

**Explore**

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

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# Big Sky

June 21 - July 1, 2019  
Volume 10 // Issue #13

**TIGER grant signed!**

***Resort tax: Who got what***  
**Preventing grizzly conflict**

**The art of wildfire**

***Peak to Sky's lady rebels***



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# OUTLAW

. P A R T N E R S .

June 21 - July 1, 2019

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## ON THE COVER:

Kent Sullivan was climbing near Skyline Butress in Gallatin Canyon when he snapped this shot of a lone tree perched atop a lofty crag. The photo was runner up for Explore Big Sky's first two weeks of the "Summer Shutters" photo contest, which has bi-monthly \$75 dole outs as well as a grand prize at the end of August of \$500 cash and \$500-worth of equipment from Bozeman Camera and The Frugal Frame Shop. PHOTO BY KENT SULLIVAN

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## TIGER grant gets signed!

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## Resort tax: Who got what

This year, requests for resort tax funding exceeded collections by \$3 million, compelling the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board to break out a previously unused tool: bonding.

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## Preventing grizzly conflict

Communities across the Intermountain West are coping with the gradual comeback of the mighty grizzly bear, as the intelligent species reclaims historic territory under new protections. Yet communities are learning how to better accommodate such wild neighbors.

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## The art of wildfire

Photographer Stuart Palley is on a mission to turn one of the most destructive forces of nature into awareness-driving art with his series "Terra Flama," Latin for "earth on fire."

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## Peak to Sky's lady rebels

Seattle-based Thunderpussy, a four piece, all female, rock and roll band inspired by the genre's iconic sounds of the '70s, will tear up the Peak to Sky stage on July 5, bringing just enough in-your-face energy and pizzazz to let you know they're the real deal.



Officially inspected flags designated as damaged or worn beyond repair may be burned in a fire, a longstanding and accepted national tradition. The American Legion passed the Ceremony for Disposal of Unserviceable Flags resolution in 1937.

On June 16, Big Sky's American Legion Post 99 collected tattered and torn flags from community members and conducted a flag retiring ceremony at the Gallatin Riverhouse Grill. Here, Sergeant at Arms Brian Busik (left with flag) inspects each flag to determine its condition, while Legion Adjutant Dick Allgood (right) oversees the ceremony. PHOTO BY "CAPT." JACK HUDSPETH

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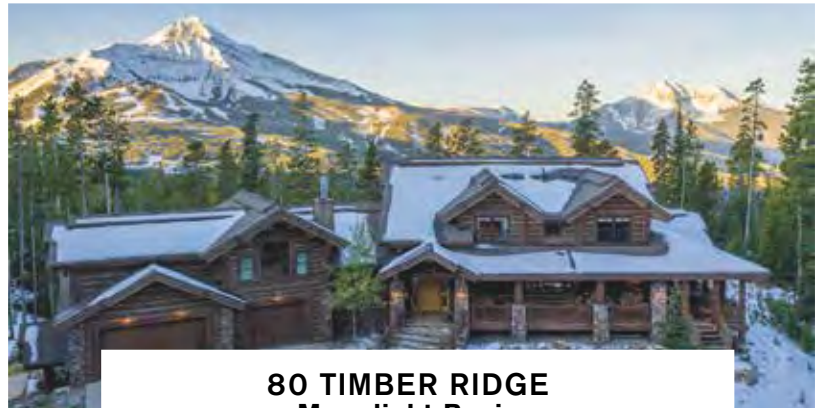
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## Gallatin Watershed stewards program kicks off with park clean-up

**GREATER GALLATIN WATERSHED COUNCIL**

The Greater Gallatin Watershed Council will host a family-friendly opportunity to get involved with watershed stewardship on June 25 at the Glen Lake Rotary Park. The event will begin with a cleanup of the recreation area, including the trail system nearby on the East Gallatin River. GGWC has partnered with other local organizations, such as Gallatin River Task Force, that will be present to provide information on events, workshops, water-wise rebates and other ways to become involved with watershed stewardship. Following the cleanup there will be a barbecue and raffle with prizes including a gift certificate for Oboz shoes, a water-wise shower head and toys from Rocky Mountain Toy Company.

## New president of Yellowstone Forever announced

**EBS STAFF**

After nearly three years of work in merging two organizations into Yellowstone National Park's official non-profit partner Yellowstone Forever, CEO and president Heather White resigned, effective June 14.

The organization's board of directors' treasurer John Walda will serve as interim president and CEO of Yellowstone Forever. Walda recently retired from his position as president and CEO of the National Association of College and University Business and has worked on the National Advisory Council as well as been on the board of Yellowstone Park Foundation, one of the organizations that has been merged into Yellowstone Forever.

Both White and Yellowstone Forever board chairman Kay Yeager expressed gratitude for White's time with the organization, noting her accomplishments, which included raising tens of millions of dollars as well as garnering increased awareness of the Yellowstone Forever brand.

## MSU engineers research new artificial wing design

**EBS STAFF**

Thanks to a \$370,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, Montana State University is undergoing a research initiative to work through the physics of artificial flapping wings similar to those of flying insects.

The project is being led by Mark Jankauski, an assistant professor at MSU's Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering. The successful creation of these wings could be applied to technology like drones and further downsize the now-popular unpiloted aircrafts. Jankauski is joined by fellow assistant professor Erick Johnson. Jankauski has stressed that while the grant is a good "jumping-off point," it will be a while before the wings are ready for application.

## YNP Superintendent to keynote chamber's awards dinner

**BIG SKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Cameron Sholly will deliver the keynote speech at the 22nd annual Big Sky Chamber Black Diamond Business Awards Dinner and Members' Meeting on June 25.

Sholly recently said it's imperative that the park's future plans include better digital connectivity while still honoring the park's land ethics. Like the Big Sky chamber, the park plans to investigate how existing telecommunications infrastructure can be improved as a way to deliver a quality visitor experience and support the region's tourism economy.

Before arriving in Yellowstone, Sholly served as the regional director for the National Park Service Midwest Region. During his tenure as Regional Director, the region completed one of the largest public/private partnership projects in NPS history—a \$380 million renovation of the St. Louis Arch grounds and visitor center.

## New Yellowstone interim chief ranger selected

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

Superintendent Cam Sholly announced that Leslie Reynolds will serve as the interim chief ranger of Yellowstone National Park while the park begins the process of filling the job permanently. She replaces outgoing chief ranger, Pete Webster, who recently transferred to deputy superintendent of Glacier National Park. Reynolds will begin her acting position on June 18 and serve throughout the summer and fall. Reynolds, a Massachusetts native, has experience serving as chief ranger of both Cape Cod National Seashore and Shenandoah National Park and has also served many other parks in leadership positions.

As Yellowstone's interim chief ranger, Reynolds will oversee a division budget of \$16 million and a team of 170 employees.

Sholly said Reynolds is one of the best chief rangers and managers in the agency and expressed excitement in bringing her on board. Reynolds and her husband Jim will reside in Mammoth Hot Springs for the duration of the detail.



Southwest Montana will be alive with concerts this summer. What is your favorite concert you’ve ever been to and why?



**Topher Patten**  
*Boulder, Colorado*

“The Foo Fighters at the Pepsi Center was the most badass concert because they were loud. It was really rowdy on the floor, and after the floor I got to go up to box seats with my parents.”



**Nicole Henhoeffler**  
*Big Sky, Montana*

“My favorite concert would probably be Green Day, because that was the first concert my sister and I got to go to by ourselves. We were down on the floor, and there were a bunch of people who were older than we were at the time, and they kind of took care of us because we were just little girls in the front like, ‘This is awesome!’”



**Xela Sarmiento**  
*San Diego, California*

“My favorite concert was when (Big Sky) brought a Latin group and they played salsa and a bunch of Latin music. My dad is Guatemalan, and we like Latin music, and there isn’t a lot in Montana.”



**Kimi Hueftle**  
*Big Sky, Montana*

“I want to say Paul McCartney, because he’s a legend, and he’s still just killing it. He puts on such a good show and has so much energy for how old he is, he’s still just crushing it.”



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## OUTLAW™

News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

## Community Rodeo stampedes into Big Sky July 19

The Big Sky Community Rodeo makes its debut at the Big Sky Events Arena in Big Sky Town Center Friday, July 19 from 7-9 p.m.

The event is developed in collaboration with the Montana State University Rodeo team and designed for fans of all ages. Come experience some of MSU's finest up-and-coming rodeo athletes as they educate and entertain with a variety of rodeo disciplines, including Bareback Riding, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping, Saddle Bronc Riding, Tie-Down Roping, Breakaway Roping, Barrel Racing and Bull Riding. Each rodeo discipline will feature four athletes competing in a shootout style and a winner-take-all format.

Mutton bustin' and an additional 406 Rodeo featuring miniature bucking stock ridden by junior roughstock kids will highlight the evening. Professional PBR and Western sports announcer Matt West will be announcing the event.

Ticketholders can enjoy food and drink options at the venue including food trucks and bar service.

Tickets will include both child and adult options from \$15-\$35 beginning Monday, June 24 at 10 a.m. MST, online only at [bigskycommunityrodeo.com](http://bigskycommunityrodeo.com).  
— *Outlaw Partners Staff*

## PBR golf tournament fundraiser returns to Moonlight

BY BELLA BUTLER

The Annual Big Sky PBR Golf Tournament will kick off PBR season for the third year in a row on July 24 with an 11 a.m. shotgun start. The event, from which proceeds will benefit the Western Sports Foundation, will take place at The Reserve, Moonlight Basin's 8000-yard private golf course designed by Jack Nicklaus.

The tournament will include 20 teams of four players, and each team will be given a professional bull rider as a fifth player. The teams will play an 18-hole, best ball tournament followed by an awards ceremony, where first through third place teams will be given prizes.

This year's tournament will also feature a "closest to the hole" competition sponsored by Natalie's Estate Winery. Bozeman spirits also donated a prize pack for a raffle and all participants will walk away with swag bags.

Registration for the remaining two available spots can be done online or the day of beginning at 9 a.m. The registration fee is \$1,300 per team, which includes the cart, greens fee, range balls, gift bags, a boxed lunch and the happy hour awards ceremony.

The beneficiary of the tournament, the Western Sports Foundation, is a nonprofit organization that supports athletes of western sports by providing medical, life counseling and financial resources to address immediate needs such as post-injury care. The organization also seeks to prepare athletes for life after competition through educational scholarships and other resources.

Aubrey O'Quin, WSF's director of programs and operations, said this year the organization's goal is to raise awareness for WSF and the programs that they offer.

"We'd also like to make this our most successful fundraiser of 2019," she said. "The funds we raise during this event are paramount to our success and mission."

O'Quin also expressed excitement about bringing the Big Sky community together with some of PBR's best athletes in a unique setting. "The Reserve at Moonlight Basin is such a gorgeous course and never disappoints on scenery and atmosphere. This is sure to be the best tournament yet!"


Another opportunity to support WSF will be during an auction at the Golden Buckle VIP tent during the PBR on Friday and Saturday nights.



The third annual Big Sky PBR Golf Tournament will kick off on July 24 at The Reserve at Moonlight Basin, a private golf course designed by Jack Nicklaus. The tournament will include 20 teams of four players, each with a professional bull rider as a fifth player. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

One auction item is an alligator hunt in Lake Charles, Louisiana. The highest bidder will enjoy two nights stay at the Grosse Savanne Lodge for two, along with three hunts, licenses and meals. The second auction item is a Native American horse mask. The traditional mask, while strikingly beautiful and detailed in appearance, also holds great cultural history and symbolism.

*For tournament sponsorship opportunities or to put in a pre-bid for an auction item, call (719) 242-2800 ext. 3219 or email [aoquin@westernsportsfoundation.org](mailto:aoquin@westernsportsfoundation.org). Visit [westernsportsfoundation.org](http://westernsportsfoundation.org) for more information.*



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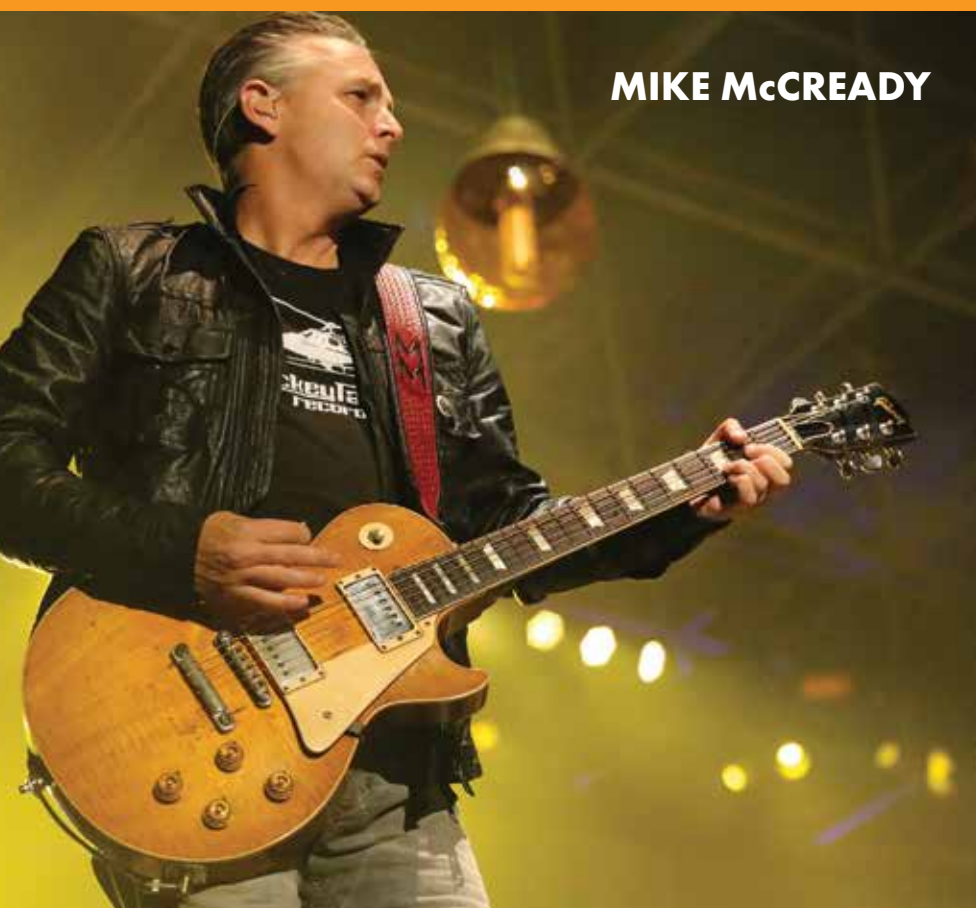
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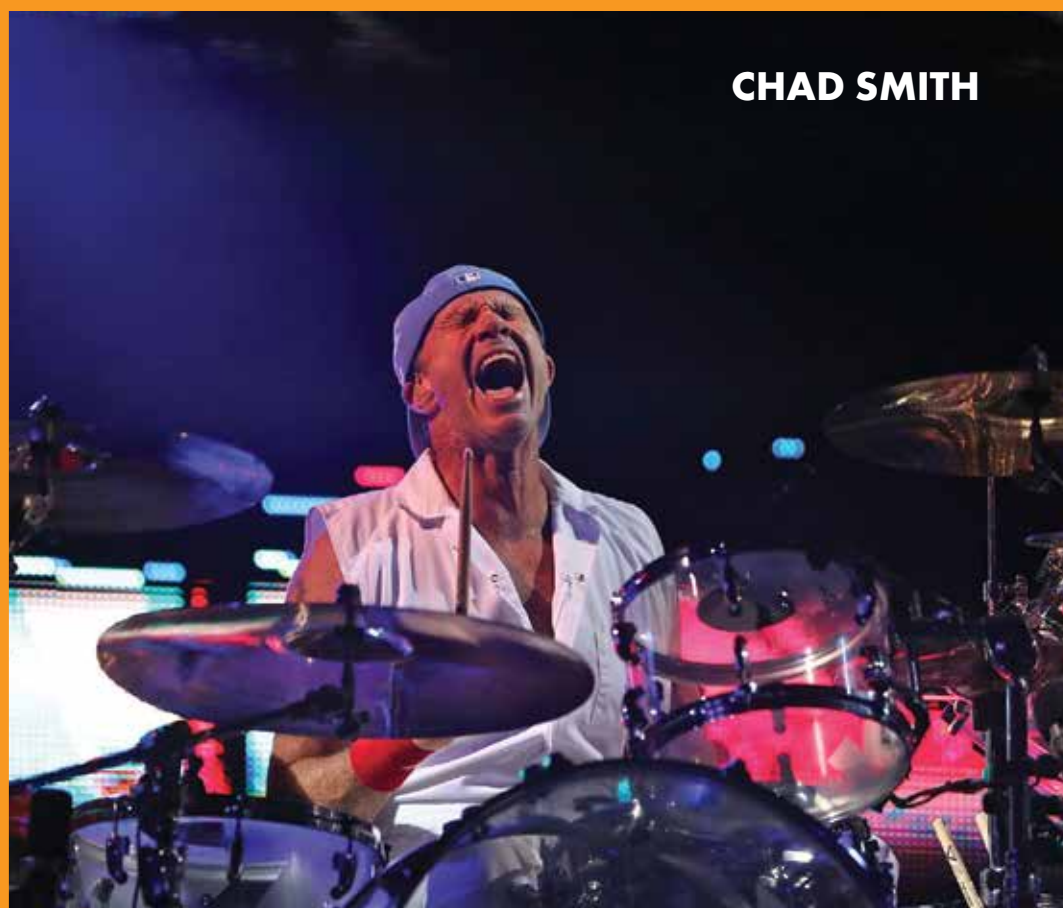
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# FEATURING



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**CASPAR BABYPANTS**



**PAIGE & THE PEOPLE'S BAND**



**BRANDI CARLILE**

# Resort tax uses bonding for first time, takes out nearly \$1M

## Scholz announces resignation

BY BAY STEPHENS

**BIG SKY** – At the June 10 final resort tax appropriations meeting held at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center for the Big Sky Resort Area District, the board bonded \$939,000, and doled out the \$8.4 million available resort tax collections to 26 organizations operating in Big Sky. BSRAD Director Mike Scholz also announced that he will step down at the end of this summer.

Deciding how to allocate this year's resort tax collections for the 2019-2020 fiscal year was a tall order, as 28 organizations requested \$11.4 million, creating a nearly \$3 million dearth, the largest resort tax has yet seen.

Bonding was put toward the Big Sky Community Organization's over \$2 million ask to help fund construction of the community center, with \$1.54 million of this year's collections allocated to the organization and the remaining \$500,000 bonded.

Gallatin County 911's request was entirely funded through a \$439,000 bond to support the creation of a mission critical radio network based on Lone Mountain, which will depend on funding from Gallatin and Madison counties as well.

Although bonding has been in BSRAD's toolbox since 2013, when Gov. Steve Bullock signed a bill that the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and resort tax board of the time rallied to support, the board has never used it.

A majority vote of the resort tax board and voter approval is required to pass a bond in excess of \$500,000, but for bonds less than that amount a 4 out of 5 majority board vote with no voter approval approves a bond.

During the meeting, the details of how soon bonded funds would be made available were not clear. In general, the process will require BSRAD taking out \$939,000 in private loans to give the allocated funds for the 911 radio network improvements and the community center, while the board pays off the loan with interest using future collections for up to 10 years, depending on how many years the board chooses to spread the loans over.

Steve Johnson, the board's vice chair, recommended bonding as an appropriate option this year considering the long-term nature of several projects the funds would be put toward, adding that it could be a mechanism to close this year's nearly \$3.3 million shortfall between requested and available resort tax funds.

Other board members were hesitant.

"I'm just worried about taking money out of next year," said BSRAD Treasurer Sarah Blechta. "We have a huge deficit this year and, looking around the room, I don't think anybody's going to ask us for less money [next year]."

Despite the board's recognition that community housing is a top priority in Big Sky, the Big Sky Community Housing Trust saw its allocation trimmed substantially from its request. Although the trust



The Big Sky Community Organization's community center saw robust community support from local sports teams The Big Sky Royals baseball team and the Big Sky Futbol Club girls soccer team, who both struggle for limited gym time during Big Sky's long winters. PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

had initially requested \$2.4 million, they were awarded what Program Director Laura Seyfang named the bare minimum amount, \$1.65 million, in order to pursue a promising potential rental housing project that could include 48 units with rent tied to income. She said construction could begin next spring if all went well.

Early in the evening, the board agreed that the community center was an appropriate instance for bonding, allowing them to wet their feet without going too deep. However, late into the 3.5-hour-long meeting, the board found that it had over allocated \$342,574 and had to either run back through the list of applicants and make cuts to break even, or consider another project to bond.

Board Chair Kevin Germain was not in favor of borrowing anymore against future collections.

"We've already bonded \$500,000, we've completely depleted our sinking fund and we have big needs coming in this community and we're just going to make this much harder on the board next year and subsequent boards," Germain said. "Bonding is the easy button."

"I think we've got to go back through and just balance the check-book," Germain added.

Ultimately, the board agreed to bond Gallatin 911's request.

The meeting concluded with the announcement that BSRAD Director Mike Scholz was stepping down later this summer after eight years of service on the board. Although his term would have ended in May 2020, he said that he and his wife's travel schedule throughout the fall would not permit him to effectively participate for the last months of his term.

"What has been accomplished with the over \$50 million raised through the 3 percent resort tax has transformed Big Sky," Scholz said in an email. "It has been an honor to work alongside so many dedicated board members, staff and community-minded leaders."

