

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

April 12 - April 25 Volume 10 // Issue #8

Growing pains:
No place called home

Coexisting with grizzlies

Lone Peak Physical Therapy: How they've made it

> Big Grass stomps through Big Sky

Prepare to Give Big Gallatin Valley



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ON THE COVER:

The winning shot from March's EBS "In Your Element" contest. Ian Lange of Bozeman snapped this picture of friend Anthony Pavkovich hauling up a frozen waterfall in Hyalite Canyon, which earned him the crown and \$250 prize. PHOTO BY IAN LANGE

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Coexisting with grizzlies

A bear attack on April 7 marks the first physical encounter with a bruin recorded this year and is cause for reflection on how to live alongside wild animals.

Lone Peak Physical Therapy: How they've made it

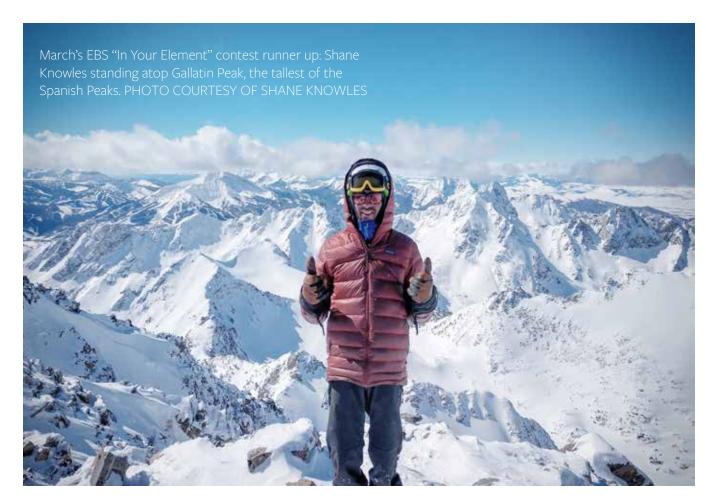
John Boersma discusses his reasoning and motivation to move from the big city to a mountain town in the West and start an innovative physical therapy company.

Big Grass stomps through Big Sky

Stomp the floors at the 13th annual Big Sky Big Grass festival. Learn what the bands are looking forward to.

Prepare to Give Big Gallatin Valley

A 24-hour celebration of giving to raise funds for nonprofits in Gallatin County.



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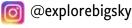
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4 April 12-25, 2019 **Explore** Big Sky



Gallatin River Forever campaign nears fundraising target

GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

The Gallatin River Forever capital campaign has generated just over \$1.1 million to date, including campaign costs.

The Gallatin River Forever public phase was launched in June 2018 with leading support coming from Madison County, Yellowstone Club, and Eric and Wendy Schmidt, as well as tremendous support from hundreds of local community members, businesses and foundations. The campaign is set to raise over \$1.2 million to conserve and protect the Gallatin River watershed by June 30.

"With the stewardship of incredible community leaders and advocates for the Gallatin, we have achieved new heights for our organization and mission," said Ryan Newcomb, director of development for the task force. "This momentum has allowed us to take our work to protect and preserve the Gallatin further than ever with long-needed river-access improvement projects, increased water monitoring and community education program growth, and large investments in organizational sustainability."

Gallatin Local Water Quality District to conduct well awareness courses

GALLATIN MEDIA CENTER

The Gallatin Local Water Quality District will be conducting well awareness courses designed to educate private well owners on best practices for protecting their drinking water.

Homeowners will learn how to conduct an assessment of their well's condition, identify potential containment sources and discuss factors that can affect their water quality. Proper septic system maintenance and potential impacts on groundwater will be discussed along with how to test your drinking water and what to test for.

Informational packets and well assessment forms will be provided. Once participants have conducted their own assessment, GLWQD staff will follow up after the course to provide recommendations. The courses are held in April.

For more information, call Christine Miller at (406) 582-3148 or email christine.miller@gallatin. mt.gov.

Iowa State administrator named dean of Montana State University's Graduate School

MSU NEWS SERVICE

An administrator and professor of nuclear physics from Iowa State University will be the next dean for the Graduate School and associate vice president of research at Montana State University.

MSU officials announced today that Craig Ogilvie has been named dean and associate vice president after a national search. Ogilvie will begin at MUS on August 1.

"We are delighted to welcome Dr. Ogilvie to this important leadership role in our Graduate School." Said Robert Mokwa, executive vice president for academic affairs and provost. "Ogilvie's innovative ideas and experience of recruiting graduate students, strengthening and broadening connections between research and graduate education and his knack for building strong relationships with faculty across campus stood out during his interview."

"I am excited to join the graduates, students, postdocs, staff and faculty at MSU," Ogilvie said.

Below normal mountain precipitation in Montana causes snowpack declines statewide

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Major weather pattern changes in March marked a return to closer-to-seasonal temperatures during the latter half of the month for Montana, a welcome change after a brutally cold February.

It was also a dramatic change from the well above average February precipitation across the state to well below average for precipitation totals at mountain and valley locations. According to USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service snow survey data, all mountain locations experienced well below normal snowfall for the month.

Long-range forecasts issued by the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center indicate increased chances of above average temperatures across the western half of the state from April – June and increased probability of precipitation across the southern half of the state.

"If this winter has taught me anything, it's to expect the unexpected," said Lucas Zukiewicz, NRCS water supply specialist.

Jackson Hole plastic bag ban effective April 15

JACKSON HOLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In January 2019, the Town of Jackson passed an ordinance banning the free distribution of single-use plastic bags. On April 15, this ban will be officially instituted.

No grocer or large retailer within town limits shall provide a single-use disposable plastic bag to a customer at the point of sale. Effective November 1, 2019, no retailer or retail store shall provide a single-use disposable plastic bag to a customer at the point of sale. This excludes vendors at a farmer's market, fast food restaurants, art galleries and art fairs.

Other bag exemptions include non-checkout product bags – such as dry cleaner bags, newspaper bags, door hanger bags, bags provided by pharmacists to contain prescription drugs, bags used by consumers inside stores to package bulk items including: fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, candy or small hardware items.



Big Sky is a fast-growing and young ski town. What do you think is the most pressing issue it faces?



Shannon Sears *Big Sky, Montana*

"The biggest challenge is a gap between the number of employees needed and the lack of available housing to support this growth; I feel like there's an issue in keeping good employees right now."



Josh Treasure
Big Sky, Montana

"In my opinion there is not enough infrastructure to support the growth—roads, paths to certain houses, water and sewer, things like that. I know the TIGER grant is helping make plans, but there needs to be a bigger push for infrastructure."



Carrie Hicks
Gallatin Gateway, Montana

"Definitely affordable housing, and pet friendly housing for renters. I was trying to find something that wasn't employee housing, and having a dog it was nearly impossible to find something to rent for the season."



Victoria Tye Big Sky, Montana

"Housing for sure. We got lucky enough to find a place to buy, but there needs to be more options to rent affordably. Our mortgage is cheaper than what we were finding for rent."





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Guest Editorial: A request for votes

Dear Big Sky Community,

It is election season and this year the school district has two levies on the ballot for voter consideration. We are excited about the possibilities that both levies bring to the district.

First, we are asking voters to approve a general fund levy in the amount of \$40,000. In Montana, a school district has the ability to ask voters to approve a local levy in order to operate at 100 percent of the allotted budget calculated by the state. These dollars will be used specifically for expenses related to teacher and staff salaries. For a property valued at \$1 million, for example, the property tax increase to a homeowner comes to \$18.80 per year.

Additionally, the district is excited to partner with Habitat for Humanity of Gallatin Valley to construct teacher and staff housing on our property. The partnership will allow the district to construct stable, predictable rental units for some BSSD staff.

Habitat for Humanity's methods allow the district to construct the units on district property for approximately \$135 per square foot, which is significantly less than the current rate in Big Sky. The district is seeking approval of a Building Reserve Levy in the amount of \$600,000 over five years. This levied amount will be used to complete all infrastructure for the two triplexes as well as the physical structure for one of the triplexes. For a property valued at \$1 million, the property tax increase to a homeowner comes to \$56.40 per year.

The BSSD board is, as always, grateful for the support the community shows for the school through positive election results. Should you have further questions or need additional information regarding the school levies this election cycle, please reach out to Superintendent Dustin Shipman at dshipman@bssd72.org or make plans to attend one of the following informational meetings jointly held by the district and Habitat for Humanity:

April 24, 6-7:30 p.m. in the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center May 1, 6-7:30 p.m. in the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center

-Big Sky School District Board of Trustees

Supporting Big Sky Resort

To the Editor,

In the 30 years I've lived here, I've seen a lot of changes. Some good and some bad, but the one constant I have seen is Boyne Resorts and Taylor Middleton's support of our local kids' ski programs.

This has happened for the last 40 years. They graciously give the K-8 students a free season pass every year, and with the addition of the new high school and middle school they also give the high school kids day passes for their ski days—all at no charge.

Additionally, the resort encourages high-schoolers to keep their grades up by offering a deal on season passes if they maintain a certain GPA. For this, I would like to say thank you for giving our local youth the opportunity to learn to ski.

Sincerely,

Beth Clarke-Hoffman Big Sky

OUTLAW

News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

New EBS app brings content to hand

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

In an ongoing effort to stay current with digital trends and shifts in the journalism industry, Explore Big Sky is curating a streamlined and dynamic digital experience for our readership. The latest result is the launch of our new EBS mobile application.

Available for Apple iOS products via the App Store, and for Android devices through the Google Play Store, the app is the latest addition in a new front of digital offerings, including the thrice-weekly EBS "Town Crier" newsletter, an increasingly robust social media presence and news distribution as well as a series of photo and video contests designed to further engage our growing audience.

The app boasts numerous features to better support the mobile experience, such as for-mobile formatting which allows for simplified content digestion without the headaches of through-browser access.

Some features are supplemented with mobile-only offerings, such as the weather function tab which not only includes current and upcoming weather conditions, but also Gallatin River conditions and flow—a quick and informational service for any local angler, boater or water enthusiast.

Mobile app users will also have access to emergency notifications and must-know beta for anyone in the community, including large and quickly moving weather systems, wildfire information, traffic accidents and delays along Big Sky's roadways, or major community events.

"In an increasingly digitized media landscape, the EBS app augments the newspaper," said Editor-in-Chief Joseph T. O'Connor. "Many readers still like the feel of a physical paper but others are consuming media in different ways. The new app gives our audience an alternative platform with ease of access to digital and mobile content."



Avaliable for iOS and Android operating systems

Peak to Sky concert adds second night of music

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

An event as monumental for the Big Sky community as the Peak to Sky concert deserves more than one day. Outlaw Partners media, marketing and events company and publisher of this newspaper, has remedied that with a second evening of music on Friday to prime concertgoers for a Saturday of rocking out.

"The Big Sky community and music fans from around the country are excited about Peak to Sky and we are honored to announce the addition of a second night of epic music and four more music acts," said Eric Ladd, CEO of Outlaw Partners.

Saturday's show features a rock supergroup comprised of Mike McCready (guitar, Pearl Jam) and fellow hall-of-famers Chad Smith (drums, Red Hot Chili Peppers), Duff McKagan (bass and vocals, Guns N' Roses), Josh Klinghoffer (guitar, Red Hot Chili Peppers), and Foo Fighters drummer Taylor Hawkins. Three-time Grammy Award winner Brandi Carlile will perform earlier in the evening of July 6's Peak to Sky concert, one of the most prominent events in Big Sky history.



Seattle-based rock 'n' roll band Thunderpussy will return to Big Sky to headline the July 5 evening of music. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Also held in the Big Sky Events Arena in Town Center, the Friday, July 5 lineup will include an opening set by local band

Dammit Lauren and The Well, which recently released their first album, "Warning Signs." Seattle-based female rock 'n' roll band Thunderpussy, a brazen group known for frenetic and heart-pumping performances, will headline the evening.

"We played for the PBR last July, and people [in Big Sky] definitely know how to have a good time," said Whitney Petty, lead guitarist for Thunderpussy. "I was talking with Chad [Smith] and Mike [McCready] last night, and we're all stoked."

Members of Dammit Lauren and the Well were equally looking forward to the performance.

"We're really excited to open this event with Thunderpussy," said Dammit Lauren and The Well mandolin player Ben Macht. "As a band, all we want to do is go play music, all the time, in front of as many people as possible. Hopefully this throws some gas on the Dammit Lauren [and The Well] fire."

Also on July 5, Mike McCready and New York- and Seattle-based artist Kate Neckel will perform a special collaborative art and music show titled "Infinite Color and Sound," a visual art and music project with works ranging from collage, sculpture, painting, drawing, music and performance. Upon meeting in Seattle, the two connected artistically and began their journey through color and sound.

Outlaw Partners also announced the inclusion of Bozeman-based Paige and the People's Band to the July 6 line-up. A high-energy mix of funk, soul and rock, the nine-piece, horn-powered and vocally charged group is quickly becoming a mainstay of the Montana music scene.

"I told everyone we were in the lineup in our band group chat," said Paige Rasmussen, lead singer for the band. "The responses were like, 'These are my favorite players from these bands, I can't believe we get to share a bill with them.' This is huge for a us, a screaming-with-excitement-in-the-parking-lot sort of thing."

Rounding out the Peak to Sky experience on July 6, famed kids' musician, Caspar Babypants (Chris Ballew, lead vocalist and "basitarist" from the hit Seattle-based band The Presidents of the United States of America), will start the day with a special interactive kids and parents acoustic performance.

Peak to Sky tickets go on sale April 19 at 9 a.m. MDT, and will be available for purchase online only at peaktosky.com. Ticket options will include Skybox, VVIP, VIP, seated GA and floor GA, and will start at \$35 for Friday's events and \$100 for Saturday's events.



LEFT: Local band Dammit Lauren and The Well will deliver an opening set on July 5. PHOTO COURTESY OF DAMMIT LAUREN AND THE WELL

RIGHT: Paige and the People's Band will bring their high-energy, eclectic sound to the Peak to Sky stage on July 6. PHOTO COURTESY OF PAIGE AND THE PEOPLE'S BAND

GROWING PAINS

PART TWO

No place called home

Looking for employees? They're looking for housing. It's costing the community.

BY MIKE SOMERBY AND BAY STEPHENS

This is the second installment of "Growing Pains," an ongoing series centered on Big Sky's growth, the challenges it presents and potential solutions. Visit explore-bigsky.com to read part one, "The Ikontroversy."

