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Big Sky

July 20 - August 2, 2018
Volume 9 // Issue #15

PBR storms back to Big Sky
Plus: Program inside

Traffic troubles in Gallatin Canyon

A ride-along with Fire Chief Farhat

*Resort tax board addresses
housing trust contract, governing*

Training tips for The Rut



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ON THE COVER: A young cowboy in training helps his bull rider father put on his chaps as he prepares to ride in the Big Sky PBR last summer. This year, Big Sky PBR kicks off Wednesday, July 25, with a community street dance, and will include an additional night of bull riding Thursday night, as well as an art auction and multiple nights of live music. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

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OPENING SHOT

The presence of clouds makes for a dramatic sunset, as they spread out the color of the setting sun. Pictured is a recent sunset captured in Belgrade. PHOTO BY JOANNA HAYS

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

CORRECTION: In the July 3 edition of EBS, a photo credit for Crail Ranch's "Grains and Grog" event was attributed to Indium Photography. The name of the business is Indium Sky Photography.



MARTHA JOHNSON
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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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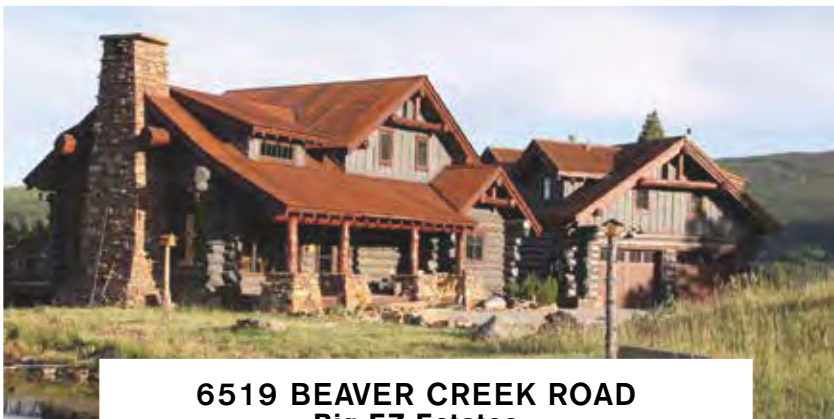
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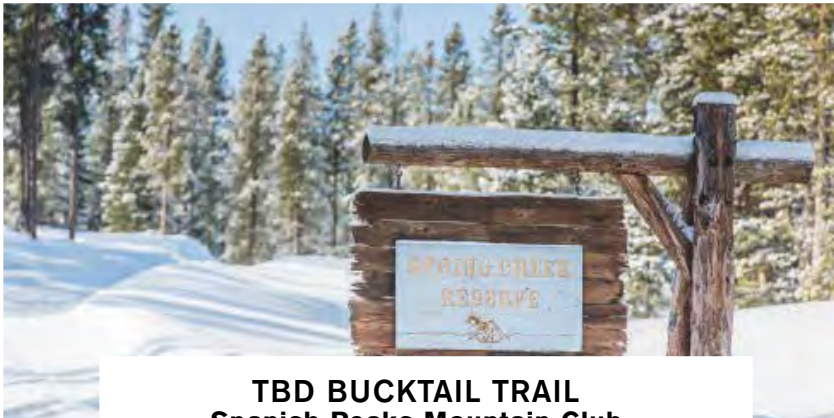
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Lone Mountain Land tables Moonlight development plan to address impact concerns

EBS STAFF

Lone Mountain Land Company voluntarily hit pause on a 2017 plan for new development projects at Moonlight Basin after groups including the Jack Creek Preserve Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society, and Greater Yellowstone Coalition voiced concerns about environmental impacts.

The 2017 plan, a revised version of an approved decade-old plan, details the addition of more than 1,600 residential units in the Moonlight Basin area north of Big Sky Resort, 270,000 square feet of commercial space, an 80-room five-star hotel, dorm-style employee housing, and two new chairlifts for residential access.

“The Planning Board makes recommendations to the Madison County Commissioners based on its evaluation of the information provided, including the applicant proposal and public comment,” wrote Madison County Planning Director Charity Fechter in an email to EBS. In a Bozeman Chronicle story, Fechter expressed that the board’s recommendation to allow time for more discourse, did not indicate an opposition to the overall plan.

Lone Mountain Land Company’s vice president of planning and development, Kevin Germain, did not seem vexed by the stall in the project, despite positive environment, when speaking with EBS.

“Moonlight was founded on some firm conservation principles and those continue today,” Germain said. “Some concerns have been raised and we’re working through them, through an open dialog with all three groups and trying to come up with the best ways to mitigate their concerns.”

Germain said they hope to finalize a solution plan in coming weeks and present it to the planning board in August.

Restrictions lifted on most of region’s fishing access sites

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has lifted walk-in restrictions on all but two of its south-central Montana fishing access sites that were flooded earlier this year.

Most fishing access sites along the Yellowstone River and one on the Bighorn River were restricted to walk-in only because of high water or flood damage this past spring. Flows have receded, and flood damage is repaired on all but two of the sites, so FWP has lifted restrictions and opened the sites to drive-in use.

Indian Fort fishing access site on the Yellowstone River at Reed Point remains closed to all but walk-in traffic after the access road washed out. The fishing access site at Grant Marsh on the Bighorn River north of Hardin remains restricted to walk-in only after the access road and parts of the site washed away as well. The wildlife management area at Grant Marsh remains open and accessible.

Cleanup and repairs are complete at all other Yellowstone River fishing access sites and drive-in access was restored this month. They include Captain Clark east of Pompeys Pillar, Bundy Bridge at Pompeys Pillar, Voyagers Rest and Gritty Stone near Worden, Duck Creek west of Billings, and Buffalo Mirage at Park City.

Other fishing access sites along south-central Montana’s rivers and streams remained open during spring runoff.

BSCO raises over \$200K during annual Parks and Trails Gala

BIG SKY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

The Big Sky Community Organization hosted their annual fundraising event, the Parks and Trails Gala, on July 6 at the Big Sky Community Park. This year, the gala also celebrated the nonprofit’s 20th anniversary.

A sold-out crowd of 250 individuals were in attendance, raising \$210,000 for the organization. According to BSCO Executive Director Ciara Wolfe, this year’s gala was the most successful event to date.

During the evening, board chairman Al Malinowski highlighted the work accomplished over the past 20 years, which includes the preservation of 91 acres of parkland, the development of 19 miles of trails and easements, and programming that reaches hundreds of individuals annually.

Guest speaker Mary Erickson, forest supervisor for the Custer Gallatin National Forest, spoke about her gratitude for the Big Sky community and BSCO, particularly with the recent Beehive Basin land acquisition for future trailhead improvements and public access.

Wolfe credits the success of the evening to the years of trust the organization has earned from the community, as well as the year-round work done by the BSCO team.

“BSCO is known for our responsible fiscal management, strong project execution and ability to collaborate across both the private and public sectors within our community,” she said. “Together, we are building not just a resort, but also a community.”

Visit bscomt.org to learn more about the Big Sky Community Organization.

Republicans fail to get enough votes for special session

HELENA (AP) – Republican lawmakers failed to get enough support to call a special session to consider referenda to counter two proposed ballot initiatives. Secretary of State Corey Stapleton said July 16 that 45 lawmakers supported the special session that would have started the same day, while 71 rejected it. Seventy-six lawmakers would have had to support the call. Thirty-four did not vote.

Sen. Llew Jones of Conrad and others proposed the session to offer referenda opposing two ballot initiatives—one that would prevent the state from permitting mines whose cleanup plans included the perpetual treatment of polluted water and another that would extend Montana’s Medicaid expansion program beyond 2019 and raise the state’s tobacco tax to pay for it.

Jones argued the mining initiative would kill future mining. And he wanted voters to consider requiring able-bodied Medicaid recipients to work.



More than 700 runners are training in earnest for The Rut 50K, an extremely challenging mountain race that takes place at Big Sky Resort in early September.

What is the most difficult physical challenge you’ve ever undertaken?



Evan Iskenderian
Big Sky, Montana

“I had to do a pretty long run up Vail Mountain. It was about six miles.”



Lourin Miller
Billings, Montana

“I did the Red Lodge Nitty Gritty. It was like a half-marathon at the Red Lodge resort.”



Mario Mendoza
Visalia, California

“I’ve done the Color Run in Fresno, California a few times.”



Cassie Buckley
Big Sky, Montana

“Probably canyoneering Telegraph Canyon in Zion National Park. That’s in Southern Utah.”

Letter: Tall Poppy Syndrome comes to Montana

Dan Wenk has been tall-poppied!

The Tall Poppy Syndrome (TPS) is a metaphor representing a poppy field where one poppy stands above the rest; to maintain uniformity, the tall poppy is cut down to size. Tall poppies are described as people who are conspicuously successful; their distinction, rank, or wealth attracts envious notice or hostility. The condition is well known in many English speaking countries, especially Australia, but rarely identified in the States.

TPS is ubiquitous in America but unlabeled. On a local level, TPS is driven by envy such that the envier wants what the envied has but cannot achieve it and cuts the envied down. Nationally, judgements of worthiness (they got what they deserved) may be the source of cutting. Examples of this may be observed in high profile people who have been involved in egregious behavior: NBC Today Show host Matt Lauer; business mogul Martha Stewart infamously cut down by James Comey; professional cyclist Lance Armstrong; financier Bernie Madoff, to name a few.

Politics and governmental hierarchy are breeding grounds for TPS. Rumors have it that Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk was cut down, perhaps inappropriately so, by U.S. Department of Interior Director Ryan Zinke over the sustainable level of buffalo in the park. Others causes such as sexual harassment in the maintenance department may be in play.

Environmental Protection Agency Director Scott Pruitt has also been tall-poppied because of egregious activity, allegations of ethical lapses and improper spending. Few tears will be shed for Pruitt’s departure, but many will experience schadenfreude.

Doug Garland
Spanish Peaks Mountain Club member and resident of Pismo Beach, California

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A photograph of a cowboy hat and a lasso resting on a wooden surface, with a book titled "COWBOY" visible in the background.

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A map showing the location of Consignment Cabin of Big Sky at the intersection of Highway 64 and Highway 191, marked with a red star and labeled "Big Sky".

Housing trust must revise language before finalizing \$1.7M contract

Resort tax board to explore expanding role in community

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – The July 11 meeting of the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board focused primarily on two agenda items: finetuning the language in the Big Sky Community Housing Trust’s \$1.7 million appropriations contract, and a presentation of self-governing options by Montana State University Local Government Center Director Dan Clark.

The contract concerning the appropriation of \$1.7 million in resort tax funds to the housing trust, the bulk of which is for the acquisition of the Meadowview property for an affordable housing project, came under scrutiny when resort tax board members voiced concerns that the language did not adequately ensure the funding would benefit the specific demographic it was awarded to serve.

The board wanted the language to reflect more precisely that the funds were designated for affordable “workforce” housing, and would be secured as such over the long-term.

The board members posed scenarios that might expose loopholes in the existing language: What if an eligible employee of a Big Sky business or organization purchases a unit but soon retires, or receives an inheritance, becomes disabled, or any number of conditions that would mean one less available unit for an active member of the community’s workforce?

Board chair Mike Scholz pointed out that without being more specific in this regard, Big Sky would eventually find itself in the same position as other ski communities that didn’t sufficiently secure the future of affordable housing developments.

“I’m only saying [that we need to] make sure the money we give takes care of the group of people in our community that we want it to,” Scholz said.

Attorney Mindy Cummings, speaking on behalf of the housing trust, lamented delaying the funding, but the board decided that she would tweak the wording in the contract to clarify the funds were for affordable housing for an “active workforce.”

In an interview with EBS a week after the meeting, board secretary Steve Johnson said the board was “working their [butts] off” to get the contract finalized in time for the next meeting of the HRDC on July 25.

Big Sky Chamber of Commerce CEO Candace Carr Strauss called in MSU Local Government Center director, Dan Clark, to present his conclusions on the best self-governing options for Big Sky to unify, and thereby render more effective, the collective voice of the community.

Via video call, Clark reiterated that in his opinion the most viable three options are the creation of a community council, a special multi-jurisdictional district, and expanding the role of the resort tax board, which Clark seems to favor for the board’s legitimacy as an elected entity, and because it already doles out the majority of community funding.

“It seems resort tax has a lot of influence,” Clark said. “It would be rethinking your role within the district and how you can use the influence of the purse to create a broader vision of specific goals, and thinking about how [funding requests are] going to support that vision.”

While all agreed that the responsibility shouldn’t fall on the chamber of commerce—its priority being the Big Sky business community—concerns were raised about the resort tax board members already having enough responsibilities, and questions on how to move forward if the board was willing to reexamine its role in the community.

Johnson expressed interest in potentially broadening the scope of the resort tax board, and has been working with Clark to put together a framework for what the next evolution of the resort tax board might look like for discussion at a future board meeting.

“When we have achieved the level of funding that we’re trying to manage for this community, to put that to use to be effective, it needs to be done in a strategic way,” Johnson said.

Scholz, who has exhibited resistance to this idea, said, “If you can convince me of it, great. ... Just because I’m hesitant, I would not say no to investigating it.”

The next public meeting of the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board is Aug. 8 in the resort tax office in Big Sky Town Center.



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Withstanding the heat

A ride-along with Big Sky Fire Chief William Farhat

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MATTHEW HODGSON
EBS EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

BIG SKY – Big Sky Fire Department Chief William Farhat has been fighting fires for nearly 30 years in four different states, and in Big Sky since 2011, when he took the position as department fire chief.

During my half-day ride-along with Farhat on July 6, the department responded to a small oven fire and experienced an engine error in one of the fire trucks, which necessitated readying the recently acquired new fire truck for action.

When one of the station’s three fire trucks experienced an engine problem, Farhat decided that the new fire truck, a \$715,000 piece of equipment delivered in June and funded by resort tax appropriations, would take its place until the other was repaired. For the first time, the new fire truck was prepared for usage and filled with firefighting equipment.

The new fire truck took 18 months to obtain, a long process of debate and design, Farhat said. It has many features new to the Big Sky Fire Department like flow meters, cold weather protection, more hose, and increased storage space.

After lunch, Farhat gave me a tour of the fire district to provide a sense of how large and challenging it is geographically.

Established in 1979, the Big Sky fire district stretches from the Karst community in Gallatin Canyon south to the Rainbow Ranch Lodge area; and from Gallatin River to the far western end of Moonlight Basin. While only officially responsible for these 80 square miles, the department responds within a 200 square mile range.

Farhat began his firefighting career in Buchanan, Michigan, in 1989. He worked for the local Bertrand Township Fire Department for five years before pursuing an interest in paramedicine, the highest level of out-of-hospital medicine performed by non-physicians. In 1992, after receiving his paramedic certification from Davenport University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, he got a job as a paramedic in Denver.

“Working for Denver was a great experience, but I soon realized I didn’t want to just be in the ambulance,” he said. Always curious about law enforcement, Farhat decided to go to a police academy in the Denver suburbs.

While working as a police officer in the small mountain community of Minturn, Colorado, Farhat continued to work as a volunteer firefighter for the Minturn Fire and Police Department.

When Farhat’s first child was born in 1997, he and his family returned to Farhat’s home state of Michigan where he took a job as a public safety officer, a position that utilized skills he had gained from his experience as a police officer, firefighter and paramedic. Three years later, Farhat returned to police work as a deputy sheriff in St. Joseph, Michigan. At the Berrien County Sheriff’s Department, Farhat was trained as a fire investigator, a hazardous materials technician, and a Weapons of Mass Destruction regional responder for the state of Michigan.

During his time as deputy sheriff, Farhat continued working as a public safety officer and simultaneously held the position of battalion chief for the Chikaming Township fire departments in Harbert, Michigan.

Deciding he wanted to turn his professional focus back to firefighting, in 2006,



When this older fire truck had engine problems, it was unloaded of firefighting gear and the new truck was prepared and filled with the equipment.



Big Sky Fire Department Chief William Farhat in front of the department’s new fire engine.

Farhat was selected to be assistant chief of the University of Notre Dame Fire Department in Indiana for his diverse background in public safety. The following year, Farhat was promoted to chief.

“Notre Dame is a really different world. You have a lot of kids living on campus, so lots of threats there,” Farhat said. “After three years I really wanted to get back to the mountains, get back to a smaller community, more my pace.”

While looking for a new place to work and call home, Farhat came across the fire chief opening in Big Sky. Although he’d never been to Montana, he’d had a love for the mountains since he was a young adult. He applied for the position and got it.

Since he came on in 2011, the Big Sky Fire Department has expanded from 10 to 24 fulltime employees, and Farhat hopes to use the \$1.5 million mill levy to create, equip, and maintain 11 new positions in the department between 2018 and 2021.

In the next 7 to 10 years, Farhat hopes that the Big Sky Fire Department will have additional stations in Moonlight Basin and Spanish Peaks Mountain Club.

“It’s been a great evolution,” he said. “We’re trying to catch up with the growth of Big Sky ... and hopefully we’ll be ahead, but Big Sky keeps growing.”

The Big Sky Fire Department currently operates through two fire stations. The primary station was built in 1986 and is located at the corner of Aspen Leaf Drive and Rainbow Trout Run. Another station, built in 1994, is located on Lone Mountain Trail just west of the entrance to Big Sky Resort. The former is in Gallatin County, while the smaller, secondary station is in Madison County. Having a fire district that straddles two counties often means navigating political and governmental differences.

The Big Sky Fire Department reported a 60 percent jump in the number of calls received since 2013, attributed to increased visitation. Farhat explained that the mill levy will enable the Big Sky Fire Department to keep seven to nine firefighters in both stations 24 hours a day, allowing the department to respond from both stations in an emergency.

“There’s a lot going on, a lot of challenges with development,” Farhat said. But it keeps him interested, he said, and he’ll continue to do his best to keep up with the increased demand on department resources.

The next public meeting of the Big Sky Fire District board meeting will take place at 8:30 p.m. on July 25 in the Big Sky Water and Sewer District building.



217 GOSHAWK TRAIL | \$4,225,000

Stunning ski-in/ski-out property situated in a pristine setting. Breathtaking views, groomed ski access and the elegant home create this masterpiece. This 6 bdrm/6.5 bath home is ideal for entertaining guests with large open living spaces, 3 ensuite bedrooms, 2 guest bedrooms, and a bunk room. Extensive log and stone detail highlight the surrounding mountain environment. Spanish Peaks Golf membership included in sale. // **JACKIE MILLER | 406.539.5003**



7 UPPER CASCADE RIDGE ROAD | \$2,195,000

Enjoy the panoramic views from this 4,202 SF Cascade Ridge home. This developer owned unit was chosen by the developers because of its views, large floor plan, and close proximity to the lodge. Offering 4 bdrms/3.5 baths, as well as a large home theater room, an office, and an attached 1-car garage. This fantastic unit also offers 3 fireplaces, 2 large decks, a spacious kitchen, and a beautiful furniture package. Offered fully furnished and turn-key. // **SANDY REVISKY | 406.539.6316**



SHOSHONE CONDOMINIUM 1943 | \$290,000

This 1 bdrm/1 bath, elbow Shoshone Condo has great Lone Mountain views, and offers extra square footage in the bedroom, making it larger than a standard unit. Featuring a full kitchen, fireplace, owner lock-off closet, wall bed and sleeper sofa, this turn-key condo is ready for your extended guests. Shoshone amenities include: restaurant and bar, spa and massage services, ski tuning and storage, front desk, concierge, room and bell services. **MARY WHEELER | 406.539.1745**



16 CLAIM JUMPER ROAD | \$2,400,000

Homestead Chalet #14 is located at the base of Lone Mountain, at the confluence of the White Otter and Rosebud ski trails and provides views that will take your breath away. The open floor plan on the main level with floor to ceiling windows brings the outdoors in, while the spacious deck adjacent to the living room and kitchen provides the ideal space for entertaining after enjoying Big Sky's countless activities. Sold fully furnished and turn-key! // **MICHAEL THOMAS | 406.581.2400**



TBD SUMMIT VIEW DRIVE, LOT 5 | \$295,000

Spectacular views of Big Sky Resort's Mountain Village and Lone Mountain! Conveniently located across Lone Mountain Trail from Big Sky's Mountain Village, this 1.106-acre treed parcel offers privacy while only minutes from the slopes. The community is gated, keeping road traffic and noise to a minimum while the large amount of neighborhood open space allows wildlife to roam freely. A hiking trail in the open space joins other area trails. // **LYNN MILLIGAN | 406.581.2848**



TBD SUMMIT VIEW ROAD, LOT 10 | \$249,000

Secluded 1.8 +/- acre parcel in the gated Summit View neighborhood in Big Sky's Mountain Village area. Panoramic views of Lone and Andesite Mountain are yours to enjoy. Tucked into the hillside with mature trees, this homesite is one of the first lots on the way into the neighborhood, making winter access and travel time across the street to Big Sky Resort's Mountain Village a big plus. This neighborhood also offers a private nature hiking trail. // **SANDY REVISKY | 406.539.6316**



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Moonlight Community Foundation hosts sixth year of Camp Moonlight

Foundation gives \$90,000 to local organizations

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – During the last two weeks of July, nearly 200 kids will set out for adventure in Big Sky. These youth will explore horseback riding, archery, canoeing and more, with overnight excursions and day trips offered based on the campers’ age.