2019 Final Big Sky Resort Area District Tax Appropriations

ORGANIZATION:	AMOUNT REQUESTED:	FUNDING APPROVED:	PERCENT FUNDED:	BOND AMOUNT (IF ANY):
Arts Council of Big Sky	\$264,750	\$205,200	78%	
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Gallatin County	\$25,000	\$0	0%	
Big Sky Chamber of Commerce	\$417,510	\$385,000	92%	
Big Sky Community Food Bank (HRDC)	\$33,000	\$33,000	100%	
Big Sky Community Housing Trust (HRDC)	\$2,435,000	\$1,650,000	68%	
Big Sky Community Organization	\$2, 040,609	\$1,540,000	100%	\$500,000
Big Sky Discovery Academy	\$80,000	\$65,000	81%	
Big Sky Fire Department	\$916,971	\$916,971	100%	
Rollover: Gallatin County 911	\$439,499	\$0	100%	\$439,499
Gallatin County Sheriff's Department	\$300,154	\$300,154	100%	
Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance	\$138,925	\$50,000	36%	
Gallatin River Task Force	\$690,803	\$490,803	71%	
Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association	\$85,000	\$25,000	29%	
Habitat for Humanity of Gallatin Valley	\$400,000	\$400,000	100%	
Library	\$80,720	\$80,720	100%	
Rollover: Madison Conservation District	\$1,200	\$1,200	100%	
Parkview West Homeowners Association	\$103,000	\$0	0%	
Morning Star Learning Center	\$170,175	\$136,140	80%	
Montana Land Reliance	\$26,500	\$19,500	74%	
Big Sky Post Office	\$94,000	\$94,000	100%	
Big Sky Search and Rescue	\$23,500	\$23,500	100%	
Big Sky Skating and Hockey Association	\$42,052	\$42,052	100%	
Big Sky Transportation District	\$975,000	\$800,000	82%	
Visit Big Sky	\$778,065	\$500,000	64%	
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center	\$224,191	\$211,191	94%	
Big Sky Water and Sewer District	\$500,000	\$250,000	50%	
Wildlife Conservation Society	\$60,592	\$48,136	79%	
Women in Action	\$48,000	\$48,000	100%	
OTHER RESORT TAX FUNDING:				
Sinking Fund		\$96,875		
TOTALS:	\$11,394,216	\$8,412,442		\$939,499

# Water and Sewer approve further Spanish Peaks development

## Review bids for wastewater plant upgrade technology

BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – During their June 18 meeting, the Big Sky Water and Sewer District board approved a motion to write a capacity letter for an agreement granting Spanish Peaks’ Phase 3C development. They also reviewed bids for the MBR filtration technology that would be implemented in the wastewater treatment plant upgrade currently under design.

A subcommittee of the BSWSD board met on June 14 with their attorney and Spanish Peaks representatives to evaluate a request for capacity from the resort’s developer. A 2002 agreement between the district and the developer of Spanish Peaks obligates the district to provide 42.5 million gallons of wastewater flow a year to the resort within a specific boundary.

In order for developments to be approved, developers must prove to the county and DEQ that there is sewer capacity for the proposed project, which can be accomplished via a capacity letter from the district. The letter Spanish Peaks requested confirms that the district has enough capacity for the 19 housing and duplex units that comprise the resort’s Phase 3C development.

The development partially crosses out of the boundary delineated in the 2002 agreement. The district still gave the capacity letter to the developer, but made clear that it counts toward the 42.5 million gallon total that the resort will receive, even if the new development is not on the land to which the agreement refers.

Board member Brian Wheeler added to the motion that the developer and the district must work to resolve any discrepancies between the 2002 agreement and the district boundaries.

Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services engineer Scott Buecker, who is heading the district’s wastewater treatment plant upgrade process, also briefed the board on three bids they had received from companies to supply the MBR filtration technology that would allow the plant to take on more capacity and treat it to a higher standard than the current plant.

Two firms were seriously considered, offering bidding cost estimates that were significantly lower than the board expected. Suez Water



The storage ponds of the Big Sky Water and Sewer District store treated effluent from around Big Sky, including Spanish Peaks, until it can be irrigated on area golf courses. On June 18, the district board approved a capacity letter that confirms the district has the sewer capacity to accommodate the club’s next phase of buildout. PHOTO BY JENNINGS BARMORE

Technologies and Solutions and Evoqua Water Technologies bid the MBR equipment for the upgrade for \$1.32 million and \$1.54 million, respectively.

After evaluating the bids, the overall cost estimate for the lifecycle of both companies’ technology was similar, around \$3 million.

“I like where we’re at,” General Manager Ron Edwards said. “They’re both reputable companies. These two have the biggest market share and they have the most MBR plants installed across the U.S. I would say.”

The board advised Buecker and Edwards to find references from other plants that have used either company’s technology to gain a better grasp on which would best suit their needs. The board will choose one at their July 16 meeting.

At this point, the earliest groundbreaking for the plant would be spring of 2021 with construction over two summers so that the new system was operating by 2023.



## A vision for community

Jenna Graham takes the Big Sky Envisions - Opportunity Survey and talks with Bruce Meighen and Mitch Hendrick of Logan Simpson, the Denver-based firm hired by the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board. The questionnaire was created as part of the Big Sky Community Visioning Strategy to survey Big Sky residents about initiatives they want to support in the community and is available at ourbigskymt.com where Logan Simpson is taking public comment through July 19.

The third phase will take place in September, and will focus on the “more detailed projects and opportunities that have been and will be identified during the current [second] phase,” Hendrick wrote in a June 17 email to EBS. – JTO

# TIGER grant signed, makes way for employee housing

BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – On June 11, just over 15 months after the U.S. Department of Transportation announced that Gallatin County, on behalf of Big Sky, had won a \$10.3 million TIGER grant, the county signed the grant. The grant will enable much-needed improvements on Lone Mountain Trail and has allowed the Powder Light employee housing development to continue moving forward.

“Gallatin County is leading the state in economic growth,” Sen. Steve Daines said in a March 6, 2018 statement when the award was announced. “This grant will help the county meet the infrastructure demands of this rapid growth and continue creating good-paying jobs in the community.”

The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant will be used for the construction of approximately seven turn lanes on Lone Mountain Trail, also known as Highway 64, a pedestrian tunnel beneath the highway and nearly \$2.5 million for the Skyline bus system, which will include adding four buses and six vans to the existing public transport between Big Sky and the greater Bozeman area.

A 2017 transportation study commissioned by the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and written by the Western Transportation Institute identified numerous hazards on the state highway, including high traffic volumes and unprotected turn lanes.

The hazard of unprotected turn lanes stalled the construction of the Powder Light development, a project slated to have 40 four-bedroom employee housing units and commercial space just east of Ace Hardware. A vote of the county commissioners in 2017 citing the lack of a turn lane on Lone Mountain Trail as a safety concern brought the project’s progress to a halt.

Former developer Scott Altman, who was in a lawsuit with the county over the decision, said the TIGER grant helped allow the settlement. The county gave Powder Light preliminary plat in January with the condition that construction for the buildings cannot begin until the turn lane next to Ace Hardware is completed.

Currently, construction crews are installing the infrastructure to bring the project to final plat in anticipation of the turn lane’s potential addition next summer. Then, another developer will oversee the full Powder Light buildout.

Altman said the original hope was to start the development in November of 2017, so that the building would have potentially opened this summer.

“It’s just so sad it’s taken so long,” Altman said. “We’ve been wanting to do it for years and we were trying to, but hopefully they’ll let them break ground next summer once that turn lane goes in.”

Ironically, the same traffic study that was used to get the TIGER grant also prompted the county to stop the development of the Powder Light subdivision.

David Kack, coordinator for the Big Sky Transportation District and program manager for the Western Transportation Institute, said that if there is funding left over after the project is completed, and if traffic data warrants it, the remainder could potentially be put toward installing traffic signals at specific intersections. Where Lone Mountain Trail meets Little Coyote Road and where it intersects Huntley Drive are both potential candidates.

“I’m just looking forward, now that the grant is signed, to really doing all the work,” Kack said. “We’ve been waiting 15 months, so let’s get going and take care of the work that needs to happen in Big Sky.”

Gallatin County Grants Coordinator Jamie Grabinski said the grant signing took so long partially because the county received the federal funds, instead of the state as is usually the case. She said the state, county and U.S. DOT had to spend time ironing out administration details and that the county had to tweak their budget for the awarded money to suit federal standards.

Now that the county has signed the grant, it returns to the U.S. DOT for a final signature before the funds are released and the county can call for bids on construction.

With Montana’s short construction season, Grabinski said the proposed work schedule puts project completion and road opening at the end of July 2022, assuming the skies cooperate.

“Especially for Big Sky, weather is a big factor,” Grabinski said.

The grant is a win for the community and bears witness to Big Sky’s cooperative efforts, according to chamber CEO Candace Carr Strauss.

“Big Sky’s receipt of the \$10.3 million TIGER Grant is a testament to this community’s commitment and the power of partnership,” Carr Strauss said. “Our ability to capture federal funds to assist Big Sky with its significant infrastructure needs as it continues to evolve from a tourist destination to a sustainable community is remarkable and the impact will be transformative in our continued growth.”



On June 11, the Gallatin County Commissioners signed the TIGER grant, releasing \$10.3 million dollars awarded to the county for improvements to Lone Mountain Trail, or Highway 64. The improvements include seven turn lanes and a pedestrian tunnel connecting Big Sky’s trail system. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

# Chamber shows its new digs



On June 14, the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce held an open house in its remodeled space at the intersection of Lone Mountain Trail and U.S. Highway 64. The renovation, which began in late November of 2018, was expected to wrap up by mid-January.

The renovations include an updated and modern feel to welcome visitors to Big Sky and, for the staff of the chamber and Visit Big Sky, newly partitioned office spaces, an extra bathroom and renovated kitchen. The building still houses Big Sky Resort founder Chet Huntley’s original desk.

# Pence visits Yellowstone, outlines plan to pay down maintenance backlog



U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, along with Second Lady Karen Pence, landed in Air Force Two in West Yellowstone on June 13 before touring Yellowstone National Park. The Vice President delivered remarks to the National Park Service in front of Old Faithful, announcing the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund, which would dedicate 50 percent of the revenues from leases on public lands to improve and maintain the infrastructure of our national parks.

“We’re getting broad bipartisan support for it and we’re going to continue to carry that message back to Washington D.C.,” Pence said. He added that he expects the funding stream the bill would create would more than meet the maintenance obligations of U.S. National Parks. Currently, the NPS deferred maintenance backlog amounts to \$11.92 billion, more than \$500,000 of which is in Yellowstone.



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Earth on fire pg. 21



Wildflower season in Yellowstone  
pg. 26



Top 5 climbs in Gallatin Canyon pg. 30

# When grizzlies get in trouble

## A ‘shared responsibility’

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE



A grizzly bear on Swan Lake Flats in Yellowstone National Park. As the bruins continue to recolonize their homelands, many communities are working to adapt.  
NPS PHOTO

grounds or areas where animals are kept at night. And as the bruins recolonize their historic ranges, communities unused to the idea of living with bears are having to adapt, while those familiar with bears must continue to improve.

### When conflict happens

“It’s normal behavior for a bear to be attracted to any resource that might provide nutrition,” said Mike Madel, a biologist for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Based in Choteau on the Rocky Mountain Front, Madel was hired in 1986 as the state’s first grizzly management biologist in order to lead conflict response and mitigation efforts.

“Bears are an intelligent, large carnivore,” he said over the phone in between setting traps to catch and collar grizzly bears and helping landowners build grizzly-resistant fences. “They have the ability to learn quickly and remember.”

Still listed under the Endangered Species Act, grizzly bears are managed throughout their ranges in the Lower 48 by a team of officials from state and tribal wildlife agencies as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—a partnership known as the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee.

Managers are required to follow distinct guidelines in the event of known conflict situations, such as bears damaging property or exhibiting aggressive behavior. Written in 1986, these guidelines dictate the appropriate response based on the bear’s age, sex, behavior and conflict history.

Hilary Cooley, the FWS grizzly bear recovery coordinator, said agency partners discuss via conference calls safety issues and a bear’s status, as well as whether they have identified the correct bear. If it is a relocation scenario, they negotiate a preapproved site for the bear with land management agencies like the U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management.

Cooley added that the decision to lethally remove a bear typically comes when it has repeatedly caused problems and is food conditioned or exhibiting dangerous behavior. Oftentimes a bear is relocated first, though Madel says bruins have a knack for returning to their original area.

Speaking about lethal removal following livestock depredation, Madel said, “It’s the worst part of my job, but it’s probably a necessary part of maintaining a positive attitude toward grizzly bears, where landowners are providing some of the best grizzly bear habitat.”

When a producer loses livestock, he or she may seek compensation from the Montana Livestock Loss Board, which was established in 2007 by the state Legislature. After a multiagency investigation confirms the loss was due to predation and identifies the predator—a process that often involves skinning the animal in

order to assess bite marks—the rancher or farmer can request the market value of the animal.

Livestock loss claims are paid out from the state general fund through legislative appropriation. So far in 2019, as of June 11, the loss board has paid out \$41,150 to 30 landowners, accounting for the deaths of 72 animals caused by grizzly bears, wolves and mountain lions. There have been no claims from Gallatin or Park counties.

### An ounce of prevention

Throughout Rocky Mountain states, communities are taking steps to prevent grizzly bear conflict. Within the Big Sky area, landowners are encouraged to be bear-smart and follow the Bear Smart Big Sky campaign, which you can learn more about on page 29.

In newly colonized areas, where bears haven’t appeared on the landscape for decades, such as on the Rocky Mountain Front, the Ruby Valley southwest of Bozeman, the Blackfoot Valley near Missoula or land east of Cody, Wyoming, many livestock producers are voluntarily adopting bear-wise husbandry strategies.

Within Paradise Valley south of Livingston, a group of ranchers has formed the Tom Miner Basin Association, which seeks to promote accountability and responsibility among the area producers in part by using “range riders” who monitor cattle turned out on pasture.

While members of the association declined to comment, and calls requesting interviews were not returned by the Montana Stockgrowers Association or the Centennial Valley Association, Denny Iverson of the Blackfoot Challenge described what ranchers are doing to prevent conflicts near Missoula.

“It’s been interesting to see the progression of the attitude toward grizzly bears,” the rancher said. “[Part of] it’s just getting used to them. As the bears keep getting farther out ... there are certain things that are our responsibility, like cleaning up our boneyards or not keeping grain out.”

The Blackfoot Challenge, a coalition of ranchers in the Blackfoot Valley, offers several conflict mitigation approaches. One is an anonymous carcass-removal pickup program.

Historically, Iverson said, many ranchers would put dead cows or calves in a boneyard near their calving grounds—sometimes buried or sometimes heaped—but grizzlies and black bears are drawn to the carcasses. He recalls an instance where he once buried a cow with four feet of dirt. Three days later, he said, a bear had dug it up.

Through a partnership with the Montana Department of Transportation, carcasses are routinely collected during calving season and composted at a facility that also handles roadkill.

“Our [bear] conflicts are way, way down,” he said.

An additional option for livestock producers is to build electric fences around calving or bedding grounds. According to Madel, this is among the most effective options. “[Grizzly bears] will not come across an electric fence that is working properly,” he said.

Wildlife conservation organizations such as Defenders of Wildlife or Greater Yellowstone Coalition provide support for electric fence construction, offering cost-share funds, education and sometimes materials or manpower.

“The reality is it’s a shared responsibility because we all benefit from bears,” said GYC Wildlife Program Associate Brooke Shifrin. “We’re learning there’s a whole lot we don’t understand. Different landscapes require different measures and we have a commitment to listen, learn and find common ground.”

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ENVIRONMENT

Explore Big Sky

*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.*

# New research explores water supply, climate change resilience

BY STEPHANIE LYNN  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Rebekah Levine, associate professor at the University of Montana Western, identified “snow refuges” in the headwaters of the Missouri River that could bolster summer water supply even as Montana heats up using a new map. Her conclusions resulted from seven years spent pondering the connection between winter snow and summer streamflow in partnership with The Nature Conservancy.

Missouri Headwaters: Climate Resilience of Tributary Basins

Acres of High-Elevation, Shaded Terrain for Snow Persistence

- 3,001 - 8,102 (High Shade)
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- 1 - 1,000 (Low Shade)

Map indicates snow melts slowly in Big Sky

“Snow acts like a reservoir high in the mountains that releases water slowly through late spring and early summer. The high elevation reservoir, however, is not actually controlled by a head gate, but controlled by the amount of snow accumulated and the temperatures during the melt season,” Levine said. “The term ‘snow refuge’ is a way to think about the characteristics of the landscape that allow snow to remain for the greatest length of time.”

As warming temperatures cause precipitation to fall as rain rather than snow, late summer stream and groundwater levels in Big Sky, and across the West, will dwindle. Pinpointing locations that protect snow will allow land managers and conservation organizations to strategically plan projects that protect water supplies and native species.

“In Big Sky, the streams that have the highest potential to hold snow and supply water are the South Fork of the West Fork, West Fork, Cedar Creek and Jack Creek,” Nathan Korb, freshwater director with the Montana chapter of The Nature Conservancy, said. “These areas will become increasingly important in the future.”

Wildlife and people depend on snowpack reservoirs to supply about 50 to 80 percent of water in Montana, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service Montana. Areas like Big Sky that shelter snow during the spring will play a critical role in nourishing rivers and streams parched by a warmer world with a growing population.

“When we have to make strategic decisions about which streams will benefit from a restoration project or where we should focus on native fish conservation, this map can help us decide which projects or management actions make sense in which rivers,” Levine said. “Then we can ask whether we want to preserve the most resilient streams, or perhaps focus on streams closer to the brink.”

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

# The New West: Sholly discusses challenges facing Yellowstone

BY TODD WILKINSON  
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

Just five months shy of his 50th birthday, Yellowstone Superintendent Cam Sholly, the top decision-maker in this country's most venerable nature preserve, is being tasked to confront a mind-boggling array of controversies, large and small, immediate and long term.

On the day we met, he was preparing for his first summer deluge of visitors that traditionally commences after Memorial Day.

Some 434,000 visits were notched in Yellowstone in May, slightly down from the same month a year ago, which was the busiest May ever. In spite of the government shutdown last winter, the number of park visitors overall is up one percent and is 11 percent higher than in 2015.

Sholly noted that some things about Yellowstone in summer are not markedly different. "Since my first days here back in the mid-80s, I remember traffic gridlock caused by bison, bears and other animals along the roadside," he said.

"People love this place and that's not going to change," he added. "If people weren't so enthusiastic about coming here, I'd be worried. Fundamentally, the question we need to ask ourselves is how do we continue to give visitors an experience they'll never forget, while preserving the most important aspects what keeps Yellowstone a one-of-a-kind place in the world: it's diverse and interconnected resources."

Talk to local people who live in the region, including those who steadfastly avoid going to Yellowstone in summer, and many say its front-country is congested beyond capacity.

"I don't take quite the alarmist's viewpoint that some people do—at least not yet," Sholly said. "Let's put some things in perspective. Traffic moving through a road corridor, which covers one percent of Yellowstone's 2.2 million acres, is not nose diving the condition of the resources, even when it's bumper to bumper in certain places. That said, there are more visitors here than ever. We need to take it seriously and have an organized approach to how we manage visitors today, and what that might look like tomorrow."

A lot of ideas have been floated, not by Sholly but by citizens: a quota or lottery system that limits the number of people allowed to enter the park on a given day; a public transportation system comprised of shuttles; even monorails. Maybe someday such things might gain traction, Sholly said, but not anytime soon.

At current rising rates, Yellowstone could see the number of total annual tourist visits rise from 4.2 million to 6 million in a decade. "I can say unequivocally that we have not strategically-managed increased visitor use in this park," Sholly said.

In one of the most extensive visitor-use surveys conducted in Park Service history, conducted in 2018, 75 percent of visitors to Yellowstone were found to be in the park for the first time. Surprising perhaps to critics is that among those visitors surveyed, well over 90 percent said they had an excellent to very good experience during their stay.

This raises another question: Who is able to be a better gauge of what the Yellowstone experience should be—those who have been making regular pilgrimages to the park for decades and are dismayed, or those encountering it new with possibly lower expectations?



A traffic jam in Yellowstone's Hayden Valley caused by a herd of bison moving to and fro across the highway. NPS PHOTO

Sholly says it's important for people who live close by in the tri-state region of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho to understand perspectives of the latter.

"To those who are here seeing a bison or bear for the first time, it's a life-changing event. When they do, they're going to stop and get out of their cars, take pictures—it's a bucket-list moment to them and they're enjoying it. To the angler sitting behind the steering wheel 30 cars back, who has seen thousands of bison, he's frustrated," Sholly said. "Reconciling these various forms of enjoyment while protecting the resources successfully is really what visitor-use management is all about."

Given the wide range of Yellowstone stakeholders and varying interests, he's under no delusion that it will be easy. And he notes no one is surveying the wildlife, asking it what level of human visitation it would prefer.

No other national park in the Lower 48 has the diversity of large mammals Yellowstone does and there's a reason for that. Most of the park is unfragmented, devoid of huge throngs of people, including recreationists that are rapidly inundating wildlands outside the park, and habitat remains in good shape, at least for now.

Sholly isn't the equivalent of a crusading Captain Planet. He is really akin, in some ways, to a big city mayor dealing with huge infrastructure challenges that often overshadow other priorities.

Two statistics loom immediately large: Yellowstone's multi-billion-dollar asset portfolio—its human-built infrastructure—is plagued with a reported \$580 million in deferred maintenance. Some estimate that number to be considerably higher than reported, perhaps twice as large. Another stat is rising visitation.

Not long ago, Sholly told Montana Gov. Steve Bullock something that park advocates have been seeking for years: "We don't have a visitor-use-management strategy in this park. We have talked a lot about increased visitation. We've done some excellent surveys and social science exercises to get more data. But generally speaking, no one could tell you right now what our strategy is, or what we're doing to manage visitation more effectively, and that needs to change."

*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.*



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# Earth on fire

## Photo project documents wildfire, effects of climate change

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BOZEMAN – Stuart Palley’s photographs are haunting. They trap you in a world of fear and sparkling fire, intense colors and awe. Blending journalistic-type reporting with art, Palley’s photo project, “Terra Flamma: Wildfires at Night,” is five years in the making and focuses on raising awareness about fire management, drought and climate change.

On June 13, the Los Angeles-based photographer presented his work, “Terra Flamma,” Latin for “earth on fire,” as a large-format exhibition at the Bozeman home of Wes Siler and Virginia McQueen. Approximately two-dozen people turned out for the event, and from a lively din of conversation it was clear his images were sparking thought.

“They’re breathtaking and dangerous and sad,” McQueen said. “These are beautiful photographs. Stuart draws in your eye but then the curiosity leads to something else: What’s the consequence of megafire?”

While the majority of Palley’s work is from California, he says many of the scenes are representative of megafires that could break out—or already have—across other areas of the U.S.

“This is happening in our backyards,” Palley said, describing the intense fires that have raged in the last decade as the American West trends hotter and drier at a time when many are building homes in the wildland-urban interface. “This is an acute effect of climate change. As every year goes on, they get more intense.”

Palley said that with an average of nine more high-fire-danger days each year, it’s critical for communities to be fire-wise. Specific suggestions for homeowners in Big Sky are available on page 11 of the Real Estate Guide.

“The responsibility of every homeowner is to have a defensible home,” he said.

