will continue to find its place in the community as Big Sky grows. She added that in the future, the Yellowstone Club Community, Moonlight Community and Spanish Peaks Community foundations might find ways to collaborate. "I think it's a great opportunity for us to work together to help the community."

The Yellowstone Club Community Foundation will begin another grant cycle this fall, with applications due on Nov. 1. To learn more about the foundation, visit yellowstoneclubfoundation.org.

This is part one in a three-part series on Big Sky's private club foundations. Read about the Spanish Peaks Community Foundation in the July 3 edition of EBS.

## Liam Germain awarded Rotary's George MacDonald Scholarship

BY MATTHEW HODGSON EBS EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

BIG SKY – The Rotary Club of Big Sky awarded Liam Germain, a 2018 graduate of Lone Peak High School, the George MacDonald Scholarship on June 13.

The \$2,000 scholarship is given annually to an exceptional Lone Peak graduate, and is funded by the club's annual Gold Raffle and Auction held each January.

The scholarship was set up soon after the Rotary Club of Big Sky was chartered in 2004, and renamed in memory of club member George MacDonald. The recipient of the scholarship is selected by a committee of three Rotarians who review each application looking at criteria based on financial need, community engagement, and academic excellence.

"Liam was selected as the scholarship recipient based on his community service, academic performance, and his involvement with school organizations and athletics," said Wendy Rogers, a scholarship committee member.

Germain has been accepted to the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia, for the fall of 2018 and intends to study computer science or finance.



Recent Lone Peak High School graduate Liam Germain was awarded The Rotary Club of Big Sky's annual George MacDonald Scholarship for his community involvement, academics and engagement with extracurricular activities. PHOTO BY JACKSON WADE

"The money that they have given me will be incredibly helpful as I enter my college years," Germain said. "I find it amazing that Lone Peak High School students are blessed with all of the opportunities that we have, and I hope that future students will take advantage of as many as they can."

Germain will be speaking at an upcoming Rotary meeting this summer where he will be recognized as the scholarship recipient. The Rotary Club of Big Sky meets at Buck's T-4 Lodge every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m., and the public is welcome to attend.





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Big Sky, Montana



## Harbor's Hero Run raises \$4K for Women in Action scholarships

97 runners turn out for annual celebration of Harbor DeWaard









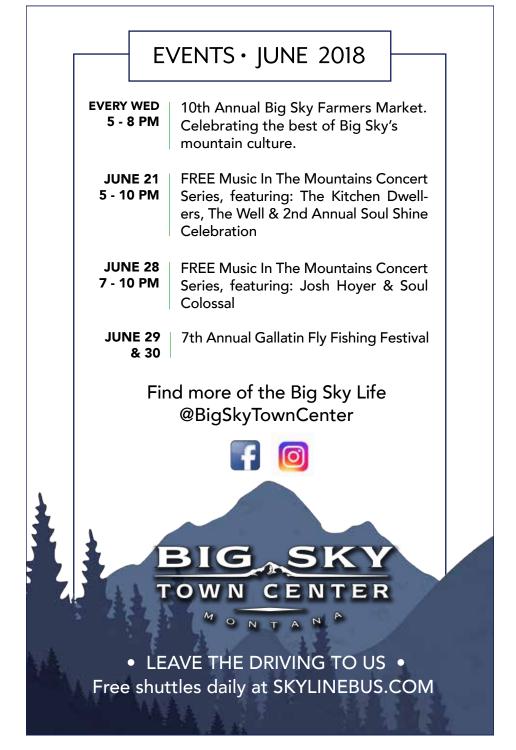




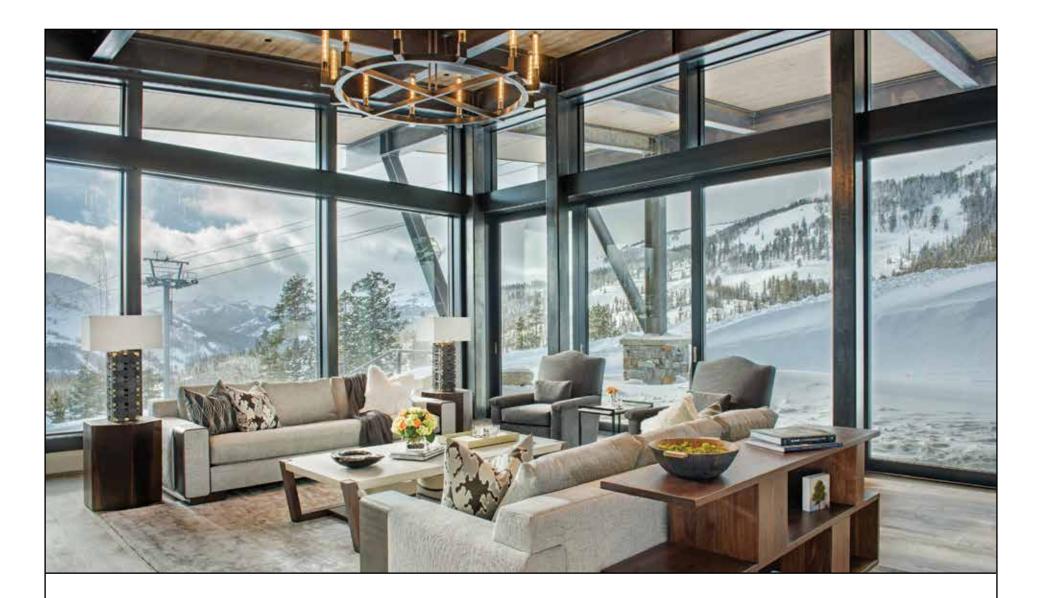




PHOTOS BY JACKIE ROBIN









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## LOCAL LOOK BACK

# **Happy Birthday Ruby Delzer**Matriarch of Big Sky family turns 91

### BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

Ruby Delzer and her late husband Ralph, moved to Big Sky from a suburb of Minneapolis in 1988. Her son Dan Delzer had moved to Big Sky in 1974 "to be a ski bum," and before long most of her brood of five sons and one daughter, would follow.

Ruby and Ralph came to Big Sky in September 1986, when her oldest son Stephen, a pastor, married Daniel and his-soon-to-be wife Suzanne in Soldier's Chapel. They came out the next year to experience a Big Sky winter.

Their first year as residents, her son Peter and his wife Paula moved to Big Sky, and soon after, "son number three," James, and John, "number six."

In the early '90s, the Delzers came out of retirement to start one of Big Sky's first real estate management companies, specializing in snow removal. Delzer Diversified remains a family business today.

Although she lost her husband of 65 years on Father's Day five years ago, her family has grown to include four grandchildren and seven greatgrandchildren, with two more on the way.

For 30 years, the Delzers have upheld a family tradition of having breakfast



Ruby's daughter Mary imposed a photo of Ruby's late husband of 65 years, Ralph, on a pillow. Ruby, who's been known to carry him with her to bridge club and prop him up at the dinner table, stopped by the Outlaw Partners' office to share her special pillow with the team. PHOTO BY ALEXIS DEATON

together every Saturday. It began at Dick Allgood's, and has since moved around between the Bugaboo Café, the Corral, and, as of recently, Compass Café.

"It's up to the kids where we go because it was their idea," Ruby said. "So they call me up on Saturday morning, tell me where we're going and one of them picks me up."

Ruby Delzer turns 91 on June 30.

Over her many years, she's acquired her fair share of wisdom.

"Enjoy your life in the outdoors," she said, expressing how happy she has been living in Big Sky. "See as much as you possibly can

while you're still able ... boy when I got here, I decided I was going to be free to do what I wanted to do, when I wanted to it. I don't know how much longer I'll be here, but I told the kids I'm going to be independent as long as I can. I just want to keep healthy and keep going."

Although Dr. Jeff Daniels told Ruby he does not want her driving the canyon anymore, she's tempted from time to time. "I think 'Oh, why don't I just do it,' but I don't." But you will still see her buzzing around the Meadow, and, if you want to wish her a happy birthday you can catch her playing bridge on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Big Sky Sewer and Water District office.



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# Grizzly dies from suspected insecticide poisoning

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – For those living in bear country, the death of a sub-adult grizzly on June 11, from suspected insecticide poisoning, serves as an important reminder of how to live among wildlife. The sub-adult female, found northeast of Great Falls, is believed to have died within hours of ingesting insecticide stored in an open garage.

The carcass has been sent to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Park's wildlife health lab in Bozeman to confirm the cause of death.

The bear had been seen traveling with a sibling in the days leading up to the death. Wesley Sarmento, FWP Region 4 wildlife management specialist, said this second bear has gotten into pet food and grain spills south of the Teton River, as well as broken into an unlocked shed to obtain mineral cake—a nutritional source for livestock. At EBS press time on June 20, FWP officials were attempting to trap the bear for relocation.

According to FWP grizzly bear specialist Kevin Frey, it's important for people living in bear country to be aware of possible household attractants.

"Bears can be attracted to anything logically edible, things not seemingly edible, and some things that may be toxic or fatal," he wrote in an email to EBS. "I have seen bears die from eating lye, rodent bait, fuel, treated grains—fungicides—and if this one tests positive, granulated insecticides.

"Bears will test—bite or taste—oil, fuel, paint, stain, Styrofoam, vinyl, etc. Any of these things can be toxic or possibly cause death due to gastrointestinal issues," he added. "I think the key is to not have obvious attractants—garbage, pet food, bird seed, grains—out or available for bears. This will greatly reduce the chance of them snooping other potentially harmful things."

In a statement released after the bear's death, FWP officials recommended safely scaring away bears that come near homes by making loud noises or using the horn in a vehicle.

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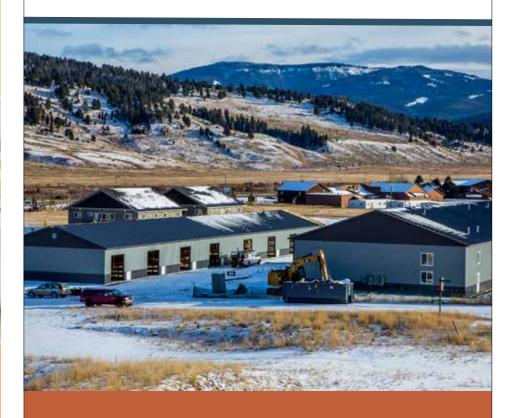
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## Montana notifying Medicaid providers of temporary rate hike

BY MATT VOLZ ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – Montana Gov. Steve Bullock's administration is complying with a judge's order to temporarily reinstate previous Medicaid reimbursement rates for nursing homes and assisted-living facilities, but will staunchly defend the rate cut made by the state health department, the governor's budget director said June 18.

Dan Villa said the state Department of Public Health and Human Services is notifying the nursing facilities, and others that provide services to Medicaid patients, of the change after a Helena judge in mid-June temporarily blocked the rate cut made by the department in January.

Villa, speaking to state lawmakers on the Legislative Finance Committee, said he hopes to resolve the lawsuit quickly because of the potential cost to the state.

"Certainly, the state will vigorously defend Montana taxpayers from this lawsuit," he said.

The lawsuit by the Montana Health Care Association and nursing facility owners challenges the health department's decision to reduce Medicaid provider reimbursement rates by 2.99 percent to an average of \$181.57 per patient, per day, as a part of statewide spending cuts to fill a budget shortfall.

District Judge James Reynolds last week ordered the state to temporarily reinstate the \$187.17 rate that was in place before the cuts at least until a July 11 hearing in the lawsuit. The rate difference can be more than \$100,000 a year to nursing homes that care for dozens of Medicaid patients.

Montana Health Care Association executive director Rose Hughes said none of her members had been notified of the health department's compliance with Reynolds' order as of June 18.

The lawsuit alleges the department's rate cut violates state law because health officials did not show a "reasonable necessity" for them, explain how they were formulated or allow the public to fully participate in the decision.

Their lawsuit also claims the cuts should be invalidated because they conflict with a state law that raised a bed fee paid by nursing homes.

It's illegal for that bed fee to go toward anything other than increasing provider reimbursement rates, but the state is using the fee increase to fill its budget hole, the nursing homes say.

The law says the fee must be used to raise the Medicaid reimbursement rates in the 2018 financial year, which ends June 30, above the rates for the 2017 financial year.

Villa told the finance committee that the state is in compliance with the law because even with the 2.99 percent cuts, providers are still reimbursed more than they were a year ago.

Hughes said Villa is wrongly interpreting the law, and that all bed fee money must go to raising the reimbursement rate and not to plug any budget holes. "Every dollar is to go to an increase," she said.

The health department plans to increase Medicaid provider rates next year to about \$196 per patient, per day, Villa said.

"I think it is important for everybody to understand the numbers involved," he said.

Hughes said the proposed \$196 rate amounts to a continuation of the cut because the rate should be \$202 per patient, per day, with the bed fee.

Both rates are still well below the actual estimated cost of care, which next year will be about \$230 per patient, per day, Hughes said.











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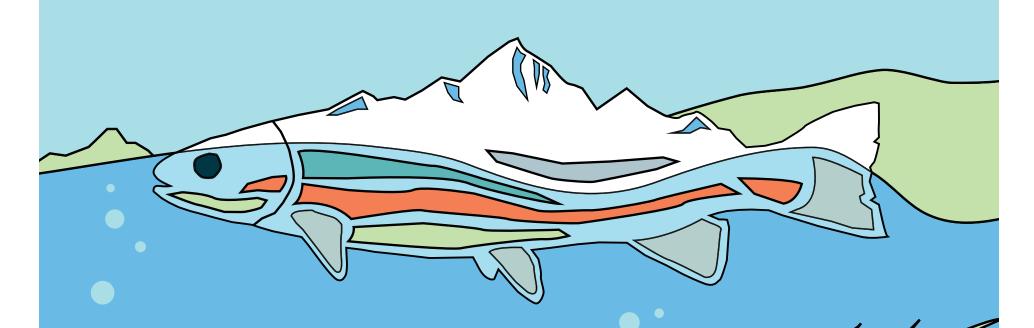
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#### FRI. JUNE 29: 6pm Gallatin RiverHouse Grill

**Outdoor Tent:** 

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#### SAT. JUNE 30: 4pm

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**Section 2:**BUSINESS, SPORTS, HEALTH & FUN









## Making it in Big Sky

## **Big Sky Landscaping**

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

Alan McClain launched Big Sky Landscaping (BSL) in 2003 with an '82 Dodge truck, a homemade trailer, some hand tools and one piece of leased equipment. The original focus was landscaping installation but once established, McClain would add additional services each year. Today BSL offers the full range of landscaping services, and has two retail locations. In 2013, BSL opened the Garden Center in West Fork—what McClain likes to think of as a boutique retail outlet. In 2015, BSL moved their installation and maintenance operations to 2.5 acres of commercial property in the Lazy J subdivision, now the site of a large greenhouse and dubbed the Supply Center.

As part of this ongoing series, McClain shared his thoughts with EBS on what it takes to make it as a small business owner in Big Sky over the long term.

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

**Alan McClain:** The support of my wife, Danielle. Early on especially, the weeks and days were all very long. Without that support at home, BSL would have never made it off the ground. Awesome employees. The employees are my co-workers as well as my friends and we all work hard. Community support. We all know it is a small town. The referrals and recommendations from community members have been a driving force for our growth.

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

**A.M.:** First summer of business, we stuck business cards on houses that needed a landscape. A couple in Sweetgrass Hills caught us in action. They were first concerned by the car parked in front of their house but ultimately hired us to install the landscape at their new home. It was a big job and a I learned a lot. We still provide some services to their landscape.

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

**A.M.:** Finding and affording a place to operate the business. A long-time Big Sky family leased their horse pasture to me for over a decade. It was always either muddy or dusty. However, without the great relationship with that family, BSL would have never survived.

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

**A.M.:** It is a lot bigger. Fifteen years ago, homeowners in Big Sky were part of a small community and expected to personally know everyone who worked at their house. We still develop new, great relationships every year. However, there are many homes now that are managed by property management companies that take care of hiring the landscaper or other service providers and we never meet the owners.

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

**A.M.:** All types of skiing just outside the front door, ever-expanding mountain bike trails, the safe environment to raise children, great friends ... the list goes on. At this point, it is difficult to imagine ever living anywhere else.

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



Alain McClain started Big Sky Landscaping in 2003. He emphasizes his hard-working, loyal employees as one of the keys of his business' success. PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY LANDSCAPING

**A.M.:** There are many. However, that first Willie Nelson concert at the old canvas pavilion. It was the concert where it poured rain all night and Willie just kept playing.

EBS: What was a business idea that didn't work?

**A.M.:** I purchased some property down in the Gallatin Valley to store overstock trees. It led to too much driving and added expenses. My gut feeling was that it would work. I didn't take the time to test it with a business plan. Lesson learned.

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

**A.M.:** Just as I was getting started a business owner who has a house here told me, "Don't worry about getting jobs; worry about getting employees." I really took that to heart and have amazing employees to show for it. I have their backs and I know they have mine.

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

**A.M.:** Live simply. Just because one year is good doesn't mean the next will be too.

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

**A.M.:** I think Big Sky Landscaping is here to stay. I don't have any false expectations about a big cash out. However, one day it may be someone else's project.

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

**A.M.:** There is a lot more change to come. No one is going to stop that. But, as I tell my kids, "Big Sky has always been changing." It will be different, but it will still be a beautiful and fun place to live.

## BIG SKY LANDSCAPING - BY THE NUMBERS



**STAFF:** two year-round 45-plus seasonal



YEARS IN BUSINESS:

15



**LONGEST SERVING EMPLOYEE:** 

Eric Porter, 14 years

## The Cave Spirits and Gifts opens new location

## Tasting room planned for former space

BY MATTHEW HODGSON EBS EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

BIG SKY – The only state liquor store in Big Sky, The Cave Spirits and Gifts, has moved to a new location near Roxy's Market and officially opened its doors Tuesday, June 19.

The Cave offers a wide selection of fine wines, beer, liquor and gourmet foods. The store also serves as a local shop for Montana gift items.

The new building, designed by the owners of The Cave, Chad and Sarah Oullette, offers much more storage space and room for future expansion.

"We designed [the building] and built it for growth," Chad said.

"It's more of a custom building for the liquor store in terms of delivery, space and the cooler system," Sarah added.

The Oullettes purchased The Cave in 2007 and the business has been growing and expanding for the last 11 years. The Cave currently supplies and delivers alcohol to 32 locations around Big Sky.

The Cave's original location in the Market Place Building in Town Center will open as a new tasting room and liquor store later in July. A former employee of The Cave, Kara Blodgett, along with her husband, Ben, plan to open The Rocks Tasting Room and Liquor Store.

"Half of this place is going to be just a small liquor store—beer, wine, and liquor—and the other half of the store is going to be a tasting room where our idea is to focus on Montana spirits," Blodgett said.

She also hopes to eventually build a kitchen, along with other renovations, and to serve food cooked by Ben, who has 18 years of culinary experience,



Chad and Sarah Oullette outside their new storefront for The Cave Spirits and Gifts, where they have more space for storage and growth opportunities. PHOTO BY MATTHEW HODGSON

including at Big Sky's The Cabin Bar & Grill and Storm Castle Café in Bozeman.

"I'm hoping that, with folks that come in, we'll be able to take the time and explain all the Montana spirits and what Montana has to offer," she said.

