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Big Sky

Aug. 17 - 30, 2018
Volume 9 // Issue #17

Housing trust finalizing
Meadowview deal

Fires blaze in southwest Montana

Algae blooms in Gallatin

Local look back:
Remembering Chet

Plus: Back to School special section



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AUGUST 17, 2018 – AUGUST 30, 2018
Volume 9, Issue No. 17

Owned and published in Big Sky, Montana

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ON THE COVER: With a night sky too smoky to shoot the Perseid meteor shower on Aug. 12, Dave Pecunies decided to check out the Bacon Rind fire, burning 20 miles south of Big Sky, and snapped this photo after 1 a.m. The lightning-caused blaze straddling the boundary of Yellowstone National Park and Custer Gallatin National Forest has spread to encompass 1,388 acres as of EBS press time. PHOTO BY DAVE PECUNIES

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OPENING SHOT

Lukas Nelson and his band, Promise of the Real, co-headlined the inaugural Wildlands Festival at Montana State University with Robert Earl Keen on Aug. 10. The musicians wowed the crowd when they shared the stage for a cover of the Bob Dylan classic "Knockin' on Heaven's Door." OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

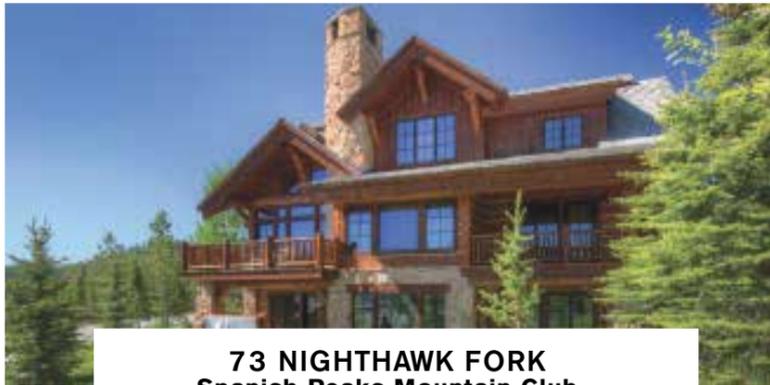
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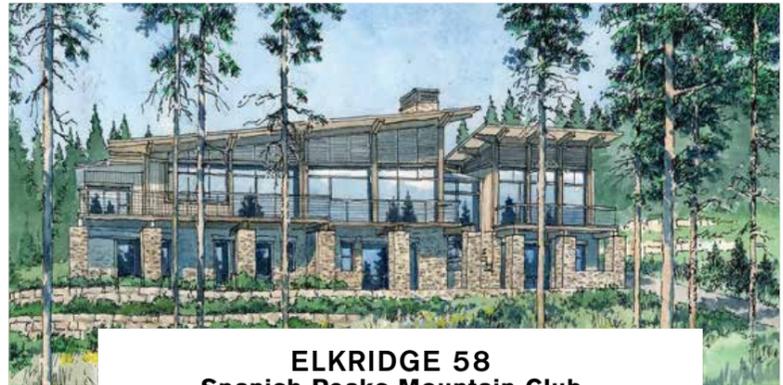
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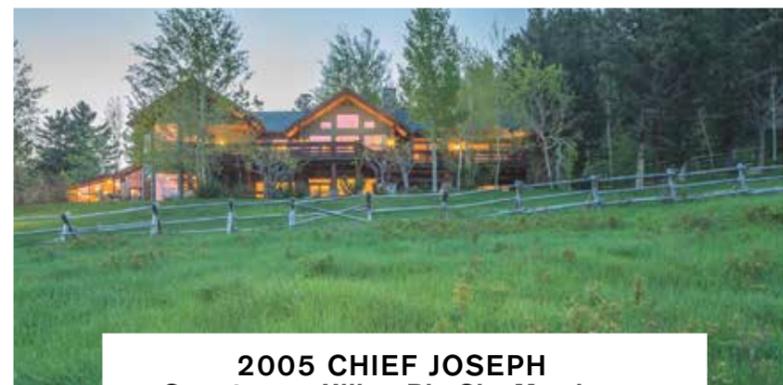
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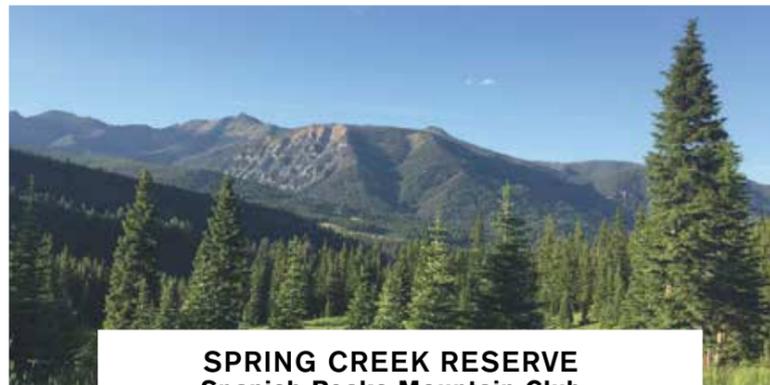
MADISON PEAKS OVERLOOK
Beehive Basin

Southern exposure and panoramic views of Lone Peak
 Homesite with Beaver Creek running through property
 13.6 Acres
 \$550,000



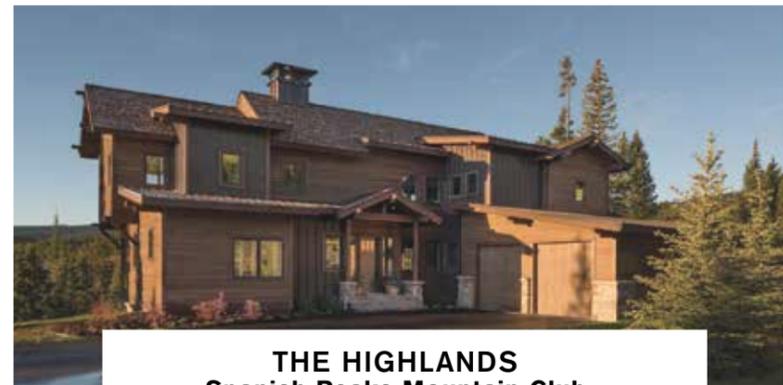
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New daycare option comes to Big Sky

DINO DROP-IN

Dino Drop-In, providing care for infants 6 weeks and up, toddlers, preschoolers and school-aged children up to 13 years old, at four locations in Bozeman, Belgrade and Kennewick, Washington, is expanding to serve the Big Sky community. Their newest and fifth location will be at 123 Lone Peak Drive, adjacent to the Hungry Moose Market & Deli.

Dino Drop-In centers utilize creative classrooms designed to inspire imaginative play. Each center follows a schedule of planned group activities and projects throughout the day.

Dino Drop-In offer services to families that need as little as an hour of care up to three weeks of full time care grounded in activities that are educational, engaging and fun. Hours for the Big Sky location will be 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. with additional hours available by reservation, for special events, and date nights.

Dino Drop-In combines aspects of traditional preschool with skilled teachers, curated classrooms and an educational curriculum, while offering the flexibility of drop-in care by the hour.

Visit dinodropin.com for more information.

East Rosebud Creek declared 'Wild and Scenic'

EBS STAFF

On Aug. 2, President Donald Trump signed into law a bill that protects Montana's East Rosebud Creek as a wild and scenic river.

The designation for the Stillwater River tributary that runs through the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness is the first for a state waterway in 42 years.

The new law will protect 20 miles of East Rosebud Creek from future dam development. Landowners and conservation groups pressed for protections after a company proposed building a hydroelectric dam in 2009.

"Today marks an important day for conservation in Montana and for the dedicated community around East Rosebud Creek," Republican U.S. Rep. Greg Gianforte told the Billings Gazette in an Aug. 2 article. "I am proud that my first bill signed into law is one that protects one of our national treasures and our Montana way of life."

U.S. Sens. Steve Daines, R-Mont., and Jon Tester, D-Mont., sponsored similar legislation that passed the Senate last month.

"Today is the culmination of nearly a decade's worth of tireless work from Montanans who want to protect the East Rosebud for their kids and grandkids," Tester said in the same article.

"East Rosebud is a true national treasure in our state, and is a place that brings families together and supports our outdoor economy," Daines added.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed 50 years ago, and parts of the Flathead and Missouri river systems were protected under the law in 1976.

Task force to host 7th annual Upper Gallatin River Cleanup

GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

The Gallatin River Task Force will host the seventh annual Upper Gallatin River Cleanup on Aug. 30 at 2 p.m.

Volunteers will pick up trash from the banks of the Gallatin River between the Yellowstone National Park boundary and the mouth of Gallatin Canyon, as well as cleaning up streams in the Big Sky area. Last year, over 100 volunteers removed 1,000 pounds of trash from the watershed.

Volunteers will meet at the Big Sky Community Park river pavilion to receive cleanup assignments and supplies, disperse to cleanup sites throughout the watershed, and pick up trash. The group will return with their trash to the community park at approximately 5 p.m. for a complimentary barbecue and beer courtesy of Lone Peak Brewery.

The Task Force is seeking volunteer leaders to commit in advance to attending the river cleanup. Leaders will be responsible for recruiting teams of four to six people to focus on high-traffic river access points. Volunteers can choose their favorite river access point, and will be accommodated on a first come, first serve basis.

"The river cleanup is a signature Task Force event that brings a community of river lovers together to give back to the Gallatin," explained Kristin Gardner, executive director of GRTF. "This year, all volunteers will be eligible to win an RTIC cooler donated by Rick Donaldson. In addition, the individual that finds the most unique item will receive a Task Force hat or t-shirt."

To RSVP email stephanie@gallatinrivertaskforce.org or call (406) 993-2519. Visit gallatinrivertaskforce.org for more information.

Biologists to begin grizzly and black bear trapping for research

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

As part of ongoing efforts to monitor the population of grizzly bears and black bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Yellowstone National Park and the U.S. Geological Survey announced that biologists with the National Park Service and Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST) will be conducting scientific grizzly bear and black bear research operations in Yellowstone National Park from Aug. 21 through Oct. 31.

Team members will bait and capture bears at several remote sites within the park. Once captured, the bears are anesthetized to allow wildlife biologists to radio-collar and collect scientific samples for study. All captures and handling are done in accordance with strict protocols developed by the IGBST.

None of the capture sites in the park will be located near any established hiking trails or backcountry campsites, and all sites will have posted warnings for the closure perimeter. Potential access points will also be posted with warning signs for the closure area. Backcountry users who come upon any of these posted areas need to heed the warnings and stay out of the area.

The Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team was established in 1973 to collaboratively monitor and manage ecosystem bears on an interagency basis. The gathering of critical data on bears is part of a long-term research and monitoring effort to help wildlife managers devise and implement programs to support the ongoing conservation of Yellowstone's grizzly bear and black bear populations.

The IGBST is composed of representatives of the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribal Fish and Game Department, and the states of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

For more information regarding grizzly bear research efforts call (406) 994-6675.



Describe your ideal summer day in Big Sky.



Enes Etemi
Brooklyn, New York

“Camping and white water, or going out with the family.”



Michelle Burger
Big Sky, Montana

“A day like today; the sun, no clouds, and the peaceful sound of Big Sky.”



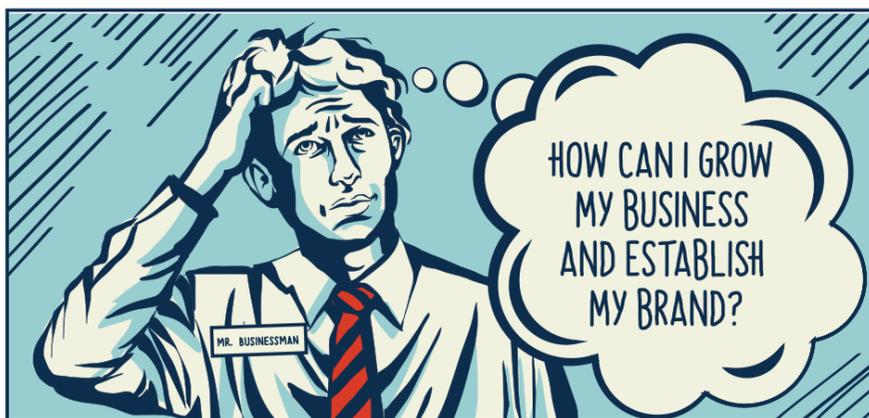
Wats Littman
Big Sky, Montana

“Spend the morning fishing, afternoon golfing, and the evening fishing again or biking.”



Nicole Jones
Big Sky, Montana

“Morning bike ride, then head down to Green Bridge, and come back to the farmer’s market, if it’s a Wednesday, or head to the Riverhouse.”



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Housing trust nears acquisition of Meadowview property

Resort tax board to enforce penalties on delinquent taxes

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – The Aug. 8 meeting of the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board opened with news from Tim Kent, branch manager of First Security Bank in Town Center, and member of the Big Sky Community Housing Trust advisory council.

With the \$1.75 million in resort tax funding securely in a land bank, Kent announced that the housing trust, in partnership with HRDC, is close to finalizing the buy-sell agreement for the Meadowview property, which will be designated as a workforce housing development.

“At the level of money we’re handling now, that money needs to be invested strategically. This is no longer chump change from a cookie jar.”

The Meadowview property is located northwest of the Big Sky Community Park and, in regards to this particular situation, a land bank holds funds specifically for the use of purchasing property on which workforce housing will be built.

The current owners of the property have continued development during the acquisition process, Kent said, so that when HRDC takes over the project, vertical construction can start immediately.

Kent also said that the HRDC’s Down Payment Assistance Program should be ready for application in Big Sky within 60 days. Housing trust advisory council member Britt Ide continues to spearhead creating a privately funded, Big Sky-specific program that is in the fundraising stages.

After lengthy discussion among the board with guidance from BSRAD legal counsel Betsy Griffing, procedural steps in response to delinquent resort tax collections were agreed upon. The board decided that when a remittance is 30 days late, a reminder letter will be sent; at 90 days, a notice of noncompliance; and at 120 days, a warning of legal action. If, after another 30 days, the delinquent party has not yet communicated with the resort tax board, an action will be filed in district court. This procedure will go into effect on Sept. 1.

Ever since Dan Clark, director of the MSU Local Government Center, recommended that the best self-governing option for Big Sky was to expand the role of the resort tax board, the board has cautiously circled the idea. Board members have expressed varying levels of caution, but have also shared a sense of not knowing how to approach it or where to begin exploring the idea.

“At the level of money we’re handling now, that money needs to be invested strategically,” said board secretary Steve Johnson. “This is no longer chump change from a cookie jar.”

Board director Mike Scholz stressed numerous times that “we want to be seen as an entity that is helping the community not, driving it.”

Scholz and Johnson were tasked with determining the initial steps in that direction. On Sept. 7, from 8 to 10 a.m. in the resort tax office in Town Center, the board will hear a presentation from Future West, a Bozeman-based nonprofit that assists communities with addressing growth and change in a way that will benefit and preserve their collective values and assets. The board will then decide if they want to consult with the firm moving forward.

Clark will be present for a discussion following Future West’s presentation from 10 a.m. to noon. All organizations and entities receiving resort tax funding are invited to attend both sessions.

During the rest of that afternoon, the board will prioritize action items for the coming year—one of which is deciding how to collect resort tax on items purchased online.

“What I hear from local retailers is that when the UPS driver opens the cargo door to make a delivery to them, they see a wall of packages from Amazon,” Johnson told EBS. “While they are collecting resort tax, Amazon is not, and they rightly question the fairness of it.”

A recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that allowed South Dakota to require all e-commerce sites to collect sales tax regardless of whether they have a physical presence in the state, does work in the board’s favor; however, resort tax being a selective sales tax on “luxury items” complicates instituting a similar system for Big Sky.

“What I hear from local retailers is that when the UPS driver opens the cargo door to make a delivery to them, they see a wall of packages from Amazon. While they are collecting resort tax, Amazon is not, and they rightly question the fairness of it.”

“The basic decision was that we owe it to our local businesses who collect the resort tax to figure this out in terms of fair competition,” explained Johnson in an Aug. 15 email to EBS. “The details, including government support in pursuing this, need more work.”

Visit resorttax.org for more information about the delinquent collections protocol that goes into effect Sept. 1.



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- Include full name and phone number

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Plaza Lofts and Wilson Hotel coming into shape in Town Center

BY BAY STEPHENS

EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – While the height of construction season is still cranking in Town Center, two of the biggest buildings to-date are taking form: the Plaza Lofts and Wilson Hotel. The Plaza Lofts are on schedule for a February completion, but most commercial tenants plan to open when the hotel is slated to finish at the end of May, according to Bayard Dominick, the vice president of planning and development for Lone Mountain Land Company.

LMLC developed both buildings in collaboration with the Simkins family, Town Center's master developer, and in alignment with their master plan for Town Center.

The Plaza Lofts ground floor will house the Blue Buddha Sushi Lounge in its 2,700-square-foot restaurant space that will feature a long bar, and rollup doors connecting indoor and outdoor patio space. The owner of Bozeman's Corx winery is bringing The Barrel Room, serving wine and cocktails, to the Lofts' first floor. The Sky and Dabney boutiques account for two other spaces, while Dominick said that they hope to finalize the lease for the last space by Aug. 18. Charter Realty & Development is leasing the commercial space for both buildings.

"With the diversity of retail and restaurants we're really creating a destination in and of itself that is additive to the Big Sky Resort experience," Dominick said.

Residential second and third floors in the Lofts will each have eight one-bedroom and two two-bedroom apartments, all of which are long-term rentals managed by Two Pines Properties. Dominick said the apartments will be barred from use as vacation rentals, keeping them on the rental market for Big Sky residents.

Two penthouses crown the Plaza Lofts building, one with a rooftop deck and unobstructed view of Lone Mountain over the eastward 47 Town Center and LMLC headquarters buildings.

Designed by Bechtel Architects, the Plaza Lofts emulate a warehouse-turned-residential loft, with exposed steel beams and ceilings. Large windows provide views of the Town Center Plaza or Lone Mountain, depending on which way they face. Dominick said that they'll use reclaimed siding from a building in Billings, which will add to the urban-renovation aesthetic.

Next door, the Wilson Hotel mirrors the progress of the Plaza Lofts building. The building's exterior is faced with tumbled brick to look like the oldest building in town, in an effort to lend a character that many western downtowns bear.

"We're really trying to give that sense of place, that sense of history to the downtown Town Center," Dominick said.

The Wilson's east-facing portico will accommodate tour buses. A ski storage room just off the lobby's main entrance will free guests from lugging skis into the hotel, and floor-to-ceiling windows on the west side of the lobby overlook the pool area and provide a full view of Lone Mountain. A bar set up along these windows will also serve the pool, hot tub and firepits just outside, according to Dominick.

The lobby will have a fireplace, TVs and an office work station, enabling guests to print things like plane tickets.

Connected to the lobby are a breakfast room and an events room capable of splitting into two separate spaces. A kitchen will serve breakfast, as well as snacks and burgers at dinner time, and

will cater events. The hotel's basement will include a dedicated bike storage room, a ski wax room, and large fitness center.

Co-branded as a Marriot Residence Inn, each of the 129 rooms will have its own kitchenette, accommodating guests who don't want to eat out every night, such as skiers staying for extended visits.

The hotel offers rooms ranging from standard kings and double queens, to one- and two-bedroom suites, some with lock-off options. Six units will look over the pool toward Lone Mountain and another six, down the plaza.

The Wilson's retail and restaurant space will border the plaza with a second entrance providing public restrooms to support plaza events like farmers markets. Dominick said LMLC is in late-stage discussions with a potential tenant for the 5,800 square-foot restaurant space, which will have outdoor seating on the plaza.

The pedestrian-only plaza, what Dominick called Town Center's "piazza," will have a gazebo serving ice cream, with light posts, heaters and firepits. The plaza's centerpiece—albeit not in the center—Deborah Butterfield's horse sculpture, will have a direct line of sight to Lone Mountain between the buildings.

Oriented at a 10-degree angle, Town Center's east-west streets furnish a clear view of the peak, an idea put forth when the master plan for Town Center was being designed in the 1990s, according to Town Center's project manager, Ryan Hamilton.

The principles on which Town Center was planned and built encourage "walkability, connectivity, smart transportation, mixed housing types, increased density, quality design, traditional neighborhood structure, sustainability, local businesses, and more," Hamilton wrote in an email. These design aspects are manifesting themselves as mixed-use buildings like the Plaza Lofts and Wilson Hotel populate Town Center, he said.

"We believe that the Wilson Hotel will be a game-changer for the Town Center, the Meadow, and by extension the entire community," Hamilton said. "To what extent it will influence the future of Big Sky is anybody's guess, but we're excited to see what the future holds."

"I'm really excited about these two buildings opening up," Dominick said. "I think it's going to be transformational for all the retailers ... just to get that much body heat in the Town Center."



The view from where Deborah Butterfield's horse sculpture will stand in Big Sky Town Center's plaza frames Lone Mountain with Town Center buildings, a result of Town Center's east-west streets being oriented at a 10-degree angle for this purpose. The Plaza Lofts and Wilson hotel (center and right) are the newest developments on Town Center Ave. PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

← LOCAL LOOKBACK

Remembering Chet Huntley

BY HANNAH JOHANSEN

My first “magic moment” in the Gallatin Canyon was when Big Sky was still a “twinkle” in Chet Huntley’s eyes. My husband and I were driving to West Yellowstone to find work. It was late April 1967. We stopped at the confluence of the West Fork and the Gallatin River and had a picnic in the snow. Awestruck by the beauty of Lone Mountain, I had a strange premonition: “I am going to live here someday.”

Fast forward five years, and here I was, working as a flag girl during the construction of the road up to Mountain Village. We were part of a hearty breed that answered the call to come to the mountains and help build a ski resort. The workers had no choice but to commute from neighboring communities or to live in campers, tents, teepees, or a couple old homestead cabins that were still standing. Buck’s T4, the Corral, Hunters Inn (now the Riverhouse) and Karst (destroyed by fire ... twice!) were the existing watering holes along the route from Bozeman to Yellowstone National Park. These bars became our gathering places ... I called them our living rooms. Mike Scholz at Buck’s T-4 and Steve Wilkins at Karst became our “bankers.” Every Friday night there was free food and thousands of dollars in cash available for workers to cash their weekly paychecks. Needless to say, much of that cash was traded back in for liquid refreshments.

Word got out that I was the flag girl who knew shorthand! By then, Chet had retired from NBC’s Huntley-Brinkley Report to pursue his passion to build a resort in Montana where “city people” could come to enjoy nature; and create a tourist industry for his home state.

I’ll never forget my first day as Chet’s private secretary. It was early fall, 1973. I lived with my husband and two young children in a two-room cabin and a teepee that served as our bedroom. Wood was our only source of fuel and oil lamps our only source of light. There was no running water, so we had our twice-weekly sweat lodge ritual. After the heat permeated and the sweat poured out of our bodies, we soaped up with Dr. Bronner’s and dipped ourselves in the rushing cold water of the Gallatin River—and I’m talking winter too!

I was nervous about smelling like smoke from our wood-burning stove, but also excited when I rang Chet and his wife Tippy’s door bell. I remember looking back over Meadow Village, somehow knowing that my life was going to change once someone opened the door. And it did. Chet greeted me with his congenial smile. When he found out I was born and bred in Montana, we were instant pals. Unfortunately, Chet had been diagnosed with lung cancer. It took his life on March 22, 1974.



Their cabin, located across Highway 191 from Buck’s T-4, had no electricity or running water, and a wood burning stove for heat.



