

Play Ball!

Growing Pains:
Big Sky's soul search

Hope on the horizon for YNP trout

Madison River committee dead in water

Music in the Mountains lineup announced



explorebigsky.com



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#### **ON THE COVER:**

Sidney Morris rocks and fires. The undefeated Big Sky Royals stride into the Belgrade Minors baseball tournament May 18-22. PHOTO BY DAVE PECUNIES

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#### Local law enforcement carries Special Olympics torch

#### **GALLATIN MEDIA CENTER**

Montana Law Enforcement Officers and their friends have hit the streets, highways and byways of Montana, carrying the torch for Special Olympics Montana.

Hundreds will have carried the Flame of Hope the 2,000-mile route by the time it reaches the State Summer Games Opening Ceremonies in Great Falls. The Torch Run already has made stops in numerous towns throughout the state and will reach the final leg and lighting of the cauldron on May 15.

Several law enforcement agencies participated in the run through Bozeman including the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office, Gallatin County Detention Center, Bozeman Police Department, Belgrade Police Department, Airport Police and Montana Highway Patrol, along with representatives from several fire departments.

Each year, beginning in 1985, local Montana Law Enforcement Officers raise thousands of dollars for Special Olympics Montana athletes, with over \$350,000 raised in 2008.

## Big Sky Spring Hunter Safety classes open for registration

#### EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – Hopeful hunters and bowhunters in the Big Sky area will have an opportunity to complete Hunter Safety education in classes held May 17-19.

A student must be at least 10 years old to register for Montana Hunter Education courses, though a student can't be fully certified until the calendar year they turn 12. There is no maximum age limit. Students must attend all classroom sessions, the field course and pass a final exam. Anyone 18 years old or older can complete an online course but must still attend a field course to become certified.

To purchase a Montana hunting license, any person born after Jan. 1, 1985, must provide proof of having successfully completed a hunter and/or bowhunter education course issued by Montana, any other state or any Canadian province.

Students are responsible for picking up the Hunter Safety folder with all necessary reading materials before the class, and should arrive to each class prepared with those materials in said folder, something to write with, a water bottle and a packed lunch for May 18-19. All students are expected to have read the material and completed the end of chapter quizzes before class on Saturday, May 18.

To register, visit register-ed.com/events/view/143067

#### **Grand Targhee Resort expands terrain by 50 percent**

#### EBS STAFF

Alta, Wyo. – Grand Targhee Resort's updated version of a 2018 Master Development Plan calls for a 50 percent increase in terrain, 11 new lifts, increased snowmaking technology, a zip line, two on-mountain restaurants and an aerial adventure course, among several other editions.

"Approximately 348 acres of new lift-served trails are planned, in addition to new and improved glades on both Fred's and Peaked Mountains," the plan states.

The improvements will leave the resort with as many lifts as nearby Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, and is the result of an accepted development submission to the Caribou-Targhee National Forest.

The expansions are expected to roll out over the next few decades.

## LMR hosts Visit Big Sky's Annual Member's Meeting, Marketing Outlook Luncheon

#### **EBS STAFF**

On May 10, Lone Mountain Ranch's Horn and Cantle: Restaurant and Steakhouse hosted Visit Big Sky's Annual Member's Meeting and Marketing Outlook Luncheon, an opportunity for local businesses to learn about myriad ways to leverage marketing dollars to the benefit of their business.

A lineup of speakers representing the Montana Office of Business Development and Tourism and the Yellowstone Country Tourism Region briefed business owners and attendees on their marketing plans for the upcoming fiscal year.

In addition, Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Cam Sholly spoke to promoting Big Sky as a "Gateway Community" for America's first national park.

Other speakers included Nicole Gonzalez, earned media specialist from the Montana Office of Tourism Board of Directors, who touched on the state's upcoming marketing plan, Robin Hoover, executive director of the Yellowstone Country Tourism Region, who spoke to the region's summer marketing plan, and Visit Big Sky's CEO Candace Carr Strauss and Marketing Manager Emilie McGee presented summer and fall niche marketing campaigns, in addition to several other projects the organization has in various stages of planning and execution.

This event had yet to take place as of EBS press time on May 8.

#### Delta Air Lines to offer direct flights to West Yellowstone

#### EBS STAFF

In an effort to make the bounties of Yellowstone National Park more accessible than ever to tourists, Delta Connection operated by SkyWest Airlines will extend summer season dates for round-trip jet service between Salt Lake City International Airport and Yellowstone Airport in West Yellowstone.

Visitors of the West Yellowstone community and America's first park will see flights running daily between the two airports from May 9 to Oct. 13.

The connection will also allow West Yellowstone residents and those living nearby increased opportunity to access the hundreds of destinations with service to Salt Lake City International.



#### What's your take on shoulder season business hours?



Lauren Stanley Big Sky, Montana

"It's kind of unfortunate. On Sunday, I wanted to go out to dinner but could only find one place that was open—it was the Broken Spoke [Bar & Grill]."



Jeff Squire Bozeman, Montana

5:45-7:00pm

All Levels Yoga

5:45-7:00pm

Heated Flow

"It's interesting to see the city shutdown for these interim months. It definitely hits a wall, it's kind of like a ghost for those three months."



Emma Shannon Big Sky, Montana

"Yeah, it's tough when you try to go get food and can't find any, but if everybody can go take time off because of that, it's awesome. Where I'm from originally people can't do that."

5:45-6:45pm

**Heated Flow** 



Andy Haynes Big Sky, Montana

"I love it. It's quiet. Peace and quiet is a good thing, and we can still keep oil in the lamps to keep them burning."



## EVENTS WANTED

Did you know you can submit your business or organization's event to be displayed in the Explore Big Sky events calendar, for free?

**SUBMISSIONS:** MEDIA@THEOUTLAWPARTNERS.COM



## Inhibiting Montana's wildlife opportunity

To the Editor,

Our Legislature continues to ensure that private interests are prioritized while public opinion takes a back seat.

Keeping bison out of Montana is a spineless notion that creates no benefit other than those enjoyed by private ranchers. The excuse of brucellosis has been used time and time again—although there has never been any documented evidence of a transmission.

Allowing bison to roam freely throughout Montana would increase visitor spending, cut tax dollars, and enhance the overall rich wildlife culture our state has always identified with. Conversely, limiting bison to a small area of Yellowstone National Park is not only unnatural and unfair, but also ultimately unproductive in terms of economic growth.

The public's desire to see this animal unrestricted and sovereign again should not be overshadowed by the avidity and influence of special interests.

Natalie Crane *Bozeman* 



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### OUTLAW

#### News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

#### Big Sky PBR 2019 to bring the music

#### **OUTLAW PARTNERS**

BIG SKY – The six-time-award winning Big Sky PBR is known best for heart-stopping, action-packed bull riding of the highest caliber, with 40 of the world's toughest cowboys from the Touring Pro Division going head-to-head with the world's meanest bulls right in the humble Big Sky Events Arena.

But since its genesis in 2011, event goers have come to also anticipate a world-class lineup of music to complement the electricity found in the Big Sky Events Arena, and this year's shows will not disappoint.

Kicking off the lineup on July 25, Hayes Carll, the Grammy-nominated, Americana roots singer-songwriter hailing from Texas, will play on Center Stage in Big Sky Town Center Park in a collaborative effort between the Arts Council of Big Sky's Music in the Mountains and Big Sky PBR. Known for a wry, plain-spoken style and a knack for deceptively getting to the meat of various political issues, Carll's music is sure to rock the Big Sky crowd.

The Jamie McLean Band, quickly becoming a mainstay of Big Sky's music scene, will then take the SAV stage, delivering an eclectic mix of New Orleans soul, Delta blues and Americana roots, with a touch of New York City swagger. Frontman Jamie McLean and his band have played venues the likes of Madison Square Garden in New York City and events like Japan's Fuji Rock Festival, and will bring the same talents that earned such prestigious performances to a Big Sky audience on July 26.

To close out the epic lineup, the all-female AC/DC tribute band Hell's Belles, endorsed by AC/DC frontman Angus Young for their zeal and mechanical precision, will bring an unparalleled energy to the SAV stage on July 27.

For more information on times, pricing and the artists, visit bigskypbr.com.



Jamie McLean, frontman for the eponymous Jamie McLean Band, playing the national anthem at the 2017 Big Sky PBR. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO





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# GROWING PAINS PART FOUR

#### An identity: Big Sky's search for soul

#### BY BAY STEPHENS

This is the fourth installment of "Growing Pains," an ongoing series centered on Big Sky's growth, the challenges it presents and potential solutions. Visit explorebigsky.com to read previous installments.

BIG SKY – While returning home from Bozeman on July 2 of last year, Big Sky residents Joanie and Andy Dreisbach of Big Sky were involved in a head-on collision on U.S. Highway 191. The force of the impact buckled their Dodge truck and left both with serious injuries.

Soon after, a close friend started a campaign on the crowdsourced meal-giving platform known as Meal Train, a toolused to help friends and families organize homemade meals following accidents such as that experienced by the Dreisbachs. Within 10 minutes, two months of meals were scheduled for the couple and their three children.

An I've-got-your-back mentality has characterized Big Sky for this family since 2004, when the couple moved here with their 1-year-old daughter and Joanie was warmly welcomed as a new mother to Big Sky.

"Right away, [mothers] started this mom's club of Big Sky and we met at the parks and we went on hikes," said Joanie, adding that it was a way to bring new moms into the community.

The same care for mothers was present eight years earlier when Kathy House, the librarian at the Big Sky School District, had triplets in 1996. While she was in labor in a Salt Lake City hospital after being taken by emergency helicopter from Big Sky, cards and bouquets piled around her bed as her friends and neighbors expressed their support and solidarity.

"It was just such a unique experience," said House, whose husband Dave owns The Corral Bar, Steakhouse and Motel in Gallatin Canyon. "The nurses in Salt Lake just looked at me like, 'Are you a celebrity or something?"

When she returned to Montana with her three newborn boys, a handful of women would visit for two hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to provide some reprieve.

Neither Joanie Dreisbach nor Kathy House is certain the same warm welcome awaits mothers today. They worry the intimate and tightknit Big Sky of 16 years ago when Dreisbach moved here, or 31 years ago when House moved to the area, has changed from what it once was. While new growth has ushered in a host of benefits, the loss of the intimate community and the erosion of its shared values has been difficult for them and other long-time locals to stomach.

"Big Sky's a special place, it really is, but you don't want to screw it up. So, you've got to work twice as hard on the good stuff that brings people together."

Upon their separate arrivals in Big Sky, both Dreisbach and House found that a deep-seated appreciation for nature acted as common ground for locals joining the community.

"I think what ties us to Big Sky is we all love the outdoors so much," Dreisbach said. "Everything that we love we shared with all our friends. We were all the same in that regard."

For House, the proximity to a far quieter Yellowstone National Park, which has experienced an increase of over 1 million annual visitors since 2003, according to official park statistics, as well as the relatively untapped skiing



Although Arts Council of Big Sky events like Music in the Mountains, pictured above, have traditionally been unifying for the local community, the influx of concertgoers in recent years has been distancing and discouraging to some longtime locals. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

and hiking opportunities fostered in her and her neighbors a special sense of ownership.

"We each felt like we were the luckiest people in the world living here and having it to ourselves," House said.

To Joanie and Andy Dreisbach, it seems outdoor love and respect has begun to erode as people casually trade-in a life elsewhere to move here, while the couple had to work hard to maintain theirs.

"I loved the mountains so much that I lived in shacks with rats," Joanie said. "I had five jobs just to stay there and make it through." Though the Dreisbachs now own a comfortable home and Andy has directly benefited from the growth as a builder, they've been dismayed to see how some new residents and their children treat Big Sky as purely a vacation spot, a playground, and not the place they cherish.

"We respect it," Joanie said. "My kids, if they see garbage, they're picking it up. It's where we live. We're proud to be here and we take care of it, and I feel like a lot of the people that are coming in, they don't have that same respect that we do ... the keeping things free and natural."

Reed McLeod, a server at Olive B's Bistro in Meadowview Village and a former property manager at the Yellowstone Club, moved to Big Sky two years ago from Massachusetts with few expectations of the community other than a reverence for outdoor living.

His work at the restaurant has opened his eyes to the sense of community here, as families and children of all ages dine together on any given night. "Once peak season ended, it was surprising to see people [who] truly call this place home," McLeod said. "It's hard to sense that community with peak season in swing, but once that ended you could see the town was alive even in the offseason."

Still McLeod, a relative newcomer, recognizes the same problems called out by the Dreisbachs and Kathy House.

"As long as it's sustainable to live here for original community members, then it will always have that organic scene," McLeod said, "At the same time, there's a strong commercial force trying to make it something that's not quite there ... but I don't think this place will ever lose one side or the other."

#### "Going forward, I believe we will need to work hard to maintain our local identity."

Andy Dreisbach hopes the community will maintain its roots.

"I want it to still be the salt-of-the-earth-type people that are here, but they're here for the purpose of providing for their families, raising families ... and teaching their families to respect that mountain environment," he said. "I don't want to have retirees moving here where they're here to golf in the summertime and then they'll leave in the fall [and] spring, and ski in just the winter."

The Dreisbachs noted the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center as a place that gathers and unites the community in a powerful way, estimating that they know 40 percent of the crowd at any given show. The high school is another grounder for the community, the Dreisbachs said, and House echoed. J.C. Knaub, a Big Sky resident since 1972, saying that Big Sky getting its own high school in 2009 has also attracted many families. Beforehand, many families had to drive their kids to school in Bozeman, or moved away once their children entered high school.

"I've had many people tell me that the reason they moved here is because they could work out of their house and they could put their kids in high school," Knaub said.

The summer concerts hosted by the Arts Council of Big Sky have also acted as community builders, but in more recent years the mass influx of concertgoers has on occasion overwhelmed these longtime locals, leaving them feeling disconnected. Despite religiously attending the concerts for years, a particular show last summer was so full of inebriated strangers that Joanie left early, brokenhearted and discouraged.

"I feel like it's kind of sad when you walk down to a concert and you don't feel like you belong," Joanie said. "I just felt like crying because it's like, 'Our little town, what has it become?"

Knaub thinks the events are good things, but that a balance must be struck.

"People think it's cool here," Knaub said. "Big Sky's a special place, it really is, but you don't want to screw it up. So, you've got to work twice as hard on the good stuff that brings people together."

McLeod believes the town is in the midst of identity crisis.

"On the one hand," he said, "[Big Sky] has this identity of being a hidden place with people trying to keep it their own ... On the other hand, it keeps improving in so many ways it makes sense more people are attracted to it."