The Oullettes are excited about the new location for The Cave, and hope it's their last. They've moved the business three times since 2006 and are ready to settle into a permanent space.



360's Dr. Jenny Ladd is now offering mobile service to the Big Sky area.

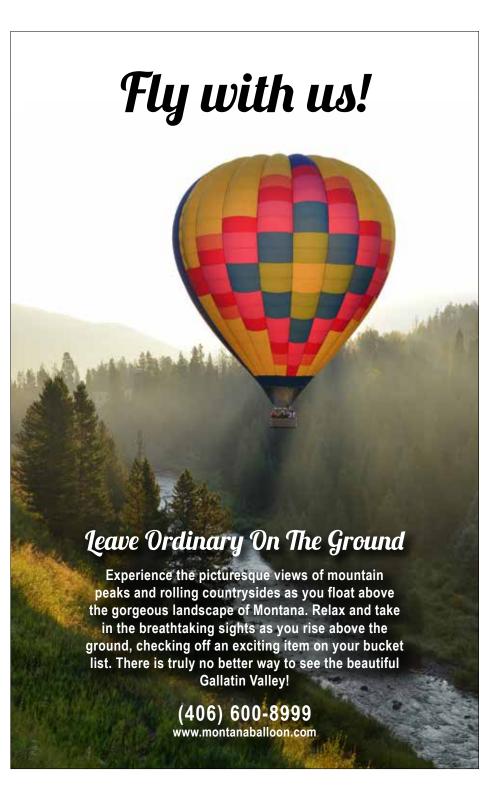


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## **Antlers Clothing Company to open July 1 in Big Sky**

BY MATTHEW HODGSON EBS EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

BIG SKY – Kelly Piccardo, a nine-year resident of Big Sky, is a woman on a mission. That mission is to bring more style and fashion opportunities to the men of Big Sky, starting with the soft opening of her new men's haberdashery, Antlers Clothing Company, on Sunday, July 1.

Named after the hometown of Piccardo's grandparents, Antlers, Oklahoma, her new shop in Big Sky Town Center—in the space formerly occupied by Big Horn Boutique—will sell fine men's clothing, accessories and footwear. She will offer products made in the U.S., as well as some offerings from Australia and Europe.

"I'm just trying to bring different styles from everywhere," Piccardo said. "Big Sky is growing so much right now, and I want to be part of that growth."

Piccardo is excited about opening her doors, and just in time for the summer season to kick into high gear. She added that the shop will have a pool table and serve free Montana beers.

"I want to make it fun for guys to shop," Piccardo said.

Antlers Clothing Company will host a grand opening celebration on July 4, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with refreshments and a chance to see the newly renovated interior.



Kelly Piccardo opens her men's haberdashery, Antlers Clothing Company, in Big Sky on Sunday, July 1. PHOTO BY MATTHEW HODGSON

Eventually, Piccardo hopes to offer tailoring services as well. "I'll definitely be reaching out to people, locally, that do provide that kind of service," she said, explaining how important it is to her to engage the community with the new business, and provide style opportunities that normally wouldn't be available to the men of Big Sky.

Antlers Clothing Company is located in the Market Place Building at 33 Lone Peak Drive, Suite 101, and will be open seven days a week, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.





## Laundromat, cocktail lounge opens in Westfork Meadow

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – On June 16, Sit & Spin Laundry Lounge held a grand opening at their Jefferson Building location, in the heart of what many locals refer to as the "Barmuda Triangle"—the area in Westfork Meadow triangulated by Milkie's Pizza & Pub, the Broken Spoke and Brothel Bikes.

Owners Monica and Brandon Blanchard, who formerly operated a house cleaning service in Big Sky, were excited to get the word out about their most recent enterprise.

"I always wanted to buy the old laundromat, and when I started to observe the traffic and flow more closely, I noticed how people dropped off their clothes and would, more often than not, go to one of the bars next door for a drink," said Brandon, who has been a Big Sky resident since 1997.

"The idea was that we could keep those customers here if we were able to offer free Wi-Fi, a relaxed atmosphere, and good drinks," he added.

After buying the location 13 months ago, the space initially went through a six-month remodeling period. The last seven months were spent fighting for a liquor license, which was complicated by new restrictions and stricter regulations on the types of businesses that can have a liquor license in Montana.

"Our first day, we had people waiting for our machines, six washers and 10 driers, so the demand is there. We are the only laundromat within 52 miles," Brandon said while serving up a cold drink to a thirsty customer. "You would have to go to West [Yellowstone] or Bozeman to find another one."



After Big Sky had gone more than a year without a laundromat available to the public, Monica and Brandon Blanchard opened Sit & Spin Laundry Lounge on June 16. PHOTO BY BRANDON BLANCHARD

With the liquor license finally squared away, the Blanchards intend to continue to evolve their cocktail offerings. Mimosas with pomegranate or blood orange juice are available. So is the visually pleasing "Tide Pod" shot, made with blue Curacao, Godiva white chocolate, and orange Stoli vodka.

"We will be rolling out some signature martinis soon, and we hope to have the best bloody mary in town—pepperoni straws, shrimp, maybe even minicheeseburgers," Brandon added, as a customer backed into the entryway, full clothes hamper in tow.

Sit & Spin Laundry Lounge is currently open from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m., Wednesday through Sunday, with plans to eventually be open seven days a week.





## Big Sky freeride athletes shine at Beartooth Basin

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

BIG SKY - Now in its second year, the Summer Shredfest is a four-day ski and snowboarding festival, this year running from June 14-17, which celebrates mountain community, culture and competition at the only summer-specific ski area in North America—Beartooth Basin Summer Ski Area.

Beartooth Basin is located in the Shoshone National Forest near the top of the Beartooth Pass, a section of U.S. Route 212 south of Red Lodge, Montana, and just over the Wyoming border. At nearly 11,000 feet in elevation, the region typically cannot be reached by car until Memorial Day weekend, when snowplows dig through the highway's towering walls of snow. Some years, depending on snowpack, the lifts don't spin at all.

Served by two high-speed Poma lifts, Twin Lakes Headwall provides 600 acres of skiing terrain that approaches 50 degrees, offers 1000 feet of vertical drop, and usually boasts a massive cornice for skiers and riders to launch off of.

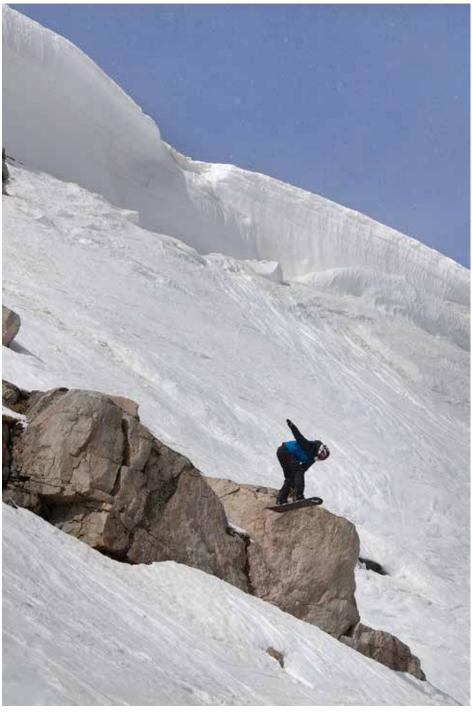
#### "The Summer Shredfest is an awesome weeklong celebration of competitive big mountain riding mountain culture."

With support from the Mountain Rider's Alliance, the second annual Summer Shredfest included inspirational ShredX talks, a whiskey tasting festival, an IFSA junior freeride competition, an IFSA 2 Star Freeride World Qualifier event, and North America's only summer skiing demo day. Technically, these summer competitions kick off the 2019 season in Region 2.

"Once again, we battled through adverse weather conditions on Beartooth Pass in June. The junior event was completed after being delayed two days by a significant storm," said Pete Manka, a former Big Sky Ski Education Foundation freeride coach who also judged the junior event. "We made it through the first three categories of the FWQ event, before a three-day storm forced a cancellation of the male skier division.



Located atop the Beartooth Pass near the Montana-Wyoming border south of Red Lodge, the Summer Shredfest at Beartooth Basin Summer Ski Area is a four-day festival that includes freeride competitions, inspirational talks, and celebrates the mountain culture—at a time when most ski resorts have been closed for a month.



Holden Samuels won his first freeride competition as an adult with his combination of big airs, technical proficiency, and hard-charging style. PHOTOS BY KEVIN KINSLEY

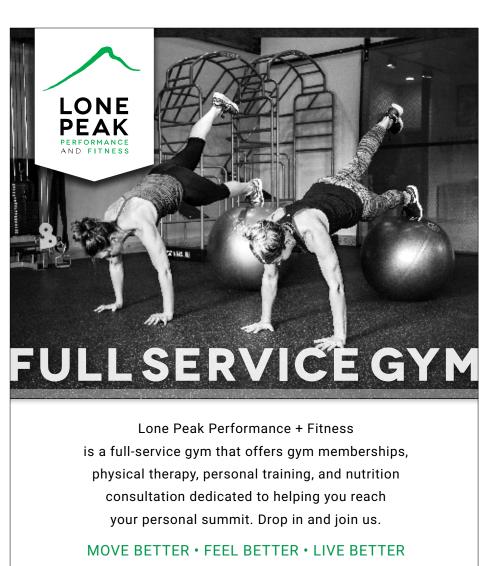
"The Summer Shredfest is an awesome week-long celebration of competitive big mountain riding mountain culture," Manka added.

Many Big Sky Ski Education Foundation athletes found a spot on the podium during competition. Preston Smith came in second in the U12 Male Skier division, while his older brother Andrew Smith won his division for U14 Male Skier. Isaac Singer placed third in the U14 Male Snowboarder division, and Riley Belle Becker won her division—U18 Female Skier—with room to spare.

After dominating the junior Freeride World Tour circuit for years, Holden Samuels made his debut in FWQ competition with this event, and did not disappoint. Samuels took home the first place prize for Male Snowboard, and looks forward to qualifying for 4 Star FWT events in his future.

"The [competition] was moved up a day because they knew there was weather coming into the pass. ... The only time I had ridden the whole month before was the inspection run that morning," Samuels said. "But the snow ended up being pretty soft, and I am glad I got to go before the blizzard rolled in."





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The Music of Jerry & Dawg ft. Stu Allen,
Scott Law, and Samson Grisman
Tony Trischka at Large!



## **Golf Tips from a Pro: Golf Grips**

BY MARK WEHRMAN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Do your grips need to be replaced? Grips are something that should be checked every year at the beginning of your season.

Having good-condition, tacky grips are a must for a proper hold on the club. The main reason for this is because your grip, the way you hold the club and attach your hands, is what controls the clubface.

If your club grips are worn and/or getting slick, your hold on the club will be compromised. If your hands have the potential to slide or slip on the grip then you should look into replacing them. Depending on the amount you play, this could happen every year or maybe every other year.

The importance of having a quality grip should not be underestimated.

When replacing your grips, there are a couple of things to keep in mind. First, make sure you are putting on the right-sized grip. There are undersize, standard, midsize, and oversize grips available.

Most ladies and even some men with very small hands generally will need an undersize grip. Most clubs you buy off the rack will have a standard



From size and material, there are a variety of different styles of grips for your clubs, which play an integral role in helping you control your clubface. PHOTO BY MARK WEHRMAN

grip size. Personally, I use a midsize grip because I have very large hands. People that suffer from arthritis in their hands will benefit from using an oversize grip.

To summarize, the size of your grip should be based off your hand size and should take into consideration any physical needs.

Second, there are different types of grip material. Most grips are made out of rubber and, if so, are going to be very durable and last a little longer. There are also grips made out of material that gives them a softer, more spongy feel. The most common brands are Golf Pride and Winn.

If you have questions about the condition of your grips or what kind to get as replacements, stop in at the Big Sky Golf Course. Either a member of our professional staff or I will be able to order new grips and re-grip your clubs.

When replacing your grips, we recommend replacing all of them at the same time so that all of your grips are the same size and style and have the same feel. Remember, good golf starts with a good grip.

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





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

## WEDNESDAY JULY 25

#### Big Sky PBR Golf Tournament to Benefit the

Western Sports Foundation

Moonlight RESERVE Golf Course | Registration at 9am Shotgun Start at 11am

bigskypbrgolftournament.eventbrite.com

## Big Sky PBR Street Dance presented by LEVI'S®

Town Center Ave | Big Sky Town Center | 7 pm | 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

#### 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

#### Featuring Shovels & Rope

Music in the Mountains

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

#### 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

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## BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

Plogging is a new fitness trend that started in 2016 and is now sweeping the world. It enhances the feelings of purpose and meaning while exercising, and you may already be a plogger but didn't know there was a name for it.

Plogging is jogging, or walking, with the intention of getting exercise while picking up litter as you go. The word plogging comes from a combination of the words jogging and the Swedish "plocka upp" which translates to "pick up."

Erik Ahlström started plogging in Stockholm, Sweden, after being appalled by the amount of litter in the streets compared to the Swedish ski resort town he had previously lived in.

This, in addition to the awareness we now have about pollution—such as alarming reports predicting that if we don't change our ways, our oceans will have more plastic than fish by 2050—created fertile ground for Ahlström to start a grassroots movement.

He started an organization called Plogga by recruiting and arming joggers with gloves and garbage bags for plogging outings, and created a website and social media movement—check out #plogging on Instagram.

While plogging is an act of selfless giving, exercise enthusiasts may appreciate that the lunging and squatting involved in picking up trash can burn an additional 50 calories every 30 minutes.

The non-profit Keep America Beautiful was naturally drawn to this movement. They've recently partnered with the Swedish-based fitness app,

# Try plogging for your health and the planet's

Lifesum which allows its 25 million users to track how many calories they've burned while plogging, in hopes of turning this blossoming trend into a long-term habit.

Living in the Gallatin Valley makes plogging a much simpler task than living in a major city, but litter still exists here and preventing garbage from making its way into our rivers matters.

If you do want to go plogging in a high pollution area, but don't like the idea of breaking up the flow of your run because you have to stop every 3 feet to pick up trash, simply designate a certain amount of time that you'll plog—maybe 10 minutes at the end of your run.

If you're a competitive person, consider plogging with other people and create a challenge to see who can pick up the most garbage in the shortest amount of time.

If you love walking but aren't into jogging, that's OK, try going for a "plalk" instead.

Whether you're already plogging or would like to begin, you may want to share your experiences on social media or tell your friends and family about it in order to raise awareness, inspire others and create a sense of community around it.

Thanks for your efforts!

Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach. Check out corcoranhealth.com where you can schedule a free 30-minute health coaching session or download a free worksheet to help you jump start a lifestyle/behavior change you've been trying to make.



# BIG ART SKY AUCTION



Sample work available at the auction

July 26, 2018 | 3-6pm

Big Sky PBR Arena Tent | Big Sky Town Center

bigskyartauction.com







## The gift of finding my mother's voice



BY DARYN KAGAN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

There was a time when this wouldn't be so hard. Talking to my mom. Scratch that. Not so much talk, as hear her voice. That's all I really wanted. I wanted to hear my mother's voice. Not that anything was terribly wrong. Simply, it was Wednesday. We always talk on Wednesdays.

One of us calls the other and immediately says, "It's Wednesday night!" as soon as the other picks

up. This, by the way, is said whether it is Wednesday night or not. On Wednesday morning. Or Saturday afternoon. A little thing that connects me to my mom.

That's all I wanted. And I knew I couldn't have it. Mom has been gone over a year now. She's not there to answer the phone. I've known that, so I have had my fall back—a few of her old voicemail messages.

"Hello, it's your mother," she announces as if I wouldn't know her voice otherwise. And through the miracle of technology, this is possible. Pick up my phone. Click on voicemail. And scroll through until I get to the dates when she was still alive.

One click and there she is. That's what I did Wednesday. Phone. Scroll. Look for Mom. Only, this time she wasn't there. They weren't there. The voicemail messages. They're gone. "Surely, there is some mistake,"

I told myself as I restarted my phone. Nope, they're gone. That's when I remembered. The guy at the Apple store who was helping me set up a buggy new phone.

"Are you sure everything on this phone is saved?"

"It is," I said with great confidence.

Indeed, I did back up photos and other files to my laptop. Turns out, the backup didn't include old voicemails. There are now no messages on my phone earlier than 2018.

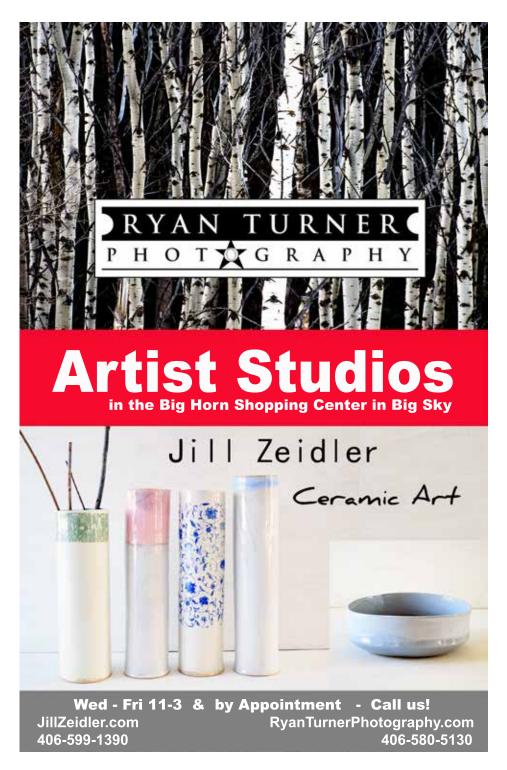
"They're gone. She's gone," I moaned.

I was sad for most of the day until I got distracted with a new possible professional opportunity. That's when it happened. I heard my mother's voice.

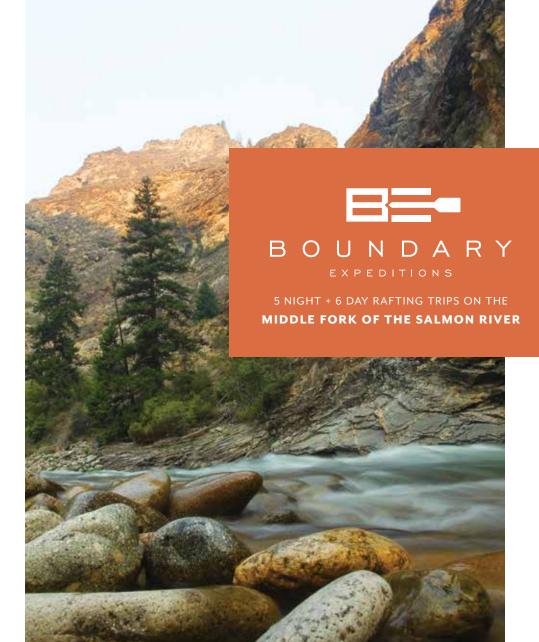
"So, what are you going to wear?" she asked as clearly as if I was holding the phone to my ear.

I smiled. At a promise come true.

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 Joh, Finding Love, a New Career, and my Dog, Always my Dog," and the founder of darynkagan.com, a resource for uplifting and positive news.







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## Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

FUN

3				9		5	
8 9	7	6			~		
9							
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## **American Life in Poetry:** Column 691

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

I've arrived at an age at which I avoid looking into my old address books, although I've kept them all. Too many of those addresses are those of people no longer among us. Louis Phillips, a New Yorker, catches that feeling of loss in this poem from "The Domain of Silence; The Domain of Absence: New & Selected Poems," from Pleasure Boat Studio.