BIG SKY – Jay Janvrin commutes from Bozeman two days a week to work in the kitchen at By Word of Mouth restaurant in Westfork Meadows, his second job along with one at Big Sky Resort. He used to work full time at BYWOM, driving an hour each way for every shift. Then he totaled his vehicle driving home one evening.

Janvrin now drives a 30-year-old project truck he's been working on that gets about 12 miles to the gallon. To stay financially afloat, he scaled back to two days a week at the restaurant, biding time until he can purchase another commuter.

Janvrin's transition from full to part time puts additional stress on his employer, BYWOM co-owner John Flach, who says retaining and attracting employees is a challenge in Big Sky. Flach worked 14-16-hour days this winter to make up for the lack of hands on deck, and BYWOM had to suspend its catering service, which comprises about 25 percent of its usual business.

Since Big Sky's genesis, a workforce scarcity has plagued local employers, yet the phenomenon has grown increasingly acute in recent years. Visitation this winter appears to have eclipsed those of previous seasons, resulting in a Catch-22: Many restaurant owners reported a rise in profit margins, but they don't have enough employees to do the work.

At the crux of this constant search for available employees is another longstanding Big Sky problem: the shortage of available workforce housing. The issue continues to plague the area, though several local initiatives are looking to alleviate those pressures.

On March 26, Big Sky Resort announced a plan to introduce 75 new beds to its workforce housing accommodations for the 2019-2020 ski season, and on April 4 a subsidiary of Spanish Peaks, closed on the acquisition of the River Rock Lodge, a 29-room facility that will be used for workforce housing.

The Big Sky School District plans to work in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity to construct two triplexes for teachers on March 25, while the Big Sky Community Housing Trust is set to open the first batch of the 52 subsidized Meadowview units on June 1.

But while three of the four initiatives are geared for specific businesses and organizations with considerable financial backing, the mom-and-pops of Big Sky are left to fend for themselves.

When Flach meets potential new hires, the question is on every applicant's lips: Does BYWOM provide housing?



Lines out the door at Alberto's Mexican Cuisine were a common sight this winter. On busy nights, co-owner Brenda Godoy disconnected the restaurant phone because she couldn't serve both seated customers and those on the line. PHOTO BY MICHAEL SOMERBY



By Word of Mouth restaurant co-owner John Flach worked 14-16-hour days throughout most of the winter as more visitors came to Big Sky, but the supply of employees couldn't keep up. PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

"That's our biggest [challenge]," Flach told EBS. "We've been trying to get on waiting lists ... to give people places to stay."

Monte and Nancy Johnsen, who own Choppers Grub and Pub in Big Sky, field the same question from applicants. Though the restaurant has been around for a decade, only in the last year did the Johnsens begin renting a house for employees.

Choppers has opted to close on Sundays this winter, something it has never done, simply to give a day off to weary employees. The team ends each week exhausted without enough people to comfortably shoulder the workload, Nancy said.

"The volume of our business was up this winter and there was just such a high demand," she said.

According to Brenda Godoy, who co-owns and operates Alberto's Mexican Cuisine with her husband Alberto, the restaurant was so pressed for staff during winter months that it often couldn't open for happy hour. During the busiest season Brenda has seen since Alberto's opened in 2014, on several occasions the restaurant couldn't open at all.

"It's not worth the hassle," Brenda said. "We'd rather not make [customers] mad and not stress ourselves out."

Like Choppers, Alberto's owners realized three years ago that housing was key to bringing in and retaining enough employees to operate. Four of their employees live in a rental the couple pays on, and they maintain a second rental in case they need to draw more employees. It's an endeavor they lose money on, Brenda said.

The problems stemming from the lack of housing aren't solely affecting the employees and employers of Big Sky, but also the customer experience of visitors and permanent residents alike.

"Our opinion is [that] all the businesses in Big Sky—I don't care what business you are in—everybody's running about 25 percent short of staff," said Tim Ryan, who owned and operated The River Rock Lodge with his wife Sally until they sold it this month. "I know we didn't run our business as well as we could because we were short [employees]. And I think that goes across the board."

A loss of footing

When Jay Janvrin of BYWOM attempted to find a point of entry into the residential fabric of Big Sky, he came up empty handed.

"Anything that was available [in Big Sky] was ridiculously expensive," Janvrin said. "I'd have to have three jobs to be able to even survive."

On paper, the unincorporated Montana ski-mecca of Big Sky is an oasis, a prospering mountain community with schools, community spirit, fine dining, abundant outdoor recreation and a calm pace of life. There are plenty of seats at the table—if you can afford one. Today's reality: most can't, and it threatens to cripple the growing community.

"People come here thinking they might have an opportunity to buy property and own a house," said Mike Scholz, a longtime resident of Big Sky. "But despite an increase in business, there is less and less opportunity to get a foot in the door."

Scholz bought a plot of land on the Big Sky Golf Course in 1973 for \$11,000, or roughly \$65,000 in 2019 dollars, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. He sold the property eight years later for \$16,000, using the equity from the sale to buy a three-bedroom Hidden Village condominium for \$59,000, approximately \$171,000 in today's dollars.

Curly Shae, who owns and operates the Cabin Bar and Grill in Mountain Village with his wife Kelly, moved to Big Sky in 1977 at the age of 20, and found a favorable housing market—much like Scholz.

"When I got here you could buy a Hill [Condominium] studio for \$5,000, and a loft for \$15,000," Shea said. "I didn't know anybody that couldn't afford a place to live ... Everything was easier back then."

Sally and Tim Ryan moved to Big Sky in 1980; the young couple put \$15,000 down on a \$65,000 two-bedroom Silverbow Condominium, financed by a local couple so as to avoid getting a loan from a bank.

"[Back] in the day when we first got here, all of us had a place to live," Tim said. "Even though they didn't pay much when we first got here, if you were waiting tables ... you could still afford to parlay that into a down [payment] on a place. And many, many friends did."

Today in southwest Montana, as in much of the country, the housing market is a different beast.

The median sales price for a condominium in Big Sky jumped from \$345,000 to \$710,000 between January 2013 and January 2019, a price point out of reach for the median household income in Gallatin County, which hovered around \$60,901 in 2017 dollars, according to the Montana Department of Commerce.

Personal ownership is a crucial component in encouraging community engagement. According to a 2012 study conducted by the National Association of Realtors, "Homeownership boosts the educational performance of children, induces higher participation in civic and volunteering activity, improves health care outcomes, lowers crime rates and lessens welfare dependency."

In an interview with EBS, Ezra Glenn, lecturer for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Urban Planning Department's Housing, Community, and Economic Development Group, spoke to the necessity for a community to foster an "ecosystem" that includes all walks of life.

"Communities include nannies, teachers, landscapers, firefighters and businessmen," Glenn said. "Together, we make up a kind of ecosystem, and we depend on each other; unless there are forces importing workforce services."

Mark Haggerty, an economist at Bozeman-based Headwaters Economics, reinforced Glenn's caveat: "From a really crass economics standpoint, if capital and labor can organize themselves, then why should Big Sky really care [if the workforce can't live there]?"

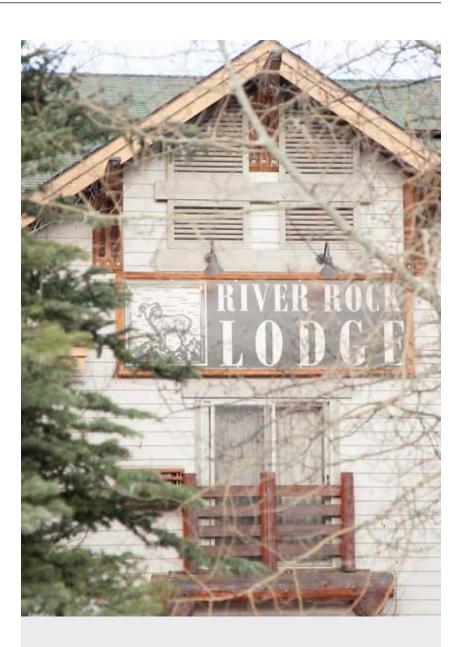
If economic and, in Big Sky's scenario, recreational draw ultimately replace labor speedily and consistently, a lack of workforce housing is no crisis, a non-issue. From a stance of pure economics, the lopsided growth in the socioeconomic divisions occurring in Big Sky can continue to persist unchecked.

However, Haggerty noted the economic perspective "breaks down" when a human layer is considered.

"As a community, you should care," Haggerty said. "If you want your teachers to know your child throughout their schooling, to participate civically outside of the school, to really be a part of the community, then economics can't speak to that."

Although business is booming in Big Sky and the community is taking steps to address housing shortages, the town is outpacing its own infrastructure. Bottom lines are up, but the bottom line remains: a community runs deeper than black and red.

Stay tuned for the next installment of "Growing Pains," our multipart series on growth in Big Sky, coming in the April 26 edition of EBS.



River Rock Lodge changes hands for workforce housing

BY BAY STEPHENS

The River Rock Lodge sold to a subsidiary of Spanish Peaks, which is owned by CrossHarbor Capital Partners, on April 4 to house contractors for large-scale projects underway and to house company employees once the buildings are completed. Workers are moving in immediately.

According to a press release from owners, the lodge will primarily house contractors working on the 520,000-square-foot Montage Big Sky in the Spanish Peaks. The project will create 300 construction jobs a day for the next three years and provide more than 400 operational jobs once open, Managing Director at CrossHarbor Capital Partners Matt Kidd said at the Montage's ground-breaking ceremony in September.

"Lone Mountain Land is committed to increasing the amount of affordable and seasonal housing that is available in Big Sky," Kidd said in the press release. "We know the importance of keeping employees in Big Sky, rather than commuting from other locations. We will continue to make every effort to support that philosophy."

Housing two people per room, the 29-room lodge will be able to accommodate 58 workers, the press release said. Once the Montage is completed, the River Rock will be used for employees of the Montage and Spanish Peaks, primarily.

CrossHarbor owns the Yellowstone Club, Moonlight Basin and Spanish Peaks.

For the previous owners, Tim and Sally Ryan, the time was right for them to sell.

"We were tired," Ryan said. "It's a great business. ... We've been very fortunate."

FOBSE scholarship gives LPHS senior a shot at college

\$76,000 goes to the class of 2019

BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – Sara Davis, 19, wakes up at 4 a.m. each morning to prepare for the day. Davis and her boyfriend leave their apartment in Bozeman by 5 a.m. so he can arrive punctually at his job at Spanish Peaks Mountain Club. Davis then drives the car back into town to work at the Country Market in Meadow Village from 6:30-ll a.m. when she heads to school at Lone Peak High School.

After school gets out at 2:45 p.m., she babysits her "little" Bentley, who she was paired with through the Big Sky chapter of the mentorship program Big Brothers Big Sisters. That's a normal day for Davis, who, coming from an upbringing marred by drugs, alcohol and abuse, left her parents' home in North Dakota as soon as she turned 18. She chose to finish her last year of school at Lone Peak High School, and is set to graduate in June.

On April 4, Davis was awarded three scholarships totaling \$3,500 through the Friends of Big Sky Education community scholarship program, opening the door for her to attend the interior design program at Montana State University's Gallatin College, something she'd never thought possible.

"Pretty much before this year, I wasn't going to go to college," Davis said.

She was one of 14 graduating seniors who received a total of \$76,050 in scholarships from the Big Sky community. Kegan Babick, Kodi Boersma, Brooke Botha, Kolya Bough, Sam Johnson, Ava King, Cole March, Rowan Merryman, Dawson Raden, Milosz Shipman, Solae Swenson, Emma Tompkins and Myles Wilson were also awarded scholarships.

FOBSE has acted as a conduit for the community to give over \$257,000 in scholarships to 72 students throughout the past five years, garnering the support of local businesses, families and foundations to aid students in their pursuits of higher education or trade school.

The organization was founded in 2003 by Anne Marie and Jerry Mistretta with the express goal of building a high school in Big Sky. Once Lone Peak High was realized in 2009, they concluded FOBSE's purpose needed some refinement; in 2014, they decided to start a scholarship program, raising \$25,000 from a few families who donated heavily.



"We wanted to give the community the opportunity to demonstrate to the kids their support for their hard work," Jerry said.

Since then, an ever-growing number of donors and sponsors has allowed available scholarship funds to increase as BSSD's graduating classes do.

Davis received a \$1,500 scholarship from the Glore Family Fund, a sum designated for a student who lives in a non-nuclear family. Additionally, she received a \$1,000 multi-year scholarship from the Agency Insurance Division and \$1,000 from Big Sky Build, both of which are reserved for students with a trade related study trajectory.

"There are these stereotypes of Big Sky students as rich and privileged," Jerry said. "That's not true of all the students. The high school has the whole spectrum, and our goal is to serve every one of them, if they meet the criteria."

Visit friendsofbigskyeducation.org to learn more about Friends of Big Sky Education.



BSRAD discusses SB 241, upcoming appropriations, new hire

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Resort Area District tax board met on April 8 in the Resort Tax office for its monthly open board meeting. Agenda items included the latest developments for Senate Bill 241, assessing updates and future initiatives for the Big Sky Community Strategic Plan, preparations for resort tax applications and appropriations and welcoming Daniel Bierschwale, the new district manager appointee.

Later in the afternoon on April 8, SB 241 passed a second hearing in the Montana House in a 75-24 vote. On April 9, the bill passed the House in a 71-29 vote and will now be sent to Gov. Steve Bullock's office for potential signing.

The bill seeks to provide 10 resort communities around the state the option to levy an additional 1 percent resort tax.

The Community Visioning Strategy, called "Our Big Sky," launched in late February and consisted of one-on-one community member interviews with representatives from the commissioned Logan Simpson consulting firm, as well as the "Polaroid's and Pints" events held at Gallatin Riverhouse Grill and Beehive Basin Brewery.

According to Whitney Brunner, assistant manager for the board, the next step in the visioning strategy is to compile comments from those that spoke with and submitted thoughts to Logan Simpson representatives and determine salient "visioning statements."

The statements will be reconciled and reviewed by the community in a series of events set for a late May rollout.

