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#### **ON THE COVER:**

While he has been a standout as a goalkeeper for the U15 coed Big Sky FC squad, Cam Pecunies can also make a big difference when he plays in the field with his deft touch, strong work ethic and ball-striking capabilities. PHOTO BY DAVE PECUNIES

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#### Soccer gains foothold in Big Sky

In less than a year, the Big Sky Futbol Club has increased membership from 15 to 130 players. Check in and see how the teams are playing in what might be Big Sky's fastest growing team sport.

17

### **Gallatin Canyon's Forest Service cabins**

The U.S. Forest Service has nearly 14,000 cabins for rent to the public throughout the country—23 of which are within the Custer Gallatin National Forest. Don't miss out on this guide to some of the crown jewels of the region.

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#### Montana sees first vaping victim

On Sept. 20, Montana health officials confirmed the state's first case of severe lung disease associated with vaping, after a Yellowstone County man in his 30s with a history of using THC and nicotine vaping products was hospitalized in August with a mysterious pulmonary disease. Vaping has been linked to more than 530 pulmonary illnesses, nationwide, claiming the lives of nine.

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#### **Building for wildfire**

It's a pill Big Sky residents must swallow: they live backdropped not just by beautiful mountains, but also by a densely forested area, aka prime conditions for wildfire. How does one build in anticipation for such conditions?

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#### Plus: the perfect tuna melt

They might be one of the most misunderstood sandwiches in American cuisine, but the tuna melt is a genuine and unlikely hero sure to please on a chilly fall day spent watching Spaghetti Westerns—especially with these high-end twists.



Big Sky's Beehive Basin, one of the most popular local trailheads, was blanketed in snow on Sept. 21, reminding residents winter is soon approaching. PHOTO BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

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#### **EDITORIAL POLICY**

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39 Homestead Cabin Fork | Ski In/Out SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB 3 BED + 4.5 BATH | 2,318 +/- SQ. FT. | \$2,195,000



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43 Mountain Valley Trail

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45 Goshawk Trail
SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB
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PRE SELLING DISCOUNT



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



# Buffalo Horn Trail closed from bear activity

#### EBS STAFF

The Buffalo Horn Trail behind the 320 Guest Ranch south of Big Sky is currently closed following the death of a horse belonging to archery hunters. According to Kevin Frey, a grizzly bear specialist for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the horse died on the trail on Sept. 14.

"There was grizzly bear activity along the trail prior to the horse dying and knowing that bears would soon find the carcass and begin feeding on it, the trail was closed for public safety," he said in an email to EBS, adding that hunters who travel in the dark during early morning or evening hours could be at risk of an encounter.

"A carcass can be viable for roughly four to 14 days, depending on the size of carcass and the number of scavengers," he said.

It is unclear how the horse died at this time, as it was a private expedition, but the U.S. Forest Service Bozeman Ranger District speculates old age was the cause.

As of press time, representatives from the U.S. Forest Service Bozeman Ranger District had not yet inspected the status of the corpse, allowing substantial decomposition and scavenging to occur.

Given the high chance of trail users encountering a bear at the carcass, the Custer Gallatin National Forest has not yet reopened the trail for recreationists.

For more information, call the U.S. Forest Service Bozeman Ranger District at (406) 522-2520.

# **Community Visioning Process approaches final stages**

#### EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – Launched in February of this year, the Community Visioning Strategy "Our Big Sky," was a joint effort between the Big Sky Resort Area District and consulting firm Logan Simpson designed to help to guide future development in Big Sky. The objective: survey community members about what they deem most important as this unincorporated town undergoes its next stages of growth.

Over the course of the last seven months, Logan Simpson and BSRAD surveyed and interviewed area residents collecting responses hoping to gain a robust representation of the community's voice about plans for development prioritization, capital improvement projects and strategic investments placed in Big Sky over the next 10 years.

The opportunity for the community to engage with the Community Visioning Strategy survey period comes to a close at the end of September with increasingly honed options for responses to strategic priorities and project initiatives under the "Our Recreation," "Our Natural Environment," "Our People" and "Our Character" themes. Survey participants also have the option to voice opinions about the concept of incorporating Big Sky and what that might yield for the community, as well as responding to demographics questioning.

By Oct. 15, Logan Simpson has said it will have a draft for the Community Visioning Strategy ready for the advisory committee, a group comprised of representatives from various community organizations such as the Big Sky Fire Department, Town Center Owners Association, Big Sky School District, Big Sky Community Organization, Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, Yellowstone Club, Big Sky Water and Sewer and Big Sky Community Housing Trust, among others.

Once the draft is submitted, representatives and their organizations will have until Oct. 29 to submit questions and comments, and should everything be agreed upon the draft plan will head into the next stages on Nov. 13, which entails initiating the development stages of an action plan for implementation.

Visit ourbigskymt.com for more information.

# Housing project postponed over septic concerns

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – The Gallatin County Planning and Zoning Commission on Sept. 13 postponed approval for 265 proposed housing units to be built along the stretch of Highway 191 between Michener Creek Road and Lone Mountain Trail. The commission raised concerns that if the project's septic system failed it could flow into the Gallatin River.

The units, consisting of 130 apartments above retails spaces and 135 single-family homes, would be built over the next 10-15 years and are in part intended to serve members of Big Sky's burgeoning workforce; currently struggling to find residential footing in the community. One project lending aid to the issue is the Big Sky Community Housing Trust's 52 deed-restricted Meadowview Units.

With a hotel and access to the Big Sky trail system, the development would appear to be a no brainer for the community, but in a bid to avoid the necessity of obtaining a discharge permit from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, the developer, Big Sky Rock LLC, opted for smaller, shared systems capable of handling fewer than 5,000 gallons per day.

The discharge permit required by DEQ comes with a host of subsequent compliances and monitoring measures. According to a report in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Big Sky Rock LLC is working with DEQ on the proposed septic system design, and would join a centralized system should one be instituted.

At a Sept. 17 Big Sky Water and Sewer District meeting, Steve Johnson, a member of the Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Zoning Advisory Committee, urged members of the board to consider creating a water and sewer district for the developments and residents of Gallatin Canyon, as that population grows concurrently with that of the census-designated area of Big Sky.

"These are things we need to be thinking about and planning now," Johnson said at the meeting, noting that Big Sky has historically missed the boat on infrastructure while there was still time to meet growing population needs.

Such a district would diminish roadblocks for housing and commercial business, as experienced by Big Sky Rock LLC.

Representatives from Big Sky Rock LLC did not immediately reply to requests for comment.

#### The bears out there

#### EBS STAFF

A spate of recent bear sightings and human-bear interactions has some in the Big Sky community concerned.

On Sept. 15, Bozeman-based limo service In Style Arrivals posted a video to its Face-book page of a black bear ambling along the sidewalk toward the front door of The Wilson Hotel in Big Sky.

Later that week, on Sept. 18, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks wardens removed a small black bear from a dumpster in the Big Sky Community Park, according to Morgan Jacobson, information and education program manager for FWP's Region 3, who added that the bear was relocated to the Moose Creek area.

"Our wardens have been busy this summer with bears around residences," Jacobson said in a Sept. 19 interview. "One of the problems is access to garbage or some kind of food reward. The first question is: Is your garbage secure?"

A Sept. 24 email to EBS included an FWP Facebook post with a photo of an older black bear between 12 and 14 years old that FWP had darted and said it would euthanize due it its label as a "nuisance bear" and because of its age. "When you leave your trash out and feed bears, you are attracting it to the neighborhoods and causing it to be too comfortable in the area," the FWP post read.

Jacobson warned residents about leaving food rewards out, however unintentionally, and to carry and know how to use bear spray. "As the human population expands in Big Sky, encounters with bears become more likely," he said. "You need to secure garbage, pet food and bird feeders."

## Big Sky Resort announces new roles to strengthen leadership team

BY DOUG HARE

BIG SKY – On Sept. 19, Big Sky Resort announced a major initiative to expand and strengthen their leadership team. Driven by recent expansion of facilities, lifts, services and visitation, Big Sky Resort President Taylor Middleton announced through a press release over a dozen new roles or internal promotions filled by longtime Big Sky Resort team members.

Troy Nedved has been promoted to General Manager of Operations, assuming all responsibilities for the day-to-day operations of Big Sky Resort. Most recently Vice President of Mountain Services, Nedved's career at Big Sky Resort spans 23 years, during which he has demonstrated strong team-building and leadership skills in Mountain Sports, Guest Services, Base Camp and serving on the Resort's executive team.

Previously, Nedved worked 22 summers for the National Park Service in Yellowstone conducting wildlife and forestry management. A PSIA Examiner Certified instructor, he is an avid skier and athlete. In his new role as general manager, Nedved will lead all operations teams at the resort, including mountain operations, mountain services, mountain sports, lodging, food and beverage, IT, human resources, and the rental and retail divisions.

Nedved is dedicated to differentiating the resort among its Rocky Mountain peers, and ensuring it maintains its authenticity through anticipated growth. "To lead and craft the direction of Big Sky Resort—it's a unique opportunity given the position of this resort at this time. We have the ability to make something really special," Nedved said. "We're not going cookie cutter with the character of this place—it's unique to Montana and unique to the industry. We have the ability to mold this resort into something that is different from all the rest."

Tom Marshall has been promoted to Vice President of Mountain Operations where he is responsible for overseeing ski operations, summer improvement activities and outside operations. Marshall, a PSIA Examiner certified instructor and past member of the PSIA Nordic Demo Team, is a lifelong skier and 20-year resident of Big Sky. He graduated in engineering and land surveying from Dartmouth College. Most recently, Tom managed Mountain Sports at Madison and was the Madison Base Area Manager.

Mike Unruh, previously Vice President of Mountain Operations for 12 years, and before that the Mountain Manager at Copper Mountain, Colorado, was recently promoted to Senior Vice President of Mountain Operations for all Boyne Resorts. Unruh will continue to reside in Bozeman/Big Sky.

Christine Baker has been promoted to Director of Mountain Sports. She is responsible for the rapidly growing ski instruction and guiding programs, and Base Camp operations including biking, zip lines and Lone Peak Expeditions. After graduating from the University of Michigan in Education, she moved to Big Sky and continued her professional development with PSIA Examiner Level instruction certification and membership on the ACCT National Certification Committee for Zip Lines and Adventure Parks. She first skied Big Sky at the age of five and has only missed two winters since.

Neil Johnson has been promoted to Director of Mountain Services, leading the winter guest arrival experience including Ticketing, Mountain Hosts, Mountain Services and implementation of the new RFID ticketing system. Johnson has worked in various hospitality roles at Big Sky Resort for 17 years. Neil is a PSIA Examiner certified instructor and an avid skier and mountain biker.

John Knapton has been promoted to Director of Mountain Projects and Equipment. An expert in project management and heavy equipment operations, Knapton was one of the first employees at Moonlight Basin where he worked in ski patrol and served as Mountain Manager. Most recently Mountain Manager for Big Sky Resort, he has 23 years of experience on Lone Mountain.

Adam West has been promoted to Director of Mountain Operations where he will lead lift operations, park, and snow surface management. West has a knack for creativity in planning events and features like Pond Skim and Snobar, and for managing a large and growing team of snow grooming operators charged with creating exceptional ski surfaces every day, regardless of weather.

Michelle Frederick has been promoted to Lodging Director, where she is leading all lodging operations including the Huntley Lodge, Summit, Village Center, White Water Inn and Vacation Rentals. Frederick started her Big Sky career at Moonlight Basin managing promotions. After joining Big Sky Resort, she transitioned into lodging operations as Owner Services Director. Frederick has a degree in international business and is a licensed lodging professional.

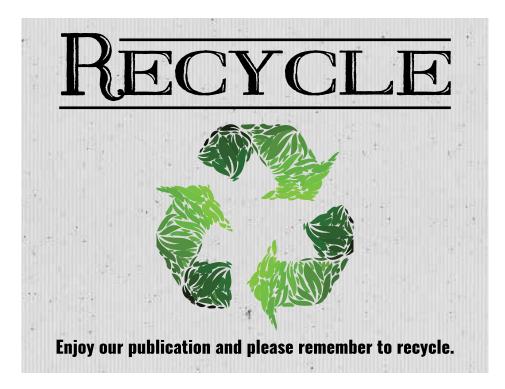
Frederick's new role was previously held by Barb Rooney, who led resort lodging for 25 years and is now focused on her expanding role as Senior Vice President of Lodging, Spa, and Owner Services for all Boyne Resorts. Rooney continues to reside in Big Sky.

Dylan Hall, a 13-year team member with experience in retail operations, resort sales, golf and expanding new retailing opportunities, was recently promoted to Vice President of Retail & Golf.

Brian Berry, with eight years of experience at Big Sky Resort in personnel operations and a key player in the resort's growing seasonal workforce housing expansion, is a SHRM Certified Human Resources Professional. Berry has been promoted to Vice President of Human Resources.

Ryan Ayres was recently promoted to Ski Patrol Director. He brings 20 years of experience patrolling on Lone Mountain and managing summer improvement projects to his new role trying to fill Bob Dixon's ski boots. Nancy Sheil, with nearly 15 years of experience as a Big Sky Resort ski patroller, blaster and supervisor has been promoted to Assistant Ski Patrol Director.

As Big Sky Resort President and Chief Operating Officer, Taylor Middleton has handed General Manager responsibilities to Troy Nedved to expand the resort's leadership structure and support continued growth. This move positions him to maintain high-level oversight of Big Sky Resort's operational and budgetary performance, and focus more on planning and long-term growth strategies.



## **Building for wildfire**

#### BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BIG SKY – Sixty-four percent of homes in Montana are tucked among trees and sage, within an area known as the wildland-urban interface. This region, recognized as a land-use type by federal agencies, county officials and the fire department, is defined as an area where homes and flammable vegetation meet. Approximately 90 percent of homes in Big Sky exist within this category.

Currently, there are about 4,200 homes in Big Sky and 90 percent of them are within this wildland-urban interface, according to Big Sky Deputy Fire Chief Dustin Tetrault. He added that an estimated 2,000 more homes are expected to pop up throughout the mountain town's forest over the next 10 years.

Facing such growth projections and aware of the warming climate that is making the fire season longer and more intense, the Big Sky Fire Department partnered with Bozeman's Headwaters Economics on Sept. 18 to host a Building for Wildfire Summit at Buck's T-4 Lodge.

Approximately 100 of the area's architects, builders, county government officials, fire personal, private business owners and residents piled into the conference room. Research engineer Daniel Gorham with the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety shared the latest science in fire-resistant building materials, while physical scientist Jack Cohen, now retired from the U.S. Forest Service, discussed wildfire behavior.

"You're taking a family's belongings—largely petroleum based—wrapping them in flammable wood, and then placing them on a burnable landscape." - Kimiko Barrett, Headwaters Economics

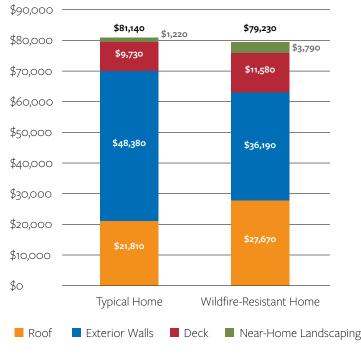
"Wildland-urban fire disasters are a home ignition problem not a wildfire problem," Cohen said. "There are things that we can do that are easy."

Kathy Clay, Battalion Chief Fire Marshal in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and Vail, Colorado's Wildland Program Manager Paul Cada shared experiences within their own mountain communities in order to explore best practices and potential solutions to create a fire-resilient community.

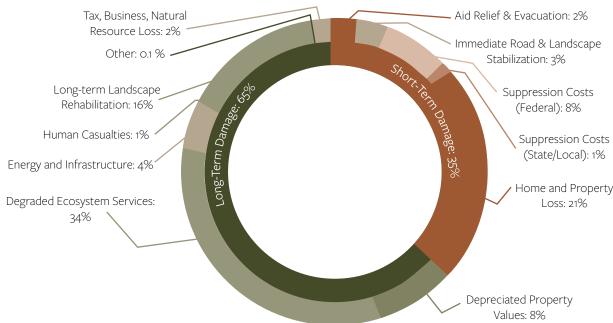
The speakers' recommendations were clear: build homes using fire-resistant designs and materials, minimize flammable items around the exterior of a home, and participate in community-wide wildfire risk reduction ethics.

Visit planning for wildfire.org or disastersafety.org for more resources on building for wildfire.

#### **New Construction Cost Comparison**



# Proportional costs of wildfire impacts, as short-term expenses and long-term damages



HEADWATERS ECONOMICS

HEADWATERS ECONOMICS

Wildfire-Resistance: Make the "RIGHT" Choices Closed **EAVES** Open SIDING **Fiber Cement Board** SIDING Wood Shingle WINDOWS **Dual-Pane Tempered** Screens WINDOWS Single pane MULCH No screens Rock DECK Increased joist space MULCH Bitumen on joists Bark/ Wood Chips DECK Redwood Standard spacing INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR BUSINESS & HOME SAFETY

# Resort Tax Board clarifies ordinance, seeks public comment

#### BY DOUG HARE

Big Sky – On Sept. 19, the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board held an open meeting at the Big Sky Water and Sewer District building in order to finalize the process of collectively revising and amending the ordinance providing for the administration of resort tax funds.

