

Inside the Peak to Sky fest

PBR rumbles into Big Sky

Mars

BSSD teacher housing breaks ground

Crazies: The Cathedral

PLUS: Big Sky Hiking Guide



explorebigsky.com



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Inside the Peak to Sky Fest

The largest-ever ticketed event in Big Sky shattered conceptions of what was previously thought possible for an event in the nascent mountain town. People danced. They sang. Some even cried. But everyone in attendance was left rocked to the core.

PBR rumbles into Big Sky

Bucking bulls are big, mean and bad to the bone. And they're stomping into Big Sky, along with 40 of the world's toughest cowboys from the Professional Bull Riders Touring Pro Division, for the ninth annual Big Sky PBR. Be sure to catch the action at the six-time PBR Event of the Year.

BSSD teacher housing breaks ground



49

SEE

INSERT

As a result of collaboration between Habitat for Humanity Gallatin Valley and Big Sky School District, Big Sky teachers will now have an exclusive opportunity to live in the community. On July 12, representatives from both organizations, along with AmeriCorps volunteers, broke ground on the first of two triplexes.

7 Crazies: The Cathedral

The Crazy Mountains northeast of Bozeman bare practically no markings of human development, such as foot and ATV trails. Crow Tribal members want to keep it that way, to preserve that degree of spirituality and reverence for their wildness; descendants of settlers remain on the fence.

65 PLUS: Big Sky Hiking Guide

One of Big Sky's charms—of which, there are many—is the network of trails that weave through the surrounding terrain. With so many to choose from, it's important to get the dirt on each.



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ON THE COVER:

Lead guitarist Mike McCready (left) and Taylor Hawkins (center) share a mic while drummer Chad Smith pounds the skins during the July 5 and 6 Peak to Sky Festival in Big Sky. McCready, of Pearl Jam, assembled an A-list of rockers for an amazing inaugural show that ripped into the summer sky earlier this month. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY The first half of July brought with it an impressive frequency of afternoon thunderstorms, which have sustained the spring's flourish of wildflowers in the Bangtail Range just east of the Bridger Mountains. Though the downpours have made puddles common on the Bangtail Divide Trail, mountain bikers are still getting after summer riding. PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

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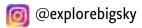
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Martha is ranked the #1 producing broker in the State of Montana. Contact her for a copy of the year-end Big Sky Market Analysis Report and to discuss the best strategy for you to Buy or Sell your real estate.



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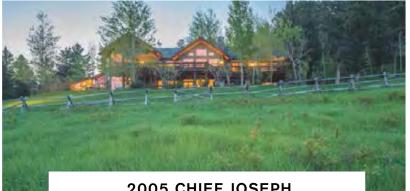
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NEWS IN BRIEF



Black bear euthanized in Bozeman

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

A black bear was humanely euthanized this week after multiple conflicts with humans and livestock in Bozeman.

The first complaint about the bear to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks was made on June 28 when it was seen midday at a Bozeman residence. Two more complaints followed within the following week, when it was spotted again in a residential area and then in a pen with goats and chickens.

The bear was seen again on July 9 at yet another residence.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks biologists repeatedly tried to trap the bear throughout this time period. Finally, after two more reports on July 11, the bear was darted and captured with the help of the Bozeman Police Department and Animal Control Officers.

At this point it was evident to FWP that the bear was clearly habituated to receiving food rewards in urban areas and was undeterred by humans. Per FWP policy, the bear was humanely euthanized.

To learn more about urban conflicts with bears, visit IGBConline.org.

Climbing accident claims search and rescue member

EBS STAFF

Travis Swanson of the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Team died on July 14 in a climbing accident on Mount Cowen in Park County. Swanson, along with his two climbing partners and fellow GCSAR members Jackson Negri and Will Hitchcock, were swept downhill by rockfall.

Negri was able to contact Park County Sheriff's Office and GCSAR teammates, who responded with complex, helicopter-based alpine rescue procedures. The team was able to rescue Hitchcock and recover Swanson's body. Hitchcock is currently recovering with stable injuries at St. Vincent's Hospital in Billings.

Swanson is remembered as a key member of the alpine and helicopter rescue teams by his fellow teammates.

According to the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office, Swanson demonstrated the highest level of teamwork and commitment.

"When good days went bad, Travis was always there to help his community," a press release said.

Swanson's memorial arrangements are being organized by Dahl's Funeral Home.

Cooke City event celebrates ecological restoration

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

To celebrate the successful cleanup of the abandoned McLaren mine near Cooke City, the Beartooth Alliance and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, along with the National Park Service, hosted an event on July 18 near the old mine site.

The decade-long project resulted in the restoration of Soda Butte Creek, which flows into Yellowstone National Park. The successful cleanup resulted in the first delisting of a water-way from Montana's Impaired Waters List.

The event also celebrated the life of the late DEQ hydrologist Tom Henderson, who played a key role in the restoration mission.

Speakers including Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Cam Sholly and Beartooth Alliance chair Kenneth Cummins, among others, presented to attendees. The speeches were followed by a tour of the newly-restored land.

The Beartooth Alliance also hosted an evening celebration in Silver Gate, Montana, at the Range Rider Lodge.

MSU to send computer to moon

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN – After sending their computer to the International Space Station and into Earth's orbit on a satellite, Montana State University researchers will elevate the decade-old project and send their creation to the moon.

NASA recently announced that an MSU team led by Brock LaMeres won a coveted spot on a 2020-2021 lunar mission, which will be the biggest trial yet for the radiation-tolerant computing concept conceived by LaMeres, who is a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

"The dream has always been to get (this technology) that far out into space," LaMeres said. The Rubik's Cube-sized computer prototype, called RadPC, is one of 12 science and technology payloads selected to journey to the lunar surface as part of NASA's Artemis lunar program.

RadPC's task will be to show that it can withstand high-energy radiation particles emitted by the sun and other celestial bodies.

If it can do that, "it would mean it's a proven technology that could be used in future lunar missions as the primary flight computer," LaMeres said.

Availability remains to purchase workforce

Yellowstone visitation statistics released

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

The recently released visitation statistics from Yellowstone National Park show a general decrease in overall park traffic from 2018.

In June of this year, the park recorded 781,853 visitors, marking a 3.6 percent decrease from last June.

So far in 2019, total visitation has amounted to 1,358,629. While this number is a 1.7 percent decrease from a like statistic last year, it is a 4.6 percent increase from 2015.

The continued high level of visitation in the park underscores the importance of planning a Yellowstone adventure ahead of time. Visitors should anticipate delays or limited parking at popular destinations, and check road conditions on the park's website before they arrive.

housing

EBS STAFF

The Big Sky Community Housing Trust is offering a free eight-hour Home Buyer Education Class on July 27 in the Big Sky Water and Sewer District conference room from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The class is the first step to get on the affordable workforce housing waitlist that allows qualified applicants to purchase subsidized housing, such as the deed-restricted Meadowview Condominiums under construction adjacent to the Big Sky Community Park.

The waitlist and Meadowview units are designed for those who work and live in Big Sky but can't afford to purchase a home or apartment at market rates.

The second step to get on the waitlist is one-on-one financial counseling with an HRDC representative, after which applicants are added to the waitlist and will be given the opportunity to buy in the order of the date in which they were put on the list.

As some applicants have dropped off the list, the number of available Meadowview units, 52, exceeds the number of qualified applicants on the waitlist, according to housing trust program director Laura Seyfang.

"If you don't get into this project, you're the first on the list for the next project," she said. "If you ever think you'll want to buy deed-restricted housing ... it's worth taking the class."

Register with Roselle Shallah by calling (406) 585-4895 or by emailing homeownership@thehrdc.org.



Southwest Montana has a little something for everyone. What aspect of Big Sky makes it most special for visitors?



Jayna Lieberman Parker, Colorado

"It's really quaint. It's really small, there are no big stores like you see in a lot of the big cities. It's a nice place to get away and actually spend time in the outdoors."



Mick Bain Boston, Massachusetts

"You don't have to do much. Nature does all the work for you guys. The downtown is nice, and the shops are cute, but it's really all about the nature and the beautiful scenery, the proximity to Yellowstone, and all the fun things to do. I'm just spending time with my kids, and we're trying to get in all the adventures that we can."



Carley Reader St. Louis, Missouri

"I guess all the water, the greenery, the plant life and the trails. It's really beautiful, and we don't have it at home. I will also say this: Everyone here is really, really nice. We have already planned our next trip."



Krista Bernard Godfrey, Illinois

"It doesn't look so commercial. Everything that you have built feels like it belongs. It looks untouched, serene and beautiful. These days, everything is commercialized, and Big Sky is a real sanctuary. I enjoy it and I'll definitely be back."

It takes a village to host a rock show like this ...

An idea born this past February on Big Sky Resort's Challenger chairlift with Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee Mike McCready, the first-ever Peak to Sky Festival, is in the books.

I have long dreamed of hosting a headliner concert in Big Sky to help showcase our amazing mountain setting and now having seen that idea come to fruition I must take pause to be grateful.

Thank you for all who helped the two-night Peak to Sky shows happen; there are more people and businesses than I could list in this letter. From the national brands like Casamigos, Generation Jets, Crooked Fox Bourbon and White Claw that stepped in, to the local companies like the Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks, Moonlight, Natural Retreats, SIME, First Security Bank, Bozeman Health, Simkins Hallin, Town Center, and the Wilson Hotel, these folks were critical in so many ways. Locals including Tim Drain, John Haas, J.C. Knaub, Ryan Kulesza and Taylor Graham as well as Brian and Kate Scott were monumental in the hours leading up to the show.

Letter to the Editor: Thank you for Peak to Sky

To the entire Outlaw Partners team,

Thank you for Peak to Sky. Eric Ladd for having a dream and daring to ask the question on a ski lift. I'm so thankful for having this epic adventure traveling to Big Sky in a VW camper with my dog Jewel and cat Nemo. Thanks for creating the opportunity. As a professional marketer, I am impressed with the entire Outlaw Team. I love Mike McCready and Brandi Carlile, and everything they do. All of them! I guess I'm a super fam—the story always makes me cry. How cool to see the captured tear in the video recap. You guys do excellent work! I'm heading back to Seattle and wanted to personally thank you. Until next year!

To the award-winning artists who took a risk on Big Sky and showed up and gave us a show of a lifetime, thank you! It was amazing to watch local bands Dammit Lauren and the Well, and Paige and the People's Band on the big stage and the big screen. Brandi Carlile was a testament to witnessing greatness and her performance itself was Grammy worthy. Brandi's acoustic performance will be talked about for many years. To Mike McCready and the fellas, you are true rock stars, thank you for sharing your musical talents with us fans!

And to the team who made it happen linking 2 a.m. mornings together day after day. To the Outlaw team, you deserve so much praise and work so hard. The leads on the event, Megan, EJ, Blythe, Shana, Ennion and Tucker, you are superheroes! And for the support and counsel of Ashley, Laura, Chris, Jason, Jessie, Matt and my family and friends, thank you for the push.

On July 6, we witnessed musical history in Big Sky, someday likely referred to the night that we witnessed "Purple Rain." Saturday's show included a 93-minute musical set of 19 songs that filled our valley with music. Peak to Sky was a music celebration for the ages, perhaps one of the best displays of musical talent we may ever see in Big Sky. But beyond the music, this show was a testament to a village rallying together to make big ideas happen.

From the bottom of my heart, to each ticket holder, sponsor, volunteer, sound tech, stagehand, security agent, ticket checker and rocking musician: THANK YOU!

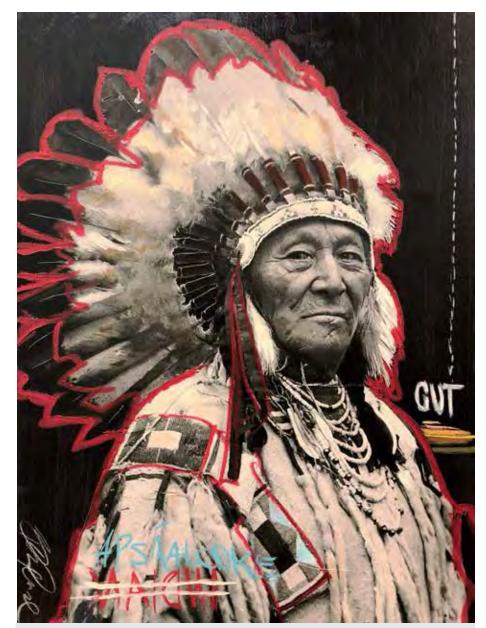
Eric Ladd Publisher, CEO, Outlaw Partners Ginny Gensler Seattle, Washington

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News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

Annual Art Auction returns to Big Sky Fourth consecutive year brings renowned talent to mountain hamlet

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY



'Leading Towards A New and Beautifully Flawed World,' a mixed-medium piece by celebrated Crow/Northern Cheyenne artist Ben Pease. COURTESY OF CREIGHTON BLOCK GALLERY

BIG SKY – Art lovers, rejoice: The fourth annual Big Sky Art Auction returns to the community July 20-21, boasting an impressive array of art by internationally acclaimed artists, celebrated creatives specializing in the American West, pieces made by Big Sky community members and even some works by deceased artists with distinguished legacies.

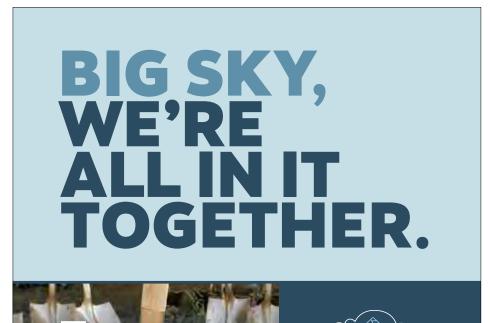
This year's artists include Ali Darvish, David Yarrow, Kevin Red Star, Todd Connor and R. Tom Gilleon; locals Kene Sperry, Kira Fircho, Lorri Lagerbloom and Ryan Turner, and a number of premiere artists from the 19th and 20th centuries.

A number of artists have elected that partial or total proceeds from their lots go to various charities and non-profit organizations, such as the Big Sky Community Organization, Gallatin Valley Invasive Species Alliance, Montana Land Reliance, Team River Runner Outta Sight Clinic, Yellowstone Forever and Yellowstone Forever.

Produced by Outlaw Partners, a Big Sky media, marketing and events promotion company, and Big Sky's very own Creighton Block Gallery, the event marks one of the year's flagship art events in the community.

"Many of the artists represented by this year's Big Sky Art Auction are among the most preeminent in Western art, and some have reached an incredible level of international acclaim," said Blythe Beaubien, chief marketing officer at Outlaw Partners. "Really, the whole list is robust, and with charitable giving featured as a centerpiece, it's a truly special evening for Big Sky."

Come prepared to be wowed by the available works and the artists behind them—one will be hard-pressed to not raise a paddle.



Held in the Big Sky Events Arena tent in Town Center, the Big Sky Art Auction is an opportunity for patrons of the arts, both long-standing art junkies and those with budding appreciation, to bid on lots to spice up their collections.

Lots from the over 60 artists constitute a mix of roughly 90 photo prints, paintings, sculpture and jewelry, among other mediums.

On July 20, the free-to-attend event commences with a preview from 4-7 p.m. Attendees will be able to browse the available pieces with an opportunity to meet many of the represented artists. Backed by a live jazz performance by Bozeman's Round 7 and with refreshments available from a cash bar, potential bidders are encouraged to enjoy the art and catalog items they might bid for on July 21.

The following afternoon, doors open at 3 p.m. Guests will mingle over hors d'oeuvres and drinks from a cash bar before the auction, which will run from 4-6 p.m.

Join us for a groundbreaking ceremony on Saturday, July 27, 2019, 11am—12pm.

Future site of community center -Aspen Drive and Simkins Drive



CELEBRATE YOUR COMMUNITY CENTER

This project wouldn't be possible without your support. Light refreshments, fare and shovel provided.





bscomt.org/all-in-big-sky/

Please let us know you are coming, RSVP to Michelle Laxson at michelle@bscomt.org

$OUTLAW_{T}$

News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

Jess Lockwood continues hot streak with victory at Jackson Hole PBR

BY DOUG HARE **EBS STAFF**

The 2017 Professional Bull Riders world champion Jess Lockwood won the Jackson Hole PBR Touring Division stop, taking advantage of re-rides to continue his surge up the world title leaderboard since breaking his collarbone at the 2019 WinStar World Casino and Resort Global Cup USA on Feb. 9, which led to him missing nine Unleash The Beast events.

Lockwood only trails world leader Jose Vitor Leme by 146.66 points following his July 16 victory in Wyoming, his first time competing in Jackson Hole. The bovine athletes for the event were supplied by eight-time PBR contractor of the year Chad Berger.

Lockwood went 3-for-3 over the two day competition, winning the first night with a 89.5 ride on Lefty to top Derek Kolbaba's 87.5 score from early in the night. On night two, Lockwood put up 88 and 87 point rides to beat out Daylon Swearingen (85/88), the only other bull rider to put up a qualifying ride in the last round of competition.

The Volborg, Montana, native leads the PBR with five wins this summer and a PBR record 687.5 world points earned during the UTB summer break. At the time of his injury, Lockwood held the no. 1 ranking with a commanding 967.5-point lead, which other bull riders chipped away at during his absence from competition. The 21-year-old is an impressive 28-for-42 (66.66 percent) at all levels since returning to competition on May 3.

"What an amazing stop for the PBR as 40 of the best bull riders in the world battled it out in Jackson Hole as the 2019 season kicks into high gear," said Cord McCoy, longtime spokesperson for PBR and





Since returning from injury, Jess Lockwood has been unstoppable and after his most recent victory at the Jackson PBR, the former World Champion is close to regaining the no. 1 world standings ranking from Jose Vitor Leme. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTOS

World no. 3 and all-around tough guy Chase Outlaw narrowly avoided injury after getting bucked off with less than a tenth of a second before the eight second mark on the second night of competition.

former bull rider and TV personality. "Congratulations to Jess Lockwood for going 3-for-3 against some outstanding PBR bulls."

Lockwood, world no. 3 Chase Outlaw and a host of other world-class bull riders are slated to convene in Big Sky for a three-day PBR competition July 25-27.



2019 **6X EVENT OF THE YEAR BIG SKY PBR**

JULY 25-27, 2019 | BIG SKY, MT

Big Sky's Biggest Week!

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

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

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



4:30pm – Gates Open | 5:30pm – Bull Riding Begins

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



Water and Sewer takes major step forward in treatment plant upgrade process

BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – At their July 16 meeting, the Big Sky Water and Sewer District board chose the final layout for the wastewater treatment plant upgrade. The undertaking will require excavation and landscaping to lower and conceal the planned headworks build-ing that will be nearest Big Sky Community Park, diminishing the risk of it becoming an eyesore to park goers.

"This is a critical path vote you just did," said Ron Edwards, BSWSD general manager during the meeting. "We can get after design."

With final layout approved, Advance Environmental and Engineering Solutions, the engineering firm hired to carry out the treatment plant upgrade, can move forward with designing many other aspects of the new treatment plant that have been held up.

"Until you decide how to arrange the site, you can't do any tank or building or process design because it affects the geometry of your facilities," said AE2S Senior Project Manager Scott Buecker, the lead engineer on the upgrade.

After a site walkthrough in preceding weeks with Buecker, the board agreed on a layout for the plant that capitalizes on the gradient provided by the slope beneath the plant, using gravity rather than expensive and complicated pumping schemes to move waste material through the plant and treatment process.

The layout also best takes advantage of the property on which the plant resides, using the parkland that the Big Sky Community Organization traded to the district late last year in return for sewer capacity for the incoming community center. It also reserves the east side, or down-gradient side, of the parcel for future expansion, according to Buecker.

A headworks building, which begins the treatment process in any wastewater treatment facility, will be the structure nearest the community park, and will remove large course solids and finer particles so they don't damage pumps and mixers later in the treatment process. The two-story headworks building, and other structures on the west side of the plant, will be sunk 10 feet below grade and the displaced dirt will be used to build a landscaped berm between the plant and community park to maintain a low profile.

"We feel like we can keep it hidden as much as it's currently hidden," Buecker said.

The upgrade is 30 percent designed, according to Buecker; the next step is to finalize the preliminary engineering report to submit to Montana DEQ. He said he's shooting to have 50 percent design completion for the upgrade by mid-October.

Upon voting, board member Peter Manka added, "I just want to qualify my vote with the fact that we're going to be aesthetically sensitive down the road ... to try to maintain support for this project and be good neighbors."

In other news:

- The board entered into a contract with Evoqua Water Technologies to provide the equipment for the membrane bioreactor filtration (MBR) technology that will be used in the upgraded plant.
- The board approved the drilling of an exploratory well on district property near their water tower above Cascade Ridge near Beehive Basin, and is seeking access to Boyne property to drill another exploratory well. This is part of the district's ongoing search for more water in the Mountain Village area and to streamline the water supply system, which was not designed for its current usage and relies heavily on few wells to supply water to many developments at the base of Lone Mountain.
- The district approved its indirect potable reuse study, which will clarify whether the meadow aquifer will support a process called indirect potable reuse, a process that involves injecting highly treated effluent into the ground to recharge the aquifer from which the district draws its drinking water. The process is common in municipalities in southwestern states, and is attractive in Big Sky because of the impaired status of the North and South Fork of the Gallatin River, which are legally protected from direct effluent discharge. Indirect potable reuse would also conserve Big Sky's scarce water supply.
- As part of an ongoing rate structure assessment process, Ryan Graf and Miran da Kleven of AE2S briefed the board on several alternative rate structures that could be applied to better align the amount users pay with the cost of the dis trict's services.
- The board directed Edwards to reach out to the utility that conducts water and wastewater services for Firelight Meadows to learn more about the possibilities of annexing the property into district boundaries.





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Explore Big Sky

BSRAD reviews 2019/2020 allocations process Moves to online resort tax applications

BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Resort Area District board reviewed the woes and successes of the 2019/2020 allocations process at the July 10 meeting in the resort tax office, agreeing that the caliber of decisions made with the \$8.4 million in collections this year is not best done in one four-hour, evening meeting.

BSRAD District Manager Daniel Bierschwale also announced that the district signed a contract with Bozeman-based Foundant Technologies for grant software that will allow resort tax applicants to apply for appropriations online, simplifying the process for future years.

All board members agreed that the current structure for allocating resort tax collections to area nonprofits was not ideal for making the best decisions.

"The idea of doing 28 of these on a stage in four hours is a preposterous way to manage the kind of money we're trying to manage," Vice Chair Steve Johnson said. "If we could parse those up and consider them and make decisions on them based on projections and then finalize it once the final numbers come in, I think we can have a much more meaningful process."

BSRAD Chair Kevin Germain agreed, citing the Gallatin County budget-setting process as a better model to emulate as it allows reflection on preliminary decisions before finalization.

"I felt like it was a long meeting and we started making brash decisions ... There was a heavy fatigue factor in that," Germain said.

"No one in business anywhere sits down and makes a budget and says, 'OK, this is it," Director Mike Scholz said. "It worked years ago [for resort tax], but it is a bigger and more complicated thing now."

Concepts such as reviewing the larger requests earlier in the fiscal year and tentatively allocating funds, followed by the smaller requests, or having a more stringent application for larger-sum applicants were aired during discussion. The board tasked Bierschwale to

return to the board with recommendations on how the process could be improved at a future meeting, which he said he'd do in concert with the incoming operations manager, who is yet to be hired.

It wasn't all bad, however. The board, along with representatives from several applicant organizations in attendance, agreed that sending out questions to applicants prior to the Q&A session provided clearer and more substantive answers for the board as well as less stress on applicants.

The board approved the final resolution of allocated funds from the June 10 meeting, after clarifying conditions attached to the monies allocated to the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and Big Sky Community Housing Trust.

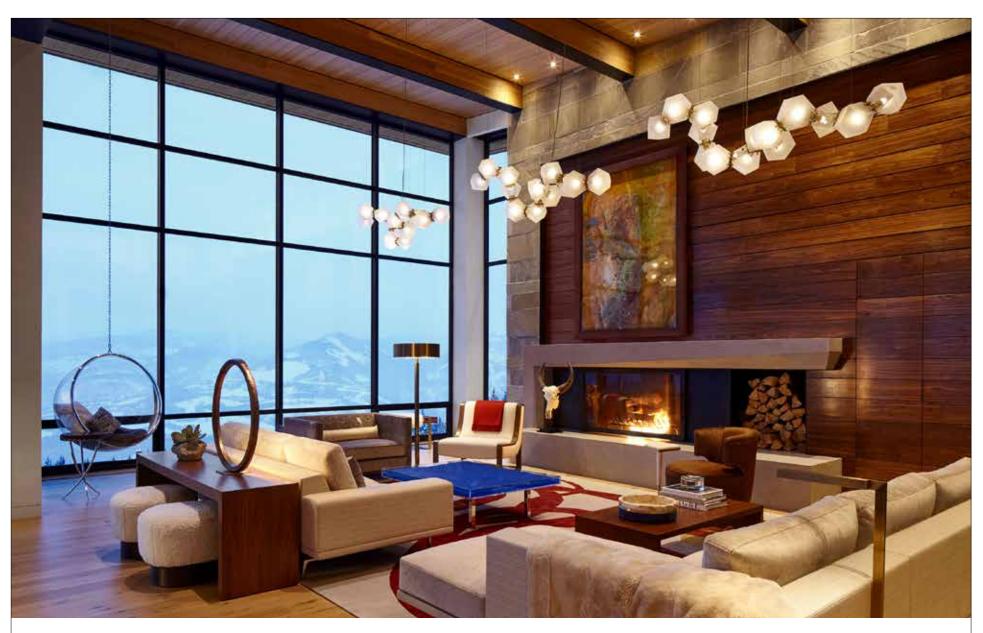
The grant software the district recently signed for, which may require a heavy lift for applicants in the first year, will call for far less work in following years, according to BSRAD District Manager Daniel Bierschwale.

"I think that's going to drastically improve the [application] process both for the board and for the applicants as well, so I'm excited about that," Bierschwale said.

The board also outlined how it will approach ordinance revision, a months-long process ahead intended to clarify what is subject to resort tax in the district. The board has their sights set on definitively elucidating whether alcohol sold at Big Sky convenience and grocery stores should be taxed, among other items.

Prior to the meeting, Bierschwale had solicited feedback from board members on how they thought the ordinance ought to be amended, which he then submitted to BSRAD's attorney Kimberly A. Beatty, who was in attendance. The current timeline for the revision process involves the board providing a "guiding document" that will clarify their intent by July 18, which, along with the written feedback provided by Bierschwle, Beatty will use to draft a revised ordinance for board review at the August meeting.

The board had an additional meeting on July 18 that did not align with EBS press cycle, but will be covered in the next edition of the paper, as well as online.





