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# Bay 24-June 6, 2019 Volume 10 // Issue #11

**Growing Pains:** Who's really in charge?

Big Sky Resort's \$13M upgrade

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**Q&A:** Paige and The People's Band

Resort tax appropriations on the horizon

Big Sky's blind skier



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PUBLISHER Eric Ladd | eric@theoutlawpartners.com

#### EDITORIAL

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, VP MEDIA** Joseph T. O'Connor | joe@theoutlawpartners.com

LOCAL EDITOR Bay Stephens | bay@theoutlawpartners.com

**DIGITAL EDITOR, STAFF WRITER** Michael Somerby | michael@theoutlawpartners.com

**SPORTS EDITOR / DISTRIBUTION DIRECTOR** Doug Hare | doug@theoutlawpartners.com

**ENVIRONMENTAL & OUTDOORS EDITOR** Jessianne Castle | media@theoutlawpartners.com

#### CREATIVE LEAD DESIGNER

Marisa Specht

**SENIOR VIDEO EDITOR Ryan Weaver** 

LEAD VIDEOGRAPHER Jennings Barmore

#### SALES AND OPERATIONS **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

Megan Paulson | megan@theoutlawpartners.com

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SALES AND MARKETING** EJ Daws | ej@theoutlawpartners.com

MEDIA AND EVENTS DIRECTOR Ersin Ozer | ersin@theoutlawpartners.com

MEDIA SALES ASSOCIATE Sam Brooks | sam@theoutlawpartners.com

**CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER** Blythe Beaubien | blythe@theoutlawpartners.com

CONTROLLER Becca Burkenpas

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Big Sky Resort patrons can expect a totally revamped Mountain Village base area experience for the 2019-20 season, with a new food hall offering sushi flown in from the coasts, stone fired pizza and a taqueria, among other cuisines and promising facility upgrades.



#### **Q&A: Paige and The People's Band**

Bozeman's Paige and The People's Band has shared stages with the likes of B.B. King, Willie Nelson and The Doobie Brothers. Now they'll share one with Brandi Carlile and a cast of rock 'n' roll hall of famers for the Peak to Sky concert.



#### Resort tax appropriations on the horizon

On June 3, the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board will hold a Q&A session for resort tax applicants. Appropriations will be divvied out on June 10.

#### **Big Sky's blind skier**

How 12-year-old Jacob Smith, who is legally blind, tackles some of Lone Mountain's most challenging features. Hint: it has a lot to do with born resilience.



#### CONTRIBUTORS

Linda Arnold, Carie Birkmeier, Anna Husted, Ted Kooser, Stephanie Lynn, Nehalem Manka, Scott Mechura, Mark Wehrman, Christine Gianas Weinheimer, Jenny Wilcynski, Todd Wilkinson

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

River runners ride the tempest past House Rock last year during spring runoff on the Gallatin River. This year, the river started rising rapidly. From May 11-17 the Gallatin tripled in flow, peaking at 3,170 cubic feet per second past House Rock before colder weather slowed snowmelt in the high country. As the river continues rising, for river runners the best is still ahead. **OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO** 

Tastes like victory. The U12 girls Big Sky FC team takes a bite out of their first place medals after winning the Helena Arsenal Invitational with three solid victories over the May 18-19 weekend. PHOTO BY ELIA TURNER

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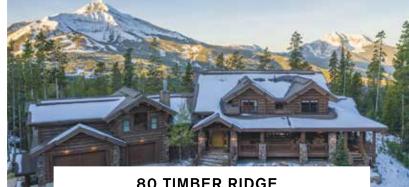
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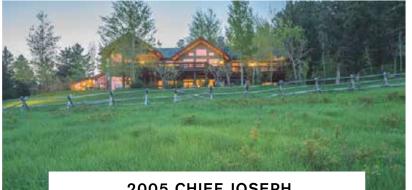
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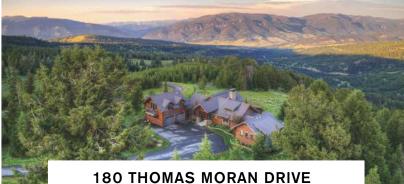
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# NEWS IN BRIEF



# \$13 million upgrade to Big Sky's Mountain Village underway

#### **BIG SKY RESORT**

Big Sky Resort is investing \$13 million in the Mountain Village base area experience. Renovations are currently underway for a modern food hall for the 2019-20 ski season.

All-new cuisine options include sushi flown in fresh from the coasts, a ramen station, a taqueria, stone-fired pizza, specialty coffee and crepe stations, and a deli and grill.

Seating will nearly double with an increase of more than 350 seats. Après ski will be enlivened with new outdoor decks with views of Lone Mountain and an outdoor fireplace.

Improvements to the facility's lower level include complimentary day-use cubbies, day and seasonal-use lockers, a new changing area and expanding bathroom space by more than 50 percent. Staff locker facilities on the lower level will also be expanded and modernized.

A new public elevator installed in the central core of the building will be available to all, and will be most impactful for recreationists with disabilities.

The renovated common area will also serve as a flexible event venue with a capacity of over 750 people.

# Carbon dioxide levels reach historic high

EBS STAFF

Scientists at the Mauna Loa Observatory on the Island of Hawaii have detected alarming levels of carbon dioxide in Earth's atmosphere, the highest since record keeping began.

The recent readings had C02 levels at 415.26 parts per million, and according to Wolfgang Lucht from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, a widely accepted consensus in the science community was that maintaining a level of 350 ppm was necessary to stave off runaway warming of the atmosphere.

"It shows that we are not on track with protecting the climate at all."

### Tickets on sale for Annual Parks and Trails Gala

# Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, Visit Big Sky seek board members

EBS STAFF

The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce as well as Visit Big Sky have two open seats on their boards of directors. Seats will each be available for a three-year term, and interested applicants are instructed to submit a letter of interest and resume to the respective nominating committees at Candace@bigskychamber. com. The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce's seats will be filled by a vote from Chamber members at the 22nd Annual Black Diamond Awards Dinner.

### MeadowView Condos ribbon cutting

#### EBS STAFF

The Big Sky Community Housing Trust invites the community to join them on Arapho Trail, adjacent to the Big Sky Community Organization tennis courts and Little Coyote Road, on May 30, from 4-6:00 p.m. for a ceremonial ribbon cutting event to commemorate the Grand Opening of the MeadowView Community Housing Condos.

A champagne toast and a tour of several of the newly constructed units will accompany the ribbon cutting.

The event is complimentary. RSVP at https://bit.ly/2EqZypJ.



#### EBS STAFF

Tickets for the Big Sky Community Organization's Annual Parks & Trails Gala go on sale May 24,

There are 250 seats available for the July 12 event, which is a celebration of the creation a community park and trail system throughout Big Sky. It is also an opportunity to learn more about future projects.

Dinner will be provided by Seasonal Montana, and will be followed by live music and dancing.

Dress for the event will be "Montana Cocktail," according the BSCO website, which also lists three tiers of available sponsorhip for businesses.

For more information on the event and sponsorship packages, visit BSCOmt.com, call (406) 993–2112 or email at sara@bscomt.org.

# Ophir Elementary celebrates screen-free week

From March 29 to May 5, the kindergarten through fifth grade students took the challenge of foregoing TV and phone screens—aside from for classwork—for a week. 100 of them survived and got to celebrate with an ice cream party in the Ophir Elementary cafeteria.

The event at the school was part of an international initiative in which over 150,000 people "unplugged from screen-based entertainment and let their imaginations run wild." From Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Christchurch, New Zealand, communities turn off their devices to encourage their children to learn through creative play, explore the physical world and build their curiosity.

#### **OPINION**



With the Wilson Hotel opening, there will be increases in foot traffic and visitors in Big Sky. What businesses are missing from the mix?



Jennifer Camire Bozeman, Montana

We eat so much of the same thing, so we need more variety. The taco bus [El Pueblito] was a step in the right direction. Maybe another brewery.



**Jim Holmes** Big Sky, Montana

I would assume you could do more daycare and pet care, but the ultimate business would be a transfer station. What does a guy do with his old mattress? Where do you find an old overstuffed chair that someone doesn't need anymore? You find them on the side of the road.



**John Berezny** Big Sky, Montana

Whatever is made needs to be really interactive and welcoming for local folks. ... I believe that with the new community center being built, there needs to be an emphasis on a place where true locals, especially of an older age or unfortunate situation, can walk in and feel welcome. A place where people can join the community without a drinking element.



**Kevin Fabozzi** *Big Sky, Montana* 

There certainly could be a little more variety of restaurants in Town Center, and there should be some funky retail.... But they really oughta be thinking about designating more open space for visitors and the community.





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# **Guest Editorial:** Visions for the future West

A few statistics: Bozeman is the fastest growing micropolitan area in the country; if the current annual growth rate of 3.8 percent persists, the population of Gallatin County will double in less than 20 years; one billion dollars of improvements are currently underway in Big Sky; in Livingston, a 132-acre subdivision was recently approved and Forbes Magazine has named Livingston one of the best places in America to invest in vacation rentals.

Consider how things are changing around us—our communities, our rural landscapes and our parks and wildlands. Then imagine how, in an ideal world, you would like them to be 10, 20 or 30 years down the road. What came to mind? Conversely, what didn't?

When I ask people that question, sometimes they respond in a split second. I'm impressed by their clear and compelling vision for the future. It makes me less apprehensive about the long-term well-being of our towns, working lands, wildlife and wild places. More often than not, however, I am met with blank stares followed by colorful language related to how "things are going to hell in a hand basket."

In 2017, a Future West conference in Bozeman put a spotlight on the array of 21st Century conservation issues affecting the Northern Rockies. "Sustaining the New West: Conservation Challenges – Conservation Opportunities" brought together a variety of individuals concerned about growth and its impacts, climate change, increasing pressure on public lands and other threats to environmental quality and our quality of life. It was a wake-up call for many in the audience.

Some good news has followed the event. Major conservation victories like the passage of the Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act demonstrated that when people with a shared concern come together thoughtfully—in this case to overcome a conservation challenge—they can accomplish great things.

Still, general trends related to growth and its impacts are alarming, and do not bode well for efforts to conserve our natural environment and the sustainability of our communities. It's gut-check time for all who love the West and want to keep wide-

open spaces wide open, communities livable and affordable and wildlands truly wild.

There's no lack of organizations—governmental and nongovernmental—focused on understanding these problems and working hard to solve them. What is lacking is a shared long term vision for the future of the natural and community assets that set us apart from so many other places.

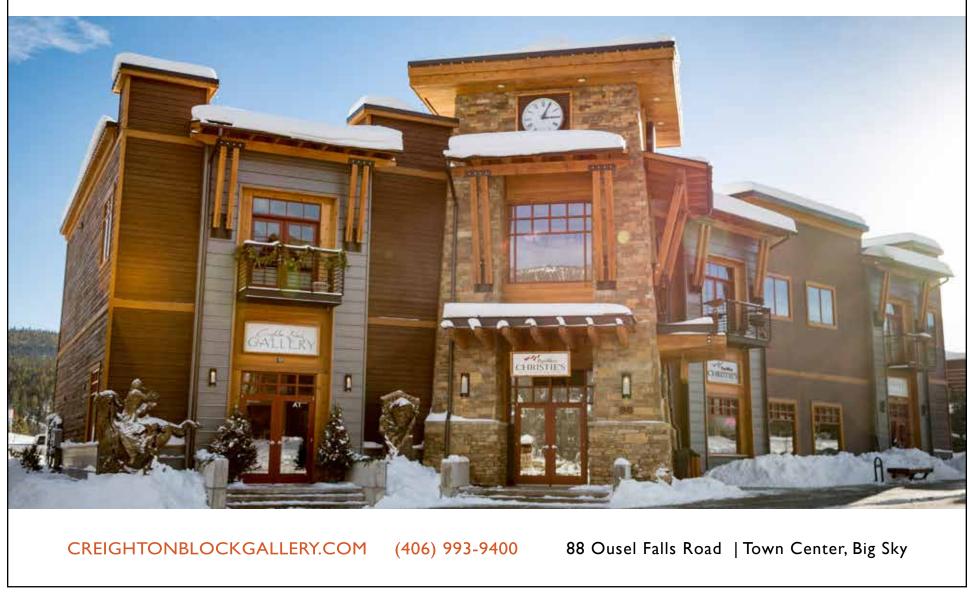
On June 5, at Bozeman's Emerson Cultural Center, a lineup of speakers will come together for a second Future West conference, "Sustaining the New West: Bold Visions – Inspiring Actions." We will once again review how growth and climatic trends are impacting the region, but the bulk of the day will be spent exploring alternative future scenarios and actions we can take to make these visions a reality. What do representatives from local government, the ranching, and conservation community have to say about their future vision for the Northern Rockies? We'll find out.

To demonstrate the feasibility of these alternatives, some of the West's most promising efforts to plan for and achieve sustainability on a regional scale will be highlighted. Among others, the Mayor of Canmore, Alberta, will talk about a town that has become famous for their efforts to reduce growth impacts on adjoining wildlands while addressing community challenges like affordable housing and transportation. We'll hear from representatives of the Blackfeet Nation who have crafted a climate change adaptation and sustainable agricultural plan for their territory. One of the country's premier regional planning efforts, The Tahoe Basin Planning Agency, will describe how their efforts have managed growth in an internationally-known tourist destination. Other Westerners, from both near and far, will share inspiring stories that could provide us with guideposts for a more sustainable future.

-Dennis Glick Director, Future West



Traditional and Contemporary Western Art



# Letter to the Editor:

# In response to calls for free-roaming bison

To the Editor,

Natalie Crane's letter calling for free-roaming bison overlooks private property rights for Montana farmers, ranchers and others, and the fact that, unlike deer and elk who go over fences, bison go through them.

So implementing a free-roaming bison policy in Montana would abrogate Constitutional property rights of Montanans, and make farming and ranching impossible in Montana because it requires fences to keep cattle contained and out of crop fields.

How do free-roaming bison advocates expect these Montanans to earn a living? And what Montana-grown food do they expect the rest of Montana to eat when they've made ranching and farming impossible here?

Dan Griffing *Belgrade* 

# Have you voiced your support for our trails?

To the Editor,

Each spring, I put together a hit list of trail runs I want to complete that season, selecting them on the basis of beauty, length and accessibility. Last summer, some good running buddies and I completed the Devil's Backbone (Gallatin Crest Trail) and the Sky Rim Traverse in Yellowstone.

This year, I've got my eyes on the Lionhead Trail by Hebgen Lake. My husband Mike has been raving for years about its high-alpine single track, lack of travelers and expansive views. In mountain biking circles, Lionhead has a coveted set of trails maintained with pride by the southwest Montana chapter of the International Mountain Bicycling Association.

But did you know the Lionhead landscape is currently under review, as part of the U.S. Forest Service's Custer Gallatin Forest revision plan? The organization has outlined a series of potential scenarios for the area, including some that would completely close the whole area to mountain biking. While I'm not a mountain biker, I support mountain biking in places like the Lionhead, as well as other issues regarding access.

The Forest Service's goal is to protect the landscape, which may require designating the Lionhead as a non-motorized backcountry area. Thankfully the USFS has proposed this in Alternative E, but they need to know that people want to see that designation in the final decision.

We need to keep special places like Lionhead accessible. That's why most of us moved here, isn't it? We came for the winter but stayed for the summer because of what this area has to offer. I hope you will also voice your opinion.

For more information and to make your voice heard, visit tinyurl.com/caracgnf or contact the Forest Service by mail at Forest Plan Revision Team, P.O. Box 130, Bozeman, MT 59771.

Kate Ketschek Big Sky





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# **2019 SCHEDULE**

SATURDAY, JULY 20 & SUNDAY, JULY 21 Fourth Annual Big Sky Art Auction Artist Reception & Preview | Saturday, July 20 Live Auction | Sunday, July 21 Arena Tent | www.bigskyartauction.com Featuring \$500,000+ in traditional and contemporary Western art, this event gives attendees the chance to appreciate a wide variety of art by famed artists from the region.

# WEDNESDAY JULY 24

#### **Big Sky PBR Golf Tournament** to Benefit the Western Sports Foundation **The Reserve at Moonlight Basin**

Registration at 9am | Shotgun Start at 11am

Buy a team and be paired with a cowboy. 18 teams of 4 plus a PBR cowboy will play a 18-hole, 5-person team scramble. All proceeds from the tournament will go to the Western Sports Foundation, whose mission is to support total athlete wellness for those competing in Western lifestyle sports by providing resources for life.

# THURSDAY JULY 25

#### Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 1 | PBR Arena

**4:30pm – Gates Open** | **5:30pm – Bull Riding Begins** PBR's Touring Pro Division kicks off three nights of bull riding in Big Sky with 40 of the world's best cowboys going head to head with world-class bulls.

#### Music in the Mountains

PBR Kick-Off Concert with Hayes Carll Sponsored by Big Sky PBR, presented by Arts Council Big Sky Town Center Park | FREE 6pm – Park opens

7:15pm — Opening act 8:30pm — Hayes Carll

# s Carll cil Big Sky

### THURSDAY JULY, 25 **PBR BULL RIDING** \*TICKETS AVAILABLE!\* BIGSKYPBR.COM



#### FRIDAY JULY 26

#### Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 2 | PBR Arena

12:00pm - Will Call opens for ticket pickup
4:30pm - Golden Buckle gates open
5:00pm - Calcutta Auction in the Golden Buckle tent
5:30pm - General Admission gates open
6:30pm - Bull Riding event starts
8:30pm - Concert to follow

PBR's Touring Pro Division continues to light up Big Sky Town Center with 40 of the world's best cowboys going head to head with world-class bulls.