The programming is offered through Camp Moonlight as two four-day sessions for kids between the ages of 5 and 17. The sessions, both of which are full, run July 23-26 and July 30 to Aug. 2, at various locations in Big Sky.

New this year, children in the 8-10 age group will spend a day orienteering off Jack Creek Road as preparation for the two-night camping trip offered to children between the ages of 11 and 13.

Heather Morris, the chairperson of the Moonlight Community Foundation that produces the camp, said she loves seeing the kids build relationships.

“My favorite part each year of camp is the opportunity to see these kids make new connections with nature, with each other, and with themselves,” she said.

“Nerves set in sometimes and these kids are so brave to show their fears, whether it’s being away from their parents, getting close to horses, inclement weather, hiking up a mountain, or getting into a canoe,” she added. “These kids really do a great job of encouraging and supporting each other and it’s such a treat to witness.”

According to Morris, the campers represent a mix of Big Sky locals and out-of-towners, and the Moonlight foundation works to provide scholarships so that local kids can attend.

“Many of us came to this area to ‘get lost’ in nature and explore the beauty around us, and I’m so grateful our donors want the same opportunities for the younger generation,” she said.

Camp Moonlight started in 2013 with an inaugural group of 30 campers. Since that time, the camp has grown steadily, mirroring Big Sky’s growth, as well as the growth of the Moonlight Community Foundation.

The foundation began in 2011, started by five members of the Moonlight Club. “We wanted to come together to do good things, not only for the Moonlight community, but for Big Sky,” Morris said.

In its first year, the foundation installed interpretive signs along the public Ulery’s Lake Loop Trail on Moonlight property. In subsequent years, they also installed signs at Hummocks and Uplands trails in Big Sky Town Center, and began offering spring and fall grants available to Big Sky area organizations.

This spring, the Moonlight Community Foundation awarded \$90,000 to 14 organizations, including the Arts Council of Big Sky, Big Sky School District, Big Sky Community Organization and Big Sky Discovery Academy.

With a mission to foster and support education, youth development and conservation, the foundation board is excited to have awarded funds to Skyline to support the initiative to bring a zero emissions bus to Big Sky, Morris said.

“Donors have been very generous. I think they’re happy to give back to the Big Sky community that we all love and get so much from,” she said.

The Moonlight Community Foundation will begin another grant cycle this fall, with applications due on Nov. 15. To learn more, visit moonlightcommunityfoundation.org.

This is the final installment in a three-part series on Big Sky’s private club foundations. Visit explorebigsky.com/yellowstone-club-community-foundation-continues-to-grow-with-big-sky to read about the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation, and explorebigsky.com/spanish-peaks-community-foundation-celebrates-july-fourth-with-fundraiser to read about the Spanish Peaks Community Foundation.



A BIG thank you

FROM THE DREISBACH FAMILY

The Dreisbach family wants to thank everyone in the Big Sky community for all of the support and prayers we have received following our car accident on July 2.

We are humbled and so grateful for all of the calls, visits, meals, well-wishes, and many many other gestures that have helped our family on the path to recovery.

With Gratitude,
Andy, Joanie, Hannah, Charlee Sue & Tor

Between a rock and a hard place

The Gallatin Canyon traffic conundrum

BY BAY STEPHENS
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – On July 2, while returning home from Bozeman, Joanie and Andy Dreisbach of Big Sky were involved in an accident when a northbound driver veered into their lane and caused a collision. The force of the wreck buckled the Dodge truck in which the Dreisbachs were traveling, causing serious injuries to both Andy and Joanie, and killing the driver of the other vehicle.

While the accident happened just north of the canyon, increased safety along U.S. Highway 191 in Gallatin Canyon has been a near constant topic of discussion for the Dreisbachs and those who have rallied to support them and their three children.

The Gallatin Canyon has become a dreaded stretch of road, glutted with construction vehicles and commuters on account of Big Sky's blistering growth. According to the Montana Department of Transportation, vehicle volume in the canyon has increased an average of 7.4 percent every year since 2013 with an annual average of 6,412 vehicles traveling the canyon daily in 2017, up 2,015 vehicles from the 2013 annual daily average.

"The road was never designed or constructed to handle the volume of traffic that it now sees on a daily [basis]," Sgt. Brandon Kelly of the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office wrote in a July 10 email.

Sandwiched between the Gallatin River and steep canyon walls, many stretches throughout the corridor preclude adding lanes or widening existing lanes. According to Jeffrey Ebert, the MDT Butte district administrator, MDT has already spent close to \$26 million during the last five years in the canyon, including adding centerline rumble strips and extra turnouts.

"We feel we've tried to address a lot of the needs throughout," Ebert said. "But we definitely have more needs than money." He said that MDT has no major projects currently planned for the canyon.

The artery has also been cited as a concern in emergency scenarios such as an evacuation or a mass-casualty incident. According to Kelly, an average of one traffic-related death occurs annually in the canyon.

Most of the corridor lacks cellphone service, a risk that the Rotary Club of Big Sky stepped up to address more than a decade ago, installing emergency call boxes at Moose Creek Flat, Karst Stage Loop and Taylor Fork Road. The club is in the process of updating the old call boxes with more reliable, solar powered, one-touch call boxes, according to Lee Griffiths who is spearheading the project.

Last summer, they updated the Moose Creek Flat call box and are installing another at the 35 mph bridge near the Lava Lake trailhead, with plans to update the Taylor Fork call box and remove the Karst Stage Loop call box—it's less than a mile from the Moose Creek Flat call box—in the coming year. They also intend to install a call box where Highway 191 crosses the northern boundary of Yellowstone National Park, south of Big Sky.

While the canyon restricts emergency call opportunities, it also restricts law enforcement.

"I think the chief challenges that we deal with [are] just the geographics of the canyon," Kelly said in a July 9 interview, referencing the number of blind corners and the difficulty of

stopping vehicles speeding, making illegal passes or, conversely, going too slow and obstructing traffic by not utilizing turnouts.

Although the signs at the mouth of the canyon may seem like a suggestion, it's Montana law that drivers on two-lane highways pull off the road—when safely possible—if they have four or more vehicles lined up behind them, or when they are impeding the normal and reasonable flow of traffic.

"Slower motorists are actually more dangerous," Kelly said, as these drivers induce more aggressive drivers to make dangerous passes. Addressing these slow drivers is difficult for officers to do safely, often confronted with passing a line of cars to conduct the stop.

Andy Dreisbach thinks installing traffic cameras in the canyon could address both illegal passes and failure to use turnouts, while keeping law enforcement out of danger.

"You could have a police officer who reviews 40 of those incidences in any given day, whereas if they were to pull over somebody, they might capture three of those events in a day," Dreisbach said.

However, a Montana bill passed in 2009 "forbids cameras or any other technology to enforce violations not witnessed by a police officer," according to a story by the Associated Press. The ban shuttered several red-light camera installations in Bozeman and Billings at the time.

While some locals have attributed heightened danger in the canyon to the cadres of contractors drinking alcohol on the drive back to Bozeman each evening, Kelly disagrees that one population of drivers can be blamed for DUI incidents. As wheels on the road increase, so do DUIs and accidents in general.

Dreisbach believes "a cacophony" of factors contribute to the dangers of Highway 191 through the canyon, noting how pleasurable Sunday drives are a thing of the past.

"It's this whole societal paradigm shift where driving is no longer a privilege or a pleasure," Dreisbach said. "It is merely an inconvenience."

While traffic in the canyon is a conundrum the community will have to solve as growth continues, Kelly said that being courteous on the roadway and letting the faster traffic get by will help the situation for everyone.



Montana law requires slow-moving vehicles to use turnouts on two-lane highways such as U.S. 191 through the Gallatin Canyon. A solar powered emergency call box is being installed at this turnout next to the 35 mph bridge where there is no cellphone service. PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

Water and sewer district faces steep wastewater irrigation quotas

Pond odor at Spanish Peaks pushes diners inside

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Water and Sewer District board tackled a number of topics at their regular monthly meeting on July 17, most of which come back to the ever-pressing limitations on wastewater storage and disposal.

The first order of business brought Lone Mountain Ranch General Manager Ryan Kunz to the table to discuss the ranch’s request to increase its Single Family Equivalent (SFE) allocations for a loose 10-year plan to construct two to three additional cabins, additional employee housing, an event facility, a restaurant bar, and hot soaking pools.

The board suggested that this would not be a problem, but asked Kunz how granting the request might also benefit the district—wastewater drainage fields being a hot commodity—a quid pro quo angle the board has been taking when entities look to the district for something. Kunz expressed confidence that the district would be able to gain access to a pasture on the property for drainage use.

Jon Olsen, director of development and engineering at Lone Mountain Land Company, shared an unpleasant situation at Spanish Peaks Mountain Club that quickly assumed priority status for the board. The “Hole 10” wastewater storage pond, also the one closest to the clubhouse, has been giving off such a strong, offensive odor that it has forced outside diners to move indoors on a number of occasions this summer.

After much discussion about what might be the cause, the district’s water superintendent, Grant Burroughs, established that the wastewater being pumped up to the club was coming from a currently unaerated district pond. Olsen said that two solar-powered aeration devices to be used on the surface

of the Spanish Peaks pond were en route, but Burroughs was also tasked to find a solution on the district’s end, which will likely entail repairing its pond’s underwater aeration system.

In another urgent matter, while the board was unanimously pleased with the rate of irrigation on the Big Sky Resort, Yellowstone Club and Moonlight Basin golf courses, that rate needs to continue at or near current levels for the next 76 days to free up enough pond storage space before irrigation season ends in October.

“Bottom line, this is all working but we can’t have any hiccups with it ... for the rest of the summer,” the district’s general manager Ron Edwards said, adding that if Big Sky sees an abundance of rain they “won’t make it.” Edwards said that the current average daily rate of treated wastewater being pumped onto the Big Sky Resort golf course hadn’t been sustained for a full week since the season started.

In closing, Edwards said that an update on the district potentially working out a win-win arrangement with Westfork Water and Wastewater, the private utility company that owns and operates the water supply system for the Firelight development, would be provided at the next meeting of the district.

Around the boardroom table, eyes lit up at the possibility of the district being able to access high-capacity drainage fields on the property—and the relief that it would bring to the ongoing pressure of wastewater disposal.

Visit bigskywatersewer.com for details about the August meeting of the Big Sky Water and Sewer District board.

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LOCAL LOOKBACK

Uncle Dan remembers a true Big Sky legend

BY DAN WADE

To set the stage: Big Sky in the early '80s was just a little bit different than it appears today. In Meadow Village, there were no buildings in the Westfork Meadows or Town Center area except the old McBride Homestead. This made for excellent gopher hunting, but not much else. Even the path to Ousel Falls was an old dirt logging road. The Meadow Village Center consisted of The Country Market, Furst Place Restaurant and a much smaller post office, along with just a couple offices in that complex.

On the mountain, the Huntley Lodge and Mountain Mall were the dominant buildings. There were no other condominium complexes except the Hill Condos and Deer Lodge (aka Fear Lodge) and the upscale dorms—not. The Mountain Lodge was a hostel, where I believe you could stay for under \$20 a night—lift ticket included! There were just three places to eat dinner on the mountain: the Huntley’s main dining room, Ernie’s Deli, and the Ore House, now the much bigger Montana Jack.

There were no cell phones, ATMs, computers (for the most part), no full-time police presence, no guard rails on the canyon highway, no traffic. Nighttime forays from the Mountain Village to the Meadow or Bozeman meant that you were on your own for anything that might happen—off the road into the river, vehicle breakdowns, animal strikes, whatever. The community was small, but you could rely on the “Montana ethic” in folks to help you out.

But this is really a story about a dog. One early winter I roomed in a Hill Condo with Chris Nash and his alter ego, Strider. Strider was a Big Sky celebrity. Everyone knew him. He could, and would, stand by the road and hitchhike where ever he wanted to



Uncle Dan hawking cookies in Big Sky Resort's Mountain Village in his first year of business the winter of 1984. PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN WADE

go. Mountain to Meadow, Hill to the Huntley, Strider got around. Strider probably went to Buck’s for “two-fer night” for cocktails, but kept a low profile.

One night, a friend and I skied down the Middle Fork (aka The Sewer Line) on the full moon to enjoy dinner at the Furst Place. This trip was always an adventure because there were no houses, condos, or lights from the start until you got down to the trailer court, where Aspen Groves now resides. Moose, elk and the bitter cold were all at play. We took Strider along as a watch dog. He was good company and was big enough to provide security against whatever popped out of the woods.

I recall that it was well below zero when we crossed onto the golf course on our ski down. At this point, Strider found a more interesting calling and totally ditched us—for a moose or canine friend we never knew. We completed our

ski, had a great dinner, and rode the (only) shuttle bus back up the mountain late. But we had lost Strider. What would I tell Chris? A lost dog in bitter cold and snow with predators about. I was fretting having to tell Chris that his dog, our roommate, was lost. Until, we arrive back at our Hill castle to find Strider, sitting by the front door, wondering what the hell took us so long to get back up the mountain. A dog’s life indeed.

Dan Wade opened Uncle Dan’s Cookies in the winter of 1983-1984 with a cookie cart parked at Big Sky Resort. Thirty-five years later, Uncle Dan’s Cookies is still baking all their cookies from scratch in Big Sky. Not only beloved in Big Sky, Uncle Dan’s Cookies have been photographed being enjoyed at Mount Everest base camp, underwater in Zanzibar, in Antarctica, and many other exotic international locales.



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

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JULY 26

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JULY 28

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PBR Arena SOLD OUT
4pm – Vendor Village opens
5pm – Golden Buckle gates open
6pm – Calcutta auction in the Golden Buckle tent and General Admission gates open
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Section 2:
ENVIRONMENT,
SPORTS & FUN



Wildlands festival to benefit local nonprofits pg. 19



Q&A with Annie Gilbert Chase pg. 25



Kids Corner pg. 26

The New West: The Draper is another crown jewel of Yellowstone region



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

Among all of the wondrous coordinates in the Yellowstone region, there is just one flat spot on a map where a person can stand literally at the very center of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem without having to physically enter the wild backcountry. And surrounding, in every direction, are visions of wildlife and the stories of their survival.

That place resides inside an institution dubbed “the Smithsonian of the West.” By its very design, it is the only edifice of its kind devoted to celebrating the living temporal and spatial essence of the Greater Yellowstone.

The Draper Museum of Natural History in Cody, Wyoming, part of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West complex—comprising five amazing interconnected museums—is a true diamond in the rough.

If you haven’t been there, you ought to consider it a landmark as important in many ways as the vistas fronting the Tetons, the boardwalk of Old Faithful Geyser, the wolf-watching turnouts in Lamar Valley and the overlooks that rise above the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.

In a region defined by its crown jewel national parks, forests and wildlife refuges, the Draper shines as a touchstone that reminds us why the ecosystem, as a whole, matters.

Until 2002, when it opened its doors, there was, almost unbelievably, no real natural history museum in the northern Rockies devoted to illuminating the very thing that makes Greater Yellowstone world-renowned. Our backyard is the only landscape in the Lower 48 where all of the major animals, which existed here when Europeans arrived in North America 500 years ago, are still present.

Think about that for a second. It’s no accident; in fact, it’s involved conscious human decisions, held together by a common ethic of conservation spanning generations, that has enabled Greater Yellowstone to still be home to grizzlies, wolves, bison, and some of the most amazing wildlife migrations remaining on Earth.

In fact, the acclaimed exhibition “Invisible Boundaries”—now on display at the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson—made its official debut at the Draper, led by Dr. Charles Preston, an extraordinary staff and board of directors.

They all carry on the intrepid spirit of the late philanthropist Nancy Draper, whose determination won over her community and defied skeptics who claimed there was no way a new natural history museum could be built—let alone in tiny Cody and in a way that would attract global attention. Yet it happened.

“Nancy ranks as one of the great characters I’ve ever known. Rambunctious, she was who she was, became much beloved in our little town and held truth to her course,” former U.S. Sen. Alan Simpson, one of Draper’s good friends, told me.

The Draper doesn’t merely display things passively. Part of its mission is fostering original research and unearthing new insights. It has collaborated with the Wyoming Migration Initiative, for example, to highlight wildlife corridors. It also champions the ethics of living and traveling responsibly in bear country, something that is on the minds of the huge crowds of locals and tourists that pass through the museum.



An aerial view of the Draper Museum of Natural History in Cody, Wyoming, with the map of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in the center of the floor. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DRAPER MUSEUM

The Draper, however, has cultivated a special forte with studying raptors, or birds of prey. A permanent display called “The Raptor Experience” has live eagles, falcons, owls and even a turkey vulture with daily public programs that have become favorites of families on their way to Yellowstone.

This summer, an exhibit titled “Monarch of the Skies” opened and offers a fascinating glimpse into the lifeways of golden eagles, one of the greatest avians of the West and a species deeply embedded in indigenous culture.

Still another treasure is the Draper’s collection of more than 1,200 bird and mammal specimens, including 170 wolf skulls now being studied by researchers that have a scientific paper on the wolves of Greater Yellowstone forthcoming.

Preston is hailed as one of the leading thinkers on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, stolen away from the Denver Museum of Natural History in 1998 to oversee the Draper’s construction.

To engage visitors, he notes, all of the exhibits are intended to be, in some way, interactive. One of the subtle delights is the floor map of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem that you can stroll across.

