Explore

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

FREE

Big Sky

June 7 - 20, 2019
Volume 10 // Issue #12

Happy Father's Day!

Big Sky Soul Shine brings light

Big Sky Soul Shine brings light

The New West:
bikes, bears and wilderness

Housing Trust cuts ribbon

Resort tax appropriations underway

Peak to Sky's legendary talent

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ON THE COVER:

During the first annual Big Sky Soul Shine event in 2017, the Robin family is surrounded by Big Sky community members, which showed unwavering support when the Robins needed it most. Two years later, the 2019 Big Sky Soul Shine, held in Town Center Park on June 20, will continue to celebrate and honor Mark Robin, center, and his legacy of commitment to the Big Sky community.
PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY - www.kenesperryart.com

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49 Big Sky Soul Shine brings light
On June 20, the Big Sky community will come together and celebrate the life of Mark Robin, 25 years of Hungry Moose Market and Deli and the community staple's new ownership at the 2019 Big Sky Soul Shine, featuring music by Americana band Futurebirds and local talent Dammit Lauren and The Well.

17 The New West: bikes, bears and wilderness
In an ongoing debate over permitting mountain bikes in wilderness designations, a new battle line is considered: Do mountain bikes have an especially detrimental effect on grizzly bears and other wildlife?

13 Housing Trust cuts ribbon
In a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 30, the Big Sky Community Housing Trust introduced the community's first deed-restricted workforce housing, with the first available units slated for mid-June move-ins.

12 Resort tax appropriations underway
On June 3, the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board fielded questions and comments from resort tax appropriations applicants at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center; this year requests came in at about $11.4 million, nearly $3.5 million more than the available funds.

51 Peak to Sky's legendary talent
Five highly decorated rock and roll legends come to Big Sky on July 6 for the Peak to Sky concert. Just how legendary? Does the fact that four of them are Hall of Famers say anything?

The U10 girls Big Sky FC team finished off their spring season at the Three Blind Refs tournament in Kalispell with plenty of teamwork, smiles and sunshine to go around all weekend. PHOTO BY MATT DODD

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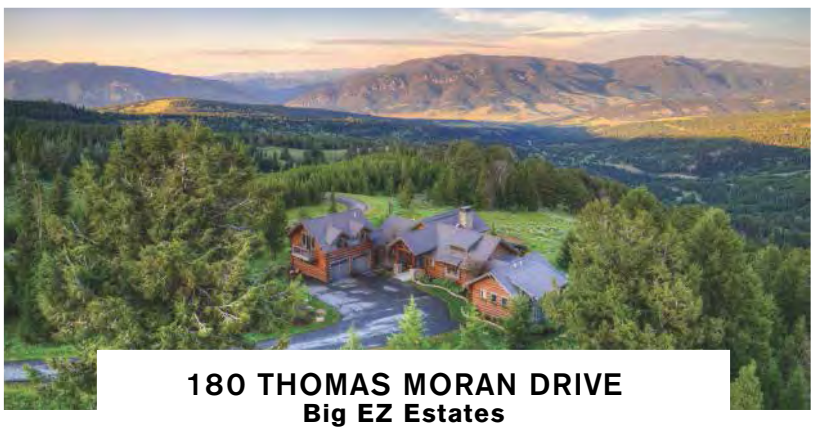

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Skyline Bus summer schedule commences

EBS STAFF

Big Sky's Skyline Bus began operating on its summer season routes on May 28, a service that will remain active until Sept. 22 to accommodate the anticipated increase of ride needs as a result of spikes from summer tourism and affected businesses. Big Sky's principal bus line has also bolstered their historic local stop roster with new locations such as the Wilson Hotel on Town Center Ave.

Visit skylinebus.com for routes and schedules.

Community Yoga on the Town Center Park Stage

SANTOSHA WELLNESS CENTER

Santosha Wellness Center is gearing up for another summer of community yoga on the Town Center Park Stage. Beginning on June 17, a community yoga class will be offered at 12 p.m. each Monday through Labor Day. The classes are geared for all levels of practice and will be taught by a variety of Santosha's yoga teachers. Immediately following the hour-long classes will be delicious lunches served by The Gourmet Gals. The class and lunch are donation-based, with all proceeds going to the Big Sky Community Organization to support the new Big Sky Community Center.

Big Sky Community goes ALL IN

BIG SKY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Following the donations of 62 community members to the month-old Big Sky Community Organization ALL IN BIG SKY fundraising campaign, the $50,000 matching grant from the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation has been met. The grant, as well as donated funds, will be put toward Big Sky's first and only community center. Since the launch of the campaign, the most ambitious fundraising goal ever set by the Big Sky community, it has raised over $190,000.

Visit bscomt.org/communitycenter to learn more about the community center or the ALL IN BIG SKY campaign.

Big Sky Chamber Black Diamond Business Awards

BIG SKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce will host the 22nd Annual Big Sky Chamber Black Diamond Awards Dinner and Members Meeting on June 25 at the recently opened Wilson Hotel in Town Center. Representatives from their more-than 450 active members are invited for an evening at the town's first branded hotel, where attendees will enjoy a gourmet dinner in honor of community members and businesses for exceptionalism. The event also highlights the chamber's strategic plan, Elevate Big Sky. Members will have first access to tickets followed by nonmembers thereafter.

Visit bigskychamber.com to purchase one of a limited number of tickets.

Our Big Sky Community Event Series presents Big Sky Envisions

BIG SKY RESORT AREA DISTRICT

Beginning June 10, The Big Sky Resort Area District will be initiating the second phase of the Our Big Sky Community Visioning Strategy, named Big Sky Envisions. The series of events, which are intended to serve as follow-ups to those that took place in late-February, will span June 10-12. Feedback from that first batch has been used to develop an overall vision for the community, including many current and future projects, but BSRAD continues to seek further community input to expand this vision. This will be accomplished through small group sessions and public comment and participation at designated events.

Visit ourbigskymt.com to RSVP to a small group discussion or to view the online survey.

Get Off Your Glass Bozeman

WE RECYCLE MONTANA

We Recycle Montana will host a free glass recycling event for the public at the Oak Lot of the Gallatin County Fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m on June 8. Colored glass and labels will be accepted, but porcelain, ceramics, mirrors, laminated glass and shower glass doors will be excluded from recyclable items. Specific brands of beer bottles will also be accepted as part of the Bayern Brewing Eco League reuse program; these bottles will be returned to Bayern Brewery in Missoula, where they will be washed, sterilized and refilled.

Visit the Get Off Your Glass Bozeman event page on Facebook for more information.

Geotechnical firm opens in Bozeman

CENTER REACH COMMUNICATIONS

CTL Thompson, Inc., a full-service geotechnical, structural, environmental and materials engineering firm based in Denver has opened a satellite office in Bozeman. The new office will allow CTL to provide construction observation and materials testing services, engineering investigation and design services to assist development, design and construction companies in the region. Historically, CTL has provided geological and geotechnical services for large-scale developments at Big Sky Resort and Moonlight Basin ski areas; the company's goal is to provide increased engineering support for clients and projects in the Big Sky and Bozeman area.

Gallatin River Festival

EBS STAFF

The Gallatin River Task Force will host the 2019 Gallatin River Festival between June 28-30. The three-day event will kick off at Gallatin River Guides with the Pesca Fiesta from 4-6 p.m. with deals on gear, and food, with a complimentary beer. Saturday's festivities will be held at the Big Sky Town Center Park from 4-8 p.m. The outdoor fair will feature a tasting garden hosted by the Montana Distiller's Guild and music by the Bridger Creek Boys.

Visit gallatinrivertaskforce.org for more information.

406 Forum

Sunday, June 16 is Father's Day

What is the most important lesson your father has taught you?

Tawni Williams-Hoch
Big Sky, Montana

Work hard, travel often, eat well. We always did trips together, my dad and I. He has all of these friends that do funny car races, and he is like the chef on site. He goes to the races and sets up grills and cooks for everyone. We always did that and it was really fun.

Heidi Lou Hughes (4)
Big Sky, Montana

He taught me how to ride my strider and he taught me that at the park. A strider is a bike without those things … pedals.

Karen Rivera
San Francisco, California

Something that I really love about my father is that he is one of the sweetest people I've ever met in my whole life. He always told me this quote: 'It's nice to be important, but it's important to be nice.' He also taught me that money isn't a big deal, and that it's best to share the wealth with other people. Kindness makes the world go round, and it will have a ripple effect on other people.

Quinn Malinowski (4)
Big Sky, Montana

He always says toughen up buttercup when I'm whining! He tells me to stop fighting with my brother when he doesn't let me in his room. [My favorite things to do with him are] watch Star Wars and go on walks to the river.

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EBS “Summer Shutters” photography contest underway

EBS STAFF

On June 1, Explore Big Sky began hosting a three-month-long photography contest, with $75 in cash prizes doled out every two weeks. At the end of August, EBS staff will announce a grand-prize winner and award $500 in cash, in addition to $500 in prizes from our sponsors Bozeman Camera and The Frugal Frame Shop.

Any photo entered throughout the contest period will be considered for the grand prize, as well as for the bimonthly $75 payout. There is no limit to the number of victories one can have before the contest’s end, so keep the submissions coming!

The rules are simple:

Step 1: Get outside in beautiful Montana and put those photography skills to the test. We want to know what you’re up to and any photo subject will qualify.

Step 2: Follow @explorebigsky on Instagram

Step 3: Submit your content to submissions@theoutlawpartners.com or via Instagram direct message (see submission guidelines, below)

—

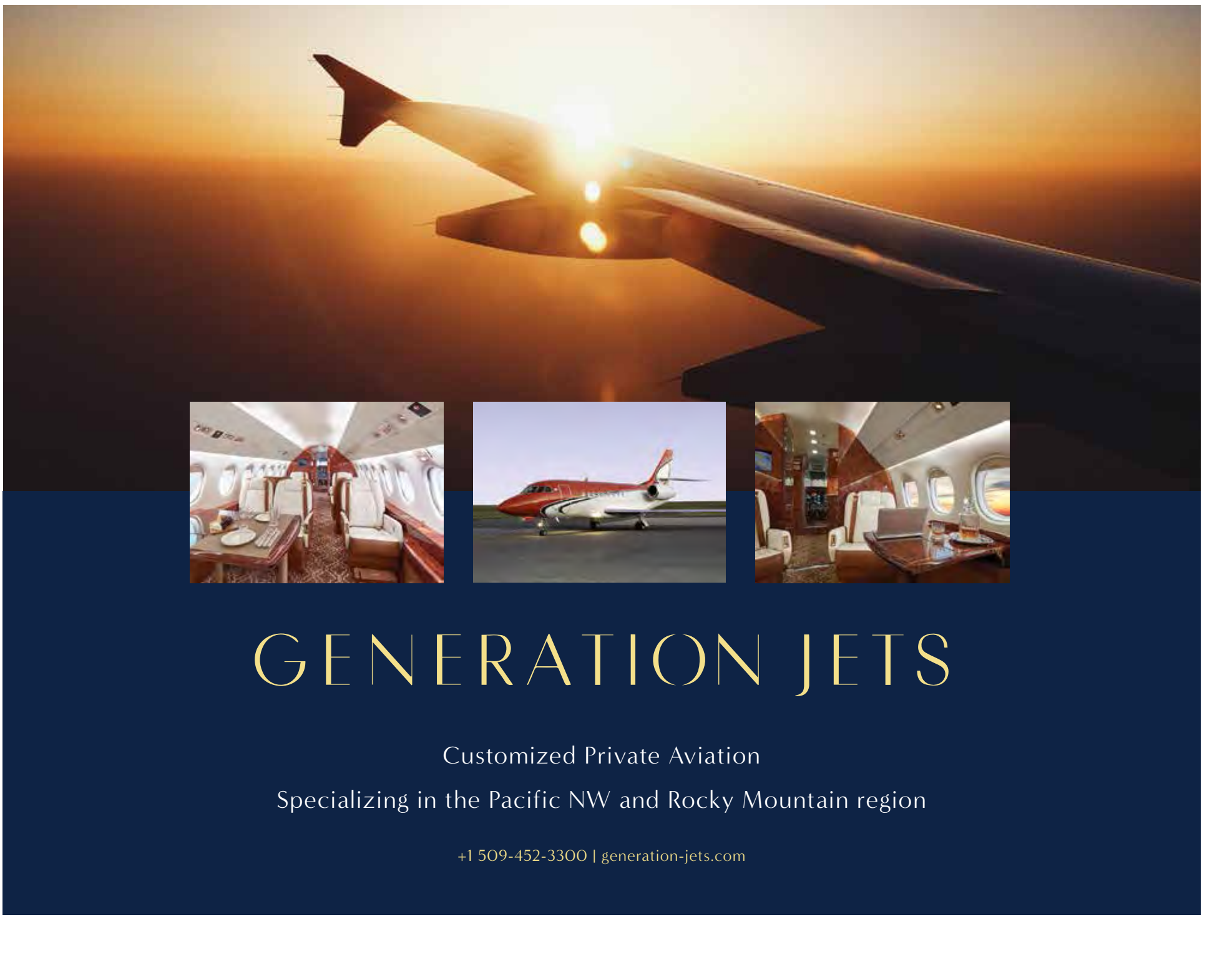
Submissions after Wednesday, Aug. 29 will not be accepted. Maximum of four submissions each month.

The bi-monthly winners will be alerted via email and Instagram on June 17, July 1, July 15, July 29 and August 12, and the grand-prize winner will be alerted via email and Instagram on Aug. 30, and their winning photograph will be reposted with a write-up on Sept. 2.

All submissions must include a general location of where the photo was taken (e.g. Big Sky Resort; Yellowstone National Park, etc.), and the photographer’s name, email and Instagram handle for tagging purposes.

Explore Big Sky reserves the right to publish any and all submissions in any Outlaw Partners publication, website and social media platform.

Good luck and send it!



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PBR BULL RIDING
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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

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

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GROWING PAINS

PART SIX

Big Sky's wildfire heritage

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 – Around noon on May 12, a property manager using a torch to eliminate weeds and grasses up beyond the Beaver Creek Road gate started a wildfire. Gusty winds caused the flames to spread over a total of seven acres of hilly, sagebrush-covered terrain before the Big Sky, Gallatin Gateway and Yellowstone Club fire departments, along with the U.S. Forest Service were able to suppress the blaze.

With fresh snowmelt, green flora and frequent rainstorms, May is early for wildfires to start in Montana. Yet this instance shows how, when you add more people to an area like Big Sky, the risk of wildfire increases.

"Anytime you build more houses in an area that's prone to wildfire, you're adding more risk because you add that human factor in," said BSFD Deputy Fire Chief Dustin Tetrault.

Adapted to wildfire

Wildfires are a natural occurrence in the American West, and the forests surrounding Big Sky are not excluded. Forests in the western U.S. are actually adapted to wildfires, and depend on fire for ecological health.

Before European settlers moved west, wildfires took place regularly but on smaller scales than today, leaving the forests a patchwork of areas that burned at different times. Some native tribes even used fire purposely, understanding its function in sustaining the natural world.

However, after a series of wildfires around the turn of the 20th century destroyed more homes than the states had ever seen, the U.S. Forest Service adopted a wildfire exclusion policy in 1913 that involved preventing and suppressing wildfire as much as possible, according to Jack Cohen, a leading scholar on wildfire ignition research. This policy of putting out fires as quickly as possible was predominant for the following four decades before it began recognizing fire as a historical and ecological factor in the '60s and '70s.

"[That period] has produced fuel accumulations and arrangements that have enhanced the potential for the extensive areas of high-intensity wildland fires experienced in recent years," Cohen writes in his article, "The Wildland-Urban Interface Problem," published in Forest History Today.

In forests such as those around Big Sky, that have not burned in recent memory, the overcrowding of trees and increased dead and down timber due to pine beetle kill can ignite and set off a major conflagration, according to the Madison County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. In certain areas, such a stand replacement fire can consume thousands of acres.

Last year's Bacon Rind and Wigwam fires, which torched 5,232 and 4,087 acres, respectively, took place in areas very similar to and not far from Big Sky. Both burned in the forest canopy, constituting a partial-stand replacement.

As more people live in and visit Big Sky, the risk of ignition increases. While the surrounding forest is historically adapted to wildfire, the question becomes whether or not Big Sky's residents and subdivisions are so adapted.

Tetrault says there's a range of grades he'd give developments throughout Big Sky, with some subdivisions scoring As and Bs and others, Fs. Overall, he gives Big Sky's wildfire preparedness a C average.

On July 20, 2018, a lightning strike ignited what became known as the Bacon Rind Fire 20 miles south of Big Sky. By the time snow and rain in early October effectively put out the fire, it had burned 5,232 acres of timber similar to that surrounding Big Sky. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

"What we've done really well is that we have enough space that we haven't got down to building zero-lot lines [developments] or these dense cluster houses," Tetrault said. "We've kept our risk isolated so that if we get a big fire and we get one structure that burns down, more than likely that may be an isolated incident because there are not a lot of structures around it."

He added that he fears denser subdivisions in the future could increase risk. Although building practices have improved, homes are still being constructed with flammable siding and roofing in Big Sky, and many older houses are more likely to go up in flames, he said.

With upwards of 2,500 structures yet to be built in Big Sky, Tetrault and BSFD are pushing hard for these to be built to withstand fire on their own.

"When it comes down to it, when you get these large-scale fires like we've seen in California these last couple years, the firefighters aren't fighting fire," he said. "Life safety is No. 1 for us so we're getting people out. We can't take the time to fight [multiple] structure fires when lives are at stake. Our big focus is going to be getting people out of there, not the structures."

Homes and subdivisions built and designed to withstand wildfire will mitigate the financial, social, economic and cultural impacts the community faces, Tetrault said.

Who foots the bill of wildfire?

Although the costs of fire suppression largely come out of state and federal coffers, the burden of recovery from the destruction to property in the wake of a wildfire falls primarily on the local community.

"When you're looking at the full range of wildfire cost, not just the short-term suppression costs, but also long term costs related to tourism revenue, property values, infrastructure repair, roadside maintenance, the vast majority of that cost is borne by the local community," said Headwaters Economics Research and Policy Analyst Kimiko Barrett, who is the project lead for the nonprofit thinktank's wildfire research.

"Although a community doesn't pay for immediate suppression of a wildfire, they are going to pay for long-term rehabilitation," Barrett added.

Unlike many peer communities that stretch into wildfire-prone landscapes, such as Boulder, Colorado, Big Sky is not able to require homeowners to conduct regular wildfire mitigation on their property, though Big Sky has more wildfire exposure than most communities in the West.

Such stipulations would require maintaining defensible space around a home by managing vegetation around one's property, as well as mandate that building materials anticipate a wildfire event.

What sets Big Sky apart is its high percentage of those owning second homes and amenity owners who rent their homes for services such as VRBO, according to Barrett.

"You have a lot of absentee homeowners and when that comes to wildfires and mitigation that can be a very significant challenge," Barrett said.

Tetrault added that guests staying in a home on the short-term rental market also complicate evacuation scenarios as they may not know where to go in such an instance. Evacuation also brings in the conundrum of mass egress from Big Sky in an emergency situation.

One way in, one way out

Big Sky's routes of egress are limited, being either U.S. Highway 191 or Jack Creek Road, which has a private, gated section before becoming a narrow, public dirt road through the Jack Creek drainage. It can't accommodate commercial vehicles and is also prone to spring landslides.

"As far as an evacuation operation [on Jack Creek Road], if we had [Lone Mountain Trail] compromised, could we do it? Yes," Tatrault said. "Would it take a long time? Absolutely. … Taking into account that wildfires can move up to 6 mph and every second counts, it would be extremely difficult to get everyone out in time."

In an emergency the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office would oversee an evacuation, according to BSFD Fire Chief William Farhat, adding that the capacity the roads could handle is a widely recognized concern.

"Our road system is fragile," said Farhat, pointing to issues that could derail heavily traveled Highway 191.

"A car accident can block the road for hours, a rockslide could block it for days, a washout could block it for weeks," Farhat said. Although a washout hasn't happened in years, he cited how a rockslide on Colorado's I-70 corridor in Glenwood Canyon severely impacted travel.

"There are ways to improve transportation but they're extraordinarily expensive," Farhat said. "… In Montana, we don't have the access to that [type of funding]. If you look at Big Sky, the solutions are not evident."

Preparedness

Despite the risks of wildfire and egress in the growing community, public safety professionals in Gallatin and Madison counties have community wildfire protection and pre-disaster mitigation plans for Big Sky.

The Big Sky Fire Department has been proactive in the face of Big Sky's staggering growth. Tetrault was hired specifically for community outreach; his full title is actually Deputy Chief of Community Risk Management. He is building an all-encompassing risk-reduction plan for Big Sky.

On May 12, a property manager was using a torch to eliminate weeds and grasses up Beaver Creek Road when gusty winds caused the flame to spread over a total of seven acres of hilly, sagebrush-covered terrain before fire crews were able to extinguish the blaze.
PHOTO BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR

His goal is to form Big Sky into a fire-adapted community. This not only involves encouraging that new structures and subdivisions are designed with wildfire in mind, but also working with property owners' existing structures to optimize the survivability of their homes.

On June 11 and 12, the BSFD will be conducting fuel-mitigation work at area properties, collecting debris, chipping it and hauling it away for people. Tetrault will also be meeting with homeowners and making recommendations as to how they can better prepare their homes for wildfires.

Creating defensible space around structures also allows them and other fire-suppression professionals to more efficiently and effectively suppress fire in the case of a large-scale wildfire.

"We need to get out of that mindset that, 'It's not going to happen to us,'" Tetrault said.

In light of Big Sky's limited egress capacity, Patrick Lonergan, Chief of Emergency Management for Gallatin County, urges residents to be prepared for an emergency event, either to be self-sufficient in case they have to stay put, or prepared with a plan that enables them to evacuate as soon as county officials advise them to leave.

According to Lonergan, most civilian injuries in wildfires across the nation occur when people don't leave when they're told, instead deciding to weather the storm, but then change their mind when they realize the threat is more serious than they expected. When they finally do leave, smoke obscures the road or trees block it, often resulting in vehicle accidents that can impede firefighting teams.

"We want them to leave while it's safe so they don't end up in a situation where it's not safe to leave and they don't feel comfortable staying put," Lonergan said.

Another challenge in an emergency situation is notifying everyone about what is happening and the best way to stay safe, Lonergan said, which is why Gallatin County has a community notification system. He encourages residents in Big Sky to register at alerts.readygallatin.com, which allows Lonergan's team to send out targeted messages to people in specific locations.