#### Big Sky PBR After Party & Music Featuring Jamie McLean SAV Stage | 8:30pm

Concert access included with Big Sky PBR tickets. Music-only tickets available at bigskypbr.com.

#### SATURDAY JULY 27

#### Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 3 | PBR Arena

12:00pm - Will Call opens for ticket pickup
4:30pm - Golden Buckle gates open
5:00pm - Calcutta Auction in the Golden Buckle tent
5:30pm - General Admission gates open
6:30pm - Bull Riding event starts
8:30pm - Concert to follow

PBR's Touring Pro Division wraps up after three epic nights of bull riding in Big Sky. One cowboy will be named the champion and will take home the Western bronze, the check, the guitar and the buckle.

#### Big Sky PBR After Party & Music Featuring Hell's Belles

#### SAV Stage | 8:30pm

Concert access included with Big Sky PBR tickets. Music-only tickets available at bigskypbr.com.

### MORE INFORMATION, SCHEDULE & TICKETS AT **BIGSKYPBR.COM**



# GROWING PAINS PART FIVE

# Who's in charge around here? Those who speak up

#### BY BAY STEPHENS

This is the fifth installment of "Growing Pains," an ongoing series centered on Big Sky's growth, the challenges and potential opportunities it presents.

BIG SKY – On May 16, the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce hosted an event at Lone Peak Cinema called the Big Sky Community Building Forum as part of National Infrastructure Week, during which stakeholders provided updates on developments and community projects underway in Big Sky.

Forum presenters included representatives of Lone Mountain Land Company, Spanish Peaks, Moonlight Basin, Big Sky Resort, Northwestern Energy, Gallatin County Planning and Zoning, Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center, Big Sky Community Housing Trust, Big Sky School District, Big Sky Community Organization, Big Sky Town Center and the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board.

Dan Clark (left), director of the MSU Local Government Center, with chamber CEO Candace Carr Strauss during a presentation of self-governing options for Big Sky in April of 2018, part of the Eggs and Issues event the chamber hosted preceding the joint county commissioners' meeting. PHOTO COURTESY OF BECKY BROCKIE PHOTOGRAPHY

In lieu of a town government, these for-profit and nonprofit organizations, along with

homeowners' associations and the BSRAD board, constitute the growing mountain hamlet's local quasi-governance. Yet one organization has risen to be an increasingly prominent voice in facilitating how Big Sky operates, led by an ardent CEO. The local chamber of commerce, headed by Candace Carr Strauss, might have its hand on the tiller of Big Sky by default.

The chamber's curriculum vitae is long in Big Sky, stretching back to the mid '80s when lodging tax dollars sparked the organization.

In recent years the chamber, in partnership with the Big Sky Community Organization, spearheaded the effort that resulted in the \$10.4 growth is estimated to be 21.3 percent and that the number of businesses has increased by 17 percent in the past five years.

When Carr Strauss arrived in 2017, she formalized a regular biannual schedule for the Joint County Commissioner meetings, which she said were set up ad hoc beforehand.

To be clear, in unincorporated Big Sky the chamber has long played a nontraditional and involved role in the community's operation, albeit to a lesser extent than today.

From 2000-2011, under the leadership of former executive director Marne Hayes, the chamber pounded the halls of the capitol to change legislation that made way for Lone Peak High School to open in 2009. In the mid-2000s, the chamber also undertook a strategic community visioning process similar to that currently being implemented by community planning firm Logan Simpson, which was hired by BSRAD. But today's visioning process, Hayes says, is far more extensive.

million TIGER grant awarded for transportation last year, which is yet to be signed by county commissioners so that the money can be put to use. The chamber also created the Big Sky Community Housing Trust, which, with the support of resort tax dollars, has resulted in the first 52 deed-restricted units in the area, reserved for workforce housing.

"We see something going on, it needs to be addressed," Carr Strauss said. "No one else is willing to do it [so] we take the lead on it, but then we get it to a point and then we birth it out to stand on its own. The housing trust is that perfect example."

In early May, the chamber released the Big Sky Economic Profile, a calling card of sorts for Big Sky that provides key information to prospective residents and business owners, as well as the banks that consider funding their business endeavors. Created by Bridge Economic Development, a Portland, Oregon-based economic consulting firm, the profile provides a snapshot of Big Sky and its growth, including how resort tax allocations have increased by 190 percent since 2009, that the five-year population Even before Hayes, Big Sky's chamber played a central role in creating the Big Sky's resort tax district that allowed dollars collected on "luxury" goods within the district to be spent as the local elected board—not the county—saw fit.

Largely because others have not stepped into positions of leadership, the chamber occupies a position of unique influence within the community. Under Carr Strauss' management, the organization has further assumed the responsibility to the point where "Facilitating Local Governance" is a regular agenda item at its board meetings.

"The chamber gets the dialogue going," said Kevin Germain, who sits on

the organization's board and chairs the resort tax board. "... The chamber has done an exemplary job of identifying community issues and shining a light on them."

Germain, who is also vice president of planning and development for CrossHarbor Capital's Lone Mountain Land Company, says Big Sky functions well with its current medley of informal governing bodies.

"We should really be commended of the hard work and dedication that our citizens put into the multiple volunteer boards that govern our community," he said. "I applaud the 'bootstrap' mentality of Big Sky residents. People see an issue and they jump in to fix it."

While the system has worked to create the Big Sky of today, a place of growing popularity and accompanying development, preliminary results from Logan Simpson's Community Visioning Strategy process known as Our Big Sky has revealed an undercurrent of anxiety among locals.



"Polaroids and Pints," a part of Big Sky Resort Area District's Community Visioning Strategy, "Our Big Sky," took place at Beehive Basin Brewery on February 28. The visioning strategy is being conducted by Logan Simpson and will continue through the end of 2019. Many hope the process will provide an actionable vision for Big Sky. PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

"We need a central governing body," said one participant who was quoted in a Logan Simpson presentation. "We've grown too big to continue being run by HOAs, corporations and volunteers."

Others added that Big Sky lacks a centralized leadership with a structure of accountability, as well as proper zoning, planning, resource management and a central platform for open discussion between locals.

"The biggest thing the community needs at this point is a common vision," wrote another commenter.

The growing role the chamber plays in fulfilling governing needs in Big Sky has not been well received by some members of the community.

"The chamber represents business, governments represent people," said resort tax board vice chair Steve Johnson. "While the chamber's efforts to address this need are appreciated, decisions about local government are by law the decision of those locally governed: people who live and are registered to vote here. [These decisions are] theirs and theirs alone."

In Big Sky, formal leadership falls to no one entity or individual explicitly. The resort tax board exercises the power of the purse, doling out money to the nonprofits and organizations that, in its collective opinion, stand to most benefit the community. Resort tax board members are at least elected, thereby representing the local community, but they were not elected to lead Big Sky, according to Germain. They were elected to handle resort tax collections and allocations. "When I started in Helena, I realized Big Sky is pretty amazing," O'Leary said. "A lot of communities around the state look to Big Sky for the kind of leadership that goes on here ...[Many say] 'If only we had [the money] Big Sky has.' And I get to say, 'If only you could coordinate and work together like Big Sky does.' It's pretty remarkable."

O'Leary has been impressed by the chamber's current staff calling the team "scrappy and strategic" as well as good listeners.

Despite this, Steve Johnson says locals often ask him, "Who's going to be our voice?"

"I tell them, 'You are your voice," Johnson said. "No one will intercede for residents except themselves."

Many hopes hang on the final results of BSRAD's community strategic visioning process, which will conclude at the end of 2019, especially in terms of giving a unified vision and actionable steps toward achieving that vision over the next decade.

Both Germain and Johnson see the process as an opportunity for all community members to voice what they really want Big Sky to become, which could significantly influence how BSRAD allocates funds. Carr Strauss was thrilled when the resort tax board committed to carrying the ball; if they hadn't, the chamber would have, she said.

All three have urged as many locals as possible to participate in the process. After all, when it comes to governance in Big Sky, voices that don't speak won't be heard.

In the eyes of Gallatin County residents, nonprofits have the greatest positive impact on the community, according to a summary report from an event held last October called "A Seat at the Table," which gathered locals across the county to discuss change in the growing communities. In Big Sky, these nonprofits' boards are not elected, but instead are run by those who are able and passionate to volunteer.

Meg O'Leary, who worked for 23 years as former director of sales and marketing for Big Sky Resort before serving as director of Montana's Department of Commerce under Gov. Steve Bullock from 2013-2016, said this is how Big Sky has had to function.

"You need everybody at the table sharing their leadership and experiences," she said, adding that even without a formal government, Big Sky's operational approach has been a source of admiration for other communities around the state. On June 11 and 12, Logan Simpson will continue the Strategic Visioning Process with small group session. Groups can RSVP for a 90-minute session to review what Logan Simpson has heard so far and continue to add to the picture. Visit OurBigSkyMT.com to sign up and to learn more.

Look for the next installment of "Growing Pains," our ongoing series on growth in Big Sky, coming in the June 7 edition of EBS. Visit explorebigsky. com to read previous installments in the series.

# **IB program brings BSSD to next level** 2019 seniors first to graduate LPHS with full IB diplomas

#### BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – On Saturday, June 1, Lone Peak High School will graduate its first class of students with full International Baccalaureate diplomas. Since its implementation two years ago, the program has been challenging yet rewarding for students, teachers and administrators at Big Sky School District. Ophir Elementary School also sits on the edge of receiving full authorization for IB's Primary Years Program.

Of the high school's 16 graduating seniors this year, nine are pursuing full IB diplomas, but have to wait until July 3 when their exam scores are posted before they know whether they'll receive the diploma.

For students who chose to pursue the IB Diploma Program, the most rigorous path to graduation at the school, the curriculum forced them to work hard and to surprise themselves with their accomplishments, in school and beyond.

If you ask Dawson Raden or Sam Johnson what they thought of the IB Diploma Program, both would say it was demanding, especially as student athletes. Repart of the second seco

Sam Johnson (left) and Dawson Raden will graduate from Lone Peak High School on June 1 after having gone through the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, which could give them a year's worth of college credit if they pass the exams they took in mid-May. They'll have to wait to find out until July 3 when IB posts the exam scores for students around the world. PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

"You have a lot of papers to write, a lot of homework, the tests are very difficult," Johnson said. "So, it's a very difficult program alone [even] if you're not missing school for sports."

As skiers, Johnson competed in downhill races throughout the winter and trained two afternoons each week, while Raden missed an average of three school days for each competitive freeride competition he traveled to. Rather than quitting their sport because of the pace of the Diploma Program, both student athletes had great years on the snow, podiuming in many of their respective competitions.

Johnson and Raden agreed that time management and communication were chief skills they developed over the past two years in the program.

"It was all about talking to your teachers before you left to get work ahead of time and then talking to them right when you got back to see what you needed to catch up on," Raden said. defined, long-term goal," Eisele said. "I also would say it has elevated the pace of my teaching."

Through the IB program, the senior class learned alongside their teachers, furnishing a special companionship.

"The students have been big supporters, and they know that I am always rooting for them," Eisele said. "I feel that the biggest payoffs for students will come in the form of the intangible skills: self-motivation, time management, written communication and most of all, grit. They learned to stick with the program, even when it felt impossible and overwhelming."

From what Sam Johnson's mother Martha has heard while touring colleges with her son, the IB Diploma Program is a big positive mark with admissions offices.

"When the advisors heard that [Sam] was in the IB ... they said, 'Wow, those kids are so focused and dedicated and they transition to

While Raden thought senior year would be more laid back, he was surprised by how well he balanced rigorous studies with his freeride competitions, ending up 12th in North America and 9th in the nation for his age group. For Johnson, he hadn't thought he'd be able to write the in-depth, 4,000-word research paper that the Diploma Program requires.

"Then I ended with 3,999 words," Johnson said. "I never would have thought in a million years that I would have done that. [IB] really pushes you to succeed and it kind of surprises you."

The program also involved a learning process for teachers, such as Dr. Kate Eisele, who taught Diploma Program Biology.

"I've been challenged by [IB] professionally, but I think it has helped me to grow as a teacher because I had to keep working toward a very college so much easier than kids who have not done the IB program," she said.

The Diploma Program isn't the only path to graduating at BSSD, according to IB Program Coordinator Marlo Mitchem. The school also provides a midlevel path that mixes IB classes with traditional classes, as well as one that sticks to a mostly traditional curriculum, although all juniors and seniors have some exposure to IB. Only the Diploma Program is awarded the full IB diploma, but that doesn't mean other students don't find opportunities to excel.

"All students accomplish great things here at this school, not just the full diploma kids," said BSSD Superintendent Dustin Shipman. "All of these kids gained valuable skills through [the IB program]."



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# **BSRAD** resort tax appropriations

On June 3 from 1-7 p.m., the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board will hold a Q&A session at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center for applicants seeking appropriations from BSRAD. The applicants will appear before the board in the sequence denoted below, which was based on the order applications were received.

Total applicant requests equal \$10,953,517. Through March, the most updated amount of resort tax collections came in at \$6,707,304, which does not

reflect April or May collections. The board will update the latest totals at the June 3 meeting.

The final appropriations meeting will be held at WMPAC on June 10 from 6-9 p.m. Agendas for both meetings will be posted a week prior to the sessions, and the board is encouraging members of the public to attend both meetings. – The Editors

I E	BIG SKY FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$916,971	Big Sky Fire Department is seeking support for operations to meet tourism- driven emergency incident growth and to fund the replacement of personal
	Rollover Request:	\$145,000	protection equipment.
2	BIG SKY SEARCH AND RESCUE	\$23,500	Big Sky Search and Rescue is asking for additional funding of daily operations, training, updating some climbing ropes, and updating some older computer equipment.
3 (	GALLATIN INVASIVE SPECIES ALLIANCE	\$138,925	The Alliance is requesting funds for operations and expenses related to three invasive species programs: Community Outreach, Education and Awareness and Environmental Stewardship.
4	BIG SKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	\$417,510	Big Sky Chamber of Commerce seeks funding for its work to Elevate Big Sky (2023), which encompasses Encouraging Community Infrastructure Investment via a study to strive for 21st Century Telecommunications (internet/cell) for the community, Local Governance Facilita- tion, Leadership development for Big Sky's next gen professionals, and Operations and Administration.
5	GALLATIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	\$300,154	The Gallatin County Sheriff's Office provides six (6) Deputies for all-risk law enforcement services for Big Sky/Madison County/Gallatin County areas.
6	BIG SKY TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT	\$975,000	In fiscal year 2020, Skyline hopes to provide more service in Big Sky, and two more roundtrips per day between Big Sky and Bozeman, during the winter season.
	WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER	\$224,191	The Warren Miller Performing Arts Center is requesting funds for capital improvements and updates in audio/visual hardware, and support for visiting artists throughout the Summer, Fall, and Winter Seasons in 2019 and 2020.
	FRIENDS OF THE BIG SKY COMMUNITY LIBRARY	\$80,720	Friends of the Big Sky Community Library are requesting \$80,722 to keep the library open to the public 20 hours weekly during the next year.
9	VISIT BIG SKY	\$778,065	Visit Big Sky, as the community's official destination management and marketing organization seeks funding to support its work to 1) DEVELOP the destination's tourism product offering, 2) PROMOTE the destination beyond world-class winter, and 3) LEAD the tourism collective per Imagine Big Sky (2023), its Tourism Master Plan adopted in May 2018, in addition to Operations and Administrative expenses for TEAM Big Sky leadership and staff, and the Big Sky & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Information Center.
10	BIG SKY DISCOVERY ACADEMY	\$80,000	The Big Sky Discovery Academy is seeking continuation of Resort Tax's support for their early childhood/preschool need-based tuition assistance program.
11	GALLATIN VALLEY SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION	\$85,000	The Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association is requesting funding to provide two additional weekly groomings of the Buck Ridge/Doe Creek Road snowmobile trail during the 2019-2020 snowmobile season. In addition, we are seeking funds to supplement the purchase of a new grooming machine this year.
12	ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY	\$264,750	The Arts Council is seeking support for 2019 and 2020 Music in the Mountains summer programming, as well as funding to support operations for community outreach and development.
13	BIG SKY COMMUNITY FOOD BANK	\$33,000	The Big Sky Community Food Bank is requesting funds to support case management for new and returning clients as well as operations, such as food purchase and processing.
14	WOMEN IN ACTION	\$48,000	Women In Action is requesting funds to help address the behavioral health needs of the Big Sky community, by providing access to mental health therapy, and substance use disorder treatment and prevention.
15	BIG SKY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION	\$2,040,609	BSCO requests funding for the operations and maintenance of our communities' public park and trail systems, as well as capital funding for the public infrastructure associated with 3.3 acres of parkland acquired in Town Center and our communities first and only 25,000 sq. ft indoor community center.
16	HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF GALLATIN VALLEY	\$400,000	\$400,000 Habitat for Humanity of Gallatin Valley, Inc., is asking for financial support to complete the building of two triplexes, (6 units) for employee housing at Big Sky School District #72 These would be made available to employees, teachers/staff, at a rate that would be affordable to them based on their income.
17	BIG SKY COMMUNITY HOUSING TRUST	\$2,435,000	Funding is requested for staffing, Down Payment Assistance, participation in additional housing development projects for local workers, pilot a RENT LOCAL program targetting current Short Term Rental owners, hire a consultant to effect Zoning Changes and a consultant to explore Voluntary Real Estate Transfer Tax options.
18	MADISON CONSERVATION DISTRICT: rollover	\$1,200	Funds will continue the Jack Creek Water Monitoring Project and expand the capacity to work with the community to impact education, conservation and recreation programs.
19	WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY	\$60,592	WCS and the Bear Smart Council believes in people's ability to change the course of human bear conflicts in Big Sky. To reach Big Sky's diverse community we seek BSRAD's support to implement a variety of innovative engagement strategies aimed at gaining collective action to reduce unnatural food sources so that bears only choice is to behave naturally.

