

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

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Feb. 28 - Mar. 12, 2020 Volume 11 // Issue #5 al

Stemming the tide: chronic wasting disease, pt. 1

Peak to Sky and HATCH join forces

Copper opens Big Sky location

ALC: NO.

Skijoring returns to Big Sky

WOLTS

Special section: Featured area artists



explorebigsky.com



Feb. 28 - Mar. 12, 2020 Volume 11, Issue No. 5 Owned and published in Big Sky, Montana

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Stemming the tide: chronic wasting disease, pt. 1

As the deadly wildlife disease known as chronic wasting disease, or CWD, spreads into Montana, EBS is looking closely at what that means for the Greater Yellowstone Region and how wildlife managers will respond. This is the first in a series about CWD in Montana.



Peak to Sky and HATCH join forces

Event organizers look to HATCH's "Design Sprints" model to find answers to rapidly accelerating effects of global warming via sustainability and zero waste community focal points.



Copper opens Big Sky location

Popular Bozeman-based restaurant and bar Copper has officially opened its doors for business inside the inside the Wilson Hotel lobby in Big Sky Town Center.



Skijoring returns to Big Sky

Ever been pulled behind a horse? On skis? The third annual Best in the West, a popular and wild event, is returning to Big Sky Town Center on March 7 and 8.



Special section: Featured area artists

We've pulled some of our top artist profiles of the past few years in order to highlight their fantastic work.



CONTROLLER **Treston Wold**

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Gabe Allen, Tim Behuniak, Kathy Bouchard, Dan Egan, Sarah Gianelli, Anna Husted, Luke Kirchmayr, Sara Marino, Scott Mechura, Marshall Swearingen, David Tucker, Todd Wilkinson

ON THE COVER:

Freshman guard Jessie Bough (white jersey) and the rest of the Lady Big Horns entered Distract play Feb. 17 to Feb. 20 with high hopes. For results from both the Lone Peak High School varsity girls and boys contests at the District tournament, check out section three of this paper. PHOTO COURTESY OF RICH ADDICKS

The Montage Big Sky, located at the Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, is soon to be the biggest building in the entire state. A dog sniffs the snow in the foreground, as early morning sunlight backdrops the ongoing construction. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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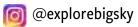
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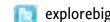
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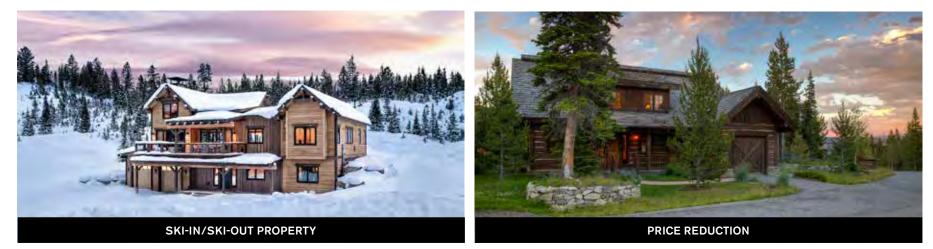
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We 'spring ahead' on Mar. 8 due to daylight savings time. Why do you or why don't you believe we should still recognize DST? Can you share any stories when DST intervened in your life?



Julie Nyikos Odessa, FL

"Our son here takes the bus and his bus pickup time is 6:45 [a.m.]. When you fall back an hour, it's pitch dark in the morning and there's poor lighting where the bus stop is, therefore there's concern of the kids safety [and] what not. You would rather not have any time changes for the safety of the kids because it's not in the schools budget to have designated bus stops with proper lighting because that would cost millions and millions of dollars, so that's why I would oppose daylight savings time. I would want to not have it change all the time."



Dylan Nyikos Odessa, FL

"I usually wake up at like 6 [a.m.] ... I woke up at 5 and walked out the door at 5:45 thinking that my bus was there; it wasn't. I don't really like daylight savings time at all."



Sarah Lockhart Big Sky, MT

"I would say at this point it's pretty outdated. I mean honestly, yes agriculture is still big, but it's not as important as it used to be...You can run a tractor at night, it has headlights, so you don't need as much daylight."



Koby Strayhorn Big Sky, MT

"I would have to say personally I do not always agree with daylight savings time. However, I understand the original intention and if it is still appreciated by those who must work outdoors. If a farmer can get up earlier and have daylight to finish his work and be able to have dinner with his family then that's a reason to support it in my opinion. However, for the rest of the population I think it poses an inconvenience and would more than likely be supported to be removed."