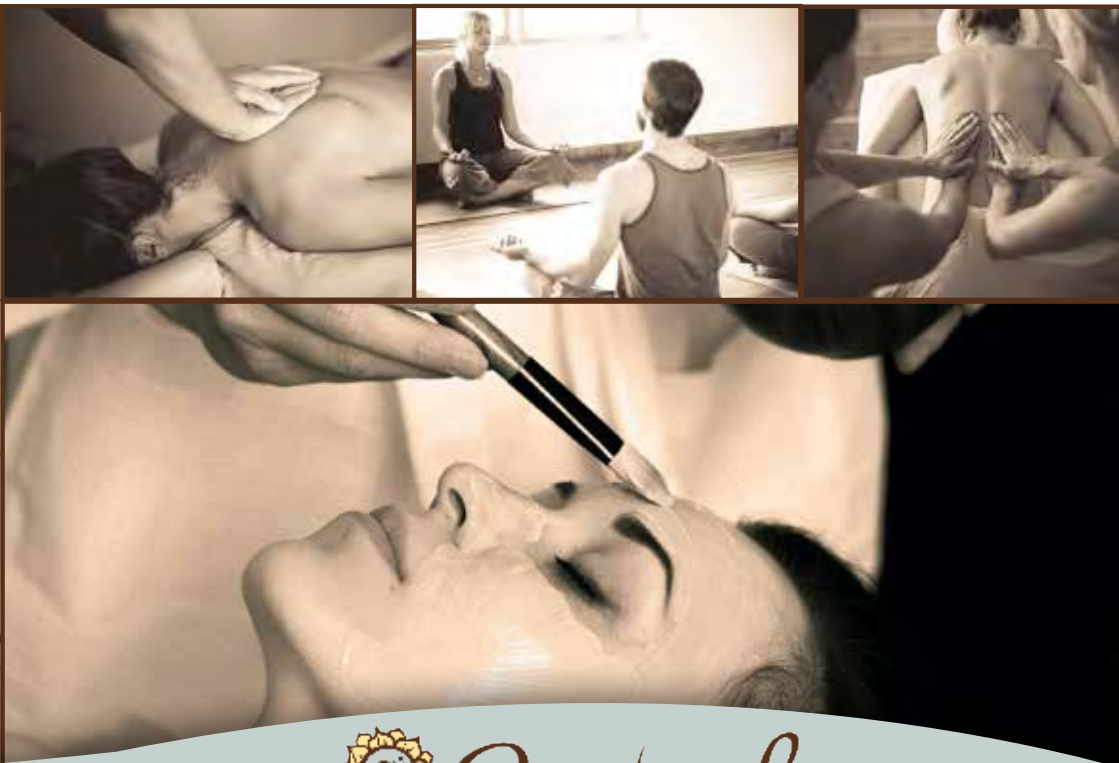
When you visit the Draper, it’s a five-for-one proposition. Next door, of course, is the renowned Whitney Western Art Museum, featuring historical fine art masterworks; the Plains Indian Museum, featuring indigenous art and artifacts; the Cody Firearms Museum, featuring the Winchester Arms Collection; and the Buffalo Bill Museum exploring the myth and reality of the West, through the life of William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody.

Of all the towns in the West, there’s something about the mix of provincial pride and cosmopolitan museums that sets Cody apart. The Draper helps explain why.

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.

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9:00-10:15
All Levels Yoga

11:00-12:30pm
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2-3 Yoga)

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All Levels Yoga

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Core Focused Yoga

9:00-10:00am
All Levels Vinyasa
Flow

FRIDAY

7:30-8:30
Dance to Fit

9:00-10:15am
All Levels Yoga

12:00-1:00pm
Power Hour Yoga

SATURDAY

9:00-10:15am
All Levels Yoga



Clark's nutcracker // *Nucifraga columbiana*

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

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Wildlands Festival recognizes local conservation efforts

Montana Land Reliance, Gallatin Valley Land Trust, Yellowstone Forever receive portion of proceeds

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY - The inaugural Wildlands Festival on Aug. 10 will celebrate Montana’s wild places and open spaces, with a portion of the proceeds going to benefit three of the state’s conservation organizations.

Acclaimed singer-songwriter Robert Earl Keen and country rock stars Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real will headline the event, while Montana Land Reliance, Gallatin Valley Land Trust and Yellowstone Forever will all receive recognition for their decades of conservation work in the area.

Montana Land Reliance is a state-wide organization that partners with landowners in order to protect open spaces, agricultural lands, and fish and wildlife habitat. This is a voluntary legal agreement between the landowner and MLR that prevents future development on the property for perpetuity. With offices in Big Sky, Bozeman and Bigfork, MLR is managed by a team of 14 full-time and 16 part-time staffers, as well as a board of 11 directors.

Beginning in 1978, MLR has grown its mission from a focus on river corridors to protective efforts for wildlife migration corridors and public land conservation. In four decades, MLR has conserved 1,046,701 acres across the state.

While MLR’s endeavors span the state, Bozeman-based Gallatin Valley Land Trust has honed it’s mission to protect lands in Gallatin, Park and Meagher counties, which includes Big Sky, Paradise Valley and Gallatin Valley.

GVLT was founded in 1990 by Bozeman resident Chris Boyd. “He had a lot of foresight in knowing this place was special and was going to change,” said EJ Porth, the organization’s communications and outreach director.



LEFT: A part of the GVLТ mission is to connect people to open lands, and one way the organization achieves this is by hosting tours of conservation easements in the county. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN VALLEY LAND TRUST

RIGHT: Montana Land Reliance works throughout the state to protect open space, wildlife and fish habitat, and agricultural lands. Pictured is last year’s board of directors. PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTANA LAND RELIANCE

In addition to land conservation efforts, the 10-person GVLT team works to get people outside on public lands. Projects include easement acquisitions and trail development and maintenance.

“To me, as Montanans, we live in a really special ecosystem,” Porth said. “The land has a long history. We have to be really good stewards of that.

“It’s always been important but it’s threatened in a way it hasn’t been in the past,” she added, describing Gallatin County’s burgeoning growth. “Our job is to keep this place special as we grow.”

Visit mtlandreliance.org or gult.org to learn more about these organizations. Visit wildlandsfestival.com for tickets.

Nonprofit works to preserve and enhance Yellowstone National Park in perpetuity

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – As the official nonprofit partner of Yellowstone National Park, Yellowstone Forever has ambitious efforts underway to improve all aspects of the park experience by supporting and expanding educational opportunities, wildlife management programs, restoration projects and further engaging the community to ensure its efforts will be continued by generations to come.

In perhaps its most visible presence in the park, Yellowstone Forever operates 11 educational Park Stores as well as the Yellowstone Forever Institute, which offers more than 600 in-depth programs each year for park enthusiasts of all ages and interests.

To help support Yellowstone National Park’s top priority needs, Yellowstone Forever focuses on fundraising for projects within six key initiatives: Wildlife, Wonders and Wilderness; Visitor Experience; Cultural Treasures; Ranger Heritage; Greenest Park; and Tomorrow’s Stewards.

In 2018 specifically, Yellowstone Forever will allocate \$5.9 million toward 53 projects that support native fish restoration, distance learning, visitor and wildlife safety, and the Yellowstone Wolf Project.

Yellowstone Forever’s steps to improve visitor experience address enjoyment, safety, and educational opportunities. Projects include rehabilitating popular hiking trails, restoring the viewpoints along the rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, and upgrading historic visitor facilities, kiosks and exhibits. With its plan to fund a new, state-of-the-art youth campus, the park will be able to broaden its educational programming and continue to inspire future stewards of the park.

Funding to expand the visitor and wildlife safety education programming will provide additional support for seasonal rangers and volunteers delivering safety information at wildlife traffic jams, demonstrations on how to use bear spray, and safe hiking and camping practices.



Yellowstone Forever, the official nonprofit partner of Yellowstone National Park, supports many projects aimed at improving the visitor experience, infrastructure and rehabilitating wildlife. Through the Yellowstone Forever Institute, the organization also offers hundreds of diverse educational courses for visitors each year. PHOTO BY FRANK JACOB

Other programs directly engage youth, like the Yellowstone Youth Conservation Corps, a work-based learning program operated by the National Park Service for 15- to 18 year olds, and the Yellowstone Forever program My Yellowstone Adventure, an introduction to nature, national parks and conservation.

“It’s an honor to be a member of the Yellowstone Forever team,” said Daniel Bierschwale, the organization’s director of gateway partnerships. “Our work directly supports park priorities through the generosity of our supporters.”


Featuring Robert Earl Keen and Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real, a portion of the proceeds from the Aug. 10 Wildlands Festival in Bozeman will benefit Yellowstone Forever. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. at Montana State University’s Romney Oval. Visit wildlandfestival.com for tickets. Visit Yellowstone.org for more information about Yellowstone Forever.




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Golf Tips from a Pro:

Firecracker Open raises money for Folds of Honor Foundation

BY MARK WEHRMAN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The Big Sky Resort Golf Course once again hosted its annual Firecracker Open on July 4. With a full field of 26 foursomes and near perfect weather, the stage was set for another exciting holiday tournament. New this year, a \$5 donation was taken from each player’s entry fee to benefit the Folds of Honor Foundation.

The Folds of Honor Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing educational scholarships to families that have lost loved ones in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. It’s directly supported by PGA of America and, more specifically, is attached to PGA Patriot Golf Day.

The Folds of Honor Foundation and PGA Patriot Golf Day were started by PGA member Maj. Dan Rooney, who’s also an F-16 fighter pilot in the Oklahoma National Guard.

With a total of 104 players, \$520 was set aside as a donation to the Folds of Honor Foundation. In addition, a 50/50 raffle raised another \$410.

The Firecracker Open also runs a cash-only skins game for tournament teams. Coincidentally, no skins were won and the field of players decided

that instead of getting their money back, all skins money, a total of \$310, would be donated as well.

It’s also worth mentioning that the fourth-place team in the gross division donated their winnings of \$120.

In total, the Firecracker Open raised \$1,360 for the Folds of Honor Foundation.

As a PGA member and on behalf of Big Sky Golf Course and Big Sky Resort, I’m so proud of the tournament participants and the community of Big Sky for making this the largest donation we’ve ever raised for the Folds of Honor Foundation.

The scholarships provided by the Folds of Honor Foundation will never make up for the tragedy and loss those families experience, but going forward, it will affect the lives of those in a positive way. So, I give a huge thank you to all who participated and contributed, and I can’t wait to see what we can do for this foundation in the years to come.

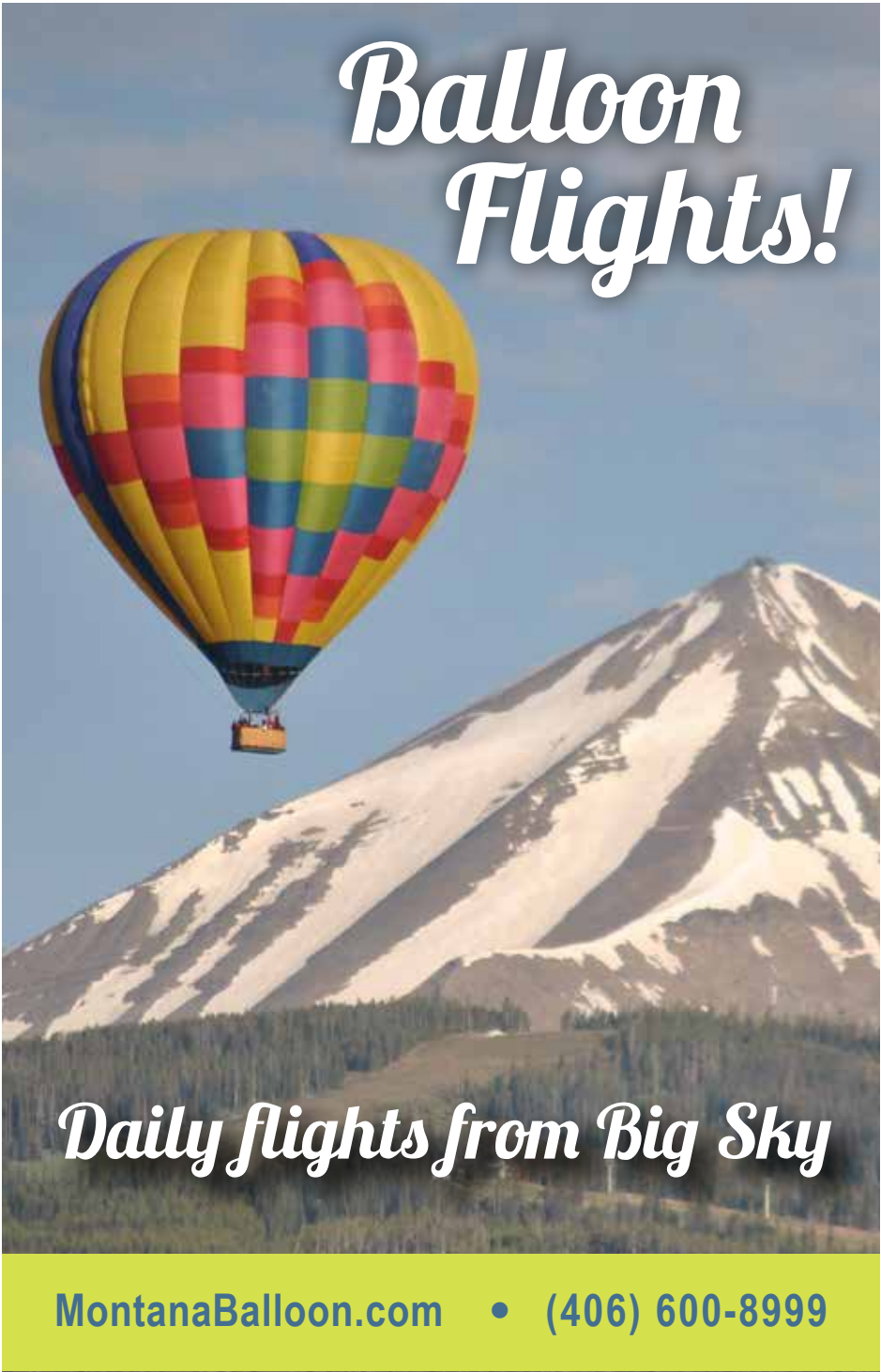
Mark Wehrman is the PGA Head Professional at the Big Sky Resort Golf Course.



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Lot 38 Bitterbrush Trail
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Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.
3.13 Acres / \$490K



Ranch Lot 29
2.71 ACRES / \$389K



Lot 44 Diamond Hitch
1.25 ACRE / \$685K

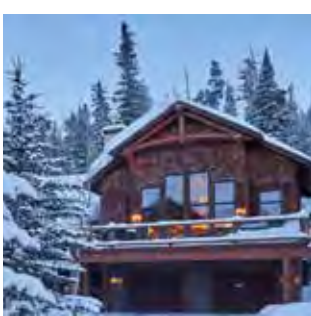
BIG SKY



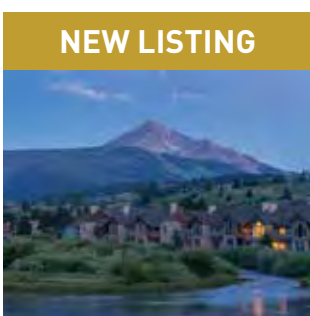
25 Lower Dudley Creek
4,076 SQ FT / \$1.65M



2078 Little Coyote
2986 SQ FT / \$1.349M



Black Eagle Lodge #30
2,549 SQ FT / \$1.35M



40 Crail Ranch
2,234 SQ FT / \$1.35M

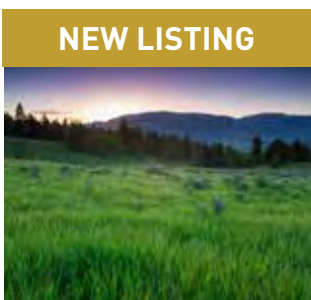


70 Upper Whitefish
2,656 SQ FT / \$895K

BIG SKY



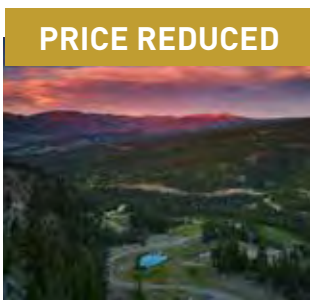
Hill Condo 1337
668 SQ FT / \$195K



Royal Coachman Ranch
160 Acres / \$4.8M



Beehive Basin
Lots 11A & 12A
40+/- ACRES / \$1.495M



Big EZ
Lot 42: \$339K / 20 ACRES
Lot 43: \$375K / 20 ACRES
Combined: \$649K



Lot 4 Beaver Creek West
20 ACRES / \$539K

BIG SKY



Gallatin Rd. Tract 4
1.4 ACRES / \$254K

GREATER MONTANA



Osprey Cove Lakehouse
Hebgen Lake, MT
4,628 SQ FT / \$1.495M



1800 Skunk Creek Rd.
38.71 ACRES / \$393K

RANCH & RECREATION



SxS Ranch
Bozeman, MT
483.78 ACRES / \$7.5M



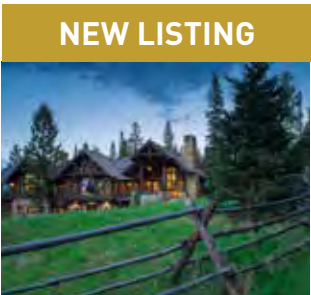
Mountain Meadows
Big Sky, MT
120 Acres / \$3.495M

L & K
Real Estate

BIG SKY



Lot 39 Diamond Hitch
1 ACRE / \$595K



64 Lodgepole
6,160 SQ FT / \$3.895M



Kandahar at
Beehive Basin
5,409 SQ FT / \$3.45M



30 Beehive Basin Rd.
6,203 SQ FT / \$2.95M



Moose Ridge Lodge
3,900 SQ FT / \$2.45M

BIG SKY



Summit Hotel 911/912
1,303 SQ FT / \$595K



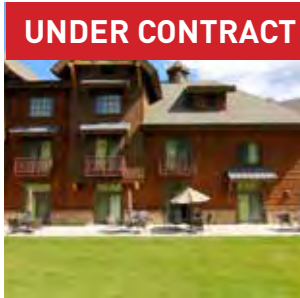
76 Anaconda
2,800 SQ FT / \$649K



21 Antler Drop
2,470 SQ FT / \$479K



Pine Ridge Condo Unit 7
1,174 SQ FT / \$329K



281 Village Center
473 SQ FT / \$270K



Lot 2 Big Buck Road
20 ACRES / \$485K



Lot 3 Joy Rd.
6.83 ACRES / \$395K



Lot 63 Silverado Trail
4.22 ACRES / \$390K



Lot 40 Half Moon Court
.81 ACRES / \$325K



Lot 16 Andesite Ridge
.756 ACRES / \$259K

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Butte, MT
640 Acres / \$1.65M



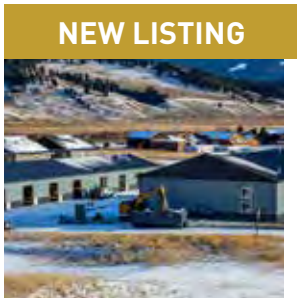
Rocking S7 Ranch Lot 4
Bozeman, MT
20.232 ACRES / \$650K



Marketplace Unit 104
Big Sky, MT
1,204 SQ FT / \$560,920



BeaverPond Plaza
Units 8A & 8B
Bozeman, MT
3,400 SQ FT | \$390K



Iron Mountain Storage
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Q&A with professional climber Anne Gilbert Chase

EBS STAFF

Explore Big Sky recently spoke with Patagonia ambassador and Bozeman-based climber Anne Gilbert Chase about her alpine adventures, the climbing life, and her ambitions to scale some of the most spectacular mountains in the world—all while balancing her life working as a nurse in Bozeman.

Explore Big Sky: *When did you start climbing?*

Anne Gilbert Chase: It wasn't until my senior year of college that an old boyfriend of mine and I decided we wanted to learn, so we kind of taught ourselves. We got into the climbing community at the University of Georgia and would spend our weekends climbing, and I've been hooked since then.

EBS: *Has there been anyone who has been instrumental in helping you to develop your abilities as a climber?*

A.G.C.: Really, everyone that I climbed with or became friends with from the beginning has been helpful—whether it's showing me a specific knot, a different way of doing things, or just offering companionship in the mountains.

Guiding with Rainier Mountaineering Inc. [aka RMI Expeditions] was a big step for me too; not so much technically, but learning how to take care of not only yourself, but others that you're roped into in extreme environments was something that I had to do pretty quickly.

EBS: *You are talented at different aspects of climbing but seem to favor alpine climbing. Why?*

A.G.C.: I love all types of climbing. Single-pitch trad [where you place your own protection] will always have a special place in my heart because it can be so casual and relaxed, in a pretty controlled environment. But, yes, over the years I've found myself drawn toward big mountains, above the treeline in the cold and snow, whether in Alaska, South America or the Himalaya.

For me, it was a natural progression. You really need so many tricks in your bag. It's a mix of both rock climbing and ice climbing and navigating different types of snow, and it brings together a lot of the skills that I've learned from the very beginning. Going into the big mountains, you are definitely out there on your own and I enjoy the remoteness of it all.