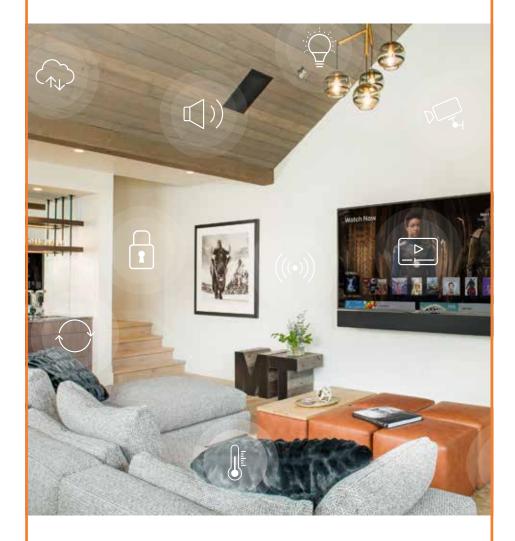
The board is also gearing up for applications for resort tax funding from organizations around the community. The deadline for applications is April 29, with an official appropriations Q&A meeting on June 3.

Daniel Bierschwale, the board's new district manager, attended the meeting—his first in the role. Bierschwale has lived in Montana since 2007, working for Yellowstone Forever since his move from Minneapolis.

In his role with YF, he helped steward community and business partnerships, and volunteered in an effort to help bring resort tax to Gardiner, resulting in projects such as the Gardiner Gateway Project.

"I'm really excited to be on the ground for this new position, leveraging my past experience," Bierschwale said. "I'm looking forward to fostering new initiatives in the Big Sky community."





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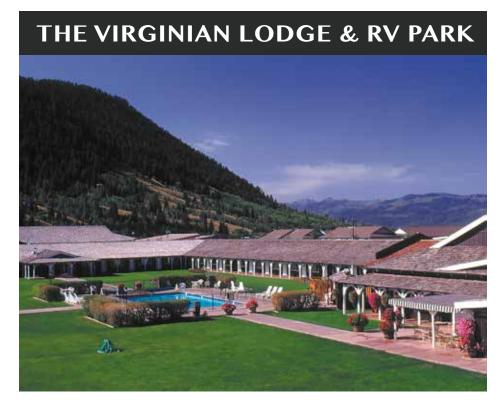


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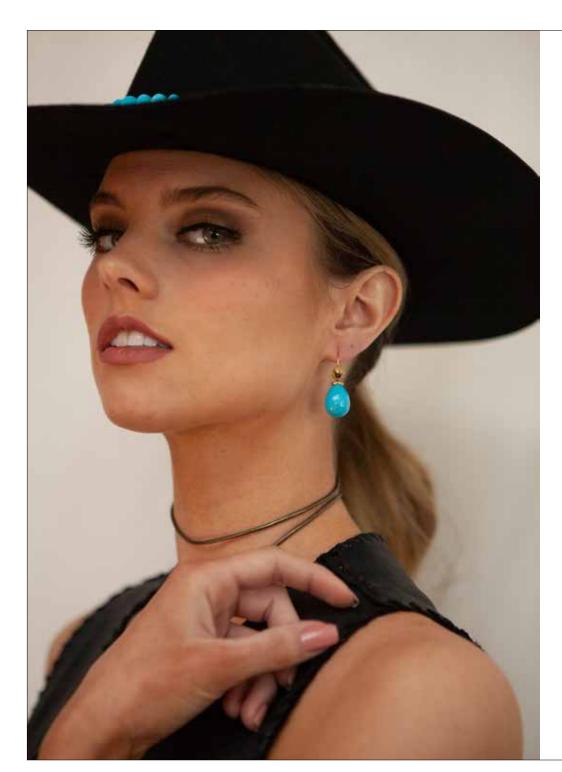
- From the container front as shown, locate latch openings below finger tabs.
- Inside opening find the manual open lever (shown in red for clarity.)
- Push the lever towards the container until it stops and release to unlock latch.
- After both latches are unlocked the lid
 may be opened.
- Opening and reclosing the lid will relock the latches automatically.
- After moving the container to the roadside for refuse collection, check the lid to make sure it's locked. Rolling the container through rough surfaces may unlock the lid.



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Eggs, issues and updates for the commissioners

BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – Community members and county commissioners from Madison and Gallatin counties convened in the Talus Room at Big Sky Resort on April 10 for the biannual Big Sky Chamber of Commerce-organized Eggs and Issues, and the joint county commissioner meeting to discuss water issues facing Big Sky and better facilitate shared governance of the unincorporated area between the two counties.

Madison County Commissioners Ron Nye and Jim Hart, as well as commissioners from the Gallatin side, Joe Skinner, Don Seifert and Scott MacFarlane were informed as to the challenges facing and successes underway in the Big Sky community.

For Eggs and Issues, Karen Filipovich, representing the Gallatin River Task Force, spoke on the need to reduce excess nutrients in the Gallatin River and to safeguard sufficient water supply, benefiting the waterways and residents and visitors that enjoy them. Big Sky Sewer and Water District General Manager Ron Edwards

presented as well, briefing the commissioners on the \$21 million wastewater treatment plant upgrade in response to Big Sky's rapid growth and limited effluent disposal options.

Edwards also touched on the need to find more water to supply growing visitor populations, as well as other BSWSD initiatives underway, such as implementing a water metering system that would allow the district to monitor, in real time, how much water is being used where, expanding the purple pipe in collaboration with Big Sky Town Center, exploring different sewer rate options for commercial vs. residential ratepayers, and once more issuing sewer impact fees for development.

For the Madison and Gallatin Counties Joint Commission Meeting, the commissioners heard presentations from representatives of the U.S. Census Bureau; Big Sky Community Organization; Big Sky Chamber of Commerce; Visit Big Sky; Gallatin River Task Force; Logan Simson, the Colorado-based company hired by the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board; Big Sky Transportation District; Big Sky School District; and Habitat for Humanity of Gallatin County.

Jeri Bucy, the Montana U.S. Census Bureau Partnership Specialist, shared with attendees the importance of facilitating full engagement for the 2020 census. She said \$2,000 federal dollars are allocated to every Montanan counted, so that one uncounted person constitutes \$20,000 in lost funding from the federal government over the course of a decade.

"The census is really all about allocating resources back to communities," Bucy said. She added that if the count numbers are right, there's a chance Montana gains a seat in the U.S. Congress.

Big Sky Transportation District board chair Ennion Williams added that the census is also key to determining how transportation funds are allocated. Funding is the limiting factor for what the district can offer, Ennion said, and that their ridership growth appears to have flattened because the buses are at capacity. The TIGER grant, which is slated to be signed at the end of April, will provide four more buses by January of next year, but does not ultimately pay for drivers, he said.



Gallatin County commissioner Don Seifert congratulates Big Sky on its collaborative and engaged approach to community issues. Scott McFarlane (right) and Madison County Commissioner Joe Skinner gave similar encouragements. PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

The Big Sky Community Organization has major trailhead upgrades in store on both sides of the county line, according to executive director Ciara Wolfe.

As soon as the snow melts, Wolfe said contractors will break ground to expand the Beehive Basin trailhead to increase available parking, and to install a pit toilet, trash receptacles and a trailhead kiosk; upgrades to the Ousel Falls trailhead will be designed this summer with construction expected to commence the following summer.

Wolfe announced that BSCO has raised \$12 million of its \$17 million goal for the community center in Big Sky Town Center, informing the audience that the full plan will be revealed at the end of April.

Logan Simpson's Megan Moore, one of the consultants conducting the Strategic Visioning Strategy to ultimately guide the resort tax board in its allocation of funds, updated audience members on the process thus far.

"In all the communities we've worked in, I've never seen so much engagement," Moore said. "The people here have a real passion for their community."

Of the responses received at this point, Moore shared several patterns of note: while most people visited Big Sky for the outdoor and recreational amenities, with no intention of permanent residence, the community members they encountered and high quality of life swayed them to stay. An aspect many respondents deeply appreciate about Big Sky is that everyone chooses to be here.

"Already you have common values to connect over," Moore said.

Areas of improvement in respondents' minds had to do with developing appropriate infrastructure, safeguarding the environment, caring for families and employees, and the need for an overarching vision that ties all of Big Sky's entities together.



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Legislative roundup: tax structure, gun ordinances, missing persons and unsportsmanlike hunters

BY SHAYLEE RAGAR AND TIM PIERCE UM LEGISLATIVE NEWS SERVICE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

HELENA -- The House of Representatives passed a bill last week that calls for studying Montana's tax structure in the face of quickly shifting economics and demographics.

Rep. Alan Redfield, R-Livingston, is carrying House Joint Resolution 35, which would ask the Legislature to create an interim revenue and transportation committee to conduct the study. It would also include a subcommittee of non-legislative members, like business owners or tax experts. The bill passed the House on a 94-3 vote Friday.

Montana doesn't have a sales tax, and state revenue largely relies on property taxes. The state has also built a savings account through a tax on coal, but three of the state's coal-fired power plants are slated to close in the next few years.

Redfield said the study also needs to focus on how population and demographic changes have affected tax policy.

Proposals to implement statewide or local-option sales taxes have been voted down this session.

A wide variety of proponents voiced support for the study resolution in a Tuesday House Taxation Committee hearing. Representatives from the Montana Infrastructure Coalition, the Montana League of Cities and Towns, the Montana Budget and Policy Center and the Montana Taxpayers Association all support the proposal.

Bob Story, executive director of the taxpayers association, said he thinks the property tax structure is collapsing.

"A good study will at least move us down the road dealing with some of these issues," Story said.

Rep. Zach Brown, D-Bozeman, pointed out during the hearing that many people often support study bills because everyone wants tax burdens shifted from themselves onto someone else. Because of this, he stressed, the composition of the interim committee and subcommittee will need to be balanced in terms of background and ideology.

Bill Would Fine Hunters for Abusing Animal Location Data

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has exact, real-time location data of some animals, like sage grouse or bears.

"Lots of hunters have contacted the department and asked them for that exact coordinate location so that they could improve their hunting ability," said Sen. Jill Cohenour, D-Helena when she was introducing Senate Bill 349 in the Senate last month.

SB 349 would make it illegal for hunters to abuse tracking data. It passed out of the Senate with a vote of 27-23 last week and is scheduled for a hearing in the House.

Hunters could be fined up to \$1,000, serve up to 6 months jail time and lose hunting licenses for using exact location data to track and harass or kill animals under the proposed law.

The bill was amended while it was in committee, removing language that would have allowed FWP to deny data requests. Now, the bill would still allow people to make requests, but penalize them for abusing the information.

Bill To Prohibit Local Gun Ordinances Passes

The Montana Legislature passed two bills last week to revise gun laws and weaken local governments' authority to implement municipal gun ordinances.

House Bill 325, which passed the Senate last week 29-20 after passing the House in February 57-42, would prohibit local governments from regulating where people can carry concealed weapons.



The March 29-30 44th annual American Indian Council Powwow hosted by Montana State University honored missing and murdered indigenous women and girls; House Bill 21, also known as Hanna's Act, would create a specialized position in the Montana Department of Justice to coordinate efforts on missing persons cases and streamline reporting of missing persons. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Rep. Matt Regier, R-Columbia Falls, introduced both HB 325 and House Bill 357, which are essentially the same bill. If the governor vetoes HB 325, HB 357 would make the policy a referendum for voters to decide on, which the governor cannot veto.

"We can't have a disarray of having a gun here and not having a gun there, because then nobody knows what's going on," said Sen. Steve Hinebauch, R-Wibaux.

Hanna's Act, Focused on Missing Persons Cases, Revived

A bill aimed at streamlining reports of missing persons was revived in the Senate last week after it was voted down in committee.

House Bill 21, known as Hanna's Act, passed the House 99-0 in February, but was tabled by the Senate Judiciary Committee, which generally signifies a bill is dead. But after more consideration and amendments, the committee voted to move the bill to the full Senate for debate, where it passed 42-6.

However, it was then referred to the Senate Finance and Claims Committee.

Hanna's Act is named after Hanna Harris, a young woman from Lame Deer who was killed in 2013 on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. The bill is in response to a high number of missing and murdered indigenous women.

When the bill was debated on the Senate floor, Sen. Susan Webber, D-Browning, spoke in support and said native women are murdered at a rate 10 times the national average.

Sen. Diane Sands, D-Missoula said one of the biggest challenges of the missing and murdered indigenous women issue is the slow response time. She said part of the challenge is that tribal, state and federal law enforcement all have different jurisdictions, and haven't been communicating.

HB 21 would create a specialized position in the Montana Department of Justice to coordinate efforts on missing persons cases. Originally, the bill would have mandated the position be created, but after amendments, now it makes it optional for the DOJ. It was also stripped of state funding before it moved out of the House.

Shaylee Ragar and Tim Pierce are reporters with the UM Legislative News Service, a partnership of the University of Montana School of Journalism, the Montana Newspaper Association, the Montana Broadcasters Association and the Greater Montana Foundation. Shaylee can be reached at shaylee.ragar@umontana.edu. Tim can be reached at tim.pierce@umontana.edu.







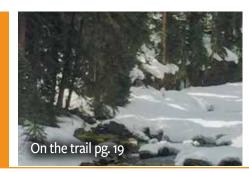
Our Vizion:

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

Our Mizzion:

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

SECTION 2: ENVIRONMENT, OUTDOORS, & HEALTH







Park opens to bicycle traffic

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BIG SKY - Last year approximately 2.5 million vehicles rolled through Yellowstone National Park, in the form of tour busses, family cars, campers and park vehicles, often bumper to bumper during peak visitation periods. But for several weeks every April, and again in the fall, many of the park's roads close to motorized vehicles and open for bicyclists as park staff plows roads and transitions from the winter to summer season.

Yellowstone opened for the first day of spring biking on March 28. The road from the park's West Entrance to Mammoth Hot Springs is currently open to the public for non-motorized travel. During this time, minimal traffic from park employees is still possible.

According to Yellowstone's Public Affairs Office, additional routes from the East and South entrances, which sometimes are cleared in time for the early biking season, aren't likely to open this year until May as crews have only just begun plowing the eastern part of the park.

Beginning on April 19, roads that are clear of snow will open to motorized use, giving cyclists a full three weeks to enjoy the park with virtually no traffic.

"It's a really unique experience because you kind of get the whole park to yourself," said Kelli Hart, co-owner of Freeheel and Wheel bicycle and ski shop in West Yellowstone. "There's usually still snow on the sides of the road and it's a great chance to see wildlife."

Big Sky local Morgen Ayres describes biking in the park as one of her favorite things to do.

"When you are pedaling through Yellowstone, the 360-degree views, the fresh spring air and the quiet peace is unforgettable," she said. "You can take your time and bike through all the pullouts to watch the herds of bison and elk or get a lot of miles in for a great workout."

She added that bikers need to remain alert in case of wildlife. "I've never had a close encounter, but I have had to wait for bison to move along before zipping past them."