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Habitat and BSSD break ground on teacher housing

BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY- On July 12, Habitat for Humanity of Gallatin Valley and Big Sky School District, along with AmeriCorp volunteers, broke ground on the first-ever teacher housing project in Big Sky. The development will consist of two triplexes, providing six school-owned units on school district property.

"We're excited to break ground on a groundbreaking accomplishment," BSSD Superintendent Dustin Shipman said of the project; it's the first time that Habitat has partnered with a school district to provide housing in Montana.

The project will help address ongoing struggles the school district faces, from losing teachers that commute from Bozeman—which comprises half of the school district's workforce—after an average of four or five years, or the crisis that teachers renting in Big Sky face when landlords suddenly give them a month to clear out so the house or apartment can enter the short-term rental market.

Coming in at approximately \$130,000 per unit, the school district plans to rent the triplexes below market value.

Habitat for Humanity Gallatin Valley was awarded \$400,000 in Big Sky resort tax funding by the Big Sky Resort Area District board of directors in June specifically for the project. The development, which was estimated in March to cost approximately \$900,000, was also funded by a \$600,000 levy voted in by the community in May.

According to David Magistrelli, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Gallatin Valley, the first triplex should have exteriors finished by early October and be livable by late fall. Construction will begin on the second triplex as soon as possible spring 2020.



Representatives from the Big Sky School District, Habitat for Humanity of Gallatin Valley, Rotary Club of Big Sky and the Big Sky Community Housing Trust break ground for the two triplexes that constitute Big Sky's first teacher housing development on July 12. PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

Magistrelli added that the project is about a month behind schedule at this point due to a combination of obtaining approval from the county and the respective homeowner association and the challenge of finding available contractors in Big Sky's thriving building market.

"As soon as [the units are] done, we want teachers living in them," Shipman told EBS. He said that teachers who choose to live alone would pay more than those that room with other school staff.

The school board is still determining many of the details concerning the units, Shipman said, such as reasonable occupancy per unit, rent costs and other factors. This dialogue will continue at their July 24 board meeting.

Big Sky community goes 'ALL IN'

BIG SKY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

BIG SKY – On July 15, the Big Sky Community Organization announced three major achievements in its "ALL IN. BIG SKY" campaign to create a multiuse community center and parkland on 3.3 acres of land the nonprofit purchased in the heart of town. The community center will serve as a much-needed place for everyone to gather, learn and recreate. In recognition of the Woodman's gift, the building will be named BASE—Big Adventures, Safe Environment—representing opportunities for every individual in Big Sky to lead a healthy, happy and engaged lifestyle.

In addition to the Woodmans' gift, BSCO received four other charitable donations of at least \$1 million each as well as a \$1.5 million appropriation of funds from the Big Sky Resort Area Tax District resort tax collec-

With extensive support from full- and part-time residents, private club members and partner organizations, that goal is becoming a reality, and BSCO raised \$18.8 million in less than nine months.

"Every gift counts," said Ciara Wolfe, BSCO chief executive officer. "This campaign shows that we have all come here for the same reasons—recreation, environment, family and community. These values are the top priorities for every Big Sky donor I spoke with, no matter their size of gift or their residency status."

The Woodman family—full-time Big Sky residents who moved here last year to raise their family in the place they love most—have gifted \$4 million from the Jill and Nicholas Woodman Foundation.

"We feel so lucky to call Big Sky home and contribute to the community-wide effort to make this center possible," said Nick Woodman, also the founder and CEO of GoPro. "Our mountain is awesome, but it's the people of Big Sky that make this such a magical place. Having a gathering place will only make our community stronger."

tions.

BSCO originally aimed to fundraise \$17.5 million with the launch of its campaign in 2018, but escalating construction costs and unexpected infrastructure improvements on the parkland threatened what could be achieved with the set budget.

"Thanks to the generosity of so many in our community, we only have \$1.2 million to go to reach our stretch goal of \$20 million," Wolfe said. "These funds will allow us to not only get started on the full project this summer, but also purchase an additional 2.6 acres for future recreation facilities in the community for potential indoor aquatics, courts or field space."

Groundbreaking ceremonies for BASE will be held at the corner of Aspen and Simkins drives, the future site of the center, and are scheduled for July 27 at 11 a.m.

"Everyone is invited to celebrate what this community has achieved thus far as we look ahead to raising the remaining funds needed," Wolfe said. "Light refreshments, fare and shovels will be provided."

Chamber self-funds Leadership Big Sky Strategizes with partners for next year

BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – In the wake of receiving \$32,500 less than requested at the 2019/2020 final resort tax appropriations, the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce trimmed its budget for strategic communication, but opted to privately fund the inaugural year of Leadership Big Sky, an orientation class for new members of the business community, at their July 9 board meeting.

The chamber also welcomed two new members to the board during their July 9 meeting: Sarah Gaither of the Big Sky Food Bank and Joel Nickel of Suffolk construction as the board expands from nine to 11 directors.

The \$20,000 of funding earmarked to kickstart Leadership Big Sky was excised from the sum that the Big Sky Resort Area District allocated to the chamber. However, using unlooked for net income from the previous fiscal year, the board chose to privately fund the program.

Leadership programs, such as Leadership Bozeman or Leadership Montana, are common across the nation, and often run by local chambers, giving new business members an in-depth orientation to the market they are entering.

Though this first year will be somewhat of a trial run, heavily informing the curriculum going forward, Leadership Big Sky would include information about Big Sky's peculiar situation as an unincorporated, census designated area straddling two counties that largely relies on resort tax to function. The course would consist of eight days, one per month for eight months, with a graduation trip at the end, and it would be offered to chamber members for free this first year as the organization irons out the kinks.

"The feedback we hear from Bozeman and other teams that have already done this is just incredible, and so I think if we did [it], the word of mouth would help accelerate for next year," said Shannon Sears, who chairs the committee that is carrying the ball on the program.

The chamber also trimmed their budget for strategic communications through Boise-based communications firm Sovrn, a task coincidentally carried out by former editor of the Lone Peak Lookout David Madison before he recently left Sovrn. One item of note that was mentioned at the meeting was how many people and organizations locally and across the state don't realize Big Sky has a chamber of commerce, despite the chamber's efforts to get the word out.

"How many of the construction companies that we're hiring to do the work for the Montage or that [the Yellowstone Club is hiring] even know that there is a Big Sky Chamber? I can guarantee you none of my guys do," said Joel Nickel, Suffolk Construction, the Boston-based company that is currently building the \$400 million Montage Big Sky in Spanish Peaks.

Chamber CEO Candace Carr Strauss responded that it's difficult to even track all the different construction companies operating in Big Sky to ask them to be members.

"We sit here and literally, we'll watch trucks go by and write names down," Carr Strauss said.

Carr Strauss also mentioned in the chamber meeting that a group of the nine organizations with the largest resort tax funding requests this past year met with Big Sky Resort Area District Secretary Buz Davis, who, "taking off his resort tax hat," offered to meet as a facilitator with said entities. Representatives from the Big Sky Community Organization, Big Sky Water and Sewer District, and Big Sky Community Housing Trust, among others, met with Davis on May 16.

Together, these organizations totaled over \$6 million dollars in allocations requests, and though there were exceptions from normal years that increased the requested funds of several of the organizations, such as the BSCO's community center, only \$8.4 million were available to allocate.

The group has agreed to meet monthly, according to Carr Strauss, and had apparently floated the idea of together putting in one resort tax ask to help the BSRAD board prioritize projects to fund.

The chamber board agreed to table discussion of the next steps for their telecommunications study, which was funded by resort tax dollars, until their next meeting in August.

In other news, the chamber is seeking a new director of membership sales since RJ Klotz left the organization on July 1.



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

Western state governments convene in Big Sky

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY - For the 72nd year in a row, members of Western state legislatures gathered for the annual meeting of the Council of State Governments West. This year Montana hosted the meeting at Big Sky Resort from July 16-20, an event that included government representatives from 13 states, four territories and two Canadian provinces.

The nonpartisan national CSG is divided into four geographic areas to allow regions to create space to focus on issues that are specific to them. In the Western region, founded in 1947, these topics are focused via committees such as the Agriculture, Public Safety and Water and Environment committees.

"[The annual meeting] is an opportunity for legislators and other elected officials throughout the West to come together and share best practices and learn about issues that are keenly relevant to the West," said CSG West Chair and Montana Rep. Kimberly Dudik, who is the first woman from Montana to serve in the position and is running for Montana Attorney General.

The event featured keynote speakers, committee meetings and breakout sessions as well as other opportunities for different state governments to interact. Breakout sessions covered issues ranging from daylight savings to foster care. At a session on women in politics, Dr. Gayle Alberda of Fairfield University in Connecticut shared tips on how women can use social media as a gender-neutral tool in their campaigns.

This year, one of Dudik's goals for the meeting was to involve Western tribal nations more, which she said she accomplished by including a panel on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls as well as inviting leaders from all Montana tribes.

Dudik said she also fulfilled her goal to instill more gender and ethnic equality in the organization's leadership positions, which she did by appointing more women and ethnic minorities.

One of CSG's missions, according to Dudik, is to improve state governments as well as motivate constituents to educate themselves on state candidates during election time.

"Everyone gets really caught up in national politics but where rubber hits the road is at state level," she said. "What deals with trade, what deals with women's rights, what deals with education funding, what deals with healthcare is all at the state level, and people should really be aware of it."

Each year, the annual CSG West meeting takes place in the home state of the current chair. According to Dudik, Big Sky Resort was the only place in Montana large enough to host the event. Wyoming Sen. Michael Von Flatern is the current chair-elect, and the 2020 meeting will be hosted in Jackson, Wyoming.



Panelists Wyoming Rep. Cathy Connolly, Washington Sen. Randi Becker and Hawai'i Rep. Joy San Buenventura discuss their experiences as women in politics. The all-women's panel is one example of CSG West Chair Rep. Kimberly Dudik's effort to get more women in leadership roles for CSG's annual meeting, PHOTO BY BELLA BUTLER





Panelists Wyoming Rep. Cathy Connolly, Washington Sen. Randi Becker and Hawai'i Rep. Joy San Buenventura discuss their perspectives on the #MeToo movement. PHOTO BY BELLA BUTT ER

Colorado Rep. Dafna Michaelson Jenet asks panelists at a breakout session advice on redirecting the #MeToo message to be more productive. The breakout session was part of the 72nd annual meeting for the Council of State Government West.

DUILLI



Professor Gale Alberda from Fairfield University feeds questions to panelists Wyoming Rep. Cathy Connolly, Washington Sen. Randi Becker and Hawai'i Rep. Joy San Buenventura in a breakout session on women in politics. PHOTO BY BELLA BUTLER

Community garden tackles water crisis

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY - Even after two full days of planting, Jennifer Mohler, executive director of the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance, was chock full of vitality. After all, the alliance had finally carried out plans two years in the making: Mohler, along with a handful of other volunteers, planted some 700 plants, all entirely native to the area, in the new Crail Ranch Native Demonstration Garden.

The precarious dilemma that inspired the garden was Big Sky's excessive water consumption. Ron Edwards, general manager of Big Sky Water and Sewer District, said when looking at past statistics, some years showed summer water usage was seven to eight times what it was during the winter months, despite population trends indicating greatest visitor and resident occupancy during the winter.

"The biggest consumptive use of water is [irrigation for] landscapes," Mohler said, explaining the discrepancy. Native species, after their initial growing period, don't require additional watering because they are accustomed to the water sources naturally occurring in the area, according

to Mohler. "This [garden] is to show the community that you can plant a water-wise garden that is still beautiful."

John Councilman, chair of GISA, said the Big Sky homeowner's associations require homeowners to put in irrigation systems. This mandate originated years ago, when there were few homes and fire was the chief threat to the community's safety in the summer months. Now, Councilman said, it seems the community's present circumstances have outrun these anti-

Volunteers gathered July 10 and 11 to bring long-time garden plans to life. PHOTO BY BELLA BUTLER

quated policies.

In addition to being a flagship method in preserving Big Sky's water reserves, the garden also serves the principal mission of the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance: keeping invasive species out of the area's landscapes.

"In that setting," Mohler said, gesturing toward Yellow Mountain, "... we have such an impact on the environment."

Mohler acknowledged that Big Sky is lucky to have a relatively healthy ecosystem, but she also warned that it takes very little to tip the scale. The key, she believes, is taking a proactive approach that saves the community from eleventh-hour action down the road.

Mohler said she often feels like a "Debbie Downer," having to tell property owners that some of the flowers they count as beautiful are invasive and ought to be removed. She is grateful for the colorful and diverse new garden; a tangible and beautiful way for her organization to showcase what they do.

The garden, which is a collaborative effort between GISA, BSWSD, Gallatin River Task Force and Big Sky Community Organization will use greywater and a

water-wise irrigation system to hydrate the plant and vegetable gardens until the root systems are developed. Seventy more species of plants will be introduced to the garden in the fall, including a native species of grass to replace the invasive species that currently surrounds the Crail Ranch property.

"This demonstration project is two-fold, education being the primary one," said Edwards, alluding to a prospective plan of using the garden as an outdoor classroom space. "It [also] helps answer questions and remove fear."

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Explore Big Sky

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A sacred 'cathedral' Aerial view of Crazy Mountains inspires responsibility, compromise

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

LIVINGSTON – From a bird's-eye view of the Crazy Mountains, jagged, tall and full of snow, it's remarkable to reflect upon those brave and tenacious souls who climbed the peaks before backpacks, Gore-Tex and ultralight shoes.

Shane Doyle, a Crow Tribal member who lives in Bozeman and works as the program coordinator at the American Indian Institute, knows the stories of his ancestors and continues to eternalize their reverence for the Crazy Mountains northeast of Bozeman.

"You can see this is very rugged terrain ... The Crow people don't come up here to recreate. My uncles were intimidated; they considered it very serious," he said during a 20-minute flight around the island mountain range on June 27, courtesy of Colorado-based EcoFlight and the Montana Wilderness Association. Instead, Doyle likens the Crazies to a cathedral, a place where his ancestors turned for guidance and support.

Isolated thanks to the wide Yellowstone and Shields river drainages, the Crazies serve as sentinels on the horizon. Spanning roughly 30 miles in length, the still-snowcapped pinnacles soar up more than 11,000 feet. They are known to the Crow as Awaxaawippiia, translated roughly as the Snow-capped, Ominous, or Amazing Mountains.

Seated in the front of a six-seat Cessna 210, Doyle gestured to sites across the landscape that still hold a special place for his people: Fort Parker located up the road near Mission Creek where the Crow Indian Agency was established in 1868; the Elk and Yellow rivers—known on the map as the Yellowstone and Shields rivers, respectively; The Hide Scraper, or Sheep Mountain, which historically served as an important rendezvous site; and Crazy Peak, where many Crow Tribal members say the fate of their people's survival was sealed.

During the summer of 1860, renowned Crow Chief Plenty Coups, then only 11 years old, followed in the footsteps of his predecessors and ascended the Crazy Mountains in search of knowledge and blessings. Doyle recounts the journey, which began on the east side of the mountains where he tied up his horse, took a purification bath, discarded his clothing and, with nothing but moccasins, made his way up Crazy Peak.



A view of the Sweet Grass Creek drainage in the Crazy Mountains taken during a June flyover with EcoFlight. PHOTO BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

According to Doyle and Bird, the Crow want the public and Forest Service to uphold treaty obligations that stretch back to the 1860s and mandate that the government recognize Crow interests in their sacred lands, even if those lands are no longer on the reservation.

"We think it's fine the way it is," Doyle said. "Not necessarily with access there's a balance that needs to be found. I think it's real important that we're able to access these areas, but that doesn't necessarily mean we need to go in and pave roads or even make trails.

"It's going to be hard and difficult for people to traverse that territory and that's the way it should be," he added. "They've never been an easy range to navigate through."

Bird's wife, Roberta Bird, who works for the Crow Agency's Department of Education, compared the Crazies to a church or cemetery.

"You wouldn't want trash and ATVs and things running in the middle of your church. It's more about just preserving that sacredness," she said. "There's definitely room for talks and compromise."

On the third day of fasting and praying, Plenty Coups cut off his index finger as an offering. After this, he received a medicine dream in which bison disappeared into the earth and were replaced by cattle and white men. Considered a prophetic vision, this occurred just a few short years before the Bannack gold rush would bring wagons teeming with people into the area. The Crow interpreted this dream as instructing them to negotiate and be peaceful among the settlers.

"When we say sacred, [and] we don't use that word a lot, we only use it to describe certain areas," said Adrian Bird, Jr., of the Crow Tribal Historic Preservation Office. "The Crazies you can see just about anywhere. They're a refuge ... We ran to these areas when we were in trouble and when we needed help. And I'd prefer that we keep it that way."

The flight and conversations come at a time when the U.S. Forest Service is reconsidering their guiding management plans for the Custer Gallatin National Forest, which includes decisions about motorized and non-motorized travel, and special interest groups recently filed a lawsuit to assert their claims to public access within the Crazies. Ned and Cindy Zimmerman, landowners in the Shields Valley on the west side of the Crazies, attended the flyover event in order to represent their interest in the issue and learn about ways to work together with the tribes. Recently, the couple made arrangements with the Forest Service to donate easements for a trail that will connect the Porcupine and Ibex ranger stations.

"We're trying to come up with a solution that allows the public a reasonable amount of access to their land, as well as making it possible for us to continue running livestock," said Ned, whose family has owned the property in question since 1933.

Following the interview with EBS, the Zimmermans spoke privately with Bird about gaps in understanding and shared responsibility.

"I respect the farmlands," Bird told me following the conversation, adding that he felt a relief when Zimmerman asked what their role was in keeping the mountains sacred. "I said let's just work together. Let's just be truthful. Just let us know our mountain is going to be OK." FRESH SOUPS MADE DAILY

MARGARITA

N BIG SKY

MATER WISDOM

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

Don't move a mussel Clean, drain, dry to stop aquatic invaders

BY STEPHANIE LYNN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Tiny, translucent zebra and quagga mussel larvae discovered in Tiber and Canyon Ferry reservoirs and a fish kill caused by parasites on the Yellowstone River spurred statewide action to prevent the spread of aquatic invaders in Montana three years ago.

Aquatic invasive species are organisms and parasites that multiply quickly to overtake or harm native species when introduced to a new environment. They can damage ecosystems, economies and even human health.

Motivated by these events and a declaration of emergency by Gov. Steve Bullock in 2016, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and partner organizations expanded their efforts to contain foreign invaders, focused on public education and outreach, watercraft inspection stations, early detection and monitoring, and rapid response planning.

Early identification and prevention are the most cost-effective methods to stop foreign species from infecting water bodies. Once established, aquatic invaders are expensive and nearly impossible to eliminate.

One study by Nanette Nelson, an economist with the Flathead Lake Biological Station and University of Montana, estimated that if zebra and quagga mussels colonize all water bodies across Montana with maximum potential, they could cost the state a conservative \$384.8 to \$731.4 million in mitigation, lost revenue and property values. The report focused on direct impacts, concluding that stakeholders in tourism, hydropower and irrigation would suffer the greatest losses.

Invaders carried by river users threaten the shores of the Gallatin. The same parasite that caused massive fish die-offs on the Yellowstone River was identified in the Gallatin River in 2017.

Watercrafts, both motorized and non-motorized, are the main vector responsible for carrying invasive plants, snails, clams, mussels, crayfish, fish or pathogens from one body of water to another according to FWP. Foreign organisms proliferate by attaching to hulls, motors or trailers; hitchhiking in ballast water, bilges, pumps, live wells, bait buckets and other water-containing devices; and clinging to fishing gear, waders, nets and downriggers.

Recreationists can halt the spread of alien organisms by stopping at all watercraft inspection stations and properly decontaminating their boats, trailers and gear. FWP and partner organizations maintain 35 stations statewide where they inspected over 100,000 watercraft and intercepted 16 boats entering Montana with zebra and quagga mussels in 2018.

Boaters, paddlers and anglers can do their part to keep the Gallatin, and other water bodies in Montana, healthy by following three easy steps to disinfect their gear:



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bodies in Montana, healthy by following three easy steps to disinfect their gear:

Clean: Remove all water and vegetation from gear and clean with water and a stiff brush. Chemicals are not needed. Drain: Drain any water from equipment, including bait buckets, at the access point. Use a sponge for items that cannot be drained. Dry: Dry your equipment thoroughly. The longer you keep your waders and other equipment outside and in the hot sun between trips, the better.

These simple actions are critical to protect Montana's economy, fisheries and way of life. To date, efforts to contain the spread of invasive species in Montana have been effective. A 2018 survey of over 1,450 sites on 250 bodies of water detected no mussel larvae or adults in Montana.

Together, we can stop the spread of alien species. Clean, drain, dry for a healthy Gallatin River.

Stephanie Lynn is the education and communications coordinator for the Gallatin River Task Force. Reporting for this piece was contributed by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance.

Explore Big Sky

The New West: SHIFT can still have real impact If only it's willing to shift itself



BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

What is environmental advocacy?

This summer I've been having lively discussions about the meaning of it with "Mountain Journal's" college intern who is here in Bozeman with us from Whitman College

for a few months.

I've asked him to reflect upon and explore this question: Is simply partaking in an activity an act of conservation?

Can a person, for instance, who hikes into the Greater Yellowstone backcountry claim that, simply by moving one's legs, it is doing something positive for the place we are exploring? Yes, think about the proposition, because it's a belief some people have.

Can trail building be counted as an act of conservation? Are we being conservationists and promoters of water quality when we wet a dry fly on the river? Are we confronting and registering our concern about climate change when we downhill ski?

Are we doing something brave for the environment by "liking" a story on Facebook?

Such inquires can be extended to any outdoor activity. It all comes down, of course, to identifying what exactly we are trying to conserve.

The late Jackson Hole conservationist Mardy Murie, in the very first discussion I ever had with her as a 24-year-old journalist in 1986, told me this on her cabin's front porch in Moose, Wyoming. She said conservation is about protecting rare things against being overrun by common thoughtless things; it's not about focusing purely on what benefits us but what perpetuates the things in nature that give us inspiration or which cannot advocate for themselves, such as an animal or a river.

Conservation, she noted, is about being willing to take a risk, to advance a right cause that might be unpopular. For Murie, wildness in Greater Yellowstone and Alaska meant people not imposing their immediate needs upon the needs of other creatures that live there.

Amid these three years of the Trump Administration, public-land-loving Americans and those who cherish public wildlife and support having tough environmental laws on the books, have been left SHIFT's slogan is "where conservation meets adventure." Yet so far, in its brief history and with tourism promoters being one of its main funders, SHIFT continues to push the idea that more human use of wild places will generate conservation dividends.

Again, how does this work? How does building more mountain biking and e-bike trails result in wildlife habitat or better the prospects for, say, protection of wildlife migration corridors? How would the pushes made by Jackson Hole packrafters to overturn a river boating ban in Yellowstone have contributed to better conservation in America's oldest national park?

This year, SHIFT is again trumpeting the blatantly-obvious fact that spending more time in nature is good for our health. Not long ago, I reached out to SHIFT and suggested they feature sessions helping attendees know what actions they might take for protecting the health of wild places.

SHIFT, obviously well-intended, has the potential to move forward the public conversation about conservation in Greater Yellowstone. I know this is going to sound harsh but so far, the festival has only really been about white recreationists pushing to open more parts of the still-wild backcountry to their own activities and asking the ethnic and gender diversity movement, which feels tokenized, to give them cover.

What's missing? Plenty, actually, including promoting ecological literacy and, as indigenous people say, respect for diversity of all life forms.

I remember having a chat with SHIFT organizers a few years ago and they were utterly unaware of the history of public lands in our region and why specific environmental laws were enacted. They had little knowledge of previous conservation battles that had been waged and how advocates set aside their own self-interest to instead safeguard lands and wildlife diversity they might never see or be able to exploit.

No one needs permission from someone else to care about the natural world. No one needs approval to become an advocate for nature's protection. That power resides in each one of us, not because of our racial or gender identity or political party affiliation, or because we're a dues-paying member of an environmental organization or hunting and fishing group, or because a person flies across the country to attend the SHIFT conference.

Conservation, Murie once told me, is about being able to self-reflect on what one is willing to give up. Without bold acts of conservation taken by previous generations, we wouldn't be referencing "the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem" today as a globally-extraordinary region. Without new bold acts of conservation being adopted now, we may lose the natural qualities that still make Greater Yellowstone uncommon.

reeling by actions taken by the President and his advisors.

Citizens want to do something in response, but what? At the same time, the outdoor recreation industry—of which all of us are connected in our role as consumers of stuff—has claimed that getting more people venturing into wild places will result in better landscape protection and help repel destructive policies.

But how? Outdoor recreation annually generates \$887 billion in economic activity in the U.S., but how does the industry directly benefit a grizzly bear?

Besides getting itself into hot water with those demanding that the American conservation movement become more representative and respectful of non-white people, organizers of the Jackson Hole SHIFT conference continue to pedal a mantra. It is one SHIFT still refuses to reflect upon in any meaningful way. SHIFT has done little to take the ethical introspection of Mardy Murie to heart. Without really confronting these tough questions, then why does it exist?

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.

Bear Basics with Bernadette: Making Uncommon practices common to protect bears

BY KRIS INMAN *ebs contributor*

For many of us that live in or visit the Greater Yellowstone, which comprises Yellowstone National Park's 20 million acres and the matrix of public and private lands adjacent to the Park, we are familiar with the stories and pictures of the early days of Yellowstone where bears were regularly seen close to people.

As we know, history showed and proved that the Yellowstone dumps were a good place to see and photograph both black and grizzly bears. Eventually, bears became too comfortable around people and the Park changed its practices and closed the dumps to return bears to their wild behaviors.

While those pictures stand out and are vivid in the recesses of our minds, the link of yesterday's lessons to today, from Yellowstone to our homes, is hard to bridge. The same story is unfolding on the lands outside of Yellowstone, and in particular, Big Sky: a growing community that sits amid some of the world's wildest areas. We are learning that living in or visiting a wild place means that our practices must change if we are to honor the wild nature of the region.

We, like bears, are creatures of habit. We unwittingly form small pockets in Big Sky that are functioning at a smaller scale than yesterday's dumps in Yellowstone, where non-bear-resistant trash cans (the blue trash cans) or bear-resistant trash cans (grey or black) that are overfilled and no longer functioning as intended, are attracting and conditioning bears to equate trash near homes to food. These bears soon become bolder and see an open garage door as an invitation where they may find another food reward from freezers and trash.

At first, it will take a concentrated effort to make the uncommon practices common. These steps include regularly closing garage doors, or a willingness to use a bear-resistant trash can, which can seem as people-resistant as they are bear-resistant at times. But it will be well worth our efforts.

