

Explore

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

FREE

Big Sky

PBR, Big Sky's Biggest Week

Breaking Ground: BASE

**Montana's 7.5-magnitude earthquake,
60 years later**

The art of sushi

The 'father of modern fly fishing'



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ON THE COVER:

Dener Barbosa attempts to ride 51 Viper—a bull that won American Bucking Bull of the year in 2018—during this year’s Big Sky PBR from July 25-27. Flip to page 33 for a full recap of the event. PHOTO COURTESY OF CLICK THOMPSON PHOTOGRAPHY

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PBR, Big Sky’s Biggest Week

For the ninth consecutive year, the Big Sky PBR bucked into the small mountain hamlet, electrifying crowds with what many of the cowboys called the best PBR event since 1992. Big Sky rocked with live music, cheers, and of course a whole lot of bull ridin’.

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Breaking Ground: BASE

On July 27, community members, volunteers and representatives from the Big Sky Community Organization broke ground on Big Sky’s first-ever community center. Dubbed BASE, “Big Adventure, Safe Environment,” the facility will bring new recreation and community gathering spaces to Big Sky.

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Montana’s 7.5-magnitude earthquake, 60 years later

Sixty years after the tragic earthquake south of Ennis, Montana, which forged a lake 190 feet deep and six miles long, the Custer Gallatin National Forest commemorates the quake that claimed 28 lives.

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The art of sushi

In Japan, a sushi chef-in-training spends a minimum of four years washing rice before he or she can even touch a fish. Troy “Twist” Thompson, who has spent the better part of 15 years rolling sushi, is bringing the craft to Big Sky Town Center with the grand opening of his new restaurant: Blue Buddha Sushi Lounge.

64

The ‘father of modern fly fishing’

Joe Brooks was once the toast of Baltimore but the bottle ruined him, as it did many during the Great Depression. Many thought he was dead, and in a sense he was. But he later transformed himself into a master of fly fishing, reinventing the way people fished the world over.



Engelmann’s Aster, known to the scientific community as *Eucephalus engelmannii*, is one of the region’s many wildflowers species. Wildflowers are still blooming in abundance throughout the hills and meadows of Big Sky despite the lateness of the season; Environmental and Outdoors Editor Jessianne Castle breaks down this summer’s near-daily thunderstorms on page 17. NPS PHOTO

EDITORIAL POLICIES

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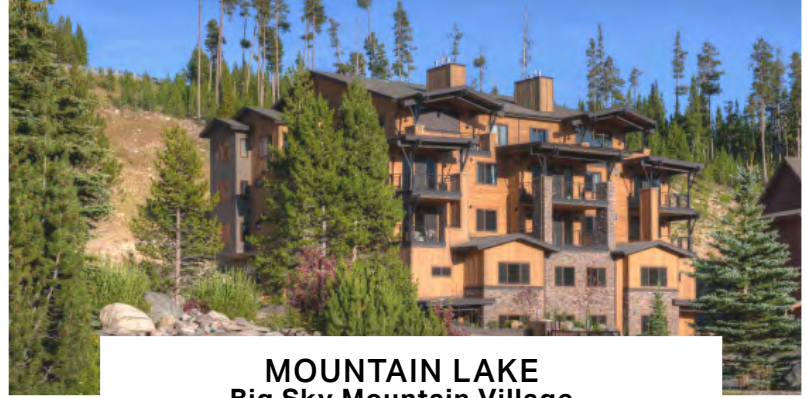
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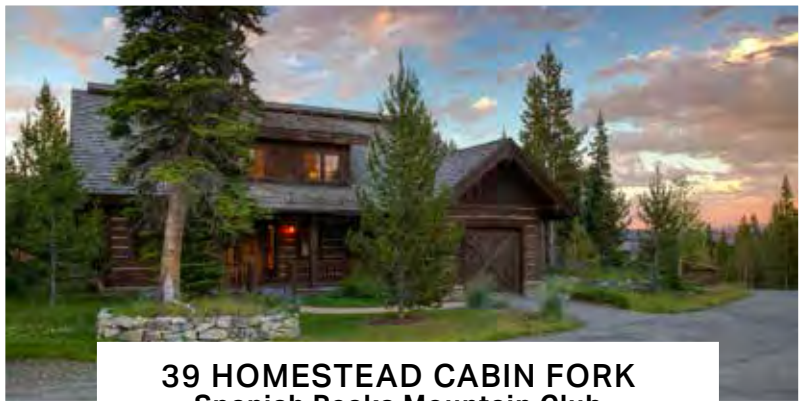
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Bison charges girl in Yellowstone

YELLOWSTONE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

On the afternoon of July 22, there was an incident with a bull bison near Observation Point Trail in the Old Faithful Geyser area. According to witnesses, a group of approximately 50 people were within 5-10 feet of the bison for at least 20 minutes before eventually causing the bison to charge the group.

A nine-year-old girl from Odessa, Florida, was charged and tossed into the air by the bull bison. The girl was taken to the Old Faithful Lodge by her family where she was assessed and treated by park emergency medical providers and later taken to and released from the Old Faithful Clinic.

No citations have been issued, however the incident is still under investigation.

Wildlife in Yellowstone National Park are wild. When an animal is near a trail, boardwalk, parking lot or in a developed area, YNP asks that visitors give them space. Stay 25 yards away from all large animals—bison, elk, bighorn sheep, deer, moose and coyotes—and at least 100 yards away from bears and wolves. If need be, turn around and go the other way to avoid interacting with wild animals in close proximity.

MSU Nursing program to meet rural needs

EBS STAFF

The revered Montana State University College of Nursing, which is housed in five campuses across the state, will be expanding with the support of a four-year, nearly \$2.8 million federal grant.

Statistics have revealed that rural states such as Montana face a shortage of primary and mental health care providers. The Advanced Nursing Education Workforce Training grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will be applied to a new College of Nursing program: the Rural Ready Nurse Practitioner Program, which will strive to fill in the gaps for health care providers in Montana.

Students in the new program will complete the current Doctor of Nursing Practice program as well as supplemental education that addresses working in a rural community and training in subjects such as advanced life support and advanced trauma life support. The program's students will be eligible to receive up to \$17,500 per year for tuition, travel, housing, books, equipment and other expenses over the course of the time it takes them to earn their doctorate.

"In the end, the graduates of this program will provide a high caliber of care to people who live in rural communities and in settings which might have had difficulty attracting providers to their clinics or keeping them there," said Stacey Stellflug, director of the new program. "The College of Nursing is proud to bring this opportunity to Montana."

Yellowstone snowmobile lottery to open

YELLOWSTONE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

On Aug. 1, applications opened for the 2019-2020 winter lottery for permits to snowmobile in Yellowstone National Park without a commercial guide. Authorized in 2013, the Non-commercially Guided Snowmobile Access Program allows one group of up to five snowmobiles to enter Yellowstone from each of its four winter entrances per day.

This year's lottery will be open online from Aug. 1-31 and successful ap-

New bridge to improve Cobblestone Fishing Access

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is preparing to build a new bridge at the Cobblestone Fishing Access Site on the Madison River, about 10 miles south of Three Forks. The new construction will replace the aged foot bridge that currently crosses Darlington Ditch.

Construction is scheduled to begin Aug. 5 and expected to last about two weeks. Users of the site will need to wade the ditch to access the Madison River and beware of heavy equipment in the area from Aug. 5-6. The site may also be closed for a short time while the cattle guard at the entrance to the site is cleaned out.

This project is funded through cooperative efforts between the Madison-Gallatin Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Northwestern Energy and FWP.

Beehive gets improved trailhead

EBS STAFF

Beehive Basin, one of Big Sky's most popular scenic trails, will be reinforced with an additional trailhead with construction commencing on Aug. 5. The addition to the trail, which is located north of Big Sky Resort and Moonlight Basin, is the culmination of 1.5 years of planning by the Big Sky Community Organization.

In 2017, BSCO purchased 6.5 acres that will be home to the new addition, called RT & Ralph's Beehive Preserve. The preserve will feature bear-safe trash cans, toilet facilities, dog waste stations, an informational trail kiosk and an avalanche beacon check station. In addition to these features, the goal of the installation is to relieve some congestion around the current trailhead and increase access for trail users.

The construction is scheduled to last for 30 days, wrapping up on Sept. 5. During this time, parking will be especially limited around the trail.

For more information on the RT & Ralph's Beehive Preserve/Beehive Basin Trailhead Expansion,

please visit bscomt.org/projects/#trailprojects.

plicants will be notified in mid-September. Permit holders are considered non-commercial guides and must be at least 18 years old on the first day of their trip.

There is no waiting list, but cancellations may occur and openings will be made available online. Trips can be a maximum of three days in length with permits costing \$40 per day with a \$6 application fee.

To apply to the lottery and see more details, visit recreation.gov.



The Professional Bull Riding (PBR) Touring Pro Division was in town from July 25-27. What “extreme” sport would you like to try and why?



Simon Conrad
Big Sky, Montana

“I want to learn to paraglide. It looks terrifying, but a friend of mine did it in Colombia and had a great time. I have always thought it would be cool to learn to fly. I would do it anywhere where it is possible. I would do it around [Big Sky], or maybe go down to South America.”



Shawna Moore
Whitefish, Montana

“Deep sea diving. Free diving is what they call it ... because there is not a huge amount of equipment involved and it’s in the ocean. I would go to the Maldives and I’d hope to see baby whales.”



Kathleen Gobaldon
Big Sky, Montana

“I would try hang gliding. I’ve only ever seen videos online, but it looks very intimidating and scary and they are literally flying. I think I want to feel like a bird ... I would love that. Maybe I could hang glide off of Lone Peak!”



Lindsey Haskins
Bend, Oregon

“Well I just tried downhill mountain biking, and it was harder than I thought. I think it would be cool to try the wing suit. I like the adrenaline rush. I’ve seen videos where they go through Arches National Park and you glide through the arches. I would do that.”



Obituary: Clyde Edmund DeShields



Clyde Edmund DeShields, 89, long-time resident and businessman of Boca Raton, Florida, entered into eternal rest July 18, 2019. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Marjorie Larson DeShields; sons David (Janice) DeShields, Daniel (Maryann) DeShields, Steven (Cynthia) DeShields; daughter, Debbie (Jim) Stine; ten grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Clyde was born March 20, 1930 to Clyde and Dovie DeShields in Atlanta, Georgia.

Raised in Ft. Lauderdale, Clyde, from a young age, showed his entrepreneurial

spirit: delivering newspapers, raising chickens, racing horses and always looking for ways to get ahead in life. He was a gifted athlete and excelled at both football and track at Fort Lauderdale High, holding several school records for decades. Clyde graduated high school in 1948, receiving college scholarship offers from a myriad of universities to play ball.

Clyde’s commitment to helping his single mother kept him in Ft. Lauderdale and he began to learn the millwork business. In 1952 he married the love of his life, Marjorie Larson. From 1953-1955, Clyde served in the army, spending time in South Carolina, Indiana and Yokohama, Japan. At the close of the Korean War, Clyde was awarded an honorable discharge.

In 1957, Clyde founded Smith and DeShields, Inc. in Boca Raton. Along with his business partner, Aris Smith (deceased) and later the efforts of his children, Clyde grew a business that withstood the test of time. Clyde was known as a fierce competitor and fair employer.

In 1979, Clyde and Marge purchased property in Big Sky, Montana and thus began his love of the West. Whether exploring on horseback or by Harley, Clyde created lasting friendships and contributed to the local business and philanthropic communities.

Clyde was an avid fisherman and enjoyed time on the water with his family in the Florida Keys, the rivers of Montana and the inland waters of Alaska.

A legacy Clyde leaves that few people know of is his commitment to helping single mothers secure Christian and higher education for their children. Since 1976, through their financial generosity, Clyde and Marge have helped countless families elect private Christian education. Clyde never spoke openly about this gifting, but it was very important to him. This commitment continues today.

In addition to his wife, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, Clyde leaves behind two sisters: Ann Norris of Orlando, Florida, and Jeanne Bass Winston of Jacksonville, Florida, as well as many members of the extended Larson family.

The funeral service was held on July 27 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Boca Raton, Florida, and a burial followed at the Boca Raton Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, scholarship fund, 701 W Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton, Florida 33486; or Eagle Mount; 6901 Goldenstein Lane, Bozeman, Montana, 5971.



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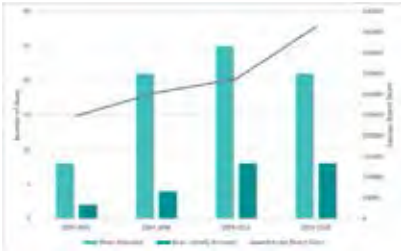
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BSCO breaks ground on community center

GoPro CEO gives for family, community

BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – On July 27, the Big Sky Community Organization broke ground in Town Center Park for Big Sky’s first community center. The “ALL IN. BIG SKY” fundraising campaign for the center, which will be named BASE, has garnered approximately \$19.5 million of its \$20 million goal thanks to small donations and sizeable ones, such as an over \$1 million check awarded to the project on the second night of the Big Sky PBR and a \$4 million sum from GoPro founder and CEO Nick Woodman.

“It blows my mind now to get to live here with all of you in Middle Earth in 2019. This is the most special place that I’ve ever been able to be, let alone live with my family,” Woodman said during the ceremony. “... This is our biggest gift ever because we’re inspired by this place and we’re inspired by all of you and we’re inspired by the kiddos and we’re inspired by the impact we can make on this community.”

Woodman first came to Big Sky in 1996 to ski the newly trammed Lone Mountain; for the past seven years, he and his family have been visiting Big Sky but they committed to living in the area fulltime in December of 2018 to ensure quality time with their three young boys outside of the frenetic California pace of life they left behind. The family has a home in the Yellowstone Club and a cabin in Moonlight.

Woodman and his wife Jill were shocked to learn that the lawn of Town Center Park, a place they’d come to recognize as the physical center of Big Sky’s community, was slated for condominium development.

“So when we learned that there was a fundraising effort to actually buy the land and build the BASE community center, we immediately decided that we wanted to be a part of that because we wanted to preserve this energy core of Big Sky town for the community,” Woodman said.

Though Big Sky has a plethora of alcohol-serving establishments, its acute lack of public indoor space for kids to hang out in the winter made the donation a no brainer for the Woodmans, whose boys had



Nick Woodman, founder and CEO of GoPro, with his wife and three boys moved to Big Sky fulltime in December of 2018. The couple gave a \$4-million donation that allowed substantial expansions to the rock climbing portion of the community center.

struggled to meet friends without a central gathering place since moving to Big Sky.

“It started with our love of the lawn and grew into our overall love of the project and what it could do for the community,” Woodman said.

The \$4 million donation from the Jill and Nicholas Woodman Foundation allowed BSCO to double the size of the center’s climbing wall to a total of 1,300 square feet with 20 different top rope routes and a bouldering area, according to a July 15 press release. The Woodman boys love rock climbing, according to their father.

The community center also received a financial boost at Big Sky PBR, the night before the groundbreaking ceremony, when Spanish Peaks Community Foundation President John Haas presented a \$1.02 million check to BSCO Executive Director Ciara Wolfe for the community center.

“There are a lot of events that I’ve been to and a lot of philanthropic money handed out throughout those events, but I’ve never been there where \$1 million was handed out,” PBR announcer Brandon Bates told the Friday night crowd.

Though Haas presented the check, it was not a gift from the Spanish Peaks Community Foundation, but directly from Spanish Peaks members as 70 of 320 club members rallied to support the project, Haas said. The amount coming from these members is still rising, and as of July 31, the sum had grown to approximately \$1.087 million.

“Big Sky is made up of such an incredible group of people, and the diversity only adds to the power of the community,” Haas told EBS. “This community has come together to create an amazing building which will be a legacy for generations to come. The Spanish Peaks community is proud to be a part of this dream becoming a reality.”

Among the donors are Sam Byrne, a managing partner of Boston-based CrossHarbor Capital Partners, which



Big Sky Community Center board members and other partners break ground on Big Sky’s first community center, named BASE. PHOTOS BY DAVE PECUNIES

owns the Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks and Moonlight Basin. The Big Sky Resort Area District also allocated \$1.5 million of resort tax collections from the past year toward the project. To date, 241 donors, including full- and part-time residents, club members and partner organizations, have contributed to the project, according to Wolfe.

“This campaign represents how Big Sky has evolved from a sometimes desolate and seasonal resort destination to a thriving community of thousands of committed, year-round residents and compassionate part-time residents, all of whom truly love this place and its people,” Wolfe said in a press release.

BASE, which stands for “Big Adventure, Safe Environment,” has its origins in the Big Sky community’s desire for an indoor space public space that would allow recreation, a sentiment BSCO unearthed through a multi-month survey process.

BSCO bought the 3.3-acre parcel that underlies Town Center Park and the adjacent gravel parking lot in December of 2018, securing it as parkland in perpetuity. The organization then launched the most ambitious fundraising effort Big Sky has seen to date, “ALL IN. BIG SKY,” in April of this year to realize the project.

The campaign’s original fundraising goal was \$17.5 million, but BSCO stretched their target to \$20 million to avoid cutting parts of the project as construction costs escalated, according to a press release.

With the full \$20 million, the organization also seeks to purchase 2.6 acres adjacent to the Big Sky Community Park surrounding the tennis courts for future recreation facilities, which could include an aquatic center, a facility the community prioritized during BSCO’s survey process.

Along with providing a substance-free space for youth, as well as a place for residents and visitors to recreate, BASE will house office space and facilities for four nonprofit organizations, Wolfe said, adding that she



Groundbreaking ceremony, attendees gathered for an aerial photo spelling “ALL IN,” a symbol of BSCO’s ambitious fundraising campaign to raise \$20 million for the community center.