Wildfire must be recognized as a reality of life in Big Sky, according to Kimiko Barrett of Headwater Economics.

"A wildfire is inevitable. It's coming. It's just a matter of when," Barrett said. "[Big Sky needs] to prepare now by managing their home and property and building to a higher wildfire-resistant standard."

To learn more about optimizing your property to withstand a wildfire, contact BSFD Deputy Fire Chief Dustin Tetrault at dtetrault@bigskyfire.org.

Visit readygallatin.com/mitigation to view the final draft of the updated Gallatin County Hazard Mitigation Plan and to provide feedback by the June 19 deadline.

Organizations speak at resort tax Q&A

Representatives make cases for appropriation requests

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY – Representatives from 28 Big Sky organizations gathered in the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on June 3 for the 2019 Resort Tax Appropriations Q&A meeting, the only opportunity for the groups to field live questions from members of the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board.

Appropriation requests ranged from $23,500 for Big Sky Search and Rescue's efforts to fund daily operations, training, gear maintenance and computer upgrades, to nearly $2.45 million requested by the Big Sky Community Housing Trust to cover the costs of staffing, down payment assistance, participation in various workforce housing projects around Big Sky, piloting a RENT LOCAL program and hiring consultants to effect zoning changes and explore Voluntary Real Estate Transfer Tax options.

Big Sky Fire Department Chief William Farhat, who was the first representative to field questions from the board regarding $916,971 in new requests and $145,000 in rollover requests to support needs pertaining to tourism-driven emergency-incident growth and replacing personal protection equipment, captured the essence of the meeting in a response to a comment from tax board Director Mike Scholz about the department's Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating, which can affect insurance rates within a community.

"I think we're doing our very best with what we have, and we work very hard at being efficient and transparent," Farhat said. "Thrifty, when we can, save whenever we can and diversify our revenue streams."

Funds available for appropriations were similar to collections of last year, approximately $8 million, but appropriation requests jumped from about $9.5 million for 2018-2019 to nearly $11.4 million for 2019-2020, meaning applicants had their work cut out for them in making a case for funding; subsequently, board members will be challenged in determining how to judiciously divvy collections.

"It's no secret we're stretched on funds this year," Scholz said at the meeting.

Two appropriation requests broke the $1 million mark. The Big Sky Community Housing Trust's nearly $2.45 million appropriation request, and the Big Sky Community Organization's roughly $2.05 million for the operations and maintenance of BSCO-operated community parks and trail systems, and for the capital funding of infrastructure for 3.3 acres in Big Sky Town Center and the new 25,000 square foot community center.

"[The BSCO community center fundraising campaign is] successful, but it's also huge. It's the most ambitious goal we've ever done," Ciara Wolfe, CEO of BSCO, said during the Q&A. "We're asking for 8 percent of our goal to come from resort tax dollars, and that's not just for the facility, that's for all the public infrastructure associated with it."

Laura Seyfang, program director of the Big Sky Community Housing Trust, said the board did an excellent job in treating each request and representative with respect, despite the uphill challenges ahead in distributing the $8 million available between the

Big Sky Resort Area District tax board Secretary Buz Davis, left, and Director Mike Scholz, right, at the June 3 Resort Tax Appropriations Q&A. PHOTO BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

28 requests that leave a $3.5 million disparity between requests and available funds.

"I was very pleased that it was such a non-adversarial discussion," Seyfang said. "All of the organizations that were there each have really great causes and great needs, and they were treated with a lot of dignity and respect. I don't think that anyone came out of there feeling discouraged because the board did a great job in creating the right atmosphere."

Steve Johnson, vice chair of the tax board, credited in part a new process that prepared both the board and the organizations filing appropriations requests. This year, the board sent questions to organizations prior to the meeting, providing both parties space for ample preparedness and thoughtful consideration of requests.

"I was very pleased with our modification, asking questions in advance," Johnson said. "[Groups seeking resort tax funds] were able to organize their answers."

Johnson said this year's spike in requests reflects new and growing community needs.

"We need to face the music," Johnson said. "With the growth, it's abundantly clear there are some screaming needs for important infrastructure projects."

On May 2, Gov. Steve Bullock signed Senate Bill 241 into law, which, pending a community vote, would allow Big Sky and nine other resort tax communities around the state the ability to levy an additional 1 percent resort tax for infrastructural needs. Should Big Sky vote to enact that percentage, available funds could better balance future appropriation requests.

The Resort Tax Final Appropriations meeting will be held on June 10 at 6 p.m. at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.

2019 Resort Tax Appropriations Survey results

EBS STAFF

On May 30, Explore Big Sky published a digital survey for our readers to chime in on the resort tax appropriations process, an essential, civic event that can make or break infrastructural and community projects.

Readers were asked to rate requests on a scale of 1 to 5, with "1 being not immediately important to the Big Sky community, and 5 being very important to the immediate future of the Big Sky community."

Results from the 230 respondents are as follows, and organizations are listed in the order in which the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board received applications.

1. Big Sky Fire Department - $916,971 and $145,000 (rollover) requested
    a. Average score: 3.84
2. Big Sky Search and Rescue - $23,500 requested
    a. Average score: 3.84
3. Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance - $138,925 requested
    a. Average score: 2.81
4. Big Sky Chamber of Commerce - $417,510 requested
    a. Average score: 2.71
5. Gallatin County Sheriff's Office - $300,154 requested
    a. Average score: 3.41
6. Big Sky Transportation District - $975,000 requested
    a. Average score: 3.54
7. Warren Miller Performing Arts Center - $224,191 requested
    a. Average score: 2.26

8. Friends of the Big Sky Community Library - $80,720 requested
    a. Average score: 2.92
9. Visit Big Sky - $778,065 requested
    a. Average score: 2.11
10. Big Sky Discovery Academy - $80,000 requested
    a. Average score: 2.95
11. Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association - $85,000 requested
    a. Average score: 2.23
12. Arts Council of Big Sky - $264,750 requested
    a. Average score: 3.04
13. Big Sky Community Food Bank - $33,000 requested
    a. Average score: 3.31
14. Women In Action - $48,000 requested
    a. Average score: 3.37
15. Big Sky Community Organization - $2,40,609 requested
    a. Average score: 3.57
16. Habitat for Humanity of Gallatin Valley - $400,000 requested
    a. Average score: 3.23
17. Big Sky Community Housing Trust - $2,435,000 requested
    a. Average score: 3.05
18. Madison Conservation District - $1,200 (rollover) requested
    a. Average score: 3.04
19. Wildlife Conservation Society - $60,592 requested
    a. Average score: 2.82
20. Gallatin River Task Force - $690,803 requested
    a. Average score: 3.22
21. The Post Office - $94,000 requested
    a. Average score: 3.35
22. Parkview West Association - $103,000 requested
    a. Average score: 2.69
23. Big Sky Skating and Hockey Association - $42,052 requested
    a. Average score: 2.77
24. Morning Star Learning Center - $170,175 requested
    a. Average score: 3.04
25. The Montana Land Reliance - $26,500 requested
    a. Average score: 2.82
26. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Gallatin County - $25,000 requested
    a. Average score: 2.73
27. Big Sky Water & Sewer District - $500,000 requested
    a. Average score: 3.63
28. Gallatin County 911 - $439,449 (rollover) requested
    a. Average score: 3.55

Visit explorebigsky.com for full details specifying projects and objectives for which each organization requested resort tax funding.

Housing trust cuts ribbon on Meadowview

BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Community Housing Trust held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 30 for the Meadowview Condominiums, Big Sky's first deed-restricted workforce housing.

Representatives from the housing trust, Big Sky Resort Area District tax board, Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, HRDC and Gallatin County Commission spoke in front of a Meadowview duplex drawing closer to completion.

"You guys have a lot to be proud of here," said county commissioner Don Seifert. "One of the goals of government is at the best to offer up opportunities; at the worst is not to stifle opportunities."

Once completed, the Meadowview subdivision will offer 52 subsidized units to a waiting list of over 60 qualified applicants.

Twelve of the buildings will be comprised of a 352-square-foot studio and 1,000-square-foot two-bedroom condo overlooking the Big Sky Community Park baseball fields. Phase one also includes six duplexes with 1,000 square feet. Every unit will have its own garage.

The first units will be ready for owners to move in mid-June, according to Laura Seyfang, program director for the Big Sky Community Housing Trust. Seyfang expects Phase 1 to be complete by the end of August and Phase 2 to be finished in the first quarter of 2020.

The units were subsidized by a $1.75 million appropriation from the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board in 2018, which bought the land for the developments. Consequently, the units can be sold for significantly less than market value, offering an opportunity to purchase for workers earning less than the average median income of Gallatin County, which is $69,600 for a household of two.

Laurel Blessley is one such resident of Big Sky. She moved to the area in 1999 and has worked as a lift mechanic for Big Sky Resort the past 16 years.

Blessley rented at the base of the mountain and in the meadow and said she's been lucky that none her landlords were interested in selling her rental out from under her, or putting it on the short-term rental market, something that's happened to many of her friends. She and her partner have a 5-year-old daughter and are ready to own in Big Sky.

Meadowview gives them a chance. Currently, she is on the waitlist for a unit in the complex.

"I'd like my daughter to go to Ophir [Elementary School]," Blessley said. "And this is the only option for us to buy."

Jamey Cunningham, who has served, bartended and managed restaurants throughout

Members of the Big Sky Community Housing Trust cut the ribbon on the first units of the Meadowview Condominiums, Big Sky's first deed-restricted housing which is aimed at relieving the workforce housing shortage. PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

Big Sky, is also on the waitlist with her husband and their 3-year-old son. Since the market priced them out in recent years, a Meadowview unit is their only hope for continuing to live in Big Sky instead of commuting from the Gallatin Valley.

"We should have bought a couple years ago and now we can't afford anything else," Cunningham said. "This will be our foot in the door."

Cunningham, Blessley and others looking to buy a Meadowview unit were required to go through an application process involving eight hours of homebuyer education courses as well as financial counseling with the HRDC. Eligible applicants were then added to the waiting list in order of first come, first served with the opportunity to buy.

The process leading to the realization of the Meadowview condos started when the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce had a study on the workforce housing shortage conducted. An action plan for housing resulted, calling for nearly 500 units of more attainable housing to effectively address the shortage in Big Sky. The housing trust was handed from the chamber to HRDC, which bought the land with resort tax funds.

The deed-restricted units will remain affordable compared to Big Sky's market value by capping appreciation of each unit at 2 percent per year, so that the subsidy is tied to the units and doesn't leave when the first owner sells.

"Fifty-two units isn't going to fix our problem here in Big Sky," Seyfang said. "[But] it's a great start."

CONGRATS GRADS
LONE PEAK HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2019

Ava King | Yale University
Ethics, Politics & Economics

Brooke Botha | Baylor University
Aviation Sciences

Cole March
Florida Gulf Coast University

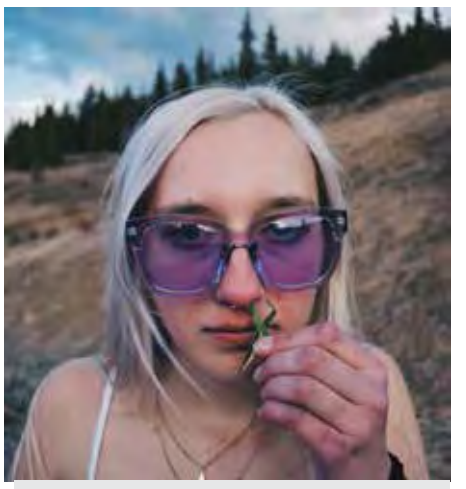
Solae Swenson
Eastern Washington University
Occupational Therapy

"Be mindful of the future, but not at the expense of the moment."
-George Lucas

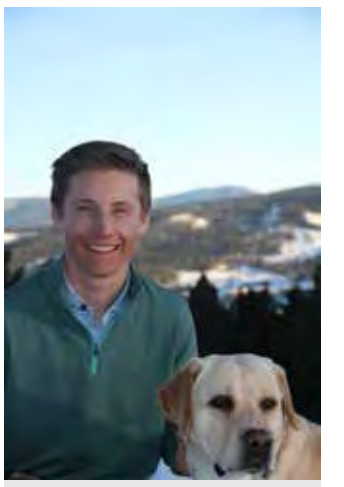
Cody Clack
United States Army

"Learn from the mistakes of the generations before you, and accomplish what they could not..."
-anonymous

Dawson Raden
University of Puget Sound



Emma Tompkins
Montana State University | *Art School*



Sam Johnson
University of Georgia

Kegan Babick | Wheaton College
Health, ROTC, playing football

Kodi Boersma
Northern Arizona University
Finance or PT

Kolya Bough
Harvard University
Economics

Max Butler
Gap year, Work/travel

Milosz Shipman
Gap year/study abroad

Sara Davis | Gallatin College
Interior Design

Myles Wilson | California State University, Chico
Computer Science

Rowan Merryman
Montana State University

"The pen is mightier than the sword."
-Edward Bulwer-Lytton

Sean Lindell
Gap year/Pacific Northwest College of Art | *Art School*

Brunner leaves resort tax, new executive steps in

BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – The longtime assistant manager of the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board, Whitney Brunner, left her position on June 4, and Daniel Bierschwale, the board's first executive, has joined the organization in the district manager position. Bierschwale aims to shepherd in a new era of partnership between the resort tax board and the Big Sky community.

Since Brunner joined resort tax eight years ago, she has seen collections increase from $1 million to this year's collection of $8 million. For the first 6.5 years of her tenure, Brunner was the one-woman show of resort tax's staff, before she led the charge on hiring more staff.

Brunner also spearheaded the first Resort Tax Summit in 2016 that brought representatives from various resort tax communities across the state together to problem solve over shared challenges.

She will join environmental and municipal consulting firm Logan Simpson, which is currently carrying out the Our Big Sky Community Strategic Visioning Strategy. Her new position as project manager for Logan Simpson, which was also awarded the Gallatin County plan and is currently working on Bozeman's community plan, will draw upon her training in marketing and the experience in local governance she's gained from working with BSRAD.

"[It's been] an honor to be able to work with so many people who work so hard for our community," Brunner said. "… I think I'm lucky because I've been able to walk that line of being the tax collector, but also being a good neighbor but also being a respected local. I've enjoyed the role."

She also sees the position as a front row seat to how planning is taking place in mountain communities Big Sky emulates, which she thinks could come back to benefit Big Sky, where she will continue to be a resident as she works remotely.

During her tenure, Brunner said the resort tax board's role in Big Sky has changed very little, remaining a money managing entity and adding tools to the toolbox of what resort tax can do, instead of taking on more of a leadership role. She added that the district is in a better place than it's ever been.

The board's decision to create its first executive-level position, which Bierschwale now fills, marks a milestone for BSRAD.

Bierschwale grew up a "social mutt," he says, having lived all over the country throughout his childhood as a pastor's son.

He fell in love with Yellowstone National Park and the region when he worked out here during his college years. Equipped with a M.A. in Organizational Management from Concordia University, St. Paul, he came to Gardiner in 2007 and joined the Yellowstone Association, which later merged with the Yellowstone Park Foundation to form Yellowstone Forever, the park's official nonprofit partner.

After eight years serving as assistant manager for the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board, Whitney Brunner (left) is leaving the organization to work with Logan Simpson. Daniel Bierschwale joins resort tax as district manager, the board's first executive position. PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

Bierschwale worked in Yellowstone Forever's gateway partnerships to raise funds for projects in the park and also played an integral role in Gardiner becoming an unincorporated resort tax district, like Big Sky.

"There are a lot of similarities, surprisingly between both of these communities," he said. "It's just in Big Sky there's a few more zeroes after the issues."

He expects the coming year to be a big one for resort tax collections and looks forward to the results of the Community Visioning Strategy in November, which will help generate a business plan for BSRAD going forward.

Some of Bierschwale's goals include laying a foundation for resort tax to be able to scale with community growth; revising and updating BSRAD's ordinance this summer to provide more clarity for businesses that collect resort tax; building an internal strategic plan by January of 2020 with the findings of Logan Simpson's strategic visioning process; allowing the application process to be done online; and preparing for next year when three board seats open up.

"Big Sky is changing around us whether we want it to or not," he said, adding that resort tax will shift from a one-year approach to planning a more proactive 3-5-year approach.

"We've hit a tipping point where long-term planning and community engagement need to occur in order for the resort tax board to be able to make decisions that are difficult."

In the meantime, you might see Bierschwale at the plethora of local board meetings as he works to gain a better understanding of how Big Sky operates.

MONTANA

Steve Bullock: Where Montana's presidential candidate stands

Gov. Steve Bullock announced his presidential campaign on May 14. The governor is among a field of 23 democratic candidates. PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVEBULLOCK.COM.

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY – On May 14, Montana Gov. Steve Bullock became the 22nd of now-23 Democratic candidates that have tossed their hats into primary ring for the 2020 presidential election when he officially announced his campaign.

Bullock prides himself on being the only democratic candidate to win in a state that President Donald Trump carried in 2016. While Trump won in Montana by 20 percentage points, Bullock still managed to win the gubernatorial race by four points.

Bullock served as the Montana Attorney General from 2009-2013 and is currently in his second term as governor. During his time in office, he has focused his energy on progressive efforts like expanding Medicaid and protecting civil rights, but has grown recognizable for his fight against dark money and the dangerous influence he believes big dollars have on elections. Bullock has carried his position on campaign finance into his presidential campaign, vowing to continue the fight against the 2010 Citizens United decision. As the most outspoken democratic candidate on the issue, but in a crowded field decorated with high-profile candidates like former Vice President Joe Biden and Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vermont, it will be no easy feat for the Montana native to distinguish himself in this race.

In addition to campaign finance reform, Bullock's platform also includes increased spending for apprenticeships and vocational training, which he believes are overlooked in a culture that encourages universities as a one-size-fits-all option. He also supports more state funding for universities, however, and has been successful in achieving a tuition freeze for the Montana University System.

Over the years, Bullock has protected rights for women to make their own healthcare decisions and will continue to take a pro-choice stance in his presidential campaign. The governor has also shown support for LGBT state employees, protecting them from discrimination.

While Bullock has yet to speak in depth on immigration issues, his previous actions indicate a centrist perspective. However, in 2017 he joined 11 other governors in composing and submitting a letter to Congress, urging representatives to protect "Dreamers." And last year, he made a statement in which he refused to deploy Montana National Guard troops to the U.S.-Mexico border in response to a call for action by the president.

Bullock has, however, spoken clearly on his aim to protect public lands and to take action on climate change. The governor has also supported a ban on assault weapons and gun-control legislation, a controversial stance considering the value Montana puts on hunting and gun rights. Bullock has been known in the past for his ability to encourage progressive legislation in a Republican-dominated state, a credential he continues to emphasize in his young presidential campaign.

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SECTION 2:
ENVIRONMENT,
OUTDOORS,
& HEALTH

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Tribal Marketplace pg. 26

The Eddy Line pg. 29

The New West: Prominent griz scientist weighs in on mountain bikes, bears and wilderness

BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

A Greater Yellowstone grizzly roams the core of its habitat in center of ecosystem. The Gallatin Mountains are considered essential bear range. PHOTO COURTESY STEVEN FULLER

Does mountain biking impact wildlife any more than hikers and horseback riders do?

More specifically, could rapidly-growing numbers of cyclists in the backcountry of Greater Yellowstone negatively affect the most iconic species: grizzly bears?

It's a point of contention in the debate over how much of the Gallatin Mountains, managed by the U.S. Forest Service, should receive elevated protection under the 1964 Wilderness Act. The wildest core of the Gallatins, which begin in Yellowstone National Park and extend northward, is the 155,000-acre Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area.

The fate of the Gallatins is considered a national conservation issue, given its importance to the health of the ecosystem holding Yellowstone.

The Gallatin Forest Partnership, led by the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, The Wilderness Society, Montana Wilderness Association and aligned with mountain biking groups, is seeking to have around 100,000 acres protected as wilderness in the Gallatins, but it doesn't include the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn.

Meanwhile, another group, Montanans for Gallatin Wilderness and influential allies, wants twice that amount elevated to wilderness status, especially the Buffalo Horn-Porcupine. They say they aren't anti-mountain biking; rather, they are "pro-grizzly bear" and favor foresighted wildlife protection in an age of climate change, a rapidly-expanding human development footprint emanating from Bozeman and Big Sky, and rising levels of outdoor recreation.

One flashpoint playing out publicly has been an online forum called the Bozone Listerv, which functions essentially as a digital community bulletin board. There, cycling advocates have claimed that riding their bikes in grizzly country does not cause serious impacts.

If the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn has its status elevated from being a wilderness study area to full capital "W" wilderness, motorized users as well as mountain bikers would be prohibited. However, illegal incursion and blazing of trails by motorized users and mountain bikers have already occurred in the wilderness study area with little enforcement coming from the Forest Service.

"So far I have only seen people who want mountain bikers to sacrifice and the assumption [is] that this will help wildlife," wrote Adam Oliver, founder of the Southwest Montana Mountain Bike Association recently on the Bozone Listserv. "Show me the science, prove me wrong or be willing to give up something yourself."

Oliver need only contact Dr. Christopher Servheen. Servheen, retired from government service, spent four decades at the helm of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Grizzly Bear Recovery Team.

"I do believe that mountain bikes are a grave threat to bears—both grizzly and black bears—for many reasons and these are detailed in the Treat report and recommendations," Servheen said. "Bikes also degrade the wilderness character of wild areas by mechanized travel at abnormal speeds."

By "Treat report," Servheen is referring to a multi-agency Board of Review investigation into the death of Brad Treat who was fatally mauled by a grizzly on June 29, 2016, after colliding with the bear at high speed near the town of East Glacier, just outside of Glacier National Park in Montana. Servheen chairs that board and others investigating fatal bear maulings.

Investigators surmised that Treat was traveling at between 20 and 25 miles an hour and rode into the grizzly around a sharp turn in the trail, leaving him only a second or two to respond.

Denial about impacts on wildlife is a common defensive response from mountain biking groups now pushing for construction of more riding trails on public lands, seeking to reduce the size of areas being proposed for federal wilderness status, and even enlisting lawmakers to amend the federal Wilderness Act so they can gain more access to wild country.