Beginning at the park's West Entrance, cyclists can travel 14 miles east to Madison Junction and continue north to Mammoth Hot Springs, a 48–mile ride one way. The road from the North Entrance traveling to Cooke City is open to automobiles as well as cyclists all year, weather permitting.

When venturing into the park during Montana's sometimes fickle spring, it's important to be prepared.

"Watch out for the weather. It changes quickly. You can start off the ride in the sun and end up finishing in the snow. Bring your layers, gloves, hat and jacket," Ayres said. "[And] don't forget your bear spray."

During the spring bicycling period, services remain closed in the park interior and cyclists should bring their own food and water. The National Park Service stresses that cell phone coverage is sparse and unreliable for communicating emergencies.

For road closure updates and information about spring biking in Yellowstone, call Freeheel and Wheel at (406) 646-7744 or visit nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/spring-fall-bicycling.htm. Updated road information is available 24 hours a day at (307) 344-2117.

A version of this article was first published in the March 31, 2017, edition of EBS.



Cyclists bike through Yellowstone National Park's Hoodoos rock formations during the spring biking season when roads are closed to motorized use. NPS PHOTOS





The road from the West Entrance to Mammoth Hot Springs is now open for biking. Pictured, bicyclists travel past Swan Lake just south of Mammoth.









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On the Trail: Ousel Falls

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

SARA MARINO EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Ousel Falls is a trail for all seasons. And right now, winter is still holding on.

This is a time to see the trail in a new way: fewer crowds, river banks lined with snow and frozen waterfalls. Be prepared for all trail conditions on your hike, including mud, ice, snow and slush. Shoes with traction devices like Yaktrax are a good idea for slick spots, or consider bring a trekking pole for stability and support.

The 1.6-mile hike crosses through a ravine and over the Southfork of the Westfork of the Gallatin River via two picturesque bridges. Take a moment to read the plaques that are installed along both bridges. From births to deaths, anniversaries, and even names of beloved family pets, there are tributes and memorials of all kinds for those who share a love for Big Sky.

After the second bridge, the trail meanders through the woods with a short climb up to a vista that overlooks a natural 35-foot waterfall. The warmth of spring has the falls breaking through the snow and ice.

Don't miss coming back in May during spring runoff to truly see the falls showing off in all its glory.

Grab your camera, a water bottle and your studded shoes and head out for a hike that will fill you with an even greater appreciation for nature and Big Sky's incredible outdoor opportunities.

For more information about Big Sky's parks, trails and recreation programs, visit bscomt.org. The Big Sky Community Organization engages and leads people to recreational and enrichment opportunities through thoughtful development of partnerships, programs and places.

Sara Marino is the community development manager for the Big Sky Community Organization.



Ousel Falls and Ousel Falls River are slowly melting off. A quick hike to the falls reveals river banks still lined with snow and a still frozen waterfall. PHOTOS BY SARA MARINO

Trail stats

Distance: 1.6 miles roundtrip

Difficulty: easy

Elevation: 6,540 feet

Surface: gravel, snow-packed in the winter and early

spring

Uses: hiking, snowshoeing, dogs on-leash

Directions: The trailhead parking lot is located 2 miles south of Lone Mountain Trail off of Ousel Falls Road.







WATER WISDOM

Explore Big Sky

Presented by the Gallatin River Task Force and its partners, this recurring series highlights the conservation work done and environmental concerns found in our local watersheds.

Factors contributing to last summer's algae bloom

BY KRISTIN GARDNER EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The Gallatin River Task Force recorded the highest average weekly water temperature in the past ten years in the West Fork during the last week of July 2018. This week aligned with the beginning of the 2018 algae bloom and suggests that water temperature, in addition to elevated nutrients, may have been an important factor that contributed to increased algae growth.

These results corroborate recent findings from a Montana Department of Environmental Quality study on the Smith River. Chace Bell, MT DEQ water quality monitoring specialist, said that a suite of factors influences river algae growth, and that their analyses points toward drivers such as long-term increases in water temperature in the spring and early summer, nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations, hardness, pH and water velocity and clarity.

This recent finding is another piece of the puzzle to explain why the Gallatin River and some tributaries experienced an unprecedented algae bloom in July and August last year. Previously, the Task Force reported that nitrogen levels in the West Fork were some of the highest ever recorded; however, other years with comparable levels did not result in such a significant algae bloom.

So, how was 2018 different from other years?

Historically, excess algae has been documented in the mainstem Gallatin, downstream of the West Fork; South Fork; and Taylor Fork. But never before were algae levels as high or as widespread as those observed in 2018.

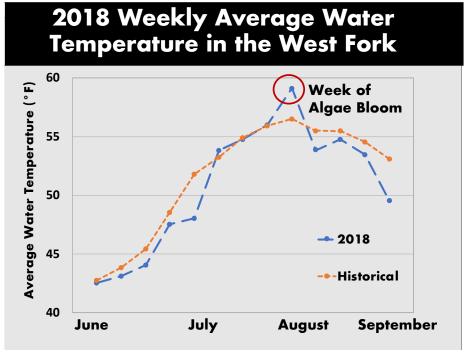
Although streamflow was significantly above average during spring runoff, flows lessened to just slightly above normal levels during July and August. River users reported bright sunny days with little rain in July, which was verified by below average precipitation at the weather station in Meadow Village.

According to Pat Straub, former owner of Gallatin River Guides, "2018 was the only summer since we purchased GRG in 2012 that we did not have to cancel one fishing trip because of the Taylor Fork or West Fork blowing out from a significant rain or thunderstorm event."

So, was 2018 the perfect storm of favorable conditions to promote algae growth? To be certain, the Task Force needs more data and has plans for an extensive study this summer, pending sufficient funding. The 2018 algae bloom shed light on just how sensitive and vulnerable the Gallatin is to changing conditions. Now more than ever, the Gallatin needs dedicated stewards to protect this invaluable community resource.

This is the first of two installments about the 2018 algae bloom and strategies to make the Gallatin more resilient. Stay tuned for the second installment, which will address steps that we, as a community, can take to make the Gallatin more resilient to future blooms.

Kristin Gardner is the executive director of the Gallatin River Task Force.



INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



Safety tips for viewing Yellowstone wildlife

BY CHRISTINE GIANAS WEINHEIMER EBS CONTRIBUTOR

We've seen the viral photos and videos: wildlife close encounters of the wrong kind. But the fact is that animal attacks in Yellowstone are relatively rare and almost always preventable. It is easy to enjoy observing the park's magnificent animals without putting yourself at risk.

"If you follow these five safety tips and take the Yellowstone Pledge [at go.nps.gov/yellowstonepledge], you will protect yourself and protect this exceptional place," said Morgan Warthin, public affairs specialist for Yellowstone National Park. "Thanks for being a steward of Yellowstone."

Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance. Park regulations say you must stay at least 100 yards—the length of a football field—away from bears and wolves, and at least 25 yards away from all other large animals such as bison, elk, bighorn sheep, moose and coyotes. Don't forget, bears and bison can easily outrun you, so maintain a safe distance from wildlife at all times.

Carry bear spray. If you plan to hike in Yellowstone, bring bear spray and know how to use it. This is just as important for day hikes as it is for overnight hikes. You can purchase bear spray at numerous locations throughout the park, including Yellowstone Forever Park Stores, and even rent it at Canyon Village.

Follow instructions. Park rangers work hard to keep visitors informed and safe. If a wildlife closure is posted, steer clear of the area. If a roadside ranger asks you to return to your car, do it as quickly as possible. If hitting a trail, inquire at the nearest visitor center beforehand whether there has been bear activity in the area.

Keep your children close and your dogs closer. It's easy to get distracted during the thrill of spotting a large mammal in Yellowstone, but never leave small children unattended. If you have a dog, make sure it can't jump out of your car windows, and keep your furry friend leashed when outdoors.



Visitors to Yellowstone National Park should stay at least 25 yards away from large mammals like bison. NPS PHOTO

Be informed. Before your visit, check out the park's official website at nps.gov/yell to watch videos on wildlife safety and how to use bear spray.

Now you're ready for your Yellowstone wildlife-watching adventure. But what if you see someone else violating wildlife safety guidelines? If you witness someone getting too close to wildlife, report it immediately to the nearest ranger or call 911, which will alert law enforcement rangers in the area.

Yellowstone Forever—the official nonprofit partner of Yellowstone National Park—raises funds annually to support the Wildlife and Visitor Safety Program, in which roving rangers and volunteers provide information at park locations where wildlife and visitors are in close proximity.

Learn more at yellowstone.org.

Christine Gianas Weinheimer lives in Bozeman and has been writing about Yellowstone for 17 years.

Reason #21

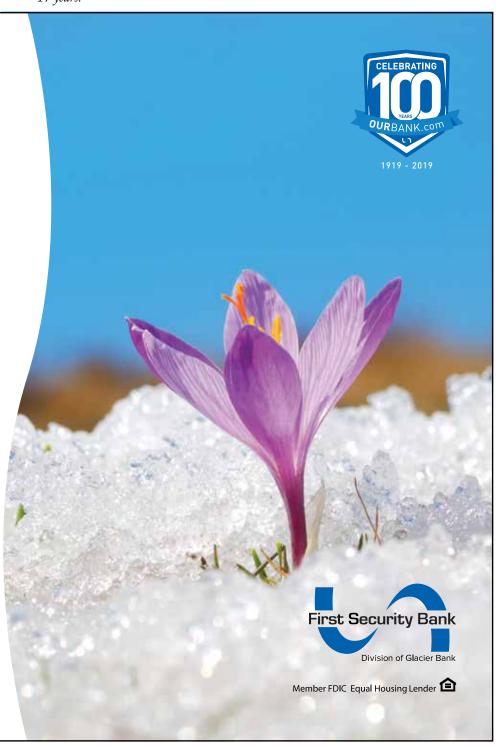
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The New West: Coexisting with icons of wildness



BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

Grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem have been out of their winter dens for more than a month. With the first apparent physical encounter of the year between a human and bruin now in the log books after a teen was reportedly attacked on April 7, a little bit of public reflection and context are in order.

This is most relevant to newcomers in Greater Yellowstone and those headed to the region on vacation—those who are petrified at the spine-tingled thought of venturing down a trail where they believe bloodthirsty grizzlies are lurking behind every tree.

In the months ahead, more people than ever before in the history of the Greater Yellowstone region will be moving through wildlands holding more grizzlies than have existed here for more than a century. It will be a few million people in a landscape sprawling across close to 34,375 square miles—equal to half of New England—and holding perhaps 1,000 grizzlies.

Yes, it's a potential recipe for likely human-bear encounters, including the possibility of casualties, yet the chances of getting mauled are slight.

According to Yellowstone National Park stats available at nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/injuries.htm, over 100 million visitors have passed through the park since 1980 and a total of 38 people were injured by grizzlies. Eight have been killed since 1872. The chances of being injured in Yellowstone are 1 in 2.7 million. The risk is significantly lower, park statisticians say, for those who avoid the backcountry.

For those who like to hike, the likelihood of getting injured by a grizzly if you camp is 1 in 1.4 million during overnight stays, and with day hiking, about 1 in 232,000 travel days. It's even less if you hike in a party of four or more.

In comparison to the past, we *Homo sapiens* in the 21st century have embraced something extraordinarily difficult for our species to do. We've been willing to change the nature of our own behavior, doing more smart things rather than dumb things in our navigations of bear country.

The advent of bear spray has given us a proven, effective tool—a viable alternative to guns— that has been a game changer in reducing the number of fatalities involving people and bears.

And, thanks to public information campaigns, government regulations and people becoming smarter about food storage, fewer bears today are becoming habituated to human trash and edibles. This has translated into fewer incidents involving aggressive bears and thus fewer bear removals and human injuries.

And, thanks to seasonal closures, the decommissioning of old logging roads on the national forests, and no new major recreation trails being blazed into vital bear habitat, grizzlies enjoy more secure space to roam.

And, thanks to many ranchers employing range riders, modifying their animal husbandry methods, and conservation groups securing the retirement of cattle and sheep grazing allotments from willing sellers on public lands, some conflicts that were rife generations ago are being avoided.

These things are epic achievements, yet we Greater Yellowstoneans often take them for granted.

At a time when the survival prospects for many large mammals with canid teeth are dismal around the world, Greater Yellowstone is demonstrating a bold



A grizzly bear near Swan Lake in Yellowstone. NPS PHOTO

new vison for better co-existence, and we're realizing the profound dividends—including economic—that come with it.

April 7's apparent grizzly incident gives us a reminder that along with the privilege of dwelling in a rare landscape wild enough to sustain grizzlies, there comes responsibility. As locals, we've learned to move with heightened awareness through the front and backcountries, and we must educate our visitors why this place is different from any other.

State wildlife officials in Montana say a 17-year-old teen from Utah was charged by a bear on the east side of the Madison Valley on April 7 while he was out searching for shed elk and deer antlers. The incident happened near Wolf Creek about 30 miles south of Ennis, where the teen's family has a cabin.

Fortunately, after being treated for minor injuries at the local hospital, he's in good shape.

A few lessons: If the bear had wanted to kill him, it could have.

While the teen was unable to deploy his bear spray, the laudable fact is that he was carrying a can and, after hitting the ground with the bruin on top of him, he told investigators he somehow managed to discharge the contents of the spray at the bear and it left the scene. Bear spray worked.

Finally, based on information shared by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, it appears the young man was alone but carrying a radio. If that's true, we need to remember that it's never wise to be traversing bear country alone on trail or off, especially now that winter-killed ungulate carcasses are scattered across the landscape along with hungry bears protective of those key food sources.

We Greater Yellowstoneans should have much-deserved pride in setting an example for the rest of the country and the world. We have a caliber of wildness beyond our backdoors that few other places on earth can boast. And we know how to live respectfully with the being that makes wildness real.

Have fun out there. Be grizzly smart and safe. Carry bear spray.

Todd Wilkinson is founder of Bozeman-based Mountain Journal (mountainjournal. org) devoted to protecting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and is a correspondent for National Geographic. He's also the author of "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek" about famous Jackson Hole grizzly bear 399, which is available only at mangelsen.com/grizzly.

Wildlife leaders discuss human-bear conflict mitigation

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BOZEMAN – During the annual spring meeting of the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee on April 3 and 4, wildlife managers discussed some of the best ways to prevent human-grizzly bear conflicts and deaths at a time when bruins continue to recolonize their historic ranges beyond Yellowstone National Park.