#### The Address Book

By Louis Phillips

How could I predict That my life wd become whatever, So many people Passing thru—address books

Filled with names & numbers I no longer recognize, Pages torn loose, Addresses crossed out,

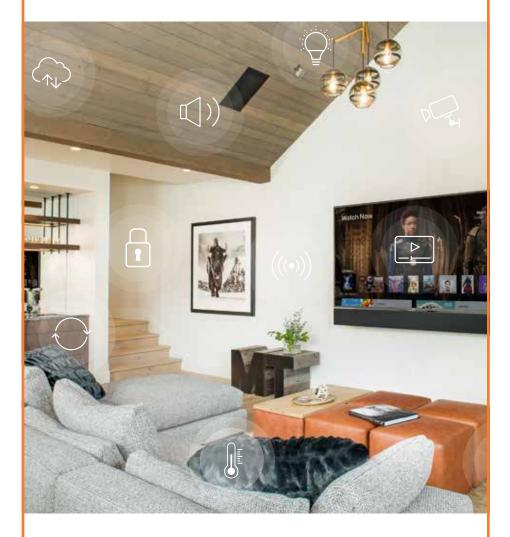
Lives badly smudged, Decades of earnest grief, Missed opportunities, Phones disconnected.

What am I now? Just another old man Among old men. Turn the calendar upside down

& let the days fall out.

We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts. American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2015 by Louis Phillips, "The Address Book" from "The Domain of Silence; The Domain of Absence: New & Selected Poems," (Pleasure Boat Studio, 2015). Poem reprinted by permission of Louis Phillips and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2018 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.





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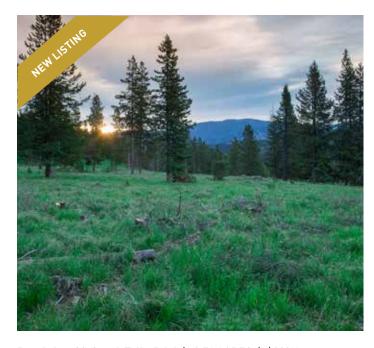
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# **Section 3:**ENVIRONMENT, OUTDOORS & BACK 40







## The New West:

## Zinke sparks national outrage by ousting Yellowstone's Wenk



BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

After 42.5 years toiling for the same company, doing exceptional, laudatory things on behalf of the clients who pay his salary, most employees would at least get a gold watch of gratitude.

It's the noble American thing to do, the decent thing, and it reflects as much on the values and character of those giving out the recognition as the person receiving it.

I've been on the phone in recent days talking to two-dozen people, asking them for their interpretation of what happened to Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk.

Ryan Zinke and the Interior Secretary's political appointees in Washington, D.C., decided Wenk needed to be removed from America's first and highest-profile national park.

Wenk himself was notified that he'd been officially replaced via an Interior Department press release that was emailed out, and which didn't even mention his name. It said the next Yellowstone superintendent would be Cameron "Cam" Sholly, the current Park Service Midwest regional director and son of a former Yellowstone chief ranger. It said Sholly, who graduated from Montana's Gardiner High School along Yellowstone's northern border, would take the helm in August.

Recently retired Yellowstone historian Lee Whittlesey told me that no Yellowstone superintendent in modern times has been exiled the way Wenk is by Zinke and colleagues. Although senior executives are subject to transfer, a Yellowstone superintendent has never been forced out. "It's never happened the way this is going down," Whittlesey said.

Wenk, who planned to retire next March, had his options spelled out in a stark memo issued by controversial acting director of the Park Service, P. Daniel Smith, who has been a subject in two Inspector General investigations. The latest involves Smith, in January of this year, being observed telling a joke as he strolled through the Interior building in Washington, D.C., grabbing his crotch and then proceeding to pantomime himself urinating on the wall.

Wenk was informed by Smith that he had 60 days to report to Washington, to become the Park Service's Capitol region director, a position widely considered a demotion.

In the checklist memo given to Wenk, the fourth option reads, "I decline the reassignment. I understand that I will be subject to adverse action procedures."

Former Yellowstone Superintendent Mike Finley, now chair of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, spent 32 years with the Park Service, becoming one of the most respected leaders in the history of the agency. He

was asked by former President Barack Obama to be the national Park Service director during his administration, but Finley declined the president's offer.

During our chat, Finley made one thing clear: Those who love Yellowstone should not hold Sholly responsible for what happened to Wenk. "Cam has the right stuff," he said.

Wenk, for his part in doing the dignified thing, immediately and voluntarily issued a statement of congratulations, but it had to first be cleared by Interior officials in Washington.

Wenk is 66, his accolades and list of career accomplishments are stellar, and if he were a corporate executive he'd be treated as a superstar.

Finley noted there's no other explanation for his mistreatment other than him being punished—for being vocal in his critical views of slaughtering Yellowstone bison; expressing concern about transboundary park grizzlies getting shot in state-sponsored trophy hunts; and even pondering limits to how many visitors the park can hold.

"[Zinke and his political appointees] treated him as if he had become a problem," Finley said. "He wanted to retire from Yellowstone. He deserved to be here and yet this administration, through its own crass self-interest, treated him with malice. This isn't how brilliant careers are supposed to end."

Zinke, he said, often boasts about honor and glory due to his past as a Navy SEAL. "[He] says he has tremendous admiration for those who serve their country in uniform. Well, I and tens of thousands of others am proud to call myself a veteran of the Park Service," Finley explained. "Over a century, we tried to recruit some of the best-educated, most highly motivated and thoughtful employees to enter our ranks. Dan Wenk was one of them, and he delivered."

After a pause, Finley added, "My fear is that this secretary and the administration will do anything possible to undermine the stewardship philosophy of the rank and file employees. If they are successful in doing this, then the very image of noble government service that is so engrained in Park Service identity will become that of just another bureaucratic agency."

Finley then emphasized one more thing. "If Zinke had any decency, he would have the courage to pick up the phone and give Wenk a call, thanking him for his service to country. That's what noble soldiers do. That's what an Interior secretary worthy of our respect would do. They always choose doing the honorable thing over the reprehensible."

Todd Wilkinson is founder of Bozeman-based Mountain Journal (mountainjournal.org) and a correspondent for National Geographic. He also is author of "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek" about famous Jackson Hole grizzly bear 399 featuring 150 photographs by Tom Mangelsen, available only at mangelsen.com/grizzly.

# INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



# Yellowstone Forever grants \$5.9 million to Yellowstone National Park

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone Forever is providing \$5.9 million to fund 53 priority projects in Yellowstone National Park including the wolf program, trailhead information displays, and black bear research.

"Yellowstone National Park is a wonderland that deserves our stewardship and support," said Heather White, Yellowstone Forever President and CEO. "At Yellowstone Forever, we are proud to partner with the National Park Service to fund vital park projects and exceptional educational programs that inspire and engage. We look forward to continuing our work together to help preserve and enhance the world's first national park for generations to come."

Projects funded by Yellowstone Forever include wildlife research and management, visitor experience, youth education, and sustainability, among others. In 2018, \$1 million will support the National Park Service's Native Fish Restoration program, a major effort to restore native fish populations to sustainable levels.

Another grant will go toward visitor and wildlife safety education, providing support for seasonal rangers and volunteers to deliver safety information at wildlife traffic jams, demonstrations on how to use bear spray, and safe hiking and camping practices.

Other grants support programs that directly engage youth, helping cultivate the next generation of stewards. One example is the Yellowstone Youth Conservation

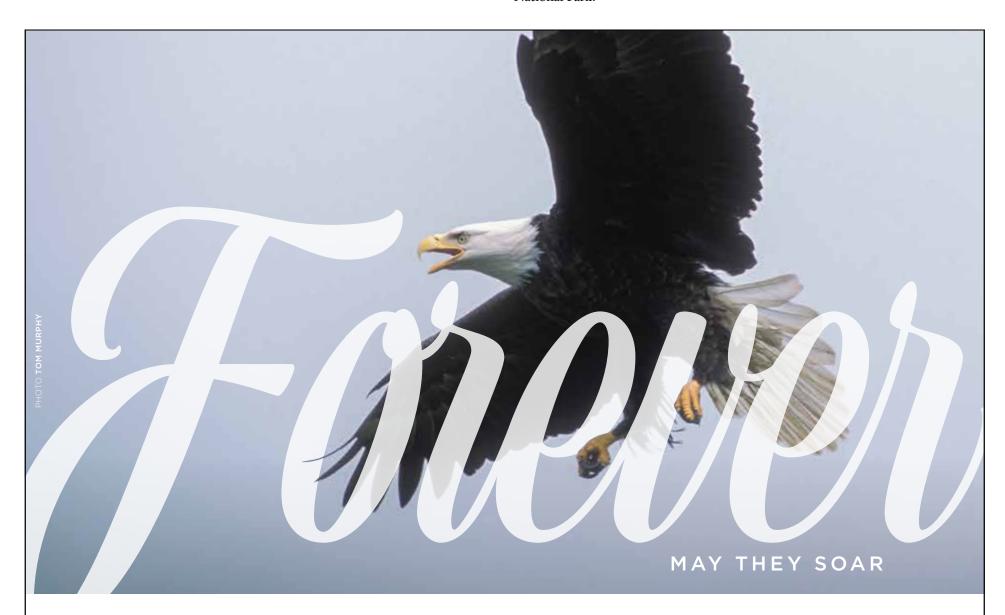
Corps, a work-based learning program that engages teams of 15- to 18-year-olds in leadership, education, recreation and work activities. The program promotes stewardship of Yellowstone and other wild places among the next generation, while also providing much-needed work for park projects.

While not everyone has the chance to visit Yellowstone, the park can still reach new audiences by visiting students in their schools through distance learning programs. Since 2011, Yellowstone has offered the opportunity for classrooms to have a park ranger visit them virtually through video conference technology.

Students can learn about topics such as volcanoes, park ecology, wildlife, and history. Demand for this program continues to grow each year, and support from Yellowstone Forever will ensure students from around the world participate in this program for years to come.

"Yellowstone National Park staff whole-heartedly thank Yellowstone Forever and the generous donors for their commitment to this exceptional place," said Superintendent Dan Wenk. "This park is incredibly fortunate to have such a sophisticated and professional partner in Yellowstone Forever. The dedication they show in their work enhances park resources and visitor experiences."

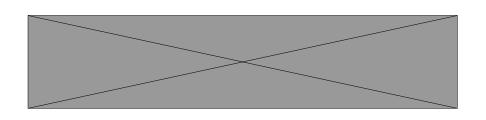
Yellowstone Forever is the official education and fundraising nonprofit partner of Yellowstone National Park. Proceeds to support these projects come from Yellowstone Forever's educational Park Stores, Institute, and philanthropic efforts. Yellowstone Forever and its predecessor organizations have provided over \$106,000,000 directly and \$171,000,000 as in-kind support to Yellowstone National Park.





Help us preserve the Yellowstone you love for generations to come. Join our community today at **Yellowstone.org/forever** 

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## BY CHRISTINE GIANAS WEINHEIMER YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

Yellowstone National Park's impressive collection of geysers and hot springs sets it apart from all other parks. But despite Old Faithful Geyser's status as Yellowstone's most famous feature—or perhaps because of it—many first-time visitors are unexpectedly astounded by the dramatic beauty of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River.

The massive, 1,000-foot-deep canyon dazzles visitors with panoramic vistas of multi-hued rock walls and majestic waterfalls. Roughly 20 miles long, the canyon varies in width from 1,500 to 4,000 feet. Several miles of trails connect 10 primary overlooks that afford breathtaking views from both sides of the canyon.

With a diverse selection of walking and hiking trails, and learning opportunities for the whole family, it's easy to spend an entire day in this extraordinary area of the park. Here's how to get the most out of your day at the canyon.

#### Take a Hike

The best way to experience the canyon's charm is to hike one of the many trails along the canyon rims, from short jaunts to all-day treks. Here are a few of our favorites:

#### Point Sublime trail (easy):

After visiting the Artist Point overlook, follow the South Rim Trail beyond Artist Point to this less-traveled path, which meanders along the canyon rim.

Distance: 1.3 miles from Artist Point to Point Sublime

#### Brink of the Lower Falls trail (moderate):

Descend 600 feet on a steep trail to get an up-close and personal view of the Lower Falls.

Distance: 0.7 miles, round-trip

#### Seven Mile Hole trail (strenuous):

You'll want to commit a whole day to this trail—the only one that leads to the canyon bottom.

Distance: 10.2 miles, round-trip



#### View the canyon and falls

While some views of the canyon and falls are only accessible by trail, you can still get to the following overlooks by car and a short walk from the parking lots on paved, accessible walkways.

# A day at Yellowstone's Grand Canyon



With a diverse selection of walking and hiking trails, and learning opportunities for the whole family, it's easy to spend an entire day in the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone. PHOTOS BY MATT LUDIN

- Brink of the Upper Falls: Access this viewing area just off Grand Loop Road south of Canyon Junction, between the entrances to North and South Rim drives.
- From North Rim Drive: View the Lower Falls from Lookout Point, Grand View, and Inspiration Point. Both waterfalls are visible from Brink of the Lower Falls.
- From South Rim Drive: See the Upper Falls from two viewpoints at Uncle Tom's Point. View the Lower Falls at Artist Point.

Several of the canyon overlooks and trails, originally built in the 1930s, are being rehabilitated with support from Yellowstone Forever, the official nonprofit partner of Yellowstone National Park.

#### Have fun learning

Discover the geology, wildlife, and history of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone through one of many opportunities provided by the National Park Service.

Interactive and multimedia exhibits at the Canyon Visitor Education Center, funded by Yellowstone Forever, explore a fascinating park feature: the Yellowstone supervolcano. Relax and watch the 20-minute film Land to Life, or browse a variety of educational items in the Yellowstone Forever Park store.

Several free, ranger-led walks and talks also occur throughout the day. For families with children, the self-guided Junior Ranger and Young Scientist programs are offered for a nominal fee at the Canyon Visitor Education Center. Check the park newspaper for schedules and program details.

#### Be an early bird

Because of the canyon's popularity, plan to arrive as early in the day as possible. You'll not only avoid the peak crowds, but you'll also be rewarded with ideal lighting for photographing the canyon. Before heading out, check the park newspaper or website or inquire at any park visitor center about trail closures, construction updates, and current road conditions.

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

## New Yellowstone boss named following Wenk's ouster

BY MATTHEW BROWN ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) – A new superintendent was named June 13 to Yellowstone National Park, one of the crown jewels of the U.S. park system, after his predecessor said he was being forced out by the Trump administration following a dispute over bison.

Cameron "Cam" Sholly will replace Dan Wenk, who has been superintendent since 2011.

Wenk planned to retire next March but was told last week he would be gone by August. He said his ouster followed disagreements with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke over the size of the park's world-famous bison herds.

Ranchers and state livestock officials in neighboring Montana, where Zinke served as a U.S. representative before he became Interior secretary, have pushed to reduce the size of the herds because of concerns over the disease brucellosis. About half of Yellowstone's bison test positive for the disease, which can cause animals to prematurely abort their young.

Park biologists contend the population of more than 4,000 bison is sustainable. But Zinke and his staff have said the number is too high, Wenk said, and have raised concerns that Yellowstone's scenic Lamar Valley is being damaged by overgrazing.

The Interior Department has not commented on Wenk's claims.

Sholly served as Midwest regional director for the park service since 2015, where he was involved in reintroducing wolves to Isle Royale National Park, oversaw a \$380 million renovation of the Gateway Arch in St. Louis and worked to improve relations with American Indian tribes, according to the Interior Department.

Sholly did not immediately respond to requests for comment. In a statement put out by the Interior Department, he said he was honored to have the chance to work at Yellowstone, established in 1872 as the first national park.

Yellowstone covers 3,400 square miles (8,900 square kilometers) straddling the borders of Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. Its erupting geysers, cascading waterfalls and abundant wildlife attract tourists from around the world.

More than 4 million people visited in each of the past three years and last month was the park's busiest May on record. That's put an increasing strain on its natural resources and led to frequent conflicts between people and wildlife, including visitors injured by grizzly bears, bison, elk and other animals.

Sholly is a third-generation park service employee and went to high school just north of Yellowstone in Gardiner, Montana, when his father was assigned to Yellowstone, said Alex Picavet, chief of communications for the park service's Midwest region.

His first job for the park service was in Yellowstone in 1990, as a seasonal worker in the park's maintenance division, Picavet said. Sholly, an Army veteran who was deployed to the Gulf War, later served as chief of ranger operations for Yosemite National Park and superintendent of Natchez Trace Parkway, a scenic byway that runs through Mississippi, Tennessee and Alabama.

Wenk pledged a smooth transition and said Sholly would be a "really good fit for Yellowstone" given his variety of experiences in the park service.

At Yellowstone, he'll oversee an 800-person staff and an annual budget of more than \$60 million.

"The Midwest region is very sad to have him leave," Picavet said. "He's a strong leader who has brought amazing change and opportunity to the Midwest region."

Sholly's start date is yet to be determined, said Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift.

His father, Dan Sholly, gained prominence as Yellowstone's chief ranger in the 1980s and 1990s, a period that included the controversial reintroduction of gray wolves and the massive fires of 1988 that burned hundreds of thousands of acres in the park. He was demoted and transferred to Florida's Big Cypress National Preserve in Florida following allegations in 1997 from his former secretary that Sholly denied. An administrative judge determined Dan Sholly misbehaved but dismissed a sexual harassment claim against him.

Yellowstone faced a more extensive harassment scandal under Wenk that echoed problems in other national parks.

Members of the park's maintenance department were disciplined last year after an investigation found female employees faced sexual harassment and other problems.

Wenk said those problems never were brought up in discussions about his possible transfer or retirement that led up to his ouster.





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# New group encourages diversity in the outdoors

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – Erasure, invisibility, inaccessibility. These are feelings many people of color face in the context of spending time outdoors.

"So many times, when we're outdoors, white people look at us like we shouldn't be there. It's weird, but it's what we've come to expect," said Judith Heilman, founder and executive director of the Montana Racial Equity Project, an advocacy group for minorities in Montana and the only black-led nonprofit in the state.

"The outdoor industry presents itself as white," Heilman added, describing the predominantly white presence in outdoor advertising, branding and promotions.

Tired of feeling like they didn't have a place to belong in Bozeman's outdoor community, a handful of recreation enthusiasts, who identify as people of color, started Earthtone Outside Montana, a group dedicated to promoting diversity in Montana's outdoor recreation scene.

"There are invisible barriers to going outside. There's a lot of wounding there," said Maya León, who owns Bozeman's concept boutique Ma Yarising and is one of several founders of Earthtone Outside.

"The problem is bigger than just the hostility we face outdoors," she added. "This is just one example of what we face every day. [Earthtone Outside] is a way to raise awareness about race. Ultimately, all humans want to be seen by other humans and that's what we want."

In January, the group met for the first time, with funding and support made available by Heilman and the Montana Racial Equity Project. Since then, Earthtone Outside has hosted sledding and skiing events, and several Earthtone Inside social events.

After their first public appearance in April during the Greater Yellowstone Coalition's "Our Shared Place" symposium on recreation, where seven members shared their insights on recreation and race, Earthtone Outside hosted a summer kickoff party at Hyalite Pavilion on June 10.