EBS: *What is your favorite climb around the Bozeman area?*

A.G.C.: The Gallatin Canyon is the most fun for me—both the east side and the west side near the Gallatin Tower. The east side provides so much variety. You can go and do multi-pitch climbs. You can do harder 5.12 routes that top out on flat towers with beautiful views of the canyon. It's always fun to get out there on a summer day with friends and then go jump in the river at the end of the day.

EBS: *This June, you made the first ever female ascent of the Slovak Direct route on the south face of Denali with Chantel Astorga. Do you consider that your most difficult climb yet?*

A.G.C.: Yes and no. From a technical standpoint, the Denali climb was probably the most difficult—sustained climbing in extreme cold at altitude in Alaska. The other one that is a close tie was a new route that Chantel, my husband and I did on Mount Nilkantha in India's Central Garwhal Himalaya last fall.



Bozeman-based professional climber Anne Gilbert Chase will travel to Iran this August with two other female Patagonia athletes to attempt to climb a new route on the north face of Alam-Kuh, the third highest peak in the country. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Putting up a new route, there is always that element of uncertainty involved as to whether the route is feasible or if you have the right tools. The Slovak route had been completed by eight parties in the last 34 years, so we knew if we had the right skill set and strength that we could make it.

EBS: *How do you train for big mountain ascents?*

A.G.C.: I started training with Mike Wolfe, who is a local Bozeman guy, and his company called The Mountain Project about three years ago. He runs classes at his gym for everything from mountain fitness, to running, to hunting. It's a little like CrossFit but instead of heavy weights you are using a lot of your weight to develop your muscles, your stability and core. I definitely think it has paid off. I feel much stronger in the mountains than I did two years ago.

EBS: *Do you have any big climbing trips on the horizon?*

A.G.C.: I'm planning a trip to Iran in August with two other female Patagonia ambassadors and a photographer. We're going to try to climb a big granite wall at altitude called Alam-Kuh. No crampons, or ice tools—it will be rock climbing.

We just got word that our visas were approved, so I guess it's a go. In addition to the climbing, I think it will be an amazing cultural experience—seeing a country that has been shut off from us for a while. It will be interesting to connect with some of the climbers there and try to understand them and their country a little bit better.

EBS: *Do you have any advice for someone who is trying to get into the sport of rock climbing?*

A.G.C.: Have fun with it. We want to push ourselves and learn things, and it can teach us a lot, but at the end of the day it is just a sport and we can't take it or ourselves too seriously.

Reach out to people in the community. There are awesome festivals, there are climbing teams and outdoor groups and community events that help people learn different skill sets. A lot of events at Spire [Climbing Center] are free. Find a partner you can trust—someone you can trust to help you when things go wrong or push comes to shove. For me, the best way to learn climbing is in a comfortable, supportive environment.



Big Sky youth ‘venture’ to create art during Music in the Mountains

Kids use paint to turn rocks into bugs and spiders during the Music in the Mountains performance by Sister Sparrow and the Dirty Birds on July 12 in Big Sky Town Center. As part of the Arts Council of Big Sky’s ARTventure initiative launched in 2016, the summer program is designed to provide Big Sky youth with experiences in the arts as a way to cultivate creativity and critical thinking skills. PHOTO BY TYLER ALLEN

Sudoku

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

	3			4	7			
	8		2			7		
			6	1				
				2	1	5	4	
			7		3	8		6
8						1		7
	1	4		8	5	3		
								4

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American Life in Poetry: Column 695

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

In one of my recent columns I wrote about the importance to the overall effect of a poem of having a strong ending, and here’s a fine example of that. It’s by Terri Kirby Erickson, a North Carolinian, from her book, “Becoming the Blue Heron,” published by Press 53. Others of Erickson’s poems are available in the column’s archives at americanlifeinpoetry.org.

My Cousin, Milton
By Terri Kirby Erickson

My cousin, Milton, worked for a cable company.
The boy I knew when we were children

had fists that were often clenched, his face set like
an old man whose life had been so hard,

it hardened him. But the man’s hands opened to let
more of the world in. He sent the funniest

cards to family and friends at Christmas, laid down
cable so others could connect. Yet, he lived

alone, kept to himself much of the time, so when
his sister found his body, he’d been gone

a good while. He died young at fifty-seven, without
fuss or bother. No sitting by the bedside

or feeding him soup. He just laid himself down like
a trunk line and let the signal pass through.

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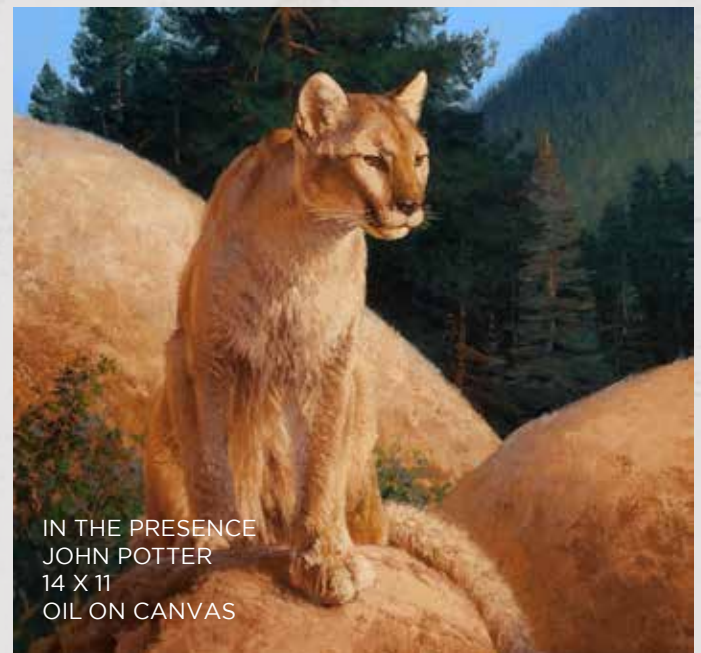
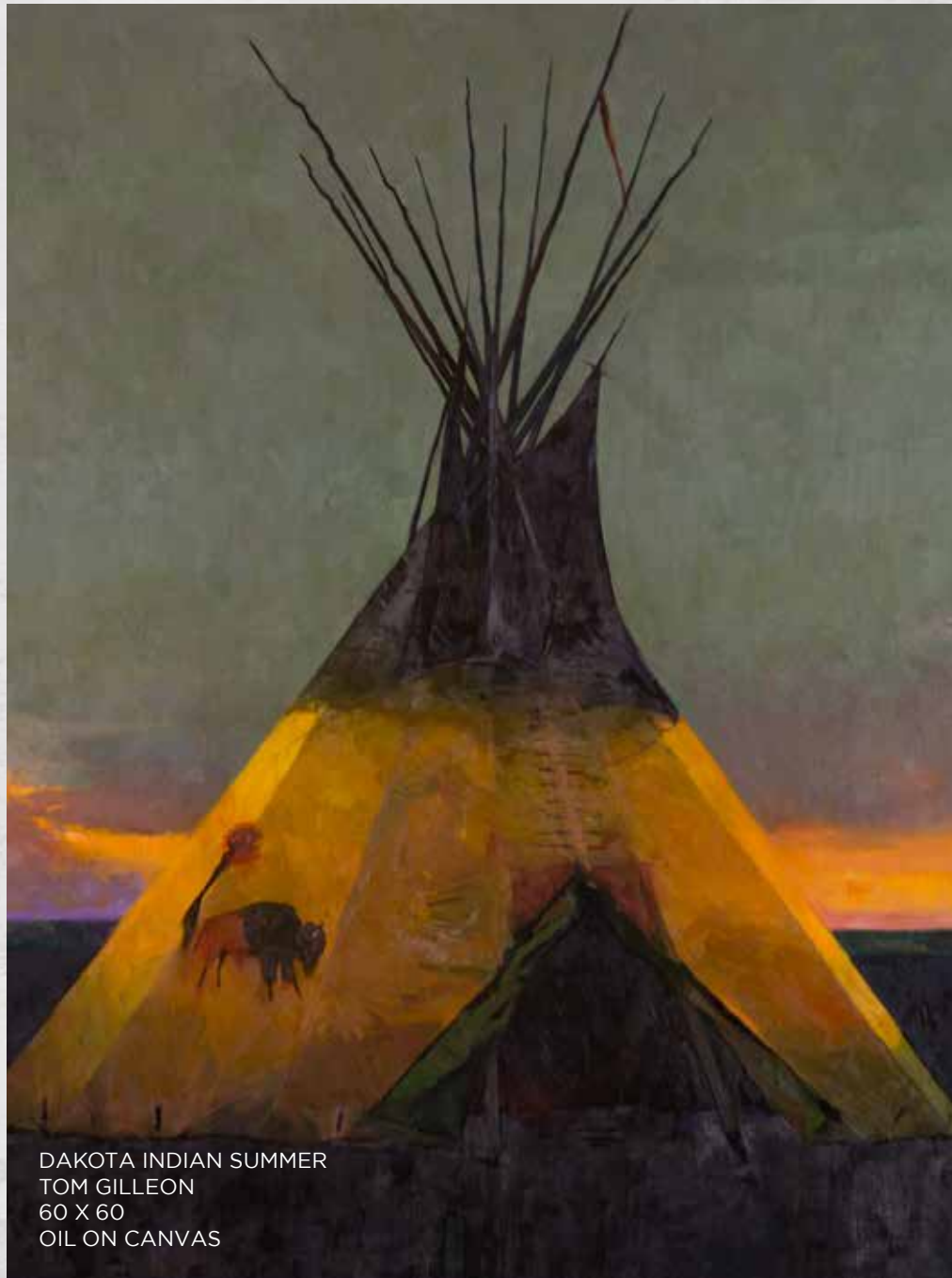
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Section 3:
BUSINESS, DINING
& HEALTH

The Sage Lodge opens pg. 31

Caliber Coffee replaces Bugaboo pg. 32

'Happy pill' side effects pg. 35

Making it in Big Sky

The Hungry Moose Market and Deli

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – When Jackie and Mark Robin moved to Big Sky in the fall of 1993, they immediately saw a need for fresh fruit and vegetables. The following summer the couple, along with their 18-month-old son Andrew, set up a weekly stand in the Westfork Meadows called The Big Sky Farmer’s Market. Today, The Hungry Moose Market and Deli has locations in Town Center and in the Mountain Mall at Big Sky Resort, and is a flourishing grocery and prepared foods delivery business. Despite Mark’s passing in December 2017, The Moose continues to be a hub of the Big Sky community.

As part of this ongoing series, Jackie Robin shared her thoughts with EBS on what it takes to make it as a small business owner in Big Sky.

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

Jackie Robin: Mark was born with a retail gene. He knew how to stock a store, how to relate to customers and vendors, and he worked hard. We both knew early on we needed to have what people were looking for and be open when they expected us to be. I think the fact people can count on The Moose to be there when they need it has been a large part of our success.

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

J.R.: We sold pumpkins on the front yard while we were setting up the original Hungry Moose Market in 1994. So it was most likely a pumpkin. When we built our store in Town Center and moved over in 2005, our opening was delayed due to heavy rain for the entire month of June. We couldn’t finish the outside patio and sidewalks. Finally we put out a plywood board and a young woman named Irene ran in and bought some cheese. She was our first customer in the new location. She had two dollars and wanted some cheese.

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

J.R.: It always gets back to staffing. We need a lot of people to prepare all of that good food and to keep our stores open long, consistent hours every day of the year. We employ over 50 people and provide housing for about 15 of them. Because of the seasonality of a winter and summer resort area, a certain amount of our staff turns over twice a year. That’s a lot of stress on a business and difficult on the year-round management and staff.

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

J.R.: There are just more people here. The landscape in 1994 was 500



Hungry Moose owners Jackie and Mark Robin worked tirelessly for more than 20 years to build and maintain a successful small business in Big Sky. PHOTOS COURTESY OF JACKIE ROBIN

people who all knew one another. It is simply a larger town with a larger population base, a larger seasonal community and a multitude of people passing through at any given time.

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

J.R.: Last night I watched a yellow crescent moon and Mercury set over the perfect triangle of Lone Peak. The moon and the planet arced their way across the peak in the crystal clear, darkening sky. It was breathtaking.

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

J.R.: It was a memorable moment when Mark opened the store one morning in 2004 to find a section of it had been ransacked. One shelf down, empty soy milk containers on the front porch, bulk bins broken. The thieves left behind clumps of thick brown hair and two different sized piles of black scat. It was determined that a sow with two cubs were early morning customers of The Hungry Moose. I don’t think they ever paid their tab.

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

J.R.: Put in place a strong management team. The value of a business rises when it is not dependent on the “Superman” owner. Those who knew

Continued on page 30.

Continued from page 29.

Mark, know that for many years he fit the description of a “Superman” owner. Over time, we hired more and more great people to do the work that needs to get done in a business like ours. It allowed us to take a seven week trip in 2015 and kept the business strong when Mark became ill in the fall of 2016. I know the continued success of The Moose is a legacy to its founding “Superman.”

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

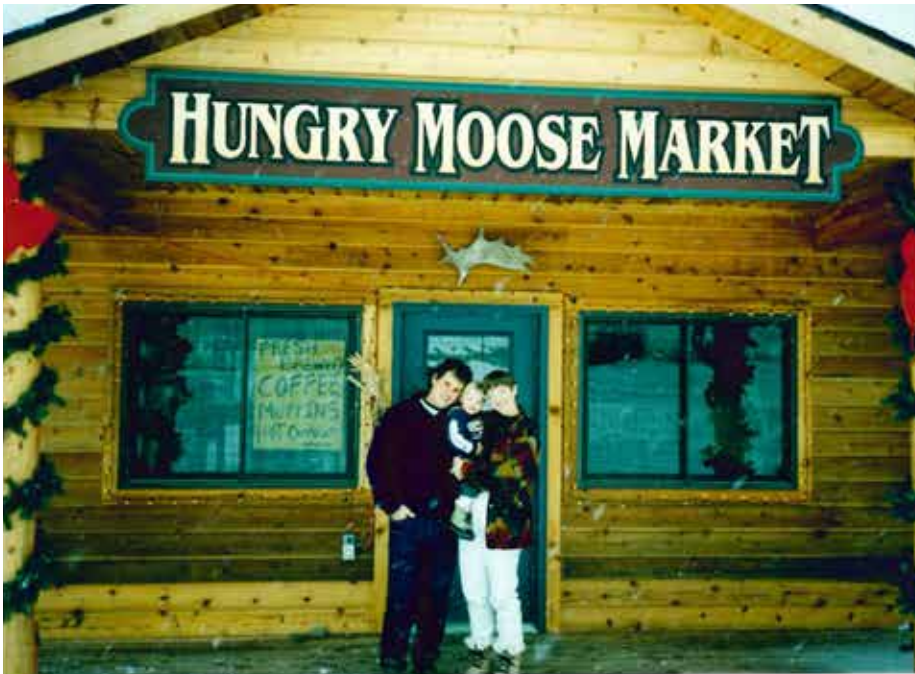
J.R.: Be honest and consistent. Be there for your customers. Give back to your community.

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

J.R.: I hope The Hungry Moose Market and Deli will continue to be a thriving part of the Big Sky community providing good food and drink and a place to meet up with old friends and new.

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

J.R.: As long as we keep the health of our community in the forefront, Big Sky can remain as it is: Gorgeous. Vibrant. Clean. An oasis within an increasingly complex world.



Mark and Jackie with baby Andrew in front of the original Hungry Moose, which opened in 1994 on Lone Mountain Trail in the current location of American Bank.

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


J.R.: Of course, no question.


THE HUNGRY MOOSE MARKET AND DELI – BY THE NUMBERS

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**YEARS IN BUSINESS:**
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**LONGEST SERVING EMPLOYEE:**
Lauren Jackson, 13 years



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New getaway lodge in Paradise Valley offers angling, fine dining

BY BAY STEPHENS
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – The Sage Lodge opened to the public July 16, offering lodging, dining and quintessential Montana experiences for guests. Fifty guest rooms between the lodge and four cabins increase lodging options for visitors to Yellowstone National Park, offering dog-friendly rooms to boot.

The property lies 35 minutes north of the Gardner entrance to Yellowstone on 1,200 acres of what was formerly ranch land, and includes two restaurants, a spa, retail shop and large outdoor hot tub.

Seattle-based Columbia Hospitality Inc. manages Sage Lodge while the Joshua Green Corporation owns the facility.

The lodge’s inception centered around fly fishing, as the property is located along a mile-long stretch of the Yellowstone River and has an on-site casting practice pond. The Joshua Green Corporation has a vested interest in angling, owning Far Bank Enterprises, which manufactures Sage, Redington and RIO fishing gear. Sage Lodge offers gear packages and guided tours through partnerships with Sage Fly Fishing and local fishing guides, respectively.

Joshua “Jay” Green III, grandson of the corporation’s founder, played a key role in casting the vision of an angler’s getaway, the lodge’s general manager Paul Robertson said.

“He has been a lifetime angler and I think it’s fair to say that this project was inspired by his passion for fly fishing,” Robertson said.

Programming through other local partnerships furnishes opportunities for guests to ride horseback, raft, take culinary classes, mountain bike, trek with llamas, paint, take photos with a resident photographer, and sightsee with Yellowstone Forever, the park’s official nonprofit partner. Winter activities include downhill and cross-country ski adventures, snowshoeing excursions and dogsled rides.

Although the lodge has the makings of a private resort, Robertson is excited the facility is open to the public, comparing its accessibility to that of nearby Chico Hot Springs. He expects the lodge to cater to drive-in guests as well as those flying in from across the country.

“Because of the size of the hotel, it allows for it,” Roberston said. “A percentage



The Sage Lodge is Paradise Valley’s newest lodging option, offering outdoor activities, dining, and event space. PHOTOS COURTESY OF SAGE LODGE

of our guests might be flying into Bozeman and staying in the area for an extended period and other people might just be coming up for the weekend or ... the night.”

Equipped with an event barn capable of accommodating as many as 200 people, Sage Lodge wants to become a destination for groups and events, such as corporate retreats and weddings. Meeting rooms lend versatility to the space beyond large-group gatherings too, Robertson said.

Two on-site restaurants provide fare and drinks for guests: The Great Room located in the lodge, and The Grill, housed in the event barn. Headed by the former chef of the Salish Lodge and Spa in Snoqualmie, Washington, and Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe, Brian Sullivan, The Grill will serve chosen cuts over an open fire visible to diners throughout the restaurant.

As of the opening, the gamut of seasonal activities and the restaurant in the main lodge will be available and ready for guests. Barring any construction delays, The Grill, spa and event barn will be open mid-August to early September.

Visit sagelodge.com for more information.

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Caliber Café to replace Bugaboo

Big Horn businesses eager for restaurant to re-open

BY BAY STEPHENS
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – Caliber Café and Spirits is on schedule for an August opening at Bugaboo’s old location in the Big Horn Shopping Center just north of the intersection of Lone Mountain Trail and U.S. Highway 191. Stephanie Alexander, who owns Caliber Coffee in Westfork Meadows, is partnering with Tom Newberry in the venture, and said she hopes to have the place up and running by Aug. 1. While the “spirits” component is further down the road, the new café will serve Tex-Mex comfort food and baked goods from Elle’s Belles Bakery, a Bozeman operation with a nationwide clientele.

Open from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., the café will serve drinks from an espresso bar and Elle’s Belles premade baked goods, freshly baked in-house. Alexander’s coffee shop already serves the bakery’s goods. “She doesn’t work with everyone,” Alexander said of bakery owner Elle Fine.

Alexander plans to serve eggs benedict—a dish everyone’s been requesting—and strawberry cream cheese-stuffed French toast, along with burritos and sandwiches, all made with ingredients sourced as locally as possible. The Tex-Mex menu will be served from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. with the option of sitting down to eat or grab-and-go.

The space Caliber Café will occupy housed the Bugaboo Café for the past 14 years until its official closure this spring. A dream come true for original owners Paul and Kim Cameron, Bugaboo operated under their care for over a decade before they sold it to longtime employee and friend Geoff Calef in 2015.