The meeting was facilitated by Bozeman-based consultant Brad Webb, who kept the conversation moving forward when there was not immediate agreement on semantic changes to help clarify ambiguities and remove unnecessary verbiage.

After improving the definitions of keywords such as "enumerated establishments," "goods and services," "luxuries," and "necessities of life," board members worked to move towards consensus on parts of the ordinance that had caused concern or had not been agreed upon by all board members.

"I just want to take a moment and stress that we are not trying to be burdensome to local businesses and business proprietors," Secretary Buz Davis said. "We are trying to educate business owners while also making the tax collection process as clear and efficient as possible."

"I was proud of the board and staff team for taking the time needed to ensure that our community's best interest and the intent of the ordinance was met with the rewrite," said Ciara Wolfe, executive director of the Big Sky Community Organization, who was appointed to the BSRAD tax board at the previous meeting.

The interpretation of details at this level can be difficult for any group of individuals to come to a consensus on, however with the support of a facilitator and ample preparation time from everyone involved, I believe this effort will be successful and provide a much clearer direction for staff and tax collectors."

Wolfe also noted that with the Resort Tax's community visioning process occurring this fall and hoping to develop a strategic plan for implementation this winter, her background with the BSCO will be a strong asset to the already existing Resort Tax board.

The board will release the revised Ordinance at a public meeting in late September and will seek public feedback on the proposed revisions. Currently BSRAD's next open meeting is slated for Oct. 9 from 8-10 a.m.



## BSWSD discusses new water, sewer rates

## Proposed increases would affect commercial, residential customers

#### BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY – On Sept. 17, the Big Sky Water and Sewer District Board of Directors met in its Meadow Village office to discuss mountain well exploration, upgrades to the existing wastewater treatment plant and the imminent updates to rates for both water and sewer based on residential or commercial status.

While rates are increasing across all tiers, the board is adjusting tiers based on usage, and will hold a hearing for all affected payers on Oct. 22.

BSWSD is encouraging both residential and commercial ratepayers to attend the hearing at 8:30 a.m. in the BSWSD office. All affected parties will receive the proposed rate changes in the mail prior to the hearing date, separate from their Oct. 1 billing mail.

Water and sewer pay rates, set out by Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services based on its cost of services analysis, will lessen the share for residential users, but overall rates will increase for all customers.

"Were still a developing resort area, and our rates are the same for all residential and commercial users, but were at a place where were like gee should we split our rates between the categories, and there's enough data there to suggest we do so," said Ron Edwards, BSWSD general manager.

The categorizations and varying tier structures are intended to put the lion's share of water usage onus on commercial users and to encourage less irrigation in summer months when water becomes increasingly scarce in the alpine setting, according to Edwards.

"By adjusting the tiers, it will build in some conservation factor and hopefully it reduces water use in the summer time," Edwards said.

Charges will increase per thousand gallons used relative to the appropriate tier a user falls under, which is based on water usage, with new charges jumping from \$2.73 to \$2.98, \$4.08 to \$4.47, \$5.45 to \$6.26, and \$6.82 to \$8.76 per thousand gallons for each of the respective four tiers.

Additionally, the proposed fixed quarterly water charge will increase by four percent, from \$50.70 to \$52.74.

Proposed fixed quarterly sewer rates will increase by 10 percent for both commercial and residential users, from \$80.64 to \$88.71, residential and condo users will see a 10 percent increase per thousand gallons of volumetric use, from \$6.55 to \$7.21, and commercial volumetric charges will increase by 20 percent per thousand gallons, from \$6.55 to \$7.86.

The board will meet at the BSWSD office one week before the hearing, on Oct. 15 at 8:30 a.m., for a regular agenda meeting.

EXISTING TIERS	ADJUSTED RESIDENTIAL TIERS	ADJUSTED COMMERCIAL TIERS	ADJUSTED IRRIGATION TIERS
Tier 1: 0-60 kgal	Tier 1: 0-20 kgal	Tier 1: 0-30 kgal	Tier 1: No Flow at Tier 1 Rate
Tier 2: 60-90 kgal	Tier 2: 20-40 kgal	Tier 2: 30-60 kgal	Tier 2: 0-20 kgal
Tier 3: 90-120 kgal	Tier 3: 40-60 kgal	Tier 3: 60-80 kgal	Tier 3: 20-40 kgal
Tier 4: > 120 kgal	Tier 4: > 60 kgal	Tier 4: > 80 kgal	Tier 4: > 40 kgal

# Native pay gap recognized with Native Women's Equal Pay Day

EBS STAFF

On Sept. 23, the nation recognized the still-existing pay gap between white and native workers. Known as Native Women's Equal Pay Day, Sept. 23 symbolizes how far into the year an American Indian woman must work in order to earn what a white man earned the previous year.

Nationally, Native women earn approximately \$0.58 for every dollar a white, non-Hispanic man earns. In Montana, the gap is slightly narrower: a Native woman earns \$0.59 for every dollar a white man earns.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 7 percent of Montanans identify as American Indian or Alaska Native, making this group the largest minority population in the Treasure State.

## Work on Glacier Park's Sperry Chalet to wrap up in

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** 



Construction is slated to wrap up in October on the Sperry Chalet in Glacier National Park. Photo courtesy of the Glacier Conservancy

WEST GLACIER – Crews are on schedule with rebuilding let in Glacier National Park. The 105-year-old wood and stor an ember storm from a wildfire on Aug. 31, 2017.

Travis Neil is the project manager for Dick Anderson Constr to rebuild the structure in 2018 and again this year. Neil told stantial work should be completed around the first part of Oc the facility to reopen to the public for lodging next summer.

Reservations aren't being taken at this point.

Kevin Warrington, concessionaire for the Sperry Chalet, said Sperry season will not be available until November or Decem

# Jehovah's Witnesses seek reversal of \$35M abuse verdict

EBS STAFF

THOMSPON FALLS – In the mid-2000s, an unnamed 21-year-old victim was subject to sexual abuse from a member the Thompson Falls Jehovah's Witnesses congregation, and was awarded \$35 million in damages by a jury last September after it was determined the congregation's elders handled the matter internally, shielding the accused from Montana law enforcement.

According to state law, clergy are exempt from reporting if church doctrine or practice requires confidentiality, The Missoulian reported on Sept. 13.

On Sept. 13, the Jehovah's Witnesses appealed for a reversal of the jury's decision, despite the victim's attorney, Jim Molloy, noting such exemptions don't apply considering congregation officials testified that elders can choose to report child abusers under set church practice.

Congregation elders expelled the abuser in 2004, allowing his return in 2005, which cleared runway for continued abuse of the victim.

# Tester delivers funds to Montana Crime Victim Services

EBS STAFF

HELENA – Sen. Jon Tester recently delivered more than \$7.6 million to the Montana Board of Crime Control to fund community-based organizations that assist with medical care, legal support, housing and other services for survivors of violent crimes such as rape and murder.

This funding, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Justice's Victims of Crime Act, comes from fines and restitution paid by criminals convicted of federal crimes.

"Montana is home to some top-notch organizations that help victims of violent crime recover from trauma and get back on their feet, but without the right resources, our domestic violence shelters and legal aid organizations can only do so much," Tester said in a statement. "This funding will help give the folks on the front lines helping survivors better tools to boost outcomes after a violent crime."

## Montana unemployment rate falls to 3.3 percent

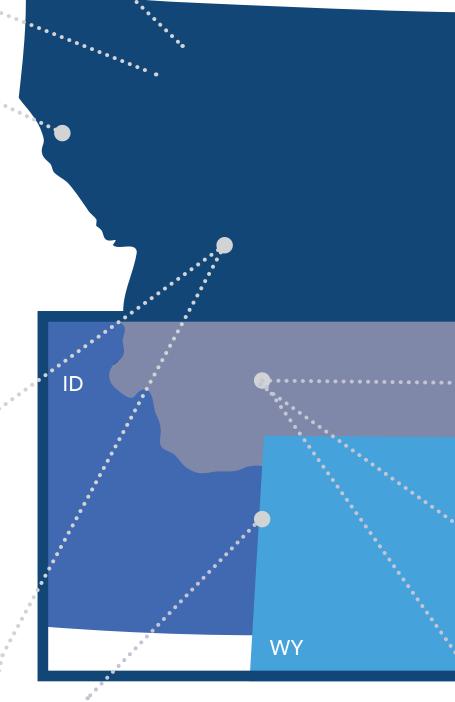
ASSOCIATED PRESS

3.3%

HELENA – Montana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 3.3 percent in August, a 10-year low. The rate fell slightly from 3.4 percent in July.

Total employment—which includes payroll, self-employed and agricultural jobs—showed a gain of 846 jobs while the labor force grew by 641 people. Payroll employment itself fell by 400 jobs in August, but has grown by about 2,800 jobs over the past three months.

The national unemployment rate remained steady in August at 3.7 percent.



# Jackson Hole Mountain Resort to switch wind

EBS STAFF



PHOTO COURTESY OUNSPLASH.COM

JACKSON, Wyo. – Jackson Hole Mounta Resort announced on Sept. 17 that the ski is transitioning to green power for all of its tricity needs. All year-round operations at resort, including mountain ski lifts, facilitie base areas, will be powered through Lower ley Energy's 100 percent Green Power prowith energy sourced from wind power in I Horse Butte Wind Farm.

"As a recognized ski industry leader, Jackson Hole's unique position as a sought-after, glo big mountain resort destination, coupled wi immediate proximity to North America's m

celebrated National Parks, makes JHMR a fitting candidate for incorpor green power," the resort said in a statement.

#### October

the historic Sperry Chane dormitory burned after

uction, which won the bid the "Missoulian" that subtober and that he expects

details about the 2020 ber of this year.

# Latina women forced out of Havre following interrogation backlash

EBS STAFF

HAVRE – In May of 2018, Ana Suda and Martha "Mimi" Hernandez, both born U.S. citizens, were detained and interrogated for more than 40 minutes by U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent Paul O'Neill for their use of Spanish in a Havre convenience store. O'Neill, quoted in a YouTube video of the incident that has since gone viral, said "... the reason I asked you for your ID is because I came in here and I saw that you guys are speaking Spanish, which is very unheard of up here." The women filed a lawsuit in February, claiming their Fourth and Fifth Amendment rights—protection against unreasonable search and seizure, and equal protection clause—were compromised; an Oct. 2 hearing looms large for the agency. Backlash to the video and lawsuit, consisting of harassment and threats, has forced both women to leave the town with their families.

# Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame announces 2019 inductees

EBS STAFF



PHOTO COURTESY OF EALDGYTH

WOLF POINT – This September the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center in Wolf Point, Montana, announced the 12th class of inductions into the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame. The inductees, honored for contributions to the state's cowboy history and

culture, were chosen from candidates nominated by the public.

"This process gives the local communities a strong voice in who will represent them in the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame," said MCHF and WHC President Bill Galt in a statement.

Inductees are selected from 12 districts within Montana. For District 9, which includes Gallatin, Meagher and Park counties, James E. Carrig of Bozeman and Theodore H. Thorpe of Livingston were honored.

# Research shows impact of transportation corridor on wolverines

BY MARSHALL SWEARINGEN MSU NEWS SERVICE



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH.COM

BOZEMAN – Following a multi-year study conducted by a Montana State University scientist, a team of researchers has shown for the first time that a major highway disproportionately limits movement of female wolverines, suggesting that roads throughout the rare species' North American range could be impacting wolverine populations.

Tony Clevenger, wildlife research scientist at MSU's Western Transportation Institute, and collaborators examined the effects of the highway on male and female wolverines in Banff, Yoho and Kootenay national parks from 2010 to 2014. The study was part of Parks Canada's widening of the Trans-Canada Highway from two to four lanes in the Canadian Rocky Mountains.

Clevenger's team used a noninvasive method of gathering hair samples and through DNA extraction were able to infer how the wolverines were moving around, including whether they crossed the highway. The genetic analysis showed that plenty of males were crossing, according to Mike Sawaya, who was lead author on the published paper. "But for females it was almost complete isolation."

# Postal Service issues stamps of Montana T. rex

ASSOCIATED PRESS



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH.COM

BOZEMAN – The U.S. Postal Service has released two new postage stamps depicting a dinosaur whose fossil was discovered on federal land in Montana.

The "Bozeman Daily Chronicle" reports that a Tyrannosaurus rex known as "The Nation T. rex" is now part of four designs on a pane of 16 new forever stamps that show the dinosaur in growth stages from infancy to adulthood.

Experts say the fossil was found by a family camping near the Fort Peck Reservoir and has been loaned to the Smithsonian Institution in the District of Columbia for the next 50 years.

Officials say the stamps were designed by art director Greg Breeding with original artwork by Julius Csotonyi.

#### MSU announces fall enrollment

MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – Montana State University recently announced its fall enrollment and its latest graduation and student retention rates, all of which are among the highest the university has seen in a generation.

In total, 16,766 students are enrolled at MSU this fall. Of those, 9,911 are Montana residents, representing 59 percent of the student population. This fall's enrollment represents the second highest in the university's history and is just shy of last fall's record of 16,902.

The university has also made dramatic gains in the number of students who graduate in four years, increasing its four-year graduation rate from 19.6 percent in 2012 to its current 29.7 percent.

Over the past academic year, MSU also set a new record in the number of students who graduated: 3,362 students, which is a 4 percent increase, or 130 more than the prior year.

MT

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Greta Thunberg of Sweden, 16, is the face of the climate change movement, and has encouraged her contemporaries to join her in the fight for the planet's environmental health. What does the movement mean to you, and what does it say that people of your generation are leading the charge?



John Chadwell
Big Sky, Montana

"Looking at it through the news, it's clearly a prevalent issue throughout the world, and many people keep ignoring it anyway. But action needs to be taken, whether some people like or not, and the sooner the better."



Emma Flach
Big Sky, Montana

"It makes me very hopeful, because it's 'us' doing it. All the old people have their opinions, and will eventually be gone, and now that it's our opinions coming forward, we'll be alright."



Evan Iskenderian Big Sky, Montana

"I think it's really cool; I feel like kids more recently have been taking charge with bigger issues and make a difference in lots of things, especially politics like school shootings and climate change. We're the future, so it's important for us. Everything that Greta [Thunberg] is doing is awesome."



Lyli McCarthy
Big Sky, Montana

"I think it makes the most sense that it's being led by people our age because climate change is definitely going to affect us more than older people and people in the government, which is mainly just old white men that aren't going to see the effects of climate change in 30 years like we will. So, I think it's great that a change is coming, because climate change is something we shouldn't be taking lightly, and more kids are realizing that."

# Why aren't there more solar panels in Big Sky?

BY KATHY BOUCHARD

The recently formed Sustainability Committee of the Rotary Club of Big Sky has set a goal to "create the world's best sustainable community through partnering with Big Sky residents and organizations." With this in mind, we have set about to explore some green questions regarding Big Sky and its place in a sustainable future. This first exploration regards a sunny exposition of the opening question: "Why aren't there more solar panels in Big Sky?

A number of incentives exist for installing solar panels. A 30 percent federal tax credit for residential and commercial installation expires in December, to be replaced by 26 percent in 2020, 22 percent in 2021, and finally only 10 percent for commercial projects only the following year. There is no sales tax in Montana, and there is a state tax credit available for those making enough income to qualify. According to www.solarpowerrocks.com, installing solar panels on your home increases its value up to 20 times your annual energy bill. Montana also grants a property tax exemption for 100 percent of that gain for 10 years. Such are the financial incentives to ponder whether paid up front or with a loan. So why aren't there more panels in Big Sky?

I asked the only person I know in Big Sky who installed solar panels when he built his home in my neighborhood a few years ago. He loves having five months of insignificant power bills, and the credits he amasses in the summer, selling his surplus back to the grid, roll month-to-month. They are unceremoniously erased in January, costing him, my neighbor estimates, about a month's worth of power. By then the array is under snow and things don't start humming along again until May.

Montana has the ninth cheapest electricity in the nation at about 11 cents/kWh. This cheap price usually indicates power production generated by burning coal. An externality is a cost of production not born by the producer, often having the effect of artificially reducing the cost to the consumer. The externalities of coal production include toxic coal ash, air and water pollu-

tion, and huge carbon emissions. As Montana and the rest of the country wrestle with these problems, the safe bet is that the price of electricity generated using coal will only go up. Maybe a lot.

Along with his roof-mounted solar array, my neighbor also installed two solar water-heating panels. That means "free" hot water all summer long, aided by day-timed use of dishwashers and laundry to further take advantage of the cyclically heated water. He says he loaded the front end cost of construction (which included sustainably manufactured lumber, high efficiency windows, and automatic window shades to preserve heat in winter and cool in summer) so he could enjoy diminished power bills over time. An ordinary solar installation costs about \$20,000 without incentives or rebates. His solar array is larger than typical to cover the needs of a large shop. While the return hasn't been quite up to original expectations, when asked "Would you do it again?" a hearty "Yes!" was the response.