The committee, which consists of representatives from federal, state, county and tribal agencies, is a subcommittee of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee and is responsible for grizzly bear recovery within the Yellowstone region.

Despite ongoing litigation concerning delisting of the bear, the multiagency group continues to monitor the number of bears in the area, as well as the number of known bear mortalities. And as grizzlies continue to colonize historic ranges beyond the original monitoring area around Yellowstone, wildlife officials must make management decisions when bears have conflicts with humans, such as breaking into structures or preying on ranchers' calves.

"A lot of things influence conflicts: biological factors, habitat quality and quantity, we're

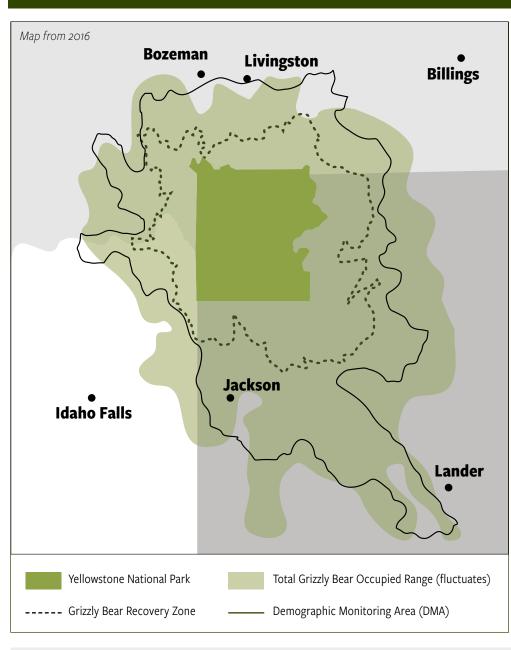
seeing changes in the population," Wyoming Game and Fish's Dan Thompson, who supervises the agency's large carnivore section, told the committee. "As the population becomes more dense and expands, it changes the game. We have to talk about social tolerance [and] intolerance."

Overall, state and federal agencies reported numerous human-grizzly bear conflicts in 2018. Year to year the total number of conflicts varies, but overall does not appear to indicate an increase in the number of human run-ins with bears. However, the data does show that cattle depredation is becoming more common as the grizzly population expands.

In order to address ongoing conflicts, reduce the number of bears removed from conflict areas and ensure the mortality threshold remains low, agency staff will spend the next few months reviewing a 2009 report and its recommendations on reducing human-bear conflict and death. Some of the priorities listed during the meeting included working with livestock producers, preventing conflicts in the front and backcountry and educating hunters.

For more information about the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee, visit igbconline.org/yellowstone-subcommittee.

Grizzly bear conflict in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem









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69
KNOWN AND PROBABLE GRIZZLY
MORTALITIES IN 2018

Conflicts within Montana

(Includes Greater Yellowstone and Northern Continental Divide ecosystems)

111 CONFLICTS IN 2018 with 75 on average over the last 10 years 12 HUMAN ENCOUNTERS 16 HUMAN FOOD INTERACTIONS 17 INTERACTIONS

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yours in health

Yours in Health: Do you suffer from seasonal allergies?



BY DR. ANDREA WICK EBS CONTRIBUTOR

It's soon to be that time of the year where itchy, watery eyes, congested sinuses and sneezing begins. Chronic allergy sufferers soon become best friends with their bottles of Zyrtec, Benadryl or Claritin.

Allergies are caused by hypersensitivity within the immune system. When your body senses an allergen

such as pollen, mold, insect bites or dander, your immune system triggers a chain reaction.

Chemical signals are sent to your mast cells, which are highly concentrated in the nasal passages, lungs and mucus membranes. Mast cells trigger a release of histamine, causing vasodilation, or increase of blood flow, to the part of your body that the allergen is affecting. Inflammation begins and your immune system kicks in and starts on damage control. Histamine will then tell your body to make more mucus in your membranes to defend itself against the irritant. The result is itchy, watery eyes, sore throat, coughing and sneezing.

Is there a way to make the body less hypervigilant when it comes to allergy season? Do natural antihistamines exist? And do they work?

An increasingly widespread belief is associated with eating local honey to decrease allergic symptoms. The thought process behind this is that local honey contains pollen from nearby trees and plants and that eating the honey in small amounts will expose these allergens to the immune system. The immune system will begin to recognize the pollen and does not see the pollen as a threat. Therefore, no histamine is released.

There is no research proving that eating local honey works, however many claim that this is helpful for relieving symptoms. Depending on an individual's sensitivity, it is important to note that honey can potentially cause an allergic reaction.

Stinging nettle is an herb that has been found to effectively act against hay fever. According to a randomized double-blind controlled trial, stinging nettle was compared to a placebo when treating hay fever. Overall, the stinging nettle achieved better results with relieving allergy symptoms.

Homeopathy can help relieve short-term and long-term allergy symptoms. Homeopathy is a science that is based on the "like cures like" theory where whatever causes the allergen is also the cure. It relies on the "law of minimum dose," meaning the minimum dose of a medication is needed to produce results. Homeopathics are derived from plants, minerals and animal products. The National Center for Homeopathy, as homeopathycenter.org, is a great resource with information on what remedy best suits your exact symptoms.

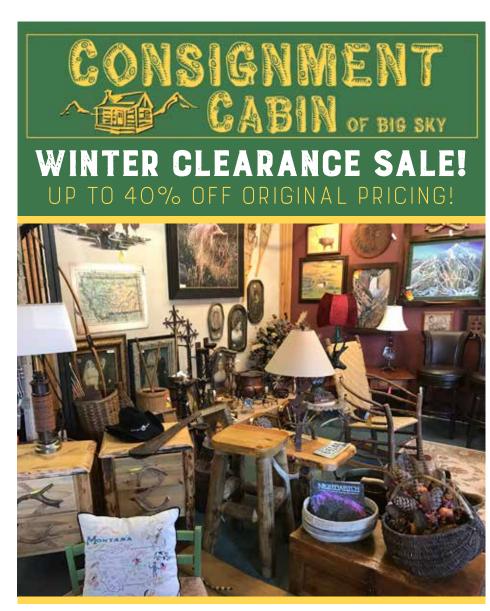
Decreasing food allergies and sensitivities such as dairy and gluten are helpful with lessening the symptoms of allergic reactions. Since the majority of the time, these foods can cause inflammation, it is best to decrease when allergy symptoms are present.

It is well-known within the chiropractic profession that subluxation or misalignments in the spine can also lead to hypersensitivity within the immune system. Keeping the spine aligned and happy leads to better balance and wellness overall.

The above options have worked wonders in my practice, though everybody is different. What works for one person may not work for the next.

Dr. Andrea Wick is a chiropractor and applied kinesiologist. 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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SECTION 3: SPORTS, DINING, FUN & BUSINESS









RESORT ROUNDUP

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

Freeride competition showcases local talent on Headwaters terrain

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

Over the weekend of March 30-31, judges, spectators and competitors gathered in Stillwater Bowl under blue skies and focused their attention on the Headwaters terrain. The 2019 Big Sky International Freeskiers and Snowboarders (IFSA) Freeride World Qualifying (FWQ) event had ideal weather for the onlookers, but the conditions for the riders was less than ideal.

"We were fortunate with good weather and with some smart skiing by athletes in the qualifying rounds. We were able to take 55 competitors on the world class venue that is Three Forks for the finals on Sunday," said Pete Manka, who along with Justin Nett provided play-by-play and color commentary for the event. "We saw some impressive skiing on Sunday."

"Snow conditions were not great. I knew that the way to win was to do as many tricks as possible," said Chase Samuels about his approach to the event. "So in my run I hit four cliffs, off one cliff I did a 360 spinning to the left and off another cliff, I did a 360 spinning right."

Samuels aggressive approach paid off as he finished atop the podium for male skiers. "Three Forks is such a long run. I knew that my legs would be exhausted by the bottom of my run. So I lined up three airs to hit before the bottom features. When I did my run [on Sunday], the sun was already going behind the mountain and a lot of the run was re-freezing, some turns I made were on solid ice. By the bottom of my run I could barely hold it together, on the last cliff I did a 360 and barely kept my feet underneath me."

Local snowboarder Chance Lenay, who finished last season ranked first amongst male snowboarders in North America on the FWQ circuit, finished second in his division behind Bozeman's Michael Mawn, who had two bold and creative runs. Lenay's significant other, Amy Viers, one-upped him by finishing first in the female snowboard division.

"This was my very first freeride podium! It was actually only my second [competition] ever—my first one was a week earlier at Crystal Mountain, Washington, but I got sixth place. So for this competition, I decided to let go of any pressure to go big or perform for anyone else but myself," said Viers. "I took out any features that I might have fallen on and stuck to more conservative lines. Both lines could have gone smoother, but I was ultimately stoked to just be a part of the competition regardless of where I placed."

The competition was judged by Joe Turner, Kristen Cooper and Rob Laplar. Riders are judged by line choice, control, fluidity, style and energy. Tracy Chubb, who won the female ski division convincingly, put up the highest rated run of the weekend on Sunday.

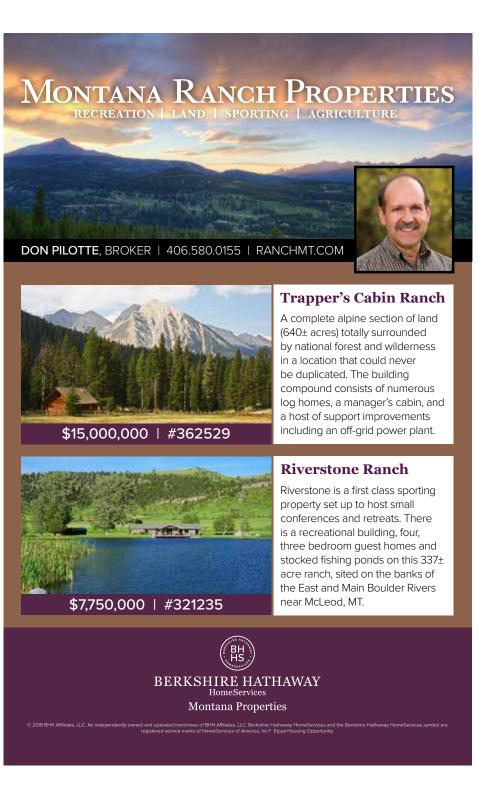


FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: Chase Samuels demonstrating one of the many stylish 360s that earned him a first place finish in the male skier division of the Big Sky IFSA FWQ 2* event.

Although the conditions were icy and variable in Three Forks, Tracy Chubb was able to put down fluid, aggressive turns that helped her win the female ski division.

Holden Samuels doing what Holden Samuels does—throwing down technical, massive backflips and making it look easy. In his rookie season on the FWQ, the LPHS graduate finished third in North America in the male snowboard division.

PHOTOS BY MARSHALL TATE / BIGSKYPHOTOS.COM



Ski Yoga

5:45-7:00pm

All Levels Yoga



All Levels Yoga

Yoga Jam



6:30-7:45pm

Awareness Wednesday

BSSEF team rides out season in style

BY LUKE KIRCHMAYR **EBS CONTRIBUTOR**

Alpine Update

The Big Sky Ski team concluded a very strong season with three races. It was an amazing year for the Big Sky Ski team, culminating in winning the overall title in the Northern Division. Over the course of the season, the team saw incredible improvements and success in every age group.

There is one more week of training left in Big Sky, and then one would think ski racing is over but it actually never stops. There will be skiing in June at Beartooth Pass, a camp at Mount Hood, Oregon, in July and a camp in Chile this August.

The team will be back on snow full-time by mid-to-end of October in Colorado. Between the camps the team does dryland training three to four times a week. Dryland training includes mountain biking, running, strength and agility training.

Coaches and team members are already looking forward to next year's race season. The team will miss four of our senior racers who will be moving on to college. Congratulations and thank you to Mackenzie Winters, Madison Winters, Maci St. Cyr and Sam Johnson.



BSSEF alpine ski team at Bridger Bowl receiving the team overall award. PHOTO BY MARKUS

Results

Bridger Bowl OHG

March 29, 2019

Girls Slalom

U14

- 1. Brown, Brooke (1:51.35)
- 2. Brown, Lili (1:55.33)
- 3. Manka, Skylar (1:59.42)
- 5, Klug, Carson (2:01.01)
- 6. Unger, Chloe (2:02.22)
- 7. Ditullio, Drew (2:03.07)
- 9. Hoover, Myla (2:05.78)
- 13. Vap, Morgane (2:10.37)
- U16
- 1. Davis, Hillary (1:56.98)
- 3. St. Cyr, Franci (1:59.24)
- 4. Johnson, Winter (1:59.79)
- 10. Jarret, Gracie (2:53.32)

U19

- 1. St. Cyr, Maci (1:45.11)
- 4. Winters, Mackenzie
- (1:53.26)
- 5. Winters, Madison (1:55.71)
- 10. Jerret, Emma (2:24.34)

Boys Slalom

U16

- 1. Kjetil, Hassman (1:40.82)
- 2. Hoover, Miles (1:42.03)
- 5. Kirchmayr, Luke (1:43.63)

March 30, 2019

Girls Dual Slalom

U14

- 1. Brown, Brooke (1:00.62)
- 2. Brown, Lili (1:01.09)
- 4. Unger, Chloe (1:04.40)

5. Ditullio, Drew (1:04.59) 7. Hoover, Mila (1:05.93) 10. Vap, Morgane (1:07.07) 14. Johnson, Allene (1:08.58)

- 2. St. Cyr, Franci (1:00.02)

- 4. St. Cyr, Maci (58.53)
- 6. Winters, Madison
- 7. Becker, Riley Belle
- 8. Jerrett, Emma (1:15.03)

- 3. Beatt, Ryan (57.22)

March 31, 2019

Girls GS

- 1. Brown, Brooke (1:50.09)
- 2. Manka, Skylar (1:52.00)

- 15. Schreiner, Graycen (1:09.07)

- 3. Davis, Hillary (1:01.20)
- 10. Jarrett, Gracie (1:40.49)

- (1:00.69)
- (1:01.50)
- (1:02.78)

Boys Dual Slalom

- 11. Kjetil, Hassman (1:13.18)

U14

- 3. Klug, Carson (1:53.07)
- 4. Brown, Lili (1:53.51)
- 6. Vap, Morgane (1:55.24)

- U16

5. Carisch, Gracie (1:01.95)

- U19
- 5. Winters, Mackenzie

- 10. Hoover, Miles (1:10.83)

