

Spring lands in Big Sky

Growing pains:
The West is booming

BSSD's New-trition

Overcrowding on the Madison River

\$12M raised for Big Sky community center

**Wolves and the Nez Perce** 



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### **PUBLISHER**

Eric Ladd | eric@theoutlawpartners.com

### **EDITORIAL**

#### **EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, VP MEDIA**

Joseph T. O'Connor | joe@theoutlawpartners.com

#### **LOCAL EDITOR**

Bay Stephens | bay@theoutlawpartners.com

### DIGITAL EDITOR, STAFF WRITER

**Michael Somerby** | michael@theoutlawpartners.com

### SPORTS EDITOR / DISTRIBUTION DIRECTOR

**Doug Hare** | doug@theoutlawpartners.com

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL & OUTDOORS EDITOR**

Jessianne Castle | media @theoutlawpartners.com

#### **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR**

Timothy Behuniak | media @theoutlawpartners.com

### **CREATIVE**

**LEAD DESIGNER - MEDIA** 

Carie Birkmeier

### **LEAD DESIGNER - MARKETING**

Marisa Specht

### SENIOR VIDEO EDITOR

Ryan Weaver

### LEAD VIDEOGRAPHER

Jennings Barmore

### **SALES AND OPERATIONS**

### CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

 $\textbf{Megan Paulson} \hspace{0.1cm} | \hspace{0.1cm} \textbf{megan@theoutlawpartners.com}$ 

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SALES AND MARKETING

EJ Daws | ej@theoutlawpartners.com

### MEDIA AND EVENTS DIRECTOR

Ersin Ozer | ersin@theoutlawpartners.com

## MEDIA SALES ASSOCIATE

Sam Brooks | sam@theoutlawpartners.com

### CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER

Blythe Beaubien | blythe@theoutlawpartners.com

## CONTROLLER

Becca Burkenpas

# **Contributors:**

Rich Addicks, Linda Arnold, Eric Becker, Peg Duthie, Sarah Gianelli, Anna Husted, Ted Kooser, Kris Inman, Stephanie Lynn, Scott Mechura, Tim Pierce, Shaylee Ragar, Pat Straub, Christine Gianas Weinheimer, Jenny Wilcynski, Todd Wilkinson, John Zumpano

# **ON THE COVER:**

Warmer temperatures and the onset of spring means animals like mountain bluebirds will be seen more frequently, a welcoming sight after a long, cold winter. NPS PHOTO

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After raising \$12 million for construction of the planned Big Sky community center, the Big Sky Community Organization announced "ALL IN. BIG SKY," a second fundraising initiative for the remaining \$5.5 million.

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# **Wolves and the Nez Perce**

The Nez Perce Nation stood up to millions funneled to killing wolves following their 1995 reintroduction, drawing upon deeply ingrained notions of respect for nature and wildlife.



On April 22, four local youngsters celebrated an incredible academic achievement—reading over 1,000 books before reaching kindergarten. Families and children gathered at the Big Sky Community Library to read each child's favorite book, after which they received certificates and gifts from Assistant Community Librarian Amy Hunter. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

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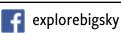
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P.O. Box 160250, Big Sky, MT 59716 (406) 995-2055 • media@outlaw.partners

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MARTHA JOHNSON
Vice President of Sales | Founding Broker
THE BIG SKY REAL ESTATE CO.

CONTACT MARTHA: (406) 580-5891 MARTHA@BIGSKY.COM

BIG SKY .COM

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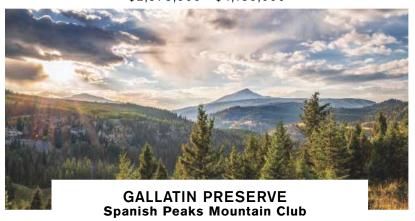
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# Montana's school, district, and state report cards now available

#### MONTANA OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

HELENA— The Montana Office of Public Instruction announced on April 22 that report cards for Montana schools, districts, and the state are now publicly available. The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires state, district, and school-level data to be displayed on report cards in a concise, understandable and accessible manner for families and communities.

"Montana's report cards reflect extensive input from families, communities and educators across the state," State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen said. "This new educational tool will allow further family and community engagement with schools to create better outcomes for students." The report cards can be viewed along with additional information on the OPI's new report card webpage, found at https://bit.ly/2W1TSct.

# Bestselling author to speak at MSU 2019 Convocation

### MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – Tara Westover, author of a bestselling memoir on the transformative power of education, will speak at Montana State University's 2019 Convocation on Aug. 22.

Westover is best known for her courageous personal journey detailed in her memoir "Educated." Westover was born to survivalist parents who opposed public education and grew up near Buck's Peak in Southeastern Idaho. She was forbidden to attend school, have a birth certificate or see a doctor. Yet she taught herself enough mathematics, grammar and science to take the ACT, and was admitted to Brigham Young University when she was 16. She graduated magna cum laude from BYU in 2008 and won the Gates Cambridge Scholarship. She earned a doctorate in history from Trinity College, Cambridge, and has been a visiting fellow at Harvard University.

MSU President Waded Cruzado believes Westover's personal story will inspire the incoming freshman class, as well as members of the MSU and Bozeman community.

"This is the most powerful book we have read for convocation," Cruzado said. "Educated' is a memorable book that gets to the heart of what education is and what it offers. In a very powerful and courageous way, Westover emphasizes the transformative quality of education, the perspective to see one's life through new eyes and the will to change it."

The general public must reserve tickets, available beginning Monday, June 10, at the Bobcat Ticket Office and all Ticketswest outlets.

# GRTF makes way for additional water gauge on Gallatin River

### EBS STAFF

A new U.S. Geological Survey stream gauge will be installed just upstream of the confluence between the West Fork of the Gallatin on the main stem of the Gallatin River.

The gauge, funded by USGS and resort tax funds allocated to the Gallatin River Task Force, will show how streamflow is changing over time, important information for tracking concentrations of pollutants in the river, and how water extraction and management practices in Big Sky affect the river, according to Kristin Gardner, GRTF executive director.

The USGS is still waiting for the agreement to be finalized by the Forest Service, after which they hope to install the gauge by early May, Gardner said

# MSU students construct solar-powered car

### **MSU NEWS SERVICE**

BOZEMAN — A solar-powered car designed and built by the Bridger Solar Team at Montana State University may usher in a new wave of emission-smart vehicle construction.

At roughly 14 feet long, the solar panel-cover vehicle contains 408 lithium ion batteries and is designed to reach speeds of 70 mph.

"This is about the lowest emissions car you can make," said electrical engineering sophomore Scott Smith in a presentation at MSU's Sustainabilibash on Thursday. "A cornerstone of our club is promoting environmental sustainability."

Smith, who heads the electrical division of the project, said the car is almost ready to hit the road. Over the next couple weeks, the team will finish the electrical system and begin practicing for the Formula Sun Grand Prix, a three-day solar car race in Austin, Texas, this July.

The car can run for about 2.5 hours at 30-40 mph on a fully charged battery, Smith said. But because the solar panels generate electricity and recharge the battery while the car is running, it can carry a driver indefinitely while the sun is shining.

The Bridger Solar Team is raising money to fund its trip to the Formula Sun Grand Prix. Donations can be made at https://www.bridgersolarteam.com.

# Yellowstone invites anglers to 2019 annual spring meetings

### YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS – Beginning in late April, Yellowstone National Park staff will travel to nearby communities to speak with anglers and other interested parties about the ongoing efforts to restore native fish species, the threats of aquatic invasive species and the park's fishing regulations.

The general public, local fly shop employees and fishing guides are encouraged to attend one of four outreach meetings; April 29, at Bozeman's Hilton Garden Inn; April 30 at West Yellowstone's Visitor Center; May 7 at Cody, Wyoming's The Cody Hotel; and May 8 at Jackson, Wyoming's Wort Hotel.

Each meeting will commence at 7 p.m. with a brief presentation about native fish restoration projects, followed by a discussion of angling regulations with a Q&A session. Meetings will conclude at 8:30 p.m.

Fishing season in Yellowstone opens May 25.

# MSU to host lecture, workshops on suicide prevention

### **BIG SKY YOUTH EMPOWERMENT**

Over the last 17 years, nationwide suicide rates have increased by over 61 percent, despite boosted efforts in suicide prevention.

Suicides jumped from 29,180 in 1999 to 47,173 in 2017, a differential of 17,993, more than the populations of Whitefish and Livingston combined.

According to Dr. John Sommers-Flanagan, the increase coincides with increased federal, state and local suicide prevention activities.

"Even in the face of vigorous and well-intended suicide and intervention efforts, suicide rates continue to rise, at an average of 2 percent per year", Sommers-Flanagan said. "The needle keeps moving in the wrong direction."

With nearly 30 years of suicide prevention experience, Dr. Sommers-Flanagan is offering a series of public suicide prevention lectures along with workshops for professionals throughout the state of Montana, sponsored by Big Sky Youth Empowerment, a Bozeman-based nonprofit. The lectures and workshops will take a novel approach to understanding suicide, with an emphasis on strengths, resilience and a debunking of several problematic suicide myths.

The first public lecture will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on May 16, in Montana State University's Student Union Board Ballroom D, and the first professional workshop will held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on May 17 in Room 165 of MSU's Norm Abjornson Hall. Public lectures are free, and the workshops are \$100 for 6.5 hours, \$50 for students and unlicensed participants.

For more information, visit https://go.byep.org/advances.



# What does sustainability in Big Sky mean to you?



Kimi Hueftle Big Sky, Montana

"Affordable housing for everyone—actually being able to afford to live here."



Tommy Reisinger Big Sky, Montana

"In terms of sustainability, I noticed they're building some houses on Little Coyote, so I think people are trying to fix affordable housing problems here."



Carrie Kraus
Belgrade, Montana

"Overall, housing costs are hurting sustainability. To sustain the employee population, you need to have housing cost what people can afford."



**Brian Fischer** *Big Sky, Montana* 

"Preserving our way of life, which means not stressing our ecosystem and environment—watching where we plan our growth in this area."





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# Traditional and Contemporary Western Art



# **Op-ed: Creating a Wildfire-Resilient Big Sky**

### BY DUSTIN TETRAULT

Last year, three large wildfires burned dangerously close to Big Sky. The Bacon Rind Fire to the south and the Monument and Wigwam Fires to the west were all large, intense fires that burned nearly 20,000 acres in total. Their elevation, terrain and fuels were similar to that of Big Sky's.

With the imminent change in seasons, it is time to start thinking about the wildland fire season again.

As development continues to boom in Big Sky, we need to ask ourselves: Are we building a resilient community? Can our community withstand the economic, social and cultural impacts of a large-scale wildfire?

New research points to why and how homes burn in wildfires. The vast majority of homes ignite due to embers that land on, or embed in, flammable materials on or in a home. Embers can travel more than a mile ahead of a wildfire front. Once one home has ignited, the fire spreads from house to house, resulting in large-scale conflagration fires like we have seen in California in recent years.

Today's wildfires are more disastrous for a variety of reasons—a warming climate, a century of fire suppression and fuel accumulation, and because we are putting more people and homes in harm's way. In Big Sky, the majority of new development is conducted in the moderate to high wildfire risk areas, known as the wildland-urban interface (WUI). We have a golden opportunity to make a stand and be smarter about how we are building and placing these structures in the WUI.

Fortunately, a decade of research, post-fire analyses and laboratory experiments have led to new science on how to avoid such disasters and build wildfire-resilient communities.

It starts with where and how we build homes.

A few simple, affordable modifications to a home's roof, walls, windows, deck and

landscaping can be the difference between the home's survival or demise during a wild-fire. For example, home survival increases when homes are built with ember-resistant, finer-mesh attic vents, noncombustible gutters and fire-resistant decking. Maintaining a noncombustible landscaping zone immediately around the home and conducting general maintenance such as cleaning out gutters, cleaning pine litter off of the roof and removing lawn debris can reduce the likelihood of embers igniting the home.

A study released in 2018 by Headwaters Economics found the cost of constructing a home to such standards was roughly the same as a typical home. Using wildfire-resistant materials can also reduce maintenance needs and have a longer lifespan compared to traditional building materials.

Too often we believe our community will never face wildfire, but such willful blindness does us all a disservice. When flammable homes are built in wildfire-prone areas, tax-payers end up shouldering the burden, economies are disrupted, and people and wildlife suffer.

We have the knowledge, technology and power to avoid wildfire disasters through better building practices, planning and individual preparedness. Let's get started.

Join us for Community Wildfire Preparedness Day in Big Sky at the Lone Peak Brewery in the upstairs foyer on Saturday, May 4, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Meet local wildfire experts from the Montana Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, Gallatin County, Madison County, Big Sky Fire Department and Montana State University Extension Fire Service Training School. We will also air the acclaimed documentary, "Era of Megafires," that has been featured all over the country. A portion of cash generated by pint sales will go to the Keep Montana Green Association to Prevent Wildfires. So bring your family out for a great educational experience and have some fun.

Dustin Tetrault is the Deputy Fire Chief of Community Risk Management at Big Sky Fire Department and serves in a multitude of roles on wildland fires and home wildfire risk mitigation throughout Montana.

# Yellowstone Club Community Foundation to be Presenting Sponsor for Give Big Gallatin Valley

To the Editor,

On May 2-3, the Bozeman Area Community Foundation will host the fifth annual Give Big Gallatin Valley, a 24-hour celebration geared towards raising funds for Gallatin County nonprofits.

Give Big is designed to connect new donors to local causes—and raise money to support their essential work. In just four years, our community has raised \$2.6 million through 14,000 gifts for over 194 local nonprofits. Last year alone, 4,747 community members raised over \$1.2 million dollars for local organizations.

We at the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation are thrilled to be the Presenting Sponsor for Give Big, partnering with the Bozeman Area Community Foundation in their goals for the 2019 initiative. This year's goal is to inspire 5,000 donors to raise \$1.5 million in 24 hours for more than 190 local nonprofits.

If every Gallatin County community member donates just \$15 during Give Big, we will meet our goal of \$1.5 million.