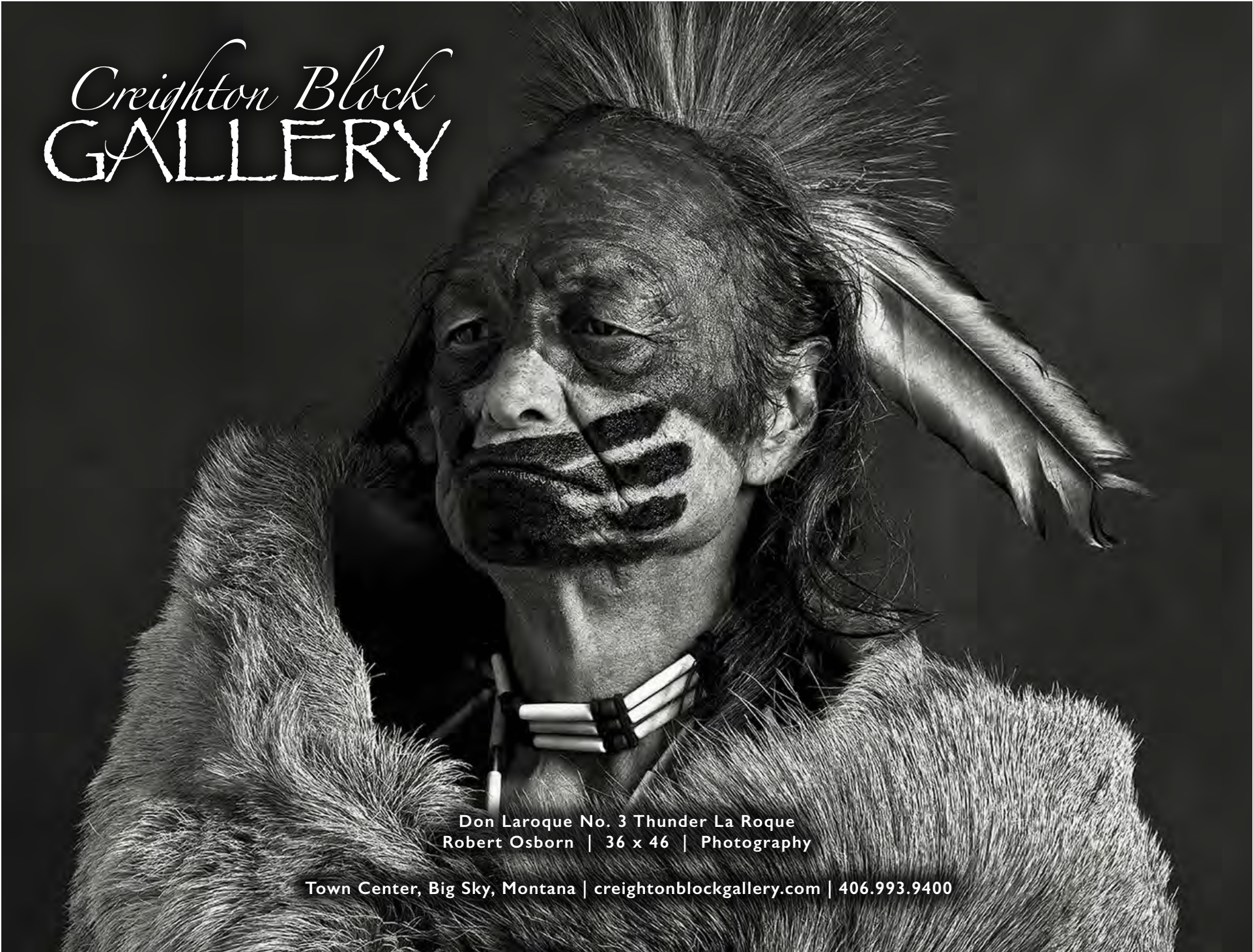
expects approximately 25 other groups will utilize the facility’s spaces in some capacity.

The community center is also geared to address common issues that are more acute in mountain towns, such as substance abuse, depression and suicide.

The infrastructure for the BASE community center will be installed once this summer’s Music in the Mountains concert series wraps up in early September, according to Wolfe. Construction will then cease for the winter to allow full use of the Town Center Ice Rink, and resume in the spring, with the center ideally opening the summer of 2021.



Upon its expected completion at the beginning of the summer of 2021, the community center will have office space for four of the nonprofit organizations that help Big Sky function without a formal town government. RENDERING COURTESY OF THE BIG SKY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION



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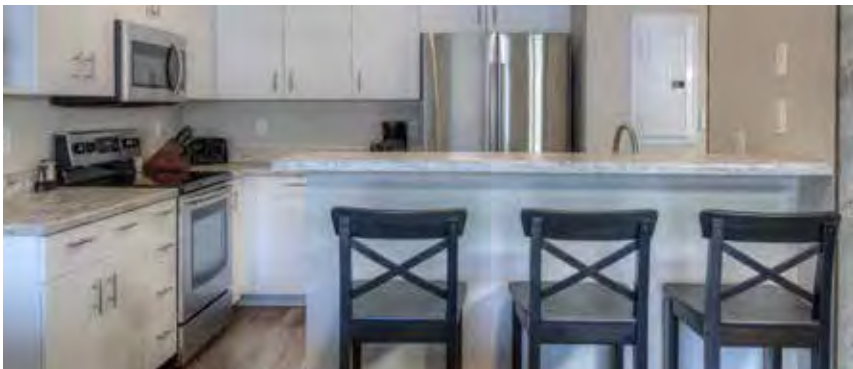
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Foodbank ‘breaks fast’ with Big Sky community

BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – Taken literally, “breakfast” means to break the nightly fast, and what better way to do that than with one’s community? That’s what the Big Sky Community Food Bank did the misty morning of July 27 when they hosted their Big Sky Community Pancake Breakfast.

In the midst of a week jam-packed with Big Sky PBR, groundbreaking for Big Sky’s first community center and several evening concerts, 36 volunteers served pancakes, smoky bacon and fruit to some 223 community members, despite a bout of rain in the middle of the event.

The breakfast raised \$3,000 for the food bank, though that wasn’t the main goal, according to Big Sky food bank program coordinator Sarah Gaither Bivins.

“It’s mostly to raise awareness and community support and participation for the foodbank,” Gaither Bivins said. “I think still a lot of people don’t realize that we have a foodbank in Big Sky.”

Local grocers—Roxy’s, the Country Market and The Hungry Moose—helped to offset costs, while local businesses offered raffle items such as VIP tickets to Big Sky PBR from Outlaw Partners, a half-day guided fly fishing trip from Spencer Crider of East Slope Outdoors and a wildlife photography piece from Patricia Bauchman.

According to the food bank’s website, Big Sky’s food bank serves working households whose income doesn’t cover food expenses, seasonally employed households, older adults on fixed incomes and those temporarily experiencing homelessness.



Program Director of the Big Sky Community Food Bank Sarah Gaither Bivins (middle) stands with Jill Holder (right), HRDC’s Food & Nutrition Department director, and Laine Hegness, an advisory council member to Big Sky’s food bank, at the Big Sky Community Pancake Breakfast on July 27. PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH GAITHER BIVINS

Gaither noted that she usually sees an uptick in clients coming into the food bank in the fall when seasonal workers arrive in Big Sky and are trying to make rent for their first month.

Visit bigskyfoodbank.org to learn more about the Big Sky Community Food Bank.



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BSRAD: What should be taxed?

BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Resort Area District board held a special meeting on July 18 to provide their attorney with guidelines to specify the items that should be taxed and those that should not within the district.

BSRAD’s lawyer Kimberly A. Beattie will revise a draft of the ordinance concerning resort tax administration in the district, which will also provide increased compliance for BSRAD and better accountability for businesses operating within the district.

The board agreed that their goal of the ordinance-revision process is not chiefly focused on merely defining whether the 3 percent resort tax was a tourist or a luxury tax. Beattie summarized the written feedback she had received from the board prior to the meeting, saying the objective was to effectively tax items primarily purchased by tourists and transient visitors, though residents and homeowners would also buy the same items.

The discussion at the July 18 meeting is part of a monthslong ordinance revision scheduled to wrap up this fall in time to catch the majority of resort tax inflows from the ski season. Read below the categories that were touched during discussion on as the board decides what is and isn’t subject to resort tax.

DEFINING ‘LUXURY ITEM’

Both state law and language in the board’s ordinance define “luxuries” as “any gift item, luxury item, or other item normally sold to the public or to transient visitors or tourists. The term does not include food purchased unprepared or unserved; medicine, medical supplies and services; appliances; hardware supplies and tools; or any necessities of life.”

The board agreed that, although unintuitive in some situations, a luxury had to be defined by class of item or service, not by cost.

“Price cannot be a factor in what’s determined a luxury versus a necessity of life,” BSRAD Chair Kevin Germain said. “It can’t be.”

DEFINING ‘NECESSITY OF LIFE’

Per the ordinance, “necessities of life” cannot be taxed. For food, the board favored using the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program definition. SNAP provides opportunities for needy families to purchase healthy food. Taxation on tobacco and alcohol in all forms will likely be enforced after the revision process since neither alcohol or tobacco are included in the SNAP definition.

Beattie will review how other governments define “necessities of life,” and build a version of these into the first draft of the BSRAD ordinance.

OWNED VS. RENTED ITEMS AND SERVICES

What people own, such as ski lockers and other real property, cannot be taxed, the board agreed. However, items rented for recreation are subject to resort tax.

TAXING TRANSPORTATION

The board agreed that transportation counts as a necessity of life. This means bikes, cars, buses, taxis, Uber—and even limousines and helicopters as long as they’re used as shuttles and not for scenic tours—should not be subject to resort tax.

“I would argue transportation is a necessity of life,” Germain said. “You have to be able to move around, so any form of transportation as far as your bike to your automobiles.” Though bike purchases are currently taxed within the district, there’s a chance this changes.

He recounted past discussions during which the board agreed that if a helicopter is used as a taxi it’s not taxable, but a helicopter used for scenic, recreational tours is taxable..

DEVELOPING A BUSINESS REGISTER WITHIN THE DISTRICT

The board wants to build a system for business registration to identify the businesses operating within BSRAD, the exact services they offer to ensure they are remitting resort tax appropriately. Beattie will determine what tools BSRAD can use to identify businesses within the district and enforce resort tax remittance.

CONSUMER DISCLOSER

The board also discussed the possibility of including higher levels of consumer discloser on receipts that ascertain how much of the amount paid is resort tax.

DEFINING ‘DESTINATION SKI RESORTS’

It surfaced during the July 18 meeting that in December of 2017 the board defined for their own purposes, “destination ski resort,” a term left undefined by the Legislature, but the ordinance was never amended to reflect the definition.

The definition reads: “A destination ski resort or destination recreational facility means a facility that offers amenities including but not limited to food, drink, lodging, sports, entertainment, convention support and shopping within the facility so that tourists or visitors do not need to leave the facility throughout their vacation.”

IMPLEMENTING A ‘TAX HOLIDAY’

Local retailers suggested the board implement a resort tax holiday to give locals and retail businesses a break from resort tax for certain periods of the year. Initially, the board aired ideas of ceasing all resort tax collections for a period, likely a week, in the shoulder seasons when fewer tourists are in town. This holiday would allow locals to purchase big-ticket items locally without paying the 3 percent resort tax, which would also help local retailers.

Germain voiced concerns that a holiday on all resort tax could be taken advantage of, such as if clubs sent out membership dues within the holiday period, or if everyone bought ski passes during that time, potentially resulting in a significant loss in collections.

Germain preferred a “laser amendment” that allowed a tax holiday only on retail items, not all resort tax, since retailers have provided feedback on how the tax drives business to Bozeman. The board plans to wait and see what Beattie comes up in the ordinance revision..

NEXT STEPS (COURTESY OF BSRAD)

August 9 – Comments from board on first draft due via email to Bierschwale

***August 14** – Board Meeting (Review of Draft Ordinance Comments, Public Hearing on Bond Applications) – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

August 23 – Second Draft of Ordinance provided by Beattie to resort tax board

***September 10** – Board Meeting (First Reading of Revised Ordinance) – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

***September 24** – Second Reading of Revised Ordinance – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

October – November – Ordinance Rollout and Training Sessions

***October 9** – Board Meeting (Establish 2020 calendar) – 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

***November 13** – Board Meeting (Logan Simpson Plan Finalized, Audit Report) – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

December 1 – Effective Date of amended ordinance 98-01

**In-person meeting*

Sanderson Stewart bids on TIGER grant improvements

BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – At the Gallatin County Commissioner’s public meeting on July 23, officials opened a bid from infrastructure engineering firm Sanderson Stewart to conduct the transportation upgrades to Lone Mountain Trail, a.k.a. Highway 64, that are funded by the \$10.3 million TIGER grant.

The project includes the construction of seven turn lanes on Lone Mountain Trail to help handle Big Sky’s current and future traffic volumes, as well as a pedestrian tunnel beneath the highway where Little Coyote Road intersects the highway near Meadow Village Center.

Sanderson Stewart, which has offices in Bozeman, Billings, Denver and Fort Collins, Colorado, included in its bid three sub consultants: HDR for environmental items, SK Geotechnical and Stahly Engineering and Associates for the pedestrian underpass, according to Jamie Grabinski, grants coordinator for Gallatin County.

The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation to the Big Sky project in March of 2018, and included nearly \$2.5 million for the Skyline bus system, which will include adding four buses and six vans to the existing public transport fleet servicing Big Sky and the greater Bozeman area.

The grant was signed by the county commissioners in June after a 15-month back-and-forth process between the federal and county government. The request for bids was sent out directly after that.

Grabinski told the commissioners that the bid included all of the requested aspects of the project and that she will return to them a recommendation sometime in early August. Expected completion of the road improvements falls around July of 2022.

Aspen Leaf Drive closed, detour



The portion of Aspen Leaf Drive that bends around the Big Sky Events Arena will be closed to through traffic until the end of September in order to accommodate infrastructural installations per the Town Center Master Plan. The closure will also allow the construction of Huntley Drive, a new road to connect Town Center Avenue and Aspen Leaf Drive, according to Derek Christensen of TD&H Engineering. Christensen said they plan to install a pedestrian path to allow ease of access to trails across the West Fork of the Gallatin River, but suggests the pictured detour for cars seeking access to the Uplands and Hummocks trailheads.



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MSU researchers join Nat Geo Everest expedition

BY RACHEL HERGETT
MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – The Himalaya Mountains are an active site of continental collision, where the meeting of tectonic plates forces the Earth’s surface to great heights. At the same time, in the face of extreme conditions, the mountains are also rapidly eroding.

Mountain building is closely tied to climate, according to structural geologist Mary Hubbard, a professor in Montana State University’s Department of Earth Sciences in the College of Letters and Science. While forces under the surface of the Earth cause mountains to rise, climate trends, such as annual monsoons, fill the rivers and send landslides down the valley walls. But details of this process have not been studied extensively in remote areas like the high Himalaya. A Sanskrit word meaning “house of snow,” “Himalaya” is the preferred term used by locals and researchers to refer to the range of mountains and region they dominate.

This spring, Hubbard co-led one of two teams of geologists on an interdisciplinary expedition to Mount Everest led by National Geographic and Tribhuvan University that sought to fill the scientific void in the Himalaya. It was the first in a series of Perpetual Planet Extreme Expeditions, a partnership between National Geographic and Rolex which seeks to understand the scope of climate change in some of Earth’s most unique environments.

“There are still a lot of unanswered questions,” Hubbard said.

The expedition collected wide-ranging data in five fields: biology, glaciology, meteorology, geology and mapping. It drew more than 30 scientists from eight countries, including 17 Nepali researchers. National Geographic called it “the most comprehensive single scientific expedition to the mountain in history.”

“Because climate impacts so many things, if you only look at plants or only look at insects, you’re going to miss other things in the record, in the lakes, in the ice,” Hubbard said.

Geology teams included MSU doctoral student Bibek Giri and six master’s students from Tribhuvan’s Tri Chandra campus in Kathmandu, Nepal. Students who grew up in Nepal tend to be from the capital or villages in the lower hills of the Himalaya and have limited opportunities to visit the high mountains, Hubbard said.

Giri was able to stay with family while the team took introductory courses in Kathmandu, but the mountains around Everest were unfamiliar.

“I’ve always loved mountains, loved exploring,” he said. “The geology I knew well, but I had never been there.”

As they hiked together toward Everest for three days, Hubbard, Nepalese scientific leader Anata P. Gajurel and geology team co-leader Aaron Putnam of the University of Maine would point out specific features—bedrock, fault zones, areas with landslide activity—to the students on their teams.

“They had the opportunity to learn from three people from different institutions, with different expertise,” Hubbard said. “We do better science when we recognize the diversity of people in the sciences.”

Hubbard’s geology team was one of two to explore different areas at the base of the mountain. Her team included Giri and three of the master’s students from Tri Chandra, which is where Giri studied for his undergraduate and master’s degrees.

They hiked to high-mountain lakes in a valley near Everest to collect core samples, carrying with them specially designed 8-pound pack rafts, paddles, life jackets and the coring device itself. The two rafts were secured together,



While taking a break from coring high mountain lakes in the upper Gokyo Valley of Nepal, Montana State University Earth Sciences Ph.D. student Bibek Giri stands on the lateral moraine of the Ngozumba glacier with the peak of Cho Oyu (26,864’) in the background. PHOTO BY MARY HUBBARD

er, forming a stable platform from which to drop the coring device to the bottom of the lake.

The samples are vertical segments of the lake’s sediment encased in a clear plastic tube. Without substantial aquatic life in the high mountain lakes, the sediment is rarely disturbed. Layers let researchers establish a record of seasonal cycles on the mountain—the winter cold and spring snowmelt, the monsoons followed by the dry season. Geologists can then study annual changes to this cycle.

Hubbard’s team also sampled sand layers farther down the valley, in areas thought to be stranded lake deposits on the valley walls. Lakes may form from landslide activity or may be left behind as glaciers retreat, Hubbard explained. Dating those samples may tell researchers if the lake predates, or is a remnant of, the last ice age.

The other geology team, led by the University of Maine, focused on moraines, the rocks and sediment carried down the mountain with a glacier and deposited in its path. Drone mapping and samples will allow the team to look at the extent of the glaciers’ historic paths.

“The new technology will become part of their lives,” Hubbard said. “As a tool, drones are incredibly effective in areas of extreme topography, like the Himalaya.”

Once their samples were collected, the teams met up to hike to Everest Base Camp. They stayed one night before heading down the mountain.

Giri said he will return. First, however, he is spending the summer as an intern for National Geographic in Washington, D.C., compiling reports from all of the Extreme Expedition teams into one master report and aiding in communication between the institution, Nepal’s government and Tribhuvan University.

Hubbard said she was drawn to the project for two reasons: the scope of the research to be conducted and the number of Nepalese on the team. Without any input in the scientific process from Nepalese people, the country won’t benefit from expeditions, Hubbard explained. Her team collected two core samples from each lake, one to be shipped back to MSU and one to be studied at Tri Chandra in Kathmandu. There, students and researchers are able to address climate change while taking regional culture, politics and priorities into account.

“They can bring together local knowledge and scientific knowledge,” Hubbard said.

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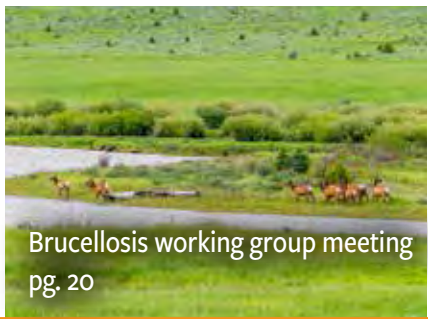
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SECTION 2:
ENVIRONMENT,
OUTDOORS,
& HEALTH



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60th anniversary of Earthquake Lake pg. 28

Electric July

Summer thunderstorms normal but indicate changing patterns, weather experts say

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BIG SKY – Appearing billowy and soft in the sky, cumulous clouds churn together forming a dark anvil-shaped mass that blots out the summer sun. They drift ominous over Lone Mountain before unleashing a force of thunder, lightning, pounding rain and hail.

It’s not unusual for thunderstorms to crack open summer skies in the mountains, but the omnipresent afternoon squalls this July across a large portion of southwest Montana have done more than spark a handful of wildfires—they’ve also got many wondering if 2019 is turning out to be an unusually wet year.

