Back to School!

- Lone Peak High turns 10
- Intro to new teachers
- Big Sky School District: A timeline

Airbnb: The cost of short-term rentals

Mountainfilm festival

KGLT in Big Sky
THE BIG SKY
REAL ESTATE CO.

MARTHA JOHNSON
VP OF SALES, FOUNDING BROKER
MARTHA@BIGSKY.COM
406.580.5891

39 Homestead Cabin Park | Ski In/Out
SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB
2 BED | 4.5 BATH | 3,318 +/- SQ. FT. | $2,575,000

Highlands Neighborhood | Ski In/Out
SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB
2-4 BED | 3-5 BATH | 3,318 to 6,620 +/- SQ. FT. | $2,575,000 - $4,400,000

43 Mountain Valley Trail
SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB
5 BED | 5.5 BATH | 6,291 +/- SQ. FT. | $5,175,000

156 Seclusion Point
SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB
2.91 +/- ACRES | $750,000

Gallatin Preserve
SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB
165 +/- ACRES | $4,200,000 - $6,200,000

Moose Ridge Condos
BIG SKY TOWN CENTER
9 BED | 9.5 BATH | 3,885 +/- SQ. FT. | $1,800,000

Mountain Lake Phase 3
BIG SKY MOUNTAIN VILLAGE
2-4 BED | 3-4 BATH | 1,918-2,465 +/- SQ. FT. | $959,500 - $1,200,000
PRE SELLING DISCOUNT

80 Timber Ridge Road
MOONLIGHT BASIN
6 BED | 5.5 BATH | 6,148 +/- SQ. FT. | $4,600,000
20 +/- ACRES + TROUT POND
**Wildfire Summit held at Buck’s T-4**

**EBS STAFF**

BIG SKY – On Sept. 18, four building for wildfire experts will conduct presentations at Big Sky’s Buck’s T-4 Lodge on how to build responsibly in wildfire prone areas, such as Big Sky, Montana.

Dr. Jack Cohen, a retired physical scientist for the U.S. Forest Service; Dan Gorham, a research engineer at the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety; Kathy Clay, Battalion Chief and Fire Marshal for Jackson, Wyoming; and Paul Cada, Wildland Program Manager for Vail, Colorado will present at the summit.

The event will be broken into five segments, beginning at 9 a.m. with a “Welcome and Overview of Wildfire Trends and Home Development Patterns,” presented by representatives from Big Sky Fire Department and Bozeman-based Headwaters Economics.

Next, at 9:30 a.m., Dr. Cohen presents “How Homes Burn and the Home Ignition Zone.”

At 11:15 a.m., Gorham will present “The Most Vulnerable Components of a Home,” followed by a presentation by Clay and Cada on “Examples from Other Mountain Resort Communities.” Lastly, a panel will hold a Q&A session comprised of the presenters and County Planning departments.

Attending this event is a wise move for anybody actively or planning to build and develop in Big Sky. Established home and business owners are also encouraged to attend.

**FWP seeks public comment**

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is taking public comment on the following two issues:

**2020 Elk Management in Areas with Brucellosis Annual Work Plan**

In January 2013, the Fish and Wildlife Commission endorsed elk management recommendations from a citizen working group for use in areas with brucellosis. Annual work plans describe specific management actions based upon these recommendations. The proposed 2020 annual work plan essentially restates the 2019 plan with a list of additional inclusions.

**2020-21 Biennial Season Setting Process**

In Montana, hunting seasons can be changed every two years. Between Aug. 15 and Sept. 16, FWP will reach out to local sporting groups, work groups, citizen advisory committees, interested individuals and more on any recommendations for season changes and encourage comment and additional ideas. Those interested can also submit comments and ideas through an online survey.

Comments on both proposals will be taken until Sept. 16 at 5 p.m. Final commission action on the Brucellosis Annual Work Plan will take place at the Oct. 17 commission meeting. Additional clarification and materials can be provided by calling the Wildlife Division office at 406-444-2612 or emailing fwpwild@mt.gov.

Public comments can be submitted by mail or electronically. Comments can be mailed to FWP, P.O. Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620, emailed to fwpwild@mt.gov, or by visiting the FWP website.

**Report: 6 million acres of state lands in West inaccessible**

**BY MATTHEW BROWN**

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

BILLINGS — More than 6 million acres of state property scattered across 11 states in the U.S. West are landlocked by private property, largely inaccessible to hunters, anglers and other recreational users, public lands advocates said Monday.

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, a Montana-based land data company, analyzed land ownership patterns for a report detailing the extent of state-owned parcels that lack public access.

Montana, Arizona, New Mexico and Wyoming each have more than 1 million acres of state lands surrounded by private property, according to the report. Nevada has the least amount with less than 1,000 acres landlocked.

Access issues have become increasingly important in the West as the population grows and people go outdoors to hunt, hike and fish. A similar report last year identified 9.5 million acres of federal lands with no permanent public access.

“It’s startling how many of these lands do not have permanent legal access,” said Joel Webster of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.

Ownership patterns across much of the region were established when Western territories entered statehood.

The federal government granted land to newly formed states so they could generate revenue in support of schools and other services. But those blocks of land typically were disconnected from one another, resulting in a patchwork of ownership that left state lands isolated as surrounding blocks were consolidated, often to form private ranches.

Montana has one of the highest rates of inaccessible public lands—about 28 percent of the 5.6 million acres of state lands.

Since 2003, the state has used money raised from disposing of unwanted tracts of land to buy almost 100,000 acres of accessible lands, according to John Tubbs, Director of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

Surrounding landowners sometimes offer access to landlocked parcels through cooperative programs with state agencies. But there’s no guarantee those programs will continue indefinitely, Webster said.

**Rotary brings free library boxes to Big Sky**

**EBS STAFF**

A new installation adorns the outside of the post office in Big Sky: A free library box. As part of the Rotary Club of Big Sky’s new project to bring free library boxes to the community, an event was held at the location of the first library on Aug. 23.

Rotary celebrated the commencement of the initiative with free ice cream supplied by The Hungry Moose Market and Deli and a table of free books. Visitors of the pop-up got a chance to view the permanent library stand, where people can leave or take books when passing by.

More libraries are slated for installment in other locations around Big Sky. The Rotary Club will fund the first two, and Haas Builders owner John Haas has pledged to build and donate more. The project is a reflection of one of Rotary’s core international missions: literacy.
Creating a legacy through the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

BY RICK DONALDSON

Having my first grandchild born into the world and my life has profoundly changed how I view my conservation efforts. I’ve started thinking more long term and I’ve been searching for what can be done today to ensure that future generations can enjoy the amazing landscapes and river systems that are a part of our lives.

What will our vital sources of clean water, mountain streams, and fish habitat look like for my granddaughter when she’s older and has a family of her own? Is there something, anything at all, that my generation can do today that will protect the places and experiences that we have now for her world and for future generations?

As a volunteer for the Gallatin River Task Force in Big Sky I’ve been involved in various conservation projects to protect and conserve our local rivers and streams. River cleanups, water quality monitoring, and restoration projects have been a large part of this work.

But in most cases, these are reactionary responses to an immediate or evident problem. We see trash along the river and we clean it up. Visual stream bank damage and erosion prompts us to raise resources to repair it. A significant change in water chemistry leads us to find the source, understand the problem, plan a solution and fix it.

While these are all essential projects, work that needs to be done, the problems are already in place and now we are taking action to mitigate them. When it comes to considering my granddaughter’s generation and those after her, I feel that we need to be proactive by looking for solutions to issues that are not in front of us yet.

As I contemplate the challenges in dealing with the projected growth of our region, climate change and potential threats to water quality and quantity, it is evident that we need to employ tools that will keep our watersheds in Montana healthy for centuries to come. This is the legacy that we can choose to leave behind for our children and their children.

As the owners of Gallatin River Guides in Big Sky, my son Mike and I know all too well that we operate in an industry that relies on clean water and healthy wild trout populations. The three-week closure of the upper Yellowstone River in 2016 due to a parasitic outbreak that killed thousands of whitefish serves as big a wakeup call to all my outfitting and guiding peers: We are dealing with fragile freshwater systems.

That is why we are resolute in offering our full support for draft legislation called the Montana Headwaters Security Act, which would protect iconic streams like the upper Gallatin, the upper Madison and the upper Yellowstone on public lands with a Wild and Scenic Rivers designation. The National Wild and Scenic Rivers protection restricts dams and major water resource projects from impacting the free-flowing nature of a river. The act also maintains clean water and protects remarkable values of a river such as recreation opportunities, fisheries, wildlife habitat and scenery.

Gallatin River Guides and the Gallatin River Task Force are part of a broad coalition of landowners, watershed groups, conservationists and sportsmen called Montanans for Healthy Rivers (healthyriversmt.org). Alongside more than 1,000 business owners in Montana, we crafted the Montana Headwaters Security Act to protect our outdoor recreation and downstream agricultural economies, as well as safeguard our Montana way of life.


Rick Donaldson lives near Big Sky, Montana and is the Chairman of the Gallatin River Task Force and a partner with his son Mike in Gallatin River Guides.
Hungry Moose expands space, offerings

BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – From a produce stand on the side of the road 25 years ago, to a grocery to at the corner of Skywood Road and Lone Mountain Trail, to the location in the heart of Big Sky Town Center, The Hungry Moose Market and Deli is moving up in the world once more as it expands its building and offerings.

“As Big Sky’s grown, we need a hungrier moose,” co-owner Frank Kern said.

The renovation, which will connect the space to the adjacent building, will yield 65 percent more square footage, Kern said, and allow for twice the seating, a better setup for the delivery portion of the business, expanded wine offerings and space to sell flowers.

“We’ve always been known for our selection and doing it all,” said Andrew Robin, son of the founders and head of marketing and social media for the business. “This is a huge opportunity to help us do it even better because we’ll have more space to fine-tune our selection … more room to walk around.”

The finished Moose will have a cooler on the west side for produce and dairy, another for beer and sodas, two coolers for flowers and a freezer as well.

Kern and his wife, Kristin, who is Big Sky visionary Chet Huntley’s niece, bought the Hungry Moose in February from Jackie Robin, who started the company with her late husband, Mark. The Kernels designed the expansion with Jackie before buying the space next door when Dino & Darcie shuttered its doors in May.

Blue Ribbon Builders broke ground on the project Aug. 19 and are tactfully building so that the market and deli can stay open throughout the process.

“We are trying not to shut at all,” Kern said. “Hopefully we don’t have to close at all. If we do, it’s going to be for a day.”

The construction crew worked overnight to build a temporary wall behind the wine section that will allow daily operations to carry on as usual while the construction continues. Then, once the addition is complete, they’ll knock out the interior wall to connect the existing space to the new space.

Hungry Moose staff has been handing out free goodies, such as apples or scones, every morning at 9 a.m. to remind Big Sky that they’re open during construction.

Despite the changes, plenty is staying the same. The patio, for one, isn’t going away, the Kerns assured. Glass doors adjacent to the expanded patio will open in the summer to connect indoor and outdoor seating.

The Kerns also hired the same architect, Bayliss Ward, that designed both buildings being connected.

“We brought Bayliss back because we want the look and feel to be like it was original, not something that was stuck in,” Kern said.

The exterior will undergo a general facelift with fencing around the perimeter to make for a clean look from the outside. New signs will contribute the final touch, though they will be identical to the original design.

Throughout the process the Kernels and Andrew Robin pledge that the Hungry Moose will remain the helpful hub of Big Sky that Kristin Kern remembers experiencing long before she was an owner.

“It was like the main information center in Big Sky,” Kristen said. “… Everything I ever needed to know, I just went to the Hungry Moose.”

BSWSD adopts new rate structure

BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – On Aug. 20, the Big Sky Water and Sewer District approved a rate hearing concerning a new rate structure for billing sewer and water services that would involve a 5 and 10 percent bump to residential and commercial sewer accounts, respectively, and lower thresholds for water upcharges.

The hearing will take place sometime in September, and the district will notify all ratepayers.

As massive bills come down the pipeline for a new wastewater treatment plant to meet Big Sky’s blistering growth, the district board hired rate consultants from Advanced Environmental Engineering and Services’ Bozeman office to determine how to balance the budget by aligning the cost of services with the amount the district charges classes of water users.

Sewer rate changes

Base sewer rates will increase 10 percent across the board, while volumetric rates will increase 5 percent per thousand gallons for residential users and 10 percent for commercial users for the rate hearing.

To shoulder operations without sharp rate increases in the span of a year, the AE2S consultants recommended yearly rate increases of around 5 percent for residential accounts for the next five years, for commercial accounts, the recommendation included 20 percent increases each of the next two years and 10 percent increases the following three years.

Ryan Graf, an AE2S rate consultant, said that increasing rates before debt service plus operations and maintenance costs of the new wastewater treatment plant come online builds in a financial reserve so that the district can avoid slamming ratepayers in any one year.

In the previous rate structure, residential and commercial were overcharged 24 and 11 percent, respectively, while the commercial class was 34 percent undercharged for the cost of the district providing sewer services.

The recommended rate structure from AE2S incorporates consistent resort tax funding, so the BSWSD board discussed developing a plan to explore long-term funding options with the Big Sky Resort Area District board.

Water rate changes

On the water side, the board approved a hearing for a tweaked tier structure that lowers tier thresholds and includes a specific irrigation tier; they also adopted a 9 percent increase to the rates for water services for the coming year.

The new structure increases rates by 9 percent this year, and will have four tiers with increasing rates as water users move into higher tiers. The lowest tier is from 0-20,000 gallons and will be charged at $2.98 per thousand gallons.

The current rate structure bills 0-60,000 gallons at $2.73 per thousand gallons.

The irrigation rates start at a higher tier, which aims to incentivize less water usage in Big Sky’s water-scarce environment.

Rates have increased an average of 6 and 9 percent for water and sewer services, respectively, in the last three years, according to district financial officer Terry Smith.

Mike DuCuennois, BSWSD board member and Yellowstone Club’s vice president of development, is working with the rate consultants and district staff to determine how to charge the club commensurate to their wholesale water sale, which has a maximum of 216,000 gallons per day.

In other news:

The board approved Lone Mountain Land Building 4 for the requested capacity submitted by Bechtel Architects. The building will be across from the Town Center Plaza on Town Center Avenue.
Proud to be BUILT Ford TOUGH

2019 Ford F-150 Raptor
2019 Ford F-250 Super Duty
2019 Ford F-150 XLT

PROUD Sponsor of PBR Events in Montana
compareford.com • Montana Ford Stores
The cost of short-term rentals in Big Sky

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY – Big Sky, a once-small Montana mountain town on the cusp of development, has matured into a top vacation destination for visitors from across the globe. With the swelling influx of tourists that come each summer and winter, the demand for lodging has grown exponentially.

Homeowners in the community have begun to capitalize on the expanding need, flipping their sought-after ski-town properties into short-term rentals (STRs). The Big Sky Resort Area District recognizes approximately 700 short-term rental properties, 200 of which are managed by individuals and the remainder by property management companies. While this business opportunity fills one gaping hole of lodging in the community, it may be burning another.

The spike in STRs has exacerbated Big Sky’s notorious housing crisis.

“The vast increase of people getting into the short-term market has made a big impact on people who need long-term rentals here,” said Laura Seyfang, program director for the Big Sky Community Housing Trust. “So many people have all of a sudden found that their owner has put their unit into the short-term rental market and all of a sudden they’re stuck with trying to find a place to live.”

For homeowners, however, STRs can offer up a silver platter of benefits. According to Airbnb spokeswoman Laura Rillos, 68 percent of Airbnb hosts in Montana say that operating an STR helps them afford their home. STRs often use revenue from hosting to pay mortgages, renovation fees and bills. For second homeowners, a common scenario in the Big Sky community, STRs aid in off-setting maintenance costs but allow for vacation when they wish to occupy their home.

The benefits of STRs have the potential to extend beyond individual homeowners, as well. According to Rillos, 42 percent of Airbnb guest’s spending is done within the neighborhood where they stay, generating economic stimulation in local communities. STR booking groups such as Airbnb also collect the 7 percent Montana Lodging Sales Tax, which funnels into the general state fund and special revenue funds that support efforts such as tourism promotion. In 2018, Big Sky was the third largest contributor of Montana Lodging Sales Tax in the state, trailing only behind Billings and Missoula.

In Big Sky, short-term rentals are treated the same way as other businesses in the community, and owners are subject to pay 3 percent resort tax. With new short-term rentals popping up on a weekly basis, BSRAID has been charged with attentively keeping track of the small lodging businesses to ensure they comply with resort tax stipulations. The district has begun using a new software that helps comb through the internet to identify new listings.

“The majority of our existing tax payers are short-term rentals,” said Daniel Bierschewale, district manager. “It’s our largest segment of businesses throughout the community.”

In 2018, collections from short-term rentals comprised 2.4 percent of all resort tax collected in the district and collections from property management companies made up 7.3 percent, combining for a total nearing $650,000, a sum that funnels back into local community building initiatives.

In juxtaposition with the positive contributions of STRs, the STR market still remains a challenge to the housing dilemma in Big Sky.

According to the Big Sky Community Housing Trust, over 200 local renters have been forced to move due to STR conversions over the past five years. The housing trust has recognized this issue and recently kickstarted an attempt at a solution: the “Rent Local Program,” which targets homeowners’ associations in areas where locals can afford and prefer to live.

The program seeks to convert STRs into housing options through a number of services, including matching renters with homeowners, reduced property management rates, semi-annual walkthroughs to ensure unit upkeep, and lodging vouchers that give second homeowners a place to stay when they visit while their property is rented.

“In our target areas, about 12 HOAs, if we could convince about 10 percent of those folks that rent out [short term] to switch to long-term rentals, we think we would be making an incredible impact on the community for a relatively low expense,” Seyfang said. She suggests flipping STRs to long-term rentals as a lower-maintenance, lower-cost housing solution than constructing workforce housing from scratch.

Seyfang believes that many of the homeowners opting into the STR market do so in the interest of generating more revenue. However, Matt Zaremba, former owner of Running Bear Rentals, claims that in some areas and circumstances, the notion that more money can be made in the STR market is false. For homeowners using a property management company, fees will be significantly lower overall when operating a long-term rental. Zaremba said that while a property manager in Big Sky will charge 20-30 percent of gross revenue for managing an STR, the like percentage for long-term rentals is much closer to 5-10 percent.

In addition to management fees, owners running STRs may have to pay cleaning fees and must pay utilities, whereas long-term renters often assume these costs with their rental. In a resort community like Big Sky, Zaremba also suggests the effects of off-season, during which STRs likely won’t generate much, if any, revenue. Local long-term renters can provide revenue throughout the entire year.

All associated parties acknowledged that it isn’t a matter of one or the other—both long- and short-term rentals play essential roles in the Big Sky community. The trick is in effectively balancing where the two markets can meet provide the area’s needs. Seyfang recognizes in launching the housing trust’s new program that renting long term doesn’t work for everyone, but it is purely circumstantial. For now, community organizations are attempting to strike the balance as Big Sky grows.
Spruce Budworm leaves area trees ‘singed’ after wet, cool summer

BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – In July of 2018, Scott Orazem, a member of Big Sky’s Porcupine Park HOA, noticed a funny thing: many of the fir trees around the development had taken on a rusted hue, their green tarnished by a perimeter of dead red needles as the youngest needles on the trees, which should have been the healthiest, most photosynthetic portions of each branch, had been munched by some elusive culprit.