For more information visit www.solarpowerrocks.com or call any of the Boze-man-based solar installers listed below that:

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OnSite Energy (406) 551.6135

Thirsty Lake Solar (406) 219.1119

### To the Editor:

It's hard to look at all the beauty in this area—mountain peaks, abundant tree-covered slopes, lush valleys with the Gallatin River and its tributaries, and not think everything is picture perfect. But unfortunately, underneath lurks a threat of noxious weeds and if left uncontrolled, it will spoil that perfect picture.

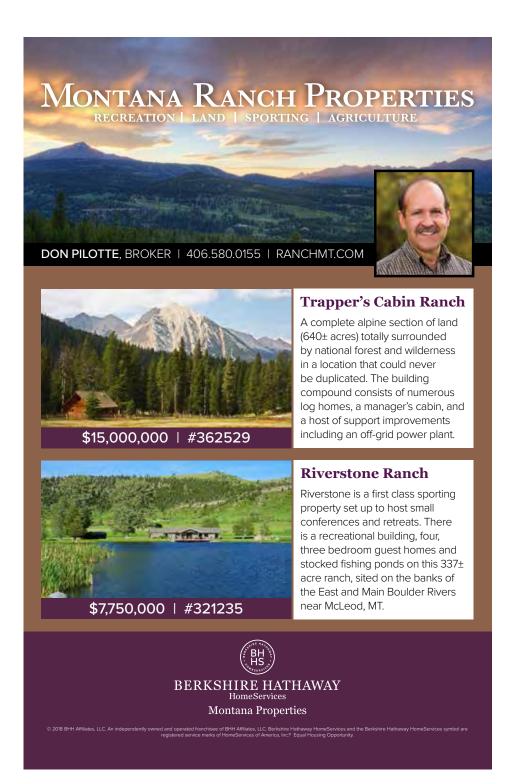
Weeds have become increasingly abundant over the past 20 to 30 years. When Big Sky ski area opened, there were very few, if any, weeds. But as the area grew so did the abundance of these invaders.

A group of volunteers witnessed the explosion of the invasive weeds initiated a grassroots effort to address it. What began as a response by a few concerned citizens became the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance, a local non-profit dedicated to addressing this problem.

The Alliance provides free landowner assistance and facilitates noxious weed management with a wide variety of stakeholders. This year, they teamed up with the Gallatin Conservation District, Gallatin National Forest and Montana Conservation Corps to manage 317 acres of highly used public lands and river access sites in the Gallatin Canyon.

The Alliance can't do this alone. All Big Sky residents need to step up and take control of their property on an ongoing basis. We all have a stake in the future of Big Sky, and we all play a role in how that turns out. Be a part of protecting what makes this place so beautiful and make sure noxious weeds don't have a future in Big Sky.

Don McAndrew *Bozeman, Montana* 



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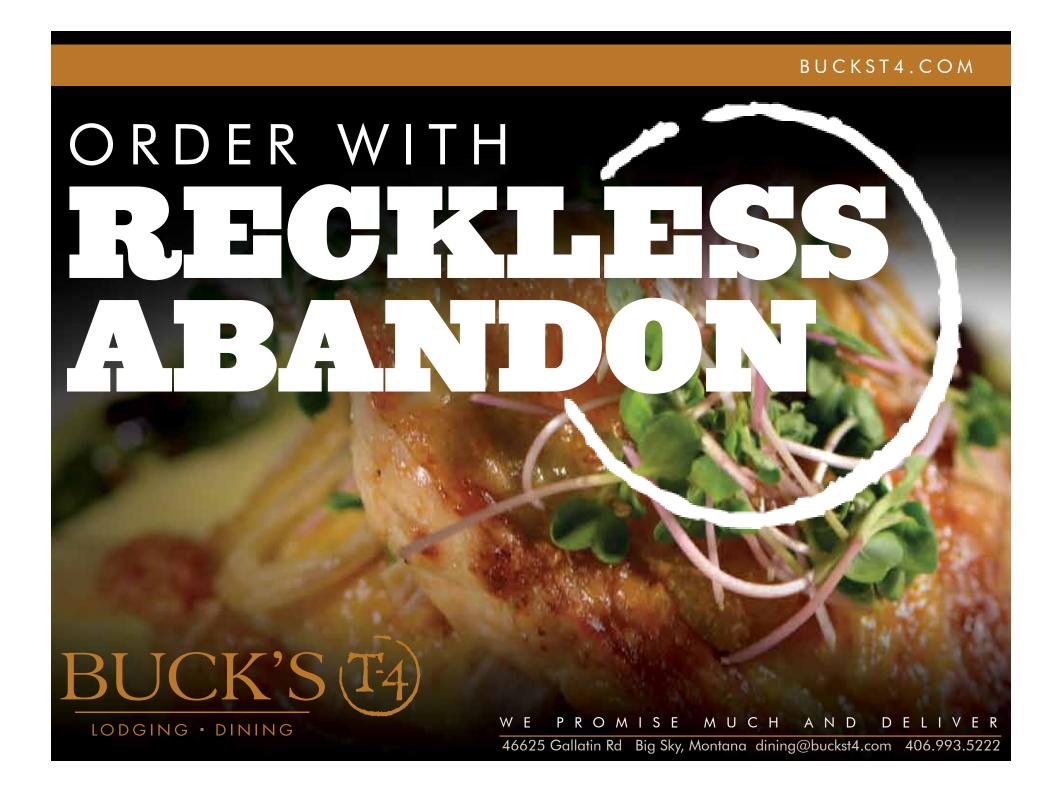
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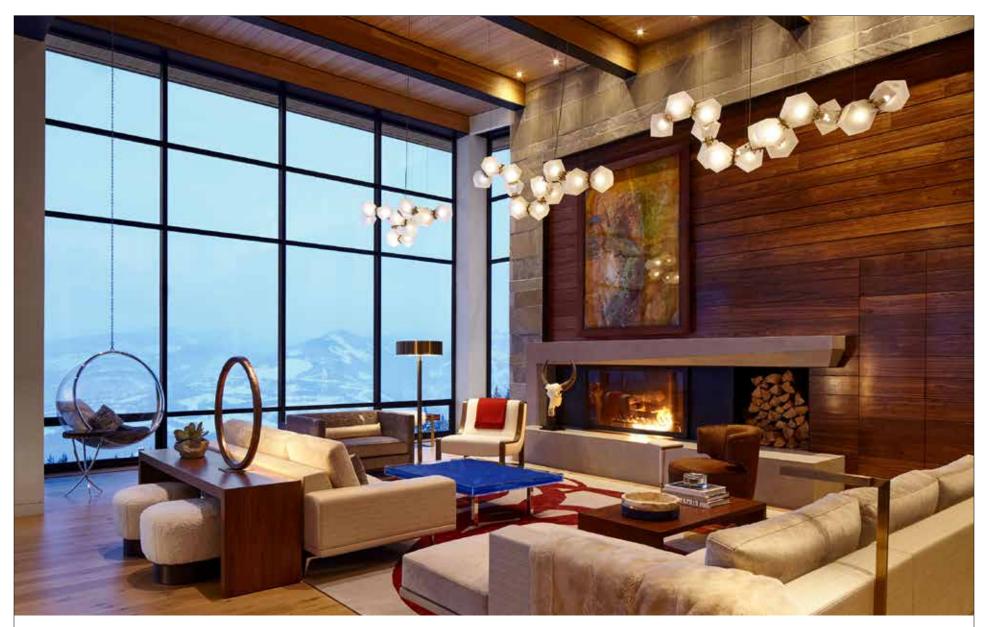
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## Yellowstone's War on Lake Trout

## Is aggressive gillnetting finally paying off?

As the Outlaw Partners editorial department nears the release of the Winter 2020 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine, we at EBS look to share some of the best stories from that cherished sister publication as it heads into a celebratory phase—10 years running, and strong. Enjoy. -EBS Staff

#### BY CHRISTINE GIANAS WEINHEIMER

It's rare for gillnetting boat crews to feel gratified when their nets yield fewer fish. But that's what happened on Yellowstone Lake last season when crews saw a 25 percent reduction in the number of invasive lake trout they caught over the previous season. It signaled a job well done.

Gillnetting boats, staffed by National Park Service and private-sector crews, work the 132 square miles of Yellowstone Lake annually from May to October. They represent the linchpin in a race against time to remove non-native lake trout before they consume the park's native Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

NPS is attempting to solve a problem that dates back more than 100 years. In 1890, the U.S. Fish Commission introduced lake trout into Yellowstone's Lewis Lake for sport-fishing purposes, and eventually the fish found their way to Yellowstone Lake where, a century later, they began wreaking havoc.

One mature lake trout can eat approximately 41 Yellowstone cutthroat per year, and the large, deep-swimming fish have no natural predators. Further tipping the scales in their favor, lake trout can live more than 40 years, whereas the life span of a cutthroat is typically 10-12 years.

Yellowstone Lake's cutthroat population was once estimated at 3.5-4 million fish. By the mid- to late-2000s, however, that number had plummeted to roughly 500,000.

Fast forward to 2018, when boat crews removed 297,000 lake trout as compared to 400,000 in 2017, a 25-percent decrease over just one year despite an increase of 8 percent in the number of gill-net units deployed. It likely indicates that the lake trout population is declining.

The outlook didn't always look so bright. Gillnetting started in 1995, but in 2012 park officials began fearing it was a losing battle. That's when Yellowstone Forever — the park's official nonprofit partner — committed to help Yellowstone double down on its gillnetting efforts. Yellowstone Forever spearheaded a fundraising effort, the Native Fish Conservation Program, with an annual \$1 million donation matched dollar for dollar by federal funds. The resources help Yellowstone implement its management plan focused on aggressive lake trout removal, and the investment is paying off.

"Since 1994, the boats have removed more than 3 million lake trout, of which roughly 2 million have been removed during the past six seasons since Yellowstone Forever started supporting increased netting," said Jeff Augustin, senior director of park projects for Yellowstone Forever

The goal of the park's sustained efforts is to recover Yellowstone cutthroat trout to at least mid-1990s levels, when the prized fly-fishing catch was still abundant in the lake. But, as Augustin emphasizes, it's not just about the fish.

"The size and health of Yellowstone's native trout population has a direct impact throughout the entire food chain," Augustin said. "Raptors, grizzlies, otters and other species rely on cutthroat as a vital food source. The loss of native trout would be devastating for the ecosystem."

According to a report published in March by the journal Science

Advances, some park predators that have historically fed on Yellowstone cutthroat have been displaced from the ecosystem or switched to alternative prey. Dr. Todd Koel, head of the park's Native Fish Conservation Program and the report's lead author, says ospreys, for example, which only eat fish, were nearly displaced from riparian habitats around Yellowstone Lake. And bald eagles, in the absence of cutthroat trout, have shifted to scavenging carcasses and preying on common loon chicks and trumpeter swan cygnets — two waterfowl species that have declined in the park in recent years.

"This study demonstrates how the addition of an exotic species such as lake trout can change ecosystems," said Koel. "Yellowstone is responding to the stressor of losing a native food source."

Fortunately, progress has been measured in other areas. Gillnetting crews are seeing fewer small lake trout, indicating a lower birth rate, while higher numbers of cutthroat trout are being seen within the lake and spawning streams, and netting crews are catching more cutthroat in their hauls.

While the data is trending in the right direction, Koel says it's not time to slow efforts. "We have no intention of letting off on the netting pressure."

Koel says the team will also expand their attack on lake trout eggs. They strate-gically place dead lake trout on spawning areas to manipulate the water quality, which has proven effective in killing the eggs. Mature lake trout they have implanted with hydro-acoustic telemetry tags lead them to the spawning sites.

While Koel says he would like to "put the nail in the coffin" of these lake trout, he admits that may never happen. "Yellowstone plans to continue the program in one manner or another, indefinitely, as we will never capture the last lake trout in Yellowstone Lake."

But he believes that complete annihilation of lake trout won't be necessary for the native fish to fully recover. "We plan for cutthroat trout to regain their rightful role in the ecosystem."

Learn more about the Native Fish Conservation Program at Yellowstone.org/natige-fish

A version of this article first ran in the summer 2019 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine.



An NPS Hammerhead crewmember displays a lake trout caught using a gill net. Photo by Neal Herbert/NPS



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SECTION 2: ENVIRONMENT & OUTDOORS







## A cabin in the forest

## Camping with Uncle Sam

#### BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BOZEMAN – It's the little things that foster the fondest camping memories: a warm shelter, a view, the peaceful serenity of mountain air. Yet few things conjure more comfortable camping than a cabin in the forest.

The U.S. Forest Service has nearly 14,000 cabins for rent to the public throughout the country and within the Custer Gallatin National Forest there are a total of 23. These structures vary in amenities but are sure to treat guests to a rustic Montana experience.

The Gallatin Canyon and surrounding area has six different Forest Service cabins available for rent through an online reservation system. While Windy Cabin up Portal Creek is only open from June to October, the remaining five are open year-round. Here's a brief overview:

#### Little Bear Cabin

As is the case with many of the Forest Service cabins, Little Bear was built in the first half of the 1900s. Surrounded by hiking or skiing trails, the small structure remains frozen in time and continues to be a great mountain getaway on the north end of the Gallatin Range. Visitors can look out on Gallatin Valley and catch glimpses of the Bridger Mountains. Complete with a bunkbed and upstairs loft, Little Bear also has a traditional wood cook stove.

Throughout the fall visitors can access this cabin by wheeled vehicles, but once snow accumulates, access becomes limited to snowmobiles or a 10-mile ski. To reach Little Bear Cabin from Big Sky, travel north on Highway 191 for approximately 25 miles. As you approach Gallatin Gateway, turn east onto Little Bear Road and continue for about 10 miles to the cabin.

#### Spanish Creek Cabin

The Spanish Creek Cabin is adjacent to the popular Spanish Creek Trailhead north of Big Sky. The 1934 cabin is two stories and rests in a large meadow at the base of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness. The South Fork Spanish Creek burbles nearby and mountain peaks from the Madison range stretch tall around the area.

Prior to December, cabin-goers can travel north from Big Sky on Highway 191 for 20 miles to Spanish Creek Road. Turn west onto Spanish Creek Road and travel about 9 miles. Prior to reaching the trailhead, you'll see a jack-leg fence and gated drive on the east side of the road that leads to the cabin. After Dec. 2, renters must ski, snowshoe, hike or bike the last 3.5 miles to the cabin.

#### Garnet Mountain Fire Lookout

The Garnet Mountain Fire Lookout sits at an elevation of 8,245 feet and provides panoramic views of the Gallatin Valley to the north, the Little Bear area to the northeast, the eastern Hyalite Ridge, Gallatin Peak and Table Mountain to the west, and the Gallatin Range to the south.



The interior of Little Bear Cabin is very much analogous with times of old, and as with most U.S. Forest Service cabins open to the public for rent, minimal amenities are provided.



A view from the Little Bear Cabin near the mouth of Gallatin Canyon. PHOTOS BY PARKER THOMPSON  $\,$ 

As a fire lookout, Garnet Mountain offers a unique kind of cabin stay. Its large glass windows and presence on the treeless mountaintop lend a feeling of exposure—especially during a storm—but the morning sunrise and commanding views are a valuable reward.

To get to the lookout, travel north from Big Sky on Highway 191 for 17 miles. Turn east onto Storm Castle Road and either continue to the lookout by hiking or biking 6 miles on the Garnet Mountain Trail. You may also utilize an ATV or motorbike 12-miles via the Rat Lake Trailhead, or travel by snowmobile or ski in winter.

#### Yellow Mule Cabin

Yellow Mule is a backcountry cabin that was originally built in 1920 and used as a ranger station. Unlike many Forest Service cabins that were built following a standard design, Yellow Mule was constructed to the builder's preferences. A 12-foot-by-14-foot single-room structure, Yellow Mule is currently closed for maintenance and repairs and is slated to reopen sometime next year.

The Yellow Mule Cabin offers a particularly rustic experience as it is remote and can't be accessed by a car. To get to the cabin, renters can either travel by way of Buck Creek Ridge Trailhead or Lower Buck Creek Trailhead, south of Big Sky, or via the Ousel Falls Trailhead southwest of Big Sky Town Center.

#### Wapiti Creek

A small, one-room cabin, Wapiti Creek Cabin is described by the Forest Service as "primitive." A wood stove provides heat and four cots are available for sleeping. This cabin, tucked between the Madison and Gallatin ranges at about 7,000 feet, is nestled within rich grizzly and black bear habitat in an area known as Taylor Fork.

The Taylor Fork drainage offers an array of activities, from hiking, fishing and horse-back rides in the summer to snowmobiles, skiing and snowshoeing in the winter. There is a corral available for visitors to bring stock and the Big Sky Snowmobile Trail passes nearby

From Big Sky head south on Highway 191 for 14 miles. Turn west onto Taylor Fork Road and continue for 3.5 miles. In the winter, snowmobiles can park at the Sage Creek Trailhead as well.

#### If You Go

A stay in any Forest Service cabin will be a rustic experience. There usually isn't cell phone service and you should be prepared for a chilly walk to the outhouse.