*Visit [terraflamma.org](http://terraflamma.org) for more information about Palley or to view more of his work.*



The Rocky Fire burns overnight near the town of Clear Lake, California. Hot and dry weather caused the fire to burn actively at night, threatening homes and downing power lines. At least three home were destroyed. PHOTOS BY STUART PALLEY



The Rough Fire burns in the Sequoia National Forest on August 13, 2015. The fire had burned over 10,000 acres and was expected to grow.



The Lake Fire burns in the San Bernardino National Forest on June 19, 2015. By evening, the fire burned over 13,000 acres and was 10 percent contained.



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INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



# Yellowstone Tribal Marketplace honors indigenous art

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

**YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK** – Beneath a mezzanine crafted with local logs, on a floor crowded with visitors, in a room homey with the subtle hint of wood smoke from more than 100 years of fires in the massive stone fire-place, nine indigenous artists celebrated a returning to their homeland.

The first annual Tribal Marketplace at Yellowstone, held at the historic Old Faithful Inn from June 11-14, honored Plains Indian art and culture with a fashion show, demonstrations and a vendor market.

“We’re privileged to be stewards of the world’s first national park and the relationship of Native people with this area goes back a very long time,” said Karen Tryman, director of retail for event host Yellowstone National Park Lodges. “[The marketplace] is a celebration of that relationship and the heritage that we all share.”

The artists were overwhelmingly excited to be a part of this new event, proud to represent their culture in an area that was once frequented by their ancestors. Prior to the Indian Removal Act of 1830 and ensuing decades of relocation policy, Plains tribes such as the Blackfeet, Shoshone and Crow occupied the land that is now Yellowstone National Park.

Joanne Brings Thunder, a member of the Eastern Band of Shoshone from the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming, said she is grateful to represent her tribe in Yellowstone as a Shoshone, a resident of Wyoming and as an artist, adding that her great- great- great-grandfather, Chief Washakie, was involved with land cessation negotiations throughout the area in the 1860s.

The artist creates beadwork, painting and textiles, weaving together traditional designs with contemporary shapes and colors. One example is her use of glitter on hand-painted earrings. “I know that if my ancestors had access to glitter, it would be on everything,” she laughed.

Brings Thunder said Native art is vastly underrepresented, so at shows like this she feels like an ambassador. “Our culture is still alive and living. That’s a huge inspiration for me,” she said. “Our art forms are so unique. They’re strong enough to stand on their own.”

In addition to the daily market, the Tribal Marketplace included an evening fashion show on June 11. Park staff and Native models paraded around the inn’s second-floor mezzanine, dressed in bright colors and unique designs.

Della Bighair-Stump, an enrolled member of the Apsaalooke (Crow) Tribe of Montana, showcased her dresses, scarves, jackets and leggings, created under the label Designs by Della. While Bighair-Stump beads—creating her family’s own regalia for powwows and other events—many of her pieces for sale incorporate beaded-print fabrics that have been scanned from her own beading. Printed on velvet, this design appears like actual beads and is a clear example of the blend of traditional and contemporary.

“I love the color and I love the effect,” she said.

Additional artists presented traditionally beaded jewelry, upcycled purses, canvas paintings and dolls. Cedar Rose Bulltail of the Crow Agency shared information about her different skin-care products, which are made in small batches from native plants on her reservation, including yarrow, juniper and mint.

Many Yellowstone National Park visitors meandered through the vendor display, showing interest and appreciation in both the art and culture of the Plains Indians.

Kim Romain, of Evanston, Illinois, was visiting the park as a part of a cross-country family road trip, and Yellowstone was among several national parks on the itinerary. She said she valued the Tribal Marketplace for giving indigenous people a place in Yellowstone.

“We’re on their land. We continue to be on their land,” Romain said. “I believe the more Native presence, the better we all can understand ourselves and our nation.”



Della Bighair-Stump of the Crow Agency shows her contemporary fashion designs that intermix printed fabrics and Pendleton wool during the Tribal Marketplace of Yellowstone on June 12. PHOTO BY JESSIANNE CASTLE



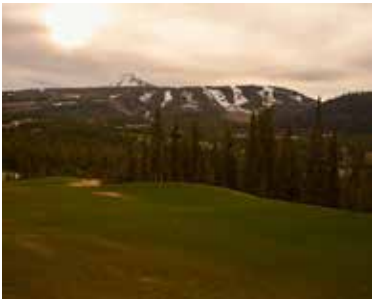
Two Designs by Della dresses inspired by Crow culture exemplify the way many indigenous artists are blending traditional and contemporary styles. These dresses incorporate bright colors, Pendleton wool and beaded-print fabric. PHOTO BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

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MOONLIGHT BASIN



Royal Coachman Ranch  
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Lot 38 Bitterbrush Trail  
1.27 ACRES / \$800K



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



Lot 44 Diamond Hitch  
1.25 ACRE / \$699K



Lot 39 Diamond Hitch  
1 ACRE / \$595K

BIG SKY

BIG SKY



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



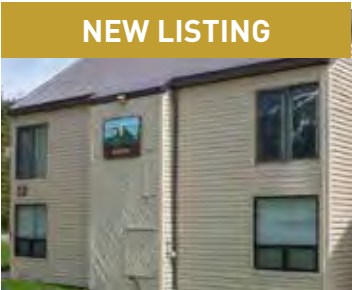
2635 Little Coyote Road  
2,850 SQ FT / \$798K



Hill Condo 1277  
790 SQ FT / \$299K



Hidden Village  
2,788 SQ FT / \$599K



Hill Condo 1361  
440 SQ FT / \$179K



Mountain View  
120 Acres

BIG SKY - LAND

BOZEMAN & GREATER MONTANA



Lot 3 Joy Road  
6.83 ACRES / \$395K



Bear Paw Ponds Parcel 7  
20.04 ACRES / \$399K



SxS Ranch  
Bozeman, MT  
483.78 ACRES / \$7.5M

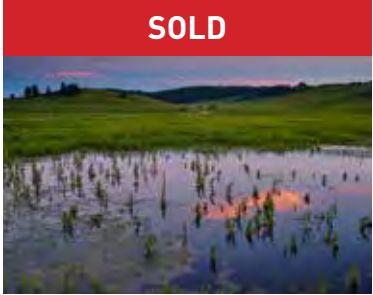


Rocking S7 Ranch Lot 4  
Bozeman, MT  
20.232 ACRES / \$650K

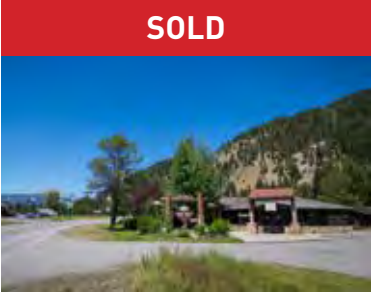


Homestead at the Beacon  
Butte, MT  
640 Acres / \$1.65M

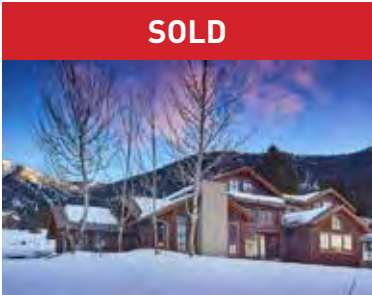
RECENTLY SOLD



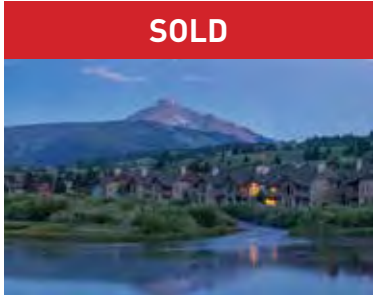
Yellowstone Ranch Preserve  
List Price: \$19M



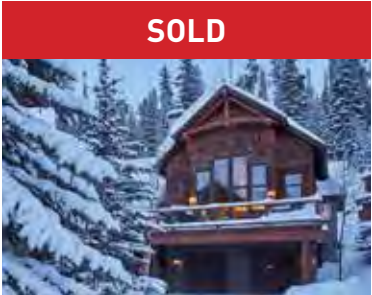
Big Sky Corner Property  
List Price: \$3.24M



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

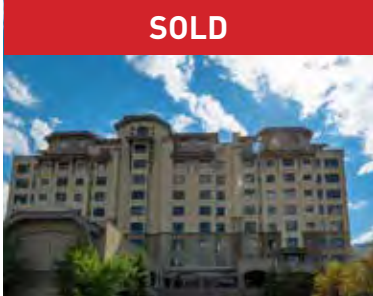


Crail Ranch Unit 40  
List Price: \$1.35M

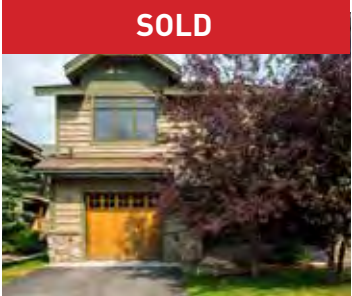


Black Eagle Lodge Unit 30  
List Price: \$1.35M

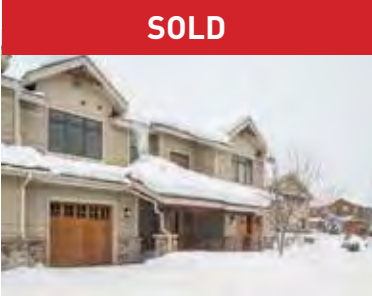
RECENTLY SOLD



Summit 911/912  
List Price: \$595K



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



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



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



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

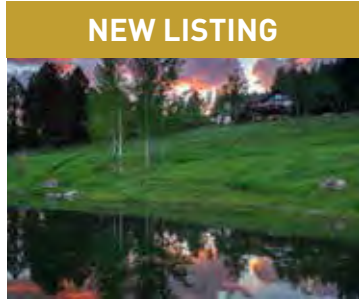
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2005 Upper Chief Joseph  
7,690 SQ FT / \$4.3M



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

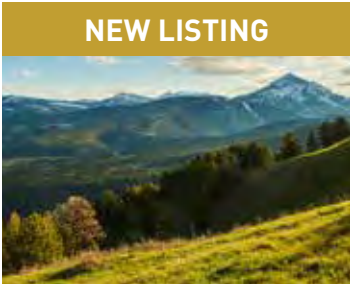


25 Lower Dudley Creek  
4,076 SQ FT / \$1.65M

Y - LAND



Mountain Meadows  
acres / \$3.495M



The Ranches at Yellow Mountain  
Tract 2A-1B  
246.925 Acres / \$2.14M



The Ranches at Yellow Mountain  
Tract 1A-1  
21.475 Acres / \$795K



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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

BELGRADE

COMMERCIAL



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



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



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



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



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



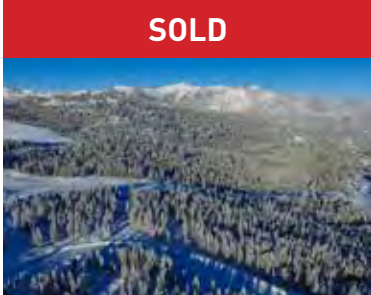
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Bozeman, MT  
\$24.9K per unit  
Taking reservations for  
building G



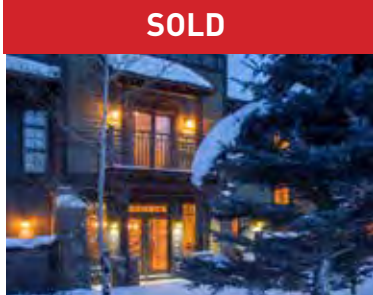
Osprey Cove Lakehouse  
List Price: \$1.25M



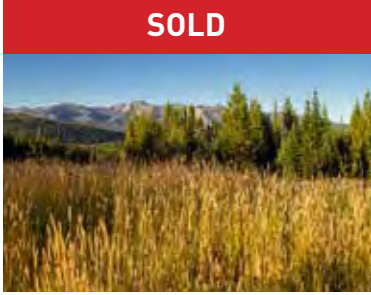
2078 Little Coyote List List  
Price: \$1.079M



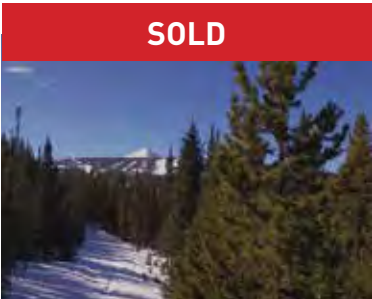
Ski Tip Lot 10  
List Price: \$975K



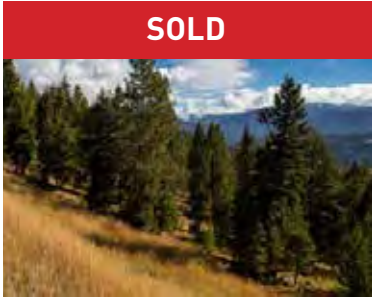
81 Pheasant Tail Ln. Unit 2  
2,707 SQ FT / \$839K



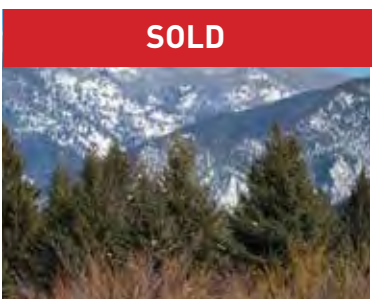
Lot 64 Goshawk  
1.04 ACRES / \$775K



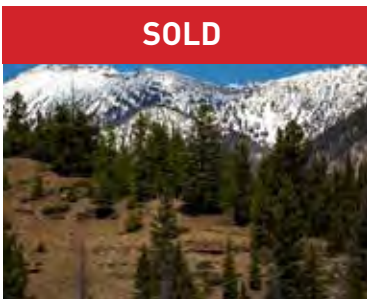
Lot 63 Silverado Trail  
List Price: \$390K



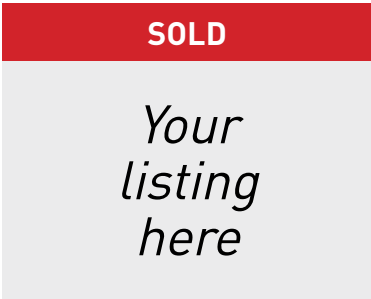
Lot 113 Crow Point Rd.  
2.59 Acres / \$335K



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



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



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# Experience the peak wildflower season in Yellowstone

BY CHRISTINE GIANAS WEINHEIMER  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

From the rainbow shades of hot springs, to the multi-hued Canyon walls, a full spectrum of colors can be discovered year-round in Yellowstone National Park. But the park is at its most colorful in summer when wildflowers burst forth in abundance. Yellowstone’s peak wildflower season usually starts in June and extends through mid-July.

For some tips on experiencing the summer wildflower display in Yellowstone, we checked with Robert Petty, Senior Director of Education for the Yellowstone Forever Institute. He says if you’d like to admire a variety of blooms, visit various habitats.

“Yellowstone is made up of diverse habitats, and the wildflowers you’ll find within them are all different,” explained Petty. “For example, glacier lilies live in conifer forests at higher elevation. Other wildflowers are found in drier areas, or near thermal features.”

When in the park’s geyser basins you’ll see flowers, such as the Rocky Mountain fringed gentian, that prefer the steamy habitat surrounding geysers and hot springs. While passing through any area that has recently experienced wildfire, you might see pinkish-purple fireweed, so named because it is one of the first new plants to appear after a fire.

Petty suggests that a best bet to see plentiful wildflowers is the park’s Northern Range, including Mammoth and the Lamar Valley. The dry, sagebrush landscape is hospitable to a huge variety, such as the large pink blossoms of bitterroot—the state flower of Montana—and evening primrose, which only blooms at night.

Dunraven Pass, between Tower-Roosevelt and Canyon, also boasts a wide array of flowers. “The bursts of blooms are highly visible along the road,” Petty said. “Look for lupine, paintbrush and spectacular yellow fields of arrowleaf balsamroot, a member of the sunflower family.”

While you’ll see slopes awash in color as you drive around the park, Petty says that the true charm of wildflowers will mostly be revealed to those on foot. “It’s the type of experience where you really want to be out of your car and on a trail to fully



Wildflowers bloom on Beartooth Pass. NPS PHOTO

appreciate the beauty.”

He recommends a few hikes to see wildflowers up close: Garnet Hill Loop Trail near Tower Junction; Trout Lake Trail in Lamar Valley; Beaver Ponds Trail near Mammoth; and Mount Washburn Trail off of Dunraven Pass.

Especially if you are less familiar with the region’s wildflowers, a guidebook will help greatly with identification. But be aware that collecting any type of plant is against park regulations, so enjoy and photograph the wildflowers, but don’t pick them.

“The great thing about wildflowers is that they are all over the park and don’t take that much effort to see,” Petty added. “While you are busy looking for grizzlies and wolves, don’t forget to stop and see the amazing flora around you.”


Want to learn more about Yellowstone’s wildflowers? The Yellowstone Forever Institute will offer a field seminar, “Meandering Through Wildflowers,” July 5-8. Visit [yellowstone.org](http://yellowstone.org) to learn more.

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




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# The Eddy Line: The Dirty Dozen

## Twelve flies you love to hate

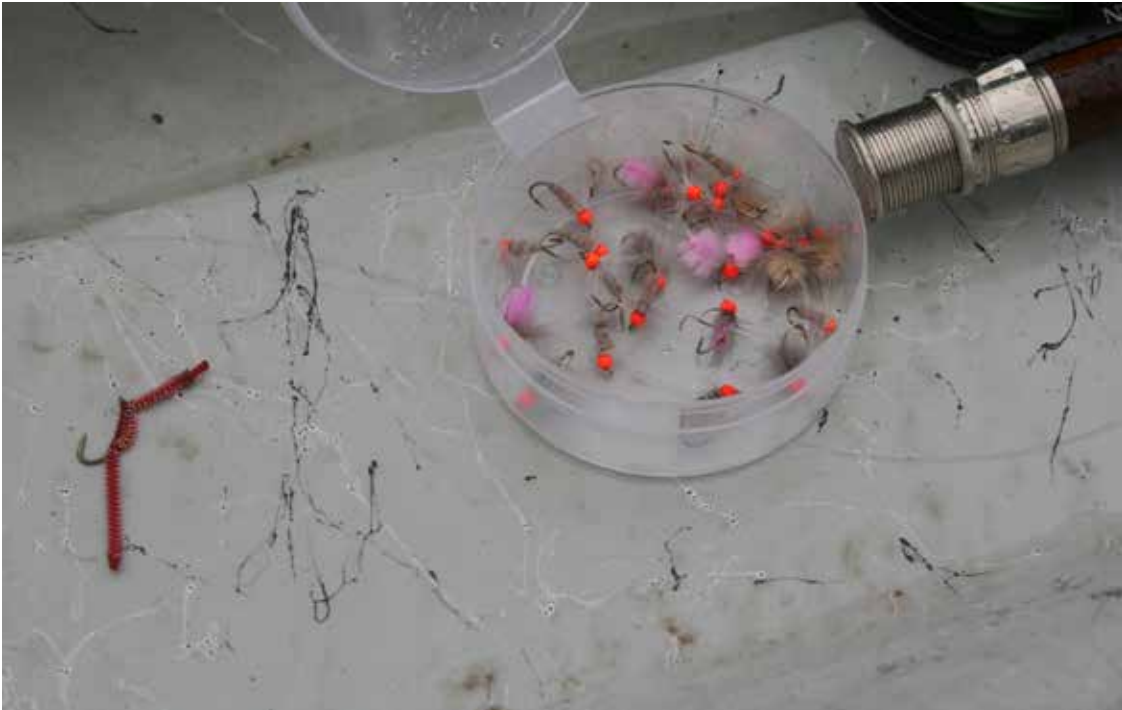


BY PATRICK STRAUB  
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

Although clothing manufacturers would want us to believe otherwise, fly fishing is not a fashion show. It is placing an imitation of something we hope a fish will eat in the right place at the right time and making it look real. It may be closer to thievery than beauty. But it sure is fun.

My fly-fishing fun comes from fishing dry flies to rising trout. Other anglers are less finicky toward a chosen method, perhaps deep nymphing to fish unseen or dragging streamers in the depths where big fish lurk. But we can usually agree there are some flies during certain conditions we just cannot do without. Here's that dirty dozen list.

- 1. San Juan Worm:** A very simple fly, but ridiculously effective in certain situations. As rivers come out of runoff or when a river is rising due to rains, worms are a readily available food source. In certain tailwater rivers, such as the Missouri and Bighorn, aquatic worms are abundant. We might feel fishing a worm is akin to cheating, but, there are times when a bend in the rod turns a frown upside down.
- 2. Firehead Anything:** Especially effective in late winter or early spring, a fire-head is a fly tied with a bright orange or pink bead in place of a copper, silver or black bead. A firehead is a bright symbol to a hungry fish—like the icing on a cupcake to a little kid.
- 3. Griffith's Gnat:** Midges often hatch in clusters and the Griffith's gnat is tied to imitate a cluster of midges on the surface. From thirty-plus feet away, good luck picking your fly out of the crowd.
- 4. Cat Puke Salmon Fly:** The name may be great, but, this fly blows. Sure, it has caught a lot of big fish and is worth having, but, it is designed to fish partially submerged, which makes it hard to see. Plus, it is a salmon-fly imitation and trying to hit a salmon fly hatch in its prime is a feat in its own right.
- 5. Sucker Spawn:** Brightly colored billowy material designed to imitate the spawn of a sucker fish. Need I say more?
- 6. Black Ant:** Usually fished in small sizes, a black ant can be hard to see. Rarely used but damn effective, if you have the eyesight to see this fly, fish it and it will produce.
- 7. Trico Mayflies:** Hatches of tricos occur early in the morning, sometimes even before dawn. Smaller than most midges, tricos hatch in late summer. On most trout rivers by late summer the trout have seen plenty of anglers. If you think a trout may be picky enough during the meat of the day, try using tiny flies in the early morning hours before your coffee hits you.



Firebeads and the worm, two of the dozen flies we love to hate. PHOTO BY PATRICK STRAUB

- 8. Moorish Hopper:** The legs are thin and supple, which means they have great action while the fly floats on the surface. This fly catches a lot of fish. But because the legs are so supple, they are delicate and rarely last for more than one or two fish being caught. Great for fly shops because they sell a bunch, but not great for your pocketbook.
- 9. Green Butt Skunk:** A steelhead fly sneaks it was onto the list. Similar to the firehead in using bright colors to attract a fish, this fly puts its attractant in the rear.
- 10. Squirmy Worm:** I hate to put two worms on this list, but, that's the point of the list, right? The first-ever worm was rumored to have been tied on April 20—weed day—using strands from a Kush Ball as “Dazed and Confused was on the background. It ain't pretty but it works.
- 11. Lightning Bug:** It looks more like a space ship from a George Lucas movie than a trout fly. But, the force is strong in this one.
- 12. Pat's Rubber Legs:** This one is on the list because it is just so gosh darn simple yet catches so many fish. Something so simple can be so excellent.