When Hannah Johansen moved to Big Sky in the early '70s she lived with her husband and two young children in a two room cabin. An adjacent teepee served as their bedroom.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF HANNAH JOHANSEN

Chet wrote a piece called “Lament” that he never sent to the broadcasting company, but gave it to me for safe keeping. While reading “Lament,” I learned that Chet had great sadness about the Vietnam War, about the political division in our country, about the civil rights struggles. Moving back to Montana was his solace. He sincerely believed that the power of the mountains and forests provided soul-healing opportunities for all that experienced it.

I feel so blessed to have shared this poignant time in Chet’s life. As I take my early morning walk down to Ousel Falls, I often wonder what Chet would think of how Big Sky has evolved, almost 50 years later. On the trail, I often encounter the enthusiastic delight on visiting childrens’ faces—they are going to see a waterfall! Grandparents and parents, teenagers, dogs, old-timers slowly strolling hand-in-hand. I feel Chet’s essence behind my shoulder. What would he be thinking?

Yes ... with this he would be pleased. Thank you, Chet Huntley, for your vision.

Hannah Johansen grew up in Great Falls, Montana, and moved to Big Sky in 1972. She started Big Sky’s first massage studio in 1981 and continues to offer massage and yoga instruction through Alpenglow Traveling Spa. She spends several months a year in the Himalayas where she helps support artisans in areas that are affected by economic, geological, and political unrest. She brings back hand-loomed cashmere shawls, antique Tibetan jewelry, as well as hand-crafted goods made by women’s cooperatives, which she sells at farmers markets, private home shows in Big Sky, and Fair Trade shows throughout the western U.S.

PHOTO: PEAK PHOTOGRAPHY

PURE *big sky*

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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 bedroom, 6.5 bathroom home is ideal for entertaining guests with large open living spaces, three ensuite bedrooms, two guest bedrooms, and a bunk room. Extensive log and stone detail highlight the surrounding mountain environment. Spanish Peaks Mountain Club membership required. Golf membership included in sale. // **JACKIE MILLER | 406.539.5003**



4 ROSEBUD LOOP | \$1,295,000

This designer-owned cabin has never been rented and has spectacular furnishings, fixtures, décor and overall ambiance! The groomed Bozeman Trail skirts the back deck and hot tub affording some of the best ski-in/ski-out access in the area. Ski to the deck, store your skis in the locker, and enter the home slopeside, with wooded privacy and spectacular views. Offering 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, spacious living/dining room with cathedral ceilings and fireplace, lower level den and so much more! Excellently appointed and ready to go! // **MARY WHEELER | 406.539.1745**



PORCUPINE PARK 39 & 40 | \$595,000 - \$695,000

Beautiful and private, these parcels are located in the Porcupine Park Subdivision. Lot 40, at 6.34 acres plus an additional 22.58 acres of open space, and Lot 39, at 13.16 acres and accompanied by 8.87 acres of open space, give way to sweeping views to the south and east to the Gallatin Range and Porcupine Drainage. Mature, old-growth trees provide a beautiful backdrop for these very easy building sites, that are only minutes away from all of the wonderful outdoor activities the Big Sky area has to offer. // **MICHAEL THOMAS | 406.581.2400**



SHOSHONE CONDOMINIUM 1984 | \$495,000

Million Dollar Views at less than half the price! Located in Big Sky Ski and Summer Resort's Mountain Village, this end unit, corner location on the top floor offers a feeling of privacy as well as incredible views from the large windows. Shoshone is adjacent to the slopes, has ski storage, an exercise center, spa, pool and laundry facility on the premises. Restaurants and shops are right outside the door. // **LYNN MILLIGAN | 406.581.2848**



TBD OUTLOOK TRAIL, LOT 1 | \$359,900

Gorgeous, hard to find 2.962 +/- acre parcel located in the Stony Creek Subdivision. Old growth trees, abundant wildlife, and live water flows through this unbelievable property offering privacy and seclusion with unobstructed views. Close to all Meadow amenities and offering immediate access to bordering groomed cross-country ski trails, and mountain bike trails. // **JACKIE MILLER | 406.539.5003**



CASCADE LOT 149A | \$235,000

Site your new Big Sky home amongst the large trees and enjoy the panoramic Spanish Peaks views from this 1.53 +/- acre homesite in the Cascade Subdivision. Located on the high side, at the end of a cul-de-sac road, this private parcel will offer you the seclusion you desire, while maintaining the easy access to all of Big Sky's many recreational choices that you crave! // **SANDY REVISKY | 406.539.6316**



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Montana wildfire season in full swing

Blazes in Gallatin and Madison counties cause road closures, evacuations

EBS STAFF

Images of orange flames engulfing the hillsides above Lake MacDonald in Glacier National Park swept across social media Aug. 13, much like the winds that fanned the area's Howe Ridge Fire sparked by lightning on Aug. 11. Firefighters are actively working to protect structures in the park, just one year after Glacier's iconic Sperry Chalet burned to the ground in a wildfire 7 miles east of Lake MacDonald.

Closer to Big Sky, the Bacon Rind fire has been burning 20 miles south of the community since July 20, in rugged terrain of the Custer Gallatin National Forest and Yellowstone National Park. However, during the second weekend of August, ash began falling over Big Sky as a cold front pushed growth of the Bacon Rind blaze and ignited the Wigwam fire southwest of Ennis.

The Wigwam and Monument fires in the Gravelly Range are being actively suppressed due to their proximity to Ennis and communities to the south, while the Bacon Rind is now being suppressed on its eastern flank to prevent it from encroaching on Highway 191. All information published here, including fire acreage, is current as of EBS press time on Aug. 15, but wildfire conditions can change quickly, and the most up-to-date information can be found at inciweb.nwcg.gov.

Bacon Rind

The lightning-caused Bacon Rind fire was first detected July 20 and is burning approximately 20 miles south of Big Sky and 23 miles north of West Yellowstone. The 1,388-acre blaze is in the Monument Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness, between Snowslide Creek to the north, Bacon Rind Creek to the south and Highway 191 to the east.

The southeast corner of the fire pushed closer to Highway 191 on Aug. 13, causing intermittent closures due to smoke on the roadway and firefighting activities. A Type 3 Incident Management Team is managing the fire in conjunction with the Custer Gallatin National Forest, Yellowstone National Park, and Gallatin County, working to actively suppress its eastern edge and keep it from the roadway. There are a number of trail closures in Yellowstone National Park, including the Bacon Rind Trail, but the fire is not currently threatening any structures.

Wigwam

The Wigwam fire southwest of Ennis was detected Aug. 11, and the lightning-caused blaze is estimated at 2,500 acres. Fire suppression activities on Aug. 15 included using retardant and helicopter bucket drops to help slow its progress toward the Haypress area of the Shining Mountains subdivision south of Ennis—a portion of the Haypress Lakes subdivision was evacuated on the morning of Aug. 12 and an American Red Cross shelter was established at Ennis Elementary School.

A Unified Command of Forest Service and Madison County has been established to manage both the Wigwam fire and the Monument fire, burning farther south in the Gravelly Range. There are 150 firefighting personnel assigned to the two blazes.

The crew of four Big Sky Fire Department firefighters deployed to assist with preventive measures for the spread of the Wigwam fire returned to Big Sky on Aug. 14, when a Type 2 Incident Management Team took command.

Monument

The 4,500-acre Monument fire was sparked by lightning and first detected on Aug. 6 in the Gravelly Range. Both the Monument and Wigwam blazes are being managed as full-suppression fires, with 150 firefighters, 13 engines and three helicopters assigned to the complex.

The Monument fire, approximately 18 miles southwest of Ennis, is burning in mature conifer forest at an elevation of 9,000 feet. The Johnny Ridge and Gravelly Range roads are closed through to Black Butte, with more closures expected.

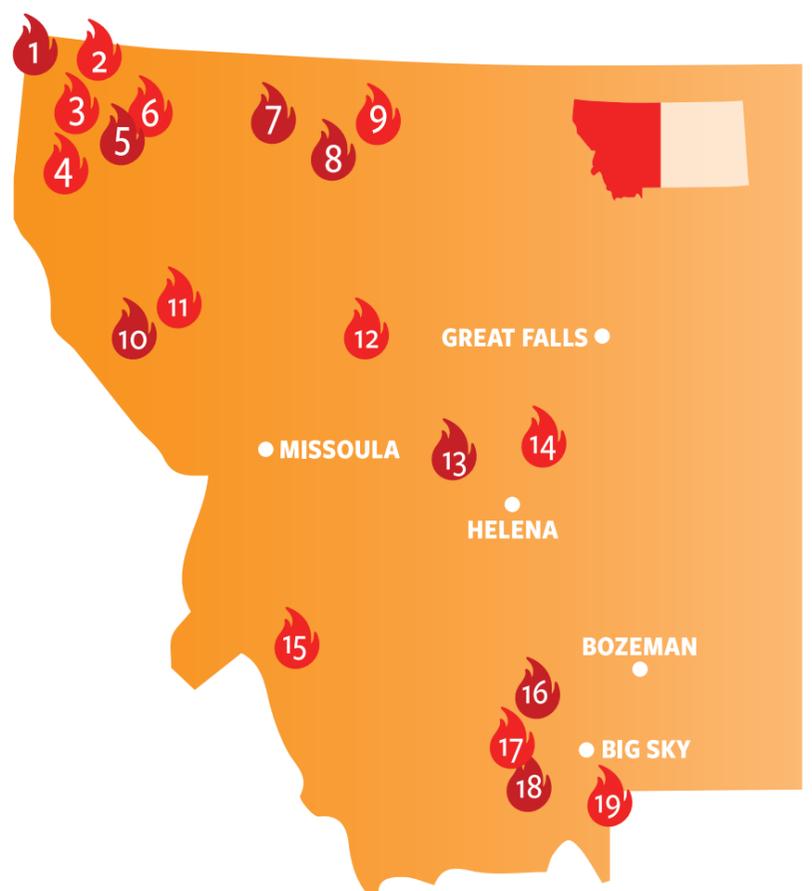


The Bacon Rind fire, 20 miles south of Big Sky, billows smoke near Highway 191 on Aug. 14. PHOTO BY JENNINGS BARMORE

Western Montana Wildfires

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Davis
Size: 5,565 Acres
Percent Contained: 5%</p> <p>2. Porcupine
Size: 17 Acres
Percent Contained: 100%</p> <p>3. Gold Hill
Size: 80 Acres
Percent Contained: N/A</p> <p>4. Highway 37
Size: 70 Acres
Percent Contained: 90%</p> <p>5. Tenmile
Size: 680 Acres
Percent Contained: 70%</p> <p>6. Sterling Complex
Size: 761 Acres
Percent Contained: 70%</p> <p>7. Coal Ridge
Size: 215 Acres
Percent Contained: N/A</p> <p>8. Howe Ridge
Size: 2,578 Acres
Percent Contained: N/A</p> <p>9. Heavens Sake
Size: 1 Acre
Percent Contained: 100%</p> <p>10. Weeksville
Size: 54 Acres
Percent Contained: 90%</p> | <p>11. Garden Creek
Size: 2,052 Acres
Percent Contained: 35%</p> <p>12. Brownstone
Size: 1,736 Acres
Percent Contained: N/A</p> <p>13. Trail 467
Size: 30 Acres
Percent Contained: 30%</p> <p>14. Shellrock
Size: 300 Acres
Percent Contained: N/A</p> <p>15. Beaver Creek
Size: 1,000 Acres
Percent Contained: 80%</p> <p>16. Virginia Creek
Size: 67 Acres
Percent Contained: 80%</p> <p>17. Wigwam
Size: 2,300 Acres
Percent Contained: N/A</p> <p>18. Monument
Size: 4,415 Acres
Percent Contained: 2%</p> <p>19. Bacon Rind
Size: 1,388 Acres
Percent Contained: N/A</p> |
|--|--|

* Data as of EBS press time on Aug. 15



New arena under construction in Town Center

PBR venue moves, expands to accommodate more events

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – Construction is underway at the site of an expanded and improved events arena in Town Center. Located only 250 yards east and a minute-and-a-half walk from the existing Big Sky PBR arena, the new event space will be able to accommodate 10 percent more spectators. The stands will also be reoriented so that Lone Mountain is the backdrop for the action—for example, at PBR, with all eyes on the bucking chutes, the peak will be in the distance.

A partnership between Town Center, the producers of Big Sky PBR, Outlaw Partners (publisher of EBS), and Continental Construction, the widened arena will allow for bigger events, and more of them, like traditional rodeo competitions with roping and barrel racing, more headliner concerts, and a variety of other events taking place year-round.

“My vision is a permanent outdoor events center in Big Sky that puts our town on the map for regional and national events that attract people from all around the country,” said Outlaw Partners media and events director, Ersin Ozer. “A professional-looking home for Big Sky PBR that rivals event venues around the country. With the possibilities of the new site, not only can we expand Big Sky’s Biggest Week but we can incorporate new events that add value to Town Center and have a positive economic impact on the community year-round.”

The Big Sky Events Arena is still in the beginning phases of construction, but is anticipated to be completed by spring 2019. Currently, the ground is being leveled, graded and trenched for power infrastructure. In September, the Big Sky PBR bleachers will be dismantled at their current location and rebuilt at the new location.

“Town Center and the Simkins have been super generous for letting us use that land and have always been huge supporters and advocates for PBR having a home in Town Center,” Ozer said. “We’re grateful that they’re continuing to work with us on a new site.”

According to Town Center Project Manager Ryan Hamilton, the arena needs to be relocated to accommodate the continued long-term build-out of Big Sky Town Center.



A draft of the plans for the Big Sky Events Arena—a new outdoor venue, and new home of the Big Sky PBR—under construction in Big Sky Town Center on Aspen Leaf Drive. RENDERING COURTESY OF BECHTLE ARCHITECTS

“The relocated arena is the next step in the evolution of the PBR—and possibly other events—in Big Sky,” wrote Bill Simkins, manager of Simkins Holdings, LLC, the master developer of Town Center, in an email to EBS. “And the Town Center is happy to continue to be an integral part of Big Sky’s Biggest Week. The team at Outlaw has done a wonderful job growing the PBR over the years, and their passion and attention to detail definitely shows. It’s hard now to imagine a Big Sky summer without the PBR. Family traditions have now been built around this event, and I think that’s a good measure of success.”

The Big Sky Events Arena will be accessible from Aspen Leaf Drive, and will be located where the road curves down toward the South Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin River.



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Big Sky's Biggest Week raised over \$100,000 for charity, hosted 20 of the top 50 bull riders in the world here in Big Sky, and activated 20,000 event attendees.

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EVENTS



CONTINENTAL
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SIMKINS HALLIN
BOZEMAN, MONTANA

MOONLIGHT BASIN



YELLOWSTONE CLUB



SPANISH PEAKS
— MOUNTAIN CLUB —

Algae continues to flourish in Gallatin River

Cause not yet determined

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – In late July, the nonprofit Upper Missouri Waterkeeper began investigating a significant bright green algae bloom in the Gallatin River from the West Fork confluence to Moose Creek, and in the valley from Axtell Bridge south of Belgrade, to Williams Bridge in Three Forks, where the Gallatin meets the Jefferson River.

Around that same time, Gallatin River Task Force began receiving numerous reports of a severe algae bloom on various tributaries of the Gallatin River. On Aug. 3, Montana Department of Environmental Quality confirmed that the discoloration is due to a proliferation of a type of algae.

Michael Suplee, Ph.D., of the Water Quality Standards & Modeling Section of Montana DEQ, released a statement that the filamentous algae “is not a cyanobacterial species (i.e., the ones that form harmful algal bloom in lake and reservoirs). Coloration of these types of attached river algae vary in accordance with nutrient availability, light, temperature, etc.; for example, I have observed that *Cladophora* spp. are light-green in the absence of available nitrogen and phosphorus, and deep emerald green when nutrients are abundant.

“I do not have an immediate response as to what the drivers may be that are causing this particular algae to proliferate in the river,” he continued. “DEQ is, as you are surely aware, carefully investigating similar attached algae growths on the Smith River.”

On Aug. 15, in response to an inquiry about further findings, Kristi Ponozzo, Montana DEQ public policy director, wrote in an email to EBS that “our folks here at DEQ have not been to the river and don’t have any updates on this.”

The Gallatin River Task Force receives funding from Montana DEQ to regularly monitor nutrients and algae biomass and has plans to sample 21 sites for algae and nutrients this month using DEQ protocols. The sites include seven on the mainstem of the Gallatin, 11 in the West Fork watershed, and three in the Taylor Fork.

“These analyses are time consuming,” Gallatin River Task Force education and communications coordinator Stephanie Lynn explained. “And we don’t expect to have results until the fall. At that time, we will know more.”



Algae continues to bloom along stretches of the Gallatin River; testing is underway to determine its cause. PHOTO COURTESY OF UPPER MISSOURI RIVER WATERKEEPERS

In the meantime, Upper Missouri River Waterkeeper Executive Director Guy Alsentzer said that the the bloom in the mainstem Gallatin has remained consistent in terms of scope and significance, covering at least 75 percent of river bottom in most flatwater stretches and pools for about 7 miles downstream of the West Fork confluence.

Alsentzer wrote in an email to EBS, “While assessing the extent and significance of the Gallatin’s summer algal bloom is indeed technical and time and resource intensive, the river deserves nothing less than a hard look at this pollution event, science-based estimates of causes and sources of pollution, and an unrelenting determination at finding meaningful solutions that protect this important waterway and the communities and businesses it supports.”



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Missoula rocks as Pearl Jam rolls through Montana

BY EJ DAWS
EBS STAFF

MISSOULA – Rock and Roll Hall of Famers’ Pearl Jam returned to Missoula on Aug. 13, for one of their four U.S. stops this summer, and to promote their “Rock2Vote” initiative. In front of 25,000 fans at Washington-Grizzly Stadium, the band blistered through a three-hour set that spanned its 28-year career of chart-topping hits and intimate ballads.

This show marked the seventh time that Pearl Jam played the Garden City, and their second time in the outdoor venue.

The buzz around the show was palpable, with concertgoers arriving in western Montana from all over the world to enjoy a night with the band. Thousands of fans lined up early to buy merchandise, tailgate and to enjoy the “Rock2Vote” pre-show festival, which aimed its messaging at the upcoming mid-term elections in Montana, and that served as the central theme of the night’s performance.

Democratic Sen. Jon Tester faces a tough reelection battle against Republican challenger Matt Rosendale in November, and Democrat Kathleen Williams hopes to unseat incumbent Rep. Greg Gianforte—both were on hand for the event. The band has a personal connection to Tester, since bassist Jeff Ament grew up in the senator’s home town of Big Sandy.

Pearl Jam’s setlist weaved its way through their extensive library, showcasing work dating back to their chart-topping album “Ten,” up to their current single, “Can’t Deny Me,” with a few covers mixed in, including a rendition of John Lennon’s “Imagine” set to the twinkling lights of thousands of cellphones.

An aggressive mid-set rendition of the band’s in-your-face song “Porch” put the stadium into a frenzy, including a long instrumental break that included lead guitarist Mike McCready’s ear-bending guitar solo. This included McCready playing his trademark 1959 Fender Stratocaster behind his head and jamming against the on-stage amplifier stack for reverb that filled the smoky air, much to the delight of the bouncing and cheering fans.

Following a brief encore break, they returned to round out the second half of the show, with more beloved hits including “Given to Fly,” “Better Man” and “Jeremy,”



ABOVE: An estimated 25,000 Pearl Jam fans packed Missoula’s Washington-Grizzly Stadium on Aug. 13 to watch the band tear through its extensive catalog. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTOS



RIGHT: Lead singer Eddie Vedder implored the crowd to vote in November’s mid-term elections, and act on both a local and national scale.

as well as some rarities including “Bee Girl,” and a cover of Neil Young’s “Throw Your Hatred Down.” Young’s influence on the band was prevalent, with them also covering the classic “Rockin’ in the Free World” near the end of the show.

The Missoula performance continued Pearl Jam’s long history of using of their music and concert platforms to promote various political and charitable initiatives, with lead singer Eddie Vedder often speaking between songs about local and national issues of concern. This show followed their two-night run in Seattle that raised more than \$11 million to address homelessness in the city.

Pearl Jam concludes their brief U.S. tour with multiple-night stops at Chicago’s Wrigley Field and Boston’s Fenway Park, to round out a summer tour that included South American and European concerts.



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SECTION 2: ENVIRONMENT, SPORTS, BUSINESS & DINING



Big Sky local's Rut approach pg. 20



The Rocks to open pg. 23



Making it in Big Sky Pg. 24

The New West:

How one little newspaper helped save the essence of Jackson Hole



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

Wilford Neilson is a name and a man seemingly lost to history.

Besides being a onetime Teton County attorney, Neilson was publisher of a newspaper that, while long gone, played a vital role in laying the groundwork for what Jackson Hole is today—the masterpiece of setting that drives our desire to be and go there.

But imagine a sprawl of residential subdivisions and golf courses fronting the eastern side of the Tetons, filling the landscape between Kelly and the Snake River where elk, bison, pronghorn, moose, grizzly bears and wolves now roam.

Today, as you drive north out of town past East Gros Ventre Butte and see the open expanses of Grand Teton National Park unfolding before you, pretend that instead the viewshed resembled a human anthill, the kind found along the front range of the Colorado Rockies or Utah's Wasatch Range. It easily could have happened and almost did.

In the 1920s, '30s and '40s when Neilson's newspaper, Jackson's Hole Courier, was in operation, the fate of that remarkable, globally iconic valley turned precariously on the same kind of forces now synonymous with the Trump administration: truth and facts being made casualties; lies traded as accepted currency to advance political opportunism; a maniacal naive promotion of the "free market"; and rational-self-interest—short-term greed—prevailing over a longer-term common interest.

For a stretch, Neilson and the Courier went into battle with a rival newspaper, The Grand Teton, supported by local citizens who vocally opposed creation of the national monument that would eventually morph into today's Grand Teton National Park.

Neilson was persuaded that conserving the heart of Jackson Hole would not lead to economic catastrophe as some claimed. After he sided with John D. Rockefeller Jr.'s quest to buy up private ranches and homesteads (note: from willing sellers) and donate them to the federal government to form the basis for an enlarged national park, an advertising boycott was organized against the paper in an attempt to kill it and silence him.

Locals opposed to the monument concocted all kinds of conspiracy theories. The Grand Teton published them as a true and proud purveyor of fake news. The community became bitterly divided when agitators, unable to gaze into the future, tried to marginalize, malign and defame the efforts of conservationists.

The Courier did not succumb to the pressure; it served as an important public forum and, in one of its finest moments, published a lengthy essay penned by Rockefeller with help from National Park Service Director Horace Albright, dude rancher Struthers Burt, local biologist/conservationist Olaus Murie and others that made the case for safeguarding the majesty of Jackson Hole.

Stories from The Courier were circulated in Congress.

Had The Grand Teton existed as the only newspaper in this valley, enabling distortion and cockamamie assertions advanced by proto-Sagebrush Rebels to win the day, landscape protection—that is today the basis for a nature-tourism-based economy now worth hundreds of millions of dollars annually—would've never happened.

I recently spoke with Dr. Robert Righter, author of "Crucible for Conservation: The Struggle for Grand Teton National Park." If you've not read



The Tetons seen from east of Jackson Lake. Imagine if these flats, today teeming with wildlife and serving as a visual sightline to the mountains, were instead covered with a residential subdivision or commercial development all the way to the water's edge. While today these lands are treasured as a vital part of Grand Teton National Park's character, some fought against their initial protection. PHOTO BY TODD WILKINSON

Righter's classic, you should; it will give you heart palpitations and butterflies in contemplating the "what ifs" if things had gone the other way.

Righter told me he has an aversion to how Jackson Hole has become a modern enclave for the uber-rich—who live in a different stratum from normal folks—and he notes the irony that a member of that social class, Rockefeller Jr., a moderate Republican businessperson, knew what had to be done.

Neilson didn't write to win a popularity contest. "He was a really good journalist who dug in and found the truth. He made a big difference. He proved to be on the right side of history," Righter said. "Had he failed, had his newspaper been absent, the essence of Jackson Hole, at least as we know it now, would have been destroyed."