20 GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE		\$690,803	The Task Force is requesting funds for operations and expenses related to three programs: Watershed Monitoring, Conservation, and Education and Outreach.			
21 THE POST OFFICE		\$94,000	This request funds the gap between the cost to run the Big Sky Post Office and the contract amount provided by the USPS.			
22	PARKVIEW WEST ASSOCIATION	\$103,000	Parkview West Association seeks funds to help pay for repairing the public bridge across the Gallatin river at Karst. Fire vehicles can't cross the bridge, the only access to homes west of the river, in its current state.			
23	BIG SKY SKATING AND HOCKEY (BSSHA)	\$42,052	The BSSHA is requesting help with respect to a portion of its expenses for operating its ice rink and programs.			
24	MORNING STAR LEARNING CENTER	\$170,175	Morningstar Learning Center is seeking support for the continuation of our Tuition Reduction Program to decrease the price for local Big Sky families.			
25	THE MONTANA LAND RELIANCE	\$26,500	The Montana Land Reliance's request is for support of private land conservation, education and outreach that leads to permanently protected habitat, view sheds and open space in Big Sky.			
	BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS OF GALLATIN COUNTY	\$25,000	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Gallatin County is requesting support for three mentoring entities: the Big Sky coordinator position, community based program, and then school based program.			
27	BIG SKY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT	\$500,000	The Big Sky County Water & Sewer District 363 is requesting funding for a Meadow Village groundwater study to determine the feasibility of indirect potable recharge as a disposal option; wastewater treatment plant design engineering; and community room upgrades.			
28	GALLATIN COUNTY 911: rollover	\$439,449	Gallatin County 911 is asking for financial support for capital expenditures to create a multiple channel 800 MHz mission critical radio network based on Lone Mountain and to purchase new dual band radios that allow emergency responders to use the new system.			
Nev	w Resort Tax Requests:	\$10,953,517				
Total Requests with Rollovers:		\$11,539,166				
*rol	lovers are funds from the previous year					

# **BSWSD puzzles over Spanish Peaks agreement** Considers increased plant upgrade costs, rate structure changes

#### BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – At its May 21 board meeting, the Big Sky Water and Sewer District continued to troubleshoot how to meet an agreement with Spanish Peaks concerning capacity.

Other meeting topics included an update of increasing short-term cost estimates on the wastewater treatment plant upgrade and a first look at different rate charging structures than are currently in place.

Since February, the district and Spanish Peaks, for whom BSWSD provides sewer services, have been trying to reconcile two separate limiting factors in a district agreement written in 2002.

The agreement states that Spanish Peaks "shall be allowed to connect improvements on other lands identified in Exhibit F to the District's wastewater treatment facilities to treat and dispose of [42.56 million] gallons of wastewater per year, which is the equivalent of 1,000 SFEs."

With Spanish Peaks' current platted lots, at full build-out, the district projects the developer will reach its limit in terms of SFEs, but, at Spanish Peaks' current sewer-flow rate for structures already built, the club projects that at full build-out they should be still significantly below the flow maximum of 42 million gallons a year.

"I think you guys are so far ahead of yourselves to sell future capacity now," district chair Packy Cronin told his board, which largely stood in disagreement with him. "I can't even express how far ahead of yourselves you are."

Providing more SFEs to the club could also have repercussions on several other agreements between the district and developers who have reached their SFE maximums but not their flow capacity.

Since February, a subcommittee of the board has met three times with representatives of Spanish Peaks, which yielded a draft agreement that would involve tight monitoring of sewer flow rates as development progresses, and punishments if the developer exceeds the 42-million-gallon maximum. The draft would also require the club to provide increased effluent storage capacity as a consequence of exceeding the maximum.

The board decided to review the draft agreement in greater detail, submit input to General Manager Ron Edwards and have the district's attorney review the document before convening again on June 18 for a possible approval of the document.

Engineers from Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services (AE2S) updated the board on a comprehensive water-modeling system they recently

However, the agreement continues, "for the purpose of fulfilling its obligation to provide future sewer works capacity, the District shall use total wastewater flow as the sole criteria and not SFEs," designating flow rate as the binding portion of the agreement.

Because Spanish Peaks hasn't neared the max-flow rate of the agreement, they requested more SFEs from the district in November of 2018 to continue developing two projects.

The district has been hesitant to grant the club's request for fear of committing and being legally bound to supply more sewage capacity than their facility and effluent storage can handle. As many developments around Big Sky that will connect to the district's sewer system have been permitted but not yet built, there's a possibility the district won't be able to fulfill its obligations to other developments. completed that allows the district to far more accurately track the movement of the water within their water system. The accuracy of the system increases the district's odds of finding leaks that, under the high pressure required to pump water over 2,000 feet of elevation difference, can result in large losses of water, an already scarce resource in the area.

Scott Buecker, also of AE2S, updated the board on the status of the wastewater treatment plant upgrade, offering three alternative avenues of incorporating the land the district recently gained from the Big Sky Community Organization.

Buecker gave three alternatives, the third of which had the most benefits, but had the highest short-term price tag: \$30.5 million. However, over a seven-year period, the third alternative would have a similar cost to the other two.

The district agreed to further review the details of the upgrade option before determining which alternative to pursue at their regular June 18 meeting.

BSWSD is considering changing its rate structure as well, allowing it to allocate costs of water and sewer operations in proportion to the costs ratepayers incur on the district, a topic they will further discuss at next month's meeting.





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#### **ENVIRONMENT**

#### May 24-June 6, 2019 17





# The New West: Wildlife disease expert on feeding elk, wolves and CWD

#### BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

As a globally renowned scientist, Andy P. Dobson specializes in studying a topic that most people don't like to think about, but which is titillating nonetheless: diseases that make both people and animals sick.

From his office in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Princeton University, Dobson has partaken in major research efforts, mentored some of the biggest young thinkers in conservation biology, and served on advisory panels examining disease outbreaks in animals.

In the Lower 48 states, nothing rivals the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in terms of large wild animals moving across it and sharing terrain with non-native domestic animals that haven't really been here that long.

Recently, I was able to catch up with Dobson and have a conversation.

**Todd Wilkinson:** Our mutual friend, Bozeman-based writer David Quammen, explored this subject in his book "Spillover: Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic." Why should inhabitants of the modern world be paying attention to diseases that can spread from wild areas to people/livestock and vice versa?

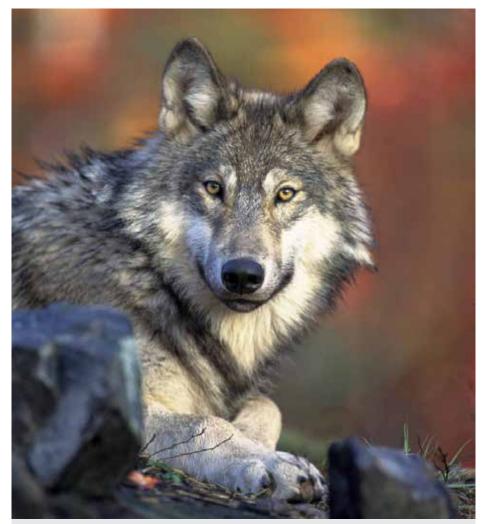
Andy Dobson: I've watched what can happen.

**TW:** You are fascinated by how diseases can become virulent and how pathogens can jump species. We have several that fall into the worrisome category in Greater Yellowstone. Tell us about your interest.

**AD:** I worked on a bunch of emerging disease problems within the National Science Foundation/National Institute of Health Infectious Diseases program that started up in around 2000. It began with looking at pathogens in carnivores in the Serengeti such as rabies and distemper as well as Nipah and Hendra viruses in Malaysia and Australia.

Raina Plowright, now in the disease ecology lab at Montana State University, was a student on this project. We chose a canonical emerging disease which no one cares about so we can study it without trying to eliminate it. The disease, mycoplasma, hit house finches. The disease spread across the entire U.S. between 1993 and today, reducing the house finch population by greater than 50 percent.

**TW:** When it comes to some of the major maladies that are present in Greater Yellowstone—brucellosis, bovine TB, CWD, and pneumonia in mountain sheep—are there any that concern you more?



According to disease expert Andy P. Dobson, wolves and other predators can aid in the removal of wildlife diseases within an ecosystem by killing and consuming infected animals. PHOTO COURTESY OF USFWS

**AD:** Wolves and coyotes are our strongest defense against CWD, particularly wolves—they are pursuit predators who always focus on the weakest animals in a group of potential prey. As CWD manifests itself by reducing locomotory ability, wolves will key in on this and selectively remove the individuals from the population. These animals are then not available to infect uninfected individuals in the herd, so there's a bonus knock-on effect of selective predation.

#### TW: Some claim wolves and coyotes will actually spread CWD.

**AD**: Canids are not susceptible to prions, many millions of years of evolution as scavengers have insured this. During the BSE [Mad Cow Disease] crisis in the UK, it was estimated that a large number of domestic dogs in the UK was exposed to the prions. Not a single dog was ever recorded as infected. So wolves and canids do not transmit the prions/CWD in their feces and urine. It is nonsense to suggest so. Carnivores are also much more territorial in the West and only dispersing individuals range over areas comparable to those of elk, mule deer and pronghorn.

**AD**: I think all are important. The problems they have created usually stem from human mismanagement. Brucellosis is largely a consequence of feeding elk in winter in Wyoming when it might be better to let their populations settle to lower levels with healthier populations.

Similarly, CWD presents an expanding and increasingly worrying threat to elk, mule deer and cattle. It's a consequence of loss of coyotes, wolves and other predators from the West over the last 50 years, combined with early attempts to ranch stock on really poor soils where they are so nutritionally deprived that they gnaw on old carcasses and become infected with prions from animals that have died from CWD.

TW: You've spoken out about the value of predators.

**AD:** If you have wolves and coyotes they kill and consume these weakened animals and effectively remove CWD from the ecosystem. Pneumonia in bighorn [wild mountain] sheep is always spill over from domestic sheep.

**TW:** What role can wild native predators play in slowing the progression of CWD? In the Northern Rockies, there are some that deny they can function as a gauntlet. Your thoughts? **TW:** Given your experience globally, look at the artificial feeding of upwards of 20,000 elk at the National Elk Refuge in Jackson Hole and Wyoming's 22 state-run feed grounds. What's your best scientific opinion?

**AD:** As mentioned above, I think it's really dumb. It's much better to let natural regulation reduce elk populations down to levels naturally supported by the land-scape. Aggregating elk on feed grounds at the time of peak Brucella transmission and with CWD looming is arguably the stupidest form of animal management I can imagine.

Todd Wilkinson is the founder of Bozeman-based Mountain Journal

(mountainjournal.org) 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.

**18** May 24-June 6, 2019

# BIG ART SKY AUCTION

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MATER WISDOM

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

# Water Wisdom: Runoff critical to healthy rivers, fish populations

BY STEPHANIE LYNN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Runoff isn't just for rafters. High water shapes streams and benefits all living things that depend on them.

The Gallatin is unimpeded during its journey from Yellowstone National Park to the headwaters of the Missouri River. Ungoverned by dams, this free-flowing river follows the natural ebb and flow of an alpine river system: swelling in the spring, declining throughout the summer and fall, and freezing in the winter. Each late May and early June, the rising waters play an important role in the life cycle of the river.

"Runoff primes the pump for stream ecological processes to occur," said Jeff Dunn, project manager for Trout Unlimited. Peak flows reset riverbeds, propagate streamside plants, spur spawning for fish and amphibians, and supply water during the dry southwest Montana summer.

When the weather warms, melting snow flows downhill from the mountains to fill streams and rivers. Raging spring floods shift boulders and trees, which creates hiding places and habitat for fish. High water also flushes dirt out of gravel beds, which are used by trout to build their spawning redds and are a home for stream insects.

Spring flows regenerate streamside vegetation by transporting sediment, nutrients and seeds to riverbanks and floodplains. This influx of water carrying fertile matter promotes plant growth. Green, vegetated streambanks protect cold, clean water throughout the year by filtering runoff, using nutrients and shading water.

"Intact riparian vegetation is the key driver of healthy streambanks," Dunn said. "Once plants are removed, you get excess sediment inputs to streams."

Along with water temperature, runoff sets reproductive cues for fish and amphibians. Some species of trout, including native westslope cutthroat, know that it's time to spawn when rivers begin to grow. During high water, cutthroat trout seek calmer water in tributaries to lay their eggs.

Finally, runoff expresses the water stored during the winter in the snowpack bank, providing the primary source of water all summer long. Paddlers, anglers, irrigators and wildlife enjoying the Gallatin River depend on how much, how fast, and how long snow melts in the mountains.

This year, snow-water equivalent—the amount of water stored in the snowpack—peaked in early May just above normal at about 115 percent of the average year, reported the Montana Natural Resource Conservation Service. As long as the Gallatin receives the anticipated spring rains, the watershed will have solid summer supply this year.

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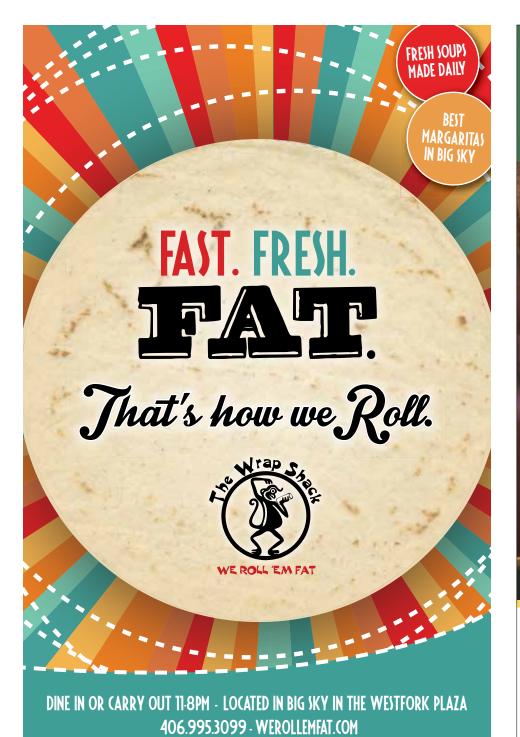
#### bigskyartauction.com

Despite the ecological value of runoff, high water occasionally threatens both humans and their homes. Gallatin County Emergency Management recommends on their website that riverside homeowners protect their properties from flooding by, "cleaning debris out of culverts and from under bridges; making sure there is a clear path for snow to melt away from buildings; and clearing snow piles away from doors, windows and other places that make it easy for melting snow to affect you." Whitewater boaters should also take extra precautions when embarking on spring adventures.

That being said, there is no better time to protect water quality than during runoff, especially in Big Sky. Many streams begin in the mountains surrounding the community, and are critical to having clean, abundant water for all those downstream.

Big Sky community members can keep the Gallatin healthy during spring floods by picking up dog waste before precipitation events push it into waterways, maintaining a buffer of riparian plants near small streams at least fifteen to twenty feet wide, eliminating or limiting the use of fertilizer, and leaving woody debris in the channel.

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





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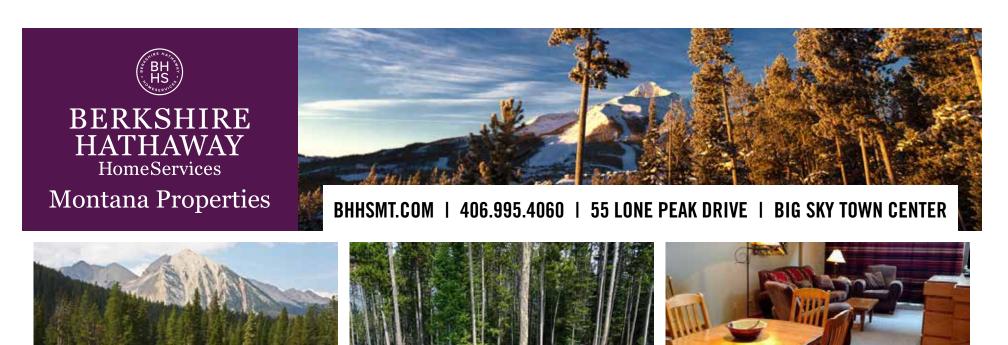


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#### 40 BIG SKY RESORT RD #1981 | \$500,000 #329728 | CALL TONI

This unit with a loft faces Andesite Mtn. and has a full kitchen and fireplace. Excellent place for a ski retreat, summer trip, or relaxing getaway with all the amenities of a hotel.