These cabins are rented through an online reservation system and it's not uncommon for the most popular ones to book six months in advance.

Visit recreation.gov to check reservations or find out more on a specific cabin.

# International conference on sheep and goat conservation comes to Bozeman

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BOZEMAN – Israeli biologists are concerned about the impacts humans have on the genetic structure of Nubian ibex. In Montana's Glacier National Park, officials are worried about the habituation of mountain goats. As researchers in northern Mexico study the ways desert bighorn sheep use the landscape, their contemporaries in Bozeman are monitoring the movements of Rocky Mountain bighorns in the Madison Mountain range.

On Sept. 10-13, approximately 170 of the world's leading wildlife biologists gathered in Bozeman, some having traveled for 40 hours to attend the seventh World Mountain Ungulate Conference hosted by the Wild Sheep Foundation.

With presenters from all corners of the globe, the group discussed topics like genetic diversity, migratory patterns and disease as it pertains to the hooved animals that roam our world's mountains. This includes bighorn sheep and mountain goats, as well as chamois, goral, Sitka deer, ibex, urial, markhor and the wooly tahr.

Kurt Alt, a retired biologist for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the current conservation director for the Wild Sheep Foundation, oversaw the two-year planning process that brought the international gathering to Bozeman—the first time it's been held in North America. Thrilled to provide a space where scientists can interact and expand their visions, he said hunter-generated revenue from the Wild Sheep Foundation and Safari Club International helped provide travel stipends for many of the presenters.

Well aware of the need for science-based decision-making, the biologists didn't shy away from the difficult topics over the course of the four days.

Marco Festa-Bianchet of the Université de Sherbrooke in Quebec pointed to his research on bighorn sheep living on Ram Mountain in Canada, arguing that when hunting regulations allow for unlimited harvest of mountain sheep, hunting can lead to evolutionary changes in horn size. In other words, Festa-Bianchet said certain kinds of hunting can cause sheep to produce smaller horns over time.

On the final day, amid a discussion of sustainable, wise use, Dr. Peregrine Wolff, a wildlife veterinarian for the Nevada Department of Wildlife, stressed the importance of our decisions if we are to conserve wildlife species.

"We are in a time of unprecedented and increasing stressors for all of our wildlife," she said, citing examples like changes in climate, habitat loss due to urbanization, competition with other domestic ungulate species, changes in predator dynamics and introduced pathogens.

"We're expecting our wildlife to be able to [change] and they are just being wildlife," she said. "We need to change. We need to change a lot of our outlook to help them be able to achieve and adapt in a world where we're expecting them to just do it all by themselves."

On the final day of presentations, and the day before attendees took a field trip through the Northern Range of Yellowstone National Park, Manzoor Qureshi of the Gilgit Baltistan Rural Support Program in Pakistan shared his experiences in establishing a sport hunting industry within the community of Bunji. He described the need for the community to take on a sense of ownership over the wildlife in order for individuals to care about conservation and preserve critically endangered animals like the markhor or snow leopard, ultimately calling his country's program "sustainable wise use."

Shane Mahoney, founder of Conservation Visions, had premised Qureshi's discussion, setting the stage for the afternoon presentations on sustainable use of wildlife.

"We have to be concerned for conservation mostly because how rapidly things can change," Mahoney said. "Sustainable use as an approach does not come in one form and it cannot be imposed in a specific place just because some of us who may have been successful would like to see that. It has to arise endogenously within the people, the countries, the cultures who wish to consider it. Then, if we involve the local people, as, if we had involved the Cree, and the Crow and the Arapaho and the Sioux and the Cheyenne, had we involved them, the landscapes of America and the wildlife in America would be quite different today."



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## BY RYAN M. NEWCOMB EBS CONTRIBUTOR

For the better part of six wonderful days in August, I had the unparalleled experience of paddling and kayaking 75 miles of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, which winds and flows 112 miles through Idaho's River of No Return Wilderness. The voyage ended up being a profound educational opportunity, and one that would renew my passion for the Gallatin and what we can do to protect and restore this treasured resource.

Located in what is one of the most remote parts of the Lower 48, the Middle Fork of the Salmon is renowned for its fish habitat, world-class whitewater and overall beauty. It is also a place entwined with the ancient stories of indigenous tribes who hunted and fished there for millennia.

Even with such isolation—and the added federal protection as a Wild and Scenic River—it is a river increasingly threatened by outside forces, and the native Chinook salmon that once migrated to this sacred river to spawn in the tens of thousands are near extinction.

On our trip we learned about the plight of the Chinook from a U.S. Forest Service guide and colleagues from American Rivers. These massive, bright red fish make an 800-mile migration upstream from the Pacific Ocean to the Salmon River to their spawning grounds. Not only is the survival of this fish vital to river life and habitat health, some of the greatest carnivorous animals in the region and world count on the Chinook salmon as a source of nourishment.

As we wound through the arid rock canyons of the Middle Fork, we kept a constant lookout for any sign of this fleeting native fish. The crisis was reinforced when we didn't see any at all, the entire trip. We were told that the Forest Service has only identified four Chinook salmon on the entire Middle Fork this season. This was a stark and glaring reminder that if we do not act now to protect and address threats to our own watersheds and rivers at home, we could look back years from now and

## The story of the Middle Fork

see devastating consequences to native fish, aquatic life or even entire river systems.

It is clear from research that outdated and financially unsustainable dams throughout the Columbia River basin downstream from the Middle Fork have combined with warming temperatures and an unaddressed climate crisis to create this reality. This has mortal consequence for the Chinook, and subsequently, other animals like eagles and bears.

The question we must now ask ourselves in Big Sky is whether we can learn from the story of the Middle Fork, to prevent further damage happening to this beloved, great river that is the Gallatin.

When it comes to the Gallatin watershed, we see similarities in climate data and ecosystem changes to that of the Middle Fork. We're experiencing impaired streams and tributaries, invasive species and aquifers drying up. Streambank degradation and the broad, intense use of the river and nearby trails compromise the integrity of the watershed. And critically, warming air and water temperatures combined with nutrient overload resulted in the largest algae bloom ever recorded on the Gallatin in 2018.

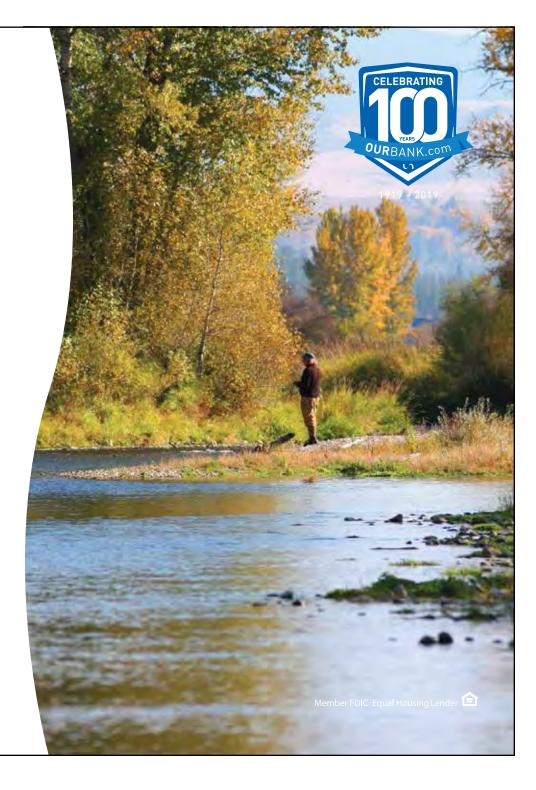
We cannot ignore the threats facing the Gallatin, only to look back years from now and see that the domino effect of inaction here was similarly catastrophic to aquatic life and the river system.

What we must determine now is what are the next, greatest, and most profound needs of this river that is the lifeblood of our greater Big Sky community. We must communicate with and educate everyone in our region about the great needs surrounding water conservation and river restoration. Together we must act as a community to ensure that we have a healthy, clean and pristine Gallatin for future generations.

Ryan M. Newcomb is the director of development for the Gallatin River Task Force in Big Sky.

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BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

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The launch of Gorongosa brand coffee, which has a deep human connection to Greater Yellowstone, allows each of us, with every tip of our mug, to literally change the trajectory of conservation in a place viewed as a global bellwether for wildlife survival.

Do you care about elephants and lions? Interested in creating more space for rhinos, giraffes, cheetahs and leopards?

During the last week of September, at the international Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival—now known as Jackson Wild—Gorongosa roasted coffee is making its debut in America, courtesy of eco-philanthro-pist-humanitarian Greg Carr—the Idaho Falls resident who has had a John Muir-like presence in helping to revive hope for preserving wildness in the "the new Serengeti of the African South."

Gorongosa National Park in post-colonial Mozambique is literally and, we must say, spectacularly, rising from the ashes of a civil war that resulted in the decimation of wildlife and local communities. Today, it is viewed as a beacon for how a nation can be rebuilt based on four main pillars all related to landscape restoration.

Those pillars are: local ownership in important grassroots conservation decisions, solidifying the connection between healthy environments and healthy economies, recognizing the importance of education and ecological literacy, and celebrating the indomitable role of women as catalysts in achieving a better world.

Right now in Gorongosa, a miracle of re-wilding is underway and each of us can make a contribution. How? Order your bag of Gorongosa coffee right now. Don't just buy one; purchase several, give them away as gifts to friends and have them tell their friends. By turning Gorongosa coffee into a viral sensation, those of us concerned about the plight of nature can vote with our wallets in a way that delivers rewards to the taste buds.

This isn't a gimmick. There's a lot at stake.

Consider this: Just 10 years ago, there were only an estimated 10,000 large mammals left in Gorongosa, following violence that resulted in toppled forests, landmines killing and maiming people and animals, entire landscapes blighted and bleak prospects for the future.

Today, with Gorongosa in the early stages of recovery, wildlife numbers have rebounded to 100,000. Mozambique has one of the only growing elephant herds in Africa, tourism is bringing in much-needed cash, and "the Gorongosa Way" is creating a model for the rest of the continent, said Matthew Jordan of Gorongosa National park, who was reached via skype in Gorongosa this week.

"One thing that's hard for Americans and Europeans to understand is the amount of shocks that smaller Mozambican farmers, their families and communities have been subjected to," he said. "I've lived here five years.



African lions are among those who are benefiting from the launch of Gorongosa coffee. PHOTO COURTESY OF MATHIAS APPEL

The country has been through two violent armed conflicts, a cyclone, droughts, flooding conditions, currency devalued in half and plagues of insects that have destroyed all the crops and that's just in half a decade.

"We see the devastation that has happened with fires in California and flooding in the Midwest," he added. "Now imagine events hitting one group of people who are among the poorest in the world with a globally important nature preserve nearby."

All this is set against a backdrop of other enormous challenges. Mozambique has a human population of between 25-30 million; by the middle of this century, demographers estimate it could reach 100 million; by the end of this century, 200 million.

This is where we come in. Growing the market for Gorongosa coffee is a cornerstone for novel efforts to restore the rainforest on the slopes of Mount Gorongosa where hundreds of species live. If successful, it will demonstrate how sustainable agro-forestry can both aid people living on the edge of the park and yield environmental dividends.

Profits will be poured back into conservation, building schools for thousands of kids with an emphasis on girls' education, and training new generations of young people to be environmental stewards and business entrepreneurs. It will also create jobs and entice guerilla fighters to lay down their arms.

In just a decade, Gorongosa has become one of the biggest employers, and jobs at the business are coveted.

What Carr and his colleagues know is this: when you educate girls, it changes the prospects of entire villages, provinces and nations. It elevates people out of poverty, results in fewer children being born, yields better environmental conditions, promotes respect for gender equality and bolsters the chances that democracy can endure.

"Our coffee program is really about achieving a triple win," Jordan said. "People benefit, conservation benefits and our supporters get a great cup of coffee."

Visit gorongosacoffee.com for more information.

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.

# INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



# Yellowstone sees 3 million summer visitors

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

LIVINGSTON – As autumn takes a quiet hold on the Greater Yellowstone and Big Sky embraces the shoulder season, so too do operations slow in our nation's first national park. So far in 2019, Yellowstone has seen just over 3.1 million visitors. While this is down a half percent from last year, it's up from 2.7 million visits in 2014.

Throughout September and October, the National Park Service and concessionaires begin drawing the shutters, closing down campgrounds and facilities in preparation for the winter season.

Lewis Lake Campground remains open through the end of October, but by the first week of November nearly all services shut down and park roads close to wheeled vehicles except the road from Gardiner to Cooke City.

Between December and March, when Yellowstone succumbs to snowy splendor, the park is open to limited oversnow travel by permitted snowmobiles and snowcoaches, as well as cross-country skis and snowshoes.

Visit nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/hours.htm for a complete list of season dates and facility closures.

#### 2019 SUMMER VISITATION JUNE JULY AUGUST 820,006 781,853 936,062 VISITS VISITS VISITS JANUARY-AUGUST VISITATION TRENDS 4.5 4 3.5 3 2.5 2 2014 2015 2018 2019 2016 2017 YEAR



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The Ranches at Yellow Mountain 2A-1B 526 Acres / \$5.8M



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



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

#### **BIG SKY - LAND**



Lot 3 Joy Road 6.83 Acres / \$395K

#### **BOZEMAN & GREATER MONTANA**



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



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



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

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Big Sky Corner Property List Price: \$3.24M



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



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



Crail Ranch Unit 40 List Price: \$1.35M

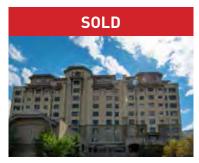
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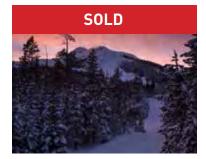
Lot 44 Diamond Hitch 1.25 ACRE / \$699K



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



Summit 911/912 List Price: \$595K



Lot 39 Diamond Hitch 1 ACRE / \$595K



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

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eehive Basin Rd. 3 SQ FT / \$2.9M



211 B Pheasant Tail \$720K



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



Hill Condo 1316 770 SQ FT/\$280k



Hill Condo 1361 440 SQ FT / \$179K



Big EZ Lot 42: \$339K / 20 ACRES Lot 43: \$375K / 20 ACRES Combined: \$699K



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



Lot 4 Beaver Creek 20 Acres / \$539K



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

#### COMMERCIAL



3170 Winter Park #B Bozeman, MT 1183 SQ FT / \$295K



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



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



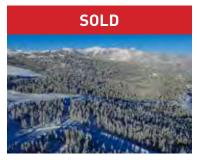
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\$24.9K per unit
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Black Eagle Lodge Unit 30 List Price: \$1.35M



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



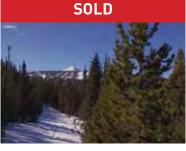
Lot 64 Goshawk 1.04 ACRES / \$775K

# SOLD

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



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



Lot 63 Silverado Trail List Price: \$390K



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

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# ON THE TRAIL

## Ralph's Pass

BY CIARA WOLFE **EBS CONTRIBUTOR** 

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

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

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

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

At the end of this climb, you'll reach a beautiful mountain meadow with abundant wildflowers and signs of wildlife. The end of Ralph's Pass is marked by a gate located at the top of the Uplands Trail. Follow Uplands for a 1-mile descent to the Hummocks and Uplands trailhead.

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

Please note that the trail is open from June 15 to Oc.t 15 each year, so get out there this weekend to enjoy the fall colors before it closes to protect sensitive wildlife habitat.

Visit bscomt.org for more information about Big Sky's parks, trails and recreation programs. Ciara Wolfe is the executive director for the Big Sky Community Organization.

A version of this story first appeared in the Oct. 12, 2018, edition of EBS.



#### **Distance**

from Ousel Falls Trailhead to Uplands Trailhead



#### Uses

Difficulty 4 miles one-way Hike, Bike, run Moderate



#### Elevation

6,540 feet at Ousel Falls Trailhead and 6,285 feet at Uplands Trailhead



Surface Dirt

**Restrictions:** Dogs must be on leash; open June 15-Oct. 15. **Directions:** The Ousel Falls Trailhead is located 2 miles south of Lone Mountain Trail off of Ousel Falls Road. The Uplands Trailhead is located near Town Center. Head east on Aspen Leaf Drive, cross a bridge over the river and continue up the road until you see the parking area and Uplands Trailhead on the left.