Although the handover was amiable and well-received by the Big Sky community, the business was soon hamstrung by a shortage of employees. Calef found himself turning away customers for lack of workers, citing Big Sky’s affordable housing crisis as the cause.

“Why commute to Big Sky when you can get the same job in Bozeman?” Calef told EBS in an August 2016 interview.

Bugaboo held on by a thread with scaled-back hours and a skeleton crew until Calef finally threw in the towel a few months ago.

As Alexander and Newberry take the baton, the question of what will be different for the new owners hovers. However, Alexander is confident their enterprise won’t repeat history. Getting ahead of potential employment challenges, she has already hired two cooks and a handful of servers, all of whom already live in Big Sky. Alexander said she’s offering competitive wages to secure some stability in her workforce.

“I don’t want to go through employees like everybody else,” Alexander said.

Neighboring business owners are eager to see the return of a restaurant to the Big Horn Shopping Center. Like a rising tide lifts all the boats in a harbor, these business owners have witnessed how a popular restaurant boosts business for the whole center.

“Having a successful, busy restaurant definitely helps everyone in the center,” Consignment Cabin co-owner Kerri Fabozzi said, referencing the extra foot traffic it draws to the shopping center.

Fabozzi and her husband, Kevin, bought the Consignment Cabin in September 2015 and have noticed how the Big Horn Shopping Center is often overlooked as drivers accelerate out of the stoplight toward Bozeman or—as she swears she’s seen—accelerate into the stoplight to turn up to Big Sky.

Angie Turner, whose husband, photographer Ryan Turner, has a studio that shares a wall with the incoming café, echoed this impression, recalling how Bugaboo’s umbrella-shaded outdoor tables drew business from



Caliber Café and Spirits will open in place of Bugaboo Café on Aug. 1. Neighboring businesses, including artist studios/retail spaces and the Consignment Cabin, stand to benefit from foot traffic the restaurant draws. PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

the road. Customers would mill about as they waited for a table or explore the Big Horn shops after dining.

“Having an anchor-restaurant in a shopping center, I think, makes a big difference to all the other businesses,” Turner said. “Restaurants are really a destination for tourists. Everybody needs to get something to eat.”

Jill Zeidler, a ceramicist with a studio/retail space in the same building as Turner Photography and the café, said foot traffic had markedly decreased since Bugaboo shuttered its doors, hindering the likelihood of walk-ins discovering her handiwork.

“It’s huge, the difference,” Turner said. “[The Café] would be a big benefit for all of use, I’m sure.”

The rest of the community might benefit as well, short as it is on dedicated breakfast restaurants since Buttr’s closure this winter.

“A fun resort town has fun breakfast places,” Fabozzi said.

Alexander decided to fill the gap for Big Sky. She owned a coffee stand in the Exxon Mobile parking lot off Highway 191 before buying Caliber and understands the importance of locals in building and maintaining a successful business.

“If you can get the local base, they can get you through the offseason,” Alexander said. “You’ll have the tourists, but the locals are who make you.”

Alexander thinks vehicle traffic from park visitors will help business, too. In turn, the café might be a bonus for other Big Horn center businesses while bringing another breakfast spot back to Big Sky.

“I can’t wait till that restaurant opens,” Fabozzi said. “They’re success is going to definitely help us, and vice versa. That’s how commerce works—the more the merrier.”



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Chefs are like hostage negotiators



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

One of the articles I had the most fun writing for EBS, well two actually, was quite a while ago when I compared a restaurant to a chess game. In the follow up, I compared patrons to the other side of the board. This comparison may seem like a stretch as you read the title of this article but stay with me.

In late June I attended a two-day tour of the Two Creek Monture Ranch just outside of Ovando, Montana. The guest of honor was Wayne Slaght, the 2018 recipient of the Environmental Stewardship Award for the state of Montana.

Among the attendees were stock growers, seed growers, a fifth-generation Montana lumber mill owner, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks staff, an initiative manager for the World Wildlife Fund, other Montana ranchers, a Montana Forest Collaboration coordinator, and many more from diverse backgrounds.

Several in attendance were scheduled to speak to the group. With a wide range of disciplines, the message was clear; everyone was connected in a chain of professional and ethical responsibility. Being the only culinarian, my wheels began to turn, and it occurred to me that often times, a chef is the only liaison between the general public and many of the afore mentioned.

Imagine a bank being robbed and the bank customers are restaurant customers, or the general public. Think of the bank robber as those conscious diners who are tired of where their food comes from or are tired of how their food is prepared. Or maybe, more accurately, what has been done to it.

Now picture local police as your regional farmers, ranchers and dairy producers. The FBI might represent big food and big agriculture, like Kraft, General Mills and Nestle. A small grower may hand off his or her product never knowing what becomes of it after it leaves their care—much like federal authorities would take over a hostage situation. Local law enforcement, aka ranchers and farmers, almost never have communication or any contact at all with the restaurant patron, or hostage, to use my analogy.

That’s where the chef comes in. The hostage negotiator that, as the end user of what they are providing, gets all of this information and has to disseminate and distill it down to something useable, and a wholesome product that you should want to eat.

The local police or sheriff may have a process or procedure they follow. And sometimes those steps may get trampled when someone bigger, like the FBI, steps in and takes over. We’ve all heard it in movies: “Thanks but we’ll take it from here,” only to leave the local authorities dejected and frustrated.

Similarly, a rancher takes great pride and care in the livestock he raises only to send it off to a feed lot for finishing. Here, they have no control or voice as to what happens to their precious commodity and how it is treated.

That hostage negotiator can sometimes be the holder that the hostages know and trust. That’s where the trust in your chef comes in. We are always trying to gather information, acquire more knowledge, and seek out better ways of doing things.

Just as the negotiator is the one with no gun and no back up, approaching the glass doors of the bank armed only with what they have told by the police and FBI, so to, is the chef left with information or a story to tell the guest. And sometimes when you walk into a crowded dining room, it can feel like walking up to those glass bank doors.

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



From Jackie *with love*



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

Did you know that a “black box” warning label is the most serious type of warning in prescription drug labeling? To my surprise, in 2004, the Food and Drug Administration mandated that the manufacturers of antidepressant drugs use it.

When giant personalities like Robin Williams, Chris Cornell, Kate Spade and Anthony Bourdain take their own lives, we’re touched in deep and profound ways. And, unfortunately, many of us have lost people we personally knew and loved. But questions keep coming up for me like: Why does suicide seem to be on the rise? Is it because we’re not hiding it like we used to? Is it becoming more acceptable in our culture? Is it due to a lack of purpose and belonging? Is it because so many of us are on antidepressants?

That last question keeps me up at night. After the deaths of Spade and Bourdain, it seemed timely to look into it further and write about it here. I don’t know if either Spade or Bourdain were on antidepressants when they committed suicide, but according to news reports, both had been treated for depression.

The following is a warning from the FDA listing side effects of antidepressants classified as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) more commonly known as Zoloft, Paxil, Prozac, Celexa, Lexapro, and Luvoxare, among others:

“The following symptoms, anxiety, agitation, panic attacks, insomnia, irritability, hostility, aggressiveness, impulsivity, akathisia (psychomotor restlessness), hypomania, and mania, have been reported in adult and pediatric patients being treated with antidepressants for major depressive disorder as well as for other indications, both psychiatric and nonpsychiatric. Although a causal link between the emergence of such symptoms and either the worsening of depression and/or the emergence of suicidal impulses has not been established, there is concern that such symptoms may represent precursors to emerging suicidality.”

They go on to recommend close monitoring of those on antidepressants, but this gives me pause. Is it really possible to monitor someone at all times? Furthermore, there are reports of SSRI-induced suicides and homicides where the patient seemed fine before they committed violent acts against themselves or others.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the number of people being prescribed antidepressants increased by 65 percent between 1999 and 2014. That means about one in eight people are using medications. Coinciding with this, the CDC has reported a 24 percent increase in the annual rate of suicide. It is also worth noting that at least 35 offenders charged with school shootings/school related violence are reported to have been taking, or withdrawing from, psychiatric drugs.

And as far as general public safety, did you know that SSRIs also warn against driving vehicles while on their drugs? In a study published in 2017 by PubMed Central, antidepressants were associated with approximately 40-percent increased crash risk.

Emotional numbness, sexual problems like erectile dysfunction, blurred vision, constipation and weight gain are also some unseemly potential side effects.

Depression is a complex issue. It is often caused by one or more of the following issues: trouble sleeping (note that SSRIs may cause insomnia), stressors like feeling overwhelmed, poor nutrition, toxicity (from mold, heavy metals, hormone disruptors, pesticides), digestive problems (SSRIs can also cause constipation), lack of or too much exercise, hormonal imbalance, unhealthy thinking patterns, genetics, and neurotransmitter imbalance.

The serious side effects of ‘happy pills’

While I have to believe that antidepressants do help people, since they’re prescribed to approximately 13 percent of our population, it seems that psychiatrists would do well by taking a very holistic approach to depression by getting to the root of the problem and treating the underlying cause before prescribing drugs whenever possible.

Those currently on antidepressants are advised not to go off of them without medical supervision as withdrawal symptoms can be severe. Quitting an antidepressant suddenly may cause anxiety, insomnia, headaches, dizziness, irritability, flu-like symptoms, nausea, electric shock sensations and the return of depression symptoms.

I’m grateful that discussions about mental illness, suicide and the use of antidepressants are losing the stigma they once had. But we still have a long way to go.

Unfortunately, depression often causes people to feel isolated and they shut themselves off from the world rather than reach out and talk about it. If you notice someone showing isolating behavior, please find a way to connect with them and share your unconditional love. Don’t take their distance personally. There’s a good chance they’re suffering, and the last thing they need is to feel judgement and anger from those closest to them.

If you’re thinking about suicide, call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline anytime at (800) 273-8255. These people care and can help.

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.

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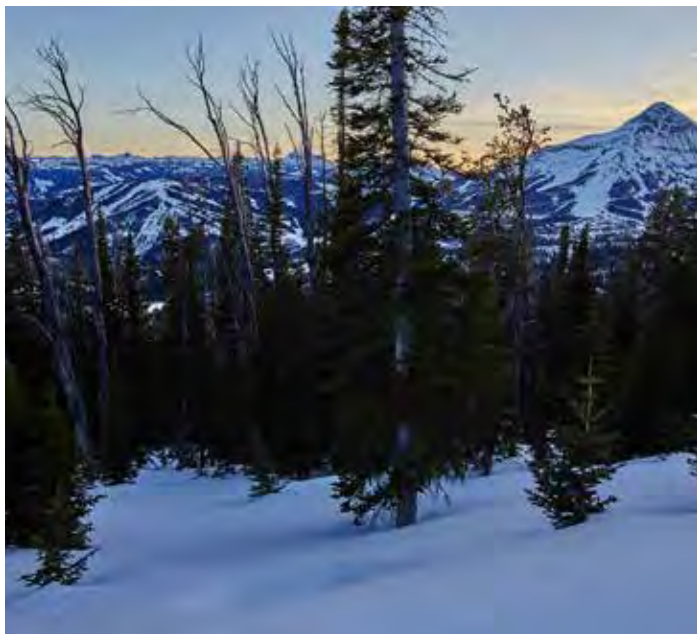
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INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



The '88 fires 30 years later

BY STEPHEN CAMELIO
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The fires of 1988 that burned 1.4 million acres in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem—including 793,880 acres in the national park—were the result of a perfect storm of environmental and human factors. You name it—whatever Mother Nature needed to create a large-scale fire event was present during that summer 30 years ago.

Unusually high winds. Drought conditions. Heavy, dry fuel accumulations. Low humidity at night. A higher-than-usual number of fires caused by lightning—39 compared to the average yearly total of 26—plus six fires caused by humans. Another five fires originated outside and burned into the park. With all these factors at play, it's easy to see why, at the time, it required the largest fire-fighting effort in U.S. history to battle the blazes. Appropriately, the environment that created this inferno also put it out when snow blanketed the park during the second week of September.

During and shortly after the fires, as images of one of the nation's most revered natural landscapes being burned to a crisp captivated the world, National Park Service officials were heavily criticized in the press and by politicians for letting nature take its course.

Even President Ronald Reagan weighed in, calling what everyone dubbed the "Let it Burn" fire policy "a cockamamie idea." Still, while the public and uninitiated were taken aback by the size of the fire, not everyone was surprised.

Renowned Yellowstone naturalist Paul Schullery noted that only months before the fires of 1988, fire and plant ecologists had reported that the

Yellowstone area historically involved many small fires interspersed every 200–400 years by massive fires that swept across large portions of the park. The last major burn had happened in the 1730s, meaning Yellowstone was ready for another major burning cycle.

It didn't take long for the park's fire policy, which had been in place since the early 1970s, to "maintain the ecological role of fire by allowing natural processes to occur with a minimum of human influence," to be proven right—as anyone who came to Yellowstone would soon see.

"There was a lot of rhetoric about the park never being the same," said Roy Renkin, who fought fires in Yellowstone in college before spending the last 40 years in the park as a vegetation management specialist. "But the people in the park who understood fire history had expectations about what would happen next."

These folks knew that the positive results of fire in Yellowstone included opening up the serotinous cones of the lodgepole pines, allowing for new trees to grow. Plus, fire opens up forest canopies to allow new plant communities to flourish. The burn also released nutrients from fallen trees and dead vegetation, which increased the productivity of soil.

It was also noted the animals in the park were largely unaffected by the flames, and many—save the moose which prefers old growth forests—benefited after the fact. The burn created new feeding opportunities for birds and grazing animals as well as the species that prey on them.

In 1989, a then-record 2.7 million visitors flocked to Yellowstone to learn how the fire had affected the park, and learning more about the area's ecology actually increased the public's interest in the park.



"The '88 fire was a reaffirmation that fire was what this landscape needed, and it was a great opportunity to get that message out," says John Cataldo, Yellowstone's fire management officer.

For the time being, the park strategy remains to stay out of nature's way unless it endangers human lives, livelihoods, or cultural and historical landmarks. The park also suppresses any fires caused by humans, and those that threaten the safety of the park. The remaining fires are managed for resource and ecological benefit.

"The plants and animal communities have been adapting and evolving for a millennia to different compositions of vegetation," Cataldo says. "So as long as we keep Yellowstone wild, we'll be doing the right thing."

Stephen Camelio is a freelance writer living in Bozeman, Montana. His work has appeared in Men's Journal, Runner's World, Field & Stream, and Fly Rod & Reel. An extended version of this article was originally published in the Spring 2018 issue of Yellowstone Quarterly. Visit yellowstone.org for more information.

Learning center proposed in West Yellowstone

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – The West Entrance to Yellowstone National Park is the busiest gateway to Yellowstone. As such, the town of West Yellowstone sees an influx of thousands of visitors each year. Within the town itself, local attractions include the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center, Yellowstone Historic Center Museum, Playmill Theatre and Yellowstone Giant Screen.

A recently updated proposal would add to these facilities, establishing a unique science and swim center for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.

Robert Lindstrom, a resident of West Yellowstone and the author of “Laboratory Yellowstone and the DNA Revolution: A Field Guide to Thermophiles,” is spearheading the project, to be named the Thermus Aquaticus Learning and Swim Center. It has been proposed as an opportunity to connect residents, park visitors, universities, researchers and educators.

The idea emerged nearly a decade ago to construct a high-end swimming facility in West Yellowstone. The original prospectus, prepared by Deb and Schott Clark, includes a handful of dedicated pools, from competition and lap, to children’s, as well as a full gym and restaurant.

In recent months, however, Lindstrom has partnered with the Clarks organizers to add another dimension to the project proposal. Under Lindstrom’s vision, the swim center would see the addition of a science center, complete with a lecture hall, teaching laboratory and reference library.

The facility, composed of an aqua park and education center, would focus on telling the story of *Thermus aquaticus*, a hot water microorganism discovered in Yellowstone by Thomas D. Brock in 1972. This thermophile has lent itself to important scientific research by enabling the development of the Polymerase Chain Reaction, which has allowed for ancestry DNA sequencing, personalized medicine, and more.

“*Thermus aquaticus* means ‘hot water’ in Greek,” Lindstrom said. “The Taq [*Thermus aquaticus*] Aqua Park will have hot pots resembling the natural hot springs of Yellowstone, as well as regulation-sized public swimming pools, a 100-foot waterslide, and other exercise programs for our winter-bound residents.”

After organizing as a nonprofit, directors of the Thermus Aquaticus Learning and Swim Center are seeking funding and support for the venture.

Pierre Martineu, a member of the West Yellowstone Town Council, said he appreciates the idea but has concerns regarding its sustainability.

“It’s a great idea on paper, but we’re worried it doesn’t pencil out,” he said on behalf of the Town Council. “I think it could be a nice addition to the town if it is scaled down and managed properly.”

Martineu added that West Yellowstone is a tourism-driven economy relying on the Yellowstone National Park visitor season. Should the facility come to fruition, he worries about what would happen during the shoulder seasons when few visitors come to the area.

“We are a very cyclical economy,” he said. “The problem is the park closes ... and nothing else is going on.”

Marysue Costello, the director of the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce, agreed that there could be challenges, but said she is in support of the project. Costello recently submitted a letter of support to the project organizers on behalf of the chamber, which will be used to secure funding.

“It could provide an additional activity for people,” she said. “The educational component gives it a different cachet. Universities could get involved. ... It certainly could be a great thing.”

She added that West Yellowstone is a great place for a science center like the one proposed, as “some of the best thermal features are within 30 to 40 miles from here.”

In terms of employment, Costello said it’s a challenge for every business in town, but the situation could be different for the science and swim center. “I think because of what the focus is, you might have a pool of employees that would be interested in the educational aspect,” she said. “You may open the door to a pool of employees that [other employers] may not.”

In addition to requests for letters of support, the nonprofit’s board of directors is seeking funding from Hoffmann-La Roche, a Swiss pharmaceutical company who owns the U.S. patent for *Thermus aquaticus* DNA polymerase.



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In Yellowstone, one geyser’s trash is an MSU researcher’s treasure

MARSHALL SWEARINGEN
MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN — As tourists gathered on a cool June morning to view some of Yellowstone National Park’s most iconic geysers, Montana State University researchers took to the boardwalks for another purpose: to collect trash that could lead to new ways of recycling plastic.

Steam from nearby Old Faithful billowed in the breeze as the researchers shuffled past geyser-gazers, fixing their attention instead on the shallow, orange-tinted waters surrounding the thermal features.

“There’s a bottled water lid!” exclaimed Megan Udeck, a junior from Missoula who is majoring in biotechnology at MSU.

That cued Russell Bair, one of two park rangers accompanying the crew, to extend his trash-picker and pluck the small cap from the mineral-encrusted rivulet. Udeck and two other students waited with rubber-gloved hands to receive the quarry.

“The trash in these springs could be a natural medium for microbes that could break down plastics,” explained trip leader Dana Skorupa, an assistant research professor in MSU’s Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering. Moreover, she said, because the organisms live in near-boiling water, it means they likely can withstand the heat that helps plastics soften and become easier to break down.

Recently, when Skorupa and other researchers in MSU’s Thermal Biology Institute and Center for Biofilm Engineering collected water samples from Yellowstone hot springs and inserted small pieces of certain plastics back in the lab, they observed microbes colonizing the material. The team’s Yellowstone foray in June marked their first attempt to collect additional microbes that may already be thriving on various plastics, and then further cultivate them in the lab, Skorupa said.

The project’s principal investigator and director of MSU’s Thermal Biology Institute, Brent Peyton, is optimistic that they might find microbes that could naturally break down plastics into their raw ingredients, which could then be used to make other plastic products.

“There’s a huge diversity of organisms in the hot springs, much higher than we originally thought,” Peyton said. While hot springs may often appear to be devoid of life, a sugar cube-sized portion of water from some Yellowstone thermal features can contain as many as a million cells of bacteria and archaea, he said.