“Nobody wants their trees to look like that,” Orazem said.

Forest managers call these trees “singed” as if just their outer needles were breathed on by fire; it’s the telltale sign of the native spruce budworm, which feeds on the buds and new growth of Douglas and Subalpine firs.

Spruce budworm moths lay eggs in the treetops in the fall, where the eggs overwinter until larvae, which look like caterpillars, become active in the spring. Though they begin feeding in late May and early June, the caterpillars don’t cause appreciable damage to trees until around the beginning of July when they are at their biggest—from a half inch to an inch long—just before they go into cocoons.

This year, 11 Big Sky HOAs, including Porcupine Park, paid to have their forests sprayed by helicopter to kill the insects and save their trees, but the spraying was less effective than past years due to the cool and moist summer weather.

“It’s been a very, very odd year for the spruce budworm,” said Chuck Gesme, a forest manager for Northwest Management Inc., a private consulting firm that specializes in forest management and orchestrated the spraying.

According to Gesme, cooler summer led to more variability in the stages of larval development within the spruce budworm population. So, while most of the insects were at their largest, chomping on this year’s new growth, he estimated a fifth of the population were still the size of a grain of rice, nibbling on the insides of buds, and another fifth had ceased eating as they moved toward pupating.

This poses a problem for spraying because the organic biological insecticide uses to spray the trees, called BT, is only effective for a very specific window when the caterpillars are big and eating on the exterior of new growth. As an insecticide that can cover entire swaths of forest without harming any insects other than the budworm, it’s a nifty substance.

“It’s a bacterium that is only harmful to those caterpillars,” Gesme said. “I could spray it on an apple and immediately eat the apple and I would be fine.”

BT lands on the limbs of trees and is ingested by the spruce budworm larva, which causes the caterpillars die and fall off the trees. But timing is critical, according to Gesme, because BT is only active for 3-5 days before sunlight breaks it down.

After monitoring Big Sky’s forests twice a week to ensure optimal timing for BT, Gesme gave the go-ahead in the second week of July and a helicopter sprayed more than 16,077 acres of land in 11 different Big Sky developments with which North-west had been working.

Despite hitting the population at the point where the most budworms would be affected by BT—at the peak of the population’s bell curve—Gesme thinks they had about a 60 percent mortality rate for the bugs, instead of the target range of 75-80 percent.

While checking the effectiveness of the treatment on July 20, Gesme was astounded to find a larva and a cocoon on the same tree weeks after any larva would normally be left.

“It was just ridiculous,” he said. “And that’s just a measure of the strange weather we’ve had.”

Spraying isn’t the only way to mitigate for spruce budworm, and property owners seeking to protect their trees can do other mitigation work in tandem with spraying.

According to Nancy Sturdevant, forest health specialist with the Missoula field office of the U.S. Forest Service, property owners should thin their forests, removing trees that have been significantly defoliated by spruce budworm and plan ahead to plant different species of young trees.

“I understand people want to hold onto their large, old trees … [but] trying to keep trees that are significantly impacted by budworm or have very small crowns, that is not sustainable without a lot of input,” Sturdevant said.

She also mentioned that homeowners could site-spray carbaryl, a pesticide that is toxic to all insects, on treasured fir trees, especially if they are not already too defoliated.

Gesme seconded that managing one’s forest is important to managing spruce budworm, especially thinning, which creates less competition between trees, and therefore less stress, and impedes larvae from parachuting on silk threads carried by the wind from one munched tree to the next food source.

“It’s kind of funny and I try to bring it up, but you can actually vastly improve the health of your forest by killing [a good percentage] of your trees,” Gesme said.

Years of repeated defoliation by the budworm can leave trees haggard, stressed for nutrients and prone to other insects, like the Douglas-fir bark beetle, which will finish the trees off.

Although the spruce budworm and bark beetle may be pests to property owners who adore their trees, Sturdevant stressed the insects’ roles in forest regeneration, especially in the largely fir forests of Gallatin County.

“The spruce budworm is a native insect that’s coevolved with these forests for forever,” she said. “So is the Douglas-fir bark beetle. And the Douglas-fir bark beetle is called the recycler of mature forests. That’s its job: When we have too many mature trees in an area, they burn in on that and kill those trees and reset succession.”

“When you see those two working in tandem, that’s when you’ll see these large stand replacement events of a sweeping hillside of all dead timbers,” Gesme said.

“There are places in Big Sky that I see that happen currently,” such as in Jack Creek and on the slopes of Fan Mountain, he added.

Once a forest gets to that point, it’s time to start over, Gesme said, a process historically carried out by wildfire.
Meet the new faces of Big Sky School District

Lone Peak High School

Brad Packer – Middle & High School Math
After 23 years teaching in Great Falls—and fly fish guiding on the Smith River in the summer—Brad Packer has taken the leap to move to Big Sky for some new scenery. Originally from small town Minnesota, Pack-er studied non teaching math in Moorhead, Minnesota. His college summers were spent working in Glacier National Park, where he got his first taste of Montana. Years later, Packer went back to college to obtain the education portion of his math degree, then going on to earn his master’s in education from Montana State University, which at the time was the only master’s in math education west of the Mississippi River.

Marielle Walker – High School Spanish
The IB program at Lone Peak High School was a major draw for Marielle Walker, who has taught in her home state of Michigan, as well as North Carolina, Vietnam and last year in New York City. A double major in music education and Spanish education at West-ern Michigan University, Walker seeks the charm of a small town after four years living in big cities. Her last real winter was nearly a decade ago, so she sees her move to the area as yet another adventure. Montana is a far cry from anything Walker’s experienced before, and the beauty of a small town is exactly what she was looking for.

DJ Soikkeli – Art
DJ Soikkeli (pronounced “soy-ee-kelly”) graduated from MSU in December of 2018 after student teaching at Lone Peak High in the fall; he substitute taught at BSSD last spring, too. Equipped with a year of relationships at the high school, plus an art background, Soikkeli applied when he heard that Megan Buecking, the former art teacher under whom he’d student taught, was leaving. Having previously worked in the Bozeman area, Soikkeli started at MSU studying graphic design before opting for education, earning his K-12 certification; his schooling in Bozeman fostered a love for the area. He will teach all the art classes save the IB Diploma Visual Arts program, with which he will assist Chandler Dayton.

Chandler Dayton – IB Diploma Visual Art
After two years teaching in South Korea, eight in China and two in Italy, for a total of 12 years abroad, Chandler Dayton returned to U.S. soil in July and is ready to finally settle into the Bozeman home she purchased in 1987, and to work part time for the district. Combining her time in China and Italy, Dayton has 10 years’ experience teaching IB Diploma Visual Arts and brings a depth and breadth of knowledge about the rigorous program, which she will be assisting. In her opinion, the most challenging part of the IB art program for students is time management, but she looks forward to helping pupils find their rhythms and create great art.

Ophir Elementary

Kimberly Pechischev – Second Grade
Kimberly Pechischev is one of the very few individuals married on the crest of Lone Mountain—aft her hiking up it. She’s lived in Big Sky for the past 4.5 years working in the local preschools, but has had her sights set on BSSD for several years. While she earning her bach-elor’s in early childhood development in her home state of Wisconsin, Pechischev first came out to Big Sky to work in the kids program at Lone Mountain Ranch, where her sister worked at the time. After she met her to-be husband while hiking Lone Mountain with her sister that summer, Pechischev made sure to find her way back to Big Sky once she graduated. She’s excited to learn the ropes of IB.

Mackenzie Caldwell – Fifth Grade
How many teachers do you know who stu-dent taught in India? For four months this spring, Mackenzie Caldwell, May 2019 Uni-versity of Montana grad, lived and taught in the Southeast Asian nation. Ophir Ele-mentary’s IB Primary Years Program was a major reason the school topped her list. Caldwell comes to the rescue of Jonathan Gans, who had to wrangle a class of 32 fifth graders last year. Caldwell has always wanted to teach, so she’s thrilled to finally have a classroom of her own. Time in India impressed on her the importance of global mindedness, a tenet of the IB curriculum that she hopes to instill in her students.

Hilary Robbins – First Grade
Although Hilary Robbins has lived in Big Sky for over five years, she’s spent ski vaca-tions here since she was 8 years old. In fact, the mother of one of her students taught Robbins’ sisters how to ski. Robbins hails from Ontario, Canada, and graduated last December from MSU after going back to school to earn her elementary education degree. She worked as a teacher’s aide in Mr. Gans’ sizeable fifth grade class last year, but is especially excited to teach younger kids.

Other movements within the district
• Erica Fromseth will work as the elementary school counselor this year, as well as the K-5 health education teacher.
• Brittany Shirley, who taught a second-grade class last year, is now the K-5 instructional coach.
• John Hannahs has moved from being a second-grade teacher to a middle school teacher. He will continue to serve as BSSD athletic director.
• Whitney McKenzie has moved from third grade to teach second grade.
Then and now: LPHS after 10 years

BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY — Ten years ago this month, Lone Peak High School opened its doors for the first time, a major success for the community, one that took two legislative attempts, widespread community support and a lot of hard work.

Then

The addition of a high school was a lynchpin and a sticking factor for the Big Sky community: In many ways, Big Sky’s lack of a high school was a workforce problem.

“Until 2008 parents had three options for high school: send their teens to a prep boarding school, rent (or) purchase a house in Bozeman, or put students on the bus at 6:45 a.m. in the morning,” said Anne Marie Mistretta, the superintendent of Ophir School District from 2005-2010 and current vice president and secretary of Friends of Big Sky Education (FOBSE).

None of the options were ideal for Big Sky, resulting in the steady exodus of families as soon as their oldest children hit middle school, leaving the area starved for workers. Additionally, a high rate of the students that toughed it out on the 43-mile bus rides to Bozeman High were struggling academically, and couldn’t even participate in extracurricular activities.

“Essentially we had no teenagers here in the community,” Mistretta said. “We also would lose touch with students early on, and it was difficult to follow where they had enrolled in college or where they were off to for life.”

A group of concerned locals, including Mistretta, formed FOBSE between 2003 and 2004 to create a high school, though the organization has done much other education-related work since. But the odds were stacked against the little mountain hamlet.

Montana state law is written to consolidate high schools, according to Mistretta, so for Big Sky to have its own high school was actually barred at the state level because they were too few in number.

“People in Montana see a small school as a focal point of the community, a point of pride,” Mistretta said. “We also would lose touch with students early on, and it was difficult to follow where they had enrolled in college or where they were off to for life.”

Montana state law is written to consolidate high schools, according to Mistretta, so for Big Sky to have its own high school was actually barred at the state level because they were too few in number.

“People in Montana see a small school as a focal point of the community, a point of pride and people in Big Sky at that time thought, ‘God, why would we want a really small school?’” said Loren Bough, the current school board chair and a founder of FOBSE, along with his wife, Jill. “There was an inability to grasp that a small school could deliver good academic results and grow with the community.”

To top it all off, Bozeman High simply did not want Big Sky to be its own district. From Mistretta and Bough’s perspectives, it was a tooth-and-nail fight to gain a high school.

FOBSE attempted to get enabling legislation through the legislature in 2005, but the effort came up short by 17 votes for fear of repercussions to other high school districts across the state, Mistretta said. FOBSE tried again in 2007, but with a new tack: laser-focused wording that would apply to Big Sky and very few other schools, from the distance a community is to the nearest high school, to the number of high school age students living there, to the danger of road conditions between the community and the school.

“We had to geotag the entire state and make sure that nobody else was 43 miles away, or more, from the high school,” Bough said.

Thanks to the specific language, as well as educational efforts on the part of FOBSE to communicate the Legislature and the governor how the community was being crippled, the 2007 attempt was a success. A vote of local support created Big Sky’s high school district on July 1, 2008.

A transition levy approved by Big Sky constituents in October 2007 allowed the Ophir School District to continue to pay money for Big Sky students to attend Bozeman High until they had a school of their own. Big Sky voted approval, but it was critical to open the high school quickly.

Another 2007 vote garnered $8.3 million in construction bonds, but the standard gymnasiu-um required for accreditation called for an additional $2 million. Though the district had the taxing ability to ask for more from the community, in light of the recession, the school board consciously chose not to. FOBSE bridged the $2 million gap with privately raised funds.

It goes without saying that voters supported the project every step of the way, and in percent-ages consistently over 75 percent. This is largely due to the educational work FOBSE did within the community throughout the process of creating a high school.

“The community really pulled together, and like all good ideas, it was an idea that came from the grass roots and had broad, wide acceptance from all the demographics of the community,” Bough said. “For all of us who had spent a lot of time working on it, it was very rewarding.”

When Lone Peak’s doors opened in the fall of 2009, 20 students were enrolled; the school district petitioned Bozeman to grandfather in the remaining 30 students so that they could finish their high school education where they started. However, any middle schoolers enter-ing high school after 2008 were required to attend Lone Peak.

In the spring of 2010, Lone Peak High saw off its first two graduates.

“It was a hectic, heady time,” Mistretta laughed. “I can look back on it and smile. During that time, it was unbelievably intense. You could see how tight the timeline was, and how import-ant it was to make it happen in a timely fashion.”

Now

Fast forward 10 years and the results are evident.

Teens can be seen working and interning at businesses throughout Big Sky, and though the community still has workforce strains, the mass exodus of families with teens has ceased.

The high school allowed local curriculum control, and took Big Sky off the hook for paying an inordinate amount of taxes for Bozeman’s high school, despite a relatively small share of Big Sky students comprising the school’s population.

“I think that’s very much an unheralded success of what we’ve done,” Bough said. “For all of us who had spent a lot of time working on it, it was very rewarding.”

Today, Lone Peak High School is the fastest growing—in terms of percent growth—best performing high school in the state. U.S. News and World Report ranked it the No. 1 school in the state of Montana this spring, and the school’s ACT scores were 33 percent higher than the state average.

This spring, LPHS graduated 16 seniors, nine of whom were pursuing diplomas from Inter-national Baccalaureate, a program the high school was authorized to offer beginning in 2017.

“I think that’s very much an unheralded success of what we’ve done,” Bough said. “We’ve allowed our tax dollars to stay in our community.”

Today, Lone Peak High School is the fastest growing—in terms of percent growth—best performing high school in the state. U.S. News and World Report ranked it the No. 1 school in the state of Montana this spring, and the school’s ACT scores were 33 percent higher than the state average.

This spring, LPHS graduated 16 seniors, nine of whom were pursuing diplomas from International Baccalaureate, a program the high school was authorized to offer beginning in 2017.

“Essentially, we had no teenagers here in the community,” Mistretta said. “We also would lose touch with students early on, and it was difficult to follow where they had enrolled in college or where they were off to for life.”
Library hosts local author for ‘One Book Big Sky’

BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – On Sept. 18, the Big Sky Community Library will host Anika Hanisch, the Bozeman-based writer who coauthored the nonfiction book “Don’t Say Anything to Anybody: A German World War II Girlhood.” The whole community is invited to read the book and attend.

“Don’t Say Anything” is a jointly written memoir that tells the story of Brigitte Z. Yearman, the child of a German soldier, and her experience dealing with Allied backlash against German citizens after the war.

Part of what Hanisch will touch upon when she speaks is what it’s like to coauthor a book.

This will be the second “One Book Big Sky” event in 2019. Gary Ferguson, another author residing in Bozeman, came in June to talk about his book, “Coming Home,” a story of grieving and healing in the wake of the loss of his wife in a river accident.

“It’s great because the author opens up and talks about the writing process and the story behind it,” said Kathy House, head librarian at the Big Sky Community Library. “…The coolest part about it is that the authors are so honest about their life and their writing that you just feel so connected. It’s a really unique experience.”

The library orders 15 copies of every “One Book Big Sky” book, House said, adding that nearly all of them are in circulation prior to when the authors visit the library.

“The more people that participate, the more fun it is,” House said.

The library is also nearing its 20th anniversary, which they will celebrate in October with an open house. House said she’ll keep the community posted on the final date for the celebration.
At L&K Real Estate we represent clients purchasing and selling the finest luxury lifestyle properties in Montana. We love this beautiful place and are passionate about helping others find their own connection to it.

211 B Pheasant Tail  |  Big Sky, MT  |  $720,000

**NEW LISTING**

Luxury Condo in the Heart of 
Big Sky Town Center 

Call us today to learn more about this listing.

LKRealEstate.com  |  406.995.2404
Customized Private Aviation
Specializing in the Pacific NW and Rocky Mountain region

+1 509-452-3300 | generation-jets.com
KGLT expands listening area with Big Sky translator

BY RACHEL HERGETT
MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – The studios of KGLT are tucked into the third floor of Montana State University’s Strand Union Building, but the station’s growing reach extends well beyond campus.

In the last few years, the station brought in new listeners in the Big Timber area and strengthened its signal around Helena. This summer, the station expanded to Big Sky. “At KGLT, we’re primarily focused on delivering this alternative, free-format radio to our listeners,” said KGLT General Manager Craig Clark. “We want to provide as much access as possible.”

A new translator in Big Sky has been on the station’s wish list for years. Service in the area was spotty and depended on how the main signal broadcasting from nearby Logan bounced through Gallatin Canyon. But at the end of July, KGLT installed the new translator on Andesite Mountain, near the top of Big Sky Resort’s Ramcharger and Thunder Wolf lifts. The 20-watt translator broadcasts, like the main KGLT transmitter, at 91.9 FM. The signal is fed over the internet to a facility at the top of the mountain, where it is translated into radio waves that cover Big Sky Town Center and Meadow Village.

Clark said an informal car radio test of the new signal showed drastically improved reception. And though mountainous topography still cuts off the signal in some areas, Clark said he was satisfied the translator would open up a new community of listeners. “We’re providing more opportunities for people to listen wherever they go in the Gallatin County and eager to make connections in the Big Sky community,” he said.

KGLT has been working to acquire a translator in the area for about a year and a half, spearheaded by former station manager Ellen King-Rogers. Aside from the costs of equipment, frequencies are only available by license through the Federal Communications Commission and infrequently. The station was able to secure a license, then applied for a permit to change the frequency to 91.9 FM.

“It’s rare to have a translator at the same frequency,” Clark said, adding that it will help create seamless listening for those commuting between Big Sky and Bozeman.

Ron Craighead, marketing and underwriting director for the station, sees potential for creating greater connection between Bozeman and Big Sky over the airwaves. He and Clark are looking into partnerships with existing underwriters in Big Sky as well as ways to represent area nonprofit organizations through the station’s public service announcements.

“We’re just excited to welcome Big Sky into the KGLT family and look forward to serving the Big Sky community,” Craighead said.

KGLT began as a student station in 1968 and is still a program of the Associated Students of Montana State University. The station’s DJs include students, faculty and staff of the university as well as community members. Students also fill roles in production and support staff, such as the chief announcer and assistant music director.

“ASMSU is proud to support KGLT, our community radio station,” said Sophia Elias, ASMSU vice president. “We’re thrilled the new translator will help reach Bobcats all across the Big Sky.”