#### TIMBERLOFT DR LOT 22A | \$425,000 #206527 | CALL DON

Outstanding forested parcel with views of Lone Mountain and Spanish Peaks. Grassy meadows with forested building site, very private! End of the road privacy!



LOT 15B BEAVER CREEK WEST | \$399,000 #324556 | CALL DON

West facing lot provides impressive views of Lone Mtn as well as the Spanish Peaks and Buck Ridge. Two adjacent lots are also available to create a  $54\pm$  acre parcel.



#### 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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# Hike or bike to a Yellowstone geyser

# BY CHRISTINE GIANAS WEINHEIMER EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Yellowstone National Park is home to over half of the Earth's geysers—more than 500 spouting, steaming, gushing spectacles of nature. While the geysers visible from the park's excellent system of boardwalks draw the most visitors, a few can be found slightly off the beaten path. The following trails offer close-up encounters with active geysers, and allow bicycles on at least part of the route.

#### Lone Star Geyser Trail

Escape the Old Faithful crowds by hiking or biking to Lone Star Geyser. A 4.8mile round-trip, the trail is mostly flat and follows a former service route along the Firehole River to the large geyser tucked away in the forest. It has some paved sections but the surface is mainly packed gravel. Find the trailhead 3.5 miles south of Old Faithful Overpass on the Grand Loop Road.

Lone Star Geyser erupts 30-45 feet approximately every three hours from a 12-foot cone. Several small eruptions occur 15-20 minutes before the main eruption, which can last up to 30 minutes. Inquire at the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center, or check the log book at the geyser, for the times of recent eruptions.

#### Fairy Falls Trail

Named for a picturesque, 200-foot-high waterfall, the 6.7-mile round-trip Fairy Falls Trail also leads to Imperial Geyser and Spray Geyser. Park 1 mile south of Midway Geyser Basin at the Fairy Falls Parking Lot and hike or bike 1 mile on an old freight road to the trailhead. Don't miss the short trail segment that climbs to an overlook of Grand Prismatic Spring, the park's largest hot spring at 370 feet in diameter.

From the trailhead, traverse the young pine forest on foot to the falls then continue on to the geysers, which both erupt every few minutes. Imperial Geyser shoots water up to 15 feet from a blue pool ringed by colorful microbial mats.



Imperial Geyser, accessed via Fairy Falls Trail, shoots water 15 feet into the air and is surrounded by a blue pool ringed by colorful microbial mats. NPS PHOTO

Spray Geyser has two vents that give eruptions up to 6 feet in height, making for a v-shaped appearance.

For a less-traveled route to the Fairy Falls trailhead—and nearly 10 miles, round-trip—approach from the opposite direction by following the freight road around 3 miles from Fountain Flat Drive. On both routes, bicycles are allowed along the freight road, but must be left at the trailhead, where racks are provided. Note that these trails are in a bear management area that opens in late May.

**Good to know:** There are no restrooms at either trailhead, and parking is limited at the Fairy Falls lot. Consult a trail map for details on your planned route and stay on maintained trails, as the ground might be unstable in hydrothermal areas. Prepare for traveling in bear country by staying in groups of three or more and carrying bear spray.

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

# Yellowstone announces strategic priorities

#### YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Yellowstone National Park is releasing a series of major strategic priorities that will guide short- and long-term decision making over the upcoming years. The priorities focus heavily on the park's team and organization, strengthening the condition of the Yellowstone ecosystem, improving visitor experience, investing in infrastructure, and expanding partnerships and coalitions.

Specific actions under this priority are being developed in a range of key areas including: a bison management strategy that stabilizes and potentially expands the quarantine program; working with states to protect and facilitate important wildlife migration corridors; and expanding efforts to combat the impacts of non-native species like lake trout in Yellowstone Lake.

Deliver a World Class Visitor Experience: This priority aims to provide clarity and

"It's important that our priorities and actions are clear, not only to the [National Park Service] team here in Yellowstone, but to ensure our partners and the public understand our direction in these very important areas," said Superintendent Cam Sholly.

Each of the park's strategic priorities has a range of focus areas and actions that have been identified and will be continually refined and updated. The Strategic Priorities are:

Focus on the Core: Success in this priority is central to Yellowstone's future and revolves around improving the working and living conditions of the Yellowstone team, how the park manages its financial resources, and how it works toward the best administrative and operational framework.

An example of a specific action under this priority includes the development of a 5-year plan to substantially improve employee housing within the park. The multi-million-dollar plan will work to improve existing housing, eliminate and replace 75 trailers currently used for seasonal employees, and will explore new housing partnership opportunities with gateway communities and partners.

Strengthen the Ecosystem and Heritage Resources: This priority focuses on understanding and responding to the effects of climate change, promoting large landscape and wildlife conservation efforts, and protecting and improving the condition of Yellowstone's vast cultural and historic resources. direction around how the park will handle increased visitation in upcoming years, with special focus on visitor impacts on resources, staffing and infrastructure, visitor experience, and gateway communities.

Importantly, the park is moving out of the data gathering phase and beginning to determine the appropriate short and long-term actions necessary to protect resources, mitigate impacts of congestion, and improve educational, recreational and other visitor enjoyment opportunities. This priority also focuses heavily on improving public safety and resource protection.

Invest in Infrastructure: The park's maintenance backlog exceeds half a billion dollars and is likely much higher. Actions within this priority include: developing a more cogent deferred maintenance reduction plan, improving the quality of data and prioritization processes, and taking better advantage of current and future funding to improve asset conditions and protect investments.

Build Coalitions and Partnerships: Yellowstone's success is predicated on strong partnerships and coalitions. The park will continue to build and align priorities with many partners including Yellowstone Forever and our incredibly generous philanthropic community, with tribes, elected officials, environmental and conservation groups, concessioners, and communities, states, and other federal cooperators.

# Dynamic Yellowstone remains status quo

#### BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

GARDINER – Instruments in tow, Mike Poland set out for Steamboat Geyser in Yellowstone's Norris Geyser Basin in mid-May, charged with replacing a data logger that quit working last fall.

Poland, the scientist in charge of the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory, was visiting Yellowstone from his home in Vancouver, Washington, for the spring and summer field season and was eager to reinstall instruments into Steamboat Geyser after the world's tallest active geyser had a record-setting year in 2018.

"Steamboat's really put on a fantastic show," Poland said during a public presentation hosted by the National Park Service in Gardiner on May 17.

#### A year in review

Despite the failure of an on-site temperature gauge, scientists know Steamboat set a record last year with 32 eruptions—up from the 29 eruptions that went off in 1964—thanks to a water gauge in Tantalus Creek, where the geyser's water flows.

About an hour after an eruption, Poland said the observatory's water gauge records a spike in the amount of water coming through the creek. Between January and EBS press time on May 22, the geyser has erupted 17 times after experiencing multiple periods of dormancy and rejuvenation in recent decades.

Temperature gauges and river sensors are just a few of the tools the observatory uses on a regular basis to monitor Yellowstone National Park and the active volcanic caldera below. The Yellowstone Volcano Observatory is a consortium of researchers from universities, the U.S. Geological Survey, Yellowstone National Park and the geoscience consortium UNAVCO, among others, and is responsible for the timely monitoring of Yellowstone's volcanic, seismic and hydrothermal activities.

In addition to being a record-setting year for Steamboat Geyser, 2018 was host to additional new geyser activity, as seen when Ear Spring erupted in September for the first time since 1957, spewing decades worth of trash, as well as rocks and scalding-hot water.

Furthermore, research scientist Greg Vaughan identified a new thermal area near Tern Lake north of Yellowstone Lake after using a combination of satellite-based thermal infrared sensors and aerial photography. By comparing images taken over the last two decades, Vaughan has spotted the birth of a hydrothermal area that is currently on dry ground but is emitting heat and killing trees.

"This is Yellowstone being Yellowstone," Poland said during the May lecture after providing a recap of the 2018 hydrothermal activity. "These hydrothermal systems are extremely dynamic ... The only thing that you can count on is the fact that they're going to change."

#### Ground changes

Beyond changes in the hot water system at Yellowstone, the very ground has shifted as well.

It appears that something changed in the basaltic magma chamber during the late 1990s. Gas and water emitted from the magma slowly made its way toward the earth's surface until it was trapped beneath an impermeable layer, where it accumulated and pressurized causing rapid ground uplift.

This carried on until a magnitude-4.8 earthquake hit Norris in 2014, which Dzurisin says must have fractured the rock that had trapped the gas and water. The ground began to recede once again, and carried on that way until two years ago.

"Now it's going back up," Dzurisin said. "We know from studies elsewhere that hydrothermal features are very good at repairing themselves. If you make a crack in an active hydrothermal area, it's hot enough that the rocks can ... ooze back and fill that crack. You can [also] have minerals form in the crack."

The consensus, according to Dzurisin, is that the water and gas are likely trapped once again.

#### Proof of the volcano

With 30 years of research on Yellowstone's ground, Dzurisin says for the first time he feels researchers have definitive proof of the magma-chamber theory beneath Yellowstone. Taking up the latter half of the May 17 presentation, Dz-urisin described some of this proof.

For years, scientists have believed the thermal features in Yellowstone are an expression of a heat source deep beneath the ground that extends down to the core of the earth. This is known as a hot spot, and creates an area of melting rock and magma that is likely to have been present for at least 20 million years.

While the hotspot is fixed within the earth, the plates at the surface are able to move. Combined with periodic volcanic eruptions, this phenomenon has created the long line that forms the Snake River Plain, which ends at Yellowstone National Park.

Based on the speed and movement of seismic waves that occur when Yellowstone experiences as many as 2,500 earthquakes each year, scientists have developed an idea for what is happening below ground.

They suspect that the hotspot extends from the core of the earth to about 40-50 miles below the earth's surface. Above this rests a pot of basaltic rock and magma that is likely 20 miles belowground. A second magma chamber rests on top of this and is composed of rhyolite, a very sticky magma that collects gases and is highly explosive upon reaching the service. This chamber is between 3 and 10 miles down.

While the thought of molten magma only a few miles below your feet is certainly startling, Poland and Dzurisin say it isn't cause for alarm.

"These are not massive chambers of magma," Poland said, adding that only about 2-15 percent of the actual rock chamber is liquid magma. "It's really mostly solid rock. Hot rock, but mostly solid."

Poland added that the last time the volcano erupted was about 631,000 years ago, and the last time magma reached the surface was 70,000 years ago.

Dzurisin said scientists also consider the amount of heat and CO2 that comes

For 24 years beginning in 1983, geologist Dan Dzurisin measured the way the ground moved in the nation's first national park by exercising a practice known as leveling, whereby he carted surveyor's instruments across miles of park road-way, taking height measurements on his surveyor sticks.

In 2007, this physical work was replaced by GPS technology and today numerous GPS units are scattered throughout the park as a way to record ground movement. But Dzurisin still interprets the GPS data.

Overall, the Yellowstone caldera experienced regular uplift for a number of decades, though beginning in 2015, the caldera began subsiding or slowly lowering back down. The Norris Geyser Basin on the northwest edge of the Yellowstone caldera has been behaving differently, though.

Dzurisin says the area has reacted in the almost exact opposite way as the rest of the region, indicating that something unique is happening in this thermal area. Based on the timing of an earthquake swarm that corresponds with a change from uplift to subsidence, scientists believe something must have sprung a leak. out of Yellowstone as proof for a basaltic melting pot deep below ground. The temperature from all of the park's thermal features produces an estimated 1.3 gigawatts of power—which is more than enough power to send Doc's DeLorean back in time from the 1985 movie "Back to the Future." Approximately 35,000 tons of carbon dioxide comes out of the ground in Yellowstone every day.

"That's a tremendous amount of CO2," Dzurisin said, but he was quick to add, "That's a very small amount compared to other natural sources so it's not a major contributor to climate change.

"The only way you can make those numbers is by having a tremendous flux of basalt coming up out of this mantle plume," he explained.

Dzurisin is excited that so much is going on in Yellowstone National Park, but said the activity is "as normal as grizzly bears."

"It's what Yellowstone does," he said. "What's new is that we've been able to confirm all of that ... Like the grizzlies, Yellowstone should be enjoyed not feared."

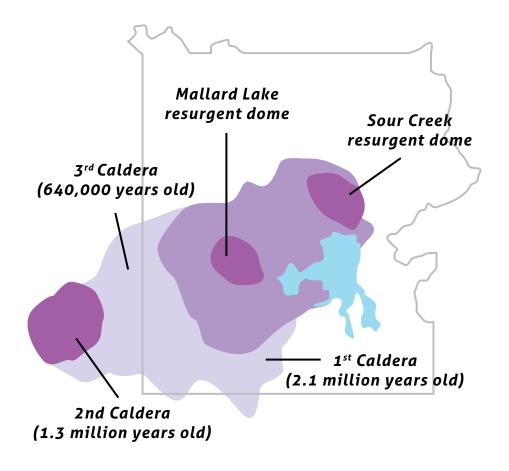
For more information, visit volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/yvo.

# THE YELLOWSTONE CALDERA

### WHAT IS IT?

The Yellowstone Caldera is a volcanic caldera and supervolcano located in Yellowstone National Park, also known as the Yellowstone Supervolcano.

The major features of the caldera measure about 34 miles by 45 miles and it was created by a massive volcanic eruption approximately 640,000 years ago. Its rim can best be seen from the Washburn Hot Springs overlook, south of Dunraven Pass. Gibbon Falls, Lewis Falls, Lake Butte, and Flat Mountain Arm of Yellowstone Lake are part of the rim.



### FACTS



- Yellowstone is one of the largest known volcanoes in the world and is the largest volcanic system in North America.
- The giant caldera is the product of a large-scale collapse of the crust after three supervolcano eruptions—large explosive events that released several hundreds to thousands of cubic kilometers of

Sawmill Geyser / NPS PHOTO

magma. These eruptions took place 2.1 million, 1.3 million, and 640,000 years ago.

- Yellowstone National Park contains half of the Earth's geothermal features.
- More than 300 geysers in the park make up two-thirds of all of the planet's geysers.

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# Accounting for Yellowstone wolves Biologist shares insight on population counts

#### BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

LIVINGSTON – Standing before a cart lined with wolf skulls in the Yellowstone National Park Heritage and Research Center in Gardiner, park biologist Doug Smith weighed in on the oft-controversial topic of wolves. His words were a part of a recent video broadcast published on Yellowstone's Facebook page and included him pointing out information gathered from the skull specimens, which are on display at the research center.

During the April 17 broadcast, Smith discussed wolf research and management, noting that the latest count, from December 2018, indicates there are roughly 80 wolves in Yellowstone. This is a drop from a peak of 174 back in 2003, and is a slight decline from the approximate average of 83 to 108 wolves over the last decade, as reported by the National Park Service.

Following the broadcast, news outlets such as the Powell Tribune and the Associated Press characterized this as a significant decline, and incorrectly quoted Smith as saying the survival rate of gray wolf pups is only about 7 percent.

In a May 15 phone interview with EBS, Smith said the drop to 80 wolves "is not a significant decline."



Pups from the 8-Mile wolf pack, born in 2013.

"A population is never perfectly stable," he added. Smith is one of the lead biologists for the Yellowstone Wolf Project, which is operated by a team of scientists who have documented and researched wolves since the first reintroduction in 1995.

Smith said there are two main factors impacting the lower number of wolves. First, he said a pack of about 10 wolves has historically lived along the southern boundary of Yellowstone. Last year, however, the wolves were spending roughly 70 percent of their time across the boundary in Wyoming so park biologists did not include them in the tally; Wyoming counted them instead.



A wolf from the Wapiti Lake Pack, silhouetted by a nearby hot spring. NPS PHOTOS

Canine distemper is a highly contagious disease found in many wild carnivores. Infecting the respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous systems, distemper can be deadly to animals that don't have immunity, though those that live through an outbreak are likely to survive a second exposure.

Biologists believe four distinct outbreaks of distemper have swept through the Yellowstone wolves since reintroduction, occurring in 1999, 2005, 2008 and 2017, likely spread by smaller carnivores like skunks and raccoons.

In a good year, Smith said pup survival is about 70 percent, meaning that about 70 percent of puppies born in the spring will make it to the fall. During a year of distemper outbreak, however, he said that number could drop to 20-30 percent.

This year, Smith and his team suspect that the wolves have 10-11 dens, meaning that a potential 10-11 litters were born in April and will begin exploring their pack's range this summer.

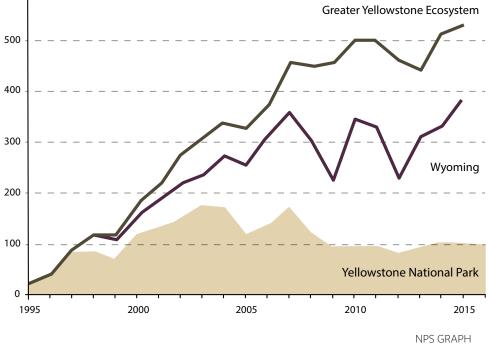
"Pup production looks like it's going to be up," Smith said over the phone, though he added that biologists won't get a solid count on pup numbers until fall. "Right now, with a lot of wolves in dens, I think we're going to be in the 90-100 range by the end of the year."