Similar to asking a woman her age or calling a teacher by their first name, asking to look into someone else's fly box is fly-fishing nicety to acknowledge. And any angler who fishes a lot is lying if they tell you it is because they don't want you to see their secret patterns. Nope. It's because they probably have some of the same naughty flies that you do.

*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.*

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BIG SKY, MT

# Bear Basics with Bernadette: Keeping bears wild

BY KRIS INMAN  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Do you ever wonder why you see bears, literally in your backyard or walking down your street? It is of no surprise that the very things that draw you to Big Sky are also what draws bears to this area.

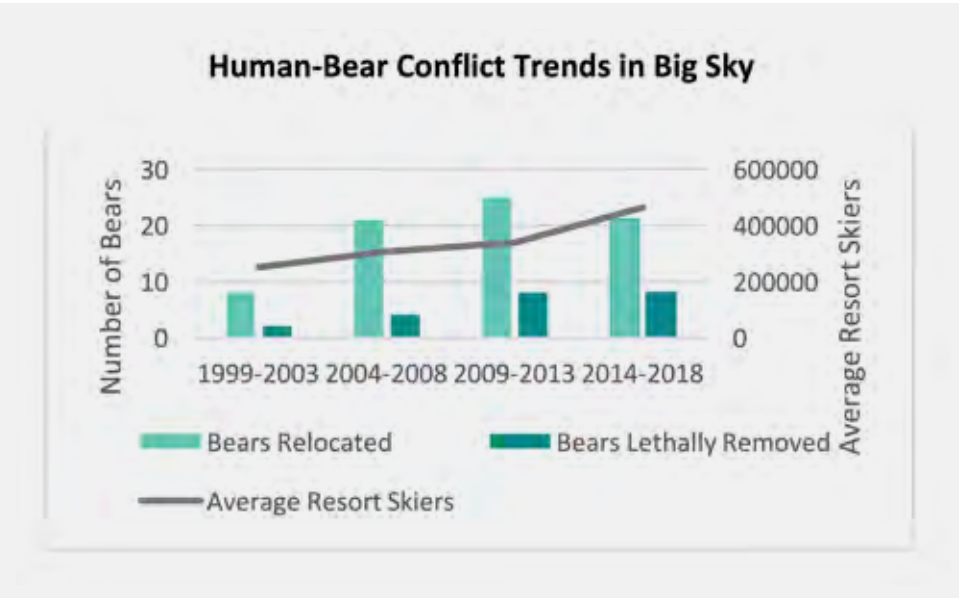
Big Sky is adjacent to some of our wildest places and is bordered by two of the four sections of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness. The 76,000-acre Spanish Peaks section to the north represents the oldest mountains in the Madison Range and the 141,000-acre Taylor-Hilgard section to the south boasts Montana’s fifth highest peak.

These sections of wilderness are part of the largest intact remaining wild area in the northern hemisphere, known as the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. This matrix of private and public lands is approximately 18 million acres and supports some of the West’s most iconic wildlife including bighorn sheep, mountain goats, wolverine, black bears, arctic grayling, cutthroat trout and sandhill cranes, to name a few. Gray wolves and grizzly bears once again roam the region after successful recovery efforts and elk, pronghorn and mule deer make some of the largest seasonal land migrations ever recorded.

This same wildness draws millions of people to visit the region each year and a growing number of people have moved to live here. In Big Sky, we know the value of this region; it is why we choose to live or visit here and it is why we are working hard to share the landscape with bears.

The Bear Smart Big Sky Council formed in 2003 with the goal of maintaining the wild nature of Big Sky by making bear-smart actions a natural part of our community’s culture. We are well on our way, with more than 70 percent of homeowner’s associations requiring bear-resistant trash cans, which cost roughly \$72 a year more than a standard trash can.

These actions are working. We saw a 50 percent reduction in the number of bears that were relocated due to negative interactions from 2017 to 2018, in spite of the growth in visitation.



However, we saw a slight uptick in the number of bears lethally removed from Big Sky. These are bears that have received food rewards from trash, coolers in beds of trucks or pet foods on decks, and have become in the habit of equating people with food. Bears then become bold enough to enter homes or lodges.

We need you to do your part to further this declining trend in conflicts: Get a bear-resistant trash can if you don’t have one. Do not overfill trash cans. Secure the lid properly and adjust trash pickup schedules to meet trash volume. Always close garage doors, close windows when you leave, and lock your car doors.

Help support Bernadette Bear in her campaign to create a more bear-safe and bear-aware community in Big Sky. Learn more and follow her on social media @bearsmartbigsky or #bernadettebear.

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



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# Top five climbs in the Gallatin Canyon

BY MAGGIE SLEPIAN  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The season for roping up and pulling hard is upon us, and southwest Montana is home to some truly stellar rock climbing. There is perhaps no local climbing area with a wider variety of routes and styles than the Gallatin Canyon.

“The Canyon,” as it’s called, has two main climbing areas: Storm Castle Creek and the granite gneiss area near 35 MPH Bridge. This granite gneiss area is what most people think of when they reference climbing in the Canyon.

Storm Castle Creek is a limestone sport area on the east side of Gallatin Canyon, featuring a range of sport climbs—with bolts for clipping drilled in the rock—from 5.10 to stiff 5.13s. This area is home to Scorched Earth, a south-facing wall that can be climbed throughout the winter and The Cave, which hosts a collection of steep, challenging routes. Several miles south of Storm Castle Creek lie the classic Canyon formations, including Gallatin Tower, Skyline Buttress and the Waltz Formation. This area features some of the most time-honored multi-pitch lines around southwest Montana.

Routes at these crags range in difficulty from 500 feet of 5.6 trad—or traditional climbing, where the climber places their own gear without fixed bolts—to pumpy, sustained 5.12 sport climbs. Both locations will appeal to a variety of climbers. Storm Castle Creek has primarily single-pitch sport routes, while the granite area is about 50 percent trad with classic multi-pitch climbs, plus select mixed and bolted routes.

Keep in mind that new climbers should never attempt any of these routes without experienced partners. Adequate gear, practice and safety knowledge are imperative for attempting any outdoor climbing, from single-pitch sport routes to multi-pitch classics.

### 1) Skyline Arête: Skyline Buttress

Skyline Arête is the longest route in Gallatin Canyon. This classic five-pitch, 5.6 trad route has stellar canyon views, safe and comfortable belay ledges, and is appropriate for newer climbers if they have an experienced person to follow. While the climbing is relatively easy, the route is full trad, which means there are no bolted anchors after the first set. This can make for tricky anchor building and route finding. It has a variety of interesting features like chimneys, and a narrow



Working through the moves on “Tigger,” a 5.10a/b trad route on the east face of Gallatin Tower. PHOTO BY TY MORRISON-HEATH



Plugging a piece of gear in on the first pitch of the “Standard Route” on Gallatin Tower. PHOTO BY TY MORRISON-HEATH

“hole”—often referred to as the birth canal—toward the top of the second pitch. There are plenty of variations to make this route more challenging, and the walk-off descent is fairly straightforward as long as you follow the newer trail off the south side.

### 2) Spare Rib: North of Skyline Buttress

Amp up the exposure for this two-pitch, 5.8 trad route on a standalone gneiss tower. The climb can be found north of Skyline Buttress up a fairly steep climber’s trail. The first pitch is rated 5.6, ascends a 2-foot-wide crack, and finishes on a comfortable ledge with chains. The second pitch feels exposed for 5.8, following a double line of cracks through two short overhangs. Gear placement is stellar, and the movement feels natural. The descent is a simple walk off.

### 3) Pretty Polly: Scorched Earth

This short, bolted 5.10d is a classic warm up at Scorched Earth. It has intuitive movement, following featured cracks before a fun, extended move to a nice ledge. The rock around here can feel polished, so don’t hit it in the heat of the day.

### 4) The Standard Route: Gallatin Tower

Corners, cracks and a chimney, this route is a must-do for locals and visitors alike. The first pitch starts with stair-step blocks, then moves right to a short, friendly, left-facing corner to gain the huge bolted belay ledge. The second pitch moves through a series of cracks along the corner with techy, engaging movement. There are two options for finishing this route. Climbers can scramble through a chimney for an easy 5.7, or hit the direct finish that goes at a challenging 5.9 through an overhang, ending on easy terrain after the hand-jam/roof-pull move.

### 5) The Waltz: The Waltz Formation

The Waltz is a four-pitch 5.8 trad route that climbs three distinct “steps” with massive belay ledges, bolted anchors and epic views. The first three pitches are cruiser 5.6 climbing on large blocks, and you can walk off the first pitch if desired. The second pitch has quality climbing on a fun crack, followed by a short third pitch. The fourth pitch is a little spicier and harder to protect thanks to the face-climbing moves. Some people opt out of this pitch. Climbers can walk off from the top, or choose to stop short of the top and rappel from the anchors of any of the lower pitches.

*Maggie Slepian is a fulltime writer and editor based in Bozeman. She spends her non-working hours climbing, backpacking and mountain biking.*



# Life 101: How do you let go when it’s out of your control?



BY LINDA ARNOLD  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

“Let it go. Everything happens for a reason.”

How many times have you heard this or said it to someone else? Twists and turns in life don't always happen the way we would have scripted them, yet they can propel us to take action. Sometimes it takes a breakdown to have a breakthrough. Why do we beat ourselves up in our minds so much? If this happened externally, we could all be

charged with abuse.

“We replay past mistakes over and over in our heads, bringing up feelings of shame and regret in the present,” says author Lori Deschene in “Tiny Buddha, Simple Wisdom for Life’s Hard Questions.” “That creates stress in our minds and bodies, potentially creating serious health issues.”

Now hear this: If you want peace, stop fighting. If you want peace of mind, stop fighting with your thoughts.

The “Let it Go, Forgive, Surrender, Forget and Move On Cycle,” developed by author Bill Austin is a helpful tool. Maybe you need to let go of a relationship. Or release a painful life experience like losing a job, coping with a death, dealing with a disease or ruminating over being “done wrong.”

This definitely requires practice and repetition. Over time, though, you could start to chip away at these issues that are holding you back.

The “Let it Go” phase is about taking responsibility. Decide to let go of the person, event or circumstance, reminding yourself that resentment is like drinking poison and expecting someone else to get sick.

The “Forgive” phase is about healing yourself on the inside so you can be happier on

the outside. Forgiveness doesn't mean you condone the other person's behavior. You forgive because it helps you move on.

Many forgiveness issues originated in early childhood. If you have issues that need reexamining, you'll often attract someone into your life to mirror that. So, the person who infuriates you is giving you a heads up that you need to look at that issue.

The “Surrender and Move On” process is likely the hardest. If you don't heal this situation, your soul may recreate the lesson for you to learn in another way. Got to love this “living laboratory of life.”

You'll know you've reached the final stage, “Forget,” when the event no longer has that intense emotional “charge” on you.

Check out these tips for coping along the way:

- Write down your frustrations in a journal. Get your feelings out.
- Use a mechanism that shifts the voice of that inner critic. Remember the voice of Charlie Brown's teacher? Or just say, “Thanks for sharing, Babbler.”
- Help someone in need.
- Take back your power by looking for your role in the situation. It's so easy to point the finger at someone else. In doing so, though, you give away your power.
- Move. Exercise decreases stress hormones and increases feel-good endorphins.
- Express yourself creatively: write, paint or dance.
- Practice deep breathing, meditation or prayer. Get out into nature.
- Watch a funny video on YouTube for five minutes to switch up your energy.
- Wear a rubber band on your wrist and gently flick it when you start obsessing.
- Identify what the experience taught you to develop a sense of closure.

Hang this statement where you'll see it: “Healing myself means letting go. And I'm worth it.”

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](mailto:linda@lindaarnold.org). For more information on her books, go to [lindaarnold.org](http://lindaarnold.org).

CHECK OUT OUR SPECIAL EVENTS!

Community Acupuncture

with Kallie Harrison, L.Ac, LMT, RN, the second Friday of the month.

2:00-4:00pm at Santosha.

Price based on a sliding scale. First date - Friday, June 14

Community Yoga

Mondays -Town Center park

Noon-1:00pm June 17 thru Labor Day.

Proceeds go to BSCO Community Center.

Catered lunch by Gourmet Gals to follow.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>9:00-9:45am Free Your Mind Meditation (Donation Based)</div> <div>10:00-11:30am All Levels Yoga</div> <div>5:00-6:15pm Warm Yin/Restorative Yoga</div>	<div>9:00-10:15 All Levels Yoga</div> <div>12:00-1:00pm Community Yoga (All Levels) In Town Center Park</div> <div>5:45-7:00pm All Levels Yoga*</div>	<div>7:30-8:30am Rise &amp; Shine Yoga</div> <div>9:00-10:00am All Levels Yoga</div> <div>11:00-Noon All Levels Yoga</div> <div>5:45-7:00pm Heated Flow</div>	<div>7:30-8:30am All Levels Yoga</div> <div>9:00-10:15 Level II Yoga</div> <div>11:00-12:00pm All Levels Yoga</div> <div>4:15-5:15pm Slow Flow Yoga*</div>	<div>7:30-8:30am Rise &amp; Shine Yoga</div> <div>9:00-10:00am All Levels Vinyasa Flow</div> <div>11:00-Noon All Levels Yoga</div>	<div>9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga*</div> <div>12:00-1:00pm Heated Flow</div>	<div>9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga</div>

\* special \$10 drop in rate for Big Sky workforce  
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SECTION 3:  
SPORTS, BUSINESS,  
DINING & FUN



Golf tips pg. 34



Making it in Big Sky: Lone Peak Veterinary Hospital pg. 39



Mix it up: Heirloom vegetables pg. 44

# Softball season in full swing



BY DOUG HARE  
EBS STAFF

Big Sky – The eighteenth season of the Big Sky Coed Softball League is underway with 15 teams competing on the fields in the Big Sky Community Park on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays throughout the summer.

Volunteers “Queen” Jean Palmer, Dave Schwalbe, Lee Horning and Mackenzie Johnson have been instrumental in getting the fields in shape and organizing another season of one of Big Sky’s most popular extracurricular activities.

“We want to thank all the team managers and coaches, too,” Palmer said. “It’s been smooth this season with the managers taking responsibility for communicating with their teams and having everyone at the fields on time.”

As of press time on June 19, four teams remain undefeated including Milkies Big Dogs, the perennial powerhouse Hillbilly Huckers and the Yellowstone Club, who will look to take down the LPC Golden Goats, the reigning regular season and tournament champions.

If you like petting dogs, late sunsets over Lone Mountain, hamburgers and friendly competition, come down to the Big Sky Community Park softball fields to cheer on your favorite teams.

Team	Record
Milkies Big Dogs	4-0
Hillbilly Huckers	3-0
LPC Golden Goats	2-0
Yellowstone Club	2-0
Westfork Wildcats	1-1
Cinema Bear	1-1
Cab Lizards	1-0
Yeti Dogs	1-2
The Rubes	1-3
Dirty Biz	1-3
Busch Light Bombers	0-1
The Cave	0-1
Mooseketeers	0-1
Big Sky Ballers	0-1
Choppers	0-2

# Mountain biking season underway at Big Sky Resort

BY DOUG HARE  
EBS STAFF

Mountain biking operations began on June 15 with riders lapping beginner and intermediate flow trails off of Explorer lift, signaling the beginning of summer for Mountain Village. Swift Current and Thunder Wolf lifts will begin service on June 22.

A bike haul pass offers access to all three lifts and over 40 miles of trails for all levels and abilities. With the diversity of terrain that Big Sky’s biking trails offer—from beginner flow trails to steep, technical trails off of Swift Current and Thunder Wolf—every rider can find a trail that suits their ability.

Bike haul passes will be available for pick up at the Basecamp building in the center of Mountain Village during the summer season. New this year, The Sky Pack includes four days of riding at the resort for \$119 and 25 percent off the regular rate bike haul lift ticket on any additional days.

Don’t forget about the local favorite, Mountain to Meadow trail, which is open to the public and consists of a series of scenic connector trails that allow bikers to ride six miles of flow trail from the base area all the way to Big Sky Town Center.

Many existing trails are being improved this summer season, including a complete rework on Tango to better fit in the progression between Rabbit Run and Gambler.

“We are identifying gaps in our trail progression and adding trails to fill the gaps. Tango, one of our existing trails, is being reworked as a machine-built freeride trail, maintaining its current corridor and shifting corridors when needed to maintain a lower grade,” said Christine Baker, manager of Mountain Sports for Big Sky Resort. “The goal is to create an easier blue freeride trail. Big Sky Resort is a family-friendly destination, so making our mountain more accessible to everyone, especially those new to the sport, is essential.”



While continuing to improve their mountain biking terrain year after year, Big Sky Resort’s burgeoning mountain bike culture is one of the many reasons Big Sky is garnering a reputation as a year-round adventure destination. PHOTO BY GABE PRIESTLY

Bike rentals are available at Different Spokes, the resort’s full-service bike shop located in Mountain Village. Rentals include mountain bikes and Strider bikes for children. Different Spokes also offers downhill bike coaching, bike haul tickets and scenic lift tickets. RAD Bikes is another option in Mountain Village for bike tuning, parts and repairs.

Swift Current and Explorer lifts will operate from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., while Thunder Wolf will run 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., depending on weather conditions.

Not one for two-wheel adventures? With more than 30 miles of hiking trails around Big Sky, escaping the rigors of everyday life is just a few steps away. Guided hikes with expert guides are available for hikers of all ability levels to experience tranquil summer trails and learn about local flora and fauna. Many hiking trails connect to U.S. Forest Service land, allowing for full-day treks into Montana’s beautiful backcountry.

Visit [bigskyresort.com](http://bigskyresort.com) for more information.



Working to protect Big Sky's natural resources  
from the threats of invasive species.



### Big Sky Community Park Weed Pull

Tuesday, June 25th, 4:30–6pm

Help "pull for the park" and enjoy a BBQ dinner on us! Rendezvous at the pavilion by the playground and bring gloves.

**RSVP @ 406.209.0905 or  
info@gallatinisa.org by  
June 24th so we can feed you!**

Event partners:  
Big Sky Community Organization  
Big Sky Owners Association  
Gallatin County Weed District  
Yellowstone Club



### Got weeds? Don't know if you do?

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www.gallatinisa.org**





### Wildflower & Weed Hikes

Join us to learn more about the native and invasive flora in Big Sky!

June 25 @ Deer Creek  
July 16 @ Teepee Creek  
August 6 @ Beehive Basin  
10am to Noon

Rendezvous at the trail-head. Hikes will last 2 hours and it's free and open to everyone!

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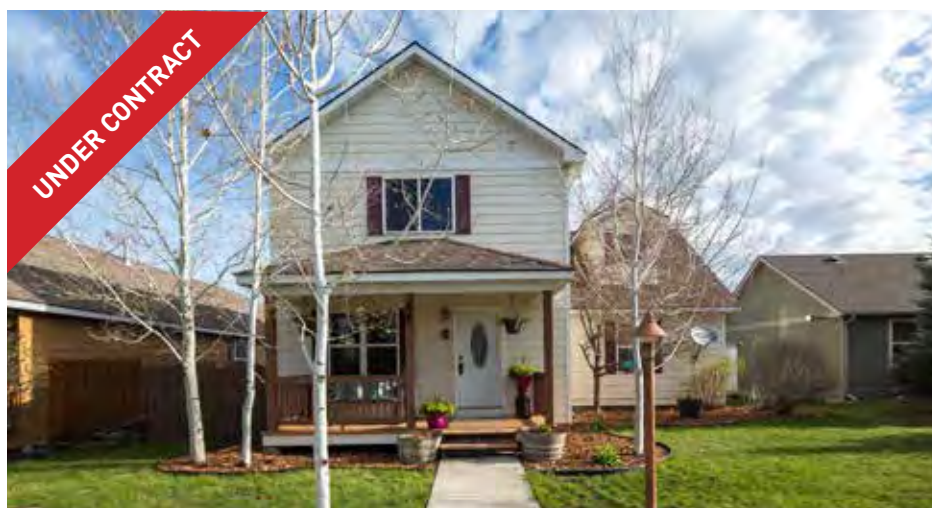
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35 Woodman Drive | Belgrade, MT | \$335K  
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Royal Coachman Ranch | Bozeman, MT | \$5.9M  
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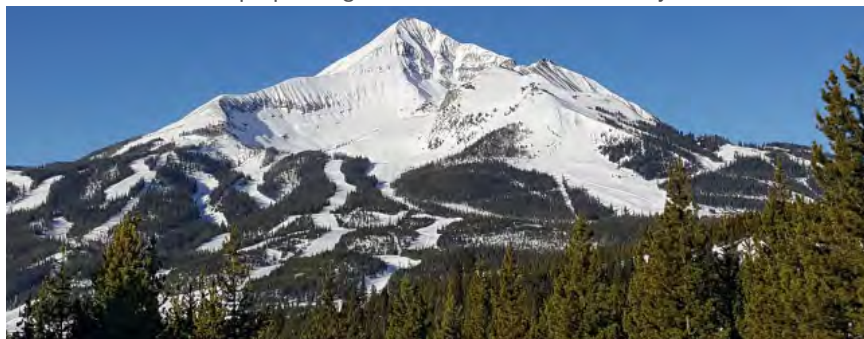
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**Alpenglow 22A MLS #334147 \$729,000**

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One of 5 lots in private, gated, Summit View Phase 3. This 4.3 +/- acre lot is in a premier location in Big Sky Mountain Village with outstanding top of the world views toward Lone Mountain and Beehive Basin. Easy access to ski area and adjacent trails for hiking and biking up into Beehive Basin and beyond into the Spanish Peaks. This is mountain living at its best - winter or summer.

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# Golf Tips from a Pro: Lofty ambitions

MARK WEHRMAN  
EBS GOLF COLUMNIST

Are you using the correct loft?

In golf, loft is our friend. Generally, the more loft on the club, the easier it is to hit straight. A perfect example of this is how easy it is to hit your pitching wedge straight and how tough it is to hit the driver straight. You can only slice a pitching wedge or short iron so far, but there seems to be no bounds as to how far we can slice our driver. So picking the right loft for your clubs is often overlooked, but so important.

The reason why loft is so important these days is due to the construction of the golf ball. With the current “solid core” technology, the ball is designed to stay in the air longer. For reference, 20 years ago the golf ball was constructed with wound technology. Back in the day of wound golf balls, the ball would roll a lot more after it had landed. But with the current technology, the ball will travel further the longer it stays in the air. It will also not roll nearly as far once it lands. So we should be purchasing clubs with more loft and that extra loft will not only help us hit it further, but also straighter.