The station broadcasts at 91.9 FM and 97.1 FM in Bozeman; 91.9 FM in Big Sky; 89.1 FM in Helena; 89.5 FM in Livingston; 107.1 FM in Gardiner; 90.5 FM in Big Timber and online at kglt.net.

---

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

Pretty Wildflower? Think again!

Spotted knapweed produces up to 140,000 seeds per plant, and those seeds can survive in the soil for 8 years!

Infested wildlands impact elk especially hard, as spotted knapweed replaces the native grasses they prefer.

Give to Grow Wild!

It's "grow time" at the Crail Ranch Native Demonstration Garden!

Phase 1 is complete, but there is more to do! Help out by volunteering or donating online at www.gallatinis.org

406.209.0905 info@gallatinis.org www.gallatinis.org

inspire – educate – conserve

Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance is funded in part by Resort Tax funds.
CONTRACTORS AND PROPERTY MANAGERS:
Receive a $100 credit to your business account for every customer referral
(referral must take delivery).

- HOA, Condominium, and Community Pricing
- Experienced in large commercial/residential projects, OPS Systems, and meter systems
- 24/7 Emergency Service

(406) 586-9707
www.amerigas.com
big sky – It was too late for retreat when Robert Hawthorne, a Montana native raised in the landlocked Rocky Mountains, realized he had misjudged the tide. After spending 10 hours in the tidal mudflats off the west coast of Alaska photographing brown bears digging for razor clams, he rushed to make a futile attempt to return to his boat, which was anchored a half mile away.

Hauling a 60-pound backpack, he waged an unbalanced war against thrashing 3-foot waves. Eventually he threw in the towel, retiring to a small island in the bay. Without another person within 80 miles, an exhausted Hawthorne emptied his soggy waders, ensured his camera equipment was intact and pulled out a book to pass the time before another attempt toward his boat. Hawthorne soon discovered that he wasn’t the only inhabitant on the island: A mother brown bear and her cub passed by non-threateningly. Hawthorne grabbed a camera, aimed and clicked the shutter.

As a child raised in the mountains, Hawthorne often delighted in exploring the great depths of his backyard just south of Bozeman. Never with a destination in mind, he would meander through woods and connect ridges, hoping to witness one of nature’s magical productions. He took to chasing wildlife, pushing boundaries and discovering the ways he could be nearest to them without putting either party in danger. Hawthorne would return home with fantastic tales of animal sightings, often to the disbelief of his family and friends. He decided if he were to continue on his wild adventures, he would need a way to deliver proof.

In 2015, at 16 years old, he bought his first camera: a Nikon D-7200. Hawthorne sought informal but meticulous training to further develop his photography skills. YouTube videos gave him a kickstart and continue to provide tips and tricks, but pure practice proved to be his greatest tutor.

The budding photographer took his camera with him everywhere, shooting a variety of scenes and subjects that would later be discarded. He learned early on that what he needed to master was capturing fleeting moments without fail. He knew his intended subjects wouldn’t wait for the perfect light or frame in the ideal composition; it would be up to him to navigate the forces working against his perfect shot.

By Bella Butler

Looking through the lens
Bozeman photographer documents Alaskan bears

BY BELLA BUTLER

An Alaskan brown bear plunges into a swarm of salmon. For coastal brown bears, fish make up a significant portion of their diet, as they consume thousands of pounds each per year. PHOTO BY ROBERT HAWTHORNE

Robert Hawthorne spent three months photographing brown bears, often within very close proximity to the animals. Photographer Robert Hawthorne spent three months photographing brown bears, often within very close proximity to the animals.

Brown bears and grizzlies are a subspecies. Brown bears claim the classification of grizzly when they live more inland and their diet isn’t primarily fish.

In May, Hawthorne nabbed a gig guiding photographers in the rugged wildlands of Alaska—a state that is home to 98 percent of all the brown bears in the U.S., according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The northernmost U.S. state boasts rivers rich with salmon, creating a feeding oasis for brown bears that each eat thousands of pounds of fish per year.

“Alaska is truly special,” Hawthorne said. “Nowhere else on this planet can you experience the magnificent brown bear as you can there.”

From the base lodge on Lake Iliamna, Hawthorne was flown by bush and float planes beyond Alaska’s sparse civilization into some of the most untouched landscapes in the region, including Katmai National Park and Preserve. After setting up camp, he would await the arrival of clients. His days were spent guiding photographers through the Alaskan wilderness in search of bears to capture. Over his guiding tenure, he spent a total of around eight weeks camped out.

Brown bears and grizzlies are often revered among the deadliest forces in the West, but after sharing a home with them for a summer, Hawthorne has rethought this stigma. “I valued being that close to the animals and seeing how strewn the common perceptions of them are,” he said. “They are defensive, yes, but not man-hunting. The photographer was often within 10-20 yards of the bears and sometimes, incidentally, much closer. He credits the security in such proximity to a mutual respect.

Hawthorne said it was imperative to know when the comfort level of the animal had been breached, and when it was time to back away. “To the animals, we are never more than tolerated guests in their home, and as long as we take into careful consideration what it means to be a guest, we will always be welcome back.”

Hawthorne currently resides back in Bozeman, where he is sorting through nearly 40,000 photos of Alaskan brown bears fishing, playing and existing in the foreground of snow-dotted Alaskan peak backdrops. He will split his time this winter between the slopes of his home mountain, Bridger Bowl, and shooting timeless images of Montana wildlife.

Visit roberthawthornephotography.com to see more of Robert Hawthorne’s photography.
The buzz on the river this summer is that local anglers have noticed changes in the abundance of aquatic insects and the timing of their hatches.

“I think the biggest thing everyone is talking about is that the hatches have been really sporadic,” said Solomon Ohman, shop staff at Grizzly on the River. Ohman observed multiple insect orders emerging simultaneously, instead of thick clouds of a single taxon.

Ennion Williams, outfitter and guide for Big Sky Trout with 24 years of experience on the Gallatin, detected a diminished salmonfly hatch, in particular.

“The bugs were there, but there weren’t any heavy hatches all at once,” Williams said, adding that high water and cooler temperatures coupled with last summer’s algae bloom could have impacted salmonfly emergence this year.

Although a few studies have linked environmental changes with shifts in the life cycle of aquatic insects, this is still an area of active research, according to Sean Sullivan, an aquatic ecologist with Rhithrun Associates, Inc. With those limitations in mind, Sullivan suggested a few factors unique to this summer that may be linked to the observations of local anglers.

Summer started slowly this year with a cold, wet early July when compared to the past couple of years. Air temperature in the beginning of the month was, on average, a few degrees below normal. The number of days above a certain temperature drives the hatches of many insect species, thus cool weather could limit their emergence.

Due to many days with precipitation, streamflow at the Gallatin Gateway gauge has been slightly above average since last October with water levels climbing into the 75th percentile—25 percent above average—early last month. High spring flows sustained into the summer could suppress emergence because insects have remained in their springtime refuge later into the season.

Finally, nuisance algae growth from recent years that lingers in the channel could impact both habitat and dissolved oxygen levels to the detriment of insect populations.

Local conditions are superimposed over a statewide trend. Research by the Montana Natural Heritage Program reported broad declines in salmonfly distribution across Montana. These sensitive species were first threatened by dams and mining. Within the past 30 years, siltation and increasing water temperatures have started to impact their abundance.

In addition to these factors, the response of insects to environmental changes depends on the species in question. Due to the fact that three species in the salmonfly (Pteronarcyidae) family are native to Montana, scientists need more data to accurately explain fluctuations in the life cycle of these aquatic insects.

“There is a growing recognition that the fly-fishing community has a unique opportunity to provide data to help validate any observed trends in phenological shifts,” Sullivan said. He encouraged river lovers to contribute their knowledge to an iNaturalist project called “The River’s Calendar,” which is designed to document emergence periods for the aquatic insects of North America.

Despite the salmonfly shortage, Jay Markevich, shop manager for Gallatin River Guides, reported that the fishing is still good, speculating that both the size and quality of fish caught on the Gallatin increased this summer.

Stephanie Lynn is the education and communications coordinator for the Gallatin River Task Force.
In his new book, Michael J. Yochim, former Yellowstone ranger and guide, takes us on a personal journey through America’s oldest national park to places he’ll never reach again. “Essential Yellowstone: A Landscape of Memory and Wonder” is filled with keen insights, fine writing and, in a way, it functions as an existential roadmap for explorers seeking adventure in the modern world.

Under ordinary circumstances, I would highly recommend it, as if the book shines among others like it.

But on the dust jacket, the reason why “Essential Yellowstone” ranks instead as a heroic tome, delivering a lesson in grace and humility, becomes clear. We are informed that Yochim “retired from the National Park Service after being diagnosed with ALS. He wrote this book using only his eyes and assistive technology that tracks their movement on a computer screen.”

Just for a moment absorb that last part again. Yochim can’t walk or move his appendages. If a mosquito landed on his nose, he couldn’t swat it away; he can’t lift a morning cup of coffee to his lips and he can no longer utter a spoken word.

Yochim is, by his own acknowledgment, nearly incapacitated. He has a terminal illness, also called Lou Gehrig’s disease, that is mercilessly progressive, irreversible and has left him dependent upon the care of loved ones to keep him alive.

And yet, in “Essential Yellowstone,” Yochim takes us on hikes into the deepest Yellowstone outbacks, which reside farthest from most main highways in the Lower 48 states. He moves us by sharing his perspective about the meaning of wildness, he offers observations about natural history that span time and space, he emphasizes the cherished importance of good friends and, above all, he expresses his pure love for Yellowstone as both enigma and paradox.

Not only does Yochim painstakingly write tens of thousands of words, letter by letter, filling 300 pages, with his eyes, it is through his vision that we see his heart revealed.

Like the late theoretical physicist, cosmologist and author Stephen Hawking, who succumbed to ALS after dealing with the disease for years, Yochim shows us how the human mind is a powerful unconquerable thing and its brilliance transcends physical prowess.

I’ve been a fan of Yochim’s writing for a long while and we share affection for Yellowstone because we, like thousands of others, are part of an informal club of people who held down jobs there, either with the federal government or as concession employees.

Parts of Yochim’s book left me choked up as he tells the stories of trails and destinations he will never reach again, though in memory they live large. And I laughed out loud at passages where his wicked, self-deprecating wit refused to be shaded by his grim prognosis.

Reflecting on cutting bruin tracks and crossing paths with grizzlies, feeling the ground shake beneath his feet when backcountry geysers erupted, and hearing howls of wolves return to landscapes where the songs had once gone mute, Yochim summons us to let spirituality, whatever form it takes, back into our lives.

“Whatsoever the reward we come to realize that Yellowstone and other wild places are not the exception, but rather the authentic, the real. We return for more, satisfying a deep-seated hunger within us, and in so doing, begin to connect with something visceral, something we have longed for,” he writes. “Through such experiences we can be transformed into wiser, more knowing and caring persons, ones that understand that, for many world religions, these connections are ultimately glimpses of the divine.”

In a recent email exchange, Yochim told me he is racing to finish a book about climate change that illustrates how it is transforming Yellowstone and other national parks. He knows it’s possible he may not live long enough to see it into print, yet it’s the one thing he can do to raise awareness and still make a difference.

Yochim has already achieved this with “Essential Yellowstone,” for it’s a read that will stay with you. Toward the end of this masterfully eloquent volume, Yochim reminds us to embrace the Yellowstone that remains his place of escape.

“Nature’s commonality and sometimes centrality in the world’s religions should not come as a surprise to anyone who has spent time in the wild, but especially in the Yellowstone wilderness,” he writes. “There, nature’s power, forces and interconnections are on full display, and the presence of grizzly bears and other large animals opens—or should open our eyes wider to them than in places that lack such creatures.”

Thank you, Mike Yochim and Riverbend Publishing; just as this fine book has given Yochim freedom to wander from the shackles, it liberates us, beckoning defenders of Yellowstone to comprehend what our own eyes don’t always see. That’s a rare gift and we are grateful.

Todd Wilkinson is the founder of Bozeman-based “Mountain Journal” 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.
Trying to beat climate change

BY PAUL E. VALLELY
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The energy industry is waging war against climate change, and winning.

In late August, the Environmental Partnership, a group of oil and gas firms dedicated to cutting greenhouse gas emissions, released its first annual progress report. The results are impressive and showcase what happens when an industry unites to further the public good.

The Environmental Partnership launched in late 2017 with 26 members. Within 12 months, it more than doubled in size to 58 members and includes 32 of America’s top 40 oil and gas producers. Today, its members account for nearly half of America’s oil and natural gas production.

The group focuses on cutting emissions of methane and other greenhouse gases known as “volatile organic compounds.” Without proper monitoring and maintenance, these gases can escape from drilling rigs and pipelines and contribute to global warming.

Even before the partnership formed, firms were spending millions to reduce their carbon footprints. Methane emissions have plummeted in America’s largest energy-rich basins, even as oil and gas production has spiked.

But firms in the Environmental Partnership sought to slash emissions even further.

First, the partnership focused on updating outdated technology like high-bleed pneumatic controllers. Pneumatic controllers regulate temperature, pressure and liquid levels at natural gas sites by opening or closing valves. To operate these valves, the controllers rely on pressurized natural gas. As their name suggests, high-bleed pneumatic controllers can release relatively large amounts of natural gas, along with methane and VOC byproducts, into the air.

The Environmental Partnership plans to replace all high-bleed pneumatic controllers in five years. And it’s well on its way to doing so. It replaced, retrofitted or removed more than 28,000 prior to 2018 and an additional 3,000 last year. As a result, nearly 40 participating firms don’t use high-bleed controllers at all.

Second, the partnership set out to curb methane leaks, which can sometimes happen as firms extract, store and burn natural gas. Methane is both a potent greenhouse gas and the main ingredient in natural gas. Participating companies conducted more than 156,000 surveys across 78,000 production sites, inspecting more than 56 million individual parts.

After its thorough inspections and repairs, the Environmental Partnership found that just 0.16 percent of industry parts contained leaks and member firms repaired 99 percent of those in 60 days or less.

Participating firms also worked to better monitor liquid removal from natural gas wells. When too much liquid, mostly consisting of water, builds up within gas wells, firms manually direct the liquid to vents that bring it to surface. During that process, methane or volatile organic compounds can potentially escape into the atmosphere.

Over the course of 2018, the Environmental Partnership oversaw more than 130,000 manual removals to ensure environmentally safe execution.

Methane emissions from natural gas systems fell over 14 percent between 1990 and 2017. The Environmental Partnership’s initiatives aim to cut these emissions even further. According to the EPA’s own estimates, reducing methane leaks and replacing high-bleed controllers can slash emissions by 40 and 60 percent, respectively.

Energy firms are weaponizing their data and tools for the common good. Let’s hope they keep up the fight in the war against climate change.

Paul E. Vallely is a retired U.S. Army major. Gen. Vallely is the founder and chairman of Stand Up America, a public policy research organization committed to national security and energy independence.
EPA awards funds for water quality protection

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded $1,041,000 to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to help protect human health and the environment through a Nonpoint Source Program Clean Water Act Section 319 grant. This grant is given to states to implement environmental programs that address nonpoint source pollution in surface and ground water to meet and maintain water quality standards.

“EPA is partnering with MTDEQ to restore water quality by focusing on one of the nation’s largest remaining causes of surface water impairment: contaminated runoff from nonpoint sources,” said EPA Regional Administrator Gregory Sopkin. “Water quality across the West is a high priority and by working together on these projects, our impact is that much greater.”

Nonpoint sources of pollution continue to be recognized as the nation’s largest remaining cause of surface water quality impairments. The effects of nonpoint source pollution can be seen within the lakes, streams and rivers of Montana. Common NPS pollutants include sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, metals, pesticides, pathogens, petroleum products and salts.

Nonpoint source pollution encompasses a wide range of sources that are not subject to federal or often state regulation. These sources include agricultural runoff, unpermitted urban runoff, abandoned mine drainage, failing onsite disposal systems and pollution caused by changes to natural stream channels.

“This funding allows DEQ to make important investments in projects, which will improve water quality in Montana,” said MTDEQ Director Shaun McGrath. “Nonpoint source pollution is one of the most challenging issues facing Montana waters. We are grateful to EPA for this funding, which the state will use for locally-led projects, working together with our community partners, including land owners, local watershed groups and conservation districts.”

Under this program, a total of seven proposals were selected for funding that will restore natural processes such as stream channel migration, floodplain connectivity and native riparian revegetation. These projects will result in measurable improvements in water quality.

The program is based on principles that emphasize voluntary and incentive-based participation. MTDEQ seeks to involve stakeholders through communication cooperation and common goals.

This grant is one part of EPA’s overall effort to ensure America’s waters are clean and safe. This year, EPA is distributing more than $165 million in section 319 grants to states, territories and tribes to reduce nonpoint runoff in urban and rural settings, including efforts to reduce excess nutrients that can enter our waters and cause public health and environmental challenges.

Over the last two years, states restored over 80 waters and reduced over 17 million pounds of nitrogen, nearly 4 million pounds of phosphorus and 3.5 million tons of excess sediment through section 319 projects. The 319 grants received by Montana complement thousands of additional dollars awarded to the state to carry out multiple programs that protect water quality including wetlands protection, restoration and water pollution control programs as well as $7.8 million in wastewater infrastructure funding for Clean Water Act State Revolving Fund.

Congress enacted Section 319 of the Clean Water Act in 1987, establishing a national program to control nonpoint sources of water pollution. Through Section 319, the EPA provides states, territories and tribes with guidance and grant funding to implement their nonpoint source programs and to support local watershed projects to improve water quality. Hundreds of additional projects are underway across the country.

To learn more about successful nonpoint source projects, visit epa.gov/nps/non-point-source-success-stories.
Large, 21.82 acre property providing a lot of privacy, views and easy all season access, yet close to schools and businesses. A true end of the road property.

Ridge home in Antler Ridge w/ views of Lone Mtn. from all 3 bds, the great room and the sunny south facing deck. Reclaimed beams, granite, high end appliances, convenient mid-mtn. location.

Ski-in, ski-out property in Moonlight Basin Resort. The build site is on the south side of the property just above a ski trail, easy access to a build site due to an access easement across an adjacent property.

Beautiful lot in the highest part of Cascade Subdivision, this lot borders Ulery’s Lakes Subdivision to the north so no homes or development on the northern side of this lot.
Humans have long been fascinated by birds of prey. Their graceful passage through the sky, hunting prowess and impressive wing spans make them awe-inspiring to watch. Luckily for us, a great time and place to see raptors on the wing is autumn in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Increasingly colder temperatures and shorter days trigger the birds’ instinct to migrate from this area in late August or early September and continuing through early October. You’ll see resident birds migrating as well as those passing through on their route between their nesting territories and their winter ranges in the southern United States, Central America or South America.

The north-south ridges of the Bridger and Gallatin mountain ranges are ideal places to witness the fall migration of hawks, eagles and other raptors, as are the wide-open valleys of Yellowstone National Park. The park’s Hayden Valley is a popular destination to view birds of prey, especially Swainson’s hawks.

We asked Brad Bulin, senior naturalist for the Yellowstone Forever Institute, for some tips on viewing the fall raptor migration in Yellowstone and the surrounding area. He said that knowing a little about how birds migrate will provide you with clues as to the best places and times to see them.