#### Greater Yellowstone wolf population 1995-2016.

"[The pack] still exists," he said. "It's an accounting issue ... If we had counted that pack, our numbers would have been at 90."

Smith pointed to another reason for the slight decline: the last couple years haven't produced large pup crops either. "That's just a natural phenomenon. It could be population saturation," he said. During the April broadcast, he described this as an equilibration between wolves and their prey; based on food, the park can only support so many wolves,

While Smith doesn't know the exact reason for a lower pup crop, he said the main impacts to pup survival are summer food source and disease. Currently, he said, the park is experiencing the aftermath of a distemper outbreak.



# **Bear Basics with Bernadette:** Staying in tune with spring's green wave

# BY KRIS INMAN *ebs contributor*

In high elevation regions, spring rolls out in what wildlife researchers have coined the "Green Wave." Bright green shoots and trees bud out at lower elevations and make a slow climb up the mountains. Herbivores like elk, deer and pronghorn follow this green wave, feeding on fresh vegetation after a long winter of living on old, decadent vegetation.

Bears, as omnivores and opportunistic feeders, have been waiting since they emerged from their dens to take advantage of spring's green up, eating young grasses, cow parsnip and other vegetation as it blossoms and unfurls its leaves.

Not surprisingly, as people often report in Big Sky, bears are seen in the first areas to green up.

As spring progresses and moves into summer, meat becomes an important part of a bear's diet as elk begin calving and deer have their fawns. Later in the summer, if it is a good year for the fluctuating seed crops of whitebark pine trees, red squirrels will take to their job of clipping the whitebark pine cones and storing them in middens at the base of the trees. Bears root these pine cones out as a high-protein food source to get them through the upcoming winter. In the meantime, insects and berries will satisfy a bear's diet.

This is how we would like to see bears behave: following the natural flow of the food nature provides. But, because bears are well-adapted to take advantage of a variety of natural food sources, this same behavior makes it easy for a bear to turn to anthropogenic attractants, like trash, coolers and pet foods, that are also readily available.

At this time of the year, when the green wave makes its way to the golf courses, ski runs, open spaces and stream beds, bears will be drawn closer to



A black bear sow and her yearling enjoy green grass near the West Fork of Ruby Creek just a few mountain ranges to the West of Big Sky. PHOTO BY MARK PACKILA

people. As residents and visitors, you can do your part to keep bears and Big Sky wild by storing pet foods inside, burning off your grill for 10 minutes after use, keeping grease in a bear-resistant container, and bringing in the bird feeders until next winter.

To learn more about bears and the actions you can take to reduce human conflicts with bears, follow Bernadette Bear on social media @bearsmartbigsky. Help support Bernadette in her campaign to create a more bear-safe and bear-aware community in Big Sky, and look for the launch of our "What's Your Wild Wednesday's" on social media.

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



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#### Explore Big Sky

# **Custer Gallatin Forest nears final decision on management plan** Public comments due June 6

#### **BY JESSIANNE CASTLE**

BOZEMAN – A revision to the guiding management plan for the Custer Gallatin National Forest has reached the home stretch and the last phase of open public comments are due by June 6.

At its May 21 meeting in Bozeman, the Gallatin County Commission voted to send a letter to the Custer Gallatin National Forest that endorses the Gallatin Forest Partnership's recommendations for the plan, which includes suggestions for recommended wilderness and wildlife management areas.

While a mixed crowd at the meeting commented to the commission both in support of and against the letter, commissioners unanimously chose to send the correspondence, which will be included with individual comments and letters from other organizations in response to the draft forest plan that was released in March.

Following the decision, Commissioner Joe Skinner told EBS that while they heard from people representing extremes on both sides of the decision, there was positive

support for a collaborative approach like the Gallatin Forest Partnership, which was described in the commission's letter as a "broadly supported proposal [that] advances the interest of multiple stakeholders who worked together to find common ground regarding a longstanding conflict in this community."

"The Commission came in on the side of the collaborative and a compromise," Skinner said.

The Custer Gallatin revision package is comprised of documents that include the proposed forest plan and assessments of different plan alternatives that have been suggested and discussed over the last three years. Ultimately, the plan will dictate how the U.S. Forest Service will manage the 3-million-acre Custer Gallatin, which encompasses federal land surrounding Big Sky, and stretches east to Camp Crook, South Dakota.

Among other topics, the plan will dictate the future of the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area. The decisions concerning this tract of land southeast of Big Sky, as well as the overall handling of the Gallatin Range, have been widely controversial within the Bozeman community. This has spurred the development of coalitions such as the Gallatin Forest Partnership, which endorses a compromise of 124,000



Ramshorn Lake with Fortress Mountain standing tall in the background. PHOTO BY LOUISE JOHNS PHOTOGRAPHY

acres set aside for potential wilderness, as well as letters sent to Congress requesting support for more expansive wilderness designation.

The forest's planning process began in January 2016 in order to update management documents that were developed in 1986 and 1987. The process has included several periods of public comment and statewide community meetings, with the latest round of commentary open for 90 days.

Following this latest round of public input, forest managers will develop a final plan for release in 2020. At that point, those who have been involved in public comment will have an opportunity to state objections, but individuals who have not been involved will not be allowed to file objections.

The draft plan is available online or in person at the Forest Service district office in Bozeman or the Big Sky Community Library.

Visit fs.usda.gov/custergallatin to review the draft forest plan or submit comments electronically to the Custer Gallatin National Forest. Comments may also be submitted by mail to Custer Gallatin National Forest, Attn: Forest Plan Revision Team, P.O. Box 130, Bozeman, MT 59771. Comments are due by midnight on June 6.





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# Public asked to keep distance from wildlife

#### MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Each spring, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks receives several calls from people who have picked up deer fawns or other wildlife. FWP advises against this practice for several reasons.

The agency does not accept, hold or rehabilitate deer and elk because the animals rarely survive the stress of captivity, and because of concerns with the spread of disease. FWP's likely response is to tell people to leave the animals alone or return them to where they were found.

While people mean well, they may not understand that their intervention could possibly kill the animal or cause injury to it or to themselves. Good intentions can lead to dire consequences.

There are instances where good-intentioned people pick up great horned owls that have bailed out of the nest before they can fly. This is a natural part of their life cycle. The adult owls monitor these young, providing them with food until they can fly, the process of which usually lasts just a couple of days. People can help best by not touching the owls and by keeping pets restrained.

In a high-profile case in Yellowstone National Park two years ago, a bison calf was picked up and transported by tourists who believed it had been abandoned. The calf ultimately had to be euthanized because it couldn't be reunited with the herd and continued to approach people and vehicles.

#### If you care leave them there

To prevent outcomes like this, FWP emphasizes that all wildlife species and their young should be left in the wild. If you see a young animal alone or injured, whether a goose or a grizzly, keep your distance. It is illegal to possess and care for a live animal taken from the wild.

Animals often thrive without human intervention, and their odds of surviving in the wild are much greater if they are left alone. Once young animals are picked up by people, they usually can't be rehabilitated. People handling wildlife also may injure themselves or the animal, or habituate it to humans, potentially causing problems if the animal is released back into the wild.

Understanding nature

It's natural for deer, elk and other animals to leave their young alone for extended periods of time. What appears to be an orphaned animal may not be, but chances are the mother will not return while humans are present.

Fawns, specifically, are seldom orphaned, but if they are, another doe may add them to the group. In 8 to 10 days, a fawn will have the appropriate gut flora and can survive on its own by nibbling grass. Young fawns have no body odor, which lessens their appeal to predators. Their spots also help to camouflage them while their mothers stash them to feed.

If you take dogs into the field, be sure to keep your dog under control, especially in the spring when newborn wildlife is most vulnerable. Pet owners can be cited, and dogs that harass or kill wildlife may, by law, have to be destroyed.

What FWP can do

FWP does have a Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Helena, but an intake policy governs what animals are permitted, and space and staff are limited. Only an FWP official can authorize an animal being picked up and transported to the center.

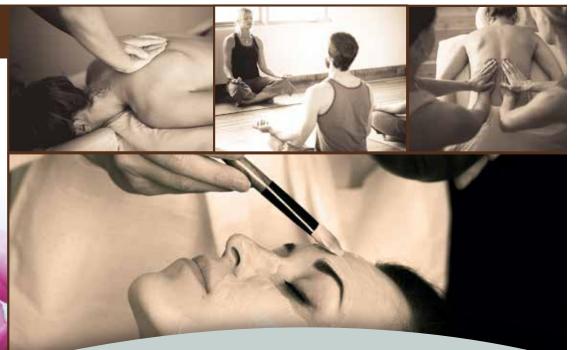
If you find a wild animal and you think it needs help, you should keep your distance and monitor the animal. If you have questions, contact your local FWP official or Montana WILD at (406) 444-9944. To contact the Region 3 headquarters in Bozeman, call (406) 994-4042.

For more information about encountering wildlife in Montana, visit fwp.mt.gov/recreation/safety/wildlife.

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10:00-11:30am All Levels Yoga	4:15-5:15pm Gentle Yoga	9:00-10:00am All Levels Yoga	11:00-12:30pm The Practice (Level 2-3 Yoga)	9:00-10:00am All Levels Yoga	12:00-1:00pm Heated Flow	
5:00-6:15pm Heated Yin/ Restorative Yoga	5:45-7:00pm All Levels Yoga	5:45-7:00pm Heated Flow	4:15-5:15pm Yoga	5:45-6:45pm Heated Flow		
hodolalive loga						

# A Strengths-Based Approach to Suicide Prevention

# presented by Big Sky Youth Empowerment and YCCF

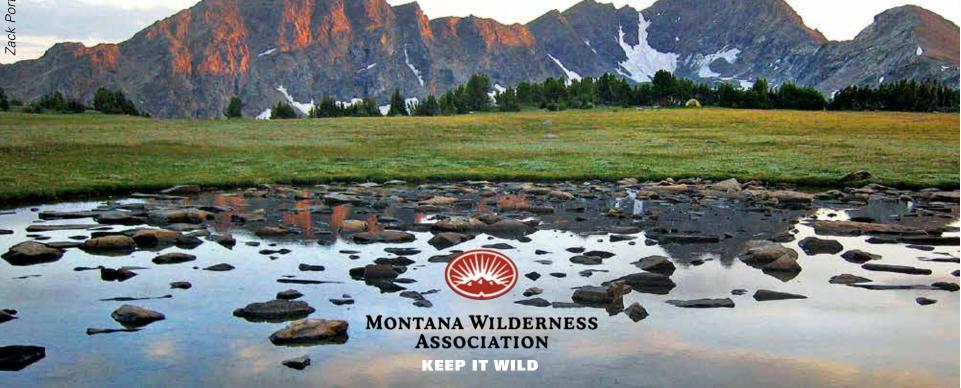
All too often, the whole idea of suicide is shrouded in mystery, anxiety, and negativity. In this public lecture, Dr. John Sommers-Flanagan will debunk several unhelpful suicide myths, and describe how to refocus suicide prevention on strengths and solutions.

Everyone in the community is welcome to attend this free community event. Enjoy sandwiches and cookies from Wild Crumb while they last.



# LAST. BEST.

Tell the Forest Service to protect the public lands you love around Big Sky. Add your voice at **wildmontana.org/custergallatin** by June 6.



**Explore** Big Sky

#### HEALTH

May 24-June 6, 2019 31





#### BY LINDA ARNOLD **EBS CONTRIBUTOR**

I had a very humbling experience recently. I was unaware while driving and ran a stop sign.

To be honest, it wasn't even a "rolling stop." I was rushing to get somewhere, and I wasn't paying attention to what was really important. Fortunately, I was stopped by a police officer, and I credit the experience for a major wakeup call. What was I thinking? Well, that's just it; I wasn't thinking.

The officer told me about a truck with a trailer that was making its way into the same intersection at the same time. I didn't see it. Apparently, we were seconds away from each other.

As I reflected on the experience, I found myself wondering why I was in such a hurry. And the term "Rushin' Roulette" came to me. By rushing around, I'd actually put myself, and others, in harm's way.

This was certainly not my intention, and it totally goes against my philosophy of a peaceful and balanced approach to life.

It's true I've had quite a bit on my platter lately, although that's no excuse. We're all busy, and it doesn't give any of us a license to hurtle through space.

When I rush around, I really don't get that much more accomplished. I usually end up in a harried manner, and it takes away from my quality of life. In the long run, rushing around can even lead to greater stress in our lives, compromising our health and relationships. If you find yourself in this state, take a look at these questions:

- Do I need to juggle all these balls at once?
- Are there some activities I could let go or delegate?
- Is it possible to get an extension on that deadline?
- Could I get an earlier start on my commute?
- How about breaking that project down into bite-sized chunks?
- If I swap tonight's social activity for a hot bath and an early bedtime, will that make me more peaceful and productive tomorrow?

Let's face it. We all find ourselves in a rush at times. If you find this is becoming a pattern, though, ask yourself the following questions. See if you have any deep-seated beliefs that are driving these behaviors.

- Why do I have a need for speed?
- What's the payoff I'm getting?
- Am I just rushing around and keeping my platter busy so I can avoid the more pressing issues in my life?
- Do I get a rush from the risky behavior?







- Am I addicted to the drama?

A major detriment to rushing around is that you could be squelching that still, small voice within: your internal GPS system. When you drown that out, you're not living in the present. And your life can be thrashed about at warp speed.

As I look for the gift in my recent scary experience, I realize the cosmic joke and spiritual message of the backdrop that came with my lesson: an actual stop sign.

Ironically, my license plate reads "LIVE," a reminder that this is not a dress rehearsal and my intention is to "live life fully." The officer warned me I may need to change my license plate.

Believe me, I've heeded the call. I'm keeping my license plate. No more Rushin' Roulette for me.

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

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#### SPORTS



# THE LONE PEAK PLAYBOOK



# Young LPHS golfers show rapid improvement in State C Tournament

#### BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

From May 14-15, the Lone Peak High School golf teams had seven underclassmen, of which six were sophomores and one was a freshman, compete in the Class C State Golf Tournament held at the Double Arrow Golf Course near Seeley Lake. The tournament boasted 29 boys teams and 24 girls teams from around the Treasure State with competitors who scored qualifying rounds during the regular season.

The Double Arrow Golf Course is shorter and tighter than most of the courses the team had played this year. "Precision is key. Long drives are not going to win but rather strategy and use of irons off the tee as well as keeping the ball in play," Coach Jenny Wilcynski said. "With plenty of hazards, out-of-bounds zones, and the greens on the back side a bit rough from winter kill, it was challenging but everyone plays the same course so no one player has more advantage than another."

#### Results Day 1

Boys Nathan Browne - 83 (39/44) Pierce King - 95 (44/51) Jackson Lang - 98 (48/50) Evan Iskenderian - 102 (52/50)

After the first day of competition, Nathan Brown was tied for second place behind Caidin Hill of Manhattan Christian who shot an impressive 74 giving himself a big lead going into day two. This round marked the first time Browne has broken 40 on nine holes. "Really an impressive start for his first time to State. I think Nathan was quite surprised with his competitive play and his timing with the State Tournament. You hope for these type of situations!" Coach Wilcynski said.



Precocious freshman TJ Nordahl led the Lady Big Horns golf team in the State C tournament and finished third overall after two days of stiff competition. PHOTOS COURTESY OF JENNY WILCYNSKI



42 was very impressive as he had one tough hole on the second nine which he recovered nicely from. I expect we will see great things and more top finishes from Nathan in the years to come."

Manhattan Christian's Caidin Hill took first place with a two day total of 155, Ryley Conner of Darby and Austin Popp of Park City tied for second both shooting a combined 167 over two days.

#### Girls

TJ Nordahl - 91 (45/46) Lyli McCarthy - 122 (63/59) Brooke Meredith - 133 (65/68)

TJ Nordahl also was in the final pairing on day two and held tight by letting shots play out as they came her way. "Her strategy was solid with using irons off the tee and keeping the ball in play. A 45 on the front nine put her in a good position to hold tight to her overall third place finish. A consistent back nine for a round of 91 and two day finish of 189 secured her a spot on the podium. Landri Paladichuck took first place with an overall 173 and Jillian Frye from Manhattan Christian shot 185 combined for second place.

"TJ has quite a bit of momentum moving forward. The experience playing in the final pairing as a freshman is almost unheard of." Wilcynski said. "No doubt she will be a fierce player in girls Class C golf over the next few years and we are certainly excited to see what she will do in the next few years."

#### Team Scores

The golf powerhouse Manhattan Christian boys and girls teams both won first place overall. The LPHS boys finished seventh out of 20 teams that could field a team score, a strong finish for such a young team.

TJ Nordahl - 98 (48/50) Lyli McCarthy - 118 (63/55) Brooke Meredith - 157 (90/66)

After day one, freshman TJ Nordahl's round of 98 was good enough to put her in a tie for third place behind Landri Paladichuck (88) and Jillian Frye (90).

#### **Results Day 2**

#### Boys

Nathan Browne - 86 (44/42) Evan Iskenderian - 87 (44/43) Pierce King - 96 (54/42) Jackson Lang- 98 (52/46)

The second day of competition was overcast but warm. Nathan Browne found himself in the final pairing which meant a little bit of added pressure with spectators and media following your every swing. Browne stayed calm and led the team with a fourth place finish overall, ending up with a two day total of 169.