Already this summer, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has captured and moved two subadult bears away from Big Sky. One has since returned, as a bear's homing mecha-



Bears are likely to get into malfunctioning bear-resistant garbage cans that are either not closed properly or are over-filled. The sow pictured was captured and relocated after an incident last year. PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

nism is strong, and this young trash-conditioned bear was captured and moved again. The other youngster ended up finding a campground in the Paradise Valley and was so bold that relocation was no longer an option and it was lethally removed. A third young bear is walking into garages, stealing food on decks and clawing at garage doors. As of this writing on July 11, there is a current attempt to capture this bear.

Together, we can change the fate of bears. Join the majority of Big Sky homes by saying "boo to blue" and request a grey bear-resistant trash can from L&L Site Services or a black bear-resistant trash can from Republic Services.

Go to @bearsmartbigsky to share your story on social media and learn how to do your part to be bear smart and make Big Sky's story a positive one for bears, people and wild places.

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





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Tour company hosts zero-waste trip to Greater Yellowstone

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

LIVINGSTON – In June, Marisa Zocco of Boulder, Colorado, traded her disposable plastic razor and stick of deodorant for a safety razor and refillable antiperspirant. She switched from throwaway cosmetic pads to reusable cloth. And she also began carrying a small tin with wooden tableware and a stainless-steel straw she keeps gently wrapped in a cloth napkin.

The reason? Zocco was preparing for a special kind of trip through the Greater Yellowstone.

Partnering with the World Wildlife Fund, tour company Natural Habitat Adventures offered its very first Zero-Waste Adventure July 6-12, fondly called "Safari America: Yellowstone Country." A party of 12 traveled to various locations in Yellowstone National Park and its gateway communities to learn about area wildlife, all the while practicing sustainable living in order to produce a minimal amount of trash.

"Ultimately, as humans, we're taking a lot more from the planet than the planet can provide," said Erin Simon, WWF director of sustainability research and development. "We need to be able to cascade our use [of items]."

Based in Richmond, Virginia, Simon was among the group of travelers from California, Washington, Montana and Colorado. She added that the Zero-Waste Trip was the first of what WWF and Natural Habitat hope to be many excursions that encourage guests to be conscious about the waste they produce. By thinking about daily interactions, Simon said, you realize the amount of packaging that is thrown away and can find opportunities to refuse items like plastic straws or avoid snack wrappers by purchasing bulk foods and storing them in your own containers.

With stops in Gardiner, Cooke City, West Yellowstone and Bozeman, and set amid the backdrop of Yellowstone, the Zero-Waste Trip illustrated what's ultimately at stake if pollution continues: a loss of our natural world and the wild places like Yellowstone. "You see small waste and how when added up that becomes a big problem," Zocco said. "I can't imagine this trip being a better fit anywhere else."

The travelers brought their own containers for recycling to avoid relying on recycling availability. They also collected atypical recycling items that require more complex processes for breakdown and aren't usually accepted at municipal recycling centers. Natural Habitat and WWF will send these items to the recycling company TerracCycle, headquartered in New Jersey.

The group also brought a container to collect compostable items like paper and food scraps. When eating out, they placed leftover food in reusable containers like Zocco's tin, or composted the food.

Zocco, who is a WWF ambassador, said food waste was the greatest challenge for the group, as many eateries provide large servings. "A lot of the time, especially at restaurants, that food disappears and you don't see the impact you're having," she said.

In being responsible for what happens to that waste, she said the group became more aware of their appetite and ordered food accordingly, even sharing meals if needed.

All remaining materials that were neither recyclable or compostable were placed in a 2-quart Mason jar and by the end, Zocco said waste from 12 people during a weeklong trip could be packed into a single quart jar. It included airline baggage tags, Kleenex tissues, clips from bread packaging, and single-serving creamer containers.

"In the end, it wasn't as hard as I anticipated," Zocco said. "It's also not about perfection, it's about the little things we can do.

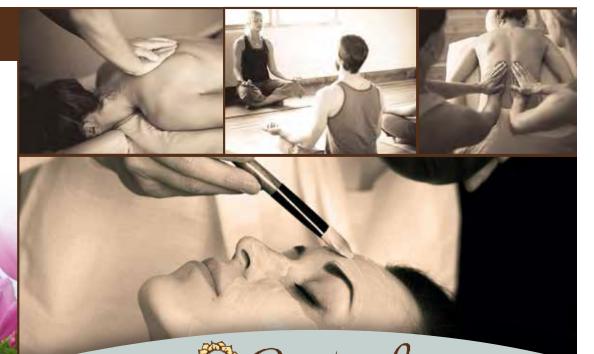
"Once you know what you know and see what waste you produce, there's no sense going backward," she added. "In preparing for this trip, it became apparent very quickly I was making decisions for the rest of my life."

Visit nathab.com/zero-waste-adventure-travel to learn more.

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> Sound Healing with Amy Raven July 28th 6:30-7:45pm.



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Reason #21

Our People - First Security Bank would like to congratulate Big Sky branch president, Tim Kent. Tim was awarded the Business Person of the Year Award at the Big Sky Chamber Black Diamonds and Dinner event earlier this week. Tim was recognized for all his work in the community and more recently, his efforts with the Big Sky Community Housing Trust and tackling affordable housing issues in Big Sky. Discover the 100's of reasons why your neighbors choose First Security Bank.



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How to: Composting in Big Sky

BY BELLA BUTLER

Composting is the intentional decomposition of organic material using a natural, aerobic process. There are many different methods of composting, but all operate under the central idea of mimicking nature's disposal process: turning waste into a usable resource that perpetuates life. This process is often referred to as "closing the loop."



YES Compost: YES Compost is a Bozeman-based company owned by Karl Johnson. YES Compost uses red wiggler worms (see vermicomposting) to break down food waste into worm castings, which can be used as a rich soil. Johnson's commercial and residential services include the drop-off of a bucket or waste vessel and regular pick-up of waste. A few times a year, Johnson delivers the finished product to subscribers of YES Compost, which is included in the monthly service fee. YES Compost is currently the only composting service in Big Sky. *Visit yescompost.com for more information*. usable castings. Kits like the Worm Factory 360 are available to aid in the process or you can create your vermicomposting system from scratch. Vermicomposting can be done inside and reduces foul odors that often come with food waste.

Happy Trash Can: Similar to YES Compost, Happy Trash Can, owned by Ryan Green and Adrienne Huckabone, is a Bozeman-based composting service. Happy Trash Can composts with a GORE cover Aerated Static Pile System. Happy Trash Can provides a bucket and does regular food-waste collection and soil drop-off for Bozeman, Belgrade and Livingston areas but has not yet expanded to Big Sky. *Visit happytrashcan.net for more information*.

Vermicomposting: Vermicomposting is a method that allows red wiggler surface worms to consume food waste and process it into

Three-bin System: The three-bin composting system requires a little bit more time and effort, but for those interested in participating throughout the entire cycle, this method is suiting. The first bin is for fresh waste, which requires frequent aerating and mixing. When it is full, it can be moved to bin two, where it will sit to decompose. The third bin should result in a finished, usable soil. Kits are available for this method, but it is not necessary to have one.

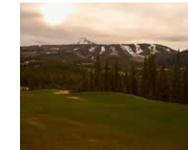
Heap Pile: The heap pile requires the lowest maintenance of all athome composting options. It can be as simple as throwing yard and food waste into a pile in your yard, although this will take a long time to decompose. To speed up the process, add moisture, mix the pile often and alternate adding greens (waste) and browns (carbon, such as newspaper).

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Lot 38 Bitterbrush Trail 1.27 ACRES / \$800K



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Hidden Village 15 Blue Flax Place 2,788 SQ FT / \$599K



Hill Condo 1361 440 SQ FT / \$179K

Mountain Meadows 120 Acres / \$3.495M

52

The Ran

BIG SKY - LAND



Lot 3 Joy Road 6.83 Acres / \$395K

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Yellowstone Ranch Preserve List Price: \$19M

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Big Sky Corner Property List Price: \$3.24M



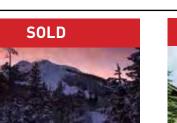
245 Rain in Face 3,446 SQ FT / \$1.695M



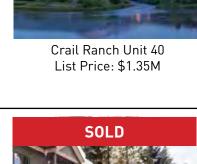


Black Eagle Lodge Unit 30 List Price: \$1.35M









Summit 911/912 List Price: \$595K



Lot 39 Diamond Hitch 1 ACRE / \$595K

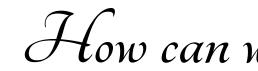
Cottonwood Crossing #15 1,854 SQ FT / \$539K



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

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





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



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



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



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





ches at Yellow Mountain 2A-1B 6 Acres / \$5.8M



The Ranches at Yellow Mountain Tract 3B-1 23 Acres / \$875k



The Ranches at Yellow Mountain Tract 1A-1 21 Acres / \$795k



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



Lot 2 Big Buck Road 20 ACRES / \$480K



Lot 4 Beaver Creek 20 Acres / \$539K



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





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



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



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



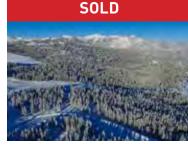
Airport Garages Bozeman, MT \$24.9K per unit Taking reservations for building G



Osprey Cove Lakehouse List Price: \$1.25M



2078 Little Coyote List List Price: \$1.079M



Ski Tip Lot 10 List Price: \$975K



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



Lot 64 Goshawk 1.04 ACRES / \$775K





Lot 63 Silverado Trail List Price: \$390K



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



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



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

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BY PATRICK STRAUB EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

For the past seven summers, as the former owner of one of Big Sky's busiest fly shops, my days were spent arranging fishing trips for others, massaging the fragile egos of local fishing guides, and inspiring retail staff to assist traveling anglers by answering, "What are they biting on?" for the umpteenth time during a 13-hour shift.

Thankfully, since selling Gallatin River Guides to a young and enthusiastic outfitter—one that I used to be decades ago—my worries now center around where I'm going to fish next, on my own time and with family, friends and people I chose to be with.

I've known for years that going fishing is certainly more than going fishing, but, now that my life is less constrained by profit margins on elk hair caddis, fishing guides concerned about another day with a beginner, and whether a thunderstorm up the Taylor Fork will blow-out the Gallatin, I can now step back and enjoy fishing for exactly what it is meant to be: providing a respite from the daily routine and a chance to disconnect from distractions and connect with others or a resource.

In case you need a nudge, here are some tips to help you connect by disconnecting and going fishing.

Schedule fishing time. This sounds too practical for a column about being unconventional. But, leisure time in our busy lives can be hard to find. If I commit to blocking out time for fishing despite having to schedule time, it frees my mind and I am able to enjoy my fishing more. For summer-time angling, choose early mornings or late evenings. Casting a single dry fly as the sun rises or sets in the Gallatin Canyon is simply good for the soul.

Create a fishing phone tree. This may sound childish, but write down a list of folks with whom you would enjoy going fishing. Include friends or work colleagues, also include friends who may own a boat. In fact, learn to row a boat well and your opportunities to go fishing will increase ten-fold.

It's not always about the fish

Subscribe to email lists at your local fly shops. Being informed is a good way to take advantage of what little extra time you may have. Sure, you will get barraged with why you need to spend money on the hot new fishing rod, but I've read nearly all of the area fly shop newsletters many times and each one has some sort of update on current conditions.

Bring your kids or spouse along. There are times when fly fishing should be about solitude. But consider bringing along your kids or your spouse and you get time to fish and time with them. That is a win-win. However, be sure to adjust your mindset, because unless your family consists of die-hard anglers, choose your fishing location and time wisely—a long hike in the cold and rain may lead to 20-inch fish eating dry flies, but not everyone in your family may think that is as cool as you do.

Be OK with getting skunked every now and then. As anglers, the best way we learn to appreciate what we enjoy the most is to broaden our angling experiences. Whether that is fishing some new water and learning we're not quite good enough to prospect on our own or spending an hour changing flies or changing presentations to catch just one rising fish, getting a little dirt kicked in our face is a great way to improve our angling skills or progress to a higher level of angling appreciation. If it were easy it'd be bait-fishing, right?

It is not always about the fish. Disconnecting from our busy lives is essential to a life well-lived. But, the questions upon returning home or back to the office are inevitable: "What did you catch?" or "What was the biggest fish you caught?" Our nature wants us to be able to say a lot and they were all big. But, if you only fish for quantity and size you will miss the moments when a deer may slip to the shoreline and sip, an osprey hovers above searching for dinner, or the way sunlight looks the moment before it disappears for another night.

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



Exploring new waters and being OK with a little adventure may mean less fish are caught, but sometimes going fishing is not always about catching fish. PHOTO BY PATRICK STRAUB



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Explore Big Sky

One year after the burn Unsuppressed Bacon Rind Fire part of 'nature's schedule'

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BIG SKY – Last summer, the Patten family could hear the not-so-distant crackling of a wildfire from their cabin near their property boundary approximately 25 miles southeast of Big Sky.

Duncan Patten, 84, who shares ownership of the Black Butte Ranch with his brother and sister, described it as disconcerting, hearing the fire popping in the evenings and wondering if flames from the lightning-ignited Bacon Rind Fire were coming down the hill toward the cabin.

"You do what you can and if nature really wants to override you it can," Patten said during a June 9 media tour of the fire hosted by the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

Neighboring the Lee Metcalf Wilderness and Yellowstone National Park, the 485-acre ranch is nestled across the Gallatin River and High-



The Bacon Rind Fire, which burned approximately 5,500 acres south of Big Sky, photographed on July 30, 2018. PHOTOS COURTESY OF CUSTER GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

way 191 from Black Butte, with Monument Mountain the crowning glory to the southwest. Duncan's father purchased the land in 1955 from the Story family, which homesteaded the property and is known for patriarch Nelson Story's role in the founding of Bozeman.

The Bacon Rind Fire seethed throughout most of the summer and continued into fall when wet snowfall finally extinguished the flames after burning approximately 5,500 acres. And while Black Butte Ranch was never evacuated during the blaze, a 40-person fire crew came early in the burn to create a fire break and sprinkler system around the property.

Throughout the fire, staff from CGNF, Yellowstone National Park,



An unburned meadow at the fire edge near Bacon Rind Trailhead one year after the burn.

prepared to engage in fire suppression tactics if flames had gotten close enough to areas like Black Butte Ranch but never felt the need to do so.

The fire burned through an area that fire ecologists estimate hadn't burned for roughly 180 years, in part due to the suppression standard that ruled fire management in the latter half of the 1900s. "There was quite a bit of a fire deficient," said CGNF fire ecologist Todd Erdody, adding that fire promotes a diverse forest, mineral soil and some plant germination.

"It ended up being a great opportunity to manage the fire with a lot of ecological benefit in there and basically help us out for the next 20 to 30 years because we now have a 5,000 acre fire on this piece of land that we can use as a buffer for future fires down the road," said Jeff Shanafelt, CGNF west zone fire management officer.



Gallatin County Emergency Management and Montana Department of Transportation worked cooperatively to monitor the fire. They were



Smoke collects from the Bacon Rind Fire on Aug. 11, 2018 along a ridgetop north of Migration Creek.

Indian paint brush emerges from last year's ash.

With warm weather forecasted in the coming weeks after extensive moisture in May and June, Park Fire Management Officer John Cataldo said fire danger is moderate in Yellowstone but warned that conditions can change rapidly. "It's typically this time of year when we can see a rapid increase in the fire danger level," he said. "We're on nature's schedule."

Registration opens for winter field seminars in Yellowstone

BY CHRISTINE GIANAS WEINHEIMER **EBS CONTRIBUTOR**

Millions of visitors come to Yellowstone each year-most of them during the summer. Relatively few people experience the magic of the park's winter wilderness. But the quietly beautiful winter season offers many different ways to connect with Yellowstone on a deeper level.

Winter is a perfect time for visitors to expand their knowledge and appreciation of Yellowstone by participating in an immersive, educational program with the Yellowstone Forever Institute. In-depth Field Seminars, led by experts in their field, let you explore a specific skill or topic of interest, from snowshoeing and wildlife watching to photography.

Yellowstone Forever, the official nonprofit partner of Yellowstone National Park, hosts these multi-day programs to help visitors enjoy, understand and appreciate the park. Though there's still snow lingering on some mountain peaks from last winter, now is the ideal time to start planning for next winter in Yellowstone. Registration for winter 2019-2020 Field Seminars opens soon, and popular programs will fill up fast.

"In many ways, winter is the defining season for Yellowstone," said Robert Petty, senior director of education for Yellowstone Forever. "The plants and animals are as they are here in Yellowstone in large measure because of the long cold winters. It is hard to fully appreciate the harsh and beautiful majesty of this landscape without spending time here during the winter season. Participating in one of our winter Field Seminars is an excellent way to experience this spectacular season."

Wildlife-focused courses led by naturalists and wildlife biologists are among the most popular, and there are several to choose from this coming winter. Two writing workshops and three photography courses will help attendees tap into their creative sides. Participants can even choose to spend a holiday in Yellowstone with special programs to celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year.

A brand new Field Seminar for the upcoming winter season—"Yellowstone and Yoga: A for 17 years. Winter Yoga Ski Retreat"-is designed for those who would like a more active experience. Another new offering, "Yellowstone's Dark Skies," will help participants learn about and observe the park's dazzling night skies.



Participants in one of Yellowstone Forever's winter photography courses—one of many Field Seminar courses open for registration in August. NPS PHOTO

Registration for 2019-2020 winter Field Seminars opens on July 31 at 8 a.m. for Yellowstone Forever supporters, and on Aug. 7 at 8 a.m. for the general public. Those who aren't yet supporters can join when registering for a program online and receive a discount on tuition. Participants stay in cabins at the historic Lamar Buffalo Ranch in the park's spectacular Lamar Valley and can be booked at the time of registration.

Registration is open year-round for other types of Yellowstone Forever Institute programs such as Lodging and Learning, Private Tours, Youth and College, or Teacher programs.

Learn more or register at yellowstone.org/experience.

Christine Gianas Weinheimer lives in Bozeman and has been writing about Yellowstone









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BY LINDA ARNOLD EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Pop quiz: what are the most ineffective phrases you can use?

If your list includes the following, you're in good company:

- kind of
- sort of
- you know
- like, really

You may be using these phrases on automatic pilot, diluting your message without even realizing it. Think about it. When you hear these words, do you find yourself wishing the speaker would get to the point?

Years ago, my sister brought this to my attention (thanks, Paula!), and now I cringe when I hear "kind of/sort of" overused—or catch myself using those words.

Consider this scenario, posed by the Presentation Coaching Institute, featuring an airline pilot:

"Ladies and gentlemen, we should have, you know, kind of begun our final descent to, ummm, our destination today. I'll sort of really try to land the plane safely."

It doesn't instill a lot of confidence in the pilot, does it?

To clean up your conversations, there are two types of words and phrases to avoid, according to the company Second Derivative:

- 1. Spurious Spacers (ummm, you know)
- 2. Wimpy Words (kind of, sort of)

Spurious Spacers are distracting and draw your attention away from the speaker's message. Wimpy Words are the worst because they interfere with clarity.

In the business world, for example, companies want to do business with vendors who can get the job done, not those who "kind of" deliver.

What you say, how you say it and how others hear it can make or break

Are you watering down your message?

your message. Why do you think prosecutors and defense attorneys work so hard on their opening and closing statements? Imagine the actors in "Law and Order" addressing a jury like this:

"Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I sort of, you know, want to take this opportunity to, ummm, point out some things that maybe should really make a difference. I'll try to, like, kind of show you so you could probably decide. Know what I mean?"

While you may not have to prove your point beyond a shadow of a doubt, you'd better believe your listeners are picking up your cues just like the jurors in this example.

Power comes from clear communication. This involves not only the words you say; it involves the tone of your voice, your body language and your eye contact.

Here are five powerful tips for successful communication:

- 1. Focus on what your listeners need to hear. Why should they care about what you have to say?
- 2. Get the stress out of your voice. Are you talking too fast or ram bling?
- 3. Create enthusiasm for your listeners with your voice. Vary your pitch, tempo and tone. Flat, boring voices are easy to ignore.
- 4. Be direct, sincere and honest. Make eye contact. These techniques will garner respect and confidence.
- 5. Feedback is your friend. Practice using a tape recorder or video to play back your communications. Be brave. Few things are as hum bling as hearing your own voice on a tape recorder. And, in the case of video, a picture is worth a thousand words. Ask a trusted friend for feedback. If you're extremely brave, you could even solicit the help of those closest to you, such as family members, friends or coworkers, to point out the times you overuse a particular word or phrase.

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



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SPORTS

July 19 - Aug. 1, 2019 33



A climber reflects

Patagonia pro mountaineer talks success, teaching and the summits that lie ahead

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY – Eleven years after her introduction to climbing, Anne Gilbert Chase reached the 21,640-foot summit of Nilkantha in the Himalayas. Following five days of ascending several thousand feet of grueling snow, ice and granite, Gilbert Chase, her husband Jason Thompson and climber Chantel Astorga celebrated the first ascent of the peak's southwest face, a route they dubbed "Obscured Perception."

The summit success was a long time in the making, and not just because the team was shut down on the same mission two years prior by an electrical storm. Gilbert Chase began climbing in college at the University of Georgia. After moving to the West, first to Bend, Oregon, and then to Bozeman, she began honing her abilities, eventually applying her self-taught climbing skills to mountaineering. She says climbing gave her direction, identity and focus as someone who otherwise struggled in those departments, and Nilkantha trip was a milestone in what had evolved into a successful climbing career.

"All the years I'd put into climbing sort of culminated into this moment [where I realized] I have the skillset, I have the knowledge, I have the motivation," Gilbert Chase said.

Despite being raised in Virginia, Gilbert Chase came to love raw, untouched land and rugged mountains in her adult life.

"As a kid growing up playing in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay, I didn't know the mountains would be such a huge part of who I am today," she said in a short film Thompson made about their Nilkantha expedition.

Gilbert Chase is now an alpine climbing ambassador for both the outdoor clothing company Patagonia and climbing gear company Petzl. Her ambassadorship allows

her to exchange exposure and education for resources for her climbing trips, but her relationships with her sponsors have also provided an avenue to discuss and advocate for the causes nearest to her heart.

This past May, Gilbert Chase hosted an event in cooperation with Patagonia to discuss access to public lands, a topic she is passionate about. She was pleased with the turnout and credits some of that not to her own popularity in the sport's ranks but to that of Patagonia's.

In addition to advocacy, Gilbert Chase is also focused on progressively transitioning from athlete to mentor.

"I realize that the type of climbing I do, spending months on glaciers and [other] remote places, you can't do it forever; it's not sustainable," the 34-year-old climber said. "I've wanted to get the younger generation of climbers psyched and give them the skillset and the knowledge that they need to pursue their own dreams."

Gilbert Chase enjoys traveling to climbing festivals and teaching as well as working with local groups like Bozeman's Junior Mountaineering Team to share her own experiences.

While she gets excited about passing the torch, she isn't ready to retire from climbing yet. On Aug. 8, Gilbert Chase will depart her home in Bozeman along with Thompson and Astorga for Pakistan. With the help of a grant from the American Alpine Club, the trio will attempt a new route on Pumari Chhish, a nearly 25,000foot peak in the Karakoram range. After a year hiatus from climbing in the mighty Himalayas, they beckon, and Gilbert Chase is ready to tackle yet another monumental summit.



Anne Gilbert Chase is a Bozeman native and Patagonia and Petzl alpine climbing ambassador. Her next climbing trip will be to Pakistan, where she hopes to establish a new route. PHOTO BY JASON THOMPSON

Golf Tips from a Pro: Lightning kills!

MARK WEHRMAN *EBS GOLF COLUMNIST*

"Where there is thunder, there is lightning." Words to live by, in my opinion. This opening statement is how we live and operate by at Big Sky Resort Golf Course.

Without the capabilities of a lightning detection system, like a Thor Guard lightning warning system, we have to rely on good old common sense when it pertains to inclement weather on the golf course. Knowing your local and current weather patterns helps, but when dangerous weather nears you must be able to know when it's time to seek shelter.

So, I say to you again: where there is thunder, there is lightning. If you are on the golf course and you hear thunder that means lightning is in the vicinity. It may be 15 miles away and it may be five miles, either way if you continue to play outside you are putting your life in danger. When it comes to playing golf, that bogey, par or even a birdie is just not worth it.

Towards the end of May, we had a lightning strike that hit the golf course. The sky got dark coming over Pioneer Mountain, which is the direction where most of the storms that hit the Meadow Village in Big Sky come from. We had some hard rain followed by hail and a lot of electricity.

When the bolt struck the fairway on the ninth hole, it sounded like it struck whatever building you were in. I talked with some team members of our golf course maintenance crew and they said it sounded like it hit the maintenance building. If you were standing in the clubhouse, it sounded like it had struck the clubhouse. Bottom line—it was loud, scary and not safe to be outside.

 a farmath of lighting strike on the night faitway at the Big Sky Colf Course PHOTO BY

The aftermath of lightning strike on the ninth fairway at the Big Sky Golf Course. PHOTO BY MARK WEHRMAN / PGA

and you hear thunder, please seek shelter immediately! After all, even if you are guaranteed to make a birdie, it's not worth your life or the lives of those playing with you.

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.

So, I will repeat to you one more time: where there is thunder, there is lightning. If you are outside doing anything when inclement weather nears



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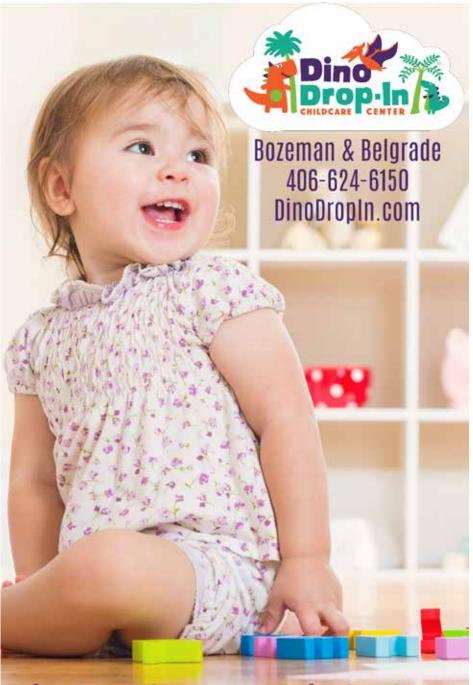
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Local golf phenom to offer free golf clinic for girls

BY RICH ADDICKS EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Dorsey Addicks, Montana's only LPGA Symetra Tour professional golfer, will be hosting a free girls golf clinic at the Big Sky Golf Course on Thursday, August 1 from 4-5:30 p.m.

Addicks will talk about her journey from high school golfer to college to professional golfer, along with answering questions, followed by a clinic with local golf instructors Tom Conway, assistant golf professional at the Big Sky Golf Course; Jenny Wilcynski, PGA instructor and head golf coach at Lone Peak High School; and Kali Quick, PGA head golf professional at the Spanish Peaks Mountain Club. Girls of all ages and experience levels are welcome.

"This is something I've been thinking about for a long time," said Addicks, who calls Big Sky home. "I'm excited to be able to give back to the community I love, and hopefully inspire young girls in the process."