Amid temperatures hovering in the 40s, and wet snow flying, 30 people turned out to hike and enjoy a barbecue.

"A group like this ... it's really needed and wanted," said co-founder Frances Kim, who works in the Montana State University Center for American Indian and Rural Health Equity. "I think there's definitely comfort knowing you have a community where you know you won't have to face microaggressions. ... I think that's why this group has flourished in a short amount of time.

"I feel like this group has been really healing for us, so we can have difficult conversations about these really difficult things," Kim added. "We've created this community that is welcoming and isn't hypercompetitive and it gets people outside in any way. Being a part of this group has shown me that I can embrace my culture and heritage and reflect on what I can do to make this community better."

Vasu Sojitra, a North Face ski athlete and adaptive sports director for Eagle Mount, added to this sentiment. He said that in order to become who he is today, he had to assimilate and lose some of his Indian heritage.

"I'm trying to gain that back through this community," he said. "Groups like this will hopefully grow that personal identity and culture."

In addition to creating a community for diverse outdoor enthusiasts, Earthtone Outside is seeking to change perspectives on what it means to be a person recreating outside

David Samollow was adopted and grew up in a white household in Texas. He spent a lot of time with his family doing activities outdoors, but said that when he came to Bozeman, he realized other people with multicultural backgrounds didn't have the outdoor opportunities that he had.

"Coming here, I realized that [white] people are into a lot of activities and they think they're welcoming, but they weren't aware of the issues people of color are facing," he added.

Angelina Gonzalez-Aller, co-founder and health policy researcher for the RWJF Center for Health Policy at the University of New Mexico, expanded on that sentiment. "You can face prejudice on the trails, in the campgrounds, in REI," she said, adding that retail clerks in outdoor gear stores can make assumptions that a person of color doesn't have the necessary skills.



Members of Bozeman's new outdoors club, Earthtone Outside Montana, pose during a recent hike up Drinking Horse Trail in Gallatin Valley. Earthtone Outside seeks to elevate the presence of people with multi-racial background in the outdoors. PHOTO COURTESY OF EARTHTONE OUTSIDE MONTANA

That said, she believes Earthtone Outside has a critical opportunity.

"Bozeman is a really special place for this kind of work," she said, adding that MSU brings in diverse student demographics and there is a strong indigenous population present as well.

She went on to say that by instilling a love for the outdoors in people of color, the environment will gain new advocates as recreation serves as an entry point into conservation. "There's so much to do," she said. "There's a lot of opportunity to make sure we keep these places around for everyone to enjoy."

This summer, Earthtone Outside will host weekly hikes as well as cookouts, rock climbing events and more. Contact earthtoneoutside@gmail.com to learn more, or check out the group on Instagram or Facebook.



Remove mud, water, and vegetation from your gear and clean with water and a stiff brush. Chemicals are not needed.



Drain any water from your equipment (including bait buckets) at your access point. Use a sponge for items that can't be drained.



Dry your equipment thoroughly. The longer you keep your waders and other equipment outside and in the hot sun between trips, the better.

# You can keep the Gallatin River healthy













# **Labor of love**

# Ousel Falls Trail endures heavy use as beloved area attraction

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT **EBS CONTRIBUTOR** 

BIG SKY - Last year, nearly 66,000 people set foot on Ousel Falls Trail, one of Big Sky's most popular destinations. The wide gravel path traverses 1.6 miles roundtrip and leads to the acclaimed Ousel Falls, which is named for the ouzel bird, commonly known as the American dipper.

The well-used trail boasts a TrafX device secured on a Douglas fir growing near the trailhead. This black box with infrared technology logs the number of hikers who pass, and indicates that Ousel Falls is probably the most-visited trail in Big Sky.

JaNelle Johnson is a volunteer with the Big Sky Community Organization Trail Ambassador

program, and she hikes Ousel Falls several times a week in order to promote positive trail behavior and answer questions. She said she suspects the trail is particularly popular for visitors because it showcases the beauty of the area, without presenting too much of a physical challenge.

"[Ousel Falls] is always a nice introduction to Big Sky," she said. "It's easy, it's wide, it's got beautiful scenery."

However, Johnson added that it can be difficult finding a spot in the parking lot. Referring to last summer, she said, "I'd never seen so many cars in that parking lot. It was just amazing."

Beyond crowded parking lots and congested trails that can deter from the peaceful reprieve of nature, high visitation wreaks havoc on trail infrastructure.

While Ousel Falls Trail is located on a National Forest easement, the trailhead property is owned by BSCO. As such, BSCO provides all of the maintenance, which includes trail clearing and repair, as well as the upkeep for bathrooms and trailhead improvements.

According to BSCO Executive Director Ciara Wolfe, the reality of a popular trail includes lines at the outhouse and the need for BSCO to empty garbage cans every day.

After receiving their full ask of \$693,986 in resort tax appropriations on June 18, BSCO is moving forward with plans to upgrade the Ousel Falls trailhead. This summer, they will design a parking lot expansion, as well as plan for the installation of additional garbage cans and an educational kiosk. Construction is slated for late this fall or early spring 2019, depending on weather.

In addition to these new upgrades, the organization has planted vegetation and installed barriers to encourage people to stay on the trail.



Ousel Falls is one of Big Sky's premier attractions and the easy, 1.6-mile trail saw a hefty 65,877 number of hikers last year. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

"No matter what the numbers are, it's much more impactful when [hikers] go off the trail," Wolfe said, adding that off-trail use can cause erosion and also damage fragile mountain vegetation.

"We get complaints about behavior sometimes, people leaving beer cans at inappropriate places ... but not on the trail itself or at the falls," Wolfe said. "I think our community loves it so much that they are willing to volunteer and take care of it. We feel like, for the most part, people are pretty good to it, it's just the heavy use."

To minimize the effect that so much human use has on Ousel Falls, BSCO encourages people at Ousel Falls to use provided garbage cans at the trailhead. Bikers connecting from Ralph's Pass and Yellow Mule trails are asked to walk their bikes during the busy season, and dog owners should always clean up their animals' waste and keep them on-leash.

"The dogs are often just as guilty at running off trail," Wolfe said. "Dogs create or add to user-made trails, and they can kill vegetation too."

The BSCO Trail Ambassadors will offer friendly reminders to those who don't follow the trail guidelines, and Johnson said she's never had a problem speaking to hikers on the trail.

"I've never had a bad encounter," she said. "I think people love our trails and want to follow the rules, they just may not be aware of them."

As of EBS press time on June 20, Ousel Falls Trail remained relatively wet but is clear of snow. Due to high water, a portion of the trail is experiencing erosion. There is a slight detour around this damaged area and BSCO asks hikers to stay away from the edge of the eroding bank so as to avoid contributing to the problem.

# Ousel falls by the numbers in 2017





Trail users: **65,877**Parking Lot users: **84,812 (vehicle counts)** 

January-March 2018: 9,200 trail users so far



# On the Trail: South Fork Loop Trail

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

BY CIARA WOLFE **BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** 



The South Fork Loop Trail traverses wetland meadows that are home to local ungulates like deer, elk and moose, PHOTO BY CIARA WOLFE

The South Fork Loop, a 1-mile dirtsurfaced trail named after the South Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin River, is the perfect distance and difficulty to get outside and take a quick walk, run with a friend, or spin on your bicycle.

The trail starts out as an old logging road with a wide dirt trail that climbs a gradual hill. About 1/4 of a mile in, you'll reach a signed loop junction. I prefer to continue uphill, so I follow the trail straight at the junction.

A couple hundred yards beyond the sign, the trail turns into a single track with a gradual downhill. This portion of the

trail is entertaining and beautiful, with glimpses of the river and wetland meadow in the distance. At the bottom of the hill you'll parallel the river before climbing a short distance back to the junction.

Depending on your desired distance, you can loop this trail multiple times. Its proximity to the Hummocks and Uplands Trailhead and location less than a mile from Big Sky Town Center makes this a peaceful loop to extend a longer walk, run or bike.

The gradual terrain with a varied width is an excellent beginner's playground for

aspiring mountain bikers, and the river access amidst the forest will make this one of your hound's favorite spots in Big Sky.

Don't let its nearness to town fool you, bear sightings have been reported, so be bear aware when recreating on the South Fork Loop Trail. Deer, moose and elk also enjoy this area; the dirt trail often provides excellent animal track sightings.

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



TRAIL STATS











1-mile loop

hike, trail run, bike

easy

Elevation

**Surface** dirt

150 ft

**Directions:** From Town Center, head east on Aspen Leaf Drive for <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of a mile. You will see a small parking area with the trailhead on the right-hand side of the road immediately after a bridge. If the two-car parking area is full, park in the vehicle pullout on the north side of the bridge.



# BEEHIVE BASIN PROPERTIES BIG SKY



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



**30 Beehive Basin** | \$2.95M 20 ACRES | 6203 SQ FT | 5 bedrooms | 6 bathrooms Spacious home with commanding views in a beautiful mountain setting



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



Lot 4 Beehive Basin Rd. | \$350K 2.86 ACRES Versatile property with beautiful Lone Mountain views. Includes tiny



LKRealEstate.com | 406.995.2404







# **Guided walks return to Big Sky**

**EBS STAFF** 

The Big Sky Community Organization will begin their Hike and Learn series again this summer, where the community can get out on the trail with a guide to learn something new.

These interpretive, family-friendly hikes will take place every Tuesday on various trails in the area. A knowledgeable expert will provide insight into our local environment and ecology.

No reservations are necessary, simply arrive a few minutes early.

June 26; 10 a.m.

Guided Hike along Uplands Trail

This 2-mile trail is a steady climb to a higher elevation with a great view of Big Sky. We will complete the loop and finish at the same trailhead.

July 10; 10 a.m.

History Hike with Historic Crail Ranch at Crail Ranch Trail

The Crail Ranch Trail is 3 miles roundtrip. Compare current views with landscape views through the museum's photo archives. There will be an optional tour of the Crail Ranch Homestead Museum after the hike.

July 17; 10 a.m.

Guided Hike along Little Willow Way and Black Diamond Trail This route is just under 2 miles, starting out along the Middle Fork River on Little Willow Way before climbing moderate elevation on the Black Diamond Trail. Enjoy scenic views of the Community Park and Lone Mountain.

July 24; 10 a.m.

Wildflower and Weed Identification with the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance at Ousel Falls Trail

Join plant experts for a hike at beautiful Ousel Falls and learn more about the native and nonnative vegetation that surrounds us.

July 31; 10 a.m.

Guided Hike on Beehive Basin Trail

Hike 6.6 miles to a pristine alpine mountain lake and enjoy great scenery, wildlife

and vegetation along the way. Explore the latest trail added to the BSCO system and hear about planned improvements for the trailhead.

Aug. 7; 10 a.m.

Meadow History Hike with Historic Photography, Town Center to Ousel Falls Road Trail

Meet at the Town Center Fire Pit and hike along the meadow trails, learning about the ranching history of the South Fork and West Fork areas. This will be 5.6 miles roundtrip along a level, gravel trail.

Aug. 14; 10 a.m.

Your Forest at Work with the Natural Resource Council on Beehive Basin Trail Explore our local forest ecology and learn to identify common trees and how they have evolved with wildlife and wildfire. Experts will be on hand to help identify wildflowers and invasive weeds.

Aug. 21; 10 a.m.

Guided Hike along Ralph's Pass

Explore Big Sky's newest trail and experience views of the South Fork of the West Fork, an alpine forest and shale created thousands of years ago. The hike will start at Ousel Falls Trail for an in-and-out hike that includes the connector trail, Ralph's Pass.

Aug. 28; 10 a.m.

Guided Hike along Hummocks Trail

Enjoy a morning hike exploring the hummocks terrain and discover an alpine pond. This hike covers a variety of terrain and has a slight elevation gain. The hike is 3 miles roundtrip.

Sept. 4; 10 a.m.

Bird Walk and Identification at the South Fork Loop Trail Spend the morning on a short hike through multiple habitats, attempting to identify different bird species by sight and sound. You'll learn about bird identification, as well as how to use the terrain and your surroundings to help identify birds. Please bring binoculars.

To learn more about BSCO or to check for weather cancelations, visit bscomt.org.

# Fly Fishing Festival to feature Montana-made spirits and music by The Last Revel

GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

The seventh annual Gallatin River Fly Fishing Festival will make a splash in Big Sky June 28-30. After a watershed year in 2017, the Fly Fishing Festival is back in Big Sky with three action-packed days that celebrate river recreation and conservation.

Last year, the festival invested \$33,000 to support a healthy Gallatin River for future generations.

"The Fly Fishing Festival is really coming into its own," said long-time committee chair, Ennion Williams. "In 2018, we're excited to welcome headlining band The Last Revel, and a Montana distillery tasting garden. ... Don't miss the Gallatin River's biggest weekend."

The festival begins with a chance to spin fishing yarns and test new products at the Pesca Fiesta on Thursday, June 28, at Gallatin River Guides. The Gallatin River Guides will kick off the festival with free beer, drinks and food at their annual storewide sale.

The Hooked on the Gallatin Banquet will land on the banks of the Gallatin River on Friday, June 29, at the Gallatin Riverhouse Grill. The banquet features barbecue, wine by Natalie's Estate Winery, live acoustic music, and auctions to benefit GRTF.

Electrifying Minnesota-based string trio, The Last Revel, will return to Big Sky Town Center Park on Saturday, June 30, to headline the final day of the festival, which includes an outdoor fair complete with pony rides, a giant casting pond, fly tying, and conservation activities.



At this year's Gallatin River Fly Fishing Festival, there will be fun for the whole family, from casting lessons and live music, to a vendor fair and painting demonstrations. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

During the outdoor fair, the casting doctor, Dok Arvanites, will host clinics to diagnose common casting ailments, while Bozeman-based artist Ben Miller demonstrates the art of fly cast painting.

"The Gallatin River Fly Fishing Festival is a signature Big Sky event that provides our community with the opportunity to give back to the Gallatin River," said GRTF executive director Kristin Gardner.

Visit gallatinriverflyfishingfestival.com for more information, to purchase banquet tickets, or to support the festival as a vendor or sponsor.



# Inside the Big Sky

# Mountain biking in big sky

VISIT BIG SKY



Big Sky has plenty of options for mountain bikers of all skill levels, from lift-accessible trails at Big Sky Resort, to an extensive network of trails in Town Center and on National Forest Service land. PHOTO COURTESY OF VISIT BIG SKY

Let's face it, summer in Big Sky rocks, and one of the big reasons is the world-class mountain biking opportunities. A massive trail system connects hundreds of miles of Forest Service trails and dirt roads with miles of cross country, single-track, and downhill trails. This trail system seamlessly links Big Sky Resort, the Meadow, Town Center, Spanish Peaks, Moonlight Basin, and Forest Service lands.

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

At Big Sky Resort, riders can enjoy more than 40 miles of lift-accessed trails. Beginner and intermediate flow trails can be accessed off the Explorer chairlift, and intermediate to expert trails from the top

of Thunder Wolf, beginning June 23. The most advanced and expert downhill trails are off the Swift Current lift, open June 25. For bike rentals, bike-haul lift tickets and gear, look for Different Spokes Bike Shop at the Mountain Base Camp. In Town Center, Grizzly Outfitters and Gallatin Alpine Sports have bike experts, trail information and gear ready to go.

#### Popular mountain biking trails in Big Sky:

- Mountain to Meadow
- Hummocks
- North Fork
- Uplands Loop

#### Popular trails on National Forest Service land:

- Taylors Fork and Little Wapiti

ALLIANCE

- Porcupine Creek
- Garnet Mountain
- Ramshorn Lake
- Cinnamon Mountain

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

# WATER CONSERVATION

Did you know your sprinkler system should be adjusted throughout the season for most efficient water use?



Set systems to apply 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week during peak times in July and August, and less than 1 inch in May and June. By Labor Day weekend, reduce again to prepare your landscape for winter dormancy.





www.gallatinisa.org

Do your part to #KeepItNative
Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance is funded in part by resort tax funds.



# **Go for the gold**The golden stonefly, that is



BY PATRICK STRAUB EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

The salmon-fly hatch is the most anticipated hatch of the year for good reason—it's the first hatch immediately after runoff; the natural insects are large, allowing us to fish the biggest dry flies of the season; and some of the largest fish of the season are caught on large dry flies.

However, if the salmon-fly hatch is the main event, the golden stonefly hatch is the after-party. And, despite my hazy memory, some of my best college memories came during the after-party. Fishing the golden stonefly hatch is nature's way of giving us big dry-fly junkies another shot at greatness. Here's some advice and top flies for fishing the hatch after the hatch.

Know the difference. Salmon flies, both the nymphs and adults, are larger than golden stoneflies. If you want to sound like a dork, Pteronarcys californica, commonly referred to as salmonflies, range in size from 7.5 to 8.5 centimeters in length; whereas Hesperoperla pacifica, whose common name is the golden stonefly, are rarely longer than 6 centimeters. In other words, golden stones are smaller. But the most defining characteristic is color: salmon flies are orange and black, while golden stoneflies range from yellow to golden to olive.

**Adjust your tackle**. As our local rivers drop in flow, and water recedes from bank-side structure, the need for heavy tippets wanes. You can hang up the 0X tippet until streamer season, but keep the 7.5-foot-long 1X and 2X leaders handy. A shorter leader will help turn over a big, busy dry fly and allow for more accuracy.

**Begin to fish two flies again.** The best salmon-fly hatch anglers fish one fly—and they fish it very tight to, even among, bank-side structure. Fishing only one fly means you can drop a cast between willow branches or near logs. Once golden stoneflies hatch, river clarity often improves tremendously and fishing two flies increases your odds substantially.

Go long on your dropper fly. Trout tend to rise to eat a fly off the surface more often during overcast weather. Golden stoneflies hatch in summer, when sunshine dominates. Because of this, I like to bring the fly to the fish. When I know golden stoneflies are hatching—during these next few weeks—I will fish a very long dropper, often four feet or longer, because our trout may be a little less likely to rise in bright sunshine and clearer water.

Learn the reach cast. An essential cast for getting the longest possible drag-free drift, a reach cast is ideal for fishing big, single dry flies or big dry flies with long droppers. This cast is accomplished by mending the fly line in the air before it lands on the water. This cast is best done by having a wider casting loop, stopping your forward cast higher off the water than a normal presentation cast, and after your stop your cast at the end of the forward cast, follow through by pulling the straightened fly line through the air into its mended position.

**Bulk up on your fly selection.** To over-simplify fishing a golden stonefly hatch, use flies a few sizes smaller and yellow or gold in color than you would fish for salmon flies. However, since fly tiers like to create new patterns—and fly shops like to sell flies—be certain to have some of the following patterns in sizes 8 and 10: Trina's Stimi Stone, Wade's Ho Candy, Water Walker, Fat Frank, and the always popular Chubby Chernobyl.