During the first week of August another newspaper, Planet Jackson Hole, folded. It had been a paper founded by conservative Republicans Judd and Mary Grossman. They launched it as an alternative to the Jackson Hole News & Guide (a paper for which I long wrote a column).

When John Saltas of Salt Lake City Weekly purchased Planet Jackson Hole from the Grossmans, he reset the tone of Wyoming's only alternative newsweekly. In recent years, Planet Jackson Hole explored social, environmental and political issues not always covered by the mainstream media.

There can be no doubt: the latest iteration of Planet Jackson Hole would have come down squarely on the side of conservation during the battle over the monument.

Like The Courier, Planet Jackson Hole is now going away, joining other casualties of print journalism and leaving papers like Explore Big Sky still standing—hopefully always relying on verifiable facts, which add up to the truth, so essential to the lifeblood of a community.

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.

MSU Extension noxious weed identification now available for mobile devices

MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – Montana State University Extension has updated its publication on noxious weed identification, “Montana’s Noxious Weeds,” making the information available for the first time as an electronic flipbook accessible on mobile devices.

The new flipbook includes key characteristics of 35 noxious weeds and five regulated plants, colorful photographs of each species and links to MSU Extension and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service publications that describe plants in more detail, including integrated management recommendations.

“Noxious weed management begins with correct identification of the target weed,” said Jane Mangold, invasive plant specialist with MSU Extension and associate professor in the MSU Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences.

“Over 100,000 copies of the original pocket guide have been distributed across the state since 2001, helping many people to identify and manage noxious weeds during that time. To stay current, we try to update the publication frequently, adding information as new weeds are added to the state noxious weed list.”

The publication can be downloaded onto computers and mobile devices, making it accessible even when Wi-Fi is unavailable. Links within the download describing management procedures, however, are only available with a Wi-Fi signal.

“This flipbook will serve as a tool for noxious weed managers, land owners, recreationalists and others who may wonder if an unknown plant is a noxious weed,” Mangold said. “They can simply look up the plant in question, then be able to search immediately for information on how to best manage it.”

The publication can be downloaded onto computers and mobile devices, making it accessible even when Wi-Fi is unavailable. Links within the download describing management procedures, however, are only available with a Wi-Fi signal.

Mobile device users can download the flipbook for free from the MSU Extension store at store.msueextension.org/ by searching the publication number (#EB0159). “Montana’s Noxious Weeds” and other updated noxious weed publications can be ordered from MSU Extension Publications at (406) 994-3273 or at store.msueextension.org/ by searching “noxious weeds.” In addition to the free mobile flipbook, printed copies of “Montana’s Noxious Weeds” can be purchased. There is also a high-resolution PDF available for download

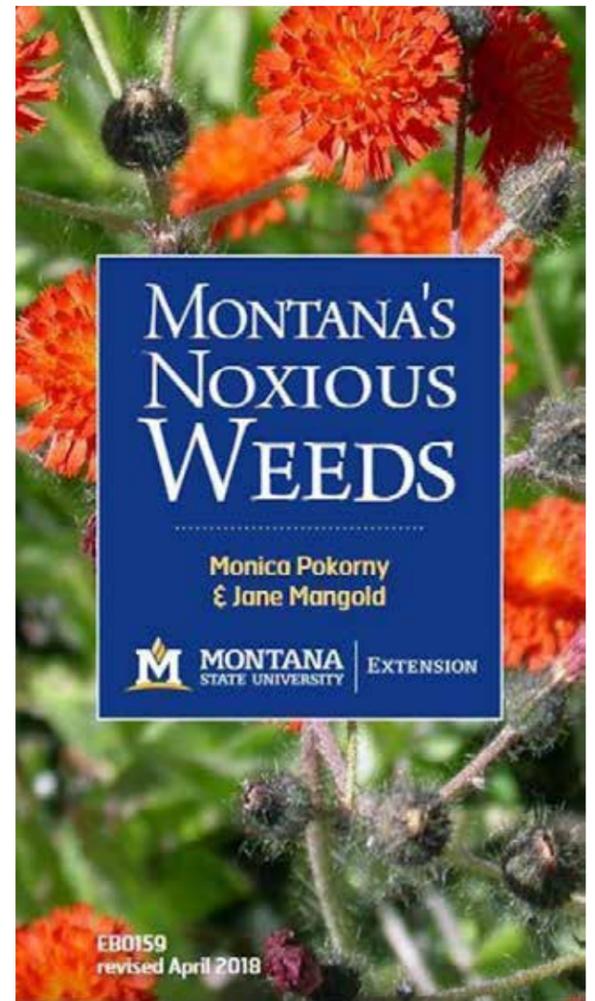
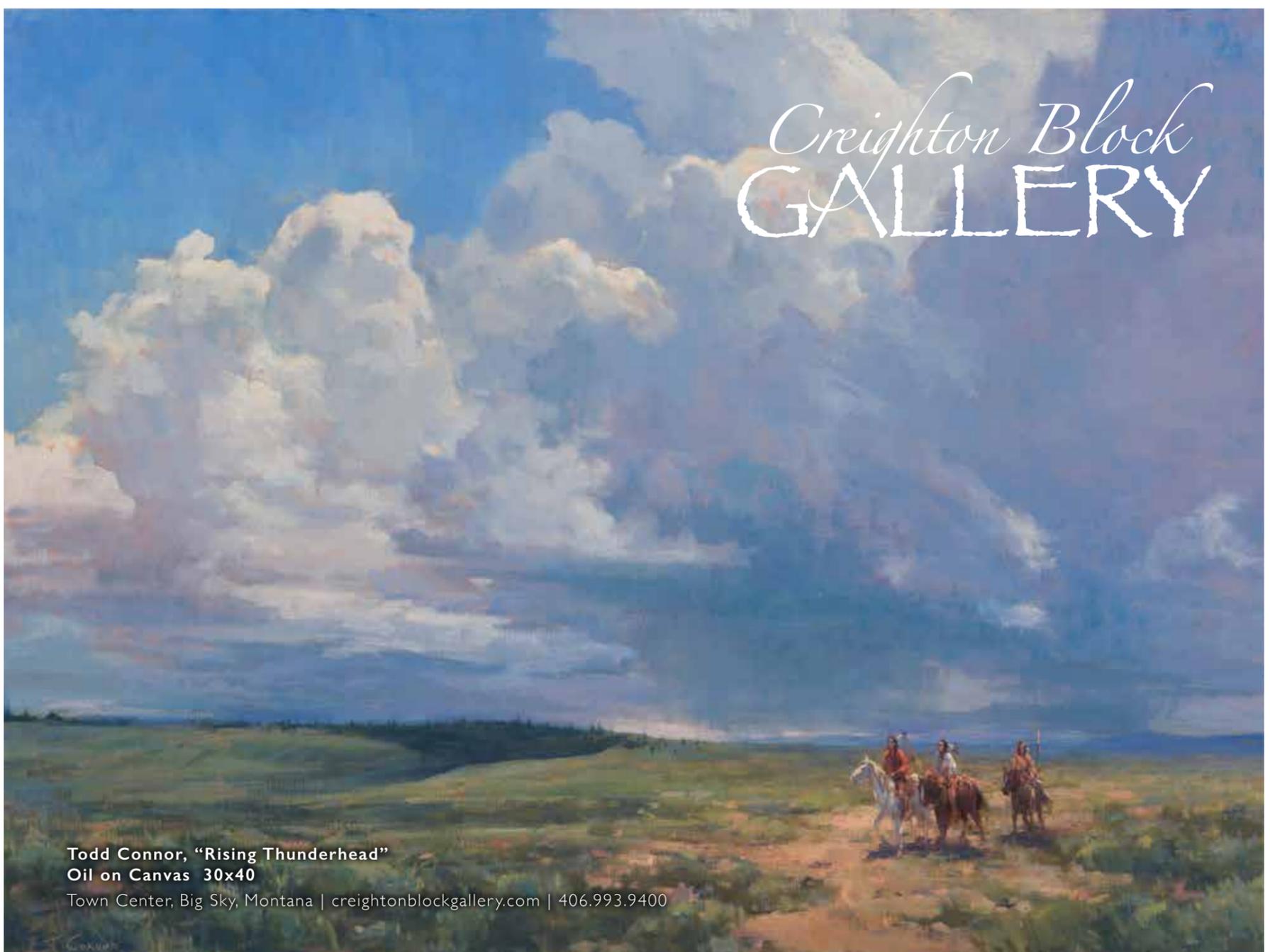


PHOTO COURTESY OF MSU EXTENSION



Todd Connor, “Rising Thunderhead”
Oil on Canvas 30x40

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Golf Tips from a Pro: AJGA is coming to Big Sky

BY MARK WEHRMAN
EBS GOLF COLUMNIST

For the first time ever, the American Junior Golf Association is coming to the state of Montana, holding a tournament over Labor Day weekend in Big Sky. The AJGA is the gold standard for junior golf and provides the toughest competition for elite junior golfers to compete at a high level, while they attempt to take their game on to the collegiate level.

There are currently more than 6,900 members of the AJGA and over 100 tournaments conducted nationally each year. More than 300 AJGA alumni now play on the PGA and LPGA tours, with over 830 victories between them.

This tournament will be conducted over four days with a qualifying round during the morning of Friday, Aug. 31, and an official practice round that afternoon for all qualifying participants. The main event will commence on Saturday with three days of 18-hole competition, ending with an awards ceremony following the last round of competition on Labor Day. The tournament will be open for spectators to attend, watch and follow players during their rounds. Due to these special circumstances many volunteers are needed each day to help out with various tasks, such as spotting balls, walking with groups, shuttling players to and from the course, and crowd control, among other tasks.



*Developing Golf's
Next Generation*

IMAGE COURTESY OF AMERICAN JUNIOR GOLF ASSOCIATION

Approximately 20 volunteers will be needed each day and if you're interested in volunteering please contact the Big Sky Pro Shop at (406) 995-5780 to sign up. Volunteers will be provided lunch each day, as well as drinks and snacks while inside the ropes—it's also an opportunity to see some spectacular golf up close, right here in Big Sky. Notable tournament participants from Montana will include Ryggs Johnston from Libby, who has committed to Arizona State University, and Joey Moore from Billings who's committed to play at San Diego State University. Locals from Bozeman High School and Big Sky native, TJ Nordahl, will also be competing over Labor Day weekend.

Big Sky Golf Course is an 18-hole, Arnold Palmer designed, championship course that sits at over 6,200 feet in elevation in the heart of Meadow Village. It boasts a large practice facility with two putting greens, a practice green and bunker, and 20 large natural grass hitting stalls. There is also a clubhouse with a fully stocked pro shop featuring lots of brand name apparel and equipment, PGA professional staff, and the Bunker Deck and Grill, open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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



Softball update: Huckers still undefeated

As the regular season of the Big Sky Co-ed Softball League winds down, the Huckers lead the pack, remaining undefeated, heading into the league championships, set to be played August 22 at 6:30p.m.

They are slated to play the LPC Golden Goats, who at press time had only one loss so far this season—to the Huckers—in a 16-8 drubbing on August 8.

The end-of-season double elimination tournament will be held the weekend of August 24-26 at the Community Park fields.

Pictured above, Huckers shortstop Lee Horning sending one of the many balls he hit over the left field fence during a double-header on August 8.

PHOTO BY DOUG HARE

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To know a mountain

A local's approach to running The Rut

BY BAY STEPHENS
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – High in the lofty reaches and rocky couloirs of Lone Mountain, you might spy Kevin Smith moving like a mountain goat across the tumbling slopes. He runs, scrambles across scree fields and outright climbs the barren rock.

He knows the mountain well after 15 years spent roaming its terrain on snowboard, mountain bike and, more recently, his own two feet. Running has allowed him an intimate understanding of Lone Mountain, a peak which has occupied his mind since he first saw a photograph of it in a magazine found in a grade school science class.

Smith's body type betrays a general athleticism while humility and gratitude mark his speech. Since 2014, he's competed every year in variations of The Rut Mountain Runs held at Big Sky Resort, including the 50-kilometer race his first and second year, and the vertical kilometer race paired with the 28K in 2016 and 2017. This year, he plans to run all three—The Rut Vertical Kilometer, 28K and 50K—over Labor Day weekend.

Running isn't Smith's whole life, although he acknowledges it's something at which he's always been inherently proficient.

"I wouldn't say I'm good or anything like that, but I could just do it, you know," Smith said. "It just made sense to me."

Originally from outside of Pittsburgh, he ran track, cross-country, and played soccer in high school. He dismissed his abilities as a soccer player, but said he was as fresh at the end of a game as at the beginning. In track and cross-country, despite running sub-5-minute miles, Smith was consistently beat by three other runners on his team, which he said was pretty defeating.

In 2000, Smith moved west to study architecture at Montana State University—a ploy on his parents to snowboard—living in Big Sky and working as a chairlift operator for Moonlight Basin while establishing residency for in-state tuition. He spent much of his time backpacking with his two malamutes throughout college, but eventually, lugging a heavy pack seemed a slow and cumbersome way to tour the mountains.

The 2014 Rut 50K offered an unexpected alternative. Smith's friends were running the race and Smith, who knew the terrain pretty well from snowboarding and biking, thought to himself, "I think I could do that."

But 11 hours in, he was hurting. Although he'd felt strong on the uphill, the descents did a number on his IT bands, the ligaments that run from the hip to the knee on the outside of thigh.

"I didn't know what IT bands were until like 20 miles into that race," Smith said. He finished, but he knew that he'd underestimated the mountain.

"We're just relatively active people," Smith said of himself and his fiancée, Nikki Harbaugh. "So, I felt like my off-the-couch fitness level was 50K. And it was—but it was like a week recovery."

Despite the beatdown, Smith marveled at the amount of ground he could cover in a day. "I kind of 'got' the whole trail running thing," he said. The sport grew into something that he thoroughly enjoys, providing a mental space that snowboarding and mountain biking don't.

"You're on autopilot," Smith said with a distant look on his face, hands moving like running feet, as he tried to articulate the reality of that space. "Your legs are just moving—at least for me—and I'm not telling my legs to move ... I'm just going along."

The supportiveness of the running community and the simplicity of the sport have both attracted Smith. Like skateboarding and soccer, running requires minimal equipment, cutting the flashiness and gear comparisons from the sport.

"You can just run," he said. "That's why soccer is such an incredibly huge sport: you just need a soccer ball!"

Smith's reintroduction to running opened up exploring the mountain in a new way, too. Unhindered by any gear, he could climb and explore the rugged heights as never before, delving into areas usually cloaked in snow.

"I always wanted to see, what's underneath all this snow? Where's the deepest snow sit?" Smith said. Traversing the steep slopes in the summer, he realized he could go anywhere—and has.

"I've been on runs and zones of that mountain that don't open for skiing—ever—that no one has ever skied, I've climbed around on them," Smith said.

A fondness born of familiarity colors Smith's face and voice as he talks about Lone Mountain like an old friend: "I'm pretty connected to that mountain, for sure."

Evenings are Smith's favorite time to be on the slopes—after lifts have ceased whirring and crowds have left—when the mountain goats hang out at the burrito shack at the top of the Swift Current lift. If Smith takes his massive malamute, Hank, he'll often chase the mountain goats up Bone Crusher and provoke his owner's ire.

Hank is now banned from joining Smith on golden-hour runs. "I'm pretty partial to mountain goats," Smith said. "I'd probably trade Hank if we could have a pet mountain goat."

After a year of light, swift foot exploration, Smith ran the 50K again, and lopped 2 hours off his time. Now, his training focuses more on flexibility and endurance, including long runs on the resort, a weekend blazing trails with Harbaugh in Glacier National Park, yoga and stretching. To avoid racking pain during the race, the latter two aspects are key.



Kevin Smith and his fiancée, Nikki Harbaugh, with their malamute, Hank. The couple met nine years ago when Harbaugh began working at Chet's Bar and Grill where Smith was the bar manager. PHOTOS BY BAY STEPHENS

“When you have a throbbing pain in your hip or your knee or your foot, it just shuts you down,” Smith said. “It’s like a mental punch to the face every time you take a step.”

Not one for gym workouts, Smith cross trains by laboring at his covenant-free property in Beehive Basin, on which he and Harbaugh have placed a Quonset hut overlooking Lone Mountain with goals of renting it out. He clears trees, chops wood, moves dirt and wants to build bike trails in the future.

Scheduled to wed the weekend before The Rut, the couple met nine years ago when Harbaugh began working at Chet’s Bar and Grill where Smith was the bar manager. They said the race factored into choosing the date. Harbaugh joked that, if something happened so Smith couldn’t run the race, she’d be blamed.

Smith smiled as he said, “I’ve never ran The Rut as a husband, so that’ll be a new challenge.”

One thing he has done every year is work after full days of racing.

“I’m not kidding you,” Harbaugh said. “He will come in, change his clothes and come over and help.” It blew Harbaugh’s mind that Smith was still standing after his first 50K in 2014. “I was like, ‘What are you doing? Go home!’ And he was like, ‘I can’t, I’m the bar manager.’”

Now as the beverage manager for Big Sky Resort, Smith makes hay while the sun shines.

“For me, that’s my work-life balance,” he said. “I will work 90 days in a row. I get 60 days in a row off.” And when the restaurants close, they leave town. He intends to work after this year’s race, too.

The definition of The Rut has shifted for Smith since first running it. The past two years, his goal was to run all three events, but waking up Sunday of the 50K after the vertical kilometer and 28K, he had good reason to opt out of the race. This year, he wants the trifecta.

“The Rut is the VK, the 28 and the 50—that’s The Rut to me now,” Smith said. “I just want to do it. It’s just one race.”



Kevin Smith running a trail in Glacier national park. He and Harbaugh hike there every year, covering as much as 50 miles in three or four days.

He’ll leave it all on the trail, but ultimately, Smith seeks to challenge himself simply to be on the mountain.

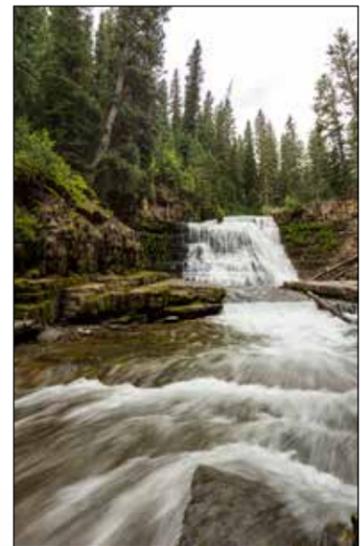
“There’s something about just being up there in that iconic rock that you see, that I saw for the first time in that ski magazine at 9 years old,” Smith said. “Everything in my life has drawn me to that mountain, to the top of that mountain.”

On top, Smith stands in the once place in the Big Sky community where Lone Mountain can’t be seen, content to look out on the rest of the world.

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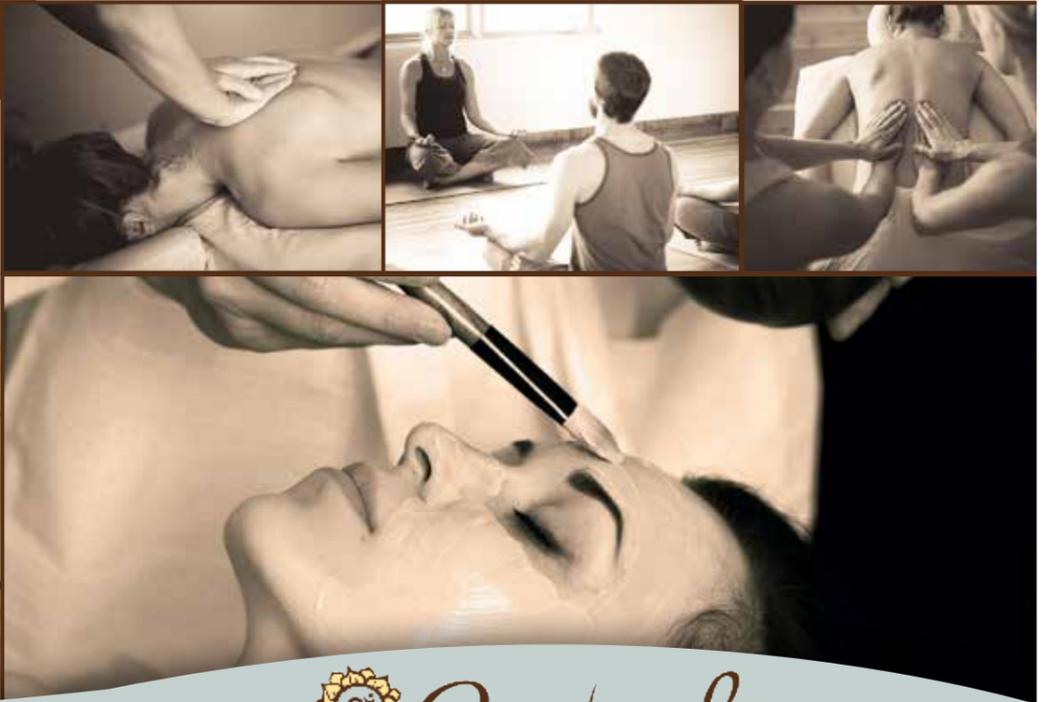
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The Rocks to open in Town Center

Tasting room, liquor store with light menu

BY BAY STEPHENS
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – The Rocks Tasting Room and Liquor Store is moving into the space previously occupied by the Cave Spirits and Gifts, and will be serving Montana-made beer and spirits, as well as a light food menu. Owners and 20-year Big Sky locals Ben and Kara Blodgett hope to be open by late August from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Geared toward a lunch crowd, the menu will feature GMO-free and sustainable products, including flatbreads, charcuterie boards, hummus platters, Vietnamese pho and various salad options. Ben will run the small kitchen, having 20 years of kitchen experience at establishments such as Rainbow Ranch Lodge and Scissorbills Saloon, while Kara—also equipped with extensive bartending and serving experience—will manage front-of-house operations. The team has already hired two employees and intend to keep the business operation small and flexible to match the ebbs and flows of a seasonal mountain town.

The Rocks will have a liquor store on the north end and a tasting room and restaurant to the south facing the street. A roll up garage door, matching neighboring Antlers Clothing Company, will open up onto a patio for tasting room guests. The whiskey bar-inspired décor will showcase Montana distilleries while walls made of old whiskey barrels already lend a rustic elegance to the space.

“We’re just going to try to bring a high level of quality to everything, our service and our food, [and] try to set ourselves apart in this town,” Ben said. The couple said they’ve had overwhelming support from the Big Sky community, including mentorship from other restaurant owners.



Ben and Kara Blodgett stand in front of a wall made of old whiskey barrels in their tasting room and liquor store, The Rocks, which is slated to open in late August. PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

“We’ve been a part of the community for 20 years, but this is the first time we’ve had the opportunity to do our own thing,” Kara said. “We’re looking forward to it. It’ll be fun.”

Until their garage door officially opens for business, Ben said he will be polishing up his recipes for Big Sky’s first taste.



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Making it in Big Sky

Making it in Big Sky: Greene Construction, Inc.

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – Greene Construction is a custom home building company based in Big Sky. The company is owned and run by Josh and Debby Greene. Josh began his career in the home building industry in the late '80s and moved to Big Sky with his family in 1998 and started Greene Construction, Inc.

As part of this ongoing series, Josh shared his thoughts with EBS about 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?*

Josh Greene: Being adaptable. I'm always asking myself: Can we do better? How do we keep learning and improving? It's also important to build a strong team and instill a sense of mission on any given project.

EBS: *Do you remember your first commission/project in Big Sky?*

J.G.: Yes, my first project was working for Packy Cronin in one of the first houses in the South Fork subdivision. Packy is from Hawaii; I moved here with my family from Hawaii so we immediately had that connection.