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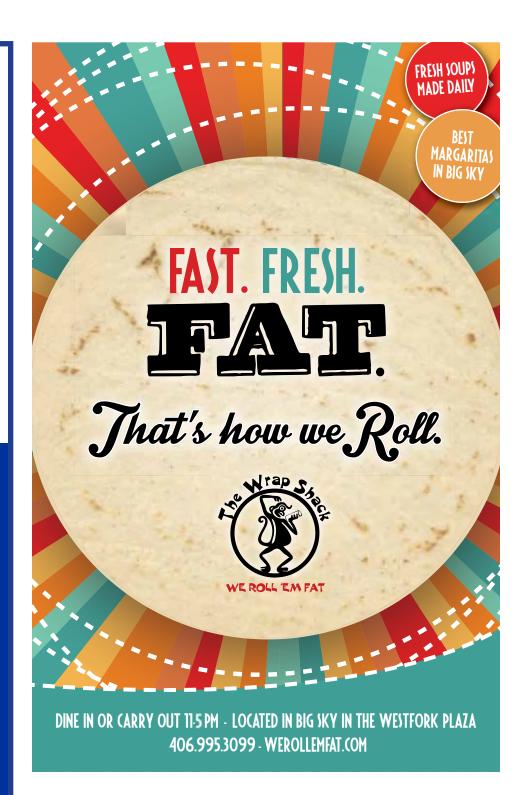


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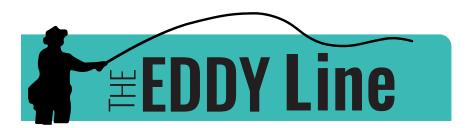
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## Where to fish this fall



BY PATRICK STRAUB EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

Fall is here. Cottonwoods in the canyon and aspen on the hillsides are changing colors. Talk in Big Sky's Meadow Village is shifting from the success of the PBR to when Big Sky Resort will open for the ski season. As many folks are enjoying a little shoulder season, anglers are amping up for the next few months of a highly anticipated fall fishing season.

Blessed with a wet spring and cooler summer, streamflow conditions are ideal for a season that could be one of the best in recent memory. But, as with many fishing outings, being in the right place at the right time is crucial. Here's some advice on doing just that—and help on what to use as well.

Madison and Firehole rivers in Yellowstone National Park. Rainy, even snowy, weather often comes to the waters of Yellowstone Park before it settles in on our lower elevation rivers and creeks. With this weather, hatches of blue-winged olive mayflies can be prolific and brown trout become more aggressive as they approach the spawn.

The Madison in Yellowstone Park is a destination for anglers seeking a trophy-sized brown migrating out of Hebgen Lake. The Firehole, and its gentle runs and glides can be a dry-fly angler's dream as BWOs hatch and trout rise accordingly. For the big browns of the Madison, dead-drift or drag bright orange-colored streamers through the deeper runs and for the mayflies on the Firehole, a well-presented olive Parachute Adams in size 18 should work if you see a rising trout.

Missouri River near Craig. A tailwater fishery known for consistent hatches, the river here is wide and filled with plenty of fat trout. Surrounded by fly shops all competing for your dollars, there is no shortage of information on this fishery. And, fall is a special time of year—gone are the crowds of summer-time recreational anglers and weekend warrior float-and-party crews. Enter anglers who desire to head hunt to rising trout or swing two-handed rods on the Missouri's long riffles and runs, and streamer-tossing addicts who need the drug of the tug of fish hitting a stripped Woolly Bugger.

The Missouri has become the hipster river of Montana's fly-fishing scene, but with big fish and plenty of fly shops, success there is now as common as a double skinny latte on a street corner. Favorite patterns and techniques for fall are size-18 CDC BWO Comparaduns fished through a pod of rising fish; olive and black McKnight's Home Invaders slowly dragged across a flat; or, more recently, spey casting on a favorite run.

The Clark Fork, Rock Creek and Blackfoot River above Missoula. With the removal of Milltown Dam, the area's wild and native trout migrate throughout these two watersheds. As we get deeper into fall, brown trout from the lower Clark Fork may migrate up into the Clark Fork and Rock Creek as well as the Blackfoot River.

Above Missoula there is plenty of water for the many anglers in the area to find some solitude. A raft is a great tool to cover more water, but much of the fishing here can be done on foot because there is ample public access through state and



Fall is a time to bring out the big guns. Choosing what to fish can be as important as choosing where to fish.PHOTO BY PATRICK STRAUB

U.S. Forest Service lands. Techniques on these waters vary, but it is always a good idea to carry some black Sculpzillas in size 6 and strip them through the faster runs and shallow flats as well as having some size-16 Para Purple Hazes for the larger BWOs that hatch on these waters.

Our local Gallatin River. Normally, I try to keep the goodness of this river off the radar. But this fall is different—our above average snowpack and wet spring led to a summer of normal streamflow levels on the Gallatin. It is important to mention the Gallatin has a few different sections, or personalities.

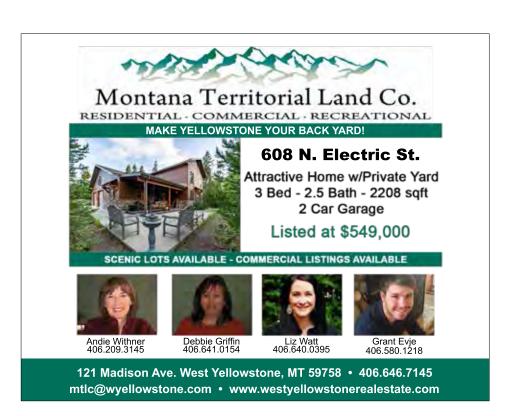
The river in Yellowstone National Park to Big Sky is home to plenty of fish,

most of them small, but inquire locally and you might get some secrets as to where the big ones live. North of Big Sky to the Gallatin Valley, the river is very accessible and defined by boulders, pockets and canyon water. Fish here are also plentiful and tend to be small, but on a rainy, overcast day, the stretch may serve up some exciting dry-fly fishing with hatching BWOs. For the river in Yellowstone National Park to Gallatin Valley always carry some size-18 beadhead Little Green Machines and size-18 Parachute Adams.

Once out of Gallatin Canyon, the river is lined with cottonwoods and access is more difficult. For those anglers willing to put in some extra effort via walking or a low-water, boat-dragging float using the rivers' most downstream access points, some larger brown trout can be had. Here, larger streamers in white can work for the big browns. A favorite pattern is Galloup's Circus Peanut.

Mornings are now crisp and cool and each week brings the potential for snow on the peaks. As we hear more and more about ski season, don't forget the potentially best part of the angling year is upon us. Now is the time to get out and enjoy some of the reasons we choose to live here—you better, because we've spent the past four months sharing them with others and soon things will be under snow.

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.





SPONSORED CONTENT

## Six ideas for the adventure-ready vehicle

## BY KATIE ROBERTS ROCKY MOUNTAIN YETI

Dear adventure seeker,

The Rocky Mountain West is a playground for bikers, hikers, climbers, fishermen (and women), skiers and snowboarders. But we have to get to the trailhead or mountain, and we need to get there safely. The following points will allow you to enjoy successful road adventures and inspire you to be a legendary road hero in your own right.

#### 1. Wet wipes

Keep a package of wipes in the car: passengers can be messy and stuff invariably explodes. These will also save you peace of mind when rest stops appear questionable. #PortableSanitation

#### 2. Blanket

I always have a blanket in my car. My spouse and I differ on our preference of climate control and a blanket keeps our relationship cozy. It's also key to have in the winter if your vehicle breaks down. A blanket can clean up unexpected messes or serve as groundcover for picnics and stargazing. Folded up, it also makes for a great passenger pillow or fashioned into a skirt or toga for an extra layer. #ThreeCheersForTheBlanket

#### 3. Tow strap

A tow strap will get your rig or a fellow traveler's vehicle safely off the road, out of a ditch or a snow bank. In less obvious ways, you can use it with the above blanket to fashion that stay-put toga. #FashionAdventures #GreatMasculine-StockingStuffer

#### 4. Portable battery pack and jumper cables

In college when I found my car battery dead, I would push my Volkswagen Bug on the driver's side with the door open and when getting enough momentum, pop the clutch. It worked like a charm. Currently, I doubt I could push any of the vehicles we own (#NotACrossFitWarrior). With a portable battery pack, not only will you come out triumphant when you have a dead battery (#KidsLeavingDoorsOpen), but save other travelers along the way (#Hero). These packs often have USB plugs where your precious mobile devices can be rejuvenated too. #AdventuresWithElectronics.

#### 5. Kitty litter

I'm not suggesting you bring a box for felines on the road, but kitty litter can



The Snake River, just outside of Alpine, Wyoming, at Sunrise photographed with a member of the USA raft team. PHOTO BY KATIE ROBERTS

ease the journey in other ways: gain traction on icy roads, soak up oil spills, or absorb the smell of the wet river shoes in the trunk. Kitty litter is super-handy. #WhoKnew #theNewDuctTape

#### 6. Gru

We need food. Attitudes need food. Adventures can be a positive experience or a grueling one and I'm of the mind that delightful road snackage tips the scale to a more delightful experience. I learned this the hard way; please use my wisdom. #RelationshipCounseling #DietDrPepper #Jerky #AntiHangry

I hope these ideas spark your adventurous spirit. Only you can make that spark and get out there and go. Get on your adventure. If you need the right mobility unit, let your friends at Legend Driven Rocky Mountain Yeti help you out. We make it easy and fun. #RockyMountainYeti.Group #BoringSucks #LegendDriven

Rocky Mountain Yeti strives to ignite the adventure spirit and power your adventures through new and used vehicles. Come see why #BoringSucks at Rocky Mountain Yeti where legendary service is not a myth and is our ultimate goal at all of the locations through Wyoming.

# Tales from Afield Hunt 'em up

#### BY MEGAN PAULSON



The author's dog Grady showing off his grand prize after a morning pheasant hunt east of Bozeman. PHOTO BY TROY PALII SON

You don't need to tell the dogs. They just know. Whether it's the smell in the air, cooler temperatures, leaves changing colors or the shift in the sun's position on the horizon, the dogs can just tell hunting season is around the corner. This time of year is certainly one of the most exciting and fulfilling experiences for hunters and their furry, four-legged companions.

When contemplating why bird hunting is so fulfilling, surprisingly, the answer doesn't revolve around the outcome, but rather the experience.

"Hunt 'em up!"

Three words have never meant so much. The dogs are poised at the edge of a field for the hunt, shaking in anticipation to run and barely able to wait a moment longer.

For our two Labrador and German shorthair mixed-breed dogs, hunting season is the equivalent of bird Olympics. Brushy fields and mountain hillsides lined with aspen and pine act as their stadiums. The competition is pure and simple: finding and flushing prey. The contest is fierce. They bring their best agility, performance and work ethic, and demand only a first-place finish.

"Hunt 'em up!"

Hearing that command, the dogs are off, noses to the ground, zigzagging methodically from one side of the field to the other. Despite the chaos of unleashing dogs into an area potentially full of birds, it's amazing to watch their precise and systematic approach. No scent is left unturned.

When they locate a bird, they slow their pace to inspect the area. Then they come to a complete stop, pointing at the spot where the bird is bedded down. Holding point tests not only the dogs' patience, but also the hunter's.

"Hunt 'em up!"

The dogs erupt for the final flush. As the silhouette of a pheasant with colorful tail feathers comes flying out of the cover, only one thing goes through the mind: Don't miss.

A hunter never wants to experience that look, the look your dog gives you for missing. However, a successful shot garners the look of joy on your dog's face. Their gallant stride and prance after fetching—with a mouthful of feathers—is sure to crack a smile across the most serious of hunters' faces.

In that moment, everyone is fulfilled. But then those dogs give another look: Let's go get more!



























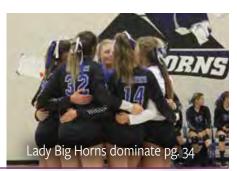




# **SECTION 3:**SPORTS, BUSINESS, HEALTH & FUN









## Making it in Big Sky: PGA Professional Greg Wagner

Explore Big Sky sat down with Greg Wagner, Director of Golf and Club Operations for Moonlight Basin, to discuss running a golf course on the side of a mountain, meeting Jack Nicklaus and what keeps him in the Treasure State.

After growing up in Vancouver, Washington, Wagner earned his bachelor's in business marketing and PGA golf management from the University of Idaho. In May of 2014, Wagner moved to Big Sky to take on the role as Head PGA Professional at The Reserve, one of the most challenging golf courses in the nation. In his spare time, the recently turned 30-year-old enjoys fishing one of his favorite honey holes and hunting with his black lab Goose.

**Explore Big Sky:** How did you decide to take a job as a golf pro at The Reserve? **Greg Wagner:** The job really found me. I was an Assistant Golf Professional at Sandpiper Golf Club in Santa Barbara, California, and was connected to Moonlight [Basin] through my job there. It was truly a dream opportunity and I owe it all to the people that took a chance on me as a young pro.

EBS: What makes The Reserve unique?

**G.W.:** Besides the scenery? I'd say it's the culture we've created in the team that works there and the unique golf experience that the course and the staff provide.

**EBS:** Did you grow up playing golf? How did you fall in love with the game? **G.W.:** Yes, I would go to the driving range with my dad as a kid and then started playing the course in fourth or fifth grade. It wasn't until high school that I really developed a passion for the game.

EBS: Who is your favorite professional golfer?

**G.W.:** As a little kid I was a big fan of Payne Stewart. Then of course Tiger [Woods] became a spectacle and it was hard not to root for him. Now I enjoy watching all of the young players on tour getting their first victories.

EBS: What was it like to meet Jack Nicklaus when he came out to help celebrate the opening of the full 18?

**G.W.:** Meeting Jack was surreal. You can't imagine all of the little details he sees and the ideas floating around in his head when he looks down a fairway from the tee box. It would have been amazing to see him play in his prime.

EBS: What is the biggest difficulty of operating a golf course in Big Sky?

**G.W.:** At the golf course, the biggest challenge we face is the weather. They say that in Montana if you don't like the weather, wait five minutes. This summer in particular that was very true. The weather plays a big role in the maintenance practices we can implement at the course. We have an incredible team that keeps The Reserve in impeccable shape at 7,000' of elevation, which is no easy task. Add in rain, snow, and lightning and it takes golf maintenance to a whole new level of difficulty.

**EBS:** What is one of the most memorable moments you have had as a golf educator? **G.W.:** When teaching golf, there is nothing better than when a student has that "aha!" moment with something you are teaching them. Luckily, I've been able to get a few students to that moment and it's always rewarding.

**EBS:** What's the best piece of golf advice that you've received? **G.W.:** When I was playing in a tournament in Arizona I met a 90-year-old woman that told me, "I just swing hard in case I hit it." To this day that has been the funniest and most memorable piece of golf advice I've ever received.



PGA Professional Greg Wagner showing off the views from his office PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG WAGNER

**EBS:** Besides The Reserve, what is your favorite golf course that you've had a chance to tee up on? **G.W.:** One of our Moonlight members was kind enough to host myself and another pro at Riviera Country Club in [Los Angeles] a few years ago. There is a lot of tradition there and it was my first time playing a course that I have seen the pros play on TV. To this day it is one of the most memorable rounds of golf I've played.

**EBS:** How do your work responsibilities change when the course is covered in snow? **G.W.:** You will find me at the Moonlight Lodge assisting with the day-to-day operations of the club. I spend quite a bit of time planning for the next summer season during the winter as well.

EBS: If you weren't a golf professional, what other career path could you see yourself in? G.W.: I can't imagine I would be working in such a cool playground like Big Sky had I gone down a different career path. It's interesting the people you meet and the reasons for where we end up. I do know that if I was doing something different, I'd be trying to make a life work in a place like this.

EBS: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

**G.W.:** Hopefully still skiing off Lone Peak during the winter and fishing the rivers around Big Sky in the summer. It's hard to beat the lifestyle here and I'm lucky to be a part of such a fun community.

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## MARK WEHRMAN EBS GOLF COLUMNIST



Mark Wehrman standing on top of a GolfBoard, an alternative to an old-fashioned golf cart, on hole #10 at the Big Sky Golf Course PHOTO BY TOM CONWAY

I'm sure there are a lot of Big Sky residents out there getting excited about the upcoming winter season. Of course, that is why most of us moved to Big Sky—to shred pow and enjoy all of the winter activities available to us here. But following the winter season will be another summer of golf and we should not completely forget about the game just because we won't be playing regularly. That could mean a lot of different things depending on how serious you are about golf.

First, I truly believe that you need to take a little time off when you are not thinking about golf at all. This "break" from the game will re-energize your desire to play and also give your brain the time it needs to re-set, forget bad habits and start thinking

about what you want to do instead of what you don't want to happen. But it is also good to stay sharp. In my opinion, this means keeping a club in your hands as much as possible, even if you are not able to actually hit golf balls.

# Keeping golf on your mind over winter

I prefer "dry" swings the most. These are basically practice swings with no intention of hitting a ball. During the winter months, I am probably swinging a club in my home, living/dining room to be exact, 20-30 swings a day. I always keep one of my older, favorite wedges in the house to swing. I choose a wedge because it is a shorter club and I only have so much room to work with.

Disclaimer: please check with your wife/husband, mother/father before you start swinging in the house.

I find a perfect spot where I can't hit anything: light fixtures, furniture, tables, chairs, etc. When I am making these dry swings, I am most all the time working on my finish. Usually the backswing will be abbreviated and I am mostly focusing on finding a good, balanced finish position.

The benefit of making these "dry" swings is that when doing so you are perfecting technique, motion and tempo. What you are not doing is trying to hit it. I have found that most people swing the club completely different when they have a ball in front of them. This happens because their objective has changed. Instead of practicing your swing, you are now trying to hit it. Those are two completely different objectives.