Servheen and others have seen claims made by mountain bikers who try to suggest there is no scientific evidence they're affecting wildlife. "Some selfish and self-centered mountain bikers are especially prone to this," he said. "The key factors of mountain biking that aggravate its impact on wildlife are high speed combined with quiet travel. These factors are exactly what we preach against when we tell people how to be safe when using bear habitat."

According to Servheen and others, capital "W" wilderness areas are biologically important for bears because they are notably different from the busy pace of human uses found on public lands managed for multiple use.

"Wild public lands that currently have grizzly bears present have those bears because of the characteristics of these places: visual cover, secure habitat, natural foods, and spring, summer, fall and denning habitat," Servheen said. "All these factors can be compromised by excessive human presence, high speed and high encounter frequencies with humans." He provides a fuller recitation of the science in a May article published by "Mountain Journal."

Ecosystem-wide, mountain bikers already have thousands of miles to ride on public land, so they need not be in core grizzly habitat, he said.

Wildlife, however, does not have such a range of options. "As human use increases, the importance of areas where there is little or rare use by humans increases," Servheen said. "If recreation increases to the point that bears have few secure places to be, then there can be many complex impacts. I worry less about direct deaths than I do about continual displacement and stress on bears trying to avoid humans wherever they go."

What's the key to keeping free-ranging wildlife populations on the landscape? "Intactness is the first thing that comes to mind. There are few places left intact in our highly fragmented world," says Gary Tabor, president of the Center for Large Landscape Conservation based in Bozeman.

"I think mountain biking and rapid recreational expansion into the backcountry is symptomatic of a growing push to build roads and sub-roads and trails everywhere we want to go without regard for the other beings out there," Tabor said.

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.

WATER WISDOM

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

Water Wisdom: The inside scoop

Why dog poop is bad for rivers, community health

BY STEPHANIE LYNN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Evidence of Big Sky's dog poop problem resurfaces every spring, threatening both the environment and community health.

"There are two factors in Big Sky that are a bit unique that I would guess add to the risk," said Bill Elledge, the Big Sky Community Organization trail steward. "I think our community has a higher proportion of dog owners than most, and especially large dogs, and I imagine that the long winter and colder temps with a normally fairly rapid spring thaw melt the 'poopsicles' pretty quickly and put a large load of phosphorus and nitrogen, along with coliforms and other pathogens, into the runoff and groundwater in a relatively brief period of time."

To address the problem, Elledge and 19 other volunteers picked up 100 pounds of poop in less than two hours earlier this spring. That's enough crap to divert 21 pounds of nitrogen, 24 pounds of phosphorus, and one trillion colony-forming units of fecal coliform from local streams.

Everybody poops, so what's the big deal?

When bear, elk and other wildlife defecate, they return nutrients to the soil while spreading thousands of seeds. Dogs, on the other hand, eat nutrient-rich foods produced in factories. When excreted, dog waste unbalances the natural system by adding high levels of nitrogen and phosphorous to streams in the Big Sky area that already exceed state standards for nutrient pollution.

Dog feces are also crawling with bacteria. The "Los Angeles Times" reported that dogs produce about ten times more fecal coliform per pound than cows. What's more, dog waste carries 65 diseases that can be transmitted to humans, including whipworms, bookworms, parvo, coronavirus, Giardia, Salmonella, Cryptosporidium and Campylobacter. In fact, DNA tests conducted in Seattle identified a canine source for over 20 percent of the bacteria found in local waterways.

So, what's the solution to the pet 'poo-pocalypse'?

It's no secret that picking up after your dog is the best way to prevent pet-waste pollution. Leave No Trace suggests that responsible dog owners should, "both immediately pick up all of the waste, and immediately take the bag(s) of waste away from the area for proper disposal in a trash or compost bin." In addition, Leave No Trace says dog owners should bury dog doo, along with human waste, when recreating in the backcountry.

Humans, however, aren't picking up after their pets when nature calls. A study conducted in Boulder, Colorado, found that only 73.5 percent of dog owners collect all pet droppings. The researchers found that infrastructure, such as conveniently-placed plastic bags and trash receptacles, could boost scooping rates to over 90 percent when coupled with community education.

Is it really better for the environment to send dog waste to a landfill?

Plastic pollution is a serious environmental problem; however, when dogs live in high density alongside their humans, their waste must be appropriately treated and disposed of in order to protect water quality, soil sanitation and community health. Just two- to three-days-worth of droppings from a population of about 100 dogs contain enough bacteria to temporarily close a bay and all waterways within 20 miles to swimming and shellfishing, as estimated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"I have to confess that my original concern about doggy poop had more to do with the 'yuk' factor than with the environmental and scientific issues," Elledge said. "I think most people would agree that dog waste is gross, especially if you happen to bring it home or to your car on the bottom of your shoe. But I'm now more convinced that the important issue is what it does to our watershed."

Next time your pup drops a steaming turd, please pick it up to keep our parks, trails and rivers clean.

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

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Bozeman conference explores visions of conservation

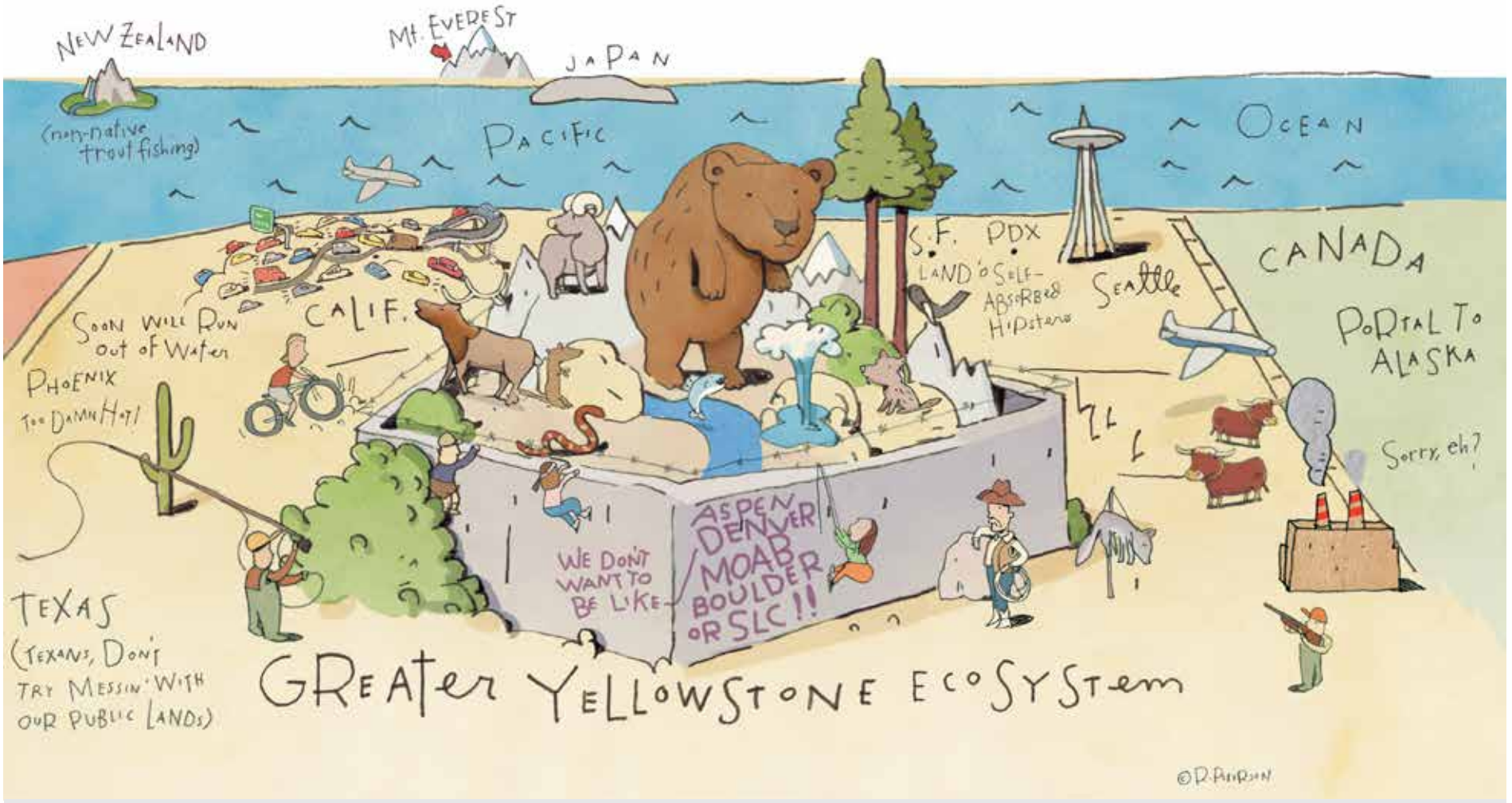

Illustration by Rick Peterson courtesy of Mountain Journal

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BOZEMAN – After an all-night drive from his home on the Nez Perce Reservation in North Central Idaho following his son's middle school graduation, Josiah Blackeagle Pinkham stood before a gathering of more than 200 people at Bozeman's Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture on the morning of June 5 as a part of the nonprofit Future West's conference, "Sustaining the New West Bold Visions – Inspiring Action."

Standing at the podium as an ethnographer and storyteller, Blackeagle Pinkham spoke after a presentation about growth trends in the Greater Yellowstone. "This is an opportunity to affect the way that people think about the landscape," he said.

Blackeagle Pinkham projected an image of a rock formation on his reservation, sacred to his people, and shared an important oral tradition. Speaking on behalf of his people, he also described a core-value statement that includes the commitment to promoting relationships with the land—an aspect of which includes ensuring the survival of resources as well as people and their lifeways.

"I want you to think about this term 'wilderness'. It's based upon the concept of wild, something untamed, something that doesn't do what you want it to do," he said. "I don't have that concept. That's my homeland; it's sacred. I revere it in a way that I can't compare anything else to. What am I without my homeland? … It's really important to think about how people relate to their landscape."

During the conference, Blackeagle Pinkham's oral tradition was placed in conversation with other experts around the Northern Rockies, all of whom explored data, definitions, relational thinking and visions for the future of the West, from planning towns and working landscapes, to management for wild lands.

"I would guess that one of the reasons why you're here is that you all share a concern—and maybe a deep concern—for the future of this incredible place that we are so fortunate to call our home," said Future West Director Dennis Glick.

"I also believe that each and every one of you knows in your heart of hearts that we really do live in an extraordinary landscape," he added. "The million-dollar question is, can we conserve these natural, cultural, social and economic values even as we grow and change."

In the fall of 2017, Future West hosted a similar conference in Bozeman in order to explore conservation challenges in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and this year's conference explored visions for the future and how to achieve them, relying on examples within the area.

To use the words of the first speaker, conservation biologist David Theobald, "Here we are today. Where do we want to go in the future and how do we get there?"

The morning lineup included Blackeagle Pinkham and Theobald, as well as Idaho's Teton County Commissioner Cindy Riegel; Blackfoot Challenge founding member and rancher Denny Iverson; and Aerin Jacobs from the Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative.

The afternoon session heard from the Mayor of Canmore, Alberta, John Borrowman; Lain Leoniak, former Bozeman water conservation specialist and current assistant attorney general for Colorado; Loren Bird Rattler of the Blackfeet National Agricultural Resource Management Plan Team; Devin Middlebrook from the Lake Tahoe Regional Planning Agency; and Robert Liberty, architect of Oregon's land-use planning system.

Among small-scale conservation success stories, a single thread becomes clear: in order to promote open spaces and viable communities and economies, conversations and decisions must be informed with data and actual experience.

Denny Iverson, who lives in the Blackfoot Valley east of Missoula, described a forward-looking initiative in his home area, that originated in the 1970s when grizzlies still hadn't shown up on the landscape, there was plentiful water and development was still slow.

"If you live out on the landscape like I do, you know that something's changing," Iverson said. "Whether it's growth, climate change, water, predators."

Known as the Blackfoot Challenge, the initiative began when a group of ranchers and local landowners decided to work together as stewards. They started a cattle carcass pickup program for ranches as one way to reduce conflict with grizzly bears that are attracted to dead cows. It's grown to include programs like "range riders," water conservation through organized water-use and agricultural irrigation, forestry initiatives, and efforts to stop invasive weeds.

"The main thing is we're trying to keep our landowners, our ranchers, our farmers on the landscape because we know if we do that, then we'll still have wildlife habitat," Iverson said. "And we'll still have that ranching tradition. We don't forget the people [who are] part of that."

Aerin Jacobs, as an ecologist, spoke about ecological integrity and biodiversity, beginning by saying, "I think it's really important when we travel, when we work, where we live, to know who lives there, to know who's lived there for a long time." In addition to tribal homelands, she said this includes historic wildlife ranges.

Amid high extinction rates for many plant and animal species worldwide, Jacobs said her vision—Y2Y's vision as well—"is an interconnected system of wild lands and waters that stretches from Yellowstone to Yukon, that harmonizes the needs of people with those of nature … These things are inextricably combined."

As a specific example of how to accomplish this vision, Jacobs referred to the numerous wildlife-crossing structures that have been built across highways in the last three decades. She also provided tips for success in developing these tangible solutions.

"When you're thinking about something this large scale, you have to collaborate," Jacobs said, adding that we must connect with each other, develop partnerships, communicate broadly, measure different metrics for success, embrace mistakes, and start small but think big.

"Sustaining the New West" was slated throughout the day on EBS press time on June 5. For a complete recap of the event, please visit explorebigsky.com.

Tips for using bear spray

BY CHUCK BARTLEBAUGH
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

When used correctly, bear spray has been found to work 98 percent of the time, even against aggressive, charging or attacking bears. It has saved many people, including visitors to Yellowstone National Park.

The 2 percent of encounters when it didn't work were related to wind or more than one bear charging.

Kerry Gunther, who is in charge of bear management for Yellowstone National Park, advises visitors to carry bear spray and travel in groups of three or more—advice that can be applied for all recreationists traveling in bear country.

"Hike during daylight hours and be aware of your surroundings," he said. "Watch for bear scat, bear digging sites, rocks and logs turned over, claw marks on trees and paw prints along creeks and rivers."

As a certified bear spray instructor, when I conduct my training, I emphasize these few critical steps to use bear spray quickly and properly:

1. Only purchase "bear spray." Generic pepper spray is not the same as bear spray, which is regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. I recommend bear spray with at least seven seconds of spray duration and a spray distance of at least 25 feet.

2. Carry bear spray in a hip holster, chest holster or an outer winter coat pocket when in the cold. During winter months, store your bear spray inside to keep it warm.

3. Practice makes perfect. Practice withdrawing the bear spray canister out of the holster, holding the can firmly in one or two hands, and placing your thumb in front of the safety tab until this process can be done with little hesitation or effort.

4. Direct the bear spray downward in front of a threatening, charging or attacking bear. The powerful expanding cloud will billow in front of it. As the bear passes through the cloud, the inflammatory and irritating chemicals will fill its eyes, nose, mouth, throat and lungs, causing the bear to divert its charge.

A Yellowstone National Park ranger deploys bear spray during a charging bear simulation. NPS PHOTO

5. If a bear is closer than 30 feet in a charge, there is a possibility of contact, but bear spray will reduce the length and severity of confrontation. Be prepared to lie on the ground and play dead until the bear is gone. When getting up, have your bear spray ready.

Remember, every year millions of Yellowstone National Park visitors never have a confrontation with a bear, but responsible hikers and campers prepare just in case.

Chuck Bartlebaugh is the director of the Be Bear Aware campaign and conducts bear avoidance and bear spray presentations for state and federal wildlife agencies.

A version of this article first appeared in the April 15, 2016, edition of EBS.

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INSIDE YELLOWSTONE

Create and view art in Yellowstone

BY CHRISTINE GIANAS WEINHEIMER
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Yellowstone National Park's hub for artists—from first-timers to professionals—is now open for the summer season. Park visitors can stop by the Yellowstone Art and Photography Center near Old Faithful to view works of art, interact with artists, and even create their own masterpiece.

Art and photography played a central role in the establishment of Yellowstone as the world's first national park, and Yellowstone continues to inspire today. The center's gallery features a permanent collection of historic and contemporary art and photography with Yellowstone as the subject, and temporary exhibits change each summer. But, as the center's coordinator, Jessie Knirsch, explains, the space is about creating as much as viewing.

"This is an interactive and dynamic space to learn about the importance of art to the park," Knirsch said. "By participating in programs, watching artists at work, or simply checking out the gallery, visitors can experience Yellowstone through another's interpretation and develop their own."

Visitors of all ages and levels of experience are encouraged to take part in hands-on activities. Coloring, drawing and activity sheets are available throughout the day, and the center offers a free watercolor program daily at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

"Visitors have an opportunity to create their own handmade souvenir of their time in Yellowstone. They can choose between painting Old Faithful or walking to the river and enjoying a quiet break from the crowds," Knirsch said.

All programs are free and include supplies. For those who wish to create art on their own, the center sells photography supplies and art-based products.

Visitors to the center also have a chance to interact with and learn from professional artists. Artists-in-Residence for Yellowstone Forever, the park's official nonprofit partner, live and work in Yellowstone and engage with park visitors. Ten artists will reside at the center for a week or more this summer to create art and share their creativity through workshops and lectures.

The Yellowstone Art and Photography Center located near the Old Faithful Lodge gives visitors an opportunity to view a varied collection of art and photography, as well as partake in a selection of art programs. PHOTOS BY MATT LUDIN

"For nearly 150 years artists of all disciplines have been inspired by the limitless and continually changing landscape of Yellowstone," Knirsch said. "The Artists-in-Residence program provides them with undisturbed time to create work in Yellowstone while living within the park and completely immersing themselves in its scenery and culture."

The Yellowstone Art and Photography Center is located between the Visitor Education Center and Old Faithful Lodge, in a historic building that was restored and repurposed by Yellowstone Forever. The center is open for the season through Sept. 30, seven days a week, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Visit yellowstone.org/art for a schedule of artists and programs.

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

Report: Tourism to Yellowstone creates $647.1 million, supports 7,089 jobs

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

A new National Park Service report shows that 4.1 million visitors to Yellowstone in 2018 spent $512.6 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 7,089 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of $647.1 million.

"These numbers once again show the enormous positive impacts our national parks have on our local economies," said Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Cam Sholly. "Our national parks are one of the very best tax payer investments in this country. For many reasons, well beyond economics, it's essential that we invest aggressively to protect these incredible places in the future."

The peer-reviewed visitor-spending analysis, which looks at visitor expenditures at national parks throughout the nation, was conducted by economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas and Egan Cornachione of the U.S. Geological Survey and Lynne Koontz of the National Park Service.

The report shows $20.2 billion of direct spending by more than 318 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 329,000 jobs nationally; 268,000 of those jobs are found in these gateway communities. The cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy was $40.1 billion.

Lodging expenses account for the largest share of visitor spending, about $6.8 billion in 2018. Food expenses are the second largest expenditure and visitors spent $4 billion in restaurants and bars and another $1.4 billion at grocery and convenience stores.

Visitor spending on lodging supported more than 58,000 jobs and more than 61,000 jobs in restaurants. Visitor spending in the recreation industries supported more than 28,000 jobs and spending in retail supported more than 20,000 jobs.

A line of vehicles in Yellowstone's Hayden Valley travel past bison grouped off the road. NPS PHOTO

Report authors also produced an interactive tool that enables users to explore visitor spending, jobs, labor income, value added and output effects by sector for national, state and local economies. Users can also view year-by-year trend data. The interactive tool and report are available at the NPS Social Science Program webpage.

Visit nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm to learn about national parks in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, and how the National Park Service works with communities to help preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide outdoor recreation.

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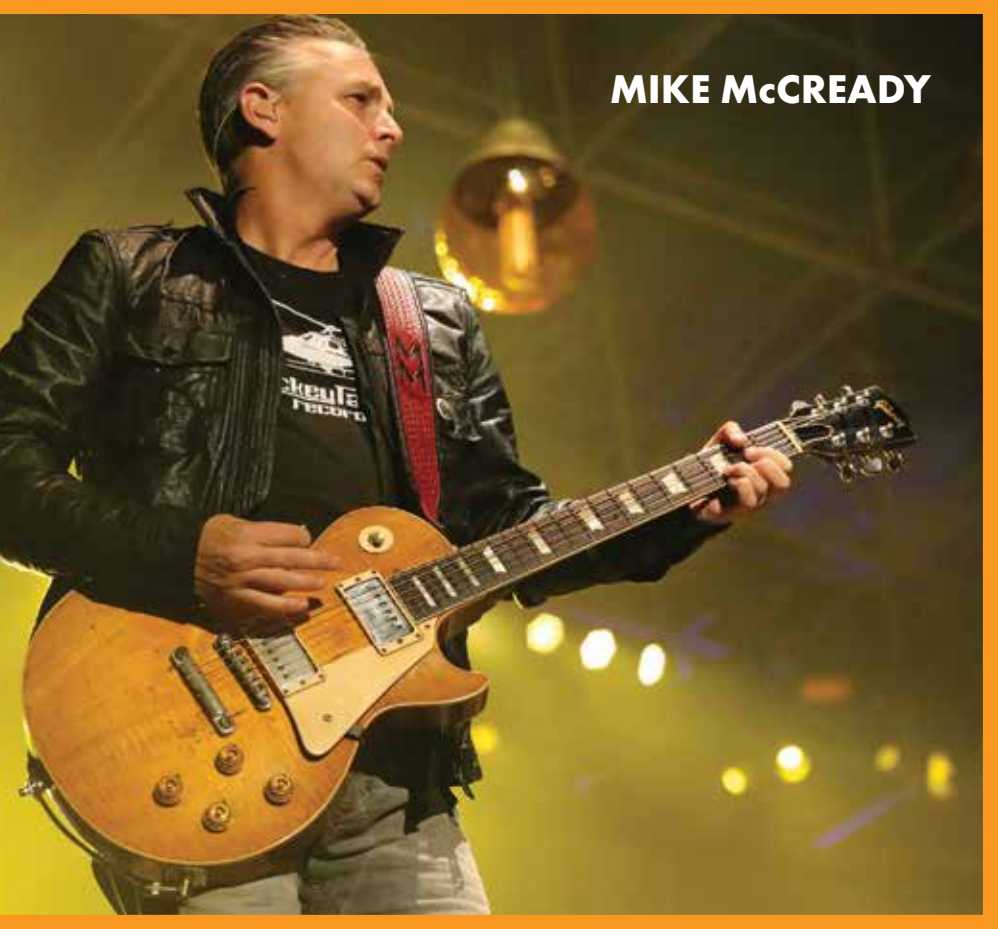
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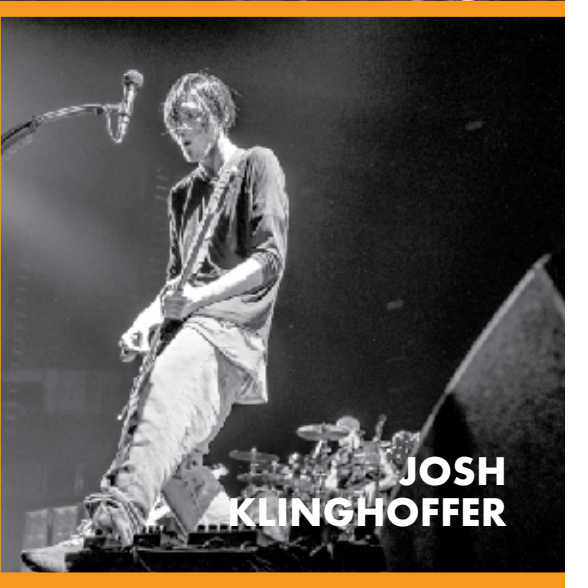
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Tribal Marketplace celebrates Native art and culture

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

Carrie Moran McCleary is a Chippewa-Cree and Little Shell Tribal member who will attend the Tribal Marketplace at Yellowstone. Her beadwork, inspired in part by Yellowstone, is centered in the union of today's fashions and traditional designs and includes many upcycled elements.