This wonderful, community-building event generates enthusiasm for the amazing non-profits that support our county.

Give Big is always looking for new donors, which totaled 764 last year, and the organization is delighted when children donate to their favorite nonprofits.

Kick off the 24-hour celebration with the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation at Lone Peak Cinema in Big Sky, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. on May 2. The kick-off party is also supported by the Spanish Peaks Community Foundation and the Moonlight Basin Community Foundation, and will be attended by all the Big Sky area nonprofits. The finale party will be held at the Rialto in Bozeman from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on May 3.

Whether one attends a live event on May 2 or 3 or donates online, Give Big and the Yellowstone Community Foundation hopes they'll join in on the Give Big spirit.

Britt Ide, Executive Director Yellowstone Club Community Foundation

For more information about Give Big Gallatin Valley, go to\_www.GiveBigGV.org or contact Maggie Crum, Program and Events Manager at the Bozeman Area Community Foundation at 406-595-2784, maggie@bozemanfoundation.org.





# GROWING PAINS PART THREE

# Jumping ship: As urban centers swell, waves of city dwellers are paddling for higher ground

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY AND BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – By the time Congressman Greg Gianforte moved to Bozeman in 1995, he'd already sold four companies, most notably a \$10 million sale of a banking management software to McAfee Associates, a global computer security software company.

Enticed by bounties of nature surrounding the town, which held a population of about 25,000 at the time, Gianforte was also on a mission: prove business was no longer limited by geographic restrictions in the internet age, reducing overhead costs and headaches associated with living in major metropolitan markets.

In 1997, Gianforte and his wife Susan founded RightNow Technologies, a customer-relationship management software service. By 2004, when RightNow went public, the company employed more than 1,000 individuals in offices in the U.K., Asia and Australia, and in 2011, Oracle Corporation acquired the company for \$1.5 billion.

To say RightNow Technologies was successful is an understatement. The venture not only proved Gianforte's hunch that the Internet could conquer distance between the nation's premiere business cities, it also created an ecosystem for fellow tech-minded executives and their startups in Bozeman.

Similar stories are playing out across the Intermountain West.

"You have entrepreneurs who are realizing they don't need to be in Silicon Valley or L.A. or New York or Chicago anymore, especially in the tech industry," said Mike Magrans, a partner at Earnest and Young, the New York City-based global professional service firm that consults clients such as Vail Resorts.

"They can work in Salt Lake or Denver ... or Jackson [or] Bozeman because they're starting to be able to attract talent, and wherever you're able to attract talent, or wherever you have access to higher education, like Montana State, you're going to be able to create companies."

Along with startups, the Intermountain West is attracting remote workers who can telecommute to their offices in major cities. Magrans said he's seeing people opting for the quality of life that mountain locales offer over the bustling cities, a trend he attributed to the strong economy, current technology and how millennials are capitalizing on the flexibility afforded by that technology.

"People are starting to work remotely and be very efficient and productive by being mobile," Magrans said. "... And as long as you have great Internet access, why not be in the mountains?"

According to Mark Haggerty, an economist at the Bozeman-based research institute Headwaters Economics, Bozeman's revolution began with RightNow Technologies. Gianforte, Haggerty says, built a "...spinoff tech cluster standing on its own two legs."

A Headwaters Economics study released in January of 2019 highlights the uptick in migration to "recreation counties," defined by the United States Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service (USDA ERS) by three necessary components: "the share of employment in entertainment and recreation, accommodations, eating and drinking places, and real estate; the share of personal income from these same categories; and the share of vacant housing units ... for seasonal use."

The occurrence is especially prominent in micropolitan communities, classified by the ERS as having between 10,000 to 50,000 residents with at least one urbanized area, and rural communities, which have fewer than 10,000 residents.

Ignoring recreation, metropolitan communities received the lion's share of domestic immigration between 2010 and 2016, but when recreation is factored in, a different story is told.

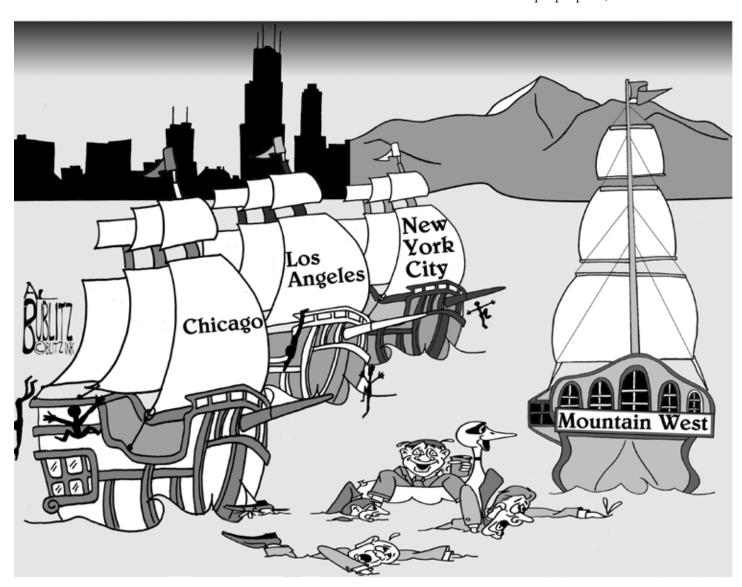
Between 2010 and 2016, a period of recovery "from the end of the Great Recession," non-recreation metropolitan counties saw an average net migration rate of 12.5 people per 1,000 residents, but their recreation counterparts grew by 45.9 per 1,000. Non-recreation micropolitan counties lost an average of 15.6 per 1,000 residents—conversely, recreation micropolitan counties grew by an average of 21.6 people per 1,000. When non-recreation rural counties lost an average of 19.9

per 1,000 residents, recreation rural counties gained an average of 1.3 per 1,000.

Bozeman, nestled squarely in prime country for skiing, mountain biking, fishing, hunting and other outdoor pursuits, fits the criterion of an urbanized area within a recreation county. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, its 2017 population was about 46,500 residents, teetering on the metro and micropolitan fault lines. According to a 2018 Bureau report, Bozeman was the fastest growing micropolitan area in the nation.

The same report estimated Bozeman's growth rate at 3.6 percent between 2016 and 2017, which if sustained would double the city's population in two decades. By next year, the city is expected to reach 50,000 residents, according to a report commissioned by the city of Bozeman.

Haggerty cites a "golden triangle" effect when considering Bozeman's staggering and unprecedented growth.



"Bozeman has three key components—a national park [Yellowstone], an efficient airport with direct access to larger markets and a highly educated workforce supplied by MSU."

On April 11, Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport authorities as well as Gallatin County Commissioner Scott McFarlane and others broke ground on a 70,000-square-foot concourse expansion project.

The last expansion took place in 2009, when the airport serviced a meager 700,000 annual passengers. In 2019, estimates have passengers serviced at 1.5 million, a reflection of the hordes of tourists seeking recreation in the surrounding mountains and at Yellowstone National Park.

In 2018, the park had 4.1 million guests, up from 3.07 million in 2008, according to official park visitation figures.

From a financial perspective, Magrans said capital is flowing to "tertiary" cities like Bozeman that have small populations and far higher returns because they are riskier investments, more prone to economic downturns than major markets like New York City, Chicago or San Francisco.

"Right now, as an investor, I can get a heck of a lot more return on my capital by investing in a tertiary city piece of real estate [than in a major metropolitan city]," Magrams said.

He likened today's migration trends to those of the '70s and '80s when people were moving to the suburbs, adding that the development of technology acts as the driver of current migration patterns.

"It is remarkable, because in 2007 we didn't have an iPhone, in 2007 we didn't have Uber. We didn't have all these apps at our fingertips to provide you services and enable you to work more remotely," Magrans said. "And that was only 11 years ago."

And technology isn't the only factor at work. Places like Bozeman offer high quality of life at a much cheaper rate than the big city.

According to the Cost of Living Index published by the Council for Community and Economic Research, a city-to-city cost comparison recognized by the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, and CNN Money, an individual moving from Bozeman to San Francisco, one of the nation's most expensive cities, would need an 87 percent increase in salary to maintain the same level of lifestyle. Conversely, a person in San Francisco can take a 46-percent pay cut and sustain the same economic lifestyle in Bozeman.

In relative terms, a worker living in San Francisco making \$100,000 annually could maintain the same level of lifestyle on \$54,000 a year.

"I would argue that as long as that differential exists, you're not going to see a big slowdown here," said Bozeman-based real estate and property consultant Bruce Burger at an event called Whither Gallatin hosted by Future West in Bozeman in early April. "... It's not a 10 percent difference. It's a 40 percent difference."

Burger's presentation at the Whither Gallatin event spoke to the interconnectedness of Bozeman and Big Sky, calling the latter Bozeman's "x-factor."

"You can't talk about Bozeman without talking about Big Sky," Burger said. "It is an unseen force. [Big Sky is] generating hundreds of millions of dollars in direct and indirect economic investment in the Bozeman economy."

Burger said that as many as 2,000 workers each day commute from Bozeman to Big Sky, which would represent 5 percent of the adult population of Bozeman. Employees and workers, such as those building the ultra-luxury hotel Montage Big Sky in Spanish Peaks, can't afford to live in Big Sky, spending their wages on living expenses in Bozeman. With an alleged billion dollars of improvements taking place in Big Sky, Bozeman is reaping the benefits.

According to Haggerty, there's an economic theory that businesses will always look to spread out the cost of business. Yet, he said, what Gallatin County's witnessing is not diffusion but concentration due to a premium placed on being around other "energetic and creative people."

As a result, Bozeman, along with other Gallatin County communities will experience increasing strain from snowballing immigration.

"The problem is, too much growth brings the same urban problems people left in the first place," Haggerty said. "Then it becomes 'be careful what you wished for."

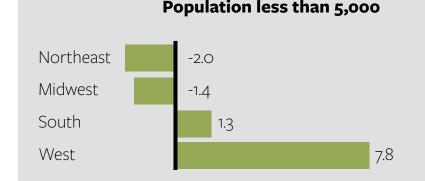
To learn more about events directed at managing growth in the American West in a sustainable manner, see page 19.

In state vs. out of state moves		
	Inbound	Outbound
California	36%	64%
Illinois	31%	69%
New York	45%	55%
Montana	65%	35%
Idaho	72%	28%
Wyoming	59%	41%

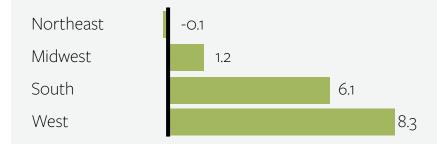
Migration Rates (2010-2016, per 1,000 people)			
	Recreation Counties	Non-recreation Counties	
Rural	Gained 1.3 people	Lost 20 people	
Micropolitan	Gained 21.6 people	Lost 15.6 people	
Metropolitan	Gained 45.9 people	Gained 12.6 people	

Recreation counties have higher net migration rates since 2010

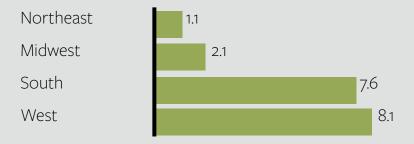
# Average Percent Population Change in Cities and Towns since 2010



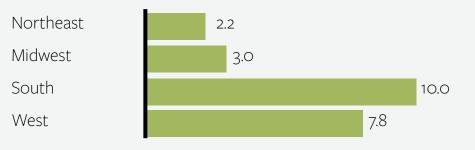
### Population between 5,000 and 9,999



# Population between 10,000 and 49,000



# Population of 50,000 or more



# BSCO raises \$12 million for Big Sky's first community center Launches "ALL IN. BIG SKY" campaign to raise remainder

### **BIG SKY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION**

On April 25, the Big Sky Community Organization announced that it had to-date raised more than \$12 million for the community center on the 3.3 acres of land the organization acquired and secured as open space parkland in perpetuity in Big Sky Town Center, and announced the launch of its "ALL IN. BIG SKY" campaign to raise the remaining \$5.5 million needed for the center by the end of summer 2019.

The community center is designed to be a multi-use space that will serve as a gathering place for residents, visitors and club members. The center will have common spaces, meeting rooms and office spaces which will house nonprofits and community resources. It will also offer recreational areas to facilitate a variety of indoor and outdoor sports, and art programs, acting as an accessible, affordable space for the public.

"As Big Sky continues to grow, the Big Sky Community Organization envisions a future Big Sky which will always feel like home—with community spaces, parklands, trail systems and recreation opportunities available to anyone with a need and interest, to people of all ages, income brackets and backgrounds," said BSCO Executive Director Ciara Wolfe.

Currently, community recreation centers within Big Sky are within private neighborhoods, not accessible to the general public. Additionally, no public indoor community facilities exist in the Big Sky community besides the Big Sky School District and the Water Sewer District Building.

Through its facilities and the organizations housed therein, the community center will provide local access to art, culture and environmental education, while supporting physically and mentally healthy lifestyles.

"We need a permanent community space that serves everyone, year-round—and we're going 'ALL IN' to make it happen," Wolfe said.

The community center stands to contribute to the health and wellness of the community in multiple ways.

The center will provide a safe and positive environment for teens and

young adults to spend time together participating in scheduled activities, skills programs or indoor and outdoor activities.

It will also serve as a space to address prevalent behavioral and mental health issues including substance abuse, suicide and depression through the creation of an empowering support network of on-grounds counseling and community-wide resources.

Slated for a July groundbreaking, the community center is aimed at being Big Sky's first Platinum LEED certified commercial building, a certification awarded to structures that meet certain sustainability criteria.

Tallie Lancey, a BSCO board member, emphasized the project's cooperative nature.

"Throughout every aspect of project development, our organization has collaborated closely with partner organizations to make the greatest possible community-wide impact." Lancey said. "We are truly 'ALL IN' this together, and BSCO's goals and process reflect that."

BSCO—an organization focused on engaging Big Sky's public in recreational and enrichment opportunities through development of partnerships, programs and places—leveraged the community center for several collaborative endeavors, which include securing parkland for the Music in the Mountains summer concert series, working with the Gallatin River Task Force to develop an irrigation system that uses treated effluent and building in a transportation hub for the commuting workforce.