To summarize, it is good to take some time away from the game from time to time. It is also good to stay sharp when you have extended periods of time off. This means being creative and finding a place inside your home, garage or yard to keep your swing in good form. Ski season is always fun and most are starting to really get the itch to be on the slopes. But, just like skiing, there is always another golf season around the corner to get ready for!

Mark Wehrman is the Head Golf Professional at the Big Sky Resort Golf Course and has been awarded the PGA Horton Smith Award recognizing PGA Professionals who are model educators of PGA Golf Professionals.





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# THE LONE PEAK PLAYBOOK



## LPHS Homecoming: Panthers slip past Big Horns

BY BRANDON WALKER

BIG SKY – On a chilly evening under the lights at Lone Peak High School on Sept. 20, the Big Horns' Homecoming game was spoiled by the visiting Park City Panthers. Park City scored first and never looked back en route to a 40-14 victory over Lone Peak.

Light rain and 41 degrees at kickoff didn't deter a sizeable crowd from coming out to support the Big Horns, but both coaches knew the inclement weather would impact the game.

"We're a pass first team unlike most teams in our division," said Lone Peak Head Coach Adam Farr. "Near snowing conditions is not conducive to our offense especially."

On the opposing sideline, Park City Head Coach Mark Rathbun was concerned about his players' ability to grip the ball. "I was a little concerned that we wouldn't be able to hold onto the ball very well, but it turned out alright," Rathbun said. "The kids did a nice job fighting through the adversity."

The second quarter brought with it more rain and a flurry of points. The Big Horns started with the ball, but went three and out on their opening drive, resulting in a punt. Park City drove down the field with a variety of pass plays by senior quarterback Carson Baker, scoring three touchdowns as the second quarter wound down, though the Big Horns denied each 2-point conversion attempt the Panthers tried.

Toward the end of the half, Lone Peak commanded the ball as they drove the length of the field. Senior quarterback Frankie Starz capped the drive with a 3-yard rushing touchdown then found senior receiver Austin Samuels for the 2-point conversion and the Big Horns went into the half down 24-8.

Lone Peak forced Park City into three turnovers in the third quarter, recovering two fumbles and intercepting Baker once. One takeaway, however, resulted in the Big Horns possessing the ball on their own goal line. Park City stifled the Big Horn offense forcing a safety and bringing the score to 26-8.

The teams traded touchdowns to begin the fourth quarter. Baker found the end zone from 6 yards out for Park City then missed another 2-point conversion. Lone Peak took over and scored when Starz connected with Samuels with 4:47 remaining in the game. Baker threw a touchdown pass



Homecoming Court: (88) Homecoming King Greg Miller



Lone Peak Senior quarterback Frankie Starz (6) winds up to throw, while another Lone Peak player blocks a Park City defender Friday night. The Big Horns were defeated 40-14. PHOTOS BY BRANDON WALKER

with 40 seconds left and capped the scoring at 40-14.

Rathbun was pleased with his teams poise. "I'm just really proud of the boys for how they responded and stepped up after the loss that we had last week," he said. "We needed to refocus and come back and they did a really nice job doing that. I'm proud of them."

Farr was optimistic of the outcome and his teams' performance. "We were in the game early on for sure [and] thought going in that we would match up pretty well with them," Farr said. "I don't think the score was indicative of how well we competed and how close we are, talent-wise, with that team."

The Big Horns will travel to face Absarokee at 7 p.m. on Oct. 4.

# Remaining schedule

Sat. Sept 27 BYE week

Fri. Oct. 4 Away @ Absarokee - 7 p.m.

Sat. Oct. 12 Home vs. Ennis - 4 p.m.

Fri. Oct. 18 Away vs. Twin Bridges - 7 p.m.

Sat. Oct 26 Home vs. West Yellowstone (Senior Night) - 7 p.m.

Nov. 1-2 Playoffs begin - TBD

**Nov 22-23 State Championship games - TBD** 

# Lady Big Horns volleyball teams dominate Homecoming matchups

BY DOUG HARE

On Sept. 19, the atmosphere inside the Bough-Dolan Athletic Center was already electric before the Lone Peak High School varsity volleyball team took to the court for their Homecoming matchup against the Sheridan Panthers. The older Big Horns squad had just emerged from the locker room early to help cheer on their junior varsity counterparts to victory in a five-set nail-biter.

"Many times the girls come onto the court fired up—almost too fired up. Once they burn off that initial burst of energy, they settle into Lone Peak volleyball and they play their game," Coach Missy Botha said. "I have to thank our spirit squad (The Herd) because when you have your peers cheering for you the way they did, it lifts them to play at another level."

The Lady Big Horns found that next level and won in three straight sets featuring both offensive prowess and strong individual defensive performances. From the start, flawless assists by Ivy Hicks to senior captain Dounia Metje resulted in kills that sparked the rest of the team into high gear.

Coach Botha also praised Chloe Hammond for "once again scooping everything off the floor" and right side hitter Madi Rager for "assaulting Sheridan with some seriously hard serves and hits."

Consistent passing from Ruth Blodgett and TJ Nordahl's blocking efforts rounded out the all-around team effort and kept the Sheridan attacks at bay. The convincing win in their Homecoming match will give the 5-2 Big Horns momentum heading into the competitive Manhattan Christian Invitational tournament on Oct. 5.



# **Remaining schedule**

Sat. Sept. 28 Home vs. Shields Valley 5:30 p.m.

Fri. Oct. 4 Away @ White Sulphur Springs - 5:30 p.m.

Fri. Oct. 5 Away @ Manhattan Christian Invitational - TBD

Tues. Oct. 8 Home vs. Gardiner 5:00 PM / 6:30 p.m.

Fri. Oct. 11 Away @ Manhattan Christian - 6:30 p.m.

Fri. Oct. 18 Away @ Twin Bridges - 6:30 p.m.

Tues. Oct. 22 Away @ Three Forks - 5:30 p.m.

Fri. Oct. 25 Home vs. White Sulphur Springs - 6:30 p.m.

Sat. Oct. 26 Away @ West Yellowstone - 6:30 p.m.

Oct 31-Nov. 2 District Tournament TBD

**Nov 7-9 Divisional Tournament TBD** 

Nov 14-16 State Tournament @ MSU Bozeman TBD



heading into October. PHOTOS BY DOUG HARE

## Big Sky FC in mid-season form



Coached by Heather Morris and Liz McRae, the U10 Big Sky FC girls team enjoyed perfect fall weather for their tournament in Jackson, Wyoming and lost a hard-fought game in the finals to finish in second place. PHOTOS BY MATT DODD

#### BY DOUG HARE

Now in their second fall season, the Big Sky Futbol Club fielded five travel teams and four recreation teams, with over 130 youth soccer players donning the club's blue and white jerseys. In their first fall season, the club had one team and 15 players.

On the weekend of Sept. 21-22, the travel teams headed down to Jackson, Wyoming for the Jackson Hole Fall Classic which draws stiff competition from across the Intermountain West. The U10 girls Big Sky FC squad fought hard all weekend and finished in second-place in their division.

"It was a terrific weekend of soccer by all 11 of our girls. They really came together as a team in the championship as they battled Twin Falls to the very end," Coach Heather Morris said. "Everyone was focused on making good passes, playing hard-nosed defense and putting quality shots on goal and that resulted in four of the best games this team has played... They are cute and they are mighty."

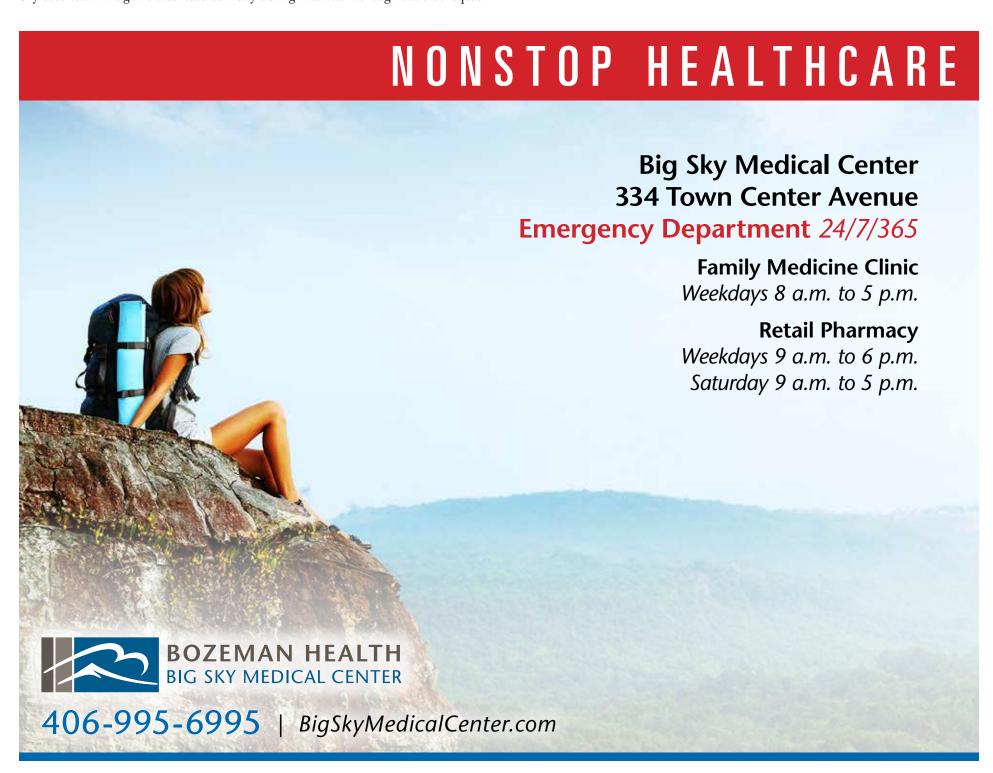
The U15 Big Sky FC coed team, playing up an age division, encountered the U18 Big Sky coed team in a game that featured many sibling rivalries. Although the older squad

was able to use their superior skills and athleticism to put the game out of reach early on, the U15 team demonstrated tenacity and grit until the final whistle blew.

"The year's team has shown a tremendous amount of growth from last fall. There has been a noticeable improvement in maturity, decision-making on and off the field, and they are playing more as a team than last year," U18 Coach Tony Coppola said. "The community support has been great and I believe the program has a great future as a school-sanctioned sport."

Coppola further noted that his team (6-2-1 on the season) has put up five shutouts this season and looks to win the remaining five games on the schedule. Coppola, a history teacher at Lone Peak High School, thinks that with the continued growth of LPHS and their enrollment teetering on Class B levels, that the high school could field both a varsity girls and boys teams in the near future.

"Our season has been such a success so far! Lots of improvement and tons of fun," Club Director Anita Romine said. Romine encourages Big Sky locals to come out to cheer on the "littles" for the next three Fridays down at the Big Sky Community Park fields from 4-6 p.m.



## Health concerns surrounding vaping arrive in Big Sky country

BY DOUG HARE

BIG SKY - On Sept. 20, Montana state health officials confirmed the state's first case of severe lung disease associated with vaping. A Yellowstone County man in his 30s with a history of using THC and nicotine vaping products was hospitalized in August with a mysterious pulmonary disease, and is now recovering at home. State health officials are looking into a number of additional pulmonary disease cases around Montana that might show similar connection to a history of vaping.

Nationally, nine deaths from severe lung disease associated with vaping have been confirmed. The first death reported due to a vaping-related illness occurred on Aug. 23 in Illinois. At that time, federal and state officials were investigating almost 200 cases of the baffling sickness in 22 states, according to the Center for Disease Control. Symptoms could include coughing, shortness of breath, chest pain and fatigue and can worsen over a short period of time.

The Montana state health department has asked residents to consider not using e-cigarettes while the implications are investigated. Vaping has been linked to severe lung disease in more than 530 cases reported in 38 states, predominantly consisting of males between the ages of 18 and 34 who ingested either nicotine or THC, a psychoactive chemical in cannabis, using some form of e-cigarette.

"I urge Montanans to refrain from using e-cigarettes, considering the existing unknown health consequences," State Medical Officer Dr. Greg Holzman said in a press release. "If you're having difficulties quitting these highly addictive nicotine products, contact your health care provider or the Montana Tobacco Quit Line."

According to data from the CDC, Montana was found to have a 3.9 percent prevalence of e-cigarette smoking, the eleventh-lowest usage rate in the country. In response to the recent spate of vaping-related illnesses and deaths, officials from the federal Food and Drug Administration announced earlier in September that the FDA will develop guidelines to remove all e-cigarette flavors except tobacco from the national market.

Vaping has exploded in popularity in recent years, especially amongst youth. According to the Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 58% of students have tried a vaping product, up from about 46% in 2017. More than 8% of students used a vaping product daily, up from about 2% in 2017.



MONTANA IS TIED WITH SOUTH DAKOTA FOR 11<sup>TH</sup> LOWEST USAGE RATES IN THE COUNTRY

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### BY DR. ANDREA WICK EBS CONTRIBUTOR

In honor of September and the first-ever chiropractic adjustment performed on Sept. 18, 1895, I thought it would be appropriate to write an article about the science, art and philosophy of the profession.

Chiropractic has been around since 1895 and was founded by a man named Daniel David Palmer. Palmer gave the first chiropractic adjustment to a man named Harvey Lillard who was deaf in one ear. After the adjustment, the man's hearing was restored and word spread about this new mode of healing that was used to treat the spine.

The science and philosophy of chiropractic is based on the nervous system. The belief is that misalignments in the spine can cause pain and manifestation of health-related symptoms or disease. These misalignments in chiropractic are termed "subluxations" which means "less than light." Our nerves in the body innervate organs and muscles, and are the electrical system that helps our body communicate via neurotransmitters, hormones, chemical messengers and so on. Realigning the spine and adjusting subluxations can decrease pain symptoms and contribute to overall health and well-being.

The art of chiropractic is in the adjustment and treatment by the doctor. There are 55 established chiropractic techniques and within the practice there is specialization. Chiropractors may choose to specialize in functional neurology, exercise medicine, pediatrics or wellness care, among others, and is viewed through the window of a drugless approach.

Chiropractors spend years in doctorate training learning about anatomy and physiology, radiology, nutrition, stress management and holistic health treat-

## The science, art and philosophy of chiropractic

ments. Doctor of chiropractic school involves four years of extensive hands-on training, learning proper adjustment techniques and diagnosis.

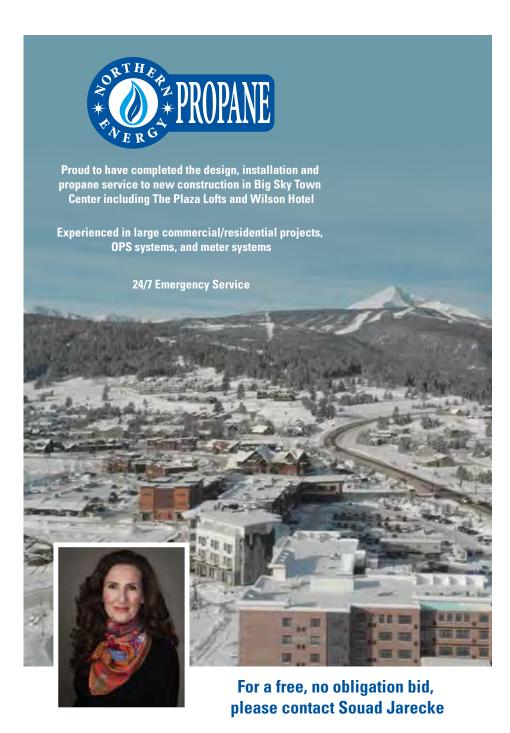
When many people think about chiropractic, they usually only think about back and neck pain. However, chiropractic treatment has also been found to improve headaches, constipation, arthritis, asthma, sciatica, insomnia, ADD, multiple sclerosis, ear infections, surgery prevention and high blood pressure. Chiropractic care also helps aid in a healthy pregnancy and ease of labor.

Many professional athletes choose to be under the care of a chiropractor because of improvements in their athletic performance, an increase in range of motion and increased proprioception—all of which decreases the risk of injury. Chiropractic adjustments help to boost the immune system and increase respiratory function. In many athletes, regular adjustments decrease recovery time post injury.

Many people ask me how a spine becomes misaligned. Many of the causes include falling or experiencing a physical trauma, poor posture, inflammation caused by poor diet choices or stress, degeneration of the spine, thinning of the discs in the spine, and taut and tight muscles.

Is there an age when it is appropriate to get adjusted? The answer is any age. Newborn infants go through their first trauma making their way through the birth canal. When adjusting infants, very light pressure is used. The younger kids are checked, the more "well-adjusted" they become and seem to be sick and injured less.

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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Traditional and Contemporary Western Art



### **American Life in Poetry:** Column 755

BY TED KOOSER **U.S. POET LAUREATE** 

If at times your world seems flat and uninteresting, I recommend making a cardboard viewfinder with a postage-stamp sized window. Then look at what's around you through that. I think you'll be pleased and surprised by how much you can see when the rest is pushed outside of the frame. This poem is from my book Kindest Regards, published by Copper Canyon Press.