When it comes to the driver, I would say most people aren’t using enough loft. Unless you are an extremely high ball hitter, most people should have a driver with 11-13 degrees of loft. I usually see people with 9-10 degrees of loft, which will end up costing you distance. The ideal launch angle for a driver is somewhere between 11-14 degrees of launch off of the face. Most drivers come with adjustable loft and face angle. If you are not seeing your



Knowing the loft angles of your iron sets, which are typically 4 degrees apart between consecutive clubs, can help improve the selection of the woods, hybrids and wedges that fill out your golf bag. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK WEHRMAN

driver launch high enough you might want to consider adjusting the driver face to add a degree or two of loft.

In terms of irons, knowing your loft is important for different reasons. Knowing the lofts on your iron sets helps you decide what hybrids and wedges you should have in your bag. Typically, there is about 4 degrees of loft separation between each iron. You want to continue that loft separation as you go into your wedges. So, for example, if your pitching wedge has 46 degrees of loft then it would be beneficial to have 50-, 54-, and 58-degree wedges rounding out your set to keep the gapping consistent.

You also need to know the loft of your longest iron to help you decide what hybrids to choose. If your 4 iron has 23 degrees of loft then it would not be wise to also carry a 23 degree hybrid. You would be better off having a 19-degree hybrid that will bridge the gap between your 3 wood and your 4 iron, for example.

So, the next time you are purchasing clubs, please pay attention to the lofts so you are choosing the right clubs to complement the existing clubs in your bag. The clubs you choose should fill all the yardage

gaps in your game so you don’t have certain distances for which you don’t have a club in the bag.

*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.*

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# Harbor's Hero Run brings colors, capes to Town Center

BY DOUG HARE  
EBS STAFF

On June 8, superheroes, caped crusaders and runners with incredible super-powers ran the fifth annual Harbor's Hero Run, a kid's color run and a 5k jaunt around Town Center celebrating the life of Harbor deWaard.

Snow was in the forecast, but as Lone Peak High School science teacher Paul Swenson and his daughter Solae were kicking off the event, the sun came out just in time for the start of the race. At the "color stations," participants were doused with purple and yellow chalk as they made their way toward the finish line.

"As is the case with most Big Sky events, the hardy locals came out to support the annual Harbor's Hero Run in their hero attire despite snow and rain in the forecast," Swenson said. "Although this year's turnout was smaller than last year, the National Honor Society at LPHS was able to raise \$4,000 through awesome support from sponsors and runners alike and help community children get involved in activities that might otherwise be out of reach. Thanks to Candice [Brownmiller] and Jaritt [deWaard] for continuing to let the community keep Harbor's memory and spirit alive."

Harbor deWaard was a 6-year-old boy who tragically passed away due to para-influenza in January of 2015. The Harbor's Hero Run race commemorates his life through his favorite things: the event's purple logo—his favorite color, the colorful masks and capes—his love of superheroes, and the laughter and smiles of the participants reminiscent of his cheerful spirit and joy for life.

Sponsored by LPHS's chapter of the National Honor Society, this year's event raised funds for Women in Action's camp scholarship fund.



◆ THE BIG SKY CHAMBER PRESENTS ◆

## 22nd Annual Black Diamond Awards Dinner & Members Meeting

TUESDAY, JUNE 25 | 6-9:30 PM | THE WILSON HOTEL – RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT



*Join Us,* along with Keynote Speaker [Cameron Sholly, Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park](#), as we highlight the Big Sky Chamber's work to Elevate Big Sky during a transformative time in our community. Each year, we look forward to gathering our member businesses to share priorities for the upcoming year and to honor those who exemplify success and service to Big Sky.

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL: [RJ@BIGSKYCHAMBER.COM](mailto:RJ@BIGSKYCHAMBER.COM)



- 2019 AWARDS NOMINEES
- ◆ **BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**
    - Earth Elements
    - Natural Retreats
    - Santosha
    - Simkins Hallin/Big Sky Town Center
  - ◆ **BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR**
    - Whitney Brunner - Former Assistant Manager, BSRAD
    - Tim Kent - Branch President, First Security Bank
  - ◆ **EMERGING ENTREPRENEUR**
    - Ben and Kara Blodgett, Owners of The Rocks
    - Amber Brask, GM 320 Guest Ranch
  - ◆ **NONPROFIT PERSON OF THE YEAR**
    - Bridget Wilkenson, Bozeman Area Community Foundation
    - Ciara Wolfe, Big Sky Community Organization
- CHET HUNTLEY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT:

*Loren Bough*

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Making it in Big Sky: Lone Peak Veterinary Hospital

BY BELLA BUTLER

Nearly two years ago, Dr. Sydney Desmarais opened Lone Peak Veterinary Hospital at the gateway to Big Sky. With experience in emergency veterinary services, she brings unique and necessary services to a community filled with pets. Before moving to Montana, Dr. Desmarais, a Rhode Island native, worked at a veterinary hospital in Portland, Oregon, for eight years alongside more than 20 other doctors. Today, she enjoys running her single-doctor practice, the only veterinary hospital in Big Sky.

**Explore Big Sky:** *How does servicing the Big Sky community differ from other communities in which you’ve provided care?*

Sydney Desmarais: I think it is actually a lot more fun, but how it’s probably different is that I know most of my clients and their dogs. I think there is a lot of value in the fact that you get to know who you’re working with, which allows you to communicate with them better.

**EBS:** *What is one of the most memorable moments you’ve had as a resident or business owner in Big Sky?*

**S.D.:** It was helping a family in treating their dog with cancer, from the diagnosis to the treatment, seeing the dog super happy post-surgery and then being there when they had to say goodbye with their whole family. So being able to be a part of a big health ordeal from the very beginning to the very end and being able to help with every piece and being able to see all the happy moments and then be able to help with the sad ones. In Big Sky that’s something I really value is that you get to be there for everything.

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

**S.D.:** My hope would just be as the town expands that we would have two doctors, but my goal would be to actually keep it still very small. To have two doctors and to have more equipment. My hope would be over 10 years that it grows to having everything that Big Sky residents need so that they don’t ever have to drive the canyon.

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

**S.D.:** I came from a city, so definitely a sense of community and knowing everybody and feeling more valued in helping people in a smaller community get the resources that they need. Also, my quality of life. I run, I bike and I ski, so it’s knowing that it’s right there.

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

**S.D.:** It’s the distribution of medical supplies. Oxygen is only delivered one day a week, even when I try and overnight something it might take two or three days. I think it’s the fact that we’re small, and then it just has to do with getting medical supplies delivered remotely.

**EBS:** *What is the best piece of business advice you’ve received?*



Dr. Sydney Desmarais coaxes her dog Loux onto the couch with a treat. Desmarais is joined by a team of two veterinary technicians and a client care specialist at the only veterinary hospital in Big Sky.

**S.D.:** Practice from your heart and practice high quality medicine. Be honest with people and you’ll make it.

**EBS:** *How have your life experiences prepared you for owning a business in Big Sky?*

**S.D.:** They prepared me by the fact that realizing no matter how challenging and scary things may get, and no matter how many things you work through that you don’t know, usually it works out in the end. I did a lot of research and did a lot of travelling in developing countries [doing infectious disease research], and stuff would always go really wrong before it went right. That aspect of roll with it, get through it and figure out what you need to do and keep moving forward.

**EBS:** *What have you found to be the most successful way to reach community members?*

**S.D.:** I honestly feel like it’s word of mouth and putting yourself out there for community events. Just saying hi; I go to talk to people when I see them at music [or other events].

**EBS:** *What are the advantages of people to bringing their pets to you instead of providers in Bozeman?*

**S.D.:** I think being the only doctor in the practice is an advantage because it’s continuity of care. Also not having to drive the canyon because cats get really stressed out in the car. I think one of my personal strengths is trying to work really hard to communicate to people and give them all sorts of treatment options.

**EBS:** *What is the craziest pet injury you’ve seen in your career?*

**S.D.:** It was probably a black lab that got stuck in a coffee table. The firemen in Oregon had to bring me the dog in the coffee table because they couldn’t get it out. That was the (funniest) one because everything worked out fine.

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**For more information and to nominate a business – visit our website**

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The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce is a 501(c) 6 Nonprofit Membership Organization

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**Lone Peak Brewery**  
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**Olive B's Big Sky Bistro**  
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## PLAY

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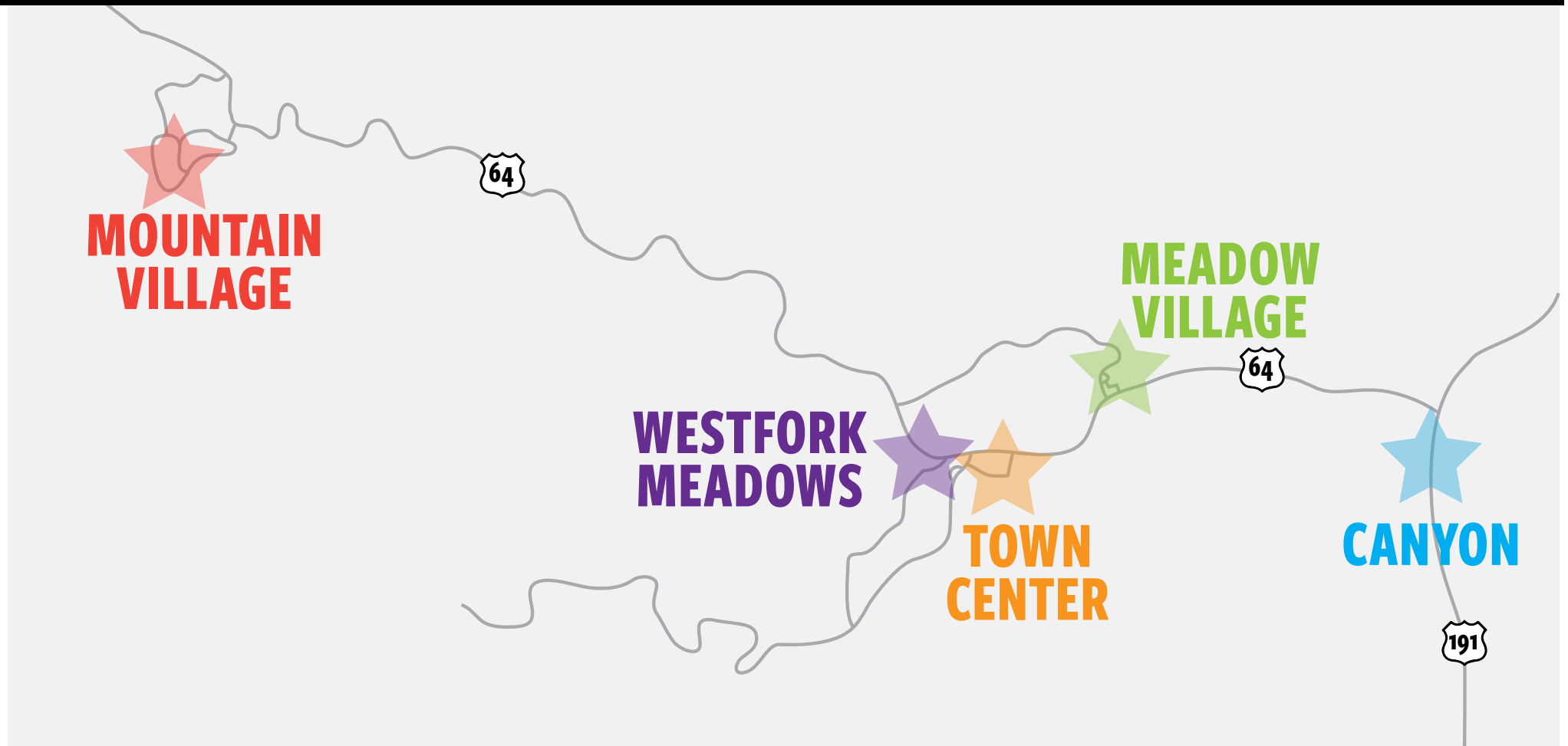
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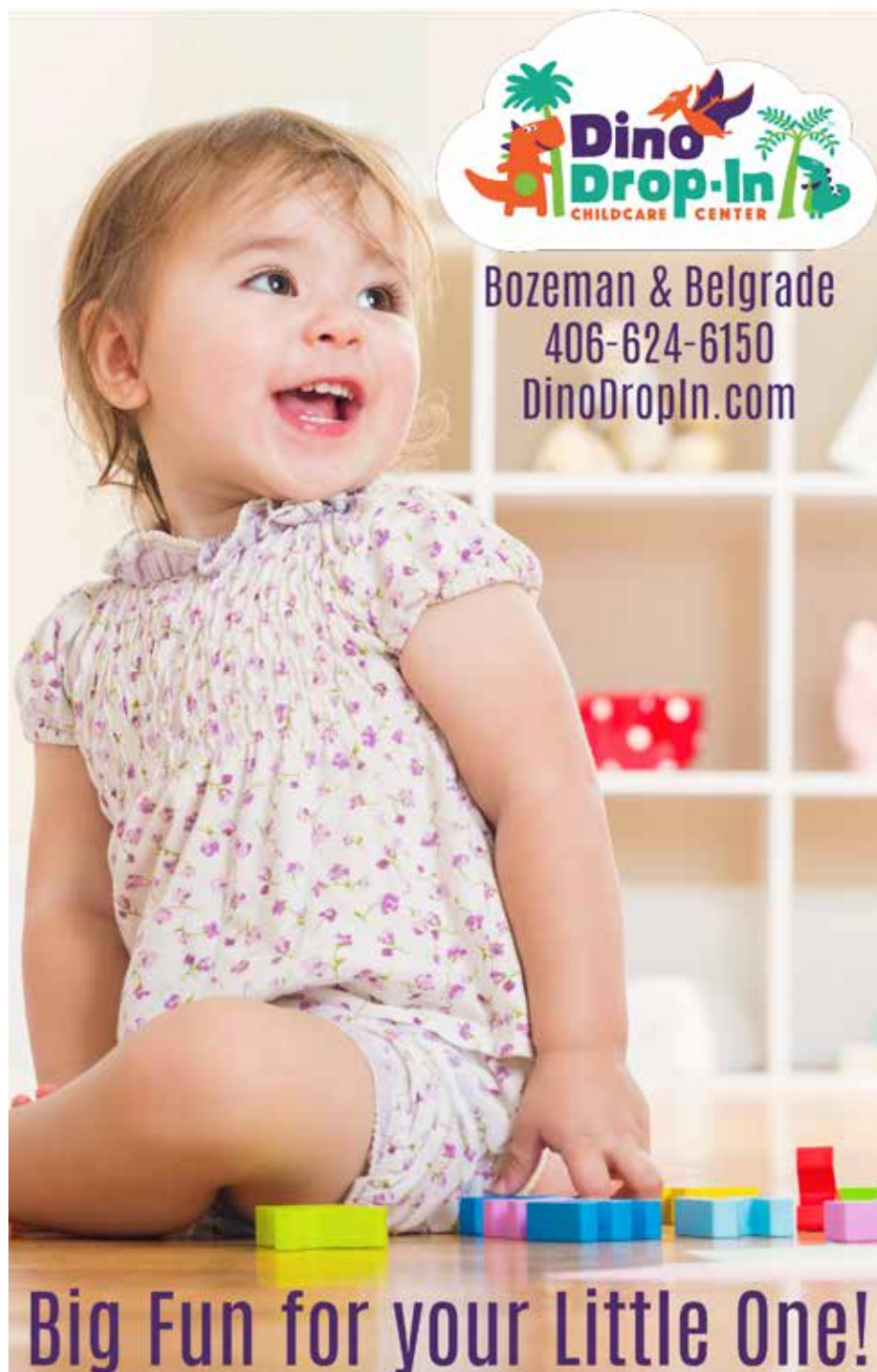
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# AMUSE-BOUCHE

*Amuse-bouche refers to an appetizer, and by French translation means, “to entertain the mouth.” It offers a glimpse into what you should expect from a meal. Also it’s free, compliments of the chef.*

## What every (non)cook should know



BY SCOTT MECHURA  
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

From poaching an egg, to skilled knife handling, I believe everyone should have a basic working knowledge and unintimidated view of one of the most-used rooms in their house.

In this first installation of a two-part series, I’ll go over some basics that will open up all sorts of refrigerator and oven doors for you whether you just want to expand your horizons or are trying to entertain friends.

Here are some things that us chefs think every non-chef should know.

How to poach an egg. All you need is a small pot, water that is just less than boiling with a couple drops of vinegar, a slotted spoon, and about 5-6 minutes.

Know your steak temperatures. Here are the basics. Blue rare: 115 degrees, cold red center. Rare: 120 degrees, room temp red center. Medium rare: 125 degrees, warm red center. Medium: 130-134 degrees, warm pink center. Medium well: 138-142 degrees, warm to hot barely pink center. Well done: hot center, no pink, enough said.

At least one one-pot meal. Gather your ingredients for paella, pot roast or curry. Follow the recipe and lay them out on the counter in the order they are in the recipe. Add them when its time.

Proper nachos. The key is no ingredients so big that you can’t get at least three of them on one chip. And when you layer, make a middle layer instead of only piling everything on top.

A properly diced onion. Peel it, and cut it in half with the faint green lines that run end to end, not in half crosswise. Lay the half down on its cut surface and make to slice inward with your knife. Now make vertical slices across the onion. Lastly, make horizontal cuts across the onion and you will have a perfect medium dice.

Don’t be afraid of your broiler. Think of it as an upside-down grill. It gets really hot and cooks with dry, indirect heat. Great for asparagus, fish, chicken, and small cuts of meat.

Know at least two classic cocktails. How better to entertain than to offer a guest one of these while they watch you in the kitchen? Martini: 3 oz. gin, splash of quality dry vermouth, stir or shake over ice and garnish with an olive. Manhattan: 3 oz. rye or bourbon, splash of sweet vermouth, stir in ice, garnish with quality cherry. Negroni: 1 oz. dry gin, 1 oz. Campari, 1 oz. sweet vermouth. Stir and pour over rocks and garnish with an orange twist.

Roast a chicken. Pat dry. Rub with oil, salt and pepper and/or seasonings and herbs of choice. Preheat oven to 450 degrees; put in chicken, drop oven temperature to 350 degrees and roast for approximately 90 minutes, or until golden and juice (it’s not blood!) inside thigh runs clear.

Care for the cast iron. One of the great classic pieces of cookware. Nothing sears a rib eye better than a hot skillet. Cast iron takes a bit longer to heat and cool down but is consistent throughout its surface. After use, scrub vigorously, wipe dry as cast iron will rust, and spray with cooking spray or wipe with oil to create an oxygen barrier. If cared for properly, it will outlive you.

Guacamole. It’s simple. The basics are avocado, lime juice, chopped cilantro, diced onion (hey, you know how to do that), garlic and salt. The mistake everyone makes is not enough salt. Think of an avocado as a bad friend. They take, and they take, and they take...

A basic vinaigrette. Vinaigrettes are just as good on a chicken breast or fish as they are on greens. Here’s a basic guideline. One part acid to four parts oil, three to one if you are adding something sweet like honey. Pinch of salt and pepper. A small diced shallot and a couple cloves of garlic, and two to three tablespoons of any flavor you want, such as herbs, spices or fruit.

Next, we’ll delve a little deeper and explore pickling, ethnic principles, simple wine pairings and leftovers.

*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.*

*A version of this article previously appeared in a June 2018 edition of Explore Big Sky.*

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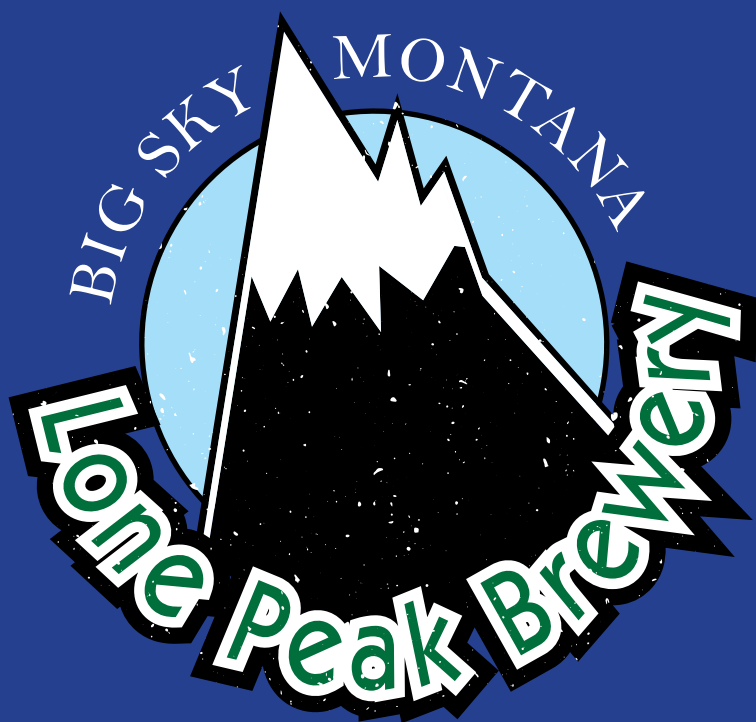
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## Heirloom vegetables

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER  
EBS STAFF

When you think of an heirloom vegetable, you probably picture odd shapes, vibrant colors and deep flavors. There was a point in time when this was the norm for all vegetables, before perfectly symmetrical vegetables with a curiously long shelf life began dominating the produce aisle at supermarkets.

An heirloom vegetable is just that, an heirloom. These vegetables are grown from seeds that were produced prior to 1951. This specific year marks the date when scientists discovered they could create new varieties of plants through cross-pollination, and thus the hybridization of vegetables began.

Heirloom vegetables are open pollinated, which means that they are pollinated without the help of human hands. Natural processes such as wind and transfer via insects are responsible for the pollination of heirloom vegetables. If you save seeds from heirloom vegetables and plant them the following season, they will produce plants that are the same as the previous year. Try to do the same with a hybrid vegetable and you won't like the results.

Many hybrid varieties are bred to be picked when they're unripe so they can be shipped long distances and gas-ripened later. Mass production wasn't a concern prior to hybridization, so flavor could take priority for producers—something that remains true today for those who grow and harvest heirloom vegetables.

The uniformity of hybrid crops is ideal for mass producers, allowing them to harvest their crop all at once. For the home grower, heirlooms provide a less uniform option that allow the vegetables to be harvested at different times because they don't ripen all at once. If you don't have a green thumb, keep an eye out for vegetables of the heirloom variety at your next farmers' market.