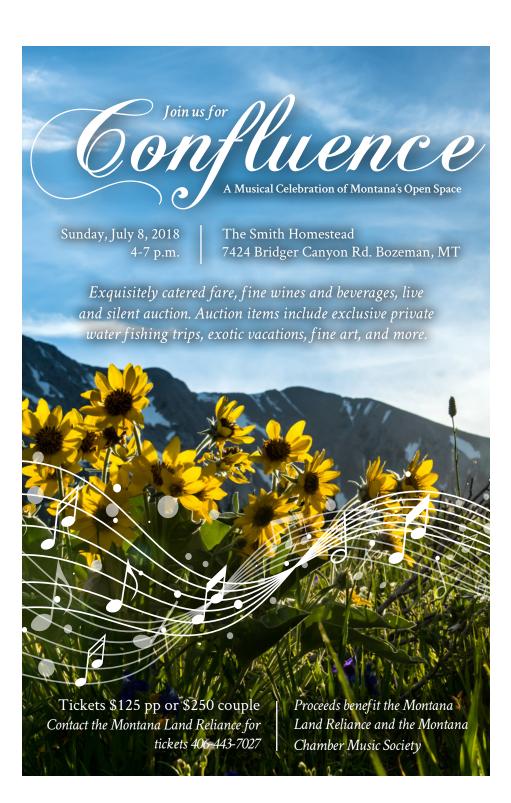
Hatches of golden stoneflies mark the true beginning of our summer angling season. Runoff and its big water are fully in the rear-view, and guessing when we'll begin fishing dry flies is finally over. Golden



The golden stonefly is the sequel to the salmon fly, and despite it being a large dry fly, it's not nearly as anticipated as the salmon-fly hatch. Understand this hatch to get more out of a sequel that really shouldn't be a sequel. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

stoneflies are a nice runner-up to the glamour of the salmon-fly hatch, but just because they're the second act doesn't mean you'll want an aisle seat.

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.





# RESORT ROUNDUP

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

# **WORD FROM THE RESORT**

# Big Sky Resort unveils newly renovated employee housing

**EBS STAFF** 



Each of the 16 newly renovated units for Big Sky Resort seasonal employees in the Golden Eagle Lodge are entirely unique and fitted with space-efficient furnishings, and perks like free Wi-Fi and flat screen TVs. The resort is now able to provide housing for 60 percent of its employees. PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI

On June 13, representatives from Big Sky Resort gave a tour of the newly renovated wing of Golden Eagle Lodge that now provides housing for 38 more resort employees. The additional 16 rooms bring the employee bed-count up to nearly 500. This allows the resort to house approximately 60 percent of their staff, said resort housing manager Lindsay Colbert.

The renovated Golden Eagle complex, which was completed in February at a cost of \$700,000, is 5,600 square feet.

Each room is unique, ranging from 400-square-foot 3-bedroom apartments, to smaller 210-square-foot doubles. The efficiency apartments feature flat screen TVs with cable hookups, laminate flooring, free Wi-Fi, microwaves, mini fridges, deep sinks with high faucets

for washing dishes, upgraded furniture, twin beds that can be bunked and height adjusted, plus additional storage space.

"I think what we have here is a good example of what employee housing can look like in a neighborhood when it's done right," said Big Sky community member Steve Johnson.

The original Golden Eagle was built in 1973 and served as a restaurant and check-in location for a local hostel. The resort bought the building, which is on Little Coyote Road adjacent to the Big Sky Community Park, approximately 10 years ago.

Prior to this year's improvements, 80 employees were housed in the unrenovated portion of the lodge while the newly reconstructed wing, originally a large common space, sat empty.

"Every bed that is created frees up another bed in the community," said Big Sky Resort General Manager Taylor Middleton during the tour. "If more employers would've adopted this method earlier, [I do not believe] we would not be facing the affordable housing crisis we are today."

Employees are housed based on an allocation system dependent upon the date they submit an application. Currently there are five employees on a waiting list for housing, but Colbert said they will likely be able to accommodate them eventually.

Approximately half the cost to live in the apartments is subsidized by the resort and rent is taken out of the employee paycheck. The out-of-pocket cost seasonal workers must pay varies based on the room, averaging about \$12 per day for a double room and \$10 per day for a triple for each resident.

Golden Eagle is the second affordable housing project the resort has completed in the past two years. Last summer, they completed Mountain Lodge North, a structure that added 44 employee beds.

To date, Big Sky Resort has constructed housing for 480 seasonal workers, with 176 beds available at Mountain Lodge and 125 in Whitewater Inn during the winter.

The resort plans to continue with this initiative, adding an additional 200 beds in the near future. These new housing options have been proposed for two different facilities, one that would be located east of the Mountain Lodge, and another west of the Golden Eagle complex.

Big Sky Resort funds a portion of the affordable housing projects through real estate sales.



# **Kids getting after it** Kids Adventure Games returns to Big Sky

Designed exclusively for kids ages 6 to 14, the Kids Adventure Games is a multidiscipline adventure race with stops all over the U.S.

Kids in teams of two compete together on bike, in water, and on foot through a challenging 3.5- to 5-mile adventure course, featuring man-made and natural obstacles like zip lines, massive cargo nets, ropes courses, river tubing, giant slip-and-slides and more.

Through this fun competition, kids learn the value of teamwork, sportsmanship, problem solving, the importance of an active lifestyle and an appreciation for the outdoors.

Registration is available at kidsadventuregames.com.

#### Schedule

Friday, June 29: Skills Clinic, All Ages Saturday, June 30: Expert Course, Ages 10-14 Sunday, July 1: Beginner Course, Ages 6-9

PHOTO BY GABE PRIESTLEY

# **LIVE MUSIC**

AUG. 16-21 Moonlight MusicFest Madison Base

This inaugural event will celebrate the spirit of music, mountains and Montana, bringing together headliners like Grace Potter, Bruce Hornsby and the Noisemakers, and the Chris Robinson Brotherhood.

AUG. 16 The Hooligans Montana Jack, 10 p.m. AUG. 17 Jamie McLean Band Montana Jack, 10 p.m.

AUG. 18 Reckless Kelly Montana Jack, 10 p.m.



# Summer activities at Big Sky Resort

**GOLF:** Enjoy a game at the scenic 18-hole, par 72 golf course at Big Sky

**MOUNTAIN BIKING:** Beginning on June 23, explore over 40 miles of bike

**LONE PEAK EXPEDITION:** Enjoy a guided trip to the top of Lone Mountain,

**ZIPLINE TOURS:** Ride up and down on one of Big Sky Resort's two ziplines.

**SCENIC LIFT RIDE:** Take Swift Current or Explorer chairlift to get a bird's-

**ADVENTURE MOUNTAIN:** Find fun for the whole family at Adventure

**HIKING:** Take a scenic lift ride up the mountain, then enjoy a leisurely hike

**ARCHERY:** Try out Big Sky Resort's archery course, and learn to shoot a

**DISC GOLF:** Enjoy disc golf at the base of Mountain Village. You can play



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### **SATURDAY, JUNE 23**

## **Mountain Biking Opens**

Enjoy over 40 miles of biking trails at the resort this summer. From those accessible from Mountain Village, to the downhill runs available via chairlift, you'll be able to find a trail suitable for any ability. Purchase a bike-haul lift ticket from the Different Spokes Bike Shop and explore routes off Thunder Wolf, Explorer or Swift Current chairlifts. Lifts run daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, JUNE 25**

## **Grand Rebranding Celebration at Bunker Deck &** Grill

Beginning on June 25, every Monday this summer, enjoy a Beehive Basin Brewery beer and burger special, along with live music by local musician Brian Stumpf "Stumpy." This celebration also kicks off the Bunker's first ever weekend brunch offerings, which begin June 30.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 29-SUNDAY, JULY 1

#### **Kids Adventure Games**

Kids Adventure Games is a challenge course designed just for kids, involving a range of outdoor obstacles and challenges. From biking and ziplining, to water activities and more, kids between the ages of 6 and 14 will be able to participate in teams of two.

#### **JULY 14-15**

## **Liv Ladies AllRide**

This women's mountain bike skills camp is among a series of workshops held throughout the U.S. Participants will go through climbing drills and perfect their skills on large grassy areas and single track. This event is already sold out; however, names are being taken for the waitlist.

## **JULY 20-22**

## **Total Archery Challenge**

The 3D archery challenge sponsored by Yeti and produced by Mtn Ops is a familyfriendly event where those of all skill levels can have fun with a bow. More than 100 3D targets will be set up in a variety of courses and you'll be able to compete for prizes or just practice your skill.

#### **JULY 21**

## 13th Annual Big Sky Brewfest

The Big Sky Brewfest features breweries from across the nation, accompanied by live music, fresh food and kid-friendly activities.

## **JULY 27-29**

## **Rut Training Camp**

This weekend workshop is open to anyone who wants to explore Lone Mountain, though it is designed as an opportunity for runners to prepare for The Rut Mountain Running Festival. During the camp, runners will have a guided sneak peek at some of the toughest sections of The Rut course.

## **JULY 29**

## **Lone Peak's Revenge**

This extreme biking challenge will return to the slopes of Lone Mountain as a part of the Montana Enduro Series. Complete with timed downhill stages and untimed transition stages, Lone Peak's Revenge includes some of the toughest terrain in the series, with the course traveling across Lone and Andesite mountains.

#### AUG. 16-19

## 5th Annual Vine and Dine Wine and Food Festival

This premier destination event brings together sommeliers, winemakers and regional and celebrity culinary talent for a multi-day festival of wine tastings, seminars, cooking demonstrations, outdoor adventure, and beautifully prepared meals.

#### **AUG. 31-SEPT. 2**

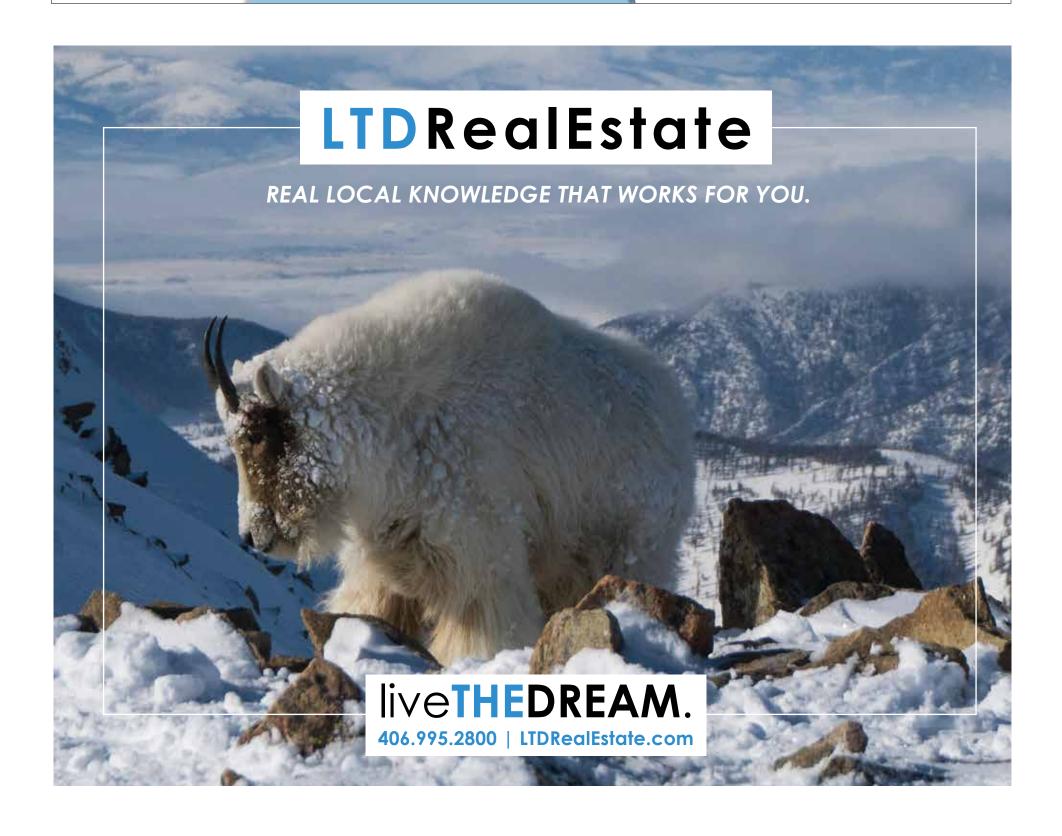
## The Rut Mountain Running Festival

This world-class mountain race attracts professional runners from all over the world, with a course that traverses all types of terrain, including jeep roads, forested single track, alpine ridge lines and all the way to the summit of Lone Mountain.

#### **SEPT. 28**

## **Summer Closing Day**







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# BACKLI

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"

# Preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species

# Steps everyone should be taking

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

At first glance, they might look like an organism you'd expect to find in any body of water in Montana. But to the trained and conscious observer, New Zealand mudsnails, quagga mussels and zebra mussels are recognized as grave threats to Montana's rivers.

Aquatic invasive species are nonnative plants, animals and pathogens whose presence can cause severe damage to local ecosystems. Often times, these species are able to thrive and spread rapidly in new environments, where there is little competition and a lack of natural predators.

New Zealand mudsnails and whirling disease are just two examples of invasive species present in Montana's waterways, while quagga and zebra mussels, which have been found on watercraft traveling through the state, pose a constant threat of invasion.

Fortunately, the Gallatin watershed remains healthy, however it will take a conscious effort to keep it so. Many outdoor activities can inadvertently lead to the spread of invasive organisms, from fishing and boating, to hiking and four wheeling.

"Aquatic invasive species have had devastating ecological and economic impacts in water bodies across the United States," wrote Kristin Gardner, executive director for the Gallatin River Task Force, in an email to EBS.

"Preventing the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species in the Gallatin River is critical to protect the health of this irreplaceable resource," she added. "Once invasive species are established they're nearly impossible to eliminate and difficult to manage, so prevention is key."

Here are some things you can do to keep the Gallatin healthy and free of aquatic invasive species.

**Clean.** After you're done recreating or fishing near a waterbody, completely remove all plants, animals, mud and standing water from your equipment. This includes your boats, paddleboards, hiking boots or waders. Pay close attention around the tread and inside of your boots, as well as crevices and folds.

After removing what you can see, rinse your gear streamside, or in a bucket of water. It's a great idea to carry a brush with you in order to quickly scrub down equipment and make sure there isn't any mud remaining.



Each and every time you leave a body of water, give your gear a streamside inspection and remove any visible plants and mud. Consider using a brush to thoroughly remove mud and less visible organisms.



Quagga mussels are small, freshwater mollusks that are native to the Ukraine. They attach to hard and soft surfaces in the water and females produce 100,000 to one million eggs each year. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE INVASIVE SPECIES ACTION NETWORK

Remember to clean gear before you leave the site, that way you aren't transporting invasive hitchhikers to other areas. And do this every time you leave a body of water, even if you're just moving from one river to another and aren't done for the day.

Don't forget to take a good look at your dog too. Tiny microorganisms can easily become trapped in our four-legged companion's hair, so be sure to give them a good scrub-down before you leave and consider a bath at the end of the day.

When you get home, or if possible in the field, use hot water that's at least 140 F to spray down or soak your gear. Heat can kill some invasive species, but not all, so be sure to allow your gear to dry after hot water treatment.

**Drain.** If you use a watercraft, drain or remove water from your boat, bilge, pipes, live-wells, engine, internal compartments and bait buckets by removing drain plugs before leaving the waterbody. Keep in mind that some organisms are microscopic so you may not be able to see them, which is why any standing water needs to be removed.

**Dry.** Aquatic invaders can only survive in wet areas. Drying your watercraft and all of your equipment thoroughly will kill most invasive species. Felt-soled wading boots stay wet longer and can trap microorganisms in the felt, so make sure to give these boots extra time to dry. Consider using new slip-resistant alternatives to felt soles and heed any regulations against using felt—Yellowstone National Park no longer allows felt-soled boots in its waters.

After allowing your waders to dry, you can also put them in a freezer for 24 hours to kill any lingering threats. Freezing your gear overnight is also a good option if you're on a traveling trip and don't have time to let everything dry completely between waters. Drying is more effective at killing invasives, but freezing will kill some as well.

**Inspection stations.** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has more than 30 watercraft inspection stations operating around the state and those traveling with boats are required to stop if they encounter an open station. This includes canoes, kayaks, rafts, drift boats and pontoons. Typically, these stops are brief and include an inspection and short series of questions about where the watercraft has been.

This heightened effort to protect Montana's waters is in response to mussel larvae found in water samples from Tiber Reservoir north of Great Falls and a suspect sample from Canyon Ferry Reservoir northeast of Helena in the fall of 2016.

For more information on aquatic invasive species, or to find inspection and decontamination stations, visit cleandraindrymt.com or call (406) 444-2440.

# **Section 4:**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT









# BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – Colorado artist Ezra Tucker has been fascinated with the physical feats of the animal kingdom since he was a young boy. Growing up in Memphis, Tennessee, and diagnosed with asthma at six weeks old, Tucker had to spend much of his time indoors while other children were playing outside.

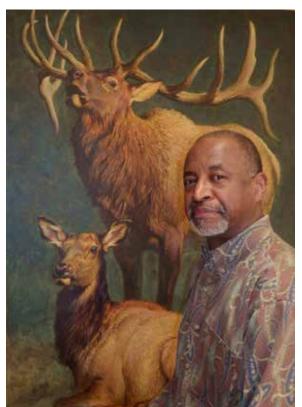
He entertained himself with reading, and by 6 years old he was drawing pictures of the passages he read in the Bible—his father was a minister—and Aesop's Fables; later, ancient mythology and the encyclopedia; and, once his family got a television, what he saw on nature programs.

Tucker used an NBA basketball metaphor to explain his fascination with animal prowess. "When you see people like LeBron [James] and [Michael] Jordan perform almost unhuman feats with their bodies, it's phenomenal," he said. "I'm fascinated with what the human body can do; I'm fascinated by what animals can do."

Despite admonishment from his practical parents, Tucker pursued his dream of being a wildlife artist at Memphis Academy of Art, now Memphis College of Art, intent on proving to himself and his family that he could make it as a professional artist.

"Everybody has to start somewhere, but if you do something well, money will follow," Tucker said. "But you have to decide what you want to do and do it well—and opportunities will come to you."

After graduation, Tucker worked as a Hallmark illustrator, and later in Hollywood drawing storyboards that translated descriptions into visual imagery for characters that include the flying dog-like creature in "The Neverending Story." Always moving between the imaginary and the real, Tucker also created poster and advertising art of the Anheuser-Busch Clydesdales, and fantasy art for paperback covers.



Colorado artist Ezra Tucker worked as an illustrator for Hallmark and in Hollywood before devoting himself to fine art in the 90s. PHOTO COURTESY OF EZRA TUCKER ART

Tucker began to segue out of the commercial world and turn his focus to fine art in 2005, by which time digital technology was rendering traditional illustrators like him obsolete.

Unchallenged by the art curriculum at university,
Tucker's professor suggested he spend the next two years sketching in the neighboring zoo. When he started noticing the difference between animals in captivity and those running wild and free, his work took on a conservation component.

"They were sagging, not as muscular," he recalled. "They looked healthier in the wild than in the zoo, their

# **Ezra Tucker: Bringing illustrations to life**



"Foxy Sisters" by Ezra Tucker is currently on display at Big Sky's Creighton Block Gallery. Tucker is one of 50 artists contributing work to the Big Sky Art Auction in July. PHOTO COURTESY OF CREIGHTON BLOCK GALLERY

definition, coloring, the look in their eyes—wolves in the wild have piercing eyes. You see the same animal in the zoo and that intensity is not there."