Addicks has been a Symetra Tour member the past two years, after playing college golf at Seattle University. The Symetra Tour is the official development tour of the LPGA.

"This is something I hope we can grow over the years," said Addicks, prior to a Symetra Tour event in Rochester, New York. "Girls golf in Big Sky is starting to grow and I'd like to help that continue."

Addicks finished her college career at Seattle University as one of their best Division I players in school history. After college, she earned her Symetra Tour status by making it to stage two of the LPGA's qualifying



Dorsey Addicks holds her follow through after a drive at the Island Resort Championship in Harris, Michigan. PHOTO BY ZACH SEPANIK / SYMETRA TOUR

tournament, of which there are three stages. Prior to her first rookie year Symetra event, Addicks qualified to compete in the LPGA Kingsmill Championship, now called the Pure Silk Championship in Williamsburg, Virginia. Addicks has also competed in the USGA Women's Amateur Championship.

Contact Jenny Wilcynski at par4jv@aol.com or Tom Conway at tconway@bigskyresort.com with any questions.



Yellowstone Club Community Foundation would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to Big Sky Medical Center's health care providers, nurses, staff, and volunteers for making Big Sky Medical Center an exceptional local healthcare resource!



World Cup Championship puts U.S. Women's National Team in Spotlight

BY NEHALEM MANKA *ebs contributor*

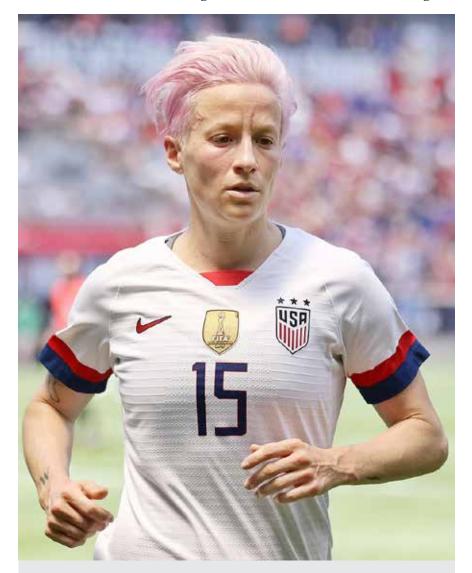
On July 10, three days after the finals of the FIFA Women's World Cup, the U.S. Women's National Team (USWNT) was honored with a ticker tape parade in Manhattan. People lined the streets to celebrate their team as returning heroes. It was monumental, not just because it signified the USWNT's emphatic victory in the 2019 World Cup, it also marked their fourth championship in eight World Cup appearances.

The 2019 Women's World Cup took place from June 7 to July 7 in France. The USWNT played a total of seven games, scored a record-breaking total of 26 goals, and won every single game. They cruised through the group stage with wins over Thailand (13-0), Chile (3-0), and Sweden (2-0).

In the round of 16, they played Spain, winning 2-1 with both goals scored by Megan Rapinoe, her second goal hitting the back of the net with 15 minutes left in the game, securing a late victory. Moving onto the quarterfinal, the USWNT went head to head with the host nation France. This game was regarded by many as a matchup of the best two teams in the tournament. Though France was competitive, the US fought hard and won 2-1, both goals again coming off of Rapinoe's cleats .

The semifinals pitted the U.S. against England in an evenly matched game. In the end, the U.S. won 2-1, with goals scored by Alex Morgan and Christen Press, respectively in the tenth and thirty-first minute. Their victory against England set them up to face the Netherlands in the championship round.

In a back-and-forth game, the Netherlands was the only team able to keep the U.S. off the scoreboard in the first half. But with relentless pressure in the second half, Megan Rapinoe, who won both the Golden Boot and Golden Ball, and Rose Lavelle each tallied a goal in the last 30 minutes to win the game 2-0.





On the streets of Manhattan, throngs of fans came out to cheer the U.S. Women's National Team upon their return from France after winning the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup. PHOTO COURTESY OF MUSIKANIMAL

All in all, the USWNT has been busy this summer and not just on the field. On March 8, International Women's Day, all 28 members of the team filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Soccer Federation claiming "purposeful gender discrimination." According to the lawsuit, if both teams played and won the same number of "friendly" matches in a year, at most the women would earn \$99,000, while on average the men would earn \$263,320. It also claims that the U.S. Women's team generated more revenue "during the period relevant to this case" for U.S. soccer than the men's team.

The U.S. Soccer Federation denied many of the claims in the lawsuit, yet it does not argue that the men's team is paid more than the women, noting that the gap is due to "different pay structures for performing different work." The difference being that the women have won four of the eight World Cups they have competed in, while by comparison, the men have never won in 26 World Cup appearances, not even qualifying for the most recent one. In Olympic competition, four of six gold medals have been won by the U.S. women since women's soccer was added 1996, while the U.S. men have never won an Olympic competition, an indisputably significant difference in terms of success.

USWNT co-captain Megan Rapinoe finished the World Cup with six goals, tying her with teammate Alex Morgan and England's Ellen White for most in the tournament. She became the second American to win the tournament's Golden Boot award, and also won the Golden Ball as the tournament's most valuable player. PHOTO BY JAMIE SMED Still, the women continue to fight for equal pay. In actuality, they are working harder to make less while they continue to prove themselves worthy over and over again. Yes, it is hard to compare the performance of the two teams when one is world-class and has been ranked first by FIFA for ten of the last 11 years and the other struggles to qualify for the World Cup every four years.

The USWNT are setting a precedent for excellence, both on and off the field. They will continue to fight hard in order to retain their title as reigning world champions and hopefully they get the pay they deserve. It is no small feat winning a World Cup—nor is working to close the pay gap, and for that they should be and are widely celebrated.

38 July 19 - Aug. 1, 2019

Big Sky Softball League

Hillbilly Huckers 8~0 LPC Golden Goats 6~o Milkies Big Dog 7~1 Cinema Bears 5~1 WestFork Wildcats 5~2 Cab Lizards 6~3 Yeti Dogs 4~5 Yellowstone Club 3~4

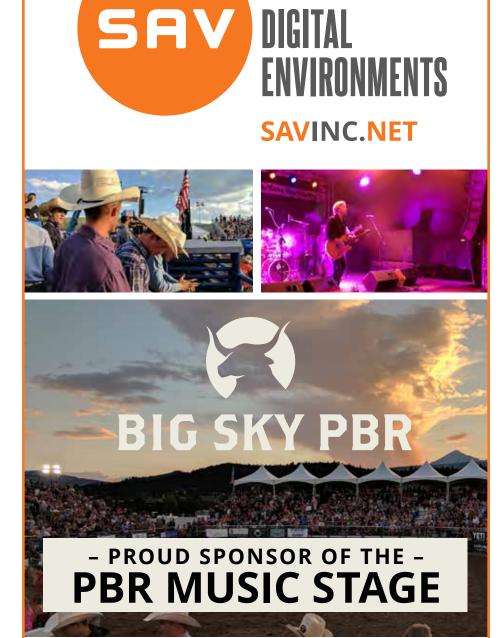
Dirty Biz 3~6 The Rubes 2~4 The Cave 1~4 Busch Light Boomers 1~4 Mooseketeers o~5 Choppers o~5 **Big Sky Ballers o~6**



Midway through the season and only two teams are undefeated: the perennial powerhouse Hillbilly Huckers and last year's champions the LPC Golden Goats. Lee Horning, shortstop for the Huckers, is the early favorite to win MVP honors for the league. Charlie Gaillard, pitcher for the Goats, has been confounding hitters all season long and with solid infield defense behind him, the Golden Goats will be tough to beat, but anything is possible in co-ed beer league softball in Big Sky. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY



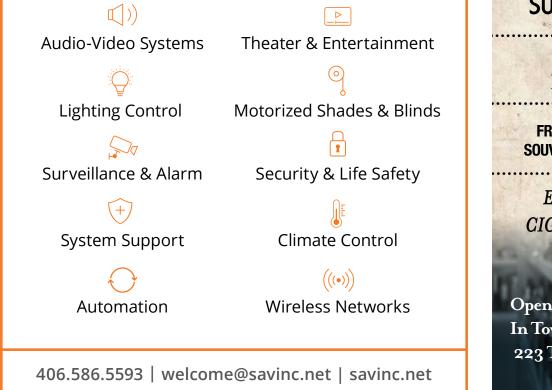
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Making it in Big Sky: Matt Zaremba

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

Originally from Chicago, Matt Zaremba majored in marketing at the University of Colorado.

A talented athlete, Zaremba coaches Big Sky youth soccer and enjoys the mainstays of Lone Mountain entertainment: skiing and mountain biking. Zaremba moved to Big Sky in 2014 and within the last year he sold his property management company, got married and started working for the Big Sky Real Estate Company.

Explore Big Sky: What brought you to Big Sky in the first place?

Matt Zaremba: I came to Big Sky on a business trip during the ski season. It snowed 16 inches on back-to-back days on a weekend and there were no lift lines. I couldn't believe it. I was living in Vail at the time and immediately started planning a move further north.

EBS: What are the biggest obstacles to operating a property management company in Big Sky?

M.Z.: I think one of the toughest parts about operating a management company in Big Sky was the limited access to everyday amenities. You can't solve certain problems here as quickly as you could in a bigger city due to shortages in skilled labor and supplies given our remote location. You have to be a bit more creative.

EBS: What has been the key to your success?

M.Z.: Our turnaround time was exceptional. I think some of it was as simple as always answering the phone and always being available. My personal cell phone was on 24-7. That provided peace of mind for our clients, who were sometimes thousands of miles away.

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

M.Z.: Property management in Big Sky has become more competitive. When we started there were maybe three companies with all the market share in Big Sky. Since then, we have observed consolidation at the top and about ten new companies enter the fold. The number of houses in the rental pool has grown immensely as well.

EBS: You decided to sell your company and become a real estate agent? What prompted that move?

M.Z.: I was managing almost fifty rentals and already selling real estate when we received an offer to buy our company. I actually had no intention of selling but saw it as an opportunity to focus exclusively on selling homes.

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



Local real estate agent Matt Zaremba sees Big Sky's economic growth as an opportunity for locals to start their own companies. PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT ZAREMBA

issue of affordable housing and cost of living. However, I've watched friends of mine transition from part-time seasonal jobs to working for themselves. What's better than that? I think that's one of many things Big Sky has going for it over other ski towns. There is still plenty of opportunity to make a life here. Go get it!

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

M.Z.: Negotiating isn't about one side beating the other. It's about everybody feeling good once the transaction is all said in done. Someone once told me that's the key to staying in business for the long run.

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

M.Z.: Don't be afraid to ask for help.

EBS: You got married last year. How has that impacted your work life? M.Z.: Expecting our first child has certainly shifted our priorities—we have swapped tomahawks for tummy time.

EBS: Where do you see yourself in ten years?

M.Z.: I've really enjoyed watching the next generation of Big Sky residents start their own businesses. Like other ski towns, we are facing the

M.Z.: Hopefully skiing back-to-back 16 inch powder days with our kids.

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The Big Sky Resort Area District is authorized to issue bonds and pledge the prepayment of bonds from revenue that is derived from the resort area tax, and is currently accepting project applications requesting a pledge of bond proceeds. The District has a current debt capacity of \$12,096,824 available to fund qualifying projects. A qualifying project is one that provides for, installs, or constructs any public facility, improvement, or capital project that the District is authorized to fund.

All applications must be delivered to the Big Sky Resort Area District office at 11 Lone Peak Drive, Suite #204, Big Sky, MT 59716, or mailed to P.O. Box 160661, Big Sky, MT 59716 and postmarked by August 5th, 2019. Applications are available on the District's web site, or upon request to the District, or by visiting the District's office.

A project application must contain the following information:

- (a) Name and address of the project applicant;
- Designated contact person and contact information for project (b) applicant;
- A description of the qualifying project; (c)
- (d) The total cost of the qualifying project; and
- Timeline for construction of the qualifying project including the (e) projected date of commencement and date of completion.

The application must also demonstrate that the request for a pledge of bond proceeds does not exceed the District's available debt capacity, that the request does not require a debt service repayment schedule extending beyond 2032, and that the projected useful life of the qualifying project will be greater than the term of the bonds that are issued to provide for, install, or construct the qualifying projects.

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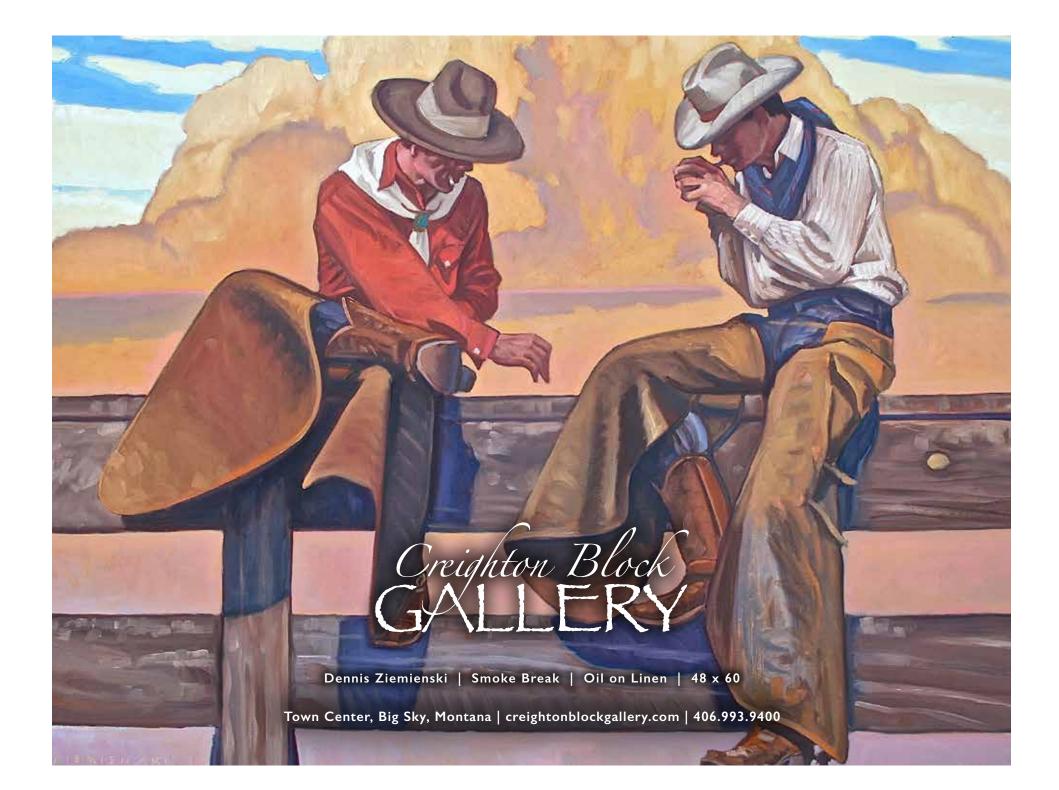
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Vine & Dine to return to Big Sky Resort August 15-18

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – Vine & Dine, a highly anticipated three-day culinary event, returns for its sixth year, August 15-18. The weekend-long epicurean festival brings together foodies, wine and spirit connoisseurs, master sommeliers, top culinary talent and winemakers. The festival incorporates outdoor adventure with food and wine tastings, educational seminars, cooking demonstrations, and curated lunches and dinners.

Vine & Dine offers the unique opportunity for foodies and beverage connoisseurs to clink glasses with extraordinary talent, including master sommeliers Fred Dame and Jay Fletcher, paired with the culinary talents of Chef Scott Giambastiani of Google, Kent Torrey of The Cheese Shop, and other movers and shakers in the industry.

"What differentiates Vine & Dine from other culinary festivals is the combination of outdoor recreation and masterful food and wine pairings. Vine & Dine is the ultimate mountain après experience," said Adam Stevens, vice president of food and beverage at Big Sky Resort.

Weekend highlights include Cheese & Wine...A Stinky Good Time, where cheese connoisseur Kent Torrey of The Cheese Shop in Carmel, California, presents eight unique cheeses paired with wine selections from sommeliers Fred Dame and Jay Fletcher.

"I'm paired with major rock stars—I just have the cheesy jokes," said Kent Torrey, of the Cheese & Wine soiree on Saturday afternoon.

For those who enjoy drinking in the views, Pinot on the Peak features a toast and picnic at the summit of Lone Mountain, at 11,166 feet, no hike required. Vine & Dine events such as the Cocktail Codex Master Class presented by Death & Co, a New York City cocktail institution, will provide instruction on cocktail-crafting led by expert mixologists.

"I'm excited to be back at Big Sky for the sixth annual Vine & Dine, where our original quartet who started this event master sommeliers Fred Dame & Jay Fletcher—join Kent Torrey and I for a series of exciting food and wine events in mid-August," said Scott Giambastiani, food program manager at Google.

Leading many of the weekend's events is master sommelier Fred Dame, affectionately known by his colleagues as "the godfather" of wine. Joined by master sommelier Jay Fletcher, Dame will lead the Vine & Dine Master's Dinner at Everett's 8800 on Friday evening, featuring unique and rare wines from the Guild of Sommelier's cellar.

"There is no better place on the planet to drink fine wine, dine well and celebrate life," said Dame. "Big Sky's natural beauty and outdoor activities are world class."



World renowned wine experts and chefs will return to Big Sky for the sixth annual Vine & Dine, a three day culinary event in mid-August . PHOTOS BY BOB ALLEN / BIG SKY RESORT

Kent Torrey describes Vine & Dine events as informative and entertaining, with a laidback Montana vibe.

"This is the most fun group of professionals to take you on a journey of eating and drinking. We could get really technical, tell you the history, and everything under the sun, but ultimately we know this: festival-goers want to drink wine, eat cheese and have fun,"Torrey said. "That's what it's all about."

Master sommelier Jay Fletcher is most excited about hosting the Master's Dinner at Everett's 8800 on Friday evening. "Chef Scott Giambastiani from Google will be doing the cooking and his food is always crazy good. Paired with the wines I have selected from the Somm Foundation's Old and Rare Cellar—plus the views from Everett's surely it will be an event not to be missed," said Fletcher.

Vine & Dine guest chefs and sommeliers will be sharing the kitchen with members of the Big Sky Resort culinary team, including Chef Ryan Solien, Chef Eric Holup, Master Chef Sunil Malhotra and resident sommelier Don Jost.

"The hospitality and friendship that I have received every year makes it feel like home," said Fletcher, who will be returning for his sixth year of Vine & Dine festivities.

For tickets and more information visit bigskyvine.com.



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.

Why does that cost so much?



BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

I can't tell you how many times over my life and career I have heard someone I know, or a stranger, complain about the price on a restaurant menu. It could be a dessert, a bottle of wine or a beautifully composed entrée. It doesn't matter, the criticism is always the same: "Why is this so expensive?"

Having dined in some of the finest restaurants in the United States and Europe, as well as places I should have questioned even stepping over the threshold, I can tell you this: restaurants do not make the money you think they do.

Let's start with desserts. Desserts, on average, will cost between five and 12 dollars on a menu. That seems like a pretty reasonable deal. And it is, to some degree. The mark up for most desserts is between 75 to 85 percent. In other words, that dessert you just paid \$11 for cost the restaurant, on average, approximately \$2.20. That might seem like a great moneymaker for the establishment, right? Well, not many restaurants can survive on \$8.80 in profit.

Luckily, they aren't hanging their hat on their dessert sales. That's where wine can help. But more on wine in a bit.

From data I used to have from a few years ago, average dessert sales in restaurants are about 15 percent. In other words, one in six people order one. Preparing them falls into the hands of a niche group of professionals that have the skillset to create them. And that in turn comes with higher pay. So the labor-to-sales value ratio is very high for desserts.

In addition, because dessert sales are not at the level of entrées, there is far more waste than other sections of the menu.

Entrées are the bread and butter of your income and menu. Liquor and the bar in general have a better margin than food, but on national average, 70 percent of your total sales still come from the dining room, not the bar, though there are exceptions for sure.



The markup on the price of wine at restaurants helps them cover their margins given that there are many hidden costs of operating an eating establishment, such as sensitive items like fish which can spoil in a few days if the menu items don't sell. PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT MECHURA

Yes, wines by the glass can be expensive, but so is dumping three quarters of a bottle that doesn't sell within the short window in which it was opened. Particularly at sea level, where wines oxidize and go bad much more quickly than at higher, dryer altitudes.

A little advice: grocery and liquor stores typically use a static percentage for their mark ups. But in restaurants, the more expensive the wine on the list, the smaller the mark up. So you'll "save" more, the more expensive bottle you order.

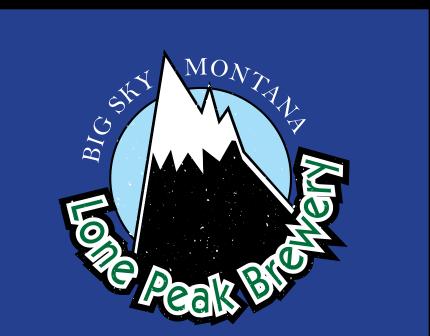
The big one: wine. "I can buy this wine at the grocery store for half the price it is on this restaurant wine list." Yep, you probably can. But you're not getting the meal, service, ambiance, experience, professional advice and tutelage from a knowledgeable staff member at the grocery store.

Wine is also a bandage for less profitable items, or sensitive items like fish, that can spoil easily if they don't sell, similar to the aforementioned desserts. There are many things that can and do go wrong in restaurants from a waste or spoilage standpoint. And that \$100 bottle of wine that may be \$60 in the grocery store helps alleviate some of that. The whole system has evolved to do its best to work in a balanced harmony and success, in an industry that is seldom profitable, despite your bottle of wine.

Also, wines by the glass often rank up there with desserts in terms of waste percentage.

Now, before you find yourself short of breath as you open your next wine menu, just be glad you aren't ordering something as simple and elementary as pancakes, soup or pasta, whose mark ups round out together in the neighborhood of 1600 percent.

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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Vinegar varieties

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER EBS STAFF

Whether it's a splash of pickle juice in my Bloody Mary, a squeeze of lime over stir fry, or a drizzle of vinegar to round out a soup or sauce, I love using vinegar and other acidic ingredients in my cooking. I've mentioned this before, but oftentimes people will add salt when a dish is lacking flavor when really acid is what the dish needs.

It's a good idea to have a variety of vinegar in your pantry, as they lend themselves to different applications. These are the varieties I always keep on hand.

Distilled white vinegar is a colorless, highly acidic vinegar. While it may not be the best choice to cook with, it can be used both in and out of the kitchen. Dilute it with water to clean produce of wax, dirt and chemicals. A splash of this highly distilled vinegar can also be added to simmering water when poaching an egg to help coagulate the whites.

Red and white wine vinegars are made in one of two ways—by adding a bacterial "mother," or by processing it through an aeration machine with bacteria. Both methods feed the wine and convert alcohol sugars into acid. Both varieties have a crisp, light taste, with white wine vinegar having a slightly sweeter profile. These varieties lend themselves particularly well to making vinaigrettes.

Apple cider vinegar is best purchased unfiltered to maintain its fruity flavor and healthful benefits. Its flavor is less harsh than other varieties, but it still has a sweet acidic kick. A versatile vinegar, it can be used in anything from vinaigrettes to tart, refreshing beverages and marinades.

Balsamic vinegar has one of the most complex flavor profiles due to being aged in wooden barrels until it becomes sweet and syrupy. Many less expensive varieties bypass the aging process and achieve a likeness by adding colors and sweeteners. Balsamic vinegar works great in a vinaigrette, but try an authentic variety drizzled over grilled fruit and paired with mascarpone cheese for a savory and unexpected dessert.

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HOPPY HOUR 4-5PM KITCHEN HOURS: 11 AM - 10PM. WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY BAR OPEN LATER 48 MARKET PLACE BIG SKY, MT 59716 406.995.3939 Sherry vinegar, like balsamic, is also aged in barrels, but not for as long and with sherry rather than red wine. The result is a toasty, warm and slightly sweet vinegar that pairs well with savory cooking. I reach for this bottle to deglaze a pan, further intensifying the caramel flavors, or to round out the flavors in a soup or sauce.

Rice vinegar is commonly known as the seasoning in sushi rice, but it has other uses as well. Rice is steamed, combined with yeast and fermented, and then aerated to create this variety of vinegar. Its origins make it suited for Asian cuisine—I like using it in stir fry sauces, or to lightly season raw vegetables to top a bowl of ramen. It is sold both seasoned and unseasoned, but I tend to opt for the latter so that I have more control over the end flavor.

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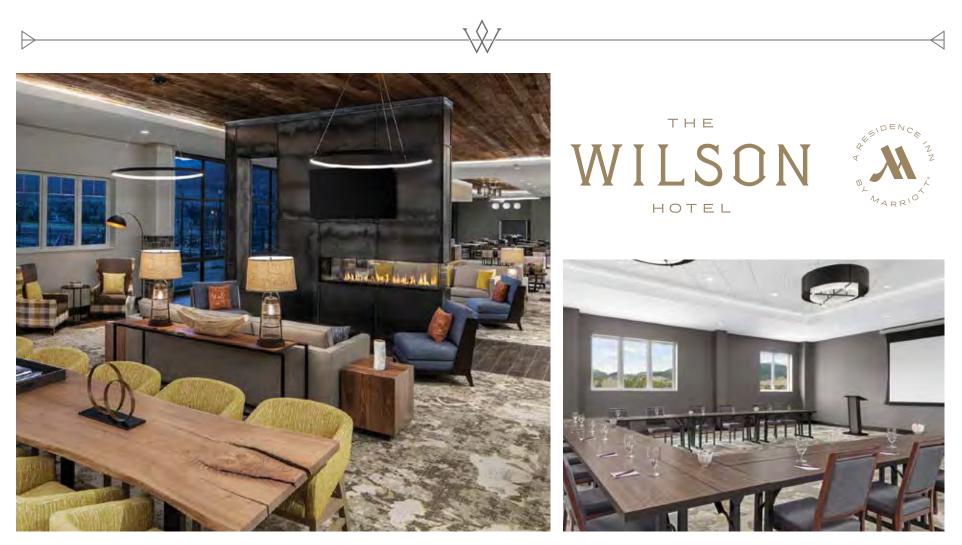
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American Life in Poetry: Column 745

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

The following poem by James Davis May, published in 32 Poems Magazine, has a sentence I'd like to underline, because it states just what I look for in the poems I choose for this column: "We praise the world by making/ others see what we see." Here we have moonflowers opening, for a man and his daughter, and for us. The poet lives in Georgia and is the author of Unquiet Things from Louisiana State University Press.