Among heirloom vegetables, tomatoes boast some of the best and most unique flavors. I have fond memories of picking a tomato off the vine and enjoying it like an apple, tomato in one hand, salt shaker in the other. The following recipe is a play on that idea, allowing the robust flavor of the heirloom tomato to shine without being overpowered by other ingredients. Use a variety of colors for a pretty presentation and a unique taste with each bite.

*A version of this article previously appeared in a July 2017 edition of Explore Big Sky.*

## Sliced Heirloom Tomatoes with Basil

4 heirloom tomatoes, any variety  
¼ cup olive oil  
¼ cup basil leaves  
Salt and pepper

Cut the tomatoes into ½-inch slices and arrange on a tray. Drizzle with olive oil and add a good amount of salt and cracked pepper. Top with basil chiffonade. (Chiffonade means to cut into ribbons.) Serve at room temperature. Sometimes the best things are easy!



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# American Life in Poetry:

## Column 742

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

Here's a fine poem about a loving, attentive father, by Elise Hempel, who lives in Illinois. Notice how deftly she's placed her rhymes so that we scarcely notice them as the words flow on. Ms. Hempel's latest book, *Today's Mail*, is forthcoming from Jacar Press.

### His New Twin Daughters

By Elise Hempel

Even now, after all  
these years, my father, 89,  
still uncertain when I call  
whose voice it is—Ann's or mine—

saying Hi, Dad, and from where,  
the next town or a different state,  
still pausing in that powdered air,  
this little silence as he waits

at the nursery door, discerning tone  
and pitch, listening hard to know

which way to bend, which crib, the  
one  
against the wall or by the window,  
  
still concentrating, trying to keep  
us separate, our needs, do what  
she would, letting my mother sleep,  
this moment's blank as he's about  
  
to choose between us, make some shift  
in the soft-lit dark, decide whose cry  
it is tonight, which girl to lift,  
to whisper or hum, which lullaby.

*We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts. American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2018 by Elise Hempel, "His New Twin Daughters," from Girl in the Clock, (No Chair Press, 2018). Poem reprinted by permission of Elise Hempel and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2019 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004–2006.*

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Credit score company

5 Ceylonese langur

9 Hebrew letter

12 Bacchanalian cry

13 Culture medium

14 Presidential nickname

15 University officer

16 Sayings (suf.)

17 Citation (abbr.)

18 Horn

20 Backwards (Lat.)

22 Nose

24 Fellow

25 Extend

26 Oral

30 Love (Lat.)

31 Old times

32 Anger

33 Sugarcane by-product

36 Amer. Standard

Code for Information Interchange (abbr.)

38 Fluidity unit

39 Lustrous fabric

40 Sword

43 Moses's spy in Canaan

44 Sleeveless Arab cloak

45 Adjective-forming (suf.)

47 Quod \_\_\_\_\_ demonstrandum

50 This one (Lat.)

51 Hindu stringed instrument

52 Flower holder

53 Hardwood

54 Part of QED

55 Noun-forming (suf.)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S N A F A N G D A C E

N E F T H E E S N E

O U R C A R N A T I O N

B R I E B A L S A

K A A H I L U M

S P A N N I N G L E D A

N A N E M M E R T A C

A L E A P I N O C H L E

B E R N E B A A

S L A D E T R A M

B A Y W I N D O W G A I

B R A E G A R E I R C

B O H R L Y S I C E A

DOWN

1 Nourished

2 Pronoun contraction

3 Dalmatian (2 words)

4 Wife of Paris

5 City on the Rhine

6 Hamitic language

7 Chin. dynasty

8 Landing place of Noah

9 Diplomacy

10 Indian red powder

11 Prohibit

19 Lance of King Arthur

21 Dutch commune

22 Mop

23 Mountain summit (Ital.)

24 Limited (abbr.)

26 Rubber tree

27 Hull of rice (2 words)

28 New York canal

29 Your (Ger.)

31 Compass direction

34 Land measure

35 Absolve sins

36 Mulberry of India

37 Loading spar

39 Muslim prayer

40 Hamite people of Eth.

41 Son of Samuel

42 Stern

43 Galilee town

46 Circuit (abbr.)

48 Atl. Coast Conference (abbr.)

49 Golf ball holder

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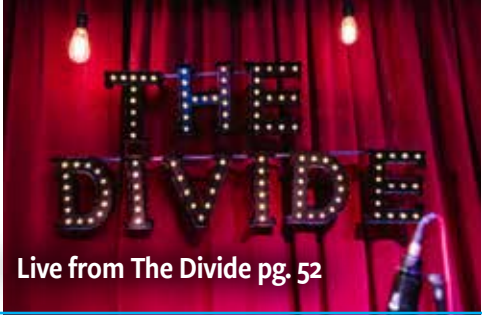
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ARTS &  
ENTERTAINMENT



Live from The Divide pg. 52



Moonlight MusicFest pg. 58



Dark Horse Consort pg. 61

# Thunderpussy to electrify Peak to Sky stage

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

Controversy, rawness, in-your-face energy—these are some of the original pillars of rock music, and the all female, Seattle-based Thunderpussy is bringing these and more to the Peak to Sky stage on July 5.

Controversy, you ask?

The 1970s-inspired quartet is currently awaiting the outcome of a U.S. Supreme Court case *Iancu v. Brunetti*, which will determine whether or not the band can trademark their name.

The case, which deals with clothing company FUCT and their own trademark rights, hinges on a U.S. Code that bans registration of immoral or scandalous trademarks; what is immoral or scandalous, however, is up for interpretation, according to Whitney Petty, lead guitarist for the group.

“It’s a really important issue, and it goes much deeper than it appears on the surface,” Petty said. “It has to do with controlling women’s sexuality, 100 percent.”

But the dispute hasn’t stopped the band from rocking.

Comprised of Molly Sides on pipes, Petty on guitar, Leah Julius on bass and newcomer Lindsey Elias on drums, Thunderpussy had a breakthrough moment at the Sasquatch! Music Festival, hosted annually since 2002 at the world-famous Gorge Amphitheater in Washington, when they met and befriended Mike McCready, lead guitarist of Pearl Jam, the grunge powerhouse band that was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2017.

McCready’s Hockett Records subsequently released Thunderpussy’s first single, “Velvet Moose,” a track later featured in Aaron Sorkin’s film “Molly’s Game,” starring the likes of superstars Jessica Chastain and Idris Elba.



Molly Sides throwing it down in the Big Sky Events Arena.

Influenced by legendary era groups such as Led Zeppelin and Heart, members of Thunderpussy, often clad in brightly colored, eccentric clothing and backed by strong percussion, wailing guitars and screaming



Thunderpussy rocking the stage at the 2018 Big Sky PBR. OP PHOTOS

vocals, possess some of the same rock spirit that captured the soul of a generation.

Peak to Sky won’t be the first time the group has rocked stages in Big Sky—they brought down the house at the 2018 Big Sky PBR then cleared boxes of merchandise within minutes to a frenzied crowd of new fans.

Still, it’s the historic nature of Peak to Sky that most excites the band, along with the opportunity to share a bill with some of the biggest-ever names in rock, including Mike McCready, Chad Smith, Duff McKagan, Josh Klinghoffer and Taylor Hawkins. And despite the unprecedented assembly of talent, Petty isn’t worried about the band’s upcoming performance.

“I’m not nervous,” she said. “You can’t do any wrong because they are just simply better than you. It’s really disarming.”

But Brandi Carlile is another story. The genre-spanning phenom, who just pocketed three awards at the 61st Grammy Awards in February, also hails from the Seattle area and is a female musical force to be reckoned with.

“I’m more nervous to actually be in the presence of Brandi, a powerhouse of a woman,” Petty said. “I know I speak for Molly too: that will be our starstruck moment. [Carlile is] so talented and she’s finally getting the recognition she deserves.”

*Thunderpussy will land in Big Sky for the Peak to Sky event on July 5–6.*



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

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## Reel Review: 'The Hole in the Ground'

BY ANNA HUSTED  
EBS FILM CRITIC

"The Hole in the Ground" is "The Babadook" meets "The Descent." It doesn't bring very much new to the horror genre, but like most horror films it is a treatise on current times—specifically tackling issues centered on feminism and isolationism.

Up-and-coming actor Seana Kerslake plays Sarah, mother of Chris, who is left to raise her son alone for an undisclosed reason. The father figure either died or mysteriously disappeared from their lives, but whatever happened to him makes Sarah sad, so she and her son move to a new town. Within the first 10 minutes of the film Sarah notices slight changes in Chris' demeanor upon their arrival in the new house; she ignores this until the old woman down the road from them stops them in the middle of the highway to tell her that Chris "is not your son."

After the old woman's death, from suffocation, the horror ramps up. I will not say whether Chris or Sarah, or both, are possessed because it's not obvious until the end and guessing is half the fun.



Seana Kerslake plays a single mother who moves with her son to the countryside for a change of pace, which leads to an isolation she was not prepared for. PHOTO COURTESY OF BANKSIDE FILMS

One of my favorite things about "The Hole in the Ground" is its runtime. At 1 hour, 30 minutes, it's a tightly edited and entertaining horror movie. In the digital age the art of editing is losing ground, so I loved that director Lee Cronin jumped right into the action and suspense with upside down, twisting shots of the highway and the caves that run underneath it.

"The Hole in the Ground" is Cronin's debut feature film, and he plays on our previous horror film tropes by directing Kerslake as an overprotective, am-I-going-crazy-or-is-this-real mother. The film's climax gives the power back to the mother, which historically horror films do not do. Cronin does not belittle Sarah's situation, but presents it as something only she can understand and get through.

Post-viewing "The Hole in the Ground" my burning question is: Why do people always buy a house in the woods away from society and think nothing will go wrong? Horror film error No. 1. This sentiment speaks volumes to us in Montana because we cannot help but be isolated due to the vastness of our state. Isolation goes against human nature and horror films show us this again and again.

Do not let your kids bury their pets in the cemetery on the back 40 and don't spend a winter alone in a hotel in the Colorado Rockies—something bad will happen. Horror films are the best at calling out our need to be a part of society. Social interaction is as important as dieting or exercise: Without it we are lost.

"The Hole in the Ground" is worth watching if you enjoy horror films, but it's no "Us" or "Get Out" so there's no rush to see it. The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year and is now available to rent on iTunes or Google Play.

*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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# Live From the Divide curates one-of-a-kind musical experience

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY



The marquee-style lights that read “The Divide” is about as dolled up as Live From the Divide gets; The rest is all about the music, and the authentic, intimate experience it fosters. PHOTO BY KATE CAUTHEN PHOTOGRAPHY

BOZEMAN – A few blocks northeast of the bustle of East Main Street, a strip dominated by the merry hordes of Montana State University students and the electronic bass blasting from their most cherished haunts such as the Rocking R Bar and Bar IX, a unique musical experience lies in wait for more refined musical palettes.

Smack-dab between where North Bozeman transitions from residential-to industrial-style

buildings, Live From the Divide’s brick exterior is understated, sans frills save for a 3D cartoon plaque of a young cowboy, six-shooters drawn, smiling under a 10-gallon hat.

Practically nothing about the exterior hints at the surreal, practically magical experience on the inside, the type of venue that reminds artists and patrons alike what music is all about: connection, a transfer of ideas and emotions in what is often touted as the most universal language of all.

Just around the corner from a lobby adorned with couches and a table for band merchandise, as well as beer and whiskey provided by Bridger Brewing and Bozeman Spirits, respectively, sits the venue’s music hall.

Above the 50-seat room, comprised of padded benches and folding chairs, high tech audio and video equipment lace the ceiling. This is because every show at Live From the Divide is broadcasted to the world.

“It’s pretty high-tech, it’s a 7.1 [a surround sound designation] room with all Bose Pro Audio equipment,” said Jason Wickens, co-founder, co-producer and co-host of Live From the Divide.

He and his partner Doc Wiley originally used the space as a commercial recording studio, but the economic downturn in 2008 forced the team to pivot and rethink usage of the building.

“Opening a commercial studio is hard anywhere, particularly in Great Recession Bozeman, Montana,” laughed Wickens. “But everything happens for a reason and I started to book little house concerts in there and Doc was like, ‘We should start recording this.’”

Modern American spoken English is plagued by hyperbole; everything is “amazing,” “incredible,” “unbelievable,” “special.” But in this instance, in a room where the walls are adorned by with hung flag that reads “Long live the songwriter,” and a plaque that states “Music really does make the world a better place,” and where a crowd, tinted by purple, red and blue lights listens in pure earnest, words like “amazing” and “special” ring true.

This authenticity and individuality are what Wickens and Wiley seek in every show via unwavering support for the songwriter and their craft.

“This is the root of it all: a passion and desire to support singer-songwriters that are doing it for a more authentic purpose,” Wickens said. “I wanted to be a part of the whole authenticity.”

On June 7, Wiley emceed for Hillstomp, an energetic rock, country, soul and folk fusion duo out of Portland, Oregon.

After warming up the crowd with a few jokes and pieces of information about the equipment and Live From the Divide’s story, Wiley made a request that captures what anyone needs to know about Live From the Divide.

“Turn them [cellphones] off. Be here. Be in the present. Be here right now.”



  
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# BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JUNE 21 - THURSDAY, JULY 4

If your event falls between July 5 and July 18, please submit it by July 10 by emailing [media@outlaw.partners](mailto:media@outlaw.partners)

**FRIDAY, JUNE 21**

108 Sun Salutations Yoga  
Proceeds to go towards the BSCO  
Town Center Plaza, 9:30 a.m.

Summer Solstice Party w/ live music by Laney Lou & The Bird Dogs  
320 Guest Ranch, 5:30 p.m.

Roald Dahl's Matilda  
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 6:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 22**

Women's Shred Fest  
Big Sky Resort, 8 a.m.

Kids Adventure Games  
Big Sky Resort, 9 a.m.

Roald Dahl's Matilda  
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 6:30 p.m.

Live Music: The Band Confusion  
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 23**

Women's Shred Fest  
Big Sky Resort, 8 a.m.

Kids Adventure Games  
Big Sky Resort, 9 a.m.

Live Music: 3 Miles to Clyde  
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**MONDAY, JUNE 24**

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

**TUESDAY, JUNE 25**

Seventh annual Community Park Weed Pull & BBQ  
Big Sky Community Park River Pavillion, 4:30 p.m.

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

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26**

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

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

## WORTH THE DRIVE



**MADISON CAMPGROUND,  
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK**

**Stars Over Yellowstone: Night Sky  
Observing**

June 28 & 29, 10:30 p.m.

Bozeman's very own Museum of the Rockies will continue a two decades-long partnership with Yellowstone National Park this summer, bringing the "Stars Over Yellowstone" educational program series to space enthusiasts. Head down to the Madison Campground of Yellowstone National Park on Friday, June 28 and Saturday, June 29, to "find constellations, hear stories, and view celestial objects through telescopes." Attendees, able to join in the fun free of charge, will encounter the incredible sheet of stars just above our heads in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and can expect to study the Milky Way, the planets of our solar system, the center of the Galaxy, craters on the Moon, star clusters and nebula via telescopes. Visit [nps.gov/yell](https://nps.gov/yell) for more information.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 27**

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

**FRIDAY, JUNE 28**

Gallatin River Festival: Pesca Fiesta  
Gallatin River Guides, 4 p.m.

Live Music: Turkuaz  
The Rialto, Bozeman, 8 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous can help if you think you might have a drinking problem.**  
Call (888) 607-2000 to talk to a member of A.A., or go to [aa-montana.org](http://aa-montana.org) for meeting times and locations.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 21 - THURSDAY, JULY 4**

*If your event falls between July 5 and July 18, please submit it by July 10 by emailing [media@outlaw.partners](mailto:media@outlaw.partners)*

Gallatin River Festival: Outdoor Fair  
Big Sky Town Center Park, 4 p.m.

Live Music: Half a Pint  
Gravel Bar, Ennis, 7 p.m.

Gallatin River Festival: Hooked on the Gallatin Banquet  
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 5 p.m.

Live Music: Ty Stevenson Band  
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

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

Pig Roast w/ live music  
320 Guest Ranch, 5:30 p.m.

Live Music: American Aquarium  
The Filling Station, Bozeman, 7:00 p.m.

“Paper Landscapes” Opening  
Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, Bozeman, 9 a.m.

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

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

Firecracker Open Golf Scramble  
Big Sky Golf Course, 10 a.m.

Ice Cream Social at The Living History Farm  
Museum of The Rockies, Bozeman, 2 p.m.

Live Music: Dammit Lauren and The Well  
Choppers Grub & Pub, 10 p.m.



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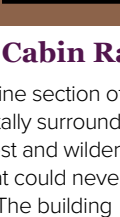
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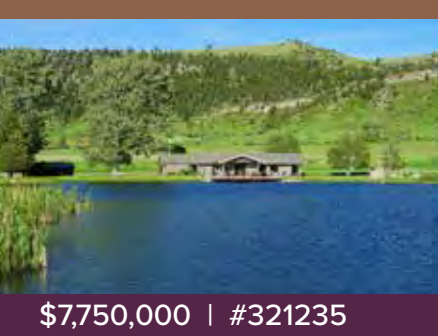




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# BIG SKY PBR

**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](http://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.

**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](http://bigskypbr.com).

**THURSDAY JULY 25**

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

**4:30pm** - Gates Open | **5:30pm** - Bull Riding Begins

PBR's Touring Pro Division kicks off three nights of bull riding in Big Sky with 40 of the world's best cowboys going head to head with world-class bulls.

**Music in the Mountains**

**PBR Kick-Off Concert with Hayes Carll**

**Sponsored by Big Sky PBR, presented by Arts Council Big Sky**

**Town Center Park | FREE**

**6pm** - Park opens

**7:15pm** - Opening act

**8:30pm** - Hayes Carll

**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](http://bigskypbr.com).

**MORE INFORMATION, SCHEDULE & TICKETS AT [BIGSKYPBR.COM](http://BIGSKYPBR.COM)**

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



## Moonlight MusicFest brings renowned talent to Big Sky

**MOONLIGHT  
MUSICFEST**  
BIG SKY, MONTANA 2019

### MOONLIGHT MUSICFEST

**BIG SKY** – Backdropped by spectacular 360-degree views of Lone Mountain and the Spanish Peaks found only at Big Sky Resort’s Madison Village, Moonlight MusicFest is returning to Big Sky this year with a whole new lineup of local and national acts.

This second iteration of the festival will feature 10 bands with music for everyone ranging across many different genres, including blues, soul, bluegrass, reggae, zydeco and good old rock and roll.

In addition to great bands, the festival features a vendor row with food and beverage trucks, cool festival merchandise, a “Fun & Games” area for kids big and small and much more. Bring your chairs or a blanket, and plan to relax for the entire day, as you won’t want to miss a single minute of the jam-packed musical action. Several of last year’s festivalgoers have described it as the “best festival ever” due to the unique combination of spectacular scenery, over the top music and a whole lot of dancing.

Over the next few months, the Moonlight MusicFest team will introduce you to all the bands that will be traveling from far and wide to come play at the Moonlight MusicFest, starting with Satsang, Trampled by Turtles, The Dusty Pockets and The Wood Brothers.

### SATSANG



Satsang’s music is defined by messages of growth and empowerment, a stylistic line drawn from lead singer Drew McManus’s trials and tribulations growing up in a rough, urban environment. PHOTO COURTESY OF MOONLIGHT MUSICFEST

Satsang is a power trio from Red Lodge, known for a unique blend of soul, folk rock, and hip-hop, with lyrics rooted in change, growth, awareness and imperfection.

Their live shows embody everything the band’s Hindi name suggests: gatherings of people where truths are assimilated and shared, with rhythms that keep everyone on their feet and lyrics that leave audiences craving active and positive change.

Satsang has toured all over the country and has shared the stage with the likes of Michael Franti & Spearhead, Steel Pulse, Wookiefoot, Nahko and Medicine for the People, Trevor Hall and Chris Berry.

Lead singer and songwriter Drew McManus creates music for his soul, fueled by moments of personal growth and the beautiful life that he’s forged in the Beartooth Mountains, a starkly different reality than that of his urban upbringing.

“I grew up in an environment where aggression, violence, abuse and addiction were always present. It made me a lot of things; angry, sad

and ashamed. I hated my story and I was a slave to addiction. I tried for so long to hide from the reality of my story and the reality of how beautiful life could be,” McManus said.

An intense spiritual experience led Drew to break his cycle of addiction.

“I had changed my entire outlook on everything,” McManus said. “I began to realize that had everything not happened to me exactly like it did, I would not be exactly who, where, what I am right now.”

In an effort to share his revelation with others who may be in similar predicaments, Drew began to write every day.

“I was flooded with the urge to write down the lessons that kept revealing themselves in this surrender. And the connections I began making with other people by making this music vulnerable and open began to change everything.”

Now, fresh out of the studio after releasing their third full-length studio album, Satsang enters a new year with a quiver of fresh tunes, poised for even more magical moments.

Catch Satsang, the opening act of Moonlight MusicFest, Aug. 16 at 4:00 p.m.



The Wood Brothers were nominated for a Grammy in 2019, and show no signs of slowing down. PHOTO COURTESY OF MOONLIGHT MUSICFEST

### THE WOOD BROTHERS

Dubbed “masters of soulful folk” by Paste Magazine, 2019 Grammy nominees The Wood Brothers are returning to the Moonlight MusicFest for a second year of musical exhibition.

The Wood Brothers, based out of Nashville, are made up of Chris and Oliver Wood and Jano Rix, and boast a unique sound that blends blues, R&B, folk and jazz influences. The band is currently touring in support of their 2018 album “*One Drop Of Truth*,” which garnered them a Grammy Award nomination for Best Americana Album.

“It’s the freest album we’ve done, the most independent album we’ve

done and was the most fun we’ve ever had making a record,” Oliver said.

Oliver Wood crafted his talents as a musician in Atlanta, initially touring with Tinsley Ellis, then with his own band, King Johnson, producing six albums over a twelve-year period.

“His guitar work is reminiscent of Hendrix’s aggressive blues-acid and the twangs of Robbie Robertson,” wrote Relix Magazine.

Brother Chris, meanwhile, moved to Boston to study jazz bass at the New England Conservatory. He eventually became the “Wood” component of Medeski Martin & Wood; he is arguably one of the hottest and most talented bassists in music today.

The third “brother,” Jano Rix, brings the kind of excitement and innovation to percussion that Les Paul brought to the guitar.