“Most raptors migrate during the daytime, when thermals—or columns of rising air—form as the sun warms the ground below,” Bulin said, adding that the birds “ride” these thermals, enabling them to conserve a great deal of energy as they gain altitude without flapping their wings.

Because air currents rising up the side of a mountain are particularly strong, large numbers of raptors roughly follow the north-south ridges of the Continental Divide as a migration corridor.

“Aftemoons tend to be better than mornings, after the wind picks up. Right after a storm comes through is probably the best time. During a cold front, the winds blow counterclockwise,” he said. “That north-to-south wind direction is exactly what the raptors need.”

When in Yellowstone, he suggests positioning yourself anywhere with a wide-open view of the sky—Hayden Valley, Dunraven Pass, Mount Washburn and Swan Lake Flats are all located along migration routes and are good places to spot raptors,” Bulin said.

He advises using binoculars and constantly scanning the sky and ridgelines, as well as tall trees. “If the weather is not conducive to flying—if it’s raining or there’s very little wind—look up in the trees to spot raptors waiting to continue their long journey south.”

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

55 male bison transferred from Yellowstone to Fort Peck Tribes

**Partners celebrate historic step for bison conservation**

**YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK**

Yellowstone National Park completed the first transfer of bison on Aug. 23 to the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Poplar, Montana, under the new operational quarantine program. Fifty-five male bison completed Phases I & II of the brucellosis quarantine protocol at Yellowstone and will finish assurance testing, or Phase III, at Fort Peck.

“The transfer of these bison is the culmination of years of work by the NPS [National Park Service], the Tribes, the State of Montana, and APHIS [Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service],” said Superintendent Cam Sholly. “Quarantine is a critical component in bison management and the NPS is committed to expand and sustain this program.”

“Yellowstone buffalo are important to Tribes because they are the genetically-pure descendants of the buffalo our ancestors lived with,” said Tribal Chairman Floyd Azure. “The return of the buffalo is a return of our culture. Fort Peck is committed to expanding quarantine and sharing these animals with other Tribes across the country.”

The purpose of the quarantine program is to augment or establish new conservation and cultural herds of plains bison, enhance cultural and nutritional opportunities for Native Americans, and reduce shipments of Yellowstone bison to slaughter facilities. Since it is against Montana state law to move wild bison exposed to brucellosis anywhere except to meat processing and research facilities within state, the quarantine program is critical to getting brucellosis-free animals out of Yellowstone and onto a larger landscape.

The bison that moved on Aug. 23 were captured at Stephens Creek in the northwest corner of Yellowstone National Park in March 2018. There are currently 3 males and 21 females still in the quarantine program at Stephens Creek, which were captured at the same time. Since the testing protocol is longer for females, the earliest that this group will complete Phase II is during 2021. The park intends to capture a new cohort of bison this winter to continue the quarantine program.

The quarantine protocol begins with Phase I when managers capture bison in or near the park during the winter. Bison considered suitable for quarantine based on initial negative tests for brucellosis are isolated in double-fenced quarantine pastures and tested every 30-45 days until all bison test negative for two consecutive testing periods.

At this point Phase II begins and the bison undergo brucellosis testing by age and sex requirements and are officially certified as brucellosis-free. Once certified, Phase III allows managers to transfer bison to other fenced pastures. In the new location, brucellosis tests are conducted at six and 12 months to provide additional assurance. Managers keep these bison separate from other animals at least until the six-month test is completed. Thereafter, managers can release these bison on public or tribal lands for conservation and cultural purposes.

While the August transfer is an excellent start, substantial work remains to continue building a sustainable quarantine program. Quarantine was identified as a possible tactic for bison management back in 2001 when the Interagency Bison Management Plan was signed by the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture and the Governor of Montana, though the program wasn’t approved until May 2018.

The only facilities that currently meet state and federal structural and biosecurity specifications are located at Stephens Creek in Yellowstone National Park, Corwin Springs in Montana and the Fort Peck Reservation.
Big Sky offers a great selection of day-hikes or trail runs. These routes are all 5-8 miles in length and each offers a variety of views, trail types and ecosystems. All of these trails can be found on BSCO’s Summer Recreation Map, available at retailers around Big Sky.

Hummocks and Uplands
From the trailhead: 5 miles
From Town Center via sagebrush meadows east of Simkins Drive: 6 miles
This all-star trail combo is the venue for Big Sky’s newest trail-running event: Sunday, Sept. 15 marks the first annual Town to Trails race. Starting and finishing in Town Center at the intersection of Aspen Leaf and Simkins Drive, runners first tackle the challenging uphill of the Uplands Trail, then proceed onto the more undulating loops of the Hummocks Trail. The course then heads back into Town Center for the finish. Race against your friends and neighbors on trails we all know and love.
Register at runsignup.com.

Ralph’s Pass
One-way: 4 miles
Loop: 6 miles
New in 2017, Ralph’s Pass connects the Uplands Trail with the Ousel Falls Trail. Starting at Uplands is my preferred direction and puts most of the elevation gain upfront. Climb for 1 mile to the top of the Uplands Trail and turn west onto Ralph’s Pass at the signpost and gate. Once past the gate, continue up for a short distance until you reach a viewpoint with a bench. From here, the trail begins a long descent with a few short uphills toward Ousel Falls. My favorite part is the section closest to Ousel, which features boardwalks, creek access, dense vegetation and is also the most likely place to encounter bears and moose.

As a runner, I turn this trail into a loop by continuing onto the gravel path that parallels Ousel Falls Road back to Town Center. If your group has two vehicles, consider shuttling one car to the Ousel Falls Trailhead to meet you at the end.

North Fork Loop
Loop: 8 miles
A longtime favorite for mountain bikers, the North Fork Loop is what I consider the best 8 miles of trail running in Big Sky. The crux of this loop is a 1-mile section in the middle that climbs, or drops, 1,000 vertical feet. Bikes almost always travel clockwise to descend the steep section. I prefer to run counter-clockwise and get most of the elevation gain in a short burst rather than a more gradual uphill.

From the main North Fork Trailhead, start down the wide double-track trail (FS16). After gently climbing for 2 miles, cross a large bridge and continue up the now single-track trail for 1 mile. At 3 miles, turn left/west at the marked junction (FS402). One hundred feet from the junction, eat a snack at the creek and take a deep breath before tackling the next mile of uphill. Enjoy spectacular views into Bear Basin as you climb steep meadows to the top of the ridge.

Turn left onto the first road you cross, then immediately left again onto Beehive Loop Road. Continue down the road for a few hundred feet before finding the marked single-track FS403 Ridge Trail. The single-track trail then follows the top of the forested ridge for 2 miles, then continues for 2 more on a switch-backing, quiet dirt road through Lone Mountain Ranch back to the starting point.

Jelica Summerfield is the assistant asset manager for the Big Sky Community Organization. An avid trail runner, Jelica combines work and play by maintaining parks and trails for BSCO during the summer months. In the winter, she ski patrols professionally at Big Sky Resort.
EBS STAFF

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — This summer, the National Park Service completed an extensive $30 million renovation of the historic Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel. The 1938 building was originally designed by architect Robert Reamer and this most recent update preserved the historic look and feel of what is one of only a few “art moderne” hotels in the National Park System.

An architectural style popularized in the 1930s and ’40s, art moderne is characterized by streamlined, horizontal structures with flat roofs and curved walls or rounded corners.

On Aug. 30, Yellowstone National Park and Xanterra Travel Collection in Yellowstone hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tours to celebrate the renovation that added new private bathrooms to guest rooms, new windows and new conference rooms, as well as electrical upgrades, structural and seismic stabilization, and Americans with Disabilities Act access.

According to an NPS statement, “These significant improvements prepare the hotel for its next phase of life, with an emphasis toward sustainability and reducing the carbon footprint.” Additionally, restoration specialists carefully rehabilitated Reamer’s famous wooden map in the Map Room.

Funded by NPS, the four-year renovation was one of Yellowstone’s ongoing efforts to reduce deferred maintenance and improve conditions of important historic resources.
I was guiding a new angler yesterday—which is rare in my 20-plus years of experience as my list of clients I choose to guide is carefully vetted and trimmed each season.

However, this angler somehow made it through my checks-and-balances and was able to learn whether I was the right guide for him and whether he was the right angler for me. Because in over 20 years of guiding anglers and traveling the world to fly fish, I’ve fished with a variety of folks.

After a few days of casting large dry flies to plenty of hungry trout on small streams, we agreed we’d made a good match. By the end of the day he pinned me as dry-fly snob, a walk-and-wade connoisseur and a don’t-go-cause-he-don’t-row-no-mo’ type of fishing guide—I can live with indeed. But just like he pinned me as a certain type of guide, there are anglers who fall into generalizations as well. Here are “The Five Types of Anglers”—and, how to learn from them.

The Over Caster. For a few good reasons, some of us might aspire to be this angler. Being able to cast great distances is important in many situations—if cruising bonefish are near or a finicky permit is in view. But for trout fishing, a long cast can sometimes be a hinderance. Being able to cast 30 feet accurately is crucial, but rarely in trout fishing is there a need to cast much further than 50 feet. The Over Caster is an angler that, just because they can, always wants to cast as long as possible. And, in doing so, often casts over fish that are much closer, yet unseen because this angler is so focused on what’s far away rather than what is nearby.

The Mending Machine. Other nicknames could be The Mendpalooza, The Mendster, The Mendstress. You get the point. This angler, once their fly is on the water, won’t stop mending the fly line. This creates micro-drag and selective trout don’t continue to drift naturally. I see this daily—one angler embraces a big initial large upstream or downstream mend will suffice. This angler continues to mend, and mend, and mend even after the fly has already started to drift naturally. I see this daily—one angler embraces a big initial mend whereas the other angler constantly adjusts, tweaks and moves the fly line. This creates micro-drag and selective trout don’t like micro-drag.

The Big Texan (or New Yorker or Californian), aka the guy with too much. Risking offending an entire state of anglers, there are always those anglers who just have too much gear. Of course, they are not all from Texas; in fact, many experienced anglers possess too much gear. The list is simple: quality waders and boots; a 9-foot 5 weight rod, reel and matching fly line; a vest or pack; tippet and a few leaders; flies; some floatant and a few other accessories; and a good attitude and you’re ready to hit the water.

The Bug Nerd. When I started fly fishing back when mix tapes, not playlists, were in fashion, old-timers would often discuss hatches in Latin rather than common names. They always sounded so formal and knew the proper angle to hold one’s pinky while raising a glass of merlot. Today, don’t be that angler. A pale morning dun is an adult mayfly that hatches in early summer. Parachute Adams and Purple Haze will imitate them just fine. However, in Latin, PMDs can mean Ephemerella inermis or Ephemerella infrequens. But recently inermis mayflies were discovered to be the same species as Ephemerella extimus, ask me if I care? Ask me if a PMD catches fish? Now you’re speaking my language.

The Cool Dude. Dressed head-to-toe in the latest name-brand retro-styled hats, this angler is a huge fly fisherman. Their Facebook and Instagram are updated and they cannot find a fly rod fast enough for their casting stroke. However, if it weren’t for these anglers desiring the latest and greatest gear or the need to download the most recent video of big trout sipping trico mayflies on the Missouri, breathable waders and putting off the work we should be doing wouldn’t be so fashionable.

This new client of mine—yes, I’d happily fish with him again—toward the end of the last day, dropped the bombshell when he asked, “What type of angler am I?”

I paused and said, “That is a great idea for next column.”

Thankfully a fish rose to his hopper at that moment and the subject was changed.

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.
What to expect this hunting season

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

From the Pintler Mountains on the west side of the region to the Absaroka-Beartooth range on the east, southwest Montana is defined by high-mountain rugged country and an abundance of public land. Big game thrives here, particularly elk.

Hunting season last year was challenging due to winter’s late arrival, which kept conditions relatively mild through the end of December, delaying wildlife migrations. Extreme temperatures and heavy snowfall followed from January through April, which impacted ungulate numbers throughout much of the region.

As with most years, hunter success this fall will largely depend on when the snow arrives. If there’s early snow, winter ungulate migrations will begin and higher harvest numbers can be expected. If dry conditions continue through the fall, hunters can expect average to below-average harvest rates.

Winter survival trends for ungulates in the Bridger, Gallatin and Madison ranges (deer and elk hunting districts 301, 309, 310, 311, 321, 360, 361 and 362; and pronghorn districts 311 and 360) varied by species. Pronghorn suffered the most seasonal mortality due to severe conditions in late February through March which led to some starvation. Pronghorn are showing signs of declines from recent highs, but their numbers are still within the long-term average. Mule deer counts are also within the long-term average. And elk counts are robust in all districts except 310, which continues to be below objective.

The east Gallatin, Crazy, Bangtail and north Bridger ranges (hunting districts 313, 314, 315, 317 and 393) tell a similar story due to extreme winter conditions from January through March. Elk mortality was the worst in southern Park County. Populations in the northern part of the Paradise Valley up to Interstate 90 also saw some mortality, but their numbers remain at or above objective in most areas. Elk numbers are still above objective in the Bangtail Mountains, but access is a challenge for most hunters. Deer numbers have been increasing in this area over the past few years. This year brought some declines from recent averages, but deer numbers are still within long-term averages.

Hunters who plan to hunt in the Gravelly, Centennial, Greenhorn, south Tobacco Root or Madison ranges should be exceptionally cautious of grizzly bear activity. The south Gravelly Mountains have had an especially dense concentration of grizzlies this year.

For information on hunting safely in grizzly country, visit igbconline.org/hunters.

Setting the standard
Basics of good hunter etiquette

EBS STAFF

A successful hunt in Montana means so much more than filling a tag. It’s about experiencing the outdoors, finding a genuine camaraderie and making ethical decisions at every turn. Here are a few basics to help you find success this season:

- Follow the rules of safe gun handling.
- Be proficient in the use of your equipment.
- Know and obey laws and regulations.
- Develop and maintain your hunting skills and knowledge.
- Develop a personal code of conduct and consistently stick to it. That includes packing out garbage, closing gates and keeping vehicles on designated roads.
- Respect the wildlife you hunt and the land it inhabits.
- Respect other hunters and rights of non-hunters and landowners.
- Get involved in wildlife conservation.
- Be a role model: share your skill and knowledge with others.

Additionally, remember the four basic rules of gun safety:

1) Always point the muzzle of your gun in a safe direction.
2) Always treat every gun as if it were loaded.
3) Always be sure of your target and beyond.
4) Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to fire.

Montana Hunting Season Opening Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Hunting Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1</td>
<td>Turkey and Upland Game Bird (excluding Pheasant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 7</td>
<td>Archery Antelope, Bighorn Sheep, Deer, Elk, Mountain Lion, Black Bear and Wolf; Backcountry Archery Deer and Elk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>General Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat, Moose, Wolf and Black Bear; Backcountry General Deer and Elk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 21</td>
<td>Upland and Waterfowl Youth Weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 12</td>
<td>General Antelope and Pheasant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 17-18</td>
<td>Two-Day Youth Deer Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>Bison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 26</td>
<td>General Deer, Elk and Mountain Lion (without hounds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 1</td>
<td>Winter Mountain Lion (with hounds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 15</td>
<td>Wolf Trapping</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Big Sky Medical Center
334 Town Center Avenue
Emergency Department 24/7/365

Family Medicine Clinic
Weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Retail Pharmacy
Weekdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

406-995-6995 | BigSkyMedicalCenter.com
Arthritis or degenerative joint disease is the breakdown and wear of the cartilage in between joints. Symptoms of arthritis can start with stiffness and decreased range of motion, swelling and pain. Symptoms of arthritis will usually subside with movement and become worse with overuse. If you suffer from arthritis here is a list of management tools to help alleviate pain.

Movement and exercise are important and should be done in moderation. Overuse injuries can put increased wear on a joint, however daily movement and motion is important in helping to increase range of motion and vasodilation, or increased blood supply. A stretching or recovery routine can help with lessening pain. Active and static stretching along with foam rolling can help tremendously with tight muscles that may be contributing to arthritic pain. An example of active or dynamic stretching is a runner’s lunge where the body weight is used in an active movement versus sitting and passively stretching a muscle like the hamstring.

Diet is also very important when it comes to managing arthritis, and being able to clean your diet of inflammatory foods is vital. Decreasing alcohol is a great place to start, as alcoholic beverages can cause stress to the liver resulting in inflammation in the joints.

Nightshades like eggplant, peppers, white potatoes, tomatoes and paprika might also contribute to inflammation. While there is little scientific evidence that truly proves these claims, nightshades have an alkaloid layer called solanine and many holistic providers believe individuals may be sensitive to solanine, resulting in the attack and degeneration of joints.

Vitamin supplements such as turmeric, curcumin and vitamin D can also help decrease joint inflammation. Proteolytic enzymes (chymotrypsin, pepsin and trypsin), which are secreted by the stomach and the pancreas, help with protein digestion. The “Journal of Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine” reviewed 10 clinical studies revealing that individuals who supplemented with proteolytic enzymes, specifically bromelain, effectively reduced joint pain, stiffness and swelling.

Additionally, cherries are packed full of bioflavonoids which help decrease joint inflammation. According to the “Global Journal of Health Science,” omega-3 fatty acids help to relieve joint pain as much as analgesics. Flax, olive oil and fish contain the highest levels of omega-3 fatty acids.

Platelet-rich plasma regenerative therapy is a new alternative treatment for arthritis and chronic tendinosis. PRP is a therapy where a patient’s blood is centrifuged and the platelets are reinjected into a joint space. The growth factors then help to proliferate cellular activity. The goal of PRP is to decrease inflammation in a joint, improve the function of a joint, and slow down damage to cartilage tissue or even repair it. While more large-scale research is needed on this new break through therapy, Dr. Carlye Luft, NMD, has seen wonderful results with PRP in her Big Sky office.

Dr. Andrea Wick is a chiropractor and applied kinesiologist. She graduated from Life University in Marietta, Georgia, and now practices at Healing Hands Chiropractic in Big Sky. She has a passion for holistic health care and being active in the outdoors.
Help us preserve the Yellowstone you love for generations to come. Join our community today at Yellowstone.org/forever

Official Nonprofit Partner of Yellowstone National Park
Big Sky Biggie gains traction, prestige

BY DOUG HARE

The Big Sky Biggie starting gates returned to Town Center Aug. 23-24 announcing a weekend of mountain bike racing including a 50-mile course and a 30-mile course that showcased the continuously improving connectivity of the singletrack trail network surrounding Big Sky.

In only its second year, the Big Sky Biggie is quickly gaining a reputation as being one of the premier mountain biking races in Montana. Race Director Natalie Osborne said that by the numbers, 400 volunteer hours, 222 racers, 17 sponsors, 12 permits and land use agreements, three trays of bacon, two kegs and one bottle of whiskey all came together to make the event a success.

“The Biggie was grueling, mentally testing and exhilarating. It was the first time I have entered a bike race and it was a huge goal to go after. I’m super excited to have achieved what I set out to do,” said Chris Samuels after finishing the 50-mile course.

“This event would never be possible without the generosity and support of our community. And once again, in true Big Sky fashion, the community stepped up to help make the second annual Biggie a huge success!” said Osborne. “We had some challenges the week prior to the event, resulting in the painful decision to cancel the kids race on Friday night, so that we could focus on course safety.”