"Really proud of Nathan for an amazing finish. To place top five in the state is a huge accomplishment, and as a sophomore is even better." Wilcynski said. "His

Nathan Browne plays a 3-iron on the tee at the Double Arrow Golf Course during the State C Golf Tournament near Seeley Lake. The strategy paid off and staying consistent and out of trouble propelled the LPHS sophomore to a fourth place overall finish. The LPHS girls finished seventh out of 11 teams that were able to field a team score. Wilcynski noted that the girls were at a slight disadvantage without a fourth player as the class C team competition scores three players, so all of their scores counted toward the team competition.

With a young team on the girl's side as well, and a few incoming players that will move to varsity from junior varsity next year and some promising incoming freshman talent, the girls team should be back in the mix next season.

"What a great season! I am impressed with the number of golfers that we fielded this year, and happy to say everyone

got playing time whether on the junior varsity or varsity side. Spring high school golf in Big Sky is quick, once we see the grass, the season is nearly over or is entering post-season,"Wilcynski said. "What these players do in a matter of weeks to lower their scores takes most golfers years or at least an entire season. To begin the season by carding a 105 on April 6 and then shoot an 83 on May 14, just five and a half weeks later, is just awesome. Thanks to all who support LPHS golf team!"

# Big Sky FC's inaugural season kicks into high gear

# BY NEHALEM MANKA *ebs contributor*

Big Sky Futbol Club's inaugural season is rolling along as the four traveling teams played in Big Sky and all over western Montana in early May. On May 11, Big Sky FC was excited to host a total of 11 games at the Community Park fields. Volunteers and members of the BSFC board Kim Dickerson, Larry Wikan, Matt Morris and Peter Manka worked diligently to line and prepare the fields for Saturday's games. Multiple U10 teams from Big Sky FC, Billings Real, Bozeman Blitzz and Gallatin Valley Elite came to participate in competitive games of soccer on the warm spring day.

The day kicked off at 9 a.m. with four different teams rallying on the two pitches, playing their games side by side. Big Sky FC's girls played their games against Gallatin Valley Elite, winning both their first game 1-0 and their second game with a solid 5-1 outing. Big Sky FC's boys played and lost two tough games against Bozeman Blitzz Blue and Gold, but still managed to keep their heads up and show steady improvement.

"We were excited to be able to host so many games in one day and give the Big Sky FC players the opportunity to play on their home pitch in front of their friends and families," Head Referee Pete Manka said. On that same Saturday, the U12 girls travelled to Billings for two games and the U14 coed team headed down the canyon to play their games in Belgrade.

The coed team lost both games handily but continue to show promise. "I thought that we had two outstanding individual performances from Mason Dickerson in goal and Vera Grabow at center back," Coach Doug Hare said. "We need to work on holding onto possession and team defense before we get the results we are looking for."

On May 18-19, the U14 coed games in Big Timber were canceled due to bad weather, but the U10 boys and girls, and the U12 girls squads all drove up to Helena to play in their first tournament of the season, the Helena Arsenal Invitational. All of the teams played hard throughout the weekend, fighting through cold, windy weather and scattered rain showers.

The U12 girls won all three of their games in the tournament. They defeated Billings Real 5-2 and Flathead Rapids 4-0 to emerge from the round robin portion of the tournament as the number one seed. On Sunday, they squared off against Billings Real in the finals. The game was back and forth in the first half until Lily Turner scored the first goal just before half time. Momentum



Lily Turner chases the ball while Harper Morris offers support with an attacking run. PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEHALEM MANKA

continued to build for Big Sky in the second half, and in the end they won 4-0, emerging as the tournament champions. With first place medals around their necks and three victories under their belts, the U12 girls were all smiles after a strong showing on the weekend.

"The team played as a unit—each player doing their job, working together and creating chances to move the ball up the field. We have been working a lot on keeping possession and on attacking and defending as a unit," Coach Kim Dickerson said. "I was really proud of the players taking what we worked on in practice and applying it to the games."

The four travelling teams will be taking a break from their usual weekend game schedule to enjoy Memorial Day weekend, but they are set to travel to Kalispell the weekend of June 1-2 to play in their final tournament and games of the season.

Club Director Kim Dickerson wanted to thank local sponsors Shedhorn Grill, Olive B's, PMC Lone Star, Big Sky Real Estate, Big Sky Snowman, the Rotary Club of Big Sky, Blue Ribbon Builders, Big Sky Build and the Griffith and Cummings Law Firm for their generous support in helping launch the club to a successful first season.



The U12 Big Sky FC girls team poses for a team photo after winning the Helena Arsenal Invitational. Back Row: (left to right) Coach Kim Dickerson, Harper Morris, Hana Mittelstaedt, Lucy Stratford, Poppy Towle, Elise Daugherty, Dylan Manka, Lily Turner, Piper Carrico, Pearl Goldberg. Front Row: Tessa Bosworth, Cate Leydig, Jayden Jacobsen, Olivia Kamieniarz, Maddie Wilcynski



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# **Golf Tips from a Pro:** New season brings improvements

## MARK WEHRMAN *ebs golf columnist*

Another golf season is upon us.

On May 18, the Big Sky Resort Golf Course opened up for another summer season of golf. Getting excited for another season of golf is never hard but with some new additions to the operation this year our stoke level is at an all-time high.

Continuing with the Big Sky 2025 plan, we are making some exciting additions and changes to the course and operation this year. We have started some cart path paving which will be completed, weather dependent, by the end of the May. These improvements will take place on holes 8 and 9, and 17 and 18. We are renovating the right side of hole 3, a long par three, to make the area more player-friendly with better turf and more open space to land the ball from the tee shot.

We have received 40 new EZ Go golf carts bringing our total fleet size to 60 carts. We have made additions to the practice range with a new range picker car and also a new water cooler station at the top of the newly built steps. Back to the course, we are improving some bunkers and are also trimming some trees and bushes to improve sight lines and overall aesthetics.

In the pro shop, you will find brand new display racks featuring the latest fashion trends with clothing from manufacturers like Travis Mathew, Puma, Adidas, Under Armour, Sun Mountain and EP Pro. On the equipment side, you will find the latest technology from Callaway. We have the new Epic Flash drivers and 3 metals, Rogue hybrids, Mack Daddy wedges and all of the best-selling models of Odyssey putters. All of these additions give the pro shop a whole new look and we encourage you to come check out the new merchandise.

At the Bunker Bar & Grill, we have a new menu with exciting daily specials featuring quality food at an affordable price. The deck is looking better than ever with new cushions, chairs and umbrellas. Brunch will be offered again on the weekends starting in late June and going through the



This summer, a revamped pro shop will feature new display racks with the latest fashion trends in golf as well as the latest models of Callaway woods, irons and wedges as well as a quiver of Odyssey putters. PHOTO BY MARK WEHRMAN

month of August. Come enjoy the "best deck in town" anytime to soak in some sunshine, watch some golf, have a delicious cocktail and food, and enjoy the beautiful mountain scenery that we all moved here to enjoy. You might even see one of our resident moose that frequently grace the willows below the clubhouse.

Yes, as you can see we are setting up for another banner year at Big Sky Resort Golf Course and we invite all of you to come out to the course and share in our excitement!

Mark Wehrman is the Head Golf Professional at the Big Sky Resort Golf Course and has been awarded the PGA Horton Smith Award recognizing PGA Professionals who are model educators of PGA Golf Professionals.



Harbor's Hero Run flies through on June 8

The fifth annual 5- and 10-kilometer color run will celebrate the life of Harbor deWaard and will raise funds for Women in Action, the nonprofit organizing the event in partnership with Lone Peak High School's chapter of the National Honor Society. The money raised will help provide scholarships for local children's camps and community activities.

Harbor was a 6-year-old boy who tragically passed away due to parainfluenza in January of 2015. The Harbor's Hero Run race commemorates his life through his favorite things; the event's purple logo-represents his favorite color, capes and his love of superheroes. The race also honors him by bringing the community together for a festive event, embodying his cheerful spirit.

The race will be followed by food, activities and music in Big Sky Town Center Park. There will also be a shorter kids fun run.

## Jacob Smith: A lesson in resilience

#### BY DOUG HARE

Big Sky – For many avid skiers, skiing Big Sky Resort's Big Couloir is a feather in the cap for those looking to challenge themselves on some of the most difficult and breathtaking inbounds terrain in North America. One wrong move, one miscalculation can be catastrophic, sending the skier down a rocky 40-plus degree slope with little hope of self-arrest.

During the final days of this season, 12-year-old Jacob Smith and his father Nathan skied "the Big." While knocking off Big Sky's most iconic run off the list is an impressive feat at such a young age, there is another detail that deserves mention—Jake Smith is legally blind.

He vividly recalls being 8-years-old and playing Bocce with his three siblings Andrew, Preston and Julia during a camping trip, but he was having a hard time seeing the pallino, the smaller ball that sets the target for the game, if it went 20 yards away.

After visiting numerous doctors, Smith was diagnosed with a meningioma or brain tumor "the size of a grapefruit," he says, that was putting extreme pressure on his optic nerve. Since then, the North Dakota-native has been through nine surgeries and six weeks of radiation as the tumor continued coming back causing him to lose most of his sight permanently.

"After I woke up from the first surgery, I couldn't even see the walls in the room," Smith said. "But my sight has improved since then. I can see shapes but colors are tough for me." His most recent medical report shows no signs of the tumor returning.



After being diagnosed with a brain tumor at the age of eight, Jake Smith underwent nine surgeries and six weeks of radiation therapy to salvage what was left of his eyesight.

Smith, who competes for the Big Sky freeride team, had originally planned to conquer the Big Couloir when he was just 10 years old. "I was supposed



During the winter season, Jake along his brothers Andrew and Preston compete on the Big Sky Freeride team. PHOTOS COURTESY OF NATHAN SMITH

When asked about how he managed to ski the Big Couloir with limited vision, Smith replies with humility and a touch a wry wit: "Well, the snow conditions were good and my dad was able to give me some directions during the harder spots. The traverse out was actually the most difficult part because I had trouble seeing where the edge was," Smith said.

Persons who lose one of their senses often report that other senses seem amplified in ways that help them cope. Smith reports that he has indeed become more in tune with other manners of engaging the world around him that don't involve eyesight.

"It's hard to explain," he said. "The other day I clapped in the kitchen and asked my mom if she could feel the vibrations. She thought I was crazy but really I could sense the outline of the room by feeling the reverberations."

What's up next for the blind skier? His mother reports that he is currently learning Braille and working with a cane so he can get around independently. The young man is hoping for a seeing-eye dog when he turns 16.

Next season, Smith says he wants to huck a 15-foot cliff and land a black flip. In the warmer months, he wants to get involved in rodeo roping events and saddle bronc riding. Given the grit and resilience he's already demonstrated so early in life, it would be hard to doubt that he'll accomplish anything he sets his mind to.

to meet my dad at the top of the tram one day but I forgot to charge my phone and we never met up," Smith said about that fateful morning. "I crashed pretty hard later that day on some terrain off of the Challenger lift and fractured my femur into 60 pieces."

Most people faced with visual impairment, and after severely damaging the biggest bone in their body, might try to stay out of harm's way. Smith's physical setbacks had the opposite effect on his mentality giving him a kind of fearlessness that comes with adopting a worst-is-behind-me attitude toward life.

"I decided after that injury that worrying wasn't going to be that helpful. I still knew I would ski the Big Couloir one day," Smith said.

Smith's dad Nathan, a farmer from North Dakota, has been taking Jake and his older brothers and eventually his younger sister to ski at Big Sky Resort since Jake was three years old. Nowadays, the Smith family spends most of the winter in Big Sky and enjoys spending quality time on Lone Mountain.



A ski patroller lifts a rope allowing legally blind Jake Smith his first chance at skiing the iconic Big Couloir on a powder day at Big Sky Resort.

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## Making it in Big Sky: Roxy's Market

#### BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF WRITER

During summers as a teenager in Telluride, Colorado, Josh Treasure worked alongside his father Kurt at a store called the Market that was partially-owned by Mike and Roxy Lawler. A Utah native, Treasure returned to his home state to study finance in college and after graduation, he went to work flipping homes with his father, who was partially retired and considering full retirement.

Treasure also began running an in-home personal training business after passing the NASM certification. At the time, Mike and Roxy had begun building a store in Big Sky and reached out to Josh and his dad for help. The Treasures quickly fell for the Montana ski town, and with Utah becoming overdeveloped with over 3 million people through the Wasatch front, decided to make Big Sky home.

When Roxy's Market first opened, Kurt was the general manager, his mother helped in the deli and meat department, and he managed the produce department combining his passion for business, fitness and nutrition. In the fall of 2017 when his dad retired to focus on his health and overall well-being, Josh took the reins as manager. Currently, Roxy's employs 20 year-round full-time employees, 19 part-

time year-round employees and hires an additional 15-20 seasonal employees during busier times.

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

Josh Treasure: Mike and Roxy Lawler have been more than mentors to not only myself but the staff members. We are a Roxy's family; we work together and stick together. When we opened we worked side by side, taking the garbage out, sweeping the floors and still continue to talk multiple times a day exploring different avenues to improve our business. Mike and Roxy strongly believe in taking care of their staff and family.

My father was in the grocery industry for over 40 years. He taught me how to butcher and manage a meat department in Telluride, manage a produce department in Big Sky and eventually taught me the grocery department before retiring. Mike Lawler is a mastermind of business and finances and teaches me new skills everyday. Roxy is amazing at product selection and dealing with people to create relationships with businesses and communities. She also teaches me new skills everyday. I have had wise and seasoned mentors guide me to get where I am.

#### **EBS:** *Do you remember your first customer?*

J.T.: Yes, the first customer that sticks out when we first opened was Paul Cronin. He was an older man dressed in overalls full of punchline jokes and stories of Big Sky. He invited Caitlin and I over for dinner one evening which kindled a great relationship.

#### EBS: What are the biggest obstacles to operating a grocery store in Big Sky?

J.T.: Housing is an issue in all of Big Sky which also has an impact on us. Our biggest obstacle is shoulder season, but not due to lack of business. It is due to the general demographic change in summer and winter causing us to reevaluate product selection and do store resets. Fresh produce in the winter is an issue due to the cold temperatures. We see product come in frozen at times and have to send it to YES COMPOST to be broken down into fertilizer. Lastly, keeping costs affordable for the customer. We are working hard to find a solution but have high operating costs and are seeing an increase



Utilizing his background in finance, health and fitness, Josh Treasure has been at the helm of Roxy's Market since 2017. PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH TREASURE

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

J.T.: More businesses and more people. It's very exciting to see more businesses creating more options for visitors. It seems we have been discovered and more people from all over the world are visiting Big Sky allowing for great conversations with customers.

#### EBS: How well are you able to predict the ebb and flow of seasonal traffic in a Big Sky?

J.T.: I don't have a crystal ball but I do yearly predictions and was nearly on point for all our goals and predictions in 2018. At the rate we are going my predictions will be correct for 2019 as well.

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

J.T.: [As a resident,] Tuesday night bike rides. This is where I met most of the current friends I have when I moved here six years ago including Phil Hess, Mason Young (aka: salty-long time locals will get this), Darrel from GAS, Matt Jennings and that group of guys.

[As a business proprietor,] I have had numerous parents approach me and thank me for giving their sons or daughters an opportunity to work at Roxy's Market. Not only do we employ them but we as managers try to give them steps they can use

to later be successful in life. As mentioned previously, I was mentored and I take great pride in mentoring others to see them succeed. Great teams make great businesses.

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

J.T.: We decided to put a bulk mochi ice cream freezer near our registers. The product was great but we already sold it in retail packs, and we found out customers preferred this. Customers who used the bulk section seemed to always drop some, leaving it on the floor causing a mess near the registers.

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

J.T.: "Sleep on it" meaning that if you are ever upset, frustrated or dwelling on something that isn't in your control at 11 p.m. just get a good night's rest and reevaluate the situation in the morning.

EBS: What advice would you give to small business owners just starting out in Big Sky? J.T.: First off, never forget that the customer *always* comes first—they are paying your bills. Have capital on hand, make sure you are getting into a space you can currently afford for at least three years. Run slim on labor to find out who your true 'troopers' are while getting an idea of what revenue your business will have and not sacrificing good customer service. Never evaluate your numbers until after the first year and when you evaluate be extremely detailed and realistic for future predictions to make adjustments as needed.

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

J.T.: As an entire business, we will continue to grow. Mike and Roxy Lawler always say they are ready to settle down and retire but it is in their blood. As a Big Sky business, I want to capture the entire local and tourist audience, be a leader in sustainable and environmental practices (becoming plastic free which is an option we are finding is feasible within ten years), and be heavily involved with community events.

Regarding the store, I personally would love to see a second story added with a deli and

seating/lounge area for customers. We will likely have our same management team and continue to improve every aspect of our business as we do every year.

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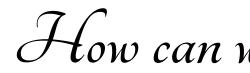
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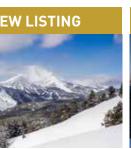
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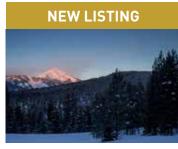
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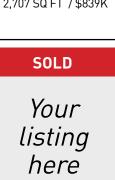
81 Pheasant Tail Ln. Unit 2 2,707 SQ FT / \$839K











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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.