#### Passing Through

I had driven into one side of a city, and through it, and was on the way out on a four-lane, caught up in the traffic, when I happened to glance to my right where a man stood alone smoking, fixed in the shade of a windowless warehouse, leaning back into a wall with one shoe cocked against it, the other one flat on the pavement. He was beside me for only an instant, wearing a short-sleeved yellow shirt and gray work pants, as the hand that held the cigarette swept out and away, and he turned to watch it as with the tip of a finger he tapped once at the ash, which began to drift into that moment already behind us, as I, with the others, sped on

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#### Money Eight (pref.) salmon 20 Time period 21 Afresh 24 Dwelling EENBADEN Loyal ` Low caste COGITATE ETA AREA 27 Ban Exclamation 31 Opening 32 Mulberry of Guido's note (2 words) S.A. rodent 33 Boston airport 35 Promise to pay Home of Circe Flowering tree 25 Entry 26 Needle case 37 Coastal bird 39 Sandstorm 36 Old-style verb 10 Father: Arabic 27 Overshadow 41 "Giant" ranch 38 4th incarnation 11 Presidential 28 7th incarnation of Vishnu 44 Down with (Fr., 2 words) of Vishnu nickname 40 Yataghan 17 Cribbage term 46 Cordage fiber 29 Frankincense 42 Assam hills 43 Region 19 Indigo dye 22 Black 47 Think 48 Mother of 30 Buddhist female Brunhilde 49 Vehicle compartment 50 Male friend (Fr.) 51 Amazon tributary 52 Sanskrit (abbr.) ©2019 Satori Publishing

Happiness is impossible, and even inconceivable, to a mind without scope and without pause, a mind driven by craving, pleasure, or fear. To be happy, you must be reasonable, or vou must be tamed. You must have taken the measure of your powers, tasted the fruits of your passion, and learned your place in the world and what things in it can really serve you. To be happy, you must be wise.

- George Santayana



**CROSSWORD PUZZLE** 

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49 Hemp

55 Course

(abbr.) 59 Pulpit

53 Heb. measure

56 Son of Ruth

58 Anti-satellite

57 Loose woman

**DOWN** 

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5 Blood (pref.)

9 Sheep's cry 12 Scientific name

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13 Wings

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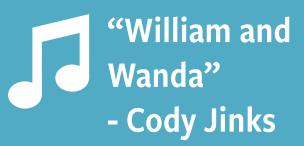
16 Wildly talk

18 Humpback

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

RAT

A C E R R I N B E M A



From his new album "After the Fire" and written with his wife Rebecca, this tearjerker of a song about his grandmother and grandfather reuniting in heaven solidifies the Texas-native as one of the genre's best songwriters. Jinks' bartione vocals complement his talent with lyrics and put him squarely in the lineage of Hank Williams Jr. and Merle Haggard.





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Development

## **SECTION 4:** ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT &







## Bozeman artist jROD defies regional convention

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY



Bombshell.' PHOTOS COURTESY OF JARROD EASTMAN

BOZEMAN – Jarrod Eastman is excited to listen to the new Tool album, letting the stylings of the Los Angeles-based, post-metal rock and roll band waft over him as he puts bristle to canvas, chisel and letter stamps to epoxy clay sculptures.

Tool's sounds embody the skateboard, heavy metal, tattoo and "explosive pop culture" that shaped Eastman, 47, growing up in Phoenix, Arizona, in the 1970s and '80s, who's hands now shape a unique brand of art that straddles some funky line etched between the likes of Salvador Dali and Joe Sorren, with a twist of Ralph Steadman for the erratic, seemingly disobedient type of "weird" that Hunter S. Thompson fostered affinity for.

If one had to neatly package Eastman's style, it would be dubbed "pop surrealism," aka "lowbrow," a family of

visual art that came to fruition in the late '70s in Los Angeles. A note to remember: "lowbrow" is defined as "not highly intellectual or cultured."

Eastman works from his Bozeman home, just north of Montana State University, where he has lived with his wife for the past 17 years. The couple moved from Colorado Springs, realizing Bozeman was a unique town situated at a special coordinate in the American Rockies.

"We went to Main Street on this beautiful July day, and it was so quiet, there was nobody downtown," Eastman said. "It was this empty, cute little town." After climbing to the top of Hyalite Peak, they affirmed there were enough mountains to satisfy their yearnings.

Today, Bozeman's Main Street is a far cry from those days of old. Back then, according to Eastman, the town's art offerings were slim, and his alternative creations, along with a select grouping of other artists and their work, put him at center stage. At a minimum, they caught people's attention.

"It's definitely not conservative artwork, and definitely doesn't appeal to everybody," Eastman said. "When I was younger, my stuff was definitely edgier, people would look at it and say, 'Wow, you're an amazing artist, but could you do something that makes me feel good?"

Now, with the perspective and grace that comes with experience, Eastman makes a conscious effort to try and make people objectively happy with his work. For example, take "Heavyweight," a sculpture of a rhino with repurposed furniture wheels for feet. What's not to smile about?

A majority of his pieces, much like "Heavyweight," often feature an animal exhibiting some anthropomorphized behavior.

"I like depicting animals doing human things, and I guess I always looked at it as this connection to nature," Eastman said. "I obviously live in Bozeman for a reason, I'm totally drawn to the mountains."

The connection to nature runs deeper, considering Eastman got a degree in zoology from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, where, unbeknownst to him, the seeds of a career in art were forming deep within.

"I got that degree, but I always just loved writing poetry and drawing, I just never thought of it [creative expression] as a career option, it was really just something I did," he said. "But talking to my friends from even high school, there's no surprise for them, they're like, 'Yeah, you were always doodling on everything,' I just never even really noticed."

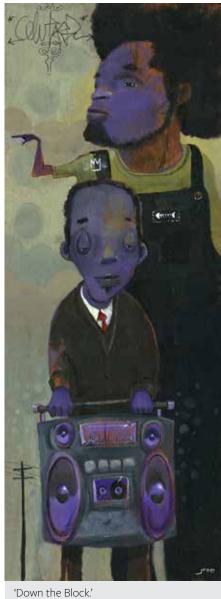
That organic approach to his work has carried over professionally, where spontaneity continues to reign supreme.

And sometimes, it takes a few stabs to get that Goldilocks composition.

"I like not knowing what I'm going to do when I start. I'll draw 20 things out, and 19 of them will be stuff that I don't even like, and then I'll draw one and be like 'Where'd that come from?' It's definitely something that moves through you. I don't necessarily have a story when I start, but have it become presented to me."

Eastman's works have this bizarre charm that acts in passive resistance to the realism, buffalos and cliché tribal figures that dominate the galleries of Main Street, carving out a strange niche that ironically adds legitimacy to Bozeman's art scene. Born out of the "lowbrow" movement, the term feels a misnomer for Eastman's work: We in the Greater Yellowstone see plenty of buffalo, and bear, and birds depicted on canvas—but how often do you see one on a bicycle? Doesn't the gross excess of something ultimately render it without intellectual merit?

Visit https://jarrodeastman.com to see electronic versions of Eastman's pieces, and visit Rapscallion Gallery in Bozeman between Sept. 28 and Nov. 13 for an in-person viewing.





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### Mountainfilm On Tour celebrates love for mountains

#### EBS STAFF

During the weekend of Sept. 13, Mountainfilm On Tour touched down in Big Sky for its fourth consecutive iteration, offering residents that pay daily homage to the awe-inspiring, 11,167-feet-high Lone Mountain the chance to celebrate other mountains that define countless lives around the planet.





PHOTOS COURTESY OF ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

On Sept. 15, the last of the three-day film festival, revelers partook in the inaugural Town to Trails Race, a special collaboration between the Arts Council of Big Sky and the Big Sky Community Organization that brought participants through Big Sky's Uplands and Hummocks trail systems. There was also a free, family-friendly screening of a series of short documentaries in Big Sky Town Center Park, where guests of all ages spread blankets, set up chairs, munched on snacks and indulged in films with a focus on culture and society as they relate to their respective spires.



### WMPAC launches its first ever fall mini-series

#### WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

BIG SKY – The Warren Miller Performing Arts Center is known throughout Montana for bringing world-class talent and performances to its campus during the winter months; and this year is no different, with the WMPAC launching an inaugural fall mini-series that will bring an additional three performances to Big Sky during the notoriously quiet time between summer and ski season.

"We designed this series specifically for the local community," said John Zirkle, executive director of WMPAC. "We wanted to give people who live here year-round opportunities for an exciting night out for their families during what's normally a sleepy time of year."

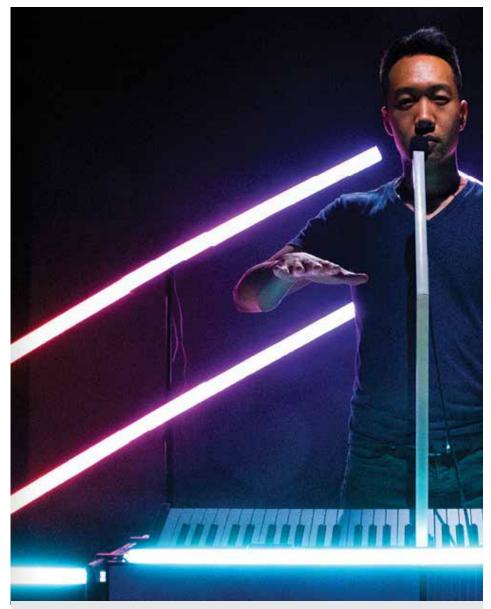
In addition to adding a fall lineup, WMPAC has introduced a discount fall package deal to ensure that three nights of entertainment still fit within every budget. Prices for all three shows are \$29 for adults and just \$19 for students, before taxes and fees.

"It's three shows for less than the price of two," Zirkle said. "Our goal was not just to energize the off-season, but to make it seriously affordable and easy for families to take advantage of."

The first performance is North Wind, a virtual reality DJ, who will take the stage on Tuesday, Oct. 1. North Wind is the alias of Ray Li, an electrical engineer and electronica musician who creates his own instruments that seamlessly blend technology and music. A keyboard responds to a hand hovering over the keys rather than striking them, and a wired glove initiates different beats with the clench of a fist or flick of a finger; and the music is coordinated with a light show. Visually stimulating and dazzlingly creative, a North Wind performance is great for kids, techies and electronic music fans alike.

The Cashore Marionettes come to WMPAC on Saturday, Oct. 12, featuring puppeteer Joseph Cashore who has been performing for over thirty years, including a performance at Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center, and is one of the premier practitioners of the artform. Imaginative and masterfully handled, his marionettes are capable of a remarkable degree of emotion and humor. The performance will be perfect for families with young children, particularly those looking for a night of storytelling and entertainment that doesn't involve screen time.

Che Apalache rounds out the fall mini-series with their fresh take on bluegrass. Led by a North Carolinian who emigrated to Argentina, Che Apalache blends the sounds of traditional Appalachian bluegrass with



North Wind has utilized his background as an electrical engineer for a one-of-a-kind virtual reality DJ performance. PHOTO COURTESY OF WMPAC

Latin American rhythms, forming a hybrid they've dubbed LatinGrass. When banjo legend Béla Fleck saw them perform last year, he was so impressed that he immediately signed on to produce their next album. That album, "Rearrange My Heart," was released in August. The band comes to WMPAC on Nov. 2 as part of their US tour.

"With this new fall lineup, WMPAC provides cultural experiences for Big Sky year-round. The center is really woven into this community, and our whole team is incredibly proud of that," Zirkle said.

Each show begins at 6:30 p.m., runs approximately 75 minutes and is appropriate for all ages.

Visit warrenmillerpac.org for tickets and more information.





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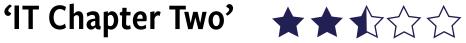
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#### BY ANNA HUSTED **EBS FILM CRITIC**

"IT Chapter Two" is an entertaining horror ride for fans of the Stephen King literary masterpiece, the 1990 mini television series and the first "IT" film released the same year. That said, "IT Chapter Two" is not for everyone: it just isn't a very good film nor skates by on the horror, but I recommend it if you love King's characters and horror.

We return to Derry, Maine, alongside our protagonists from "IT" who are now in their mid-30s and called back by their friend Mike to defeat the maniacal clown Pennywise (a comic, yet eerie Bill Skarsgard) who has returned to the small beaver-trapping town 27-years-later as promised.



Pennywise, played by Bill Skarsgard, returns to Derry, Maine, to haunt the same group of friends 27 years later. PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.

The first film was one of my favorite movies of 2017. "IT" created a character-based story built on shame, the jump scare, character development through writing and nostalgia for the '80s; elements that are in part utilized by "IT Chapter Two," but are (unfortunately) replaced with gratuitous flashbacks, unwarranted violence and, of all places the filmmakers needed to go, cultural insensitivity toward Native Americans. "IT Chapter Two" was trying too hard to be a big CGI box office hit instead of sticking to what the first film did best, nostalgia and classic horror motifs.

Two triumphs of the CGI work were the wicked wackiness of Pennywise's eyes, face and tongue, along with all the '80s-"Army-of-Darkness"-type horror. In a Chinese restaurant scene, where we first get all our protagonists back together, their fortune cookies turn on them, sprouting legs and heads and various amorphous bits that attack them. This scene was hilarious and a bit frightening because it was odd for six adults to be afraid of cookies and because it was just zany enough to remind us, the audience, that Pennywise has the frightening ability to distort reality to his choosing.

But like many ensemble films on the market these days, there were too many characters to address. The film's jumps from character to character only worked in the beginning, establishing the narrative, but become annoyingly and unnecessarily dominating. This continuous transitioning weakens the film because Bill (James McAvoy) continues to reinforce, in vain, that they can only defeat Pennywise if they stick together and because the best moments of "IT Chapter Two" are had when the great ensemble cast (Jessica Chastain, Bill Hader, Isaiah Mustafa, Jay Ryan, and James Ransome) is all together. The flashbacks for each character also cut in where clear act breaks should have been, e.g. instead of transitioning from the typical turn in Act II we just continue to be inundated by increasingly horror-less horrors both past and present. This extended and jumpy approach effectively eliminated any sense of an impending climax, giving less precedence to the ending.

Despite the cinematic and writing weaknesses of "IT Chapter Two," I want to reiterate that I was entertained and hoping for more because I have grown to love these characters, including Pennywise, as Skarsgard's rendition is one of the most disturbing horror characters of the 21st century. He mastered the jump scare and quirky smiles in "IT" and returned with more absurd and great moments in "IT Chapter Two."

"IT Chapter Two" 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.





## **Dead Sky set list**

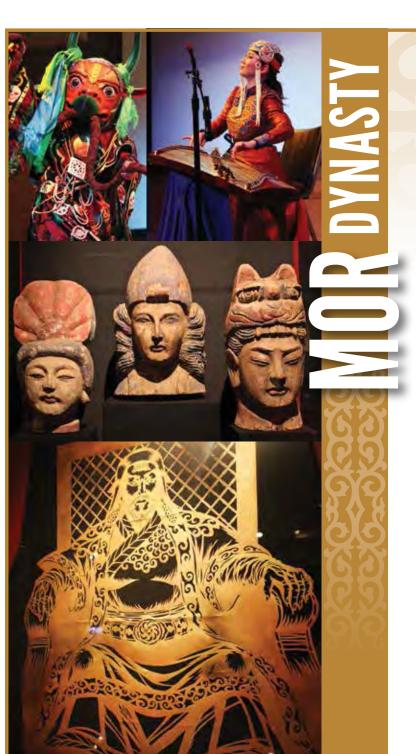
EBS STAFF

On Sept. 12, the Arts Council of Big Sky hosted the final night of the summer's 2019 Music in the Mountains lineup, where attendees channeled their inner "Jerr-Bear" to the music of Dead Sky, a Bozeman-based Grateful Dead tribute band featuring members from local favorites Pinky and the Floyd, MOTH, the Kelly Nicholson Band, The Hooligans, The Dead Yellers and SlomoJoe Trio, among others. With a packed crowd eager to soak up every last bit of summer music, the band covered some of the most cherished Grateful Dead tracks, detailed in the below set list. A big thanks is in order for ACBS for yet another summer of world-class music.