Osborne was elated to report that once sponsors and families in Big Sky found out about the last-minute cancellation, they rallied to organize and execute the Juniors Short-Track Race despite the setbacks. “It was the most beautiful outpouring of generosity and rallying that I’ve ever witnessed,” Osborne said. “I was out setting the course for the following day, and could hear all the kids and parents from a couple of miles away. There were no major injuries and the weather was perfect. Anything is possible in Big Sky, it seems.”

The third annual Big Sky Biggie is already on the calendar for Saturday, Aug. 29, 2020. Osborne said that the Biggie will become part of a national mountain bike series next year, and she looks forward to being able to formally announce the partnership in a few months. The Big Sky Biggie was conceived as a fundraising non-profit event to benefit the Big Sky Community Organization. The event encourages riders of all levels to get out on the trail and have a successful day, whether it’s to place on the podium in their category, just finish the distance with enough steam to celebrate, or somewhere in between.

After covering costs, the excess funds raised are given back to support local trails for protection, maintenance and growth. Proceeds from this year will go to three organizations: Big Sky Community Organization, Big Sky Search and Rescue and Lone Peak Composite Team.
There will always be a debate about practice and what is the best form of it. If you had a spare half-hour, would you go to the range or go play some holes? I feel both have their merits and that the individual has to have a healthy balance of both activities to improve their overall game. So let’s discuss.

A saying I like to use often is: “You can swing on the range, but you need to play golf on the course.” When you are working at the practice facility, you have a completely different mindset. Generally, you are working on timing, tempo or possibly swing mechanics. In the back of your mind, you know that if you miss-hit a shot you can always drag another ball over and redeem yourself immediately. You are not concerned about scoring or course management, and you are not challenged with an uneven lie, a strong headwind or a short-sided pitch shot with the green running away from you.

Most of the time you have a perfect lie, calm heartbeat and confidence from the same swing you just made a few seconds ago. It is for these reasons that practicing on the range is helpful and serves a purpose but is not enough alone to lower your scores. You also have to take it to the course.

When we get on the course, our frame of mind is diverted from trying to make a good swing, or a good follow through, or focusing on transferring our weight. Now, we are trying to hit it. That engages a completely different part of the subconscious. This is also why we struggle to repeat our practice swing, because we are not practicing our swing anymore, we are just trying to hit.

Even worse are the negative thoughts that enter your mind. While on the course we have negative thoughts like: “Don’t hit in the water, or out of bounds, or in the bunker.” That is another reason to play more. You can only learn to control your emotions if you put yourself in those uncomfortable positions: learning how to embrace the challenge of playing the course, learning how to accept the challenges that are thrown at you, and being able to hit a bad shot and not let it affect the next one. These are things that can’t be learned on the practice range.

So I challenge you, if you want to lower your scores then find a healthy balance between practice on the range and playing the course. The range is a good place to sort out your swing, develop consistency in your motions, fundamentals and mechanics, but the course is where you learn to score. Being confident when you are uncomfortable can only be developed by simulating the scenario. Quite simply, don’t be a “range rat.” There is just as much to learn and accomplish by playing and making the course your opponent.

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.
Predictions for the 2019 NFL Season

BY GIL BRANDT
NFL ANALYST

MVP: Patrick Mahomes, Kansas City Chiefs: No second-year QB since Dan Marino took the NFL by storm like Mahomes, who joined Tom Brady and Peyton Manning as the only players to have passed for 50-plus touchdowns and 5,000-plus yards in a single season. Even with uncertainty in the running game, there's scant reason to believe Mahomes' third go-round will be any less impressive considering two elite targets (wide receiver Tyreek Hill and tight end Travis Kelce) are returning with the addition of explosive rookie WR Mecole Hardman (second round/UGA) and optimism that a healthy Sammy Watkins can be a consistent threat after a 10-catch, 176-yard effort in two postseason games.

Offensive Player of the Year: Saquon Barkley, New York Giants: There will always be a debate about whether the Giants should have taken a quarterback with the second overall pick in the 2018 NFL draft. What can't be questioned: the splash made by the player chosen instead of Sam Darnold, Josh Allen and Josh Rosen. Barkley became the most prolific rookie running back in Giants history and set multiple team records en route to compiling an NFL-best 2,028 yards from scrimmage. Barkley will be an even bigger focus of the Giants offense in 2019, especially with Odell Beckham Jr. traded to Cleveland and question marks at the wide receiver position due to injuries and Golden Tate's four-game PED suspension to open the season.

Defensive Player of the Year: Aaron Donald, Los Angeles Rams: The NFL's lightest interior defensive lineman—he played at 265 pounds for most of 2018—is also its best. Donald's 20.5 sacks in 2018 represented a career high despite the constant blocking attention he receives from opposing offenses. The Rams are better poised to capitalize upon that with its outside pass rush after re-signing Dante Fowler and adding Clay Matthews Jr. in free agency. Donald should become the first player to capture the Defensive POY honor for three consecutive years.

Offensive Rookie of the Year: Kyler Murray, Arizona Cardinals: Larry Fitzgerald told me that Murray is like no other rookie quarterback he has worked with (the list includes Josh Rosen and Matt Leinart). That's because Murray was able to hit the ground running with the same style offense he ran in college being installed by new Cardinals head coach Kliff Kingsbury. Keep an eye on Chicago Bears running back David Montgomery, who shows every sign of being a third-round steal.

Defensive Rookie of the Year: Josh Allen, Jacksonville Jaguars: Yes, it was the preseason. Yes, it was against a Miami Dolphins squad with big-time challenges on offense. But the dominating 27 snaps that Allen provided in Jacksonville's third preseason game should be a sign of what's to come from the draft's No. 7 overall pick. New York Jets DT Quinnen Williams and Buffalo DT Ed Oliver should have strong rookie campaigns as well, but the supporting pass-rush talent surrounding Allen is better and should provide him more opportunities to make an impact.

Comeback Player of the Year: Carson Wentz, Philadelphia Eagles: The 2018 season was rough for Wentz because of injury and a lack of team success (5-6 as a starter) despite him posting solid stats with 21 TDs, seven INTs, and career-highs in QB rating (102.2), completion percentage (69.6) and average passing yards per game (279.5). Wentz should justify why the Eagles signed him to a huge contract during the offseason after letting his understudy Nick Foles leave for Jacksonville in free agency.

Coach of the Year: Jason Garrett: Garrett is going into the final year of his contract, which adds a do-or-die element to a season in which expectations surrounding the Cowboys are sky high. But every time the seat is hottest, Garrett's teams have responded. When he entered the final year of his contract in 2014, the Cowboys responded with a 12-4 record. When more speculation about his job security surfaced in 2016, the Cowboys went 13-3 with a rookie quarterback (Dak Prescott). In terms of talent, this is the best Garrett has worked with during his nine-plus seasons on the job. That should reflect in how the Cowboys perform this season and land Garrett another lucrative extension.

Division winners:

AFC
- AFC East: New England Patriots
- AFC North: Pittsburgh Steelers
- AFC South: Tennessee Titans
- AFC West: Kansas City Chiefs

NFC
- NFC East: Dallas Cowboys
- NFC North Chicago Bears
- NFC South: Atlanta Falcons
- NFC West: L.A. Rams

Wild-card 1: Buffalo Bills
Wild-card 2: San Diego Chargers

Super Bowl: Dallas Cowboys vs. New England Patriots

Super Bowl Champion: Dallas Cowboys

Gil Brandt was inducted into the 2019 Pro Football Hall of Fame for his contributions to the gridiron game. As vice president of player personnel for the Dallas Cowboys from 1960-89, Brandt helped Dallas grow into one of the most popular sports franchises in America. Brandt has spent the last eight years as NFL.com's main personnel guru.

PHOTO BY JEFFREY BEALL
BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY – The U.S. Biathlon Association recently announced that they’ve selected West Yellowstone to host its 2020 National Championships. The event, scheduled for March 25–29, will take place at the Rendezvous Ski Trails, a recreation area treasured by Nordic athletes throughout the region.

Organizers will release the race schedule and registration information as the event nears, but the association has said there will be opportunities for both elite athletes and beginners alike to participate.

Dating back to 1767, when the first biathlon event was recorded near the Norway-Sweden border, the sport combines skiing with marksmanship in a timed event. Biathlon was added to the 1960 Winter Olympics and the sport is rooted in Scandinavian lore, named in honor of Ullr, the Norse god of skiing and hunting.

The 2020 competition will be jointly hosted by Bozeman’s Crosscut Mountain Sports Center, a nonprofit that operates the sports training and recreational facility adjacent to Bridger Bowl, and the West Yellowstone Ski Education Foundation, according to WYSEF Program Director Toni Brey.

“The West Yellowstone Ski Education Foundation is thrilled to have been selected to host an event like the 2020 National Biathlon Championships,” Brey said. “We look forward to working closely with Crosscut to offer a high level of competition for the experienced biathlete as well as events and clinics for the novice biathlete.”

USBA Chairman Robert Hall believes the event in such close proximity to Big Sky will provide a special opportunity for area residents to travel south on Highway 191 and enjoy the unique spectacle that biathlon provides. Hall, a Big Sky resident himself, also said the event will also give folks a chance to get acquainted with some of the U.S. athletes prior to the 2022 Beijing Olympics, where Hall projects the U.S. team will perform well.

“Everyone owes it to themselves to do the hour drive and go watch,” he said.

Lowell Bailey, the U.S. Biathlon team’s high-performance director from Lake Placid, New York, became the first American in history to win a biathlon World Championship in 2017. Bailey considered retiring in 2016, but a new biathlon venture kept him active in the sport and pushed him to his 2017 victory when he aided in the creation of Crosscut Mountain Sports Center and served as the organization’s first executive director. He also serves as athlete representative for U.S. Biathlon Association as well as the International Biathlon Union.
MODERN STYLE, MONTANA SOUL.

Come and experience Bozeman’s most unique furniture and decor showroom—a contemporary vision paired with the spirit of Montana that inspires, excites, and brings the joy of mountain living to your home.

23 W. BABCOCK STREET, BOZEMAN, MT
406.577.2000 | ARCHITECTSWIFE.COM
@ARCHITECTSWIFE

DON’T BE FOOLED BY OUR ROADHOUSE ROOTS
Riverstone Ranch
Riverstone is a first-class sporting property set up to host small conferences and retreats. There is a recreational building, four, three-bedroom guest homes and stocked fishing ponds on this 337± acre ranch, sited on the banks of the East and Main Boulder Rivers near McLeod, MT.

$15,000,000  |  #362529

Riverstone Ranch
A complete alpine section of land (640± acres) totally surrounded by national forest and wilderness in a location that could never be duplicated. The building compound consists of numerous log homes, a manager's cabin, and a host of support improvements including an off-grid power plant.

$7,750,000  |  #321235

Montana at your fingertips
Download the new EBS App
Culture • Local News • Events
MARKETING    |    MEDIA    |    EVENTS    |    explorebigsky.com
LPC Golden Goats win third Big Sky Softball Tournament in a row

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – The last weekend of every August, the parking lot at the Big Sky Community Park fills to the brim, and the smell of grilled burgers and hot dogs greets participants in the Big Sky Coed Softball League’s year-end tournament, marking the last days of summer with two days of action-packed games, friendly competition and light-hearted heckling.

Heading into the second day of the double elimination tournament, it was hard to pick a favorite to win the trophy. The previous day the Yeti Dogs put on a hitting exhibition that gave the regular season champion Cinema Bears their first loss by mercy rule in the fifth inning.

On Sunday morning, Milkie’s Big Dogs lost a lopsided game against the returning tournament champions, the LPC Golden Goats, but bounced back and sent the Cinema Bears packing in their next game, giving them confidence that they could take some hardware home at the end of the day.

The LPC Golden Goats and the perennial powerhouse Hillbilly Huckers emerged as the last teams without a loss, facing off for a spot in the finals. It was a game for the ages. Led by shortstop Lee Horning, the Huckers went up 11-0 in the top of the first inning and were leading by as many as 13 runs during the game.

But the Goats started hitting consistently late in the game, chipping away at the lead down the stretch. Down 21-25 in the bottom of the seventh inning, shortstop Joe O’Connor hit a game-tying grand slam followed by a solo home run by left fielder Ryan Rothing to walk off and edge out their rivals in the nick of time.

The Huckers didn’t play like themselves in their next game against Milkie’s, who after a solid showing against the Huckers, had plenty of momentum going into the finals against the Goats. With solid defense, LPC managed to win the final game 16-8, becoming tournament champions for the third consecutive year.

“I’m proud of this team. Winning three in a row is not easy and we pulled it off. It was team effort all around.” said Charlie Gaillard, pitcher and coach for the Goats.

“All in all it was a great season. The new teams were a lot of fun and a great addition to the league. The saving grace was hiring ASA umps for the tourney,” said Queen Jean Palmer. “Congrats to the league champs Cinema Bears and champions of the world (as we know it) Golden Goats. Can’t wait ‘til next year!”

Your Home town Lender

Brett Evertz
AVP/Mortgage Branch Manager
NMIS# 523473
406.629.0132

SPECIALIZES IN:
• Primary Home Loans
• Vacation Home Loans
• Construction Loans

Opportunity Mortgage
A Division of Opportunity Bank of Montana
BANK NMIS# 412554
Thank you all for your support over the years. Free cookies at 9:00am daily during renovation!

The Moose is going under renovation but don't worry. We are open!

A few things to look forward to:

- More space
- More groceries
- More beer & wine
- More flowers
- More gifts
- More fresh produce

(And a few more surprises on their way)

Thank you all for your support over the years. Free cookies at 9:00am daily during renovation!

Protect what matters most.

At AssuredPartners, we're here to provide best-in-class asset protection and unparalleled service when wildfire strikes. Through our powerful partnerships we are able to provide complimentary wildfire defensive services that protect your home before, during and after a wildfire.

Contact Rob Kerdasha for a complimentary review of your current homeowners policy

www.assuredpartners.com  843.706.2438  robert.kerdasha@assuredpartners.com
All information contained herein is derived from sources deemed reliable, however, is not guaranteed by Pure Real Estate, LLC., Managing Broker, Agents or Sellers. Offering is subject to error, omissions, prior sales, price change or withdrawal without notice and approval of purchase by Seller. We urge independent verification of each and every item submitted, to the satisfaction of any prospective purchaser.

**SUMMIT PENTHOUSE 11004/1003 | $1,995,000**
- 4 bdrm | 4.5 bath | 2,200 +/- SF | Underground, heated parking for 2 vehicles
- Single-level living adjacent to the Biggest Skiing in America at the Big Sky Resort
- Radiant hardwood floor heating, granite countertops, Viking appliances, hot tub, and more

**7 TOP CLIFF MANOR | $995,000**
- 3 bdrm | 2 bath | 1,818 +/- SF | .78 acres
- FLY FISHING PARADISE with Gallatin River frontage!
- Thoroughly remodeled including master bedroom & bath, kitchen, new flooring and more

**13 MOOSE RIDGE ROAD, UNIT 19 | $395,000**
- 2 bdrm | 2 bath | 783 SF
- Adjacent to the planned 2025 new Mountain Village Center at Big Sky Resort
- New paint, carpeting, and windows in the master bedrooms and living room

**135 SUMMIT VIEW DRIVE | $450,000**
- 3.85 +/- acres
- Located in the exclusive Summit View community with proximity to Big Sky Resort
- Unparalleled views of Lone Mountain and old-growth trees for privacy

**SUMMIT PENTHOUSE 11004/1003 | $1,995,000**
- 4 bdrm | 4 bath | 2,906 +/- SF
- Boasting one of the largest floor plans and a prime location in the Village core
- Direct access to 2 chairlifts, including the new Ramcharger 8 and all village amenities

**135 SUMMIT VIEW DRIVE | $450,000**
- 3.85 +/- acres
- Located in the exclusive Summit View community with proximity to Big Sky Resort
- Unparalleled views of Lone Mountain and old-growth trees for privacy

**TBD OUTLOOK TRAIL, LOT 1 | $359,900**
- 2.962 +/- acres
- Old growth trees, abundant wildlife, and live water
- Close to all Meadow amenities and adjacent to x-country and mountain biking trails

---

**BIG SKY • MOONLIGHT BASIN • SPANISH PEAKS • YELLOWSTONE CLUB**

---

**EVENT PRODUCTION**
**SOUND**
**LIGHTING**
**AV**
JericoStudios.com | 406-586-5262

---

**COME VISIT US AT OUR TOWN CENTER LOCATION!**
406.995.4009
www.BigSkyPureWest.com

---

**JERECO STUDIOS**

---

**JERICOSTUDIOS.COM | 406-586-5262**
RFID scanning technology makes the ski day even more seamless

BIG SKY RESORT

BIG SKY – Gone are the days of paper tickets, removing gloves and fumbling with lanyards to present a ticket or pass to load the chairlifts at Big Sky Resort. This summer, Big Sky Resort will install Axess smart gates equipped with radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology at select lifts that serve as access points to the mountain. RFID allows a ticket or season pass to be scanned from inside a pocket, keeping hands warm and ski days smooth.

Starting in the 2019-2020 ski season, all winter lift tickets and season pass products will be loaded on to a Sky Card equipped with RFID technology. RFID gates will be installed will automatically open with active media.

“RFID technology allows for a guest-friendly lift ticket and season pass process, making it easier than ever to load lifts and add additional days to your pass without visiting the ticket window,” said Troy Nedved, vice president of mountain services for Big Sky Resort.

All Sky Card media will be electronically reloadable for added guest convenience. Once guests have a Sky Card, days can be reloaded online, eliminating the need to visit the ticket window to update passes or lift tickets.

THE BIG SKY CHAMBER EXTENDS A BIG GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 23rd Annual

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019
5:30 - 7:30  PM | NINETEENTH HOLE GOLF SOCIAL

PRESENTED BY:
Visit with the Shelly Bermont Fine Jewelry Team at Hole #5 and enter for a chance to win a pair of beautiful Akoya Pearl studs on 18kt white gold. All proceeds will be donated to the Women’s in Action summer scholarship program.

Tickets are $30 per person
To purchase call (406) 995-3000 or email Caitlin@BigSkyChamber.com

Our Community. Our Business.

The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce is a 501 (c)(6) nonprofit, membership organization.

SOLD OUT

Thanks to our generous Hole Sponsors and community the 406 Golf Tournament SOLD OUT in record time! Not playing? Space is still available for dinner and networking at the Nineteenth Hole Golf Social.

Tickets are $30 per person
To purchase call (406) 995-3000 or email Caitlin@BigSkyChamber.com

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BIG SKY RESORT
BIG SKY - After spending several winters as ski bums in Utah and teaching and traveling in Asia, Christian and Amy Johnsen decided it was time to put down some roots and get serious. While checking out Bozeman as a prospect, they took a drive up to Big Sky and fell under the command-trance of Lone Peak. “Maybe we can ski bum for one more year,” they thought to themselves. Having always worked in restaurants, the husband-and-wife duo knew they eventually wanted to have a sandwich shop of sorts. In 2001, they got their chance when they became the third owners of the Blue Moon Bakery. Since then, they’ve evolved the small-scale bakery into a restaurant and community staple. “Through a keen and personal focus on relationships with staff and a very regular customer base, the Johnsen’s have established a gathering place they hope will serve the community they love for years to come.