LIVINGSTON – Yellowstone National Park has long been a place that inspires. Well before Congress established the area as the nation's first national park, Native peoples maintained a spiritual and personal relationship with the landscape and that bond continues today.

The inaugural Tribal Marketplace at Yellowstone held June 11-14 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the park's Old Faithful Inn will celebrate this heritage, highlighting Plains Indian art and culture through the works of nine Native artisans hailing from the Crow Agency in Montana, the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming, and from Oklahoma.

Throughout the week, tribal members will display and sell their work while providing demonstrations in their craft ranging from beadwork and painting to fashion design and the creation of herbal salves. On opening night, June 11, Native designers will feature their work during a fashion show from 6-8 p.m.

"We're showcasing not just what people think of as traditional craftsmanship, but there's also more contemporary art," said Karen Tryman, director of retail for event host Yellowstone National Park Lodges. Tryman and her team organized the Tribal Marketplace this year in order to elevate the presence of local Native artisans.

"Traditionally there has been over the years … less representation of Native culture in the arts," Tryman said. "We just thought this was a great opportunity."

She added that the park holds a special place for many Native arts. "Having artists in the place of their inspiration is exciting for them as well as for the public," she said.

Also in attendance will be representatives from the American Indian College Fund, an organization working to help Native people obtain higher education at a time when only 14 percent of Native Americans have a college degree. A benefit raffle during the event, with a package prize worth $1,700, will support the college fund.

Visit yellowstonenationalparklodges.com/shop/yellowstone-tribal-marketplace for more information.

Earrings created by Danetta Old Elk, who is an enrolled member of the Crow (Apsaalooke) Tribe from Garryowen, Montana. Her beadwork is among the art featured at the Tribal Marketplace at Yellowstone. PHOTOS COURTESY OF YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK LODGES

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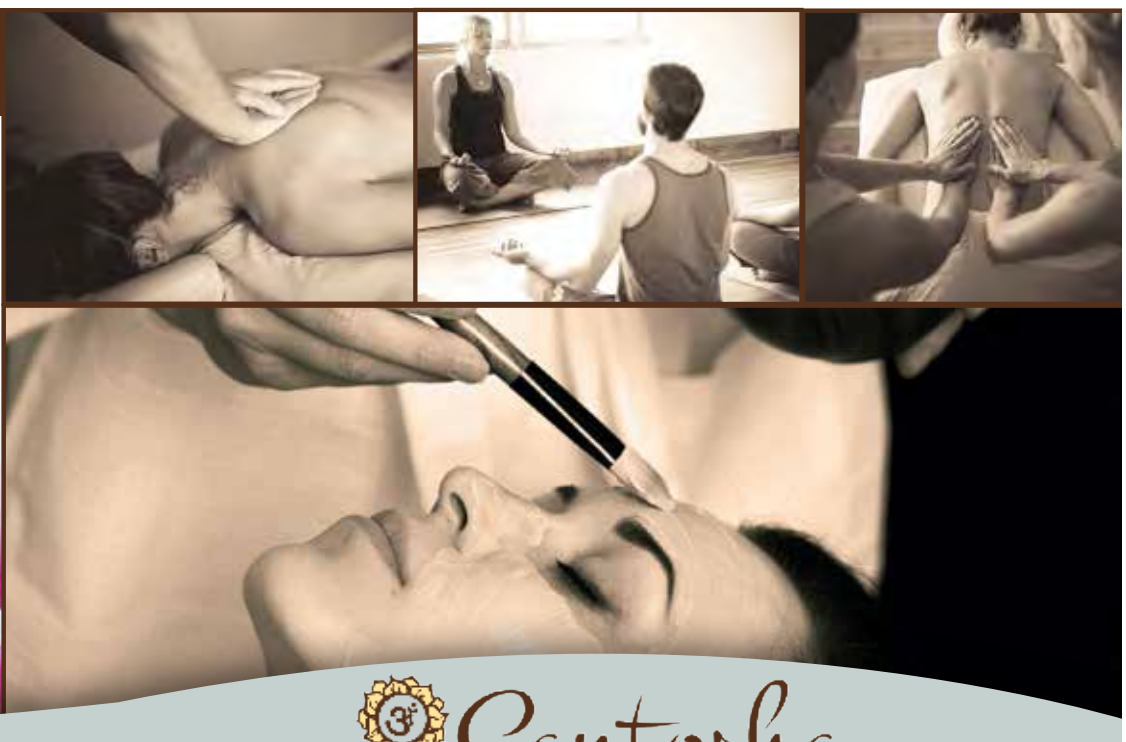

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The Eddy Line: Runoff is on; but we'll be fishing soon

BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

Simply put, the powder we enjoyed throughout the winter is leaving. It is leaving as snowmelt runoff in most of our local rivers and creeks. Runoff, like taxes and death, is inevitable. The questions that linger each year in early June are when will runoff begin—we know that already now—and how long will it last—which we are not sure of yet.

We were blessed with above average snowpack throughout our local river basins as the Gallatin, Madison and Yellowstone basins are all harboring plenty of snow. With fields lush and green and rivers running high, at the moment we've got plenty of water in Montana. So, it may be a long time before we can get back to fishing, right?

Well, maybe or maybe not. Here's my quick take on some of our local fishing options for the next few weeks.

The Firehole River in Yellowstone National Park can provide dry-fly anglers opportunity when many other rivers are high, muddy and deep. PHOTO BY ART MERIPOL

Gallatin River

Historically the river crests sometime around June 8, 9 or 10. And within a week after cresting the river can be clear enough on the edges to catch some fish. Fishing when the river is that high—usually 3,000 cubic feet per second in streamflows—is very unsafe. It can be done, but, it is not recommended.

For 2019, I am predicting by June 20, the Gallatin River will be a safe, local option. If daytime highs in the mid-70s hold and sunny days outnumber cloudy days, that could push up to June 15. Check with your favorite local fly shop in Big Sky for daily updates.

Madison River

Because the river flows out of Hebgen Dam and also through Quake Lake, rarely is there a day when some part of the Madison is too muddy or unsafe to fish. The main culprits for muddy snowmelt runoff are Cabin and Beaver creeks and the West Fork of the Madison. Cabin and Beaver meet the Madison above Quake Lake and much of the muddy water settles in Quake Lake. The West Fork can run dirty enough through early June to affect fishing. By mid-June, however, river clarity above and below the West Fork should provide enough visibility along the edges of the river to fish, and fish well.

Last year was a good water year on the Madison and above-average snowpack and a cold, wet spring in 2019 have the Madison River primed for a solid June. Just be patient as we're still probably 10 days to two weeks from the entire river coming into play. It may be big and fast through much of June, but, it should be fishable.

Yellowstone River

We are still at least a month or more from the Yellowstone being a viable option. But, with the snowpack heavy, the first few weeks of July should provide some exciting hatches of salmon flies and golden stoneflies.

Missouri River

Both sections of the Missouri—below Holter and Hauser dams—will be running high as releases from the respective dams will be large.

However, the water remains clear and adventurous wading anglers or anglers with access to boats or guides can experience plenty of hungry fish.

Mostly a deep-nymphing game, these tailwater trout congregate in specific spots and weighted two-fly rigs are the norm. Craig and Wolf Creek have plenty of happening spots to see and be-seen, so, if you want to be social and catch plenty of fish and see what everyone else is doing, the Missouri is a very good option.

Firehole and Gibbon rivers

These two smaller Yellowstone National Park rivers create the Madison River. But they are both worthy in their own right. They will be running high, but clear, in the coming weeks and are the best options for wade anglers. Hatches of mayflies and caddis provide dry-fly anglers opportunities that do not exist elsewhere. A reach cast, some 5X, and your favorite size 16 dry fly will provide some enjoyment for sure.

Early June is like middle school in the life of a young boy—it has to happen and it kind of sucks while it is happening, but if you just fumble your way around enough, you can get something out of it. Fortunately, unlike middle school, runoff's duration is short, lasting at most a total of two to three weeks. And, for those anglers willing to try new things or seek out local advice, there is always someplace nearby to fish.

Patrick Straub is a 20-year veteran guide and outfitter on Montana's waters and has fished the world over. He is the author of six books, including "The Frugal Fly Fisher," "Montana on the Fly" and "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Fly Fishing" and has been writing The Eddy Line for seven years.

Bozeman couple finds healing, seeks conservation work for caribou

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BOZEMAN – For husband and wife John Lind and Cheryl Conibear Lind of Bozeman, the silver-maned mountain deer—the caribou—has helped them to heal. In return, they hope to help restore the species, which has been extirpated from the Lower 48 and remains vulnerable in its more northern homelands.

During the 2019 Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Rendezvous in Boise, Idaho, from May 1-4, the couple and a cohort of fellow conservationists launched the Bozeman-based International Caribou Foundation, an organization seeking to raise awareness and provide on-the-ground measures to enhance caribou populations and protect habitat.

For the Linds, these efforts are personal.

It was on a trip to Alaska in 2016 while living in Hawaii when John and Cheryl became enamored with the gray ghost of the mountains. They visited a wildlife sanctuary in Fairbanks that's home to a group of caribou, at a critical juncture in their own lives: they were searching for healing after watching their premature son pass away following 36 hours in the newborn intensive care unit.

Cheryl's uterus had ruptured—a serious medical emergency for both mother and child. "Alex just lost too much blood," she said. "I was very, very lucky and very blessed to survive. It just opens your eyes to the fact that life is short.

A young caribou. These high-elevation mammals once roamed forests in the northern U.S. in Mane, the Great Lakes region, and Washington, Idaho and Montana, but today the animal is rarely seen south of the Canadian border. PHOTO COURTESY OF CORY DESTEIN PHOTOGRAPHY

"In that sense, [the foundation] has been very healing because we're working on something that has a purpose and has given us a purpose," she added.

Spurred by John's personal desire to aid in positive change after serving five years in active duty with the Navy, the couple moved to Bozeman shortly after and he began volunteering with conservation organizations like the Rocky Mountain Goat Alliance and the Wild Sheep Foundation. When they realized there wasn't an organization solely dedicated to caribou, the Linds recognized their calling.

"I want to make the world a better place for future generations," John said, adding that he believes experiences with wild animals are an integral part of human happiness.

Caribou—or reindeer when referring to their European counterparts—are a high-elevation member of the deer species and are found in North America, Greenland, Russia and Scandinavia. Of 15 recognized caribou subspecies, the woodland caribou that once made its way into the northern forests around the Great Lakes and 49th Parallel in Washington, Idaho and Montana is particularly vulnerable as climate change and human development threaten their survival.

According to a 2018 report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, caribou populations have declined by 56 percent worldwide in the past two decades, dropping from an estimated 4.7 million individuals to approximately 2.1 million.

In January of this year, the last caribou in the Lower 48, and the last surviving member of the woodland herd known as the South Selkirk, was captured in Idaho and moved to a maternal pen in Canada to be introduced into the Columbia North caribou herd.

The exact reason for the decline? The answer is proving complex.

"Caribou require big habitat. We haven't offered them that in probably 80 years," said biologist Bart George, who has worked for the Kalispel Tribe of Indians in Washington for eight years and is volunteering as the International Caribou Foundation conservation director.

George says that particular human development, including powerlines, highways and logging, as well as overall construction in the valleys, interrupts migration corridors and destroys the old-growth forests the gray ghosts need to survive. During the cold winter months, when other mammals drop down into lower elevation valleys and hills, caribou trek upward on mountains to avoid predators and search for arboreal lichen that grows in century-old forests.

Logging and other development transforms old forests into areas full of young growth—places George says elk and moose thrive for the abundance of browse. Large populations of elk and moose draw predators like wolves and mountain lions, bringing them into closer contact with caribou.

"Caribou have evolved with predators for 70,000 years. They have been around predators but aren't predator-savvy like elk or deer," George said. A caribou's main line of defense, he added, is literal avoidance—using a landscape where almost nothing else can survive.

But with an increase of predators in historically old-growth forests alongside further development pressures, George says travel corridors are essential. "We can't expect them to learn [new] predator avoidance over a couple generations."

David Abate, the foundation's marketing director, said climate change is also a threat. Warming temperatures create more rain-on-snow events, which forms a crust over the snow and makes it more difficult for ungulates to forage for food.

He added that the seasons are changing and have become out of sync with the caribou's natural clock and migration patterns. Furthermore, sea ice is melting and cutting off access to migration corridors, he says, which limits range in places where the climate is already unforgiving.

Excited to be a part of something bigger than themselves, Abate and the Linds said their first initiative is to raise funds to support a captive breeding program for woodland caribou that is currently in the planning phases in British Columbia. After successfully rearing calves, the program would see to the reintroduction of the animals back into the wild.

The foundation will also inventory the different herds in North America by working with local biologists, and identify potential threats each herd faces so as to better develop a conservation strategy.

For now, the International Caribou Foundation will focus on the North American caribou populations, but one day the founders hope to be of assistance worldwide.

While the foundation supports regulated hunting as a potential management tool, John said he favors decisions that are in the best interest of the caribou. He added that he hopes to bridge gaps between non-hunting and hunting communities on the basis of conserving the species as shared common ground on which to build.

"At the end of the day, all I care about is [whether] this species [is] going to be around going forward."

Visit internationalcariboufoundation.org for more information.

Yours in health

Yours in Health: Is there a science to being happy?

BY DR. ANDREA WICK
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

There are ways in which we can live an authentically happy life. Here are some strategies and simple wellness routines to do day to day in order to improve your general well-being.

Exercise. Exercising daily can help lift your mood and boost your well-being. A study conducted at the Cooper Research Institute proved that 35 minutes of walking six days a week reduced depression by 47 percent in participating individuals. Go for a walk with a friend or take your pet for a walk daily, the fresh air and vitamin D will help you feel uplifted.

Eat living, healthy food. I often remind myself of the phrase "you are what you eat, and your food is thy medicine." Eating organic, whole foods versus processed foods is a surefire way to feel better from the inside out. Eating excess sugar and alcohols can make you feel sluggish, tired and decrease your drive. Physiologically, alcohol decreases serotonin, the feel-good brain neurotransmitter.

Get outside in nature. Living where we do, it's impossible to avoid getting outside and being in the sunshine. A research study done at Stanford looked at the effect time spent outdoors has on the brain. One study group walked outside for 90 minutes in a grassland setting while the other group walked in a heavy-traffic area. The group that did the "nature walk" had noticeable changes in brain activity and negative thoughts decreased dramatically.

Self-care. If you don't take care of yourself no one will. It is tough to be the best mom, dad, wife, husband, friend or employee if you are not taking time for yourself daily. Try to wake up 10 minutes early to do a quiet meditation, or take a bath at the end of your day.

Herbs and supplements. With today's diet, it is nearly impossible to eat all the nutrients we need to be healthy. Understanding and addressing which vitamin and mineral deficiencies you have will help you feel better. Consulting a holistic care provider or nutritionist is a great way to find out where you may be out of balance.

Raise your vibration. Consistent negative thought patterns will perpetuate negative outcomes. Thoughts become things, and things become actions. If you are chronically negative, your life will be negative. If you can be positive and optimistic your life will reflect that.

Feel supported. Having a circle of supportive friends and family is vital to being happy. Social connections are an important part of human nature. Studies have shown that feeling disconnected causes an increase in addictive behavior and a decrease in life expectancy.

Clear suppressed emotions. We all have emotional struggles in our life. Learning where you suppress your emotions will increase your well-being and decrease stress. Learning stress management techniques such as yoga, meditation, counseling, neuro-emotional technique and using homeopathic remedies is helpful.

Listen to your inner intuition. We all have a gut instinct and inner intuition; we may even call it our conscious. If you learn to listen to the messages you receive daily, you will live a happy, fuller life.

Have a deep spiritual connection. Whether it is nature, going to church or having a spiritual practice, having a higher purpose and connection will make you a more empathetic individual and higher functioning human being.

Dr. Andrea Wick is a chiropractor and applied kinesiologist. She graduated from Life University in Marietta, Georgia, and now practices at Healing Hands Chiropractic in Big Sky. She has a passion for holistic health care and being active in the outdoors.

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SECTION 3:
SPORTS, BUSINESS, DINING & FUN

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Three New Dining Options in Big Sky pg. 42

Big Sky FC's inaugural season in the books

BY NEHALEM MANKA
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Big Sky Futbol Club's inaugural season culminated with four teams traveling to Kalispell in northwest Montana to play in the Three Blind Refs tournament over the weekend of June 21-22, competing against elite teams from Montana, Canada and Idaho.

Big Sky FC had over one hundred athletes this season who played in programs ranging from micro-recreational leagues to competitive traveling teams. The season was highlighted by tournaments in Helena and Kalispell, as well as several weekends of competitive and friendly games hosted at the Big Sky Community Park.

"The season went by in the blink of an eye, but it was fun to watch my team progress on a daily basis," Doug Hare, coach of the U14 team, said. "And I'm excited that some of our players are already planning to play pick-up games at the park over the summer. It's crucial for these kids get some touches in over the next three months to keep their momentum going forward."

At the Three Blind Refs tournament, U10 girls played hard and were able to make it to the semi-finals in their division. Big Sky FC athletes were persistent throughout their games and put in enormous effort until the final whistle blew, each playing four matches under mostly ideal conditions.

"The tournament was a great opportunity for our traveling teams to play against international and out-of-state clubs … It was really great to see the high level of competition against the teams we played," Big Sky FC Director and U12 girls Coach Kim Dickerson said.

The recreational teams will continue to play until June 14, and Mini-Challengers will be playing through June 21. Come support the recreational league players, including kindergarten, first and second graders, on Fridays from 4-6 p.m. at the Big Sky Community Park.

The club is already looking ahead toward the upcoming fall season, during which they will be offering the same programs as were offered this spring, in addition to the high school team coming back in full swing. Additional information will be released in the coming weeks, regarding registration and program options. To view this information please refer to bigskyfc.org.

For adults looking to play soccer this summer, there will be pickup games at the Big Sky Community Park. To keep informed about local pickup games, check the Facebook group page for the Big Sky Soccer and Social Club.

Big Sky FC will also be hosting viewing parties of the Women's World Cup in the upstairs area of the Lone Peak Cinema. The tournament kicks off with the United States taking on Thailand at 1 p.m. on June 11.

Looking back on the season, Club Director Kim Dickerson said that thanks to local sponsors like Hungry Moose Market and Deli in a little over two months, soccer has gained strong footing in Big Sky and the future of "the beautiful game" in Big Sky looks bright.

Big Sky FC's U14 coed team rounded out their season playing four games in Kalispell. Many of the seventh and eight graders could make an immediate impact on the Lone Peak High School varsity soccer team in the next few years. PHOTO BY KIM DICKERSON

Golf Tips from a Pro: Get a lesson

MARK WEHRMAN
EBS GOLF COLUMNIST

Now is the time to take a lesson.

Every year we start another golf season here in Big Sky, I think about setting goals to improve my game. These goals vary each year. They range from becoming a better putter, driving the ball straighter, improving my short game (chipping and pitching) or just simply recording lower scores.

Most of the time I can't achieve these goals on my own. I employ the help of my assistant professional Tom Conway, or sometimes just the eyes of someone I am playing with to tell me if what I feel is actually what I am doing. Pros need pros too, and so do you. Bottom line, if you are excited about another summer of golf and want to get better you should take a lesson or lessons now so you have some direction going forward. That is where we come in.

We have two teaching professionals here at Big Sky Golf Course: Mark Wehrman, PGA Head Professional, and Tom Conway, Assistant Professional. Tom and I offer private lessons, group clinics, multi-day junior camps, junior golf instruction for Camp Big Sky and on-course playing lessons. Private lessons can last anywhere from 30 minutes to one hour.

On Tuesdays, we offer ladies clinics at 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. There is no advanced sign-up necessary. Just show up and check in at the pro shop. We also offer a clinic on Saturday that is open to all—men, women and juniors. Both of the clinics feature a game improvement schedule with skill-building exercises in areas like basic setup fundamentals, full swing, putting, chipping, pitching, bunker play and trouble shots. We also offer a series of three or six private lessons where we will build a practice/training schedule for you that will encompass all areas of the golf game.

Golf should be fun and from my personal experience, the better I play the more fun I have. I'm not saying that golf isn't fun if you are not a good player because no one should keep score if they don't want to. But if you do enjoy golf and want to improve, taking a lesson from a PGA Professional is the fastest way to reach your goals!

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.

Abbey Scholten takes a lesson on the range at the Big Sky Golf Course from PGA Head Professional Mark Wehrman. PHOTO BY TARA WEGNER

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PULL NOXIOUS WEEDS

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Rendezvous @ Simms at Four Corners, or at Portal Creek Flats at 10am

Enjoy coffee and goodies, and then we'll disperse to cleanup locations.

Volunteers are eligible to win donated items from Bridger Brewing & Simms!

Big Sky Community Park Weed Pull

Tuesday, June 25th, 4:30-6pm

Help clean up our beloved park and enjoy a BBQ dinner on us! Rendezvous at the pavilion by the playground.

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Manual Opening Instructions

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

Follow me on Instagram
@bearsmartbigsky for helpful tips.