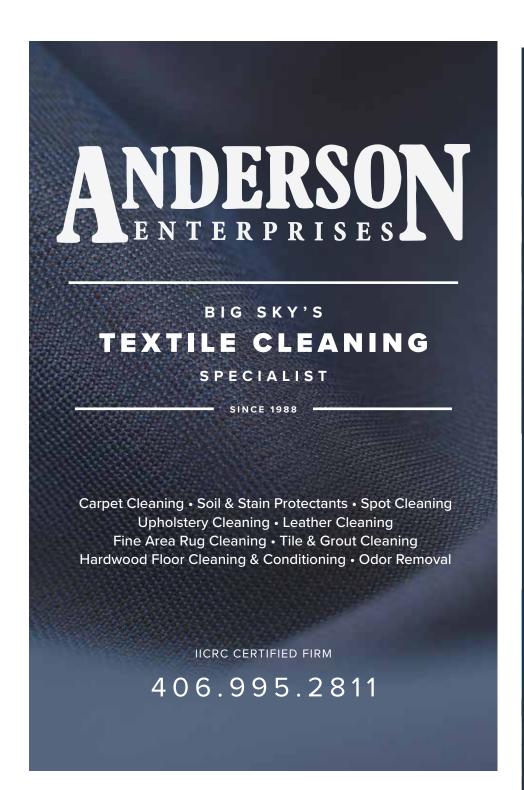
"We believe this project exemplifies collaboration and innovation within a strongly-rooted resort community that values our people and this special place," Lancey said.

The "ALL IN. BIG SKY" campaign seeks to involve everyone in the Big Sky community in the community center's creation, whether through fundraising, showing up to support the cause or spreading awareness.

Visit bscomt.org/communitycenter for more information or to get involved.



The community center, spearheaded by the Big Sky Community Organization, will offer year-round activities for the public, offices for Big Sky nonprofits and could be the area's first Platinum LEED certified commercial building for sustainable building practices. RENDERING COURTESTY OF BIG SKY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION



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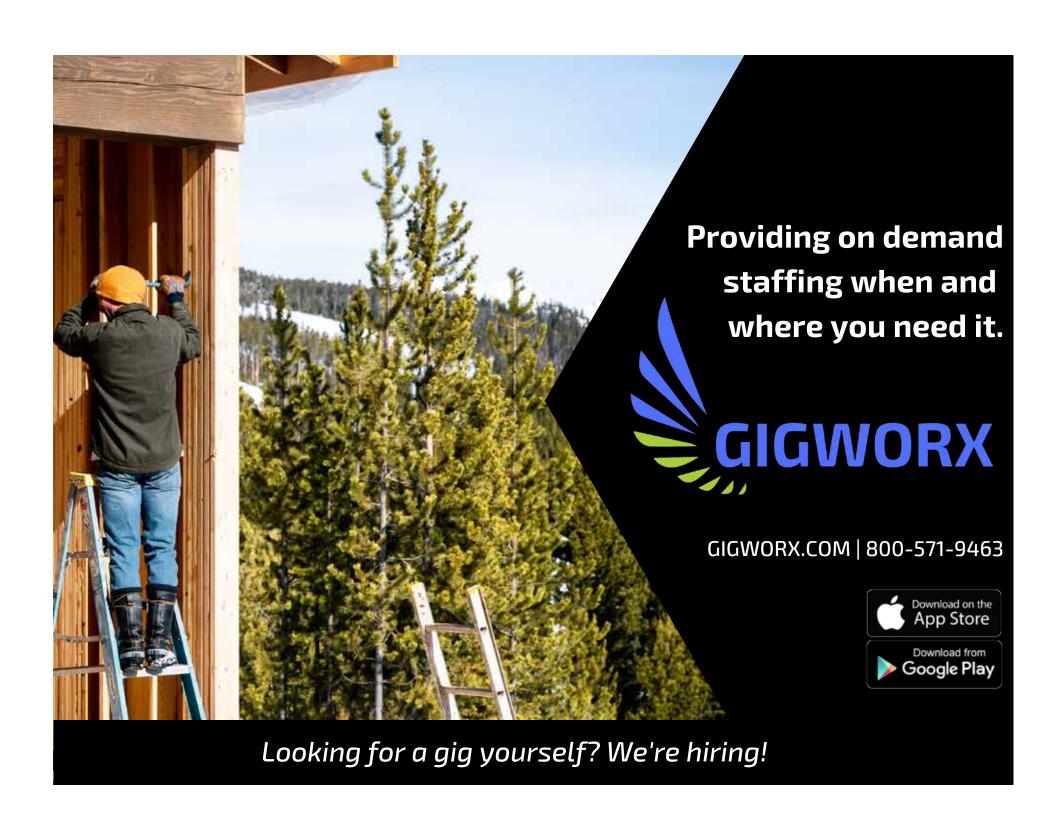
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# Lettuce eat hot lunch together

# BSSD's new food program and the driving force behind it

### BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – For 10 years, Lindsie Hurlbut told her friend Whitney Littman, "I want to be the school lunch lady." For most of that time Littman thought she was joking, but Hurlbut's serious intent eventually became clear.

Since its genesis three years ago, the primary goal of the Big Sky School District Wellness Committee—which Littman oversees and on which Hurlbut used to serve—has been integrating nutrition into academics. Through her early involvement, Hurlbut realized her dream of being BSSD's lunch lady, or Food Program Coordinator, beginning in the 2018–2019 school year.

The program she's orchestrated is a multifaceted hit

Since Hurlbut started, the number of BSSD students eating hot lunch daily has doubled, and she'd served 19,000 hot lunches to date by the end of February, according to Littman. Students and teachers alike are exposed to a variety of local foods, unlike the conventional image that "hot lunch" evokes for most people, thanks to a grant from the Moonlight Community Foundation that allows Hurlbut to order from regional growers.

"This is an agricultural state that we live in," Hurlbut said. "It's important for kids to know where their food's coming from and how it tastes different when it's grown local, and the life skills of learning how to cook whole foods."

In March, Hurlbut won \$500 for the food program in the 2019 Montana School Eats photo contest for assembling the most appealing arrangement of local foods. BSSD Art Educator Megan Buecking took the photo.

"There's no way we couldn't have won thanks to Ms. Buecking's amazing photo and the Moonlight grant," Hurlbut said.

The program not only improves the nutritional value of the food offered at the school; it furnishes special learning opportunities for other classes, such as Social Studies teacher Tony Coppola's 11th grade history class.

For the first week of April, Coppola's class traded in reading and writing essays about Vietnam for making a Vietnamese buffet to feed the whole school and any parent who wanted to join for lunch. Coppola's class joined Hurlbut in the school kitchen during their history class periods throughout the week, then served the meal that Friday, April 5.

"Food is one of the biggest parts of a culture," Coppola said. "It defines the culture, what they eat, how they prepare it. It brings them together. You learn a lot from a culture's diet."

Along with providing a supplementary arena of education, the food program has opened other teaching opportunities, such as a compost program in which food scraps are given to Dr. Kate Eisele's 8th grade science class. The class recently completed the first compost batch of the year, which will be used by a Big Sky landscaper; in the future, Hurlbut said they hope to use the compost for a school gardening program.

The food program has also fostered workplace camaraderie, as more teachers have chosen to eat lunches together this year, Coppola said. Along with bringing teachers together, the program offers a special way for families to connect over food.

Each quarter, Hurlbut hosts a family cook night in which multiple families come to the school, prepare a meal together and sit down to eat with everyone.



Big Sky School District Social Studies teacher Tony Coppola's (far left) 11th grade history class, part of which is pictured here, worked with the school's food program coordinator Lindsie Hurlbut (holding tray) to prepare a Vietnamese buffet for the whole district as part of their studies on Vietnam. PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

"It's really just to get kids cooking, and parents to learn new recipes and ideas," Hurlbut said. "The last one we did was sushi, which was just fun."

It's not uncommon to find community members volunteering to prepare and serve lunches alongside Hurlbut in the kitchen, who said she couldn't do it without her dedicated staff. Despite the helping hands, Hurlbut admits it's a lot of work.

"It's crazy, my days are kind of insane," said Hurlbut, who arrives at the school at 6 a.m. to prepare food for the breakfast program, then transitions to making lunches, which can amount to 240 a day.

"If anything, I think she probably just needs more help so she can take a break," Coppola said.

Littman echoed Coppola, adding that the program had met a majority of their goals early, shifting the conversation toward demand management and support for Hurlbut. Despite the workload, Hurlbut is excited about what has been accomplished this year.

"My number one goal was to change the perception of school lunch," Hurlbut said.

With monthly Try Something New days and Salad Bar Fridays, as well as how hot lunch counts don't fluctuate with menu items, it seems she's hit the mark.

"We're at a point now this far into the year that the kids just trust what we do," she said. "... My numbers everyday are consistent. Kids don't even read the menu, they just get hot lunch."

Ultimately, it's about education and food's role is key.

"No kid should be in school if they're hungry," Littman said. "You can't be a good learner [if you are]. And we're asking a lot of our kids, so that's pretty important. The wellness committee feels like we're really entwined with the mission of our school. We think food and nutrition are really important for successful education for all kids."

# **Town Center Owners' Association Hires First Executive Director**

#### **TOWN CENTER OWNERS' ASSOCIATION**

Big Sky Town Center welcomes Emily O'Connor as executive director of the Town Center Owners' Association (TCOA). She will be stepping in to oversee the administration and operations of the owners' association.

She shares her experience in capital project management and program implementation with a focus on promoting and enhancing livability, economic opportunity, and sustainability in communities large and small.

"Creating places and experiences for people has always been a source of inspiration and motivation in my personal life and career," said Emily, "I'm enthusiastic about joining the TCOA during a time of growth to provide additional support to the association's members and community partners."

O'Connor recently moved back to Big Sky after two years in Massachusetts where she served as Director of Park Operations for the Esplanade Association, a non-profit organization that works to restore, enhance, and program the Charles River Esplanade, a historic 64-acre park in downtown Boston.

Prior to moving to Massachusetts, O'Connor was a Project Manager for the Big Sky Community Organization, where her primary focus was on working with area landowners to build over 8 miles of new trails for the community.



After two-years away working in Boston,
Massachusetts, Emily O'Connor returns to Big
Sky as the executive director of the Town Center
Owners' Association. PHOTO COURTESY OF
EMILY O'CONNOR

O'Connor's addition to the TCOA team will allow Ryan Hamilton, project manager for Big Sky Town Center, more time to focus on the real estate development work, although he will still contribute to all aspects of the continued build-out and management of the Town Center.

"I'm excited to have the opportunity to work with Emily and I hope that I can share some of the knowledge gained and culture formed over the years," Hamilton said.

Hamilton's work for almost 20 years as project manager included managing the TCOA as well as the real estate development work, but now that Town Center is approximately 50 percent built-out, its complexity and scope require full-time management. As a TCOA board member, he will continue to work with O'Connor on TCOA projects and administration.

"After working with Ryan Hamilton to lead the TCOA since its inception nearly 20 years ago, I'm proud to have someone of Emily's caliber and experience in Big Sky as the new executive director of TCOA," said Bill Simkins, TCOA board member and manager of Bozeman-based Town Center master developer Simkins Holdings, LLC. "As a TCOA board member, I look forward to working with her on the many aspects of the TCOA and I'm excited to view the Town Center through a new lens with her ideas and energy."

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# Legislative roundup: Medicaid expansion, Hanna's Act, Firefighter Protection Act

BY SHAYLEE RAGAR AND TIM PIERCE UM LEGISLATIVE NEWS SERVICE

HELENA – The Montana Legislature passed a bill to continue Medicaid expansion, which provides healthcare to about 69,000 low-income Montanans.

House Bill 658 continues the program that originally passed in 2015, but it adds work requirements that force eligible enrollees to record 80 hours of work per month. The Senate amended the bill, including adding a six-year expiration date, and then passed it 28-22 on Tuesday. The House adopted the Senate amendments Thursday 61-35.

House Minority Leader Rep. Casey Schreiner, D-Great Falls, said House Bill 658 was a compromise. He said most Democrats only wanted to remove the expiration of the program, but Republican lawmakers wanted to add elements like work requirements.

"It's not the product that I would've loved to see today. It's the product that we have and the best version of it that does the least amount of harm to people in the state of Montana that we could get accomplished," he said. "Neither side is probably super happy with that bill as it stands, but it's what's best for the people of Montana given that we couldn't just take the sunset off."

The bill carries a price tag of about \$800 million of mostly federal money.

Thomas said the requirements as written are "pathetic," and that he'd like to see stricter mandates. He also said during the debate that state money used in the expansion could fund other bills that invest in the state's economy.

"Many, many Montanans want this legislation to pass. But with it, you can't turn the lights on. You can't pay your mortgage. You can't buy a newer car. You've got to have the rest of the picture to do this," he said.

Sen. Daniel Salomon, R-Ronan, said he recognizes complaints from other members of his party, like the use of about \$700 million in federal funding, but, he said: "We accept federal money for highways. We accept federal money for education. You name it we do it. Why draw the line and say, 'we are not going to have Medicaid, it's too expensive. Here's the line we're going to make?"

Rep. Denise Hayman, D-Bozeman, says the bill is a product of hard work, and she's glad to see it moved forward.

"I think folks in Montana will be delighted to see that bill signed by the governor," she said.

# Firefighter Protection Act Becomes Law

Gov. Steve Bullock has signed into law the Firefighter Protection Act, which requires workers' compensation insurance to cover presumptive occupational diseases, like cancer, for the state's firefighters.

Senate Bill 160 was carried by Sen. Nate McConnell, D-Missoula, who said at the bill signing that his brother is a firefighter, so the issue is personal.

The bill has been a goal for the governor for several sessions.

"Every firefighter should know Montana has their back. And it's about damn time," Bullock said at a bill signing ceremony Friday.

The bill requires a certain number of years service to make a workers' compensation claim.

Harold Schaitberger, president of the International Association of Firefighters, said those in the profession

get cancer at rates multiple times of the general population.