## 1988 was a very good year



#### BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

There have been periods in history that seem to produce a concentration of business prowess that isn't easily explained. Groups of visionaries and leaders that seem to feed off of each other in order to succeed, or at least raise the bar in a short amount of time.

There was a very specific period in the 1800s when

if you were in the right place at the right time, and you had the finances and pioneering entrepreneurial spirit, you became a railroad baron.

Similarly, the late 1960s and early 1970s gave birth to the likes of Steve Jobs of Apple, Bill Gates of Microsoft, and a host of other electronic and computer companies such as IBM that would stand the test of time.

You can even isolate single years in which great things happened.

Take the 1983 NFL draft, the year of the quarterback, as it has been named.

That draft produced six quarterbacks, all in the first round. Three of which were John Elway, Dan Marino and Jim Kelly. And four of the six reached the Super Bowl during their careers.

But if the brewing industry had a draft, pun intended, and a hall of fame, the class to beat would be 1988. It was the year of the craft brewery that would endure two of the industries renaissances.

1986 saw, among others, two breweries that have also stood the test of time. Summit Brewing in St. Paul, Minnesota, which is a pillar in the upper Midwest brewing world, and Sierra Nevada Brewing in Chico, California once craft brewery that the industry used to redefine what a microbrewery was specifically based on their growth.

But 1988 saw quality, quantity and longevity.

Fifty-six breweries began brewing beer in 1988. Hardly a large number to get anyone's attention today. But as of the year before, there were only 73 breweries in the entire U.S. that had opened since 1965. To put it in perspective, today America has over 8000 breweries, according to the Brewers Association. If 2019 saw the same 77 percent increase in breweries in one year, it would bring the total to over 15,000. Anecdotally, it would still only be the same volume as the number of Starbucks.

But in keeping with the railroad baron and computer innovators anomaly, this year sprouted a handful of breweries that would influence thousands of brewers after them.



Great Lakes Brewing in Cleveland, Ohio Wynkoop Brewing Co. in Denver, Colorado. Brooklyn Brewery in Brooklyn, New York. Rogue Ales & Spirits in Newport, Oregon Goose Island Beer Company in Chicago, Illinois Deschutes Brewery in Bend, Oregon.

If you'll notice, this list of six spans all four time zones. These visionaries collectively had a profound impact on those around them in a systematic way so as to naturally play a major role in both of America's beer rushes.

Of this list of pioneers, some have expanded into spirits, some have expanded to multiple units, and some have simply increased production tenfold. Either way, the next time you enjoy a pint or snifter around our valley from the several quality breweries we call our own, remember the pioneers here.

1988 was a very good year.

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.

# **MUSHROOM FORAGING 101**

Whether you're venturing out to an old favorite spot, or searching for a new one, mushroom foraging is a great way to get outside and explore the outdoors. While going on the hunt can be a fun pastime, it's extremely important to educate yourself so that you don't end up harvesting and eating a poisonous species by mistake. Although most poisonous species will just upset your stomach, some can cause hospitalization and even death.

If you're new to foraging, don't be disappointed if you come back empty handed at first - it becomes easier as you train your eye to spot different species of mushrooms. Foraging your own wild mushrooms can be a very rewarding activity, and an earthy complement to whatever you're whipping up in your kitchen that evening. The following mushrooms can be found across the U.S, but their habitat may vary. Happy hunting!

# **FORAGING TIPS**



### **KNOW YOUR TREES**

If you're able to tell the difference between a lodgepole pine and a Douglas fir, you're more likely to find a good hunting spot. Certain mushrooms tend to grow under specific trees, as well as on decaying wood.



### CHOOSE YOUR BAG CAREFULLY

Mesh bags or even old onion bags are great for collecting. Mushrooms spread through the dispersal of spores, and the more spores that are dropped, the more likely it is that future mushrooms will grow.



### BRING YOUR SMARTPHONE

Many species of mushrooms such as morels and chanterelles often grow in the same location each year. If you find a sweet spot, drop a pin on your GPS so you can find them again next year.



### SAFETY FIRST

Carry bear spray and be sure to check yourself for ticks. It's easy to get turned around in the woods, especially when you're looking at the ground, so carry a compass or GPS so you don't get lost!





## MORELS morchella

Color: Brown, to grey, to golden Shape: Cone shaped with pits and ridges. Habitat: At the base of trees, in burn sites, location can be random Qualities: Typically hollow Poisonous Look Alikes?: YES

The elusive morel is one of the most sought after wild mushrooms. They have several poisonous lookalikes so take care when searching for this species. Solid or fuzz filled stalks and wrinkled rather than pourous caps are telltale signs of a false morel. They can be found under trees, especially aspens and Douglas firs, as well as at burn sites. If you see a morel, there are likely more, so stop and scan the area before moving on.

#### **Never** eat a wild mushroom unless you're 100% sure what it is.



## OYSTERS pleurotis

Color: White, to grey, to tan, to brown Shape: Round to oblong Habitat: On the sides of dead, decaying, or living trees Qualities: Grow in shelf-like clusters Poisonous Look Alikes?: NO

Oyster mushrooms are saphatrophic, meaning they live and feed off of other living matter. Because of this quality, you can often find them growing on the sides of trees, the contrast of their light flesh easily spotted against the dark bark. If you're hunting oysters, it may be helpful to bring a small saw along to aid in the removal of more mature, thicker mushrooms. Oysters can be found throughout the year.

Mushrooms make great homes for bugs, so be sure to wash them very well.





It may be tempting to pick every last mushroom you find, but by leaving a few in each location, you allow the remaining mushrooms to deposit their spores, which provides a better chance of enjoying them in the future.



#### PROPER STORAGE

Store fresh mushrooms in a sealed paper bag in your refridgerator. Mushrooms can also be frozen or dried so that you can enjoy your harvest well past the season's end.

Graphics and information by Carie Birkmeier, who is a certified wild mushroom identifier and former chef.

Poisonous Look Alikes?: YES

Being mycorrhizal, chanterelles form a symbiotic relationship with trees, providing nutrients for each other. This also means that they can grow back in the same place each year. Chanterelles are found throughout the summer, with most fruiting in July. They posess pseudo gills, which are similar to gills, but are blunt and rounded rather than long and sharp. The jack-o-lantern mushroom is the most common poisonous lookalike, but they're more common in the east, and posess true gills.

## **American Life in Poetry:** Column 733

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

*Ibbetson Street* is a journal that comes out twice a year and does a fine job selecting its poems. I like this one by Kenneth Lee, a gynecological pathologist in Boston, whose most recent book is Gravity Waves. TV commercial producers have learned that it's effective to put a dog in with the people, and here we have dogs and their friends in a poem. And this week you get a new word, "aliquot," to go with your coffee.

Symbiosis By Kenneth Lee

I sit with my thermos of coffee on the mall: a mile-long promenade, arcades of elms flanking a generous aliquot of benches.

But at this early hour it starts to dawn: I am the only one without a dog. So, a witness to an ancient symbiosis, as it's evolved within a modern city:

The dogs, I note, are smaller, the owners less ferocious. The former sniff then poop, the latter, like potty-training parents, pat their heads, gather it in plastic doggy-bags.

It's no longer for the hunt or for protection; both species have adapted to survive hard loneliness inside a small apartment.

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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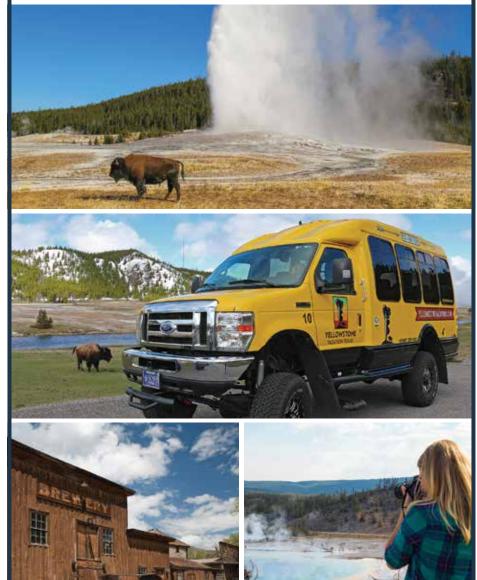
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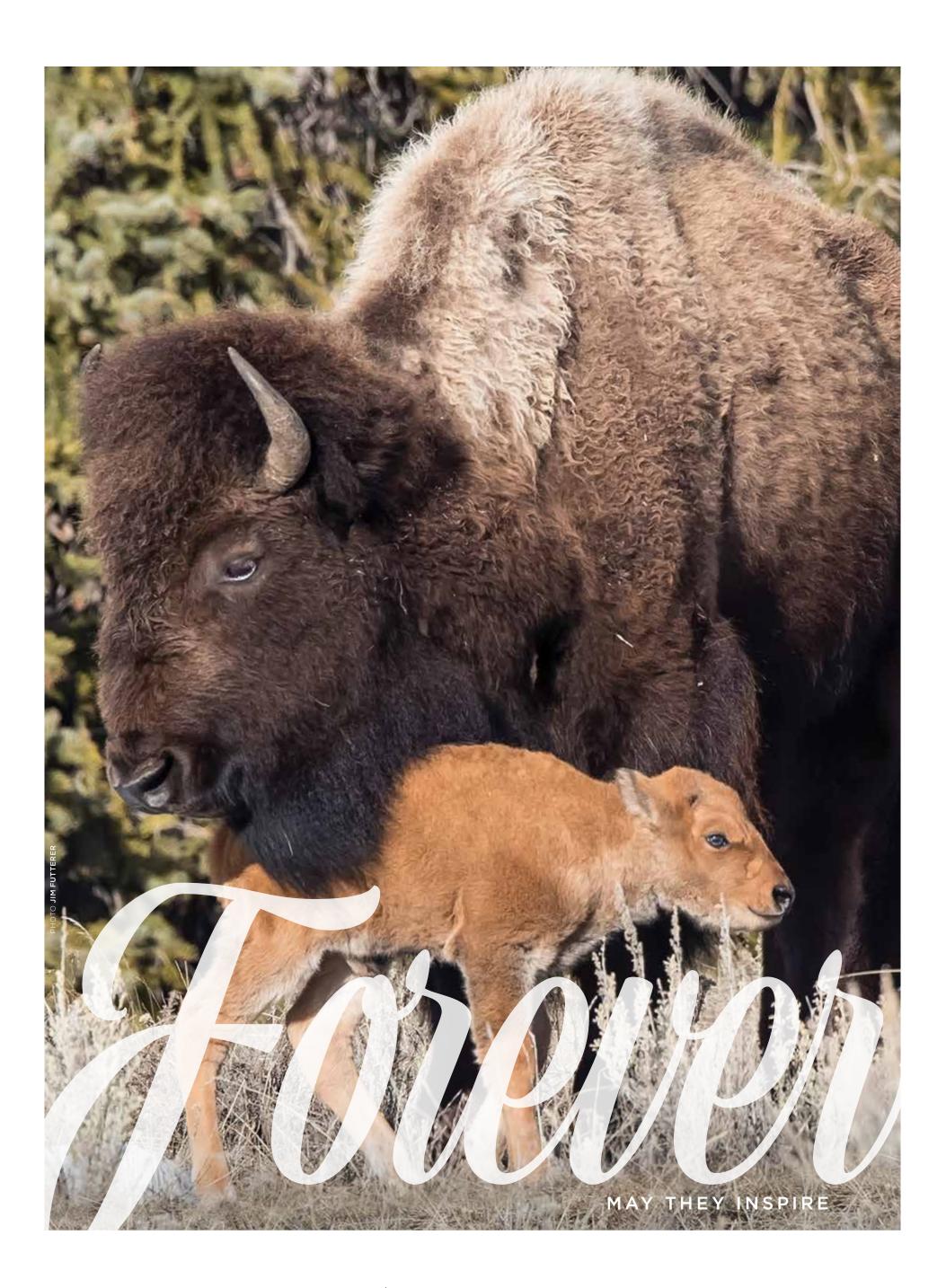




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#### Explore Big Sky

ARTS &

**SECTION 4:** 

**ENTERTAINMENT** 

#### **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

#### May 24-June 6, 2019 49



## **One man's trash** How an artist gives litter new life

#### BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

FOUR CORNERS – The Pinzoks live in a Four Corners warehouse unit adjacent to a granite and semi-precious stone countertop vendor, but their front door stands out from the corrugated metal and muted, earthy tones of the building's exterior; the eve protecting it is laced in colorful Christmas lights and a large, metal sun dangles from one of its beams.

Inside, one finds a house of art, where everything is handmade, from the bench upon which Julie sits to the painting of a barn Ed once lived in, framed by wood from the structure itself. A cat sleeps atop a reclaimed wood wine rack. A vinyl record spins upon a turntable, and the faint aroma of vanilla wafts from a candle set in front of an antique scale laden with gemstones.

Beside it, Ed Pinzok's workstation looks like a heap of trash—indeed, it is with dismembered parts of forgotten and tossed aside knick knacks, widgets and machines spread out under the light of a desk lamp. He sits there daily, quietly arranging parts.

A black plastic screw top cap fits nicely onto a metal bolt threaded through a metal binder clip.



Ed Pinzok sits in front of his workstation, topped by a heap of trash he turns into art. PHOTO BY JENNINGS BARMORE



Originally deemed "Trashbots," Ed Pinzok calls his scrap-made creations "Humunculus." PHOTOS BY JENNINGS BARMORE

For Pinzok, this novel approach to recycling broken and discarded materials is not done for monetary gains but to "keep busy," as he only gives away pieces as gifts. He's humble, even dismissive of the craft. "It's just trash," he says, which Julie rolls her eyes to. The adage "One man's trash is another man's treasure" recognizes "trash" as a subjective term.

"He's just so creative, everything he does is creative," Julie says.

Pinzok finds his materials on walks, searching roadsides for anything inorganic that might find its way into the composition of a new citizen. Sometimes friends and family will bring him items to use, leaving them on his doorstep. He has a few items stockpiled, such as a grocery bag filled with empty and defunct BIC Lighters. The final creations may just be trash in his eyes, but that's 40 or so pieces of gas-lined plastic that won't make it to landfill.

"One man's trash is another man's treasure," he echoes. "You know, I never really thought of it that way, but I guess it really is."

"It's like it was made for it," Pinzok murmurs, not looking up from his hands which repeatedly screw and unscrew the cap from the bolt. "It's like it was made for it."

Ten years ago, Pinzok began taking bits of trash and fashioning them into figurines, "Trashbots," as he originally called them, with the intent of creating a game where people could upgrade their trashbot with new pieces of garbage. Now, he blankets his ever-growing, ever-evolving universe of characters with the term "Humunculus," a mutation of "homunculus," Latin for "little person."

The citizens of Humunculus aren't exactly human, but they're not lacking in character and personality. A farmer with a rake and brass hat stares kindly through washer eyes; a golfer clad in rainbow wiring and a little tam o' shanter hat prepares for a chip with his miniature wedge—you can practically hear his brogue; a fisherman in red and yellow plastic waders excitedly holds a fish in one hand and his rod high in the other. You can feel the spirit Pinzok passed on to each character, a sometimes-painstaking process that can take months before the just-right orphaned pieces present themselves.



## **Turn the Paige** Bozeman's Paige and The People's Band to kick off Peak to Sky

#### BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

It was late on Saint Patrick's Day in Bozeman when Paige Rasmussen took the stage at the Zebra Cocktail Lounge on East Main Street.

Stepping into the dingy, poorly lit basement venue that is the Zebra, we didn't know what to expect. All we'd heard of this local musical powerhouse was a few one-off pieces of praise from friends that had seen them before.

Concertgoers milled around chatting for a few minutes and then band burst onto the stage like an armada, assuming stations and instruments ranging from a keyboard to a trumpet, with all of the usual suspects in between: backup vocals, bass, guitar, drums, tambourine and saxophone.

Paige and The People's Band, which we learned has shared stages with the likes of music legends B.B. King, John Hiatt, Willie Nelson, The Doobie Brothers, Lyle Lovett, Pat Benatar and Kenny Loggins, among others, played with a skill and passion that worked the crowd into a veritable frenzy; Rasmussen belted out track after track with vocal dexterity and palpable soul, and the band matched her energy, rendering a unique and creative musical sound.

We knew then that we needed Paige & The People's Band for the Peak to Sky concert in July.

Within weeks, Paige and The People's band was slotted to kick off Peak to Sky, the July 6 event in Big Sky, setting the stage for Brandi Carlile, the three-time 2019 Grammy Award winning artist currently dominating the music world.

The same electricity Paige and her band brought to the Zebra stage will equally charge the Peak to Sky audience, and she's bolstered the band's talent with new members including the Kelly sisters from Bozeman's popular The Hawthorne Roots, making the band a 10-piece group.

Two months after that fateful show, EBS caught up with Paige to discuss her musical background, style and Peak to Sky.

#### Explore Big Sky: When did music first become part of your life?

**Paige Rasmussen:** My whole family is full of artists, musicians, actors, DJs and instrumentalists going back a couple of generations. It's a rite of passage in my family: We discuss what your skills are and what you'd like and then go from there.