While a severe thunderstorm can evoke those feelings of awe and terror in the moment of the storm, weather experts say this year’s storms are fairly typical of the overall climate in Montana.

According to National Weather Service meteorologist Joe Lester, who is based in Billings, our thunderstorm intensity is pretty normal, and while it’s been a wet year, precipitation hasn’t been off the charts. The Gallatin River Basin, according to the Montana Snow Survey Program, received 109 percent of the normal precipitation in July. This amounts to fractions of an inch of more rain.

“I don’t think it’s been anything too out of the ordinary,” he said, however he added there’s been a change in our weather pattern: As compared with the past few years, the thunderstorm season seems to be happening later in the summer, meaning we’re likely to see that hot, dry weather southwest Montanans are accustomed to later in August.

The reason for the delayed rain clouds? Lester describes the immediate reason as having to do with the actual mechanism of a thunderstorm. A wet spring keeps humidity up, allowing instability to build within the clouds, thus maintaining an almost daily thunderstorm potential.

There are three ingredients required to make a thunderstorm: moisture, unstable air and lift.

As the sun heats air near the ground, cold air blown in over the mountains causes the warm air—which weighs less than the colder air—to lift. As this air rises rapidly, it creates turbulence and transfers heat from the earth surface to the upper levels of the atmosphere. This produces a buildup of water vapor that forms a cloud and as the outside air cools, water and ice develop.

The turbulence creates an electrical charge in the storm cloud in the same way as rubbing your feet on carpet. As the cloud becomes negatively charged, it is attracted to a positive charge on the ground and the electrical current is discharged, resulting in lightning and thunder. Lightning, coursing at 50,000 degrees, Lester says, heats the air causing a shockwave that produces the crack of thunder.

A severe storm, classified as one that produces 1-inch hail, at least 58-mile-per-hour winds or a tornado, develops from wind shear, or when wind changes in direction, speed and height. According to the National Severe Storms Laboratory, there are about 100,000 thunderstorms each year in the U.S. and about 10 percent of these reach severe levels.



While Lester described the immediate reason for our thunderstorms, the cause for our wet spring that is maintaining humidity and storm potential could have to do with climate change.

Montana State University earth sciences professor Cathy Whitlock, the lead author of the Montana Climate Assessment, projects an overall warming trend in the coming decades but also says storm patterns are likely to change.

Whitlock was unavailable for an interview at EBS press time, but in a 2018 interview with EBS she predicted that Big Sky can expect similar precipitation amounts in the future, but snowpack won’t last as long, spring floods are probable and late-summer droughts are likely.

“We’ve seen periods in the past when it’s been warmer than it is today, but we’ve not seen a rate of warming as fast as is happening right now,” Whitlock said. “We can already see the effects in Montana, across the country and around the world. We’re warming at an alarming rate.”

The Montana Climate Assessment—a product of the Montana Institute on Ecosystems—reports annual average temperatures have risen across the state between 1950 and 2015 by about 2 or 3 degrees F, while average winter precipitation in western and central Montana has decreased by 1 inch and spring precipitation in the eastern part of the state has increased by about 2 inches.

As noted in the report, Montana experiences a highly variable climate and day-to-day weather as a result of storm systems and air masses from the Pacific, Arctic and Gulf of Mexico. While incredibly dynamic—recall the old adage “If you don’t like the weather in Montana, wait five minutes,”—Montana’s climate directly impacts the state’s economy, having effects on agriculture and recreation among others.

“I’ve come to realize that climate change is really not a stand-alone issue,” Whitlock said. “It affects all aspects of Montana’s economy and social well-being, and it’s time for some serious discussion and planning.”

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ENVIRONMENT

Explore Big Sky

WATER WISDOM

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

Good Genes

Native fish thrive in Big Sky

BY STEPHANIE LYNN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Ousel Falls provides a natural barrier that prevents the upstream migration of non-native rainbow trout. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

A study performed by the Greater Yellowstone Coalition in collaboration with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Custer Gallatin National Forest confirmed west-slope cutthroat trout in the South Fork of the West Fork above Ousel Falls have a low percentage of hybridization.

Silvery green with a slash of red across their lower jaws, cutthroat trout are striking reminders of the West as Lewis and Clark saw it. They also occupy a vital place in complex food webs.

Habitat loss, introduced species and overfishing have precipitated the decline of these native fish resulting in their designation as a species of concern by the state of Montana. Foreign trout species, including brook and brown trout, outcompete juvenile cutthroat for food and also

prey on cutthroat trout, while rainbow trout engulf endemic genes through interbreeding.

Hoping to protect threatened trout, GYC and their agency partners surveyed three streams that flow into the Gallatin River for westslope cutthroat trout in 2018. Promising preliminary findings in the South Fork led to formal fish genetics analyses at seven locations on this creek and its tributaries, funded in part by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. After sampling, GYC planned to ensure native trout persist in the South Fork, either by removing hybrid “cutbows” or by using a technique known as “swamping” to infuse the population with genetically-pure westslope stock.

“We expected to find a hybridized westslope cutthroat population above Ousel Falls, but discovered a conservation population with on average nearly 95 percent westslope cutthroat genes,” said Bob Zimmer, GYC waters program coordinator.

The study estimated that the South Fork shelters approximately 1,000 to 1,200 fish per mile with genes that are 93 to 95 percent westslope cutthroat and five percent Yellowstone cutthroat. In addition, some fish had one to three percent rainbow genes. With these unexpected results in hand, the partners doubled-down on other efforts to protect the endemic population.

The headwaters of the South Fork are located within the Yellowstone Club, where the YC manages guided trips through stream rotation and closures in sensitive areas while educating their members about fish handling and stream etiquette.

“The genetic testing last summer provided similar results to the previous two samplings that have been done and further proved that there is an incredible fisheries resource in the upper South Fork watershed,” said Rich Chandler, environmental manager at the Yellowstone Club. “We intend to maintain all the programs at YC that help promote the westslope cutthroat trout’s important role in the ecosystem.”

Ousel Falls creates a natural barrier that harbors one of six conservation populations of westslope cutthroat trout in the Upper Gallatin watershed. Protecting these vulnerable fish through habitat conservation and fisheries management sustains their vital ecological niche and our natural heritage.

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

The New West: Student learns how little critters have big impacts



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

Cameron Dobrotka is 1,500 miles away from the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem this summer, but he’s at work on something that has implications for our region, and he believes it should be of interest to members of his generation.

Why? Because it’s certain to become more prominent as an issue in the decades ahead.

Dobrotka is studying certain kinds of uncharismatic microfauna that may cause many readers here to squirm. After reading this column, you might even feel as if one of his subjects is crawling across your body. Warning: The description and photo that follows may be unsettling.

Young Mr. Dobrotka’s focus: ticks.

At the Yoder Lab on the campus of Wittenberg College in Springfield, Ohio, Dobrotka is thinking about tick behavior. He’s pondering how the proliferation of these blood-sucking, disease-spreading parasites is occurring in an age of climate change.

The 21-year-old grew up in the Chicago suburb of Elmhurst and he admits that neither he nor his friends paid much heed to the topic of ticks. That changed when Dobrotka, as an undergraduate hoping to pursue a career in medicine, became a research associate in the laboratory operated by college professor and tick researcher Jay Yoder.

Yoder, these days, is focusing his attention on a particular species of tick, *Dermacentor albipictus*, known by its more common name, “winter tick.”

Winter ticks have emerged as a serious problem for moose in New England and there is growing concern that habitat conditions favoring tick survival in the boreal forest could dramatically affect moose as well as other deer family species, including potentially, elk, deer and woodland caribou.

Ticks are members of the class Arachnida, the same one that includes spiders.

Normally, major tick outbreaks occur in more southern climes and, in the North, only cyclically; normally, they are hard pressed to survive cold northern winters. But warming average temperatures have enabled more to persevere; they become hitchhikers on moose in autumn, start sucking blood, even reproducing on the animals, and stay there till spring. And by then the damage is done.

Although winter ticks cause adult hosts to lose their fur and can make them anemic, giving rise to the name “ghost moose,” they don’t usually kill. They can have a swift lethal effect on moose calves.

According to research professor Pete Pekins at the University of New Hampshire, who has been involved with an ongoing study in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, some winters since 2014 have had 60 percent calf moose loss due to winter ticks. Note: New England does not have wolves.

On some calf moose there were between 70,000 and 100,000 ticks per animal, sometimes many more. A baby moose will get sucked completely dry and die into two weeks.

“We see moose as the icon of gauging the impacts of climate change in the Northeast,” Pekins said. “Are we going to lose all of our moose? The bigger issue is climate change and what’s happening with moose and ticks is an indicator of what’s coming.”

Apart from the physiological impacts of winter ticks, there are deer ticks and other species that carry and spread epizootic diseases, the best-known being Lyme disease and, in our region, Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

The Yoder Lab is novel in that it has enabled dozens of undergraduates to do meaningful research with a climate-change issue that isn’t just emerging; it’s already happening. Professor Yoder says there are four tick species in Ohio that weren’t common when he was a kid.

For Dobrotka, who plays on the lacrosse team when he’s not putting ticks and their saliva under a microscope, climate change represented a serious yet nearly invisible, amorphous phenomena before he got involved in scientific investigation. He now realizes that the spread of exotic parasites and pathogens will be something that members of his generation will have to contend with.

What he appreciates about ticks is that although they are small, their presence can ripple big ecological impacts, even taking down the largest members of the deer family and potentially affecting moose at the population level due to calf mortality.

Dobrotka’s advice to his contemporaries in GenZ: Be prepared, not scared of nature, because danger is relative. Wear long clothes when going into bushy areas; use bug repellents like DEET; check your body—and your dogs—after a hike; if a tick is embedded in you, know how to remove it and save it in a baggie; if you find a tick that



A New England moose covered in fully-engorged winter ticks. PHOTO COURTESY OF YODER LAB

is engorged with your blood, or see a bull’s eye rash on the skin, go to a doctor immediately. Lyme and some of the other maladies can be thwarted if treated early with antibiotics.

“Ticks are out there in the world. My view and opinion about ticks has completely changed. They are all over the place and you never know what kind of tick you’ll run into,” Dobrotka said. “I’m not worried about them but they’ve made me think how I need to be aware if I’m out in the woods.”

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.

‘Carrots and sticks’

Group discusses tools to combat brucellosis

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BOZEMAN – Following extensive efforts in the last decade to minimize the spread of brucellosis from elk to cattle, a group of stakeholders, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Department of Livestock are collaborating to further reduce the spread of the contagious disease within elk herds.

During an annual meeting of the Brucellosis Elk Working Group facilitated by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks on July 25, the 10-member citizen panel brainstormed tools the wildlife department can use to reduce elk-to-elk transmission. As early as the 1990s, brucellosis has been a target of research and public attention since it causes abortion in livestock, elk and bison and is transmitted through reproductive tissue like afterbirth. Humans can also contract the illness.



A pod of elk travel alongside the Gallatin River during the spring runoff. PHOTO BY ALAN JOHNSON

Last year, one elk tested positive out of 100 captured during routine surveillance efforts in the Tendoy Mountains southwest of Dillon—an area that was outside the zone where brucellosis has already been found. This prompted the fourth expansion since 2010 of the Designated Surveillance Area, a swath of land extending north to Three Forks and south to the Yellowstone National Park boundary, and stretching east and west from Carbon County to Dillon.

Within the DSA, the Department of Livestock requires producers to vaccinate and test for the disease, and institutes quarantines if any animals are found to have exposure to the disease. Many livestock producers fear federal brucellosis regulations threaten the viability of the livestock industry within the Greater Yellowstone, thus driving some landowner intolerance for elk; if one domestic cow tests positive for the disease, the entire herd and all neighboring herds are placed under a quarantine that can last for months.

“It scares the hell out of me to think about the DSA expanding for the next 100 years to the entire Western U.S. and I think that’s a real possibility,” said Lorents Grosfield, a cattle rancher from Big Timber and a member of the working group. “So for the long term, we should take the responsibility of looking at it and seeing if we can come up with anything. I realize it’s going to be very difficult.”

While a relatively effective vaccination is available for use in cattle, further research to develop a more effective vaccination that could also be used on elk is restricted as long as the bacteria remains on the Select Agent and Toxins List. This directory compiled by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, prohibits handling of biological agents that pose a significant threat to people, plants and animals.

A large portion of the meeting was dedicated to conversations about immunocontraception, a birth control method that uses the body’s immune response to prevent pregnancy for a given period of time. Several drugs have been developed and successfully used on wild horses and urban deer to prevent over-population.

Members of the group voiced interest in exploring whether contraception could be used on a small scale in elk captured for research to prevent

pregnancy in diseased cow elk—and thus prevent abortion and the spread of the disease—in herds that are already above population objectives.

According to DOL brucellosis program veterinarian Eric Liska, additional research into the impacts of the immunocontraceptive on elk, as well as public outreach and review, would be necessary before any serious discussion of implementation.

They also considered whether hazing, or driving a group of elk away from another group or site, could be selectively used to prevent infected elk from mingling with healthy elk.

“Some of these tools are basically carrots or sticks,” said group member Ken Hamlin, retired FWP biologist from Bozeman. “We’ve mostly been dealing with sticks and I think we need to investigate and be pushing a little more for some of the carrot approach for attracting elk to certain areas rather than the stick approach of trying to push them.”

As noted by the group, this method includes habitat improvements or changes in the hunting season that could draw elk away from cattle or reduce their tendency to congregate in large herds.

“I think as a group we have to be careful not to not let ourselves think about something and do something because it seems small,” said Paradise Valley cattle producer Druska Kinkie, a member of the working group. “Sometimes only the small things can grow and make a difference.”

During the conversation, Wildlife Management Section Chief Quentin Kujala commended the group for their productivity. “We think this is one of our better assisted working groups,” he said. “I don’t see so many advocates sitting at this table as folks chasing a solution.”

At the meeting’s conclusion, the group determined to meet a second time in August to further discuss ways of preventing the spread of brucellosis in elk.

Visit fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/management/elk/workingGroups/areas-WithBrucellosisWG for more information.

FWP and USFS begin native trout restoration in North Fork Spanish Creek

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS



A spawning westslope cutthroat trout. PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Custer Gallatin National Forest are initiating a project to restore native westslope cutthroat trout to 17 miles of upper North Fork Spanish Creek.

Crews began by removing non-native fish species in Big Brother and Chiquita lakes north of Big Sky by treating the waters with rotenone on July

29. Rotenone is a natural chemical used to remove fish. The two lakes were closed to the public during the treatment.

As stream flows subside, FWP will treat North Fork Spanish Creek and tributaries upstream of the fish barrier recently constructed on the lower end of the creek. Fish removals are expected to take at least two years to complete prior to re-establishing native fish.

An environmental assessment, which included collaborative planning with the U.S. Forest Service as well as opportunity for public comment, was completed for this project in 2017.

For more information, please call FWP's Region 3 headquarters at (406) 994-4042.

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10:00-11:30am All Levels Yoga	12:00-1:00pm Community Yoga (All Levels) In Town Center Park	9:00-10:00am All Levels Yoga	9:00-10:15 Level II Yoga	9:00-10:00am All Levels Vinyasa Flow	12:00-1:00pm Heated Flow	
5:00-6:15pm Warm Yin/Restorative Yoga	5:45-7:00pm All Levels Yoga*	11:00-Noon All Levels Yoga	11:00-12:00pm All Levels Yoga	11:00-Noon All Levels Yoga		
		5:45-7:00pm Heated Flow	4:15-5:15pm Slow Flow Yoga*			

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Reason #21

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

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INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



September event to celebrate art and artists in Yellowstone

BY CHRISTINE GIANAS WEINHEIMER
YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

Most of us have had opportunities to view and admire art, but how often do we get to see a work of art in the making? Visitors to Yellowstone National Park will soon have that chance during the second annual Yellowstone Plein Air Invitational, taking place Sept. 24 to 29. Hosted by Yellowstone Forever, the park's official nonprofit partner, the event celebrates the current and historical presence of art in Yellowstone, as some of the nation's best artists paint "en plein air" throughout the park.

Artists were among the first to bring proof to the American public of the natural wonders and wildlife found within Yellowstone. These early paintings and drawings are believed to have helped convince Congress in 1872 that this landscape was exceptionally valuable and should be preserved for all time.

"Art still plays a significant role in the park," said Yellowstone Forever President and CEO John Walda. "In addition to helping us see Yellowstone in new and creative ways, the work of artists inspires others to visit, cherish and protect this magnificent place."

Most of the Yellowstone Plein Air Invitational activities are free and open to the public with park admission. Visitors can attend daily painting demonstrations at scenic landmarks around the park, as well as a family-friendly plein air painting activity on Saturday. The event will culminate with a weekend art exhibition during which accomplished painter and distinguished museum director Ian McKibbin White will give a keynote address and judge the art entries.

"Last year's inaugural event was spectacular," Walda said. "We are thrilled that this year's Yellowstone Plein Air Invitational has grown to feature 16 extraordinarily talented artists from around the country, and that Ian McKibbin White has agreed to play such a significant role."

On Saturday evening, a banquet, exhibition and art auction will be held at Old Faithful Lodge Recreation Hall. During this ticketed event, studio paintings from each artist will be exhibited alongside a selection of the artists' plein air "wet paintings" produced



Artists participate in the inaugural Plein Air Invitational last year. PHOTO COURTESY OF YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

during the week. On the final day, September 29, the art exhibition and sale will be open to the public.

Yellowstone Forever is the official education and fundraising nonprofit partner of Yellowstone National Park. Proceeds from the event will benefit priority projects and education initiatives in the park.

Maps of specific artist demonstration locations will be available the week of the event at all of Yellowstone Forever's Park Stores park-wide.

For more event details including a list of artists, or to purchase tickets for the Saturday evening event, visit yellowstone.org/plein-air.

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

Bear incidents demonstrate importance of proper food storage

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Park staff have had a busy summer responding to bears in campgrounds, backcountry campsites and along roadsides. Visitors are reminded to stay at least 100 yards away from bears at all times and to store food and scented items properly.

Once a bear acquires human food, it loses its fear of people and may become dangerous. This process is called "habituation." The park has killed two habituated black bears this year and is trying to capture a third. All three bears exhibited bold behaviors, showed no fear around people and have demonstrated food-conditioned behavior.

Last month, at a backcountry campsite along Little Cottonwood Creek, a black bear bit into an occupied tent and bruised a woman's thigh. The bite did not break the skin due to the tent fabric and thick sleeping bag. Rangers suspect that this might have been a bear that gained access to human food in this same area in previous years. Over subsequent days, rangers set up cameras and a decoy tent at the campsite to determine if the bear would continue this behavior. With rangers present, the bear returned and aggressively tore up the decoy tent. The bear was killed on-site on June 11.

In early July, at a backcountry campsite along the Lamar River Trail, campers left food unattended while packing up gear, allowing a black bear to eat approximately 10 pounds of human food. Campers who visited the same campsite the following evening had numerous encounters with the same bear. Their attempts to haze the bear away failed. Rangers relocated multiple campers from the area and the bear was killed on July 10. The incident is still under investigation.