"It is the job, it is the exposure, it is the toxic soup [firefighters] work in," Schaitberger said.

The ceremony also honored Jason Baker, a firefighter who advocated for this legislation before he died of lung cancer Feb. 20, after 16 years of service as a firefighter in Great Falls.

McConnell worked with a number of lawmakers across the aisle to pass the bill, including Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick, R-Great Falls, and Rep. Sue Vinton, R-Billings. McConnell said it will help the next generation of Montana firefighters, and that he's honored to help this cause.

"There are rarely opportunities for somebody to carry a bill that means so much to our heroes," McConnell said.

# Lawmakers Pass Legislation to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous People

After a turbulent journey through the Montana Legislature, the bill named after Hanna Harris, who was found murdered on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in 2013, passed the Senate 37-13 last week.

House Bill 21, also known as "Hanna's Act," would create a special position in the state Department of Justice that would investigate all missing persons cases in the state. The bill's carrier, Sen. Diane Sands, D-Missoula, said it's key to addressing what she calls the "crisis" of missing Montanans to have a person at the department "who has those skills and relationships to be able to cut through all the bureaucratic red tape and make sure we do everything we can to find those people who are missing or murdered."

The Senate Finance and Claims Committee had recently re-added language that forces the DOJ to create the position and also brought back the \$100,000-per-year funding.

Sen. Jennifer Fielder, R-Thompson Falls, voted against the changed bill.

"This is a job description that we are putting into statute. That leaves no flexibility for the position to adapt and adjust," Fielder said. "Unless, you come back next session and run another bill at the expense of the taxpayers."

The Senate Judiciary Committee also originally tabled the bill, but eventually passed it.

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.



Senate Bill 160, also known at the Firefighter Protection Act, requires workers' compensation insurance coverage for presumptive occupational diseases, such as cancers, for the state's firefighters. PHOTO COURTESY OF PEXELS.COM

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SECTION 2: ENVIRONMENT, OUTDOORS, & HEALTH







# The New West: Remembering role of Nez Perce in wolf recovery

# BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

Nearly a quarter century ago, L. David Mech made a pair of bold predictions about the challenges awaiting wolves in the American West. As he and I stood on a bluff in Yellowstone National Park discussing what was then the highly unlikely prospect that the howls of Canis lupus would ever be common again in the Northern Rockies, the world's foremost wolf biologist demonstrated foresight that now seems prophetic.

"Bringing back wolves will be difficult," he said. "And if it happens, it would be momentous. But then the real test begins. Has society moved past its historical prejudices attached to these animals or is the hysteria destined to be repeated again? To me, that will be the true gauge of whether Americans have become smarter about our relationship with wolves."

Then he added something else: Maybe the only group of citizens who fully understand the native importance of wolves on the landscape is native people.

Today, following decades that have passed since wolves were successfully reintroduced both to Yellowstone and wilderness areas of Idaho, it is remarkable how prescient his musings were.

Throughout the Northern Rockies, millions of dollars have been spent killing wolves. In fact, more wolves have been lethally removed than exist today—1,800 across the five-state area—and in most instances the cost of destroying them has far exceeded the value of the livestock or big-game hunting opportunities lost to wolves.

Idaho and Wyoming represent ground zero for the social test spelled out by Mech.

A few years ago I went to Idaho as the state was undertaking aggressive action to lethally-control lobos. "Wolves are under siege in Idaho but the reality hasn't really gotten the attention that it deserves from wildlife-loving Americans," said Suzanne Asha Stone with Defenders of Wildlife.

Few conservationists have the perspective Stone does. She was there during the winters of 1995 and 1996 when wolves were reintroduced. "While public attention has been focused on Yellowstone wolves because they're literally visible to millions of people who come to watch them, here in Idaho the saga has been largely out of sight and mind to most people," she says.

Stone pointed to one group that played a pivotal role in giving wolves a second chance and has quietly been an unsung conservation hero: the Nez Perce Nation. She introduced me to Josiah Blackeagle Pinkham, the Nez Perce's cultural resources ethnographer.

"We have our own stories about wolves, coyotes and other animals that speak to our attitudes of coexistence," he explained of the animals known to the Nez Perce as Hími·n. "They go back to a time long, long before Europeans ever realized this continent was a place on the map of the world."

After a pause, Pinkham noted that in the Nez Perce lexicon there is no natural word for "eradication," meaning the deliberate annihilation of a species as was carried out by European settlers against bison and wolves and other predators. "That concept is foreign to us," he said.

A college-educated father, son of an author who once served as tribal chairman, grandson of a noted shaman, and a hunter, fisherman and naturalist, Pinkham is keenly aware of two divergent world views that surround him as he pointed toward a spot on the horizon where tribal members recently spotted wolves.



A wolf in Yellowstone National Park. Wolf recovery within Yellowstone was reinforced outside of the park when the Nez Perce stepped forward as full participants in the recovery effort. NPS PHOTO

When former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt gave the green light for wolf reintroduction to proceed in the West in 1994, Idaho refused to participate in an attempt to stymie wolf recovery. Much to the state's surprise, the Nez Perce stepped forward.

The tribe has primary jurisdiction over 760,000 acres of reservation in Idaho and, due to treaty rights dating back to 1855, has guaranteed access to more than 17 million acres of original tribal homeland covering a variety of federal public lands in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington—including wilderness areas where the federal government intended to release wolves transplanted from Canada.

"I visited the tribal council when the wolf reintroduction proposal was moving toward reality and asked for their advice and support," Stone said. "When the state of Idaho refused to support the restoration efforts, wolves needed involvement from the Nez Perce to monitor their survival and their response was, 'count us in."

The Nez Perce committed as full participants in wolf reintroduction. "The Nez Perce approach involves asking the question: 'How am I going to restore this greater whole so that it can function on its own without my intervention," Pinkham said. "As 'land managers,' we're one of the few entities trying to manage ourselves out of existence, not in terms of our presence but in terms of the need to constantly tinker."

Carter Niemeyer, a retired federal predator control expert who oversaw efforts to kill wolves that came into conflict with ranchers, investigated reports of depredation and concluded many livestock deaths were blamed on wolves without evidence. He says the Nez Perce's patient, calm, long-term perspective—one that rejects rash, knee-jerk decision-making—is exactly what's needed in the social and political discussions swirling around wolves.

It's a perspective Josiah Blackeagle Pinkham and the Nez Perce embrace with open arms.

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.









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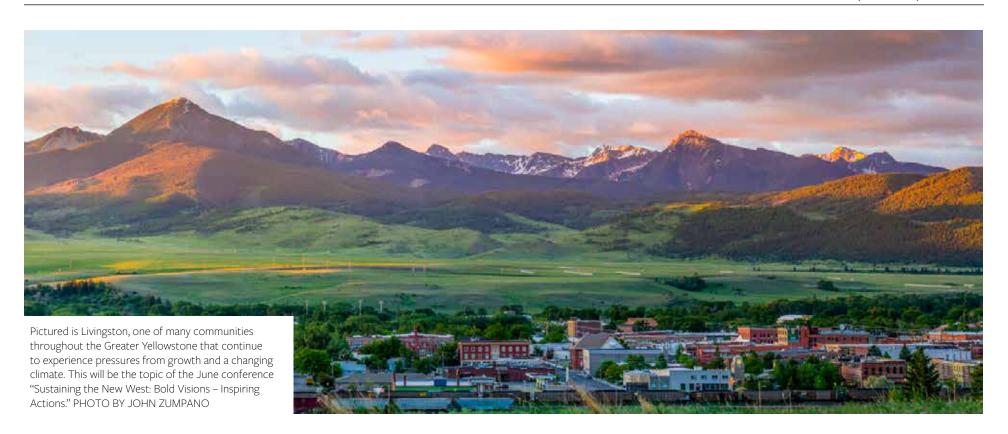


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# Conference to explore future of community, rural landscapes and wildlands

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#### **FUTURE WEST**

This June, Bozeman nonprofit Future West will host a unique regional conference that explores the future of the American West.

"Growth and change are inevitable," said Future West Director Dennis Glick. "They can happen by design, or by default. It's time that we recognize this reality and begin to identify our vision for the future and the actions needed to make it a reality."

Conservationists, elected officials, rural landowners, business leaders, land managers, developers and many others will gather for a daylong exploration of the potential future of our towns, working landscapes and wildlands. The conference, which is called "Sustaining the New West: Bold Visions – Inspiring Actions," will take place June 5 at Bozeman's Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture.

The event will put a spotlight on growth trends in the Northern Rockies and offer alternative visions for how we develop and conserve this region. The conference will also highlight examples from around the West of successful efforts to plan for and achieve sustainable conservation and development on a regional scale.

The speaker lineup includes founding member of the Blackfoot Challenge, rancher Denny Iverson; Lain Leoniak, former Bozeman Water Conservation Specialist and current Assistant Attorney General for Colorado; renowned

conservation biologist Dr. David Theobald; Mayor of Canmore, Alberta, John Borrowman; Teton County, Idaho, Commissioner Cindy Riegel; Devin Middlebrook from the Lake Tahoe Regional Planning Agency; Dr. Aerin Jacobs from the Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative; and Robert Liberty, architect of Oregon's land-use planning system.

These speakers will share their perspectives on options for creating a future that conserves our natural and cultural values, while also creating sustainable and equitable communities.

This is the second "Sustaining the New West" conference. The first focused primarily on the impacts of growth, development and climate change on the future of the region. At this second gathering, individuals who have been deeply engaged in these issues in the Northern Rockies will offer alternative future scenarios. Their presentations will be followed by people from other regions who will share lessons they have learned while working on sustainability issues on a landscape-wide—if not statewide—scale.

Glick said he looks forward to the conference, guaranteeing that it will be "a thought-provoking and provocative day that will help us to chart a course for a brighter future for this region."

Visit future-west.org or contact Hannah Jaicks by email at hannah@future-west. org for more information and to register. Lunch is included with registration and a reception will follow.







# WATER WISDOM

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.

# Nine strategies to prevent algae blooms

BY STEPHANIE LYNN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

We are lucky to live, work, and play in the headwaters of a river system that sustains world-class fishing, paddling and scenery. However, nuisance algae growing in the Gallatin and streams that nourish it threatens our outdoor economy and lifestyle. In this second installment about the 2018 algae bloom, we'll discuss strategies that will make the Gallatin more resilient going forward.

As a community, we can improve the resilience of our rivers and streams by reducing man-made nutrient pollution and conserving water. Let's protect our clean water, healthy fisheries and way of life, even as Big Sky grows and our climate changes.

Individually and as a community, we can avoid blooms by reducing nutrient pollution which fuels excess algae growth.

- 1. Properly maintaining septic systems. Similar to a car or appliance, septic systems require care, annual inspections and regular maintenance to properly treat wastewater. Failing systems leak nutrients and bacteria into groundwater and, eventually, rivers and streams.
- 2. Reducing fertilizer use. Fertilizer feeds plants growing in lawns and gardens, but can contribute to elevated nutrients in water bodies. Trout-friendly practices, such as planting native species that require less maintenance or using organic fertilizers, reduce the nutrient footprint of outdoor landscapes.
- **3. Managing animal waste.** Picking up pet waste and properly maintaining horse corrals near streams benefits your neighbors while preventing nutrients and bacteria from being carried by runoff to the river.
- **4. Maintaining and enhancing streamside buffers.** Preserving a green ribbon of plant life on the banks of rivers and streams prevents erosion, uses nutrients and protects water quality.
- **5. Improving stormwater management.** Rain and snowmelt pick up and carry pollutants when they flow across parking lots and roads. Capturing and treating stormwater can remove contaminants before they reach rivers and streams.
- 6. Upgrading wastewater treatment. Big Sky reuses treated wastewater to irrigate golf courses throughout the community, which may runoff into rivers and streams. Improvements to the Big Sky Water and Sewer District treatment plant will reduce nutrient levels in treated effluent used for irrigation by 70-75 percent for nitrogen and 90 percent for phosphorus.

Additionally, when we save water, we ensure adequate supply to our river system, which keeps water temperatures cool and prevents algae growth.

Reducing indoor and outdoor water use. Every drop of water saved in homes and on landscapes remains in the groundwater and river system. Efficient practices, including purchasing water-saving products through the Gallatin River Task Force rebate program, reducing personal use and improving outdoor irrigation practices, keeps water in

**Restoring wetlands and streamside areas.** Wetlands and streamside areas act like sponges by capturing water during wet periods and releasing water during dry periods. This helps to maintain water levels throughout the year.

**Slowing water as it flows through the system.** Wastewater reuse and stormwater management options that promote infiltration into the ground cause water to move more slowly through the watershed.

Algae blooms could become more severe as our community grows and water temperatures warm. Individual actions and community planning will be vital to protect our water, fisheries and lifestyle for future generations.

Visit gallatinrivertaskforce.org/riversmarts for more information about how you can protect river health.

Stephanie Lynn is the education and communications coordinator for the Gallatin River Task Force.

Volunteer to reduce nutrient pollution on May 5 by picking up pet waste and trash with the Gallatin River Task Force and Big Sky Community Organization at the Runoff Cleanoff at the Big Sky Community Park beginning at 9 a.m.

# INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



# **Spring bear safety in Yellowstone**

# BY CHRISTINE GIANAS WEINHEIMER EBS CONTRIBUTOR

It may seem like spring arrives late in the Greater Yellowstone area, but there's one marker of spring that almost always comes early: the emergence of bears from hibernation. So next time you head to the park, make sure you're prepared to avoid a too-close encounter with a bear.

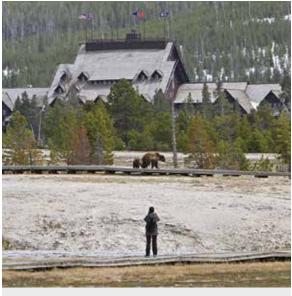
In Yellowstone, male grizzlies and black bears typically come out of hibernation in March, while females with cubs tend to emerge in April and early May. The bears look for food immediately after emerging and often feed on elk and bison that died over the winter.