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

J.G.: Currently it's labor. I'm blessed with a great crew right now, but it's difficult for people starting out in Gallatin County to afford to settle down, buy a home and make a decent living.

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

J.G.: Big Sky is now a major resort destination. The stakes are much higher now. I don't have the statistics in front of me but housing and construction costs seem to have doubled (or tripled?) in the last 20 years. Additionally, the real estate market has been so volatile it's hard to forecast where we will be in the next two, five, 10 years.

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

J.G.: I've made a commitment to the community. My kids were raised here, some of my strongest friendships are in Big Sky. I have been fortunate to



One of the highlights of Josh Greene's 20 years as owner of Greene Construction was completing a LEED Gold commercial building with a group of fellow locals. PHOTO COURTESY OF GREENE CONSTRUCTION

have a steady stream of work. I've developed relationships and a reputation in Big Sky that I am proud of.

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

J.G.: One would be completing a LEED Gold commercial building working with a group of dedicated locals: John Boersma, Steve Rager, Phillip Kedrowski, Reid Smith, Mark Tedsen, among others. We installed a heat pump using the Big Sky Water and Sewer holding ponds as a heat source. My company was recognized as Green Builder of the Year for that.

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

J.G.: I've had many experiences and I try to learn from the failures more than I learn from the successes. I would say the investing in real estate back in 2007 was a business idea that didn't work out.

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

J.G.: Pay your taxes!

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

J.G.: If you really want to succeed, make a commitment to Big Sky. Debby and I moved here with a 4 year old and 11-month-old twins. We had no choice but to succeed. It sounds kind of extreme but living and working in Big Sky is extreme. Just look outside—it is a remote, intensely beautiful place.

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

J.G.: Like I said, I'm adaptable. I'll do what feels right and what I need to do.

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

J.G.: Big as ever.

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

J.G.: Yes.

GREENE CONSTRUCTION, INC. – BY THE NUMBERS



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YEARS IN BUSINESS:

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LONGEST SERVING EMPLOYEES:

My wife Debby and I,
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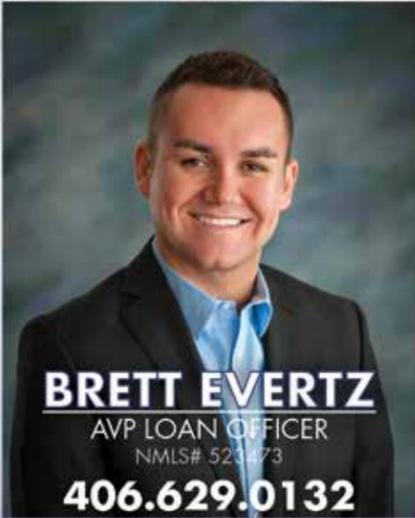
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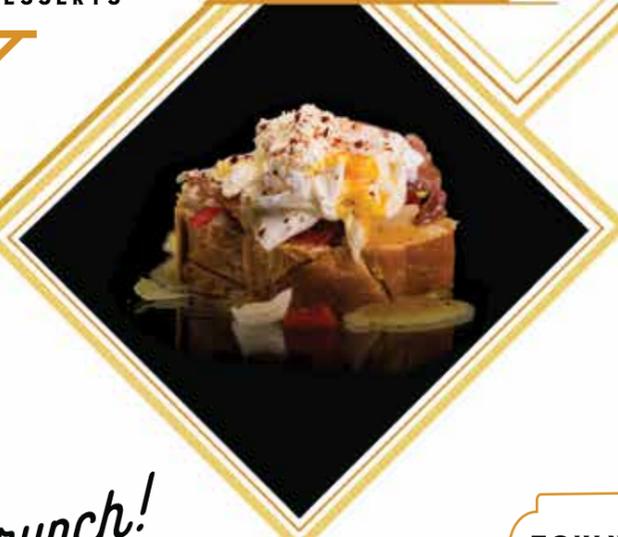
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Remembering Joel Robuchon



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EXPLORE BIG SKY FOOD COLUMNIST

I had every intention of following my last column about saffron with a brief history of another of the world’s most sought-after spices, but that will have to wait. I felt that we needed to acknowledge the life and career of the man who was awarded the title of “chef of the century” by Gault Millau in 1989.

I was recently having a conversation with my brother about how we are entering an era of losing many of our most respected and treasured musical icons—a few have already left us. We are also bidding adieu to some of the world’s greatest chefs.

We lost Paul Bocuse this spring, and on Aug. 6 the world lost chef Joel Robuchon, who died of pancreatic cancer in Geneva, Switzerland at the age of 73.

Chef Robuchon was an interesting contradiction. He was not so much an innovator but a keeper of tradition, while simultaneously turning it upside down. He was an early proponent of nouvelle cuisine, which, in the simplest terms, meant adding supporting ingredients, and showcasing the protein and finer ingredients on the plate, rather than cloaking them with a heavy sauce. It also meant accenting dishes with beautiful, edible garnishes—cutting edge in the late 1970s. Yet Robuchon was steadfast in his belief that a dish should almost never have more than three to four ingredients to allow every component to shine.

Simple mashed potatoes—his signature dish—is a perfect example. Considered the best chef of the century and he was known for his mashed potatoes. That should tell you how delicious they must have been.

If you’ve ever read his recipe, you see its emphasis on attention to detail and respect for the process. You boil potatoes, you mash them with butter, salt and milk, right? Not to him.

You don’t only boil potatoes; it’s a specific type of potato from France, called Ratte, and you boil them with the skin on and peel them by hand while still piping hot—a job left to young apprentices looking to earn their chef coat—and put them through a ricer to avoid even the smallest of lumps.

Then there is a specific order of adding the cold butter, the hot milk, and stirring vigorously for up to five minutes. And still, I have left some steps out.

This provides a glimpse into the detail and perfectionism that defined everything he did. Robuchon received too many awards to list here, but a couple stand out above all others. Aside from being named chef of the century, he earned the most Michelin stars of any chef in history—an astonishing 31 throughout his portfolio of restaurants.

And then, Robuchon did something unexpected. Fearing for his own health after seeing a number of fellow chefs die from what he perceived as industry-related stress, he retired. At 50 years old, he hung up his apron, turned off the stoves, and walked away.

But that didn’t last long—he soon returned and built a global empire that would span three continents.

I have his cookbook, “L’atelier of Joel Robuchon,” which I have referenced many times in my career. But now, I will hold on to it as if it were a painting by Picasso.

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

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SECTION 3: OUTDOORS, HEALTH & BACK 40

Local tip: recreation safety **pg. 31**Big Sky Biggie **pg. 32**Back 40: Rut training tips **pg. 44**

INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



Explore Yellowstone this winter

Registration for field seminars opens Aug. 22

BY CHRISTINE GIANAS WEINHEIMER
YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

Floating, hiking, fishing . . . while we're still enjoying everything summer has to offer in the Greater Yellowstone area, August is the ideal time to start planning for winter fun in Yellowstone National Park.

A Yellowstone Forever Institute Field Seminar is a unique way to experience Yellowstone in the wintertime. These in-depth learning experiences are led by experts in their field and allow participants to explore a specific topic of interest or try a new skill. Registration for winter 2018-2019 field seminars opens this month, and popular programs will fill up fast.

Yellowstone Forever, the official nonprofit partner of Yellowstone National Park, hosts these educational programs to help visitors enjoy, understand, and appreciate the wildlife, geology, and cultural history of the park. During the quietly beautiful winter season, there are many different ways to engage with Yellowstone, with courses that focus on activities ranging from snowshoeing and winter landscape photography, to wolf-watching and reading wildlife tracks in the snow.

"In many ways, winter is the defining season for Yellowstone," said Robert Petty, senior director of education for Yellowstone Forever. "The plants and animals . . . in Yellowstone [are here] in large measure because of the long, cold winters. It is hard to fully appreciate the harsh and beautiful majesty of this landscape without spending time here during the winter season. Participating in one of our winter field seminars is an excellent way to experience this spectacular season."

Courses led by naturalists and wildlife biologists highlight cougars, wolves, ungulates, birds, or wildlife behavior. Others delve into the human stories of the Greater Yellowstone Region by exploring park history, conservation efforts, and Lakota traditions. Participants can even choose to spend a holiday at Lamar Buffalo Ranch with special programs to celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year.



March brings Lamar Valley Wolf Week, programming that delves into the wolf's winter world, with naturalist-led snowshoe excursions, evening talks by wolf experts, and plenty of wolf-watching in the field.



Yellowstone by Ski or Snowshoe is a new field seminar that will take participants of all skill levels into the heart of wolf, bison, and elk country. PHOTOS BY MATT LUDIN

Four different photography-themed field seminars provide expert guidance for photographers of all levels who would like to capture Yellowstone's magnificent winter landscapes and wildlife, and hone their skills both in the field and at their computer.

A brand-new field seminar for the 2018-2019 winter season—Yellowstone by Ski or Snowshoe—is designed for any and all skill levels. The program will take participants into the heart of wolf, bison, and elk country to gain a deeper understanding of the park's wildlife and geology.

The month of March brings Lamar Valley Wolf Week, an annual favorite that, due to popular demand, is now offered in three sessions. Lamar Valley Wolf Week lets participants immerse themselves in the wolf's winter world with naturalist-led snowshoe excursions, evening talks by wolf experts, and plenty of wolf-watching in the field.

Those seeking to start a new career or continue their professional education may take a course to become certified as a Wilderness First Responder, naturalist guide, or interpretive guide. In addition, the certification course in Wilderness First Aid is ideal for anyone who spends a lot of time working or playing in the backcountry.

For most winter field seminars, participants can reserve lodging with Yellowstone Forever at either the Overlook Field Campus in Gardiner, Montana, or the Lamar Buffalo Ranch in Yellowstone's Lamar Valley. Registration for 2018-2019 winter field seminars is currently open for Yellowstone Forever supporters, and will open to the public at 8 a.m. on Aug. 22.

Learn more at yellowstone.org/experience.

PHOTO TOM MURPHY



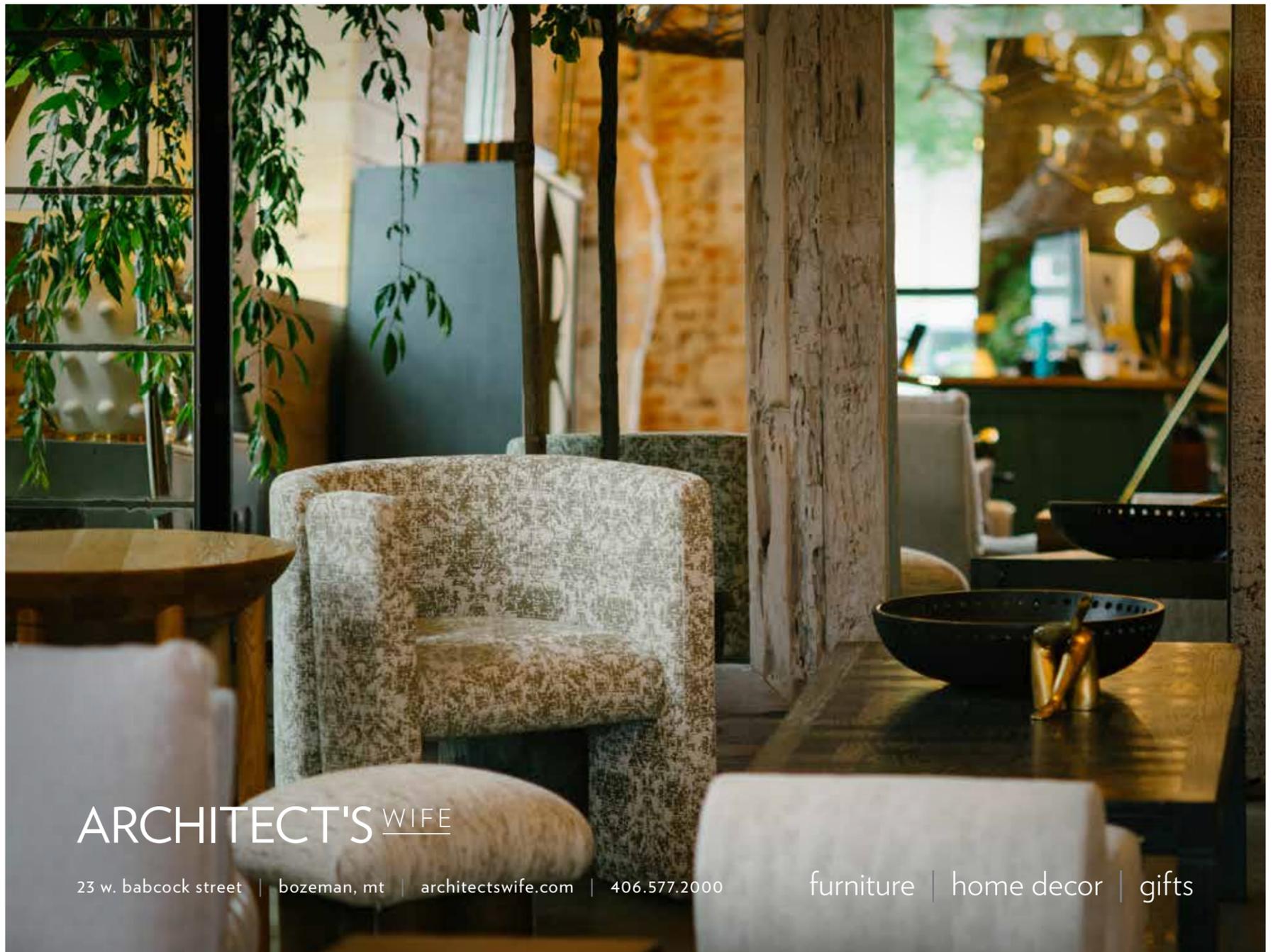
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Recreational safety 101

EBS STAFF

Hiking may seem like a relatively safe outdoor activity compared to more extreme sports like downhill mountain biking or whitewater kayaking, but unexpected situations can occur, whether an injury or simply getting lost.

Since the beginning of this year, Gallatin County Search and Rescue, a division of Gallatin County Sheriff's Office, has conducted 38 rescues and 22 searches county-wide. Of those, eight rescues and 11 searches were in Gallatin Canyon and the Big Sky area.

In regards to hiking incidents specifically, there were reports of heart problems, a broken ankle, dislocated hip, and a person separated from their group.

“Nature is a funny thing,” wrote Gallatin County Sheriff Brian Gootkin in a press release about two back-to-back rescue situations in the canyon. “Even the most prepared and expert hikers can't predict getting startled by a fox, twisting wrong and blowing out a hip. That is an injury that you need help to get out with. Get out, be healthy and responsibly enjoy great mountain living. When you do make sure you have the gear and communication that allows us to help you when nature does her thing. Enjoy the back country with other people when possible, stay together when hiking and carry a means of communication with you.”

Gallatin County Search and Rescue Captain Jason Jarrett said that most of the rescue missions—whether ATV crashes, climbing accidents, hiking or mountain biking—are gravity-related, or what he calls “slip, trip or fall” situations.

He said that most of the calls come from locals because locals spend the most time in surrounding wilderness areas.

“Our backyard is backcountry,” Jarrett said. “So when you trip and blow your ankle out, or fall and blow your knee out, where most people can hobble back to their car, here you find yourself at 10,000 feet and [deep in the wilderness].”

Taking into account the time it might take you to reach help, or for help to reach you, Jarrett advises to carry enough gear to survive the elements longer than you plan to be out there.

Here are a few more precautions you can take to reduce the risk of injury or a situation becoming dire, and how to be prepared should you find yourself in a less than ideal situation.



In late July, Gallatin County Search and Rescue personnel, Gallatin Gateway Fire Department, and Reach Air Medical Services, conducted a successful rescue operation to retrieve a 37-year-old woman who fell and lost consciousness while hiking at Gallatin Tower. PHOTOS BY LEO MCATEE

Bring a topographical map or guide book. Know the terrain, elevation changes, and any crossroads you will encounter. Carry a current trail map and know how to read it.

Hike with a friend. The old adage “safety in numbers” applies to hiking too. Hiking in groups is an easy and fun way to protect against hiking dangers. Be sure to have at least one companion, but when hiking into remote areas, it's advisable to have a minimum of four people in your group. If someone gets hurt, that leaves one person to stay with the injured party, while two others can go get help.

Tell someone where you are going and when you are returning. Leave a copy of your itinerary with a friend or family member and when you plan to return. Include details like the make, year, and license plate of your car; and emergency contact information.

Wear properly fitting shoes with good ankle support. Slick logs, river stones, trail rocks and exposed roots have been known to cause fractured ankles. Don't try to break in brand new shoes on a long hike. Take along an extra pair of synthetic socks to prevent blisters.

Use a walking stick. Walking sticks and hiking poles provide added support and leverage, and an advance sense of the terrain ahead. Some people hike with one; some people hike with two—figure out what feels right for you.

Take along a good compass. Know how to read it and always know which direction you should be heading.

Bring appropriate clothing. Dress for trail and weather conditions. In rapidly changing weather conditions, bring lightweight layers.

Be aware of wildlife. Be aware of possible encounters with wild animals and treat any encounters with extreme caution.

Emergency signaling devices. Pack an emergency signaling device like a flashlight or small mirror and know the location of the nearest ranger station or park office to send distress signals in the case of an emergency.

Take plenty of drinking water. A minimum of two quarts per person per day is suggested. Don't drink stream, river, or lake water—it may look clean and refreshing, but mountain stream water can make you ill.

Stay on trails. Walking off-trail does not only cause erosion, but it also increases the likelihood of getting injured or lost.

Watch your step. Pay attention your footing when near cliffy areas. Stay on developed trails or dry, solid rock areas with good footing.

Big Sky Biggie connects community and trails

BY BAY STEPHENS
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – The area’s trails will connect as never before during the Big Sky Biggie 50- and 30-mile mountain bike races Saturday, Aug. 25, followed by a spectator-friendly short-track race on Sunday to round out the weekend’s competition.

Beginning and ending in Town Center, the 30- and 50-mile races will hit local favorites such as the Ridge Trail above the North Fork drainage, the classic Mountain to Meadow trail that flows from Big Sky Resort to Town Center, and on newer trails including Ralph’s Pass. The 50-miler will also include the First and Second Yellow Mule trails leading to the top of Buck Ridge and a total course elevation gain of 9,000 feet.

Event organizer Natalie Osborne was inspired to put the event on as a fundraiser for the Big Sky Community Organization, which is responsible for building and maintaining many of the local trails. An avid bike racer, Osborne was surprised a mountain bike race of this caliber didn’t exist in southwest Montana when she moved here from Alaska in 2015.

“It’s a lot of work to be able to have a course of this length, simply because we have so much private land,” she said. “I understand why it hasn’t been done before, but I just don’t think that’s a reason not to do it.”

To make the race a reality, Osborne and Ciara Wolfe, BSCO executive director, navigated nine different user agreements with private property owners, associations and businesses that manage tracts of land that the course traverses.

Wolfe said in an email that it was like a giant puzzle. “Fortunately, we have strong relationships with all of the major land managers in the area and

we hold mutual respect for the goals of the community, the land owners themselves and the various recreation users,” she said. “Working through the routes took a lot of listening and adjusting to ensure we were respecting the land owners’ desires while also providing a high quality trail experience for the athletes.”

Wolfe hopes the races will foster a positive image of the Big Sky mountain biking community, allow the trail system more exposure to new and visiting individuals, and provide an annual revenue stream to aid BSCO in building additional trails in alignment with its Master Trails Plan.

Osborne plans to upload full course map files a day or two before the event so athletes don’t pre-ride sections on private land that won’t open until race day. Maps for pre-riding the public segments of trail are available on the website now.

After the big races on Saturday, Osborne hopes riders will stick around for the short-track race on Sunday, which she said will be an exciting and easy-to-watch race in which bikers do as many laps as possible on the 1-mile single- and double-track loop in 20 minutes, before a “bell lap” sprint to the finish line.

Osborne and Wolfe are both anticipating the inaugural event, and Wolfe said she’s especially grateful for Osborne’s hard work: “She came up with this dream and has dedicated hundreds of volunteer hours to make it happen, all for the benefit for Big Sky’s trail system.”

With up to 300 riders, the Biggie is poised to burn in Big Sky’s trails and make way for future trails.

Visit bigskybiggie.com to view the racecourse maps, a schedule of events and registration information.

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Bringing the Saltwater Flats to Bozeman

Bonefish & Tarpon Trust benefit at the Emerson

EBS STAFF

On Thursday, Aug. 23, the Emerson Center for Arts and Culture will host the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust Bozeman Round Up, a day of activities for anglers of all ages. The event begins at 3 p.m. and will feature local food vendors, notable fishing anglers, clinics, product demos, fly casting instruction, giveaways and more.

After the afternoon festivities, you can register for a dinner provided by Outback Steakhouse, drinks courtesy of MAP Brewing, live music from Paul Puckett, and a live and silent auction.

All proceeds benefit Bonefish & Tarpon Trust, a nonprofit that works to conserve and restore bonefish, tarpon, permit fisheries and habitats through research, stewardship, education and advocacy.

Through science-based approaches in collaboration with other institutions and governments, BTT is working to protect and enhance healthy, functioning flats fisheries and habitats in the Western Hemisphere, and restore those in decline.

In the Florida Keys and South Florida, BTT is working to determine and address the causes of declining fish populations. BTT has defined a series of research steps that will lead to actionable knowledge to improve the Keys flats fishery.

BTT is also working to improve regulations as necessary to ensure a healthy tarpon fishery throughout the Gulf of Mexico, Southeast United States and Caribbean.

Visit themerson.org or bonefishtarpontrust.org for more information.



A bonefish on a fly is a sought-after prize of many fly fishers. Support the conservation efforts of Bonefish & Tarpon Trust at an angling event and benefit at the Emerson on Aug. 23. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

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On the Trail: Dudley Creek Trail

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

BY CIARA WOLFE
BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Dudley Creek Trail (FS No. 404) is an excellent day-hike adventure located close to the community of Big Sky providing solitude, as well as expansive forest and mountain views. The 10.8-mile roundtrip trail leads you to Dudley Lake, a beautiful high alpine lake, or the ability to continue on and scramble to the top of one of the nearby peaks, for a 360-degree birds-eye view of Big Sky and the surrounding mountain ranges.

Beginning at the trailhead you will follow the dirt road for 1/4 mile until the private property ends and the trail begins to the left of the entrance gate to a log home. The trail leads you through several miles of forested, rolling topography with a gradual climb throughout.

Once at the lake you'll see the summit of Wilson Peak above you at 10,705 feet—which is another 1 mile and 1,605 feet of elevation gain—and Dudley Peak at 10,165 feet. Wilson Peak can be climbed along the east ridge if you would like your adventure to include bagging a peak. Otherwise the lake provides beautiful views of the surrounding peaks and a nice place for a picnic before you begin your descent back down.

The trail is used as access for hunters, and this area is also bear habitat, so remember to wear your blaze orange during the fall and also be bear aware.

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



Sawyer Wolfe enjoys the rugged mountains accessible above Dudley Lake near Big Sky. PHOTO BY CIARA WOLFE

During the first 3 miles you will cross Dudley Creek three different times. The first two provide clear log crossings, while the last one requires you to wade through the small creek. This third crossing is easy to miss, so watch for the trail to start again on the other side of the creek. After the last creek crossing the trail increases in difficulty while gaining elevation, and you'll walk through large boulder fields leaving the creek to the south. The steepest ascent is during the last mile to the lake, which is an 827-foot climb.



BIG SKY
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

TRAIL STATS

Distance	Uses	Difficulty	Elevation	Surface
10.8-miles, out and back	Hike, bike, horses	Difficult	3,051 ft gain	Dirt

Directions: Drive north from Big Sky on Highway 191 approximately 1/2 mile. Turn left onto a dirt road and follow a steep embankment that parallels the highway. You will then take a sharp curve to the west and drive for approximately 1 mile until you see the trailhead parking area. Park your vehicle and begin walking 1/4 mile up the road until you come to the trail.

Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



As we move into the latter part of August we can expect river pressure to wane, but along with that also comes fewer aquatic insects. We're also in the midst of a prolonged period of hot and dry weather, so water temps are on the high side in the afternoons. Fortunately nights start to cool down this time of year, which helps to offset the warmer days.

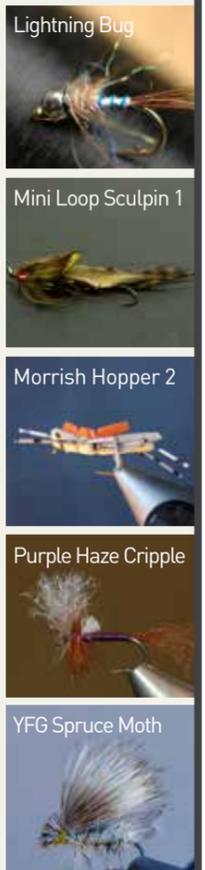
Hopefully we can rely on spruce moths to carry us through August on the Gallatin, but historically speaking moths really start to fade away by the middle of the month. A few caddis and mayflies will still be present, but hatches will be fewer

and further between for the remainder of summer. This makes dry fly fishing a bit of a crapshoot, but good days will no doubt still be had on the surface. This is a good time of year to start considering a mix of terrestrials like hoppers and ants. Nymphing will likely be best on small nymphs like Lightning Bugs, Zebra Midges, serendipities and more in the 18-20 size range mostly. Also, sculpin patterns with a nymph dropper are good options as well.

Hopper fishing has really started to heat up on the upper Madison, but unfortunately so have the water temperatures. If you're out on a hot day maybe take extra precautions when catching fish during late afternoon or plan an early start to your day and plan a nap during the mid afternoon time frame. And consider heading back for the last few hours of daylight.

The Yellowstone is in great shape and has been fishing well. Dry fly fishing has been good up high with hoppers, spruce moths, ants and other smaller attractors. Hopper fishing has been good lower in the valley as well, but consider nymphing with streamers and nymphs to get you through the day.

Although we love fishing this time of year it is also important for us to be good stewards by handling fish safely. Keep them wet and release them as quickly as possible. Avoid holding fish out of the water for any period of time, especially during the heat of the day.



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Inside the Big Sky

Wildflower beauties and beasts

VISIT BIG SKY

June had rain showers, July brought sunshine and now, the alpine meadows are exploding with the gorgeous wildflowers of August.

On the higher elevation trails, like Beehive Basin and North Fork, sunflowers and arrowleaf groundsel abound; and keep an eye out for the stacked blue petals of a mountain lupine; the simple, pink, sticky geranium; or the jagged petals of the flaming red Indian paintbrush, now in full bloom.

Not only beautiful to look at, these plants are forage for the deer, elk and moose in the area. An adult moose can eat up to 60 pounds of plant life a day, so they are on the lookout for these plants.

At lower elevations you'll find favorites of bears and humans alike—wild strawberries, thimbleberries, soapberry and, a Montana-must, huckleberries, all of which are ripening. Traditionally, the soapberry was used by native tribes to make a type of ice cream by whipping crushed berries together with water and a sweetener, oftentimes adding other berries like the thimbleberry for sweetness.

While you're taking in the beauty of the Montana flora, don't be tricked by the invasive plants no matter how lovely they appear. The ubiquitous white oxeye daisy, the alien-looking purple Canada thistle and the similarly-odd spotted knapweed, for example, provide stimulating pops of color, but are not indigenous to the Greater Yellowstone Region. To distinguish the weeds from the wildflowers, a helpful handbook is "The Montana Noxious Weed Field Guide" by Becky Kington.



"The Montana Noxious Weed Field Guide" can help you distinguish between native plants and invasive species in the region. PHOTO COURTESY OF VISIT BIG SKY

Next time you're out on your favorite hike, assist in the effort to keep noxious plants at bay so indigenous plants can thrive—pull a weed and carry it home to the garbage.

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



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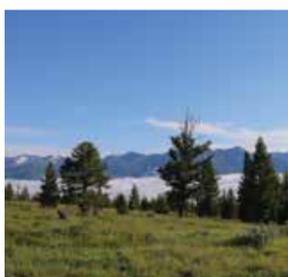
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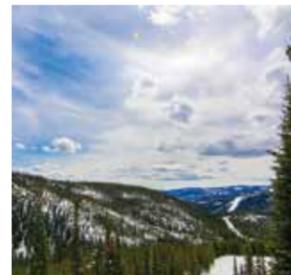
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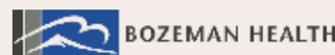


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The Great Grasshopper Throw-down

A battle of the best hopper patterns

BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

Blessed with above average snowpack last winter, and now normal or slightly above-normal streamflows, our local trout are happy and hungry. And with the abundance of spring moisture and summer sunshine, the creation of ideal habitat for grasshoppers has emerged. When you add up the two parts you get prime conditions for trout eating grasshoppers.

Having success with grasshopper patterns is often easier said than done—late summer conditions can stack up against us as the prolonged days of bright sunshine cause water temps to often climb into the high 60s. However, armed with the right grasshopper pattern, you can beat the conditions and find success. Here's eight of the best hopper patterns going head to head.

Stalcup's Hopper versus the Panty Dropper Hopper. I first fished the Stalcup's hopper back in the '90s on the Missouri River. Craig was a sleepy riverside hamlet with only one fly shop and a bar. These days the Panty Dropper is the more appropriate pattern for the epicenter of fly-fishing hipness. Both hoppers are easy to see with a chunk of orange foam on their backs. The Panty Dropper is appealing with its large foam legs and foam underwing, but once in the water, the sleekness of the tube legs and marabou feet of the Stalcup's outperforms the sexier-sounding pattern. Winner: Stalcup's Hopper.

Morrish Hopper versus Fat Frank. This is a battle of the legs. Both are easy to see—they're hoppers, they should be—and feature an abundance of rubber legs. A Fat Frank will float a dropper nymph better, but this battle is about getting a fish to eat your hopper. The Morrish Hopper's all-foam body and its loosey-goosey thin rubber legs provide life-like action while drifting down the river. Winner: Morrish Hopper.

Parachute Hopper versus Dave's Hopper. A dog fight of the old school greats, the Dave's Hopper and Parachute Hopper are tied without foam or rubber legs. With its spun deer-hair head the Dave's Hopper looks buggier than the Parachute Hopper, but the Parachute Hopper doesn't sit quite as high on the surface, which makes it a very successful pattern for trout who are selective in their hopper eating. The legs and wings are similar, but it's the spun deer-hair head that makes the Dave's Hopper so lifelike and thus so effective. Winner: Dave's Hopper.

Chubby Chernobyl versus Carnage Hopper. Every trout angler must have a few Chubby Chernobyls in their fly box—and after reading this you should also have a few Carnage Hoppers. A Chubby Chernobyl with its massive white-foam wing is easy to see, but the Carnage Hopper with its segmented foam body, large foam head and glossy eye, is a very close imitation to the real thing. Tied with flexi-floss and rubber, the Carnage Hopper's legs take the cake for the most lifelike hopper imitation available today. Winner: Carnage Hopper.

Semi-final one: Stalcup's versus Morrish. A grind out battle to the finish, but the Stalcup's Hopper is more durable over the long haul. With a body made entirely out of foam, the Morrish's lifespan is short—a few teething fish and the foam weakens and spins on the hook. If you have the ability for an endless



Battle of the heavyweight hoppers, clockwise from upper left: Stalcup's, Carnage, Morrish, Panty Dropper, Chubby Chernobyl, Fat Frank, Parachute, and Dave's. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

supply of Morrish hoppers, it's a tie. Otherwise, the winner is: Stalcup's Hopper.

Semi-final two: Dave's versus Carnage. Both have very realistic profiles when seen from a trout's vantage point. But beyond that, they are very different—the Carnage is tied with all synthetic materials while the Dave's is traditional. But it's the Carnage Hopper's segmented body and glossy eye that imitate a real-life hopper better. This battle went deep into overtime, but its flexi-floss and rubber legs left the Carnage Hopper standing. Winner: Carnage Hopper.

Championship: Stalcup's versus Carnage. Larry Bird versus Magic Johnson. Tom Brady versus Joe Montana. Lionel Messi versus Cristiano Ronaldo. Well, it's not quite that grand, but choosing the right hopper is important. My choice is the Stalcup's mostly for sentimental reasons as I've caught more large trout on this pattern than any other. It's slimmer than the Carnage and tied with traditional materials along with plenty of foam to help it float well. It's caught selectively feeding trout on the Paradise Valley spring creeks, ambush-hungry browns on the Yellowstone, pressured trout on the Madison and Missouri rivers, so it's the first hopper I reach for this time of year. Winner: Stalcup's Hopper.

While the Stalcup's won this battle, faith in your favorite hopper pattern goes a long way. Your top choice may not be my top choice. What matters is that you play the game—and soak it up because soon you'll be fishing fall Blue Winged Olives and struggling just to see your fly on the water

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.

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RESORT ROUNDUP

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



Ski season on the horizon

Less than 100 days til opening day at Big Sky Resort on November 22.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

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

AUG. 16-19

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AUG. 31-SEPT. 2

The Rut Mountain Runs

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. See page 44 for race day tips.

LIVE MUSIC

AUG. 17
Jamie McLean
Band

Montana Jack, 10 p.m.

AUG. 18
Reckless Kelly

Montana Jack, 10 p.m.

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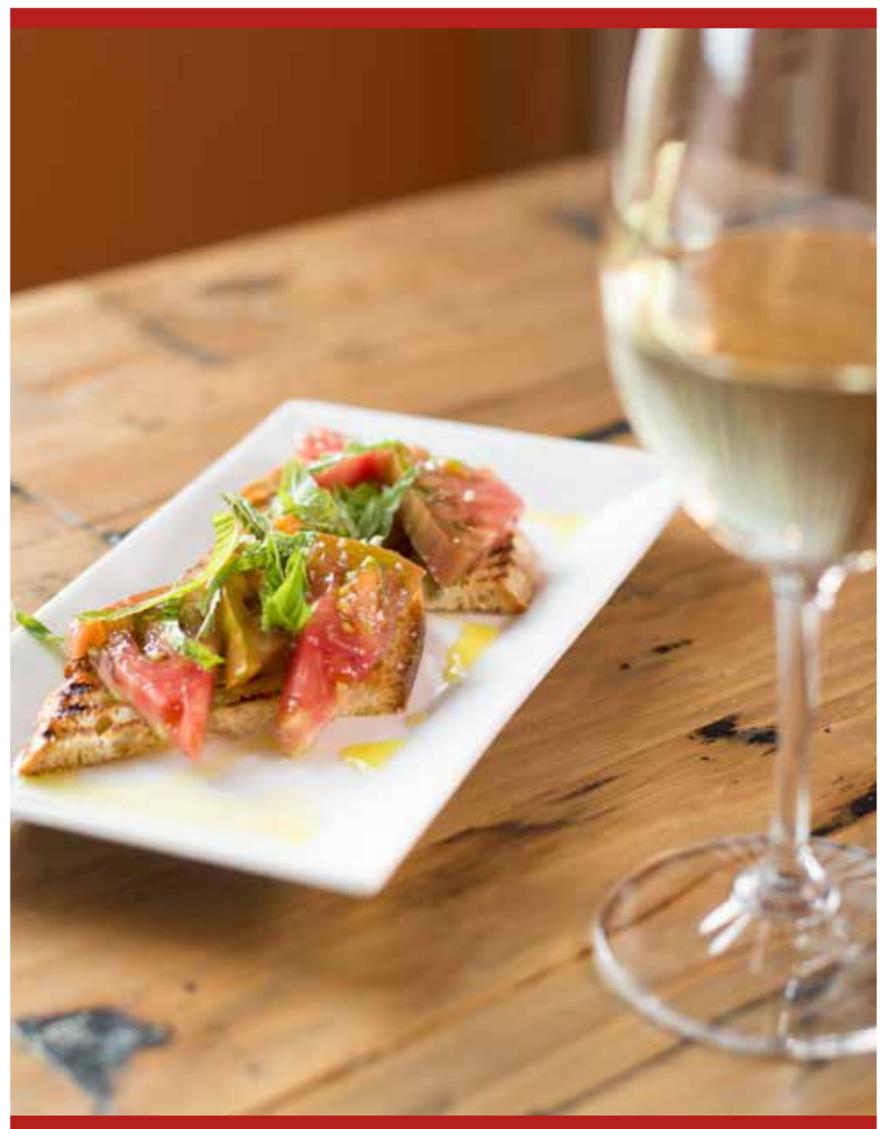
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From Jackie *with love*



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

If you're not already, do this one simple thing today to help the environment and your health: stop buying and drinking water from disposable plastic bottles.

Here are eight reasons why:

- According to the Beverage Marketing Association, nearly 50 percent of all bottled water sold in the U.S. is just tap water that's been purified.
- Harmful chemicals called phthalates leach into bottled water after a mere 10 weeks of storage from the time they're bottled. This had been linked to reproductive problems and different types of cancer and heart disease.
- While the EPA requires public drinking water systems to annually test and publish the results of water quality, as well as information about the drinking water source and any known threats, the FDA does not require this of bottled water companies.
- The marketing-driven terms "mountain water" and "glacier water" are not FDA standard phrases. If you see either of those qualifiers on a label, they mean nothing and the water can very well come from a tap. If you are looking for water from a pristine source, look for the words "artesian water," "spring water," or "well water."
- If you drink from disposable water bottles, think about filling one bottle six more times—that is the approximate amount of water needed to produce that one plastic bottle you're drinking from. And if that's not ridiculous enough, now imagine a quarter of that bottle filled with crude oil. That's how much petroleum is used to manufacture one single bottle.

Reasons to never drink from disposable water bottles again

- Americans consume about 60 percent of the world's bottled water. That's 30 billion disposable bottles used a year, a whopping 1,500 per second. And only 20 percent of those water bottles get recycled while the rest end up in landfills.
- While water bottles are made of recyclable polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastics, PETs don't biodegrade—they photodegrade. This means they break down into smaller pieces over time that contaminate our bodies, waterways and soil.
- The majority of plastic that ends up in our oceans settles on the ocean floor where it will never degrade.

So what should we drink if we fear our tap water isn't safe? The Environmental Working Group (EWG) recommends using water filters certified from either the Water Quality Association or the National Sanitation Foundation. You may have one built into your refrigerator already. You can also attach them to your or faucet or use a water filter pitcher such as a Brita.

Just say no to disposable plastic water bottles. They're completely unnecessary and a gross example of how we prioritize convenience above all else. Fill up your glass or stainless steel water bottle instead.

Ask the businesses you're affiliated with to stop using them. Can they install self-serve water filter systems instead? Perhaps they can generate revenue from selling quality water bottles with their logo. If they shrug you off, ask if they're doing the bare minimum by recycling.

Here's to health and hydration!

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

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Yours in health

What's in my vitamins, anyway?



BY DR. ANDREA WICK
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

Many Americans take vitamins daily to supplement any deficiencies they might have. It is difficult to get the recommended daily amount of nutrients and vitamins from our diets. This is especially true for vegetarians and vegans, for whom it can be difficult to get enough B12 and protein, which can negatively affect their health.

From my personal research, I am astounded by the ingredients in certain readily available supplement. Stores such as Costco, Walgreens, CVS, GNC, and Target all sell supplements that will most likely not be good for you because of added preservatives, or because the supplement does not even contain the main ingredient it advertises itself as.

For example, last week at Target I looked at Spring Valley's calcium, magnesium, and zinc supplements. I cringed at the filler ingredients listed on the label: soy, polysorbate 80, mineral oil, and many more. Also, the magnesium was not pure magnesium, but magnesium oxide, which is not easily absorbed by our bodies. Magnesium oxide is used for constipation, but not for sleep, muscle cramping, or cardiovascular health, which is why most people take magnesium.

Many of these supplement brands also incorporate wheat and corn, including a lot of adult and children gummy vitamins. Corn is one of the most toxic grains in the U.S. because of the amount of pesticides used to grow it.

When shopping for supplements and vitamins, don't let the label or name fool you. Nature Made Prenatal was even worse than the Spring Valley brand because it had corn, wheat, soy, and polyethelene glycol, which is a petroleum derivative.

A lot of people take vitamin B12 supplements. Your best bet is to get a B supplement that has methylcobalamin in it versus cyanocobalamin. The methyl version of a supplement makes it more absorbable. Methylcobalamin is the naturally occurring form of B12 versus the synthetic cyanocobalamin.

I also looked at the back of a Centrum Silver bottle and saw that the supplement contained cornstarch, aluminum, and a number of toxic food dyes. This wasn't surprising to me after I read in the small print it is made by Pfizer, a corporation that specializes in pharmaceuticals, not supplements.

At my practice, I am very selective about what supplements I carry in my office. I use brands that are typically for health physicians and practitioners only, like Optimal Health, Nutri-West, Apex Energetics, Standard Process and homeopathic remedies. Not only am I picky about the brands I carry, but I keep myself educated about them because I have carried brands in the past that changed their ingredients.

All of this said, not everyone needs a multivitamin. It's better for a lot of people to take a specific vitamin that they tend to be more deficient in. Most Americans could benefit from Vitamin D with K2, high quality fish oil or Omega-3 oil, and magnesium (glycinate, taurate or citrate).

Dr. Andrea Wick is a chiropractor and applied kinesiologist. She graduated from Life University in Marietta, Georgia, and now practices in Big Sky. She has a passion for holistic health care and being active in the outdoors. Her practice, Healing Hands Chiropractic, is located in the Meadow Village Center. Visit drandreawick.com to learn more.

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BACK40

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

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

Back 40: Race day tips for a successful run

BY MIKE FOOTE
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

It's August and you know what that means—The Rut Mountain Runs are just around the corner. With only a few weeks until the big event, it's time to shift our focus from training to race-day execution.

Here are some tips on how to successfully run The Rut.

Know the course. This will give you confidence going into race day and allow you to have a plan. I like to break the race down from aid station to aid station, and know how much water and food I will need between points. By researching the course and knowing the terrain, I can assess what sections will play to my strengths or challenge my weaknesses. With this in mind, I can plan when to push and when to take it more conservatively.

It's also important to have a plan when it comes to aid stations. They can be a great boost of energy when you most need it—not only to top off your nutrition and hydration needs, but to feel the energy from the crowd and volunteers. At the Swift Current aid station, there will be hundreds of spectators on race day. This can be a hectic environment and it can be easy to forget the things you need most. To mitigate this, I like to go into an aid station with a plan. For example, as I head in, I'll think to myself “No matter what, I have four things to accomplish: dump trash, fill one water bottle, ingest 400 calories, and give someone—anyone!—a high five. This allows me to execute at a crucial time in the race and ensures I am taking care of myself.

Run your own race. Yes, it's a cliché, but it's also easier said than done. The Rut courses are extremely dynamic in nature and require you to focus only on your effort and pacing, not someone else's. Paying attention to your energy and needs in the first half of the race will pay dividends in the second half.

Roll with the punches. It's rare when things go exactly as planned. When something comes up that you weren't expecting it's important to focus on fixing the situation rather than dwelling on how it's negatively impacting your race. If a shoe comes untied, don't panic, just tie the shoe and get back in the race. If it's something larger like a big bonk, don't panic, just begin working to get through it by eating more calories and taking down more fluids. A great race is



The most important tip for having a successful race day, is to have a plan: know the course, know when to push and when not to, maximize aid station support, and be able to bounce back from inevitable challenges. PHOTOS BY LIZ KRUEZ

not one without issues, but one where you stay calm and manage the inevitable challenges quickly, while staying cool, calm and collected.

Be prepared for any type of weather. The Rut Mountain Runs have a history of having extreme weather conditions of all kinds. In 2016 it snowed, and in 2017 there was wildfire smoke and heat. Don't let the weather be the reason you have a bad race. If it's going to be cold, bring a jacket, gloves and a hat. The weight of these items are well worth it if they protect you from the elements and keep you warm and dry. If it's hot, be sure to carry enough water between aid stations to stay properly hydrated.

Sometimes walking is faster than running. It sounds counterintuitive yet it's true. On the Rut course specifically, I've seen many people trying too hard to keep running up the steep and technical sections, when walking would have saved energy and ultimately led to a faster time.

Don't forget to have fun. We all sign up for this race because we want a challenge, but also because it sounded like fun. So don't forget to smile on occasion.

Lastly, be nice. We can all lift each other up and support one another during a challenging mountain race. Thank a volunteer, encourage another runner and, perhaps most importantly, be good to yourself. You've earned a spot on the start line just like everyone else. Positive self-talk throughout a race is proven to close the gap between your performance and your potential.

We cannot wait to celebrate a weekend of mountain running with you in Big Sky over Labor Day weekend. Run the Rut!

Mike Foote is the Rut Mountain Runs race director and a Global Athlete for The North Face. He started the Rut Mountain Runs six years ago with a desire to bring a world-class running event to Montana.



Tough as The Rut Mountain Runs are, don't forget to have fun and be supportive of yourself and fellow runners.

SECTION 4: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Wildlands Festival recap **pg. 47**Music in the mountains **pg. 49**The future is female **pg. 53**

Ben Miller: Fly fishing as an art form

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – On a warm August afternoon, artist Ben Miller prepared himself for a painting—and casting—session on the banks of the Gallatin River near Big Sky.

I was skeptical. Painting with a fly rod? Seemed kind of gimmicky. But in no time, Miller had me convinced of the parallels between fly fishing and painting, and that his work comes from a place of authenticity and integrity.

He recalls one skeptic asking, “Why paint with a fly rod?”

Miller had a quick response: “Why fish with one? There are so many more efficient ways to catch a fish.”

An aluminum easel was set up in the shallow water, a paint-splattered A-frame fitted into a base that allowed the river to flow through it.

He strapped a rinse bucket to his upper thigh, and a fly box palette to his wrist. A creel basket at his hip held his paints and the materials to make the flies that would act as his brushes.

“To me fly fishing and painting are essentially the same,” said Miller, rummaging in his creel for a fluffy piece of yarn he ties just as he would if he were going fishing, something he’s done ever since his grandpa gave him his first fly rod when he was 8 years old.

“For centuries people have been using fur and feathers to emulate a bug,” he said. “Painters, they’ve been doing the same thing—they’ve just been putting the fur or feathers at the end of a stick.”

After dipping the fly in silvery-white paint, he draws back his Winston fly rod and casts, slapping his canvas and creating a mark meant to simulate the flash of a fish.

Because the painting will eventually be flipped over and viewed through the glossy side of the transparent “canvas,” Miller starts with the surface layers, working backward into the river’s depths.

“See that guy out there?” he says, pointing to a man fly-fishing a few hundred feet downstream. “He has to make a decision when he opens up that fly box—what size of fly and what color. To a certain degree I’m doing the same thing.”

Even when painting, Miller says he assesses the river from the perspective of a fisherman.

“A fisherman studies exactly what the water is doing. You see if the river is high or low, or a little bit muddy, which determines the actions you’re going to take. It’s just like painting—this water is going to determine the actions I’m going to take [to capture it].”

Miller stops every so often to change his fly—to achieve a different kind of mark—and the paint color, progressing from the silver-blue of the ripples, to deeper shades of cobalt, into the refracting greens, yellows, and earth tones of the river bottom.

Miller has been fishing with a fly rod a lot longer than he’s been painting with one, an idea he came up with only two years ago when he moved to Bozeman from Darrington, Washington, a small town northeast of Seattle, where he was a high school art teacher.

“I pretty much knew what would be on my headstone,” he said, explaining why he left his hometown. “I’d be the art teacher that grew up and died in Darrington and I wanted something different ... I knew there was more to life than that.”