Dead Sky rocking the Town Center Stage. PHOTO COURTESY OF DISCOVER BIG SKY – MIA LENNON REAL ESTATE

#### MUSIC IN THE MOUNTAINS FINAL 2019 PERFORMANCE DEAD SKY, SEPT. 12 SET 1 SET 2 Feels like a Shakedown Steet Stranger Candyman Mississippi Deal Half Step Bird Song> Cold Rain and Brown Eyed Wom-Snow> en It Must Have Eyes of the World> Been the Roses Drums> Bertha **New Speedway** Space> Boogie> Wheel> Lady with a Truckin'> **New Speedway** Fan> Boogie Terrapin Sta-Sugaree tion Althea Loser **Not Fade Away**



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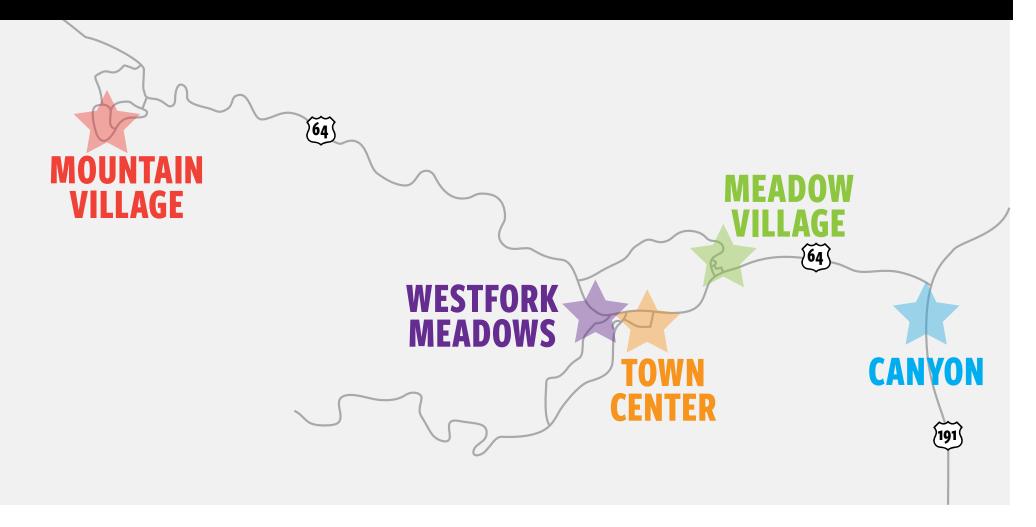
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## **BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR**

FRIDAY, SEPT. 27 - THURSDAY, OCT. 10

If your event falls between Oct. 11 and Oct. 24, please submit it by Oct. 16 by emailing media@outlaw.partners

#### FRIDAY, SEPT. 27

Live Music: Ranges Rialto Bozeman, 7:00 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, SEPT. 28**

Ennis Farmers Market, Ennis, Montana, 8:00 a.m.

Oktoberfest Ironman Open Big Sky Golf Course, 12:00 p.m.

Montana State University vs. Northern Arizona University Bobcat Stadium, Bozeman, 1:00 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, SEPT. 29**

Golf Closing Day
Big Sky Golf Course

#### **TUESDAY, OCT. 1**

Life Drawing Fall 2019
The Emerson Center for The Arts and Culture, Bozeman, 6:00 p.m.

Live Music: North Wind Virtual Reality DJ Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 6:30 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY, OCT. 2**

Gallatin History Museum Lecture

Galloping in The Gallatin Museum of The Rockies, Bozeman, 6:00 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, OCT. 5**

Museum of The Rockies Bridger Raptor Festival Bridger Bowl, Bozeman, 10:00 a.m.

#### **SUNDAY, OCT. 6**

"101 Dalmatians" The Ellen Theater, Bozeman, 2 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, OCT. 10**

"Woman on Stage, Man from Audience" The Ellen Theater, Bozeman, 8:00 p.m.

#### **WORTH THE DRIVE**

#### **25th Annual Oktoberfest at Snake River Brewing**

Snake River Brewing, Jackson, Wyoming

#### Oct. 2

Oktoberfest, held annually in Munich, Germany, is the world's largest beer festival, attracting more than 6,000,000 people each year to the Wiesn fairgrounds. Snake River Brewing, thousands of miles away in Jackson, Wyoming, answers the call for the 25th consecutive year, hosting an Oktoberfest of their own. Patrons of the brewery are encouraged to "don your dirndls and suit up in lederhosen," indulge in the German food, steins of beer and Bavarian music performed by The Hof Band, all in a banquet hall setting with drinking games to win prizes. Prost!



## "Beneath the Eyrie" - Pixies



BY SAM ORAZEM



On their third album since reuniting, the Pixies are finally starting to find their groove again. PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXIES

Since their reunion in 2004, Boston-based alt-rock band the Pixies have released three albums and all of those albums have sought to reproduce the magic that made them pioneers of their genre. "Beneath the Eyrie," which debuted on Sept. 13, is the best of the trio, but it's still a far cry from the captivating records the Boston-based band produced in the late '80s and early '90s.

For one, the reunion did not include bassist and

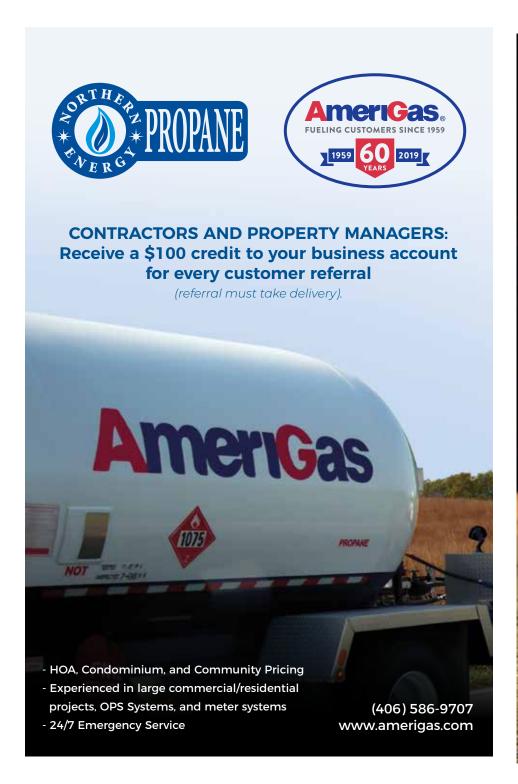
co-vocalist Kim Deal, and her absence was easy to feel on the first two reunion albums with 2014's "Indie Cindy" and 2016's "Head Carrier" yielding forgettable tracks without any vocal punch. Over the course of those two albums, many die-hard fans were left feeling like the Pixies had run their course and would not find additional success sans Deal. Luckily, this latest album shows flashes of their prior greatness; furthermore, some tracks highlight the band's embracing of Deal's absence and charting new courses for the better.

"On Graveyard Hill" is the most Pixies-sounding entry to the album that may start to win back estranged fans with its subtle punk influence, structure that alternates between quiet and loud and a bit of the infectious energy that lead-singer Black Francis is known for. Paz Lenchantin, who joined the group in 2014, provides softer harmonies than Deal used but her powerful presence on the bass is utilized wonderfully throughout the album.

The drinking song, "This is My Fate," is another standout. It straddles alternative and indie rock with a quick tempo that imbues it with more energy than most tracks due to its airy, haunting instrumentation. The guitar and bass are pushed to the back of the mix, once again highlighting Black Francis' bone-cutting vocals.

"St. Nazaire" is a song that best demonstrates the band successfully moving in a new direction, a powerful, eerie ballad in a minor key that effortlessly moves through its brief 2 minute, 27 second running time. The expansive soundscape throws wave after wave of sound at the listener and continuously builds energy as it moves through structure. If the album featured more tracks like this, it would start to feel less like the Pixies are trying to replicate their former success and more like something fresh and worthwhile.

The remainder of the album mostly alternates between decent and filler entries. There is nothing egregiously bad but, similarly to their last two albums, it does feature a fair number of forgettable tracks. So, while "Beneath the Eyrie" is not the Pixies we fell in love with, it at least offers a glimmer of hope for their future.





## **Big Sky Bites: The Tuna Melt**

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY



The unlikeliest of heroes, the tuna melt: savory, crunchy, cheesy goodness. PHOTO BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

For some, the suggestion might sound fishy: seafood, cheese and bread. But this delicious combo offers the most unlikely of American lunchtime heroes: the tuna melt.

With a controversial synthesis of flavors and food groups, I've learned to accept there is a segment of the population that will always stick their nose up at the idea of giving this sandwich a shot.

But the truth is, people learn

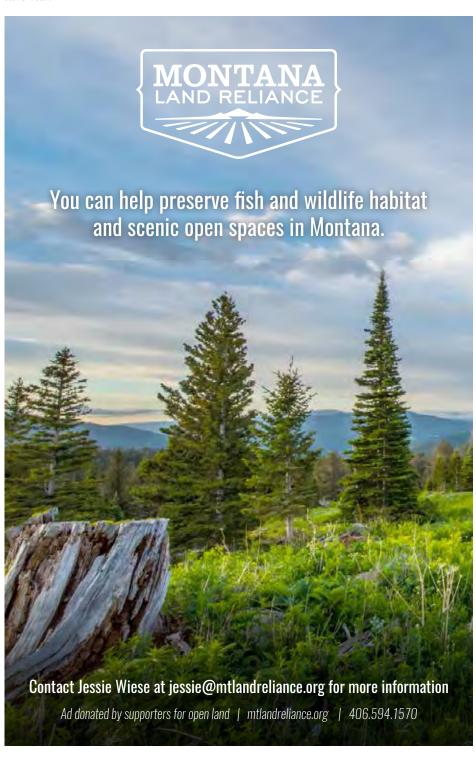
preferences for food through experiences—find me an example of a child that truly likes vegetables (that aren't smothered in Hidden Valley), and I'll find you a parent that's also likely to share suspicious anecdotes suggesting early signs of genius and precocious pursuits.

The case for preference through experience was argued beautifully at a roundtable discussion I participated in at Peking University, an elite research institution based in Beijing; after a series of volleyed hardball questions pertaining to gun rights, censorship and contributions to the escalating effects of global warming, we eased into lighter fare when a Chinese student asked which of his country's dishes had us Americans retching.

We agreed the insects, gelatinous cubes of duck and pig's blood, boiled goat feet and roasted rabbit brain and tongue were a bit daunting—all of which I tried and found to be delicious after acknowledging that a thousands-of-years-old food culture must have a few things figured out.

We turned the question on them, and only one food was named: cheese—why would westerners eat a food that was deliberately past due, smelly and sometimes covered in fungus? Good point: One of those most cherished dishes in our culture is objectively disgusting.

Just as you learned to love rotting cow and sheep's milk, you can learn to love a tuna melt. And with a few tweaks to the ingredients, even the snootiest of palettes can dig in, sans fear.



#### Recipe:

Prep Time: 10 minutes Cook Time: 10 minutes

## Servings: 2 Ingredients:

- 1 can Wild Planet pole & line caught albacore tuna (good ol' Bumble Bee works just fine)
  - 2 tsp capers
  - 1/8 medium red onion, diced
- 1 small clove garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp minced parsley
- 2 tbsp diced celery
- 1 pinch dry oregano
- 1 pinch crushed red pepper (optional)
- 2 tbsp freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- Juice from one wedge of lemon
- 1.5 cups grated extra sharp cheddar
- 1 tbsp mayonnaise
- 1 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 2 slices fresh sourdough
- Fresh ground salt and pepper, to taste

#### **Instructions:**

- 1. Preheat the oven to 400 F
- 2. Open can of tuna, draining excess water
- 3. In a medium mixing bowl, whisk together tuna, capers, onion, garlic, parsley, celery, oregano, crushed red pepper, Parmesan cheese, lemon juice, olive oil, mayonnaise and desired amounts of salt and pepper
- 4. Butter one side of the sourdough bread slices, placing butter-side down on a baking tray
- 5. Top the sourdough with the tuna mixture, spreading evenly over bread surface
- 6. Crack fresh pepper over sandwiches
- 7. Top with shredded cheddar (don't worry if some touches the tray, these get baked into crunchy cheese crisps)
- 8. Bake until cheese is melted, 6-10 minutes (for extra measure, I like to broil my sandwiches after baking them until the cheese begins to brown)
- 9. Enjoy



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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.



### BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Mind, body, soul and spirit. We've seen these words together so often to describe so many aspects of our lives that they have almost become cliché.

If you are practicing in any faith, from Christianity to Hinduism to Buddhism, you surely have been exposed to what is described as a full and fruitful life if you have these four aspects of your life in order.

If you are an athlete, you too have no doubt had coaches preach the importance of keeping your body in good health, but also the need

to be intelligent and focused—to be passionate about your game. And you will often be told that you need "to want it." But I would argue that one of the occupations or places in life where this is the most important is the culinary world.

#### **BODY**

Sure, we may just be this fleshy bag of liquid and bones that we wake up to each morning while hurling through space on this big round ball. But look deeper and the body is a fascinating machine.

Cooking is as physically demanding as any other occupation and you will have trouble convincing me otherwise. We lift and push, we twist and turn, we bend and reach. We manuevure our legs, arms, hands and fingers constantly, under duress of heat, fatigue and pressure, for hours on end.

I have seen many colleagues not take care of this machine they have been given and watched it break down before my eyes, ending their careers prematurely just like an athlete. You only get one body, take care of it.

#### MIND

It comes equipped with an inherent, instinctive operating system that is more complex than any computer we could ever design. We can reason and problem solve. We can cook food, create reci-

## Mind, body, soul, and spirit

pes with multiple ingredients, build entire menus around these ingredients, then construct a large communal building in which to execute this vision for hundreds of people on a daily basis.

The amount of mental pressure placed upon a cook and chef on a constant basis can break many people and it often does. The list of things you have to be thinking about on a constant basis all the while being exposed to new exterior stimuli and trying to decipher what to focus on and what to disregard—I can assure you it is as fatiguing as the physical aspect.

#### SOUL

Why do we do this? Why is it important to us? It's the connection that makes many of us feel so good.

As I've said many times over the years, we are the liaison between a world of fishermen, farmers, ranchers, producers and harvesters and the many people we feed. We are a conduit of a perishable, ever-changing product that we can either make worse, improve or simply handle with care and pass on as-is so you get to experience it at its peak.

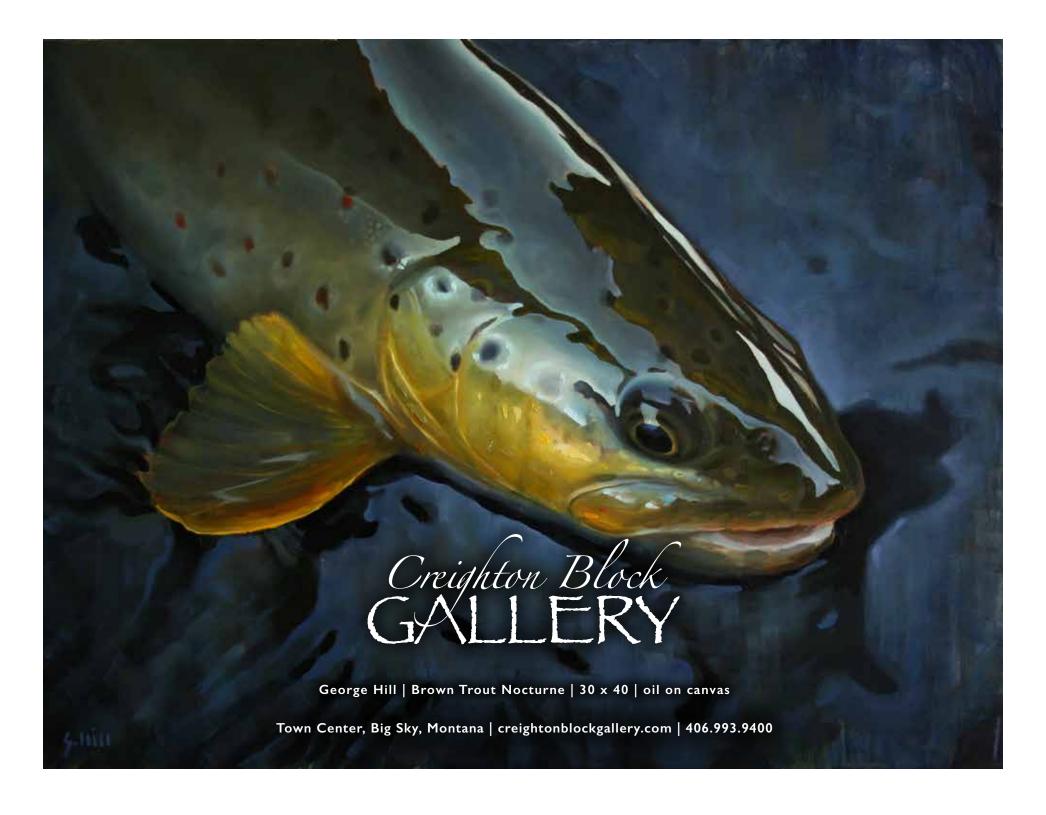
#### SPIRIT

I equate spirit with passion and drive. It's what makes some of us rise to greatness, while some of us do not. You can absolutely have spirit and never achieve great heights. But do you want to be a little better than yesterday? Do you want to make that recipe even better tomorrow with one little tweak? Can we exceed the guests' expectations even more the next time we see them?

"Anybody can play. The note is only 20 percent. The attitude of the musician who plays it is 80 percent." That is a quote from the legendary jazz trumpeter and composer Miles Davis.

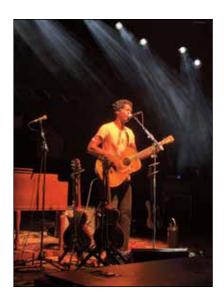
As I think about all the great cooks and chefs, either world-famous, or ones I have known, you could take that quote, swap "note" for "ingredient," and replace "musician" with "chef," and you would have, in one sentence, what makes the greatest cooks and chefs a cut above.

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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