We can't keep shirking mental health care

BY LIAT JARKON, D.O.

The latest trend among adolescents is deadly.

The suicide rate for people ages 10-14 tripled between 2007 and 2017, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control. Suicide is now the second leading cause of death for Americans ages 10-24.

For years, doctors like me have stressed that similar to any physical illness, mental illness can lead to harmful consequences. Moreover, when left untreated, mental illness can potentiate physical disease resulting in expensive treatment needs.

But all this often goes unacknowledged—particularly by the insurance industry. Even in the midst of a youth suicide epidemic, most payers erect barriers to treatment for common mental illnesses just to gut costs Consider the tale of a New Mexico woman who struggled with an eating disorder, as reported by NPR. She tried entering an inpatient treatment program, but even after losing 60 percent of her original body weight, Medicaid wouldn't cover it unless she lost another 10 pounds or entered a psychiatric unit. She eventually enrolled in another plan but had to argue with them to cover care.

Insurers also make it hard for patients to find in-

network mental health professionals. A survey by the National Alliance on Mental Health highlights this: more than one-third of respondents said they had difficulty finding a therapist who took their insurance. Meanwhile, just 9 percent had trouble finding an in-network primary care doctor.

This disparity exists because insurance companies

treatment for common mental illnesses just to cut costs.

This is more than irresponsible—it's counterproductive. Mental illness can lead to serious and costly conditions. If insurers really wanted to keep costs down, they'd expand coverage for mental health services.

The spike in youth suicide is part of a broader public-health crisis. More than 17 million Americans had at least one major depressive episode in 2017. The nation's suicide rate has jumped 33 percent since 1999, and the rate of death from drug overdose rose by nearly 10 percent between 2016 and 2017.

The rise in these and other "deaths of despair" have caused U.S. life expectancy to drop for three consecutive years—the longest decline in a century.

The insurance industry's resistance to provide adequate mental health coverage has exacerbated this crisis. Many insurers don't cover mental health services and those that do are legally required to make those benefits "comparable" to physical health coverage. But insurers have found ways to circumvent that requirement.

For instance, insurers often refuse to cover treatments ranging from therapy to antidepressants on the grounds that they aren't "medically necessary."

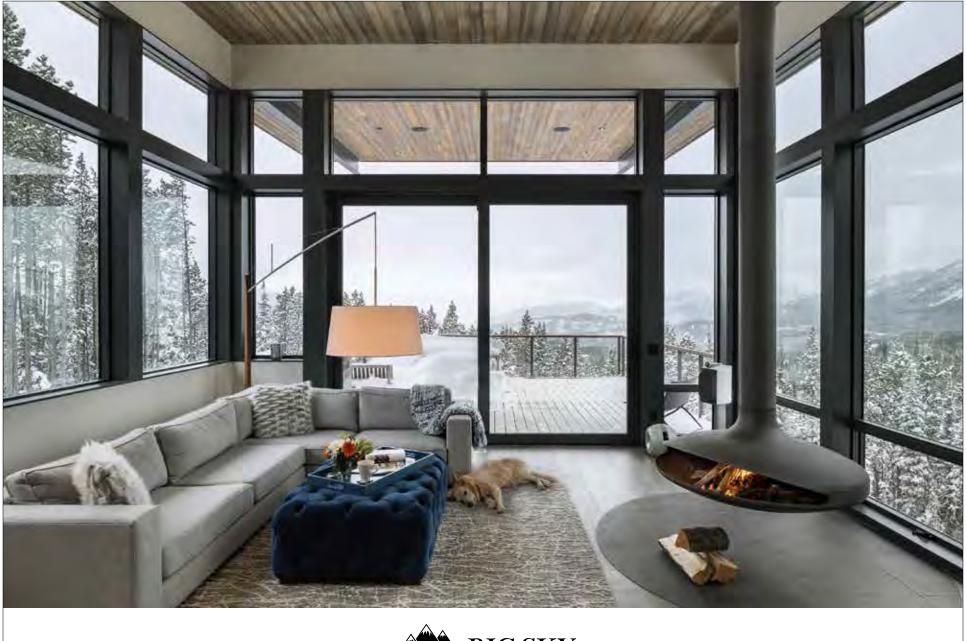
pay mental health professionals less than they pay other providers. In 2017, primary care reimbursements were about 24 percent higher than behavioral reimbursements. And in 2014, private insurers paid mental health providers 13 to 14 percent less than what Medicare paid for the same services.