Montana Ranch Properties

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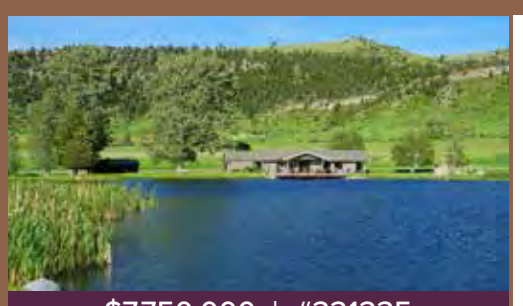

Riverstone Ranch

Riverstone is a first class sporting property set up to host small conferences and retreats. There is a recreational building, four, three bedroom guest homes and stocked fishing ponds on this 337± acre ranch, sited on the banks of the East and Main Boulder Rivers near McLeod, MT.

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2,784 SQ FT | 3 bedrooms | 3 bathrooms

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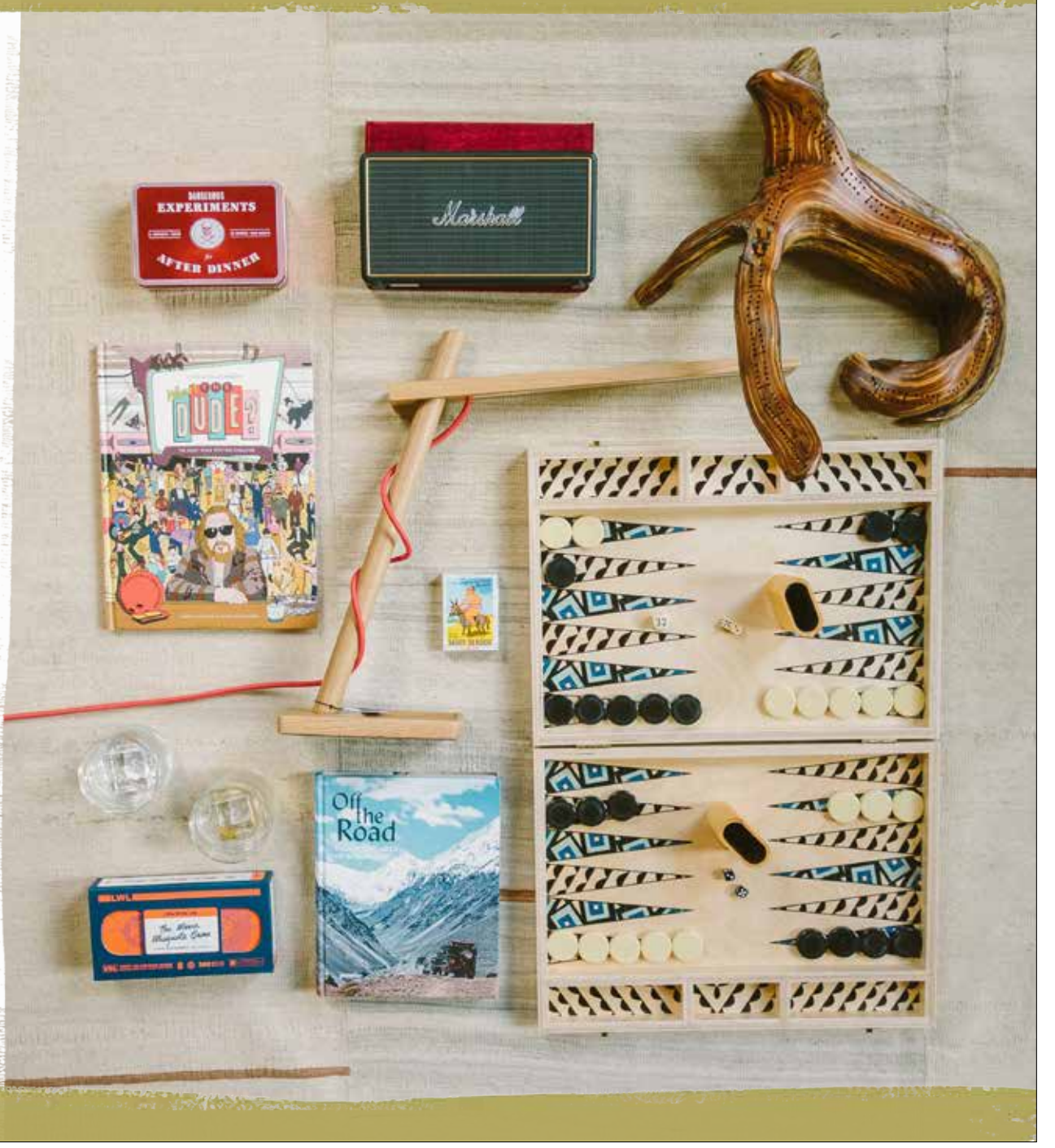

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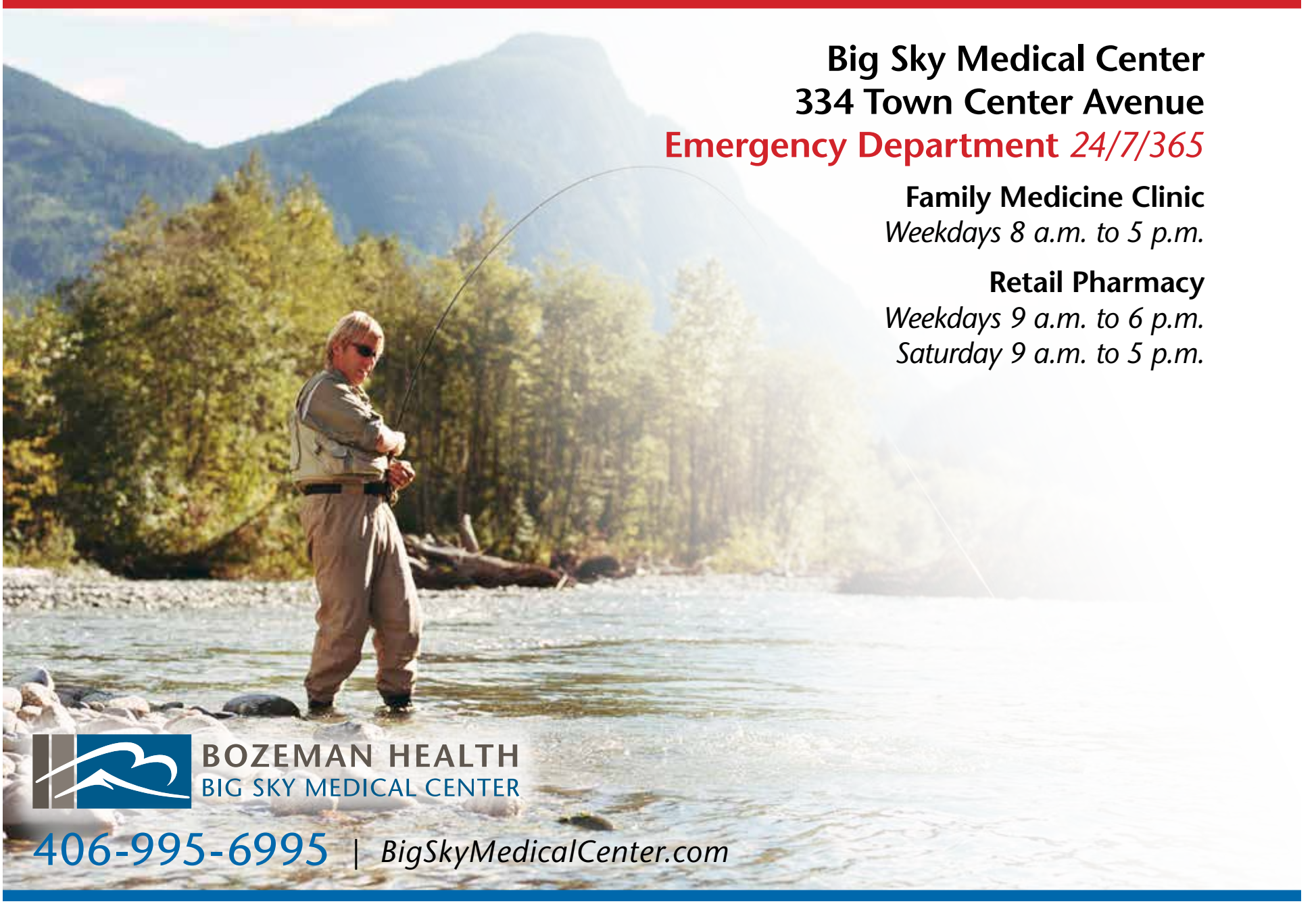

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The summer ahead at Big Sky Resort

BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – On June 2, Big Sky Resort opened its slopes for the summer season, a period that will likely be as popular for locals and visitors as last summer. From adventure races and archery challenges, to brew- and vine-centered celebrations, the resort has plenty in store.

Big Sky Resort's lift-powered mountain biking opens on June 15 on the Explorer chairlift. On June 22, Swift Current and Thunder Wolf lifts will also begin taking bikers up Lone Mountain. PHOTO BY RYAN DUNFEE

Basecamp, the resort's adventure center, opens June 9, when it will begin operating the Lone Peak Expedition and the mountain's ziplines. The following week, on June 15, the resort's lift-served mountain biking begins on Explorer chairlift. Swift Current and Thunder Wolf lifts will begin toting bikers up the mountain on June 22. Swift Current and Explorer will operate from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. daily; Thunderwolf will begin operating at 10 a.m.

The Kids Adventure Games, a race for 6-14-year-old kids, will span June 21-23 as teams of two navigate ziplines, slip and slides, rope bridges, mud crawls and whatever else the course-setters dream up.

When mid-July rolls around, so too will Brewfest, which returns July 13 with some of the best craft beers from across the Treasure State. Past years have brought more than two dozen breweries to celebrate and sample the champion of fermented beverages while enjoying music and good company.

In tandem with Brewfest, the 18th Annual Celebrity Golf Tournament takes place July 14-15 at the Big Sky Resort Golf Course. The tourney kicks off with a pre-event cocktail party and silent auction July 14, followed by a full day of swinging and putting on the Arnold Palmer designed course the next day.

On the heels of the golf tournament comes the Total Archery Challenge from July 17-21, which will allow participants to ride lifts and shoot their way through a variety of courses that include 3D replications of deer, elk and bears. The event is designed to be family friendly and of varying difficulty so that archers of any skill level can nock arrows and let them fly.

Lone Peak's Revenge Enduro bike race also romps through town July 27, featuring the rocky and technical terrain of Andesite and Lone Mountain as one of five stops of the Montana Enduro Series. Many consider this the most challenging race of the series, with its unconventional course selection and "raw" trail.

The whirring of mountain bike tires continues into August when the resort hosts another Enduro race, the Big Mountain Enduro on the 3rd and 4th. Between three or four stages, riders will descend north of 9,500 feet over the two-day event.

"Big Sky Resort is a massive summer playground with over 50 miles of hiking and biking trails, golf, ziplines, summer chairlift rides and more," said Stacie Mesuda, the resort's public relations manager. "The premier summer event is the 5th annual Vine & Dine weekend where foodies can enjoy wine, spirits and dishes prepared by top culinary talent, all surrounded by the unparalleled scenic beauty of Big Sky."

Vine and Dine will go from August 15-18. In years past, the event has included artisanal food and wine-centric events, adventures and seminars with sommeliers.

To top off the summer, The Rut Mountain Runs' vertical-, 11-, 28- and 50-kilometer races will attract light-footed athletes from around the world from August 30 to September 1. The races have already sold out for competitors, but it won't be too late to watch these long-distance runners take on the grueling terrain and elevation change one step at a time.

Mountain Clean-up Day fills 30-yard dumpster

BIG SKY RESORT

On Thursday, May 23, more than 150 Big Sky Resort employees participated in the annual Mountain Clean-up Day. Every spring once the snow has melted, employees participate in a trash pick-up day focusing on the mountain, base area, road sides, and parking lots. This year, clean-up efforts nearly filled a 30-yard-long dumpster. More than 60 pounds of micro trash were removed from the base area alone.

While picking up trash, volunteers found a wallet containing a wedding band and other sentimental items. The lost items were tracked back to their original owners who reported them missing during the ski season. Both wallet and wedding band are en route back to their owner.

"Creating happy moments for our guests doesn't end when the season is over," said Taylor Middleton, president and general manager of Big Sky Resort.

BIG SKY CHAMBER

Elevate Big Sky 2023

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22ND ANNUAL

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Join Us as we highlight the Big Sky Chamber's work to Elevate Big Sky during a transformative time in our community. Each year, we look forward to gathering our member businesses to share priorities for the upcoming year and to honor those who exemplify success and service to Big Sky. Having tackled transportation most recently with the $10.3 million TIGER Grant award, we now turn our focus to 21st telecommunications with an initiative to investigate how to improve broadband and cell service in the greater Big Sky area for local businesses, residents, students and visitors. Come engage in community conversation, network, and enjoy a gourmet meal. Last year's event sold out, so purchase tickets or tables today to guarantee your seat.

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BIG SKY CHAMBER

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Making it in Big Sky: Clendenin Customs Tattoo

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF WRITER

Billings-native Drew Clendenin started tattooing two decades ago. He studied fine arts in college, working on portraits, oil paintings and graphic design. But while he was working full-ttime in masonry and in kitchens, he starts tattooing during his weekends.

In 2011, all the right pieces fell into place and he bought a studio on Aspen Leaf Drive next to The Brothel, "starting with nothing, and risking everything."

Last year, his wife Leah who owns the HAIRNINJA Salon gave birth to their daughter Janelle on Groundhog Day. Today, the 41-year-old father sports a groundhog tattoo on the side of his head in honor of "Nelly."

Explore Big Sky: What has been the key to your success?
Drew Clendenin: Hard work, good client relations, and an endless pursuit to be the best through continued education and skill training.

EBS: How has having a kid changed your perspective?
D.C.: I guess it has pointed me in a different direction. I reflect more on growing my business given that the demand is there and I want to be in Big Sky for a long time. When I first started out there was less direction and more getting by day to day. Now I want less turning and burning; I want to be more stable and solid with clear goals.

Drew Clendenin started up Clendenin Custom Tattoos eight years ago in a studio next to The Brothel eight years ago and still plans to grow his business in the future, inking both locals and visitors alike with custom artwork. PHOTOS COURTESY OF DREW CLENDENIN

EBS: What are the biggest obstacles to operating a tattoo parlor in Big Sky?
D.C.: The artist himself.

EBS: How has the business landscape changed since you started out?
D.C.: There is just an increase in people. Along with internet advancements, there is a snowball effect.

EBS: What is the strangest place that you've given someone a tattoo?
D.C.: I'm pretty sure you're not allowed to put that in print.

EBS: What is one of the most memorable moments you have had as a resident/business owner in Big Sky?
D.C.: I've lived in Big Sky for nineteen years, so I've had more memorable moments that I can list.

EBS: What's the best piece of business advice you've received?
D.C.: Respect people's opinions but mostly mind your business.

EBS: What advice would you give to small business owners just starting out?
D.C.: Besides good luck? Maybe that persistence and honesty will eventually pay off.

EBS: Where do you see your business in 10 years?
D.C.: Still learning and growing as an artist and doing the best tattoos that we can.

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SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB

Royal Coachman Ranch
160 ACRES / $5.9M

Lot 38 Bitterbrush Trail
1.27 ACRES / $800K

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

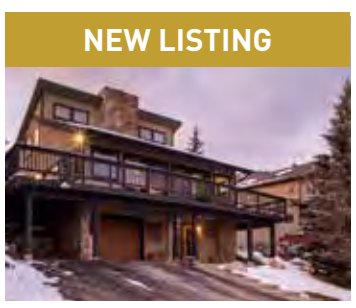
Lot 113 Crow Point Rd.
2.59 Acres / $335K

MOONLIGHT BASIN

Lot 44 Diamond Hitch
1.25 ACRE / $699K

BIG SKY

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



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

Hill Condo 1277
790 SQ FT / $299K

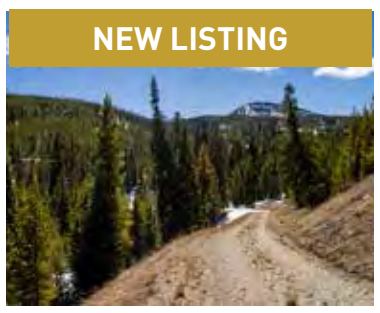
Hidden Village
2,788 SQ FT / $599K

BIG SKY - LAND

Mountain Meadows
120 Acres / $3.495M

246.

BIG SKY - LAND



Bear Paw Ponds Parcel 7
20.04 ACRES / $399K

Lot 16 Andesite Ridge
.756 ACRES / $259K

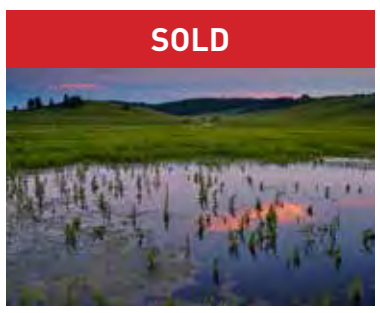
BOZEMAN & GREATER MONTANA

SxS Ranch
Bozeman, MT
483.78 ACRES / $7.5M

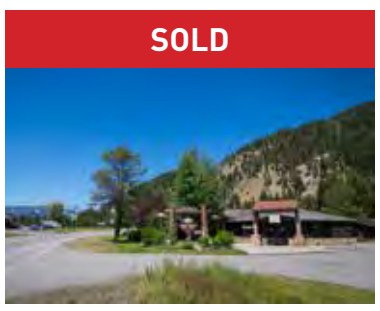
Rocking S7 Ranch Lot 4
Bozeman, MT
20.232 ACRES / $650K

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

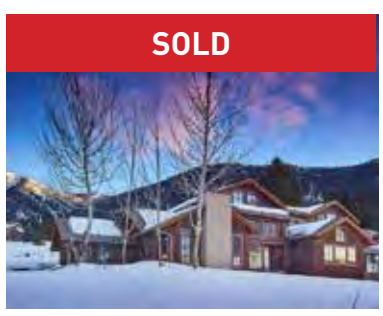
RECENTLY SOLD



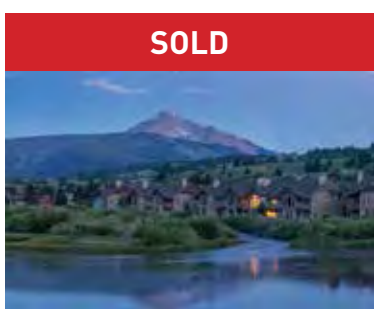
Yellowstone Ranch Preserve
List Price: $19M



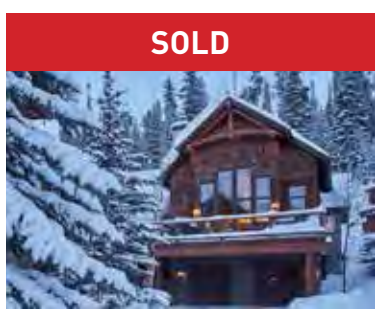
Big Sky Corner Property
List Price: $3.24M



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

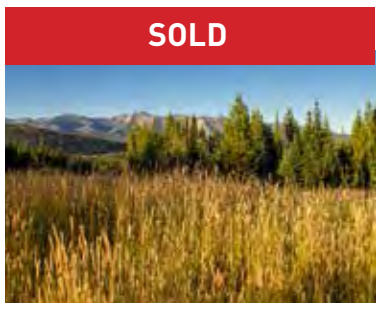


Crail Ranch Unit 40
List Price: $1.35M



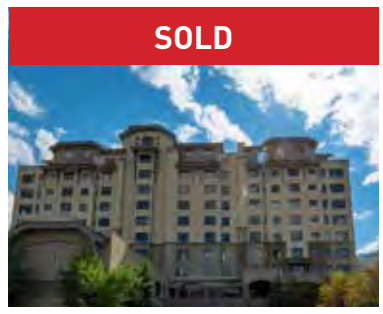
Black Eagle Lodge Unit 30
List Price: $1.35M

RECENTLY SOLD

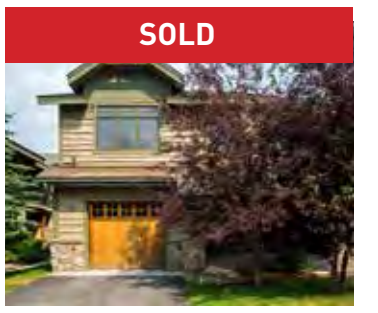


Lot 64 Goshawk
1.04 ACRES / $775K

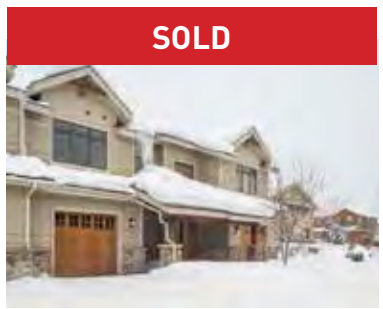
12 Ruby Range
List Price: $755K



Summit 911/912
List Price: $595K



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



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

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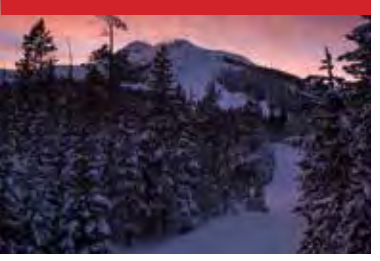
BIG SKY

UNDER CONTRACT



Lot 39 Diamond Hitch
1 ACRE / $595K

64 Lodgepole
6,160 SQ FT / $3.895M

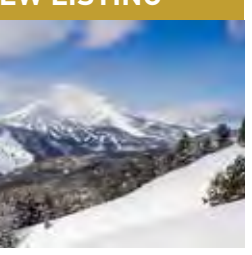
Kandahar at
Beehive Basin
5,409 SQ FT / $3.45M

PRICE REDUCED

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

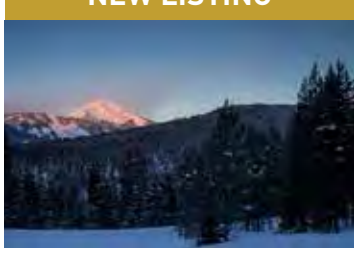
25 Lower Dudley Creek
4,076 SQ FT / $1.65M