- 5. Unger, Chloe (1:53.68)
- 7. Ditullio, Drew (1:55.73)
- 11. Johnson, Allene (1;57.85)

- 14. Hoover, Myla (2:00.00)
- 15. Davis, Margaret (2:01.83) 17. McEldowney Cameron

(2:02.53)

- U16 2. St. Cyr, Franci (1:46.95)
- 4. Davis, Hillary (1:50.97) 5. Johnson, Winter (1:51.94) 10. Jarrett, Cracie (2:27.07)

- U19
- 1. St. Cyr, Maci (1:45:93) 4. Becker, Riley Belle
- (1:46.85)6. Winters, Madison

(1:48.83)

- Boys GS U16
- 9. Hoover, Miles (1:51.27)

2. Kirchmayr, Luke (1:47.06)

- Big Sky Grandsburg Cup GS: Girls/Women:
- 5-6 1. Priest, Savannah (1:23.90)

2. George, Vivian (2:00.70)

- 1. Wenger, Peyton (59.42)
- 2. Schreiner, Paige (1:09.00) 3. Priest, Alexa (1:11.00)

- 9-10
- 1. Skogen, Cecelia (1:00.20)
- 2. Langlas, Ileana (1:02.00) 3. Hardan, Cate (1:02.20)
- 4. Olsson, Violet (1:04.30) 5. Givens, Brooklyn (1:22.40)

- 11-12
- 1. Davis, Sophia (49.13)
- 2. Schreiner, Graycen (52.45)
- 3. Hassman, Wren (55.34)

4. Olsson, Piper (57.97)

- 15-20
- 1. St. Cyr, Franci (44.60) 2. Becker, Riley (48.04)
- 3. Davis, Margaret (50.52)

31-40

- 1. Harden, Emily (1:21.40)
- 41-50
- 1. Schreiner, Courtney (1:17.00)
- 2. George, Laura (1:55.03)
- 51-65
- 1. Samardich, Suzanne (58.63)

2. Brown, Kathy (1:09.40)

- Boys/Men:
- 1. Harden, Eathan (1:14.80) 2. Givens, Kyler (1:35.60)

- 7-8
- 1. Klug, Gus (1:01.60) 2. Schreiner, Michael
- (1:07.70) 3. Givens, Brayden (1:18.80)

- 9-10
- 1. Klug, Finn (52.53) 2. Brown, Walter (53.59)
- 3. Wenger, Ryan (57.07)
- 4. Frank, Emerson (1:00.90) 5. Bertelson, Mac (1:02.20)

- 11-12
- 1. Efferson, Dylan (1:02.50)
- 1. Hassman, Kjetil (44.70)

1. Beatty, Ryan (43.52)

15-20

- 31-40
- 1. Haffey, Aaron (43.23)
- 41-50
- 1. Hassman, Alex (48.42) 2. Wenger, Ross (56.17)
- 3. Givens, Jaime (57.88) 4. Schreiner, Michael (58.05)
- 5. Langlas, Steve (59.77)
- 6. Becker, Eric (1:01.00) 6. Skogen, Mike (1:01.00)

7. Efferson, Sean (1:17.20)

8: Hardan, Chris (1:35.40)

51+ 1. Cyr, Tim (56.01)

Loveland Derby Slalom

- April 6, 2019
- U14 Girls
- 6. Brown, Lili (1:56.48) 12. Manka, Skylar (2:00.99)
- 13. Unger, Chloe (2:02.01) 15. Klub, Carson (2:05.62)

April 7, 2019

- U14 Girls
- 8. Brown, Brooke (1:53.41)
- 9. Brown, Lili (1:53.55) 16. Manka, Skylar (1:58.78)
- 18. Unger, Chloe (1:59.68)
- 21. Klug, Carson (2:00.98)



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNY WILCYNSKI

Big Horns Tennis, Golf, and Track and Field await warmer weather

BY DOUG HARE EBS CONTRIBUTOR

On April 6, the Big Horns had their first golf outing of the season. (Pictured left to right) Philip Cadwell (162), Pierce King (102), Nathan Browne (105), and Sam Johnson (116) are just starting to get their swings back after having one tournament canceled and another rescheduled due to inclement weather.

Coach Jenny Wilcyncski reported that this year the Lady Big Horns squad has six golfers and the boys team has 10 players. "We look forward to more sunny, warmer days so we can get the teams on the [local] course!"

The golf team will take some time off for Spring Break, but Wilcynski looks forward to playing in the Manhattan Christian Invitational at Cottonwood Hills on April 23 when they return to action.



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My favorite kitchen gadgets

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER

I've been passionately cooking since I was about 8 years old, and in those 20-odd years I've collected an assortment of kitchen tools that I can't seem to get by without. Chefs and cooks alike all have their favorite tools and tricks to save time in the kitchen, and here are a few of mine.

When you hear the word **mandolin**, the small string instrument may come to mind, but the only noise you'll hear this tool make is the whizz of precisely sliced ingredients. Knife skills are important because they ensure that each piece of carrot or celery, for example, is relatively the same size and that they will cook evenly. A mandolin comes in handy when you want to slice your ingredient especially thin, something that may be hard to do with a knife. Making potatoes au gratin, or finely shaving cabbage for a slaw are examples of when a mandolin may come in handy—not only will it make even cuts, but it will also make for an attractive presentation.

A **microplane** is a fine, rasp-like grater ideal for zesting citrus, garlic, whole spices and ginger. This tool is ideal when you want a strong ingredient to be very finely grated, such as garlic and ginger. Use this tool to grate raw garlic into dishes when you don't want chunks of garlic in it; it will turn the garlic into more of a paste than a mince. It also works great for finishing an Italian dish with a dusting of parmesan cheese. Microplanes are sold in several sizes and styles—I'd recommend purchasing one that has a handle attached, for ease of use.

An **immersion blender** is a great kitchen appliance to own, especially if you enjoy making soups and sauces from scratch. This tool, also referred to as a stick blender, is handheld with a blending mechanism on the bottom of a shaft. It allows you to purée soups and sauces without the hassle of transferring the liquid to a blender, and I'm a fan of any appliance that reduces cleanup. This tool isn't just for soups and sauces though, it can also be used to make salsa, pancake batter, and even whipped cream.

If you read my article in the last issue, you know how much I love using citrus juice in my recipes. If you do too, adding an **inverted citrus juicer** to your shelves will ensure you get the maximum amount of juice possible. This handheld tool takes a half of lemon and pushes down on the outside to extract the juice, nearly turning the fruit inside out in the process. Make sure to use your microplane to remove the zest before cutting the fruit in half, this will make the process much easier.

Last but not least, get yourself a **good chef's knife** and a **hone**, or sharpening tool. When cooking in an unfamiliar kitchen, dull knifes are the one frustrating thing I always run into. If you haven't sharpened a knife within the last 10 times of using it, it's probably dull. Not only are dull knifes less safe, but they make the work harder as well. Bust out your hone and sharpen your knife—I promise you will see a difference in its performance.

A version of this story was previously published in the February 16, 2018 edition of Explore Big Sky.



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EVERY FRIDAY 8 PM-Close Trivia Night at Lone Peak Cinema (Win free drinks, movie tickets, t-shirts, etc. Teams of 1-4)

SAT & SUN 9 AM-2 PM Wine Wednesdays with 1/2 off glasses 4PM - close & The Standard Weekend Brunch 9 AM - 2 PM. (The Standard Cocktails & Deserts at 47 Town Center Ave., Unit B1)

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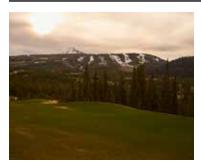
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SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB



Lot 38 Bitterbrush Trail 1.27 ACRES / \$800K



Lot 64 Goshawk 1.04 ACRES / \$775K



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



Lot 113 Crow Point Rd. 2.59 Acres / \$335K



Lot 44 Diamond Hitch 1.25 ACRE / \$685K

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



2250 Curley Bear 2,952 SQ FT / \$925K



81 Pheasant Tail Ln. Unit 2 2,707 SQ FT / \$839K



2635 Little Coyote Road 2,850 SQ FT / \$798K



Cottonwood Crossing #15 1,854 SQ FT / \$539K



Cottonwood Crossing #9 1,854 SQ FT / \$525K

BIG SKY



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



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



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

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



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



Homestead at the Beacon Butte, MT 640 Acres / \$1.65M

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Yellowstone Ranch Preserve List Price: \$19M



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Crail Ranch Unit 40 List Price: \$1.35M



Black Eagle Lodge Unit 30 List Price: \$1.35M



Osprey Cove Lakehouse List Price: \$1.25M

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136 Juniper Berry List Price: \$595K



Summit 911/912 List Price: \$595K



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BIG SKY



Lot 39 Diamond Hitch 1 ACRE / \$595K



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



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



30 Beehive Basin Rd. 6,203 SQ FT / \$2.9M



245 Rain in Face 3,446 SQ FT / \$1.695M



118 Rose Hip Circle 1,940 SQ FT / \$489K



Mountain Meadows 120 Acres / \$3.495M



Big EZ Lot 42: \$339K / 20 ACRES Lot 43: \$375K / 20 ACRES Combined: \$589K



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



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



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

BELGRADE



115 Teita Drive 1,909 SQFT / \$420K





35 Woodman Drive 1,732 SQ FT / \$335K

COMMERCIAL



78 Meadow Village Dr. Big Sky, MT 4,769 SQ FT / \$2.1M



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



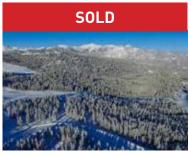
Marketplace Unit 202 Big Sky, MT 966 SQ FT / \$389K



Airport Garages Bozeman, MT \$24.9K per unit Taking reservations for building G



2078 Little Coyote List List Price: \$1.079M



Ski Tip Lot 10 List Price: \$975K



130 Sandhill Road List Price: \$895K



70 Upper Whitefish Dr. List Price: \$895K



Crail Ranch Unit 68 List Price: \$850K



Lot 63 Silverado Trail List Price: \$390K



11 Lone Peak Dr. 205 & 207 List Price: \$339K



Firelight D-10 List Price: \$324.9K



Iron Mountain Storage Unit 150-D List Price: \$285K

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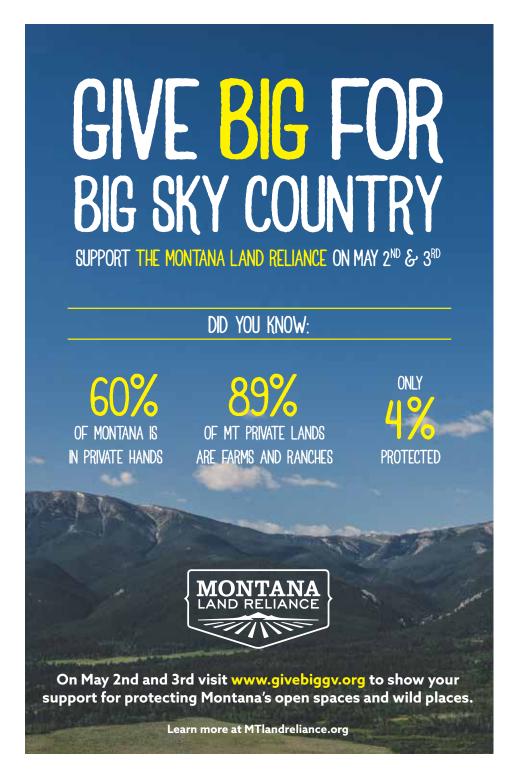
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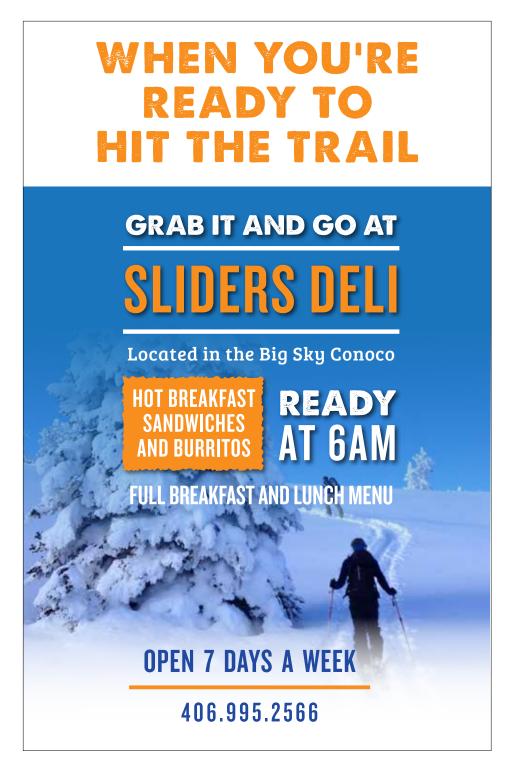
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AMUSE-BOUCHE

Amuse-bouche refers to an appetizer, and by French translation means, "to entertain the mouth." It offers a glimpse into what you should expect from a meal. Also it's free, compliments of the chef.

The rules (unwritten or otherwise) of a restaurant kitchen



BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Some institutions, like baseball for example, have unwritten rules. But unlike baseball, kitchen rules typically make sense. And I generally agree with almost all of them. The complete list is long, but here are a few key rules

Don't touch my knives. Every tradesman has a set of tools that are an integral part of his profession. For a cook or chef, it's his or her knives. Protect them, take care of them, treat them with respect, and ask before you use someone else's.

No dull knives. A doctor or dentist doesn't have dull instruments, or at least I sure hope not! Your knives are tools of precision and refinement. Treat them as such

A hangover is no excuse. Bringing the cold or flu into a warm, heavily populated work environment is just foolish. But if your ailment is self-inflicted, sorry, but pros play hurt.

Never take anyone else's mise en place. Mise en place, French for "put in place", is all your ingredients, equipment, and items required for service. Take someone else's and you are telling that person your time is more valuable than theirs.

Put it back. When you use something, put it back. It should only ever be in three places: in use, dirty waiting to be washed or where it belongs on a shelf.

Always help the dishwashers. They are the cornerstone of any kitchen, without exception. When there is no more clean sauté pans or silverware, the whole system comes to a painful halt.

No towel snapping. The days of cooks playing the towel snapping game (and there are actual rules) are long over. It is a game of unprofessionalism, immaturity and time wasting.

Never leave another cook behind. You may not be busy right this moment, but your teammate is. Help them. Don't stand there thinking how happy you are not being busy, an unaided busy cook is like an inexperienced swimmer trying to help a drowning person, the one drowning will eventually drag you down with them.