"These winter kills are an important source of nutrition until the first spring plants emerge in abundance," said Brad Bulin, senior naturalist for the Yellowstone Forever Institute. "After several months without any food, hungry bears can be very aggressive at carcasses, defending these critical food sources as much as possible."

Preventing bears from obtaining human food is one of the top priorities of Yellowstone's wildlife managers. Bears that gain access to human food eventually become more aggressive toward humans, and may need to be removed from the population.

"The places Yellowstone bears are most at risk of finding food is in front-country campgrounds," Bulin said. "Fortunately, bear boxes are a proven method to improve safety by keeping food locked up and away from hungry bears."

Yellowstone Forever, the park's official nonprofit partner, offers a unique opportunity to "Sponsor a Bear Box," enabling Yellowstone to install bear-proof storage boxes in



Remember to be bear-aware in Yellowstone and always give grizzlies space. NPS PHOTO

campgrounds. You can learn more about how to help at yellowstone.org/bear-box.

Each year the park institutes closures in some bear management areas to reduce encounters between bears and humans. Before your trip, review Yellowstone's online list of closures and, once you arrive, inquire at a visitor center or backcountry office about any recent bear activity.

"Taking proper precautions is important, whether day hiking, in the backcountry, or even along a road," Bulin said. "In general, never surprise a bear. Give bears the chance to see, hear or smell you. When hiking, pay attention to your surroundings, stay in groups of three or more, make noise and carry bear spray."

Bear spray is sold throughout the park at Yellowstone Forever Park Stores, gift shops and service stations, as well as in gateway communities. Always select an EPA-approved product that is specifically designed to stop bears. Bear spray is also available to rent in the park at Canyon Village.

While it's exciting to spot a bear during your visit, never approach them and follow the park rule of maintaining a distance of at least 100 yards. To help you enjoy bears from a safe distance, bring binoculars or use a telephoto lens on your camera.

For additional bear safety information, including a video on how to properly use bear spray, visit the park's website at nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit.

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

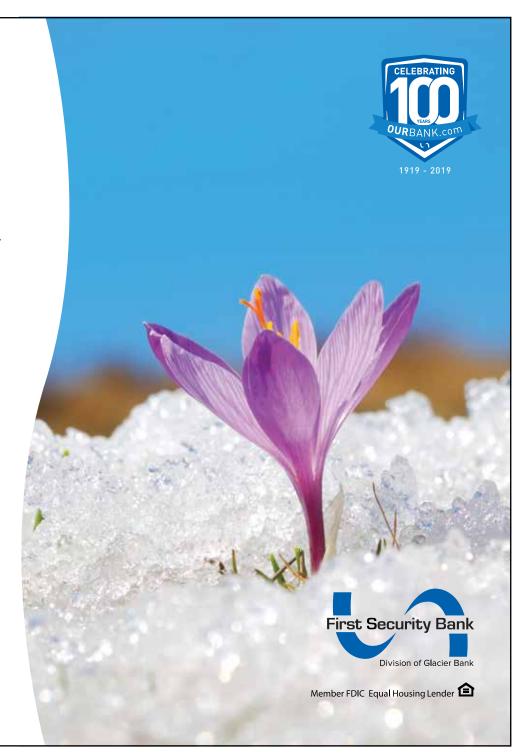
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# Golden eagle dies from lead poisoning

# Yellowstone's first golden eagle marked with a transmitter

### YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

A golden eagle was found dead on Dec. 6, 2018, near Phantom Lake in the northern section of Yellowstone National Park. A recent lab necropsy indicated the cause of death was lead poisoning. Levels found in the golden eagle were extremely high and well over lethal toxicity.

The adult female was the first golden eagle in Yellowstone's history to be marked with a radio transmitter. The marked raptor was part of a study to understand productivity, movements, survival and cause of death in Yellowstone. The study is being conducted and funded by Yellowstone National Park, University of Montana, Yellowstone Forever and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Transmitter data revealed that the eagle ranged extensively during the 2018 autumn hunting season north of the park before it died. Hunter-provided carrion, especially gut piles, is an important food resource for golden eagles and other avian scavengers. The lead levels in the marked eagle indicated it likely ate carrion that contained lead fragments.

If carrion contain lead fragments, they can be deadly to scavengers. Lead is an environmental toxin well known for its capability to directly impact wildlife. Studies by Craighead Beringia South, a nonprofit research institute based in Kelly, Wyoming, have shown that fragmented bullets often stay in the discarded remains of wild game and subsequently enter the food chain as they are consumed by other animals. Lead poisoning can result when wildlife species ingest the toxic materials.

In November of 2011 and March 2015, Craighead Beringia South researchers from Livingston, Montana, also documented mortalities from elevated lead levels in two golden eagles that ranged north of the park.

Non-lead ammunition is safer for birds.

Golden eagles are large, long-lived raptors that feed on many medium-sized mammals, birds and carrion. Yellowstone considers golden eagles a species of concern.



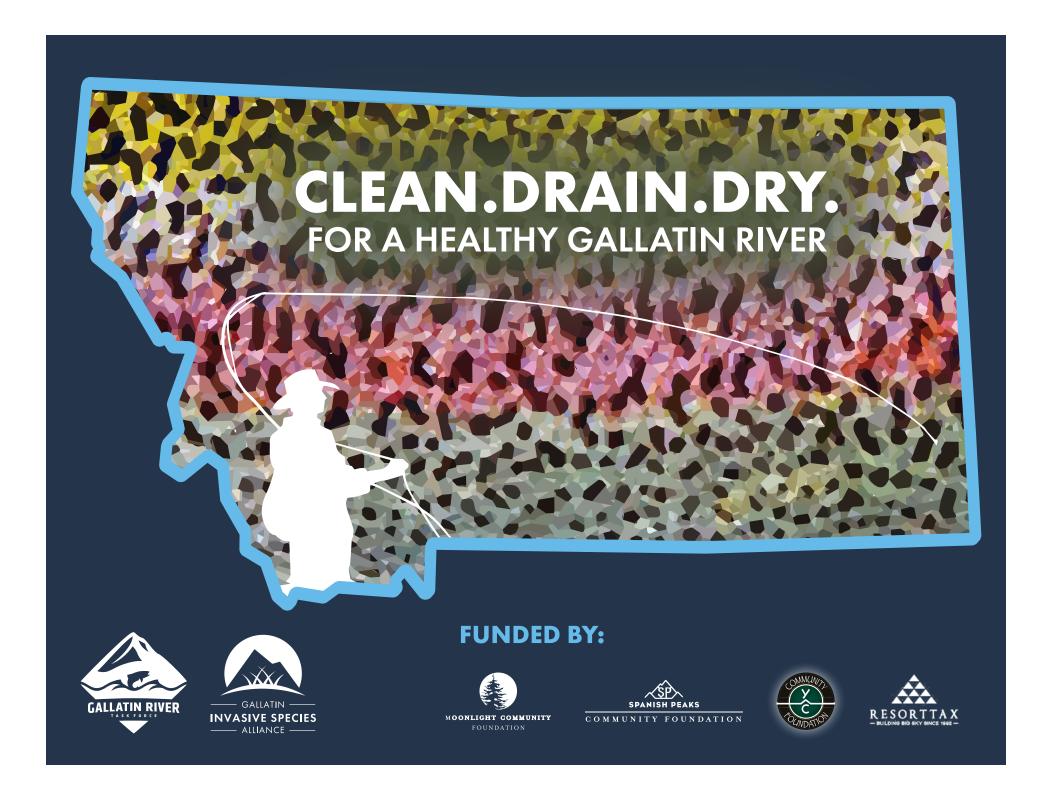
### Non-lead alternatives

Research biologist Ross Crandall of Craighead Beringia South says non-lead ammunition like copper or gilding metal is a great alternative for sportsmen. A hunter himself, he says he made the switch in 2005 not only for the benefits for wildlife, but also because of improved performance.

"A lot of hunters have switched because of performance. [Non-lead] has great ballistics and accuracy," he said, adding that while premium lead ammunition is likely to be less expensive than premium non-lead, "In the grand scheme of things, a \$45 box of ammo, I'd say, is really not worth that much especially when you might be saving the life of a golden eagle."

Visit fws.gov/refuge/national\_elk\_refuge to read more about non-lead ammunition programs.

Visit nps.gov/yell/learn/resources-and-issues.htm to review Yellowstone's Resources and Issues Handbook for more information about golden eagles.



# Bear Basics with Bernadette: Avoid bear encounters this spring

BY KRIS INMAN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

It was a great winter for skiers but the conditions that are best for winter sports enthusiasts provide unique challenges for wildlife. Record snow fall with temperatures well below zero resulted in deeper than normal snow depths that remained on the ground for an extended period this winter.

These conditions made it difficult for deer, elk and pronghorn to accesses the grasses lying beneath the snow. In turn, this forced the herbivores to rely on their fat reserves to not only fuel them when the grasses weren't available, but to also keep them warm. As a result, we can expect to see more winter-killed animals this spring.



Grizzly boars take turns eating a bison carcass. NPS PHOTO

The carcasses of winter-killed animals will be a boon for bears who recently emerged from dens and are looking for food throughout the Big Sky area. Because Big Sky is situated alongside some of the best bear habitat, you should be prepared to see a bear on any of the area trails. For people, this adds another element to be on the lookout for when out and enjoying spring outdoor activities.

If you smell or see a carcass, or see concentrations of scavenger birds like ravens, don't investigate it, as it is likely the carcass has or will attract a bear. Once a bear finds a carcass, it will defend this valuable food source.

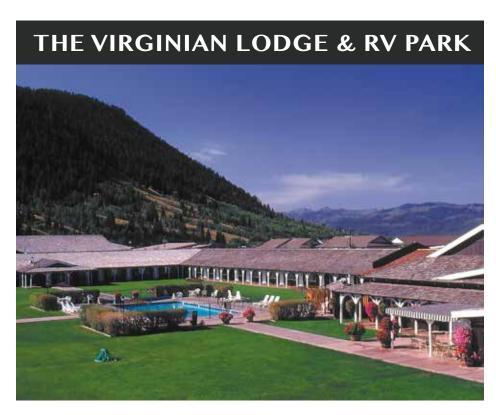
The biggest challenge to conserving bears today is reducing negative interactions with people. At one time, there were less than 200 grizzly bears in Yellowstone. Now, as a result of a successful recovery effort, 709 grizzly bears call the Greater Yellowstone home. At the same time, the communities around Yellowstone are more than keeping pace and are some of the fastest growing counties in the state.

As we share a more crowded landscape, interactions take many forms. They can take the form of surprise encounters between a bear and hunter or recreationist; food-conditioned bears that have obtained unsecured trash and threaten human safety as the bears become bolder and break into cars or enter homes; or when livestock become an easy food source for the bear. We have the new challenge of wanting to stay safe in the outdoors while supporting wildlife diversity.

There are a few practices you can start to reduce the chance of a negative encounter with a bear. Be aware of your surroundings as you recreate, don't investigate a carcass, hike in groups of three or more, and carry bear spray and know how to use it.

To learn more about bears and the actions you can take to reduce human conflicts with bears, follow Bernadette Bear on social media @bearsmartbigsky. Help support Bernadette in her campaign to create a more bear-safe and bear-aware community in Big Sky.

Kris Inman is the community partnerships coordinator for the Wildlife Conservation Society and oversees the Bear Smart Big Sky campaign.





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# **Spring flows and river safety**

# BY ERIC BECKER EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The enthusiasm on the ski hill this season was ever-present, and now that warmer weather has arrived, anticipation of the river scene radiates the same energy. Whether you are a paddler trying to run whitewater and test your skills, or someone who just wants to take in the spring sunshine on the banks, there are precautions everyone should take during high water season.

### Whitewater rafting and paddling

There are always risks associated with whitewater, even when rivers are running well within their expected limit. It is important that everyone on the water is properly equipped to self-rescue and prepared to rescue others.

A personal floatation device, helmet and throw bag are the bare minimum necessities for most whitewater scenarios. Most days on the rivers in this region you will also need a wetsuit or dry gear because of the water and air temperatures. Extra layers and proper outerwear are critical in preventing hypothermia and having a good time out there. Fleece, wool, neoprene and dry gear. That's the name of the game.

Decisions you make prior to put-in are going to be most important during spring flows. Flooding will undoubtedly move trees, brush and other debris down the river. These hazards are especially dangerous when they are in motion, but also result in changes in the river as they settle in, such as strainers. Be aware and make smart choices about getting on the river if there are logs coming down the size of your kayak or raft. Keep in contact with the whitewater community so that you are informed of major river changes that others may have discovered.

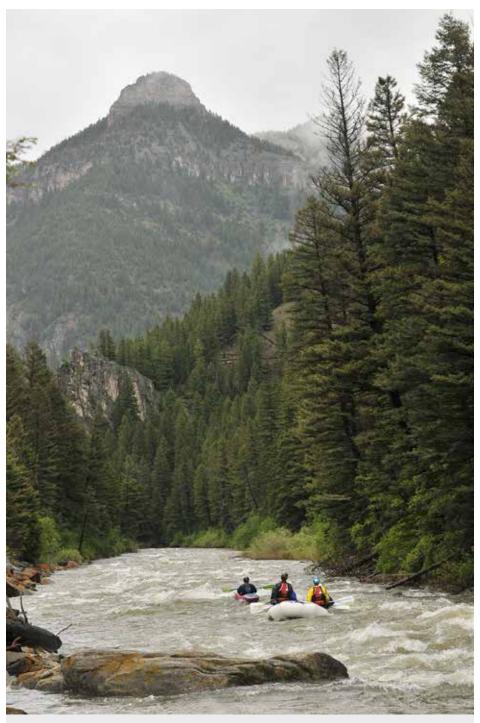
Once on the river, the most important addition to your whitewater trips will be additional boats for safety. Injuries are possible regardless of water level. You should run all of your river trips so that there are multiple boats and experienced paddlers in your group. The more boats and trained people on the water, the more resources available in the event of a river accident.