Since July 18, at the frontcountry Indian Creek Campground, a black bear has caused property damage to tents and vehicles in its search for human food. Park staff actively hazed the bear from the campground, but also set up cameras. If the bear returns, managers will take appropriate actions based on the current circumstances, including additional hazing or removal.



A black bear near Blacktail Plateau Drive in Yellowstone National Park. NPS PHOTO

These incidents serve as unfortunate reminders that human carelessness doesn't just endanger people; it can also result in a bear's death. Allowing bears to obtain human food even once often leads to them becoming aggressive toward people. All of us play a role in keeping both bears and people safe.

Yellowstone National Park does not typically relocate bears for three reasons: 1) There are no areas in the park to move the bear where it wouldn't have the continued opportunity to potentially injure someone and damage property, 2) surrounding states do not want food-conditioned bears relocated into their jurisdictions, and 3) adult bears have large home ranges, good memories and could easily return to the original area.

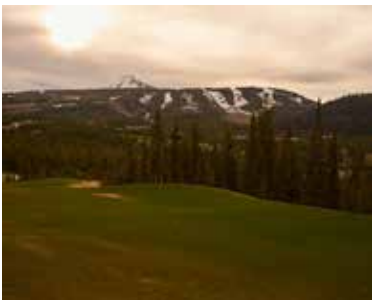
It is common for visitors to observe black bears in Yellowstone. About 50 percent are black in color, others are brown, blond or cinnamon.

Learn more about what you can do at go.nps.gov/yellbearsafety.

SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB



Royal Coachman Ranch
160 ACRES / \$5.9M



Lot 38 Bitterbrush Trail
1.27 ACRES / \$800K



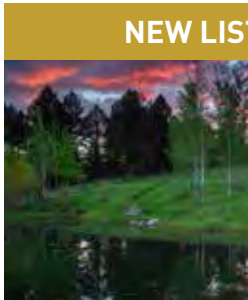
Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.
3.13 Acres / \$490K

MOONLIGHT BASIN



Lot 44 Diamond Hitch
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2005 Upper Ch
7,690 SQ FT

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



211 B Pheasant Tail
\$720K



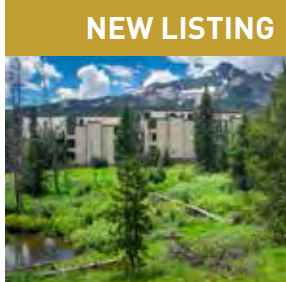
Cottonwood Crossing Unit 5
1854 SQ FT / \$565K



Hill Condo 1277
790 SQ FT / \$299K

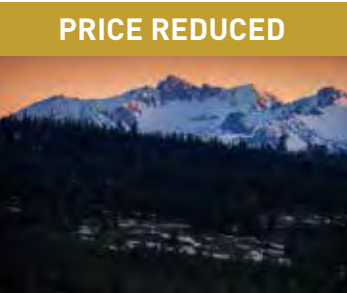


Hidden Village
15 Blue Flax Place
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Hill Condo 1361
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BIG SKY - LAND



Lot 2 Big Buck Road
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Lot 4 Beaver Creek
20 Acres / \$539K



Lot 3 Joy Road
6.83 Acres / \$395K



Bear Paw Ponds Parcel 7
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BOZEMAN & GREATER MONTANA

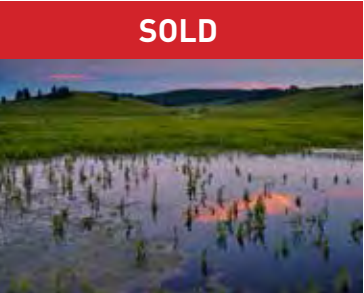


SxS Ranch
Bozeman, MT
483.78 ACRES / \$7.5M

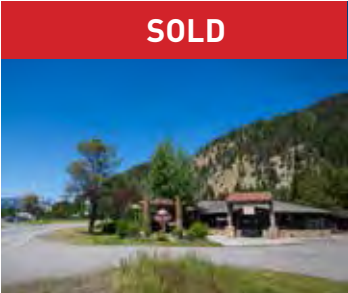


Rocking S Ranch
Bozeman
20.232 ACRES

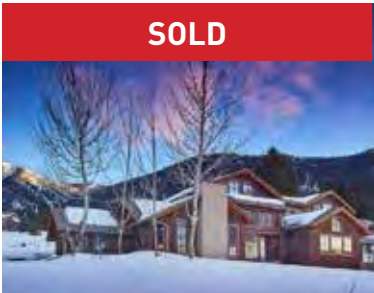
RECENTLY SOLD



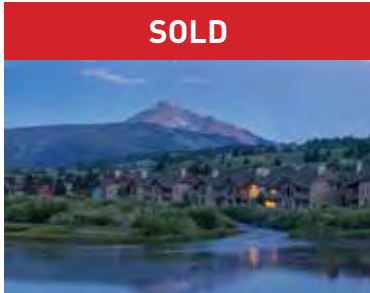
Yellowstone Ranch Preserve
List Price: \$19M



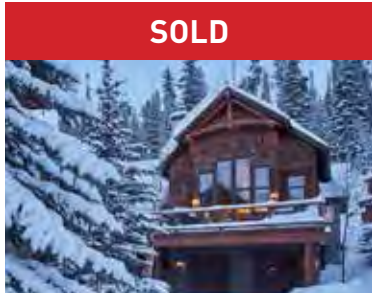
Big Sky Corner Property
List Price: \$3.24M



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

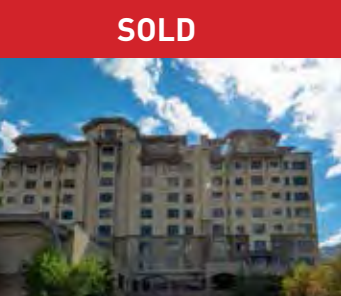


Crail Ranch Unit 40
List Price: \$1.35M

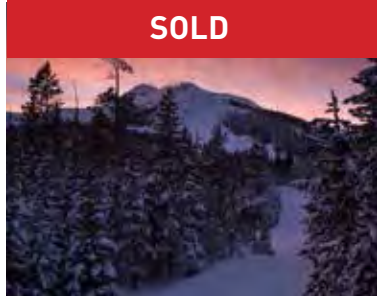


Black Eagle Lodge Unit 30
List Price: \$1.35M

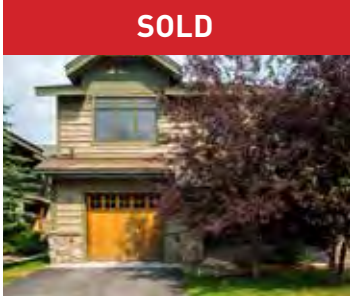
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Summit 911/912
List Price: \$595K



Lot 39 Diamond Hitch
1 ACRE / \$595K



Cottonwood Crossing #15
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115 Teita Drive
1,909 SQFT / \$420K

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2078 Little Coyote List
List Price: \$1.079M

Ski Tip Lot 10
List Price: \$975K

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

Lot 64 Goshawk
1.04 ACRES / \$775K

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SOLD

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Lot 63 Silverado Trail
List Price: \$390K

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

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

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

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YNP selects new head of facilities and operations

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent Cam Sholly announced the selection of Duane Bubac as the new chief of Facility Management and Operations for Yellowstone National Park.

Bubac is an 18-year veteran of the National Park Service and is currently the Associate Regional Director for Facilities and Infrastructure in the NPS Midwest Regional Office in Omaha, Nebraska. Bubac has been serving as the acting facilities chief at Yellowstone since March 2019.

The Facility Management and Operations Division is responsible for all park infrastructure including 300 miles of roads, buildings, boardwalks and water and wastewater systems. As chief of facility management and operations, Bubac will oversee approximately \$30 million annually and supervise a staff of 300 employees from varying disciplines related to design, engineering, construction and facility operations.

“Duane has a demonstrated track record of high performance, problem solving and collaboration at all levels within the organization,” said Sholly. “He is the right leader to help this team continue making substantial progress in Yellowstone’s major priority areas, like reducing deferred maintenance and improving employee housing.”

During his time in Omaha, Bubac restructured the region’s Facility Management team, improved engagement with the region’s 61 parks and helped substantially reduce deferred maintenance.

Previously, Bubac held a variety of other key leadership positions including Superintendent at Minuteman Missile National Historic Site, Chief of Cultural Resources and Facility Management at Mount Rushmore National Memorial, and Acting Superintendent assignments at Mount Rushmore and George Washington Carver. He was also the operations section chief for the Central All Risk Management Team.

“I am honored and humbled to be selected for this position,” Bubac said. “Yellowstone National Park has an outstanding team with limitless talent, dedication and professionalism. I look forward to continuing the work they’ve started to further the park’s strategic priorities, especially related to improving infrastructure.”



Duane Bubac, an 18-year veteran of the National Park Service, has been selected as the new chief of Facility Management and Operations in Yellowstone National Park. NPS PHOTO



Detection dogs search boats for aquatic hitchhikers in Yellowstone, Grand Teton

EBS STAFF

As the threat of aquatic invasive species looms on Greater Yellowstone’s doorstep, the National Park Service is working within Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks to prevent non-native species like zebra and quagga mussels from entering park waters.

From July 19-31 in Yellowstone and July 20-Aug. 3 in Grand Teton, detection dogs from Bozeman-based Working Dogs for Conservation helped park staff with mandatory boat inspections. These dogs, trained to sniff out AIS, also serve as ambassadors, raising awareness about the risk of AIS contamination, which can completely transform habitats, as well as damage equipment and impact local economies.

Pictured, Tobias searches a boat in Yellowstone National Park.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WORKING DOGS FOR CONSERVATION



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The history that shaped Earthquake Lake

60th anniversary events commemorate earthquake and tragic loss

CUSTER GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

Sixty years have passed since the 1959 Hebgen Lake Earthquake on Aug. 17, 1959, but the evidence of its marks on the natural landscape provide a prominent lasting memory. Saturday, Aug. 17, 2019, the Earthquake Lake Visitor's Center and Geologic Area, as part of the Hebgen Lake Ranger District within the Custer Gallatin National Forest will remember the 60th anniversary of the event that shaped its history. This 7.3 magnitude earthquake triggered a landslide that blocked the Madison River, killing 28 people and forming Earthquake Lake.

As part of acknowledging and remembering this tragic event, the Earthquake Lake Visitor's Center focuses in part on the historic and geologic make-up of the area, giving people that walk through for just a couple of hours or spend most of the day a lasting learning experience. Throughout August the visitor's center will host a daily Junior Geology Ranger program for children ages nine and up, along with guest speakers, hikes, a smokejumper practice and viewing at Refuge Point, and a memorial service with book signings.

Schedule of Events:

Aug. 3 and 10
10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Guided landslide walk to Memorial Boulder. This will be a short, handicap-accessible walk telling the story of the Earthquake and providing stunning views of the surrounding landscape. Visitors can choose to do a short 1/8-mile hike to Memorial Boulder or continue on an unpaved gravel path on Landslide Trail approximately one mile.

Aug. 8
1 and 3 p.m.

Interpretive afternoon with Leslie Quinn and Mike Stickney. At 1 p.m., Quinn will host an event called "Shake, Rattle and Roll: 60 years Since the Hebgen Lake Earthquake." At 3 p.m., Stickney, the director of earthquake studies for the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, will speak to the 1959 quake and geology.

Aug. 16
2 p.m.

Guest speaker Jamie Farrell, assistant professor of seismograph stations from the University of Utah, will speak at the visitor's center.



Refuge Point Overlook, where the public can view a practice smokejump on Aug. 18 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Hebgen Lake Earthquake. PHOTO COURTESY OF CUSTER GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

Aug. 17

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. at Memorial Boulder with Pastor Benny McCracken followed by memories from survivors. Rock Creek Campground survivors will share their stories from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Book signing will be available throughout the day by Larry Morris, author of "1959 Yellowstone Earthquake," and Anita Painter Thon, who penned "Shaken in the Night."

Aug. 18
11 a.m.

Smokejumper practice jump at Refuge Point. Smokejumpers, often used to access remote areas, were one of the first to aid survivors. View a jump in action and walk the 2.5-mile trail around Refuge Point. Bring bear spray, water and a picnic lunch to enjoy the day with the family. For more information call (406) 682-7620.



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FUNDED BY:



Biologists continue researching grizzly captures in Yellowstone

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

As part of ongoing efforts to monitor the population of grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Yellowstone National Park and the U.S. Geological Survey would like to inform the public that biologists with the National Park Service and Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team will be continuing scientific grizzly bear research operations in Yellowstone National Park through Oct. 31.

Team members will bait and capture bears at several remote sites within Yellowstone National Park. Once captured, the bears are anesthetized to allow wildlife biologists to radio-collar and collect scientific samples for study. All capturing and handling is done in accordance with strict protocols developed by the IGBST.

None of the capture sites in the park will be located near any established hiking trails or backcountry campsites, and all capture sites will have posted warnings for the closure perimeter. Potential access points will also be posted with warning signs for the closure area. Backcountry users who come upon any of these posted areas need to heed the warnings and stay out of the area.

The IGPST was established in 1973 to collaboratively monitor and manage ecosystem bears on an interagency basis. The gathering of critical data on bears is part of a long-term research and monitoring effort to help wildlife managers devise and implement programs to support the ongoing conservation of Yellowstone’s grizzly bear and black bear populations.

The IGBST is composed of representatives of the USGS, NPS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribal Fish and Game Department, and the states of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

For more information regarding grizzly bear research efforts call (406) 994-6675.

ALEXINE LIDDLE

2019 BIG SKY ROTARY

GEORGE MACDONALD SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



The Big Sky Rotary Club is thrilled to announce that Alexine Liddle is the recipient of the 2019 George Macdonald Scholarship! She has lived in Big Sky for fourteen years and was a homeschooled student. She has been accepted into the Montana State University Honors College and plans to study pre-veterinary medicine this fall. She has been a ski instructor at Big Sky Resort for three seasons and also works part time as a head cashier at Ace Hardware. She has been a volunteer for the horsemanship program at Eagle Mount and also volunteered at the Choteau Veterinary Clinic during the summer of 2016. She attended RYLA camp through the Bozeman Rotary Club.

Congratulations Alexine!



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On the Trail: Kircher Discovery Park

Explore local hiking, biking and equestrian trails with Big Sky Community Organization’s trail series.

BY SARA MARINO
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

If you’re looking for a quiet spot to take the kids to play or throw a line in the water, Kircher Discovery Park fits the bill. Easily accessed from both Meadow Village and Town Center, this 0.5-mile out-and-back trail provides a wonderful nature walk.

Kircher Trail spurs off the asphalt-surfaced Lone Peak Trail near the intersection of Lone Mountain Trail and Little Coyote Road. From here, there is a short descent on a well-maintained natural surface trail suitable for walkers and strollers, just be ready for the uphill on the way out.


As you get close to the bottom of the hill, please respect the area closed for revegetation, and continue on the main trail. There you’ll find picnic tables in a wooded and shady area, great for hot summer days. Keep following the trail to the left to get to the main attraction, a 500-square-foot tree fort designed to look like a ship, complete with multi-level decking, slides, a spider swing and climbing wall. There was recently a new large spider net installed to add to the fun.

There are several obvious paths to easily access the South Fork of the Gallatin River where you can test your fishing abilities, dip your toes in the water and let your furry friends get a drink and cool off.


Bring a water bottle, a picnic, bug spray and your sense of adventure and imagination to the pirate ship in the woods for mateys of all ages.

For more information about Big Sky’s parks, trails and recreation programs, visit bscomt.org. The Big Sky Community Organization engages and leads people to recreational and enrichment opportunities through thoughtful development of partnerships, programs and places.


Sara Marino is the BSCO community development manager.




Distance
0.5 miles, roundtrip
Park Acres: 7




Uses
Amenities: Tree fort play structure, picnic tables, fishing access, porta potty at trailhead



Difficulty
Easy



Elevation
150 feet



Surface
Natural surface

Directions: The Kircher Discovery Park is located at 1964 Lone Mountain Trail. There is no parking lot. Park in the Meadow Village and use the flashing beacons and crosswalk at the junction of Lone Mountain Trail and Little Coyote Road or access via the BSCO Lone Peak Trail then down the Kircher Trail.



TBD LONE MOUNTAIN TRAIL | \$2,250,000
• 4.41 +/- Community Commerical acres
• Accessed directly from Lone Mountain Trail in Big Sky’s entry corridor
• On the route to Big Sky Resort, Moonlight Basin, Yellowstone Club, and Spanish Peaks
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• Located within a 500-acre community providing seclusion and privacy
• Enjoy fishing across the street as well as hiking, x-country skiing, and snow-shoeing
LYNN MILLIGAN | 406.581.2848



TBD OUTLOOK TRAIL, LOT 1 | \$359,900
• 2.962 +/- acres
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• Close to all Meadow amenities and adjacent to x-country and mountain biking trails
JACKIE MILLER | 406.539.5003



THE LODGES AT ELKHORN CREEK | \$1,275,000+
• 4-6 bdms | 3-5 baths | 2,050 - 3,150 +/- SF | Underground, heated parking
• Choice of 3 floors and 6 available floor plans with heated, underground parking
• Ideal Mountain Lifestyle location with immediate proximity to Big Sky Resort
MICHAEL THOMAS | 406.581.2400



22 MOOSE RIDGE ROAD, UNIT 7 | \$895,000
• 3 bdrm | 2 bath | 1,454 +/- SF | 1-car, detached garage
• Proximity to all Mountain amenities with ski-in/ski-out access and excellent rental history
• Enjoy hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, river rock fireplace, and updated furniture package
SANDY REISKY | 406.539.6316



TBD CIEL DRIVE, LOT 1 | \$335,000
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• Located minutes from both the Mountain Village and Town Center
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Yours in health

BY DR. ANDREA WICK
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Essential oils and aromatherapy are popular, main-stream remedies in many households. They can be used as fast solutions for upset stomach, emotional distress, bug bites, bumps and bruises, and even for natural cleaning options.

Essential oils are medicine from the earth and have been around for a long time. John Pemberton, the inventor of Coca-Cola, initially used orange, lemon, nutmeg, cinnamon, coriander and neroli in the original recipe. Native Americans have used essential oils for centuries, specifically sage and cedar, for sweat lodge practices. Frankincense and myrrh resin have ceremonially been burned in churches for hundreds of years.

Some basic knowledge about aromatherapy includes buying therapeutic-grade oils. Therapeutic grade means the oil is free of pesticides and synthetic additives. They are considered the cleanest form of an oil. It is advised that most oils need to be applied topically with a carrier oil such as fractionated coconut oil as to not irritate the skin. Some oils can be ingested, but must be done with care and must be therapeutic grade. Popular oils that are safe to ingest include peppermint, lemon, lime, cilantro, cinnamon bark, ginger, fennel, turmeric and grapefruit.