EW LISTING



Tract 2A-1B
.925 Acres / $2.14M

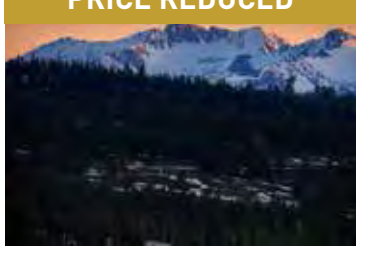
NEW LISTING



Tract 1A-1
21.475 Acres / $795K

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

PRICE REDUCED



Lot 2 Big Buck Road
20 ACRES / $480K

Lot 4 Beaver Creek
20 ACRES / $539K

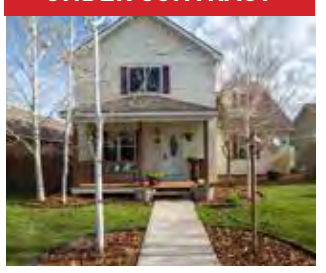
Lot 3 Joy Road
6.83 ACRES / $395K

BELGRADE

NEW LISTING

353 Little Wolf Road
2,784 SQFT / $649K

UNDER CONTRACT



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

COMMERCIAL

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

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

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

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Taking reservations for
building G

SOLD

Osprey Cove Lakehouse
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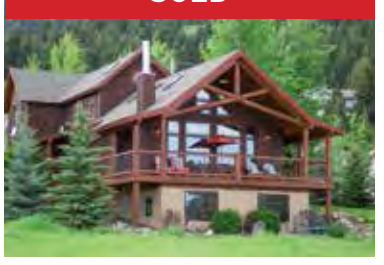
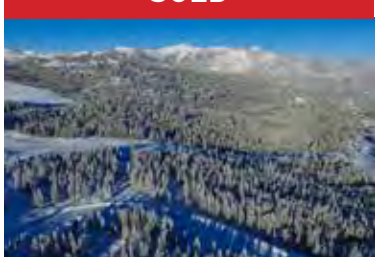
SOLD



2078 Little Coyote List List
Price: $1.079M

SOLD



Ski Tip Lot 10
List Price: $975K

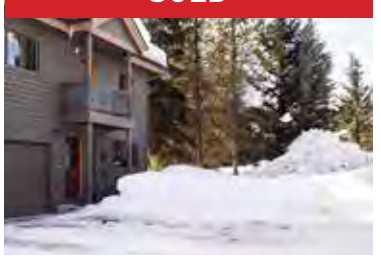
SOLD

70 Upper Whitefish Dr.
List Price: $895K

SOLD

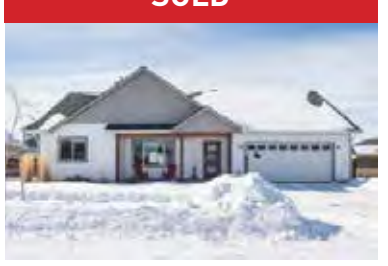
81 Pheasant Tail Ln. Unit 2
2,707 SQ FT / $839K

SOLD



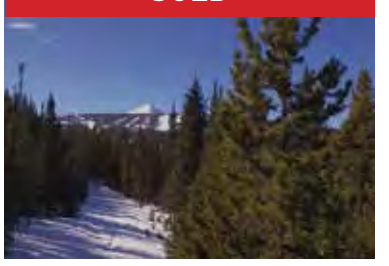
118 Rose Hip Circle
1,940 SQ FT / $489K

SOLD



115 Teita Drive
1,909 SQFT / $420K

SOLD



Lot 63 Silverado Trail
List Price: $390K

SOLD

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

SOLD

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Three new dining options just around the corner in Town Center

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – With the opening of The Wilson Hotel, the beginning of farmers markets around Fire Pit Park, the resort opening for mountain biking season, and weekly Music in the Meadows concerts, Town Center is sure to see increased foot-traffic during the summer months. While the buildout process always always takes longer than expected in Big Sky due to the limited supply of contractors like plumbers and electricians, three experienced restaurateurs are getting closer to opening new eateries in the heart of Town Center.

Toast, a new cafe concept in the location where Compass Cafe was located on Town Center Avenue, is slated to open quietly on June 15, according to Oregon-native Kristin Voisin. Previously, Voisin owned a popular full-service restaurant called Truby's in Whitefish, Montana, for 23 years before deciding she was ready for a change of pace from running a 6,000-square-foot restaurant with 40 employees.

After taking a little time off, yet still enamored with the service industry, she decided to open a cafe called Toast in a 300-square-foot-shop to focus on breakfast and lunch fare. Last year, Voisin was approached by Lone Mountain Land Company and offered an opportunity to bring Toast to Big Sky and decided she was ready to make the move.

"I kind of think Big Sky is where Whitefish was back in, well, around 1996. I've only been here a month but from what I can gather that this town is still very seasonal whereas Whitefish doesn't have the seasonality to that extent these days," Voisin, a mother of four children and U.S. Navy veteran, said.

The menu at Toast will feature a variety of open-faced sandwiches built atop artisan breads. For example, "The Empire Builder" will sport an over-medium egg, stone-ground mustard, green scallions, tomato and white cheddar on a grilled brioche Pullman. In addition, Toast will serve Belgian waffles, locally made pastries, house-made desserts, stone-baked pizzas and coffee from Bozeman-based Ghost Town Coffee Roasters.

Longtime local Josh Kone will be opening Blend, a new wine bar featuring small plates and wines produced by co-owner Michael Ruhland's Valo Cellars in the space previously occupied by Enoteca next to The Rocks. Last year, Ruhland opened a tasting room called Blend on South Willson Avenue in downtown Bozeman, and the pair of old friends hope to have their new spot, which has a full liquor license, open for business no later than June 17.

Kone has worked in food and beverage in Big Sky for 15 years, and most recently was part-owner of Ousel and Spur Pizza Co.

"Blend is going to be wine and cocktail driven, and we're going to be reasonably priced," Kone said. "We don't even know how to unlock the doors yet, but eventually we want to be a small operation that offers something different to the scene."

Toast, a new boutique cafe in Town Center, is slated to open June 15 in the spot previously occupied by Compass Cafe and will include a micro bar serving Montana spirits and ales. The new eatery will be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. PHOTO BY DOUG HARE

Blue Buddha Sushi is trying to finish their buildout process in the new Plaza Lofts Building and open for business by July 1. Owner and sushi chef Twist Thompson recommends trying the Volcano Roll. PHOTO BY DOUG HARE

To begin, Blend will be open Tuesday through Sunday nights and have four employees.

Blue Buddha Sushi is slated to open in early July in the Plaza Lofts Building as soon as Troy "Twist" Thompson finishes building out his rustic Japanese concept next to The Wilson Hotel. Thompson, who grew up as a snowboarder in Colorado, is trying to create what he likes to call "a Kung Fu dojo in the mountains."

In 2006, Thompson trained under Chef Andy Matsuda for six months in Little Tokyo, a Japanese-American district in downtown Los Angeles. In 2007, Thompson opened his first Blue Buddha Sushi in Page, Arizona, on the southern shores of Lake Powell. Thompson plans to be on the front line during the first few months but eventually plans to hire and train up to six sushi chefs and about 10 more front-of-house and back-of-house employees, many coming up from his Arizona location.

"I hope that we're a very comfortable and casual place. We want to bring some next-level sushi as well, but our main menu is very approachable. We're here for the locals who live here year-round," Thompson said. "We're going to have smoking happy hour deals, late-night deals, $2 drafts, beer-and-a-hand-roll for $5. We really want to make this a place where people can eat here all the time and it's still affordable."

Thompson and his wife Jaime are living within walking distance of the restaurant and plan to enroll their daughter Echo in Ophir Elementary School, returning to Arizona during the summer months.

Town Center has been transforming at an increasingly quick rate during the last few years, and with three new eateries opening within two weeks of one another, it's a safe bet that Big Sky will continue to be boomtown for the foreseeable future.

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.

Which came first?

BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

One of life's age-old questions, along with 'What is the meaning of life?', is this: Which came first—the chicken or the egg?

How could you possibly have an egg just appear with no chicken? Don't you need a chicken to lay an egg in the first place? But where did this chicken come from?

You can plausibly scramble the logic any way you want to make your case. However, here is some black-and-white science to shed some light on this great debate once and for all.

The egg came first, and it's not even close. Or is it?

The first amniotic eggs showed up about 340 million years ago, while the first chicken as we know it made its first appearance a mere 58,000 years ago.

But the 'as we know' it part is key.

The chicken, and similar fowl, are descendants of a group called theropods. Theropods split into two groups, and then those two groups split again, forming all kinds of life forms.

The one that eventually became the modern chicken traces back some 68 million years to the same dinosaur that paleontologist Jack Horner discovered a fossil of right here in Montana in 2003. A blood vessel that was preserved and tested in this particular dinosaur's leg bone revealed that, genetically, it was the chicken's closest relative.

That's right—the chicken is a fairly direct descendant of Tyrannosaurus rex.

And as a curious mind that likes to know a ridiculously large amount of useless information about the most mundane things, I wanted to know more about the other player in this that seems to me to be one of nature's most unique creations: the egg.

On a basic level, there are three components to an egg: the shell, the white and the yolk. But digging a little deeper, an egg is far more complex.

The shell contains as many as 17,000 pores and is made of calcium carbonate. Does this compound sound familiar? It is a substance found in many rocks, as well as the main component of pearls, marine animal shells and snails.

There are four distinct layers before you reach the yolk, and an egg has three distinct membranes inside, all working symbiotically to provide an all-inclusive life support system.

There is the shell of course, then the outer membrane, followed by the inner membrane. Next, we have the 'white', or albumen, which has the purpose of protecting the chalazae. This is that ultra-thin layer that holds the contents of the yolk. And anyone who has ever cracked or separated an egg knows just how delicate this layer is.

Maybe you have noticed that air pocket in the wider end of a hard-boiled egg when you peel it. That air space is not there when the egg is laid. It develops over time due to the contents cooling after being laid as well as evaporation. The smaller the air pocket, the higher quality the egg.

An eggshell is also one of the strongest creations in nature. But angle is the key. When applying equal pressure throughout the entire surface evenly, it is almost unbreakable. It is only when uneven pressure is applied, such as your kitchen counter, or your floor, that the science behind its efficient design is compromised.

I'll close with one of my favorite quotes: "If an egg is broken by an outside force, life dies. If the egg is broken by an inside force, life begins. Great things always come from within."

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

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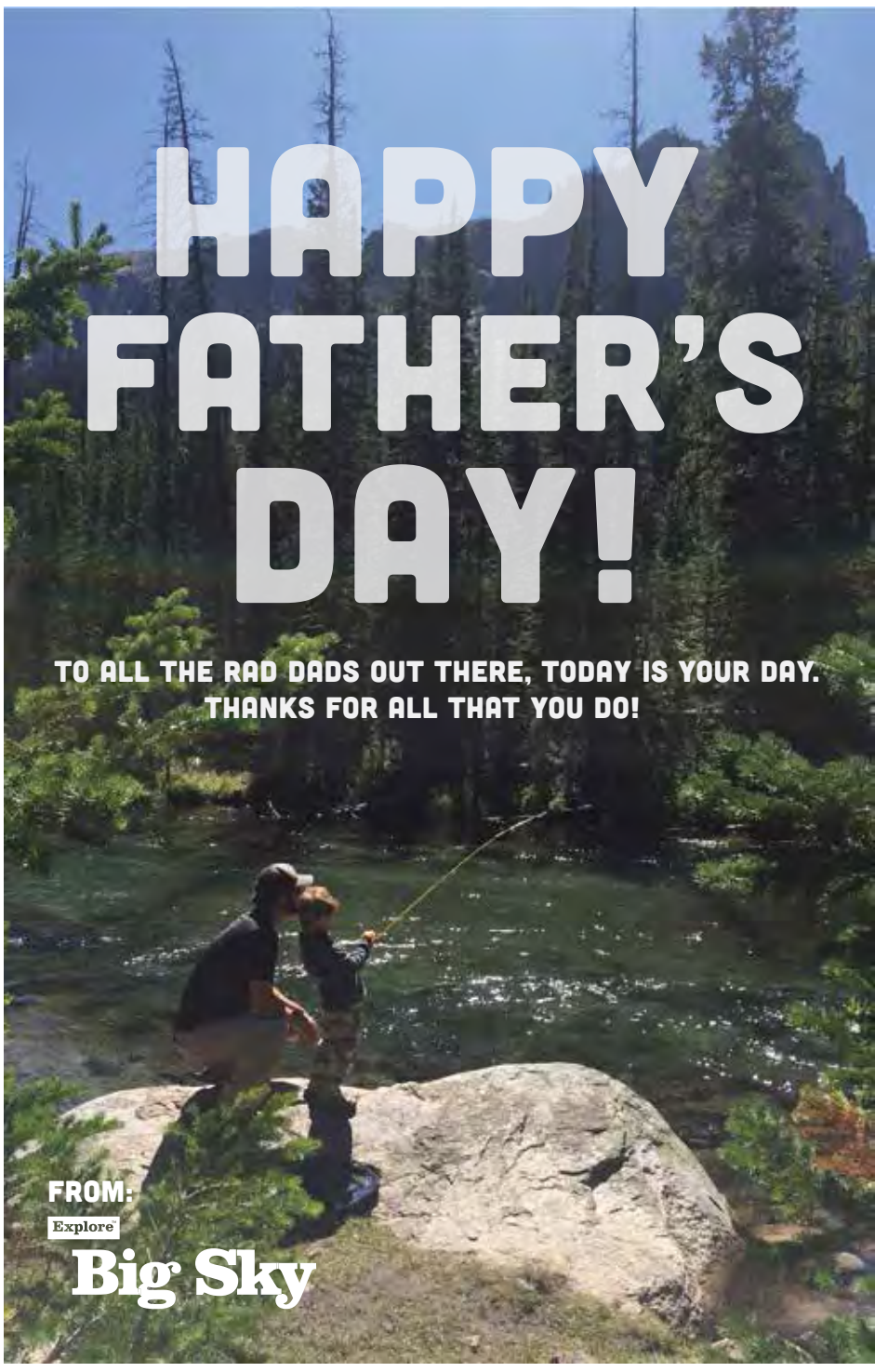
The Gallatin River Task Force is seeking a Finance and Administration Associate. Primary responsibilities include managing, coordinating, and reporting the organization's finance, fundraising, human resources, and volunteer tracking systems. More information is available at gallatinrivertaskforce.org/careers.



MIX IT UP

Get ready for rhubarb

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER
EBS STAFF

The tart taste of rhubarb is a nostalgic one to me, bringing me back to summer days in Ohio, my mother tending to our family garden. I have fond memories of her clipping off a few stalks of rhubarb, washing them, and filling a bowl of sugar for me and my brothers to dip the crisp sticks into as a mid-day treat.

CC PHOTO

Rhubarb, a perennial vegetable typically used as if it were a fruit, is one of the first plants to be harvested in the springtime. The stalks range in color from pink to bright red, often streaked with stripes of green. They resemble celery, though the two are unrelated. When harvesting, look for longer, thinner stalks—they will be the sweetest and most tender. The large, flat leaves at the tips of the plant are poisonous if ingested, containing oxalic acid, a compound used in metal polish and stain removers.

The flavor of rhubarb is bracingly tart on its own, but preparing with a sweetener like sugar and honey can help balance the cheek-puckering flavor. Cooking the vegetable also helps to bring out the natural sugars present in the plant.

Though I have admittedly never purchased rhubarb—I always have it in my garden—fresh stalks will likely be available at your local farmers' market or grocery store during the months of May and June. I highly recommend planting some in your garden. It re-grows annually, it's low maintenance, and nothing beats free, fresh garden-grown food.

The uses for rhubarb are endless—I've made everything from pies to curds, sauces to side dishes, and even cocktails. It can most definitely be used in both sweet or savory applications, sweet being the most common. If you're going this route, be sure to add plenty of sugar to balance out the tart flavor of the rhubarb. Roasting rhubarb brings out the natural sugars in the plant, and provides a great, unexpected topping to a fresh salad.

Spring Rhubarb Salad

4 cups loosely packed spinach
2-3 stalks of rhubarb, cut into bite-sized pieces
1-2 tablespoons honey
¼ red onion, very thinly sliced
¼ cup walnuts, roughly chopped
3 oz. crumbled goat cheese

Preheat oven to 400 F. Toss the rhubarb with olive oil, salt and pepper. Spread out onto a baking sheet and drizzle with honey. Roast in the oven for 12-15 minutes, until slightly soft and caramelized. Allow to cool.

Wash and dry the spinach well. Toss with the remaining ingredients and your favorite vinaigrette; a balsamic version pairs nicely with this salad.

American Life in Poetry:
Column 741

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

When I was a nasty little kid I once made fun of a girl in my school because her father worked cutting up dead animals at a rendering plant. My mother sat me down and said, "Ted, all work is honorable." I've never forgotten that. Here's a fine poem about the nobility of work by Sally Bliumis-Dunn, from her book Echolocation, published by Plume Editions, Asheville, NC. The poet lives in Armonk, New York.

Work
By Sally Bliumis-Dunn

I could tell they were father and son,
the air between them slack, as though
they hardly noticed one another.

The father sanded the gunwales,
the boy coiled the lines.
And I admired them there, each to his task

in the quiet of the long familiar.
The sawdust coated the father's arms
like dusk coats grass in a field.

The boy worked next on the oarlocks
polishing the brass until it gleamed,
as though he could harness the sun.

Who cares what they were thinking,
lucky in their lives
that the spin of the genetic wheel

slowed twice to a stop
and landed each of them here.

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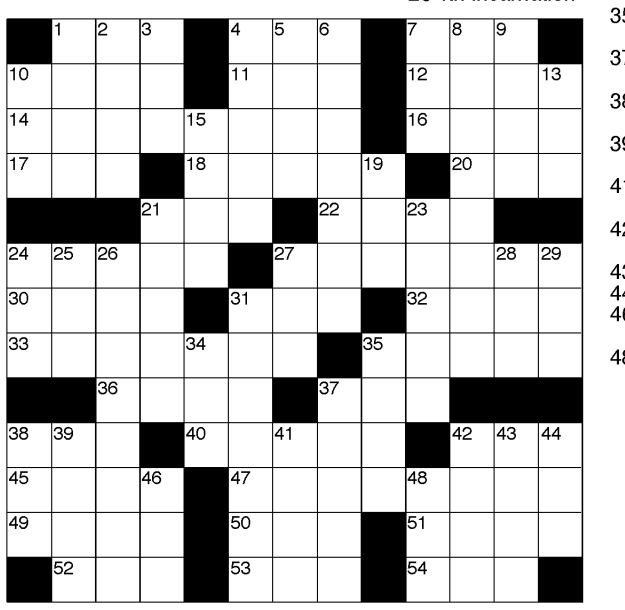
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Family member
4 Signed (abbr.)
7 Atlantic (abbr.)
10 Amorphous mass
11 Haw. garland
12 Thunderfish
14 Apropos
16 Besides
17 Soft drink
18 Keen
20 Thus (Lat.)
21 Query
22 Charity
24 Weapon
27 Native
30 Wings
31 Skate
32 Berne's river
33 Wall
35 Inside
36 First principles
37 Kind of lettuce
38 Alas (Ger.)
40 Welsh onion
42 Limb
45 Bath cake
47 Madness
49 Work (Sp.)
50 Rubber tree
51 Love of Radames
52 This one (Lat.)
53 Sup
54 Before common era (abbr.)

DOWN
1 Rosebud, e.g.
2 Captive of Hercules
3 Compass direction
4 Loose
5 Bend
6 Aromatic herb
7 One hundred square meters
8 Magic charm
9 Continue
10 Bikini top
13 Drug Enforcement Admin. (abbr.)
15 Container
19 Ancient times
21 Sharp
23 Resources
24 Science class
25 According to (2 words)
26 4th incarnation of Vishnu
27 Auricle
28 Fury
29 Wax (pref.)
31 Leavings
34 Interstate Commerce Commission (abbr.)
35 Daughter of Eurydice
37 Santa's reindeer
38 Jap. volcanic crater
39 Cork County port
41 Firstborn of Benjamin
42 Of the kind of (suf.)
43 Journey
44 Sheep's cry
46 Lumberman's boot
48 Capture

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

■	A	K	A	■	N	R	A	■	O	C	H	■
A	G	E	R	■	O	U	R	■	R	O	U	E
D	U	C	K	L	U	R	E	■	A	N	G	L
E	E	K	■	E	R	I	C	A	■	S	E	S
■	■	■	A	V	I	■	A	M	B	I	■	■
C	O	N	C	I	S	E	■	I	O	D	I	N
A	N	O	A	■	H	E	B	■	N	E	V	A
G	E	N	R	E	■	L	A	T	E	R	A	N
■	■	S	A	S	H	■	L	B	S	■	■	■
A	W	E	■	P	I	P	A	L	■	A	P	T
P	E	N	D	■	S	E	N	S	I	B	L	E
R	A	S	E	■	P	A	C	■	S	A	A	L
■	K	E	A	■	A	G	E	■	E	S	E	■



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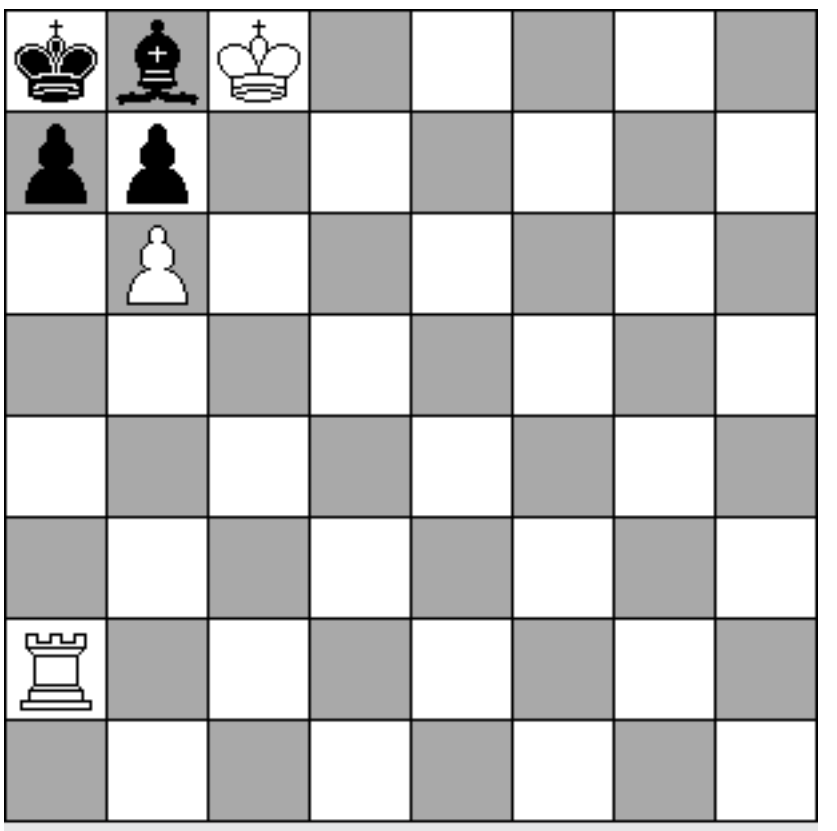

White to play and mate in 2 moves.