# Keep your family and pets safe

Anyone who slips into a river flowing quickly without a PFD is at serious risk. Take extra precautions by the riverside and recognize "no fall zones." For pets and children, constant monitoring near the riverside may be necessary.



The Gallatin changes drastically during spring runoff.



Everyone is excited for river season, but spring flows are intense and it's important to take safety measures both on the river and near its banks. PHOTOS COURTESY OF GEYSER WHITEWATER EXPEDITIONS

This is not just true of larger rivers during spring flows. The West Fork and its tributaries that run through Big Sky and along hiking trails can also pose serious threats to pedestrians and their furry friends, especially during spring flows. It is easy for someone without river experience to look at a river and not understand its power or how dangerous it can become downstream. Don't underestimate and tread carefully while hiking.

It's no news to area fisherman that river-wading can be dangerous. For those comfortable fishing and wading knee- to waist-deep in the Gallatin every year, it is important to recognize that the river is different during spring flows. It is surprising what knee-deep water can do when it's flowing at 8,000 cfs and, as those in the trade will tell you, taking a swim in waders can be life threatening.

### A fun and safe season

The warmer weather as spring unfolds is exciting. We're really fortunate to have the Gallatin River in Big Sky to enjoy and share as a community. Let's make the most of it this season and stay safe.

Eric Becker founded Geyser Whitewater Expeditions in 1992. Since then, Becker has followed his passion for whitewater around the world, having guided professionally on 22 rivers and paddled over 100 more in 13 different countries. Visit raftmontana.com for more information.

A version of this article was first published in the May 11, 2018, edition of EBS.

# Madison River committee presents to commission; final meeting set for May 2

**EBS STAFF** 

After meeting four times this winter, the Madison River Negotiated Rulemaking Committee presented to the state Fish and Wildlife Commission during a meeting on April 25. The committee, which is composed of private individuals, is charged with providing recommendations for new rules that will address overcrowding on the Madison River.

Originally, the committee was directed to present recommendations during the April 25 commission meeting; however, in part due to sensitivities involving limits on commercial use and existing limitations on public access, the committee had not reached a consensus on their recommendations in time for the meeting.

Instead, the commission heard an update from the committee, while an additional Madison River meeting is scheduled at the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Region 3 headquarters in Bozeman on May 2 beginning at 9 a.m. in order to finalize recommendations. The commission meeting occurred one day after EBS went to press on April 24.

Visit explorebigsky.com for a recap of the Madison River committee presentation.



Pictured here, a family fishes from a drift boat on a section of the Madison River. PHOTO BY PAT STRAUB



# RUNOFF CLEANOFF

Doodie Calls!

# Sunday, May 5 \* 9am - 12pm Big Sky Community Park

Join the GRTF & BSCO for a morning of spring cleaning, fun and education followed by a social volunteer appreciation pancake breakfast. Prizes will be awarded for those who remove the most pet waste. Furry friends are encouraged but must be on a leash.

\* Be a good neighbor \*

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# Life 101: Are you a bulldozer or a sugarcoater?



BY LINDA ARNOLD EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Say what you mean, and mean what you say. Why is this so hard?

It may well depend on how you're "wired." Are you quick to speak what's on your mind, bulldozing your way through conversations? Or, do you hold back, sugarcoating your comments?

Your style may have to do with early childhood conditioning, or learned behaviors over the years. And, in today's era of political correctness, fewer folks are shooting from the hip.

Then there's your tone of voice and all that nonverbal behavior. It's a wonder we're understood at all.

One person's direct approach may sound abrupt to another. On the other hand, taking the time to carefully consider all options seems perfectly reasonable to one person, while excruciating to another.

If you're not sure where you fall on the spectrum, here's a clue. Has anyone ever asked you to elaborate, get to the point or "land the plane?"

Of course, the context of the conversation speaks volumes. You may be more direct with your family than in a business setting. Or, sensitivities within your family could cause you to shut down.

If you're too direct in certain situations, you could end up sticking your foot in your mouth. On the flipside, if you're not direct enough, you risk sending the wrong message.

Do you sometimes sugarcoat your communications? While these messages are rooted in good intentions, beating around the bush doesn't serve any purpose.

"I call it 'verbal dancing," said corporate trainer Cookie Tuminello. "We dance around the subject we most want to discuss—thinking the other person will pick up on our cues—and eventually we'll get what we want. Heaven forbid we rock the status quo by actually saying what we really want to."

Here's a reality check. Are you placing too much emphasis on getting approval from others—which, by the way, may not even be rooted in reality?

Every time you dance around an issue, you diminish your capacity and self-worth. And you give away your power. Try being more direct, yet tactful, to be taken more seriously.

Here are two questions to ask yourself:

What's the price I pay for sugarcoating my conversations? Is that how I really want to spend my life?

Spinning your webs results in spinning your wheels and leads to emotional exhaustion.

Then again, there's the bulldozer approach. We all know those people who can suck the air right out of a room.

Next time you're in a group setting, notice the dynamics. We actually do this all the time on autopilot, taking in the words, tone and body language.

Men and women may well reach the same conclusions, although they often arrive at their decisions differently. With a caution flag raised toward stereotyping, the male brain typically gets there in a more linear fashion, while the female brain is more circuitous, taking in more stimuli. Hence, the ongoing challenge depicted by psychologist John Gray in his seminal book, *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus*.

None of this is good, bad, right or wrong. It's just information to take into account whenever you feel misunderstood. Remember to keep it all in perspective. As Dr. Seuss reminds us:

"Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."

Linda Arnold, M.A., M.B.A., is a syndicated columnist, psychological counselor and founder of a multistate marketing company. Reader comments are welcome at linda@lindaarnold.org. For more information on her books, go to lindaarnold.org.

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# **Parks & Trails Gala**

Friday, July 12th

An evening of dinner, drinks, music, friends and philanthropy to support our parks and trails. Tickets on sale online at www.bscomt.org beginning May 24.



# **Gallatin River Festival**

Saturday, June 29th - Sunday, June 30th

Vist our Facebook page to let us know you are coming. Visit gallatinriverfestival.com to get tickets or learn how to be a sponsor to support our work on area rivers and watersheds.

SECTION 3: SPORTS, DINING, FUN & BUSINESS









# RESORT ROUNDUP

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

# BSSEF freeride athletes finish season strong

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

Easter Sunday marked the end of the 2018-19 ski season for Big Sky Resort. It was a quiet end to a busy season, with a few skiers enjoying the last day of spring skiing and many bunny ears spotted from the chairlifts.

The day before was a livelier affair with throngs of revelers cheering on participants in the pond skim, held every year on the Ambush Headwall. Seventy-five pond skimmers entertained the raucous crowd with great runs, and some not-so-great runs, until lightning cut the party short. A video of sit skier Robert Enigl's impressive run has drawn nation-wide attention.

While the lifts are not spinning until the mountain biking season begins, there is still activity at the base area as a complete renovation of the Mountain Mall has begun and is slated to be finished by next Thanksgiving.

From April 9-13, the BSSEF freeride team had many athletes travel to Golden, British Columbia to compete in the 2019 IFSA North American Junior Freeride Championships at Kicking Horse Mountain Resort.

"NorAms were a huge success for the Big Sky freeride team. We put down some really good runs as a team and the level of competition was very high," said Coach Wallace Casper. "Just being invited to NorAms alone is a huge accomplishment for these athletes given that IFSA only invited the 150 best riders in all of North America to compete."

Casper singled out Isaac Singer, Nehalem Manka, Duncan Gentry and Dawson Raden for their strong performances in Canada, noting that the 15-18 ski divisions were extremely competitive.

"I am stoked with my performance this past season, especially at NorAms, and I attribute much of my success to the support of my amazing coaches," said Nehalem Manka. "I am also very proud of how the Big Sky team as a whole performed and am looking forward to next season and continuing to progress my skiing with the help of my coaches and teammates."



Isaac Singer (center) stands atop the podium after winning his division at the 2019 IFSA North American Junior Freeride Championships in Kicking Horse, BC. His victory also made him the overall IFSA champion for the U14 Male Snowboard division for the 2018-19 season. PHOTO COURTESY OF JILL MEYERS SINGER

# **2019 IFSA North American Junior Freeride Championships Results:**

Isaac Singer 1st - 12-14 Male Snowboard
Elijah Singer 2nd - U12 Male Snowboard
Nehalem Manka 3rd - 15-18 Female Ski
Duncan Gentry 5th - 15-18 Male Ski
Preston Smith 12th - U12 Male Ski
Dawson Raden 14th 15-18 Male Ski
Julia Smith 16th - U12 Female Ski
Blaise Ballantyne 25th - U12 Male Ski
Andrew Smith 26th - 12-14 Male Ski



A pond skimmer executes a front flip after successfully navigating the pond skim course on the Ambush Headwall. PHOTO BY DOUG HARE

# THE LONE PEAK PLAYBOOK



# **Spring sports in full swing**

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

#### Golf

On April 23, Manhattan Christian hosted 75 golfers at Cottonwood Hills Golf Club in Bozeman on a cloudy day with favorable early season conditions.

TJ Nordahl took 6th place overall for the girls. Her 104 round qualified her for a place in the State C Tournament (girls who shoot a round of 120 or under qualify), and Coach Jenny Wilcynski is confident that TJ will be able to shoot lower scores throughout the season.

Pierce King shot the low score for the Big Horns boys team with a 97 and Evan Iskenderian fired a 98—both qualifying rounds for the Boys State C Tournament which will be held at the Double Arrow Golf Course in Seeley Lake May 14-15.

"Pierce played very consistent and is looking to take his score lower in upcoming events," said Coach Wilcynski. "Evan had a great back nine with a 43. He knew exactly what he wanted to do and set out and accomplished it in his first event of the season."

Nathan Browne was one stroke away from qualifying for States with a 101. "He is persistent and will no doubt reach this goal! Overall the team played great with having a week off before with Spring Break," said Wilcynski.

The Big Horns golfers will travel to Ennis to play a match at the Madison Meadows Golf Course on April 27.

### **Scores:**

# Boys

Pierce King- 46/51-97 Evan Iskenderian 55/43-98 Nathan Browne 51/50-101 Nolan Schumacher 60/55-115 Jackson Lang 55/62-117

# Girls

TJ Nordhal: 51/53-104 Lyli McCarthy: 67/58-125 Brooke Meredith: 75/60-135



Pierce King tees off at the Cottonwood Hills Golf Course on his way to a low round for the Big Horns boys golf team on April 23. PHOTO BY JENNY WILCYNSKI

### Track and Field:

The Big Horns track and field team already has three track meets under their belts. Early in the season, many athletes have been putting up personal bests and setting school records.

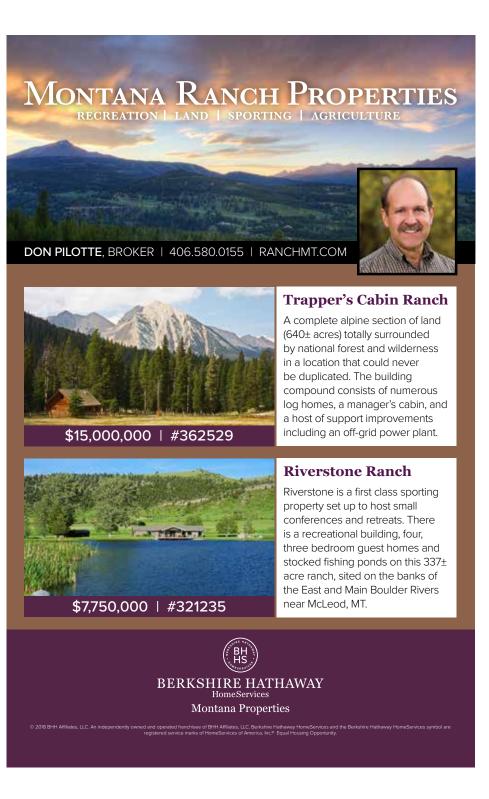
On April 2 at the Gallatin Valley Invitational, Brooke Botha placed second in shot put and broke her own school record with a throw of 29' 11.5". Thais Boava set a new record in the women's 100m dash with a time of 13.94 and finished second overall.

At the TMFF Invite in Bozeman on April 6, both boys and girls finished tenth in a field of 14 teams.

- Thais Boava placed first in long jump with a jump of 17'5", breaking an LPHS school record and qualifying for the State C Tournament. However, her second jump has sidelined her with an ACL tear.
- Madi Strauss placed 4th, with a triple jump of 31'3", breaking her own school record.
- Ryker Potter broke his school records in shot and discus, with a throw of 33'5" in shot and 106'1" in discus.
- Kolya Bough placed 3rd in the 800m, with a time of 2:23 and 2nd in the 1600m, with a time of 5:26.
- The 4x100m relay team of Mikey Botha, Kolya Bough, Milosz Shipman and Ryker Potter finished 4th with a time of 52.89.
- Tristen Clack finished 5th in the 800m with a time of 3:03.
- Madi Rager finished 2nd in the 1600m with a time of 6:12.

The LPHS track team traveled to Laurel, MT on April 11. The girls finished 7 out of 12 teams, beating some Class B schools. Athletes earn points for finishing in the top 6 of their event.

- Ryker Potter finished 6th in discus, with a throw of 102'2" and 6th in shot put with a throw of 35'7.5", a personal best. Ryker was 10th in javelin, throwing a personal best of 101'4".
- In the 1600m, Kolya Bough ran a 5:22 a season best, (9th) Cody Clack ran 6:02 and Tracen O'Connor ran 6:07. In the 800 m, Kolya ran 2:31 (11th), Cody ran a 2:34 (15th), a personal best for the year, and Tracen a 3:03 (20th)
- In the 100m dash, Bennett Miller ran 13.10, Kyan Smit ran a 13.79, and Milosz Shipman ran a 14.10. In the 4x100 relay, LPHS finished 8th with a time of 51.96. The relay team included Bennett, Kyan, Milosz, and Mikey Botha. In the 200m dash, Mikey set a personal record of 28.14 and Kyan set his personal best at 28.01.
- In high jump, Kyan cleared 5'0", setting a personal best and tying for 7th place. In long jump, Mikey jumped 14' 11.25", a personal record.
- For the girls, Brooke Botha finished 3rd in discus, with a throw of 88'11" and 4th in shot put with a throw of 31'7.5", a personal best. Brooke was 5th in javelin, throwing 97'6", a season best.
- In the 1600m run, Madi Rager ran a season best 6:05, finishing 3rd overall. In the 800m, Madi ran a 2:47 finishing 5th, while Tristen Clack ran a 3:02, a personal record, and finished 10th. Tristen also finished 10th in the 400m dash with a time of 1:13.
- In the 100m dash, Amelia Fischer ran a 15.36 and Sophia Cone ran a 15.38. Sophia and Amelia both ran the 200 m dash with times of 32.46 and 33.09 respectively. Both ladies were part of the 4x100m relay team, which also included Madison Strauss and Tristen Clack. The relay team finished 8th with a time of 59.08.
- In the long jump, Madison jumped 12'8" and Amelia 10'9". In triple jump, Madison tied for 7th with a jump of 30'4".