Lavender is a powerful oil that helps with inflammatory skin conditions such as allergies, acne and bug bites. It is proven to help with insomnia and nervousness. It can also help reduce tension headaches. Apply the oil topically to the feet and temples before bedtime or to pillow cases and bedding to help aid in a restful night's sleep. Lavender is helpful for skin imperfections and can be applied to blemish areas and bug bites.

Essentials oils 101

Peppermint oil is helpful for bug bites, indigestion and headaches. Peppermint oil can be ingested orally to help with indigestion and massaged directly on the stomach. Because of the oil's cooling effect, it can be a great aid for bug bites or heat-related skin irritation such as sunburn.

Melaleuca or tea tree is an antimicrobial and is helpful for all sorts of skin irritation and preventing infection. Tea tree oil may help prevent MRSA—or Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus—bacterial infections according to the “British Journal of Community Nursing.” Studies since 2015 have been inconclusive, however the application of melaleuca to possible infection sites may be helpful.

Lemon is one of the most multipurpose oils. It is great for cleansing the liver; adding a few drops to your water daily helps to alkalize the body and give yourself a daily detox. Lemon oil can be used for cleaning surfaces, specifically wood. Five drops of orange, lemon and lime oil can be added to ¾ cup of vinegar diluted with 3 cups of water. Three percent hydrogen peroxide can be added for more antibacterial properties and can be used to clean surfaces.

And last but not least, clove oil is a powerful antioxidant, it can be added to toothpaste for tooth sensitivity and bad breath. A drop of clove oil can be added to 8 ounces of water and gargled to help with sore throat symptoms.

I hope this information on essential oils can greatly benefit you and your household.

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



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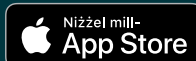


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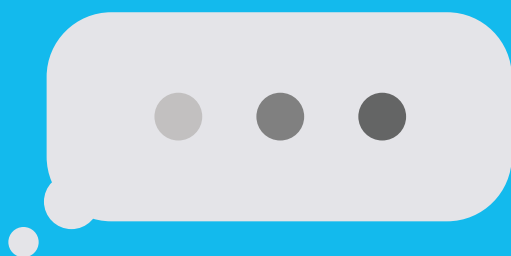
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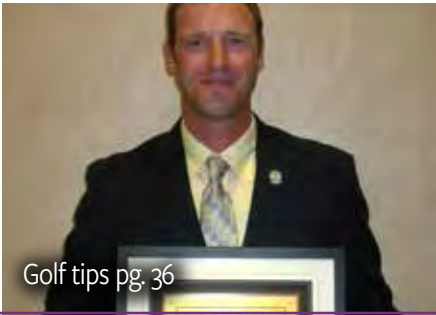
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SECTION 3:
SPORTS, BUSINESS,
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MIIBS: Steele Pressed Juice pg. 39



The sunset on the final night of competition provided a soothing backdrop to one of the most memorable nights of bull riding in the last two decades. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTOS

Big Sky’s Biggest Week sets standard for PBR entertainment nationwide

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – For the ninth year in a row, the Professional Bull Riders Touring Pro Division stormed into town with thousands of fans from across the country anticipating three nights of world-class bull riding, mutton busting, rowdy concerts, and entertainment provided by the world’s most famous rodeo entertainer Flint Rasmussen—all set against the kaleidoscopic skies behind Lone Mountain.

The extravaganza began quietly enough on July 24 with a charity golf tournament held at The Reserve at Moonlight Basin where cowboys teamed up with foursomes in an 18-hole, five-person team scramble tournament. The preliminary event raised over \$39,000 for the Western Sports Foundation, a nonprofit that supports riders injured participating in Western sports.

The next day saw the beginning of bull riding action, with 40 of the world’s best PBR athletes testing their mettle against many of the top bovine contenders supplied by eight-time PBR Contractor of the Year Chad Berger and longtime PBR spokesman Cord McCoy.

“It’s easy to see why this event is the six-time event of the year,” said PBR announcer Brandon Bates. “No matter where we go, whatever the situation is, you never hear fans that loud and you never feel energy like that. It’s incredible.”

Taylor Toves and Eduardo Apericedo put up dual 87-point rides to put themselves into the early lead after night one, with ten other riders managing qualified rides including the world’s No. 1 ranked rider Chase Outlaw. The first night of bull riding was capped off with an Arts Council of Big Sky and Outlaw Partners concert by Hayes Carll on the Town Center stage, one of the most well-attended Music in the Mountains events to date.

Night two of the PBR might have gone to the bucking bulls with only six qualified rides out of the 39 cowboys who rode—a 15 percent ride rate—but still produced highlights that kept the crowd on their feet until

the last ride. Notably, 51 Viper, a Cord McCoy-raised bull that is partially owned by Big Sky locals, put up a 46.5 high-point bull ride, solidifying his reputation as one of the rankest young bulls on the PBR circuit.

In a breathtaking display of “the toughest sport on dirt,” Chase Outlaw took a horn to the side of the head from the bull 4 Bears that broke his helmet nearly in half causing a laceration and putting him into concussion protocol. Outlaw refused medical assistance and the next night was helping his fellow competitors on the chute gates—a true display of cowboy grit.

Montana native and crowd favorite Matt Triplett’s 90-point ride on Quick Fire put the sold-out crowd into a frenzy, giving him the win for the second night and putting the 2017 Big Sky PBR champion back in the hunt for another title in his home state.

On Saturday, the final night of bull riding, the electricity in the air never seemed to dissipate even after a lightning storm rolled through town. And even for those producing PBR events across the country for more



At just 20 years old Dalton Kasel rides Keno for 88 points on the final night of the Big Sky PBR en route to his second-ever PBR victory. The Texas native has emerged as one of the up-and-comers on the PBR circuit and is now on the cusp of qualifying for the PBR World Finals.



The No. 1 ranked rider in the world Chase Outlaw was knocked out of the competition on the second night of the Big Sky PBR after taking a horn to the head that resulted in a deep laceration and possible concussion.

than two decades, the charged atmosphere was undeniable.

“In 1999, I was in the bull riding arena during the second round of the PBR World Finals for what is known as ‘the greatest night ever’ in bull riding history. I thought the crowd was insanely loud and I would never hear anything better. I was wrong,” said Andy Watson of Freestone Productions. “Last Saturday, the Big Sky PBR fans were unbelievable and the energy was palpable. It was a great event overall and I am so proud to be a part of it. Kudos to Big Sky for bringing it year after year and I can’t wait for 2020.”

“I have a vision in my head each year on how the Big Sky PBR will roll out,” said Jacey Watson, Andy’s wife and business partner also with Freestone Productions. “At times I get a bit wrapped up in the production of the show and fail to lift my head and take it all in. This year the fans of the Big Sky PBR snapped me back to the point in which I could process all of the hard work truly does come full circle for the enjoyment of others.”

Night three of Big Sky PBR belonged to Dalton Kasel who rode Deep Water for 90.5 points in the championship round on Saturday night to beat out world’s No. 4 João Ricardo Vieira and Cody Nance for his second career PBR victory.

At just 20 years old, Kasel bounced back from a 6.88-second buckoff against Element 79 in round 1 on Thursday night, riding his final three bulls and announcing himself as a real contender on the world stage of PBR.

The Muleshoe, Texas, bull rider picked up a season-high 245 world points, catapulting him from No. 79 at the start of the event to No. 41 in the world standings when the dirt had settled. Kasel is on the cusp of breaking into the top 35 PBR riders following his victory in Big Sky, which would qualify him for the World Finals held at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas Nov. 6-10. Kasel is now 13 for 37 (35.14 percent) with six top-3 finishes in 11 Touring Pro Division events in 2019.

Kasel, a former Howard College bull rider, also earned a career-high \$24,237.45 for his efforts including a \$10,000 trip via Boundary Expeditions on the Middle Fork of the

Salmon River in central Idaho, a trip to Turks and Caicos from Seven Stars Resorts, and a Gibson guitar—now an annual tradition for the Big Sky event to cement the winner’s rockstar status.

“I am so excited,” Kasel told in-arena announcer Brandon Bates on PBR’s digital streaming channel RidePass. “I have been blessed with great parents that have pushed me and motivated me in this whole thing. I have been able to surround myself with people that know what is going on and helped me through. I want to thank Chad Berger a lot for pushing me this summer to be the best that I can be, and for Riley Sanford for setting me up with this opportunity.”

Vieira took second-place honors while Dener Barbosa, another young up-and-comer, finished in third place as the only other rider with a qualified ride in the championship round, pulling in 87.5 points on Pennywise. Kasel and Barbosa were the only riders placing in the top 10 in Big Sky that are not ranked inside the top 35 of the current world standings. Rounding out the top five were Cody Nance (3-for-4, 255, 25 world points) and Mason Taylor (2-for-4, 175 points, 50 world points).

The white tents have been taken down and the Big Sky Town Center events arena is conspicuously quiet after Big Sky’s Biggest Week has come and gone, but memories of this year’s event will not soon be forgotten—not by the audience that saw PBR history in the making, not by the champion mutton busters and their parents, and not by the bull riders that continue to vote the Big Sky PBR their favorite event year after year.

“For me, working in the background means perfection and I am continuously driven to reach that level of perfection when I hear the roar of the crowd and watch cowboys, contract personnel, volunteers and sponsors all enjoying themselves to the point in which they just completely let themselves go and get lost in the moment,” said Jacey Watson, who together with Andy has been crucial to producing the event since its conception.

“This year was above and beyond expectations in so many facets. I’d have to write a book to express everything in which I could touch on. However, I do know this: 2019 was the best year yet and I can’t wait for more!”



Cord McCoy was set to receive \$2,000 for his bull 51 Viper’s high-point bull ride, until Paul Makarechian, owner of Lone Mountain Ranch, generously decided that \$10,000 was a more appropriate amount to give the legendary cowboy and stock contractor.



Textbook form: riders cannot make contact with the bull with their second arm or hit the dirt for eight seconds in order to get a qualified ride. PHOTO BY MICHAELA NESTELBERG



After the bull riding action on Friday, ticket holders were treated to the musical stylings of the Jamie McLean Band. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY



Every year, the mutton busting competition brings the crowd to their feet to cheer on young cowboys and cowgirls. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY



Even seasoned PBR producers thought the crowd on Saturday was one of the best audiences that they've witnessed in years. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY



Aerial footage of the Big Sky Town Center events arena as the sun sets over Lone Mountain. PHOTO BY OUTLAW PARTNERS

Golf Tips from a Pro: Different shots brings different expectations

MARK WEHRMAN
EBS GOLF COLUMNIST

The past couple of weeks in the weekly Ladies and Saturday clinics have been spent working on the short game. The short game refers to chipping, pitching, putting and bunker shots. In other words, these shots are all played with what is commonly referred to as the “scoring clubs,” short irons and wedges. Throughout the series of these clinics, I have been preaching to my students the importance of the short game and the impact it has on your score. I am also very vocal about having the proper expectations for each type of shot.

The chip shot, better known as a “bump and run” type of shot is a very efficient shot around the green. The shot is played with a short iron, 7, 8, or 9 iron, and can be played with other clubs too like a 5 iron or wedge. The shot spends very little time in the air but spends most of the time rolling its way to the hole on the green. Because of its nature you should have high expectations for this shot and be looking to settle the ball within a 10-foot radius around the hole. This gives you a very good chance of making the putt, hence getting “up and down.”

The pitch shot on the other hand has a higher degree of difficulty. This shot is played with a more lofted club, usually a wedge of some sort. Because it is played with a higher lofted club and slightly larger swing than the chip shot, the ball will spend more time in the air than on the ground. Due to its nature our expectations for this shot should be to just get it on the green. Even if you are left with a long putt over 30 feet, you don’t want to have to chip or pitch it again so just make sure you get it on the green, without worrying about how far it settles from the hole.



The author receiving the Horton Smith Award from the Rocky Mountain Section PGA. PHOTO BY MICHAEL KASTNER / PGA

This current week we are working on putting, which might be the most boring part of the game to some, but is crucial when it comes to lowering your score. When we are putting, our goal should always be two putts or less. We always want to avoid the dreaded three-putt. When we three-putt, it is not because we miss our second putt. The three-putt has to do more with not lagging our first putt closer to the hole so we have a “tap-in” for our second putt. If you want to be a better putter and avoid those three-putts in the future you should spend your time on the practice green working on speed control. It is important to mention that we miss putts because of distance, not direction.

Finally, we have the bunker shot. The fundamentals and technique for the bunker shot defy everything we have learned in golf. It is a very difficult shot that is usually always played with a sand wedge. Because of the difficulty of the shot our expectations should be to just get it out of the bunker. You don’t want to have to hit it more than once out of the sand. Open up the face of the club head, lean in to your forward leg, aim 1-2 inches behind the ball and take a big swing back and through trying to push as much sand out of the bunker as you can.

So, in summary, when you are playing your shot around the green make sure you have clear expectations of what you want the end result to be. This will help you choose the right club, pick a landing area, and hopefully execute the shot to the best of your ability.

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.

Big Sky Softball League Standings

- LPC Golden Goats 11~0
- Hillbilly Huckers 9~1
- Milkies Big Dog 9~1
- Cinema Bear 9~2
- WestFork Wildcats 7~4
- Cab Lizards 6~4
- Yeti Dogs 6~6
- Dirty Biz 4~7
- The Cave 3~4
- Busch Light Boomers 3~7
- Yellowstone Club 3~8
- The Rubes 2~5
- Big Sky Ballers 1~8
- Choppers 0~8
- Mooseketeers 0~9

Heading into the homestretch of the Big Sky Coed Softball League regular season, only one team remains undefeated: the LPC Golden Goats. The Goats narrowly avoided losing to the Westfork Wildcats in a game that was tied in the seventh inning and could have gone either way. Strong infield play helped them secure a narrow victory.

According to “Queen Jean” Palmer, one of the most memorable games in the last few seasons was played between the Cinema Bear and the powerhouse Huckers. Down 2-7 in the seventh inning, the Cinema Bears rallied back tying the game 7-7, before Tony Lawrence (pictured above) took matters into his own hands and hit a walk-off home run that surprisingly got out of the park before he could get around the bases. -Doug Hare



The regular season championship is still up for grabs as the Huckers and the Golden Goats have yet to play each other yet this season. PHOTO BY CORD HALMES



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Synonymous with seamless design aesthetics, acute attention to detail and quality customer service, SAV Digital Environments is best known for its cutting-edge home and business technology integrations. Among its best integrations are home theaters. A few years ago, a Big Sky resident reached out to SAV to create a professionally designed home theater, media and entertainment room. From watching movies and playing games to jamming out on instruments, this multipurpose space required significant consideration.

SAV thoughtfully used top-flight electronics for this home theater, including a 4K projector accompanied by a 105-inch fixed, acoustically transparent screen; an in-wall 7.2 surround sound system hidden behind professionally designed and engineered acoustic panels; advanced electronic power, energy and thermal management; the latest in automated lighting, climate and audio/video control; and, last but not least, black leather, automated incline, theater-style seating with ratcheting headrests.



Instead of integrating a 16:9 format screen, SAV used a 2.35:1 screen, which eliminates black bars on the top and bottom allowing for full enjoyment when watching movies in widescreen, cinemascope format. PHOTO BY JON MENEZES

“From the overall design and environmental controls to the acoustics and, above all, the audio/video system, our end goal was to create a sanctuary for the family and their guests; a place where they could escape to after a busy day in the great outdoors that reflects their personality, their style and their personal enjoyments,” said Cory Reistad, SAV’s owner.

Cory and his team worked closely with the interior design duo from Clean Line Consulting, Reid Smith Architects, Big Sky Build and other local artisans to achieve a level of sophistication that would fully satisfy the clients.


“From the very first meeting, the theater was a collaboration between Cory Reistad from SAV, Russ Fry of Fry Steel and Wood, and us,” said Ashley Sanford, who co-owns Clean Line Consulting with her sister and business partner Kelly Lovell. “We had several brainstorming sessions and wanted it to be warm and inviting, hence the use of wood, wool carpet, fabric on the sound panels, and live-edge walnut in the floating shelves.


“Russ had previously fabricated wall hooks for a music store, so we worked to tweak them for our needs: in-sight storage of guitars, banjos, etcetera,” Sanford added. “Those became major design elements that are used quite often. With a family and a lot of guests, it became the perfect spot in the house to retreat after a long day on the slopes.”


Infusing innovation in design, technology and comfort, the end result was a place where the family and their guests could spend quality time together and enjoy an endless amount of entertainment options. Visit savinc.net or call (406) 586-5593 to learn more about our work.





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Audio-Video Systems
- 


Theater & Entertainment
- 


Lighting Control
- 


Motorized Shades & Blinds
- 

Surveillance & Alarm
- 

Security & Life Safety
- 

System Support
- 

Climate Control
- 

Automation
- 

Wireless Networks



Making it in Big Sky: Steele Pressed Juice and Java

BY BELLA BUTLER



Jen Steele, owner of Steele Pressed Juice and Java, started her business at the Big Sky Farmer's Market a year ago and has since expanded to a kiosk next to the new Wilson Hotel. PHOTO COURTESY OF JEN STEELE

Steele Pressed Juice and Java has been fueling Big Sky with healthy blends for over a year now, but owner Jen Steele has been preparing for much longer. Before moving to Big Sky, Steele attended culinary school in Florida and worked on an organic juice farm in Hawaii where she learned about food medicine and the tremendous impact food has on physical and mental health. She also worked making sandwiches, smoothies and juices at a market, where she developed her interest in juices specifically.

When Steele arrived in Big Sky, she noticed an empty niche that she could fill with her passion.

"When I moved here, I saw a healthy, active community with zero healthy food and beverage options," she said. "I was coming from Hawaii where fresh juice and smoothies are available everywhere, so I decided to go for it and open

up the juice bar."

Since opening Steele Pressed Juice, Steele has evolved from a farmer's market stand to a bar in Compass Café to a stand-alone kiosk in the new park in front of the Wilson Hotel. She now serves juices, smoothies and coffee.

Explore Big Sky: *What is the most challenging part about owning and operating a small business in Big Sky?*

Jen Steele: "...I'm going to have to say that the most challenging part of owning and operating a small business has been finding a solid balance between work and play. The cost of living makes it difficult to hire employees at a pay rate that a start-up business can afford, meaning I've got to be there pretty much all day every day."

EBS: *What is your favorite memory as a resident/business owner in Big Sky?*

JS: "So many favorite memories! But basically, the camaraderie and intimacy of a small town. You go somewhere alone; the mountain, the park, the store, and you end up on an adventure with friends and they're the closest friends you'll ever have. As a business owner, having local and seasonal customers [coming] to see me at the kiosk and congratulate me on the success and growth has been really cool."

EBS: *What is the mission of Steele Pressed Juice and Java?*

JS: "My mission is to continue to contribute to happy, healthy lifestyles in Big Sky through food and beverage while also maintaining a small environmental footprint. I just want to create a fun environment for like-minded people to hang out and talk story."