EBS: What is most unique about the Blue Moon compared to other restaurants in Big Sky?
BMB: “Tourists are our bread and butter; they’re what we make our gravy here, too. We have 10 rooms of housing, associated with the business. We have an opportunity to live their lifestyle and provide them with the means to live opportunity for getting out, and also affording people that work here the opportunity to do the same down the road.”

EBS: How do you use your business to become involved in the community?
EBS: “There are lots of charities that we support. We try to be generous, especially in-kind support of people’s events or charitable organizations. We are always up for a gift card or a breakfast or a pizza.”

EBS: What is it about Big Sky that compels you to stay?
BMB: “It’s beautiful here, and there is skiing. It’s so nice to be in a town where you know most people, where you walk around and acknowledge each other and say hello. We love Big Sky. Some people would be driven cray by small town living, but we’ve taken to it. We feel very fortunate to be successful here.”

EBS: What’s the best piece of business advice you’ve received?
BMB: “Value the people that make you money and that you depend on to make it. You can’t treat your employees like they are disposable. You’ve got to nurture your relationship with them and develop a real sense of mutual respect. It’s a positive feedback loop that we want to keep alive.”

EBS: As a business owner and resident, what hopes do you have for Big Sky as the town develops?
BMB: “That they don’t forget the little guys, too. I would hope that there is some consideration by whatever powers make the decisions to make sure that the people that are here, that are actually doing the work, that make the town go can live a decent lifestyle.”

EBS: How do you incorporate the mountain town lifestyle in your business?
BMB: “The biggest way is through having the business provide us the opportunity to get out, and also affording people that work here the opportunity to live their lifestyle and provide them with the means to live here, too. We have 10 rooms of housing, associated with the business. We own these spots so that we can put [our employees] up, too.”

Amy and Christian Johnsen, owners of the local Blue Moon Bakery, became the third owners of the business over 18 years ago. PHOTO BY BELLA BUTLER

Making it in Big Sky: Blue Moon Bakery

Our Mission: Serving as the VOICE of Business, the Big Sky Chamber CHAMPIONS a healthy economy and works collaboratively with community stakeholders (CONVENES) as a CATALYST to improve the overall quality of life in the region.

Not a member? Contact us today to find out more.

BIGSKYCHAMBER.COM | 406.995.3000 | CAITLIN@BIGSKYCHAMBER.COM

The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce is a 501(c) 6 Nonprofit Membership Organization
If you think about it, just about any one of us could find something that we think we do correctly and most other people, if not all, do wrong. It could be how most folks pronounce a word. It may be a simple process that everyone does, such as packing a grocery bag.

As an experienced chef, that list of things I would perceive people do incorrectly is probably longer than the average person’s.

But there is one task—one very simple thing that is so benign that I bet very few people even believe there is a right or wrong way to do it—and the wrong way is so ingrained in our society that it has become a real challenge to convince people their method is incorrect. But again, as a chef, we have a saying: “There is a right and wrong way to do everything.”

Virtually no one knows how to do this: I’m talking about the correct way to pour a beer.

Think back to when beer commercials were prevalent on television. Miller High Life, Löwenbräu, Budweiser and countless others that dominated our prime time advertising. Almost every commercial ended with a close-up of a beautifully golden beer being poured into a glass. And in every one of those commercials the beer had a healthy head of foam.

Fast forward to the mid 1990s. Small breweries and brewpubs began emerging in areas like the West Coast, Midwest, and the Northeast. Congruently, and I can’t seem to find out why, Americans began pouring tap beers fuller than a diner glass of milk.

It has now become so indelible in our psyche that if we now receive a beer with a head, we believe we have been slighted or shorted by the bartender.

So just how do you pour a proper beer? Start by tipping the glass like usual, but then once the glass is about one-third full, begin tipping the glass vertical again, while continuing to pour down the side of the glass. When done properly, your beer should have between one-and-a-half and two fingers of head on it. That is a properly poured beer.

“I don’t drink beer. It’s just too filling.” I hear that all the time. My response:

That’s because they aren’t pouring it right. That’s about the time I get a puzzled condescending look.

Beer is a heavily carbonated beverage. Some of that carbonation is naturally created as the yeast consumes the sugars in the unfermented beer, or wort, and converts it to alcohol. Some of that CO2 dissipates while some is intentionally captured. Then even more CO2 is incorporated. This is predominantly what is filling you up.

The next time you are served a beer at a bar, ask for a napkin. Fold it up into a tube shape with as much surface area as you can create. Drink the top quarter inch of the top. Next, quickly dunk the napkin all the way in and quickly remove it.

What happens next will have your bartender rushing over with a bar towel asking what happened as it erupts like the Yellowstone supervolcano. All that CO2 getting released and causing a huge mess would otherwise be trapped in your stomach with nowhere to go. No wonder we say beer is filling.

So the solution is simple, since I highly doubt manufacturers will begin making larger glasses, simply charge an ever so slightly less price and pour the beer with a proper head on it. Then everyone wins. And I would argue that because beer drinkers would feel less full, as they should, it could easily mean the difference in purchasing one more. I personally have put that to the test.

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.
Vine & Dine Festival offers world-class culinary adventure

BY DOUG HARE

Dozens of resort guests and Montana locals were treated to a gastronomic extravaganza from Aug. 15-18 at Big Sky Resort. The sixth annual Vine & Dine Festival attracted foodies, oenophiles, spirit connoisseurs and bon vivants who spent four days rubbing elbows with master sommeliers, top culinary talent and prestigious winemakers from around the world.

Featuring dinners, wine tastings, wine and cheese pairings and talks from Chef Scott Giambastiani, Kent Torrey from the Cheese Shop of Carmel, CA, and world-renowned Master Sommeliers Fred Dame and Jay Fletcher set against the backdrop of a late summer Lone Mountain, even Dionysus, the Greek god of wine and festivity, would have been impressed.

Highlights of the event included “Pinot on the Peak,” a wine and food tasting on the summit of Lone Mountain; The “Master’s Dinner,” a five course meal (prepared by Giambastiani himself) with exquisite wine pairings chosen by Dame and Fletcher hosted at Everett’s 8800, and “Cheese & Wine...One Stinky Good Time,” which explored the art of pairing fine wine and cheese. Big Sky Resort’s Master Chef Sunil Malhotra reported that his favorite activity was the speakeasy event.

“This is our sixth year since starting Vine & Dine in Big Sky. I feel this was the best event to date. The resort did a great job in pulling off an immersive, fun and impactful community event, drawing guests from around the country,” said Scott Giambastiani, Food Program Director for Google, who has participated in the event since its inception.

Kudos to Master Sommeliers Fred Dame, Jay Fletcher and Kent Torrey for making this an unforgettable destination event. I look forward to working alongside these gentlemen year after year.”

Giambastiani noted that he is proud to continue to collaborate with ProStart students during the festival, taking time to help mentor tomorrow’s culinary talent. Besides the scenery, the underlying mission of helping a handful of Montana high school students get a jump-start in the world of culinary arts is what brings him back to Big Sky year after year, he said.

This year, six Prostart students were exposed firsthand to high-end food and wine, the knowledge of famous sommeliers and the talents of master chefs. Giambastiani said he finds it rewarding that he’s been able to help ProStart students who participated in the event in the past find jobs as food industry professionals.

“I thought the event went as smooth as a baby’s [bottom] this year. This was by far the best one yet,” said Sunil Malhotra, after winning the long putt competition in the 9-hole golf tournament at a festive brunch and Bloody Mary tasting at The Bunker Deck & Grill to close out what seemed like a gourmand’s dream. “I think I might go take a nap.”
Talk to a doctor after hours.

It’s like having a new BFF.

Upset stomach?
Get answer after hours for commonly treated conditions such as indigestion, or flu and cold symptoms from your cellphone, computer or tablet with b2 VirtualCare.

Convenient care when & where you need it.
American Life in Poetry: 
Column 752

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. POET LAUREATE

Let’s hope that by the time this column appears all fires in California have been extinguished. I wanted to offer you a poem that shows us what that beautiful but arid state can look like before it’s caught fire. The poet, Dana Gioia, served as Chair of the National Endowment for the Arts and has been a friend to, and advocate for, poetry for many years. This poem appeared in the anthology, Fire and Rain: Ecopoetry of California, from Scarlet Tanager Books.

California Hills in August
By Dana Gioia

I can imagine someone who found these fields unbearable, who climbed the hillside in the heat, cursing the dust, cracking the brittle weeds underfoot, wishing a few more trees for shade.

An Easterner especially, who would scorn the meagerness of summer, the dry twisted shapes of black elm, scrub oak, and chaparral, a landscape August has already drained of green.

One who would hurry over the clinging thistle, foxtail, golden poppy, knowing everything was just a weed, unable to conceive that these trees and sparse brown bushes were alive.

And hate the bright stillness of the noon without wind, without motion, the only other living thing a hawk, hungry for prey, suspended in the blinding, sunlit blue.

And yet how gentle it seems to someone raised in a landscape short of rain—the skyline of a hill broken by no more trees than one can count, the grass, the empty sky, the wish for water.

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.

Creighton Block

GALLERY

Trunk Show featuring hand loomed Himalayan cashmere shawls represented by Hannah Johansen

Friday August 30 and Saturday August 31
Noon - 5PM

Town Center, Big Sky, Montana | creightonblockgallery.com | 406.993.9400

Hand Loomed
Each shawl takes many man hours to complete from the combing of the goat to collect the hair, the sorting out of guard hairs, spinning, hand weaving, dying and finishing. Therefore, every shawl is unique.

Luxury and Longevity
As elegant as they are durable, your cashmere treasures become a timeless staple in your fashion wardrobe and home decor for years and years to come.

Hannah with a nomad who herds the goats, their undercoat of which is made into cashmere shawls. The fibers are spun and then woven. There are many steps to go through from goat to shawl.

Creighton Block Gallery is proud to represent the artistry of Hand Loom Himalayan weavers.
BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY – With no hyperbole, one could say the people of Big Sky are slightly obsessed with mountains—but can you blame them with a 11,166-foot hulking mass perpetually looming over the community, 24/7, 365 days a year?

It’s only fitting that Big Sky play host to a film festival celebrating the awe-inspiring, practically celestial, bodies of rock and soil that trace and groove every continent in every climate, creating unique ecosystems for endemic flora and fauna, furnishing the setting for some of humanity’s most daring acts.

Back for its fourth year in Big Sky, the roots of Mountainfilm stretch back to 1979 Telluride, Colorado. One of the nation’s longest-running film festivals, Mountainfilm is supported by an eponymous nonprofit organization that “celebrates stories of indomitable spirit and aims to inspire audiences through film, art and ideas,” according to the Arts Council of Big Sky website.

ACBS Education and Outreach Director Megan Buecking said this year’s festival is a continued collaboration with Mountainfilm HQ in Telluride, and is broken into three days with specific themes and film offerings beginning on Friday, Sept. 13.

“The first day is Mountainfilm for Students on Friday,” said Buecking, a former art teacher for the Big Sky School District. “It comes from an educational standpoint, and a ... couple of teachers are building Mountainfilm into their curriculums for additional integration.”

Those inaugural film offerings, closed to the public and held at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, will be followed by a screening of “The Weight of Water,” a film showcasing the accomplishments of the first-ever blind kayaker, Erik Weihenmayer, to navigate the massive and treacherous rapids of the Grand Canyon, no small feat for even those with perfect 20/20 vision. Tickets cost $15, which gives attendees access to a reception at 6 p.m. and the 7 p.m. screening.

“Megan gave me three films to screen and I just fell in love with “The Weight of Water,” said Rich Addicks, an ACBS board member and integral piece in bringing the festival to Big Sky four years ago. “It’s a wonderful film—emotional and inspirational, and it’s really well filmed and well told. If you’re a river person at all there will be moments you’re holding breath.”

The event will also be supplemented with a raffle to support local businesses and the ACBS.

“We will also be doing some door prizes with items donated by local businesses, with proceeds going to the Arts Council,” Buecking said. “A raffle ticket will come with the purchase of a ticket for the film, and more raffle tickets will be available for purchase at the WMPAC.”

On Saturday, Sept. 14, Women in Action, a Big Sky nonprofit geared to address the needs of children and families lacking educational, health and human services access, will present the Mountainfilm for Families Matinee, a free, but with limited seating available—so be sure to sign up online, event held at Lone Peak Cinema beginning at 10:30 a.m., complete with an art project, snacks and family-friendly documentary shorts.

Later that evening, the fourth annual night of Documentary Shorts at Lone Peak Cinema will commence with a reception at 6 p.m.

“The shorts touch on all the different action sports we [Big Sky locals] like,” Buecking said. “We really tried to get a healthy mix of different things—meaningful content to keep people engaged.”

The event will include door prizes and giveaways, will cost $15 and will conclude with an afterparty for those looking to continue in the Mountainfilm revelries.

Should one decide to partake in the afterparty, bear in mind that Sunday morning kicks off with a run. A special collaboration between ACBS and the Big Sky Community Organization, the “Town to Trails Race,” welcomes all levels of trail runners to tour Big Sky’s Uplands and Hummocks trail systems, a roughly 6-mile course.

A $35 registration fee includes a long-sleeve race shirt and prizes for top winners.

Mountainfilm On Tour returns to Big Sky for fourth year
The race is set to begin at 10 a.m. at the corner of Aspen and Simkins drives, the future site of the BASE community center.

“We are all really excited about this collaboration,” Buecking said. “It’s pretty great when two community nonprofits can get together and make something special.”

Mountainfilm On Tour will close out with a free screening of a series of short documentaries in Big Sky Town Center Park, each documentary focusing on culture and society. The screening will be family-friendly and open to all, so that any passerby might be enticed to join in on the viewing.

“Bring chairs, bring a blanket, bring some snacks and bring family and friends,” Buecking said.

Sometimes, as we go throughout our day-to-day lives in Big Sky, even that optical omnipresence of Lone Mountain can fade into the background of the day’s minutia. A call to action: Take part in Mountainfilm On Tour, if only to refresh that fixation that brought us all here in the first place.

Visit bigskyarts.org to view the full schedule and purchase tickets.
ACBS grows Big Sky music scene

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY – Just over two years ago, a law school drop-out and an attorney set aside their pragmatic career paths in the pursuit of music and self-expression. In 2018, their dreams were validated as their band Mt. Joy’s song “Silver Lining” ended the year ranked at No. 13 on Billboard’s Top Adult Alternative Songs.

One thousand miles away from the five-piece band’s home in Los Angeles, California, Brian Hurlbut, executive director for the Arts Council of Big Sky, took a liking to the band’s hit track from their self-titled album, which was written by lead singer Matt Quinn as a reaction to witnessing his college peers dying young due to drugs.

On a business trip to St. Louis in December 2018, Hurlbut saw Mt. Joy play and was stunned by their live show. He immediately pegged them as a potential performance for the Music in the Mountains summer series.

“Mr. Joy, intrigued by the scenic outdoor venue and unique, slow-paced community of Big Sky, obliged the offer to play Music in the Mountains on Aug. 15. The show, in part sponsored by Moonlight MusicFest, kickstarted the festival with a packed show featuring an audience of Big Sky residents, visitors and Mr. Joy fans from the surrounding region. In between introducing fresh material from their new in-progress album, the band delighted the crowd with a selection of their most popular songs mixed in with covers of the Flaming Lips, Bill Withers and Buffalo Springfield. The entire set had the swelling crowd on their feet, singing along well after the sun set behind the Spanish Peaks.”

Hurlbut, while counting nights like that as successful, said shows like Mt. Joy’s inspire the question “How big can this get?” When Thursday night performances draw crowds of 5,000 to 6,000, the venue is at capacity, and as Big Sky and Gallatin Valley grow, it’s a sound prediction that the popularizing Music in the Mountains will only attract more people. At some point, however, the influx of music fans will need to be limited, with a sound prediction that the popularizing Music in the Mountains will only attract more people. At some point, however, the influx of music fans will need to be limited, with infrastructure only supporting what it was designed to.

Hurlbut also hopes to maintain the hard-earned atmosphere and fears particularly large crowds may interrupt the intimate nature of it, but for now, Hurlbut will continue his 50-60 hours a week listening to music and researching groups that will continue to build the flourishing music environment in the Big Sky community.

Montana State University professor Jeremiah Slovarp, left, and MSU graduate Luke Scheeler won Emmys in audio for their work on the MontanaPBS-produced series “11th and Grant with Eric Funk” at the 56th annual regional Emmy awards ceremony presented by the Northwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. PHOTO COURTESY OF JEREMIAH SLOVARP

MSU graduate and faculty member win regional Emmy for audio

MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN — A Montana State University alumnus and a faculty member have won a regional Emmy award in the audio category for their work on the MontanaPBS-produced series “11th and Grant with Eric Funk.”

Luke Scheeler and Jeremiah Slovarp won an Emmy in audio at the 56th annual regional Emmy awards ceremony presented by the Northwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Both attended the ceremony, which was held in Seattle in June.

“11th and Grant with Eric Funk” is a series on MontanaPBS that recognizes Montana musicians.

Scheeler is an MSU graduate with a bachelor’s in music technology in the School of Music in the College of Arts and Architecture. Slovarp, who is an MSU graduate, is currently a faculty member in MSU’s music technology program. The two work together at Jereco Studios in Bozeman. Slovarp has worked on projects with several large media organizations including, but not limited to PBS, National Geographic, Microsoft, Disney, Nickelsodeon and NBC. Scheeler has been a sound editor for numerous documentaries, such as “Life Interrupted,” “Depth Perception” and “The Violin Alone.”

The Northwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences covers broadcast and film organizations throughout Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.
**BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR**

**FRIDAY, AUG. 30**
The Rut Runs
Vertical Kilometer
Big Sky Resort, 1 p.m.

**SATURDAY, AUG. 31**
The Rut Runs
28K
Big Sky Resort, 8 a.m.

**TASTE**
Food and Beverage Event
Lone Mountain Ranch, 3 p.m.

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 1**
The Rut Runs
11K and 50K
Big Sky Resort, 6 a.m.

**MONDAY, SEPT. 2**
Santosha Wellness Center Community Yoga and Lunch
Proceeds to benefit the BSCO
Big Sky Town Center Park, 12 p.m.

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 3**
Bogert Farmer’s Market
Lindley Center, 5 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 4**
Big Sky Farmers’ Market
Big Sky Town Center, Fire Pit Park, 5 p.m.

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 5**
Live Music: Pinky and the Floyd
Music in the Mountains
Center Stage at Town Center Park, 6 p.m.

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 6**
Love and Friendship
Jazz performance
Reynolds Hall, Bozeman, 7:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 7**
Gallatin Valley Farmer’s Market
Gallatin County Fairgrounds, Bozeman, 9 a.m.

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 8**
Love and Friendship
Jazz performance
Shane Laiani Center for the Arts, Livingston, 3 p.m.