Rich Addicks, a second homeowner since 1988 who moved to Big Sky fulltime in 2013, agrees that a concerted effort will be necessary to preserve what he considers the "best place he's ever lived."

"Going forward, I believe we will need to work hard to maintain our local identity," Addicks said. "Although it seems obvious, sometimes it needs to be said, but I believe we need to make sure we are not defined solely by tourism and a rush to develop. At times, it feels like we are headed that direction."

Artist and 15-year Big Sky resident Liz McRae has hope for what Big Sky's community can become. Even as the town develops, she says, the community and its "soul" can as well.

"We have to be intentional about how we incorporate soulfulness into the identity of our town," McRae said. "As all of these buildings pop up and new people come up for a short period of time, it's easy to have a spirited nature stripped away."

Last fall, she and some friends placed prayer flags near the Uplands trail-head as a way to show that construction isn't the only thing happening in Big Sky.

"The idea [was] that we can have little art installations pop up as the buildings pop up, keeping a balance of the human side," she said.

McRae sees elevating Big Sky's albeit limited history and celebrating its heritage as ways to build a shared identity that locals can latch onto as the area changes and grows.

In 2017, her daughter Maeve wrote a letter to the late Mark Robin who, together with his wife Jackie, opened the Hungry Moose Market and Deli in 1993. In December of 2017, Mark died from complications related to ALS, but he left behind a legacy. The summer before he passed, the Robins wanted to celebrate his life along with the community of Big Sky, and Maeve's letter gave the celebration a name.

"[Maeve] wrote a letter to this wonderful man who was all of our dear friend," McCrae said. "She drew him a letter telling him that she loved him and that he had 'soul shine.' When they were trying to come up with a name for that festival, Mark said, 'Well, obviously it should be Soul Shine.'



J.C. Knaub (left) as a high schooler poses with his girlfriend in May of 1972 in front of Crail Ranch. As Big Sky grows, he believes focusing on the environment is important to preserving what many people moved to the area to enjoy. PHOTO COURTESY OF J.C. KNAUB

"People moving here don't know the history," said McRae, adding that a greater recognition of Big Sky's unique character and its story could be a way to show newcomers—from young bucks looking to huck cliffs at Big Sky Resort to wealthy retirees looking for a patio with a view—where Big Sky comes from; that it isn't a blank slate but bares its own rich story.

For McCrae, there's a tremendous opportunity to influence what defines Big Sky's identity.

"It's a work in progress," McRae said. "And I think that's a really great place to be."

The third annual Soul Shine Festival will take place in Big Sky Town Center Park on June 20. Stay tuned to EBS for further details.

Michael Somerby contributed reporting for this story. Look for the next installment of "Growing Pains," our multipart series on growth in Big Sky, coming in the May 24 edition of EBS.

#### Give Big Gallatin Valley raises \$1.38 million for nonprofits

#### Big Sky Discovery Academy receives \$109,500

#### BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – Give Big Gallatin Valley, a 24-hour celebration of giving hosted by the Bozeman Area Community Foundation, raised nearly \$1.39 million dollars for nonprofits in Gallatin Valley and Big Sky between May 2-3. During the event, \$109,500 was raised for Big Sky Discovery Academy, the second most raised for any single organization after Eagle Mount Bozeman.

Give Big raised \$102,000 more than the previous year, according to Maggie Crum, the program and events manager for the Bozeman Area Community Foundation. Since 2015, the event has raised more than \$4 million for Gallatin County nonprofits.

"As Gallatin County grows, the needs of our nonprofits will continue to grow as they try to meet increasing demands on their services. We are humbled by the outpouring of generosity from our community to support these organizations and their critical work," said Bridget Wilkinson, Executive Director for the Bozeman Area Community Foundation, in a press release.

Big Sky Discovery Academy, a Montessori school in Big Sky Town Center, has experiences rapid growth over the past five years. Since the 2014-2015 school year, enrollment leaped 571 percent from seven students to 47. In the same time period, the number of instructors has increased from two to 17 and the school's facility space has grown from 1,000 to 4,750 square feet, according to the school's donor page.

Discovery began offering high school classes online through University of Nebraska this year, dedicating one of their few rooms as a space for high school students. As a re-



Big Sky Discovery Academy students pose during the school's Give Big Gallatin Valley kick-off party on May 2. The 24-hour fundraiser gathered \$105,000 for the school, which will be put toward a remodel, a school bus, and scholarships, among more. PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY DISCOVERY ACADEMY

sult, flexibility in terms of space has been a challenge, according to Alvin.

For example, a roughly 7-by-7-foot space serves as the school's room for staff and parent meetings, piano lessons, voice lessons, art storage—and Head of School Nettie Breuner's office.

However, a \$30,000 donation from the Stephen A. and Diana L. Goldberg Foundation is earmarked for a remodel of the school's space, adding more rooms and soundproofing while also creating a functional outdoor play space and administrative offices.

Another donation is tagged for a 15-passenger school bus that will allow more flexibility of transport than the public transportation the school has used for its offsite activities.

Funding will also be set aside for scholarships.

"Right now, 42 percent of our student body is on some sort of financial assistance, and our goal is to raise that," Alvin said. "We want Discovery to be accessible to all students [and] families that want it."

Breuner, her staff, and the school's board were excited and grateful.

"The Give Big response from our families, friends and supporters of Discovery was overwhelming," Breuner said. "Our success in Give Big further strengthens our commitment to providing educational options and community enrichment programs for the community of Big Sky. Our growth is a team effort; we take the lead from our school and greater community as to how we can best provide alternatives and choices."



#### Gallatin River Forever Campaign Nears Fundraising Target

#### GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

BIG SKY – The Gallatin River Forever capital campaign has generated just over \$1 million to date, a figure that includes campaign costs, announced the Gallatin River Task Force on April 3.

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

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

Given urgent needs that have arisen and the impact of the 2018 algae bloom, the increased momentum in individual stewardship has charged the Task Force with looking at the need and possibility of raising the initial \$1.2 million goal for June 30. This would account for and address new demands on the watershed in the final 90 days of the campaign.

"The Task Force is incredibly grateful for the dynamic team of leaders that have made this effort possible and taken us to this point," said Kristin Gardner, executive director of the Task Force. "We continue to ask for and count on the enthusiastic response of our greater community to help us complete the 'Gallatin River Forever' campaign in totality and with maximum impact."

To invest in "Gallatin River Forever," visit gallatinrivertaskforce.org or email Ryan Newcomb at ryan@gallatinrivertaskforce.org.

The Gallatin River Task Force is a nonprofit watershed group headquartered in Big Sky, Montana, with a mission to partner with our greater community to lead conservation and inspire stewardship of the Gallatin River watershed.

#### KGLT-FM comes to Big Sky this August

#### KGLT-FM

BOZEMAN – KGLT-FM, Bozeman's Alternative Public Radio Station has been approved to expand coverage to Big Sky this August. The station's new translator will broadcast from an existing site on Andesite Mountain, with a range encompassing Big Sky Resort and the Meadow Village at the same 91.9 frequency as in Bozeman.

KGLT-FM's programming ranges from hip new indie artists to vintage folk, country, blues, rock 'n' roll and everything in between. "KGLT's strength lies in its diversity," says Marketing Director Ron Craighead. "We've never been a 'format' station. With a staff of over 84 live, volunteer DJ's bringing their musical passions to the airwaves—and no playlists—there's never a dull moment."

KGLT-FM began broadcasting on the Montana State University Campus in 1968 as KATZ, a low-power station only available in close proximity to the MSU campus. In the early '70s, when a group of passionate students pushed for upgrading the signal to reach the broader Bozeman community, KGLT-FM 91.9 was born. Since then, KGLT-FM has spread across southwest Montana with translators in Helena, Livingston, Big Timber, Gardiner and Mammoth, and world wide streaming available streaming at KGLT.net.

"We are incredibly excited to be bringing live, freeform community radio to Big Sky with our new translator in August and look forward to being a part of the Big Sky community," Craighead said.

To learn more, visit KGLT.net, or contact Ron Craighead at (406) 994–7091 or at ronc@montana.edu.

#### **Bullock signs resort tax bill**

#### BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

Senate Bill 241, sponsored by Sen. Jeffrey Welborn, R-Virginia City, will give Montana's 10 resort tax communities the ability to levy an additional 1 percent resort tax should individual communities vote to implement it within their respective boundaries, following Gov. Steve Bullock's signing the bill on May 2.

As opposed to the previously standing 3 percent resort tax levied on luxury goods, which has been in effect since 1992, funds from this additional percentage will only be used for infrastructural projects within said communities.

According to Kevin Germain, the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board's chairperson since 2015, putting that vote in front of residents is a secondary concern at this point in time.

"There is no current plan on bringing this in front of voters. In my opinion, we're working first on the ['Our Big Sky'] Community Visioning Strategy before there's any talk of increasing resort tax."

The board also received the last resort tax appropriation applications on the April 29 deadline, which totaled at about \$11 million in requests, and will be focusing on determining final appropriation figures from an estimated haul of between \$7.5 and \$8 million in resort tax collections, according to Germain.

Still, the board certainly recognizes the benefits of possibly implementing the supplementary increase realized through SB 241 when the time is appropriate.

"In my opinion, it's a really great thing for this community, just another tool in the toolbox," Germain said. "Luckily, the Legislature saw the need to increase it."

#### School district receives community vote for housing

#### Three school board members reelected

#### BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – In the May 7 Gallatin County school election, Big Sky voters reinstated three incumbent school board members and approved both a \$40,000 general levy fund and a \$600,000 building reserve fund, which enables the district to build two triplexes for teacher housing in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Gallatin Valley.

The building reserve levy guarantees \$600,000 in loans and interest to install the foundations and build the first three of the six units this summer. BSSD Superintendent Dustin Shipman said they hope to break ground by the end of the month and that they expect the first units to be completed by October.

"I think the trustees are thrilled that the community supported these levies in the numbers that they did," Shipman said. "All that hard work at the school district is really a result of the community being in resounding support of the school district."

Now in the permitting process, the project's first hearing was on May 9 in front of the Gallatin County Planning and Zoning commission. Shipman doesn't expect any hiccups.

School board chair Loren Bough, who was reelected to a two-year term in the May 7 election, said there was a direct correlation between the community's support and Lone Peak High School's designation as the top-ranked school in the state by U.S. News and World Report in their Best High School Rankings for 2019 earlier this month.

The building levy will raise taxes by \$5.64 per year for every \$100,000 in market value of a home, sunsetting in five years. The general levy will be put toward expenses related to teacher and staff salaries, increasing property tax by \$1.88 per \$100,000 in home value.

Bough ran unopposed and will continue to serve on the board with Whitney Littman and Scott Hammond, who were both reelected for three-year terms.

The three will be sworn in at the May 21 school board meeting, after which they will also determine a new governance structure.

<b>Election results for Big Sky School District:</b>			
	Votes for	Votes against	
Loren Bough (Reelected)	409	(Noncompetitive race)	2-year term
Scott Hammond (Reelected)	428		3-year term
Whitney Littman (Reelected)	367		3-year term
Lander Bachert (Runnerup	262		
\$40,000 General Levy Fund	473 (69.25% of vote)	210 (30.75% of vote)	
\$600,000 Building Reserve Levy (for teacher housing)	408 (59.74% of vote)	275 (40.26% of vote)	

#### Brainard Ranch hosts 15th annual Farm Fair

#### BY BECCA BURKENPAS EBS STAFF

BELGRADE – The 15th annual Farm Fair, organized by the Gallatin Valley Agriculture Committee, was held at the Brainard Ranch April 7-9. From milking cows to pretending to be water molecules, the event was a farming- and science-based learning experience for everyone in attendance.

Twelve hundred fourth graders from various Gallatin Valley counties gathered for over three days to learn about the farm and the science behind support a commercial farming lifestyle.

According to an official invitation sent by Patti Soares, Farm Fair's coordinator, the purpose of the event was to "provide a hands-on agriculture education program for fourth grade students, teachers, school administrators and community leaders."

Students rotated between 16 educational stations featuring information on managing dairy cows, beef cows, pigs, goats, horses and sheep, as well as processes pertaining to wool production, farm safety, bee keeping, forestry, weed identification and wheat and potato production.

Said stations had students milking a cows and goats, increasingly rare tasks in the valley's post-agricultural society, among other fun and informational activities.

Students weren't the only ones learning at Farm Fair: Ranch Owner Ed Brainard said even after 15 years of hosting this event, he stills learns something new every year.

"I once learned that they grow purple potatoes. I've lived here all my life and I've never seen a purple potato," Brainard said.

Farm Fair has grown significantly from its first year in 2004, when it started as a single day event with about 350 students in attendance. Today, the three-day event has increased in number four-fold—but that's just about all that has changed over the past 15 years, aside from a few additional stations; Farm Fair still operates on a set of core principles.



Students gather around a horse at this year's Farm Fair. PHOTO BY BECCA BURKENPAS

"One of the things that made me a believer that this needed to continue was some of the presenters asked the kids at the water station where water comes from and they'd say, 'the faucet or the refrigerator," Brainard said of the first Farm Fair. "Same way with milk: 'oh, the grocery store or the refrigerator."

Educators often prepare well in advance of Farm Fair, using the information presented there as a springboard for classes preceding the event as well as for classes following it. Farm Fair therefore serves as a hands-on experience for students, cementing the lessons and learned concepts delivered by their teachers in the months, weeks and days before kickoff.

According to Brainard, Farm Fair's impact is truly realized when students from previous batches return as presenters, passing on the experience to the next generation.

"Teaching other kids, well that's a great community involvement," he said.



A group of breast cancer survivors from last summer's retreat, hosted at the 320 Ranch in Gallatin Gateway. PHOTO COURTESY OF CASTING FOR RECOVERY

#### **Casting for support**

**CASTING FOR RECOVERY** 

BOZEMAN – Casting for Recovery is a nonprofit organization offering therapeutic fly fishing retreats to women with breast cancer. On May 15, the inaugural fundraising event, named "Pink Pookie Spring Fling" after the popular rubberized cricket pattern fly, will kick off at Bozeman's Nordic Brew Works from 6-9 p.m.

Attendees can expect a night chock full of celebration, accompanied by hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction featuring items such as outdoor and fishing clothing and gear, and local activities and events of note. As a community pint night, Casting For Recovery will receive \$1 for each pint purchased, a generous gesture by the people at Nordic Brew Works. Additionally, a participant from last year's Gallatin River outing will offer a few words on her experience.