That’s when Miller got the idea to paint rivers with a fly rod, something he never heard of another artist doing. He’s been giving it his all ever since, creating paintings during fundraising events and donating proceeds to charities such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of Gallatin County and Gallatin River Task Force.

Miller has surprised people who see him on the river numerous times—evoking delight as well as occasional disdain.

“One guy walked away saying ‘that’s the dumbest thing I’ve ever seen,’” but Miller just laughed.

“I love that—even if he didn’t agree with it, he had come to terms with it. For better or worse I had changed the way he thought about things ... that’s one of the purest things.”

As if right on cue, a family of Asian tourists carefully made their way down to the river’s edge and watched in awe as Miller put the final touches on his painting—slashes of shimmery gold that would just fleck through to the surface of the other side.

Later, long after I had left Miller on the river banks fielding questions from the foreigners, he sent me a photo of one of the boys holding up a fish on a line with a big smile on his face, and a note that read: “You know that family that was there at the end? I got to introduce them to fly fishing.”

To see more of Ben Miller’s artwork, both his impressionistic fly-fishing pieces and more representational resin paintings, visit dutchroquecove.com.



Artist Ben Miller paints with a fly rod on the banks of the Gallatin River, while discussing the similarities between painting and fly fishing. PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI

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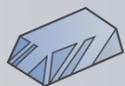
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Robert Earl Keen, Lukas Nelson rock out for public lands at MSU

Wildlands Festival raises \$15K for area nonprofits

BY BAY STEPHENS

EBS STAFF WRITER

BOZEMAN – The Wildlands Festival on Aug. 10 at Montana State University raised \$15,000 for three nonprofits that work to protect and preserve Montana's wild and open spaces: Yellowstone Forever, Montana Land Reliance and Gallatin Valley Land Trust.

The festival featured a double headliner performance by Robert Earl Keen, and Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real. Nearly 3,000 people attended MSU's first outdoor concert in the Romney Oval.

"It's a significant event because it takes a space that we have had visions of using for a concert and bringing it to life," said MSU Senior Director of Auxiliary Services Duane Morris. "For that to happen, in partnership with a local company like Outlaw [Partners]—that's reached out to the area nonprofits [to] benefit—makes it all the more special."

"This is something we've wanted to do for a long time," he added.

According to EJ Daws, executive director of sales and marketing at Outlaw Partners (publisher of EBS), the inspiration for Wildlands was to bring headline names and a high-quality production to an outdoor venue in Bozeman.

"Well-produced events are a great way to connect local folks, and businesses, to an event that supports the community," Daws wrote in an email to EBS. "We felt that Bozeman was ripe for some great outdoor live shows, and we look at this as the springboard to future, larger productions. We are so thrilled at the quality of this first Wildlands show, and loved working alongside Montana State University on this effort."

Folksy singer-songwriter Jessica Kilroy opened the night's entertainment as people filled the field with lawn chairs and blankets. Barefoot kids ran between chairs and leapt over blankets while adults sipped beers or munched on meals from the food trucks parked around the perimeter.

Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real took the stage after Kilroy, ramping up the energy with windmill guitar strums, intense guitar solos—one of which Nelson played with his teeth—and Nelson's classic scissor-jump, guitar-strum to end a song. Nelson also played a short acoustic set that included a cover of "Heart of Gold" by Neil Young, one of the young musician's heroes.

After Nelson and his band left the stage, Daws and Outlaw Partners CEO



The sun sets behind the Wildlands stage while the crowd sips drinks and enjoys the music from blankets and lawn chairs spread across the lawn of the Romney Oval. OUTLAW PHOTO

Eric Ladd presented \$5,000 checks to Montana Land Reliance, Gallatin Valley Land Trust and Yellowstone Forever, nonprofits that actively work to conserve public lands and habitat in Montana, Gallatin Valley, and Yellowstone National Park, respectively.

Robert Earl Keen and his band followed, their music evoking visions of a western breeze rippling across golden fields. Not long into his set, Keen invited Nelson onstage for a soulful rendition of the Bob Dylan classic, "Knockin' on Heaven's Door."

Keen's songs took the audience all over: from a coast of crashing waves to Texas's Highway 87 that meanders through flat Lubbock. The music swept the crowd through the heat of Arizona to his own back yard, and through different life scenes, some light with simple pleasures, others laden with heavier concerns of this world.

"I had a great time," said 45-year Bozeman local, Sue Cullen, who had come specifically for Robert Earl Keen.

Colleen Tretter, a Bozeman business owner also enjoyed the show and the setting: "It's the perfect summer venue for anyone who's looking to get outside and be entertained."

Local art collectors host private art sale at Buck's T-4

BY SARAH GIANELLI

EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – On Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 1-2, the Buck Ridge room at Buck's T-4 Lodge will be transformed into a pop-up art sale featuring more than 100 works of art from the private collections of a handful of Big Sky residents.

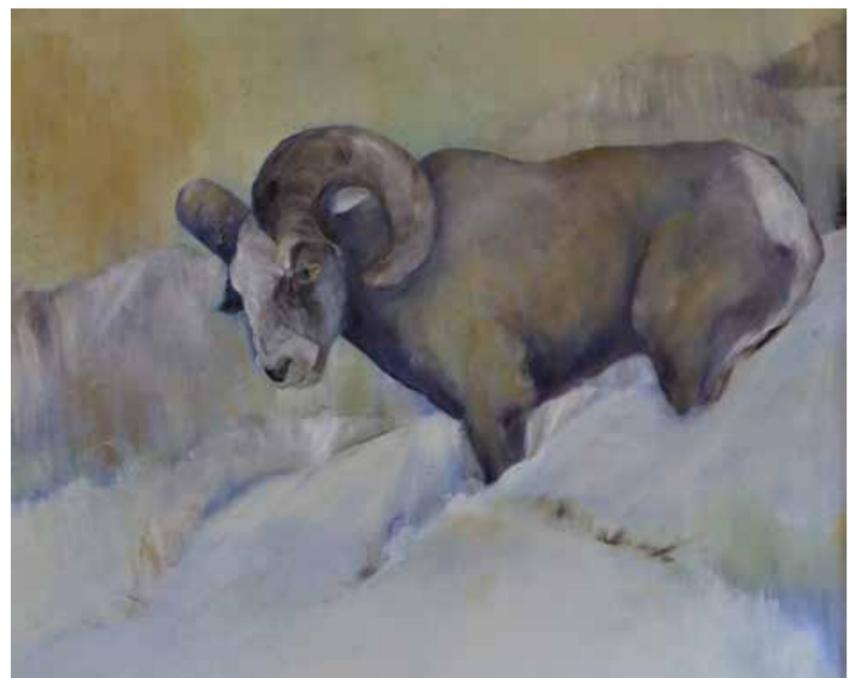
Dubbed "Art for Everyone," the idea for the sale arose when arts advocate Linda Goldinger was talking with fellow "art fanatics" Deb Crowther, Fern and Grant Hilton, and Shari Bechner about the excess art in their possession.

Some had downsized and simply didn't have the room for it anymore, others' tastes had changed. Goldinger said she has a condo-full of high quality prints, but needs to make room for the original work she has started collecting.

Pieces at the sale will include watercolors, acrylics, oils, bronzes and prints, most of which are framed, that will range in price from \$50 to \$2,500, with one piece for \$6,000. Artists represented include R. Tom Gilleon, Nancy Dunlop Cawdrey, John Gawne, David Mayer, Linda St. Clair, Diane Whitehead, and many more.

"It's a good mix because it's coming from a group of different people," Goldinger said. "So you'll find a variety of different styles and tastes."

Local artist Donna LaHue—whose landscape with bison caught the attention of bidders at the Art Council's annual Auction for the Arts—will be painting during the sale, which will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.



"Lone Mountain Ram" by local artist Donna LaHue is one of 100 works of art available for purchase at a private art sale at Buck's T-4 Sept. 1 and 2. PHOTO BY LINDA GOLDINGER

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EVENTS • AUGUST 2018

- Every WED 5 - 8 PM** 10th Annual Big Sky Farmers Market (celebrating the best of Big Sky's mountain culture)
- Every THU 6 - 10 PM** FREE Music in the Mtns Concert Series (Featuring: Cordovas, The Elders, Jeff Austin Band & Two Bit Franks, Dustbowl Revival, Pinky & The Floyd)
- AUG 7 8 - 11 PM** FREE Movie Night At Center Stage (Featuring: A River Runs Through It)
- AUG 10 - 11th** Big Sky Classical Music Festival (Featuring: Bella Hristova, Angela Ahn, Time For Three, Big Sky Festival Orchestra)
- AUG 25 - 26th** Big Sky Biggie Mtn Bike Race (50 mile, 30 mile, short track race, live music, vendors, and more)

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Music in the Mountains wraps up on Aug. 30

Last two concerts feature neo-soul and Pink Floyd covers

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – If you’ve been lackadaisical about making it to the Arts Council of Big Sky’s free Thursday night concert series in Big Sky Town Center Park, there are only two more shows left in this summer’s line up and both are worth coming out for.

On Thursday, Aug. 23, **The Dustbowl Revival** comes to Center Stage, bringing what they describe as “Americana soul,” an era- and genre-defying mash up of New Orleans funk, bluegrass, soul, prewar blues, and roots music meant to get people kicking up dust on the dance floor. Dustbowl’s eight band members are currently touring to support their self-titled, fourth studio album which spent three weeks on the Billboard charts, hit No. 1 on Amazon Americana & Alt-Country, No. 2 on Amazon Folk, and has been on the Americana radio chart for 13 weeks, where they crested in the Top 20.

Founded in 2008 in Venice Beach, California, Dustbowl’s original sound had more of an old timey, bluegrass bent, but has since evolved into modern soul music in the vein of popular neo-soul contemporaries Nathaniel Rateliff and The Night Sweats; and St. Paul and The Broken Bones.

Today’s Dustbowl fans appreciate the band for free-flowing, uplifting live shows that marry a funk rhythm-and-brass section with fast-paced string-picking to create their unique sound.

Dustbowl has opened for a diverse array of musical acts including Lake Street Dive, Trombone Shorty and The Preservation Hall Jazz Band. They have toured China as a guest of the state department, and headlined numerous festivals such as Delfest, Floydfest, Hardly Strictly Bluegrass, and Scandinavia’s Bergenfest and Tonder Festival. Their music video for “Never Had to Go,” featuring performer Dick Van Dyke, garnered over 10 million views. That video is now airing in an HBO documentary starring Jerry Seinfeld, Mel Brooks, and Dick Van Dyke.

The final Music in the Mountains on Thursday, Aug. 30 is sure to be a light-show dance party like only Bozeman’s **Pinky and the Floyd** can deliver. Hailed as the “Northwest’s Hottest Pink Floyd Tribute Band,” and renowned for electrifying live performances, Pinky and the Floyd was founded in 2007, and has since won a loyal fan base across the state and beyond.

All 10 Pinky members are professional working musicians—together they are part of more than 20 bands, spanning genres from Americana and vintage swing to hip hop, jazz, country, salsa, funk, rock, blues and beyond. They bring their varied backgrounds to create strength in diversity in their cohesive unit, Pinky and the Floyd.

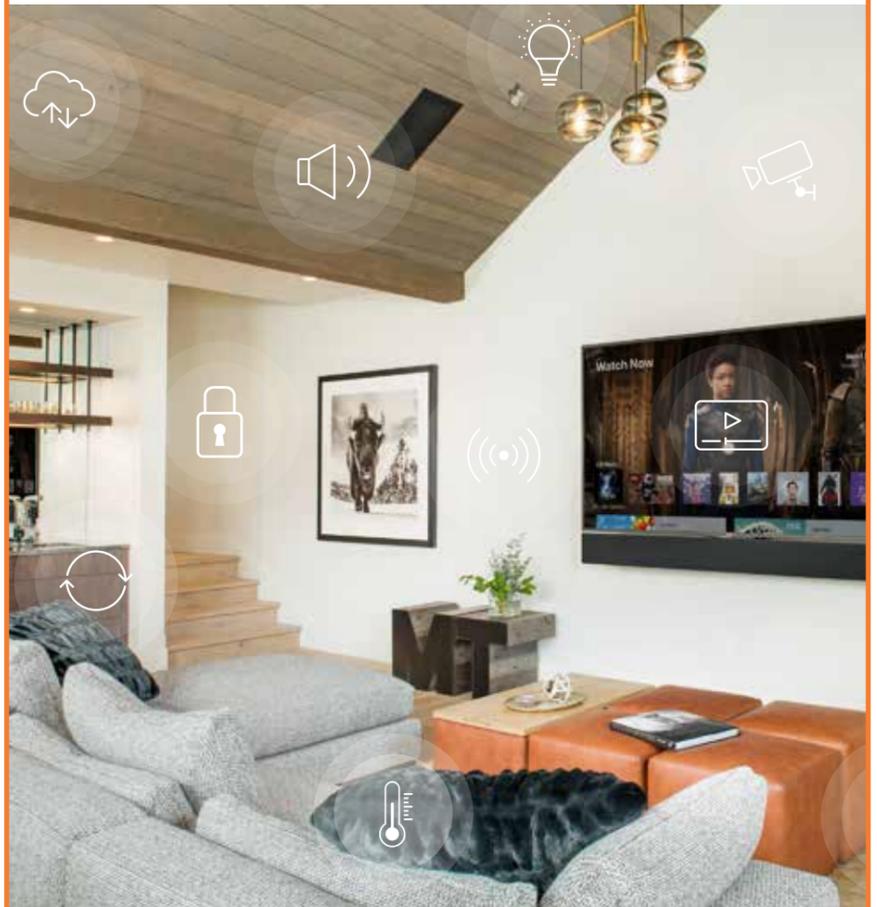
The band’s repertoire includes more than 60 songs and four full albums of Pink Floyd. Expect to hear an album in its entirety and a tune from every Floyd genre—from the earliest days of Syd Barrett to selections from the 1994 album “The Division Bell,” and anything in between.

Town Center Park opens at 6 p.m., with music commencing at 7:15 for both concerts.

Visit bigskyarts.org for more information.



The Dustbowl Revival brings their neo-soul sound to Center Stage on Aug. 23. PHOTO COURTESY OF TALLEY MEDIA



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Radio workshop focuses on the stories of area residents

Audio projects presented at WMPAC Sept. 1

EBS STAFF

For the third year in a row, the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center is hosting a week-long Transom Traveling Workshop on audio storytelling that begins Aug. 26 and culminates with a public listening event on Sept. 1.

During the workshop, nine beginning-level students will get six days of intensive training from lead instructor Rob Rosenthal, host of the HowSound podcast on radio storytelling and founder of the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies' radio track, which he led for 11 years.

Throughout the week, students will be immersed in field recording, interviewing, digital editing, script writing, and narration for a project that focuses on the life and story of an intriguing area resident.

By the end of the week, each participant will have produced a short, broadcast-quality profile of their subject, which will be shared with the public in a free event at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 1, at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.

Not only will the audience gain insight into the art of audio storytelling, but also into the lives of their Big Sky-area neighbors, whether they be park rangers, guides, ballroom dancers or cowboys. The event will also include a Q&A with the producers.

Visit warrenmillerpac.org for more information.



Rob Rosenthal, host of the HowSound podcast on audio storytelling, founded and ran the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies' radio track for 11 years before launching the Transom Story Workshop in 2011. PHOTO COURTESY OF TRANSOM TRAVELING WORKSHOP

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New paintings by Diana Tremaine featured at Gallatin River Gallery

Big Sky's Gallatin River Gallery is featuring a solo exhibition of new oil paintings by Gallatin Gateway artist Diana Tremaine. "Of Earth and Secrets" will be on display through Sept. 29. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GALLERY

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Grainhouse Art celebrates its grand opening Aug. 24

Local artists open collective gallery space in Bozeman

EBS STAFF

Although Grainhouse Art opened their doors in early June, the founders are celebrating with an official grand opening party on Friday, Aug. 24 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Food trucks will be on site, beer and wine served, and a collaborative outdoor installation project will be underway.

Big Sky artist Liz McRae opened Grainhouse Art, an artist collective and gallery space in north Bozeman with fellow artist friends Molly Stratton, Anna Patterson and Laurel Hatch.

In addition to displaying the four artists' distinctive, contemporary work, the gallery will showcase an outside artist each month, and have select items on consignment.

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

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



Bozeman's Grainhouse Art, a collective formed by Big Sky resident Liz McRae and three of her artist friends, will host a grand opening party on Aug. 24. PHOTO COURTESY OF GRAINHOUSE ART



‘The Future is Female’

Missy O’Malley to emcee celebration of women in the arts

EBS STAFF

On Friday, Aug. 24, the Rialto Bozeman will host a unique multi-media evening featuring local female artists contributing to the community through diverse forms of creative expression.

In addition to live musical performances by The Sleepless Elite and Damsel in the Dollhouse, there will be a screening of Megan Brotherton’s short film “Everybody Does It;” a poetry reading by Carson Evans, storytelling by Jenny Hatchadorian, and comedy from Aislinn O’Connor. Local celebrity news anchor and radio personality, Missy O’Malley—aka DJ Miss Illaneous—will emcee the event.

Upstairs in the Light Box will be an exhibit of photography, textiles, paintings, print works, jewelry, cyanotypes and ceramics by local artists Angela Yonke, Meghan Purcell, Marla Goodman, Jasmine Synder, Jane Herzog, Kelly Packer, Carly Shoen, Kathryn Murphy, Katie Meyer, Tracy Chubbs, Greta Moore, Cristina Marian, Florence MacDonald, Lauren Woods, Celeste Morans, and Hannah Uhde.

About the performers:

Damsel in the Dollhouse is Nina Tucciarelli, a Bozeman artist who has forged a diverse career in music, theatre, dance, photography, costume design, and visual media.

Carolina Kehoe, on electric ukulele and lead vocals; and drummer Bay Carter make up **The Sleepless Elite**. While attending Boston’s Berklee School of Music, Kehoe, formerly of Livingston, met Ben Deily of The Lemonheads, who urged her to begin writing her own music. She plugged her ukulele into a Fender amp and The Sleepless Elite was born.

Missy O’Malley hails from the booming metropolis of Bismarck, North Dakota, and moved to Bozeman in 2005 to pursue the lifelong dream of being a ski bum. One day, while teaching snowboarding lessons at Bridger Bowl and waiting tables, O’Malley waited on the program director of Clear Channel Radio who convinced her to quit her day job and start up in radio. She moved around the airwaves, hosting the morning show on MY 103.5 and afternoons and evenings on KissFM.

Eventually she started volunteering at Bozeman’s alternative, volunteer-run station KGLT as co-host on the Magic Monday show.

Throughout the years, O’Malley has hosted hundreds of events, DJed everything from bar mitzvahs to clubs, from massive events to weddings. In the summer of 2016, she attended Missouri Auction School and now is a licensed auctioneer.



Local TV and radio personality Missy O’Malley will emcee a celebration of female artists at the Rialto on Aug. 24. PHOTO COURTESY OF AMELIA ANN PHOTOGRAPHY

She started with KBZK in the summer of 2015 as the “Half-off Dining” host and joined Montana this Morning as a producer, reporter and co-anchor to Chet Layman in February 2016.

When not on air or hosting an event, you can find O’Malley sliding on the slopes, hiking throughout the valley, gallivanting the globe or taking a much needed nap.

Comedian **Aislinn O’Connor** got her start in the Portland, Oregon, standup scene, performing at popular showcases such as Keep It Like a Secret and Fly-Ass Jokes. Since moving to Bozeman in 2016, O’Connor has been a featured performer at local monthly showcases ComedyGate and Cackling Eagles. She also organized a winter 2018 comedy show at the Roxy Theater in Missoula to benefit Montana nonprofits.

Jenny Hatchadorian was an award-winning filmmaker before turning to comedic essays. Her work can be found online at Story Club Magazine and on the podcast Everything Good. Her essay “New Family” won Story Club Cleveland’s Audience Award in 2017. She is currently at work on a book of essays.

“The Future is Female” begins at 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24 at the Rialto in downtown Bozeman. Visit rialtobozeaman.com for more information.

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A superhero Story under the Stars

BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY

On Friday, Aug. 24, Bozeman's family-friendly outdoor film event, Story under the Stars returns to the lawn of Story Mansion Park with a screening of the 1978 adaptation of "Superman."

Also a celebration of the Bozeman's Film Society's 40th season, the event is open to all, included leashed four-legged friends, and movie-goers are encouraged to arrive in their favorite superhero costumes.

Featuring an all-star cast, director Richard Donner's "Superman" is widely regarded as the most influential superhero origin-story to grace the silver screen. As young Kal-El flees his doomed planet of Krypton, his spaceship crashes in an open field on Earth where he is discovered by a farmer and his wife. The couple adopts Kal-El and raises him as their own son, Clark. As he ages, Clark realizes that he has super powers that ultimately set him on his destiny's path to become the Man of Steel. Set to an epic John Williams score, "Superman" stars Marlon Brandon, Gene Hackman, Ned Beatty, Glenn Ford, Terence Stamp, Margot Kidder, and, of course, Christopher Reeve as Superman.

The Story under the Stars festivities begin at 7 p.m. with a Kryptonite scavenger hunt, a Superhero costume parade for people and pets, tours of Story Mansion; and food, popcorn and ice cream trucks.

The evening also features a meet and greet event with members of the Bozeman police and fire departments, showcasing a patrol car and fire engine.



Enjoy a free outdoor screening of the 1978 adaptation of "Superman" at Story Mansion Park on Aug. 24. PHOTO COURTESY OF BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY

Attendees are encouraged to bring low-back chairs, blankets and flashlights. The Story Mansion Park is located at the corner of south Willson and College avenues.

Visit bozemanfilmsociety.org for more information.

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'First Reformed' and 'The Devils'

BY ANNA HUSTED
EBS FILM CRITIC

"First Reformed" asks the question, "Can God forgive us for what we've done to this world?" Ken Russell's 1971 film "The Devils" answers with a resounding no: God cannot forgive us for our sins against humanity and Mother Nature, and we should stop asking and embrace our evil natures until we break—or the earth does.

It was a happy accident that I watched these films back-to-back. I left The Ellen's screening of director Paul Schrader's "First Reformed" with a bad taste in my mouth. What had I just watched and why do I feel so bad about it? "First Reformed" is about a pastor (Ethan Hawke) in a small community in upstate New York who counsels two of his parishioners, Mary (Amanda Seyfried) and her husband Michael (Philip Ettinger), because Mary is pregnant and Michael cannot stand the thought of bringing another human into the decaying world.

The next day, per a film-loving friend's suggestion, I watched "The Devils," a French film starring Oliver Reed and Vanessa Redgrave. "The Devils" is about Father Urbain Grandier (Reed) who falls in love with almost every woman in his church and sleeps with half of them—nuns included. And he's the good guy. The Cardinal and a sexually-repressed nun are the antagonists, spreading mass hysteria about the evils of sexual pleasure and the unforgivable complicity of witches.

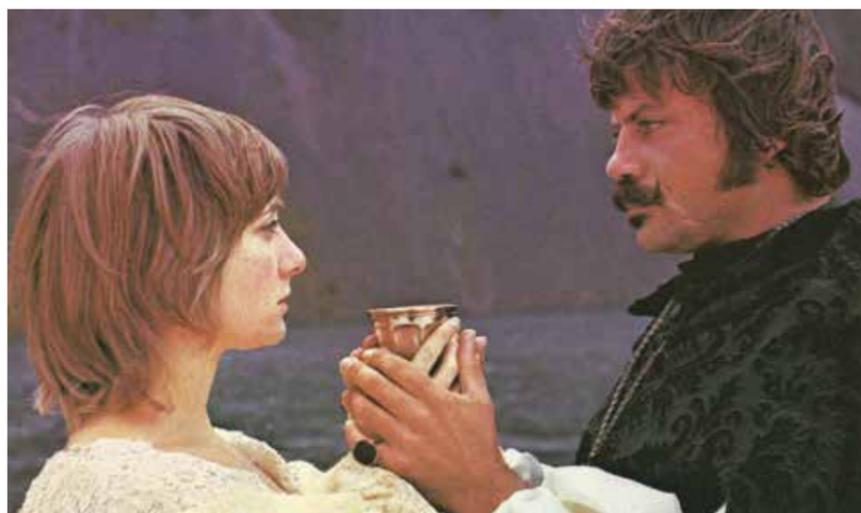
Without "The Devils" I would not appreciate "First Reformed" as much. This film pairing is perfectly matched thematically and aesthetically. Visually "The Devils" is a cross between "Brazil" and "Hard to be a God," emulating the eccentric props and overpopulated mise-en-scène of the former; and the moral decay and confusion of the latter. While "First Reformed" is not as strange as "The Devils," the film expresses a similar sense of moral decay with shots of oil spills and polar bears dying.