Work clean, work fast. A clean workplace is a happy and efficient workplace. When you use something, put it back where it goes, every time, no matter what. A step taken now will save three down the road.

You taste it first. If you ask me to taste a dish or sauce that you have prepared and you haven't tasted it first, in my mind, you haven't completed the dish.

Stay hydrated. Only water is water. I was raised in a house that was pretty strict when it came to junk food. Once ensconced in my first kitchen at the age of 15, and having unlimited access to soda, it wasn't a full day unless I drank about a gallon of Mountain Dew. It was my general manager and first mentor who woke me up to the peril of so much soda. Soda creates thirst, it doesn't quench it. I now try to drink half my body weight in ounces of water every day I work.

If you turn off the timer, you own it. Few things deflate a cook more than remembering you had something in the oven, only to find it burnt or overcooked and the oven timer turned off. Asking which one of your co-workers turned it off is like asking which kid left the lights on. Good luck. We have a rule: if you turned the timer off, you are responsible for the contents of that oven. No excuses.

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.

American Life in Poetry:

Column 733

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

I like this poem for the way it portrays the manner in which we study the behavior of others and project our own experiences onto their lives. It's the second poem we've published by Jeanie Greensfelder, who lives in California, where she's (of course she is!) a psychologist. It's from her most recent book, I Got What I Came For, published by Penciled In, in Atascadero, California.

Taking Turns

By Jeanie Greensfelder

I pass a woman on the beach. We both wear graying hair, feel sand between our toes, hear surf, and see blue sky. I came with a smile. She came to get one.

No. I'm wrong.

She sits on a boulder by a cairn of stacked rocks. Hands over her heart, she stares out to sea. Today's my turn to hold the joy, hers the sorrow.

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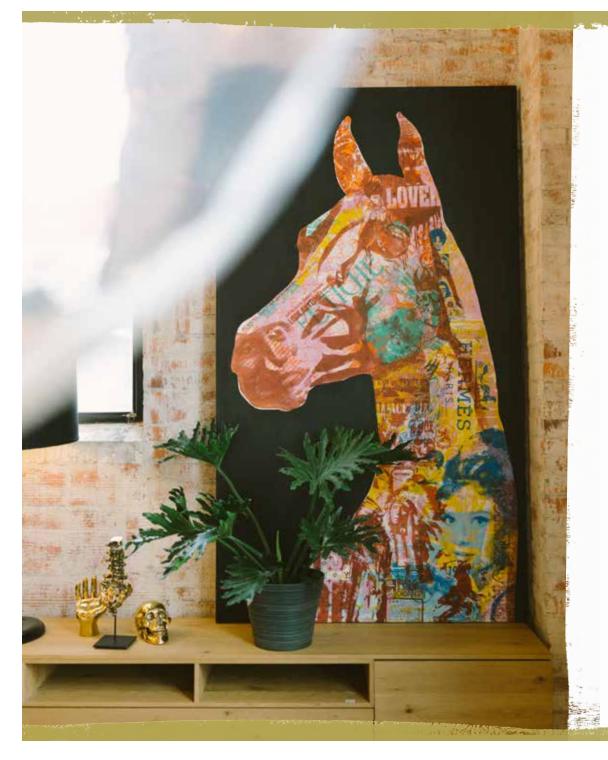
Sudoku

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

		9		7				
				9		5		4
3				2				
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		7	3	4				
5	4				9			

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Making it in Big Sky: Lone Peak Physical Therapy

BY DOUG HARE

EBS STAFF WRITER

John Boersma decided to start his business in Big Sky because he wanted to treat patients that wanted to get better and were motivated to put in the work to get there. After working in a large metropolitan city, he found himself treating a large percentage of patients that did not seem to care that they couldn't be active—many were unwilling to put in the work to help themselves recover.

Boersma ended up moving to a company that treated primarily athletes at the high school, collegiate and professional levels, and while he enjoyed the patient population more, he found himself weary of the chaos of life in the city. After some soul searching, he decided to move to a mountain town in the West because it fit the lifestyle he craved and he knew the type of people that gravitated to these towns were active and motivated to keep their bodies healthy.

After traveling to several mountain towns to research options, Boersma stumbled on Big Sky, almost by accident, while on a fishing trip. He and his wife quit their jobs in the city, sold almost everything they had and moved to Big Sky to start a family in February of 2001. At the time, the population of Big Sky was roughly 600 people. The

first several years were extremely lean, but 18 years later Lone Peak Physical Therapy employs 60 team members around the state—the majority of his team working in the Gallatin Valley.

Explore Big Sky: What is distinctive about your company's approach to physical therapy? **John Boersma:** Lone Peak Physical Therapy is passionate about challenging the antiquated and often impersonal methods that exist in our current healthcare system's rehabilitation model. Big hospitals and orthopedic physician-owned therapy clinics are taking over the rehabilitation industry, and we believe client care is suffering. We are focused on fighting against this trend by staying focused on our clients' needs first and foremost. We avoid generalized treatment protocols and cookie cutter approaches to rehab and encourage creativity and outside-the-box thinking from our team. We believe each patient is unique and to achieve the best result they need to be treated that way.

EBS: What has been the key to your success?

J.B.: We exist with the goal of making our clients' lives better. Our team works extremely hard to guide our clients toward the life they want. We feel fortunate and know the responsibility of being trusted with the health of our clients. Our philosophy is simply to listen to the client and their specific needs and then guide them to find the best path back to the activities they love.

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

I remember one of my first customers, a long-time local of Big Sky, walked into my office the first week I opened and [described] his story of chronic debilitating back pain. He told me no one had been able to help him and every one of his doctors had given up on him. He then asked me, "What the f**k do you think you can do for me?" Long story short: over time we were able to get him back to his favorite activities, he became a good friend, and actually ended up working with our team. It was incredibly rewarding to see his entire disposition change as he began to feel better.

EBS: What are the biggest obstacles to operating a small business in Big Sky? I would say the advantages far outweigh the challenges, but typical answers like high real estate costs, limited housing options and limited services have definitely affected us over the years.



John Boersma stumbled upon Big Sky while on a fishing trip, decided to quit his big city job, sold most of his stuff, moved to the mountain town in 2001, and opened up Lone Peak Physical Therapy soon thereafter. PHOTO COURTESY OF LONE PEAK PHYSICAL THERAPY

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

J.B.: Well, the biggest change has been the size of the population. With more and more small businesses sacrificing to make it work here, Big Sky is now a much easier place for a family to live, which means more clients and more quality employees.

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

J.B.: The answer is simple: the people and the outdoors. We all love Big Sky for those two reasons. The people that have chosen to make Big Sky their home are special. They make their own rules, are not afraid to take risks and believe in living life to the fullest. How could anyone not want to be surrounded by that? The beauty of the mountains and the endless activities that challenge and inspire us are so compelling that I can't imagine living anywhere else.

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

J.B.: A few years back, I came to work in the morning to find bear paw prints all over the floor and mirrors of our performance clinic. Apparently, one of the members had left the back door cracked open the previous night and a curious black bear found his way in. I was happy he also

found his way out before our first customers showed up the next morning. I love cool experiences like that that could only happen in a place like Big Sky.

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

J.B.: In the past, we partnered with a certified dietician to try and add nutrition services for our clients. We passionately believe that this is a key ingredient for optimum physical health and for living better. Unfortunately, we could not make it work. It could be that we just didn't have a large enough population to support it or that, in general, the people of Big Sky already eat a healthy diet. Maybe, it was just too early, but ultimately it was a big failure for us.

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

J.B.: "Do sh*t." Plain and simple. We all love to talk about ideas, but deciding to actually do something and then acting on it, right or wrong, has helped me more than anything else.

EBS: What advice would you give to small business owners just starting out in Big Sky? **J.B.:** You have to want to be here more than anything else. It is going to be hard and you will struggle, but getting the chance to live in this community is worth it all. If your goal is primarily to build a business and make piles of money, there are way easier places to start something.

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

J.B.: We want to be known as the best company to work for in the state of Montana. We are building this business on people and we have an absolutely incredible team of professionals that are the heart of our company. We are constantly looking for opportunities to grow and expand. We believe that Montana is absolutely one of the best places to live in the entire nation. If we can provide stimulating jobs and help people find a career with true work-life balance, we will have accomplished our goal.

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SECTION 4: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT







Q&A with 2019 Big Sky Big Grass performing artists

BY TIMOTHY BEHUNIAK

BIG SKY – After a day shredding the slopes of Lone Mountain, exchange your ski boots for dancing shoes for the 13th annual Big Sky Big Grass bluegrass music festival.

The four-day event from April 11-14 includes a mix of small-stage and large-venue shows at the Montana Jack, Chet's Bar & Grill, the Carabiner Lounge and the Missouri Ballroom. The festival celebrates a ski season of fresh snow and live music.

This year's lineup includes nationally recognized acts as well as regional bluegrass talent.

Before the festival, Montana-based The Lil Smokies and The Hawthorne Roots, who released their EP "On Second Thought" in 2018, spoke with EBS about their setlist choices, music style and what it's like playing at the show.

Explore Big Sky: Why is the band choosing to play at Big Sky Big Grass?

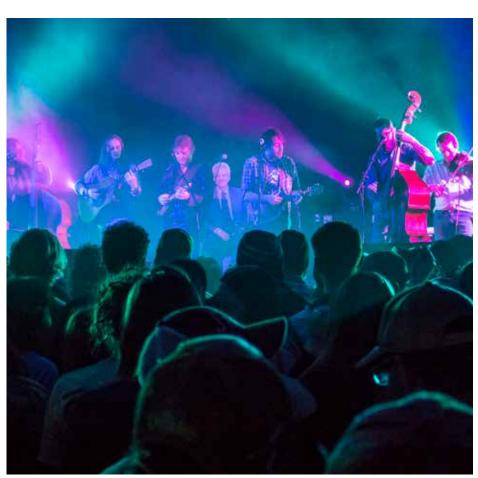
The Lil Smokies: BSBG was one of the first festivals we were ever invited to and we somehow haven't been back since. We thought it was high time we rectify this. The festival had a lasting effect on the band; we wrote a lot of songs that became our first album in a stairwell at that festival in the wee hours of the night.

The Hawthorne Roots: For the ski passes!

EBS: How has the band's Montana roots affected its style?

T.L.S.: There's an easiness and sense of place, time and space that time spent in Montana renders; this all has permeated our attitude sonically and as a band.

T.H.R.: Our style is actually probably affected more by the fact that most of us aren't originally from Montana. The band members are from South Dakota, New York and New Hampshire. Lucas is the only Montanan. But





Big Sky Big Grass is a four-day bluegrass music festival from April 11-14. This year's lineup includes regional acts such as The Lil Smokies and The Hawthorne Heights. PHOTOS BY GABE PRIESTLEY

living in Montana, Bozeman particularly, has brought us all together. Bozeman's music scene has a lot going on for being a relatively small community in the middle of nowhere. Living in Montana has certainly affected the songwriting, though. We live in a place that encourages time spent alone in the outdoors – the perfect environment for songwriting.

EBS: What are you looking forward to most about playing at Big Sky Resort?

T.L.S.: Being back in Montana and seeing a ton of our musical friends is a great way to kick off festival season.

T.H.R.: We are stoked to catch up with musician friends we rarely get to see. We're ready to jam in the lobby y'all!

EBS: How does the band pick its setlist for shows, especially one like BSBG where there are multiple bluegrass artists playing, too?

T.L.S.: It all depends on how we're feeling that day, the songs played the last time we were in the area and perhaps who we're going to have sit in with us.

T.H.R.: Making a setlist is like making a playlist for someone you really care about. There is a lot of thought that goes into the order and song choice. We're stoked we get two hours to play for everyone. We can really dig into our original material and have fun with the variety of styles we play. Really, when it comes to making a setlist, we think about the environment and our fans. What do they want to hear? We like playing all of our songs so we are happy no matter what. We're thinking this is going to be a party set, so bring your dancing boots ... or just rage in your ski boots.

EBS: What can we expect from The Hawthorne Roots at BSBG in the wake of your latest album release?

T.H.R.: We won't say too much, but we are bringing a new sound. We have some guests lined up. This will be different than any other Hawthorne Roots show we have played before.

BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, APRIL 12 - THURSDAY, APRIL 25

If your event falls between April 26 and May 9, please submit it by May 2 by emailing media@outlaw.partners.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

Harnessing Your Creativity Bozeman Public Library, 9:30 a.m.

13th Annual Big Sky Big Grass

Big Sky Resort, 3:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

TEDx: Untapped 2019
The Commons, 10:30 a.m.

13th Annual Big Sky Big Grass

Big Sky Resort, 3:30 p.m.

Live Music: Brian Stumpf Choppers, 6 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

13th Annual Big Sky Big Grass Big Sky Resort, 7:30 p.m.

Live Music: Tom Catmull Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 15

Finding Your Compassionate Voice

The Emerson, 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

Top Shelf Toastmasters Meeting Big Sky Town Center Conference Room, 12:10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

Energy Medicine Yoga with Lauren Walker Santosha Wellness Center, 6 p.m.

Bozeman Monologues Emerson Theatre, 7 p.m. Rituals of Resistance The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

Live Music: Aaron Banfield Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

Portland Cello Project The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

Earth Day Festival Bozeman Public Library, 1 p.m.

Pond Skim Big Sky Resort, 2:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

Easter Service Big Sky Resort, 7 a.m.

Winter Closing Day

Big Sky Resort

Live Music: Fox & Bones Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 22

The Road To A Green New Deal Bozeman Public Library, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

Big Sky Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting Town Center Sales Office, 8:30 a.m.

Top Shelf Toastmasters
Meeting
Big Sky Town Center
Conference Room, 12:10 p.m.

WORTH THE DRIVE



LIVINGSTON, MONTANA

5th Annual Tap into Montana Brew Fest

Miles Park Baseball & Softball Complex Saturday, April 13, 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.

The Tap into Montana Brew Fest is the culmination of the celebration of Montana craft beer with a weeklong of craft beer-related events occurring April 8 – 12 throughout Livingston. The event features a free sampler glass, free unlimited craft beer samples, live music from Chad Okrusch and The Fossils and local food. You must be 21 or older to purchase a wristband to sample beers and a valid ID is required. Admission is free to anyone not purchasing a wrist band. Anyone under 21 must be accompanied by an adult. Visit tapintomt.com for more information.