Casting for Recovery was founded on the principle that the natural world is a healing force, and that women with breast cancer deserve one weekend—free of charge and free from the stresses of medical treatment, home or a workplace—to experience something new and challenging in a beautiful, safe environment. The 2.5-day retreats provide opportunities for women whose lives have been profoundly affected by breast cancer to gather in a natural setting and address quality of life and survivorship issues with other women in similar circumstances.

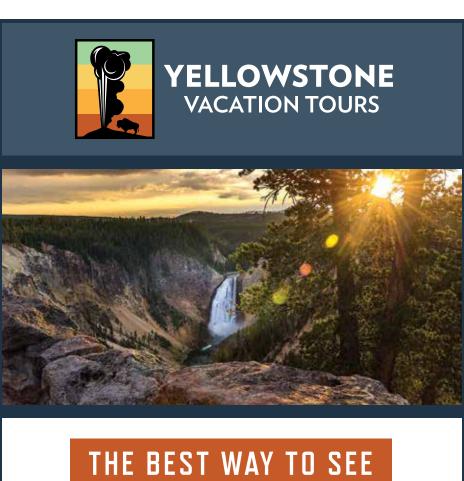
In over 20 years of outings, more than 8,000 women from all walks of life have benefitted from Casting for Recovery's inspiring program model that offers medical and emotional support through group discussion, and individualized attention to learn the basics of fly fishing.

For women who have had surgery or radiation as part of their treatment, the gentle motion of fly casting, coupled with the rhythmic sounds and motion of rivers, can enhance their recoveries and qualities of life. Ninety percent of participants have never attended a support group, yet nearly all alumnae find that Casting for Recovery retreats offer inspiration, renewed appetite for life and healing connections with similarly afflicted women and nature.

Thanks to the generosity and support of people across Montana, two Casting for Recovery retreats will be held this summer. The first will span June 7-9 at the Madison Valley Ranch in Ennis, and the other between September 13-15 at Big Sky's 320 Guest Ranch. Retreats are open to women with breast cancer of all ages, in all stages of treatment and recovery throughout the United States, as well as a handful of foreign countries. Whether you are a dyed-in-the-wool angler, someone who knows a breast cancer survivor or a person who simply enjoys a fun night out, consider joining others who wish to bring a life-changing weekend to those who've faced breast cancer.

For tickets or reservations for the May fundraiser, visit weblink.donorperfect. com/PinkPookieSpring2019 or call (406) 544-6434.

Visit casting forrecovery.org for more information on Casting for Recovery.



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## Legislative Roundup: Budget set, missing persons, aquatic invasive species, sex crimes

BY SHAYLEE RAGAR AND TIM PIERCE UM LEGISLATIVE NEWS SERVICE

HELENA — On the final day of the 66th Montana Legislature, law-makers completed their only state constitutionally mandated task by passing the bill that sets the budget for state agencies.

House Bill 2, which spends about \$10 billion of state and federal money over the next two years, passed its final vote in House of Representatives 73-25.

The bill had moved through the session relatively quickly, passing the House 54-45 for the first time in late March and then passing the Senate 28-21 in early April. The final vote in the House was to adopt Senate amendments that added about \$12.3 million of state money to the budget, with the biggest chunk of added spending going into the state health department.

In addition to outlining expenditures for the next two years, the budget includes \$210 million in reserves for the same time period, which can be used in a budget crisis or for natural disaster relief. The budget will cut 100 vacant full-time positions from the Department of Public Health and Human Services and will add more than \$700,000 to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation budget.

#### 'Hanna Act' passes

After being introduced in January, the bill that would create a special position in the Department of Justice to investigate all missing persons cases in the state passed its final vote in the Montana Legislature 96-1 Tuesday.

House Bill 21 is named "Hanna's Act" after Hanna Harris, who was found murdered on the Northern Cheyenne reservation in 2013.

The legislation would spend \$100,000 a year on the position. Rep. Rae Peppers, D-Lame Deer, the bill's sponsor, said it wouldn't have passed without help from both sides of the aisle.

"It was so bi-partisan in this House that it overwhelms me right now. And they have told me this themselves, that they understood human trafficking is a serious issue for all people in Montana," Peppers said.

"Hanna's Act" is the last in a package of bills addressing missing and murdered people to pass the Legislature.

Other bills included in the package were House Bill 20, which lets law enforcement officers file missing persons reports for children who have been taken by their parents, House Bill 54, a bill that would allow any law enforcement official in the state to file a missing persons report, and Senate Bill 40, which creates a photograph directory through the state Office of Public Instruction used for only for locating missing children.

#### State steps up efforts to prevent aquatic invasive species

Lawmakers made a last-minute switch in funding for a bill that aims to pay for aquatic invasive species prevention programs, but it will still move forward to the governor's desk.

Rep. Willis Curdy, D-Missoula, carried House Bill 411, which proposed an increased tax on boat licenses to pay for AIS prevention programs. The species, like quagga and zebra mussels, have invaded most of the Midwest and have cost billions of dollars in damages.

Montana is mostly free of aquatic invasive species, however the risk of invasion is ever-present as boaters carry in water from infested lakes in other states.

"I think it's an expectation that this is something Montana is going to deal with for a long, long time," Curdy said.

Sen. Fred Thomas, R-Stevensville, suggested amendments to the bill to remove the tax on boat owners and instead get funding from an increased fee on out-of-state investment advisers who pay for licenses in Montana. The change made HB 411 contingent on the passage of House Bill 694, which contained the language to increase the fee.

The Senate approved HB 694 on Thursday 28-21.

Curdy said he thinks every bill should stand on its own without contingency on another policy. However, he said he was glad to see his bill pass a final vote. It passed the House as amended 62-35.

#### Criminal justice reform for sex crimes

Lawmakers ended the 2019 session having passed a number of bills aimed at cracking down on sex crimes.

Gov. Steve Bullock signed House Bill 282 into law Thursday, which makes sexual contact between residents of alternative adolescent residential facilities and employees of the facilities illegal, even if the resident is of consenting age. Rep. Denley Loge, R-St. Regis, said a series of investigative reports from the Missoulian prompted the proposal.

Rep. Shane Morigeau, D-Missoula, also carried several bills aimed at streamlining prosecution of sexual abuse of vulnerable people.

House Bill 173 and House Bill 640 are both co-sponsored by Republicans and Democrats. HB 173 eliminates consent as a defense if an employee of a public or private school engages in sex with a student.

HB 640 revises statute of limitations laws to allow for delayed reporting in cases of child sexual abuse. The bill was proposed in response to the case of James "Doc" Jensen who admitted to sexually molesting high school athletes in Miles City between the 1970s and 1990s. He wasn't charged until last fall.

Sen. Diane Sands, D-Missoula, a veteran lawmaker, who founded Montana's first rape crisis center in Missoula, carried Senate Bill 52, which will streamline and create strict guidelines for processing sexual assault kits used to prosecute the crime in court.

In the past, Sands said laws regarding sexual assault have been "inconsistently applied" by Montana's judicial system, and that she hopes her legislation will help perpetrators accountable.

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.

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Lot 39 Diamond Hitch | Moonlight Basin | 1 ACRE | \$595K



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SECTION 2: ENVIRONMENT, OUTDOORS, & HEALTH







## **The New West:** Wyoming Wilderness Association turns 40; dynamic young women revise wilderness spirit

BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

I've heard it suggested that "the wilderness movement" is dead.

Is it?

I've heard some groups with "wilderness" in their names shying away from advocating for as much capital "W" as they can get, arguing instead that they are only interested in going after accomplishments they deem to be "politically practical."

Conversely, I've heard women and men, once young now old, who say the 21<sup>st</sup>-century cause of conservation doesn't have the stomach nor the heart or chutzpah—as it used to—for doing what it takes to inspire the masses, demanding elected officials protect as much remaining roadless country as possible while so much slips away.

And while I've interviewed some who insist talk of wilderness preservation is passé, and that the focus of public lands ought to be maximizing as much use—be it for mining, energy development, logging and outdoor recreation as they can hold—there are young wilderness stalwarts who think differently. They are teaching their generations that protecting special places is a virtuous endeavor, even if it means they can't do everything they want inside of them.

Look no further than the deep red state of Wyoming, and there, today, you'll find a new emerging crop of young visionaries.

The Wyoming Wilderness Association, which is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday with a rendezvous in Jackson Hole on May 11, is in the midst of a revival. It's staffed by a quartet of dynamic women—all rambunctious individuals drawn to adventure in the great out of doors, but who are also fierce advocates for citizens and wildlife in the future.

WWA Executive Director Khale Century Reno from Sheridan and her colleagues Heidi Davidson, Shaleas Harrison and Peggie DePasquale—who is based in Jackson Hole—are smart, ecologically literate and charismatic.

Having an affinity for rural people, some of them were raised on farms or ranches or in places with ready access to the woods. They kayak, ski, hunt, fish, mountain bike and play hard, but they recognize that where the wild things still are is where a heavy presence of people is not.

They are no different in their altruism from others of the past, who fought the good fight for land protection, wildlife, clean air and water—pushing back against the anthill mentality of we humans—and who left us, as a result of sacrifice, with wild places we are benefitting from in the here and now.

WWA's notable list of achievements involves a diverse cast of characters who weren't afraid to speak up, speak out and show that political realities are created by the art of the possible, which often means dismissing things deemed impossible by those with no imagination.

Today, our national parks and forests and wildlife refuges and clean mountain streams and diversity of species would not exist had citizens pandered to what some defined as "politically practical." Indeed, when the Wyoming Wilderness Act was passed in 1984, protecting 884,000 acres as wilderness in the

state, the total was more than politicians and resource extraction industries were willing to consider as acceptable. But advocates made the case.

In fact, former U.S. Rep. and Vice President Dick Cheney, former U.S. Sen. Alan Simpson and the late U.S. Sen. Malcolm Wallop, counted passage of the bill as an important part of their legacy and gift to their constituents that continues to bestow dividends important to the identity and character of many Wyoming communities.

Established wilderness and wilderness study areas, the pieces of landscape that legally were supposed to be maintained by federal agencies in their roadless character, represent some of the best remaining spring, summer and autumn habitat for a range of species, from large mammals to breeding birds that annually migrate thousands of miles.

Some of the wilderness study areas in Greater Yellowstone are wilder than most of the national parks in the West, if based on their wildlife; these WSAs, were they to exist in any Eastern states with less public land, they would be considered natural treasures yet some treat them as expendable.

Wilderness is not a land of no human use; it is a place where humans paradoxically can become reinvigorated by humbly accepting limitations on the magnitude of their impacts and personal ambition. It is about self-restraint, acknowledging that wildlife needs the terrain as its permanent home more than we need it for fun or extracting a merchantable commodity.

Today, the wilderness movement is no more dead than the conservation movement or altruism are. The next generation is stepping up and future generations will one day revere them for it. True legacies are not established by what you take, when you had the chance, but the good things you leave behind. Congratulations Wyoming Wilderness Association.

Todd Wilkinson is founder of Bozeman-based Mountain Journal (mountainjour-nal.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 at mangelsen.com/grizzly.



A view from Palisades Wilderness Study Area, looking north toward Grand Teton National Park. PHOTO BY KEVIN MOE





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.

#### **Guide outlines framework for** water-efficient landscapes

BY STEPHANIE LYNN **EBS CONTRIBUTOR** 

Spring has come to Big Sky. The signs are everywhere.

And with the warmer weather, the season to plan and plant outdoor landscapes and gardens has arrived. The new "Big Sky Water Wise Landscaping Guide," published by the Gallatin River Task Force, outlines a sustainable strategy for landscape, design, installation and maintenance that conserves water and protects rivers.

"It's especially important to pay attention to your water use during the summer," said Emily Casey, who is the author of the landscape guide. "Water conservation can relieve the stress of high temperatures, low precipitation rates, and reduced streamflows to help ensure water supply when the watershed needs it most."

Today, many landscapes in Big Sky waste water through inefficient irrigation or inappropriate plant selection. Between 2003 and 2017, public water usage in June, July and August surpassed consumption during the other nine months of the year by an average of 400 percent, according to the Big Sky Water and Sewer District. During that period, demand for landscape water peaked in 2017 when summer usage exceeded winter by 800 percent.

Although thirst for water is growing with Big Sky, an arid climate and periodic drought constrain the supply. During the dry southwest Montana summer, melting snow feeds rivers, streams and groundwater, but warming trends could reduce snowpack and water levels. In addition, increasing consumption of groundwater could deplete streamflows further, impacting both fish and wildlife.

Given these challenges, reducing water use will help to sustain both human and natural communities in Big Sky. And when it comes to saving water, our landscapes, lawns and gardens represent the proverbial low-hanging fruit.

The landscape guide, written with the assistance of local nurseries, landscapers, irrigators and conservation organizations, adapts the seven xeriscape principles developed in Denver in the mid-90s to local climate and soils. These principles optimize water use while maintaining healthy, attractive and cost-effective landscapes.

Community members can pick up a free copy of the guide at the Task Force office and start saving water today. Many neighborhood covenants in Big Sky have specific lawn requirements that may be an obstacle to implementing water-wise practices. If this is the case, contact the Task Force to advocate to amend homeowner's association covenants to conserve water.

Each yard and landscape in Big Sky is located within the Gallatin or Madison watersheds. All activities on the land affect both surface and groundwater.

To view the water-wise planning guide online, visit gallatinrivertaskforce.org/big-skywater-wise-landscape-guide.

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

#### Additional resources for sustainable landscape planning

#### Water-wise Landscapes:

Big Sky Water Conservation Rebate Program: gallatinrivertaskforce.org/

Brandy Moses Straub, Gallatin River Task Force, brandy@gallatinrivertaskforce.org or (406) 993-2519

Fire-wise Landscapes:

Vail Fire Department Fire-Resistant Landscaping: vailgov.com/Portals/0/docs/Fire/ Fire-Resistant%20Landscaping.pdf

Dustin Tetrault, Big Sky Fire Department, dtetrault@bigskyfire.org or (406) 995-2100

Native Landscapes:

Invasive Species Identification and Control: gallatinisa.org/weed-id-control Jen Mohler, Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance, jen@gallatinisa.org or (406) 209-0905 to request a free site visit

## Biologists begin grizzly bear research captures in Yellowstone

#### Public reminded to heed warning signs

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

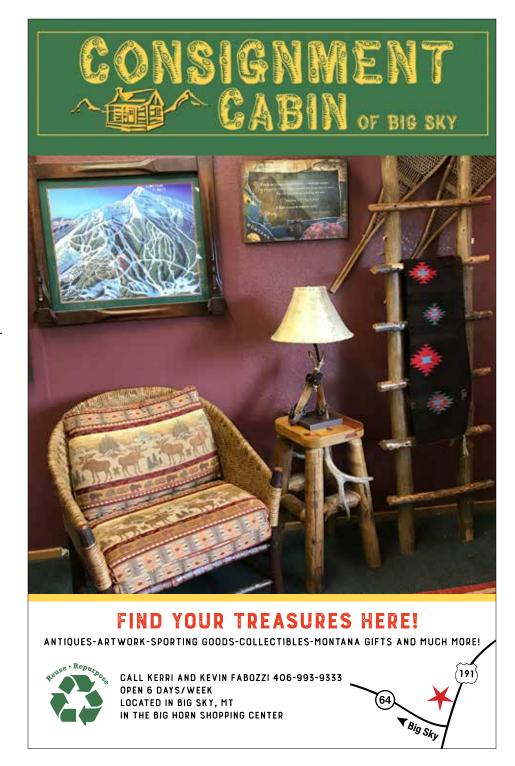
As a part of ongoing efforts to monitor the population of grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Yellowstone National Park and the U.S. Geological Survey announce that biologists with the National Park Service and Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team will be conducting scientific grizzly bear research operations in Yellowstone National Park from May 13 through July 31.