EBS: *What conclusions do you make about the beverage industry in Big Sky and what do you do to accommodate this?*

JS: "There's actually plenty of places to get good coffee in Big Sky. My goal is to set myself apart by providing a coffee that reflects the healthier lifestyle that I'm promoting through juices and smoothies. To do that I am using organic coffee grown on small family farms in small batches. Additionally, I am using Kalispell Creamery milks to keep it local and the lowest sugar and ingredient nut milks available."

EBS: *What is most unique about running a business in Big Sky?*

JS: "I think the coolest thing about running a business in Big Sky has been the support I've received. From fellow business owners offering advice, to community members helping spread the word, and friends offering to help out any way they can."

EBS: *Do you remember your first customer? Who was it/what's the story?*

JS: "My first customer was Shawna Winter. Before I started [as a vendor] at the farmer's market, she ordered a 32-ounce jar of green juice and a 32-ounce jar of honey lavender lemonade. I remember getting ridiculously excited because she posted about it on Facebook and I was just like 'This is really happening!'"

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

JS: "Honestly, I have a hard time looking that far into the future. I'm more of a go with the flow kind of mind set. Ultimately, I would like to figure out a way to work less, play more, and do the family thing. In the near future I plan to go mobile with a Juice Box on wheels, so keep an eye out for more on that!"

EBS: *You've experienced a lot of change in the short time you've been in business. How do you stay flexible and adapt?*

JS: "I like the challenge of change, so it has been pretty fun to be constantly growing and adapting."

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

JS: "Save your receipts."

EBS: *What is your favorite juice that you've come up with?*

JS: "My favorite smoothie is the orange creamsicle which is banana, mango, carrot, vanilla, coconut milk, and orange juice. For a summer juice I'm pretty into the Upper Morningstar: It's cucumber, lemon, ginger, and cayenne. It's great on a hot day."

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AMUSE-BOUCHE

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

‘I miss my friend’



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

I’ve been in this business for a very long time, and one of the most enduring labels our industry has is that we are just a big dysfunctional family.

Well, that stereotype couldn’t be farther from, and closer to, the truth.

One such example here at Buck’s T-4 was a couple by the name of Ken and Kaysha Carpenter.

The two of them came to us almost four years ago, a husband and wife looking for a new start. They were running a diner in the Williston Basin, feeding, or more like tolerating, a surly crowd working on the extraction of the Bakken Formation. Day after day, they would dream of leaving that life. They yearned for a change of scenery from the contradictorily nascent doldrums of the next best oil boom.

They visited Big Sky when they were able to catch a break one summer. They were only here a few days. But they always said that the day they saw this place, they knew they wanted to make it home.

Sure, they had their challenges. And we would laugh about what a tough business this is. And that after all he had been through, why in the heck wouldn’t he just create a life mowing lawns somewhere in the sun.

Of all the jobs they held, some long some short, some challenging some pedestrian, and of all the cities and towns they lived in, and people they crossed paths with, including Ken’s days in the navy, they often said that we felt like his family. That Buck’s was his home.

He was always so thankful for everything in his life. It’s easy to be thankful for the things that, on the surface, enrich our lives. Things like a great job, a beautiful family, or a genuine and comforting community.

But Ken knew that it was his hardships and his failures that taught him his most poignant and useful lessons.

He understood that sometimes you need to suffer in order to recognize what you do have. To take from one of his favorite movies, “The Shawshank Redemption,” sometimes you need to crawl through, well, the junk, to get to the other side. A side ripe for the picking. Once you’ve gained the wisdom to appreciate, while also not taking for granted, all those little moments and opportunities that are always right in front of our noses.

While it’s true, most any workplace, work environment or work culture could make a reasonable argument that they are family—that they have a bond that allows them to interact like a family. To be able to have the comfort and confidence in this relationship that they can have the tough conversations, knowing that when it is over and they leave the room, that their relationships not only can withstand such a conversation, but may even grow stronger.

And having been in this business for over three decades, worked with all ages, all personality types, and to date, people from well over 50 countries, I can tell you that the family culture that this rough and tumble, high stress, physically fatiguing job creates, rivals those in law enforcement and firefighting.

I’ve been witness to a co-worker taking another who just had surgery to the grocery store, giving up a day off to do it. Or an entire restaurant who pitched in hard earned money so a dishwasher’s son who otherwise had very little opportunity for such growth and kid time could attend a week-long summer camp.

We had this conversation often, as we interacted on a daily, almost hourly basis.

But it was one day, not more than a couple weeks ago, that will stay with me forever. He joked how lucky he was to be alive after all he had put his body and mind through, during his darkest times.

We lost Ken, a member of our family, to what we believe was a massive stroke on the morning of July 23. The day after his birthday. He was 56.

We have a saying at Buck’s, a mantra really, that relationships matter. Ken’s relationship with the entire Buck’s family was one every one of us would be grateful to have.

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



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Two Moons Road, Lot 34 MLS # 330191 \$335,000

Corner lot in Big Sky’s Meadow Village provides view protection of the surrounding mountains. Larger than most, this .35 acre lot has an easy to build, gently sloping home site with Eastern and Southern exposures. Located not far from the golf course as well as the Town Center. Fully serviced with power, telephone, high speed internet, community water and sewer available to the property line.

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American Life in Poetry:

Column 748

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

This column has often emphasized the importance of poetry that notices what’s right under our noses, and this poem by David Mason, the former poet laureate of Colorado, who is currently living in Tasmania, is a good example of what you can see if you stop to look. Mason’s most recent book of poetry is *The Sound: New and Selected Poems*, from Red Hen Press.

Are We Still Here?
BY DAVID MASON

Between the woodpile and the window
a line of small black ants is moving,
some to the north, some to the south.

Their constant industry is admirable,
as are their manners when they pause
in meeting to exchange a touch.

I must have brought their home inside
for fuel, heating my small house.
And if it burned I too would move

along all points of the compass rose,
touching my neighbors on the path.

We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts. American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2018 by David Mason, “Are We Still Here?” (2018). Poem reprinted by permission of David Mason. Introduction copyright ©2019 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction’s author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004–2006.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 N. Caucasian language

5 SW US cotton

9 Heir

12 Edible root

13 Of the mouth

14 Unclose

15 King of Israel

16 Corded fabric

17 Article (Fr.)

18 Explosive letters

20 Revers

22 Hellas

25 Outer (pref.)

26 Bill

27 Shak. contraction

29 One of the Harpies

33 River of Shakespeare

35 Dead on arrival (abbr.)

37 Incursion

38 Fr. author

40 Wine cup

42 Never (Ger.)

43 Kind of lettuce

45 Abbey (Sp.)

47 Hog's guts

50 Nat'l

Endowment for the Arts (abbr.)

51 Scot. alder tree

52 Javanese carriage

54 S. Afr. assembly

58 Frost

59 Journey (Lat.)

60 Us dam

61 Fluidity unit

62 Fat (pref.)

63 Nat'l

Aeronautics and Space Admin. (abbr.)

DOWN

1 Caribbean lizard

2 Burmese knife

3 Individual

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

C	O	N	F	T	A	E	N	O	F	F
A	L	O	E	A	B	B	A	M	A	L
T	E	R	M	F	I	S	T	A	D	A
S	A	H	I	B	A	A	R	O	N	
A	M	E	L	I	A	A	N	G		
C	O	M	E	T	R	E	T	I	C	L
E	N	A	O	E	C	O	I	L		
R	A	N	I	N	T	O	B	A	N	J
N	A	B	N	I	L	G	A	I		
I	M	A	G	E	S	A	B	E	R	
A	A	L	V	O	L	A	X	E	M	A
G	A	B	U	D	I	C	I	S	A	R
O	M	A	S	A	M	P	A	S	A	P

retirement acct. (abbr.)

4 Fr. philosopher

5 Augury

6 Rage

7 Tree

8 Paco

9 Flounder

10 Birthstone

11 Headland

19 Noncommissioned officer (abbr.)

21 Wing (pref.)

22 Growl

23 Dream (Fr.)

24 Black

28 Poly. beefwood

30 Acquire

31 53 (Rom. numeral)

32 Concert halls

34 Salt

36 Sea lettuce

39 Pure thought

41 Presidential nickname

44 Declare

46 Brother of Moses

47 Filament

48 Roguish

49 Dirk

53 Cotillion attendee

55 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)

56 Exclamations of delight

57 Goddess (Lat.)

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A102



TSERING'S FUND
PRESENTS

NAMASTE
RAMILA

How an education can save a life.

A FILM BY WES OVERVOLD
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER PETE SCHMIEDING
MUSIC BY JACOB YOFFEE

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SECTION 4:
ARTS &
ENTERTAINMENT



“Summer Shutters” photo contest – Best of July

EBS STAFF

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

With the first two months in the books, fast approaching the end of the contest period, the EBS editorial team seeks to honor some of the very best entries from July, as we did with those in June.

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



Album review: ‘Turn Off the News (Build a Garden)’

Latest Lukas Nelson album urges return to life’s simple pleasures

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

It’s nothing new—turn on the TV, flip to the news, and it can seem like the world is burning. Perhaps this is especially true today, at least as far as American media is concerned: domestic political fissures continue to split to irreparable degrees; the nation is plagued by a disturbing spate of mass shootings carried out by the disenfranchised; the prospect of nuclear war is very much alive and well after decades of dormancy; record-setting temperature swings and tempests barrage every corner of the globe, to name a few.

Yet so many people, especially the youth, assuage their unease via frivolous pursuits, such as curating the perfect Instagram presence and rattling on about the latest in the three rings of the Kardashians circus. Admittedly, it’s easier to be an ostrich than part of the vanguard.

The notion is not lost on Lukas Nelson, but his approach is holistic in undermining the restlessness experienced by the modern populous: Turn off the news, and build a garden.

Nelson’s advocacy for detachment and indulgence in life’s simple, time-honored pleasures is obvious in every track on Lukas Nelson and The Promise of the Real’s latest album, “Turn Off the News (Build a Garden).” There’s an implied premise that the most important pieces of character and perspective are layered in these intimate moments of ignorance.

The eponymous track’s chorus reads, “Turn off the news and build a garden, just my neighborhood and me. We might feel a bit less hardened, we might feel a bit



“Turn Off the News (Build a Garden)” advises distance from the fray of global disarray. ALBUM COVER COURTESY OF LUKAS NELSON & PROMISE OF THE REAL

more free. Turn off the news and raise your kids, give them something to believe in. Teach them how to be good people. Give them hope that they can see.”

It’s a stanza evoking the messaging in Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young’s “Teach Your Children,” a track born in a time of equally unstable constitution. The messaging of both songs coincide on a principle: The future can be influenced through love and family.

Unlike the gentlemen of Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, Nelson and his band live in an impressively technological world, and they also take swipes at the hollowness of screens and wires.

“I don’t trust computers anymore,” sings Nelson in the first moments of the track, “Lotta Fun.” “Gonna buy a little weed in the marijuana store,” goes the next line.

And some might disagree with Nelson’s forfeiting of agency, as he instructs, “Do a little less thinkin’, babe. You don’t need to know the answers why,” on the track “Simple Life.”

The above declaration is easy to dismiss, as we’re creatures that crave order. But when those in positions of power seem to be less and less effective in restoring it, at least as the news would lead you to believe, perhaps its best to place your faith in the crooning of a long-haired, easy-going, soul-baring stoner. “Turn Off the News (Build a Garden)”: an album title, or words to live by?

Creighton Block
GALLERY

Traditional and Contemporary Western Art



Big Sky’s newest chef talks sushi art, culture

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY – Although Troy “Twist” Thompson, founder, owner and operator of the incoming Blue Buddha Sushi Lounge in Big Sky Town Center, has been rolling sushi professionally for over 14 years, he’ll be the first to admit that doesn’t make him a sushi chef—at least as far as the Japanese are concerned.

Now, don’t get it twisted; Thompson makes delicious rolls with skill only a decade and a half of experience provides.

But the practice of making sushi is a time-honored tradition for the people of Japan, extending back into the eighth century A.D. And just like the visual artists-in-waiting of Europe, Japanese sushi chefs underwent a rigorous apprenticeship, dabbling for years in the mundane fundamentals of the craft.

It’s a tradition that has persisted into the modern era. While Thompson’s training at the Sushi Chef Institute in Los Angeles lasted around eight months, covering everything from the food to business side of the American sushi industry, which grosses \$2 billion a year, hopeful Japanese sushi chefs spend a minimum of four years washing rice before they are permitted to handle fish.

This dedication is paramount in Japan, throttling sushi from the realm of cuisine into that of genuine art. Imagine a burger maker spending four years sprinkling sesame seeds on buns; the difference is what makes a burger something merely to devour, and sushi something to savor, both in terms of taste and aesthetics.

Thompson, a native of Golden, Colorado, once dreamed of competing at the highest level of snowboarding, but the aspiration crashed down to earth during a fateful training session in Jackson Hole.

“We were hitting this kicker, and this up-and-comer kid ... boosted so much bigger [than me],” Thompson said. “I was probably in the prime of my abilities and he boosted just so much bigger, five times bigger, and he was 10 years younger. I thought, ‘Man, I better do something else.’”

Through his career in the competitive circuit, Thompson was able to travel to ski haunts around the country, including some locations in Europe. He discovered sushi restaurants of all types and realized they served their respective communities the same way a boutique coffee shop might: a place to gather, to unwind and to delight in artisan cuisine.

“[They were a] nice place to wind down at the end of the day, and I met a lot of really cool people there,” he said.

Thompson had been working in the food industry to support his journey as a professional snowboarder, drawing upon culinary arts experience and interest he gained through classes in high school.



“Bowl of Sushi” by Utagawa Hiroshige, a master Japanese artist that lived between 1797-1858. PAINTING COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA



Thompson (second from right) and his fellow classmates at the Sushi Chef Institute in Los Angeles. PHOTO COURTESY OF TWIST THOMPSON

But, spurred by his cold-water epiphany, food would become a permanent fixture in his life: Thompson packed his bags and headed to Los Angeles to study under Andy Matsuda, founder of the Sushi Chef Institute and a legend in the American sushi world.

Matsuda, a native of Kobe, Japan, honed his skills in a family restaurant before apprenticing for five years at Osaka’s Genpachi, one of the most famous sushi restaurants in the world. At 25 years old, in 1981, he moved to Los Angeles to capitalize on the wave of Japanophile sentiment sweeping the United States.

Matsuda was promoted to chief sushi chef within a week of arrival—his native skills spoke for themselves.

In 2002, Matsuda founded his institute, which trained Thompson in 2006. Thompson, while lacking in the years of training deemed necessary in Japan, was equipped with the tools and reverence needed to open his first Blue Buddha in Page, Arizona, in 2007.

“We (Thompson and his wife, Jaime) like to bring sushi to small outdoors communities like Big Sky, where people really appreciate life, appreciate the outdoors and their area, and food,” Thompson said. “Those are the markets that I like to live and work in.”

With an appreciation for design and art that extends beyond the food he makes, Thompson and Jaime designed their first Blue Buddha, and now their second, from scratch. Chic and with a pleasant array of color and design elements, such as exposed I-beams and an undulating countertop, the couple is all about curating a memorable experience, the same way a gallery might.

Throughout it all, Thompson has sought to maintain the dignity sushi deserves, so while he mixes in fusion elements, his presentations abstain from gimmick.

“When they started to come out with sushi tacos, and sushi that’s shaped like an airplane, it bothered me,” Thompson said. “Sushi is beautiful by itself, it doesn’t need to be shaped like a tank. ... That’s all too gimmicky for me. When you start serving sushi on a shovelhead or a basketball, I think it’s disrespectful. You don’t need all that: It’s a beautiful simple art form.”

His homage for tradition is present in the foundation of each piece he rolls: the sushi, which translates to vinegar rice. Fish, fruit, vegetables—these are add-ons to an already strong base.

“A lot of places will make their sushi zu (vinegar) daily, but we make ours and age it for three months. It’s night and day different ... If you start with the rice, then add high quality ingredients, you’re doing good sushi. But you’ve got to start with those basics ... for me, it’s 90 percent about the rice,” Thompson said.

With this groundwork, each perfectly cut slab of sashimi, that is raw fish, along with any other additional ingredients, is balanced in both taste and texture.

With an opening slotted for Aug. 5, artisan sushi is right on the horizon for the Big Sky consumer. But it comes with a warning.

“Don’t come here expecting fast food,” Thompson said. “That’s not what we do. We’re crafting an experience, from start to finish. Enjoy yourself.”

BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, AUG. 2 – THURSDAY, AUG. 15

If your event falls between Aug. 16 and Aug. 29, please submit it by Aug. 7 by emailing media@outlaw.partners

FRIDAY, AUG. 2

Sweet Pea Festival
Lindley Park, Bozeman, 3:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUG. 3

Sweet Pea Festival
Lindley Park, Bozeman, 10 a.m.

SUNDAY, AUG. 4

Sweet Pea Festival
Lindley Park, Bozeman, 9 a.m.

Living History Presentation
Historic Crail Ranch, 1 p.m.

MONDAY, AUG. 5

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

TUESDAY, AUG. 6

#HikeBigSky
Photography at the Ranch
Lone Mountain Ranch, 10 a.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 7

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

The Crossing Choir
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 6 p.m.

Free Outdoor Movie Night
Movie T.B.D.
Town Center Park, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUG. 8

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

FRIDAY, AUG. 9

Meditation by Donation
Santosha Wellness Center, 9 a.m.

Ninth annual Big Sky Classical Music Festival
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 6:30 p.m.

WORTH THE DRIVE

The Dusty Pockets at Pine Creek Lodge

Pine Creek Lodge, Paradise Valley, Montana

Aug. 16, 7 p.m.

Bozeman’s The Dusty Pockets are celebrated throughout the region for their performances of original songs that push the boundaries of Americana music. Over the last two-plus years since their official formation, they’ve forged a wave of momentum with the combination of their unique sound and live energy, which speaks to their self-proclaimed genre of “Recreational Americana.” This summer, they will play at high-profile events such as the Sweet Pea Festival and Moonlight MusicFest, but they shouldn’t be missed at the quainter yet distinguished Pine Creek Lodge, a unique venue in the heart of the Paradise Valley. Enjoy local music alongside the longest undammed river in the U.S., nestled right beneath the striking grandeur of Black Mountain.

SATURDAY, AUG. 10

24th annual Madison Valley Arts Festival
Peter T’s Park, Ennis, 10 a.m.

Ninth annual Big Sky Classical Music Festival
Center Stage at Town Center Park, 6 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUG. 11

Ninth annual Big Sky Classical Music Festival
Center Stage at Town Center Park, 5 p.m.

MONDAY, AUG. 12

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

TUESDAY, AUG. 13

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

#HikeBigSky
Ousel Falls with GRTF
Ousel Falls Trailhead, 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 14

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

THURSDAY, AUG. 15

Live Music: Mt. Joy with special guest Upstate
Music in the Mountains
Center Stage at Town Center Park, 6 p.m.