#### EBS: When did you first start performing?

**P.R.:** I started singing professionally at 14, first touring with a group called Blue Jack, singing a lot of soul standards like Aretha Franklin and Otis Redding ... It was interesting because the whole band, other than me, was formed by men in their 30s, 40s and 50s. But it definitely helped me learn early on how to front a band.

#### EBS: Is there a specific way you approach your performances?

**P.R.:** You know, my parents weren't like "stage parents," by any means; they weren't behind the curtain mouthing the words or pushing me to do anything. But my dad always told me, "This is what you do, this is art. Music is a ministry, and it's your job to entertain people and bring them out of themselves, to bring them into love. Music is love and you deliver it."



The indomitable Paige Rasmussen of Bozeman's Paige and The People's Band will take the Peak to Sky stage on July 6, playing just before Brandi Carlile. PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAIGE RASMUSSEN

#### EBS: How did the band form?

**P.R.:** My brother actually started the band, and decided to put my name in the band's [name]. He was like, "Let's call it 'Paige and the somethings," It was actually really clever on his part, because he knew I'd work my ass off if it if my name was on it.

#### EBS: Can you describe the sound of Paige and The People's Band?

**P.R.:** We kind of pull from everywhere; we're sort of the sum of everything we listen to. We're like a soul, funk and rock-fusion band, but we know that if we play music we love that [the crowd] will love it too. We're not going to stick to any single genre, 'cause people aren't one thing either. We even have some folk in there and some stuff that borders on country.



The band has added the Kelly sisters from Bozeman's popular The Hawthorne Roots to its ranks for the Peak to Sky performance, making the band a 10-piece group.

#### EBS: Tell me about your reaction to getting the nod for Peak to Sky.

**P.R.:** Well, we had something tentatively scheduled for [July] 6, but once I found out we'd be opening for Brandi Carlile, I canceled the other show and was like, 'Yep, we can do it, we're available.' I've loved Brandi for a long time; she has one of the most incredible voices ever.

**EBS:** Is this the biggest event you've ever played?

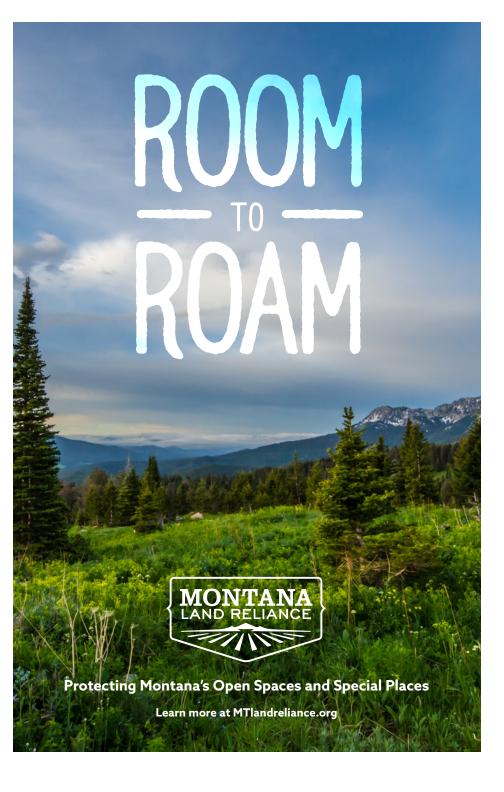
**P.R.:** When I was 17, I played at the Salt Lake City Olympics. And I opened for B.B. King here in Bozeman. But those were just big crowds and this feels like being a part of rock history. To be sharing a bill with these incredible artists is such a privilege and landmark in our musical lives.

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#### **Explore** Big Sky

## Big Sky Community Theater's 'A Streetcar Named Desire' Local actors convey important role of community arts

#### BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY – On May 16, a group of Big Sky locals representing the Big Sky Community Theater took the stage at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, putting on an impressive rendition of Tennessee William's "A Streetcar Named Desire."

Considered among the most noteworthy plays in the history of American theater, "A Streetcar Named Desire" tells the story of Blanche DuBois, a schoolteacher visiting her sister Stella in the French Quarter of New Orleans. Coming from a wealthy Mississippi family, DuBois is stunned to find Stella and her husband Stanley Kowalski living in relative poverty.

Through the distrust and subsequent malicious and subversive initiatives of Kowalski, who feels Blanche is cheating her sister out of inheritance money, the play reveals that Blanche is not as refined and delicate as she seems, having copulated with many men in Laurel, Mississippi, as well as her high school English student. Her polished feminine nature and wit unravel to a tragic degree as a result of the revelations.

John Zirkle, WMPAC artistic director, feels the performance and journey leading up to it served their purposes, keeping in line with the original intent of forming a community theater group in Big Sky.

"We wanted to create more opportunity for adults in the community to get their creative spirit on, with a grassroots approach to performance artmaking," Zirkle said. "And these shows are one night only so it's a really special night for everyone."

Stephanie Kissell, a resident of Big Sky since 2005, played Blanche masterfully through a well-done southern drawl, powerful line delivery and on-character airy intimations. Kissell echoed Zirkle's assertions about the space it creates for creative outlet and community togetherness.

"That team-playing aspect is really important to me, as well as being involved in the creative process," she said. "The performing arts center is an amazing place and the support for the arts in our community is ... incredible."



Kissell expertly captured the sharp and manipulative characteristics of Blanche. PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT DODD

Kissell credited Zirkle with cultivating that support and interest over the years.

"The performing arts center is amazing, and John has given us [the community] a creative outlet that I really needed."

For his part, Zirkle felt that Kissell, who was initially unsure of the undertaking due to the sheer commitment it requires, particularly with the amount of lines Blanche has, rose to the challenge.

"Amazing. She was amazing, truly," Zirkle said. "Everyone was."

Mark Kuntz, a professional actor who was hired to direct this show and played the brutish and uncouth Kowalski, also spoke to the importance of community theater and the trials it presents as a director.

"It has this stigma of not being as high of quality as professional productions, and I take that on as a challenge," Kuntz said. "It's just really special to see people you see every day in the community up on stage putting on a quality show."



Director Mark Kuntz as the beastly Stanley Kowalski on stage with Big Sky resident Stephanie Kissell undertook the lead role of Blanche DuBois. PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT DODD

The community theater's sixth performance since WMPAC opened in March, 2013, the show garnered a healthy turnout of community members and patrons of the arts.

Big Sky's Community Theater first took shape in 2013 when Zirkle and Jeremy Harder, then a fourth-grade teacher at Ophir Elementary, led the charge for the venue's first-ever show, Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest."

For Zirkle, the genesis of the venture was an important step for a fledgling arts community still taking shape. Finding success in Big Sky's theater scene, he says, is also a success for Big Sky.

"[These shows] really do something for people. I think they help people dig their heels in on what it means to be a fulltime resident of this community," Zirkle said. "It's one of the core elements, one of the most important things that we [at WMPAC] do because it's truly grassroots. Each show is fully by the community, for the community."



## Summer Movie Preview Part I: Strong Female Leads

BY ANNA HUSTED **EBS FILM CRITIC** 

May:

Parabellum means "prepare for war" in Latin and is also the name of a type of pistol. Both seem appropriate for "John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum," a series already defined by some pretty serious violence and gore. Here's hoping no puppies die.

The most exciting thing about "Aladdin" is director Guy Ritchie ("Snatch" and "Sherlock Holmes"), yet few critics have been talking about that as they are too distracted by Will Smith's blue-ness (he plays Genie). "Aladdin" is one of my favorite Disney classics and looks more promising than the tear-jerker "The Lion King."

Octavia Spencer as a psychopathic kid-friendly neighbor? Yes please, "Ma!"

I've been waiting for Beanie Feldstein's next role since her hilarious debut in "Lady Bird." Here she comes in Olivia Wilde's directorial debut "Booksmart," which looks a lot like "Superbad" meets "Mean Girls."

"Rocketman" joins the ever-increasing demand for musician biopics. Taron Egerton ("Eddie the Eagle") plays Elton John in this movie, which reveals the trials of John's breakthrough years. Will it be nominated for as many awards as "Bohemian Rhapsody?" Not likely, but Egerton's voice carries this intriguing story of fame and fantasy.

#### June:

"Late Night" is written by and stars Mindy Kaling, who plays Molly, the lone female writer on Katherine Newbury's (Emma Thompson) struggling late night show.

Jim Jarmusch gave us stunning vampires in "Only Lovers Left Alive," and now delivers comedic zombies in "The Dead Don't Die." Another horror film I can't wait to see is the "Child's Play" remake starring Mark Hamill and Aubrey Plaza. And if talking dolls strike your fancy, don't miss "Toy Story 4" featuring new cast members Patricia Arquette and Keanu Reeves. My only concern about a fourth installment is whether it will hold up to the near-perfect trilogy, or will Disney's greed trump Pixar's historical creativity?



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"Late Night" stars the hilarious and formidable Emma Thompson and the clever and decorous Mindy Kaling. "Late Night" releases June 7. PHOTO COURTESY OF 3 ARTS ENTERTAINMENT

#### July:

"Spider-Man: Far From Home" continues the second generation Marvel Cinematic Universe. I feel like I'm stuck in a never-ending vortex of comic book films, but I still can't look away.

I will always support comedies, a genre fairly disrespected by critics, but a film like "Stuber" makes it easy. Kumail Nanjiani and Dave Bautista play an Uber driver and detective, respectively, who drive through the night chasin' bad guys and bustin' skulls.

Quentin Tarantino: Racist or Revisionist? Let's see what happens when he puts Leonardo DiCaprio and Brad Pitt together (finally) in "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood."

Watch these films locally! Check out lonepeakcinema.com for local listings.

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

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Explore Big Sky

## **BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR**

FRIDAY, MAY 24 - THURSDAY, JUNE 6

If your event falls between June 7 and June 20, please submit it by June 12 by emailing media@outlaw.partners

#### FRIDAY, MAY 24

Paula Poundstone The Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 8 p.m.

Live Music: Cole and the Thornes Zebra Cocktail Lounge, Bozeman, Doors 8 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, MAY 25**

Live Music: Ages and Ages The Filling Station, Bozeman, Doors 8 p.m.

Live Music: Left on Tenth Zebra Cocktail Lounge, Bozeman, Doors 8 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, MAY 26 How To Train Your Dragon

The Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 2 p.m.

Live Music: Dead Yellers Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**TUESDAY, MAY 29** Hops & History: Birth of a Beer Museum of the Rockies, 5:30 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, MAY 30**

MeadowView Condominium Ribbon Cutting MeadowView Condominiums, 4 p.m.

Montana Pint O' Beer Run Lone Peak Brewery, 5:30 p.m.

Soft Opening Wilson Hotel, Big Sky Live Music: Aaron Williams Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, MAY 31

Live Music: Real Estate The Rialto, Bozeman, Doors 7:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 1

National Trails Day Big Sky Community Park, 8:30 a.m.

LPHS 2019 Commencement Bough Dolan Athletic Center, 1 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, JUNE 2**

Live Music: Ryan Acker Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

#### MONDAY, JUNE 3

Improv on the Verge Verge Theater, Bozeman, 7 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, JUNE 4**

A strengths-based approach to suicide prevention, Yellowstone Club Community Foundation Big Sky Medical Center Community Room, 4 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

Big Sky Farmer's Market Big Sky Town Center, 5 p.m.

Live Poker The Buffalo Bar, West Yellowstone, 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 6** BZN International Film Festival Ellen Theatre, Bozeman

### **WORTH THE DRIVE**



### ENNIS, MONTANA Willie's Distillery 7th Annual Spring Pig Roast

Willie's Distillery, Ennis Sunday, June 1, 12-6 p.m.

Take a scenic drive north along the Gallatin, and then west through Norris and into Ennis for a trip to Montana's "premiere destination distillery," Willie's, for their 7th Annual Spring Pig Roast. Willie's is a community staple in a town of less than 1,000 residents, and all are invited on June 1 for free roasted pig and live music, rain or shine. For the sportier types there will be a 5K run, with check-in at the Lion's Club Park from 8-9:30 a.m. For more information, visit WilliesDistillery.com

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.





## **On the road with Norman Baker** A folk artist reflects on his travels

#### BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BOZEMAN – In a country nearly 3,000 miles wide, 1,500 miles long and home to population with a voracious appetite for music, traveling by road isn't just commonplace for musicians in the U.S.—it's a rite of passage. Seattle-native Norman Baker is in the midst of such a voyage, and he's relishing it.

"This is the longest solo tour I've ever done, with 32 shows, in seven states, over 5.5 weeks," said Baker, who performed at The Rialto's Burn Box venue in Bozeman on May 18, entrancing the crowd with master acoustic guitar work and vocals to match. "Commuting and long tours aren't for everyone, but I love it. It's a chance to see the country and connect with people over my art."



Norman Baker, an eclectic musician from Seattle, appreciates his time on the road touring because of the unique space for human connection it provides. PHOTO COURTESY OF NORMAN BAKER

Baker was baptized in music from a young age, playing trumpet and trombone in a school band, drums and bass in a jazz band, forming a rap group with friends, learning guitar licks from his father and bluegrass structure and sound from his mother, who plays the fiddle and mandolin. He soaked up musical influence like a sponge, taking scale lessons from his uncle and power chord riffs from a heavy metal-obsessed friend. And soon, he was writing music.

"I'd write anything from grungy power chord songs, to sensitive teenage boy songs," Baker said.

Baker jokes his focus on music truly solidified when he became outsized on the football field.

"I played football, basketball and baseball," Baker said. "I was the quarterback in middle school, and I was a stud. But then everyone started getting really big, and I was no longer a stud."

Now the musician plays mostly with a band he serves as frontman for, Norman Baker & The Backroads, but also plays solo, straddling the Americana, country, rock 'n' roll, folk and bluegrass genres in both ventures.

Flipping between a solo act and being a member of a band, his team, comes with unique challenges and approaches to performance. There are pros and cons to both, Baker says.

"I like being up there by myself, to have the freedom to improvise a bit more, to lengthen out the songs, and when you're with a full

band you've got to stick with the program," Baker said. "But there's nothing like the feeling of playing with other people and making something together."

Baker feels the connections he forges on the road make all the long hauls and lonely moments meaningful.

"I was just thinking about this last night, hauling a bunch of gear into the hotel, how much work you put in every night and how much of a struggle it is," Baker said. "Some days are rough and long, and I ask myself, 'Why am I doing this?'Then I play the show, and all the people I meet and connect with after the show, saying super nice things about the songs, makes it all worthwhile."



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## **Zebra to close doors** Bozeman live-music institution leaves big shoes to fill

#### BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BOZEMAN – After reigning for nearly a quarter century as a bastion of alternative live music in Bozeman, the Zebra Cocktail Lounge will be hosting its last show on May 28.

Founded in 1995 by Bozeman residents Brett Cline and Steve Lee, the Zebra sought to fill a void in the Bozeman nightlife scene, breaking the mold from the traditional fare and blazing a trail for new forms of culture and music to find footing.

The venue was the first in Bozeman to host touring acts but due to its smaller size began booking past-their-prime musicians when hip-hop artists such as Young MC, 2 Live Crew and Digital Underground would take the Zebra stage, according to Bryan Hovda, who began bartending, among other duties, for Cline in 1999 and took over the business in 2014.

"In 1995, every bar in Bozeman was a cowboy bar, and Brett was the first person who was kind of like 'lets bring in a scene," Hovda said. "We had this band called Five Fingers of Funk come out from Portland, and they tore it up; next thing you knew, it was a packed house every night."

When the bar first opened, it had just enough money to operate on a week-by-week basis, Hovda said, but soon became a staple for those seeking a unique experience in the nascent city.

Today, Bozeman is a music town with venues and festivals attracting live and diverse acts on a weekly basis, a direct result of Cline's efforts.

Yet Cline and the Zebra's successes in paving the way for a vibrant music scene have ushered in a host of issues, chiefly a loss in clientele for what was once the only player in the game, and with Bozeman's rental prices rising, the business is no longer feasible. "It's gotten harder to hack up that sizeable market share," Hovda said, "especially in the summer when there's always some festival or outdoors concert; something more fitting than going into a basement."

Hovda recognizes the Zebra still has a loyal fan base, college students and longtime patrons who flock to its doors regularly for the "bad lighting, but great sound," says Hovda.

"There's a lot of people that have come to me since we announced the close a couple of months ago that are like, 'Where are we gonna hang out?""

Quinlan Conley, a Bozeman musician who's played at the Zebra some 75 times over the past 15 years with various bands, he says, is troubled by the loss.

"We lost another space for all kinds of music," Conley said. "It's not just about my music being affected or my friend's bands, either. I mean I saw Method Man [of Wu-Tang Clan] there. It's really the only type of place in Bozeman that could have happened."

Conley began playing gigs at the Zebra at 17 years old in 2004 when he wasn't even of legal age to enter the bar if he wasn't performing, waiting in the band's van outside until getting called in. He says that anytime artists come from big cities to play the Zebra, they are instantly reminded of venues back home, a strong endorsement for a little nightclub in downtown Bozeman.

"Everyone that's played the Zebra is like, 'This reminds me of this punk club I play in Virginia,' or 'a hip-hop club on Coney Island," said Conley, adding that East Coast friends said the Zebra was reminiscent of one of the most famous rock and roll bars in Massachusetts. "My buddies in Boston were telling me it reminds them of The Rat.

"It's not going to be the same," he said. "We lost an institution."



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