Team members will bait and trap bears at several remote sites within Yellow-stone National Park. Once trapped, the bears are anesthetized to allow wildlife biologists to radio-collar and collect scientific samples for study. All trapping and handling are done in accordance with strict protocols developed by the IGBST.

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

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

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



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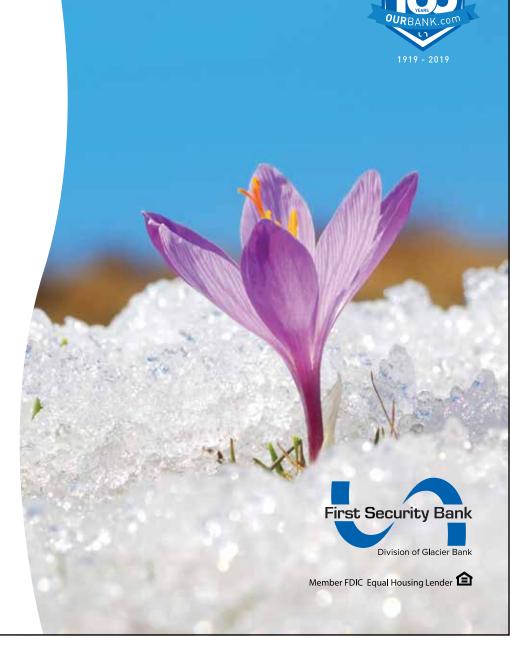
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70 LUHN LANE | \$829,000 #329901 | CALL DON

This warm and inviting home sits on the banks of the West Gallatin River, conveniently located between Big Sky and Spanish Creek near the northern portion of Gallatin Canyon.



114 WHITE BUTTE | \$339,000 #309556 | CALL DON

Beautiful lot in the highest part of Cascade Subdivision, this lot borders Ulery's Lakes Subdivision to the north so no homes or development on the northern side of this lot.



LOT 15A BEAVER CREEK WEST | \$530,000 #324111 | CALL DON

Stunning views of Lone Mtn, Spanish Peaks and Buck Ridge. Forested west facing lot with abundant grassy meadows. Two adjacent lots are also available to create one 54± acre block.



LOT 149 FOURPOINT ROAD | \$240,000 #214051 | CALL DON

This ridge lot has views of Lone Mountain, Yellow Mountain and even looking east toward Ramshorn and the Gallatin Canyon. As a ridge lot it is very sunny and has a great building site.

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## INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



#### Spotting baby animals in Yellowstone

BY CHRISTINE GIANAS WEINHEIMER EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Who can resist the charm of clumsily cute baby animals? During the spring and summer, Yellowstone visitors who are on the lookout for wildlife may catch a glimpse of young animals and their playful antics. We've rounded up a few tips to increase the likelihood that you might spot baby animals during your park visit:



#### Black bears

A mother black bear gives birth to one to four cubs in the winter, and they will emerge together from the den in April or May. Cubs start practicing climbing trees as soon as they are strong enough, as they are not fast enough to outrun predators. Look for black bears in open spaces within or near forested areas.

Where to see: Mammoth, Tower and Northeast Entrance



#### Grizzly bears

Like black bears, mother grizzlies emerge from their dens in April or May with one to four cubs. Grizzly cubs generally stay with their mothers for two years, however weaning of one- to three-year-old cubs also occurs.

Where to see:

Spring - Yellowstone Lake, Fishing Bridge, Hayden and Lamar valleys, Swan Lake Flats and the East Entrance. Summer - Meadows between Tower-Roosevelt and Canyon, and in the Hayden and Lamar valleys



#### Bisor

Bison cows give birth to single calves in late April or May. The reddish-brown calves, nicknamed "red dogs," can keep up with adult bison only two to three hours after birth, and they are well protected by their mothers and other members of the herd. Look for calves with bison herds in open, grassy areas all over the park.

Where to see: Mammoth, Lamar and Hayden valleys, West Entrance, Madison, Norris and Old Faithful



#### Elk

Elk cows give birth to single calves, weighing around 30 pounds, in May or June. Elk calves can walk within an hour of birth, and are often seen in a "nursery group" of cow elk and calves, separated from bull elk. Elk herds can be seen throughout the park. In the heat of mid-day they are most likely to be seeking shade under large trees.

Where to see: Gardiner, Mammoth and along the Madison River

#### Viewing tips

Mammal mothers are very protective and will not hesitate to charge anyone they perceive as threatening their babies. Always stay at least 100 yards away from bears and wolves, and at least 25 yards away from all other animals.

Avoid the temptation to inch closer; instead, bring binoculars or a spotting scope. For your best chance of spotting park wildlife—especially bears—plan your outing for dawn or dusk, and consider a wildlife-watching tour such as Yellowstone Day Adventures provided by Yellowstone Forever.

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



#### Native fish restoration continues in Yellowstone

#### Biologists: Efforts appear promising

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BOZEMAN – Last summer, 22 fluvial Arctic grayling were pulled out of a small mountain stream just 30 miles south of Big Sky. Once measured and tagged, they were released back into the waterway that bares their namesake.

Just three years earlier, some of those very fish made their first journeys through the water as tiny fry, when tens of thousands of eggs were incubated and then hatched in the upper reaches of Grayling Creek. Together, with juvenile Westslope cutthroat trout, the fish set about recolonizing their historic waters.

The 2018 capture, which also counted 440 Westslope cutthroat trout, will be replicated this summer and is an effort to understand whether



Fluvial Arctic grayling, Yellowstone cutthroat trout and Westslope cutthroat trout are among 11 native fish species in Yellowstone National Park. Pictured is a grayling.

fish restoration has been successful on Grayling Creek, a stream that flows through Yellowstone National Park and is just one of numerous park restoration projects. Researchers hope to better understand the successes of the restoration effort by looking at the population size, age and size of the fish, and whether they are naturally reproducing.

The work on Grayling Creek is what fisheries biologist Colleen Detjens described as a "huge restoration effort" during Yellowstone National Park's 2019 annual spring angling meeting on April 29.

Beginning in 2012, restoration efforts saw to the development of a barrier that would prevent non-native fish from swimming upstream into the upper reaches of the river, as well as the still controversial treatments of Rotenone, a piscicide that kills gilled aquatic species. This was followed by several years of grayling and Westslope reintroductions.

Native grayling, Westslope cutthroat trout and Yellowstone cutthroat trout are endemic to many of Montana's waters, but are now imperiled by the threat of thriving non-native species such as rainbow or brook trout. These non-native fish were stocked in many park and state waters during an era when management objectives prioritized sportfishing and the impacts of non-native species weren't well understood.

The discussion of Grayling Creek was just one topic on the agenda during the angling meeting, which was held in Bozeman on April 29 at the Hilton Garden Inn. Approximately two dozen individuals were in attendance, and they heard from several presenters about the Yellowstone Native Fish Conservation Program.

In Yellowstone Lake, suppression of lake trout continues in light of historic Yellowstone cutthroat trout decline. Last year, staff fished 6,000 miles of gillnet on a nightly basis as a form of passive capture technique. Assessments indicate that mature adult lake trout are becoming less common in the water system, though young lake trout are still common.

"The world-wide range for this fish—Yellowstone cutthroat trout—is in Yellowstone Park. So [Yellowstone Lake] is very important for the fish's longevity and existence," said fisheries biologist Phil Doepke. "We don't suspect the gillnets are going to remove all the lake trout from the system, so we're doing other research trying to find out other ways of removing lake trout from the system."

Many of these alternative methods target lake trout eggs, and include sucking up the eggs from the lake bottom, killing the eggs

with Rotenone, and killing the eggs using organic material such as dead lake trout that were caught in the gillnets or the application of a soy and wheat gluten pellet. According to Doepke, this latter method has proved most successful in early testing.

Doepke said the pellet—known as a carcass analog pellet—effectively kills the eggs within a matter of days as it breaks down in the water, and after approximately 30 days the pellets are fully dissolved. Further research will reveal the impacts of nutrients being added into the water system from the pellets and whether this is a safe option for lake trout removal.

On the Upper Gibbon River, staff will complete a third year of Rotenone treatment this summer and will reintroduce native fish in the fall. Unlike most reintroduction efforts that involve incubating the eggs within the river, fish introduced in the Gibbon River system are more mature so that common loons have something to feed on when they arrive in the spring.



An example of a Rotenone application. Rotenone is a poisonous fish toxin that is derived from compounds found in a number of plant species and is used in Yellowstone to kill non-native fish.

"We're trying to balance a bunch of different resource issues to make it the best thing it can be," said fisheries supervisor Todd Koel.

Within the Lamar drainage, which includes Slough, Soda Butte and Buffalo Fork creeks, biologists have recently completed an assessment of rainbow and Yellowstone cutthroat trout migration, as well as inventoried for hybridized rainbow-cutthroat. The results indicate that hybrid trout are present far up the Lamar River.

Overall, park staff continue to brainstorm how best to combat these hybridized trout, which pose a risk to the genetic purity of the Yellowstone cutthroat. Discussions center around how to effectively identify hybrids and whether selective removal and mandatory fish kills for anglers can be effective.

"During the summer there's quite a lot of people [on the Lamar River and Slough Creek] so a lot of these fish are being caught numerous times," Detjens said. "If we can get anglers to help us remove those hybrids and recognize hybrids and also help us remove the rainbow trout, that's going to be a huge help toward our management goals."



Fisheries staff attend to incubators on a backcountry stream in Yellowstone. The 5-gallon buckets protect developing fish eggs and once hatched, the young fry swim out of the buckets via piping.

As a final note, fisheries technician Drew Mac-Donald added that the National Park Service is going to begin intensive surveys for aquatic invasive species such as zebra and quagga mussels this year. In past years, the surveys were conducted by Wyoming Game and Fish. In addition to adding intense watercraft inspections, he said the park has implemented a ban on watercraft with sealed internal water ballast tanks that make decontamination difficult.

An additional fisheries meeting was held in West Yellowstone on April 30, in Cody, Wyoming, on May 7, and in Jackson, Wyoming, on May 8. The fishing season in Yellowstone will open on Saturday, May 25.

For more information visit nps.gov/yell/learn/fisheriesscience.htm.

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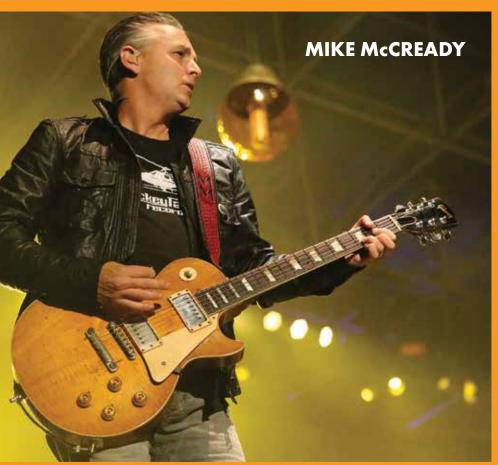


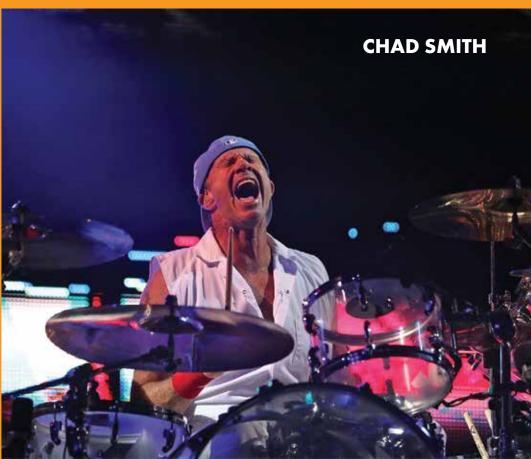






## FEATURING























#### **Madison River committee disbands**

#### Lack of consensus sinks group seeking to solve overcrowding issues

#### BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BOZEMAN – Before a crowded room in Bozeman on May 2, a diverse panel of citizens aiming to address overcrowding issues on the Madison River voted to disband after multiple meetings failed to yield compromise.

The panel, known as the Madison River Negotiated Rulemaking Committee, was made up of members representing organized interest groups, float and wade anglers, commercial outfitters and guides, landowners and business owners. Established last fall, the committee was charged with coming to a consensus decision—defined by law as "unanimous concurrence among the interests represented"—on recommended regulations for the Madison. The recommendations would have been presented before the Fish and Wildlife Commission, who has actual rulemaking authority.

Over the course of five months, the committee met for four two-day sessions and, while the commission directed to have recommendations by the April 25 commission meeting, disagreements on various solutions prompted members to request a final meeting in May. It proved to be the demise of the committee.

Per a recommendation from U.S. Geological Survey facilitator Mike Mitchel, two consultants were hired by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to guide the May meeting and present information about public policy and options the committee had going forward. Following two hours of exercises intended to promote adult learning, listening and respectful discourse, committee members were visibly anxious to get to the meat of the meeting: the decision to move forward or quit.

"I don't believe any of us are on the same page," said Charlotte Cleveland, a Bozeman resident and member of the committee representing float anglers.

Cleveland said part of the problem stems from disagreement over the facts. The committee was given a report from FWP that contains information on river use, however a new report released from the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association disagrees with FWP's data analysis.

"We're stuck with crafting a recreation plan without the facts," she said. "How do you craft a plan when you can't agree on the facts?"

The report Cleveland mentioned, a position paper released by MOGA in April, criticizes the way in which FWP interpreted angling survey results after the association representing the state's hunting and fishing outfitters hired a statistician to weigh in. MOGA Executive Director Mac Minard supports the statistician's findings.