### Please check the website for updated off season schedule.

# SUNDAY

10:00-11:30am All Levels Yoga

5:00-6:15pm Heated Yin/ Restorative Yoga

# **MONDAY**

7:30-8:30am All Levels Pilates 9:00-10:15am

All Levels Yoga 4:15-5:15pm

Gentle Apres Ski Yoga

5:45-7:00pm All Levels Yoga

### **TUESDAY**

7:30-8:30am All Levels Yoga

9:00-10:00am All Levels Yoga

5:45-7:00pm Heated Flow

# WEDNESDAY

7:30-8:30am & 9:00-10:15 All Levels Yoga

11:00-12:30pm The Practice (Level 2-3 Yoga)

4:15-5:15pm Apres Ski Yoga

6:30-7:45pm Awareness Wednesday

### **THURSDAY**

7:30-8:30am Core Focused Yoga

9:00-10:00am All Levels Yoga

5:45-6:45pm Heated Flow

### FRIDAY

9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga

12:00-1:00pm

Heated Flow

5:00-6:00pm All Levels Yoga

### **SATURDAY**

9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga

5:00-6:15pm All Levels Yoga

7:30-8:30pm Yoga Jam



# Making it in Big Sky: OZssage Therapeutic Spa

### BY SARAH GIANELLI

BIG SKY - Jacquie Rager started OZssage Therapeutic Spa in 2001 with two rooms in the Skywood building, the current location of 3 Rivers Communications. Two years later OZssage relocated to the Golden Eagle Lodge and partnered in starting the gym. In the years that followed, Rager started massage programs at the Lodge of Big Sky (2005-2009) and at Spanish Peaks Mountain Club (2007-2014).

In 2008, Rager expanded OZssage services to include acupuncture and Chinese medicine, which Rager said had a large influence on her development of a blend of Eastern and Western, or "ortho-Asian" techniques.

In 2009, OZssage moved into its present space in the Meadow Village Center, which now includes five treatment rooms, a couples suite, a tranquility room, a private rain shower and steam room and the Madison Suite for hosting private spa groups.

That same year, OZssage also started offering esthetics services with skin care as the primary focus. Now they provide oxygen infusion facials, LED therapy and Qi Gold magnet facials. In 2015 Rager launched the skincare line OZ Therapeutics, which she has found to be a success in the Big Sky market.

As part of this ongoing series, Rager shared her thoughts with EBS on the reasoning behind her success and longevity operating a Big Sky small business.

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

**Jacquie Rager:** When I started OZssage, I wanted to create an environment that expanded on the spa world with more focus on treatment while retaining a spa ambiance. I wanted to keep the therapists engaged in the learning process and the challenges clients presented to them so that it would be a win-win for both the therapists and the clients. I have never been scared to keep changing and moving OZssage forward—learning and researching has been key, and remaining passionate about developing our menu and bringing in skin care technologies and new products as well as refining massage techniques.

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

**J.R.:** Definitely the seasonality, increasing operating costs and the challenge of hiring good employees.

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

**J.R.:** I have seen an increase in tourists at OZssage, but I am happy to say a good percentage of our clientele is return clients, with strong support from part-timers and locals.

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

J.R.: I still love what I do—learning and improving our therapists' skills and the business. It's rewarding and inspiring to hear my clients who travel all over the world say that now they won't get massages or facials anywhere else. OZssage has become a part of their Big Sky experience.

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

J.R.: I've had many, many memorable moments with clients and therapists along



Jacquie Rager has been expanding, growing and refining her business and services since opening OZssage in 2001. PHOTO COURTESY OF OZSSAGE

the way. A recent memorable moment was during the beginning of winter and stopping to take a look around the spa, knowing that after many renovations and expansions that OZssage is now complete.

EBS: Why do you think so many new businesses fold relatively quickly?

**J.R.:** I am sure every business has different reasons, but the seasonality has an impact. We still have off seasons and you need to plan for that.

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

**J.R.:** Expect long days. Save and plan for the off seasons. Hiring management staff and retiring will be a long way down the track.

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

**J.R.:** Always remember to look big picture

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

**J.R.:** Handing over my business to someone that will keep the spirit of OZssage alive. I will still probably be around and working but at 60 I'm not so sure I will be putting in as many hours as I do now, but you never know.

This article was previously published in the March 2, 2018 edition of Explore Big Sky.

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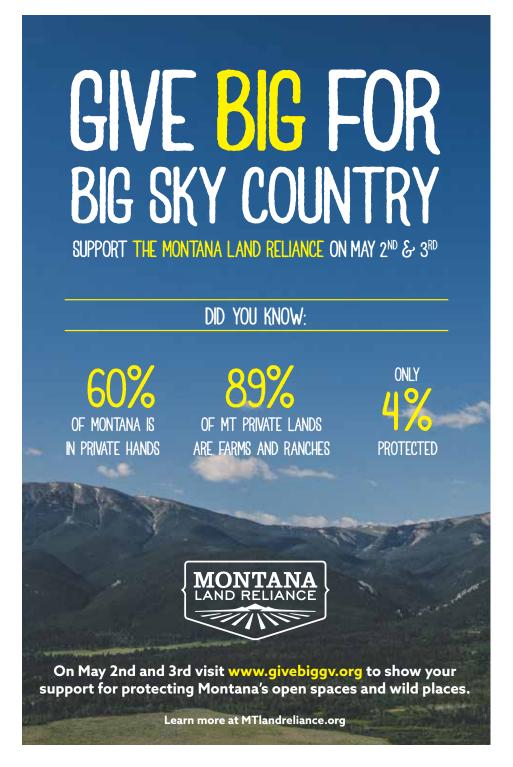
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# **AMUSE-BOUCHE**

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.

# What makes a great burger?



BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Listening to a couple food enthusiasts talking about what cuts of beef make the best hamburger, there were four cuts of beef in particular that came up. Those cuts were chuck, shoulder, rib eye and brisket. Then one of them had a question: "What happened to burgers just being made out of ground beef?"

Being that the aforementioned cuts are beef, and they get ground for burger, making them ground beef, I thought it was a funny question. But I knew what he meant.

Burger is ground beef, but there is way more to it than that.

Virtually all hamburger is made from the following items: pure fat, muscles that are tough, lack flavor, or are otherwise undesirable, shoulder, rump, and brisket. The last three mentioned have always been a part of the equation but have more desirable qualities than the other cuts not mentioned here.

Large meat processors are able to sell far more cuts from a cow than the small independent rancher. Therefore, more of the higher quality cuts from the small ranchers goes into their grind in order to use as much of the animal as possible to recoup the cost of purchasing, raising and processing that animal for better overall profitability. Basically, burger grind is whatever cuts the processor or rancher cannot sell on their own, plus, generally, 18% to 23% pure fat. An 80/20, or 80% beef to 20% fat ratio makes the best overall burger.

More and more chefs, quality restaurants and establishments are looking for a custom grind like rump, shoulder, chuck and brisket. And they all have different qualities.

The main reason for using these cuts is marketability to command a higher price tag for a menu item. By identifying the specific cuts, it lends to what we refer to as a "higher perceived value" to the customer.

The chuck/brisket combo is a popular one. Here is why: chuck becomes tough when cooked quickly due to its high levels of connective tissue and collagen—as does the shoulder and rump. But that connective tissue and collagen have tons of flavor and mouthfeel. When ground, they produce a rich product because that collagen breaks down and melts like butter.

Brisket has very little fat once you separate the cap from the bottom, and it has a firmer mouthfeel that is also inferior when cooked quickly, thus smoked brisket. In a burger, however, it eats well. In other words, it has a very desirable texture.

So now, combine the rich fatty consistency of chuck and shoulder, which have great flavor, with the meaty firm texture of ground brisket, a 15% to 20% pure fat content, along with other cuts thrown in, and you have yourself a high-quality burger patty.

Some chefs even prefer to use rib eye as a component to their burger. I do not believe in that.

This is silly to me. It's just not a smart use of such a high quality primal that can be cut and sold for a much higher profit. A rib eye is one of the best cuts of the entire animal and is far better served as a stand-alone cut. And your profit margin is far greater selling it as a steak. By introducing rib eye to a burger grind, you are merely pursuing the marketability of the name of the cut, but the financial return doesn't make the juice worth the squeeze.

The quality of burgers varies greatly, and your burger can have any variety of cuts that make up your "ground beef."

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



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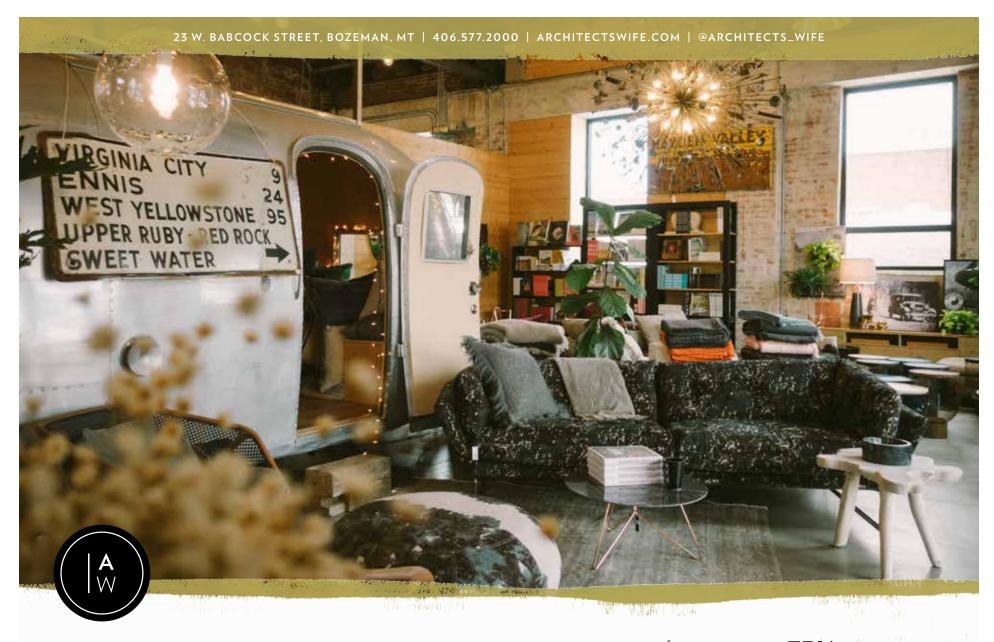




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# **American Life in Poetry:**

## Column 733

#### BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

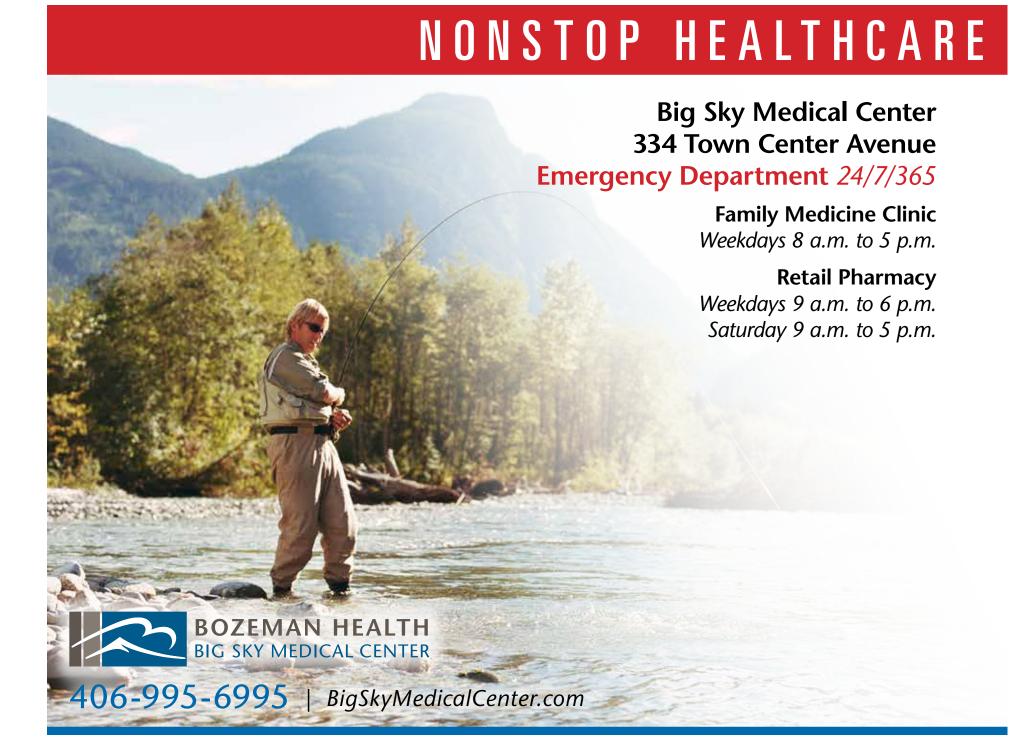
There's nothing that can't be a good subject for a poem. The hard part is to capture something in such a way that it becomes engaging and meaningful. Here's a poem from the Summer 2018 issue of *Rattle*, by Peg Duthie of Tennessee, in which two very different experiences are pushed up side by side. Her most recent book of poetry is *Measured Extravagance*, (Upper Rubber Boot, 2012).