MOONFLOWERS BY JAMES DAVIS MAY

Tonight at dusk we linger by the fence around the garden, watching the wound husks of moonflowers unclench themselves slowly, almost too slow for us to see their movingyou notice only when you look away and back, until the bloom decides, or seems to decide, the tease is over, and throws its petals backward like a sail in wind, a suddenness about this as though it screams, almost the way a newborn screams at pain and want and cold, and I still hear that cry in the shout across the garden to say another flower is about to break. I go to where my daughter stands, flowers strung along the vine like Christmas lights, one not yet lit. We praise the world by making others see what we see. So now she points and feels what must be pride when the bloom unlocks itself from itself. And then she turns to look at me.

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Explore Big Sky

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

July 19 - Aug. 1, 2019 49



Inaugural Peak to Sky Festival rocks Big Sky



The Peak to Sky Festival venue, backdropped by the town's dominant natural feature—Lone Peak. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY – In the final hours leading up to the inaugural Peak to Sky Festival's Saturday lineup on July 6, Montana was right on brand—predictably unpredictable with a storm rolling mercilessly through the canyons toward Big Sky.

winner Taylor Hawkins of Foo Fighters, three-time Grammy winner Brandi Carlile, members of the all-stars-in-waiting group Thunderpussy, and Paige Rasmussen from Bozeman's Paige and the People's Band, was a genuine sight to behold. Many stood transfixed; some even cried.

"... My 18-year old son, an aspiring rock musician, and I flew from Texas to see

At the Big Sky Events Arena in Town Center, it seemed as if months of work might be undone by the sudden and powerful winds. Branded scrims tore loose from their moorings and billowed in the stage rigging. Trash bins tumbled through the dirt, taking down others like bowling pins. The artists and their families hunkered down in their tents as staff rushed to anchor flapping ropes.

But then, as if by some divine order, the rock gods smiled upon the venue, the sky cleared and the show commenced for the roughly 4,500 fans in attendance.

"The Big Sky community rallied together to produce one of the most memorable music events in an intimate setting [that] everyone from the sponsors to fans said was all-time," said Eric Ladd, founder, owner and CEO of Outlaw Partners, the Big Sky media, marketing and events company that organized Peak to Sky. "The turbulent weather added an extra level of excitement ..."

Forever more, the histories of the small mountain hamlet of Big Sky and that of rock and roll will be linked. The sheer degree of talent on stage for the culminating performance, which included Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees Mike McCready, Chad Smith, Josh Klinghoffer and Duff McKagan, 11-time Grammy this show—featuring musicians from many of his favorite bands from my young adulthood, along with my favorite singer-songwriter, Brandi Carlile," wrote attendee Shannon Van Zandt. "You provided a once-in-a-lifetime event for my son and I, a bonding experience for us before he goes off to college next month."

Peak to Sky, presented by Title Sponsor Casamigos, opened its gates for the first-ever attendees on Friday, July 5, kicking off the musical offerings with a performance by Infinite Color and Sound, a collaboration between Pearl Jam's McCready and New York- and Seattle-based artist Kate Neckel incorporating collage, sculpture, painting, drawing and music to render a one-of-a-kind performance.

Local Big Sky band Dammit Lauren and The Well then christened the main stage, setting the vibe with covers and original music from their recent album, "Warning Signs."

"It was amazing. To be a part of something that big and energetic was incredible," said Ben Macht, the eclectic mandolinist of the group. "Just the night before we were playing at Choppers, so to be up on that stage the next night is what you

dream of being in a band."

Then Thunderpussy, Seattle's all-female rock band on a surefire rise to stardom, took the stage. Many Big Sky residents remembered the epic performance the band delivered at the 2018 Big Sky PBR, where hordes of newly made fans cleared boxes of Thunderpussy underwear, aptly dubbed "Thundies," and Peak to Sky's Thunderpussy neophytes cleared this year's boxes.

Frontwoman Molly Sides, backed by guitarist Whitney Petty, bassist Leah Julius and drummer Lindsey Elias, took no prisoners on July 5, evoking a powerful voice akin to Jefferson Airplane's legendary Grace Slick. Sides' wild dancing and command of the stage was extraordinary, fans said, and left many in the crowd exchanging giddy sideways glances.

"This weekend was a rock and roll dream come true," Petty said. "Thank you, Big Sky."

July 6, the Big Kahuna day, commenced with a kids' concert by Chris Ballew, aka Caspar Babypants, former lead singer for the hit 90s band Presidents of the United States of America.

Later in the day, after weather-related delays, Bozeman's Paige and the People's Band graced the stage, warming up the crowd with the musical prowess and soul that has made them a staple of the local music scene.

They were followed by Brandi Carlile, the multi-genre superstar still riding a wave of three Grammy Award wins in February. Fans swayed in awe of Carlile, whose barebones performance required only a guitar and her voice to move people to tears.

The highlight of Carlile's performance came when she played "The Joke," a Grammy-winning track of her new album "By The Way, I Forgive You."

"I played on a Brandi album about 10 years ago," said Chad Smith, drummer of the Red Hot Chili Peppers and a member of the supergroup that constituted the main act. "She just keeps rising. It's great to see her really hitting her stride."

McCready, a longtime friend and resource in her music making, eventually joined Carlile on stage. The duo covered Pink Floyd's "Wish You Were Here" to deafening screams from the crowd.

Finally, McCready of Pearl Jam, Smith and Klinghoffer of Red Hot Chili Peppers,

McKagan of Guns 'N Roses, who, by the way, played Ophir Middle School's bass guitar for the entire performance and then signed it, and Hawkins of Foo Fighters took the stage.

Under the charisma of frontman Hawkins, this all-star crew covered songs from bands spanning several decades, including Van Halen, Led Zeppelin, David Bowie and Aerosmith. Daws' sentiments were echoed by other members of the crowd and community.

"As Eric Ladd said when he opened Saturday night's music, Big Sky deserves to have its hair blown back," said Bill Simkins, Manager of Simkins Holdings, LLC, the Bozeman-based master developer of Big Sky Town Center. "The crew at Outlaw delivered another top-shelf, multi-day event that will be remembered for years to come—the headline concert seemed to jump from one incredible moment to the next and it looked like the rock icons were having so much fun together on stage."

Brian Hurlbut, executive director of the Arts Council of Big Sky, said the show was something that you had to see to believe.

"It was amazing to see that much talent on one stage. The energy in the arena was amazing," Hurlbut said. "It was truly a one-of-a-kind, magical moment that those who were there will remember for a long time."

The event also placed environmentally conscious practices center-stage. According to Matt Elsaesser, owner of 406 Recycling, which oversaw Peak to Sky's recycling and compost operations, the festival was notably eco-friendly.

"Peak to Sky was a very green event," Elsaesser said. "While not 100 percent plastic free, the festival was well furnished to leave as little a mark on the environment as possible. Vendors opted for compostable utensils, plates and cups, while recycling containers for glass, aluminum and plastic were throughout the venue."

Elsaesser also noted that the dumpster was less than one-third full, an accomplishment considering the number of people involved, and more than 1,000 pounds of material were compiled for recycling—with only nine pounds of plastic bottles collected in total.

Paralleling countless notes of appreciation from the members of the community and crowd, the artists themselves were visibly as engaged and passionate about the performances and the chance to play under the shadow of Lone Mountain.

"People in Big Sky were just so appreciative, saying things like 'we never get artists like you to play here," Smith said. "But we love playing venues like that. I'd love to do it again."

With just the skeleton of the venue remaining intact, crowd members are left with memories—and a growing appetite for the chance that next year will feature a follow-up to Peak to Sky.



Despite having only played together for three days, as Hawkins admitted to the crowd, their masterful skills melded with ease, and as the band played the late Prince's "Purple Rain," the Montana skies opened up on the crowd, raindrops refracting the purple lights emanating from the stage. To borrow colloquial phrasing, "you just can't write this stuff."

"Even though I was one of the people that helped to plan it, I was still blown away by the quality of music in that intimate environment," said EJ Daws, executive director of sales and marketing for Outlaw Partners. "It was a one-of-a-kind and a once-in-a-lifetime event."

As if on cue, rain spritzed the crowd during the supergroup's performance of Prince's 'Purple Rain.' PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Explore Big Sky

Lauren Jackson, lead singer and bassist for local band Dammit Lauren and The Well. The group kicked off the Peak to Sky Festival on July 5. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY



Thunderpussy's performance on July 5 was the stuff of bona-fide rock and roll, with in-your-face stage presence and cut-to-the-bone guitar riffs. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY



Still fresh off three Grammy Award wins in February, Brandi Carlile's performance brought a tear to many eyes in the crowd. All she needed was her voice, a piano and a guitar. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY



The headlining supergroup, comprised of Mike McCready, Chad Smith, Josh Klinghoffer, Duff McKagan and Taylor Hawkins, took the stage July 6 in front of a packed house. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY



Many crowd members were in a trancelike state as a result of the veritable rock history taking place on stage. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY



Pearl Jam guitarist Mike McCready and Foo Fighters drummer Taylor Hawkins, along with the other supergroup members, brought the stage presence customary of their respective bands. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY





To the awe of all, Brandi Carlile retook the stage, leading on vocals for the supergroup for several tracks. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY

"Summer Shutters" photo contest – Best of June

EBS STAFF

Beginning June 1, Explore Big Sky began hosting a threemonth-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 and in addition to \$500 in prizes from our sponsors Bozeman Camera and The Frugal Frame Shop.

With the first month the books, fast approaching the end of the second, the EBS editorial team seeks to honor some of the very best entries from June.

For more information on how to get in on the action, and for a full list of rules and regulations, visit ExploreBigSky.com/ ebs-summer-shutters.

















Chuckwagon BBQs at 320 Guest Ranch Carrying a tradition as old as The West itself

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY – Cattle drives, like everything else, are what you make of them. At least that's what Colonel Charles Goodnight determined when he invented the "chuckwagon."

"Chuck" Goodnight, dubbed "father of the Texas panhandle," is one of those good ol' Texas cowboys that served as inspiration for the likes of Tommy Lee Jones' Woodrow Call and Paul Newman's Butch Cassidy—unlike the actors, however, Goodnight was probably tougher than a piece of boot leather. His life as one of America's preeminent cattle drivers, moving steer from Texas into western markets like Montana, would have made him so.

But this doesn't mean Goodnight didn't appreciate a little bit of luxury, if not for himself then for the competitive advantage it provided in recruiting a good crop of cowboys to staff his booming enterprise.

The savvy Goodnight purchased a Civil War munitions wagon, equivalent to a modern day tank in its constitution, and outfitted the vehicle with a state-of-the-art kitchen.

Voila: the food truck is born.

Goodnight's innovation was not only efficient in feeding his men hearty and delicious meals, but also provided them with the water cooler of antiquity, a place to gab and exchange "windies," that is, tall tales, after an honest day's work.

At the 320 Guest Ranch's Chuckwagon BBQ, you won't find the hardships Goodnight and crew faced—blistering heat waves, breath-snatching colds and arduous mountain passes—but you will find the reminiscent trappings of those times of old.

The experience begins with a horse-drawn wagon ride, touring the ranch grounds under the guidance of cowboys to which Goodnight would've tipped a hat.

It brings you to the banks of the Gallatin River where piles of hot steaks and grilled chicken await, complemented by fixings you simply need: potato salad, cabbage slaw, ears of corn and baked beans, to name a few.

Be sure to wash it all down with a beer or whiskey while the ranch guitarist plays acoustic covers, new and old. It's what Goodnight would have done.



Guests from around the world have enjoyed the simple American tradition of the Chuckwagon BBQ at 320 Guest Ranch. PHOTO BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

"This is something that's been successful for a lot of years," said Sara Offutt, the ranch's conference services manager. "We have yard games and horseshoes out there too. It really sets the scene for the good old days—where kids have a space to run around, and a place where parents can sit by the river and relax."

For parents and ranch guests without children, it's easy to slip into a childlike mindset; the horses, flowing river, chirping birds, live music and good barbecue make it happen.

And if those don't do the trick, sit by the campfire and round out the experience with a s'more.

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BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JULY 19 - THURSDAY, AUG. 1

If your event falls between Aug. 2 and Aug. 15, please submit it by July 24 by emailing media@outlaw.partners

FRIDAY, JULY 19 Big Sky Community Rodeo Big Sky Events Arena, 6 p.m.

Grains, Grog, Grub Crail Ranch, Big Sky, 5:30 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, JULY 20

Big Sky County State Fair Gallatin County Fairgrounds, Bozeman, 12 p.m.

Story Mill Community Park Grand Opening Story Mill Community Park, Bozeman, 8 a.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 21

Big Sky Art Auction Big Sky Events Arena, 3 p.m.

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

MONDAY, JULY 22

Santosha Wellness Center Community Yoga Proceeds to benefit the BSCO Big Sky Town Center Park, 12 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 23

Erica Courtney Trunk Show Hosted by Shelly Bermont Fine Jewelry Meadow Village Center, Big Sky, 10 a.m.

Bogert Farmers' Market Lindley Center, Bozeman, 5 p.m.

Live Music: Norah Jones Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, Bozeman, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

Erica Courtney Trunk Show Hosted by Shelly Bermont Fine Jewelry Meadow Village Center, Big Sky, 10 a.m.

PBR – Night One Big Sky Events Arena, 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 26

PBR – Night Two Big Sky Events Arena, 4:30 p.m.

Warrior Taste Fest Proceeds to benefit post-9/11 combat veterans Gallatin County Fairgrounds, Bozeman, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 27

Community Pancake Breakfast Proceeds to benefit the Big Sky Food Bank Big Sky Town Center, Fire Pit Park, 8 a.m.

PBR – Night Three Big Sky Events Arena, 4:30 p.m.

30th Anniversary Storyhill Concert Gallatin Country Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 28

Broadway Musical – Damn Yankees The Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 3 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 29

Santosha Wellness Center Community Yoga Proceeds to benefit the BSCO Big Sky Town Center Park, 12 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 30 Bogert Farmers' Market Lindley Center, Bozeman, 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31

Aaron Henry Trunk Show Hosted by Shelly Bermont Fine Jewelry Meadow Village Center, Big Sky, 10 a.m.

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

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

PBR Golf Tournament Proceeds to benefit the Western Sports Foundation The Reserve at Moonlight Basin, Big Sky, 9 a.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 25

Live Music: Hayes Carll Music in the Mountains Center Stage at Town Center Park, 6 p.m.

Live Music: Brian Stumpf Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, Big Sky, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUG. 1

Aaron Henry Trunk Show Hosted by Shelly Bermont Fine Jewelry Meadow Village Center, Big Sky, 10 a.m.

Live Music: Marcia Ball Music in the Mountains Center Stage at Town Center Park, 6 p.m.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

July 19 - Aug. 1, 2019 55

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SPECIAL ADVERTISING CONTENT

Moonlight MusicFest introduces two more acts



MOONLIGHT MUSICFEST

The Moonlight MusicFest team proudly introduces two more groups from the festival lineup, bolstering a bill that is sure to entice you to grab your tickets today.

Check out all the music and info for the August event at moonlightmusicfest.com

THE RECORD COMPANY

The Record Company has just announced a fall tour with the band Blackberry Smoke, and both will be playing on Saturday, August 17 at the Moonlight MusicFest in Big Sky, Montana. Their dynamic music will certainly top off the night for great memories of the 2019 festival.

By now, The Record Company's story is well-known: a trio of musicians grit it out on their own for years in bars and clubs, join forces in LA, set up some microphones in a living room, and cut an album that turns their world upside down.

Released in 2016, their album "Give It Back To You" spawned three Top Ten hits at Triple-A radio (including the No. 1 smash "Off The Ground"), and earned the band a slew of festival appearances, sold-out headline dates around the world, and a Grammy nomination.

The group has made rounds on late night TV, shared bills with John Mayer, Zac Brown Band, My Morning Jacket and Nathaniel Rateliff, among others, and has racked up more than ten million streams on Spotify. The critical response has been just as ecstatic, with Rolling Stone raving that the band "kick[s] up a raw, rootsy racket" and Entertainment Weekly calling the album a "soul scorcher."

When the gritty, back-alley blues-rockers made their debut on The Late Show With Stephen Colbert, they showed off a down-and-dirty sound and megawatts of onstage intensity. Made up of vocalist Chris Vos, bassist Alex Stiff and drummer Marc Cazorla, the L.A.-based power trio doesn't need much to deliver their roundhouse kick of rock. They fire up crowds with pounding drums and trashy cymbals, a fat bass line and a wild, distorted harmonica, with Vos scream-singing through that same harmonica mic.



Josh Ritter, named as one of the 100 best living songwriters by Paste Magazine. PHOTO COURTESY OF MOONLIGHT MUSIC FEST

JOSH RITTER

The Moonlight MusicFest is excited to have Josh Ritter play for the crowd on Friday August 16, where Ritter will be bringing his exuberance for life—he has knack for spreading his happiness into the crowd.

Ritter, a songwriter from Moscow, Idaho, was named one of the 100 greatest living songwriters by Paste Magazine, a distinction he shares with Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen and Neil Young. Joan Baez and Bob Weir have covered his songs, and he regularly sells out legendary venues such as the Fillmore, the Beacon Theatre, and London's Shepherd's Bush Empire.

His latest record, "Fever Breaks," was recorded in Nashville and produced by Jason Isbell, the alt-country star who also plays guitar on the album alongside his regular backing band the 400 Unit. Ritter had toured with Isbell for a month before they decided to head into a studio together.

"It was a beautiful, natural thing....It was very organic. It wasn't set up by anybody," Ritter said. "We really felt a kinship, and their music blew me away."

Ritter hits a couple of round-numbered milestones this year, most nota-



The Record Company is on a tear—catch them live on the Moonlight MusicFest stage. PHOTO COURTESY OF MOONLIGHT MUSIC FEST

bly 20 years since the release of his debut and 10 albums under his belt. So it only makes sense that he'd stir up his process a bit, bringing in new collaborators in pursuit of a jolt worthy of these jolt-filled times.

Throughout "Fever Breaks," Josh Ritter tweaks and further reinvigorates a sound and songwriting approach that's lost none of its vitality or urgency over 20 years. He remains a hydrant of ideas while embodying an endless capacity for empathy and indignation, often within a single song.

Actress Mary-Louise Parker once wrote in Esquire Magazine "If you love music and have a device on which to play it, you should listen to Josh Ritter."

August is coming up quick, reserve your limited Headwaters VIP or General Admission tickets on line. Stay up to date on all the news, festival shuttles and more on Facebook, Instagram and moonlightmusicfest.com

Celebrated Montana artist comes to Big Sky

MOONLIGHT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Moonlight Community Foundation is thrilled to announce a long-term partnership with renowned Montana Artist Tom Gilleon. Gilleon is recognized as one of the preeminent western painters with his series of western art covering tee pee's and Native American subjects to old time grain elevators.

This inaugural year, Gilleon has painted an awe-inspiring image of The Reserve at Moonlight Basin's hole No. 7 with Lone Peak as its backdrop. The one-of-a-kind 24-by-30-inch framed oil painting is a must have for anyone who loves the beauty of Moonlight.

Gilleon will be painting an exclusive set of original paintings he is calling "The Reserve Collection," based on the beauty of The Reserve at Moonlight Basin golf course, and will paint one hole from the course each year. The series will also have 50 limited edition giclée prints which will also be available to Moonlight members and the Big Sky community.

"Playing the Reserve is both a lesson in art and life. Each hole is a distinct work of art for its composition and its beauty," said Gilleon. "At times I begin to lose my concentration and begin to mentally sketch and paint the view while others are waiting for me to putt. A lesson in life is that we will all have triple bogies and an occasional birdie, but there is always the next hole at the Reserve, and it will certainly be a beautiful view."

Gilleon will be at our Moonlight Community Foundation's Ski Bridge event on July 21, so come prepared to raise your paddle, make



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a bid and, most importantly, contribute to "causes that matter" in our Big Sky community. One hundred percent of the proceeds will go to the Moonlight Community Foundation.

Where will this painting hang in your home?

Warren Miller Performing Arts Center summer performances

WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The Proxy Marriage

On July 20 at 7 p.m., Broadway returns to Big Sky with a homegrown twist: WMPAC presents a staged reading of a new musical about a unique Montana law.

A cast of Broadway actors will be joining forces with Big Sky and Bozeman-based performers to bring together a staged reading of a new musical called "The Proxy Marriage," a story based on Helena-born author Maile Meloy's eponymous short story published in The New Yorker.

The story follows teenagers William and Bridey, who both have weekend jobs at a family law firm as wedding stand-ins. The firm has made an entire practice out of Montana's proxy marriage law, which states that brides and grooms do not have to be physically present at the nuptials for the union to be legal.

The Crossing

Two-time Grammy winning ensemble The Crossing returns to Big Sky to develop major new work for film and choir.

The WMPAC welcomes back The Crossing for their fifth summer here at the Big Sky Choral Initiative and second summer working on Montaña, an epic new work for choir and film.

With support from the National Endowment for the Arts, this choral work is an ongoing collaboration between composer Michael Gordon and filmmaker Bill Morrison, and investigates the amazing landscapes of the United States, from their history to their beauty, struggles, and expanses.

William and Bridey graduate and move apart to pursue their artistic dreams, but each summer their stand-in job brings them back together for a week. Fifteen years later, they begin to wonder if what they were longing for all along was each other.

The Proxy Marriage is a collaboration between Adam Gwon—whose music theater compositions have been performed on six different continents in over half a dozen languages by luminaries such as Kelli O'Hara and Audra Mc-Donald—and Michele Lowe, author of the Broadway show "The Smell of the Kill" and recipient of several national awards for her plays and musicals.

The reading will be directed by Marc Bruni, director of "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical" on Broadway, and brings back Big Sky favorites John Dossett and Michele Pawk, the Tony-Winning actress featured in Stephanie DiMaggio's Levity, which was a huge hit in the 2018 winter season at WMPAC.

Learn more about The Proxy Marriage and get tickets online at warrenmillerpac.org

While in residence at the WMPAC, The Crossing will be expanding presenting the second of four installments of this large new work on Aug. 7 at 6 p.m.

Under the direction of Donald Nally, the 24-member group has garnered two Grammys in the past two years and continues to push the boundaries of vocal music with their innovative new works. Hailed by the New York Times for "their radiant sound and the vibrancy of the repertory they've cultivated," they are the most highly sought after modern vocal ensemble and have performed at globally acclaimed venues, such as the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, Lincoln Center in New York and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

They will be returning to Big Sky annually to continue creating and leading the future of modern music.

For more information about their other projects, visit crossingchoir.org. Tickets and more information are available at warrenmillerpac.org



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Reel Review: Murder Mystery

BY ANNA HUSTED EBS FILM CRITIC

Over the last four year, Adam Sandler's career has been defined by a series of, well, terrible movies that are a result of an extensive acting and producing contract with online streaming powerhouse NETFLIX. Low points include "Sandy Wexler," "The Ridiculous 6," and "The Do-Over," yet amongst these flops also includes one of the best films he's been involved, "The Meyerowitz Stories (New and Selected)," and while he didn't produce the latter, there is hope to be had.

Sandler and NETFLIX's latest collaboration confirms the notion with "Murder Mystery"-finally, a Sandler-produced film I can get behind again.

"Murder Mystery" is centers on the Spitz couple, played by Sandler and the magnificent Jennifer Aniston, a married couple that never went on a honeymoon trip. Aniston's Audrey is a bubbly, funny hairdresser from New York, while Sandler plays Nick, a deadbeat cop with bad aim. Here's the crux of the story-Audrey believes Nick is a detective when in reality he failed his detective exam three times and didn't have the heart to tell her about the final round of failure. To continue hiding his career secrets, he distracts her by finally booking the long-coveted honeymoon to Europe.



NETFLIX's "Murder Mystery" brings Adam Sandler out of his production slump with a witty Jennifer Aniston as co-star in this Agatha Christie-type goofy comedy. PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX

En route across the pond, Audrey meets Charles Cavendish, played by Luke Evans, a billionaire who invites the Spitzes on his private yacht in the Mediterranean. Cavendish's entire family will also be in attendance, but it's revealed they don't exactly get along.

The first night of the cruise the patriarch of the family is found murdered after the vessel's lights mysteriously cut. While the story and plot are clichés of the murder mystery genre, that doesn't really matter because it's about the laughs, as you may have guessed with Sandler at the helm.

Aniston's comedic timing is perfectly engineered here—arguably better than Sandler's. The pair exhibits performance chemistry, giving power to lines that aren't necessarily funny. A portion of the plot's humor rests on the fact that Audrey and Nick are pinned as the No. 1 suspects, goofily trying to solve the murder themselves in between shrimp cocktails and accidentally destroying centuries-old libraries.

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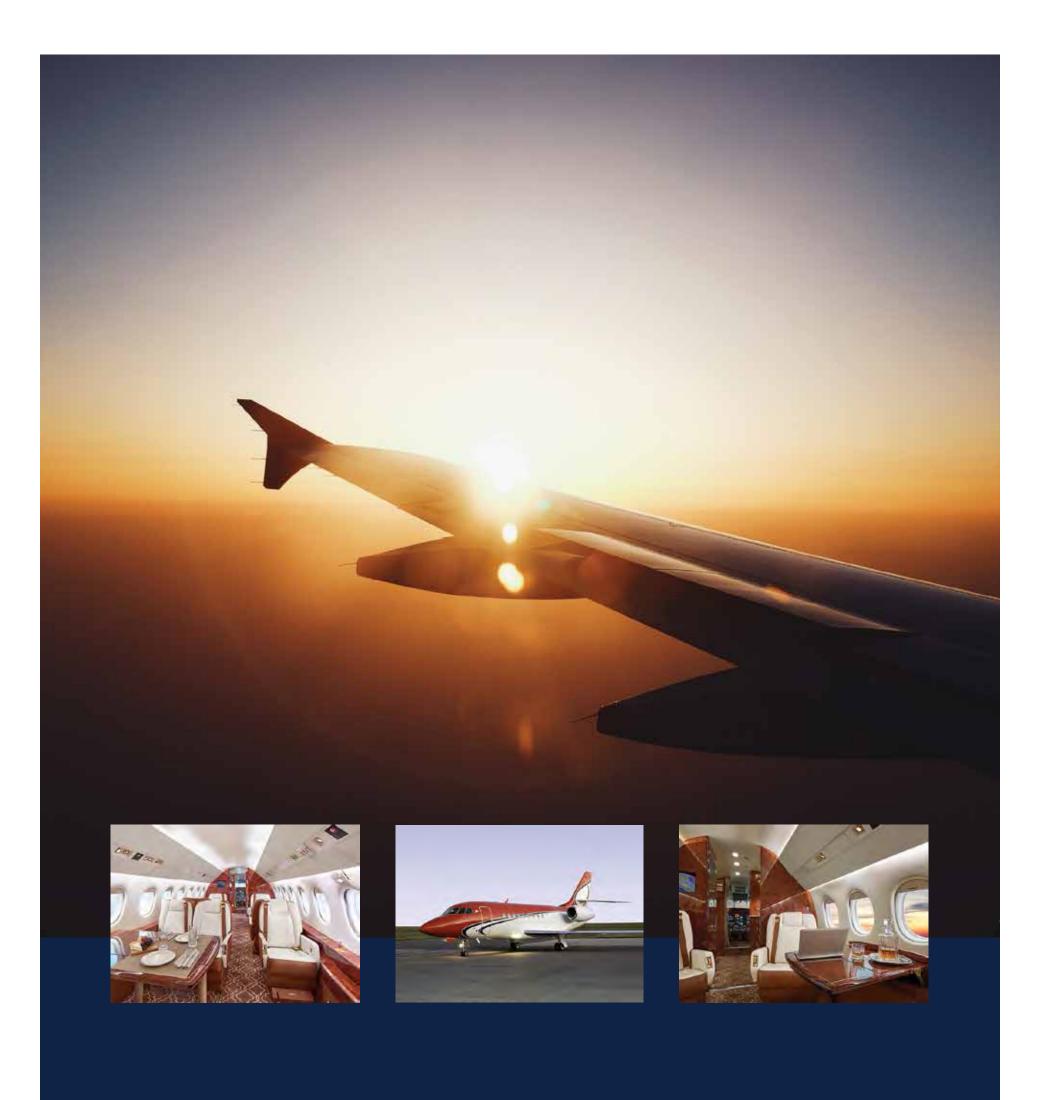
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In the climactic car chase scene, which, of course, there had to be, Audrey and Nick jump into a car to follow the bad guy only to find that it's British made and Audrey is on the driver's side, not the passenger's. This joke plays off of stereotypical gender roles, but it's successful because they are both surprised to be in the seats they are in. Regardless, Audrey takes the wheel like a pro.