"There's no technical basis for the term 'overcrowding," Minard said. "This is not an attack on anyone, this is an objective review to determine where we are."

Minard pointed to FWP's surveys, saying that approximately 93 percent of responses indicate satisfaction with the Madison River experience. Rather than restrict guided or private angling, he said the association wants to see the department implement a fishing-access-site ambassador program where on-site staff can assist with traffic at boat launches; according to Minard, this is really the only place overcrowding is a clear issue.

Mark Odegard, an Ennis wade angler, said during the meeting that he will maintain efforts to improve the situation on the Madison by verifying river data and conducting angler surveys himself. "No matter what's decided, I'm going to continue," he said. "I am going to try to put together facts so I understand them."

Ultimately the rulemaking committee decided their fate with a silent vote to disband.

"It's a very challenging and complex issue on recreational use on the Madison River," FWP Regional Supervisor Mark Deleray told EBS after the meeting. "I'm not sure one process or another would have made it any easier. I've heard people say this effort was a failure [but] I totally disagree. We've learned a lot that can be used going forward."

Each committee member will submit an individual report to the commission by June 1 and during the June 20 commission meeting, commissioners will discuss how to set regulations on the Madison.

FWP has tried several different avenues in order to develop regulations on the Madison River that address increasing recreation pressures and potential conflict among users. In 2012 and 2013, the department appointed a citizen advisory committee, whose recommendations were developed into proposed rules and presented before the commission in April of 2018.

Meanwhile, river use continued to increase, and in 2017 the Madison saw more than 200,000 angler days for the first time, according to FWP. The department says the Madison receives the highest number of angler days of any other waterbody in the state.

The commission ultimately voted not to adopt the rules the April 2018 rules after they were met with opposition from the public. Last summer, the commission directed FWP to establish a committee pursuant with the 1993 Montana Negotiated Rulemaking Act.

Per the act, a rulemaking committee is used to supplement government public policy when controversial issues are at stake; however, controversy led to contention within the committee and across the angling and business communities in Ennis.

Originally a 10-member committee, one member, Lauren Wittorp, chose to leave the panel in April and her seat was not replaced for the May meeting. Wittorp also resigned from her position as the executive director for the Madison River Foundation last month after the conservation nonprofit was criticized for her positions on potential regulations.

Fisheries division administrator Eileen Ryce added at the conclusion of the May 2 meeting that public comment can be made both during the June commission meeting in Helena, as well as online.

Visit fwp.mt.gov/recreation/management/madison/nrc.html for more information, transcripts of the meetings or to submit comment.





#### Plans released for national trail

#### Route connects Gallatin Valley to Capitol Hill and Pacific Coast

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

THREE FORKS – As the sun shone during a brief reprieve from the rain on May 8, a diverse crowd of 60 or more that included individuals sporting cowboy hats, bike helmets, puff coats and jeans gathered at the John Q. Adams Milwaukee Railroad Park in Three Forks in celebration of a trail that not only runs through Montana, but will also stretch west to Washington state and east to Washington D.C.

Named the Great American Rail-Trail, this route has been a dream for many trail advocates for over three decades. During the May 8 gathering along the existing Headwaters Trail System approximately 60 miles north of Big Sky, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy unveiled a map outlining their preferred route for the trail, which is approximately 52 percent complete. The unveiling event was echoed across the country at locations in Washington D.C., Columbus, Ohio, and South Cle Elum, Washington, and was broadcast live on Facebook.

"Montana holds a special place on the route," Rails-to-Trails Conservancy trail planner Kevin Belanger said during opening remarks. Based in D.C., Belanger visited the state during early trail planning, to discuss ways of routing a trail through the Rocky Mountain West. "The excitement was palpable," he said, nodding to Montana's "commitment to outdoor recreation and trails."

Members of Gallatin County were proud to represent their place along the route and during the gathering, Gallatin County Commissioner Don Siefert said it was appropriate for such a large trail network to come through a county where major rivers join to form the Missouri, native peoples gathered for trade and hunts, and through which Lewis and Clark journeyed.

"The trails that run through this county [are] the ribbon that ties the bow [on the national trail,]" he said.



Kevin Belanger of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy addressed a group of individuals from around the state in Three Forks on May 8 during the celebration of a trail that will connect Montana with Capitol Hill and the Pacific Coast. PHOTO BY JESSIANNE CASTLE



Beginning at the steps of the U.S. Capitol, the trail will move westward through Maryland, Pennsylvania West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana and Idaho before culminating along with the Olympic Discovery Trail at the Pacific Ocean. The total distance, 3,700 miles, will be dedicated for multiuse, and serve an estimated 50 million people that live along the route. That means in the decades to come, as existing trail networks are connected with new trails, intrepid outdoorsmen and women will be able to travel coast to coast.

Beyond a trail for trekking across the country though, Belanger said the trail is significant for its inclusion of local trails, and residents and visitors alike will be able to use the trail network, whether hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing or riding horseback.

As the name indicates, the transcontinental pathway makes use of former railroad beds when possible.

Within Montana, the Great American Rail-Trail will utilize existing trails such as the Headwaters Trail System, as well as the 80 miles of Main Street to the Mountains network that runs through Gallatin Valley. Specifically, the Montana portion will run from Yellowstone National Park out of Gardiner, through Paradise Valley and across Gallatin Valley to Three Forks, then on to Butte and Missoula and into Idaho.

In all, the Montana portion is about 19 percent complete, with 344 miles still to be built. "While that looks like a huge number, I've been really impressed with how much of that number is already in the planning," Belanger said.

"It takes a village to make these trails possible," said Penelope Pierce, executive director of Gallatin Valley Land Trust, a Bozeman-based organization that helped to expand the Main Street to the Mountains trail network. "By building trails, we build community and trails connect people to the land-scape."

Bob Walker, the president of the Montana Trails Coalition, elaborated further on the economic, health and social benefits that come with a trail such as the Great American Rail-Trail. He said trails can aid with resource protection and are an important aspect of the outdoor industry, which contributes \$7.1 billion to the state economy. They bring visitors, who not only travel on the trails, but also spend time in surrounding communities.

"It's no longer a dream, it's going to happen," he said, eliciting a huge cheer. "The future is bright here in Montana. I can't wait to see people come from all over the world on this trail and enjoy what it means to be under the big sky."

For more information about the Great American Rail-Trail, visit greatamericanrailtrail.org.

#### Fortifying your home against wildfire

BY WILLIAM FARHAT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

On May 4, the Big Sky Fire Department hosted the Big Sky Community Wildfire Preparedness Day in the loft of Lone Peak Brewery, featuring wildfire experts from various state and county organizations speaking about how wildfires are changing and the importance of maintaining fire-resilient homes and properties in Big Sky.

After all, in our North American forests that are adapted to wildfire, it's not a question of if a wildfire will occur, but when.

In light of this event, EBS decided to call up the words of Fire Chief William Farhat to remind residents about some of the important steps that can protect your home from wildfire.

No matter the season, wildland fires are always a serious concern in the Big Sky area. There is much that we can do to minimize their threat in our community and together we can reduce the inherent risks.

Enjoying the beauty of our mountains and the activities they offer is what brought most of us here, but that also puts us in very close proximity to the national forests that surround us, in the zone known as the Wildland-Urban Interface. Fires are also a natural and necessary part of the forest's ecology, so it's not a matter of if a wildland fire will occur, but more a question of when.

Fires in the WUI are always a challenge for fire departments as they can quickly become large events, and easily overwhelm local resources. For this reason, the preparations that citizens take before a fire are the best way to protect themselves and their property.

**Stay informed.** The best way to get official information on community-wide emergencies is by registering your cell phone with Gallatin County's Community Notification System. All Big Sky residents, no matter which county you live in, can do so at readygallatin.com.

If a fire is near, warnings will be automatically sent to all landlines and registered cell phones, giving you time to prepare. If an evacuation notice is given, you will receive specific information regarding the threat and the best evacuation routes.

Understand how a wildland fire can affect your home and neighborhood. This is key to keeping both house and community safe in case you've had to leave the area. The California firestorm videos on the news during the past few years give the impression that nothing can be done to stop the spread of a fire, but this is not the case. The trees, grasses and plants in Big Sky can certainly burn during our hot, dry summers, and during the years with extremely hot and dry conditions, local fires have become explosive in nature, but they are more the exception than the rule.

Wildland fires aren't a wall of flames that obliterate everything in their path. In fact, fire-behavior studies have shown that how we prepare our properties dictates the severity of the impact. Wildland fires normally advance with hot embers being blown ahead of the main part of the fire, starting their own fires. If a home has not been prepared properly, it can start to burn, intensifying a fire in a neighborhood. If a home has been prepared well, the chances of it withstanding a fire passing through the area improve greatly.

**Simple steps you can take.** Actions such as cleaning your gutters, removing dead vegetation and debris from under decks, not stacking firewood near your home, storing all outdoor furniture indoors and keeping the lawn around your home mowed and irrigated at least 30 feet in all directions, are all helpful.

**Proper landscaping is also important.** There should not be vegetation leading to the foundation of your home; there should be a 3-foot border of non-combustible crushed rock around the base of your home.

Remember that woodchips are a hazard. A common issue I see is the use of woodchips for landscaping. This a dangerous practice as one ember can ignite the woodchips, fueling a fire in and around your home.

To avoid promoting the spread of a fire, explore non-combustible options, as well as fire-resistant vegetation. In addition, all low-hanging branches should be pruned, to at least 6 feet above the ground so a fire does not have the ability to climb up the branches into the tree.

These are just a few ideas as much can be done to prepare an existing residence or construct a more "fire safe" home. The National Fire Protection Association has produced an excellent website, firewise.org, to provide in-depth information on how to minimize the damage caused by a fire.

The Big Sky Fire Department is also always available to come to a property and consult with homeowners. Working together, we can all help keep our community safe and resilient.

A version of this article was first published in the Aug. 31, 2018 edition of ERS

William Farhat has been the Big Sky Fire Department fire chief since 2011 and has been fighting fires across the country for nearly 30 years.



Last fall, the Bacon Rind Fire burned a swath of trees along Highway 191 approximately 30 miles south of Big Sky. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

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#### Is wheat and gluten really the enemy?



BY DR. ANDREA WICK **EBS CONTRIBUTOR** 

Wheat and gluten have received a lot of press in the last few years and odds are you may know someone or be someone who has opted to go gluten-free. What is gluten and why has it been given a bad rap?

Gluten is a protein that is found in wheat. Gluten is literally the "glue" that holds breads together. The reason why more and more people may be gluten sensitive is that

gluten has a difficult time being broken down by protease, a protein in the digestive system. This can create symptoms such as bloating, diarrhea, gas, nausea or skin reactions.

However, research is finding that glyphosate may be the culprit to gluten sen-

What is glyphosate? Glyphosate is an insecticide and is found in a popular weed killer known as Roundup. Spraying Roundup on wheat crops helps protect the expected yield and helps the crops stay alive and healthy until they are harvested for the season. However, Roundup is detrimental to our health.

A new analysis done by researchers at the University of Washington found that glyphosate increases the risk of cancer by 41 percent. This includes non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. This study was done on 54,000 participants that are exposed to the insecticide.

The issue with going gluten-free is that many gluten-free products are processed and filled with corn and soy instead of wheat. Corn and soy are nearly impossible to be all organic and are also often contaminated with glyphosate.

Corn is also high in sugar, specifically, high fructose corn syrup, which is converted into fat because of the large amount of fructose it contains. Fructose is okay in small quantities, such as fruit, however high fructose corn syrup cannot be broken down by the liver and causes many health problems including diabetes, fatty liver disease, weight gain and obesity. It is found in soda, sweets, soups and crackers. Be mindful by reading labels to avoid this ingredient.

Many people with digestive disturbances may actually have an issue digesting fructose, which can be misunderstood as a gluten sensitivity. Trouble digesting fructose can lead to malabsorption and the inability to break down carbohydrates, leading to irritable bowel syndrome. Following a FODMAP—fermentable oligo-, di-, mono-saccharides and polyols—diet can be helpful in treating IBS. For more information about following a FODMAP diet, visit ibsdiets.org.

The best solution to all of this: Eat organic whenever possible. For those who love their breads—who doesn't—try sourdough and organic wheat.

Eating organic can be expensive, so to help on the pocketbook, try switching to organic options for foods that are known for pesticide exposure. The Environmental Working Group updates a list every year called "The Dirty Dozen," which is a compilation of the foods that were grown using the most pesticides. The 2019 Dirty Dozen list includes strawberries, spinach, kale, nectarines, apples, grapes, peaches, cherries, pears, tomatoes, celery and potatoes. Whenever possible, try to buy organically grown variations of these products.

A good rule to live by: We are what we eat and our food is thy medicine.

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



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SECTION 3: SPORTS, BUSINESS, DINING & FUN







## THE LONE PEAK PLAYBOOK



#### LPHS golfers on a roll heading into State C Tournament

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

Given the long winters in southwest Montana, the spring sports season for Lone Peak High School is short and sweet. But in less than two months, the LPHS golf team has improved immensely and a few golfers look strong heading into the post-season tournament. Here are some highlights from a brief, albeit successful regular season for the Big Horns.

#### April 27 - Ennis - Madison Meadows Golf Course

Boys - Nathan Browne 95, Nolan Schumacher 103, Jackson Lang 107

**Girls** - TJ Nordahl 93, Lyli McCarthy 119, Brooke Meredith 120, Sara Wilson 137

Nathan Browne's low score for the boys team qualified him for the State C Tournament. Freshman TJ Nordahl placed second overall amongst girls, only giving up first place to Ennis local Landri Paladichuk. Lyli McCarthy and Brooke Meredith both scored qualifying rounds earning themselves a trip to the state tournament as well

Despite cold and windy conditions, the course played great and the team was happy with how the greens rolled. After the competition, the team headed back over the hill just in time to attend LPHS prom. "Sara Wilson did great for her first ever 18 holes of competition. I couldn't be more pleased for a first round score," said Coach Jenny Wilcynski.

#### May 3 - Three Forks - Headwaters Golf Course

**Boys** - Pierce King 89, Sam Johnson 89, Jackson Lang 104, Austin Samuels 106, Nolan Schumacher 108



Freshman TJ Nordahl shows off her hardware after a second place finish in Ennis at the Madison Meadows Golf Course. Since then, Nordahl has been shooting in the high eighties, winning two events, and will be heading into the state tournament with confidence. PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNY WILCYNSKI

**Girls** - Lyli McCarthy 109, Brooke Merdith 148, Sara Wilson 148 On the boys side, Pierce King and Sam Johnson had their lowest scores of the season. Johnson, the lone senior and captain of the team, qualified for his position at the State C Tournament with ease.