“It’s a little unusual to have the same band play at a festival two years in a row, but we decided we had to invite them back; everyone just had so much fun when they were on stage,” says LynnAnne Hagar, director and organizer of the Moonlight MusicFest. “If you’ve never seen the Wood Brothers perform, do not miss out this year. They put on a great show.”

The Wood Brothers will perform on Aug. 17.

TRAMPLED BY TURTLES

After 15 years of recording and performing high-energy live shows, Trampled by Turtles have built a large and loyal fan base that packs venues to the max.

Hailing from Duluth, Minnesota, the band’s musical styling can often be a bit hard to define. Bluegrass may be the most appropriate term, but from purists to even the newgrass jammers, many would say that’s not exactly the right term when it comes to Trampled by Turtles.



Trampled by Turtles, a band out of Duluth, Minnesota, are notoriously hard to pin down, exercising a wide range of styles and influences. PHOTO COURTESY OF MOONLIGHT MUSICFEST

And many of their songs place them in the “Americana” territory, but that doesn’t account for when they go on a blazing tear at a tempo usually reserved for punk. You just have to listen to understand.

The band recorded several albums, including “Palomino,” which debuted at No. 1 on Billboard’s Bluegrass chart, remaining in the top 10 for over a year. Two years later, “Stars and Satellites” landed them at the top of Billboard’s Pop charts. They have been favorites at Coachella, Bumbershoot and Lollapalooza festivals, and Rolling Stone said that their latest album “Life Is Good On The Open Roads,” “balances



Bozeman’s very own The Dusty Pockets invented their own genre, “recreational Americana”; head up to Madison Village to see what it’s all about. PHOTO COURTESY OF MOONLIGHT MUSICFEST

both delicate ballads and loose, upbeat romps, with frontman Dave Simonett’s strident voice connecting the dots.”

The band is as eager to play in the Treasure State as fans, both new and old, are to see them live right in our backyard.

“Montana was the first destination of our second ever tour in the spring of ‘05. We fell in love with it then and have always felt the love in return whenever we make it back,” said Trampled by Turtles mandolin player Erik Berry.

THE DUSTY POCKETS

The Dusty Pockets’ self invented genre, “recreational Americana,” is indicative of the band’s mission to make seriously good music and have fun at the same time, and with this tool in the belt, the band tells meaningful stories, delivered with grit, wrapped in beautiful melodies and driven by powerful grooves.

Their debut release, “Hard Line,” is a ten-song album that cherry-picks from the band’s wide and ever-growing catalog of original songs. Centered on a strong foundation of American musical traditions, the band’s output showcases a collection of tunes that scratch the itch for twang, soul, and rock and roll all at once.

The Dusty Pockets is comprised of vocalist and guitarist Dave Walther, guitarist Matt Rogers, keyboardist Garret Rhinard, bassist and vocalist John Alex Griffith and drummer and vocalist Joe Sheehan. The band currently works in their own purpose-built recording studio outside Bozeman, which allows the multi-talented band members—who are also capable sound engineers—to record their own projects.

The Dusty Pockets continue to find themselves playing on larger bills this summer around Montana, including the second annual Moonlight MusicFest.

“We’re really honored to play Moonlight this year,” says Walther. “Some of our favorite artists are on the lineup and it’s in our own beautiful backyard.”

*Stay tuned for information on the remaining bands. Music samples, festival info and tickets can all be found at [moonlightmusicfest.com](http://moonlightmusicfest.com). Kids under 12 are free and student discounts are offered.*

# Broadway musical ‘Damn Yankees’ at The Ellen Theatre

## THE ELLEN THEATRE

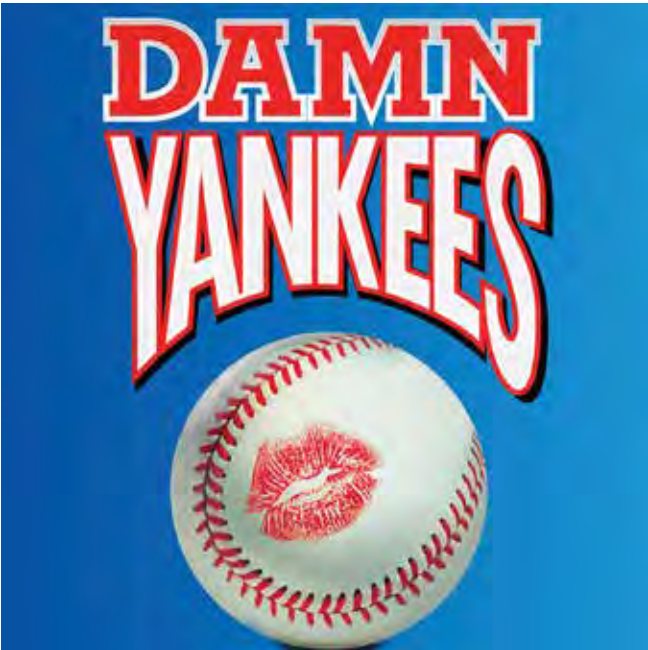
The Broadway grand slam hit “Damn Yankees” opens at The Ellen Theatre on July 26 and runs for three weekends.

A powerhouse roster of singers and dancers knocks this musical comedy favorite clear out of the park, all backed by a sparkling 20-piece live orchestra.

In the lead role of Joe Hardy, The Ellen welcomes guest artist Connor Berkompas from Los Angeles. Also in the cast is guest artist Daniel Moore from New York) who sings the all-star classic “You Gotta Have Heart.”

If you don’t have a program, Damn Yankees is the story of Joe Boyd, a devoted fan of the hapless Washington Senators who sells his soul to the devil, Mr. Applegate [Mark Kuntz], for a chance to beat the dreaded Yankees. Applegate transforms Boyd into 22-year-old baseball phenom Joe Hardy to lead the Senators to the World Series.

A couple of curve balls include temptress Lola played by Val Andrews, singing “Whatever Lola Wants,” as well as nosy reporter Gloria Thor-



Step up to the plate and see “Damn Yankees” at The Ellen Theatre. POSTER COURTESY OF THE ELLEN THEATRE

pe played by Annabella Joy, singing “Shoeless Joe from Hannibal, MO”—last summer, Joy wowed Ellen audiences as Ado Annie in “Oklahoma!”

Just like innings, The Ellen team takes the field for nine performances. Friday and Saturday showings begin at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday matinees see first pitch at 3:00 p.m., with the final performance slotted for Aug. 11.

According to the commissioner’s office, as The Ellen Theatre is indoors, there will be no rainouts.

Reserved seats for this double-header of major league music and longball laughs range from \$18 for upper balcony and youth [17 and under], to \$25 for main floor and mezzanine viewing. A limited number of premium \$32

seats are also available.

Step up to the plate and secure your tickets online at theellentheatre.org, by calling the box office at 406-585-5885, or at the theater located at 17 West Main Street in downtown Bozeman. The lobby will be open one hour prior to game time for beer, wine and other refreshments. Play ball!



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# Arts Council presents Dark Horse Consort

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

BIG SKY – The Arts Council of Big Sky is presenting a night of early-period music featuring Baroque Music Montana and Dark Horse Consort on June 30, at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Sky home of Roger Schwer and Marjie Toepffer.

In days bygone, domestic entertainment during one’s leisurely hours would have included both songs and dances, experienced by either hiring professional singers and players if one had the means, or by gathering friends and family around a set of partbooks to while away the evening reading through beloved tunes.



The Dark Horse Consort will bring sounds from times of old to Big Sky on June 30. PHOTO COURTESY OF ACBS

Baroque Music Montana presents “Ye Old Song and Dance” featuring the Dark Horse Consort, the nation’s “go-to” period brass ensemble known for their performances of cherished 17th century pieces. Their repertoire includes heralding canzonas by Gabrieli and Cavalli, rapturous sonatas by Castello and town band dances by Buonamente and Praetorius, and performers include sackbuts and cornetto players from Dark Horse Consort, along with returning musicians Carrie Krause, baroque violin, and John Lenti, lute.

The early music ensemble Dark Horse Consort is dedicated to unearthing the majestic late renaissance and early baroque repertoire for brass instruments. Inspired by the bronze horse statues in Venice’s famed St. Mark’s Basilica, the ensemble attempts to recreate the glorious sounds of composers such as Giovanni Gabrieli, Claudio Monteverdi and Heinrich Schütz. Dark Horse often expands to include vocalists and strings, which when combined recreates the rapturous kaleidoscope that was the sound of the early 17th century instrumental ensemble.

*Tickets to this special, intimate performance are \$55 per person, which includes beverages and appetizers served before the concert. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour with the concert following at 7 p.m. This concert is presented by the Arts Council of Big Sky and underwritten by the Schwer-Topeffer Memorial fund, dedicated to bringing high-quality classical music to Big Sky audiences. For more information or to purchase tickets please visit bigskyarts.org or call (406) 995-2742.*



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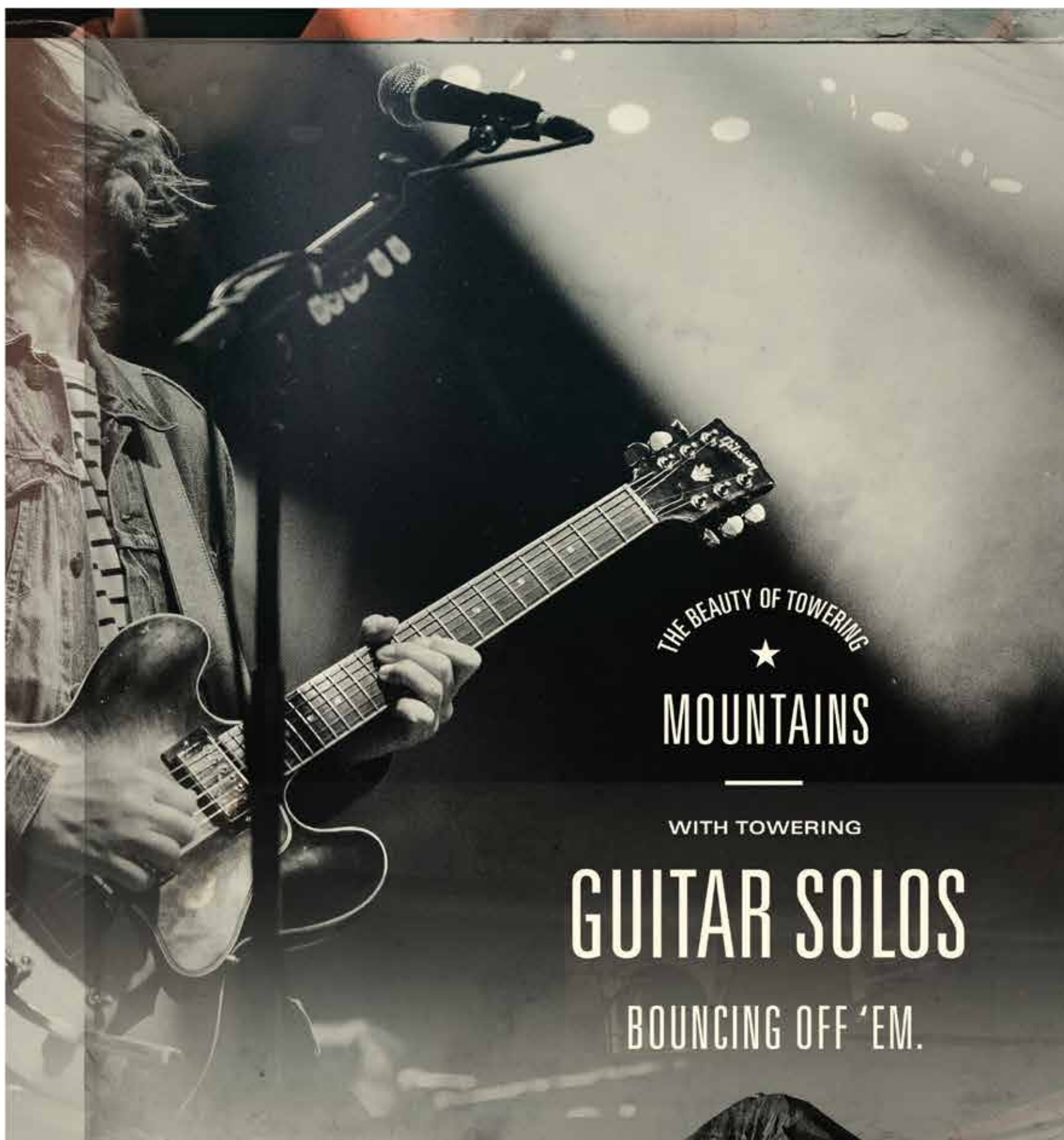
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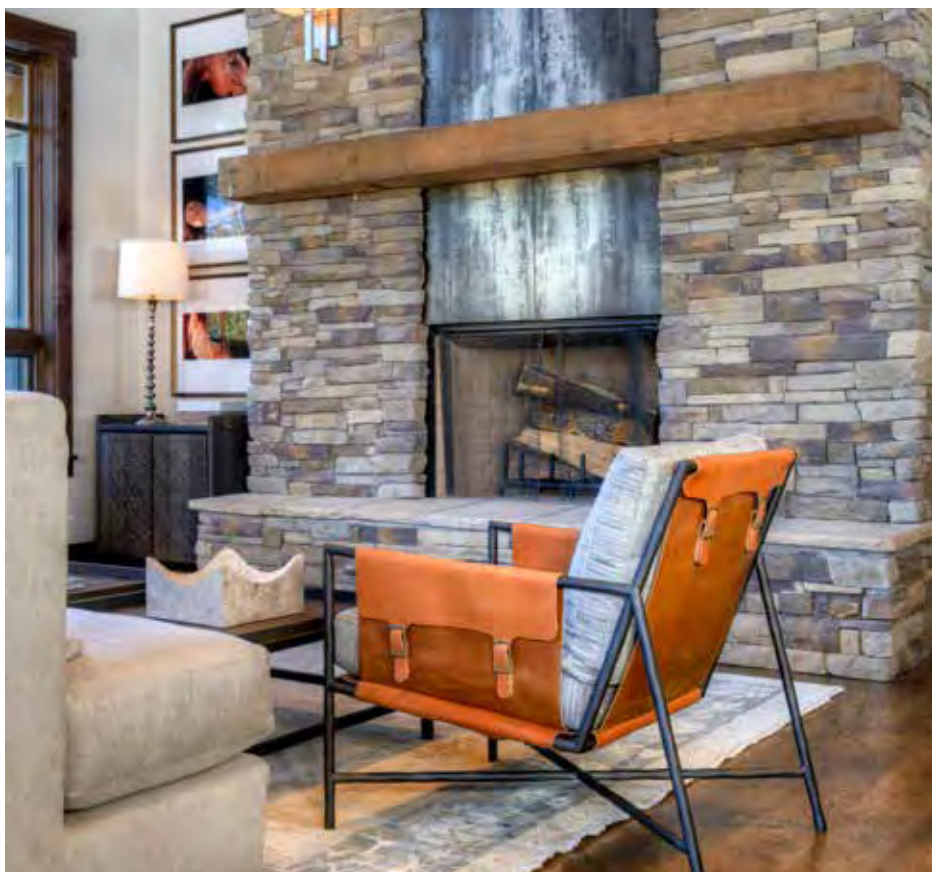
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LEEDing the green building charge

BY BELLA BUTLER

Green building practices have increased in popularity across the globe, and Big Sky is no exception. Locally and regionally, green building standards are gaining momentum, either by choice, happy accident or government mandate.

LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is the most widely-used green building rating system in the world, according to the United States Green Building Council, the organization that oversees the program.

The first version of LEED was launched in 1998, but the initial mission began four years prior when Montana State University was charged with performing research around the concept of a green building standard with an experimental building. Their project, the EPICenter, was never seen through to completion, but their work informed the creation of LEED.

LEED first made an appearance in Big Sky when Josh Greene, owner of Greene Construction, set out on a sustainable building mission. He was joined by engineer Philip Kedrowski and architect Reid Smith in constructing the Big Sky Health and Fitness Center. For Greene, the motivation was personal, derived from his acute attention to the environmental impacts that burden his trade. He also thought it made good business sense to invest in what he considered the future.

To give some background, a building becomes LEED certified by accumulating points in various categories. For example, points can be earned for projects as small as onsite bike storage units to efforts as large as diverting 75 percent of construction waste from disposal. Different levels of certification are achieved by earning certain amounts of points.

In building the fitness center, Greene and his team set out simply to earn the baseline certification, but thanks to an innovative heating and cooling system

that draws energy from the sewer ponds next door, along with other creative initiatives, the finished building was awarded the second highest certification, gold. The ground-sourced heat pump reduced energy costs by an estimated factor of four.

The state of Montana has recognized LEED as a priority in its development as well. A senate bill enacted in 2009 mandated that all state agency buildings follow the High Performance Building Standards, which mandates that buildings meet equivalent requirements to LEED structures. MSU currently hosts six LEED buildings, with the new Norm Asbjornson Hall boasting a platinum rating, the highest in LEED.

MSU Director of the Office of Sustainability Kristin Blackler said tackling green building is a challenge, and LEED provides a welcome resource. “Having LEED as a framework helps isolate and prioritize the things that are most important,” she said.

Greene’s last LEED project was a Cascade Ridge home, completed in 2010. The expansion of LEED-certified buildings in Big Sky has been slower than Greene had anticipated, but he believes the Big Sky community is beginning to embrace the idea.

“The problem is that people have a fixed idea of what a LEED building should look like,” Greene said, addressing the stigma he sees attached to LEED buildings. He pointed out the simple building changes made in his first project, like large windows with a view and a grate at the entrance to help remove toxins from shoes.

More and more Big Sky organizations are seeking to certify their buildings with LEED, such as the Big Sky Community Organization’s community center, driving Big Sky environmental priorities in a progressive direction.



The Big Sky Health and Fitness Center reduced energy usage by over 60 percent thanks to an innovative ground-source heating and cooling system. PHOTO COURTESY OF GREENE CONSTRUCTION

# The lowdown on tiny houses

BY BAY STEPHENS

You may have heard of the tiny house revolution, replete with folks looking to downsize their belongings in order to upsize their life. Many of these homes have less than 400 square feet, though the most die-hard owners' miniature houses come in at fewer than 100 square feet. The houses often reside on trailers, ready to move with the whims of its owners, or occupy shared lots with more traditionally sized homes.

Tiny houses have become the emblem of a simplified life that seeks to maximize time and space via minimizing stuff. But where did this wave of minimalism come from? Though all of history has played a part, the tiny house movement can be traced to little over half a century ago.

The concept's early roots are found in the writings of Henry David Thoreau's "Walden," published in 1854, which chronicled Thoreau's experiment of simple living in the woods in a little cabin beside Walden Pond in Massachusetts. The work is hailed as an important contribution to New England Transcendentalism and paved the way for a largely individualistic and self-sufficient style of living.



Many tiny houses come on wheels, like this one, but not all. The cozy space inside is efficiently heated while the outside can be economically sided with "upcycled" wood such as from pallets.

The '70s and '80s saw several other books published that highlighted small-house designs. A major shift came in 1997 when Oregon changed its laws to allow Accessory Dwelling Units, meaning that a second home could be placed on a lot already containing a house. The advent of ADUs provided for higher-density living without forcing people to move into apartment buildings; it also offers the opportunity to find creative ways to save money if a person is willing to downsize.

Widely considered the godfather of tiny houses, Jay Shafer came onto the scene in 1999 with the founding of Tumbleweed Tiny House Company, now the largest tiny house RV manufacturer in North America. As a stroll down the YouTube rabbit trail will teach you, the guy builds houses that fit on trailers, pontoons, or even hoisted into trees—and can be heated by a candle, at least in a Southern Californian climate.

The popularity of tiny houses got a serious boost in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, as swaths of Americans opted to downsize over taking out excessive loans.



Lofts are a staple of tiny houses, maximizing space and minimizing opportunities for clutter. CC PHOTOS

These little homes undercut traditional homes in terms of affordability, especially if you build it yourself. A brief browse of Tumbleweed's website will reveal prebuilt tiny houses on wheels ranging from \$54,000 to \$97,000, but with some elbow grease, other owners boast budgets under \$12,000.

While it's not likely someone in Big Sky would find materials cheap enough to build a tiny home for \$12,000, "upcycling" can sweeten the deal. It involves using materials such as old pallets for siding, or pine beetle kill for countertops. The craftier and more flexible a prospective tiny home owner, the cheaper and more elegant the finished product.

Along with those trying to save money or stick it to the man by living below their means, these little dwellings have also found a place in the nonprofit sector, such as in Bozeman where the HRDC recently won a \$500,000 grant to build a pilot tiny house village for those experiencing homelessness. Similar stories are bearing out across the country.

Ultimately, the tiny home movement revolves around the adage that less is more; the less you own, the less you have to maintain, and the more time doing what you love. For many on the tiny house train, living small allows the margin, financially and in terms of time, to approach the life differently, with their own flare and style. These little homes often act as the canvas for these expressions.



Compact doesn't have to mean uncomfortable, as evidenced by this tiny house hotel living room.