Tucker says his art—realistic acrylic renderings of North American wildlife as well as those of the African bush and beyond—can inspire people to observe wildlife in a way they hadn't before and, ideally, spark greater respect and compassion for their non-human counterparts.

He gives the example of a detailed, anatomically correct portrayal of an elk hoof. Perhaps the viewer had never really thought about what an elk hoof actually looks like, and is being educated through the artwork. He points to the time someone stood before one of his fox paintings, crying. She told Tucker she felt like she knew this fox, from the glint in its eye, the expression of personality in its form, and that she would never perceive a fox in the same way.

That is one of Tucker's primary goals as an artist—he wants the animals he paints to feel alive, as if they could leap out of the painting at any moment.

Tucker also likes to paint animals in intimate, not-often-portrayed scenes, such as a wolf lying his head on another wolf's back, to further humanize them.

"If we don't see each other as human beings we tend to not be kind and not be fair," he said. "[Animals] are just as valid to be on this planet as we are. We depend on them so much more than we realize."

But if you want a large-scale, dramatic piece, like the 9-foot-by-5-foot painting of an angry grizzly bear he's working on for a home in Aspen, Tucker also does commissions. Between custom paintings and keeping the nine galleries that represent him stocked with fresh work, Tucker has 12-plus paintings in progress at the moment.

"There's always something going on here that's creative," said Tucker about his home studio, situated at 8,000 feet in an old growth pine forest halfway between Denver and Colorado Springs. His wife is a jewelry-maker and his children have their own art space in his studio.

"It makes it easy to be dad and a professional artist at the same time."

Ezra Tucker is represented locally by Creighton Block Gallery in Big Sky. Tucker is one of approximately 50 artists contributing regionally inspired works to the Big Sky Art Auction on July 26 under the Big Tent at the Big Sky PBR arena in Town Center. Visit creightonblockgallery.com and ezratucker.com to learn more.

# Josh Hoyer and Soul Colossal bring the funk to Center Stage

**EBS STAFF** 

BIG SKY – The Music in the Mountains summer concert series continues on Thursday, June 28, with the funky R&B grooves of Josh Hoyer & Soul Colossal. Big Sky's Town Center Park opens at 6 p.m. with music commencing at 7:15 p.m.

Inspired by the sounds of Stax, Motown, Muscle Shoals, New Orleans, Philly and San Francisco, Hoyer and his band are known for crossing musical boundaries of style and era, driven by an intent to "have the crowd dancing so much they forget even their smallest troubles."

It's the band's third tour through Montana, and they are looking forward to returning.

"Everyone we've met in Montana has been really cool and genuine. Our kind of people," Hoyer wrote in an email to EBS. "The altitude is challenging but the mountain vibe always lifts us up."

Hailing from Lincoln, Nebraska, Josh Hoyer & Soul Colossal's sound is a blend of Hoyer's soulful vocals and the high-energy funk, R&B and soul grooves of his back-up band.

No Depression: The Journal of Roots Music might describe them best: "If James Brown and Otis Redding had a love child, it would be Josh Hoyer. The Lincoln, Nebraska, soul shouter, and his band of merry soulsters, Soul Colossal, deliver a sound so big, so funky, so wring-the-sweat-out-of-you energetic that it reaches



Bring your dancing shoes for Josh Hoyer & Soul Colossal on June 28, when the funk, soul and R&B band perform as part of the Arts Council of Big Sky's Music in the Mountains summer concert series. PHOTO BY JAMES DEAN

through the speakers and shakes you until you start moving to its groove."

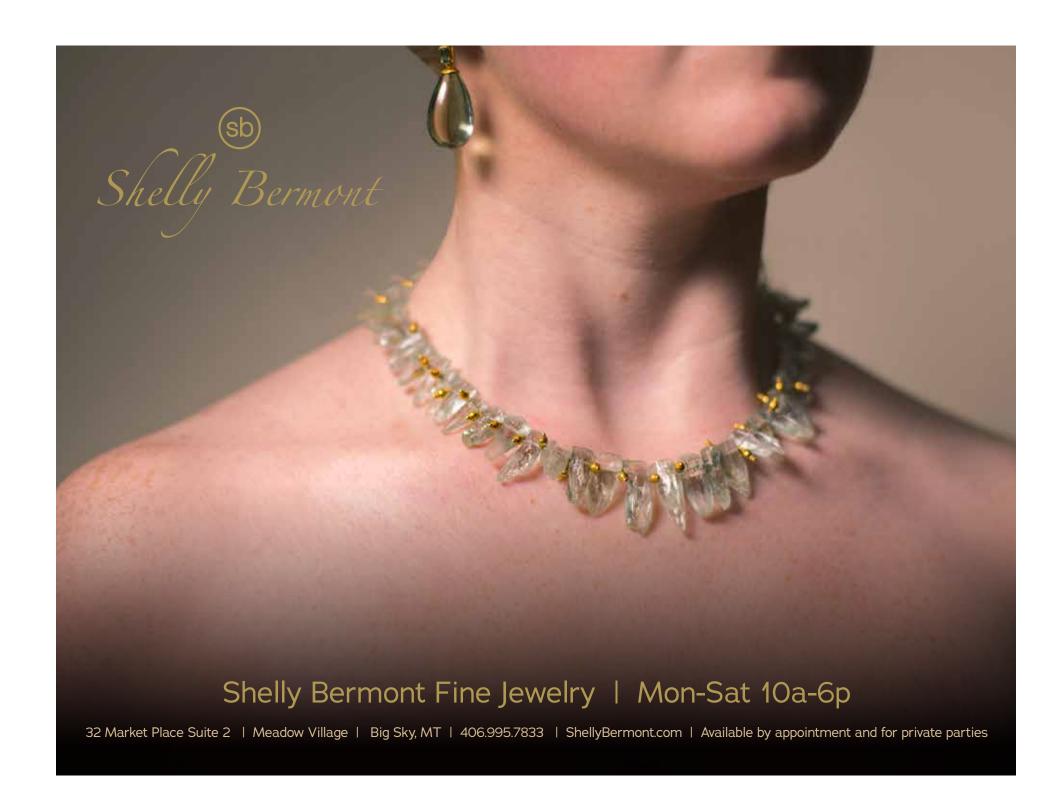
Hoyer formed Josh Hoyer & Soul Colossal in 2012. The five-piece band includes fellow Lincoln musicians Benjamin Kushner on guitar, Blake DeForest on trumpet, bassist Mike Keeling, and drummer Larell Ware. In January, Hoyer released "The End of the Night," a three-song EP and solo side project with Nashville hit-songwriters Jay Knowles and Jon Coleman. Josh Hoyer & Soul Colossal will release their fourth full length record in August, followed by a seven-week European tour before the record's U.S. release.

In 2017, Hoyer was a contestant on NBC's The Voice, and the band completed their first

European tour, a 27-city stint capped with a live album release from their show in Brussels, Belgium. Between 2015 and 2017, the band played more than 150 shows in 32 states each year, opening for big-name acts such as George Clinton, Charles Bradley, Booker T. Jones, and Muscle Shoals Revue.

Hoyer said concert-goers should come prepared to have a good time. "Our music, 90 percent of which is original, has that funk for the body, great musicianship for the mind and lyrics for the soul," he wrote. "We always leave every ounce of energy on that stage and intend on raising people's spirits through the power of soul and funk."

Visit bigskyarts.org for more information.



# Robert Earl Keen on Montana, music and public lands Keen to share stage with Lukas Nelson at Aug. 10 Wildlands Festival

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

It's not easy to sum up a career, especially that of folk-country legend Robert Earl Keen, but his lyrics "the road goes on forever and the party never ends" comes close.

EBS caught up with Keen in between stops on a tour that never seems to end and asked him about the highlights of his 30-year career, his sentiments about Montana, and the country's public lands.

Explore Big Sky: You've been performing in Montana for nearly 30 years and last played in Big Sky at the 2015 PBR. What changes in the state have you observed over the decades?

**Robert Earl Keen:** The changes in Montana are many, however, the natural beauty of Montana is second to none.

EBS: How has your songwriting and sound changed over the 18 albums you've made since your debut with 1984's "No Kinda Dancer?"

How has the music industry changed since then?

**R.E.K.:** Like Jesse Winchester said in his song "Rumba Man," "I'm the same ol' guy that I used to be, I haven't changed at all." Music industry? It's the same as Hunter S. Thompson said: "the music business is a cruel and shallow money trench, a long plastic hallway where thieves and pimps run free, and good men die like dogs. There's also a negative side."

EBS: What has been the most memorable concert of your career and why?

**R.E.K.:** My most memorable concert was last year at the Hurricane Harvey Relief Benefit with George Strait, Lyle Lovett, Chris Stapleton, Miranda Lambert, Mathew McConaughey and me. Great artists, incredible band; that show helped raised over 70 million dollars for the hurricane victims.

EBS: With what musician were you most honored to share the stage?

**R.E.K.:** My hero, Willie Nelson.

**EBS:** Your fan base runs the gamut of young and old, hipsters and country music lovers. Why do you think your songs appeal to such a spectrum of listeners?



Legendary country rocker Robert Earl Keen will co-headline the Aug. 10 Wildlands Festival in Bozeman with Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real. PHOTO COURTESY OF NICK DOLL PHOTOGRAPHY

**R.E.K.:** Most of my [songs] tell a story in an easy way. People love stories. Also, my singing doesn't intimidate people. Anybody can sing as good as I can.

EBS: You have a sparse building on your west Texas ranch known as the Scriptorium that is your sanctuary for song-writing and solitude. Why is that environment conducive, and critical, to your creativity?

**R.E.K.:** I love the outdoors, helps me think. The scriptorium is a little rock building on our ranch. It's very cozy.

EBS: The Aug. 10 Wildlands Festival in Bozeman is a celebration of Montana's wild and open spaces, and a portion of the proceeds will benefit three nonprofits that work to protect them. What is your favorite wild and open space? What are your thoughts on the controversy over public lands?

**R.E.K.:** I love Big Bend National Park. It's an incredible, wild and open space. Our 26th president, Theodore Roosevelt was one of

our greatest presidents for many reasons, but his expansion of the national park system insured protected lands for all Americans. Lands that everyone could call their own, roam on, and enjoy the majesty of our great country. I believe we, as Americans, should honor his legacy.

**EBS:** You have named Willie Nelson as one of your musical influences. At Wildlands you will be co-headlining with his son, Lukas Nelson and his hand Promise of the Real. Do you have any musical surprises for Wildlands concertgoers because you're sharing the hill with Lukas?

**R.E.K.:** I love Lukas. He's a fantastic musician and songwriter. One never knows what will happen at the concert where we share the same stage.

**EBS:** Is there something you're looking forward to about playing an outdoor venue during a Montana summer? Or something special about performing concerts here?

**R.E.K.:** It doesn't matter if I'm performing or sitting in a rockin' chair, there is no better place to be than Montana.

Visit wildlandsfetival.com for tickets and more information.





# EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JUNE 22 – MONDAY, JULY 2

\*IF YOUR EVENT FALLS
BETWEEN JULY 3 AND JULY 19,
PLEASE SUBMIT IT BY JUNE
27 BY EMAILING MEDIA@
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# **BIG SKY**

#### **FRIDAY, JUNE 22**

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

"Shrek The Musical" by Big Sky Broadway Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 7 p.m. June 22-23

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, JUNE 23**

Mountain Biking Trails Open Big Sky Resort, 9 a.m.

BSCO Trail Maintenance Day Uplands Trail, 9 a.m.

Saturday Open Clinic: Grip and posture Big Sky Resort Golf Course, 12 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 24 Wildflower & Weed Walk Ousel Falls, 10 a.m.

Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

Live Music Horn and Cantle Saloon, all evening

Roll and Recover Yoga Intensive with Meg Lattanzio Santosha Wellness Center, 5 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, JUNE 25**

Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening BBQ Horn & Cantle, 6 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, JUNE 26**

Town Center Open House Town Center Office, 9 a.m.

Ladies Clinic: Ball position and alignment
Big Sky Resort Golf Course, 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

BSCO Guided Hike and Learn tour Uplands Trail, 10 a.m.

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

Library Summer Reading Program: "Magic with Walt" Big Sky Community Library, 4 p.m.

Live Music Horn and Cantle Saloon, all evening

## **WEDNESDAY. JUNE 27**

Chuckwagon BBQ 320 Guest Ranch, all evening

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

Rotary Club of Big Sky Meeting Buck's T-4 Lodge, 5:30 p.m.

Raw Vegan Dinner and Sound Bath with Kira Rogala Santosha Wellness Center, 6:30 p.m.

## **THURSDAY, JUNE 28**

Bridge

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

#### Pesca Fiesta, festival Gallatin River Guides, 4 p.m.

Music in the Mountains: John Hoyer & Soul Colossal Big Sky Town Center, 6 p.m. A.A. Meeting Big Sky Chapel, 8 p.m.

# FRIDAY, JUNE 29 Callatin River Fly Fiel

#### Gallatin River Fly Fishing Festival June 29-30

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

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

## **SATURDAY, JUNE 30**

Saturday Open Clinic: Ball Position and Alignment Big Sky Resort Golf Course, 12 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, JULY 1**

Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

#### Guided/Self-Guided Tours Crail Ranch, 12 p.m.

Live Music Horn and Cantle Saloon, all evening

#### **MONDAY, JULY 2**

Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

# **BOZEMAN**

#### **FRIDAY, JUNE 22**

Women in Engineering Day Children's Museum of Bozeman, 10 a.m.

Jazz Night Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

John Fullbright, music Live From The Divide, 9 p.m.

## **SATURDAY, JUNE 23**

Bozambique, music Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m. Motel Radio, music Live From The Divide, 9 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 24 WESFEST B.Y.O.D, Dog Friendly

Film Event Rialto Bozeman, 5 p.m.

Live Scottish Music Townshend's Bozeman Teahouse, 5 p.m.

The Dirt Farmers, music Red Tractor Pizza, 6 p.m.

Charlie Denison, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Blackfoot Gypsies, music Live From The Divide, 9 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, JUNE 25**

Robert Lethert, music Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

Shane Smith & The Saints, music Live From The Divide, 9 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, JUNE 26**

Bogert Farmers' Market Bogert Park, 5 p.m.

Hops & History: Local Beer, Free History
Museum of the Rockies, 5:30 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27
Gallatin River Grill-Out
Gallatin River Lodge, 6 p.m.

Buckethead, music Emerson Center for Arts and Culture, 7 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, JUNE 28 Music on Main Main Street, 6:30 p.m.

Kevin Kooistra, Lecture Hazel Hunkins of Billings: Protesting at the White House, 1917-1919 Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

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

Arterial Drive, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Amy Lavere & Will, music Live From the Divide, 9 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, JUNE 29

Jazz Night Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

MOTH, music Rialto Bozeman, 8:30 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, JUNE 30**

Kelly Nicholson Band Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

A Night of Country with Sam Platts and The Dead Yellers Rialto Bozeman, 8:30 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, JULY 1**

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





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# WORTH THE DRIVE

Red Lodge, MT

# Home of Champions Rodeo Rodeo Grounds July 2-4

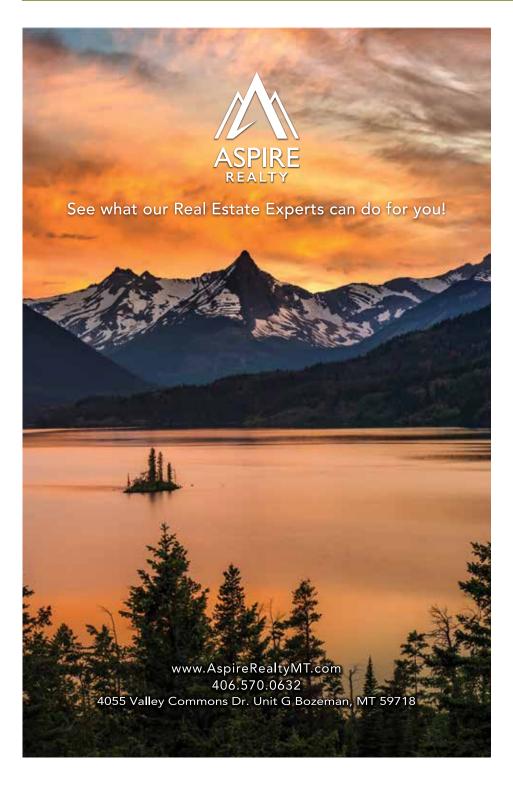
This Fourth of July, visit Red Lodge and enjoy the annual Home of the Champions Rodeo. This three-day event kicks off July 2, with a Cowboys Ride 'n' Rope Parade at 12 p.m., followed by rodeo action at 6 p.m. On July 3 and 4, the noon parade and 6 p.m. rodeo return, with new themes and progressively tougher competition. redlodgerodeo.com

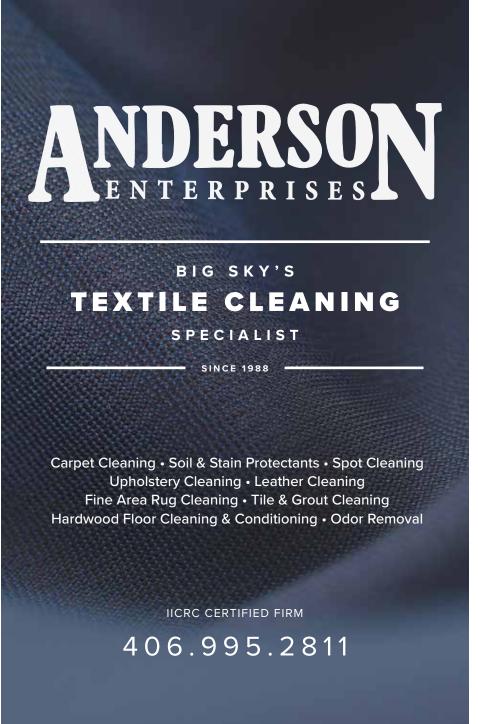
Ennis, MT

# Growling Old Men Concert Elling House Arts and Humanities Center June 22, 7 p.m.

Ben Winship (mandolins and vocals) and John Lowell (guitar and vocals), both of the Growling Old Men, are veterans of the Northern Rockies acoustic music world, and they will grace the stage at the Elling House this June. The duo has been performing and recording together since 1998, presenting a tight, yet relaxed set of original and traditional bluegrass songs, ballads and tunes. Tickets can be purchased at the door or are available in advance by calling (406) 843-5454.

# Submit your event by emailing media@outlaw.partners





# Baroque concert to be held at private Big Sky residence

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY



Seattle violinist Ingrid Matthews performs an intimate Big Sky concert with Baroque Music Montana on June 25. PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

Baroque Music Montana will perform an intimate concert at the Sweetgrass Hills residence of Roger Schwer and Marjie Toepffer on Monday, June 25. The event, underwritten by the Schwer-Toepffer Memorial Fund of the Arts Council of Big Sky, begins at 5:30 p.m. with wine and appetizers, followed by the concert at 7 p.m.

Featuring Bozeman Symphony concertmaster Carrie Krause and her mentor, Ingrid Matthews, the concert will explore the folk repertoire from the British Isles through works by John Blow, Nicola Matteis, Henry Purcell, John

Jenkins, Matthew Locke and Neal Gow.

Joining Krause and Matthews, both on the Baroque violin, is Joanna Blendulf, on the viola da gamba, a bowed stringed instrument akin to the cello; and John Lenti on the theorbo, a large bass lute.