"I was really happy for Sam as his time is limited on the course this season as he prepares for his IB School Testing that comes along with senior year," said Wilcynski. "Great to see Pierce break 90 too. He is finding his momentum out there and things came together for him today!" Both King and Johnson finished just outside the top 10.

Coach Wilcynski noted that Jackson Lang and Nolan Schumacher continue to play consistent golf and improve but are still looking to break that crucial 100 score. Austin Samuels played in his first varsity golf event of the season and showed a lot of potential.

On the girl's side, Lyli McCarthy was the low scorer, shooting a 109 and finishing ninth overall in a class B and C event. "Lyli is starting to see her score fall as well and will be in great shape as we get closer to State," noted Wilcynski.

#### May 6 - White Sulphur Springs - Arrowhead Golf Course

**Boys** - Nathan Browne 88, Pierce King 92, Jackson Lang 100, Nolan Schumacher 103

**Girls -** TJ Nordahl 88, Lyli McCarthy 106, Brooke Meredith 132, Sara Wilson 147

On the boys side, Nathan Browne finished with a low score for the team with an 88, the first time he has broken 90 in a competition and a new personal best. Pierce King was a bit disappointed in his performance but still finished strong with a 92. Jackson Lang sunk a long putt to finish out with an even 100 securing himself a qualifying round. Nolan Schumacher had a great birdie from about 40 yards out and finished with a 103.

For the Lady Big Horns, TJ Nordahl shot an 88, winning first place in a Class C tournament. "This is really great for her getting prepared for State where an 88 will be a very competitive score even when we see all competitors, and she feels she still left a few shots out there," said Wilcynski.

Notably, Lyli McCarthy had a personal best with a 106 (57/49) breaking 50 on nine holes for the first time in competitive play. Brooke Meredith improved from earlier in the week with a 132.

#### May 6 - Columbus - Stillwater Golf Course

**Varsity** - TJ Nordahl 87, Pierce King 90, Nolan Schumacher 105, Brooke Meredith 134, Sara Wilson 138.

Hosted by Absarokee High School and marking the last regular season competition and last State Qualifier event, this was a last chance for golfers to punch a ticket to the postseason.

Pierce King placed fourth overall with a score of 90, continuing to build momentum and Nolan Schumacher finished with a 105. "It's nice to have a player like Nolan who is so consistent and level-headed on the course," said Coach Wilcynski.

TJ Nordahl took honors once again with her lowest round of the season yet, 87, winning first place against a field stacked with many upperclassmen. The LPHS golfers who have qualified for the State C Tournament will travel to Seeley Lake from May 14-15 to test their mettle against the best young golfers in Montana on the Double Arrow Golf Course.

#### Big Sky Futbol Club hosts first home games

#### BY NEHALEM MANKA EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Big Sky Futbol Club's inaugural spring season is underway, and many of the teams are off to a strong start. The traveling teams played their first games on Saturday, April 27. The U10 boys and girls travelled to Bozeman to play small-sided 4v4 games, while the U12 girls team went to Great Falls, and the U14 coed team played two games in windy conditions in Livingston.

"I liked what I saw in our first games. Our team has a lot of athleticism and grit," said Doug Hare, coach of the U14 squad. "Once our team starts to gel, we are going to be a force to be reckoned with."

On May 4, the U10 girls played in Helena while the U10 boys headed up to Great Falls. The U14 coed team had the weekend off because the eighth graders on the team were travelling to Washington, D.C. for a class trip.

The U12 Big Sky FC girls team started their season off strong. (From left to right) back row. Piper Carrico, Stella Haas, Elise Daughtery, Poppy Towle,

The U12 Big Sky FC girls team started their season off strong. (From left to right) back row: Piper Carrico, Stella Haas, Elise Daughtery, Poppy Towle Hana Middlestadt, Harper Morris, Lily Turner, Lucy Stratford, Coach Kim Dickerson; front Row: Cate Leydig, Olivia Kamieniarz, Pearl Goldberg, Jayden Jacobsen, Tessa Bosworth, Dylan Manka, Maddie Wilcynski PHOTO COURTESY OF NEHALEM MANKA

That Saturday also marked the first time the Big Sky FC has hosted MYSA Academy home games on the fields in Big Sky Community Park. Opposing coaches were impressed with the good field conditions. U12 girls teams from the Bozeman Blitzz, Gallatin Valley Elite, and Helena Academy all squared off during a fun day of soccer.

The U12 girls Big Sky FC team showcased their talent in their first match against the Bozeman Blitzz, and many of the players from the new rivals knew players from the opposing team from previous seasons. Big Sky's organization was evident as they used precision passing to control play and swing the ball across the field to switch the point of attack.

Their aggressive style of play created many scoring opportunities; Harper Morris, Cate Leydig, and Stella Haas each scored goals in the first twenty minutes. Harper Morris's sharpshooting added two more goals

for a hat trick, and Hana Middlestadt found the net late for the final 6-0 score. Poppy Towle and Harper Morris demonstrated their defensive abilities in front of the net, recording a shutout during 60 minutes of play.

In the final game of the day, Big Sky FC took on the Gallatin Valley Elite. The teams were evenly matched and traded possession throughout the first half of the game. Lily Turner scored for Big Sky to even the score 1-1 at half. Jayden Jacobsen started the second half with a quick goal, scoring in the first two minutes. After 20 minutes, the teams were tied again at 3-3. Harper Morris converted on a penalty kick, followed by Lily Turner scoring her second goal of the match to lead Big Sky FC to a 5-3 victory.

"I was very pleased with their style of play and how they defended as a unit." said Kim Dickerson, Big Sky FC director and coach of the U12 girls team.







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- After both latches are unlocked the lid may be opened.
- Opening and reclosing the lid will relock the latches automatically.
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#### Making it in Big Sky: Santosha Wellness Center

#### BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF WRITER

In 2002, Callie Stolz had what she calls a "second serious health opportunity." It was during that time that she recognized the importance of complementary and alternative healing modalities. Stolz decided to pursue her dream of of offering others that were on a path of healing a place that offered many avenues to do just that while collaborating with other like-minded individuals.

Although determined to eventually open a wellness center, Stolz recognized that she had much to learn if she wanted to offer these kinds of services. For the next decade, she spent years educating herself and gaining experience in the field of healing arts: teaching yoga, doing massage and practicing Ayurvedic medicine.

Santosha Wellness Center opened in the summer of 2012. During busy seasons, Stolz now has nearly 20 teachers and practitioners offering a variety of services from her studio in the Westfork Meadows.

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

Callie Stoltz: Creating a feeling of community both in the people who work at Santosha and for those that come to Santosha. Also, I feel it is really important for me to continue to grow and learn, both personally and professionally, in order to feel inspired and to continue to bring more to offer back to Santosha and the community.

EBS: Do you remember your first customer?

**C.S.:** Our first customers were a class of 15 people in our first yoga class. It is incredible to me how many of those original 15 students we still see on a regular basis at Santosha. That is really gratifying to me.

**EBS**: What are the biggest obstacles to operating a small business in Big Sky? **C.S.**: The limitations of housing in Big Sky create a challenge to attract and recruit enough individuals to meet the growing demands of our community. Also, trying to find balance for people working here given the ebb and flow of the influx of people coming in and quieter times.

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

C.S.: It started out with my idea of it being a bit more like a co-op of wellness professionals. Although it has continued to be that way to some degree, I also realized that it needed to feel a bit more cohesive and all under the umbrella of Santosha. So we further developed the website and the online booking system and some other refinements and details within the center. We have also tried to continue to add more services by adding an esthetician, the far-infrared sauna, bringing acupuncture back, as well as continuously adding more workshops and seminars people may be interested in to continue to expand our offerings.

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

**C.S.:** I love it here, this is my home. I have been here for the most part for nearly 23 years and I love the mountain, this community and the people in it.



After a decade of immersing herself in the field of healing arts, Callie Stolz launched Santosha Wellness Center in 2012 as a retreat where Big Sky locals and visitors could have the opportunity to pursue alternative healing modalities. PHOTO COURTESY OF CALLIE STOLZ

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

**C.S.:** That's a tough one, as there are many. But within my time at Santosha, it may have been last summer on June 21 starting out the summer solstice and opening up the day of Soul Shine with 108 sun salutations and an awesome group of people to share it with.

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

C.S.: "Partners are for dancing. YOU can do this, it's YOUR dream."

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

C.S.: Take care of yourself. Even when you could not feel busier, take the time you need for you to stay healthy, happy and strong otherwise you'll burn out and then what's the point of it all?

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

**C.S.:** Continuing to thrive as a wellness center with a strong sense of community, but also adding in more retreats and workshops to the mix as well as a possible second location/retreat center called Santosha Sanctuary.

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



**MOONLIGHT BASIN** 

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



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



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



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Tract 1A-1 21.475 Acres / \$795K



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



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



Osprey Cove Lakehouse List Price: \$1.25M



2078 Little Coyote List List Price: \$1.079M



Ski Tip Lot 10 List Price: \$975K



130 Sandhill Road List Price: \$895K



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



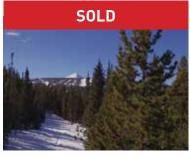
Cottonwood Crossing #9 1,854 SQ FT / \$525K



21 Antler Drop List Price: \$459K



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



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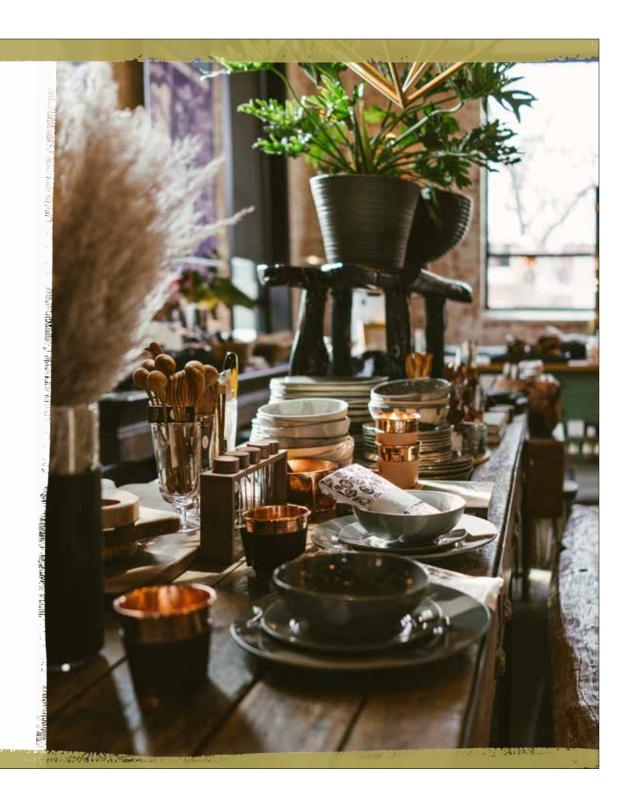
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The Wilson Hotel is slated for a soft opening Memorial Day Weekend and a Grand Opening celebration June 21. PHOTO BY BAYARD DOMINICK

## The Wilson Hotel opening on the horizon

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – The Wilson Hotel, Big Sky Town Center's first branded hotel, will have a soft opening on May 24 allowing the first patrons to stay at the brand new Marriott Residence Inn starting Memorial Day weekend. The hotel will employ close to 50 employees, excluding retail and future restaurant employees.

Lone Mountain Land Company, a development branch of CrossHarbor Capital Partners, acted as the project developer for both the hotel and the adjacent Plaza Lofts building, buying the land from the Simkins family for projects that align with the Town Center vision, and abiding by architectural guidelines designed to create continuity in the Town Center aesthetic.

The Wilson is also slated to host a grand opening celebration on June 21, in concert with the mixed-use Plaza Lofts building, where residents have already moved in upstairs. The commercial tenants of the Plaza Lofts, the Blue Buddha Sushi Lounge and Sky Boutique, plan to open in the month June as well, with The Barrel Room, a winery by Corx in Bozeman, slated for a midsummer opening.

"The soft opening will allow our team to ease into being fully operational," said Bayard Dominick, vice president of planning and development for Lone Mountain Land Company. Dominick, who has been involved with the hotel buildout project since 2014, expects for occupancy rates for the 129 units to ramp up and remain high throughout the summer months.

"We feel like this is a really momentous moment for the evolution of Town Center—to have a signature hotel on the plaza in downtown open and operating," said Dominick. "We think this is going to change the dynamic of visitation to Big Sky. With the Marriott brand, we expect to bring a lot of new visitors to town and create more foot traffic of tourists and pedestrians as well as capturing a bigger slice of Yellowstone Park visitors."

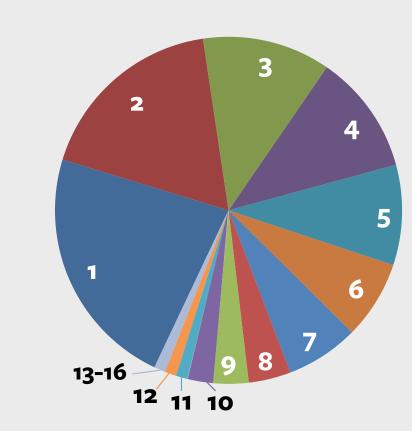
The Town Center Plaza, which was completed this fall, will be the new home of the summer farmers market as well as concerts and other events. The restaurant spaces in both the Wilson and the Plaza Lofts building will interface with the plaza with patio seating this summer. Construction might be finishing up with these two projects, but there are no signs of construction slowing down in Town Center. Across the street directly south of The Wilson, another LMLC project is in the beginning phases of buildout. The building will be similar to the 47 Town Center Avenue building that houses Lotus Pad, with apartments—three- and four-bedroom units—on the second and third floors and a ground floor zoned for retail and restaurant space.

## By the numbers: Tourism in Montana

On April 19, the Institute of Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana released it's report on Nonresident Visitation, Expenditures, and Economic Impact Estimates in Montana for 2018. Here's a closer look at the break down of the estimated \$3.72 billion spent by nonresident visitors in Montana during 2018.

Notably, 52 percent of the expenditures by nonresident travelers occurred during the third quarter (July-September) with Outfitters and Guides reporting a sharp spike in revenue.