Consequently, many patients are forced to visit providers who don't accept their insurance, which often means facing out-of-pocket costs. Patients with drug-use disorders pay over \$1,200 more on average for out-of-network care annually than patients with diabetes.

Refusing to cover mental health care is absurd. It's also not cost effective: In 2016 alone, it cost the U.S. \$3.7 trillion. Insurers invested more on mental health care could slash spending on chronic diseases over time.

By expanding mental health coverage, insurers can save money—and more importantly, lives.

Liat Jarkon, D.O., M.P.H., is the director of the Center for Behavioral Health and assistant professor of Family Medicine at NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine.





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NEWS IN BRIEF



Water and Sewer board elections approaching

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – At their Feb. 18 open board meeting, the Big Sky County Water and Sewer district discussed its upcoming elections that will be held to fill three vacated board of director seats; there are four candidates vying to fill the three available spots. The potential candidates are Michael Ducunnois, Richard Fast, Clay Lorinsky and Mike Wilcynski. The vote will be conducted through a mail-in ballot system on May 5.

The board plans to release biographical information on the four candidates soon so that the public can better understand their voting options.

Additionally, at the Feb. 18 meeting, the board of directors approved 66.84 Single Family Equivalents, or SFE units, for the Spanish Peaks Inn, which is set to begin construction this summer.

Ophir School registration deadline March 20

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – Big Sky parents of children who are 5 years old on or before Sep. 10, 2020, and with plans to enter the 2020-21 school year, are encouraged to complete Ophir School Kindergarten registration before March 20.

The "Kindergarten Round Up" is in an effort for school officials to quantify resource needs, especially as the community continuously grows, adding new young families each year.

Late registrations will be accepted, but school officials urge parents to attempt to make the soft deadline.

Head to BSSD72.org for more information.

Fiscal Year 2021 resort tax applications launch March 1

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – Beginning in 1992, a 3 percent resort tax has been levied on all luxury goods and services sold within the Big Sky Resort Area District, collections that are then returned to the community through appropriations to its organizations and businesses.

School District reaches \$1.49M settlement with sexual abuse victim

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – The Big Sky School District has reached a settlement with a former student following a lawsuit filed last year. The suit alleged that school officials were aware of ongoing sexual, physical and emotional abuse inflicted by then-high school girls' basketball coach Cyle Kokot, who is currently serving a 25-year sentence with 10 years suspended after pleading guilty to felony sexual assault in 2015.

According to the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, the settlement included \$1.49 million in settlement fees awarded to Bella Butler, along with numerous requirements for indefinite staff training procedures to ensure negligence and misreporting are never again the cause of a student's suffering.

"As part of the settlement and aligned with our commitment to the health, safety and well-being of our students, the District will be taking affirmative measures to enhance our internal processes and procedures," read a statement released by BSSD Superintendent Dustin Shipman.

The settlement concludes the nearly yearlong process, beginning in March of 2019, when an unnamed plaintiff, now identified as Butler, filed a lawsuit in district court against BSSD, claiming the school district was aware that Kokot was engaging inappropriately with multiple players, including the plaintiff.

According to a separate statement released by Butler, also a former reporter for this newspaper, she felt ready to vacate the protective order that had her previously named "Jane Doe."

"I've been greatly inspired and impacted by the bravery of women on a national level removing their own veils of anonymity in order to effectively share their own stories of abuse, which have empowered me to create the same opportunity for others, like myself, hurting and afraid, to enjoy a platform to share their important stories. Confronting my own pain and past trauma has also given me a lot more confidence in speaking openly."

According to the BSSD statement, the district's insurance carrier was responsible for the entire sum following the district's payment of a \$1,000 deductible.

Community meeting to discuss Gallatin Canyon engineering study

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – On March 5, the Gallatin River Task Force will host a community

That process has been regulated and managed since 1998 by a locally elected board of directors, with no change in that oversight as the town enters its first appropriations period of the decade—however, the application process is now entirely online, with the portal opening at 8 a.m. on Sunday, March 1.

In a bid to mitigate potential friction between the BSRAD and applicants, two group training sessions will be available to the public; the first will commence on Monday, March 2 from 9-10:30 a.m. and the second on Tuesday, March 3 from 5:30-7 p.m.. Both will be held at the Big Sky Medical Center Community Room.