This chess composition is the only one ever attributed to Paul Morphy, an American chess master from New Orleans and one of the strongest players in chess history.

If you need a hint to solve, remember that in chess you are compelled to move and can't simply pass on your turn.

Solution: 1. Ra6. Then if black captures the rook with his pawn (bxRa6)_, 2. b7 is checkmate.
The other option for black would be to move the bishop, but that would allow white's rook to capture the pawn on a7 with a resulting checkmate.

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SECTION 4:
ARTS &
ENTERTAINMENT

Peak to Sky Band Members pg. 51

BZN International Film Fest pg. 59

WMPAC receives grant pg. 61

Soul Shine kicks off Big Sky's Music in the Mountains

Hungry Moose-sponsored event honors life and legacy of founder

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY – Two years ago, 7-year-old Maeve McRae sent a handmade card to a Big Sky community member in need; Mark Robin, known to the child by the nickname "Marky Moose," had been diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, ALS, a rare neurodegenerative disease.

Her words were simple and powerful, a true "out of the mouths of babes" moment: "You have Soul Shine. I love you."

The gesture was rooted in fate. Mark and Jackie Robin renamed their summer concert and carnival event "Big Sky Soul Shine," a collaboration between the Robins' Hungry Moose Market and Deli and the Arts Council of Big Sky.

"It was obvious," Jackie Robin said. "We knew we had to call it that."

The Robins arrived in Big Sky in 1993 and opened a roadside fruits, vegetables and flowers stand in the summer of 1994, a venture that quickly transformed into a small retail shop. In 1998, the business-savvy couple added a deli into the shop and voila: Big Sky had The Hungry Moose Market and Deli, a business that is today nothing short of a community staple.

It wasn't luck that propelled this Big Sky success story, but rather a dedication to the customer and the community that became a hallmark of the Moose. Open 365 days a year from 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., the Moose became known for its consistency, a defining feature that cascaded down from Mark into every corner of the business.

"Mark was this business, he was always there for the customers, for the community," Robin said. "There was never a 'be back in 10' sign."

Mark's mettle extended into the final stages of his fight with ALS. Ten months following his diagnosis, he lost the ability to speak but continued communicating through an eye-gaze computer, often writing poetry and maintaining a blog called "Markymoose in Big Sky."

This was Mark: relentlessly determined to face the truth of a situation head-on.

In December 2017, Mark Robin passed away from complications related to the disease.

Big Sky Soul Shine is an opportunity for the Robins and all involved with the Moose to give thanks back to the community for loyal patronage of the business and for the unwavering love and support shown to Mark and his family when they needed it most, much like that shown by 7-year-old McRae.

This year's Big Sky Soul Shine, which kicks off at 5 p.m. on June 20, holds unique significance, celebrating and honoring a trifecta of events; the life and legacy of Mark Robin; the 25th anniversary of the community staple that is The Hungry Moose Market and Deli; and the official transition to the business's new owners Frank and Kristin Kern.

Mark Robin was a man known for a powerful spirit and ceaseless dedication to the Big Sky community. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY

Lauren Jackson of Dammit Lauren and The Well performing on the Big Sky Town Center Stage at the 2018 Soul Shine event. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY

Featuring music from Americana rock and roll band Futurebirds, along with Big Sky's own Dammit Lauren and The Well, and featuring a carnival complete with barbecue, face painting, a dunk booth and a cotton candy machine, everything at Big Sky Soul Shine is complimentary and sponsored by The Hungry Moose.

Adding to the event's significance, Hungry Moose employees—"Moosers" they call themselves—spanning 25 years of operations have been invited to attend this special evening of community spirit.

"We've had so many incredible employees over the years and many of them are here in Big Sky with families, careers, businesses," Robin wrote in a press release. "Mark was a mentor to so many who found their way to Big Sky and to a job at the Moose. It will be so nice to celebrate all of the Moosers as well as remember and celebrate Mark."

While the event is complimentary, attendees are encouraged to make donations to the Big Sky Soul Shine beneficiary, Team Gleason.

Founded by Steve Gleason, a former NFL safety with the New Orleans Saints who was diagnosed with ALS in 2011, Team Gleason strives to improve the lives of others bravely battling the daily struggles associated with the disease by providing cutting-edge technology, equipment and adventures, ultimately empowering those individuals and providing space for independence.

"Mark banked his voice and had an eye-gaze computer which allowed him to write and communicate even after he lost his voice," Robin wrote in the release. "Team Gleason helped us figure all of that out and just supported us along the way. Amazing."

Join the Robins, the Kerns, 25 years of Moosers and the Big Sky community on June 20 at the Big Sky Town Center Stage Park to show continued support for this historic and fun-filled evening in Big Sky.

For more information on Big Sky Soul Shine visit bigskysoulshine.org, and to learn more about Team Gleason and their incredible work visit teamgleason.org.

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PEAK TO SKY

Caspar Babypants is also known as Chris Ballew, twice Grammy nominated lead singer and songwriter for the Seattle band The Presidents of the United States of America. Ten years ago Chris rediscovered turn of the century folk and traditional music and focused on a more simple approach that gave birth to Caspar Babypants. His wife Kate Endle is a huge influence toward his transformation and writing style for kids and does the cover art for all 16 albums. Chris says, "I want to make music for the very young because I admire their associative inventive imaginations and as an adult I nurture that same creativity in myself."

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‘A part of history’

Peak to Sky brings legendary talent to community

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY – When Paige Rasmussen of Bozeman-based Paige and The People’s Band spoke to Explore Big Sky about the upcoming Peak to Sky concert for the May 24 edition of EBS, the powerhouse lead singer of the popular funk, soul and rock-fusion band made a point about the significance of the event: “[It] feels like being a part of rock history,” she said.

Rasmussen is no stranger to the big stage; at just 17 years old, she played at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics, and would go on to share stages with rock and roll legends the likes of John Hiatt, Willie Nexlson, The Doobie Brothers, Lyle Lovett, Pat Benatar and Kenny Loggins, among others.

“When I was 17, I played at the Salt Lake City Olympics,” said Rasmussen, who also opened for B.B. King in Bozeman in 2005.

Each member of the superband formed by Pearl Jam’s lead guitarist Mike McCready is distinguished—for starters, four of the five musicians are officially Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees. And when considering their collective careers, they’ve jointly played for hundreds of millions of fans.

Yet it’s their synthesis of musical backgrounds, storied band allegiances and individual accolades that confirms Rasmussen’s conjecture: On July 6, in Big Sky, Montana, rock and roll history will be made and in front of 4,500 fans fortunate to bare witness to the near-cosmic assembly.

Here are some brief synopses of the artists who will follow Rasmussen and her band onto the Big Sky Events Arena stage:

Mike McCready

Seattle native Mike McCready picked up a guitar in 1977 at the age of 11; the rest, as they say, is history. He began playing in a series of bands, such as Temple of the Dog, which included Soundgarden’s Chris Cornell, a legend in his own right, as well as Pearl Jam’s Jeff Ament, Matt Cameron, Stone Gossard and Eddie Vedder, bassist, drummer, rhythm guitarist and lead singer, respectively. The men would go on to form Pearl Jam in 1990. Among the pinnacle “grunge” bands of the 1990s, a media term given to the musical movement by members of the press, Grammy-winning Pearl Jam had sold more than 85 million albums worldwide as of 2018, and is considered among the most influential bands of the 90s. In 2017, McCready, along with the rest of the band, was inducted in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in its first year of eligibility.

Chad Smith of Red Hot Chili Peppers, a Rock and Roll Hall of Famer, will take the sticks on June 6 at the Peak to Sky concert. PHOTO BY LAURA GLASS

Chad Smith

Chad Smith is regarded as among the best rock ‘n’ roll drummers in history, despite having no formal education in his craft; Smith learned to play the skins at the age of 7, honing his skills in school bands. After playing in a series of groups in his native Michigan, Smith left for California, eventually auditioning for Red Hot Chili Peppers. The band was looking for a new drummer to record their fourth studio album, “Mother’s Milk.” Smith nailed his audition and has been a member of the band since 1988. Smith was inducted into the Roll Hall of Fame with fellow bandmates in 2012. Red Hot Chili Peppers has been nominated for 12 Grammys, winning three.

Duff McKagan, a fellow Hall of Famer, has played with several prominent rock ‘n’ roll bands, including Jane’s Addiction and Velvet Revolver, most notably Guns N’ Roses, and will play bass on June 6 for the Peak to Sky concert. PHOTO COURTESY OF BASS PLAYER MAGAZINE

Duff McKagan

Seattle native Duff McKagan has played in countless household-name bands, from Velvet Revolver to Jane’s Addiction, and is most famous for his role as bassist of Guns N’ Roses. While McKagan helmed that post, the band pocketed countless successes, such as the best-selling album of all time with the release of its 1987 debut album, “Appetite for Destruction,” which included perennially popular tracks “Welcome to the Jungle,” “Paradise City” and “Sweet Child O’ Mine.” When McKagan joined GNR, the band consisted of Axl Rose and Izzy Stradlin, and would soon add Slash and Steven Adler, forming one of the most star-studded ensembles in rock and roll history. In 2012, McKagan was inducted into the Hall of Fame with the rest of Guns N’ Roses.

Josh Klinghoffer

Josh Klinghoffer is the youngest-ever inductee into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame at 32 years old, surpassing a record set by Stevie Wonder by a margin of six years. A kid from Santa Monica, California, Klinghoffer dropped out of school at 15 to focus his attentions on music. When he was 17, Klinghoffer joined The Bicycle Thief, a group that opened and toured for the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Klinghoffer would then write music with John Frusciante, a guitarist for the Chili Peppers, and eventually played with Grammy-winning soul duo Gnarls Barkley. In 2007, Klinghoffer joined the Red Hot Chili Peppers, where he remains a staple member of the band. In 2012, Klinghoffer was inducted into the Hall of Fame alongside Smith and other bandmembers.

Taylor Hawkins

Taylor Hawkins was voted “Best Rock Drummer” in 2005 by U.K. drumming magazine “Rhythm,” and currently is the drummer for Foo Fighters, one of the most commercially decorated rock ‘n’ roll groups of all time. The band boasts a whopping 27 Grammy nominations, winning 11, and an impressive pedigree that includes founding member Dave Grohl, who was previously drummer for grunge sensation Nirvana. Hailing from Laguna Beach, California, Hawkins drummed for the immensely popular Alanis Morissette for two years before being scooped up by Foo Fighters in 1997.

British photog shoots moon with Montana photography

Yarrow series on display in Big Sky gallery

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

Yarrow's novel compositions, such as 'Crazy Horse' and 'Once Upon a Time in the West,' feature Montana landscapes, cowboys, wildlife and world-class American models, and are now on display at Big Sky's Creighton Block Gallery.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF CREIGHTON BLOCK GALLERY

BIG SKY – When London-based photographer David Yarrow decided to venture to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, he didn't opt to photograph the idyllic, caddis fly-strewn summer images of the region. Instead, Yarrow traded classic fly-fishing images for those that capture a hard and wild, yet beautiful, Montana.

A portion of his ongoing collection, called "Storytelling," is now being displayed at Creighton Block Gallery in Big Sky through the summer months.

A regular associate of heartthrob movie icons such as Leonardo DiCaprio and prolific supermodels the likes of Cindy Crawford, Yarrow was on a series of missions in the name of his work.

One objective entailed photographing perhaps the most iconic American mammal, the mighty bison, in a habitat that fossil records indicate is the species' only continuously populated haunt since prehistoric eras—Yellowstone National Park. This project kept in line with Yarrow's previous endeavors as a photographer, in which notable and intimate shots of wildlife around the world, particularly that found in Africa, has earned him international acclaim.

Yarrow successfully captured these prehistoric beasts on film, their exteriors frosted by subzero temperatures and cut-to-the-bone winds. These adversities, however, mean little to the individuals in his photographs; to them, he says, it's a part of life.

"Lock a bison in a large industrial deep freeze for a month and he will come out laughing," penned Yarrow in a letter he wrote from a friend's in Livingston, which now serves as the forward to a small preview catalogue of his work in the region. "They have been around for 500,000 years and I fancy they will be around quite a bit longer."

The bison was not the only American icon Yarrow captured; immediately before his descent into America's first park, Yarrow shot a series of remarkable images the artist contends "will stand the test of time."

Much like the shaggy behemoths, the Montana cowboy is grizzled, time tested and invariably interesting to the outsider. Juxtaposed with Venusian beauties like Crawford, "a true American idol," wrote Yarrow, and models Josie Canseco and Roxanna Redfoot, the deep, leathery creases on their faces, grease-splattered garb and tobacco smoke-stained facial hair all but scream stories from a life still very much like that experienced by the continent's first frontiersmen.

Supermodels and cowboys: That's how America does it. But Yarrow made sure to throw in some additional American icons, as well as lions, grizzly bears and wolves, for added effect.

'Once Upon a Time in the West,' like all of his 'Storytelling' pieces, underscores Yarrow's desire to break the mold. PHOTO COURTESY OF CREIGHTON BLOCK GALLERY

The work rendered from these novel compositions of Yarrow's "Storytelling" collection is anything but ordinary, much like the unordinary state, in an unordinary region, of the unordinary country in which they were shot. Currently featured in a swathe of galleries worldwide, from Los Angeles to Oslo, Norway, including Big Sky's very own Creighton Block, it's hard to argue that they won't indeed stand the test of time.

This is particularly evident when one studies a piece like "Once Upon A Time in The West," in which Canseco, clad in lavish white furs, casually sits next to a wolf in the front seat of a Chevy Impala convertible; behind them, the Crazy Mountains north of Bozeman backdrop a sprawling dirt road.

A handful of Yarrow's "Storytelling" pieces loom large on the walls of Creighton Block, which was selected to display the work through a bit of serendipity.

"I received a phone call from a friend in Virginia City who'd gone to work for him," said Colin Mathews, a co-owner of Creighton Block Gallery. "They told me a famous British photographer wanted to have a presence in Big Sky and visit our gallery."

Mathews, along with Gallery Director Courtney Collins, met Yarrow at a dinner party the photographer hosted in March at the Gallatin River Lodge; the Brit had rented the lodge for two weeks as a base for himself and the crew.

"We went down and had a conversation with him about his art and our gallery, and he came by three or four days later," Mathews said. "Now we're in the Yarrow business."

His striking work mirrors his personality, Mathews added.

"He is truly a wild and crazy guy, to borrow a phrase from Steve Martin, Mathews said, "a larger than life personality, and such a jolly and artistic fellow."

Much of Yarrow's work is sold to the benefit of conservation efforts around the world, with a percentage of proceeds from sales going to organizations such as Tusk, WildArk, YUNA and Natural World Safaris. Proceeds from "Cindy's Shotgun Wedding," which features Crawford and wolf in the same open convertible, but instead back dropped by a Nevada City saloon and a man adorned a black stovepipe hat, eye patch and an old-fashioned shotgun held at the ready, will go to raising money for children with cancer, an ongoing charity mission of Crawford's.

"A serious part of his work is for conservation," Collins said. "He's selling work to save the planet."

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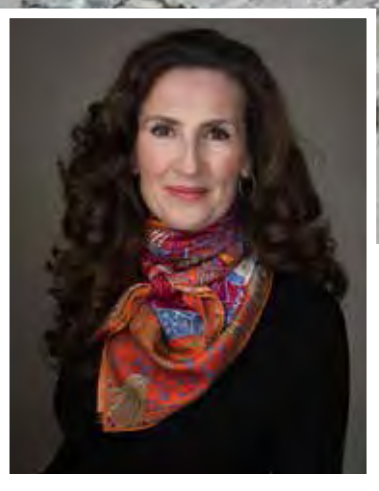

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REEL REVIEW

Summer Movie Preview Part II: Ampersands & bosses

BY ANNA HUSTED
EBS FILM CRITIC

August:

A title with two ampersands and three beefcakes has me all giddy. That's right, "Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw" is my most anticipated movie of the summer.

Catch up with "Hereditary," watch the "Midsommar" trailer and then let me know if you get any sleep the rest of the week. "Midsommar" promises to scare you away from festivals forever. Although it appears to be set around the turn of the century, it takes place in contemporary Sweden. Director Ari Aster tells us not to expect the same level of scary as his blockbuster debut "Hereditary," but expect to be spooked, nevertheless. "Midsommar" is slotted for a limited July release, but likely won't see a wide release until August.

What do you get when "The Odd Couple" meets the "Fast & Furious" franchise? "Fast & Furious presents: Hobbs & Shaw" starring Dwayne Johnson, Jason Statham, Idris Elba, and Helen Mirren.
PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

In "Where'd You Go, Bernadette?" director Richard Linklater explores this strange in-between world after kids leave the nest. Starring Cate Blanchett, Kristen Wiig and a plucky Judy Greer, this film looks entertaining and enlightening.

I enjoy Bruce Springsteen, but a love for his revolutionary music shouldn't be the only reason to see "Blinded by the Light," a movie set in the 1980s about a British teenager who comes of age under The Boss's influence. The primary reason is the lead Viveik Kalra, an up-and-coming actor with a lot of light himself.

"The Kitchen" may look like a "Widows" remake, but is based on the true story of 1970s mob wives in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of New York City. "The Kitchen" boasts one of the best casts of the summer with Elisabeth Moss, Melissa McCarthy and Tiffany Haddish filling leading roles.

"Blinded by the Light" is the coming-of-age story about a British teen of Pakistani descent growing up in 1987's England who finds solace and inspiration from Bruce Springsteen's music. "Blinded by the Light" was a hit at Sundance Film Festival and promises to be one of the best movies of the year. PHOTO COURTESY OF BEND IT FILMS

September:

One can't look at red balloons and yellow rain jackets the same after watching the brilliant and terrifying "It" of 2017. The follow up film, set 27 years later, "It Chapter 2" stars Jessica Chastain, James McAvoy, Bill Skarsgard (the best Pennywise in my opinion) and Bill Hader. The "It" films speak real-life truth through its exploration of fear; we live in a fear-based culture, which can only be eradicated through love of self and others. Don't let your fear of horror movies scare you away from a great film.

The Dowager Countess (Maggie Smith) has one of the best lines of the television series "Downton Abbey" when she asks one of her tenants, "What's a weekend?" This series explored classism, family structure and feminism. Let's hope the movie version brings the depth and wit.

"The Goldfinch" (based on the Pulitzer Prize novel of the same name) is about a boy who is adopted by an Upper East Side family after his mother is killed in a bombing. I haven't read the book yet, but look forward to any film with Nicole Kidman, Ansel Elgort, Sarah Paulson and Jeffrey Wright dissecting class and wealth.

If you haven't seen the first "Shaun the Sheep" movie I highly recommend it, although I don't think it's mandatory viewing for the second installment "Shaun the Sheep Movie: Farmageddon." Shaun is a sheep who wants to do more than eat and sleep. He loves his farmer and fellow sheep, but he gets bored so when an alien crash-lands on Mossy Bottom Farm, he takes it upon himself to help the alien get home. Crafted from incredible stop-motion animation, Shaun is one cute and determined sheep.