Matthews founded the Seattle Baroque Orchestra in 1994 with harpsichordist Byron Schenkman, and is one of today's most respected baroque violinists. She has performed at many notable international venues and music festivals, and has worked with leading North American period-instrument ensembles including Philharmonia Baroque of San Francisco, Joshua Rifkin's Bach Ensemble of New York, and the American Bach Soloists of San Francisco. Matthews served as Music Director of SBO for 19 years before stepping down in 2013.

For tickets and more information call ACBS at (406) 995-2742.

# Pearl Jam to host public festival prior to Missoula Rock2Vote show

PEARL JAM



Didn't get ticket's to Pearl Jam's Aug. 13 Rock2Vote show in Missoula? You can still attend a free pre-show festival dedicated to community and getting out the vote. PHOTO BY DANNY CLINCH

On June 10, Pearl Jam announced Festival @ Griz Stadium, a community event that will take place on Aug. 13 prior to their Rock2Vote show in Missoula. The concert is sold out but the festival is free and open to the public, and will showcase progressive, Montana-led, non-profit organizations, family friendly activities, and local food and beverage businesses. There will be a variety of interactive arts activities and an entertainment stage curated by the Zootown Arts Community Center and Forward Montana, which will feature a

diverse lineup of local artists, musicians, activists, and other speakers.

Pearl Jam bassist and Montana native Jeff Ament said, "We're really excited to create a fun space for our favorite progressive groups to share their stories with our fans, the Missoula community and each other; eat, drink and hear some great local music. Cuts to the state budget have significantly reduced service to some of Montana's most vulnerable and we stand with the organizations providing critical service to our neighbors."

Representatives from Pearl Jam's Rock2Vote show partners—Forward Montana, Montana Native Vote, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana, and Montana Conservation Voters—will also be at the Festival @ Griz Stadium to register voters, educate the community and help ensure people get out and vote in November.

Pearl Jam encourages everyone to come out and enjoy the Festival @ Griz Stadium whether or not they are attending the show. The event will take place from 3-8 p.m. in the Grizzly tailgate area north of Washington-Grizzly Stadium. Visit rock2vote.com for more information.

# Bring your dog to Wes Anderson movie marathon

# Triple-feature benefits Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter

On Sunday, June 24, The Rialto and Bozeman Film Society will present a dog-friendly evening at the movies showcasing three Wes Anderson films in a benefit for Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter. "Wes Fest BYOD" begins at 5 p.m. with "Rushmore," followed by Anderson's newest animated film, "Isle of Dogs," at 7:30 p.m.; and "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou" at 9:45 p.m.

Pet food and supplies collected at the screening, and proceeds from ticket sales, will be donated to HOV.

Movie-going dog lovers should bring only well-behaved furry friends, leashes, and bags for pet waste. Attendees are encouraged to get in touch with their inner Wes and flaunt preppie pastels, scout badges, berets, fake 'staches and other Anderson aesthetics for a chance to win tickets to Rialto events.

 $\label{thm:comformation} \textit{Visit rial to boze man. com for more information.}$ 



The new Wes Anderson film "Isle of Dogs" is part of a dog-friendly triple-feature at the Rialto on June 25 that will benefit Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter. PHOTO COURTESY OF FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES



# New Holly Manneck paintings at Gallatin River Gallery

Through Aug. 4, Gallatin River Gallery is featuring a new series of paintings by pop artist Holly Manneck. This new body of work portrays Native Americans with iconic symbols of the past and the present in her signature mixed-media style of combining vintage imagery with contemporary commentary. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GALLERY

# Museum of the Rockies showcases 'the instrument that rocked the world'

# National GUITAR Museum exhibit stops in Bozeman

**EBS STAFF** 

Through Sept. 9, Museum of the Rockies patrons will have the opportunity to play the world's largest guitar, view 100 instruments and historical artifacts, listen to diverse genres of music, engage with STEAM-based interactives, and learn about the guitar's sweeping cultural impact.

A touring exhibit of the National GUITAR Museum, "GUITAR: The Instrument that Rocked the World" is an exploration of the world's most recognized musical instrument, from its history to the science of pitch and tone, and a cross-cultural influence that extends far beyond the realm of rock 'n' roll.

Infused with STEAM-based educational elements, "GUITAR" introduces visitors to concepts including electromagnetism, sound waves,

The exhibit incorporates STEAM-based learning opportunities that explore the science of sound.

frequency, decibel levels, mathematical scales, engineering design, and materials—along with amplification, memory skills, and performance.

The exhibit examines the iconic instrument through many different lenses while engaging visitors with interactive multimedia experiences.

Museum of the Rockies has created supporting events around the exhibit including Music Mondays, full days of guitar-related programming; and an evening lecture series featuring local guitar experts.

Music Mondays runs 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Aug. 20; and includes a class on making your own recycled guitar from 10 a.m. to noon; live music on the plaza from noon to 1:30 p.m.; guided tours of the exhibit from



The current exhibit at Museum of the Rockies celebrates the iconic guitar with interactive multi-media stations for all ages. PHOTOS COURTESY OF MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES

1:45-2:45 p.m.; and from 2-4 p.m., a discussion of how acoustic guitars are made led by a local luthier.

GUITAR: An Evening with an Expert continues on July 2, July 23, and Aug. 13 from 6-8:30 p.m., and features experts, collectors, and luthiers of Bozeman's guitar industry. The July 2 event is hosted by the proprietor of Daniel Roberts Stringworks; July 23 by Director of the Montana State University guitar program, Michael Videon; and Aug. 13 by Mario Minor, Jr., a Lakota/Nakoda music artist.

Visit museumoftherockies.org for more information.



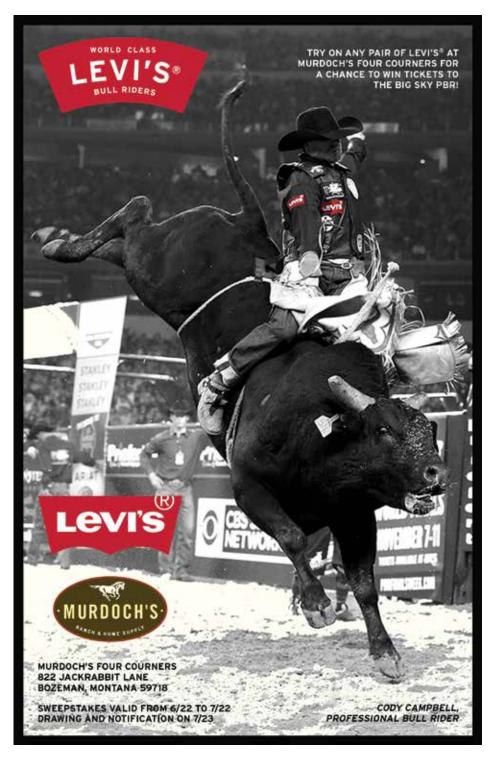
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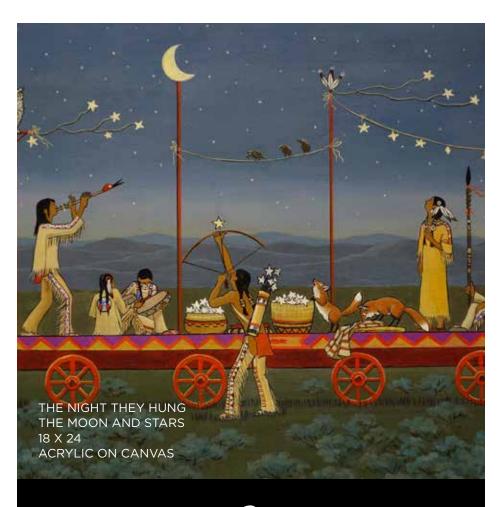
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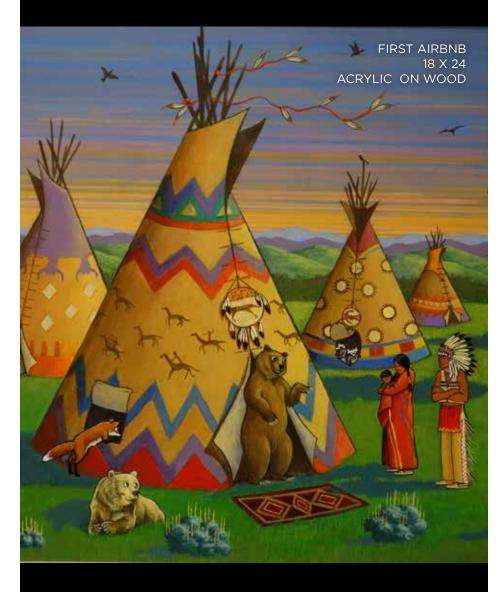




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# REEL REVIEW

# 'Solo: A Star Wars Story'

BY ANNA HUSTED EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Few film franchises capture the archetypal hero's journey as well as the Star Wars series. According to mythology scholar Joseph Campbell's theory, most narrative storytelling is set up the same: We are introduced to a hero, the hero is called to some task, descends into the darkness of challenges and temptation, and undergoes a transformation that enables the hero to complete the task. In "Star Wars: A New Hope" the hero is Luke Skywalker. In "Solo: A Star Wars Story" the hero is Han Solo—albeit a reluctant one.

The morally ambiguous Han of "Star Wars: A New Hope" is a clearer do-gooder in "Solo." In this film we come to know why Han becomes the hardened smuggler he is in the original trilogy, but I won't spoil that here.

"Solo" is about a 20-something Han (played by an excellent Alden Ehrenreich) who wants nothing more than to become the best pilot in the galaxy and to love the girl he grew up with. But the hero has to enter the darkness in order to accomplish what he sets out to do, a darkness full of smuggling and gambling, both of which he has a knack for; and making enemies, least of which is the unimaginatively named Crimson Tide.

Traveling through the darkness with Han is smuggler-mentor Beckett (an overplayed Woody Harrelson), new-found-friend Chewbacca (Joonas Suotamo), Qi'ra (Emilia Clarke), and Lando Calrissian (a refreshing Donald Glover doing a great Billy Dee Williams impression). Other than Glover's Lando and Suotamo's Chewy I felt like I was watching a Marvel movie because of the near-identical and somewhat lackluster casting.



The prequel "Solo: A Star Wars Story" follows a young Han along his path to becoming the hardened smuggler he is in the original trilogy. PHOTO COURTESY OF STARWARS.COM

Each new installment of the new Star Wars films comes with a petite British brunette, a quirky British droid, and a bad guy we've already seen play a bad guy in the Marvel Universe. Disney Studio's lack of creativity across these two universes is surprising and suggests it might be time to move on from these series.

Aside from the unimaginative casting "Solo" is fun. Each mission delivers clever one-liners, what-do-we-do-now glances between Han and Chewy, and easy-to-follow action sequences that are all well-played out and resolved.

Because "Solo" is a prequel it leaves the hero's journey unfinished. Han's journey won't be completed until "The Return of the Jedi" or, arguably, "The Force Awakens." But Han transforms into the character we know and love in "Solo"—the greatest pilot in the galaxy with the greatest ship, The Millennium Falcon.

"Solo" is an unnecessary prequel, but it's full of enjoyable references to the original trilogy that will make Star Wars fans laugh, and it's full of that Han and Lando charm we all love so much.

"Solo: A Star Wars Story" is now playing at Regal Gallatin Valley Stadium 11.

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 deck. 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.

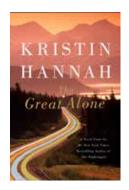


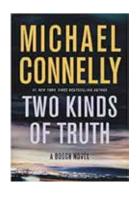
# **Between the shelves**

BY AMY HUNTER ASSISTANT COMMUNITY LIBRARIAN

I discovered the joy of listening to audiobooks when traveling with my father. Any time we travel together he has an audiobook, or five, to listen to during the drive. The only downside is when I join the trip part-way through and he is already in the middle of a book, though he does take a few minutes to bring me up to speed on what I missed. I have laughed listening to some audiobooks, teared up during others, and realized I was getting very sleepy with ones that sounded a lot like the lectures I struggled to stay awake for in college. But, there is an audiobook for everyone.

This month, the library added new audiobooks to OverDrive that are available to all of our patrons. If you haven't used OverDrive yet, come in to the library to sign up. You will find audiobooks such as Kristin Hannah's "The Great Alone," and Michael Connelly's latest title, "Two Kinds of Truth." "Solo" by Kwame Alexander is written in verse and is available as an audiobook as well. There are also audiobooks for younger readers to help your kids continue reading during the summer on all of your drives to Bozeman and beyond.









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This year's Black Diamond Awards Dinner & Members' Meeting will highlight priorities for the organization moving forward based on the newly adopted *Elevate Big Sky 2023 Strategic Plan*, facilitate the election of new board members and the appointment of a new Board Chair, Sarah Phelps Director of Member Services at Yellowstone Club, while honoring David O'Connor – GM/Co-owner of Buck's as outgoing Chair, as well as recognize significant contributions via awards to the community's top performing businesses and individuals.

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

#### Dan Wenk, Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park

Dan will discuss the "business of Yellowstone National Park" as a world wide bucket list tourism attraction, what his experience as Superintendent has been like and his thoughts on the Park's future after his departure.

# **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

6:00 PM Big Sky Welcome & Networking

7:00 PM Elevate 2023 Strategic Plan overview; Dinner

7:30 PM Chamber Board Chair - Awards; Chair-Elect Transition

8:00 PM Keynote Speaker: Dan Wenk

9:00 PM Event concludes

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# DINING GUIDE

Your guide to dining under the Big Sky



# Big Sky's Best

Revisit the dining highlights of Best of Big Sky

# Fine art and fine food

320 Ranch hosts chamber music dinner Big Sky restaurants feature local artists

# **Recipes for success**

Summer is for grillin' Sundays are for brunch

# **Dining alfresco**

Tips for packing a picnic Farm-to-table dinners pop up in southwest Montana **Big Sky** SPECIAL SECTIONS

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# **CONTENTS**

Best of Big Sky restaurant guide62	Mix it Up: Designing a cheese board66
	Pack a picnic67
ByWom does brunch (too)63	Dining at Big Sky Resort68
	Grills just want to have fun69
	Farm-to-table catering service71

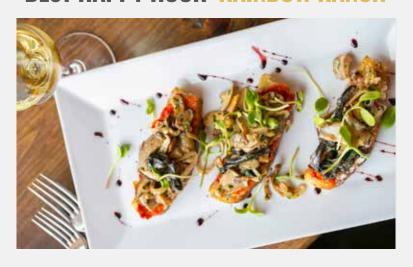
# Out on the town: Big Sky's favorite eateries

Every year EBS asks the Big Sky community to cast their vote for the best of Big Sky. More than 3,000 votes were cast in last December's survey—a record amount—and here are the top picks for 2017. We assure you they're still just as great in 2018.

# **BEST RESTAURANT LOTUS PAD**



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BEST OF BIG SKY

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## **BEST MEAL ON THE CHEAP YETI DOGS**



# Enhancing the dining experience with fine art

# Big Sky restaurants showcase local gallery artists

**EBS STAFF** 

Combining art and eating is hardly a novel concept. "Restaurants" dating back to A.D. 79 excavated from the ashes of Pompeii revealed walls decorated with frescoes of the ancients gods. In the 1920s, a young and struggling Pablo Picasso and Joan Miró painted for their meals at La Colombe d'Or in the south of France. The artists were hungry and penniless, and the restaurant's walls were bare, so it was a win-win situation. Their work continues to hang in La Colombe today, a testament to the long-standing connection between the visual and culinary arts.

Some modern-day artists continue to create art for trade, and partner with restaurants—and other businesses—in arrangements similar to what they might strike with a gallery.



Members of the Patten family enjoying dinner at Lotus Pad with artwork by Bay-area painter Paul Brigham, on loan from Gallatin River Gallery, in the background. See more contemporary, nature-driven work at GRG's Town Center location on Ousel Falls Road.

Enjoying a meal is a sensory experience, one in which people can relax and take in not only what is on the plate before them, but all of the aesthetic components that create the surrounding atmosphere.

Hanging local art can also be a smart business decision for the restaurant, gallery, and featured artist. The restaurant might earn a commission, the gallery could see increased traffic, and any time a piece sells, it's good for the artist.

Big Sky restaurants that showcase Big Sky gallery artists

Olive B's showcases Gallatin River Gallery artists Valerie Stuart, Dana Hooper and Carole Pierce; ByWom has work by Holly Manneck; Lotus Pad houses GRG pieces by Manneck, Paul Brigham, Nicholas Wilton and Catherine Courtenaye; while works by Hooper, Brigham, Dana Hart-Stone, Joe Wayne,



Carin and Adrian Ng of Penfield, New York, dining at Ousel & Spur Pizza Co., under a painting by Big Sky artist Kira Fercho. More of her work can be found at Kira Fercho Gallery on Town Center Avenue. PHOTOS BY LINDA GOLDINGER

Linda Abbott, Tom Gehrig and Shawna Moore can be found in the **Peaks Restaurant** and **Carabiner Lounge** at Big Sky Resort's Summit Hotel.

Lexi Sundell, represented by **Creighton Block Gallery** has paintings in the dining room at **Rainbow Ranch Lodge**; artwork by Tom Mangelsen and Ben Pease are on display in **Horn & Cantle Saloon** at Lone Mountain Ranch; Shirle Wempner and Tom English are featured in the **Moonlight Basin Lodge** dining room, and R. Tom Gilleon at **Spanish Peaks Mountain Club.** 

Kira Fercho, of Kira Fercho Gallery, has pieces up at Michaelangelo's Ristorante Italiano, Ousel & Spur Pizza Co., and Caliber Coffee.

# ByWom does brunch (too)

A true brunch spot has long-eluded Big Sky, but ByWom Bistro & Catering stepped in to fill that gap last fall with a menu that includes the sweet and savory staples, such as the eggs benny pictured here, and inventive dishes that incorporate the Asian flair of their lunch and dinner menus.



ByWom's brunch menu has classics like eggs benedict and unexpected items like soba noodles with an egg on top. And if you're craving lunch, the ByWom burger and assorted paninis are also available during brunch. PHOTO COURTESY OF BYWOM BISTRO & CATERING

By Wom's Sunday brunch has quickly become a favorite way to spend a mid-morning or early afternoon, the bar area bustling with familiar faces and pleasantly unfamiliar food and drink offerings, like the tofu-stuffed "ByWomlette" and a vitamin A-packed carrot juice Bloody Mary. Our only complaint? ByWom brunch is only one day of the week: Sundays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. ByWom also serves lunch Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; and dinner from 5 to 10:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

-Sarah Gianelli



# **Carrot Mary for a crowd**

## Ingredients

1/2 cup Dijon mustard 1/4 cup A.1. Sauce 1/2 cup Worcestershire 1 tsp. chili powder 1 tsp. thyme 1 tsp. garlic powder 1/2 tsp. salt

Mix above ingredients to form a paste. Add 1 tablespoon of paste to carrot juice, shake well, add vodka, and serve over ice. Carrot juice and vodka to taste.

# **Strings Under the Big Sky**

# A night of chamber music and fine dining at 320 Ranch

**EBS STAFF** 

Big Sky's 320 Ranch will host the 14th annual Strings Under the Big Sky chamber music and dinner event on Friday, July 13. The evening begins at 5 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, followed by a performance by the Muir String Quartet and Friends, and a sit-down dinner.