### **Decorating a Cake While Listening to Tennis**By Peg Duthie

The commentator's rabbiting on and on about how it's so easy for Roger, resentment thick as butter still in a box. Yet word from those who've done their homework is how the man loves to train—how much he relishes putting in the hours just as magicians shuffle card after card, countless to mere humans but carefully all accounted for. At hearing "luck" again, I stop until my hands relax their clutch on the cone from which a dozen more peonies are to materialize. I make it look easy to grow a garden on top of a sheet of fondant, and that's how it should appear: as natural and as meant-to-be as the spin of a ball from the sweetest spot of a racquet whisked through the air like a wand.

We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts. American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2018 by John Stanizzi, "Ascension." Poem reprinted by permission of John Stanizzi. Introduction copyright ©2019 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004–2006.

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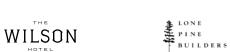


















NATURAL RETREATS



## SECTION 4: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT







# In the Spotlight: Sarah Angst

#### BY TIMOTHY BEHUNIAK

BOZEMAN – For most, it's difficult to recite the alphabet backwards. But, have you ever tried thinking backwards? For printmaker Sarah Angst, this is a daily, artistic routine, as printmaking requires that every etch, imprint, design and alphabetical character to be laid out in reverse.

Despite the challenge, Angst's passion for artistry compels her to continue to hone her craft with each new piece.

"Since I was a little kid, I've always loved creating and selling things," Angst said. "I've always just loved color, design and composition."

Angst was born and raised in Winnipeg, Canada, although she attended the University of Minnesota Duluth in order to be closer to her grandparents. Although she graduated with a BFA in Art Education, Angst initially disliked printmaking when introduced to the craft in college.

"I took one printmaking class and hated it," laughed Angst. "There were too many different styles of printmaking that were squished into one quarter class. But then I went to an art fair and there was this man – Ken Swanson – and I fell in love with the graphic qualities of his work."

Finding inspiration in Swanson's work and in the satisfaction of creating multiple pieces from a single image, Angst dived head-first into printmaking. "I've always had a hard time departing from that one, original piece. But as an artist that needs to make money, you have to separate yourself from that idea a bit," Angst said.

After a period spent teaching and traveling after graduating, Angst returned to Minnesota. "There are quite a few printmakers in Duluth, so it's nice to be exposed to that," said Angst.

While living in the Land of 10,000 Lakes, Angst worked on a project for a small town and its centennial celebration. She didn't win the contest, but brokered a deal to create artwork for a calendar, her first time selling work after college. However, meshing the business and art worlds was an intense learning experience, said Angst, but a necessary one.

Soon after, Angst and her husband moved to Bozeman to pursue a passion for outdoor recreation. In Bozeman, Angst was able to balance her work with raising a family, all while enjoying her beautiful surroundings. "I love the accessibility to the trails and wilderness," said Angst. "It's really exciting to be a part of a community that's growing and thriving."



Angst currently works out of her home studio, but her work will now be shown and available for purchase at Altitude Gallery in Bozeman beginning in May. PHOTO BY TIMOTHY BEHUNIAK



Angst's specifically uses Dr. Ph Martin's watercolors to achieve her desired look. PHOTO BY TIMOTHY BEHUNIAK

There's a lot of time and effort dedicated to the period between the conception and sale of a piece. To get to a final product, Angst starts with a sketch from an idea or from inspiration sourced on the Internet. Then, she transfers the drawing onto linoleum – a rubbery material. She'll then work with knives and gouges to remove negative space. "When there's text, there's definitely been times where I've had to start over because the letters are reversed," laughed Angst. Next, she'll roll black ink onto the remaining raised edges and stamp the linoleum onto a piece of paper. It's like making a big stamp, Angst described.

"I really like the vibrancy of watercolor," Angst said. "So I'll print the black outline, then hand paint each original with watercolor inks."

This technique differs slightly from a more commonly-practiced printmaking method called reduction, where artists roll over their linoleum plate with a different color with each press and create final pieces this way. Though, because Angst paints in between her lines with watercolors rather than stamping with different colors, her pieces tend to have a graphic quality with extremely bright and vivid hues, which separates her work from the others'.

When looking at the printmaker's work, it's obvious she draws inspiration from nature. Although her portfolio contains depictions of snowmen and inanimate objects like stockings and bicycles, it's mostly comprised of alpenglow-covered mountains or wild animals roaming the land. If there are two traits that unite all of her pieces, though, it's the simple, yet strong compositions and vibrant colors.

"I love the way a black outline makes colors pop," said Angst. "I really love having some sort of complimentary color within a piece - it provides a rich quality."

Most of Angst's work is a small size, averaging between 3-by-5 and 10-by-12. Painting and carving bigger pieces, anywhere from 12-by-24-inches to 2 feet by 3 feet can be quite difficult and extremely time consuming, "but I want to expand on bigger work with different techniques," Angst said.

In addition to being a talented artist, the printmaker also thrives in conducting business. Merging the two is often the most difficult part of executing a career in art, but Angst revels in the challenge.

"I have a passion for the business side," said Angst. "It can even provide new ways of thinking about what to create, how to market your work and how to grow and move forward."

Growing and moving forward might as well be the mantra of Angst's creative pursuits. For someone who initially loathed printmaking, she's done pretty well for herself. Her greeting cards are currently available in 300 stores nationwide, and she regularly produces and sells made-to-order prints through her website.

Angst's work is slotted for display at Bozeman's Altitude Gallery beginning in May. Owned and operated by Amy Kirkland, the gallery features fun, contemporary pieces, which can be challenging to do in a region saturated with talented, Western-themed

"Amy and I are really good at collaborating and trying out different ideas," Angst said. "It's the ideal place to hang my work."

# Big Sky Big Grass jams through the weekend

#### STORY AND PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY BEHUNIAK

BIG SKY – Fans flocked from Bozeman and beyond to get a taste of this year's bluegrass artists during Big Sky Big Grass at Big Sky Resort April 11-14.

"Moving the Big Grass event to April has enlivened the month with live music every weekend starting with Galactic, continuing this past weekend with Big Grass, and ending the season with a splash at Pond Skim," said Stacie Mesuda, Big Sky Resort's manager of public relations.

After a weekend warmup with The Lil Smokies and The Drew Emmitt Band on Thursday evening, the foot-stomping, sing-a-long tunes continued to roar through the resort all weekend.

Laney Lou & The Bird Dogs put on an electrifying performance on Saturday night, singing originals and covering songs like Queen's Fat Bottomed Girls and The Who's Baba O' Riley, often while dancing on stage and urging the crowd to sing and dance along.

The festival ended with The Travelin' McCourys at Montana Jack on Sunday night, a show filled with originals as well as covers of Grateful Dead jams.

"It was awesome to see some amazing musicians up-close and personal," said Sidney Finden, festival attendee.

While there was exciting performances all weekend long, there's more to the festival than meets the eye. From event organization and ticket sales to serving drinks and managing the sound boards, a lot of components had to come together to make this festival a success. But, for the fans, it was all worth it. "I came to unwind and dance after a long day hitting the slopes," said Jake Beck, festival attendee.

With fiddles and banjos ripping through the nights and crowds' cheers echoing off Lone Mountain, this year's Big Sky Big Grass won't be forgotten anytime soon.

"For the 13th year in a row, Big Sky Big Grass delivered a weekend full of amazing bluegrass shows," said Mesuda. "From seasoned vets such as the Sam Bush Band, to the expressive jams of the Jeff Austin Band, the high-energy shows were a great culmination to powder-filled days on the mountain."















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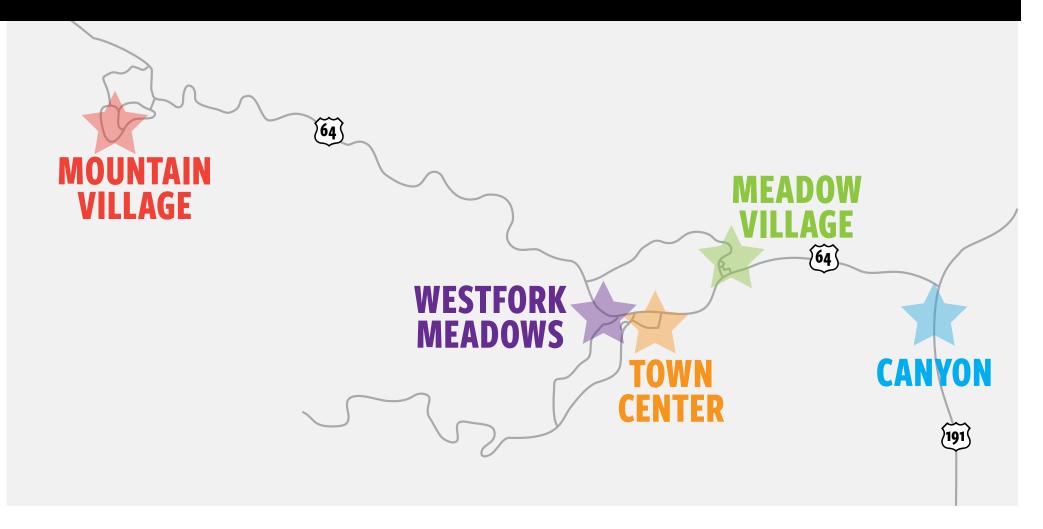
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# **BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR**

FRIDAY, APRIL 26 - THURSDAY, MAY 9

If your event falls between May 10 and May 23, please submit it by May 15 by emailing media@outlaw.partners.

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 28**

Big Sky Resort Season Pass Sale MAP Brewing, 4 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 1**

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

#### **THURSDAY, MAY 2**

Live music: Josh Moore Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, MAY 4**

Annual Shred Day Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. Wildfire Community
Preparedness Day
Lone Peak Brewery, 1 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, MAY 5**

Teacher Appreciation Day Museum of the Rockies, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, MAY 7**

Hope & History Trivia Brew Party featuring MAP Brewing Montana Ale Works, 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, MAY 9**

Live Music: Christy Hays Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous can help if you think you might have a drinking problem.

Call (888) 607-2000 to talk to a member of A.A., or go to aa-montana.org for meeting times and locations.



### **ENNIS, MONTANA**

### 4th Annual Tap into Ennis

Lions Club Park, Downtown Ennis | May 20, 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Join Ennis Chamber of Commerce for Montana's first combined brewery and distillery festival. After a day of fishing, hiking, biking or climbing, spend a few hours tasting what Montana has to offer. There will be live music, food and a silent auction. \$25 admission gets four hours of music and tasting, a commemorative sillipint glass, two free drink tickets and being surrounded in world-class scenery.



Lone Peak Performance + Fitness
is a full-service gym that offers gym memberships,
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OPEN DAILY 5AM-11PM

#### **EVENTS · APRIL 2019**

MON - FRI 8:30 AM -5 PM

Drop-In Downtown (Drop the kids off for a funfilled day with Dino Drop-In, relax and immerse yourself in the Big Sky Life. Open Sundays 9:30 AM - 5 PM. Evenings available upon request. Call 406-624-6150.)

EVERY MONDAY 5 PM-Close Industry Night at The Lotus Pad Asian Cuisine (Drink and appetizer specials. Bar seating only. 47 Town Center Ave., Unit D1)

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

EVERY WED 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)

EVERY WEEK Live music at Choppers Grub & Pub

EVERY WEEK Big Sky Ice Rink (From curling to ice skating and hockey to broom ball, there is always something happening at the BSSHA ice rink in Town Center)

Find more of the Big Sky Life @BigSkyTownCenter







# REEL REVIEW



Alex Honnold is the first person to free solo El Capitan. PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

## "Free Solo"

BY ANNA HUSTED EBS FILM CRITIC

"Free Solo" was one of my least favorite films of 2018. Exposing the same hubris of Timothy Treadwell in "Grizzly Man," but without the storytelling prowess of Wim Wenders, "Free Solo" struck me as a documentary that promotes foolish endeavors.

I spent most of the film annoyed with Alex and his girlfriend, Sanni McCandless, which is a name that harkens back to another great fool of the outdoors, Chris McCandless ("Into the Wild"). These two characters are completely incompatible and seem to know it, but also appear to dial up that incompatibility for the cameras. We follow them through the in's and out's of a major life decision—when is the right time for Alex to climb Yosemite's El Capitan face without any ropes?

Those of us who have chosen the mountain lifestyle are belittled in "Free Solo" by what the world seems to be impressed by: An egomaniac with a death wish. It is not a matter of if Alex will die while free soloing, but when. And we are supposed to be impressed by this mountain lifestyle above our own because no one has ever done this climb without ropes before? I am appalled at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for its ignorance of climbing and praise for such an unwise endeavor.

I spent the first half of the film waiting for the actual climb. The buildup, which I assume was for anticipation, was boring. Were they going to diagnose Alex with Asperger's or some other disability? The rendering of that storyline never came to fruition. I suggest fast-forwarding through the first hour of a lackluster story to watch the actual free solo climb, which was beautifully shot. It felt like Alex could have made the climb at any point in the movie and was pretending like he wasn't ready for the cameras.

The first of two positive takeaways from the film is that "Free Solo" reveals that human suffering is important. Those who do not struggle in their everyday life will create their own, although free soloing El Capitan is a privileged struggle. Throughout the movie I kept picturing a "white people so crazy" meme. Some people choose their life's greatest struggle, which is madness. The second positive is the 360-degree video technology used during the actual climb that provides unprecedented perspectives. Filmmakers Jimmy Chin and Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi are good at the technical aspects of what they do even if they fall short in the storytelling.

Honnold is a fool. And I mean that in the Shakespearean sense that his presence is to professionally entertain others. While his athleticism is impressive, his drive for danger is unhealthy.

We have romanticized what is reckless without addressing its imprudence directly. We are commending something that should be admonished by society because of a complete lack of backcountry safety. We are privileged to be exposed to the mountains and immerse ourselves in nature. But in the end, we must remember, Mother Nature always wins.

"Free Solo" is now playing on the National Geographic Channel and streaming on Hulu.

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.

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