## 2018 expenditure allocation by category

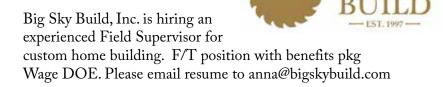


12 11 10		
1. Gasoline, Diesel	\$840M	23%
2. Restaurant, Bar	\$668M	18%
3. Hotel, Motel	\$450M	12%
4. Outfitter, Guide	\$410M	11%
5. Retail Sales	\$345M	9%
6. Groceries, Snacks	\$275M	7%
7. Licenses, Entrance Fees	\$252M	7%
8. Auto Rental	\$148M	4%
9. Rental Home, Cabin	\$115M	3%
10. Made in MT	\$94M	3%
11. Campground, RV Park	\$45M	1%
12. Vehicle Repairs	\$36M	1%
13. Misc. Services	\$25M	1%
14. Gambling	\$14M	<1%
15. Farmers Market	\$6.5M	<1%
16. Transportation Fares	\$0.69M	<1%

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Contact: Emily O'Connor, 406-548-8111

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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.

## Common food myths



### BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Once we get an idea or tradition handed down to us, be it by family or from the media, it can be difficult to reframe what we think we know. Like the old saying, it is easier to fool someone than to convince them they have been fooled.

Here are some common food myths.

#### Eggs are dairy.

Depending on where you shop, eggs often get stocked alongside cheese, sour cream, milk, yogurt, and all things dairy. But eggs are not dairy. Technically, any milk originating in a mammal is dairy, and yes, even a camel. But when humans have health issues or lactose intolerance, as does most of the African and Asian continent, the dairy in question is overwhelmingly from cows.

Not only is an egg from poultry, but it is produced by an entirely different process in the biology of the animal than lactation.

#### It's not blood.

This was the topic of a previous piece I wrote. But to recap, the red liquid you see on your plate underneath your steak is not blood. It is something called myoglobin, a protein that helps muscle tissue store oxygen. Here is an easy way to remember the difference: Myoglobin is in tissue, while blood is found in arteries and veins.

#### All fat is bad.

Not all fat is created equal, and it's easy to get confused with all the different fats, such as saturated, polyunsaturated, monounsaturated and trans. But here is a simple, generally accurate method of identifying good fats from bad fats. If it is opaque or firm at room temperature, it probably isn't good for you. Think lard, margarine, any meat fat, butter and coconut oil.

Those last two are a bit tricky. A high-quality butter has many benefits, and there is still debate over coconut oil.

#### If you want to lose weight, skip breakfast.

It's amazing to me the amount of people who say they don't eat breakfast. The reason is usually that they aren't hungry, or they wait until lunch because they are trying to watch their weight. But if you want a list of things to do to gain weight, skipping breakfast would be on that list.

We need to jump start our metabolism after a night of sleep. And there are two key ways to do this. One is by drinking at least one full glass of water immediately upon rising. The other is to eat a sensible, medium portioned breakfast within 30 minutes after getting up in the morning. Waiting until lunch can cause you to eat a larger lunch than you should because your body hasn't had a meal in upwards of 16 hours.

#### Nuts are junk food.

Have you ever noticed the irony that most nuts can be found in two different places in the grocery store? One location is the bulk bins, next to things like buckwheat flour, quinoa and lentils. The other, nestled in between Bugles and microwave popcorn.

Depending on the nut, you can get potassium, vitamin E, fiber, copper, zinc, flavonoids, resveratrol and a host of others. They are packed with nutrients, just avoid the honey-roasted salted ones; those lose much of their nutrition during those processes. Ideally, a raw nut is the best.

#### Whole wheat bread is good for you.

We view whole grain bread as part and parcel to whole foods. But there is more to it than that. While whole wheat bread is undoubtedly better than Wonder Bread, bread is still wheat. And wheat is still gluten.

Gluten provides no essential nutrients. And many of us experience something called gut inflammation. Gluten can break down and kill the good bacteria we carry in our intestines. And we feel so uncomfortable because of the high concentration of neurons there, even more than in our brains. This incidentally is why we refer to our "gut feeling", or "gut reaction." It's due to the amount of neurons.

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

## American Life in Poetry: Column 733

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

I was very sorry to read that the literary journal *Field*, with a long history of publishing the finest of American poetry, was ceasing publication. All good things must come to an end. Here's a poem full of mystery from the final issue. It's by Mark Irwin, who divides his time between California and Colorado, and whose most recent book is *A Passion According to Green* (2017).

#### Open

By Mark Irwin

When they entered the house, which was a very large house the way a cloud is large, the pages of their story seemed like cracks in the earth, a man's shirt, or a woman's

blouse, and the stranger in the house told them to make themselves at home in the house that was not their house, and told them to write down the three most important gifts in each of their lives, and then continued to explain how there were three doors in the house and at each door they must

forfeit one of these gifts, and how the real story always begins

at the third door, where each of them will pause and begin to crawl, leaving the field of time, where now you pause, touching the door of this page, wiping away each word, waiting to enter.

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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						2		5
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### SECTION 4: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT







## Create in summer, present in winter, inspire year round

## Celebrate four-season programming with the Warren Miller Performing Arts

#### BY TIMOTHY BEHUNIAK

Warren Miller once said, "Every person's intuition is their constant search for freedom." For Warren Miller Performing Arts Center's Executive and Creative Director John Zirkle, this quotation could not be more relevant, especially for an arts theatre in a small ski town.

"I feel emboldened [by this phrase]," Zirkle said. "What does it mean to feel free as an arts programmer and potential audience member? I want to be unrestricted in what I can explore—I want to go off in that unknown area despite dangers that lie ahead."

Since March 12, 2013, when the theatre first opened its doors, the WM-PAC has been doing exactly this—foraging ahead into the unknown, despite the risks. "There's risky programming and safe programming ... I know what will sell well," Zirkle said. "But we would be doing Warren Miller a disservice if we just gave people what they wanted all the time. We want to present things that are new experiences for audience members, even if some think they're horrible."

Although this winter season's schedule had a national personality and "safe programming," such as NPR's Ira Glass, WMPAC also hosted shows like The Last Five Years, an off-Broadway musical. "I'd say that most people have probably never heard of the show before," Zirkle said. "But it brought the most people to the theatre in our history. We brought nearly 750 people [over three nights] to our little theatre of 280, in a town of 2,800 residents. That to me is a huge success."

For Zirkle, no matter how safe or risky a scheduled show is, every WM-PAC stage performance is a testament to the theatre's mission: To grow a community of confident performers and inspired audiences. No matter the season, WMPAC aims to produce quality over quantity. Although there may be just a handful of shows in one winter, every performance is of the highest possible quality, all vetted by Zirkle, the WMPAC team and other professionals in the industry.

"What I hope to achieve is that we create a diverse, theatre-going community," Zirkle said. "I want to help facilitate, amplify and foster an environment where people like to ski and do fun things with the community every week."

And although WMPAC's main focus is the winter season, it also provides year-round opportunities to participate in and view performances. December through March marks the theatre's winter season, while the summer conservatory is from July to August. During shoulder seasons, there is a focus on local and regional artists.

In May there is a community theatre production, while in June there is an annual Big Sky Broadway with local kids, usually ranging from fifth to ninth grade. This year the students will present Matilda, a musical.

"We're showing this route which is anchored in pro artists in the summer making and refining work, then coming back in the winter season to present in the fullest form," Zirkle said. "During that process, we're working alongside the local community, too."

Zirkle tries to keep a few things in mind when scheduling future performances, such as the diversity in media and style. "We want shows to feel different and rich each time, not just present theatre and dance," Zirkle said. "We have people that come to every show, and others that come to just a few. So, we want to aim for the diversity of a ski day: a couple of groomers, something intense, going up the tram and a nice hot chocolate at the end of the day."

Another important aspect when thinking of scheduling is to maintain the spirit of Warren Miller because, after all, he is whom the theatre is named after. While the creative director refrains from the direct approach of presenting Warren Miller films, he keeps Miller's adventurous legacy in mind.

"That typically takes place in the form of a new music piece," Zirkle said. "I want people to walk in and have no idea of what to expect."

While WMPAC has operated for seven successful seasons, each year brings its own set of challenges, ticket sales being the most obvious. Because there is programming that people may not be familiar with, such as The Last Five Years or The Wonderheads, potential audience members may shy away from shows at the theatre.

But, art is a terrible and abstract word, according to Zirkle. "I'm both a ski bum and an arts person. When I don't have to teach, I go to the tram as often as possible," Zirkle said. "I would love for it to feel less abstract and only reserved for people who have a lot of experiences [in the art world]."

To help combat the fear of the unknown, Zirkle and the WMPAC team do their best to focus on the words "diversity" and "inclusion." Although it takes two to three years to program each season, the WMPAC staff is constantly thinking of ways to make sure there is a show for everyone at the theatre.

"We're working to bridge the urban and rural divide by bringing big-city artists to small-town Montana, and ask them to work with our audiences as well as the local and regional community," Zirkle said. "We want to make sure that people come to WMPAC, and want to come back."

Visit warrenmillerpac.org for more information about the theatre and to purchase tickets for upcoming shows, such as the Big Sky Community show, "A Streetcar Named Desire," on May 16.



The Last Five Years brought nearly 750 people to the small-town theatre, and was one of WMPAC's biggest successes in the 2019 season. PHOTO COURTESY OF WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



## 2019 Music in the Mountains Lineup Announced

#### ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

The Arts Council of Big Sky is bringing another summer of Music in the Mountains to Center Stage in Town Center Park in Big Sky, consisting of 15 events between June 20 and Sept. 5. These include 12 Thursday night concerts, the ninth annual Big Sky Classical Music Festival and a performance from Montana Shakespeare in the Parks. All of these performances are free and open to the public.

"I think this season will raise the bar for live music in Big Sky," said Brian Hurlbut, executive director for the Arts Council. "We feel we have the best concert series in the region and this year is no exception. We have some great national acts as well some up-and-coming homegrown talent."

For the third year in a row, the series will kick off with the annual Big Sky Soul Shine event on June 20, featuring cosmic folk band Futurebirds from Athens, Georgia, and local group, Dammit Lauren and the Well, and will conclude with a regional favorite, Pinky and the Floyd, who will bring its all-star Pink Floyd tribute show back to Music in the Mountains for the second year in a row.

Those performances will bookend a variety of performances and genres, appealing to all tastes, from blues to classical, Americana to funk and soul. The full schedule includes Halden Wofford and the Hi-Beams on June 27; the Tiny Band on July 4, complemented by the region's best fireworks show; The Commonheart on July 11; Orgone on July 18;



Hayes Carll premieres on July 25 at Music in the Mountains. His fourth album was the most played album on the Americana Chart in 2011.



Orgone, an "eight-piece soul machine" from L.A. will play on July 18. The band had been churning out gritty funk for nearly 20 years.

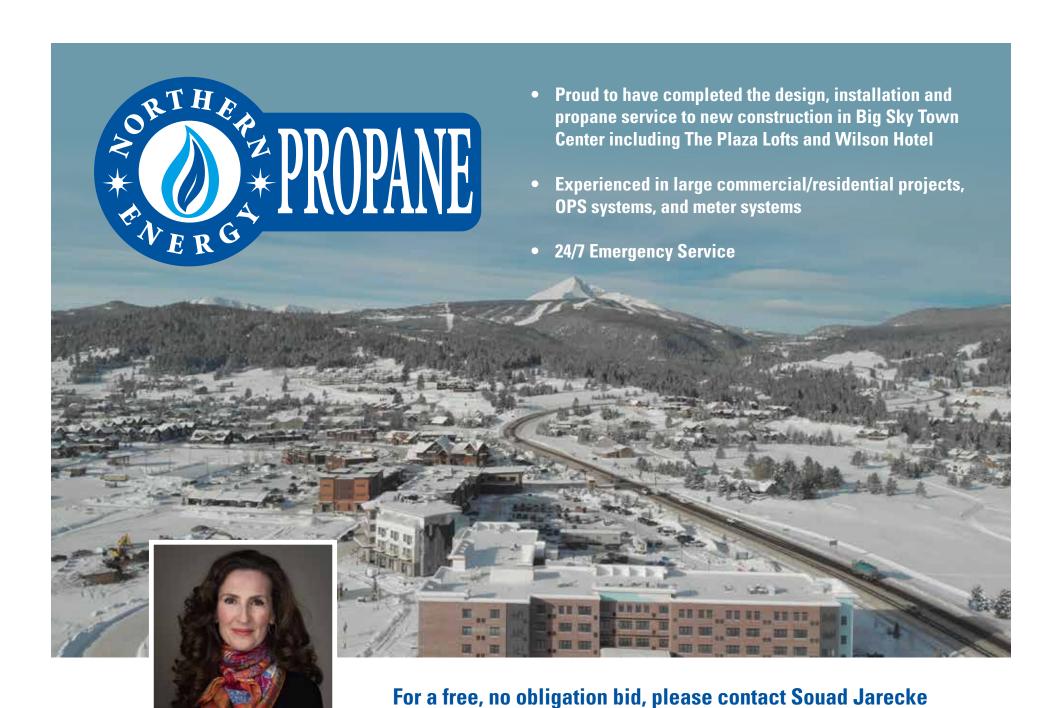
Hayes Carll on July 25; Marcia Ball on Aug. 1; Town Mountain with special guests Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs on Aug. 8; Mt. Joy with special guests Upstate on Aug. 15; Honey Island Swamp Band on Aug. 22; and Ron Artis and the Truth on Aug. 29.

In addition, the ninth annual Big Sky Classical Music Festival with special guests Angella Ahn, Jonathan Gunn and Dallas Brass will take place Aug. 9-11, a free performance of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks will be held in the park on Aug. 19, and the fourth annual Mountainfilm in Big Sky event will cap the summer Sep. 13-15.

The music takes place at Center Stage in Town Center Park, one of the best outdoor venues in the state, right in the heart of Big Sky. The park opens at 6 p.m. each week and there will be food and beverage vendors, and an arts activity tent for kids. Music typically starts at 7:15 p.m., but reference the Arts Council web site for additional details.

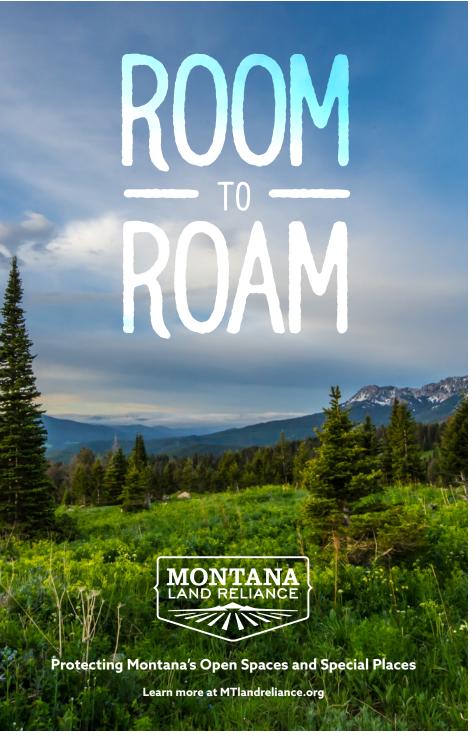
These free community concerts have been a staple in Big Sky for more than 10 years, and this summer should add to a lengthy list of established artists that continue to thrill Big Sky artists.