**MONDAY, SEPT. 9**
Live Music: Wyatt Hurts
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 10**
Bogert Farmer’s Market
Lindley Center, 5 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 11**
Live Music: STRFKR
The Rialto, Bozeman, 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 12**
Live Music: Few Miles South Band
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

---

**WORTH THE DRIVE**

The Kitchen Dwellers, a five-piece band from Bozeman, will play a two-night gig at the Pine Creek Lodge in Paradise Valley. CREATIVE COMMONS PHOTO

**Live Music: Kitchen Dwellers**
Pine Creek Lodge, Paradise Valley
Sept. 6-7

Formed at Bozeman’s Montana State University, the Kitchen Dwellers have garnered national attention, accruing nearly 30,000 monthly listeners on Spotify. The Montana-based bluegrass band has played on stage with the likes of the Infamous Stringdusters, Twiddle and Railroad Earth, among others. Recent tours have taken them across the country to venues such as the Telluride Bluegrass Festival and the Brooklyn Bowl, but on the first weekend of September they will grace the stage of the Pine Creek Lodge. With the group’s spin on the genre that fans have dubbed ‘Galaxy Grass’ accompanied by a view of one of the West’s most famed scenic valleys, the Kitchen Dweller’s performance will be a fantastic way to bid summer farewell.

For attendees hoping to travel from Bozeman or Livingston, Party Bus Rentals will be operating a shuttle service to and from the venue to ensure responsible celebration of the end of the season.

---

**Alcoholics Anonymous** can help if you think you might have a drinking problem. Call (888) 607-2000 to talk to a member of A.A., or go to aa-montana.org for meeting times and locations.
Gallatin Valley and Greater Montana Ranch Properties

3170 Winter Park Unit B | Bozeman, MT | $295,000
1,183 sq. ft.

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

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

How can we help you?
Call us today for stats, market updates and additional information

L&K Real Estate
LKRealEstate.com | 406.995.2404

All information given is considered reliable but because it has been supplied by third parties, we cannot represent that it is accurate or complete, and should not be relied upon as such. These offerings are subject to errors, omissions, and change including price or withdrawal without notice. ©2016 LK REAL ESTATE, llc. | lkrealestate.com
“Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw”

BY ANNA HUSTED
EBS FILM CRITIC

The number of outfit changes in “Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw” almost exceeds the amount of ball-busting banter thrown between Luke Hobbs (Dwayne Johnson) and Deckard Shaw (Jason Statham). Not only was this movie hilarious in the mutual defamation tossed between Hobbs and Shaw, but it also exceeded my expectations in comedy and action.

Our two heroes hate each other but are the only people in the world who can save it from a deadly virus stolen by Shaw’s sister Hattie (an outstanding Vanessa Kirby) so the bad guys, a Terminator-type Brixton (Edris Elba) and an off-screen supervillain named Etheon, can be foiled. The only way Hattie could keep the virus out of Brixton’s hands was to inject it into her own arm. Now the dynamic duo has only 72 hours to extract the virus from Hattie’s veins before it kills her—but they must do so while also avoiding Brixton and his cronies.

Unsurprisingly, the movie’s plot requires the implausible: flying to the U.K., Russia and Samoa, which cannot be done in 72 hours, but minor plot holes matter little when the action and insults are the best part of the movie.

“Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw” utilizes a split screen multiple times to convey comedy through action, as the contrasting behaviors of the protagonists, seen at the same time, are among the funniest parts of the movie; In the opening sequence Hobbs is seen chewing coffee grounds for breakfast while Shaw simultaneously makes himself an espresso. In yet another scene, Hobbs chooses to jump out of a building to catch the repelling villain while Shaw takes the elevator and beats them both to the bottom. This continual use of split screen creates comedy gold.

Now, the juicy action, what we come to expect in any Johnson or Statham film. Without giving too much away, the car chase scene in Britain gives “Baby Driver” a run for its money. Shot in a hand-held camera style, this car chase scene pays homage to “The French Connection” and gives literal reference to “The Italian Job”—is Shaw also Handsome Rob? I believe he is. There is also no way these two beef cakes could fit into a McLaren, but the illusion works because this film is just not based in reality.

Another comedic motif throughout the film is each character’s mutual love for fashion that far exceeds that of the female lead’s, a role reversal you don’t often see. These male characters change clothes so often it makes no sense that they only have carry-ons on their various flights. Charming plot holes abound. Fashion paired with the film’s clarity in action choreography makes for a sleek and fun look.

“Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw” does a great job of showing the in-between scenes. The scenes that do not have action or plot points are the funniest because they are full of clever insults and famous cameos. At one point Hobbs and Shaw are tortured for information and even then they hate each other more than they hate Brixton because there is nothing worse than being tortured, except being tortured next to your greatest frenemy.

As absurd as “Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw” is, I could watch this film for the rest of my life and die happy. It’s clever, action-packed, and satisfying imbued with 21st Century action.

“Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw” is now playing in theaters.

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.
**Calling all thespians!**

Community theater assembles cast for first autumn performance

**EBS STAFF**

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Community Theater has crystallized into a cherished Big Sky art staple since its 2013 inception, as the very members of the community we all live and work beside in our small mountain hamlet rally each year to put on a special performance. These intimate shows first took shape when John Zirkle, Warren Miller Performing Arts Center artistic director, and Jeremy Harder, then a fourth-grade teacher at Ophir Elementary, led the charge for the venue’s first-ever show, Oscar Wilde’s “The Importance of Being Earnest.”

The upcoming Community Theater play, “HOWL! A Montana Love Story,” written by local Virginia City playwright Albyon Adams, centers on the controversial reintroduction of wolves in Yellowstone National Park as told primarily through the experiences of ranchers and the hardships they endure, with or without the infamous canines leaping through their lands. With live music and plenty of Montana spunk, the play is sure to please Big Sky audiences, young and old.

“It’s cool to be doing something that’s from a local playwright, premiering in Big Sky,” Zirkle said. “It’s an all-in local, grassroots effort—which I love. With that comes a lot of adventure and risk-taking, it’s a little different than producing a classic piece of theater.”

The WMPAC is seeking five men and three women, of varying ages, to star in the production. Auditions will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 10, from 6-8 p.m. on the WMPAC stage. Come try your hand at the ancient, yet timeless, craft of live acting, and join the many members of the community that have done so before you.

“Auditions are informal and fun, people can show up at anytime, and they don’t need to bring anything but themselves,” Zirkle said. “No prior theater experience necessary.”

The show, directed by Cara Wilder, is set to premiere on Nov. 14 and 15, the first-ever WMPAC Community Theater double feature, and the first-ever fall performance.

---

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Yellowstone National Park boasts the nation’s largest free range buffalo herd, but only two others remain - the Henry's Mountains and Book Cliffs herds, both in southern Utah.

**RESPECT. PROTECT. CHERISH.**

Paid for by the animals in your backyard.

---

**Personalized mortgage options**

to fit your financial strategy

At U.S. Bank Private Wealth Management, we tailor the home financing experience to fit your needs.

Customized mortgage options include:

- Residential one to four units, fixed, adjustable or interest only mortgage options
- Mortgage priority process, products and scheduling to meet your loan closing date
- Primary, second home, condominium, co-op and investment one to four unit properties
- Residential single close construction, lot loan, renovation & expansion options
- Ability to hold title in an approved Trust, LLC, LLP, Corp or other non-operating entity
- Conforming, jumbo and super jumbo loan size availability
- Lending in all states (some loan types are limited to specific states)

Get started today. Contact your Private Wealth Advisor to find out more about residential mortgage options.

**Gina Marshall**
Wealth Management
Mortgage Banker
1450 N 19th Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59718
Direct: 406.522.3293
gina.marshall@usbank.com
NMLS#: 489006

**Jim Wentzel**
Wealth Management
Mortgage Banker
817 Colorado Ave. Ste 203
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
Direct: 970.494.3393
jim.wentzel@usbank.com
NMLS#: 91413

privatewealth.usbank.com
**BIG SKY BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

**EAT**

**Bucks T-4**
46625 Gallatin Road, Big Sky
(406) 581-3337
buckst4.com

**Country Market**
66 Market Place, Big Sky
(406) 995-4636
bigskygrocery.com

**Lone Peak Brewery**
48 Market Place, Big Sky
(406) 995-3939
lonepeakbrewery.com

**Olive B’s Big Sky Bistro**
15 Center Lane, Big Sky
(406) 995-3355
olivebsbigsky.com

**Lotus Pad**
47 Town Center Avenue Dr, Big Sky
(406) 995-2728
lotuspad.net

**SLEEP**

**Blue Raven Properties**
PO Box 160006, Big Sky
(406) 209-4850
info@blueravenproperties.com

**Bucks T-4**
46625 Gallatin Road, Big Sky
(406) 581-3337
buckst4.com

**PLAY**

**Boundary Expeditions**
PO Box 161888, Big Sky
1-888-948-4337
boundaryexpeditions.com

**Grand Targhee Resort**
3300 E Skihill Rd, Alta, WY 83414
(307) 353-2300
grandtarghee.com

**Lone Peak Performance and Fitness**
32 Market Place, Big Sky
(406) 995-4522 | lonepeakpt.com

**Ozssage**
2 Market Place, Big Sky
(406) 995-7575
ozssage.com

**SHOP**

**Architects Wife**
23 W Babcock Street, Bozeman MT
(406) 577-2000
architectswife.com

**Consignment Cabin**
48025 #2 Gallatin Rd.
(406) 993-9333
stores.myresaleweb.com/consignment-cabin

**Country Market**
66 Market Place, Big Sky
(406) 995-4636
bigskygrocery.com

**Creighton Block Gallery**
88 Ousel Falls Road, Big Sky
(406) 993-9400
creightonblockgallery.com

**Gallatin Alpine Sports**
169 Snowy Mountain Circle
(406) 995-2313
gallatinpinesports.com

**Grizzly Outfitters**
11 Lone Peak Dr ste 101, Big Sky
(406) 551-9470
grizzlyoutfitters.com

**Dave Pecunies**
Photography
33 Lone Peak Drive, Big Sky
davepecunies.com

**Shelly Bermont Fine Jewelry**
32 Market Place Suite 2, Big Sky
(406) 995-7833
shellybermont.com

**SERVICES**

**Anderson Enterprises**
(406) 995-2811
jimandersonenterprisesinc.com

**Assured Partners**
(843) 706-2438
assuredpartners.com

**Don Pilotte - Berkshire Hathaway**
55 Lone Peak Drive, Big Sky
(406) 995-4060
www.donsmontanaestates.com

**Big Sky Build**
87 Lone Peak Drive, Big Sky
(406) 995-3670
bigskybuild.com

**Big Sky Chamber of Commerce**
55 Lone Mountain Trail, Big Sky
(406) 995-3000
bigskychamber.com

**Big Sky Town Center**
33 Lone Peak Drive, Big Sky
(406) 586-9629
bigskytowncenter.com

**First Security Bank**
55 Lone Peak Dr, #A, Big Sky
(406) 993-3350
www.ourbank.com

**PAID ADVERTISING SECTION**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION INCLUDED IN
LIST YOUR BUSINESS HERE! SPACE IS LIMITED.
INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING YOUR BUSINESS IN THIS DIRECTORY?
CONTACT SAM BROOKS AT SAM@THEOUTLAWPARTNERS.COM
Encaustic artwork unveils unique delights
The craft of artist Shawna Moore

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY – For Whitefish artist Shawna Moore, who has several encaustic pieces on display at Gallatin River Gallery, her vision starts with water. Most have experienced that transcendent moment Moore draws upon to form the basis of her unique works—standing on the edge of a body of water, watching the light dance on both rippled and placid surfaces—and the special form of existentialism it evokes.

Moore, who works primarily with encaustic, pigmented wax blocks heated into a malleable liquid, believes our relationship with water in such a moment goes beyond the obvious visual beauty.

“We’re born in water, suspended in it until we hit the ground. We need it, the majority of our body water, and so we have this deep connectivity with it,” Moore said. “It’s this archetypal relationship we have with place…it’s empty, and wide and a place to contemplate your existence.”

A self-proclaimed “responsible ski bum,” Moore grew up in the landlocked, yet mountainous Bend, Oregon; she found that open bodies of water spoke to her in ways that even the mountains couldn’t.

Her work highlights the intense and intimate bond she has fostered with the liquid element through a lifetime of artistic and personal exploration.

Moore, who has been a creative since childhood thanks to ready encouragement from her mother, studied fine arts and architecture at the University of Oregon in Eugene, the latter discipline serving as a solid foundation for an evolving and exclusive interest in the arts.

“I started taking more art classes and sidetracked my interest in architecture indefinitely, even though it was a great underpinning,” Moore said. “I feel fortunate that’s how I was trained.”

Throughout her late 20s and early 30s, Moore worked in representational ways with a number of mediums, with a couple of community galleries in Eugene and Bend showcasing her works. But in 2002, after moving with her husband to Santa Fe, a New Mexican city with a then-rapidly growing appetite for all things art, Moore came across an ad for a class in encaustic.

The young artist had encountered the art form in her studies, in literature and museums, but had never delved into the ancient practice of manipulating melted waxes into art pieces.

But one lesson was all it took: Today, the artist works almost exclusively with the medium, and is known for her daring large formats and unique pigments.

“Of the people that work in encaustic, I’m known for the color and size of my work,” Moore said. “It’s hard to control a surface as big as you are, and I’ve had to scale up all of my tools.”

An encaustic artist such as Moore will utilize a quiver complete with metal tools, brushes, heat guns and lamps, blowtorches and several other methods to manipulate the rigid material, cherished for its 3D qualities and ability to manipulate color and light.

For Moore, these virtues of encaustic are much like the Treasure State she now calls home.

“The wax is not completely flat, it suspends the particles of pigment, light dances around them,” Moore said. “When you put pigment in wax it’s more spacious and light than other types of mediums, kind of like Montana. That’s what keeps you in it.”

‘Love and Friendship’ recital hosted at WMPAC

WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

BIG SKY – Montana native and celebrated violinist Gabrielle Wunsch will present an intimate chamber music program at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, Sept. 4, at 7:30 p.m. Performing will be Wunsch on violin, Bobby Mitchell on piano and Bruce Chrisp on trombone.

This intimate recital program celebrates the deep friendship and professional relationships shared by German composer Robert Schumann and his celebrated pianist wife Clara, German composer Johannes Brahms and the renowned Hungarian violinist Joseph Joachim.

1853 was an auspicious year for the four musicians, bringing them together in a bond that continued to the end of their lives. The Schumanns conducted hundreds of performances together during their careers, but that summer she wrote for him her beautiful and charming “Three Romances” composition.

October of the same year saw the composition of the FAE Sonata, a collaborative work written as a gift for Joachim, incorporating the violin-virtuoso’s motto “frei aber einsam,” free but lonely, threaded through each of the four movements in the manner of a leitmotif. Schumann’s friend and student Albert Dietrich contributed the first movement, Schumann the second and fourth movements, and Brahms a Scherzo which remains the most famous movement of the sonata. Other works include Robert Schumann’s haunting first sonata for piano and violin, his elegiac Romances performed on trombone and Joachim’s tender and impassioned “Romance Op. 2 No. 1.”

Gabrielle Wunsch moved to Montana in her early teens, studying with former Montana State University professor Johan Jonsson, and is excited to return for this performance. She is equally at home on period and modern violins, and has performed extensively in Europe, Asia and North America to great acclaim. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband, trombonist Bruce Chrisp, who is principal trombone of seven Bay Area orchestras. He teaches trombone at UC Davis, and plays regularly with the San Francisco Ballet and Opera. Bobby Mitchell lives in Freiburg, Germany, and enjoys a varied and eclectic career as concert pianist and chamber musician.

Tickets for this concert are $15, $10 for seniors and students, and are available for advance purchase at warrenmillerpac.org. Tickets will also be available at the door.
The Montana Mule

**EBS STAFF**

The days are growing shorter, the nights colder and the river’s running lower: telltale signs of a Montana summer coming to a close, and quickly. Soon gone are the days of fireworks, soon to come are the nights spent around the fireplace warming fingers and toes. As we in Big Sky cherish the last moments of the warmer months, there is still time to enjoy a summery cocktail, but with a twist, a bit of bite to match the creeping winter to come.

The Moscow Mule, a cocktail prized across the nation for its tangy, citrusy, vodka-filled goodness, can be tweaked with a Montana drinker’s staple, whiskey, for a new take that is sure to refresh. So pour one up, sit outside in your favorite fleece, and toast summers past and summers ahead with a Montana Mule.

**Ingredients**

- Good whiskey or bourbon, ideally from a Montana distillery to ring consistent with the drink’s namesake
- Ginger beer
- Fresh limes
- Rosemary sprigs
- A chilled copper mug (optional)

**Instructions**

- Pour two shots of liquor into the mug
- Fill the remaining space with ice, ginger beer and the juice from a large lime slice
- Garnish with a lime slice and a sprig of rosemary
- Enjoy
Explore Big Sky

By Samuel Orazem

Big Sky — The days were warm and the evenings brisk during Moonlight MusicFest, held the weekend of Aug. 16 on the slopes of Moonlight Basin. In its second year, the festival brought in fresh ensembles to perform a variety of music beneath the panoramic landscape of Lone Peak.

Bayard Dominick, vice president of planning and development for Lone Mountain Land Company, the prominent Big Sky developer that manages Moonlight, Spanish Peaks and various Town Center developments, emphasized that selecting strong musical acts is the foundation for any successful festival. “Part of the strategy … is to have an eclectic collection of bands to draw people who follow those bands from all over the country.”

LynnAnne Hagar, the event’s chief organizer, echoed Dominick’s sentiments. “People came to the festival not always knowing a lot of the bands, but were totally excited about how great they were, and realized they even knew some of the more popular tracks.”

In a time when many music festivals appear to celebrate gaudy outfits and iPhone photography more than the music itself, Moonlight MusicFest stands out. While the majesty of Lone Peak dominated the optics, music reigned supreme, much to the enjoyment of the earnest assembly of fans in attendance.

Day 1:
On the first day of the festival, coach buses shuttled concertgoers up the mountain, a lively forum for friends to debate which artists they were most excited to see. None were more exhilarated than return visitors such as Gary Wheeler. Hailing from Tacoma, Washington, Wheeler and his family attended last year’s inaugural event on a whim but immediately recognized they were a part of something special.

“We had to come back as soon as we saw [the festival] was happening again,” Wheeler said. “We only came because of The Wood Brothers last year but ended up loving the whole thing and the areas, as well”

As the buses approached the venue, the rugged Headwaters ridge came into sight, with Lone Peak standing proudly behind. Upon arrival, some concertgoers idled in the entryway, lined with food and merchandise vendors, while others explored the remainder of the grounds.

The stage stood at the base of Moonlight Basin’s Cupajo ski run and the audience spanned up the length of a headwall. The Spanish Peaks decorates the northern view and Lone Peak claimed the south, resting bare of snow before another Montana winter.

Montana-based Satsang took the stage first at 4 p.m., breaking the ice with a blend of rock and roll, soul and reggae sounds. Their performance was the band’s last before turning their trio into a quartet. The hillside crowd made their way down to the stage-front area for a personal look at the band, whose frontman, Drew McManus, said, “Whether we’re on a beach in Florida or Cali, the mountains are just where I want to be.”

After Satsang finished their set, Josh Ritter and the Royal City Band took the stage. Ritter, sporting a trademark infectious smile and with palpable electricity, kicked the festival into full swing with his unique take on the Americana genre. The crowd swelled as Ritter’s sprightly vibes took hold of fans, causing many to abandon their perches along the headwall.