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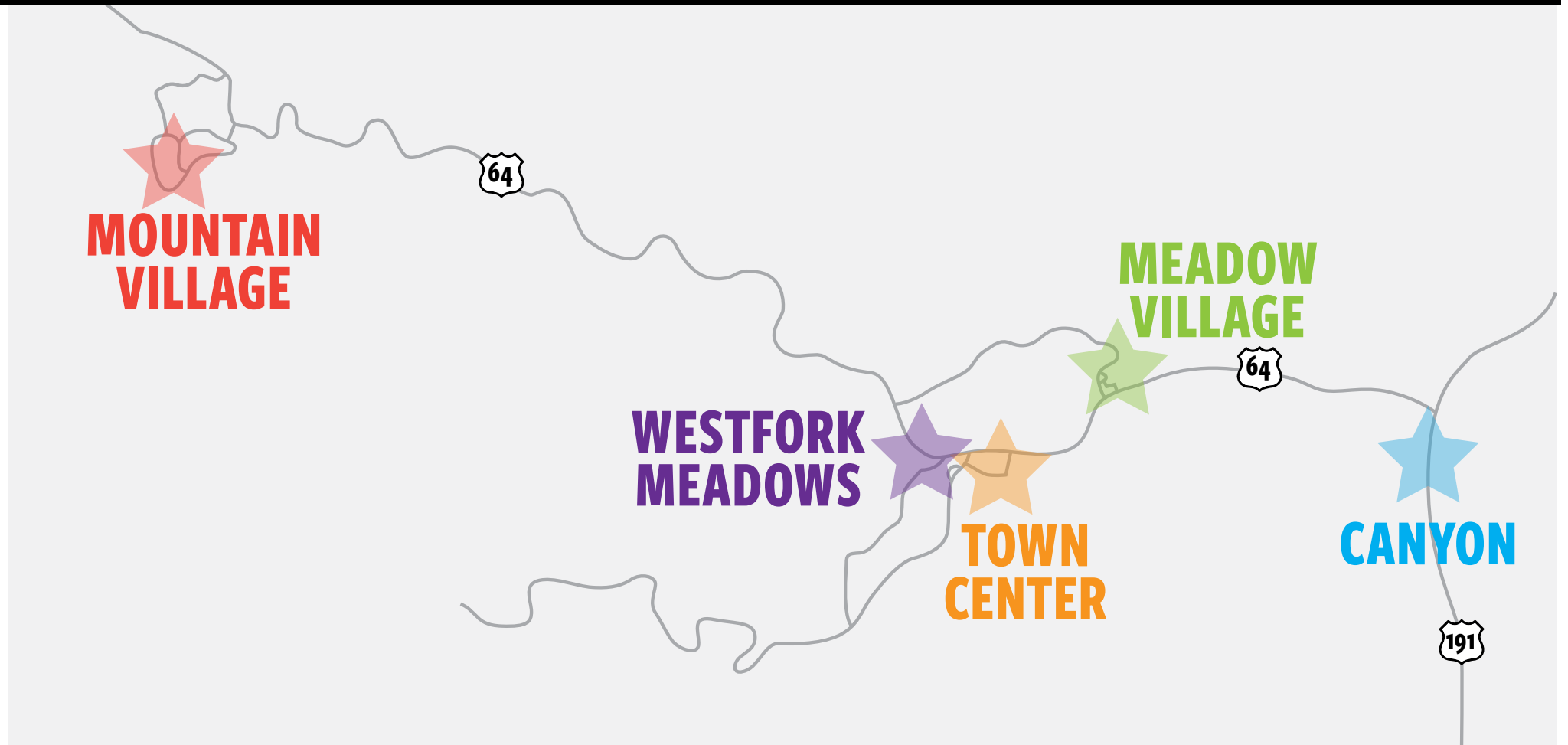
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The Moonlight MusicFest team proudly introduces two more groups from the festival lineup, bolstering a bill that is sure to entice you to grab your tickets today. Check out all the music and info for the August event at moonlightmusicfest.com

ST. PAUL & THE BROKEN BONES

If you want to see retro soul energy meets rhythm and blues at it's best, you won't want to miss St Paul & The Broken Bones when they take the stage Friday, Aug. 16, at the Moonlight MusicFest.

This Birmingham, Alabama, eight-piece band led by Paul Janeway and Jesse Phillips, is comprised of some of the best young instrumentalists in the South.

Fresh off a few opening shows for The Rolling Stones 2019 "No Filter" Tour, the band's accolades include appearances on "The Late Show with David Letterman," "Jimmy Kimmel Live" and "Conan," performances at the Austin City Limits music festival, and the honor of being the first-ever band to perform on "The Late Show with Steven Colbert."

"These guys pop out of bed with a glad James-Brown-like cry and a shiny horn section at the ready", wrote Rolling Stone magazine. "For a more reserved take on the style, there is Leon Bridges."

This band, like all the soul greats, come dressed to impress. Horns take the stage first—trombone, trumpet, tenor sax—and the players are all dressed in their finest.

About five years after their formation, St. Paul & The Broken Bones have just released their third album, "Young Sick Camellia." This latest release looks deeply inward, with leader Paul Janeway's most personal lyrics yet. Janeway uses his lyrics as a vehicle for interpersonal conversations with his father and grandfather.

"I wanted to explore the dynamics and their views on life," Janeway said.

The album challenges the notions of what a soul outfit can be, and establishes their reputation as a band as likely to make you think as to dance. Fusing the use of samples, fresh rhythms and novel instruments with Janeway's specific interpersonal subject matter, "Young Sick Camellia" is sure to place St. Paul & The Broken Bones in a whole new sphere.

Given the care that went into this record, you can expect their live show to be undoubtedly moving, both figuratively and physically.

Come ready to shake it and dance at the Moonlight MusicFest.



Hailing from Birmingham, Alabama, St. Paul & The Broken Bone's soulful energy is sure to have you grooving at Moonlight MusicFest. PHOTO COURTESY OF MOONLIGHT MUSICFEST



Dwayne Dopsie's sound is steeped in legacy, rendering a masterful, yet new approach, to the traditional sounds of zydeco. PHOTO COURTESY OF MOONLIGHT MUSICFEST

WAYNE DOPSIE & THE ZYDECO HELLRAISERS

Come join the party on Saturday, Aug. 17, at the Moonlight MusicFest starting at noon, where Bozeman's Cafe Zydeco will serve up free gumbo to the first 300 people that come and get it! More importantly, Dwayne Dopsie & The Zydeco Hellraisers will rip it up and get the party started.

Dwayne Dopsie & The Zydeco Hellraisers are a crowd-pleasing powerhouse. Louisiana-native Dwayne (Dopsie) Rubin comes from one of the most influential zydeco families in the world; he is the son of the late, great Alton "Rockin' Dopsie" Rubin.

Dwayne began playing washboard at six years old and accordion at seven, and performed with his dad on stage from that early age. Earning awards such as "America's Hottest Accordionist", New Orleans' "Best Zydeco Artist," and two Grammy Award nominations for Best Regional Roots Music Album, Dopsie plays regularly at New Orleans' Mardi Gras and Jazz and Heritage Festivals and Dwayne Dopsie & The Zydeco Hellraisers tour the world sharing their happy vibe.

On stage, the always-energetic Dwayne Dopsie puts it out there with his stunning, one-of-a-kind accordion playing, while also paying homage to zydeco's blues roots and the genre's downhome, party attitude. He adds a bit of rhythm and blues, funk, rock and roll, reggae and pop, defying existing stereotypes and blazing a refreshingly distinct path for 21st century zydeco music.

Dwayne loves to share his party. He doesn't confine himself to the stage; he interacts with the crowd, blurring the barrier between performer and audience. His ability to capture the imagination, heart and soul of his audience makes Dwayne one of today's most dynamic performers. You can bet he'll get the Moonlight MusicFest crowd on their feet and dancing.

Come early ... stay late! Enter to win an authentic washboard signed by Dwayne himself!

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



REEL REVIEW

Reel Review: 'Toy Story 4'

BY ANNA HUSTED

EBS FILM CRITIC

"Toy Story 4" is the darkest and most existential in the "Toy Story" film franchise to date. Albert Camus, one of the greatest writers of existential concepts, once said, "... the only way to deal with an unfree world is to become so absolutely free that your very existence is an act of rebellion." Woody takes this challenge on directly in "Toy Story 4."

Bonnie, the latest in a line of Woody's owners, has stopped playing with Woody, but Woody doesn't know anything in life except to care for your kid. When Bonnie makes her latest toy, Forky, voiced by a hilarious-as-always Tony Hale, out of a spork with pipe cleaner for arms while at her Kindergarten orientation, Woody takes it upon himself to make sure Forky joins the gang of toys to make Bonnie happy. The problem: Forky believes he is a single use plastic meant for "soup, salad, maybe chili and then trash."



Woody and the gang are back in "Toy Story 4" where they have to protect Bonnie's new toy, Forky, from others and himself. PHOTO COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY STUDIOS MOTION PICTURES

The montage of Forky repeatedly throwing himself into the trash is as hilarious as it is grim—rarely in an animated movie made for children do you get this sort of existential questioning—what is Forky's purpose in life now that Bonnie changed it? Forky's disposition eventually affects Woody's as well because he is increasingly ignored by Bonnie.

As I write this review, I appreciate "Toy Story 4" more and more. Upon my initial viewing, the movie seemed simple, but in reality it is as complex as the previous three films. These toys still have something to teach us about our own human condition, and, ironically, the meaning of what it is to be alive.

Without spoiling too much of the film, "Toy Story 4" takes us into dark corners of creepy antique shops, but with new characters that are always there to lighten the mood. This includes Ducky and Bunny, two carnival stuffed animals who are stuck together played by Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele respectively.

I've loved the world and characters of the "Toy Story" franchise since the first installment came out in 1995, and I will love long after the final film hits the big screen. They bring such a rich balance of comedic and philosophical depth to storytelling and a comradeship of characters unlike any other film series. "Toy Story 4" stands tall with its predecessors and adds to that depth of character – giving us all "the feels" once again.

"Toy Story 4" 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.



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Big Sky Classical Musical Festival returns for ninth year

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY – When the likes of Johann Sebastian Bach and Ludwig van Beethoven were crafting their timeless symphonies, the United States of America we know today was but a twinkle in an eye. Big Sky, for certain, was practically non-existent, as far as the European settlers populating the Eastern regions of the nation were concerned.

In fact, the term “classical music” didn’t yet to exist, and was later applied to the period of music spanning 1750-1820 in order to dignify music considered by many to be beyond reproach.

Fast forward nearly two centuries from the close of the Classical era, and the small mountain town of Big Sky will play host from Aug. 9-11 to the ninth annual Big Sky Classical Musical Festival, an homage to the great works of those days of old.

Atypical to rest of the Arts Council of Big Sky’s summer musical offerings, which tend to include a balance of rock, country, reggae, bluegrass, big band, folk and Americana sounds featured at the weekly Music in the Mountains concert series, this is an opportunity for fans of classical music to relish in the sounds and styling’s that have influenced countless artists ever since.

“I think one of our main goals as the Arts Council of Big Sky is to provide a variety of music throughout the summer,” said Brian Hurlbut, executive director of ACBS. “For a segment of population, classical is important.”

According to Hurlbut, the performances of Big Sky’s festival are unique to summer symphony in Montana, not only due to a level of talent unparalleled at other festivals, but also because the musicians will play classical compositions rather than just “pops” pieces—modern tracks played with orchestra instruments.

“For one, conductor Peter Bay is perhaps one of best known in the world,” Hurlbut said.

The festival kicks off on Aug. 9 at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, with an intimate quintet recital consisting of Jonathan Gunn, clarinet, Angella Ahn, artistic director for the festival and professor of violin and viola at Montana State University, Yvonne Lam, a Grammy winner for her work with Eighth Blackbird ensemble on viola, Alexandra Osborne, violin, and John Eckstein, cello.

Between the five performers, the quintet has performed at the highest levels and on some of the biggest stages in classical music, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, New York City’s Lincoln Center, The Beijing Concert Hall and the White House.



Violist and violinist Yvonne Lam is an incredibly accomplished musician, garnering a Grammy and performing with the likes of the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Melbourne Symphony and the Kansas City Symphony, to name a few. PHOTO COURTESY OF ACBS



Maestro Peter Bay is considered among the best living conductors. Catch him for free on Aug. 11 on Center Stage in Town Center Park. PHOTO COURTESY OF ACBS

Expect performances of timeless numbers such as Johannes Brahms’ “Clarinet Quintet in B minor.”

On Aug. 10, a free concert is available to the public at Center Stage in Town Center Park, with musicians from the Iron Horse Youth Orchestra opening at 6 p.m., followed by Dallas Brass at 7 p.m.

With a career spanning over 35 years, Dallas Brass has cemented its position as one of the U.S.’s preeminent musical ensembles, blending traditional brass instruments with drums and percussion for a unique, electrifying sound.

Their range is also notable, playing classical masterpieces, Dixieland and swing tunes, Broadway, Hollywood and patriotic music, performing numbers for the likes of Presidents Gerald Ford and George H. W. Bush, sharing stages with the late Bob Hope, collaborating with New York, Philadelphia and Cincinnati Pops, and playing in legendary venues such as Carnegie Hall and the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

The group’s music has also been featured a number of times on the hit soap opera series, “The Young and the Restless.”

“The Saturday night performance is where we branch out and have some crossover from the classical genre,” Hurlbut said. “Dallas Brass, a premiere brass ensemble, features classical, Broadway, Hollywood and pop tunes ... it’s not necessarily a sit down performance.”

The festivities conclude on Aug. 11 with a free symphony performance from the 40-person Big Sky Festival Orchestra, comprised of musicians from the Utah Symphony, Fort Wayne Philharmonic and Dallas Opera Orchestra, among others, held on Center Stage in Town Center Park. Clarinet soloist Jonathan Gunn will play once more, performing Mozart’s “Clarinet Concerto,” this time under the able guidance of Maestro Peter Bay.

Bay has appeared with 75 different orchestras including the National, Chicago, Colorado, Bochum (Germany), Carinthian (Austria), Lithuanian National, and Ecuador National Symphonies, to name a few.

Bay is considered a living legend in the classical genre, and will conduct a performance in Big Sky with the same precision a mastery that has allowed him to lead those orchestras on countless prestigious stages.

For Hurlbut, so much of the festival is geared toward accessibility and exposure.

“We want to make it accessible for everyone,” he said. “It’s an opportunity for people that might not normally go see classical music. For one, there aren’t that many options in this area, and two, performances may be on the expensive side ... A family of four can go for free, rather than \$150. And this exposes them to the music ... when it’s offered for free, maybe they’ll go and be pleasantly surprised.”

Visit bigskyarts.org/big-sky-classical-music-festival/ for more information on the Big Sky Classical Music Festival.

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SECTION 5



Best late summer dry flies pg. 58



A fish tale pg. 62



Women on the reel pg. 67

On the Fly: Fishing in Greater Yellowstone



A fisherman mid-backcast, plying the waters of the world renowned Madison River. NPS PHOTO

Leave ‘perfect’ behind, enjoy the river

Fly fishing is a time-honored tradition in southwest Montana, which plays host to some of the most iconic trout streams in North America from the Yellowstone and Gallatin to the Big Blackfoot and Madison rivers. Anglers come from the world over to ply these fabled waters.

Living in and visiting such a place, can elicit a natural lapse into entitlement where we expect our river time to be perfect, mirroring the iconic scenes of the short story “A River Runs Through It.” We fish for the ideal, waiting for the right time of day, a legendary hatch, the most favorable weather.

Yet renowned author Norman Maclean, who penned “A River Runs Through It” before Robert Redford adapted it to the screen, gives anglers some slack and a dose of perspective when he writes, “Many of us would probably be better fishermen if we did not spend so much time watching and waiting for the world to become perfect.”

Many a seasoned troutslayer knows that every moment of each day comes with unique blessings.

The boon of foregoing “perfect” is the freedom of opportunity and gratitude. As Maclean tells in the same story, his trips around the sun instilled increasing confidence in the term “more perfect,” a phrase one former teacher disciplined him not to say.

Free from the illusion of perfect, take to the following pages to learn a new trick, delight in others’ tales and absorb a lesser-known chapter of fly-fishing history.

Happy casting,

The Editors



The Six Best Late Summer Dry Flies



BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

High-summer is upon us—the PBR has come and gone, morning tee times are a little easier to come by, salmon and golden stoneflies have all hatched and back to school sales have already begun. Seriously? It is not even the middle of August and we're already passing the torch on summer. Not so fast.

Blessed with generous snowpack and a cold and wet May and June, August could serve up dry-fly fishing like the good ole days. And for those anglers too young or too new to the area to remember when the Big Sky Resort's second gondola was a big deal, you will get to experience our fishing the way it used to be before graphite fly rods, rod racks and fiberglass boats were the norm.

As is often the case with our expected above average or near normal streamflows for the remainder of August, trout will continue to look to the surface to feed on terrestrials or any available hatches. Here are the six flies you must carry to enjoy our special summer of ideal streamflows—and old timers from the good ole days, be aware some of these flies were not even created when we enjoyed the good ole days, so we just might learn a thing or two.

Parachute Adams: Any list of the best dry flies must include this fly. Perhaps the most time-tested dry fly ever tied, imitating a mayfly dun, the Parachute Adams is a must-have. The white post is easy to see, it can be tied in a variety of colors, it floats well, and it catches fish. With our summer streamflows, hatches of pale morning duns, drakes and tricos all will occur. In various sizes, this fly imitates them all. Get some today and carry them every day.

Stalcup's Hopper: I first fished the Stalcup's hopper back in the '90s on the Missouri River. Craig was a sleepy riverside hamlet with only one fly shop and a bar. The Stalcup's is easy to see with a bright patch of orange on its back. The sleek all-foam body of the Stalcup's hopper makes it easy to cast, its legs look like real grasshopper legs and red marabou feet give this hopper a very lifelike appearance on the water. With the abundance of streamside grasses due to late rains, hoppers should be abundant. Carry this pattern for sure.

Chubby Chernobyl: Created to imitate a large stonefly or grasshopper, this foam-bodied fly floats high and is easy to see. For later summer, it is best fished to imitate a grasshopper or cricket, but can also be used to match a few species of nocturnal stoneflies that hatch on some of our local freestones. Many anglers will use this fly as an attractor dry fly—in other words, one that can be seen—and tie a smaller dry fly behind it as a floating dropper.

LaFontaine's Emergent Sparkle Pupa: We may very well see some of the best

evening caddis hatches in recent memory this August. A list of the best dry flies without a Gary LaFontaine pattern? Who do you think I am, a nymph fisherman? Fished as a dry fly, only put floatant on the elk hair, allowing the fly to float on the surface while the dubbed body—or mix of hairs attached to the hook shank—helps to hold air by creating a bubble. LaFontaine surmised that as caddis hatch from a pupa to an adult they create a small air bubble. Good thing he enjoyed looking at caddis butts, because without this pattern, a lot fewer fish would be caught.

Black or Cinnamon Ants: Just like we can expect to see high numbers of grasshoppers because of a lot of riverside grasses, we should be able to see high numbers of ants. Small and black or brown, many times a trout will eat an ant pattern when they refuse a mayfly or caddis. No one has been able to explain that to me, but, based on personal experience it is true, so be sure to carry some ants in your vest.