For the rangers, the June outing was a normal morning. Each day they walk the boardwalks throughout Yellowstone, collecting a variety of trash—windblown wrappers, dropped cups, even coins and other objects ceremonially tossed into hot pools.

“We get some interesting stuff,” Bair said, adding that he was glad that the plastic from the day’s cleaning would go to beneficial use.



Dana Skorupa, assistant research professor in MSU’s Center for Biofilm Engineering, holds a collection of microbes sampled from Yellowstone National Park thermal features. PHOTO BY ADRIAN SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ

Around the time Old Faithful spurted skyward, the four scientists spotted a camouflage ball cap in a trickle of geyser runoff. Skorupa used a sterilized pair of heavy scissors to cut two small sections from the plastic in the hat’s bill. Ashlyn Hemmah, a sophomore, helped prepare the samples for the trip back to the lab: one into a cooler of dry ice to be frozen for DNA analysis, the other packaged with hand-warmers to keep warm for cultivation.

“There’s a spoon out there!” said Noelani Boise, a senior double-majoring in environmental biology and German. Having grown up in Paradise Valley, she was inspired from a young age to become a scientist in Yellowstone. “I’m excited to be doing this,” she said.

The three students working on the project were selected to work in Peyton and Skorupa’s lab after taking a course in MSU’s Honors College called Extreme Microbiology of Yellowstone. The class, taught by Skorupa, gives students hands-on field and laboratory experience with the microbes from Yellowstone’s unique geothermal hot springs.

As the researchers completed their half-mile boardwalk loop, Skorupa said she was pleased with the samples taken, which included various wrappers and other bits of plastic. The rangers carried a bucket full of non-plastic litter.

“I love learning about this kind of stuff,” said Udeck, enveloped in sulfury steam. “And how cool would it be if we found something that could break down plastic?”

Small lightning-caused fire burns in Hayden Valley

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – A small wildfire in Hayden Valley continued to smoke in Yellowstone National Park at EBS press time on July 18. Smoke from the lightning-caused fire was spotted from the lookout on Mount Washburn on July 10 and has been monitored daily.

In an initial statement sent by the park, officials said smoke could be visible from the Grand Loop Road between Canyon Village and Mud Volcano. However, on July 17, Public Affairs Specialist Morgan Warthin said the smoke was beginning to subside and was no longer visible from the road.

This is the first fire the park has experienced in 2018, and according to Warthin, a downed tree is on fire, burning an estimated 0.1 acre in Hayden Valley, which did not burn during the ’88 fires.

“At this point in time, I think our fire staff does not anticipate the fire moving,” she said.

Officials said in the statement that the Hayden Fire does not pose a threat to park visitors.

Last year, eight fires burned less than 1 acre in total, with the first fire igniting on May 13 due to human causes.

Visit [nps.gov/yell/learn/management/currentfireactivity.htm](https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/management/currentfireactivity.htm) to stay informed on current fire activity in Yellowstone.



A lightning-caused fire in the Hayden Valley was spotted on July 10 and continues to be monitored. As of EBS press time on July 18, park officials did not feel the fire posed a threat to visitors. NPS PHOTO

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Inside the Big Sky

A touch of native history

VISIT BIG SKY

During June of this year, the Big Sky Visitor’s Center greeted almost 1,000 visitors, guests from Alaska to Florida, India, Romania, China and beyond. Like most of the locals, folks come for Montana’s natural beauty and outdoor adventure opportunities, but the tradition of exploring our region spans back millennia.

Archeologists have found evidence of humans occupying the Greater Yellowstone area 11,000 years ago in the form of tools and bones. The exciting discoveries of bows and arrows, sheep traps and bison corrals from approximately 3,000 years ago provide a more in-depth understanding of ancient communities. At least 26 Native American tribes have historic connections to Yellowstone National Park.

During your next visit, stop by Obsidian Cliff, between Norris Geyser Basin and Mammoth Hot Springs and while marveling at its unique beauty, take time to read the signage about its historical importance as the premiere site for arrowhead creation. Archeological and geological evidence has been able to prove that this cliff has been used in toolmaking for 11,000 years. Even more fascinating, these ancient tools have been found in archeological sites as far away as the Ohio River Valley which speaks to the impressive trade routes of the time.

The spirit of the West is still reflected in the numbers of visitors that come to the Greater Yellowstone region annually. People past and present enjoy visiting



Human occupation of the Greater Yellowstone dates back at least 11,000 years, Yellowstone National Park’s Obsidian Cliff was a highly prolific site of arrowhead creation. CC PHOTO

geysers, conducting ceremonies and gatherings, hunting and trading. To learn and experience more about area history, the Yellowstone Forever Institute offers year-round programs highlighting the park’s rich history.

Visit yellowstone.org for more information about educational opportunities in the park. For more information about Big Sky and southwest Montana, visit Visit Big Sky’s blog at visitbigskymt.com/category/blog/.

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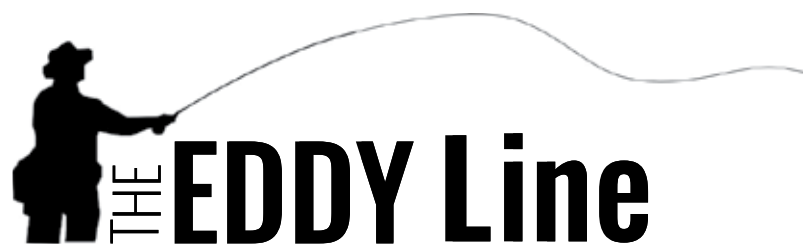


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Understand rise forms and catch more fish

BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

At the boat ramp, after a day of rowing on the Yellowstone River's big water, my anglers commented on how great the dry-fly takes had been throughout the day.

"That big brown trout," a tall Texan began in a slow drawl, "snarfled my dry fly like a college frat boy shotgunning a can of PBR."

We all laughed, but he was right—trout takes can easily be compared to how we dine, or enjoy adult beverages. From the subtle sipping, like enjoying an 18-year-old scotch, to the guzzling of a macro-brew, trout enjoy their fare differently during different hatches and conditions. Here's some help to decipher what trout may be eating based on their rise form.

Not all rise forms are the same, and not all occur on the surface.

Generally, a rise form is when we see a trout feed near, or at the surface. As opportunistic feeders, trout will enjoy the most readily available food source. However, they are also aware of predators from above such as birds or anglers. Rise forms run the gamut from splashy surface-breaking eats, to small dimples just below the surface causing a slight disturbance on the water.

Splashy, aggressive rises usually mean one of two things: fish are eating caddis adults, or they're chasing emerging caddis or mayflies. Prior to adult caddis or mayflies floating on the surface, they emerge through the water column. Trout see this happening and chase the emerging insects—like you reaching out with your chopsticks as the server prematurely removes the plate with the last spicy tuna roll. Trout often feed on the insects prior to them breaking the surface, but when a trout is chasing an emerging insect, its momentum often forces the fish to break the surface.

Watch for dancing bugs.

Caddis, once hatched, bounce on the water's surface to lay more eggs. When trout feel comfortable, or they just can't take it anymore—like humans with the smell of fresh French fries from the drive-through—a hungry fish will break the surface to snatch up a dancing caddis.

Trout snouts and gentle rises mean mayflies are on the menu.

During an emergence of mayflies—and currently Pale Morning Duns and Drakes are out on our local rivers—trout feed with confidence on the surface-riding adult insects. In most instances you can see the adult mayflies on the surface, as their upright wings look like tiny sailboats bobbing along.

Adult mayflies cannot fly until their wings are dry. Because of this they ride along the surface for a brief period of time, allowing a trout ample time to inspect and decide if that insect is the individual fly they want to eat at the moment—like when you're at an all you can eat buffet, choosing between the surf-and-turf or the carved prime rib.

If you see dimples or a dorsal fin, trout are still rising, they're just not as easy to catch as you'd like. As mayflies, caddis and midges emerge, trout feed on them as they change from nymph

to adult. Think of this as grazing on the turkey before it's out of the kitchen and on the Thanksgiving dinner table.

Emerging insects, and the trout that feed on them, will be just under the surface. When this occurs, choose flies that are sparsely tied, such as an RS2 emerger or a sparkle caddis. The challenge is seeing the fly and the trout rise at the same time. Therefore, a two-fly rig with a higher-riding dry fly and the emerging dry-fly pattern is the most successful.

The basketball rise form.

Hoppers and stoneflies such as salmon, nocturnal and golden, all make up a trout's diet. When trout eat these insects, the rise form is rarely subtle or calculated. It is aggressive and exciting—like someone dropping a basketball into the water. When this occurs, the fish usually hooks itself and its time to strip in slack line and enjoy the ride.

The best anglers anticipate the basketball rise form by understanding where this exciting rise may occur, as trout that eat these insects are in areas where they can ambush the large floating bugs: drop-offs from shallow riffles into deeper water, along undercut banks or overhanging trees or structure, or—like the big brown trout caught by the tall Texan—among deep willows in high water.

As our rivers drop and clear, learning to read rise forms becomes more important each day. Fishing tandem nymph rigs below an indicator may be the most efficient way to pad the numbers and is akin to shotgunning Jaeger bombs due to peer pressure. But I'd much rather have a trout snarfle or sip my dry fly, because I've never liked the morning after drinking Jaeger bombs, and peer pressure never bothered me.

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.



Dry-fly takes are an exciting part of fly fishing, and trout will rise differently based on the available food on the water's surface. Learn to decipher the various rise forms and catch more fish. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES



RESORT ROUNDUP

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

WORD FROM THE RESORT



Training camp prepares athletes for traversing Lone Mountain

The Rut Training Camp isn't for the faint of heart. Geared to help prepare those wishing to compete in the annual Rut Mountain Run, this weekend workshop July 27-29 includes guided navigation through some of The Rut's toughest sections, including the Lone Peak Summit, Headwaters Ridge and Bonecrusher Ridge. Registration for this camp is closed, with 20 participants signed up. Pictured are participants in last year's Rut Mountain Run. PHOTO BY CODY WHITMER



Rugged Montana Enduro biking challenge returns to Big Sky

Described by event organizers as presenting some of the gnarliest terrain raced on last year, Lone Peak's Revenge returns this year on July 29 as one of six extreme mountain bike challenges, together referred to as the Montana Enduro Series. Registration is available online at montanaenduro.com. PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTANA BICYCLE GUILD



Montana's craft beer is showcased once again

The 13th annual Big Sky Brewfest returns to Big Sky Resort on July 21 at 4 p.m., with over 30 breweries offering up their very best. New this year, enjoy unlimited samples while local band The Well cranks up the tunes. While you must be 21 to sample, this is a family-friendly event with a variety of kids' activities added to the mix. PHOTOS BY GABE PRIESTLEY



SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT BIG SKY RESORT

GOLF: Enjoy the game at the Big Sky Resort Golf Course this summer and participate in a variety of clinics or compete in one of many tournaments. Clinics are held weekly on Tuesdays and Saturdays. For a complete schedule of events at the Big Sky Resort Golf Course, visit bigskyresort.com/while-youre-here/summer-activities/golf.

MOUNTAIN BIKING: Explore over 40 miles of bike trails. Enjoy the advanced and expert downhill trails off Thunder Wolf and Swift Current lifts and beginner and intermediate routes off Explorer lift.

LONE PEAK EXPEDITION: Enjoy a guided trip to the top of Lone Mountain, where you'll take chairlift, expedition vehicle and tram all the way to the summit. You'll be able to enjoy views from 11,166 feet!

ZIPLINE TOURS: Ride up and down on one of Big Sky Resort's two ziplines. Enjoy the Adventure Zipline made for speed, or take the family-friendly Nature Zipline.

SCENIC LIFT RIDE: Take Swift Current or Explorer chairlift to get a bird's-eye view of the mountains surrounding Big Sky.

ADVENTURE MOUNTAIN: Find fun for the whole family at Adventure Mountain at Big Sky Resort. Hop on the bungee trampoline, mine for gemstones, try out the climbing wall, or get a rush on the giant swing.

HIKING: Take a scenic lift ride up the mountain, then enjoy a leisurely hike down to the base at Big Sky Resort. You can also participate in a number of guided hikes on Huckleberry Trail, around Lake Levinsky or along Moose Tracks Trail.

ARCHERY: Try out Big Sky Resort's archery course, and learn to shoot a Genesis compound bow.

DISC GOLF: Enjoy disc golf at the base of Mountain Village. You can play on your own time and either hike or take a chairlift to access the intermediate/advanced 9-hole Explorer course.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JULY 20-22
Total Archery Challenge

The 3D archery challenge sponsored by Yeti and produced by Mtn Ops is a family-friendly 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, and alpine ridge lines all the way to the summit of Lone Mountain.

SEPT. 28
Summer Closing Day

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.

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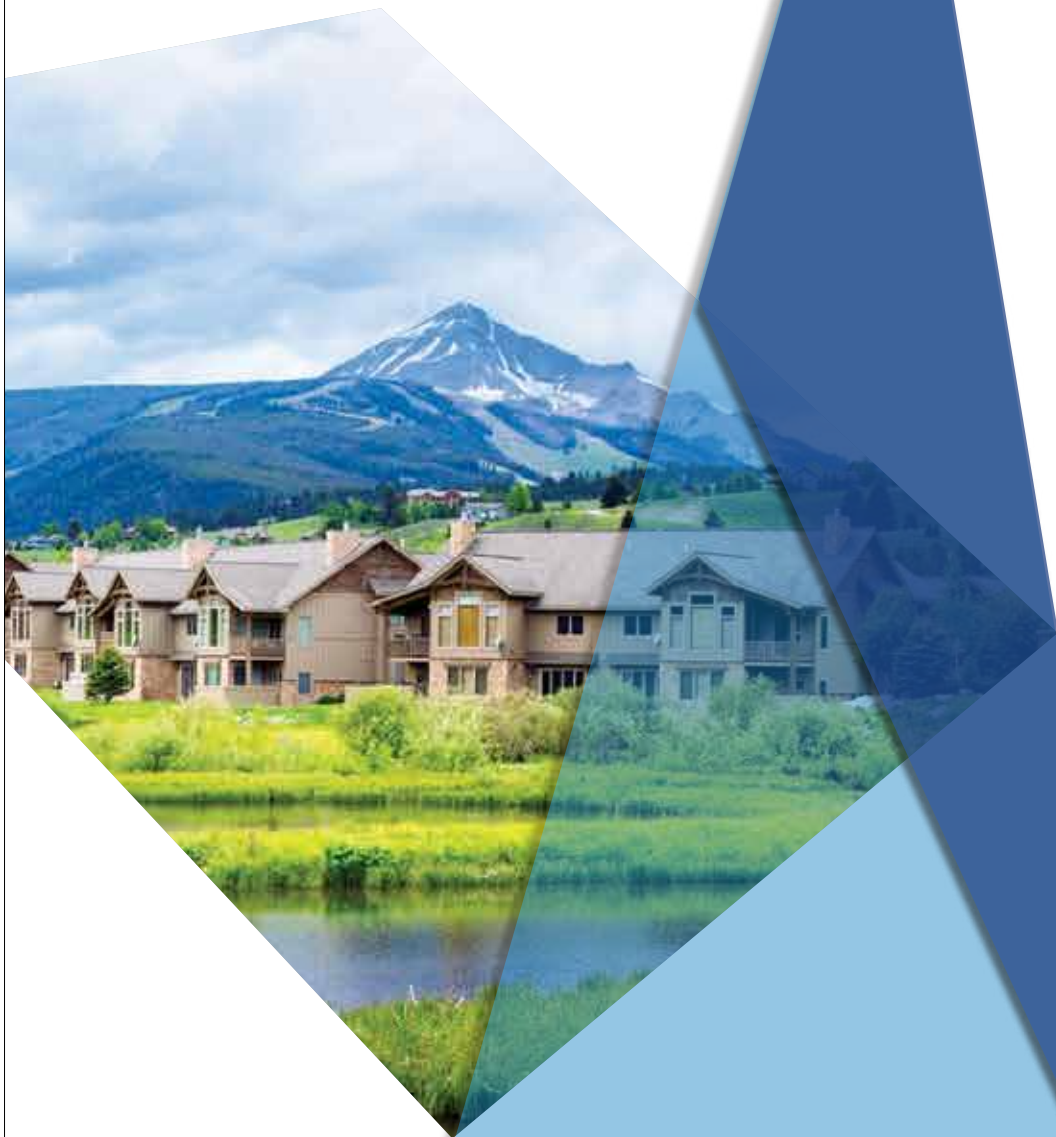
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EVENTS • JULY 2018

- JULY 25** | 10th Annual Big Sky Farmers Market (Fire Pit Park 5-8 PM) & Big Sky PBR Street Dance Presented By LEVI'S ((FREE 7 PM on Town Center Ave.)
- JULY 26** | PBR Day 1: 3rd Annual Art Auction (FREE at Arena Tent 3-6 PM), Touring Pro Division Bull Riding (6-8 PM) & FREE Music in the Mtns PBR Kickoff Concert Featuring: Shovels & Rope (FREE 8 PM at Center Stage)
- JULY 27** | PBR Day 2: Touring Pro Division Bull Riding (5-9 PM) & PBR After Party Concert Featuring: Steel Woods (9 PM at SAV Stage)
- JULY 28** | PBR Day 3: Touring Pro Division Bull Riding (5-9 PM) & PBR After Party Concert Featuring: Thunderpussy (9 PM at SAV Stage)
- JULY 31** | Shakespeare In The Parks: Love's Labor's Lost (FREE 5:30 PM at Center Stage)

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The Yellowstone River is back in action after a big runoff, spruce moths will be hitting a river near you in the coming days and high mountain creeks and lakes are in their prime.

The Gallatin is in great shape and we should see some of the best dry fly fishing of the season in the coming days. Before the spruce moths really take over PMDs, rusty spinners, purple parachutes and other small attractors will rule the dry fly game. Nymph fishing will be a mixed bag of patterns mostly in the 16-18 size range. Pheasant Tails, serendipities, Lightning Bugs and similar patterns will be

the flies of choice subsurface. The canyon will see the majority of the pressure over the next couple of weeks, so heading south of Big Sky towards or even into Yellowstone National Park will offer a little break from the crowds. Playing around with smaller terrestrials, such as grasshoppers and ants are a good idea as well.

We're glad to see the Yellowstone drop and become a good option for float anglers again. It should relieve some of the pressure from the upper Madison and open up some great fishing opportunities for the remainder of the summer.

Mid summer on the upper Madison typically means dragging small streamers and nymphs out of the boat or head hunting in the walk wade section for big fish sipping dries. Bugs are much the same as the Gallatin, but upper Madison fish tend to be a bit more selective. On the surface PMDs, caddis, hoppers and some spruce moths will be the primary menu items. Getting to the river early and/or late can really give you an edge as well.

We're entering one of the busiest times of year on our local waters. If you want a little more space to yourself I suggest finding some high mountain creeks or lakes or doing a little hiking to get a little distance between you and other anglers. Also, most anglers tend to fish the water along the banks, so getting out into the middle of the river will get into some less pressured fish.

Have fun and be kind to other anglers.

Pale Morning Dun



Purple Cripple



Spruce Moth



T Midge



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On the Trail: First Yellow Mule

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

BY CIARA WOLFE
BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

First Yellow Mule is Big Sky’s off-the-beaten-path river walk. If you enjoy the Ousel Falls scenery but are looking for a more secluded hike with a little more difficulty, this is the trail for you. First Yellow Mule is one of the closest access points into the Custer Gallatin National Forest from Big Sky and leads to Buck’s Ridge Trail and Second Yellow Mule, both of which are longer and more difficult.

Starting from the Ousel Falls trailhead, this 4-mile out-and-back trail travels through rolling terrain along the South Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin River.

From the Ousel Falls trailhead, you’ll walk .5 miles on a wide gravel trail until you hit the well-marked turnoff to First Yellow Mule. Stay to the left and you’ll climb a couple of short switchbacks and then meander along the west side of the river for over a mile.