Thematically the two films are alike in that the antagonists of both films declare that sex leads to destruction, while the protagonists ask if it is not prideful to assume sex leads to destruction—God is greater than our dalliances, but hubris leads to destruction.

Neither film is easy to watch due to their discordant portrayals of faith. But the fact that they made me uncomfortable is also why I liked both films. Faith is not always comfortable, nor should it be, or we would never learn and never grow.

"First Reformed" is available for purchase on Amazon.com. "The Devils" is now streaming on archive.org.

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 hiking up a mountain. 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.



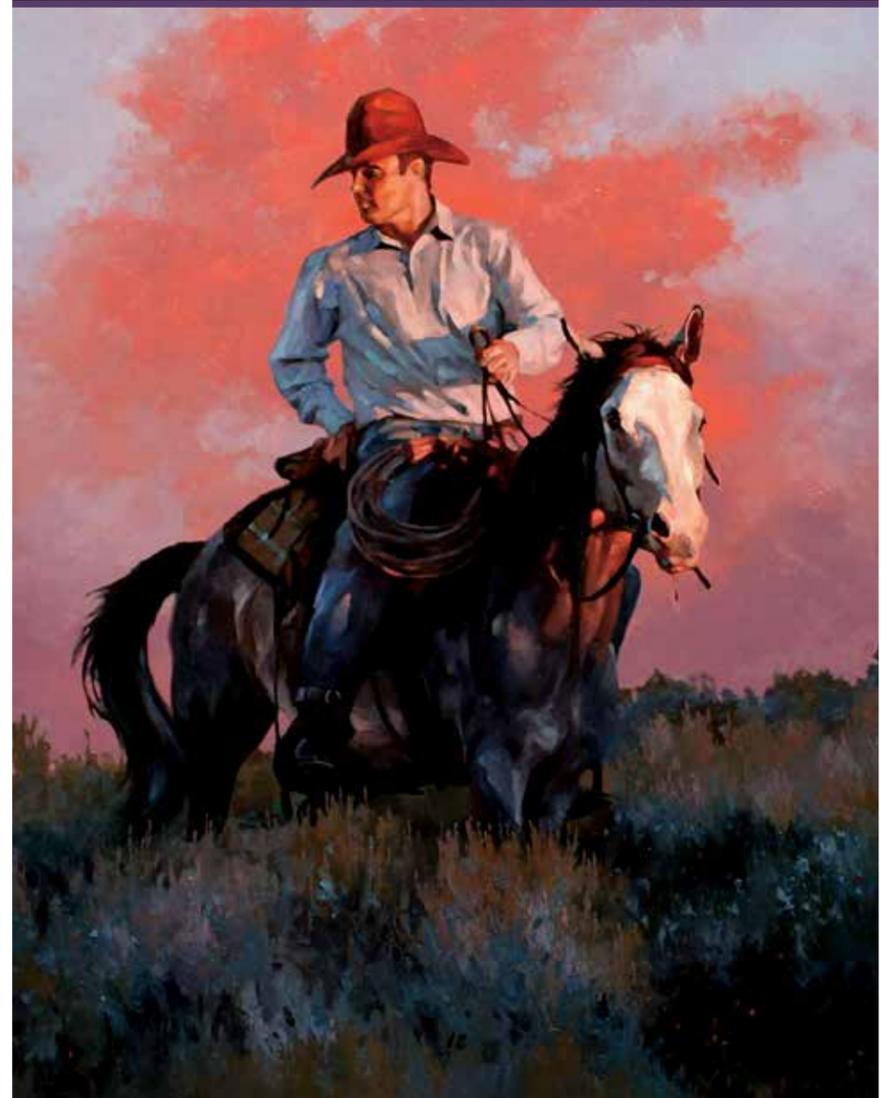
Film critic Anna Husted draws comparisons between the 1971 movie "The Devils" (pictured above) and the new release "First Reformed," starring Ethan Hawke. Both films examine sexuality, religion and humanity's right to forgiveness. PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

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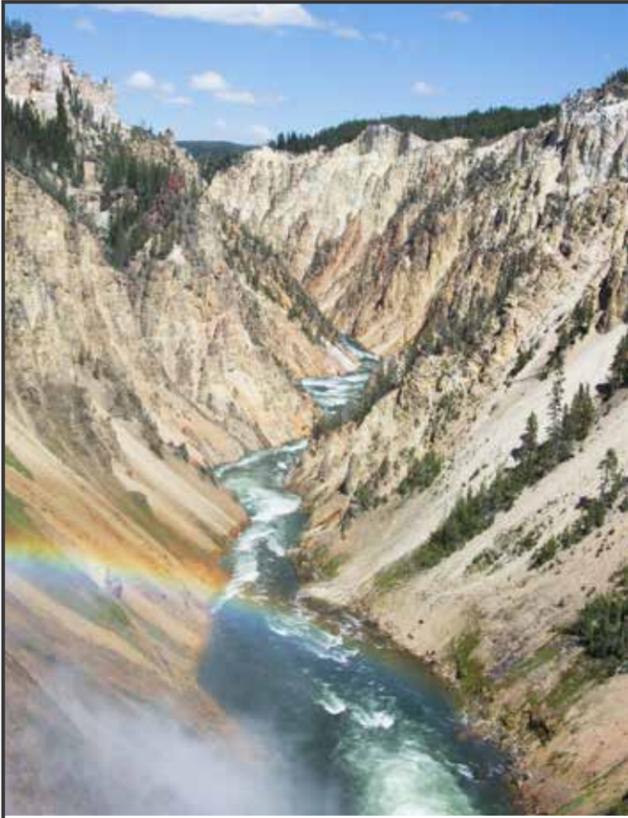
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KIDS CORNER



Ava Staudt takes down clay pigeons at Camp Moonlight

Ava Staudt perfecting her sling shot skills at one of the stops on the Morris Adventure Course at Camp Moonlight. Ava is aiming at several clay pigeons in hope of smashing one for her team, the Wolverines.
PHOTO BY JEREMY HARDER

Sudoku

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

2	3		4					
		9	8			1		
8					9			6
		1	9	3	8			5
	5				2			
9				4				
3		5						9
			3	6	5			1

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DIFFICULTY: ★★☆☆

American Life in Poetry: Column 698

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

My mother's best friend, Ruth Stickfort Kregel, was "Aunt Sticky" to my sister and me, and today I feel like telling you a little about this woman we loved. This poem is from my new book, *Kindest Regards*, published by Copper Canyon Press.

Post Office

The wall of identical boxes into which our Aunt Sticky sorted the daily mail was at the far end of her dining room, and from the private side looked like a fancy wallpaper upon which peonies pushed through a white wooden trellis, or sometimes like crates of chickens stacked all the way to the ceiling. I'd learned by then – I was a little boy – that a thing can look like one thing on one day and another on another, depending on how you might be feeling. There were times when we were there, having our coffee and sweet rolls, when some woman on the lobby side would with a click unlock her box and leaning down, peer inside to see if she had mail, and see us at the table, Mother and Father, my sister and I and our postmistress aunt, and call out, "Yoohoo, Sticky! I see you have company!" and waggle her fingers, waving hello.

We do not accept unsolicited submissions. American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2018 by Ted Kooser, "Post Office," from Kindest Regards, (Copper Canyon Press, 2018). Poem reprinted by permission of Ted Kooser and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2018 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.



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EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17 – THURSDAY, AUGUST 30

**If your event falls between August 31 and September 13, please submit it by August 22 by emailing media@outlaw.partners.*

BIG SKY

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17 Vine and Dine Festival Big Sky Resort, August 16-19

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

Moonlight MusicFest Madison Base Area of Moonlight Basin, August 17-18

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

Open Clinic: Releasing the
club
Big Sky Resort Golf Course,
12 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

Live Music
Compass Café, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 20

Merger Ribbon Tying
Celebration First Security
Bank
Big Sky Town Center branch
lobby, 12 p.m.

Community Yoga
Town Center Stage, 12 p.m.

Industry Night
Lotus Pad, all evening

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21 Hike and Learn: Guided Hike along Ralph's Pass Ousel Falls, 10 a.m.

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

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22

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.

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23

Women's Fly Fishing School
Gallatin River Guides, 8 a.m.
August 23-25

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

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

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24 Kids Stryder Bike Race Big Sky Town Center, 5 p.m.

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

Grains and Grog
Crail Ranch Museum, 5:30
p.m.

Kids Pedal Bike Rae
Big Sky Town Center, 6 p.m.

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25 Big Sky Biggie, Mountain bike races Big Sky Town Center, 7:15 a.m.

Big Sky Open Club
Championship
Big Sky Resort Golf Course,
10 a.m.
August 25-26

Open Clinic: Clubface and
path
Big Sky Resort Golf Course,
12 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

Live Music
Compass Café, 11 a.m.

Big Sky Biggie Short Track XC Bike Race Big Sky Town Center, 12 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 27
Community Yoga
Town Center Stage, 12 p.m.

Industry Night
Lotus Pad, all evening

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28
Town Center Open House
Town Center Office, 9 a.m.

Hike and Learn, Guided hike
Hummocks Trail, 10 a.m.

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

Tuesday Talks Gardening
Series
Big Sky Landscaping Garden
Center, 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29
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 with Kira Rogala
Thai Night
Santasha Wellness Center,
6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30

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

Seventh Annual Upper Gallatin River Cleanup Big Sky Community Park River Pavilion, 2 p.m.

TASTE of Lone Mountain Ranch: Food, spirits and music Lone Mountain Ranch, August 30-September 3

Music in the Mountains: Pinky
and the Floyd
Big Sky Town Center, 6 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31 The Rut Mountain Running Festival Big Sky Resort, August 31-September 3

BOZEMAN

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17
Jazz Night hosted by Alex
Robilotta
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Big Cedar Fever, music
Live from the Divide, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18
Gallatin Valley Farmers'
Market
Gallatin County Fairgrounds,
9 a.m.

Raison D'être Dance Project: "Vivaldi and Ranges" The Ellen Theatre, 1:30 p.m.

Foodies for Feathers, 30th
Anniversary Dinner Event
Montana Raptor
Conservation Center, 6:30
p.m.

Red Shahan, music
Live from the Divide, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19
Cruisin' on Main Car
Show
Downtown, 9 a.m.

Community Meditation
Mountain Yoga, 3 p.m.

Easy Riders, music
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22

Montana State University
Welcome BBQ
Romney Oval, 5 p.m.

Gallatin River Grill-Out
Gallatin River Lodge Pavilion
and Ponds areas, 6 p.m.

"The Naked Spur," film
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Montana Songwriter
Showcase
Live from the Divide, 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23 Catapalooza Montana State University, 10 a.m. August 23-24

Bozeman and Tarpon Trust
Bozeman Roundup
The Emerson Center, 3 p.m.

Joe Knapp and Chelsea Hunt,
music
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Bluegrass Night with The
Bridger Creek Boys
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

AHI, music
Live from the Divide, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24
Montana State University
Ninth Annual Cat Walk
Downtown, 11 a.m.

The Montana Pitmaster
Classic
Kenyon Noble Lumber and
Hardware of Bozeman, 5 p.m.
August 24-25

Jazz Night hosted by Alex
Robilotta
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Story Under the Stars: "Superman," film Story Mansion Park, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25
Gallatin Valley Farmers'
Market
Gallatin County Fairgrounds,
9 a.m.

Fall Outdoor Flea Market and
Indoor Sale
Antique Market and More, 9
a.m.

Futurebirds, music
Rialto Bozeman, 7:30 p.m.

Jon Stickley Trio, music
Live from the Divide, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

Community Meditation
Mountain Yoga, 3 p.m.

Tractor Pull
Gallatin County Fairgrounds,
6 p.m.

Montana State University
Bobcat Block Party
Strand Union Building, 7 p.m.

Left on Tenth, music
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28

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

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29

Gallatin River Grill-Out
Gallatin River Lodge Pavilion
and Ponds areas, 6 p.m.

"Gunfight at the O.K. Corral,"
film
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30

Hops and History Season
Celebration
Museum of the Rockies, 5
p.m.

Extreme History Project
Lecture: Helen McAuslan
Museum of the Rockies, 6
p.m.

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

Bluegrass Night with The
Bridger Creek Boys
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Whitney Morgan, music
Rialto Bozeman, 7:30 p.m.

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WORTH THE DRIVE

West Yellowstone, MT

Free Music in the Park: The Mystery Machine and Solidarity Service

Pioneer Park | August 18, 7 p.m.

Come listen to some great music by Aaron Davis and the Mystery Machine and Solidarity Service. Bring your friends, family, blankets and chairs for an entertaining evening. Visit <https://www.destinationyellowstone.com/calendar/> for more information.

Ennis, MT

Fly Fishing and Outdoor Festival

Main Street | August 31-September 1

Join the Ennis Chamber of Commerce for the Fly Fishing and Outdoor Festival. Bring the whole family for outdoor recreation activities, fly fishing demonstrations, famous speakers, food and much more. For more information, call (406) 682-4388 or visit <http://www.ennischamber.com/>.

Livingston, MT

Annual Spotlight Gala

Shane Lalani Center for the Arts

August 25, 5:30 p.m.

In addition to raising money for a good cause, Spotlight Gala 2018 shines a light on the artistic friends in the community featuring special music and entertainment, exquisite food, an open beer and wine bar, and a chance to explore the Shane Center behind-the-scenes. For more information, visit www.theshanecenter.com or call (406) 222-1420.

Missoula, MT

River City Roots Festival

Downtown

August 24-25

The region's largest arts and music festival showcasing Western Montana's gem: Downtown Missoula. Musical entertainment will perform both days and feature local and national artists. In addition, the festival will include annual features such as the Family Fun Festival in Caras Park, the juried art show, a four-mile run, food courts and street bars. For more information, call (406) 543-4238.

Livingston, MT

Last Best Outdoors Festival

August 31, 3 p.m.

Sen. Jon Tester is the keynote speaker at this annual celebration hosted by Business for Montana's Outdoors, Montana Mountain Mamas, and National Wildlife Association's Artemis sportswomen initiative and the Montana Wildlife Federation. The theme of this year's event is "Women in the Outdoors," and showcases the important roles women play in Montana's outdoor recreation economy and the conservation movement. Visit lastbestoutdoorsfest.com for more information.

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BACK TO SCHOOL

School district welcomes new lunch lady

Soccer club rolls into Big Sky

Meet the new teachers

History teacher wins statewide award



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Introducing Big Sky’s newest educators

BY BAY STEPHENS
EBS STAFF WRITER



Photos courtesy of respective individuals

Big Sky School District

Steve Bell – Middle School Math

Equipped with a bachelor’s from Dartmouth College and master’s in computer science from Stanford University, Steve Bell comes to Big Sky fresh off of a year teaching in a small Colorado ranching town. He will teach sixth, seventh and eighth grade math, a section per grade. Bell taught 16 years of high school math in Connecticut after transitioning from a 20-year finance career. He and his wife have loved hiking through Big Sky’s flowering meadows since moving here and look forward to skiing this winter.

To Bell, a good teacher helps kids teach themselves and supports them in learning how to balance their lives by enjoying sports, music and other pursuits while valuing hard work in school. He hopes his students develop a satisfaction of mathematical thinking that yields a sense of fearlessness about problem-solving—and that they get really good at math.



Suzie Klein – 4th Grade

Originally from Bismarck, North Dakota, **Suzie Klein** has lived in other ski resort communities such as Summit County, Colorado, and Lake Tahoe, California,

but this will be her first time teaching in one. The last of her siblings to move to Montana, Klein, along with her husband and daughter, is ready to put down roots in Big Sky. She studied elementary education at Morgan State University in Minnesota, minoring in music.

Klein teaches because she loves kids and knows from experience that every child learns differently. One of her focuses is giving students the tools they need to be successful. Having taught third grade the past three years, she thinks teaching fourth grade this year at Ophir will be a new challenge. Her goal is to instill a passion for learning in her students by engaging them and being herself, allowing genuine and mutual relationships to grow in the classroom. She believes that if students know they’re cared for, personally and academically, they will flourish.



Eileen Gray - Kindergarten

Eileen Gray grew up in the Gallatin Valley, went to Montana State University—first earning degrees in business and French, then returning for a bachelor’s in elementary education and master’s in education—and has substitute taught in the area since. Teaching kindergarten this year will be her first full-time teaching position, one that she believes will require a good sense of humor, good listening and patience.

The small Big Sky community, and the added parental support the school district size provides, is something Gray likes. She considers guiding and mentoring students a key part of her work, so they discover for themselves how they learn best. She’s thrilled and honored to be a part of the Big Sky community and school district.

Kass McCarthy – 1st Grade

A kindergarten teacher’s aid last year and now a long-term substitute for the same students entering first grade, **Kass McCarthy** isn’t exactly new to BSSD. She’s passionate about working with kids, especially here where she’s noticed how supportive and inclusive kids are of one another, how the values they’re raised with seem to revolve around community.



For the kids she gets to take into first grade, she hopes to provide a smooth transition and consistent learning experience despite switching teachers in November, when her position as substitute will conclude. One of McCarthy’s strengths is making any subject exciting—or at least the activities around it—by thinking outside of the box, getting kids outside and being supportive and nurturing, whether in the classroom or on the slopes for one of the school’s ski days.



Kayte Cole – Middle School Science and Language Arts

Teaching sections of sixth grade science and language arts, seventh grade language arts, eighth grade science and assisting in the art room, **Kayte Cole** will wear several different hats this year. Originally from Minnesota, she has a degree in elementary education from Gustavus Adolphus College and has since taught first grade near Salt Lake City for a year before working as a paraeducator at Longfellow Elementary School in Bozeman last spring.

She thinks that being open and available to answer questions, yet unafraid of not knowing the answer and learning alongside students, are keys to good teaching. Cole is especially excited for her language arts classes, a goal of hers being to facilitate a love of reading in her students. Although she’s a bit nervous about the variety of roles she’ll be playing this year, she said she loves building relationships with students and expects a great year ahead.



Julie Edwards – Spanish and Art

Although the traffic can be bad here, **Julie Edwards** said it's worse in Park City, Utah, where she filled the only Spanish immersion position in the area until moving to Big Sky with her life partner and youngest son. They donated their Park City house, and everything in it except for an eclectic mix of special possessions, to Habitat for Humanity before moving to a house they bought in Big Sky just before the real estate market took off.

Edwards studied communications with an English and Spanish focus in college, intent on being an international reporter. However, when a professor connected her to a Spanish teaching job, her trajectory changed. She says, "Teaching chose me," because once she started, she never left. Edwards will run Ophir's Spanish and art program, as well as teach a section of eight grade Spanish. She hopes students will leave her classes with an independent thirst for life, discovery, adventure and appreciation of what their local and global communities have to offer.



Gretchen Goodman – 6th, 8th and 11th Grade English

Teaching sixth, eighth and 11th grade English, **Gretchen Goodman** follows in her mother's and grandmother's footsteps so that she can say, "Teaching is in my genes." During her junior year of high school, a great English teacher's enthusiasm for the subject started Goodman thinking about teaching, ultimately leading to a degree in English secondary education from Louisiana State University in her home state.

After two previous years living in Big Sky, working for Big Sky Resort and as a kindergarten paraeducator, she's excited to teach what she enjoys for the first time. Goodman wants her passion for English to have a similar effect on her students as her high school teacher had on her. She looks forward to getting to know students on a more personal level, so she can key into individual interests as successfully as possible throughout the school year.



Big Sky Discover Academy

Bios and photos courtesy of Big Sky Discovery Academy

Bella Poulos - Early Childhood Assistant Teacher

Originally from Venice Beach, California, **Bella Poulos** moved to Big Sky after graduating from Cornell University, where she studied neuroscience. Poulos has sought to incorporate her academic understanding of the brain with her love of working with children in her previous positions, which include assisting with child psychology research projects, working at daycare centers, and counseling young children.

Poulos is excited to be a part of the Big Sky Discovery Academy community as an assistant teacher in both the early childhood and elementary classrooms. She is especially looking forward to sharing her love of science, the arts and nature with her students and co-teachers this coming school year. Outside of the classroom, Poulos spends her time fishing, collecting wildflowers, skiing, and spending time with her pet rabbit, Calypso.



Abby Wright – School Counselor

The school counselor position at Lone Peak High will be a far cry from **Abby Wright's** last position, where she had a caseload of 695 students. Coming from North Carolina, she brings experience and skills from a large-school environment that she anticipates will benefit the smaller scale of BSSD. Wright has a bachelor's from the University of North Carolina in psychology, master's from Appalachian State University in school counseling and enjoys helping kids overcome barriers.

Although she's considered relocating to Montana for a couple of years now, the stars aligned this June to get her out here. She said she's stoked about the outdoor curriculum the school offers students and can't wait to explore the area herself. The ability to be creative and the respect for ideas that the BSSD administration seems to offer makes Wright excited to work here. She will also help with the International Baccalaureate program for sixth to 12th grades.



Jonathan Gans – 5th Grade

Ten years ago, **Jonathan Gans** moved to Montana and started to raise bison, which he still does, selling bison burgers and sliders out of a couple food trucks in the area. He began substitute teaching and, last year, Superintendent Dustin Shipman asked Gans to take over a fifth-grade class for a teacher on maternity leave. He continues in the fifth-grade classroom this year, employing a Socratic method of education focused on getting students to question answers rather than answer questions.

In a world of information overload, he aims to equip students with an ability to discern between fact and opinion, real and fake information, by engaging them in in-depth inquiry, problem solving, and critical and creative thinking. Over the course of 12 years teaching in Miami, Gans became a National Board Certified Teacher, a process that heavily informed his approach to teaching, so that he reflects on his methods using data.



Kate Riley - Elementary Lead Teacher

Kate Riley received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She also completed an artist residency program in France, studying in Paris and La Napoule. Riley has taught a full spectrum of grade levels in both private and public school for five years, operated an early learning center, and has designed and written the art curriculum to establish two high school art programs. Prior to teaching, she worked in the museum education department at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston.

Riley is passionate about fostering connections between cultural, political and global issues, and emphasizing with students the importance of developing their creative talents and curiosity to become lifelong learners. Outside of teaching, Riley is a painter, photographer and certified yoga instructor; she hopes to bring yoga, mindfulness and wellness to her classroom. When not teaching, Riley enjoys rock climbing, skiing, snowboarding, fishing, hiking, yoga, playing music and reading a good book.



New programming at Morningstar Learning Center

EBS STAFF

Morningstar Learning Center opened its infant facility in January, and it has grown rapidly, so that 18 infants are currently enrolled, expanded from the six that they could previously enroll. The center staff expects the program to continue growing in the coming months, based on the number of children on their waiting list.

Opening the infant building has allowed MLC to expand its toddler program, splitting it into two classrooms, one for 2-year-olds and another for 3-year-olds. They can have up to 10 2-year-olds and 12 3-year-olds per day in each respective classroom.