Purple Haze Cripple: It is listed last because the guide who shared this with me might not return my phone calls if he sees I listed it. Mainly tied to imitate an injured or crippled hatching mayfly, I am also convinced trout eat this fly as an ant or even a caddis. Fish it with plenty of floatant because the fly is designed to sit half-in and half-out of the water.

As we enjoy seeing the end of another summer approaching, be thankful for our trout-friendly streamflows. The good ole days may be gone, but load-up your boxes with these six flies and for the next several weeks you can indeed make some of your own good ole days.

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.



The Chubby Chernobyl is one of the best late summer flies. It imitates nothing in particular, but any angler fishing this summer should have some of this proven pattern. PHOTO BY PATRICK STRAUB

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Why you should love whitefish



BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

You read that title correctly, and I know I'm not alone in my admiration of whitefish. With fishing season in full swing, I thought it would be a good time to put the spotlight on one of our native, and much maligned, fish species.

Mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*) is affectionately known as "mighty whitey," "bugle lips," "mountain bonefish," "rock roller," among many other nicknames. The whitefish is a widespread native species found in rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs in Montana. Some anglers disdain whitefish, others are impartial to their existence and some share my feelings of admiration and respect.

Here are some reasons why mountain whitefish deserve a little love during this angling season.

They belong here. As a native salmonid, whitefish have toughed it out. They've seen arctic grayling come and go, and non-salmonid brook trout establish themselves; and they co-exist with introduced rainbow and brown trout.

What you don't know can't hurt you. It happens dozens of times a year in my boat: A large fish is hooked and a nice fight ensues. Anticipation builds as the camera and net are at the ready. The fish is brought to the surface and ... doh! It's a whitefish. Celebrate the size and the fight in the fish—if a rock roller fought well enough to keep its identity a secret, then it deserves accolades.

Trout with training wheels. For beginning anglers, whitefish are ideal for learning to hook-set, fight, land and properly release fish. They tend to be less selective than trout, which plays well to the marginal skills of novice anglers. A whitefish on the line is a reward for a successful presentation of a fly.

Small whitefish make bigger trout. The Yellowstone River is home to some massive brown trout, as well as an abundance of whitefish. Predatory trout seek out other fish, such as small whitefish. Whitefish roe—eggs released during their fall spawn—provide an abundant food source for trout as they prepare for a long winter.

Morale booster. A fish in hand feels better than catching no fish at all, and it's okay to admit you prefer to catch trout. However, don't rain on someone else's parade if a whitefish is brought to hand. If you don't have anything nice to say—well, you know the rest.

Indicator species. Large populations of whitefish indicate a healthy river system—one that has a diverse insect population, consistent fish-friendly flows and runoff cycles and plenty of trout. Whitefish are a food source for osprey, otters and eagles, among other animals.

If a river's whitefish population drops, those animals aren't going to the grocery store, they're going to eat trout.

The state record is attainable. If you want to make it in the record books, a whitefish might be your best chance. The typical whitefish is going to be 10-12 inches, but larger fish are not uncommon. The Montana state record is 23 inches and 5.1 pounds, caught in Hauser Reservoir in 2007. Many hardcore anglers may have caught a whitefish that big, but those catches often go undocumented. Start keeping track because the record is swimming out there somewhere.

Equal opportunity feeders. Whitefish are opportunistic feeders. Sure, their willingness to eat removes the guessing game or challenge of catching a fish with a fly, but it's okay to have times fishing when the catching is easy. Whitefish often eat dry flies with abandon and seeing a fish eat a fly that you presented is fun, regardless of the species.

Guilt-free fish. If you want to catch, keep and eat fish, the whitefish is for you. In a Montana State University study, participants found that whitefish, when cooked, were similar to trout in texture, aroma and juiciness. Fillet, remove any brown fat and skin, coat with your favorite breading and fry in light oil. Or season the boned and skinned fillets and sauté, being very careful not to overcook. Usually three minutes a side is all it takes. My favorite nickname for the mountain whitefish is "Rodney." Why? Because Mr. Dangerfield got no respect and neither do these fish. Whitefish have been around since long before anyone fished our waters and like it or not, they are going to stick around long after we're gone.

Patrick Straub is a 20-year veteran guide on Montana's waters and has fished the world-over. The co-founder of the Montana Fishing Guide School, he's the author of six books, including "The Frugal Fly Fisher," "Montana On The Fly," and "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Fly Fishing." He and his wife own Gallatin River Guides in Big Sky.

A version of this story was first published in the Feb. 5, 2016, edition of EBS.



The native mountain whitefish doesn't often get the respect it deserves. If you can't be happy while fishing in Montana, then perhaps two fish might help. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

A Fish Tale

L'eggo my Rainbow: Competing for dinner with Yellowstone's hostile fauna

BY EDNOR THERRIAULT

What better way for my wife and me to celebrate our 20th wedding anniversary than going full-on tourist mode and camping our way, sans kids, through Yellowstone National Park?

Shannon and I dropped our two high schoolers off at summer camp in Powell, Wyoming, and drove the 60 miles from Cody to the east entrance of the park. Our elderly 4Runner bristling with bikes, rocket box, camping equipment and a canoe, we were looking forward to a leisurely second honeymoon, moseying around Yellowstone and just digging each other.

What we didn't count on was being thrust into a shocking, Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom moment.

We'd spent four nights in the tent before we finally found some appropriate water for the canoe. Yellowstone Lake? Not a chance. Those massive whitecaps looked like they'd cause the wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald.

I'd begun to think that we were just giving our battered 16-foot Coleman a sightseeing tour around the West, but on our last day in the park we decided to try our luck at Lewis Lake. Located in the southern end of the park, the lake is far away from the famous thermal features like Old Faithful, which attracts crowds of thousands who gather around waiting for the chance to look at their cell phones.

We set up the tent in a secluded campsite, unfolded our chairs and cracked open a couple of adult beverages to toast our good fortune. We sipped, looking out over the road to the gorgeous little valley bisected by the winding Lewis River, which, like the lake, was named for Meriwether Lewis—a generous gesture, seeing as how Lewis and Clark never came within 50 miles of Yellowstone. The iconic duo are so revered in the West that I wouldn't be surprised if they got credit for building Devils Tower and installing Old Faithful.

After lunch it was time to launch the canoe. The lake was empty save for a couple of boats laden with ice chests and camping gear. Shannon and I discussed the challenges of canoe camping, and decided that it wasn't for us. For one thing, the canoe would be tough to handle with a couple of bikes strapped to it. No, we like the relative comfort of our queen-size air mattress lying in our big tent, just a short extension cord away from the 4Runner stuffed with half of our possessions.

We like to get away from it all, as long as we can bring most of it with us.

Shannon sat on the back seat, languidly paddling as I cast a tiny spinner from the front of the boat. Yes, I'm a spin-fisherman and I don't care who knows it. The fishing regs in the park require barbless hooks, and cutthroats and a few other species are strictly catch and release.

I had dutifully snipped off two of the three points on the lure's tiny treble hook, and squeezed the remaining hook's barb shut with pliers. This would give the trout a fighting chance, and almost certainly guarantee that we'd be eating canned chili for dinner.

We talked quietly, soaking in the beautiful late July weather and the good luck that had been following us around the park that week. It was the first time we'd camped without the kids since before we took our 10-month-old son and his playpen to Branham Lakes near Sheridan, Montana. Now that baby was about to start his last year of high school and we were getting a tantalizing glimpse of the empty nest that lay ahead.

I was looking back at Shannon out of the corner of my eye, entertaining the idea of an afternoon tent siesta when I got a bite. I set the hook and reeled in a small rainbow trout, maybe 10 inches. At the shoreline, a magnificent bald eagle lifted off from the snag where he'd been watching our progress. He soared overhead, then banked wide and returned to his perch. I released the trout with an admonition to dive down and send his big brother up.

"He wants your fish," Shannon said. She turned the canoe to float past the spot



where I'd hooked the trout, and I made another cast. I got a bite right away, and he was a fighter. Shannon maneuvered the canoe to keep the fish in front of me, and I was finally able to play him into the net.

It was another rainbow, bigger than the first, but I'd foul-hooked it through the gill. I removed the hook and it was bleeding pretty good. The trout went limp, and I leaned over the side, holding it underwater and moving it back and forth to resuscitate it. It twitched, so I released my grip and let it slide away.

"Hey, babe," I said over my shoulder, "you should grab the ..."

I didn't get the word "camera" out because the eagle swooped down on us like a kamikaze coming out of the sun at Pearl Harbor. Shannon dropped her paddle and scrambled for the camera. The canoe rocked violently as I twisted in my seat and ducked, covering my head with my arms. Somewhere a little girl screamed, and I realized it was me.

My spinning rod clanged off the gunwale and somehow bounced back into the boat as I kicked over my just-opened can of Hamm's. The eagle streaked past the canoe, six feet away, and plunged its talons into the water with a mighty splash. We felt the wind from its broad wings as it lifted off the water, the wounded rainbow firmly in its grasp.

We were scrambling and jabbering, trying not to capsize the canoe, as "Circle of Life" from The Lion King was playing in my head. The bird pumped the air with its enormous wings and hauled the hapless prize up to his roost. I might have spilled my beer, but I was still having a better day than that trout.

"Whoa," I said to Shannon as I grabbed my hat from the puddle of warm Hamm's. "Did you see that?"

She looked at me as if I might have taken a paddle to the melon, and just shook her head, smiling. She hadn't had time to grab the camera, and the whole episode was over so quickly that we weren't sure we believed our own eyes. Did this really just happen? We looked up to the eagle atop his snag, and on the tree a few yards away sat a second eagle.

"He's new," Shannon said. "Think he wants a fish too?" She grabbed the paddle and propelled us toward the pair of opportunistic raptors. "At least somebody's eating fish tonight."

Ednor Therriault, a seasoned indoorsman, lives in Missoula, Montana, with his adventurous wife.

A version of this story was originally published in the summer 2017 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine.





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The Catch and Release of Joe Brooks

How the Father of Modern-Day Fly Fishing saved himself

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

It was January of 1955 when Joe Brooks first cast into the rich waters of Argentina's Tierra del Fuego, astonishing the native onlookers. The archipelago, on South America's southernmost tip, is famous for gusting sea winds so powerful that trees warp into permanently mangled, unnatural forms; casting a fly with any semblance of precision was unheard of, yet Brooks rolled out cast after cast on target. He then doubled down on the spectacle, landing a monster sea-run brown trout, and proceeded with the unthinkable—releasing it, alive, back into the water.

“His casting and his ability to fight the winds blew these Argentinians away,” said Joseph Brooks, Joe Brooks' great nephew. “They fished with a ‘catch it, kill it’ belief, so for him to release this impressive of a fish was inconceivable.”

Joe Brooks was a prolific American angler, a pioneer of modern-day fly fishing, who pushed the envelope on what was thought possible with a fly rod, untethering the sport from decades of worn-out convention. His ascension was a lifelong one marked by passion for adventure and respect for game fish and the environs they inhabited, but also by a generosity of spirit that influenced anyone who encountered it.

Brooks mentored the likes of Bing Crosby, Jack Nicklaus and Red Sox great Ted Williams, as well as fly fishing legends Lefty Kreh and Stu Apte, the latter dubbing him “a second father”; he played a pivotal role in the founding of The Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock, an organization dedicated to bringing the joys of fishing to young men with an emphasis on promoting conservation. Brooks also wrote about his experiences, publishing missives in simple, charming prose for the likes of *Field and Stream*, *The Baltimore Sun* and *Outdoor Life*—his ability to communicate fly fishing and its transcendental splendors led to written works still considered leading gospel by the sport's patrons.

“He's just one of those people that had that charisma, a wonderful and generous man,” said John Bailey, proprietor and son of the eponymous founder of Dan Bailey's Fly Shop in Livingston, Montana. “He just impacted fishing so deeply, and in so many ways.”

Yet, in true hero's fashion, Brooks' road to legend revealed an imperfect character. By 1930, many thought Brooks was dead, and like so many marred souls, he'd once shown tremendous promise. A natural-born athlete, at just 17 years old Brooks was a top prospect for the Baltimore Orioles. He'd been admitted into Princeton University (albeit briefly, getting the boot after just one semester), and had married into the Dickey clan, one of the most prestigious and wealthy families in the Mid-Atlantic.

Despite these gifts of character and aptitude, his charmed life unraveled into seemingly irreversible turmoil. Brooks abused his newfound social status gained in marriage, raging through the roaring '20s with little acknowledgement of his mounting troubles with alcoholism and a penchant for brawling. Brooks and the distinguished debutante Arline Dickey divorced four years after their marriage, and as the glimmering prosperity of the decade was replaced by the Great Depression of the 1930s, so too did the sheen disappear from Brooks—he vanished, without a trace, into the sadness that blanched the spirit of a once-proud American people.

Lore surrounds those mysterious years. Brooks is rumored to have played semi-pro football in California. Another tale has him assisting an elderly man with a trapping outfit in remote Michigan. Some claim he was among the earliest competitors in a precursor to the multibillion faux-wrestling industry, grappling in the Lumberjack Circuit of Minnesota. He would speak little of that time. What is known is that Brooks eventually landed in Toronto's Wood Sanatorium, a secretive and experimental facility dedicated to treating alcoholism as a disease and not a moral defect, among the first of its kind.

Released for a second chance at life, a sober 36-year-old Brooks chased respite by fishing the eddies of Maryland's streams and rivers, a gentler pastime of a younger self. It was a rekindled passion that transformed Brooks from a pariah into a celebrated god of fly fishing, definitively securing him a throne in sport's pantheon, and allowed a once-dormant kindness to blossom.

“I think my life was altered by knowing Joe Brooks, absolutely,” said Stu Apte, a fellow fly-fishing hall of famer and renowned author. “Spending time with Joe, trying to emulate him, made me a better person.”

Those who fly fish know the sport is imbued with a tacit mysticism and reverence for wildlife other sects of fishing struggle to achieve. Fly fishing requires the angler



The Father of Modern Fly Fishing, Joe Brooks, netting a brown trout at the 1963 Championship Trout Tournament at Argentina's Lake General Paz. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE JOE BROOKS FOUNDATION.

to imitate nature with such precision as to join it. There is no room for compromise, presentation must be near perfect and, when refraining from over-tackling with heavy synthetics, a hard credo of Brooks', the engagement is one of fairness and respect; no contest between man and beast is so undecided from first strike.

“When you're fishing with 20-plus-pound test [fishing line], unless you completely fatigue there's just no way you can lose that fight. The fish will never break the line,” said Brooks' great nephew Joseph, who together with brother Michael produced the 2018 documentary, *Finding Joe Brooks*. “But when you're fly fishing, there's this sense that either side could win. It's a fair contest, and Joe valued that.”

Joe Brooks' regard for game fish extended beyond the fight. A true sportsman of well-made integrity, Brooks allowed his opponent to fight again in an act known as “catch and release,” a measure of grace he passed unto his Argentinian companions under sheets of rain and howling wind in 1955. Some could argue his greatest contributions were realized in far-flung nations, fishing not only fresh water but also brackish and salt, and landing record-sized species previously thought impossible to catch on a fly. Yet it's that ethos, popularizing the release of what was landed, that made Brooks remarkable.

“I think it speaks to his character, one-hundred percent a reflection of the regard he held the resource in,” said Flip Pallot, a student of Brooks' best-known disciple, fly-fishing legend Lefty Kreh.

Brooks' understanding of what it meant to fight for life was intimate, and so the concept of catch and release was tailor-made. Perhaps Brooks saw himself in conquered fish, summoning bitter memories of a time spent floundering in the throes of a former self. Brooks understood even those with nothing left to give, in a state of complete and total vulnerability, should be honored with a second chance.

Joe Brooks spent the late summers and autumns of his final years in Montana's Paradise Valley, fishing the untamed rivers lined with quaking aspens and cottonwoods. He would die there in September of 1972, mere weeks after telling friends that when the time was right he wanted to “die with a fly rod in hand, facing upstream.” Not many get to choose the way they perish, as Brooks did. And he spent his last hours releasing trout and giving them the chance to fight again..

This story was originally published in the summer 2019 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine.

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Women on the Reel

Montana Women’s Fly Fishing School

BY KELSEY DZINTARS

It was a snowy spring morning at Gallatin River Guides. Five women gathered around a table filled with fruit, pastries and coffee in the Big Sky, Montana fly shop, studying slides with photos and illustrations of different river-flows. Kara Tripp, our instructor and owner of the women’s based fly-fishing company, Damsel Fly Fishing, explained how to read the river, where fish will be in the current, and why.

An hour later we “waded up” at Reynolds Pass on the Upper Madison River and divided into groups of two and three to put our newfound knowledge to the test.

I slid into the river, wavering against the heavy current on the slippery rocks like a newborn deer trying to stand. I thought about what I had just learned in the classroom, now looking at the boulders and riffles as structures and seams where I would attempt to place my fly. To my total surprise, I immediately set my hook into a small rainbow. This was the first time I had caught a fish utilizing strategy rather than trial and error, and I was officially hooked myself.

Over the past several years, women have flocked to the traditionally male-dominated sport of fly fishing. According to the 2018 Special Report on Fishing conducted by the Outdoor Foundation, 31 percent of the nearly 6.8 million Americans who participate in fly fishing are female.

Fly-fishing outfitters and outdoor retailers have taken note of the trend. In 2015, Montana companies Gallatin River Guides, Simms and Montana Fishing Outfitters teamed up to create the Montana Women’s Fly Fishing School, the first and only of its kind in southwest Montana designed and run by women. In 2019 the school has offered 18 sessions from March to October.



Guides Anne Anderson and Kara Cain.



Lindsey Koenig shows how it’s done. PHOTOS COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

Gallatin River Guides’ former owner, Pat Straub, saw the demand firsthand. “At our fly shop, we would constantly see women coming in with a high level of interest, but many felt like they were uneducated or intimidated by fly fishing,” Straub said. “We started with Gallatin River Gals, our free weekly fishing gatherings for women. The excitement that created morphed into many women asking for a longer experience, and voilà, the Montana Women’s Fly Fishing School was born.”

During the three-day course, beginners and intermediate anglers learn essential skills like tying knots, reading the river, casting, basic entomology and fly pattern selection. Each day begins with classroom instruction followed by application on Montana’s world-famous waters, including the Gallatin, Madison and Yellowstone rivers.

Tripp is enthusiastic about getting more women involved in her lifelong passion. “When I started fly fishing 17 years ago, I didn’t know any other girls that liked fly fishing like I did,” Tripp said. “I don’t need a bunch of fancy data to tell me that women fly fishing is the fastest growing niche. Why? Because its fun, and in the words of Cyndi Lauper, women ‘... just wanna have fun.’”

At the end of the nine-hour day, we relaxed with hot toddies and French fries at the Gallatin Riverhouse Grill south of Big Sky, relating strategies of the day and stories of our lives. A few days on the river with experienced fisherwomen gave me the camaraderie and confidence I needed to graduate to the next level in my new favorite sport.

A version of this story was originally published in the summer 2016 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine.

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