Along the way, you’ll pass the top of Ousel Falls and travel past beautiful swimming holes. You’ll also pass under the impressive Big EZ vehicle bridge, and cross three smaller bridges. As you start to meander away from the river, you’ll begin a short climb ending at a road crossing.

Once you’ve crossed the road, the remaining .75 miles climbs steadily through switchbacks and straightaways and passes a large boulder field. At the intersection with Bucks Ridge Trail, you can return the same way you came for the shortest and least technical trail. Alternatively, you can continue up the Bucks Ridge Trail for an additional 5 miles to the top of the ridge, or turn your hike into a loop by descending Second Yellow Mule Trail.

Keep your eye out for the Ralph’s Pass Trail extension, which opened last summer. It connects First Yellow Mule to Ralph’s Pass, allowing bikers and runners to stay off the popular and heavily-used Ousel Falls Trail and continue directly onto an additional 3 miles of trail that ultimately tie into Uplands Trail near Town Center.

First Yellow Mule is one of the only trails in the area that allows horses, and it’s also a popular mountain biking trail. Please respect trail etiquette and other users by practicing proper right-of-way. Bikers yield to hikers and both bikers and hikers yield to horseback riders.

Visit bscomt.org for more information about Big Sky’s parks, trails and recreation programs. 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.

A version of this article was first published in the May 12, 2017, edition of EBS.



Hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders who venture up First Yellow Mule Trail can enjoy beautiful scenery without the crowds that are drawn to an adjoining trail to Ousel Falls. PHOTO BY CIARA WOLFE



BIG SKY
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

TRAIL STATS

Distance	Uses	Difficulty	Elevation	Surface
4 miles out and back	hike, run, bike and horse	difficult	575 feet gain	dirt

Directions: From Town Center, head south on Ousel Falls Road. Continue for approximately 2 miles and turn left into the Ousel Falls trailhead parking lot.

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BIG SKY CHAMBER

Training tips for The Rut

THE MOUNTAIN PROJECT

Every year, thousands of runners from around the world descend on Big Sky Resort to compete in The Rut Mountain Runs, and tackle some of the toughest terrain in the world. Many of the courses—which include a 50K, 28K, Vertical K, 11K and a child’s race—take racers to the top of Lone Peak at 11,166 feet.

For the many regional competitors in Big Sky and beyond, The Mountain Project in Bozeman—the official training gym of The Rut—has shared some tips on how to prepare for this September’s race.

Train with specificity and purpose. Focus on spending time on your feet and vertical gain and descent rather than building up to a total mileage. When it comes to mountain running, accumulating multiple hours on your feet running and hiking in terrain specific to your race is vital. Get used to hiking up steep, rocky terrain, hammering the quads on steep descents, and running along technical, exposed ridgelines.

Train your gut as you would your body. Though it varies for every runner, a general rule of thumb is to eat 100-200 calories of quick-digesting carbohydrates (gels, gummies, candy, etc.) every 45-60 minutes for events lasting longer than one hour. For events lasting longer than four hours, try to incorporate more whole foods like tortilla with honey and banana, peanut butter and jelly, and white rice with salt. And don’t forget about hydration and electrolytes. We need to replenish everything we sweat out, especially sodium. Practice eating and drinking the way you will on race day and figure out what works and what doesn’t. Your stomach adapts and becomes stronger just as your body does.

Incorporate strength-training to build strength, durability, and prevent injury. Aim for 45 minutes to an hour of strength exercises one-to-two times per



The Rut Mountain Runs will take place at Big Sky Resort from Aug. 31 to Sept. 2. The races are sold out but spectators are encourage to ride the lifts to mountainside viewing sites and to bring their cowbells and elk horns to spur on the racers. PHOTO BY CODY WHITMER

week leading up to The Rut. Focus on core, single leg work, eccentric leg exercises, and glute and hip stability. If you haven’t been doing strength work regularly, reach out to a professional trainer and begin with a light regimen so your muscles have time to adapt and can stay fresh during your daily runs.

Don’t forget about recovery. Training hard leads to adaptation but without proper rest and recovery, your training will plateau and eventually decline. Depending on your level of fitness, include one-to-two rest days per week that focus on stretching and mobility. Incorporate lighter, recovery weeks—less time on your feet, sleeping more, eating nourishing, whole foods—into your training every four-to-six weeks to give your body a break and prevent burnout.

Stay consistent. ‘Nuff said.

Train the mind to become comfortable with the uncomfortable. Anything can happen in a mountain race. You’ll float through being in the flow to enduring some Type 2 Fun—suffering through the present, but smiling about it after. Accept that you won’t be able to control everything—except your mindset. Leading up to The Rut, train your mind, just as you do your body, to endure the lows to get to the highs. Go into race day with a positive attitude and your body will follow.

Above all else ... have fun, work hard, and enjoy being in the mountains.

If you need guidance with your training or have questions, contact Mike, Emily or Colleen at The Mountain Project. Visit mountainproject.com for more information. Visit runtherut.com for details about the 2018 race.

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BACK 40

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

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

Outdoor recreational spirit of Big Sky inspires a start-up

HYDEOUTS

There's something that happens when we go outdoors. For some, it's a sense of calm. For others, excitement. Still others, devotion. It's breathing fresh air, the Big Sky way. This feeling calls us outside to play, to connect, and to be more human.

Here at Hydeouts, we do not bemoan the modern conveniences of the day. Still, we believe it's important to hold on to our outdoors, onto the land that brings us to the source of our humanity. Look to our ski hills, our remote backcountry, and see that what Big Sky has is special. We must hold on, but we also must share.

But how? One answer resides in Georgia, of all places. But first, let's look to Chet Huntley, the NBC news caster from Montana, who saw potential in a huge mound of dirt and went on to establish Big Sky Resort. Over 40 years later, a woman named Bridgette Hyde has taken up Huntley's entrepreneurial spirit.

After joining the Big Sky community in 1988 and then attending Montana State University, Hyde spent 15 years in corporate finance and investments, a career that took her around the country. She carried the Big Sky magic with her and in each city she landed with a fruitless question, “Where can I find the outdoor space?”

Finally she realized she would have to create it herself. Her answer is Hydeouts, a 30-acre engineered outdoor recreation space designed to give urbanites the opportunity to experience what those living in the mountains get to enjoy every day. At this park, people will be able to burn legs on a climbing ascent, reach arms on a craggy rock wall, anticipate s'mores by a campfire, and find a community that connects over what it means to be human.

Big Sky country is less filled with buildings and obstruction and more with an open natural environment for recreation. Hydeouts is creating a seamless way to embrace the city and the outdoors. Living in the Atlanta suburbs shouldn't mean forsaking the surroundings of a ski resort. Leaving Montana shouldn't mean forfeiting the taste of a base-to-summit hike. Connecting with all facets of human potential should be part and parcel of living, even in cities.

How do you fit 30 acres into a well-established sprawl of buildings? You build it upward with the buildings themselves. Ten miles of hiking trails that climb upward toward the sky. While Hydeouts is about activity and pushing physical limits, it acknowledges that this is only part of the equation. Recreation and relaxation are also crucial. So, from inclining trails to climbing walls, group

fitness to lap pools, there are also spaces to decompress: fire pits, waterfalls, bonfires, green-space, cool pools, hot tubs—even après drinks.

Hydeouts is the an escape from busy urban environments, providing a place to disconnect by connecting with the outdoors. Runners, hikers, rock climbers, yogis, and outdoor enthusiasts will find their home base at Hydeouts. But, it's also for corporations, professionals, the work-weary, the dejected. It's food for those who hunger and a reminder for those who've forgotten or, worse, who've never known life in the outdoors.

Hydeouts aims to provide serious outdoor recreation in places that need it desperately. Hyde's first target? The improbable city of Alpharetta, Georgia, one of Atlanta's hottest suburbs. Thanks to Hyde, locals will discover outdoor space they have never had.

Many of us have relocated here from other places, so we remember that we are part of a whole. How can we empower the outdoors not just here, but in the places that need it most? Hydeouts is Hyde's tribute to Big Sky—home of her greatest life experiences and inspirations.

How else might we pay the Big Sky Magic forward?

Hydeouts is looking for partners and investors. Bridgette Hyde and team will be at the Big Sky PBR event July 26-28. Come visit and share Yellowstone Club and Big Sky stories, tell us about your adventures and travels, and the recreation needs in your city.

Visit hydeoutsadventures.com for more information.



A rendering of one of Hydeouts' urban “camping sites,” designed with a modern flair. PHOTO COURTESY OF HYDEOUTS

Section 5:

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Ali Darvish: Photography with impact

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – Ali Darvish exhibits both supreme confidence and utter humility, qualities that weave in and out of each other like quicksilver. Not to be confused with arrogance, his confidence seems a natural extension of a steadfast inner compass that keeps him anchored on a path of gratitude, service and humility.

With clients that include the National Football League and National Geographic magazine, and shooting assignments for the Carnival of Venice and the Olympic Games, the Iranian-born photographer has been successful in both the commercial and fine art sectors, but for Darvish, it has never been, nor will it ever be, about the money.

“For me the joy is meeting people,” said Darvish, whose personal projects are typically in service of a greater cause. “To share their story and inspire somebody to do something with their life.”

Having visited 92 countries, camera equipment in tow, Darvish is a reservoir of stories, and drawing from that deep well is how he answers most questions.

He brushes over the harrowing episodes—a plane crash over the Yukon River while shooting the Iditarod, imprisonment in Fidel Castro-era Cuba for suspected espionage, being robbed at machete-point—and focuses instead on the beauty he has experienced around the world, and in his stateside communities of Tampa, Florida, and New York City.

When he lost all of his camera equipment in the plane crash, and had no means to replace it, he took it as a sign from God that maybe he was supposed to give up photography.

However, all of his friends got together and presented him with enough gift cards to New York’s fabled photography outlet BNH to enable him to resume his passion.



Photographer Ali Darvish prefers to stay behind the lens, or in this case, the lion mask, which he donned to startle a group of zebras into looking his way. PHOTO COURTESY OF ALI DARVISH



“Graceful” is one of two photographs of the wild horses of Nova Scotia’s Sable Island that will be up for auction in the Big Sky Art Auction on July 26. PHOTO COURTESY OF CREIGHTON BLOCK GALLERY

From then on, Darvish has made it a priority to involve those who support his mission-based projects with the far-flung or closer-to-home communities they aim to benefit.

“America is the most generous country in the world,” he said. “But when they give, they [often] don’t know where it’s going.”

Darvish has traveled to places like Haiti, Bolivia and Peru in the wake of natural disasters to document the impacts and the humanitarian aid efforts underway to alleviate them. His images are then used to help raise funds and awareness in the U.S. and given as gifts to donors.

When in need of chainsaws to help relief efforts in Biloxi, Mississippi, after Hurricane Katrina, he received 178 of them. He collects inexpensive reading glasses and brings them to Africa where, he said, 500 people will line up for a basic eye exam. He also brings handmade cultural goods back to the U.S. and returns any proceeds to the communities that made them.

Continued on page 55.

Continued from page 53.

“It’s such a simple thing ... get creative—photography is just one thing. Whatever it is, do something. We live this life once and we are not promised [tomorrow],” he said.

For the last 10 years, Darvish has been focused on photographing African wildlife, in hopes that it will help reduce poaching.

“And they’re making chopsticks out of it!” Darvish said, referring to the elephant’s valuable ivory tusk. “Who wants a million-dollar chopstick? Imagine your children and grandchildren and Africa doesn’t have any more wildlife.”

By leading private photography classes in places like Rwanda, he is promoting tourism in the region. By teaching photography to the tribal people, he is giving them another skill. He understands that in order for poaching to cease, another means of economic support must take its place, showing the native population that protecting the region’s natural resources is in their own best interest.

Darvish approaches photographing wildlife the same way he does people—slowly, humbly and patiently waiting to earn their trust.

“That’s how you get your pictures,” he said. Sometimes getting the shot also requires taking creativity to the next level. When he couldn’t get the attention of a dazzle of zebras after hours of waiting, he put on a paper lion mask and played a recording of the animal’s roar. Problem solved.

Darvish is emphatic about the need to think outside of the box and give people images they have never seen before, especially in today’s competitive market. It’s something he stresses to all of his students—that, and the importance of research. “Fear comes from not being prepared,” he said.

Both are reasons he traveled to Nova Scotia’s remote Sable Island to photograph its wild horses, two images of which will be in the Big Sky Art Auction on July 26. Darvish was captivated by the island’s rich history and, at the time of his first visit in 2009, he was one of only two professional photographers to ever step foot on the island, and the only one to do so in winter.

Sable Island is nicknamed the Graveyard of the Atlantic for the nearly 400 known shipwrecks around the crescent-shaped spit of land since its discovery in the early 16th century—also the reason for the existence of the island’s approximately 300 wild horses.



Darvish’s photographs run the gamut, but he is currently focused on projects in Africa that support anti-poaching efforts, and filtered well water initiatives.
PHOTO BY ALI DARVISH

“I’m always mesmerized by how much pain they can endure,” Darvish said, describing the horses’ long shaggy coats covered in 2 inches of snow, their bodies turned away from the relentless wind and blowing sand.

Darvish’s current mission is to use his work to advance efforts to make clean, filtered water available to the tribal people of Kenya’s Maasari Mara region, who, he says, currently drink contaminated river water. Similar to a successful project he was involved with in Haiti, the plan is to generate enough money from his wildlife photography to fund the drilling of one well, and the necessary filtering system, and present the project to his own community in the hope that others will sponsor wells in the region.

Darvish reflected on some of the most significant moments when he realized the impact of his work: handing a photograph to someone who had never seen their own image; witnessing families sift through the ruins of devastation desperate to salvage their photo albums; the time an Ethiopian woman asked him to take a picture of a pile of dirt that Darvish later learned was the burial site of her 5-year-old daughter.

“Whether it’s through pictures of wildlife or people, or the power of compliments, meet someone and make a little difference in their life,” Darvish said. “We’re all in this together; you can’t just sit down and cry—try to get up and do something with your life.”

Two of Darvish’s photographs of the horses of Sable Island will be in the Big Sky Art Auction on Thursday, July 26, under the big tent at the PBR arena from 3-6 p.m. Visit bigskyartauction.org for a full auction catalog and to RSVP. To see examples of Darvish’s commercial work, or request a viewing of his fine art collection, visit photosbyali.com.



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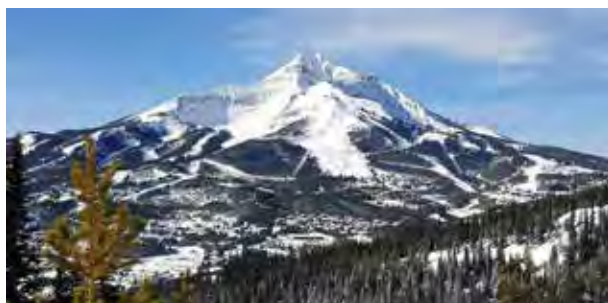
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Polyrhythmics bring their big brass sound to the mountains

EBS STAFF

The Polyrhythmics will bring the eclectic, jazz-infused funk; the crowd just needs to bring their dancing shoes when the eight-piece band from Seattle performs at Music in the Mountains at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, July 19, in Big Sky Town Center Park.

With the brassy boldness of trumpet, trombone, and saxophone, backed by guitar, bass, heavy percussion, and even a flute, Polyrhythmics’ sound is rich with rhythm, and fully instrumental.

Their latest album, “Caldera,” showcases the band’s tight grooves and their diverse, but seamless mix of funk, soul, psychedelic rock, R&B, progressive jazz, and Afrobeat genres. Depending on the style of the song, Polyrhythmics brings to mind musical acts like the world-beat orchestra Antibalas, the get-down Dap-Kings, The (very funky) Meters and the legendary African musician, Fela Kuti.

Named for the crater formed by a volcanic eruption, “Caldera” was written during a band retreat to rural Oregon, where Polyrhythmics had a marathon collaborative songwriting session in the shadow of Mt. Hood, an active volcano. The songs take the audience on a roller coaster of moods and energy, from the down-tempo Afrobeat trance of “Stargazer” to the high-octane funk of “Marshmallow Man,” the almost eerie “Cactus Blossoms,” the mind-bending “Goldie’s Road” and “Vodka for my Goat,” a tune suggestive of both Stax soul and a blend of blues and jazz, exemplified by B.B. King.

Polyrhythmics have shared bills with a gamut of artists from Snarky Puppy to Booker T. Jones, and played most of the big summer music festivals, including Bumbershoot, High Sierra, and, in early August, the Telluride Jazz Festival.

Visit bigskyarts.org or polyrhythmics.com for more information.



Seattle’s eight-piece instrumental band Polyrhythmics brings their eclectic mix of funk, soul, psychedelic rock, R&B, progressive jazz, and Afrobeat to Big Sky on July 19. PHOTO BY CHRIS DAVIS

Learn to paint with pastels

Arts Council presents workshop with Steven Oiestad

EBS STAFF

Montana artist Steven Oiestad will lead a painting workshop in Big Sky Aug. 24-26 at the Ophir School Library.

Oiestad, a member of the Montana Painters Alliance, will teach participants how to hone their observation skills and paint with pastels, with a focus on composition development, layering colors, and adding detail.

The two-and-a-half-day workshop, presented by the Arts Council of Big Sky, begins the evening of Friday, Aug. 24, at 6 p.m. with a three-hour demonstration and class on the fundamentals of pastels. On Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., participants will paint “in studio” and Sunday, weather permitting, class will be held outdoors in plein air fashion, also from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Oiestad was raised on a ranch near Big Timber, Montana, and spent his childhood sketching the animals in his environment. He received a degree in agricultural education from Montana State University and moved to Great Falls in the late ’80s, where his passion for art was renewed.

Working from his Sun River Valley studio, Oiestad creates paintings of the cowboys, scenes and landscapes of the American West. A former artist in residence at Glacier National Park, Oiestad is also a longtime participant of the C.M. Russell Museum art auction, and a recipient of its prestigious Honorary Chairman Award. In 2017, he was one of four artists to be a part of the Charlie Russell Riders, and has been included in Pastel Journal’s top



Montana artist Steve Oiestad will lead a multi-day workshop in Big Sky in late August on painting with pastels. PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

100 pastel artists three times. Other achievements include shows at the Montana Governor’s Residence, Dana Gallery in Missoula, and Hodges Fine Art in Big Timber.

Space is limited, and advance registration is required. Visit bigskyarts.org to register and for more information.

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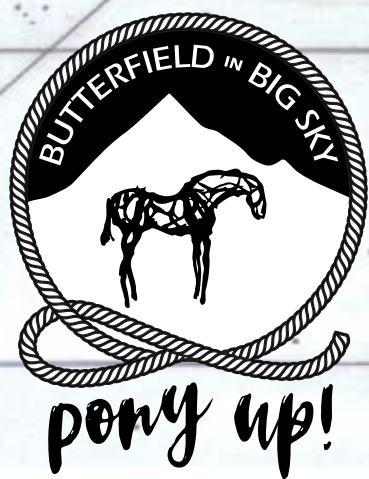
Art © Deborah Butterfield/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY.

Entries accepted through August 30, 2018.

Donation per entry: \$10.

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REEL REVIEW

‘The Endless Summer’

BY ANNA HUSTED
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

With the heat of summer finally here, I thought it was time to catch up with some summer classics, starting with Bruce Brown’s 1966 documentary film, “The Endless Summer.”

I first saw “The Endless Summer” on the big screen six years ago at a summer movie festival in New York. I was initially struck by the quality of surf filmography in a film from the 1960s. Although Warren Miller had almost 10 ski films under his belt at this time, surf films were few and far between. I was also pulled in by the allure of traveling for adventure, not to mention on a budget to developing nations during the middle of the Vietnam War.

Upon my second viewing of the film, I was impressed by how funny it is.

Brown, the director, follows Californians Michael Hynson and Robert August from Australia to Ghana to Tahiti, and shoots them surfing while narrating the film with a great sense of humor and cultural sensitivity.