While Sandler's films appeal to some of the lower forms of comedy, they're still funny and it's fine to admit you like them, even the bad ones of the past. Roger Ebert critic Brian Tallerico calls "Murder Mystery" "reasonable escapism" measuring it better than the last few Sandler has produced for NETFLIX. But I'll do "Murder Mystery" one better because it's an Agatha Christie-type comedy. Who doesn't love a good murder mystery and a good laugh?

"Murder Mystery" is now available for streaming on NETFLIX.

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



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Arts Council to host John Potter painting workshop

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

BIG SKY – The Arts Council of Big Sky is hosting a half-day painting workshop with renowned artist John Potter on Saturday, July 27, at Ophir Elementary School in Big Sky. The class will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Potter spent a portion of his upbringing on the Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe Indian Reservation in northern Wisconsin, where he grew up with an abiding love for the natural world in the forests of the Great Northwoods. Drawn to the arts since childhood, he went on to graduate from Utah State University, earning degrees in painting and illustration.

He then spent 20 years as an award-winning illustrator before committing his attention to painting full time in 2002. While Potter has participated in shows and exhibitions throughout the U.S. and abroad, with his works hanging in private collections across the country and around the world, he maintains his home and studio in Red Lodge, Montana.

A solid and traditional education in the key elements of painting value, color, edges and drawing—coupled with extensive training in composition as a professional illustrator, have given John's work a signature style that is quickly gaining him recognition among peers and collectors alike. His "Quick Draw" pieces are consistently the highest seller at the Buffalo Bill Art Show in Cody, Wyoming, and he's a capable and fun instructor.



'Full Moon Meeting' by John Potter. COURTESY OF ACBS

Big Sky artists and art-lovers who know John won't want to miss this rare opportunity. The class fee is \$50 per person, which includes all supplies and lunch.

For more information or register please visit bigskyarts.org or call (406) 995-2742.



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BIG SKY HIKING GUIDE



An illustration that captures the rugged beauty of the Beehive Basin trailhead in Moonlight Basin, a 6.6 mile round-trip hike that reaches a pristine lake surrounded by a glacial cirque. IMAGE BY BRYAN SCHAEFFER

On the Trail in Big Sky

There's no time like summer to get out and enjoy the trails in Big Sky Country. After an exciting start to the month of July, complete with music, fireworks, a 5K run and a stellar lineup for the Peak to Sky music festival, we're celebrating the summer season with this guide to Big Sky's extensive trails system.

Big Sky Community Organization Executive Director Ciara Wolfe wrote her "On the Trail" column for EBS for three years before BSCO's Community Development Manager Sara Marino took the torch in 2018. In this guide, EBS editors have compiled a selection of these columns, which provide a glimpse into some of the best hiking in Big Sky. – *The Editors*

For more information about Big Sky's parks, trails and recreation programs, or to view an interactive map, visit bscomt.org.

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Trails near Big Sky Resort	76



A hiker enjoys dual views of Beehive and Middle Basin in Big Sky, Montana while cruising an alpine ridge. PHOTO BY BELLA BUTLER

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Hike Big Sky offers unique trail experience

EBS STAFF

Part of the allure of Big Sky is the unrivaled natural wonders that not only surround the town but are at it's very center. With a vast selection of trails that offer access to ridges vibrant with wildflowers, animal sightings and summit views, it is undeniably a paradise for those seeking pleasure in the outdoors.

The Big Sky Community Organization, the establishment responsible for the creation and upkeep of many community trails, offers a guided opportunity in collaboration with Visit Big Sky to explore these extraordinary pathways. The Hike Big Sky series features a morning hike every Tuesday through Aug. 27 at 10 a.m.

"The goal of the Tuesday Hike Big Sky series is to introduce visitors and residents to the trails around Big Sky," said Jelica Summerfield from BSCO. "It's an entry-level hiking experience with a variety of topics including art and fitness classes, plant and wildlife awareness and local history."

Hike Big Sky Schedule:

July 16: History Hike

Take an easy hike along Crail Ranch Trail to compare current views with landscape views through the Historic Crail Ranch Museum's photo archives. Examine fencing from homesteading pastureland days and learn the stories they tell. Meet at the Crail Ranch.

July 23: Walk this Way

A coach from Lone Peak Performance will guide this hike along Little Willow Way and Black Diamond Trail, teaching proper body mechanics to avoid injury and help you hike longer. Meet in the Big Sky Community Park parking lot near the softball fields.

July 30: Hike and Paint

Meet at the Hummocks/Uplands Trailhead and take a short hike to the Simkins Overlook where Big Sky artist Heather Rapp will lead an on-the-trail painting party. Space is limited, please RSVP at (406) 993-2112 or mackenzie@bscomt.org.

August 6: Photography at the Ranch



Q TUESDAY HIKING SERIES

JULY 16 - AUGUST 27 | TUESDAYS | 10 AM

JULY 16: HISTORY HIKE AT CRAIL RANCH

RAIL RANCH TRAI

Compare current views with landscape views through the Historic Crail Ranch Museum's photo archives. Examine fencing from homesteading pastureland days and learn the stories they tell. Meet at Crail Ranch.

JULY 23: WALK THIS WAY

IG SKY COMMUNITY PARI

A coach from Lone Peak Performance will guide this hike along Little Willow Way and Black Diamond Trail. Meet in the Big Sky Community Park parking lot near the softball fields.

JULY 30: HIKE & PAINT

UMMOCKS TRAII

Hike to the Simkins Overlook where Big Sky artist Heather Rapp will lead an on-the-trail painting party. Meet at trailhead. Space is limited, please RSVP at 406-993-2112 or mackenzie@bscomt.org

AUGUST 6: PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE RANCH

ONE MOUNTAIN RANCH

A naturalist will lead a hike through the ranch providing instruction on how to get the nature shot you're aiming for. Meet at the fire pit on the lawn at Lone Mountain Ranch.

AUGUST 13: OUSEL FALLS

ISEL FALLS TRA

Gallatin River Task Force will lead this 1.6 mile out and back hike focusing on water quality and how to be a steward of the Gallatin River watershed. Meet at the Ousel Falls Trailhead.

AUGUST 20: WILDERNESS WALK

TH FORK TRAIL

Skirt the Lee Metcalf Wilderness to the Junction and back. Along this 6 mile round trip hike, learn about the evolution of the conservation movement, 1964 Wilderness Act and the history of Senator Lee Metcalf.

AUGUST 27: BEEHIVE BASIN

BEEHIVE BASIN

Join BSCO staff on this 6.6 mile round-trip hike with 1,500 feet

Meet at the fire pit on the lawn at Lone Mountain Ranch, where a naturalist will lead a hike through the property providing instruction on how to get the nature shot you're aiming for.

August 13: Ousel Falls

Gallatin River Task Force will lead this hike focusing on water quality and how to be a steward of the Gallatin River watershed. Meet at Ousel Falls Trailhead.

August 20: TBD

August 27: Beehive Basin

Join BSCO staff on this hike to beautiful Beehive Basin. This popular hike has 1,500 feet in elevation gain and features majestic peaks, an alpine lake, rocky outcrops and open meadows. Pack your lunch, and plan to spend about 4 hours on the trail. Meet at the Upper Beehive Basin Trailhead. and open meadows. Pack a lunch, and plan to spend about 4 hours on the trail. Meet at the Upper Beehive Basin trailhead.

DON'T MISS OUT!

JULY 30: HIKE & PAINT REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

Hike to the Simkins Overlook where Big Sky artist Heather Rapp will lead an on-the-trail painting party. Meet at trailhead. Space is limited, **PLEASE RSVP AT 406-993-2112 OR MACKENZIE@BSCOMT.ORG**

Vizit Big Sky

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On the Trail: Respect

BY SARA MARINO EBS CONTRIBUTOR



Whether we lace up our hiking boots, saddle our horses, or put air in our mountain bike tires, there's something we should all have in common when we hit the trails: respect. It's easy to sometimes forget our manners, but here are a few reminders to help everyone have a positive day on the trails.

Respect Trail Users

There's a horse on the trail, what do you do? Or maybe a trail runner is coming up the hill while you're on your mountain bike coming down?

The etiquette is simple for mixed-use trails:

- Hikers, runners and bikers should always yield to horses.
- Bikers should yield to hikers and runners.
- Downhill traffic should yield to uphill traffic.

There may be a gray area where a biker riding uphill meets a hiker coming downhill. Use common sense and be polite. In a case like this, it may be easier for the hiker to step aside for a moment to let the biker continue their uphill momentum.

When encountering horses, step off the trail on the downhill side if possible. Speak to the rider in a relaxed tone so the horse knows you're not a threat and be sure you aren't hidden by bushes or trees, as this can appear particularly threatening to a horse.

Remember to be friendly. A simple "Hello" can make everyone feel good, and

as a safety precaution, if something happens to you on your hike, it's helpful to have other people remember seeing you.

Respect Landowners

Big Sky is fortunate to have landowners who appreciate the fact that we choose to live here to enjoy the outdoor opportunities at our doorstep.

Ralph's Pass is a prime example. This moderate, 2.7-mile connector trail between BSCO's Uplands Trail and Ousel Falls Trail opened in June 2017, made possible by private landowner easements. Show the landowners your gratitude by staying on the trail and keeping your dog on a leash.

Respect the Trail

Keep it clean. Make sure to pack out any garbage you have, and pick up litter, even if it's not yours. This goes for your dog, too. Many trailheads have pet waste stations and bags if you forgot one. Pick your dog's waste up and throw it away. If you bag it and leave it on the side of the trail, you're not done.

Stay on the trail. Cutting switchbacks can be tempting, but it kills vegetation and causes erosion.

Stop the spread of invasive plants. Many invasive non-native plants grow aggressively and choke out native plants and overrun wildlife habitat. You can help by educating yourself on noxious weeds that need to be controlled, staying on the trail, and checking for seeds and burrs that like to hitchhike on your shoes, bike tires or your pet's fur.

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

A version of this article first appeared in the Aug. 31, 2018, edition of EBS.

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On the Trail: Big Sky's best short hikes

BY JELICA SUMMERFIELD **EBS CONTRIBUTOR**

These shorter hikes are perfect for lunchtime dog walks, an after-dinner stroll or squeezing some outside-time into a busy day. As with all trails around Big Sky, carrying bear spray is recommended regardless of weather or time of day.

South Fork Loop: 1 mile

This out-and-back with a loop, also known as lollipop, is a local summertime favorite. This trail has plenty of shade for hot days and water access for thirsty dogs. Hike the loop clockwise for a mellower uphill and steeper downhill, or reverse directions for a quick steep workout. Drive west on Aspen Leaf from Town Center and the trailhead is at the bottom of the hill.



An evening dog walk on Little Willow Way following the West Fork of the Gallatin River. PHOTO BY JELICA SUMMERFIELD

Hummocks, first loop: Less than 1 mile

Just uphill from the South Fork Trailhead are the Uplands and Hummocks trails. The full Hummocks trail (3 miles) is two loops connected with an out-and-back. For a shorter option, just the first loop will do. The trail winds through wetlands, grassy meadows and dense forest for a little taste of everything. Two benches and views of Lone Mountain make this an ideal spot for a quick walk to watch the sunset.

Black Diamond and Little Willow Way: 1.7 miles

At the west end of Big Sky's Community Park are two trails that connect to make a loop. The Black Diamond Trail begins just behind the Camp Big Sky yurts and immediately climbs up into the forested foothills. Follow the main trail as it navigates through the disc golf course and then descends toward the river and becomes Little Willow Way. Finish by hiking along the river back to the Community Park, enjoying views of Lone Mountain, Pioneer Mountain and the Meadow Village. See page 74 for more information.

Lower Beehive Basin: 2-3 miles

Gallatín Valley and Greater Montana Ranch Propertíes



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



SXS Ranch | Bozeman, MT | \$7.5M 483.78 ACRES



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

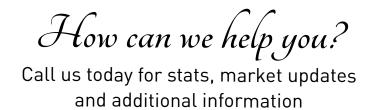


One of my personal favorites that's hidden in plain sight, Lower Beehive Basin is a great hike on its own or as an extension to Beehive Basin. From Mountain Village, park at the large turnout between Summit View Drive and Fire Station 2. The start of the trail is difficult to find, but simply walk away from the road up the meadow into the first trees. The trail meanders through wetlands frequented by moose and bears then climbs steeply up the side of a gully, affording excellent views of Big Sky Resort. It then heads back into dense forest, thinning as the trail continues to climb and tops out at Beehive Basin Road. Either turn around here, or continue down to the main Beehive Basin Trailhead. See page 76or more information.

Ousel Falls: 1.6 miles

This trail is the most popular in Big Sky for a reason. Besides the main attraction of the falls, this trail has lots of water access for dogs, fishing and wading, jagged rock walls, lush forest, a wide trail accessible for strollers, and plenty of benches and picnic tables. From Town Center, drive south on Ousel Falls Road for 2 miles. Please note the parking lot is not suitable for oversize vehicles or trailers. See page 70or more information.

Jelica Summerfield is the assistant asset manager for the Big Sky Community Organization.





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TOWN CENTER

Ousel Falls Trail

As iconic as Lone Peak itself, Ousel Falls Trail and its surrounding park is a favorite for both locals and visitors from around the world. This hike can be 1.6- or 5.6-miles roundtrip, depending on your starting point, and crosses a ravine over the South Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin River and meanders through the woods before ending at a 40-foot waterfall. It is an impressive hike worth visiting any time of year.

Throughout the summer, you are likely to see an abundance of wildflowers along the trail and run into wildlife like the Ousel bird, more commonly known as the American dipper, dipping in and out of the river. Additionally, during spring runoff, rising temperatures and melting snow make Ousel Falls that much more powerful.

The Ousel Falls Trail from Town Center is a popular path for walkers, runners and bike riders. It not only serves as a commuter trail allowing individuals to safely walk and bike throughout Town Center, but also as an enjoyable trail for all abilities to tour this part of Big Sky.

The 5-foot-wide improved gravel trail starts in a residential and commercial area of Big Sky Town Center and leads to Ousel Falls Park and the actual Ousel Falls Trailhead, with overlooks of the South Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin River along the way.

Just two miles in, the trail enters the park where you'll find picnic tables, benches and designated viewpoints along with a bathroom and parking area at the actual trailhead. Ousel Falls Trail is maintained throughout the winter to provide for year-round recreation in Big Sky. If you're looking for distance without too much difficulty, this is the trail for you.

The Ousel Falls Trail also connects Big Sky to the Custer Gallatin National Forest. Once you reach the park, you can take another 0.8 miles of natural surface trail to Ousel Falls waterfall or venture on to First and Second Yellow Mule trails, which are part of the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

The First Yellow Mule Trail junction is located approximately 0.5 miles beyond the Ousel Falls waterfall trailhead. The Second Yellow Mule Trail junction is another 1.5 miles down First Yellow Mule. The Ousel Falls Trailhead is the closest access to Forest Service land from the heart of Big Sky and the only horse-friendly access point for First and Second Yellow Mule. -*Ciara Wolfe*

Trails Stats:

Town Center



Directions: If walking from Town Center, park near the restaurants and shopping center in Big Sky's Town Center and follow the trail as it travels southeast and generally parallel to Ousel Falls Road. If traveling to the trailhead, find the parking lot 2 miles south of Lone Mountain Trail off Ousel Falls Road.

Ralph's Pass

Ralph's Pass is a 2.7-mile intermediate pathway connecting two popular Big Sky trails: Ousel Falls and Uplands. It provides an enjoyable experience for all. Quality trail construction and design enhance any hike, bike ride or run through the diverse scenery along the trail. Ralph's Pass opened in June 2017 after the Big Sky Community Organization worked for three years securing easements from 10 private landowners and garnering funding from multiple sources.

I started my Ralph's Pass hike at the Ousel Falls Trailhead. I headed down the Ousel Falls Trail for one-third of a mile and then took a left. From there, I followed the South Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin River through a heavily forested area. Please leash your dog after passing through the gates onto private property. After passing through the gates, you'll travel across some of the longest boardwalks in Big Sky, crossing wetlands and climbing up several switchbacks until reaching a gravel road that serves as a private driveway. marked by a gate located at the top of the Uplands Trail. Follow Uplands for a 1-mile descent to the Hummocks and Uplands trailhead.

Start from the Ousel Falls Trailhead for a consistent 2.7-mile climb to Uplands followed by a steep 1-mile descent to the Uplands Trailhead. I would recommend that trail runners and bikers traveling one way start at Uplands Trailhead for a quick climb and gradual descent on Ralph's Pass. You can also connect the two trailheads on Aspen Leaf Drive using the Ousel Falls Road Trail to create a 7-mile loop on the community trail system from Town Center.

Please note that the trail is open from June 15 - Oct. 15 each year to

After crossing the road, the trail will climb a little more and continue through a wooded area with views of a meadow below and the steep cliffs carved by the South Fork. After a short descent you'll come to another road crossing.

In the remaining mile of this trail, you'll meander through several small meadows and climb approximately 800 feet on three series of switchbacks. The switchbacks are designed to be user-friendly with wide corners and berms. Be sure to stop and enjoy the scenery on the last series of switchbacks: Lone Mountain, Pioneer Mountain and Beehive Basin are all visible from this part of the trail.

At the end of this climb, you'll reach a beautiful mountain meadow with abundant wildflowers and signs of wildlife. The end of Ralph's Pass is protect sensitive wildlife habitat. – CW

Trails Stats:



Directions: The Ousel Falls Trailhead is located 2 miles south of Lone Mountain Trail off of Ousel Falls Road. The Uplands Trailhead is located near Town Center. Head east on Aspen Leaf Drive, cross a bridge over the river and continue up the road until you see the parking area and trailhead on the left.

TOWN CENTER

First Yellow Mule

First Yellow Mule (U.S. Forest Service Trail No. 162) is Big Sky's off-thebeaten-path river walk. If you enjoy the Ousel Falls scenery but are looking for a more secluded hike with a little more difficulty, this is the trail for you. First Yellow Mule is one of the closest access points into the Custer Gallatin National Forest from Big Sky and leads to Buck's Ridge Trail and Second Yellow Mule, both of which are longer and more difficult.

Starting from the Ousel Falls Trailhead, this 4-mile out-and-back trail travels through rolling terrain along the South Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin River.

From the Ousel Falls Trailhead, you'll walk 0.5 miles on a wide gravel trail until you hit the well-marked turnoff to First Yellow Mule. Stay to the left and you'll climb a couple of short switchbacks and then meander along the west side of the river for over a mile.

Along the way, you'll pass the top of Ousel Falls and travel past beautiful swimming holes. You'll also pass under the impressive Big EZ vehicle bridge, and cross three smaller bridges. As you start to meander away from the river, you'll begin a short climb ending at a road crossing.

Once you've crossed the road, the remaining 0.75 miles climb steadily through switchbacks and straightaways and passes a large boulder field. At the intersection with Bucks Ridge Trail, you can return the same way you came for the shortest and least technical trail. Alternatively, you can continue up the Bucks Ridge Trail for an additional 5 miles to the top of the ridge, or turn your hike into a loop by descending Second Yellow Mule Trail.

Please note this is a common trail for grizzly sightings, so be bear aware when recreating on the trail.

First Yellow Mule is one of the only trails in the area that allows horses and it's also a popular mountain biking trail. Please respect trail etiquette and other users by practicing proper right-of-way. Bikers yield to hikers and both bikers and hikers yield to horseback riders.

Keep your eye out for the Ralph's Pass trail extension that connects First Yellow Mule to Ralph's Pass, one of Big Sky's newest trails. This will allow bikers and runners to stay off the popular and heavily-used Ousel Falls Trail and continue directly onto an additional 3 miles of trail that ultimately tie into Uplands Trail near Town Center. – CW

Trail Stats:



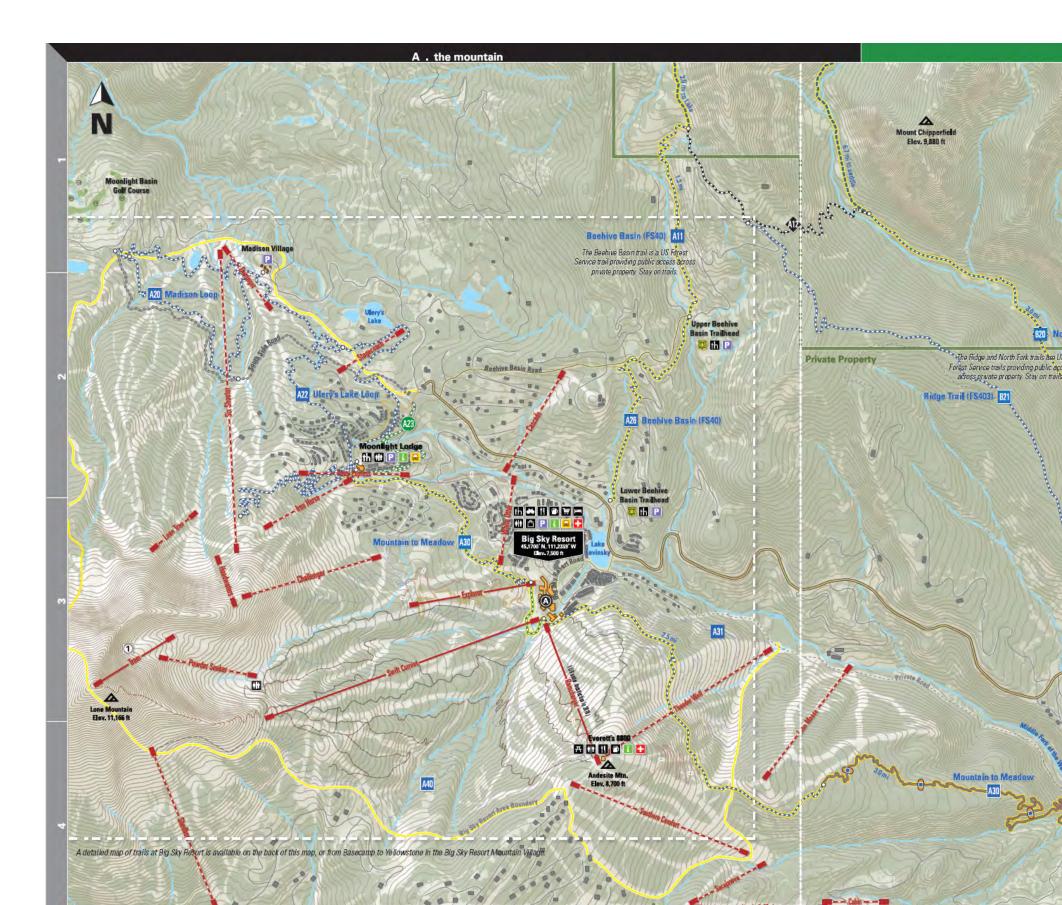
Directions: From Highway 191, head west on Lone Mountain Trail to Town Center and turn left onto Ousel Falls Road. Continue south for approximately 2 miles and turn left into the Ousel Falls Trailhead parking lot.



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th Trailhead	Restaur	rant 🚺	Information
🕂 Picnic Area	👩 Bar/Bre	Parking	
Restroom	Grocery	/ 🔒	Bus Stop
🕺 Disc Golf	Hotel		Medical Service
Access	👚 Shoppin	Things to Do	
🔀 Rental/Repair	Entertai	inment 🚺	Accessible Trail
Gym	🕒 Coffee/	Cafe S	Bank w/ATM
Trail Type	Easiest	Moderate	Difficult
Hike Only Trails			
Bike Only Trails		-	
Multi Use Trails			

FEATURED TRAILS

The following trails are some of the most popular trails in Big Sky, not located at Big Sky Resort. For more trails and a detailed map of the trails at Big Sky Resort check the back of this map. DECLIVE BASIN Constraints of a binar production

■ BEHIVE BASIN Great views of an alpine meedow and lake. Fox News ranks Beehive Basin #5 on their list of world's greatest hikes. Directions: From Lone Mountain Trail (Hwy 64) turn right onto Beehive Basin Road, continue 1.7 miles to the trailhead and parking area.

WORTH FORKTRAIL Steady climb to Bear Basin, great for wildflowers and alpine terrain. Directions: From Lone Mountain Trail (Hwy 64) turn right on to North Fork Road. Take first left onto Ridge Road, follow signs to trailhead parking area. Public access across private land. Summer access only.

DUDLEY CREEK TRAIL Climbs steadily through forest to Dudley Lake. Directions: From Big Sky Conoco, head North on Hwy 191. Turn left at Dudley Creek Road to trailhead parking.



FREERIDE TRAILS contain constructed enhanced/modified terrain, obstacles, and features such as jumps, berms, banks, bridges, drops, etc. created from dirt, wood or other materials. Freeride Trails may also incorporate Technical Trail features and designs. Freeride Trails are designed to be ridden downhill. The skills necessary to navigate Freeride Trails include negotiating variable terrain, such as jumps and drops.

Recomended Trail Summer Use Lift Dogs on Leash Area Bus Route Under Construction

TRAIL HUBS

The Big Sky trail network covers a large area with many trails and activities. Trailheads are a starting point for trail outtings, and are marked on the map with a **[15]**. Trail Hubs are locations to find maps, and friendly associates with answers to questions.