The Morningstar Preschool Program is now devoted to 4- and 5-year-olds, who are in very similar developmental stages. In addition to their daily curriculum, one of Morningstar's teachers—an instructor at Bozeman Dance Academy—teaches dance once a week to the Preschool and Toddler Programs. Another teacher, who is originally from Chile, teaches Spanish twice a week in the Preschool Program.

Morningstar's Family Assistance Program helps support families that need financial assistance to enroll their child. "Morningstar feels strongly that all families should have access to safe and affordable childcare," MLC toddler lead Stephanie Byam wrote in an email. Thanks to annual resort tax funding, Morningstar has received enough money each year to give each Big Sky family a \$10 discount per child, per day, which roughly equates to daycare costs in Bozeman.

New programming at Big Sky Discovery Academy

BY BAY STEPHENS
EBS STAFF WRITER

In its fourth year, Big Sky Discovery Academy is growing at all levels. The middle school is beginning its second year and will use a project-based education process to integrate subjects like art, social studies, history, science and geography in a multi-age setting.

Although Discovery already supports students taking high school classes online through third parties, providing instructors to enhance and individualize their learning, it's on the brink of expanding the high school program, according to executive director and head of school, Nettie Breuner.

"We've been doing à la carte support for specific classes, but now we're really building toward a comprehensive program where we can support kids in getting their diploma through an online [program]," she said. "That's big, because that's just basically happening right now."

Although the high school offering isn't full time, it could be if a family requested the service, which would mean participating in an online-accredited diploma program. Currently, Discovery uses the University of Nebraska, which offers a NCAA-approved high school diploma. Students would take online coursework through the university while Discovery supports them by providing an instructor to help teach, or a proctor to hold students accountable, help them set goals and keep pace.

Students have been coming to Discovery with a variety of needs, Breuner said. Some want tutoring in coursework from Lone Peak High School, others for enrichment while spending the summer in Big Sky. Athletes, such as ski racers, have used Discovery's offerings to complete classes in the summer, allowing flexibility during the school year for competing and training, and still others take classes for credit recovery. Breuner said the program is growing as kids are asking for more subject courses.

"It's all about academic enrichment and creating opportunities to expand what already exists in this community," she said. "We're not about redundancy. ... We're all just trying to add value to the community and we best serve the community if we're not repeating each other."

There's a new 'lunch lady' in town

By Sarah Gianelli
EBS Senior Editor

BIG SKY – With a degree in nutrition from Montana State University, and 20 years of experience as a restaurant owner, private chef and caterer, Lindsie Hurlbut knows food—and how to make it both tasty and wholesome. Now she's applying that knowledge and passion for healthy eating to the Big Sky School District lunch program.

For the past five years, Hurlbut worked as the commercial kitchen manager and savory chef at the Hungry Moose Market & Deli where, in addition to keeping the deli stocked and fulfilling the many special orders, she headed up the Discovery Academy lunch program, which incorporated an educational component into the meals.

She and the other members of the Wellness Committee at Big Sky School District, where Hurlbut's two children are students, were effective in introducing similar farm-to-school programming to Ophir and Lone Peak High schools.

Hurlbut is passionate about whole foods, educating kids about where their food comes from, and how to cook. In her new position, she will focus on scratch-cooking, nutritional education, buying local produce and Montana-raised grass-fed beef whenever possible; and facilitating relations with area producers and farmers.

Recently the Wellness Committee received a \$2,000 grant from the Moonlight Community Foundation which will help support her vision, which also includes initiating composting, recycling and improving breakfast and snack options.



As the new lunch lady, Lindsie Hurlbut will bring a passion for healthy eating, food education, and a whole lot of fun to the Big Sky School District kitchen. PHOTO BY ASHLEY DODD

Hurlbut's goals don't stop there. "I want a garden; I want bees ..." She's also looking to bring ProStart to the district, a vocational program for aspiring young chefs led by local culinary professionals. Admittedly some of these goals are long term, but with the community's support she believes they are within reach.

"If I can facilitate children learning about cooking, gardening, healthy eating habits, the importance of eating locally grown foods and knowing where it comes from—I want to be a part of that," Hurlbut said.

Other changes to school lunch this year include staggered, and longer lunch periods of 30 minutes; and Hurlbut plans to offer both hot lunch and a soup and salad bar option. Not only will it promote a healthier eating atmosphere, but it should reduce long lines that might be a deterrent to students participating in the lunch program.

And really, that is what it comes down to—for the revamped lunch program to succeed, parents need to invest in it, and more children need to buy school lunch. Maybe now that Hurlbut is taking the reins, more will.

"This is my passion—I love feeding kids," Hurlbut said.

"The better they eat, the better they learn, and as the school and the community grows in all these great ways, I don't want the school lunch program to be left behind."

Lunch is \$3.40 for grades K-8; and \$3.85 for high school students. Parents are welcome to join their kids for lunch any time for \$4.10.

"Where else can you go and get a \$4 locally-sourced lunch?" Hurlbut asked. "Nowhere."



Mr. Harder transitions to technology

After 18 years teaching fourth grade at Ophir Elementary School, Jeremy Harder is switching gears to teach technology, a course he likes to call “Design Thinking.” “My goal is to assemble a unique curriculum that meshes my many passions: technology, visible thinking, developing deeper connections to the outdoors, inquiry-based learning, and a collaborative teaching philosophy,” Harder said. While leaving the fourth grade is bittersweet, Harder wants to continue to be an example of a lifelong learner and this new position is an opportunity to do so. “Mrs. Zimmerman and Mrs. Klein will continue to make fourth grade a unique and rewarding part of the upper elementary experience,” he added. “And the tradition of Expedition Yellowstone will continue with even greater finesse than it had with me manning the ship.” OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Tailgate party to kick off LPHS football season

BY BAY STEPHENS
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – The Big Sky School District Booster Club invites the community to a tailgate party at the Lone Peak High School football field on Friday, Aug. 24 from 3-5 p.m. The party will include free food, live music, a bouncy house, contests and a cheer clinic, all to raise funds for school athletics and pack the stands for the 5 p.m. kickoff of the first LPHS football game of the season.

The tailgate will have an NFL-style Punt, Pass, Kick contest and a clinic for young cheerleaders starting at 3 p.m. Burgers and hotdogs will fuel fans as they cheer the Big Horns through their first game against Box Elder High School, who are coming from just outside Havre.

Booster club volunteers will be selling club memberships and merchandise to further support the athletic programs at LPHS and Ophir Middle School.

John Hannahs, Big Sky School District’s new athletic director, is grateful for the booster club’s dedication to BSSD’s athletics programs and excited for the tailgate.

“It is unlike anything we have done before, and I am excited to work with them moving forward to create more [...] ideas like this one,” Hannahs wrote in an email to EBS.

He wants the Big Sky community to be aware of BSSD athletic programs and events, and has a clear vision of what he’d like to see in terms of supporting Big Horn athletics.

“When our student athletes come out to a packed stadium, it goes a long way in getting them excited to play in front of a hometown crowd that cares,” Hannahs added. “If we could become ‘that’ small town that completely empties because the Big Horns are playing, that would be really special.”



The BSSD Booster Club welcomes the Big Sky community to a tailgate party Friday, Aug. 24, from 3-5 p.m., which will provide family fun and fill the stands for the first LPHS football game of the season. PHOTO COURTESY OF BARB ROONEY

Tony Coppola awarded Montana Statehood Bell Award

By Sarah Gianelli
EBS Senior Editor

BIG SKY – On Aug. 3 it was announced that Lone Peak High School social studies teacher Tony Coppola was chosen as the recipient of the prestigious Montana Statehood Centennial Bell Award, which honors one history teacher in the state each year. Surrounded by his 10th grade U.S. government class, Coppola will accept the award at a ceremony in the state Capitol on Statehood Day, Nov. 9.

Coppola, who is going into his sixth year as a teacher in the Big Sky School District, was first hired in 2007 to develop and implement a Native American curriculum in the school—the subject of the master’s thesis he was working on at MSU—to meet the 2008 mandate for all public schools to do so.

In 2012 he earned his teaching certification, and now teaches grades 9-12 courses on Montana state history, U.S. government and political science, independence and protest movements, and the Cold War.

He also coaches soccer and is the faculty lead for American Legion programs such as the U.S. Constitutional Oratory Contest, and a week-long civics workshop for selected students at Carroll College in Helena.

Coppola’s passion for history was fostered early on. His father was a history buff and he had a few highly influential history teachers throughout his education.



Lone Peak High School History teacher Tony Coppola, pictured here in the History Museum of Philadelphia, is the recipient of the 2018 Montana Statehood Bell Award, which honors one standout history teacher in the state each year. PHOTO BY MEGHAN COPPOLA

“I think you can learn a lot from the past—what paths to travel, what paths not to, how not to make the same mistakes as a country or a world,” Coppola said. “It’s important to realize where we came from and how we got here and I think history is that story, of humans and our place on earth.”

Coppola says his biggest strength as a teacher is his relationships with his students. He works carefully to create a fair, safe, respectful environment that students want to be in.

“Mostly it’s about caring,” Coppola said. “If your students see that you care, they are more apt to want to learn from you.”

It’s also about making learning fun, and Coppola achieves this by getting creative with his lessons, incorporating multi-media components, listening to podcasts, and holding class in the tradition of Socratic seminars.

“It feels good to be supported—by the administration, the community, my students, and my colleagues,” Coppola said about receiving the award. “But at the end of the day the award is not for me, it’s for the students—for them loving the class and wanting to be there.”

The 34 students in Coppola’s 10th grade U.S. government class will join him on Nov. 8 when he will be presented with the award and get to ring the centennial bell in the Montana State Capitol building.



Between the Shelves

BY AMY HUNTER

ASSISTANT COMMUNITY LIBRARIAN

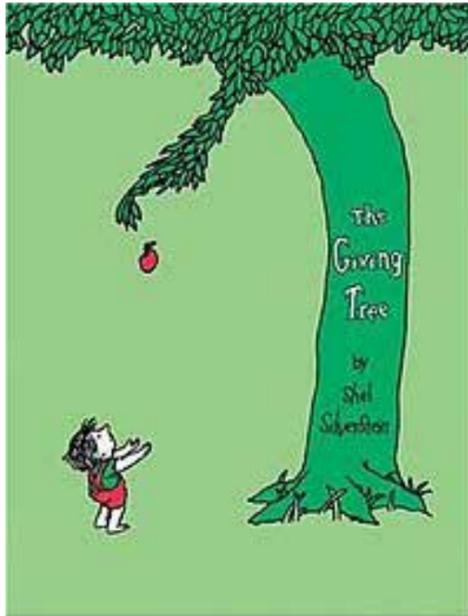
With the new school year rapidly approaching, I have been thinking about the love of reading—what inspires it and how to develop it. I started by compiling a list of reasons to love reading.

- Story
- Characters
- Language
- Entertainment
- Imagination
- Hope
- Education
- Broadening horizons
- Developing empathy
- Inspiration
- Self-improvement
- Appreciation of another's creativity
- Developing one's own creativity
- Exposure to different worlds, ways of thinking, perspectives

In high school, I remember reading “Catcher in the Rye” by J.D. Salinger and thinking that I would not be friends with Holden Caulfield, he was whiny and obnoxious. During class, I was amazed that the majority of my classmates felt that Holden's character represented them. What had they seen that I did not? Or, what did I see that they missed? I realized that, for me, characters are an important part of a story.

Similarly, I read “The Great Gatsby” by F. Scott Fitzgerald and did not love the book. My brother loved it and loves it to this day. I read it again years later to see if it was a maturity thing—it was not. I learned that I am not a fan of symbolism. Are there really symbols that the majority of the population recognizes, understands, and connects to, that I do not?

One amazing aspect of reading is none of us will have the same experience with a book, a character, or its symbolism. To illustrate this, teachers and staff at Big Sky School District shared the books that fostered their own love of reading.



Brittany Shirley: “The Giving Tree” by Shel Silverstein; it’s a timeless story of unending sacrifice and true love.

Jeremy Harder: When I was 9 years old, I loved “The Adventures of Stuart Little” by E.B. White, and the picture on its cover of an adventurous mouse in a canoe.

Ashley Jenks: “The Hallo-Wiener” by Dav Pilkey not only appeals to child-humor, but it is also a very sweet story.

Whitney McKenzie: All Dr. Seuss books—his rhyming and silly quotes always made me laugh and inspired me to want to make up poems, rhymes and look on the brighter side of life.

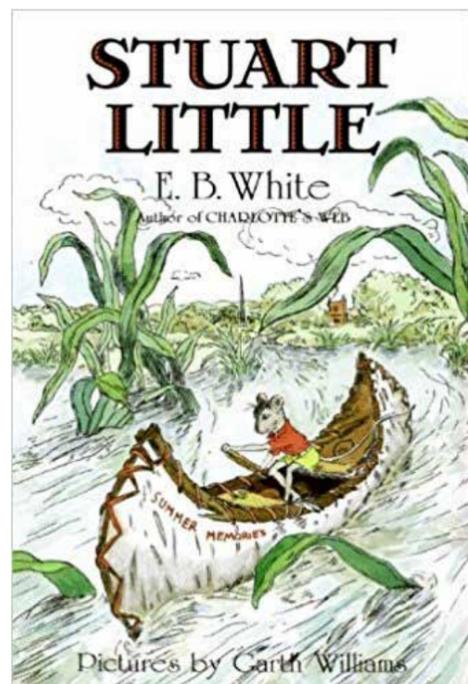
Joe Vincent: “The Outsiders” by S.E. Hinton in seventh grade. It has gangs, greasy hair, and the story of brothers growing up on the streets.

LaDawn LeGrande: When I was about 10 years old I had no problem imagining myself as a pioneer girl living in a log cabin like in the “Little House on the Prairie” series by Laura Ingalls Wilder.

I invite you and your children to reflect on what you enjoy about books and reading and try to build on that. We will not love every book we read, but the goal is to keep reading until we find what sticks.

As author J.K. Rowling said, “If you don’t like to read, you haven’t found the right book.”

Come to the Big Sky Community Library on Monday, Aug. 20 at 10:30 a.m. to help celebrate Ingrid Davies, Norma Troxler, and Eli Van Eps, three children who have read 1,000 books before entering kindergarten.



Futbol club rolls into Big Sky

BY SARAH GIANELLI

EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – At an Aug. 3 meeting of the Big Sky School District school board, Kim Dickerson, mother of two Ophir students, addressed the board about the newly formed Big Sky Futbol Club.

Soccer is not offered through the district, so prior to the formation of a Big Sky soccer club, Big Sky youth played soccer as part of the Bozeman clubs or high school team.

While Big Sky players could hold practice in Big Sky, games meant traveling to Bozeman and beyond which could be difficult due to differences in the two district's school calendars and schedules.

With the formation of a Big Sky club, a nonprofit under the umbrella of the Montana Youth Soccer Association, Dickerson said they are now able to register teams in Big Sky, host games and will be alignment with the district's schedule.

Dickerson estimates that there are 80 Big Sky kids playing soccer between the Gallatin Elite and Bozeman Blitzz clubs, but said they are going to start the Big Sky Futbol Club small with an evenly split co-ed team of 16 high schoolers.



“We wanted to focus on this high school team to get [the club] up and running, so that we can build momentum in our community and hopefully incorporate teams for younger age groups in the spring,” Dickerson said. Eventually it might lead to a Lone Peak High School team.

At the school board meeting, Dickerson also asked for the school's support, and to treat soccer club players with the same flexibility—with academic stipulations—that they do students on the Big Sky ski team.

Dickerson played soccer in high school and college and is a licensed coach. She's been trying to generate community interest to create a soccer club since moving to Big Sky two years ago, and felt the timing was right.

“It's been a sport that's been very influential in my life,” Dickerson said. “I love team sports and sharing the joy it brought to me with younger kids.”

The first Big Sky Futbol Club home game is 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15 against Billings Christian Academy at the Big Sky Community Park. For more information about the club email bigskyfutbolclub@gmail.com.



Now in his first year as athletic director for the Big Sky School District, second grade teacher John Hannahs looks forward to improving the Big Horns athletic program and increasing attendance at their sporting events. PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN HANNAHS

New Lone Peak athletic director takes the helm for Big Horns

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – Now in his fifth year as a second-grade teacher, John Hannahs was recently named the new athletic director of the Big Sky School District, while also retaining his teaching responsibilities. Hannahs replaces LaDawn LeGrande, who he was quick to credit with gracefully passing the torch and setting him up for success.

Since he began teaching at Ophir Elementary, Hannahs has been involved in coaching basketball both at the middle school and high school levels, and he intends to continue in that role with what time he has to spare.

“That was the only concern from the administration—keeping me in the classroom. But I look forward towards balancing my teaching responsibilities with my goals of strengthening our athletic program,” Hannahs said.

A Parkman, Wyoming native, Hannahs attended Tongue River High School and competed in roping events for the rodeo team. He is also no stranger to the basketball court, the softball fields, or the golf course, where he recently made his return after recovering from a torn Achilles tendon.

“We have a young program—10 years old—compared to many other Montana schools. So, we are still establishing tradition and growing school spirit,” Hannahs said. “The eventual goal is to have more sporting events where all the students are in attendance, or where Town Center businesses close down because everyone is going to cheer for their favorite local team.”

The Lone Peak volleyball team, the football team, and the cheer squad have all started training in preparation for the fall season. The new AD says he is looking forward to working with new head football coach Brett Babick: “He is coming to us from southern California with a wealth of experience and knowledge. We are returning a solid core from last year and he is the right person to get them to the next level.”

This year the football season will kick off with a “Punt, Pass, Kick” event and barbecue tailgate Friday, Aug. 24, at the LPHS athletic field.

Hannahs noted that the volleyball team also returns a talented group from last season. “Coach Missy [Botha] has done an outstanding job of creating a cohesive unit and getting the most out of her squad. I look forward to watching them play this year.”

Hannahs recently announced to the BSSD board of directors that coach Dave Brekke, who coaches track in the spring, has signed on to coach a cross-country team this fall if there is enough interest.

“Our athletic program wants to be competitive with the best teams in the state, and we want our student-athletes to develop skills in their chosen activities, but the broader goal is to develop well-rounded individuals who can face adversity and overcome challenges,” Hannahs said.

2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

AUGUST 2018

20-24 Pupil-Instruction-Related (PIR): teachers only, no students

27 First day of school, K-12

5 SCHOOL DAYS

SEPTEMBER 2018

3 Labor Day, no school K-12

12 Ophir Elementary Back to School Night

27 OMS / LPHS Back to School Night

17-21 Homecoming week

27 First day of school, K-12

19 SCHOOL DAYS

OCTOBER 2018

8 No school K-3

18-19 PIR, no school, K-12

21 SCHOOL DAYS

NOVEMBER 2018

9 Veterans Day Assembly

13-14 Parent Teacher Conferences

3:45-7:45 p.m., K-12 (each day)

19-23 No school K-12, Thanksgiving break

17 SCHOOL DAYS

DECEMBER 2018

24-Jan. 2 Winter break, no school K-12

15 SCHOOL DAYS

JANUARY 2019

7 PIR, no school K-3

25 PIR, no school K-12

21 SCHOOL DAYS

FEBRUARY 2019

14-15 No school K-12

18 SCHOOL DAYS

MARCH 2019

4 PIR, No school K-3

8 & 11 No school K-12

19 SCHOOL DAYS

APRIL 2019

1 PIR, no school K-12

15-19 Spring break, no school K-12

27 LPHS Prom

16 SCHOOL DAYS

MAY 2019

27 Memorial Day, no school K-12

22 SCHOOL DAYS

JUNE 2019

1 Graduation, Lone Peak High School

7 Last day of school, 12:00 p.m. dismissal

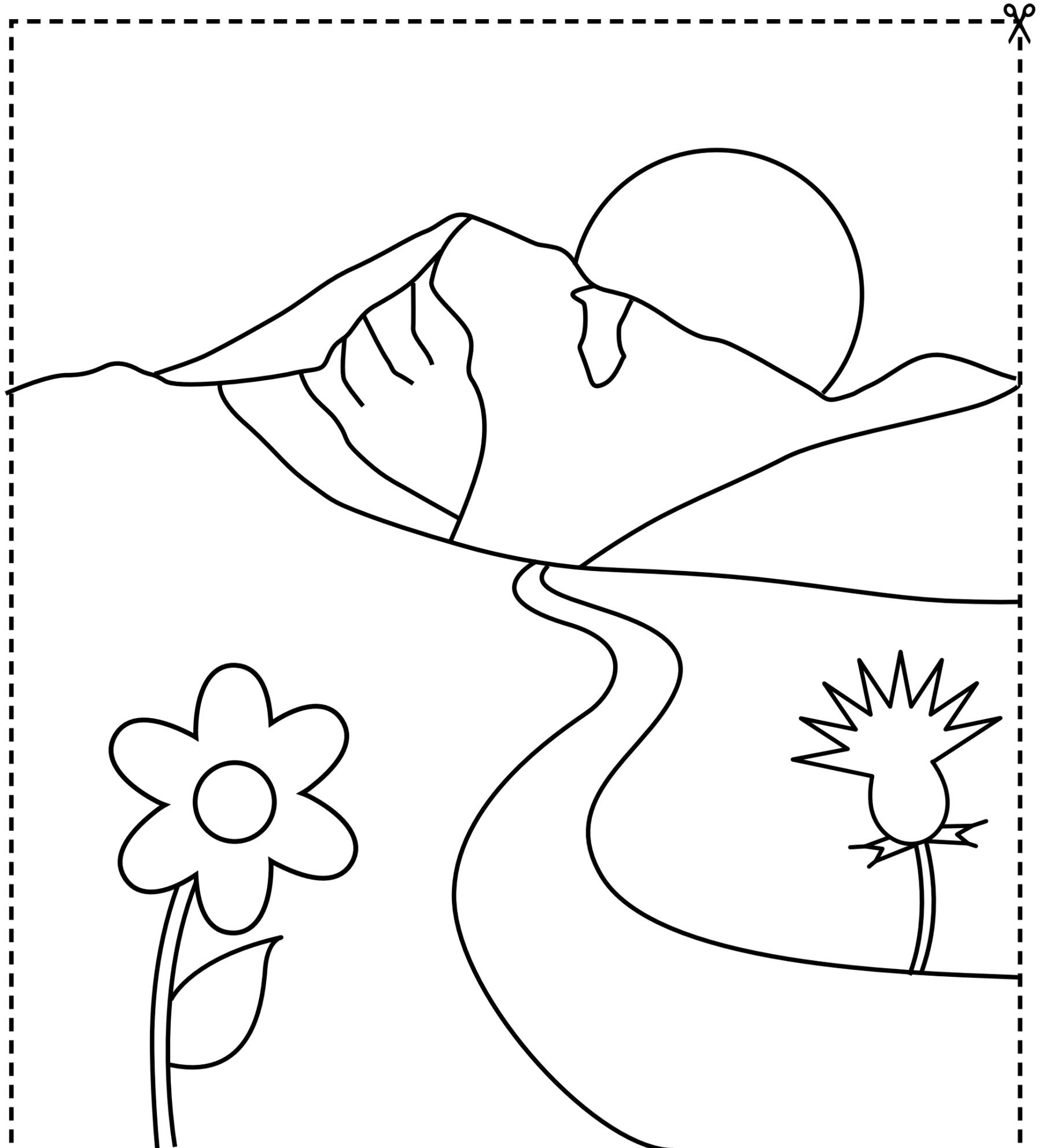
4.5 SCHOOL DAYS

Coloring contest: know your plant invaders!

Winner to be published in EBS and receive a prize

You might not think of plants as dangerous, but invaders—plants brought from other countries—can crowd out the native plants that have lived here since before human settlers arrived. Two invasive plants commonly found in the Big Sky area are the oxeye daisy (left) and milk thistle (right). Can you identify another

non-native plant and add it to this drawing? Bring your completed drawing to the Outlaw Partners office in Town Center for a chance to have it published in Explore Big Sky, and win a small gift from the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance.



What noxious weed did you identify and draw?