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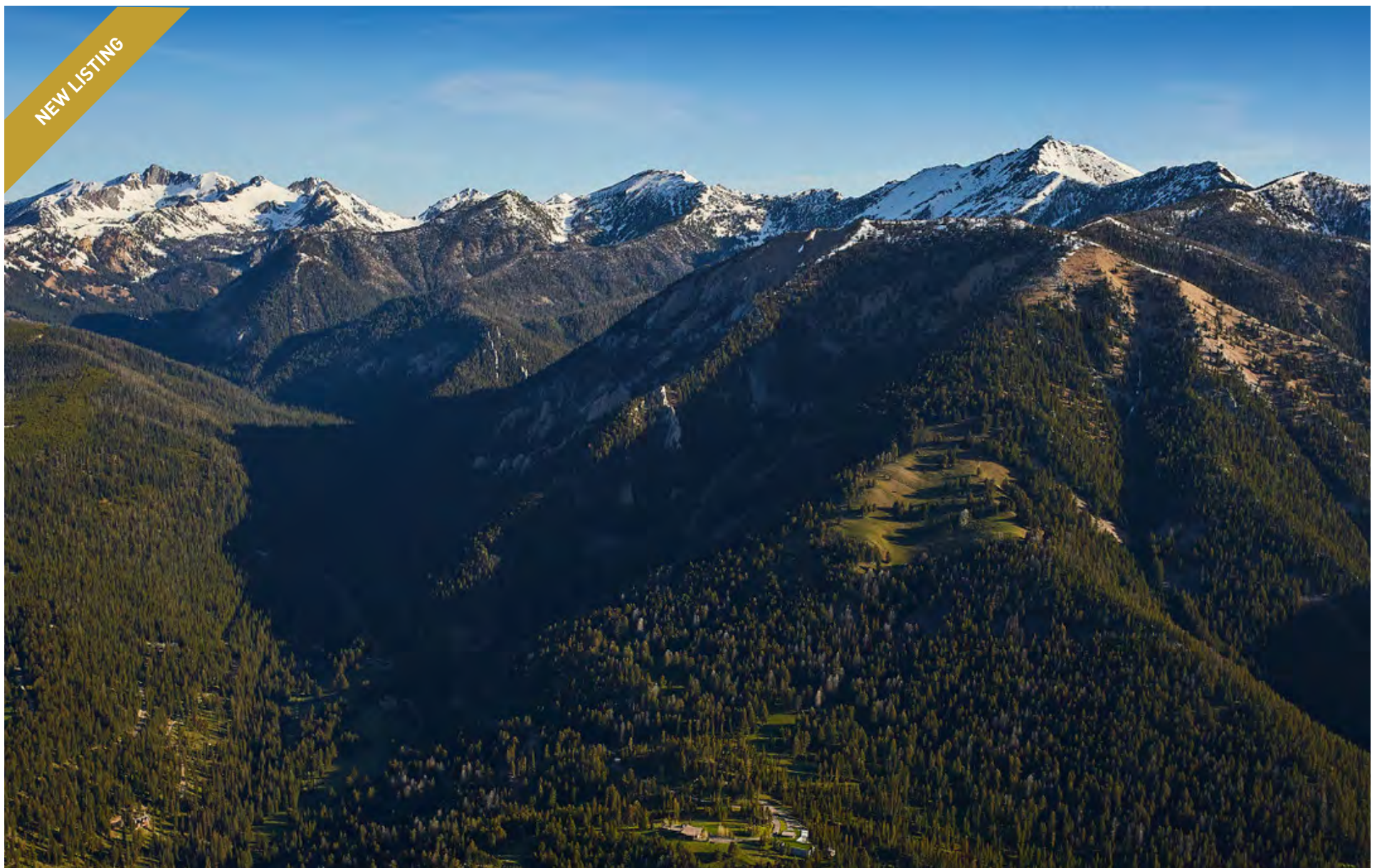
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# The pleasures of a patio

## Inspiration for your backyard space

BY BELLA BUTLER

There are few places that measure up to Montana in the summertime. Sunny days melt lingering snow into pristine alpine lakes and fishable rivers. Trails are lined with wildflowers and music gathers communities.

When you aren't spending time out and about, the seasonal magic ought to be enjoyed from home, too. Creating an outdoor space that both accentuates the surrounding beauty and adds personal comfort is essential for summer in Big Sky country. A patio is just this space: a simple installation that is perfect for bringing together guests or relaxing on your own.

Patios can take on many variations, depending on land, budget, priorities and a selection of other factors. The key is finding the right version for you and your home. Below are a few examples of Big Sky patios to inspire you.



PHOTO BY BELLA BUTLER

### Biomimicry

Not every house is conveniently placed beside wonders of nature. This patio, curated to bare the visual and audible fruit of a natural cascade, offers a sensory experience not commonly found steps away from the house. Exit the backdoor under a covered porch and descend steps of slated rock to the patio, where a meandering stream spills into a clear pool. Mimicking features of the natural world around your patio provides the luxury of employing your own style and taste. A simple way to do this is through basic landscaping. Lend a forest-feel to your patio and create privacy in a more densely populated neighborhood by surrounding your space with trees and shrubs. If it's within your capacity, consider a water feature like this homeowner did.

### Fire places

While Montana summer days can reach 80 to 90 degrees, evenings can get chilly. Don't let it keep you inside. Enjoy the long summer nights by implementing a fire fixture on your patio. Whether surrounded by friends



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANIA BULIS

or relaxing on your own, it's sure to keep you toasty. In addition, fire adds a rustic and pleasing aesthetic. Enhance the natural beauty of the crackling fire with creative custom masonry around the fire place, or go for a more modern look with steel. Step the comfort level up with cushioned chairs or a stylish patio couch. Don't forget to keep a bountiful stock of wood in a dry place—Montana showers can be unpredictable!

### Fire Pits

With the same warming effect as fire places, fire pits have the same practical use that will extend your evenings in the backyard. The fire pit, however, creates a campfire-feel that is especially great for gatherings. Add your own personal design twist with chairs or benches. Stock up with s'mores supplies for the kids or enjoy an evening drink with friends to cap off the night. A fire pit can be part of a patio attached to the house, or you can create some space as shown. Installation of a fire pit can be as easy as creating a basic rock-ring structure, or more detailed and complex, depending on budget and vision.

### Creative Fixtures

Add an artistic element to your patio or porch by including something unique. A sculpture or other durable piece of art will elevate the space and give you an opportunity for personal expression, and there is no shortage of distinguished Montana artists whose creations will bring character to your outdoor living environment. Special furniture is another great way to give personality to your patio. Decorative pillows and cushions will do the trick if you aim to keep it simple, but it's worth scavenging for interesting chairs and seating, too. Furniture has the ability to define the theme of the patio, so use it to your advantage. If you come across a piece like this chairlift swing seat, don't pass up the opportunity to bring the mountain-town look to your backyard.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TALLIE LANCEY

# Don Pilotte / Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Montana Properties

## Montana's Wild Places

### CENTENNIAL VALLEY

According to The Nature Conservancy, “The Centennial looks very much as it did more than a century ago.”

This broad east-west valley is home to extensive wetlands, in fact, it is the largest wetland in the entire Yellowstone Ecosystem. Two large lakes, the Upper and Lower Red Rock Lakes dominate much of the valley. Situated just north of the 10,000 foot Centennial Mountain Range separating Montana from Idaho, a rough 51 mile seasonal dirt road winds its way between Henry’s Lake, Idaho and Lima, Montana and provides the best access to the valley.

Of the approximately 385,000 acres in the valley, only about 100,000 acres are privately held, and much of that land is protected by conservation easements. About 90 percent of this private land is controlled by 15 large ranches. Home to less than 100 people in the summer (far less in the winter) cattle far outnumber people in the valley.

The 45,000 acre Red Rock Lakes National Refuge was established in 1935 and is home to over 241 bird species. At a wide spot in the road is Lakeview, Montana, the headquarters of the refuge and a great spot to stop and get first-hand information on this remote and beautiful area.



Crazy Mountain Alpine Ranch, a very private 4,526+/- acre hunting and retreat property located on the west side of the Crazy Mountains, two cabins, just 45 miles from Bozeman’s downtown. MLS 220737 priced at \$9,400,000. PHOTOS BY DON PILOTTE



Trapper’s Cabin Ranch, a 640 acre in-holding completely surrounded by public lands, gin clear Lighting Creek flows through the property, located by Taylor’s Fork just south of Big Sky. MLS 321234 priced at \$15,000,000.

### BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS

“The Bob” is the fifth largest wilderness in the lower 48 and home to some of the wildest back country in the country. Almost 2,000 miles of trails, traveled only on foot or by stock, carefully lace their way through spectacular rock formations, such as the Chinese wall, which averages 1,000 vertical feet and stretches out about 22 miles in length.

Established by the Wilderness Act of 1964, this is the wilderness by which all others are measured. Alpine lakes, waterfalls and dense old-growth forests punctuate the landscape between some of the most dramatic mountains, ridges and outcroppings anywhere in the country.

The Bob Marshall is also well known for its wildlife, particularly big game such as; moose, elk, mountain lion, wolverine, big horn sheep, black bear and grizzly bear – the US Forest Service believes that the grizzly population is higher here, than in any other place in the country outside of Alaska.

### ABSAROKA BEARTOOTH WILDERNESS

Located along the northern border of Yellowstone Park, the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness contains the highest peaks in Montana, among which is Granite Peak, at 12,799 feet and the highest point in Montana.

The wilderness is composed to two distinct mountain ranges – the Absaroka Range rises to the east of the Paradise Valley, south of Livingston, while the Beartooth Range is west and south of Red Lodge Montana. The Absaroka’s are primarily steep volcanic and metamorphic mountains with imposing ridges and deep valleys while the Beartooths are more like alpine plateaus laced with lakes.

Over 700 miles of trails are located in this wilderness along with hundreds of lakes providing some of the best alpine hiking and fishing anywhere in the entire world.



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# How to (not) burn down the house

## Fire tips for your home from a fire pro

BY WILLIAM FARHAT

BIG SKY FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE CHIEF

Enjoying the beauty of our mountains and the activities they offer brought most of us to the Big Sky area, but that also puts us in very close proximity to the national forests that surround us, in the zone known as the Wildland-Urban Interface. No matter the season, wildland fires are always a serious concern here.

They're also a natural and necessary part of the forests' ecology, so it's not a matter of 'if' a wildland fire will occur but more a question of 'when'. Fires in the WUI are a challenge for fire departments as they can quickly become large events and easily overwhelm local resources. For this reason, the preparations that citizens take before a fire are the best way to protect themselves and their property.



Wildfire is inevitable in Montana, especially in forested areas like those surrounding Big Sky. Taking steps to make your home more fire ready can significantly increase the chances of it surviving a wildfire. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Wildland fires aren't walls of flames that obliterate everything in their path. In fact, fire-behavior studies show that the ways we prepare our properties dictate the severity of the impact. Wildland fires normally advance with hot embers being blown ahead of the main blaze, starting their own fires.

If a home hasn't been prepared properly it can start to burn, intensifying a fire in a neighborhood. If a home has been prepared well, the chances of it withstanding a fire passing through the area improve greatly.

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

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

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

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

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



Maintaining a fire-safe space around your home can be broken down into three general zones: the immediate, intermediate and extended. Move flammable materials away from exterior walls, create fuel breaks with driveways and paths in the intermediate zone, and remove debris accumulations within 30-100 feet of your home to increase the chances of it surviving a wildfire. IMAGE BY NFPA, WITH FUNDING FROM USDA FOREST SERVICE © NFPA 2019

Visit [firewise.org](https://www.firewise.org) to learn more about how to prepare an existing residence or construct a more "fire safe" home. *A version of this article was first published in the Aug. 31, 2018 edition of EBS.*

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

## Constructing a home in the WUI

In the Wildland-Urban Interface, building a home with wildfire inevitability in mind is far cheaper than retrofitting a house. It's also less costly than replacing a home razed by wildfire. The materials comprising your home play a key role in determining whether it will survive.

**Roofing:** Nonflammable alternatives to wood shingles can greatly reduce the risk of ignition. Class A fire-rated roofing products include composite shingles, metal, concrete and clay tiles. The National Fire Protection Association recommends you inspect roofing on a regular basis to ensure no gaps in material provide an opportunity for embers to ignite the underlying sheathing.



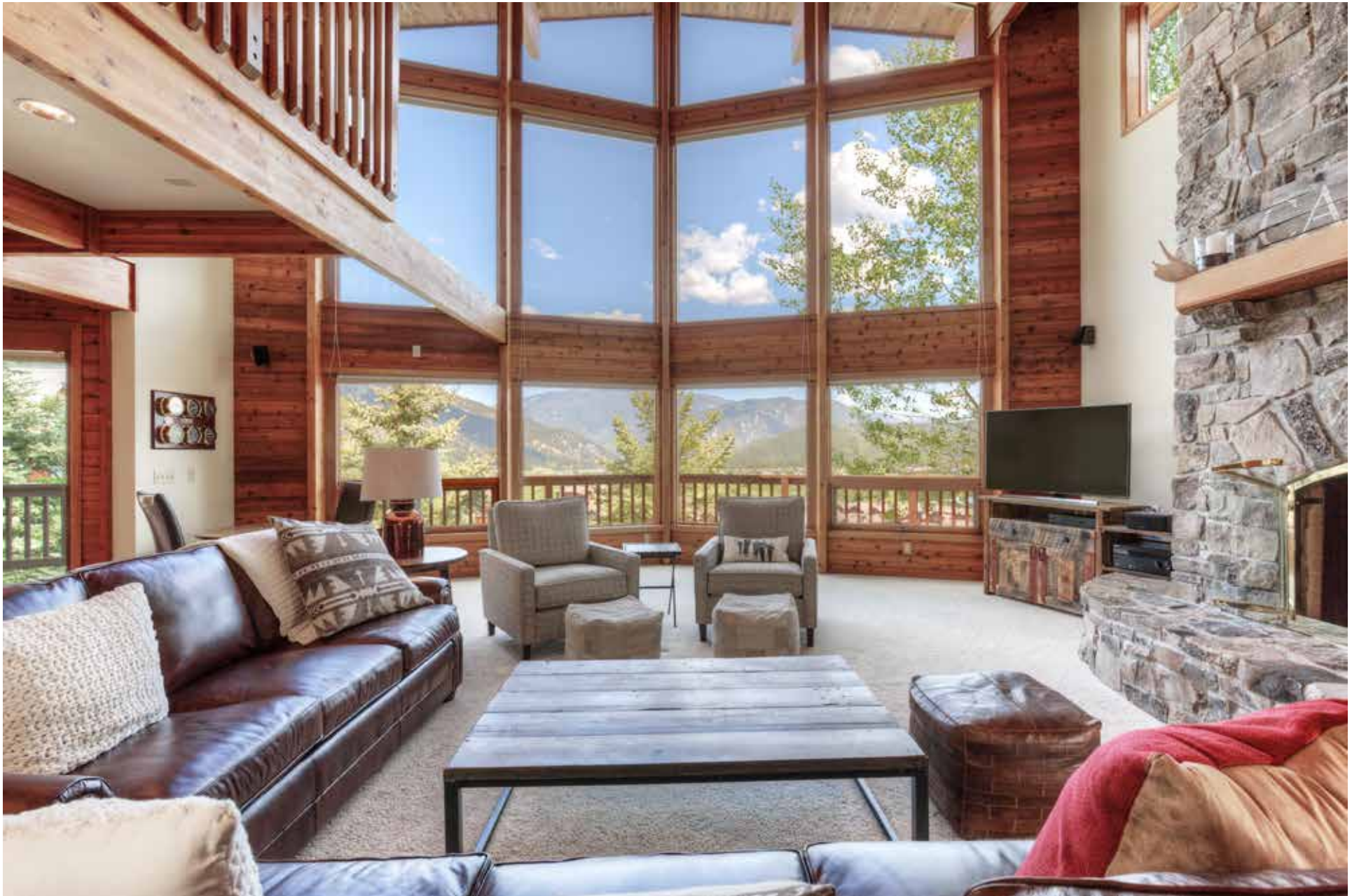
If you have the chance to reroof your house, or to roof a new house for the first time, noncombustible roofing materials, such as composite shingles, can increase the odds of a stray ember igniting your home during a wildfire. CC PHOTOS

**Siding and windows:** Stick with fire-resistant siding such as brick, fiber-cement, plaster or stucco. Likewise, dual-paned tempered-glass windows can resist cracking with the radiant heat from flames, ensuring no embers land inside a home. Multi-paned windows are also more efficient for insulation, saving on heat costs.

Although fire-resistant building materials are often shrugged off as too expensive to be practical, a 2018 study conducted by Headwaters Economics, the nonprofit nonpartisan thinktank based in Bozeman, revealed a negligible difference between the cost of building with fire-wise materials and typical materials. Though some fire-resistant materials can be expensive, they often have longer lifespans and require less maintenance.

– Bay Stephens

## A look into windows



The right window choice can open up a great room and provide broad views of your chosen landscape. PHOTO COURTESY OF PEAK PHOTOGRAPHY

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

It can be difficult to appreciate the complex qualities of windows, but they offer more than meets the eye.

As ordinary as glass panes can appear, windows transcend the lines of reality and are among the most pervasive metaphors known to literature and culture of the Western Hemisphere. Think “the eyes are windows to the soul” or “a window into another world.”

Beginning in the 13<sup>th</sup> century B.C., glass windows were a truly marvelous upgrade from the use of cloth, wood or animal pelts to cover holes built into walls. These new creations operated on a whole new plane, not only allowing sunlight to filter through, the initial intent of windows, but also providing reprieve from the elements simultaneously.

Born in the furnaces of ancient Alexandria, Egypt, the first glass windows to hit the markets consisted of flattened glass jars and bottles; the thick and circularly patterned renderings hardly compare to what we know today as the glass window.

In fact, it would be more than 1,000 years before the artistry and skill needed to create translucent windows would come to fruition, and another 600 before England and its colonies began to adopt them for use in ordinary homes.

The technology behind windows has continued to advance ever since and today most windows are perfectly translucent, at times tinted and mirrored for visual effect and practicality, available in all sizes and excellent guards in keeping our abodes safe from critters, rain, winds, heat flashes and cold snaps.

In Big Sky, Montana, where temperatures can dip below -30 F, solid window design and construction is key, not only for the sake of energy efficiency but also for comfort.

In order to achieve maximum energy efficiency and warmth preservation in such a variable climate, a wise homebuilder will choose triple glazed, or three-paned, windows; the practice is actually mandatory in Germany, an international leader in energy and environmental innovation.

When selecting a window, it’s critical to consider the following metrics: U-Factor (the capacity of the window to block the transmission of heat), Solar Heat Gains Coefficient (the shading ability of the window), Visual Transmission (how much visible light the window glass admits), and Air Leakage, a self-explanatory measurement.

But residents here are blessed in that the picturesque surroundings make every cold morning worthwhile.

In a local real estate landscape that includes custom-built luxury homes intended for vacationers and tentative second-home buyers, direct lines of vision to Big Sky’s most impressive natural feature, Lone Mountain, are as important as a good foundation.

So the next time you find yourself staring out a window in Big Sky, whether that be at the mountains or flora and fauna, take a second to think about the incredible journey a heated mix of sand, lime and sodium bicarbonate, as well as its human producers, went through to allow that truly magical luxury.



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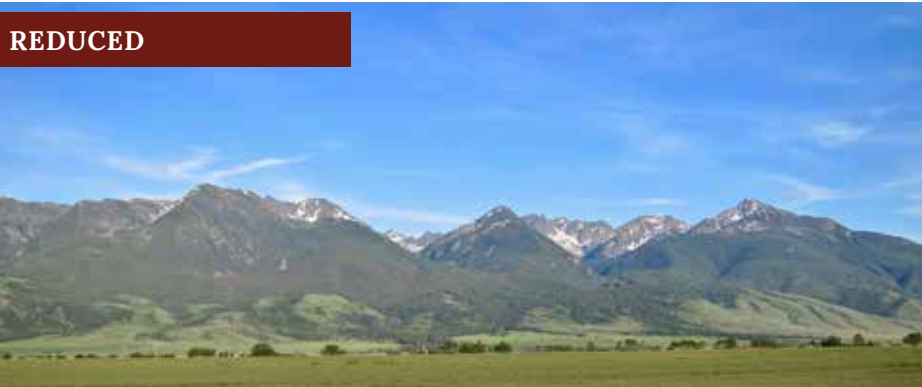
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**Lone View Ranch** Big Sky, MT | 2,631 Acres | \$15.9M  
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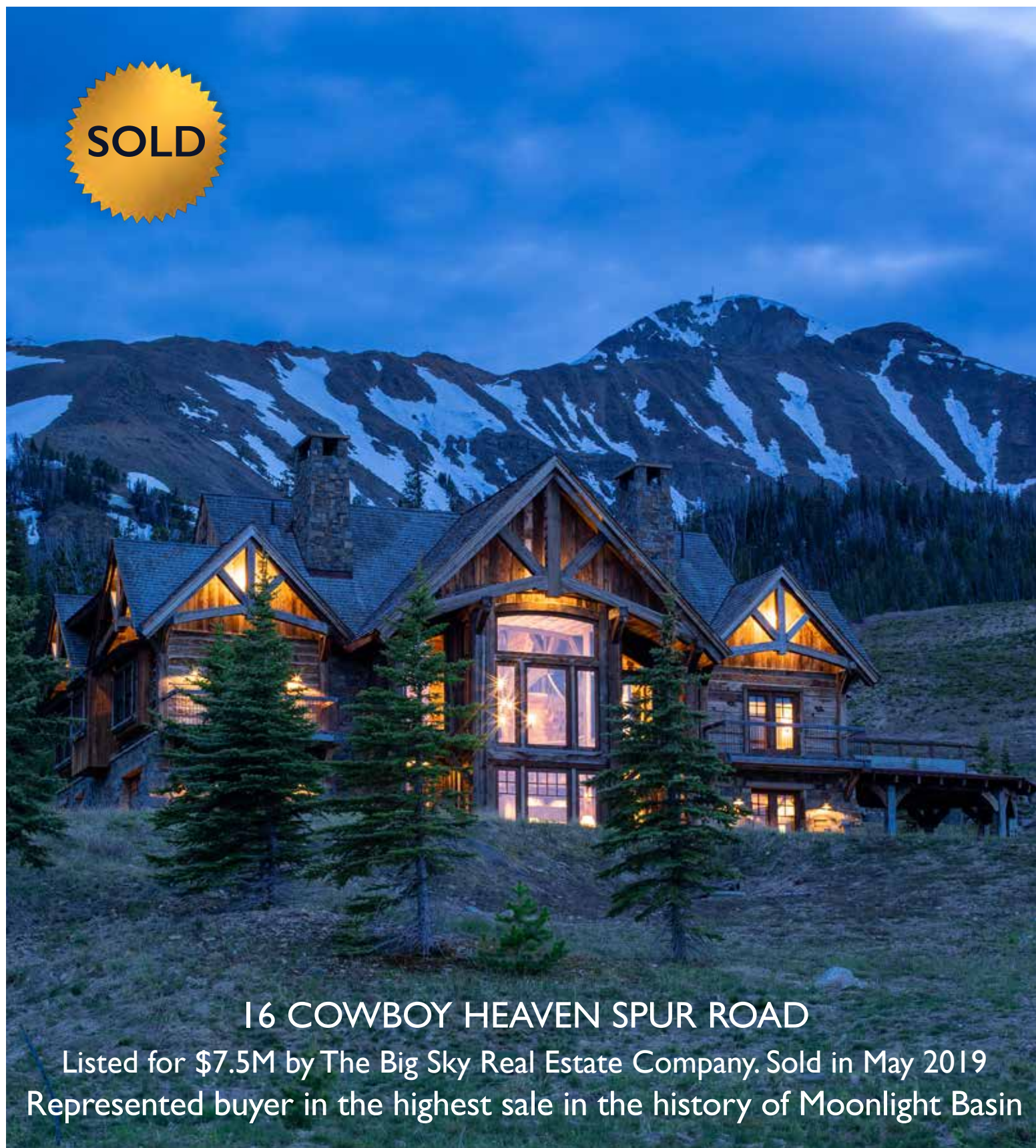


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