BASECAMP TO YELLOWSTONE at Big Sky Resort

BIG SKY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION in Town Center

 VISIT BIG SKY at Big Sky & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Information Center

More information about additional activities and services offered at these Trail Hubs is available on the back of this map. A30 MOUNTAINTO MEADOW Mostly downhill, mountain bike flow trail crossing ski terrain, sparse and dense forest. Directions: Start at Moonlight Lodge or Big Sky Resort. Ride Autumn Trail and Andesite Roads to get back to town. There is currently no uphill track for M2M.

HUMMOCKS Traverses the area's fun, rolling topographic features or "hummocks" created by ice-age landslides. The trail loops around a hidden pond and offers views of the Huckleberry Ridge Tuff, soldcain: cock formed by the 2.1 million year old Huckleberry Ridge eruption of Yellowstone's caldera.

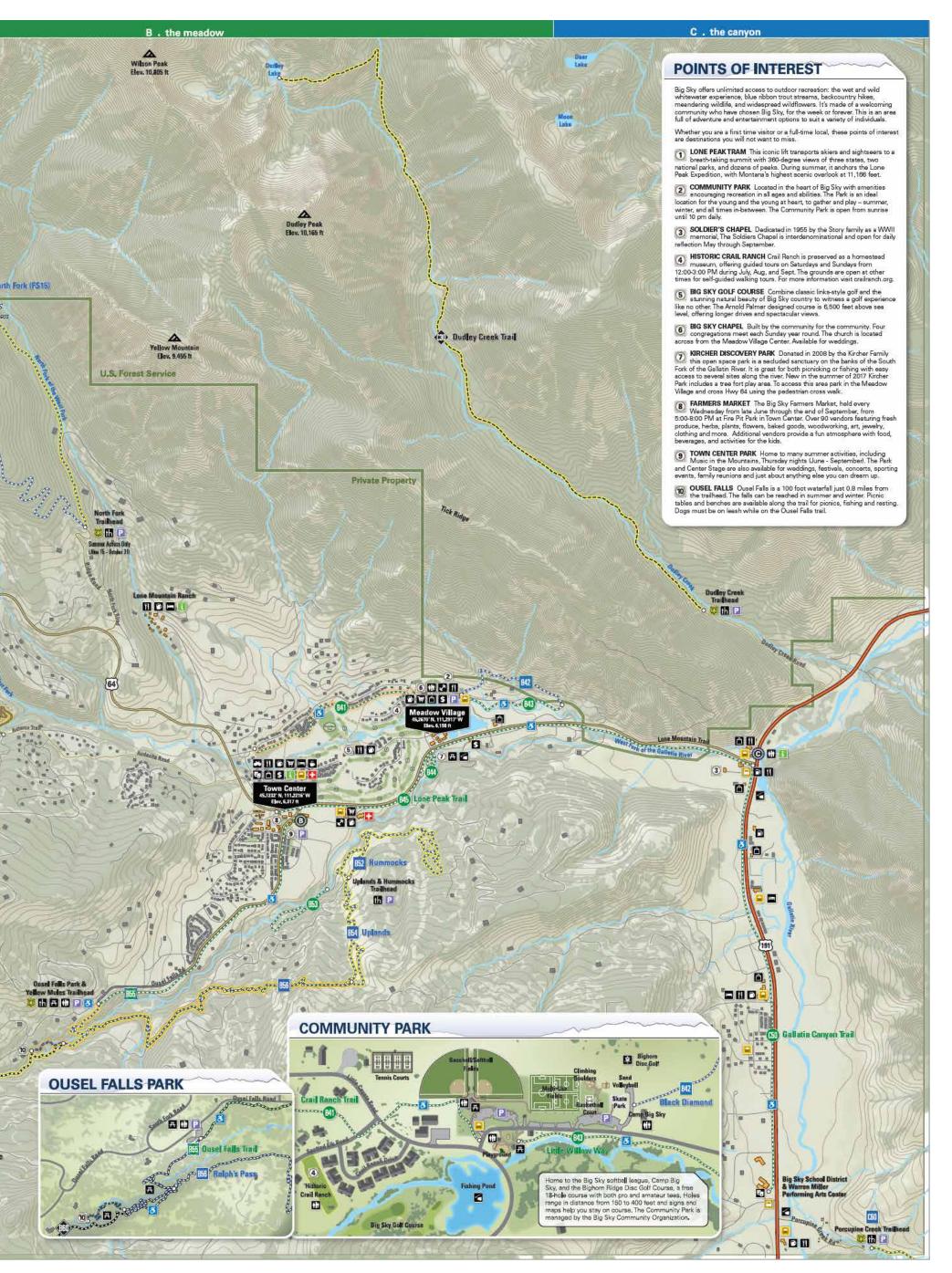
UPLANDS Steadily climbing to an area of higher elevation, Uplands Trail offers expansive views of Big Sky. Trail users can also view the exposed Huckleberry Ridge Tuff, a volcanic rock formed by the 2.1-million-year-old Huckleberry Ridge eruption of Yellowstone's caklera.

RALPH'S PASS Natural surface, multi-use trail that travels through heavily forested mountains and open grassy meadows providing rolling terrain and exceptional views of several Big Sky peaks including Lone Peak and Pioneer Mountain. Open June 15 – October 15. Dogs must be on leash.

to Buck Ridge. 1st Yellow Mule Branches off Ousel Falls Trail and climbs to Buck Ridge. 1st Yellow Mule junctions off of Ousel Falls Trail about 0.5 miles from the trailhead.

Valley to larger trail system. From Big Sky Conoco, head South on Hwy 191. Turn left at Porcupine Creek Road. Open to bikes and horses June 15 - Sept 15. Open to motorcycles (no ATV's) July 15 - Sept 15. Closed to all traffic Sept 15 - June 15.





MAP COURTESY OF BSCO

Explore Big Sky

MEADOW VILLAGE

Crail Ranch Trail

Take a step back in time on the Crail Ranch Trail, named after Big Sky's original settlers. This 1.3-mile trail provides a leisurely walk, run or bike through the historic Crail Ranch meadow.

Starting from the trailhead at the Big Sky Community Park, walkers, runners and bikers will head west on a wide gravel trail. Shortly after departing from the park, the trail crosses Little Coyote Road and picks up again at Spotted Elk Road. The trail crosses one small bridge and meanders between both homes and the Big Sky Resort golf course, keeping Lone Mountain in view throughout. Most individuals walk, run or bike the trail out and back for 2.6 miles total, but you can also utilize the trail to travel from the east end of the meadow to the west end, or vice versa.

Although this trail is located in a residential area of Big Sky, it still provides excellent views, wildlife sightings and a serene environment. The Big Sky Community Organization encourages you to detour about 100 yards south on Spotted Elk Road to visit the historic Crail Ranch for a walking history tour of the valley or a tour of the homestead museum itself. Crail Ranch is always open for self-guided tours and through July and August, docents are available to offer guided tours Saturdays and Sundays from 12-3 p.m. – CW

Trail stats:



Directions: From Meadow Village head north on Little Coyote Road. Travel past the Big Sky Chapel and turn onto the first road on your right. Look for the Big Sky Community Park entrance sign and turn right. The trailhead is immediately on the left-hand side of the road and there's parking near the softball fields.

Little Willow Way

Little Willow Way is Big Sky's premier river walk. Enjoy a leisurely walk, run or bike ride along the West Fork of the Gallatin River on the 1.6-mile trail.

Little Willow Way is perfect for all ages and abilities, known for excellent views of Lone Mountain, moose sightings and beautiful river access spots to play, wade or fish in the meandering river.

This time of year, the sound of the river combined with bountiful wildflowers like Indian paintbrush, wild rose and lupine provides a sensory experience that cannot be beat.

We recommend this trail as an excellent place to take novice hikers, young children or your dog for a walk. For those looking for a bit more of a challenge, this trail also connects to our Black Diamond Trail, which provides an additional 0.8-mile stretch of moderate-level terrain. – CW

Trails stats:



Directions: From Meadow Village, head north on Little Coyote Road, go past the Big Sky Chapel and pond and take the first road on the right. Look for the Big Sky Community Park entrance sign and park near the picnic pavilion next to the playground area. The trailhead starts at the pavilion.

Black Diamond Trail

Black Diamond Trail is the perfect distance and terrain to get your heart rate pumping if you don't have much time to spare. This trail provides a nice climb into the trees right off the bat, levels off for a short distance, and winds through the forest again on the descent. Once you have reached the end of the trail, you can turn around and travel the same terrain or continue onto Little Willow Way for a 0.75-mile cool down on flat terrain.

The trail weaves through Big Sky's 18-hole Frisbee golf course with several spur paths to each hole. Make sure to follow the signs and stay on the well-established dirt trail. Black Diamond is best for intermediate-level hikers or runners and an excellent place to bring four-legged friends or buddies for a round of Frisbee golf. – CW



Directions: From Meadow Village, head north on Little Coyote Road and drive past the Big Sky Chapel and pond. Turn onto the first road on your right and look for the Big Sky Community Park entrance sign. Park near the skate park and yurt at the east end of the park. The trailhead starts directly behind the yurt.

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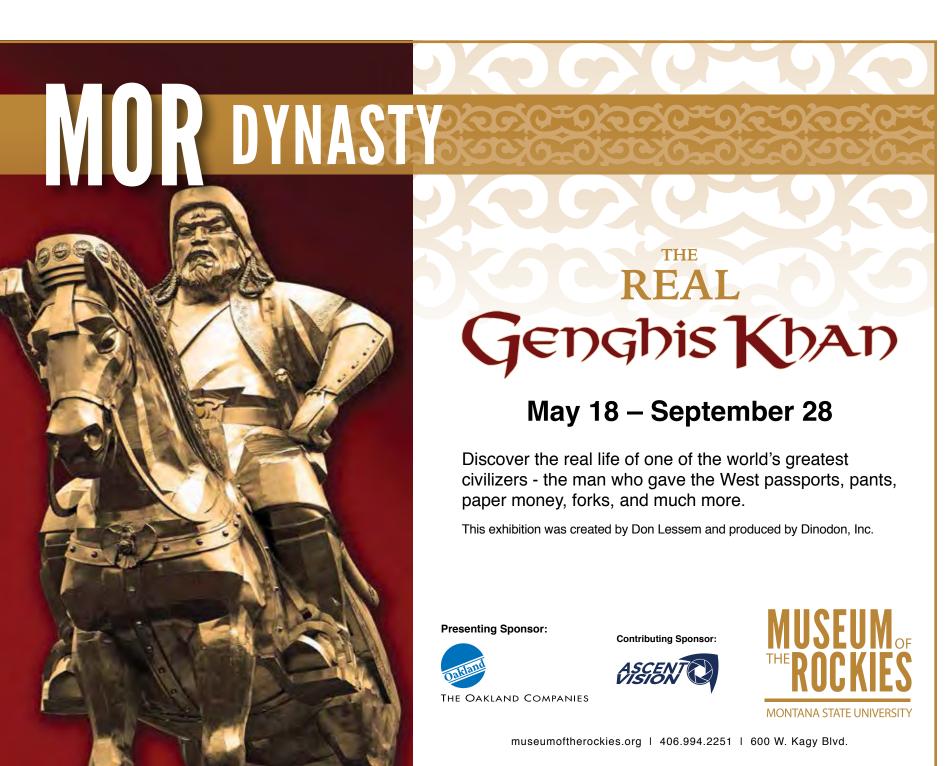
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BIG SKY RESORT

Madison Loop

The Madison Loop provides 3.6 miles of natural-surface trail on the beautifulnorth side of Lone Mountain. You're more likely to see wildlife than people on this trail, making it the perfect place to enjoy the beauty of Lone Mountain in solitude. The trail starts at the Madison Base Area.

From the parking lot, you will see a small, brown trailhead sign that designates the first 0.1 mile of the Madison Loop. Head past the closed lodge and amenity buildings and take a left onto a narrow, beaten path through tall grass that quickly turns into an obvious trail.

After about 100 yards on the trail, you will come to the first intersection, which marks the start and finish of the Madison Loop. I chose to go left and start with the switchbacks up the ski hill. A small mucky pond on your left and a large wooden bench for resting are two more indicators you are on the right trail.

When approaching the top of the climb, you come to the second intersection. Follow the signs for Madison Loop and you will begin descending the elevation just gained.

This section of the trail has several creek crossings and beautiful views of Beehive Basin. The descent is steep in some areas and the trail has a rocky, shale surface earning its intermediate-level rating. At the bottom, I emerged from the forest onto the open ski slopes.

When I saw the base of the Six Shooter chairlift, I realized this trail had taken me farther down than I had climbed. Preparing myself for another uphill, I began with several steep switchbacks up and under the Six Shooter and Derringer ski lifts, climbing 200 feet back up to the first intersection and start of the loop.

Portions of this trail are steep, but there are ample straight sections for resting between climbs, making it enjoyable for all abilities. The Madison Loop provides challenging terrain, beautiful vistas, excellent wildlife viewing opportunities and solitude in the mountains. - CW

Trail Stats:



Directions: Drive west toward Big Sky Resort on Lone Mountain Trail. Pass Big Sky Resort and continue one mile until you come to the entrance gate to Moonlight Basin. Pass through the gate and take an immediate right, following signs for the Madison Base Area. Follow the road 2 miles and park in the lot adjacent to the Madison Base Area yurts. The trailhead can be found directly behind the Skyline bus shelter located in front of the winter amenity buildings.

Beehive Basin Trail

Beehive Basin, known as U.S. Forest Service Trail No. 40, is renowned for its majestic peaks, breathtaking glacial lake and access to the Lee Metcalf Wilderness. The upper out-and-back route is a well-used intermediate dirt trail, while the lower portion of the trail is a lesser-known access trail that spans 1.4 miles.

The Lower Beehive Basin Trail is primitive due to minimal usage, but provides expansive views of Lone Mountain and an abundance of wildflowers. For those looking for a longer, more difficult hike than the 7.1-mile roundtrip Beehive Basin Trail, the lower portion adds 3 miles roundtrip to the trek.

This latter trail starts approximately 100 yards past the main entrance of Big Sky Resort, immediately before the fire station. The primitive trail climbs up a shale ridgeline crossing several small bridges and one high wooden bridge across a steep ravine. Once you have crested the ridgeline, be sure to turn around and take in the impressive view of Lone Mountain. Continue to follow Beehive Basin Road in and out of the forest until you reach the Upper Beehive Basin Trail.

and the North Fork/Beehive Connector Trail No. 402.

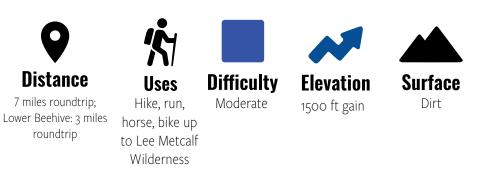
Heading toward the lake, the last portion of the trail passes several large rock outcrops, through a large alpine meadow and a unique dead-tree forest. This portion of the hike affords excellent views of the surrounding peaks and ridgeline, known for climbing and winter backcountry skiing.

As you begin the final climb, a flat, treed area at the top will come into view. This is the edge of the basin and the location of the lake. Once you crest the ridge, you will see a small alpine lake in the middle of a beautiful alpine meadow. The trail continues around the west side of the lake and on to the summit of Beehive Peak. Climbing Beehive Peak is an additional 1.5 miles, with climbing routes from 5.6-5.11 on high-quality granite gneiss. – CW

This portion of the trail crosses two small private roads, one gated and one dirt. Cross in front of the gate, and upon reaching the dirt road, walk approximately 50 feet along the road before dropping back onto the trail and into a steep forested ravine. The trail can be faint in sections, however if you look ahead you will always see where an evident trail picks back up.

The trail ends across the road from the Upper Beehive Basin Trail, where an additional 3.3 miles one-way culminates at Beehive Basin and lake. Continue on Beehive Basin Trail and cross over Beehive Creek on a narrow log bridge. At approximately 1 mile, you will come to a junction with a sign denoting the direction and distance to both Beehive Basin Lake

Trails Stats:



Directions: Turning off Highway 191 onto Lone Mountain Trail, follow the signs 9 miles to Big Sky Resort. For Lower Beehive, park in the dirt pull out 100 yards past the entrance to Big Sky Resort; the trailhead is across the grassy field in the trees. For Upper Beehive, continue 1.5 miles past the resort entrance and turn right on to Beehive Basin Road. Continue up this windy road for 1.8 miles until reaching the trailhead on the left.

BIG SKY RESORT

Huckleberry Trail

If you are fortunate enough to come across a huckleberry bush while on the trail in Montana during the late summer, then you have discovered one of Montana's treasures. Like its namesake berry, this 1.5-mile moderately difficult trail makes you hunger for more.

The trail can be hiked two ways. If you start at the base area and hike up to Huckleberry Trail, you'll cover a total of 3 miles. If you ride the Explorer chairlift up and descend from there, you'll log 1.5 miles of hiking.

Huckleberry begins or ends at the base of Swift Current lift, depending on your direction of travel, and is a meandering hiking-only trail that weaves through the forest alongside some of the most popular beginner skiing terrain accessed off Explorer during the winter season. The ground cover is vibrant and the forest vegetation is thick, providing a shady and pleasant hike—even on hot, sunny days.

Although short in distance, there is some elevation change, a total of 700 feet, along Huckleberry Trail. The natural rocky surface of the trail ensures you'll keep your eye on the trail throughout.

This trail is an exciting hike for novice hikers, especially given the thrill of riding a lift during the summer without skis on. As a hiking-only trail located at Big Sky Resort, you are separated from any mountain bikers.

Huckleberry is well marked and ends at the Mountain Village base area, providing several lovely locations to grab an after-hike meal or drink on one of the beautiful patios.

This trail is located on private land owned by Big Sky Resort, but is open to the public. The only fees are associated with riding the chairlifts. Please respect the posted trail etiquette rules and don't expect the boundaries of the resort to protect you from wildlife-be bear-aware throughout your time on the trail. - CW

Trails Stats



Directions: Turn off Highway 191 onto Lone Mountain Trail and follow the signs 9 miles to Big Sky Resort. Turn left at the resort and follow the road up the hill. Stay left until you end at a free parking area located at the Mountain Village base area.

Mountain to Meadow

Hang on for the ride of your life on this 6-mile downhill mountain bike flow trail. The Mountain to Meadow trail is designed for fast, smooth corners as it weaves through forest, meadows and across familiar ski runs from Big Sky Resort all the way down to Town Center.

This increasingly popular mountain bike trail is one of the trails putting Big Sky on the map for a world-class mountain biking experience. The trail, rated an advanced difficulty level, is definitely not for a novice biker, but is designed to afford all levels of mountain bikers the experience of a true downhill trail.

Starting at the Big Sky Resort base area, near Ramcharger, follow signs for the Upper South Fork biking trail. The Upper South Fork trail begins with a gradual climb on an old roadbed turning to single track for approximately 2 miles. During this portion of the ride be aware of downhill bikers coming off of Snake Charmer Trail, which can be lift-accessed off of Ramcharger and extend the Mountain to Meadow experience by 2 additional downhill bike trail miles.

er lap, or stay in Town Center to grab a bite or hit one of your favorite watering holes for a post-bike-ride brew.

Please respect signage throughout the trail and stay on designated trails. Your respect of private property will support the Big Sky Community Organization's efforts to secure trail easements on private land helping to connect this trail into our community trail system. - CW

Trails Stats:





Surface

During the climb you will cross under the poma lift at Big Sky Resort and across the well-known ski run War Dance. Once reaching the top of the 2-mile climb you will see a sign designating that you are leaving Big Sky Resort property and the downhill Mountain to Meadow Trail experience begins.

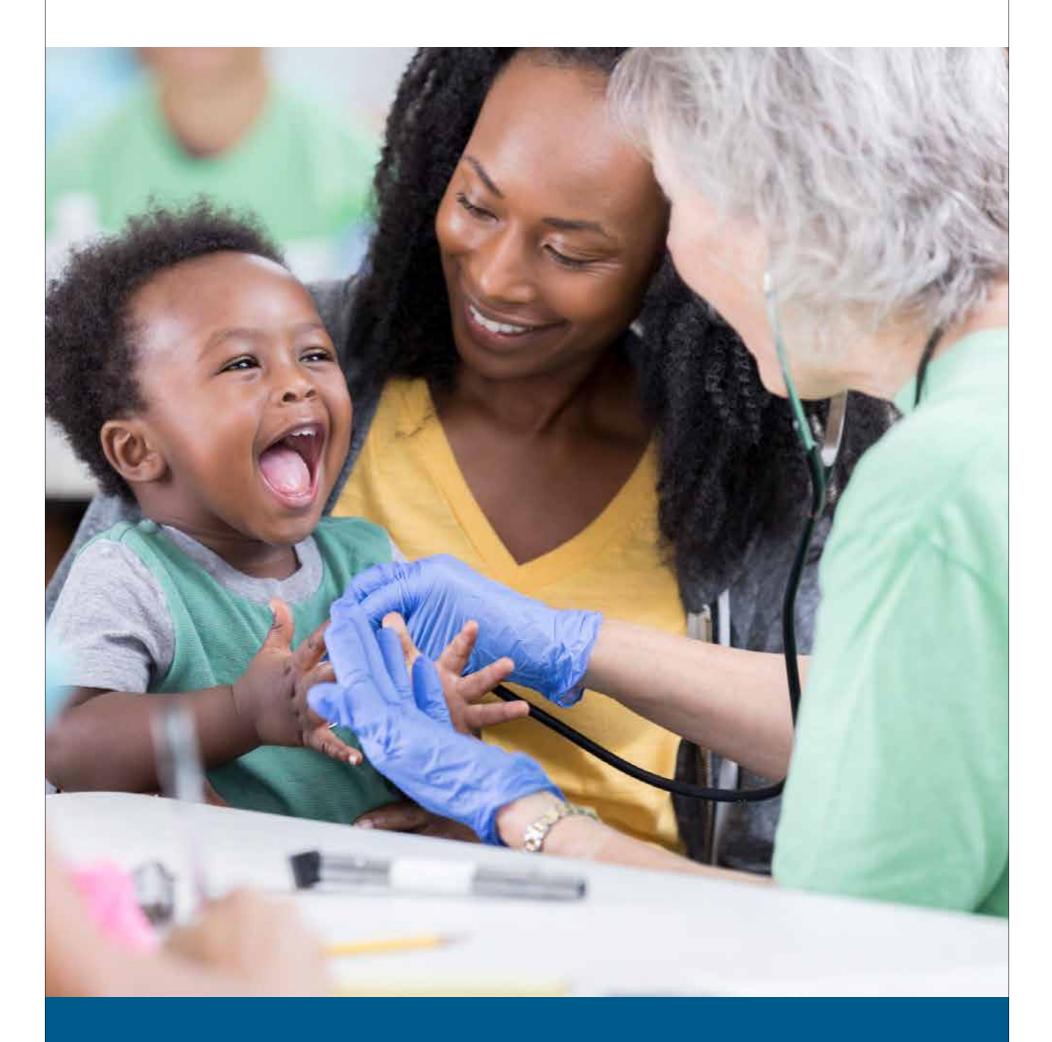
Hold on for the ride and enjoy the smooth, clean berms as you cruise back and forth through the forest for 4 miles, at the end of which you will reach a private dirt road. Following the signs, take a right on the dirt road until you reach paved Autumn Trail. Ride on Autumn Trail for 0.33 miles before turning right onto Andesite Road. Follow Andesite for approximately 1.5 miles until you reach Lone Mountain Trail.

Lone Mountain Trail will take you directly into Town Center, where you can catch the Skyline bus for a shuttle back up to your vehicle or anoth6 miles, one way Dirt Hike, run, bike Difficult 625 ft gain

Directions: Turning off of Highway 191 onto Lone Mountain Trail, follow the signs 9 miles to Big Sky Resort. Turn left at the resort and follow the road up the hill, staying left until you end at a free parking area located at the Mountain Village base area.

You can also park in Town Center off of Ousel Falls Road, 3 miles west on Lone Mountain Trail from the Highway 191 intersection and traffic light, and catch a free shuttle on the Skyline bus. The bus stop is located in Fire Pit Park on the right-hand side after turning onto Ousel Falls Road off of Lone Mountain Trail.

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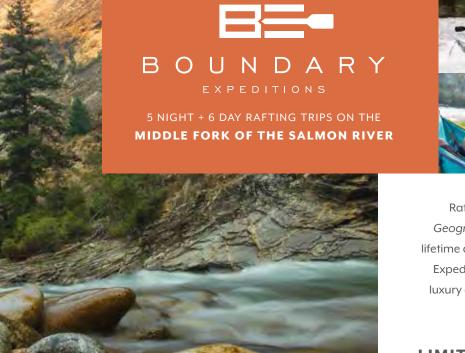
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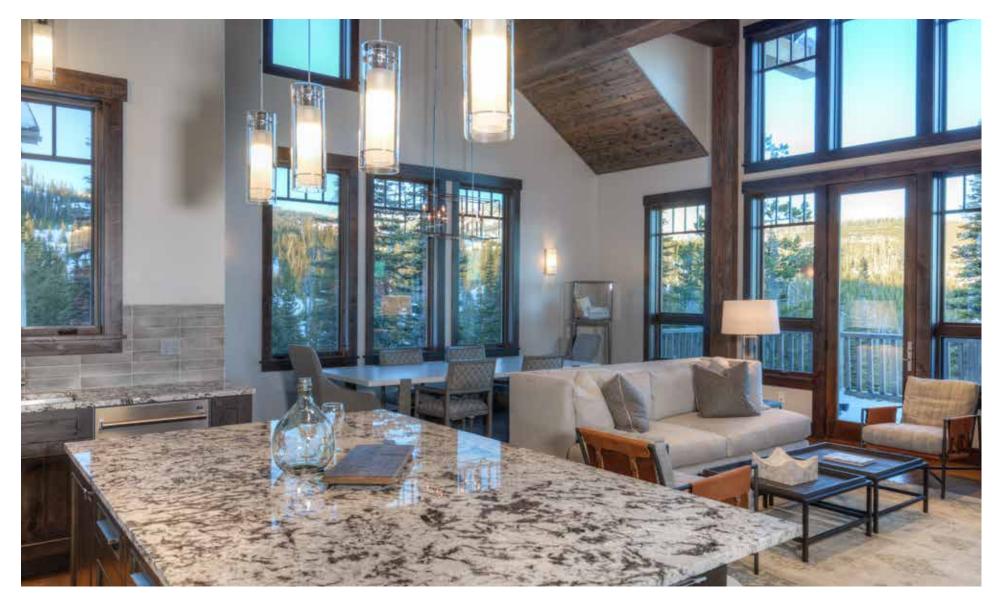
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SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

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Earthship to earthlings: A better way to live

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY – The most recent winter descended upon Gallatin County with historic brutality. Citizens across the county braved temperatures sinking into the negative 40s, exposed hands and cheeks froze within seconds, and animal populations suffered due to the scarcity of available food.