Poetry & Tea Night Bozeman Public Library, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

Habitat for Humanity School Levy Discussion WMPAC, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

Visit Big Sky Board Meeting Town Center Sales Office, 8:30 a.m.

Live Music: Arterial Drive Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

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A pop aesthetic achieved through ancient technique

The art of Robert Ransom

BY SARAH GIANELLI

BIG SKY – There are two kinds of artists. Those who will pontificate about the meaning behind their work, and those who, despite all attempts to coax them to do so, will not provide any insight or commentary on the deeper significance of their creative process or the finished piece.

Sacramento, California-based painter Robert Ransom is among the latter. The artist, who has been called "the Andy Warhol of the American pastime" by Chicago Art Institute Curator Mark Pascal, would not waiver from his position that, "Those are just labels people put on my work; they're not mine." This, contrary to relentless prompting with words and phrases like "art-deco," and the "American Dream" that buzz throughout the lofty commentary on his work.

"Most artists are like that," he said. "When you get them aside they'll say, 'I don't know why I did that.' Then the art historians will make up stuff about what it means."

Such nonchalance can be infuriating when you're profoundly attracted to an artist's work—as I am to Ransom's sleek, stylized snapshots of Hollywood-era Americana. But it's a reminder that the host of associations a work of art can evoke are our own, and one function of art is to express that which eludes verbal interpretation. Ultimately, it forces our gaze back to the work itself, or toward other people who enjoy meaning-making as much as we do.

Colin Mathews, who represents Ransom at Big Sky's Creighton Block Gallery, said he was captivated by the artist's work the first time he laid eyes on a painting of a flame-decorated racecar zooming by a snow-capped mountain backdrop.

"To see the Wasatch Mountains and the Bonneville Salt Flats squished together in that compressed perspective brought up happy memories of childhood road trips," said Mathews, who's familiar with the long stretch of Utah highway between the two regions. "Ransom's paintings will engender those feelings in lots of viewers—whether it's a backyard barbecue and palm trees, longhorn steers or trout fishing."



Ransom's "Red Woman and Man." His Western motifs often feature cowboys on horseback, gunfights, desert-scapes and wide open spaces. PHOTO COURTESY OF CREIGHTON



Hailed as the "Andy Warhol of the American pastime," artist Robert Ransom depicts scenes of the American West with a contemporary, pop culture edge using ancient painterly techniques. PHOTO BY GREG KINDER

Ransom would concede to talk basics. His subject matter can be split into two distinct categories that the artist says draw from his Southern California upbringing and the years he spent in the Southwest while earning an MFA at Northern Arizona University in the 1960s.

His Western motifs often feature cowboys on horseback, gunfights, desert-scapes and wide open spaces.

The rest of his work has a distinctly California aesthetic. These pieces are populated with retro diners, motorcycles, dapper golfers and lots of martinis. All of it has a whiff of historic Route 66 running through it, perhaps not surprisingly since the old highway connects the two regions that have been most influential in the artist's work.

On the surface Ransom's work may appear deceptively simple. His lines are clean and angular, his figures blocky and often portrayed in profile, and engaged in mundane leisure activities like eating, boating, walking the dog, or having cocktails.

But beneath the almost comically exaggerated figures depicted in quintessentially American scenes, lies an ever-so-subtle narrative that each viewer is left to surmise—or not.

And while the work may have a pop culture aesthetic, which implies mass production, Ransom has adopted the time-consuming oil painting technique of the Flemish masters of the 15th and 16th centuries. He applies the Dutch style of glazing and layering to achieve a lustrous depth of color he found missing in the contemporary art of the 20th century.

"It's the best of both worlds," Ransom said. "Reaching back to the old masters gave me a means to develop the kind of style I wanted and the direction I wanted to go."

That direction continues to deliver paintings that are immensely delightful at face value, but that offer as many nuanced layers of depth to probe as one is inclined to find.

A version of this installment of "In the Spotlight" was first published in the July 7, 2017 edition of Explore Big Sky.

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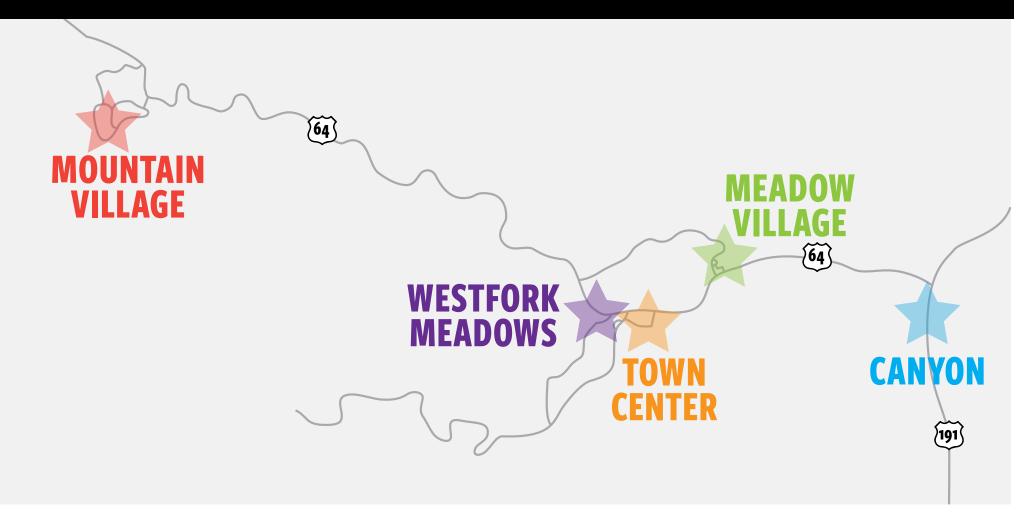
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5th annual Give Big Gallatin Valley slated for May 2-3

BOZEMAN AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

From 6 p.m. on May 2 to the same time on May 3, the Bozeman Area Community Foundation will host the fifth annual Give Big Gallatin Valley, a 24-hour celebration of giving to raise important funds for nonprofits in Gallatin County.

In just four years, the local community has raised over \$2.6 million for local causes. Last year alone, neighbors across the county raised over \$1.28 million through the Give Big event. This year, the BACF's goal is to inspire 5,000 donors to raise \$1.5 million in 24 hours for 200 nonprofits throughout Gallatin County. The participating organizations represent a wide variety of missions that support everything from arts to trails, education to animal welfare, health to basic needs and more.

"We are humbled by the outpouring for our local nonprofit community during Give Big," said Bridget Wilkinson, executive director for BACF. "Without our hard-working nonprofit partners, generous community members and local businesses, this initiative simply would not be possible. If everyone in Gallatin County donated just \$15 to a cause they care about, we'd hit our goal and make a huge impact for local nonprofits."

This year, Give Big will start the giving fun with a launch party in the Big Sky community on May 2. There will be donor lounges and events across the county for donors to give in person to the nonprofits they support.

To wrap up the celebration, BACF invites the community to take part in the Give Big grand finale on May 3 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Rialto in Bozeman. There will be a live performance by Paige and the People's Band, free champagne for the first 50 attendees with proof of donation, and prizes for donors and nonprofits. The launch and grand finale will both be free, open to the public and family friendly.

"Nonprofit organizations play a vital role in building healthy communities by providing critical services that often fill the gaps where the business and government sectors cannot serve," Wilkinson said. "Give Big is a celebration of all of the invaluable donors who support this thriving nonprofit community."

The BCAF was established in 1988 and connects people who care to causes that matter, building a better community. The BCAF serves Bozeman, Big Sky, Belgrade, Manhattan and Churchill, Three Forks and areas in between.

Visit givebiggv.org for more information, or contact Bridget Wilkinson at (406) 587-6262 or bridget@bozemanfoundation.org.



ABOVE: The Give Big Gallatin Valley event is a 24-hour celebration of giving to raise important funds for nonprofits in Gallatin County. PHOTO COURTESY OF BOZEMAN AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

BELOW: In just four years, the local community has raised over \$2.6 million for local causes. This year, The BACF's goal is to inspire 5,000 donors to raise \$1.5 million during the event. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOZEMAN AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION









The Sweet Remains to perform at The Ellen Theatre

THE ELLEN THEATRE

Celebrating 10 years and over 30 million Spotify plays in 2018 alone, The Sweet Remains is a powerhouse trio driven by strong lyrical and melodic writing. On Saturday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m., the band will take to the stage at The Ellen Theatre.

Rich Price, Greg Naughton and Brian Chartrand are all singer-songwriters, each of whom contribute to the writing and three-part harmonies that define the band's sound. Three studio albums, one live DVD and a feature film later, The Sweet Remains' music has won fans all over the globe and has been featured in commer-



The Sweet Remains, a powerhouse trio, will perform on Saturday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m. at The Ellen Theatre in Bozeman. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ELLEN THEATRE

cials, feature films, television and been covered by numerous artists.

The group appeals to wide-ranging audiences, from fans of modern folk-rockers like Jason Mraz, Ray Lamontagne and John Mayer. However, it is their lush harmonies that distinguish The Sweet Remains from the throngs of guitar-toting troubadours and harken back to super-groups of the '60s and '70s like Simon & Garfunkel; Crosby, Stills and Nash; and The Eagles.

Visit theellentheatre.org for more information and to purchase tickets.



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"Us"

BY ANNA HUSTED EBS FILM CRITIC

"Us" is fundamentally about greed and the stifling of the shadow self. Writer and director Jordan Peele's second feature film is not as good as his debut film, "Get Out," but is arguably more ambitious and just as clever. This thematic ambition creates a murky ending and the violence, which starts about 30 minutes into the film, goes on a little too long. Enough of my qualms with the movie, let's get into why it's a good one.

In a traditional review, the second paragraph is reserved for plot summary, but not much can be said about the plot without giving everything away. Let's just say Adelaide Wilson (Lupita Nyong'o) gets separated from her parents when she is a young girl and experiences post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) well into her adulthood because of this incident that took place at a carnival in a house of mirrors.

Being lost in a hall of mirrors is enough to freak anyone out, but seeing a mirror image of yourself that is not mirroring your actions is even scarier. What Wilson sees is her shadow self. In Carl Jung psychology, the shadow self is the unconscious aspect or the "id." It is everything in a person that is not fully conscious, but it is possible to tap into, which is what Adelaide finds out and grows up in fear of – knowing the day will come when she must face her shadow again.

Not only is Jungian psychology present, but Peele extricates the world of abuse and PTSD while also commenting on the "complacency of affluence," according to Filmspotting critic Josh Larson.

On the surface, "Us" shows wealth through glass houses and new boats that all the Wilson's white friends have at their lake houses. Their friends and neighbors, the Tylers (Elizabeth Moss and Tim Heidecker), talk openly about plastic surgery, their latest vacation and their new Range Rover while expressing complete disinterest in their children's lives because their two daughters stole their days of youth from them. They are completely unable to contend with their shadow selves because all that matters is status.

Although these themes give us a lot to process and examine, "Us" is also fun entertainment. The patriarch of the Wilson family, Gabe (Winston Duke), prevents his kids from falling too far into despair, quipping about who has the most kills so far in this new scary shadow world.

The soundtrack also plays comically to the violence on screen with one intensely brutal scene backed by N.W.A.'s "F*ck tha Police," which plays only because Alexa misunderstands Kitty Tyler (Moss) when she tells her to "call the police." The main theme song, "I Got 5 On It," by Luniz, plays in one scene for laughs and in another for cinematic soundtrack beauty as it accompanies a strikingly edited climactic scene.

Horror films are great at portraying the return of whatever has been repressed, which makes it the best genre for calling out society for what it has prohibited and what it has allowed. In the film, affluence is shown in a positive light as attainable and acceptable through the protagonists. But Peele's warning is that greed is also allowed and encouraged by society, which only leads to empowering the shadow self that lies within each of us.

"Us" is now playing in theaters.

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



Lupita Nyong'o stars in Jordan Peele's second feature horror film about a family who is confronted with their own darker selves. PHOTO COURTESY OF MONKEYPAW PRODUCTIONS

Moonlight MusicFest to feature national and local talent

MOONLIGHT MUSICFEST

BIG SKY – The Moonlight MusicFest, to be hosted at the Madison Village in Big Sky on August 16 and 17, recently rounded out its 2019 lineup, which includes Grammy-nominated talent, along with local and regional artists, all of which are gathering momentum in the music industry.

In its second year, Moonlight MusicFest will feature a diverse set of musicians including nationally acclaimed artists Trampled by Turtles, The Record Company, Blackberry Smoke, The War & Treaty, St. Paul and the Broken Bones, The Wood Brothers and Dwayne Dopsie & The Zydeco Hellraisers, as well as local phenoms such as The Dusty Pockets.

"We liked performing at this festival so much that we are coming back," said The Wood Brothers.

Josh Ritter, who just released the popular new single, "Old Black Magic," and Satsang, who just released a new record, "Kulture," have both been added to the lineup for this year's festival, as well.

"We really wanted to create a great community-oriented event that would celebrate and expand the arts and live music in Big Sky," said LynnAnne Hagar, executive director and event coordinator of the festival. "Our hope is that it grows into a long-lasting community tradition that will help support local charities and Big Sky's art community."

Situated on the north side of Lone Mountain with 360-degree views of surrounding mountains, the venue will also host local food trucks and arts and craft vendors. Food offerings will range from barbecue to Mexican to homemade frozen treats. Family events will appeal to the spectrum of attendees.



The 2019 Moonlight MusicFest will take place on August 16 and 17 at the Madison Village in Big Sky. PHOTO BY ED COYLE

"We want the Moonlight MusicFest to encourage as many people as possible," said Hagar. "This year we chose to go with a fully stacked lineup of talent throughout the whole day. If you like live music, make the effort to come listen to it all, not just for one closing act."

The biggest goal for the festival is for it to be a self-sustaining community event that brings together locals, second homeowners and tourists alike to celebrate a beautiful community and further support live music and the arts throughout Big Sky.



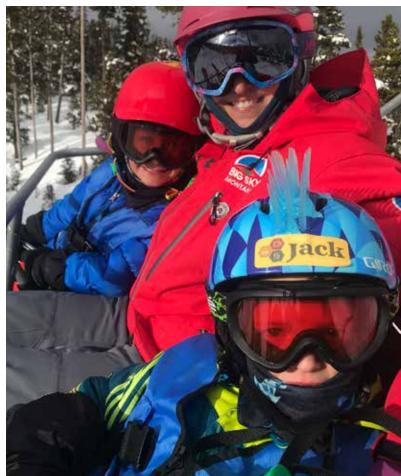
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