By the time St. Paul and the Broken Bones took the stage, a soft evening light had cloaked the crowd in gold—a perfect aesthetic for the bold style of frontman Paul Janeway, adorned with a flowing sequined robe, a modern act with a presence akin to that of Elton John.

The New Orleans band’s style, Janeway said, is inspired by “David Bowie, Otis Redding, and a mishmash of artists, but [one that] all boils down to good bass, good drums and good rhythm.”

The audience crooned lyrics alongside the band and egged-on the lead singer’s showmanship and vocal timbre with raucous applause and dancing, enticing him to climb into the audience for a one-of-a-kind moment.
Closing out the first evening of world-class talent, Trampled by Turtles began its set around 9:30 p.m. Luckily for the Duluth, Minnesota-based bluegrass sextet, bluegrass and a Montana audience go hand in hand. Fast-paced plucking, expertly picked mandolin and frantic fiddling sent the crowd into a jigging, two-stepping frenzy.

By the time the encore came to a close, nearly everyone had rushed into the fray. But even after the stage cleared, the party kept going: The parking lot had a few buskers for those looking to squeeze a few last drops of music out, and the ride back down the mountain was filled with off-pitch singing, passionate conversation and laughter shared between friends—old and new.

Day 2:
The second day of Moonlight MusicFest arrived with as much promise as the first and fans clambered onto busses with enthusiasm equal to that of the day before—even those that had slightly overindulged the previous evening. As Montana native Virginia O’Donnell so succinctly put it, “We [Montanans] like the sort of fun that comes back to bite us.”

Bozeman’s The Dusty Pockets provided a perfect introduction to the day with their performance of their self-proclaimed genre, “recreational Americana.” Their take on the music style featured a faultless balance between soulful melodies and gritty, lively harmonies. It was confirmed then and there: day two was the real deal.

Dwayne Dopsie & The Zydeco Hellraisers brought things into full swing with their New Orleans flair. Harmonica, washboard and accordion made welcome additions to the more-common instruments of the festival, and the band’s Bayou soul invigorated the audience. Band members routinely walked into the crowd to join in on the fun, climaxing in a conga line led by frontman zydeco master Dwayne Dopsie himself.

The War and Treaty piggybacked on the success of the previous two bands and kept the crowd dancing with their slower breed of rock before one of the most anticipated bands made their entrance.

The Wood Brothers, a Grammy-nominated assembly and a repeat booking at MusicFest, delivered on the hype generated by their previous visit, leading the crowd in singalongs, cracking jokes and appearing right at home on a stage nestled into the mountains of southwest Montana. Toward the end of their set, The War and Treaty joined in on the action to forge a memorable amalgam of voices, reminding the audience of the talent they had seen over the last two days.

As evening hues pulled westward across the sky, the crowd flowed onto the hard-packed dance floor to get down with The Record Company, whose music presented a slight deviation in style from those that preceded them on the MusicFest stage; their more archetypal rock set them apart from the soul, folk and Americana groups of the day and the audience took advantage of one of the most energetic shows of the festival.

Finally, it was time for headliner Blackberry Smoke to take the stage. While many of the attendees with younger children had made their exit, the band called on the crowd for one last ecstatic push. As they wound down their set, the realization that this magical weekend has come to a close permeated through the audience. Bittersweet, as they say.

Dominick says the festival represents more than the sum of its parts. “The MusicFest is really about community building,” he said, “both in terms of expanding and growing the Big Sky community, but also sharing what Moonlight is all about.”

Moonlight MusicFest also managed the festival’s waste responsibly, commissioning 406 Recycling, which oversaw recycling for other major Big Sky summer events like Big Sky PBR and the Peak to Sky Festival. 406 Recycling is introducing a new trend in the Treasure State, and managed to recycle nearly 500 pounds at Moonlight MusicFest through the help of participants and staff, a portion of which was transported to Helena for sorting via a van running on locally made biodiesel made from fry oil.

Part of this year’s revenue was allocated to the Arts Council of Big Sky and the Moonlight Community Foundation and the leftover catered food was donated to the Big Sky Community Food Bank. In keeping with a new trend for events in the area, 406 Recycling helped reduce the environmental impact these sorts of large-scale events can have.

Moonlight MusicFest bookends a jam-packed summer in Big Sky that featured more events than ever before. As days quickly grow shorter and evening temperatures dip into the 40s, events are waning but the warm glow of an unforgettable summer still remains.
Lone Peak Performance + Fitness
is a full-service gym that offers gym memberships, physical therapy, personal training, and nutrition consultation dedicated to helping you reach your personal summit. Drop in and join us.

MOVE BETTER • FEEL BETTER • LIVE BETTER

Music of Clara and Robert Schumann, Joachim, and Brahms
Gabrielle Wunsch, violin
Bobby Mitchell, piano
with Bruce Chrisp, trombone

Wednesday, September 4th, 7:30pm
WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
warrenmillerpac.org

Tickets available at the door at all venues $15/$10 seniors and students

The Arts Council of Big Sky Presents
MOUNTAINFILM ON TOUR

Schedule of Events

Friday September 13th
Friday Night Feature: The Weight of Water
WMPAC / Doors at 6pm / Films at 7pm

Saturday September 14th
WIA Presents Free Mountainfilm for Families Matinee
Lone Peak Cinema / Doors at 10:30am / Films at 12pm
Saturday Night Shorts: Documentary Films
Lone Peak Cinema / Doors at 6pm / Films at 7pm

Sunday September 15th
BSCO Presents the 1st Annual “Town to Trails” Race
Town Center / 10am
Free Films in the Park: Documentary Films
Town Center Park / Films at 6pm

Visit bigskyarts.org to get your tickets!
THE REAL
Genghis Khan

Through September 29

Discover the real life of one of the world's greatest civilizations – the man who gave the West passports, pants, paper money, forks, and much more.

Experience live daily performances with Mongolian artists. Get a sense of Mongolia through its lively music and traditional dance.

Enjoy a docent-guided tour of the exhibition.

This exhibition was created by Don Lessem and produced by Dinodon, Inc.
THE BIG SKY REAL ESTATE CO.
One of a kind Gallatin Riverfront Home.

228 Altman Lane | Diamond A River Ranch
MLS # 324228 | 4 BED/4.5 BATH | 5,398 +/- SQ. FT. | $5,590,000

This property includes two additional 3+ acre parcels for future development as well as 1/2 mile of river frontage.

Mia Lennon
THE BIG SKY REAL ESTATE CO.
Representing the best property in Big Sky. Yours.

32B Heavy Runner Road | Alpenglow Condominium
MEADOW VILLAGE | MLS # 324472 | 3 BED/3.5 BATH | 2,460 +/- SQ. FT. | $902,500

More Alpenglow Condominiums Coming Soon
MEADOW VILLAGE | 3-4 BEDROOMS

94 Candlelight Meadows Drive | Firelight Chalet
TOWN CENTER | MLS # 330223 | 3 BED/3 BATH | 1,859 +/- SQ. FT. | $495,000

94 Candlelight Meadows Drive | Firelight Chalet
TOWN CENTER | MLS # 330223 | 3 BED/3 BATH | 1,859 +/- SQ. FT. | $495,000

Grey Drake | Homesite 4
MEADOW VILLAGE | MLS # 339123 | 2.17 +/- ACRES | $425,000

Montana Club | Homesite 5
MOUNTAIN VILLAGE | MLS # 334375 | 0.715 +/- ACRES | $395,000

25 Peaks View Drive | Cowboy Heaven Homesite
MOONLIGHT BASIN | MLS # 332962 | 1.5 +/- ACRES | $995,000

BIG SKY.COM
This brochure is only an advertisement and is not intended to constitute a binding offer to sell. All prices, plans and information are subject to change, errors or omissions, and are not guaranteed until a written contract is signed. ©2019 Big Sky Real Estate Co. Photos are used for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to guarantee the existence, size or condition of a property. Legal fees are payable by buyer. Seller reserves the right to sell and/or develop all properties in this advertisement. This advertisement is void in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Nevada, and New York. Glossary available upon request.
Community welcomes newest resident: Bode Miller
America’s most decorated male skier makes Big Sky home

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY AND BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY – Bode Miller may just be the most recognizable ski racer in history. With six medals over five Olympic Games, among many other records, he’s certainly the most decorated. Now, “The Bode Show,” as his ski coaches affectionately dubbed him, has come to Big Sky, Montana.

In a town where activities are backdropped by the massive, standalone prowess of Lone Mountain, alpine sporting reigns supreme—what better place for a living legend of skiing to plant roots?

Along with his wife Morgan and their children, Miller began setting up a new home in the Spanish Peaks Community of Big Sky this summer, and says he’s looking forward to reintegrating into a mountain community again.

Miller, 41, is a native of Franconia, New Hampshire, where he was raised in relatively spartan conditions by modern American standards, sharing a log cabin with his parents and three siblings, sans electricity or indoor plumbing.

Of course, being smack dab in the White Mountains of New Hampshire comes with a host of perks for any kid growing up, namely a reverence for the outdoors instilled at a young age.

“It was pretty tough and pretty rugged with long winters but lots of independence,” Miller said. “I had a lot of opportunity to play sports and enjoy my time.”

Miller spent time in Montana when his sister attended Montana State University, and the Treasure State is now providing many of the trappings of the life-loving, outdoors-driven lifestyle he grew up with back east.

“[Montanans are] really genuine and hardcore and tough, which I like,” he said. “Talk about average lives being inspiring, and those are the lives you want to surround your kids with. I think that’s a real part of Montana life. It reminds me of New Hampshire, just bigger and more extreme.”

The title of Miller’s autobiography, “Bode: Go Fast, Be Good, Have Fun,” neatly captures the essence of his character. As a competitive ski racer, his relationship with medaling was complex; for many racers the medal is all that matters and gold is the goal from the start of every race.

Instead, Miller’s approach was that of a creative athlete less concerned with the rigors and minutia of alpine racing and more so with the enjoyment skiing gave him. He raced “as fast as the natural universe will allow,” Miller recounted in his book.

“I wasn’t a spectacular competitor; I enjoyed athleticism and the freedom of the whole thing,” he said. “While I was in competitions all the time, I had an uninhibited approach of going faster than was reasonable. I was playing rather than trying to win a particular race.”

Still, on paper, Miller was a mighty competitor—the best male skier the U.S. has ever produced—winning six Olympic medals over five Winter Games, one gold, three silver and two bronze. He garnered five World Championship medals over eight competitions spanning 1999-2015, pocketing four gold and one silver. And he holds 33 World Cup race victories and is the only skier in history with at least five World Cup victories in all five disciplines.

Since officially retiring from professional skiing in 2017, Miller and his family are making Big Sky home, dividing their time between houses in Southern California and New Hampshire.

“We were always planning to split time between oceans and mountains,” he said. “It’s really a natural split for me because I love both. The nature … in Montana, or even New Hampshire, rounds out what we’re offering [our kids].”
Miller won’t be the only Olympic athlete joining the ranks of Big Sky. Miller’s wife Morgan competed internationally with Team USA’s volleyball from 2006–2014 and becoming pro in 2009.

After being ushered into retirement due to pregnancy in 2014, Morgan said she thought about returning to the sport, but it was such a natural transition into the next stage of her life that she felt ready to move forward, and what excites her most about the move to Big Sky is what their new home will offer her family.

“I’m looking forward to the change of pace and of scenery,” she said. “[In Big Sky] my phone doesn’t work, we don’t have cable and the internet only works in one room. It gives us more room for creativity and to focus on participating; it forces you to be more present.”

Upon arrival at the Miller’s new home, Morgan said her kids, having been in raised in Southern California thus far, didn’t know quite what to do. Within hours, however, they were outside entertaining themselves and enjoying one another's company. Morgan says she is thrilled to be joining a family-oriented community, something she’s craved for some time now, and is eager to explore involvement options within Big Sky, particularly those surrounding her interests in natural and holistic medicine and healing.

For now, Morgan is occupied preparing for the birth of twin boys, due in November.

New additions to the family will only add to the seasonal excitement in the Miller household this winter. While Bode Miller lived in a winter wonderland much of his life, he too is excited for the outdoor opportunities Big Sky will provide the rest of his family, particularly where the slopes are concerned, and the community values in which his entire family will be immersed.

“I want my kids to be able to wake up in the morning and go straight onto the lift … that was a struggle of mine growing up,” Miller said. “We don't need amenities beyond what Big Sky offers: good food, good culture, good people and access to nature.”

A portion of Miller’s decision is centered on his new, long-term partnership with Lone Mountain Land Company, the prominent Big Sky developer that manages Moonlight, Spanish Peaks and various Town Center developments. Those involved call him “Chairman of the Boards” as a fun play on his title.
For Miller, who has fielded countless offers and requests to represent various brands and companies, LMLC’s approach to their developments inspired his acceptance.

“I’ve had opportunities to do ambassadorships … but it’s not that common that I’m really impressed, with eyes-wide-open going into that sort of role,” he said. “The way that Lone Mountain Land Company is doing their developments is amazing, like how they put 80 percent of the land in Moonlight into land trust. It’s a pretty incredible thing. … It’s rare.”

On Aug. 16, Big Sky Real Estate, Co., an affiliate of LMLC, welcomed Miller to the community in true Big Sky fashion with food, drinks and live music. The event was held in conjunction with the Arts Council of Big Sky’s Music in the Mountains, which hosted the popular Los Angeles-based indie rock band Mt. Joy and special guest Upstate.

Prior to the performance, fans gathered in Town Center Park to greet and shaking hands with the Millers.

Included in the festivities, Tahoe, California-based custom hat company bigtruck erected a pop-up shop, which handed out free Bode Miller patches on several hats to lucky attendees who claimed one before they ran out.

To add to the excitement, raffle tickets were sold to benefit ACBS and the Big Sky Ski Education Foundation. The winner of the raffle collected a pair of Bomber skis and a day of skiing with Miller on the mountain this winter.

The climax of the evening followed a classic Montana sunset over Lone Mountain: A screening of a Teton Gravity Research film introducing Miller to Big Sky on two large screens that flanked the main stage, offering a glimpse into Miller’s backstory and the current trajectory of the Millers’ life. The film closed and a packed crowd hushed for the first time all night as Bode, Morgan and their kids took the stage to address their new community for the first time.

“I think there is no better place in the country to be,” Miller said. “That’s the honest truth. I feel like it’s home even though I haven’t lived here before.”

Keep an eye peeled for Big Sky’s newest member of the community—but if you spot him on the slopes, don’t be surprised if you only glimpse a rooster tail and the back of his coat.
Bode Miller, one of the most decorated American Olympians of all time, is beginning the next chapter of his life in the mountain town of Big Sky, Montana. In order to plant new roots, however, one must reflect on those of the past. Through both victory and defeat, Miller’s course through life may be his most entertaining race yet.

October 12, 1977 Easton, New Hampshire: Bode Miller is born
Miller is born into rustic living in the White Mountains. Until fourth grade, he was homeschooled along with his three siblings in a cabin with no electricity or plumbing.

1998, Nagano, Japan: Makes U.S. Ski Team
The year he made the U.S. Ski Team, Miller competes in the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

2002, Salt Lake City, Utah: Claims first medals
After rebounding from his knee injury, Miller competes in the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah, winning silver medals in the giant slalom and the combined event.

2005, Bormio, Italy: Becomes one-ski wonder
During the combined event at the World Championships in Italy, Miller loses his left ski while traveling at an estimated 70-75 mph. He continues on the course and finishes the race on his single right plank.

Navigating the Gates
Bode Miller: A timeline

October 12, 1977 Easton, New Hampshire: Bode Miller is born
Miller is born into rustic living in the White Mountains. Until fourth grade, he was homeschooled along with his three siblings in a cabin with no electricity or plumbing.

1989, Cannon Mountain, New Hampshire: Early years
Miller begins skiing competitively at age 11. During his high school years at Carrabassett Valley Academy, the talented athlete earned all-state honors in soccer and tennis and also showed promise in golf and snowboarding.

1998, Nagano, Japan: Makes U.S. Ski Team
The year he made the U.S. Ski Team, Miller competes in the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

2002, Salt Lake City, Utah: Claims first medals
After rebounding from his knee injury, Miller competes in the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah, winning silver medals in the giant slalom and the combined event.

2005, Bormio, Italy: Becomes one-ski wonder
During the combined event at the World Championships in Italy, Miller loses his left ski while traveling at an estimated 70-75 mph. He continues on the course and finishes the race on his single right plank.

October 12, 1977 Easton, New Hampshire: Bode Miller is born
Miller is born into rustic living in the White Mountains. Until fourth grade, he was homeschooled along with his three siblings in a cabin with no electricity or plumbing.

1989, Cannon Mountain, New Hampshire: Early years
Miller begins skiing competitively at age 11. During his high school years at Carrabassett Valley Academy, the talented athlete earned all-state honors in soccer and tennis and also showed promise in golf and snowboarding.

2001- St. Anton, Austria: Suffers ski injury
During the Fédération Internationale de Ski (FIS) World Ski Championships, Miller crashes during a race, suffering torn ligaments in his left knee.

2002, Salt Lake City, Utah: Claims first medals
After rebounding from his knee injury, Miller competes in the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah, winning silver medals in the giant slalom and the combined event.

2003, St. Moritz, Switzerland: Breaks records
After claiming two gold medals in Switzerland, Miller becomes the first American to win two gold medals at a single World event.

Bode Miller, one of the most decorated American Olympians of all time, is beginning the next chapter of his life in the mountain town of Big Sky, Montana. In order to plant new roots, however, one must reflect on those of the past. Through both victory and defeat, Miller’s course through life may be his most entertaining race yet.
2005, Bormio, Italy: Thrives on world stage
Miller claims the World Cup overall championship, becoming only the second man in history to win all four disciplines during a single season.

2010, Vancouver, Canada: Wins first Olympic gold
At the Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Miller claims his first gold medal, placing first in the super combined. In Vancouver, he also won a silver and bronze.

2014, Sochi, Russia: Aging Miller still claims titles
At the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, Miller wins a bronze medal that officially makes him the most decorated American Olympic skier of all time. At 36, he also becomes the oldest alpine skier to win an Olympic medal.

2005, Bormio, Italy: Becomes one-ski wonder
During the combined event at the World Championships in Italy, Miller loses his left ski while traveling at an estimated 70-75 mph. He continues on the course and finishes the race on his single right plank.

2017: Retires and shifts focus
Following a series of injuries, Miller officially retires from competitive skiing and joins NBC as an analyst for their Olympic skiing broadcasts.

Aug. 15, 2019, Big Sky, Montana: Miller and his family move to Spanish Peaks Community in Big Sky
Miller is welcomed to the Big Sky community during ACBS Music in the Mountains as an ambassador to Lone Mountain Land Company.

May 12, 2007: Miller quits U.S. Ski Team
Miller announces he is leaving the U.S. Ski Team but rejoins after failing to win a race in 2009.

2014, Sochi, Russia: Aging Miller still claims titles
At the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, Miller wins a bronze medal that officially makes him the most decorated American Olympic skier of all time. At 36, he also becomes the oldest alpine skier to win an Olympic medal.
Bode, Morgan & Family,

WELCOME TO MONTANA.
WELCOME TO BIG SKY.