Despite the severity, longtime Big Sky resident Dr. Jeff Saad roamed his clement house in the company of plants indigenous to the tropics—all without a conventional heating or central air system. Saad expects his utility bill for the year to be about \$100.

That's because Saad, owner and lead chiropractor at Montana Chiropractic and Sports Medicine in Town Center, lives in an Earthship, where temperatures hover around 65 degrees Fahrenheit year-round.

"It's hard to imagine it being 20 below outside and 65 in here," Saad said. "If you want it temperate and 80, light a fire and you're there in 20 minutes. ... It's the best part—being able to walk out the door and know you don't have to do a thing. Nothing [thermostat] to set."

Made from "garbage," as Saad will tell you, and incorporating only about 50 percent virgin material, Earthships are the brainchild of Taos, New Mexico, based architect Michael Reynolds.

Reynolds had a concept: integrate solar and wind energy, thermal mass, rainwater harvest, gray water recycling and indoor food production into the fibers of a human dwelling, customizing the features to the appropriate regional climate demands. Over the last four decades, Reynolds' company Earthship Biotecture has built hundreds of Earthships around the world, inspiring thousands more to copycat the designs.

From outside the structure, it appears like a cross between a Kubrick-film-era spaceship and an enlarged, elongated mud hut. One might think this visual crossover was the basis of the name Earthship—and it could be partially true—but the name denotes the standalone viability of the structure, like a space capsule or sailboat.





The Earthship utilizes basic physics and strategically repurposed materials to yield a novel, ecointensive way of living—with little expense to luxury. PHOTO BY RYAN THOMPSON

The colloquial phrasing "eco-friendly" fails the Earthship. More likely "eco-centric" or even "eco-intensive" better fits the bill—perhaps it's the nearly 1,000 retired rubber tires that form the backstop to the house, the recycled glass bottles that act as decorative bits of stained glass, or the fact that the south-facing windows are angled ever so perfectly as to efficiently capture the sun's energy year round along with the arc of every moon.

According to Saad, the Earthship is designed simply to meet the needs of humans and plants, specifically addressing the six principles of human need.

"At the end of the day, it's about ... food, water, shelter, electricity, to reuse and repurpose things we don't need, and sewer. Those are the six things you need to live. Period. You have to have them in today's society."

Saad's Earthship is no different in meeting these needs. It grows food: lettuce, grapes, herbs and oranges, to name a few. The roof funnels water into buried cisterns, from which every drop is used up to three times before it either runs beneath the front-entrance greenhouse garden, nourishing his plants, or is discharged into a septic system. The recycled tires packed with soil store heat, and the mud-adobe walls and stone floor provide protection from the elements. Solar panels deliver nearly every watt of electricity, and the insides of the walls are supported by a honeycomb matrix of over 40,000 old aluminum cans and glass and plastic bottles.

The interior space of Saad's Earthship, like all Earthships, is cozy and temperate, with lush plants in the front entrance hall growing year-round. PHOTO BY RYAN THOMPSON

It's during one's first steps inside, when the other senses vie for purchase in the novel abode, that the Earthship experience starts to cement. Creeping vines laden with ripening grapes sprout next to healthy bushes of oregano and sprigs of rosemary. The air is balmy, defying the high altitudes and accompanying dry climate. There is a silence from a lack of central air and machinery. It's all very calming—some might call it Zen-like. The only cord that tethers Saad's Earthship to ground control is a 3 Rivers Communications internet line, meaning its virtually off the grid with a calculable and significantly reduced impact on the environment compared to a conventional home.

One might scratch their head and wonder why the Earthship is not ubiquitous, possibly even mandated. For now, it partially boils down to the fact the novelty is intimidating.

"It's new, so they're just not interested. Obviously the house looks slightly different than a regular house, and architecture today is based on the way things look," Saad said. "These houses are based first upon the human being that has to live it in. To make it work, it looks like the way it does when it's done."

Is the Earthship "pretty"? Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, of course, but for anyone looking to make a real difference, it's gorgeous.

Saad is currently building a second Earthsip-inspired home in Big Sky; it will be available for vacation rentals spring 2020, exposing many to the luxe-simplicity of the Earthship way of life.

Land Report: What's hottest in today's Big Sky market

BY BELLA BUTLER

The popular Montana slogan "Get Lost" may be more accurate if changed to "Getting Found" as the population of Gallatin County is up 25 percent since 2010. With more and more people putting down roots in the Big Sky area, it's important to tailor real estate decisions to the circumstances of the buyer. With a glowing array of options, two perspectives from opposite ends of the table analyze the disadvantages and benefits of land versus turn-key.

From the architect's desk

Despite the inherent challenges that come with buying raw land and starting from scratch, architect Jamie Daugaard believes there is a brighter side to the blue prints, construction delays and waiting time. While decisions can seem tedious and exhausting, they also provide the luxury of creating a living space that is exactly what you want, down to the most minute detail.

The process begins with lot selection. When you go through the process of selecting your lot, you can place your structure precisely where you want it. This means choosing the view corridors that you prefer, the steepness of your driveway and the features of the land that you want to incorporate the most.

The design and construction processes boast the most allowance for creativity.

"When you buy someone else's house, you buy their style; the quirks and intricacies come with it," Daugaard said. By undertaking a project that starts from scratch, you give your-self the opportunity to incorporate your own style.

Selecting an architect and contractor from the local, family-owned businesses in Big Sky lends a personal aspect to the building operations. In the end, you can enjoy living in a home that inspires you to reflect on the process and your involvement in it.

From the broker's desk

From an alternate perspective, broker and co-owner of L&K Real Estate Ryan Kulesza presents the benefits of turn-key purchases. Kulesza acknowledged the low-holding cost on land purchases, which have appreciated less than homes in the Big Sky market, making raw land an investment-wise purchase for the individual looking to turn a profit.

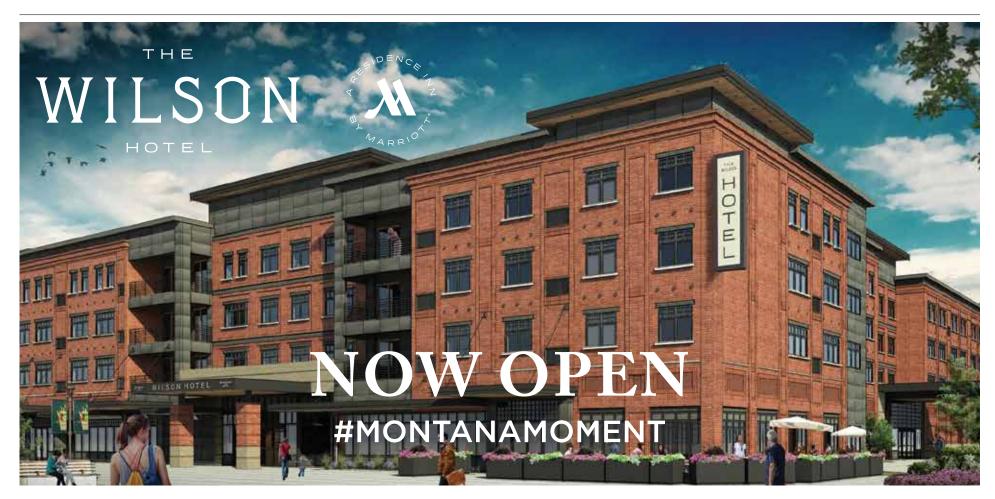


The prices of homes in Big Sky have appreciated more than land in the current market, but turn-key eliminates construction and design costs down the road. PHOTO COURTESY OF L&K REAL ESTATE

However, for the buyer who is ready to settle in immediately, purchasing a finished home means avoiding the additional time and financial burdens associated with building. For first-time home buyers especially, getting a construction loan can be an unfortunate challenge. Due to the high demand associated with rapid development, it can also be difficult to lock down a contractor.

Pairing up with the right real estate agent can lead to finding a home already prepared for your arrival that fits your needs and desires. Remodeling is also always an option down the road if adjustments need to be made.

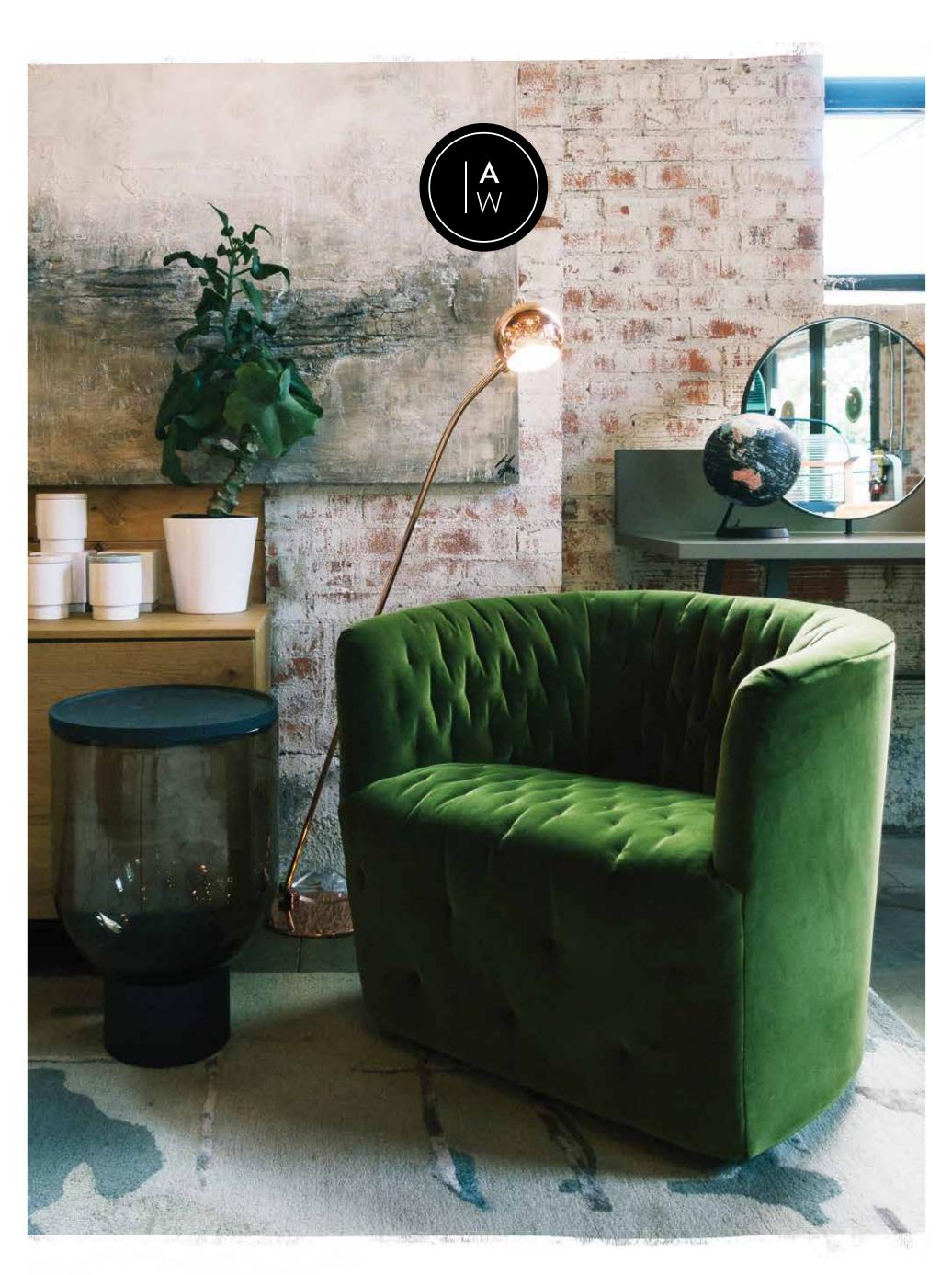
"Things have changed, and people are busier," Kulesza said. Time is a valued currency, and for those that can't afford a two-plus year period of development, turn-key is likely the most beneficial to your lifestyle.



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REAL ESTATE GUIDE

The State of Real Estate - July 2019

ENGEL&VÖLKERS STACY OSSORIO

BY STACY OSSORIO ENGEL & VÖLKERS

BIG SKY - Your real estate experience is about to get much better.

Summer is here and we have opened our new Engel & Völkers office in Big Sky—strategically located in Town Center, adjacent to Roxy's and The Cave Spirits and Gifts.

Big Sky has always been recognized as a special destination vacation area, but recent and ongoing improvements are propelling Big Sky into the ranks of the most desirable Rocky Mountain resort towns.

Likewise, the Big Sky real estate market continues to expand and hit new milestones, in large part due to the proactive contributions of various community organizations, dedicated volunteers and boards that address anticipated infrastructure needs to meet the demands of our growing community.

Enhancements to roadway access and safety, fire and first responder and police departments, public safety, search and rescue, public transportation and public welfare are all in the works to meet current and future demands.

New developments in the Big Sky Town Center include the upscale 129room Wilson Hotel, additional retail and food options, an extensive and ever expanding trail system and a planned community center to host activ-



Lot 8, Triple Triangle Ranch, North Fork Road, 20 acres, \$1,300,000. Convenient to Lone Mountain Ranch's extensive winter Nordic ski trail system and summer hiking trails. PHOTO COURTESY OF STACY OSSORIO

ities for locals and visitors alike. The Mountain Village Mall is undergoing a \$13 million renovation to meet the expectations of 21st century travelers.

Available real estate options abound; residential developments in the Meadow and Mountain villages offer price points for a wide variety of budgets; Moonlight Basin and Spanish Peaks Mountain Club developments continue to command a premium and there is a notable amount of new construction planned to meet demand. In some of the local markets, affordable housing options and down payment assistance programs are available through the Big Sky Human Resources Development Council. All of these efforts help create activity in our real estate market to support a thriving community in which to live or visit.



Lot 5, Summit View Phase 3, +/- 4.3 acres, \$435,000 MLS 326479. PHOTO COURTESY OF STACY OSSORIO

\$574,000 to \$596,000.

A significant contributor to the pricing effervescence can be found in the Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and Moonlight Club developments. Overall, we are seeing that sales volume continues to increase: In 2018, sales volume was \$351,336,169, and in 2019 through the beginning of June, sales volume is \$160,612,475, which, if annualized, could be over \$367 million.

Due to continued low mortgage interest rates and a pipeline of varied inventory coming onto market, we expect this to be a busy summer market. In some submarkets it is anticipated that inventory will continue to decline and that prices will trend up. If you have been longing for a piece of Big Sky, take the time to look around with new eyes—there are a number of great options that may meet your needs.

Pricing in Big Sky is still very attractive compared to other ski resort areas and is an extraordinary place to live and visit. Anyone who has ever been here can attest to the fact that there is nothing else like it and that access to the wonderful amenities Big Sky and southwest Montana area has to offer is unparalleled.

It's not too late to be part of Big Sky's evolving story in this extraordinary Rocky Mountain community.

Stacy Ossorio is a Broker with Engel & Völkers Big Sky. cell: 406-539- 8553 stacy.ossorio@evrealestate.com stacyossorio.evrealestate.com



So where are we overall? In short, inventory continues to decline even as asking and median pricing steadily increase. In May and June of 2018, there were 41 and 60 new listings in Big Sky, respectively. In 2019, for the same months, there are 29 and 18 new listings, respectively. Overall, the average annualized number of properties listed is down by 14 percent from last year.

There were 400 closed sales in 2018, and so far in 2019 there have been 169, portending a similar annualized volume of sales, albeit with a reduced inventory base. Generally, reduced inventory and constant and increasing sales pressure will lead to price increases. So far, the average sold price for a property is holding steady at about \$875,000, however the average median price (half of all sales above, and half of all sales below) has increased from

Alpenglow Condo 22A, 2BR/3BA furnished \$729,000, MLS 334147 PHOTO COURTESY OF PEAK PHOTOGRAPHY



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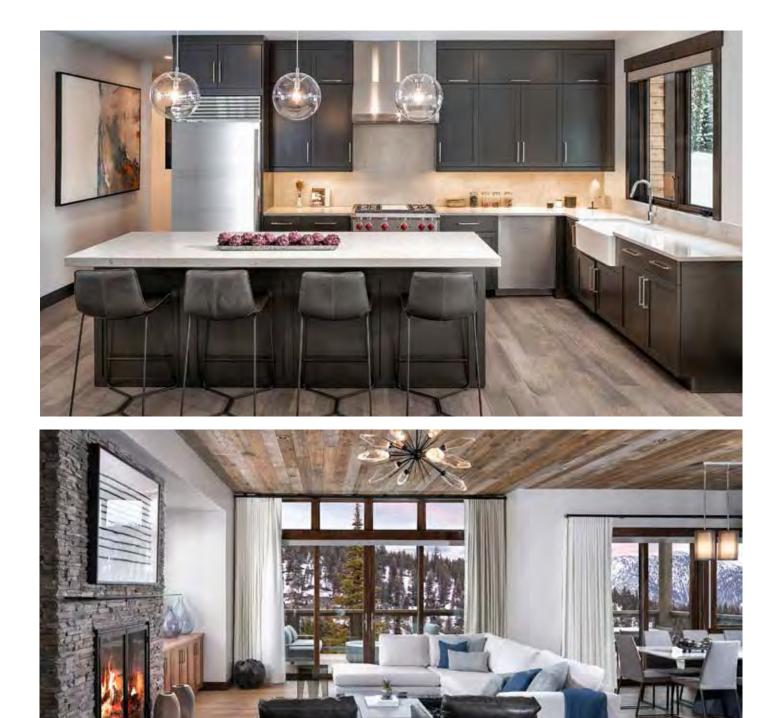
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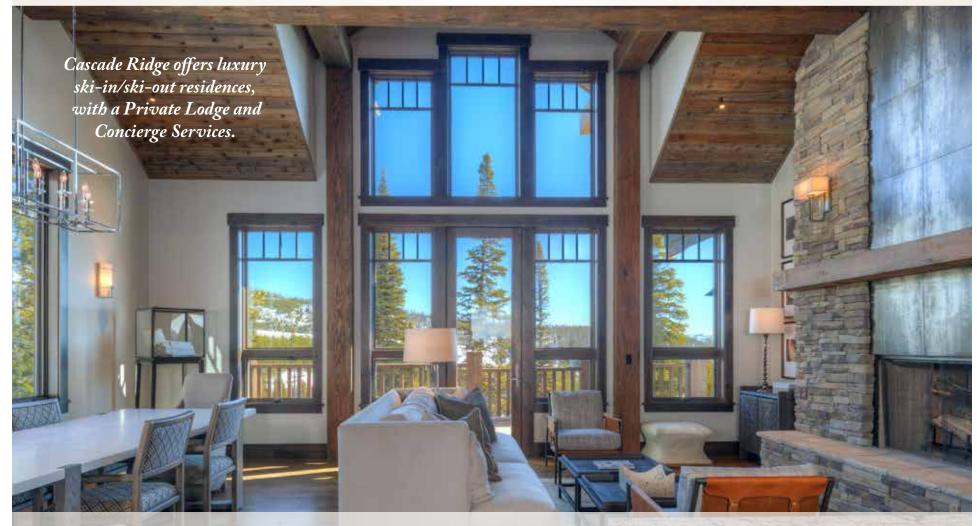


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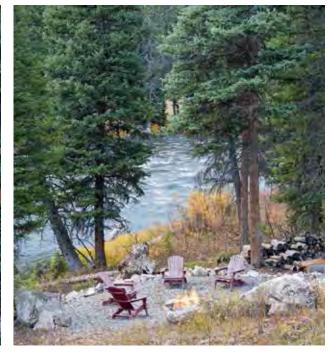


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Protect your assets—the right way

BY ROBERT KERDASHA *Assuredpartners*

Your assets are important to you. And the way you insure them matters; especially when they represent all of your investments, hard work, and energy. Whether trying to protect property in multiple states, complicated risks, or multiple prized collections, there has been an underlying approach that consumers tend to take to protect their investments that has been reinforced for years by lazy insurance providers and speculative Internet blog posts.

Instincts may prompt you to try this standard but outdated approach—calling five or six insurance brokers, asking them to quote with various carriers, doing some additional online comparison and maybe even checking out rates for online insurance options.

With all this information, you then try to determine which program offers the best protection for the cost. This idea that the more carriers, brokers, and companies you compare—the more options you uncover, the better the result—has permeated the insurance marketplace seemingly forever.

However, this approach actually creates more work for you, the consumer.

Why?

All of those brokers you originally contacted likely reached out to the same carriers for quotes, especially if they are established in the high-net worth personal lines space. They all have access to the same markets, offering Chubb, Pure, AIG, Berkeley One, Vault, and Cincinnati. You then are left with the unwelcome task of trying to determine a program based on prices and plans alone, without an experienced agent on your side to talk you through the ins and outs of what you are looking at.

With everyone having the same markets, you may ask, "What can I do to prevent myself from being in this situation?"

Instead of asking for quotes upfront, interview your potential agent. While all companies might have access to the same companies, that does not mean their experience in putting together customized solutions is identical as well.



To ensure you are with the right insurance advisor, be sure to ask your broker the following questions:

- 1. What does the business operation look like? Who will be handling your program details on a day-to-day basis? Who will be the person answering your phone calls whenever you need something?
- 2. Is the company able to handle all your specific coverage needs, whether they be on a national or international property?
- 3. How is client communication handled by the company? How often will you hear from your insurance advisor? What are your communi cation expectations, and can the advisor meet them?
- 4. Does your advisor have an in-house claims department? Or do they rely on the carrier's claim center?
- 5. Does your advisor have any advanced certifications showing they specialize in the areas of risk that matter the most to you?
- 6. Wherever your properties are located, is your advisor experienced on the different risk factors in those specific regions, whether they be flood, tornadoes, wildfires, hurricanes, etc.?
- 7. What level of experience does your advisor have in insuring collec tions, such as fine arts, jewelry, cars, etc.?
- 8. Is the relationship between your advisor and the insurance carrier close enough to work in your favor? When your agent knows execu tive management, you can rely on them working on behalf of their clients to make the impossible possible.

In the end, all insurance advisors will get access to the similar pricing and options from the carrier partners. You will pay close to the same amount, especially in the high-end space, regardless of the insurance advisor you pick.

The decision to make is determining which advisor will work for you and your assets, ensuring you are getting more than just a policy, but an entire team committed to keeping you and your assets safe. Take time to hire your insurance advisor with care, and the comfort and security you will feel will be worth taking this alternate approach.

Robert Kerdasha is Director, Personal Risk Services, and a 29 year veteran, CAPI (Certified Advisor of Personal Insurance) to the High Net Worth personal insurance marketplace. AssuredPartners writes coverage in all 50 US states.



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STAY MONTANA

BIG SKY – Chris and Jen Torsleff founded Stay Montana in 2016, bringing over 55 years of combined hospitality and resort property management experience gained from working for great companies like Vail Resorts, Ritz Carlton, Hilton and Marriott.

"We are proud of the fact we started out in positions of bellman and busser and worked our way to key leadership roles in some of the most respected companies in the hotel and resort industry," said Jen, a sentiment echoed by Chris.

Those years of training and experience in the hospitality business, coupled with a passion and focus on building guest loyalty, has made Stay Montana the fastest growing vacation rental company in Southwest Montana. These core principles have yielded substantial income growth for their property owners who previously used other long-established management companies in Big Sky.

"We were always taught to focus on the guest first and performance results will fall into place. Our service speaks to the success of our vacation rentals, which is more powerful than location or finishes."

Their passion for excellence and creating amazing experiences for their guests inspired their startup Stay Montana. After 25 plus years in corporate America, they both knew they could make more meaningful impacts on the guest experience and owner partnerships—two things they are most passionate about.

"Personal connections and relationships with our owners are what drive us to be better every day. It's important to us to be 'very personal' in what can be a very transactional industry," says Chris. Married at The Moonlight Lodge 17 years ago, they continue to enjoy mountain life in Big Sky country.

"Our son loves ski racing with the Big Sky Ski Team and playing soccer for Gallatin Elite Soccer Club. Our daughter loves skiing, horseback riding and baking her signature cookies for all our guests. She created a unique Chocolate Chip Caramel cookie recipe and each guest gets a bag of freshly baked cookies when they arrive. She values the concept of a warm welcome and adds a little sweet to go with it," said Jen, albeit busy with family and business commitments, but very happy with the life the couple has carved out with their children.

The company has deep ties to the southwest Montana: Having owned and managed rental properties in Big Sky and Bozeman for more than 20 years, its owners and their family have enjoyed many days of skiing, hiking and fishing in the Gallatin Valley.

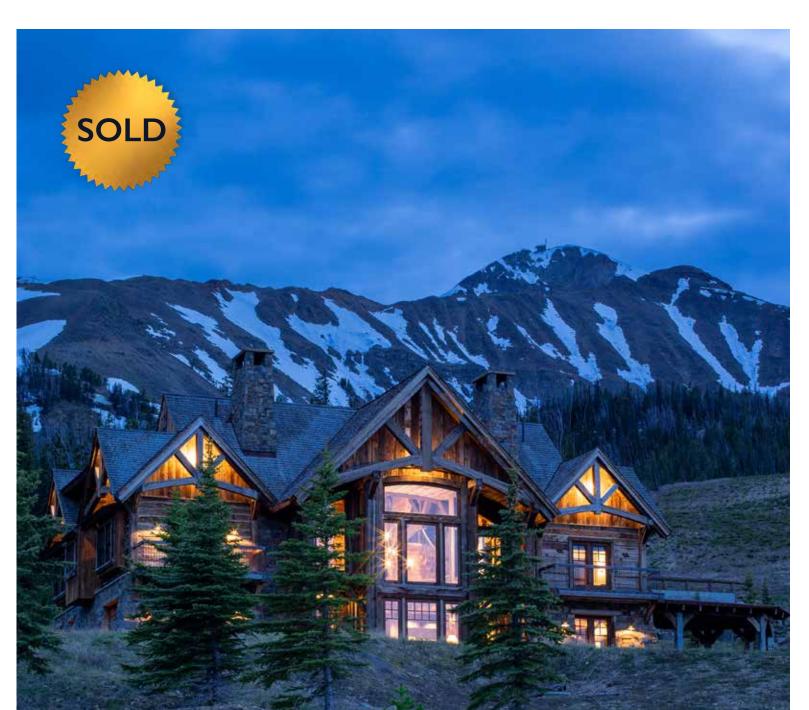
"Being owners of property in Big Sky taught us to leave the 'nickel and diming' behind for a simple performance-based fee model. We love getting owners who are tired of being charged for a light bulb or being told when they can use their property! We say, 'it's your property, use it when you want, and we will generate income for you when you aren't there.' We will continue to grow our business in these communities through strong partnerships so that we can remain for years to come and leave this legacy for our children to continue," said Chris.

With local offices in Big Sky Town Center and also just south of Four Corners in the Bridge District, Stay Montana invites you to stop in and learn more. Call 406-995-2775 or visit www.staymontana.com.



The Torsleffs and their two children soaking up the great outdoors of southwest Montana. PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS TORSLEFF

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