“The Endless Summer” begins by stating it was “filmed in the actual locations around the world.” Although we giggle at that notion now because more than half of all movies are shot on location, in 1966 Hollywood had just started to produce such movies—but, like, how else are you going to shoot a surfing movie?

Upon landing in Ghana, the surf and film crew attempt to fit surfboards into a taxi. A taxi driver fervently helps load the boards into the trunk with a quizzical look on his face suggesting he’s never seen such strange sporting equipment. The cultural hijinks continue throughout their travels, augmented by Brown’s hilarious commentary, and Hynson and August’s goofy, off-kilter search for the perfect wave in every country.

I typically watch movies to learn something new about the world and come to a greater sociological conclusion, and while “The Endless Summer” offers cultural insight, I watched it again because it’s just plain fun. I was surprised by the extent to which surfing brings people together, and how much surfing occurs all around the world despite many countries being landlocked.

Whether or not you take away anything deeper from “The Endless Summer,” enjoy it for being a great summer flick and a pioneer in surf-adventure-travel filmography. Without “The Endless Summer” we may never have gotten “The Art of Flight,” “Where the Trail Ends,” or “Step into Liquid.”

Most of us in Big Sky apply this quote from “The Endless Summer” to winter, but for now, enjoy summer while it’s here: “With enough time and enough money, you could spend the rest of your life following summer around the world.”

“The Endless Summer” is available for streaming on Netflix.

Anna Husted has a master’s in film studies from New York University. In Big Sky she can be found at the movies at Lone Peak Cinema or on the slopes. 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.



One of the first surf-adventure films, “The Endless Summer” is one of EBS movie critic Anna Husted’s top picks for a summer classic to watch this summer. PHOTO COURTESY OF BRUCE BROWN

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Cowboy's Quill

The American West has produced some of the most thoughtful and moving literature in U.S. history. Read on and enjoy the Cowboy's Quill: insight into the best writers, books and poetry this side of the Mississippi.

William Kittredge: Rancher turned Writer

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

William Kittredge grew up working on his family’s sprawling MC Ranch in the Warner Valley of southern Oregon, only deciding to pursue a writing career at the age of 33.

“I thought it was about sentences and paragraphs, fashioning elegance out of what you already knew. I didn’t yet see that writing like any art is chancing to know freshly. As such it’s always worth doing; it’s worth finding gestures that suggest understandings,” Kittredge wrote in “Hole in the Sky,” a memoir recounting his decision to leave the ranching life behind.

After studying creative writing at Iowa Writer’s Workshop, “not a discipline anybody ever heard of in our part of the world,” Kittredge wrote, he taught for three decades at the University of Montana and still resides, at the ripe age of 83, in Missoula.

Currently working on a quasi-sequel to “Hole in the Sky” called “Another Summer to Run,” Kittredge has produced a body of work that both dispels the myths of the Lone Ranger American West, and poses profound questions about the future of the last, best place.

Although he changed careers, the author never left his roots behind. His narratives are burnished and tight-lipped much like the ranch hands he worked with and the cowboys he idolized growing up. He is erudite without coming across as a pretentious intellectual critical of the changes he has seen during his lifetime. And as Western culture moves away from an authentic relationship to the land, Kittredge portrays a sort of show-business parody without ever sounding self-righteous.

Like any good writer from this region, his words evoke the sanctity of majestic landscapes and praise the self-reliance and rugged individualism that are still at the heart of the Western experience.

I just finished reading Kittredge’s “The Next Rodeo,” a collection of new and selected essays, which I had trouble putting down. While his nonfiction works, “The Nature of Generosity” and “Who Owns the West?” and his only novel “The Willow Field,” each represent his distinctive voice, the author is most at home writing essays that move effortlessly between the personal, political and philosophical.


“Drinking and Driving” takes a hard look at the author’s battles with alcohol and extramarital affairs, while “Owning it All” is a searing account of the author’s relationship to his father and grandfather.

The namesake piece of “The Next Rodeo” tells the story of a rural Oregon rodeo but ends up revealing how the changing economic landscape of the West reflects an untenable situation for a healthy democratic culture. He writes: “The quandaries westerners face will have to be flexibly resolved by the raggedy and the rich, up-country and downtown.”

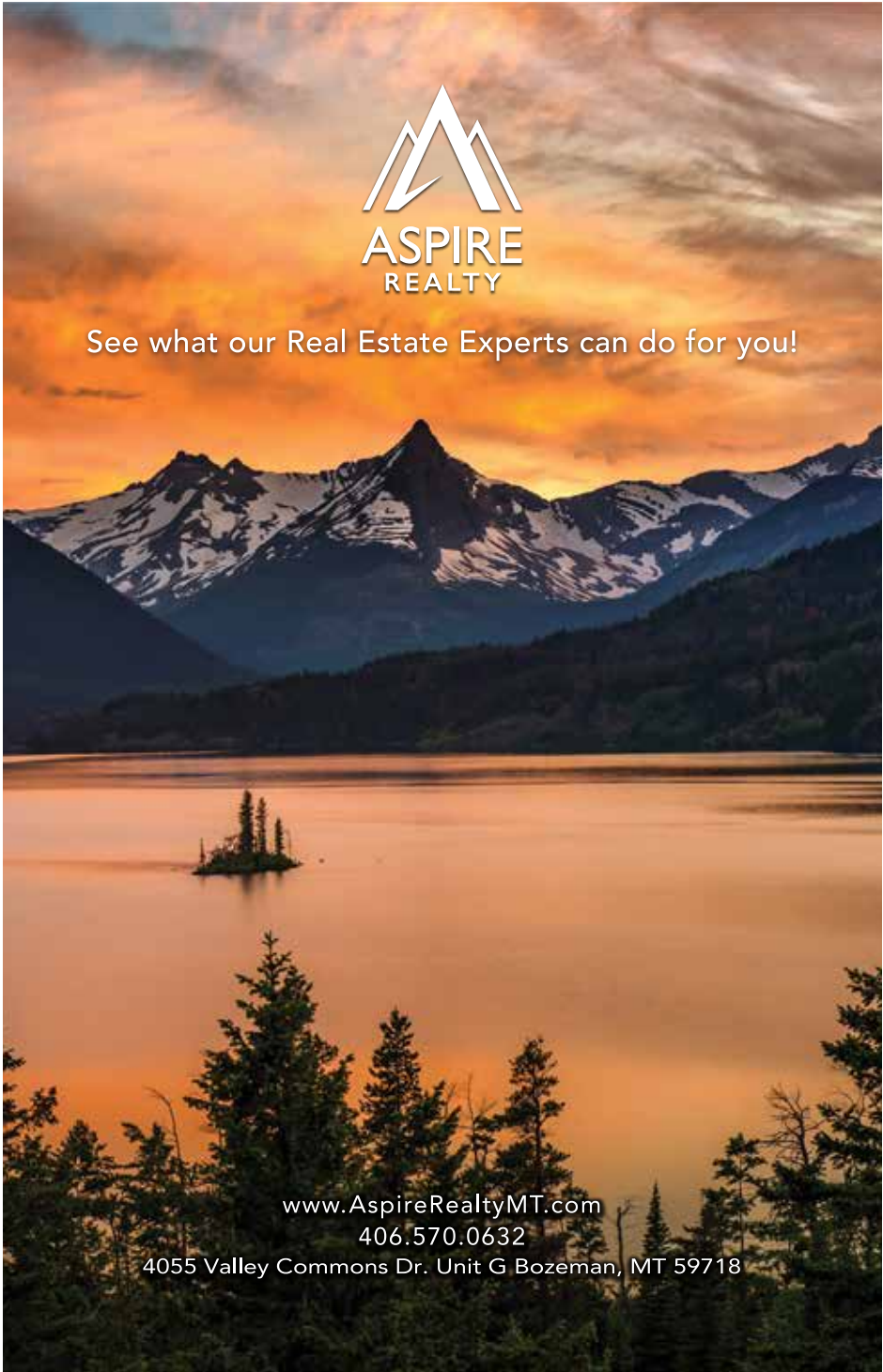
Pick up anything by William Kittredge and you can’t help but agree that he has earned his reputation as the Bard Laureate of the American West. We should all be grateful that he left the ranch and that his influence from teaching generations of writers and his many brilliant contributions to Western literature will continue to impact the literary world long after he puts his pen down.

A version of this article was first published in the Aug. 19, 2016, edition of EBS.

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



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Bozeman Film Society brings stories of redemption to the silver screen

EBS STAFF

This July, Bozeman Film Society presents two critically acclaimed films that tackle themes of personal redemption. On Tuesday, July 24 at 7:30 p.m., “The Rider” will screen in the Ellen Theatre. The film stars real-life saddle bronc rider and breakout actor Brady Jandreau as a former rising star of the rodeo circuit who has been told his competition days are over after a tragic riding accident.

Directed by Chloe Zhao, a young filmmaker from Beijing, the achievements of “The Rider” have impressed critics on numerous fronts, including the discovery and casting of the then 20-year old Jandreau and his family members, all Lakota-Sioux of the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Backed by the strong work of cinematographer James Joshua Richards, Zhao gives the Badlands of South Dakota a rich sense of place—its landscapes and long-standing culture of “cowboy Indian” bolstered by authentic performances by members of Brady’s family and the South Dakota Sioux community.

In one scene, Jandreau breaks a horse, and is actually taming the animal in real time. Based loosely on Jandreau’s own story of going from a rodeo up-and-comer to an injured cowboy without a cause—and in need of catharsis—the film is a powerful reimagining of the mythology of the American West.

“‘The Rider’ achieves what cinema is capable of at its best: It reproduces a world with such acuteness, fidelity, and empathy that it transcends the mundane and touches on the universal,” read a review in The Boston Globe.

Showing the following Tuesday, July 31, also at 7:30 p.m. in The Ellen, is a new thriller starring Ethan Hawke called “First Reformed.” Hawke plays Reverend Ernst Toller, a solitary, middle-aged parish pastor at a small Dutch Reform church in upstate New York about to celebrate its 250th anniversary.



Brady Jandreau as Brady Blackburn in “The Rider.” The film screens in Bozeman at 7:30 p.m. on July 24 at The Ellen Theatre. PHOTO COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Once a stop on the Underground Railroad, the church is now a tourist attraction with a dwindling congregation, eclipsed by its nearby parent church, Abundant Life, and its state-of-the-art facilities and 5,000-strong flock. When a pregnant parishioner (Amanda Seyfried) asks Reverend Toller to counsel her husband, a radical environmentalist, the clergyman is plunged into his own tormented past, and equally despairing future, until he finds redemption in an act of grandiose violence.

Brought to life by writer-director Paul Schrader of “Taxi Driver” and “American Gigolo” fame, and a standout performance by Hawke, “First Reformed” takes a sensitive and suspenseful look at weighty themes, including the implications of a crisis of faith that extends beyond the personal into political and planetary realms.

Visit bozemanfilmsociety.org for details.

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Between the Shelves

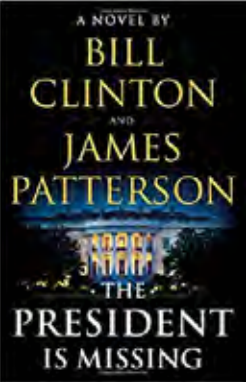
BY AMY HUNTER
ASSISTANT COMMUNITY LIBRARIAN

July is National Anti-Boredom Month. There is something amazing about an entire month dedicated to fighting boredom. Boredom is an interesting state of being. How would you explain boredom to someone who is not familiar with it? How would you describe what boredom feels like to you? What is boredom in general—how do we learn about it and when do we begin to identify with it?

According to Smithsonian magazine, the term boredom was coined by Charles Dickens in 1852. A study published in Perspectives on Psychological Science in 2012 defines boredom “as a state in which the sufferer wants to be engaged in some meaningful activity but cannot, characterized by both restlessness and lethargy.”

In an effort to help you and your children avoid boredom, come to the library where you’ll find books that stretch the imagination and challenge our ideas, books like “The Last Cowboys: A Pioneer Family in the New West” by John

Branch, and “The President is Missing” by Bill Clinton. Also, we are approaching the final two weeks of the summer reading program for kindergarten through fifth grade students. Make sure your students join us for the last two weeks of anti-boredom library fun.



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EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JULY 20 – THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

***IF YOUR EVENT FALLS BETWEEN AUGUST 3 AND AUGUST 16, PLEASE SUBMIT IT BY JULY 25 BY EMAILING MEDIA@OUTLAW.PARTNERS.**

BIG SKY

FRIDAY, JULY 20

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

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 21

Saturday Open Clinic: Pitching
Big Sky Resort Golf Course, 12 p.m.

13th Annual Brewfest
Big Sky Resort, 4 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 22

Live Music
Compass Café, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, JULY 23

Storytime with Kate Bryan
Big Sky Community Library, 10:30 a.m.

Industry Night
Lotus Pad, all evening

TUESDAY, JULY 24

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

Hike and Learn: Wildflower and Weed Identification
Ousel Falls, 10 a.m.

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

Roxy's Customer Appreciation and live music
Roxy's Market, 4 p.m.

Summer Reading Program with Rock Hounds
Big Sky Community Library, 4 p.m.

BSCO Trail Maintenance Day
Hummocks Trail, 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25

Big Sky PBR Golf Tournament
The Reserve at Moonlight Basin, 11 a.m.

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 Feast and Sound Bath
Santosha Wellness Center, 6:30 p.m.

Big Sky PBR Street Dance
Big Sky Town Center, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 26

Women's Fly Fishing School
Gallatin River Guides
July 26-28

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

Big Sky Art Auction
Big Sky Town Center, 3 p.m.

Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 1
Big Sky Town Center, 6 p.m.

Music in the Mountains PBR Kick-Off Concert:
Shovels and Rope
Big Sky Town Center, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 27

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

Big Sky PBR Calcutta Auction
Big Sky Town Center, 6 p.m.

Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 2
Big Sky Town Center, 7 p.m.

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Big Sky PBR After Party: The Steel Woods
Big Sky Town Center, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 28

Community Pancake Breakfast
Fire Pit Park, 8 a.m.

Big Sky PBR Calcutta Auction
Big Sky Town Center, 6 p.m.

Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 3
Big Sky Town Center, 7 p.m.

"Flowers for the Room," musical
Yellow Tree Theatre in Residence, 7 p.m.

Big Sky PBR After Party: Thunderpussy
Big Sky Town Center, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 29

Live Music
Compass Café, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, JULY 30

Industry Night
Lotus Pad, all evening

TUESDAY, JULY 31

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

Hike and Learn
Beehive Basin, 10 a.m.

Ladies Clinic: Bunker Play
Big Sky Resort Golf Course, 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Summer Reading Program with Jennifer Waters
Big Sky Community Library, 4 p.m.

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

"Love's Labour's Lost," Montana Shakespeare in the Parks
Town Center Park, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1

Shelly Bermont Jewelry Trunk Show
Shelly Bermont Fine Jewelry
August 1-2

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.

Surviving Cancer Support Group
Santosha Wellness Center, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

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

Music in the Mountains: The Cordovas
Big Sky Town Center, 6 p.m.

BOZEMAN

FRIDAY, JULY 20
Crazy Days Summer Sidewalk Sale
Downtown, 9 a.m.
July 20-21

Family Contra Dance Party
Bozeman Public Library, 10:30 a.m.

Square Dance
Senior Center, 7 p.m.

Family Movie Night: "Meet the Robinsons"
Children's Museum of Bozeman, 7 p.m.

Rogers & Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!"
Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
July 20-21

Amy Helm, music
Live From The Divide, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 21
Midsummer's Contra Dance Party
Gallatin Labor Temple, 8 p.m.

Tim Easton, music
Live From The Divide, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 22
Hooligans, Tiny Paycheck, music
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 24
Bogert Farmers' Market
Bogert Park, 5 p.m.

"The Rider," film
The Ellen Theater, 7:30 p.m.

SUSTO, music
Live From the Divide, 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25
Gallatin River Grill-Out
Gallatin River Lodge Pavilion and Ponds, 6 p.m.

"Destry Rides Again," film
Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 26

Music on Main
Downtown, 6:30 p.m.

Larry Hirshberg, music
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

80s and 90s Karaoke Night in the Burn Box
Rialto, 7 p.m.

Imagine Dragons, music
Bobcat Stadium, 7:30 p.m.

Ruby Boots, music
Live From The Divide, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 27
Emerson's 21st Annual Garden and Home Tour
Various locations
July 27-28

The Dusty Pockets, music
Rialto, 7:30 p.m.

The Secret Sisters, music
Live From The Divide, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 28
Gallatin County Search and Rescue Sheriff's Posse Adventure Run
East Gallatin Recreation Area, 9 a.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 29
Hank's Happy Hour, music
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Caleb Caudle, music
Live From the Divide, 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 31
Chalk on the Walk
Downtown Bozeman, 8 a.m.

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

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

"First Reformed," film
Ellen Theatre, 7:30

Sarah Shook & the Disarmers, music
Live From The Divide, 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1
Sweet Pea's Bite of Bozeman
Downtown, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2
Music on Main
Downtown, 6:30 p.m.

Leif Christian, 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.

WORTH THE DRIVE

Livingston, MT

Summer Concert Series Pine Creek Lodge

The rustic Pine Creek Lodge in Paradise Valley continues its summer music series with six performances remaining in July. On July 20, enjoy the sounds of the popular tribute band Pinky & The Floyd, followed by the fun-loving Jackson Holte on July 21. The Young Dubliners will grace the stage with their Celtic rock on July 24, while Jennifer Jane Niceley will play a mix of jazz, folk and western twang on July 25. Songwriter Christy Hays will play on July 26, and Ashly Holland of Little Jane & The Pistol Whips will perform Americana/Country on July 27. Visit pinecreeklodgemontana.com/events to learn more.

Virginia City, MT

Tom Savage Book Reading Elling House Arts and Humanities Center July 26, 7 p.m.

This July, the Elling House will host author Thomas Savage. He will be reading from his second published book, “Sacred Dog: The Journey.” This story is about the life of a dog whose fight for survival in the high deserts of Nevada leads him on an unbelievable journey. Visit ellinghouse.org or call (406) 843-5507 for more information.

Dillon, MT

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Workshop Birch Creek Civilian Conservation Corps Camp August 3-5

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks’ popular Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program will host a weekend workshop this August. Women are encouraged to sign up with a friend and learn a new activity or improve existing outdoors skills, from hiking, backpacking, using a map and compass, bird identification, plant identification, sausage making and more. Visit fwp.mt.gov for more information, or contact Sara Smith at (406) 444-9948 or sarsmith@mt.gov.

White Sulphur Springs, MT

Red Ants Pants Music Festival July 26-29

Growing exponentially each year, Red Ants Pants Music Festival celebrates and supports the culture of the rural West with street dancing, hay wagon rides, a yodeling contest and performances by big name artists Dwight Yoakam, Pam Tillis, Lorrie Morgan, Shovels and Rope, and many others. Visit redantspantsmusicfestival.com to learn more.



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Imagine Big Sky 2023



Visit Big Sky's Tourism Master Plan

Our Vision:

Big Sky's confluence of nature, culture, people and preservation is so inspiring that one visit makes you want to stay for a lifetime.

Our Mission:

As the community's official destination management and marketing organization, Visit Big Sky leads the development and promotion of authentic tourism experiences through research and stakeholder collaboration to grow Big Sky's economy while balancing the need to sustain quality of life for its residents.

Imagine Big Sky 2023

VISIT BIG SKY'S Strategic Priorities

The following three priorities will enable us to focus our activities to meet our vision through our mission.

01

DEVELOP
a sustainable outdoor recreation experience.

02

PROMOTE
the destination to broaden our reputation.

03

ESTABLISH
Visit Big Sky as a leader in the tourism collective.

Our Place DNA.

What makes Big Sky, Big Sky?



To learn more, stop by the Big Sky & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Information Center located at US HWY 191 and MT HWY 64 (Lone Mountain Trail) or VisitBigSkyMT.com

Visit Big Sky is a 501 (c)(6) nonprofit organization.