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

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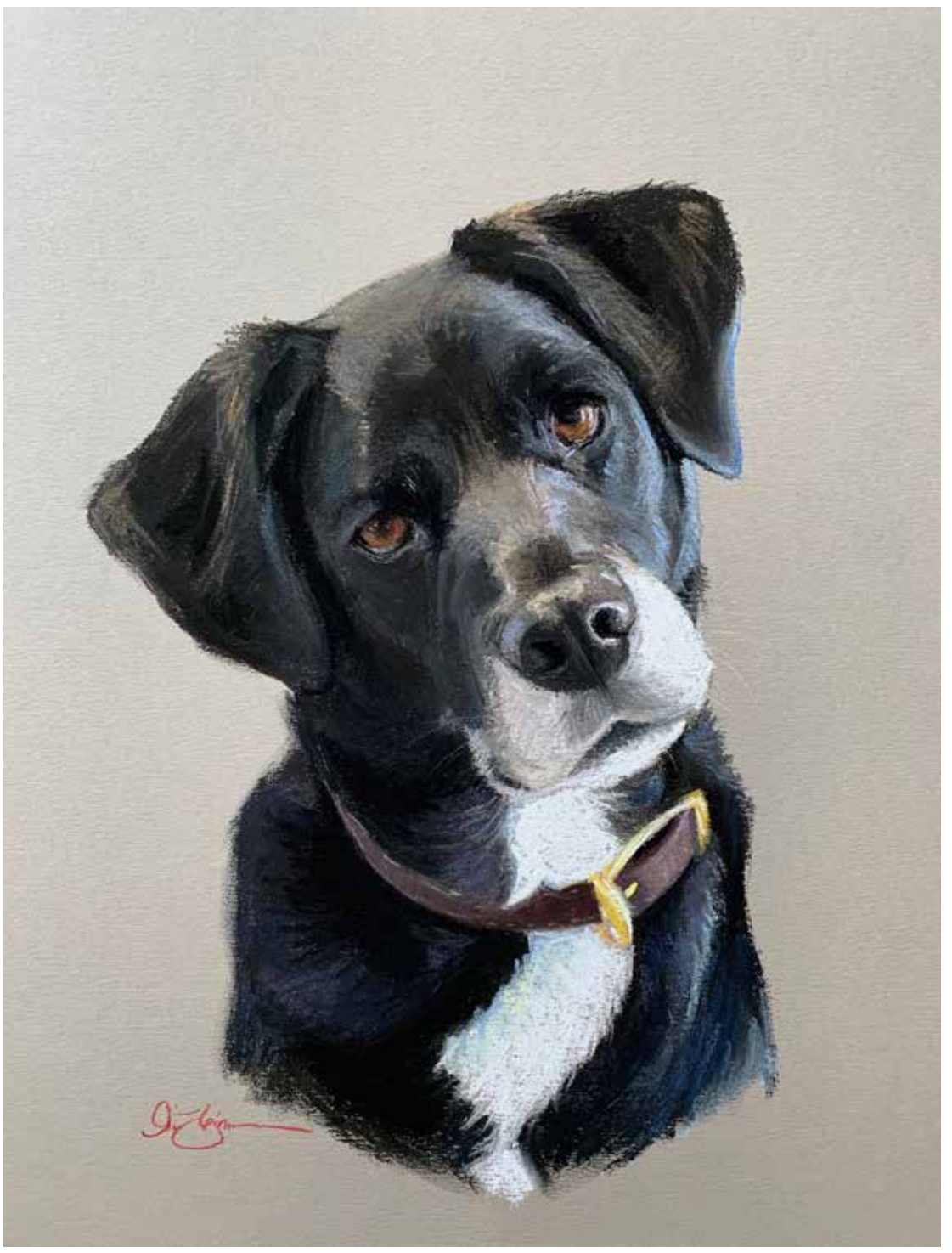

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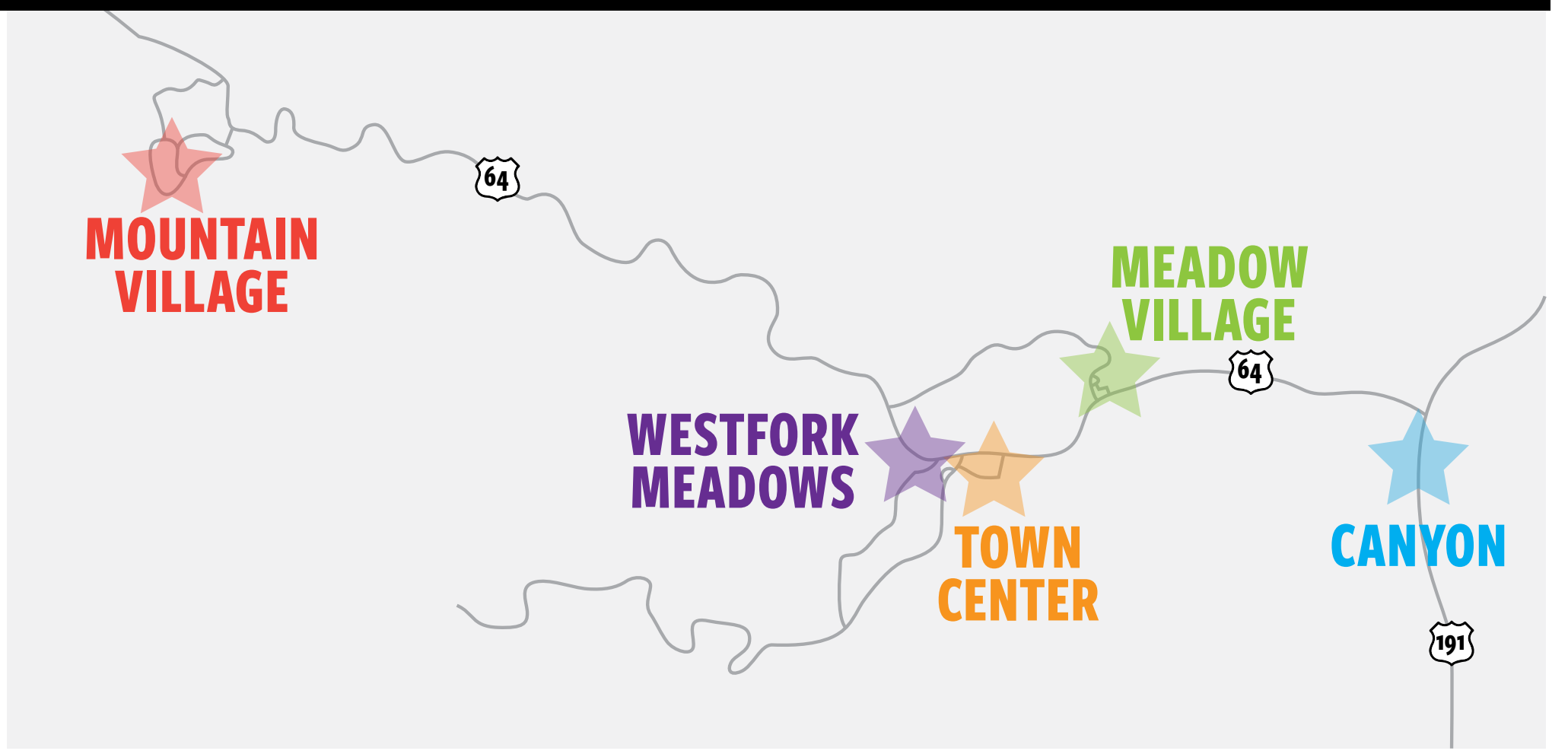

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LTD Real Estate
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BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JUNE 7 - THURSDAY, JUNE 20

If your event falls between June 21 and July 4, please submit it by June 26 by emailing media@outlaw.partners

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

Live Music: Todd Green
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

Harbor's Hero Run
Big Sky Town Center Park, 10 a.m.

Film: Artifishal
Lone Peak Cinema, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

Live Music: Tsunami Funk
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Live Music: Cole and the Thornes
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 10

Big Sky Community Visioning
Strategy Interviews
Lone Peak Cinema, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

Big Sky Pumptrack Pint Night
Beehive Basin Brewery, 4 p.m.

Big Sky Community Visioning
Strategy Interviews
Big Sky Community Park, 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

Big Sky Farmers Market
Big Sky Town Center, Fire Pit Park, 5 p.m.

Big Sky Community Visioning
Strategy Interviews
Big Sky Town Center, 5 p.m.

Chuckwagon BBQ
320 Guest Ranch, 5:30 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
West Yellowstone Rodeo Arena, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

Gallatin River Task Force Volunteer
Kick-Off
Big Sky Community Park River
Pavilion, 5:30 p.m.

FWP Water Recreation Safety
Workshop
FWP Region 3 office, Bozeman, 6 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
West Yellowstone Rodeo Arena, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

Community Acupuncture
Santosha Wellness Center, 2 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
West Yellowstone Rodeo Arena, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

Mountain Biking: Opening Day
Big Sky Resort, 9 a.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
West Yellowstone Rodeo Arena, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

Father's Day Fishing Derby & BBQ
Ennis Lion's Club Park, 11 a.m.

Live Music: Kelly Nicholson Band
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 17

Santosha Wellness Center
Community Yoga
Proceeds to go towards BSCO
Big Sky Town Center Park, 1 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

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

Chuckwagon BBQ
320 Guest Ranch, 5:30 p.m.

Live Music: Rising Appalachia
The Rialto, Bozeman, Doors 7:30 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo
West Yellowstone Rodeo Arena,
8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

Soul Shine Yoga
Proceeds to go towards Team
Gleason
Big Sky Town Center Park, 11 a.m.

Big Sky Soul Shine/Music in the
Mountains Kickoff
Live Music: Futurebirds, Dammit
Lauren and the Well
Big Sky Town Center Park, 6 p.m.

WORTH THE DRIVE

MISSOULA, MONTANA

Brad Paisley

Big Sky Brewing Company
Friday, June 14, 5 p.m.

Hailing from Glen Dale, West Virginia, Brad Paisley is the eptiomy of a country music star. Over a career spanning nearly 20 years, Paisley has pocketed three Grammy Awards, having been nominated for a whopping 18; he's charted 32 Top 10 singles on Billboard's Country Airplay chart, setting a new record in 2009 for the most consecutive No. 1 distinctions on that same list; and the icon has sold over 11 million albums worldwide. He'll be bringing that same world-class talent to one of Montana's most celebrated and successful breweries on June 14—don't let the opportunity to see this music legend pass you by.

The Smith sisters of Rising Appalachia have blended the worldly sounds of New Orleans with the more traditional sounds of southern Appalachia, creating a unique sound. Catch them at The Rialto on June 19. PHOTO BY DEE NALAM

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.

BZN International Film Festival

Spotlights Gender Equity, Community & Food, Conservation

BZN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

BOZEMAN – The Second Annual BZN International Film Festival, which will screen 73 shorts, narrative features and documentaries from 19 countries (including 20 Montana-made or Montana-based films), is in full swing at six viewing locations around Bozeman. The 2019 festival themes are "Community and Food," "Gender Equity" and "Conservation."

In addition to screenings, passholders will enjoy downtown deals at participating businesses, a rich slate of panel discussions and Q&A sessions and, for all-access guests, an awards ceremony and filmmakers' brunch. There are also a number of free community-wide events happening in conjunction with the festival.

Selected feature films include "The Etruscan Smile," starring acclaimed British actor Brian Cox, "Search Engines," in which sanity and relationships are tested when a family has to survive Thanksgiving without cell phones and "Words from a Bear," which examines the enigmatic life of Pulitzer Prize-winning Navarro Scott Momaday, one of the most celebrated Native American poets and writers in history.

Gender equity and female empowerment are among the great social movements of our time, so inspiring, female-driven films and a panel discussion with cutting-edge wonder women will speak to the phenomenon on June 7 at The Ellen Theatre. Features include "Arlene Francis: That Certain Something" and "Be Natural," Pamela B. Green's energetic film about pioneer filmmaker Alice Guy-Blaché. The day will commence at 8 a.m. with yoga at the nearby lululemon studio, followed by 10 films, four panels and an ongoing live painting demonstration by local artist Morgan Irons.

Also on June 7, BZN will present a packed day centered on collective action, food issues and the influence of compassion at the Museum of the Rockies. A selection of films and panels, led by Montana No Kid Hungry, will explore how hunger is being addressed in Montana. "Better Together" shows how the community of Santa Barbara rallied after a devastating oil spill in 1969; "Pa'Lante" depicts the communities that came together to help Puerto Rico after the destruction caused by hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017.

The museum's green space will be open to the public, with lawn games, conversations with local non-profits and guided tours of MOR's Living History Farm slotted to complement the films. Bring picnic supplies or grab lunch from the on-site food truck, Fork In The Road.

Nosotros: Mexicans facing a natural disaster celebrate the 'power of we.'

Jeff Bridges addresses questions from the audience at the inaugural BZN International Film Festival event in 2018. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BZN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

On June 8, the events held at the MOR will pertain to issues of conservation. Activities free to the public include a conservation-inspired meditation led by the Dharma Center, lawn games and information from Yes Composting, Big Agnes and representatives from the farming and conservation communities.

Passholders will enjoy "Sky Migrations," a short documentary about raptor conservation by National Geographic photographer Max Lowe, along with Suzan Satterfield's "Living with Grizzlies & Wolves," which explores the relationship between these species and Montana and Wyoming ranchers, hunters, Native Americans and environmentalists. Local eco-warriors Doug Peacock, founder of Save the Yellowstone Grizzly and Mike Mease, Buffalo Field Campaign founder, will co-chair a conservation panel following the films "Grizzly Country" and "Our National Mammal."

Sponsored by the Montana Science Center, the free family event held at the Bozeman Public Library during the afternoon of June 8 will include seven short films including "Life of A Mosquito" and "Grandbad," as well as "Kid Flicks One: Best of the New York Children's Festival." Outside on the library's lawn, attendees will enjoy Sweet Peaks ice cream, special cookies from Knife Bistro, fly-casting demonstrations, face painting and other activities.

The June 8 evening highlight is "Not Enough Time," a documentary about ten-time Grammy Award-winning composer, producer and pianist Dave Grusin, which will screen in the Emerson's Crawford Theater. Following the film actor and director Jeff Bridges will present Mr. Grusin a Lifetime Achievement Award.

BZN showcases films that educate, encourage and inspire audiences to get involved and take action to protect our planet and those that inhabit it. This year, BZN will introduce the Ted Turner award, presented by the legendary media mogul and environmentalist himself, "given to the film which most inspires environmental stewardship," said Artistic Managing Director Beth Ann Kennedy.

A filmmakers' brunch and awards ceremony will conclude the events on June 9.

Visit bozemanfilmcelebration.com to see the full schedule, preview films, check out hotel, restaurant and vendor deals and purchase passes.

GALLATIN RIVER FESTIVAL

#GallatinRiverFest2019

Join us June 29 & 30th for the 2019 Gallatin River Festival! Go to GallatinRiverFestival.com for tickets to our Hooked on the Gallatin banquet. This will be our biggest banquet EVER: extended welcome reception for all, free wine and beer with a special welcome cocktail, streamlined auction bidding and check in with incredible live/silent auction items: help us to raise over $150,000 for the river and watershed.

Rich Addicks Photography

GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

#GallatinRiverForever

The river needs your help to close our Gallatin River Forever capital campaign! We have a matching grant for $25,000 to help close the campaign by June 30th--and need the help of all local residents and river lovers to close the funding of this vital effort for restoration, conservation and sustainability by the end of the month.

Our mission is to partner with our greater community to lead conservation and inspire stewardship of the Gallatin River Watershed.

Email ryan@gallatinrivertaskforce.org or go to our website for more information.

Warren Miller Performing Arts Center receives $25,000 grant

WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

BIG SKY – National Endowment for the Arts Acting Chairman Mary Anne Carter has approved more than $80 million in grants as part of the Arts Endowment's second major funding announcement for fiscal year 2019; the announcement included an Art Works grant of $25,000 awarded to the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center to support the creation of a multidisciplinary performance work for film and chamber choir.

The agency received 1,592 Art Works, the agency's principal grant making program, applications this round of grantmaking, and will award 977 of them.

"These awards, reaching every corner of the United States, are a testament to the artistic richness and diversity in our country," Carter said. "Organizations such as the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center are giving people in their community the opportunity to learn, create and be inspired."

"This is a thrilling testament to the great work that our community surrounding WMPAC continues to develop," said John Zirkle, founding Executive and Artistic Director of WMPAC. "This is our second grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and I am particularly proud of the fact that we received 100 percent of our ask, which means that we can really do some great work this summer with The Crossing and our partners."

The grant funds will be used by Grammy-winning choir The Crossing, composer Michael Gordon and acclaimed filmmaker Bill Morrison in their quest to develop a 24-hour live performance work for chamber choir and film.

Over the next three years, WMPAC's collaborators will devise this place-based, multidisciplinary performance project, which will explore environmental themes surrounding biological degradation and regeneration. Throughout the process, they will partner with individuals and organizations integral to the current and historical narratives of Montana.

Two-time Grammy-award winning choir The Crossing spends two weeks in residency each summer at WMPAC. Phase two of their epic project, Montaña, will be performed at WMPAC on Wednesday, August 7th. PHOTO COURTESY OF WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AND THE CROSSING

Each summer, artists will develop this ambitious new piece in phases during 10-14 day residencies at the WMPAC.

For more information on this National Endowment for the Arts grant announcement, visit arts.gov/news.

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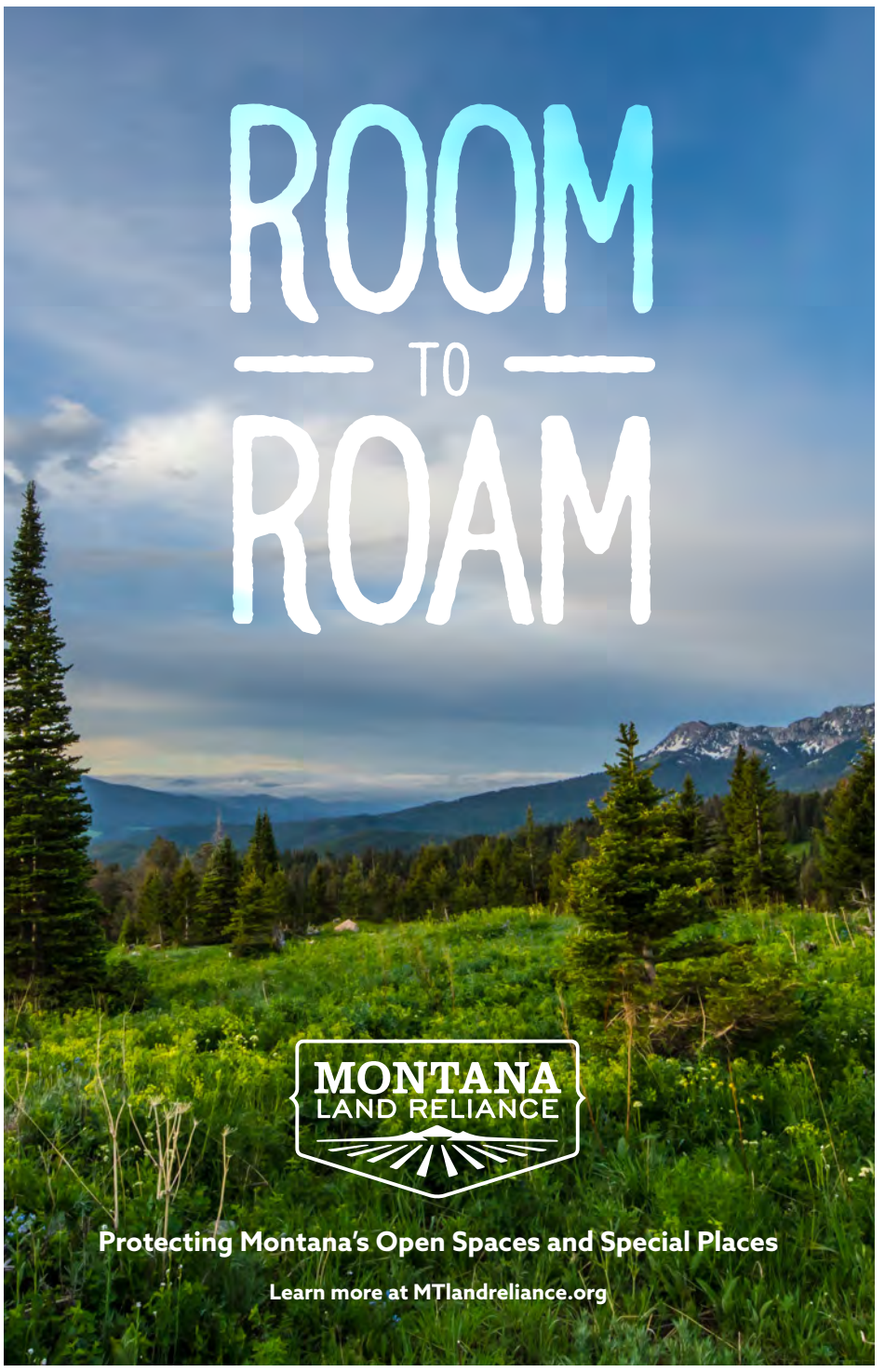

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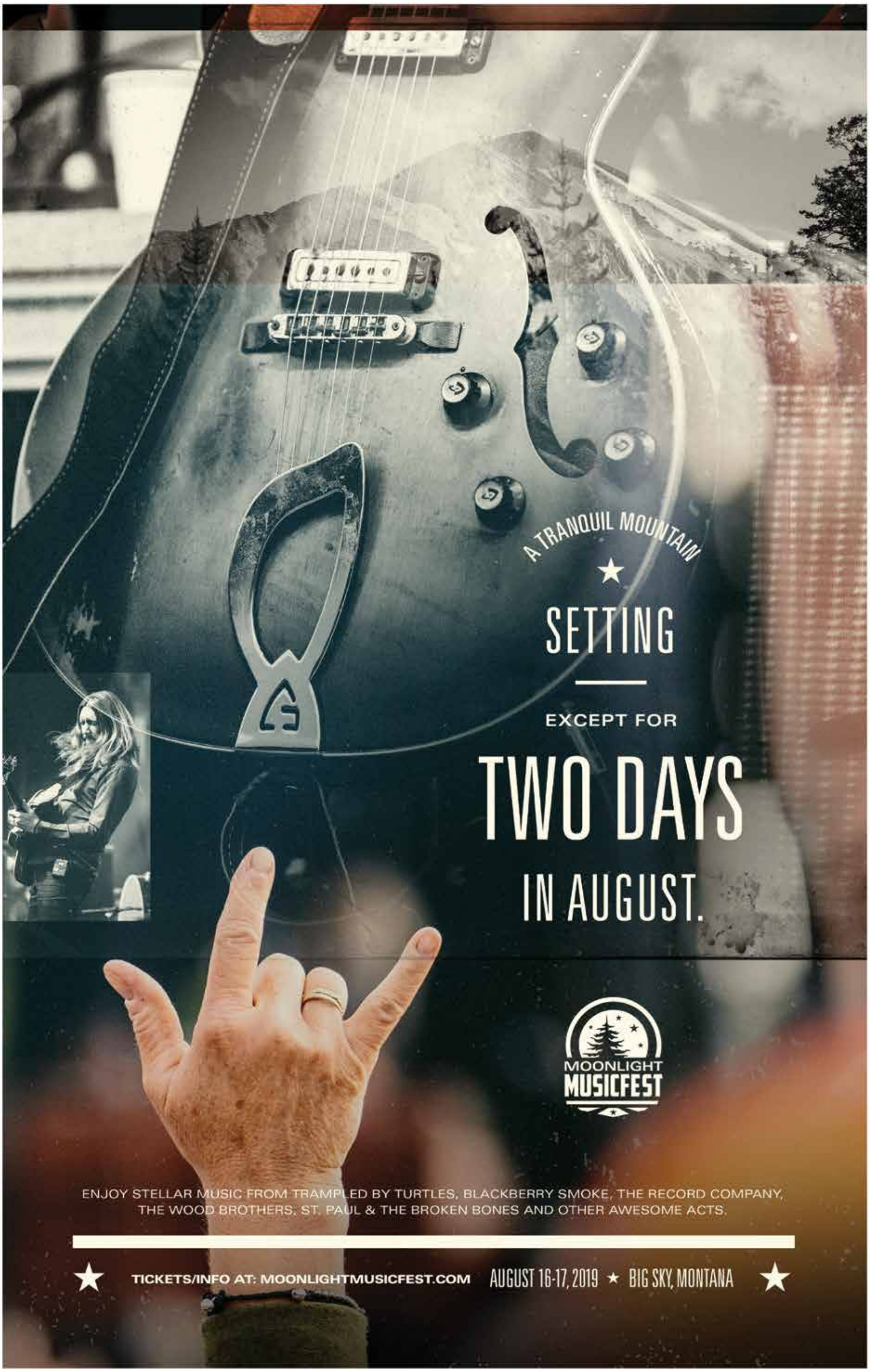
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