"We couldn't put on a concert series like this without the generous support of the entire community," Hurlbut said. "It's a huge part of why Big Sky is an amazing place to be in the summer."



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## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Red Ants Pants Music Festival releases lineup

RED ANTS PANTS MUSIC FESTIVAL

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS – Named Montana Event of the Year by the Montana Office of Tourism, the Red Ants Pants Music Festival recently released its 2019 lineup.

The RAPMF is locally-produced and supported by hundreds of Montana volunteers. Festival attendees take pride in knowing a portion of the proceeds from the four-day event support the Red Ants Pants Foundation's mission of increasing women's leadership, promoting rural communities and bolstering our working family farms and ranches.

Held in a working sweet clover cow pasture on the Jackson Ranch just outside of White Sulphur Springs, Montana, the RAPMF will take place July 25-28.

This year's lineup features seven-time nominated Grammy award-winning Patty Griffin, Shakey Graves, Bobby Bare, Colter Wall, Valerie June, Suzy Bogguss, The White Buffalo and more.

Patty Griffin's honors include "Artist of the Year" and "Album of the Year" by the Americana Music Association. Widely regarded among the best pure songwriters of this era, Griffin has just released her long-awaited album, "Patty Griffin."

Shakey Graves, born Alejandro Rose-Garcia, was named 2015 Americana Music Awards Best Emerging Artist winter. His most recent album, "Can't Wake Up," has been called his most ambitious and audacious work yet.

This year's lineup also includes Country Music Hall of Fame inductee and Grammy award-winning Bobby Bare, as well as Colter Wall, Valerie June, Darrell Scott, Mipso, The Steel Wheels, The Waifs and many more.

In total, the festival includes a free street dance on July 25, along with 16 main stage and 14 side stage performances. With a reputation for paring Grammy award-winning superstars with festival producer Sarah Calhoun's hand-picked rising stars, the festival has grown from 6,000 attendees in its first year to 18,000 in 2018.

"As our festival has grown, we've been honored to have strong homegrown support from the Meagher County community and folks from across the state who see great value in connecting with good folks and celebrating rural Montana," said Calhoun, founder of the RAPMF. "This year's lineup includes incredible depth and diversity including Grammy, award-winning stars and up-and-coming artists with new sounds that might help you find your next new favorite musician."

For more information, visit redantspantsmusicfestival.com.

The original Avengers unite to save the universe one last time in "Avengers: Endgame." PHOTO BY MARVEL STUDIOS

## REEL REVIEW

## "Avengers: Endgame"

BY ANNA HUSTED EBS FILM CRITIC

"Avengers: Endgame" will make you laugh and cry, but mostly wish this generation of Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) heroes was not over. The nostalgia I am already experiencing over "Iron Man" (2008) and "Captain America: The First Avenger" (2011) is painful, as I spent my entire 20s watching these heroes grow up. The heroes in "Avengers: Endgame" are woebegone, mourning countless deaths across their universe, struggling to fix errors from the past—I too am in a state of grief, lamenting the end of an era.

Like many MCU films, there is so much plot to digest in "Avengers: End-game" that I'm going to try to keep it simple and avoid spoilers. Essentially, Iron Man, Thor, Hulk, Hawkeye, Black Widow and Captain America must figure out a way to travel back in time to save the other half of the population, whom Thanos destroyed at the end of "Avengers: Infinity War."

Bleak plotlines and a sorrowful ending notwithstanding, "Avengers: Endgame" spends a lot of its three-hour runtime with recurring jokes, mostly at Thor's expense (he's gone a bit off the rails after failing to save the entire universe). Now, I can't elaborate here without spoiling one of the funniest parts of the movie, but let's just say he drinks a few beers while playing a lot of video games—very unbecoming for a distinguished Norse god.

His comedic relief is rivaled only by that of Ant Man, who has been lost in the quantum realm for five years. He has never met the Avengers, knows nothing about space and other planets and is constantly dumbstruck by everyone else's talents and stories, lending a nice reprieve from some disturbing realities.

"Avengers: Endgame" does a bang-up job of refreshing the concept of an unraveling time-space continuum. Unlike everything we know about time travel from other movies, in the MCU it is possible to save half the universe without changing the past, as part of going back in time and seizing all the infinity stones means avoiding past selves who are also fighting back in time with the same goal. In one hilarious fight scene Captain America ends up fighting himself.

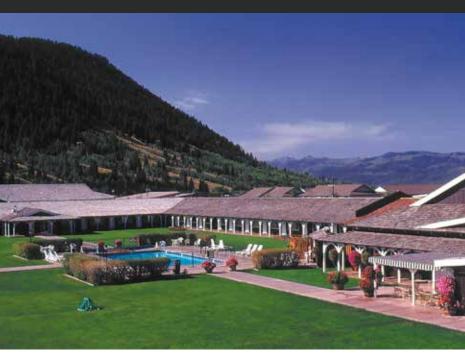
"I could do this all day," Captain America says to himself. He then replies to himself, "Yeah, I know."

I could watch these heroes all day, but it's time to say good-bye to this generation and turn to the comic book horizon for the next.

"Avengers: Endgame" is now showing in theaters.

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

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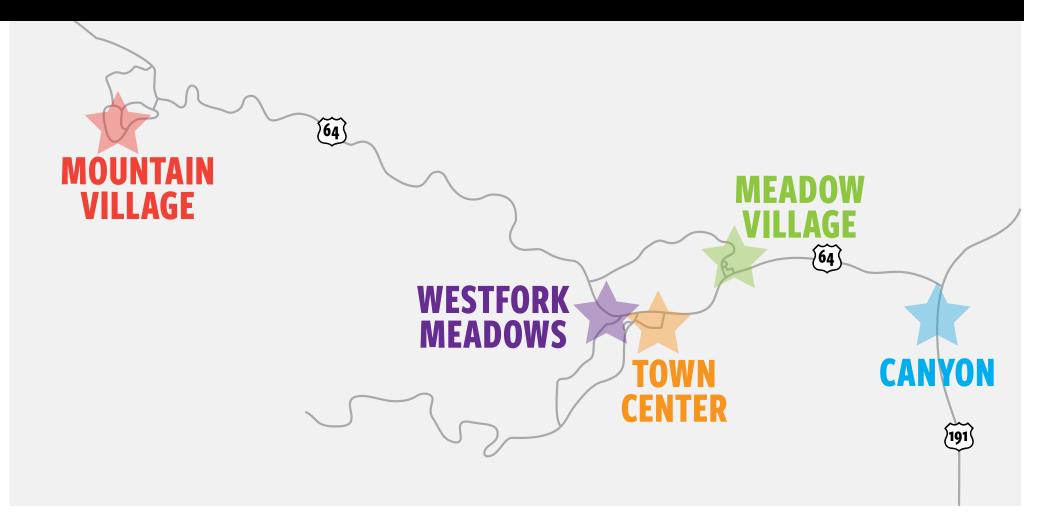
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## **BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR**

FRIDAY, MAY 10 - THURSDAY, MAY 23

If your event falls between May 24-April 6 please submit it by May 15 by emailing media@outlaw.partners

#### **FRIDAY, MAY 10**

Epic Yellowstone: Life on the Wing
The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, MAY 11**

Spring Thaw
The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, MAY 12**

Shrek 2 The Ellen Theatre, 2 p.m.

Live Music: Permafunk Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, MAY 14**

Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, 8:30 a.m.

Great Funder-Nonprofit Relationships Workshop Foundant Technologies, 9 a.m.

Tours for Tots Museum of the Rockies, 10 a.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 15**

Science Inquiry Lecture
Museum of the Rockies, 7 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, MAY 16**

Big Sky Community Building Forum

Lone Peak Cinema, noon

A Streetcar Named Desire Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 7 p.m.

Live Music; Edis Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, MAY 18**

The Real Genghis Khan Exhibit
Opening
Museum of the Rockies

4th Annual Tap Into Ennis Lions Club Park, Ennis, 3 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, MAY 19**

Live Music: Reckless Abandon Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, MAY 20**

MOR Pint Night Mountains Walking Brewery, 4 p.m.

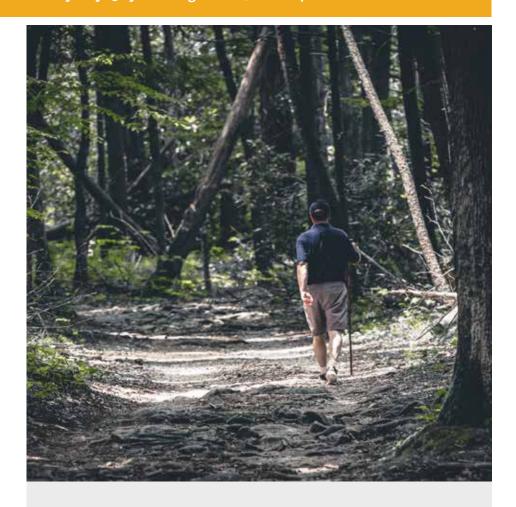
Wednesday, May 22 **GLORIA BELL** 

The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, MAY 23**

Grand Opening Wilson Hotel, Big Sky

Live Music: Jay Alm & Lazy Susan Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.



#### HELENA, MONTANA

#### **Ales for Trails 2019**

Pioneer Park, 120 South Last Chance Gulch Street Friday, May 17, 3:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Helena's Ales for Trails 2019 event consists of multiple community leaders and breweries fundraising to support the area's trail system. Over the first eight years, the event raised over \$100,000 for the area's trails, all which was distributed to Friends of the Centennial Trail, Prickly Pear Land Trust and Helena Parks and Recreation. This year's event will feature 18 breweries, one winery and two cideries, including Lewis & Clark, Draughtworks, Flathead Lake and MAP, among others. Ticket prices start at \$15 and include multiple sample pours and a pint glass. To purchase tickets and for more information, visit eventbrite.com and search for the event.

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

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





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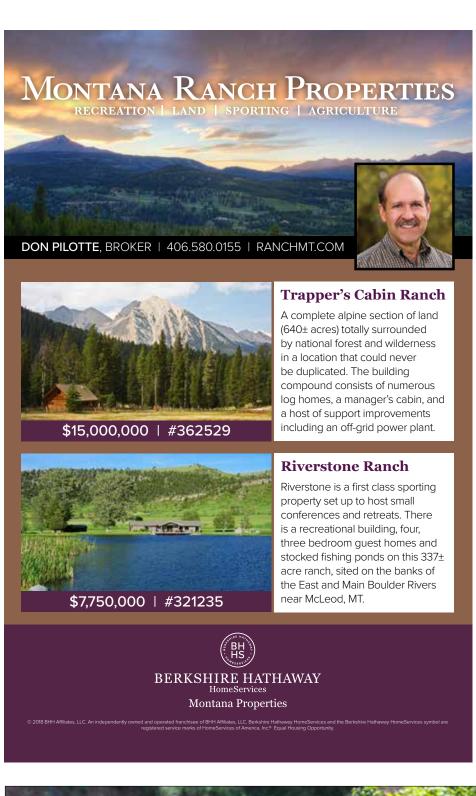
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## The Ellen Theatre features full lineup in May

#### THE ELLEN THEATRE

BOZEMAN – May will be packed for The Ellen Theater in Bozeman, with a lineup including comedy, movie screenings musical performances and musicals.

The Ellen's 100th anniversary kicked off with an entertaining night on Sunday, May 5, with the Ellen Birthday Bash.

This family-friendly event was loaded with music, magic, comedy and more. Joining in the fun was comedy magician of the year Dana Daniels and swingin' piano man Ray Templin.

On Saturday, May 11, the Second-String Orchestra presents "Spring Thaw," with special guest cellist Julia Slovarp. This free-to-the-public event features a variety of musical selections from Beethoven to Handel, and will include the premiere of a piece by local composer Royce Wilkinson.

Shrek 2 screens at The Ellen on Sunday, May 12 at 2 p.m., as newlyweds Shrek and Fiona join a cast of zany characters from Fiona's Fairy Godmother to the swashbuckling cat Puss in Boots. The movie stars Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, Antonio Banderas, Julie Andrews and John Cleese.

Tate Academy will present their spring production, the musical "Willy Wonka Jr." on Saturday, May 18 and Sunday, May 19. Based on the beloved Roald Dahl classic, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," the show features many characters such as Augustus Gloop, Veruca Salt, Charlie Bucket, the Oompa Loompas and the charismatic Candy Man himself, Willy Wonka. The cast is comprised of 31 young actors and the production runs just over one hour.

Comedian Paula Poundstone returns to the Ellen for the seventh time on Friday, May 24. One of the theatre's favorite visiting performers, Poundstone has been a frequent guest on "The Late Show" with David Letterman, "Prairie Home Companion," and is a regular on NPR's "Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me." She exhibits razor-sharp humor with a dry delivery, connecting with the crowd on any subject at the drop of a hat.

Americana folk duo Bettman & Halpin charm the Ellen with unforgettable original music on Saturday, May 25. The twosome is quickly earning a reputation in folk and Bluegrass circles for mesmerizing performances filled with irresistible lyrics, transcendent harmonies and roof-raising instrumentals.



"How to Train Your Dragon," an animated action-fantasy film, will screen Sunday, May 26. Hiccup, a young Viking teen, aspires to follow his tribe's tradition of becoming a dragon slayer, but after capturing his first dragon, he finds he no longer wants to kill the creature and instead befriends him. The movie has received a 98 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

Walter Matthau and Elaine May star in the 1971 dark comedy, "A New Leaf," screening Thursday, May 30. A spoiled and self-absorbed man who has squandered his inheritance is desperate to find a way to maintain his lavish lifestyle. An opportunity presents itself when he meets an awkward and bookish heiress; however, his wits and determination may not be enough to execute his cunning scheme.

On Friday, May 31, America's favorite cowboys are hitting the trail and heading back to Bozeman for another rip-roaring roundup. Grammy winners for the toe-tapping tune, "Woody's Round-up," in "Toy Story 2," Riders in the Sky are a hit with kids and grown-ups alike. This visit, these modern-day icons are celebrating an important milestone: 40 years of playing together.

Visit the ellentheatre.org to learn more, or to purchase tickets over the phone call The Ellen box office at (406) 585-5885.



Riders in the Sky is an American Western music and comedy group whose style mostly appeals to children. Their visit to the Ellen Theatre on May 31 celebrates 40 years of playing together. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ELLEN THEATRE