Bozeman native Mike Reynolds, a world-renowned cellist on faculty at Boston University, founded the Muir String Quartet in 1979. The chamber music ensemble, which performs internationally and locally, returns to Big Sky each summer, with special guest musicians. This summer, Reynolds and Muir Quartet violinists Peter Zazofsky and Luicia Lin, and violist Steven Ansell, are joined by cellist Sara Stalnaker and violist Brant Bayless.

The ensemble will perform a Haydn string quartet, and a Dvorak string sextet followed by a plated dinner of chicken saltimbocca, whiskey-brined pork loin roulade or seared wild Alaskan salmon.

The Muir String Quartet began making annual trips to Bozeman in 1990, ultimately initiating the Montana Chamber Music Festival. In 1997, the Big Sky Association for the Arts brought these musicians to Big Sky for the first time where, undaunted by cool weather, they performed in the Big Sky Community Park. They returned two years later in 1999 and again in 2005 after a successful fundraising concert event in 2001.



Enjoy an evening of chamber music and fine dining at the 320 Ranch on July 13, with performances by the Muir Quartet and friends. PHOTO COURTESY OF STRINGS UNDER THE BIG SKY

Now an annual event, the chamber concerts in Big Sky have been known as Strings Under the Big Sky since 2008.

The 320 Guest Ranch is located 12 miles south of Big Sky on Highway 191. Visit 320ranch.com for more information; and stringsunderthebigsky.org for tickets. Reservations must be made by July 6.



# **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.

# **Common food misnomers**



BY SCOTT MECHURA

I love false lore. That is to say that I have always had an interest in history's inaccuracies.

Right here at home, we have two rather large falsehoods rooted in the red, white and blue. One is that Abner Doubleday invented baseball in Cooperstown, New York; but neither the individual nor the location are true. And

that the fourth of July is riddled with patriotism. That may be fair to say, but hot dogs are from Germany, fireworks are from China and apple pie is Dutch.

Food and cooking are no exception. Sometimes it's simply in a name, other times, foods can have rich histories, embedded in a culture or continent, yet have no indigenous connection to its "new" home.

Here are some food and culinary beliefs that should be 86'ed from history's menu.

**Danish pastries.** Those fruit-filled yeast-dough baked sweets which are all ambiguously called Danishes, are actually from Austria. In 1850, bakers in Denmark went on strike, and, not to be without their sweets, they imported bakers from Austria.

Pasta is from Italy. Well, yes and no. Pasta as we now know it and associate with Italian cuisine, is an adaptation of the Chinese noodle. Some believe Marco Polo brought noodles back to Italy with him, but that is not totally substantiated. And Americans often call Italian pasta noodles, which is technically inaccurate.

German chocolate cake is German. It's kind of like black jelly beans; either you love them, or you don't. This layered chocolate cake with coconut pecan frosting couldn't have any less to do with Deutschland. Rather it is nothing more than a cake created by English-American baker Samuel German.

Champagne and caviar. Many of us may remember the late 1980s and Robin Leach's champagne wishes and caviar dreams. Well, they are just that: dreams. The reality is that champagne's intense carbonation is too overpowering for the exquisite texture of true caviar.

French chardonnay, Chablis, Italian sparkling Nebbiolo, and even sherry are what connoisseurs recommend over champagne, and I would agree.

Wine and cheese are a perfect match. While this match may be the benchmark of haute cuisine, it isn't the perfect match. The acid in wine does a marvelous job of cutting the dairy fat of cheese, but the carbonation and complexity of yeast, hops and malt make beer an equal adversary. Give me a Trappistes Rochefort 6 and an artisanal American goat cheese any day. Sorry France.

Tomatoes aren't a vegetable. Well, actually, nothing is. An old English term, it essentially refers to any fruit, flower, root, or otherwise botanical food that isn't inherently sweet.

French fries are French. In my experience, it is a challenge to even get a quality fry in France. The Belgians loved to fry fish, and when seasonal fishing was tough, they resorted to a root with a texture that stood up to the watery protein—potatoes.

White chocolate. Not chocolate at all, it is a derivative. Comprised of sugar, cocoa butter and milk solids, it is, ironically as close to cheese as it is to chocolate.

And finally, a bit off-track from actual food—cold water does not boil faster than **hot water.** While it is true that the flame beneath your pot begins changing the temperature of cold water more quickly, once it hits the same temperature as the hot water, it heats at precisely the same rate.

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



We hope to see you soon!

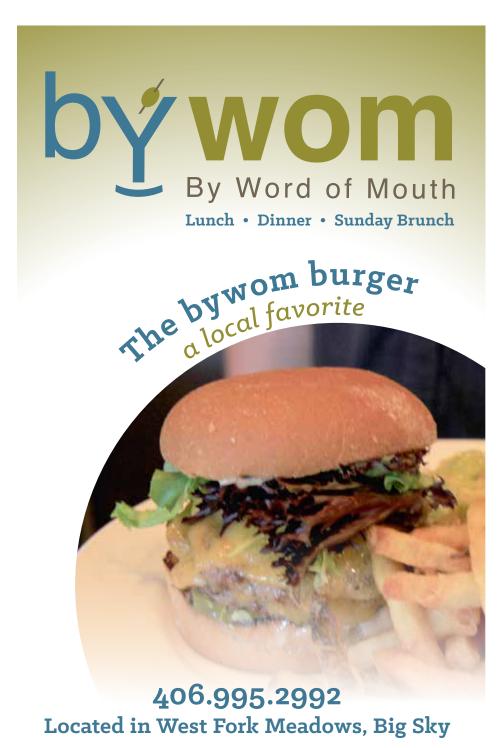
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# **Designing a cheese board**

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER **EBS STAFF** 

Who doesn't love a great cheese board? They often become the centerpiece of gatherings, offering a little something to satisfy everyone's taste buds. With countless types of cheese and accompaniments, it can be daunting to choose the "correct" ingredients. Here are a few simple tips to follow when assembling a board for your next shindig.



CC PHOTO

#### The main event

When it comes to the cheese itself, variety is key. Consider factors such as the sharpness of the cheese, milk type, texture and its visual appearance when making your selections. If you keep the options diverse, you will end up with a cheese board that is both visually appealing and includes something that will please every guest's palette.

Incorporate some cheeses that are more approachable, such as a mild cheddar, and complement it with a more potent variety like blue cheese. Similarly, choose a firm cheese—Manchego and pecorino are great options—and one that is soft or spreadable, like brie or goat cheese.

The number of cheeses depends on the number of guests, as well as your preference. I typically choose at least three varieties. In terms of portions, a good rule of thumb is 3-4 ounces per person. Here are some of my favorite cheese combos for a small group of people:

- Jarlsberg, goat's milk brie or camembert, and sharp cheddar
- Chèvre, gorgonzola dolce, gouda and Manchego
- Triple cream brie, Mimolette or gruyere, and a mild blue

#### The accompaniments

Every cheese board needs a few elements to round out the cheese flavors. I like a variety of crunchy, acidic and sweet accompaniments. For the crunchy component, choose a few different kinds of crackers or crusty bread, and slices of apples or pears that can also act as a vehicle for the cheese.

Nuts and pickles, such as cornichon or gherkins, offer a welcome crunch, with pickles adding an acidic component, as do whole grain mustard or olives. Whole honeycomb makes for a beautifully presented sweet element, but a small ramekin of store bought honey can do the trick as well. Fresh fruit preserves or dried fruit make for a great accompaniment to sharp cheeses.

## The filler and the tools

If you find empty space on your board bothersome, you can fill these gaps with grapes or greenery like fresh rosemary or, my favorite come summertime, edible flowers. Be sure to include plenty of utensils so that your guests can slice, share and shmear the night away. Don't forget serving utensils for accompaniments such as honey or mustard as well.

# Why dine in, when you can dine out? DIY and pack a picnic

BY SARAH GIANELLI SENIOR EDITOR

Take a couple spins around the wheel in Big Sky, and you know summer is short. That's why we make the most of it—relishing in the warm sunshine, long days, abundant wildflowers and rushing streams. So maybe you want to skip the restaurant and enjoy a picnic on a grassy field or river bank surrounded by the mountain landscape Big Sky is best known for. Between retail outlets that can supply all of your picnic needs, and a wide variety of idyllic spots to spread out a blanket and enjoy your spread, Big Sky has you covered. See "Mix it Up" for tips on creating the perfect cheese plate, and consider our recommendations for staging the most pleasurable picnic.







#### **Provisions:**

For high-end specialty cheeses, fruit spreads, nuts and crackers, Roxy's Market has it all. Artisan cheeses, imported meats and all the accompaniments—jams, pickled vegetables, mustards—abound at this market. (photo 1).

Go to the Hungry Moose Market & Deli for their expertly curated wine selection and rotating fresh salads, from classic potato to kale and quinoa. Both will be great additions to your cheese and crackers. (photo 2).

If you're on a budget, The Country Market is the stop for you—keep it simple with a sliced cheese sampler, hummus, crackers and a six pack. (photo 3).

#### Props:

Need a picnic basket or blanket? Browse the bargains at Consignment Cabin. This second-hand treasure store in the Big Horn Shopping Center has all your picnic props and more. Don't be surprised if you walk out with more than you bargained for. (photo 4).

#### Places:

Whether you want to picnic high on a mountain top or prefer to lounge stream-side, Big Sky has whatever you have in mind. Ousel Falls and Beehive Basin trails are no-brainers, but can get busy in the summer. Here are a few lesser known, but just as worthy options:



Big Sky Community Park: Picnic tables, ballfields and a public grill offer a more cultivated picnic setting.

**Town Center Park:** Spread out a blanket on the grassy expanse in front of Center Stage any other evening than Music in the Mountains Thursdays, and it's likely you'll have the lawn all to yourself.

**Kircher Park:** This shady, picturesque creek-side park has a pirate ship tree fort, a great distraction if you're picnicking with little ones.

South Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin River: Head down Aspen Leaf Drive until you get to the bridge over the creek. Park and scramble down to the water for a picnic where you'll feel like you're in the wilderness just a river stone's throw from Town Center.

**Durnham Meadow:** Enjoy canyon views at a grassy river-side meadow located on National Forest Service land approximately 10 miles north of Big Sky.

Lone Mountain: Picnic on top of the world at the 11,166-foot summit of Lone Mountain. Hard-earn your reward by hoofing it up to the peak, or, better yet, let Lone Peak Expedition shuttle you up in

style, with a ride in the tram to boot. (photo 5).

**Lake Levinsky:** Missing the ocean? Cruise up to Big Sky Resort and lay out your blanket at Big Sky's only "beach." In between noshes you can fish, canoe, kayak, stand up paddle board and peddle boat, with Lone Mountain towering in the background.

**Beehive Basin Brewery:** OK, so maybe you want to have your beer and drink it too. Beehive Basin Brewery will take care of that, and allow you to bring in the outside food of your choice—take-out or a smorgasbord you've put together yourself.



# Dining at Big Sky Resort

**EBS STAFF** 

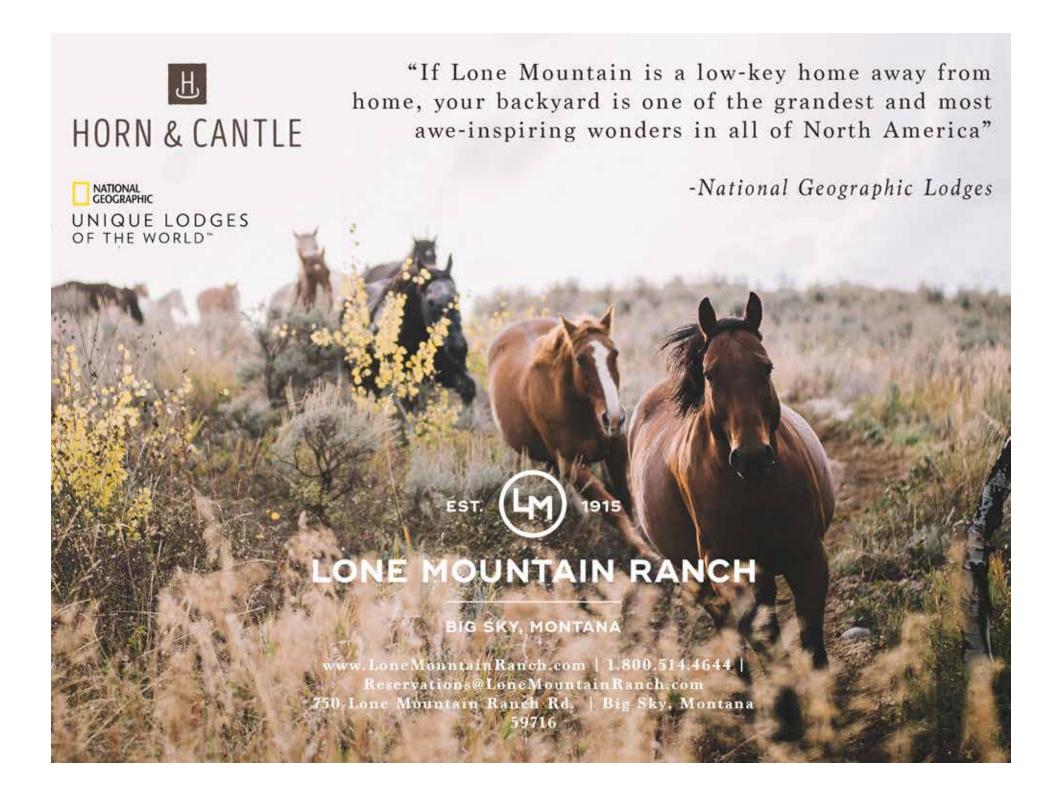
Changes are coming to Lone Mountain this summer, as Big Sky Resort undergoes a food and beverage rebirth.

On June 25, the resort will host a Grand Rebranding Celebration at the Bunker Deck and Grill, marking the beginning of a partnership with Beehive Brewery to offer a Burger and Beehive Beer night special for only \$15. Everything on the burger is locally sourced. The burger special, and live music by local Brian Stumpf "Stumpy," will run every Monday this summer.

The resort will also expand their brunch offerings this summer. For the first time ever, the Bunker will feature a grill brunch every Saturday and Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. between June 30 and July 1. Enjoy bottomless mimosas and stunning views of Lone Mountain.

Big Sky Resort's Pizza Works will also expand this summer. Formerly operating out of Andiamo's kitchen, Pizza Works will move to Village Center in the location previously occupied by Sugar Buzz. Pizza will be available by the slice or whole, available for delivery within the resort area or for takeout.

To learn more or to see a complete list of dining options at Big Sky Resort, visit bigskyresort.com/while-youre-here/dining.



# JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN

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brown sugar

chili powder

1 1/2 ounces Buck's proprietary rib rub blend, including but not limited to:

kosher salt

black pepper

garlic powder

brown sugar

paprika

Peel membrane off underside of ribs, which allows smoke and rub to properly penetrate. Combine rack, water and brine, then blend in large, shallow pan, and brine for 48 hours. Add more water to cover rack if necessary. Remove ribs and discard brine.

Rub ribs with rub blend, doubling amount on top of rack. Place rack on cookie sheet and refrigerate overnight.

Smoke rack in smoker at 215 F for six hours. It's key to bring smoker up to temperature as quickly as possible for optimal smoke penetration. You should see "bone shrinkage," where the bones stick out on the ends of the rib. Bones should not be mushy, but should be able to twist from meat easily.

# **Open Range**

A favorite fish recipe at Open Range is our fresh salmon grilled on a cast iron plancha (griddle). This dish is inspired by the cuisine of Argentina, where cooking over open fires and outdoor grilling is a part of their culinary culture. 241 East Main Street, Bozeman, Montana. openrangemt.com (406) 404-1940

# PLANCHA GRILLED SALMON WITH BASIL CHIMICHURRI SAUCE

**Salmon:** one 6-8 ounce filet per person

#### Chimichurri:

1 cup fresh basil leaves
1 cup fresh flat leaf parsley
3/4 cup high-quality olive oil
5 fresh garlic cloves
3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
1 tablespoon white wine vinegar
1 teaspoon kosher salt
1 teaspoon fresh cracked pepper

Combine chimichurri ingredients in a food processor and coarsely chop until a smooth consistency is achieved. Lightly brush the sauce on flesh side of the salmon filets and allow them to marinate while preheating the cast iron to the point of sizzling.

Place the filets herb-side down and sear for three to four minutes. Carefully turn the filets with a spatula, keeping the crust intact, and cook the skin side for five or six minutes. Visually monitor and don't overcook. Drizzle a little olive oil over the top and serve with chimichurri on the side for dipping.

# The Spice & Tea Exchange of Big Sky

The Spice & Tea Exchange of Big Sky is your source for fine spices, herbs, blends, salts, sugars and teas. You will also find a wide range of accessories and gift ideas for cooks and tea lovers. Our mission is to create and share the experience of a more flavorful life! 47 Town Center Avenue, Big Sky, Montana. spiceandtea.com/bigsky (406) 993-2163

## **BIG SKY BBQ SAUCE**

(makes approximately 30 ounces) 29 ounces tomato sauce 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar 1/8 cup molasses 1 teaspoon Dark Chili Powder\* 1/2 teaspoon Ground Cumin 1/4 teaspoon Maple Syrup Granulated 1 1/2 teaspoons Paprika Smoked Sweet 3/4 teaspoon Yellow Mustard Ground 3/4 teaspoon Chardonnay Oak Smoked Sea Salt 1/2 teaspoon Aji Amarillo Pepper Powder 1/4 teaspoon Ancho Pepper Powder 1/4 teaspoon Vik's Garlic Fix Spice Blend \*All of the specialty spices listed are available at The Spice & Tea Exchange locations in Big Sky and Bozeman.

Add all ingredients together in a saucepan; stir well. Simmer ingredients, stirring often for 15 minutes. Remove from heat to cool. Store in refrigerator for up to three days.

Reheat and slather on grilled meat or use halfway through grilling, brushing sauce on meat as desired.





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

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

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

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

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

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

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

In 2011 the couple made their off-season home in Montana.

"I was really inspired by the farmers' markets and the local food community," Harrison said. "People in Montana actually live by [farmto-table]. Everyone is growing, farming, ranching."



Each summer, Harrison produces a farm-to-table dinner series that showcases what Montana has to offer, from the food to the location. The first dinner was held June 19 at Willow Spring Ranch in Belgrade, pictured here.



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

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

Harrison held her first dinner of the 2018 season on June 19 at Willow Spring Ranch in Belgrade. Additional dinners will be held July 2 at Montana Red Devons in Harrison and July 24 at Gallatin Valley Botanical in Bozeman.

Harrison will highlight the products of each location with her cooking, and the menu isn't planned until the week of the event so she can prepare the meal with in-season ingredients.

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

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

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

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

"I'm inspired by the seasons and by the ingredients," Harrison said. "I love it."

To learn more about Seasonal Montana or to view a full schedule and purchase tickets for the farm-to-table dinner series, visit seasonalmontana.com. To learn about Seasonal Puerto Rico, visit seasonalpuertorico.com.

## **BIG SKY LUXURY RESIDENCES**



**64 Lodgepole Lane** | \$3.895M 19.86 ACRES | 6,160 SQ FT | 6 bedrooms | 8 bathrooms Modern design combined with mountain aesthetics surrounded by spectacular views.



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