Training videos will be available online, following the close of the second meeting.

Additionally, one-on-one training sessions are available for scheduling between March 3 and 13.

The application deadline is April 30.

Visit resorttax.org for more information.

meeting at Buck's T-4 Lodge, a forum to share progress regarding the ongoing Gallatin Canyon engineering study—expected be completed in April—as well as answer questions from attendees as to the future of wastewater options in the growing branch of the Big Sky community.

The gathering is a follow up from an initial one held in September 2019.

Meeting focuses include a draft report and overview of the findings, a discussion of nutrient loading and how those might affect nutrient amounts in the canyon area and adjacent waterways, an overview of overall costs as they are currently available, and a segment for community input and questions.

The discussion on wastewater treatment options as it relates to the Gallatin Canyon and its businesses and residents has intensified of late, following the early February ratification of a "Interlocal Infrastructure Agreement" carried by the Big Sky Resort Area District resort tax and Big Sky County Water and Sewer District boards—the agreement will send a 1 percent increase in the resort tax to a community vote in May, with funds collected to be used expressly for upgrades to the existing wastewater treatment plant, along with new service infrastructure to the canyon.

The meeting will run from 5:30-7 p.m.

Visit gallatinrivertaskforce.org for more information.

School district bond proposal goes out to voters

BY BRANDON WALKER

BIG SKY – In anticipation of continued rising student numbers, the Big Sky community last summer proposed a project to upgrade its school buildings. The school board selected Bozeman-based A&E Architects for the design portion of the projects, and heard comments and suggestions from community members to mock-up possible future facility upgrades.

Brad Doll, a representative from the architecture firm, presented the findings and renderings his team compiled at the Jan. 21 BSSD School Board meeting. After the meeting, the board prepared ballot language, and then presented the idea of a school bond vote at its Feb. 18 board meeting.

The proposed bond includes athletic facility improvements, expanded and revised parking, and an addition off of the existing front office area for a "STEAM" building, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math. That building would also house a career and technical education program, or CTE.

Local residents will receive mail-in ballots to vote on a \$23.5 million bond that would fund expansion and upgrades to the current facilities. Ballots are due by May 5.

According to a BSSD informational pamphlet about the proposed bond, the STEAM and CTE offerings would bolster the district's

vocational programming by introducing classes and programs such as wood shop, video design and industrial arts.

"This lack of a CTE really is keeping us out of providing the most well-rounded, best education you can get in the state of Montana, and that's almost exclusively tied to facilities," said district superintendent Dustin Shipman said in a phone call with EBS. He further explained that revamping existing classroom spaces is not feasible for the intended programs, due to health and safety concerns.

Since Lone Peak High School opened its doors in 2009, the student body has increased steadily. Over the past five years alone, the student count has increased by nearly 80 percent. The growth mimics that of the Big Sky community itself, and as is the case with the town, neither the growth or the need for more space have an end in sight.

The school district's informational pamphlet assumes a 5 percent growth rate over the next 10 years, which would mean more than 600 students in the school system by 2030, a difference of more than 200 students from the current student body. The proposed upgrades would enable BSSD to support this anticipated growth for the next 10 years or more, according to the pamphlet.

For context, there were only 23 high schoolers at LPHS 11 years ago. Now there are 107, which puts the school on the verge of moving from class-C to class-B athletics. With that new designation would come an array of required facility upgrades due to crowd capacity

> requirements. Per Montana High School Association guidelines, a school must have at least 108 students for two consecutive years to meet the minimum requirement as a class-B school. That means that the 2021-2022 school year would be the earliest the change could occur.

> This upcoming leap to a class-B athletic program prompted the request for a new gymnasium off of the Bough-Dolan Athletic Center. The new facility would seat nearly 1,200 people, corresponding with current MHSA standards for a class-B school, whereas the Bough-Dolan Athletic Center seats only 360.

"From a community standpoint, it's going to open up a number of different things that we can partner [with] in the community," Shipman said. "Our current facilities, especially the gyms, are booked every night, all night, even when our extracurricular activities are finished."



UNSPLASH PHOTO

Additionally, LPHS's soon-to-be-new fall sport, soccer, will be playing at a class-A level, and the school wouldn't be allowed to host home contests without upgrading the current athletic fields, Shipman said. "The students are thrilled that we have a soccer program now. They're going to be even more thrilled when we have a proper facility here on campus to play."

If the bond proposal passes the community mailin vote, the upgrades and expansion are intended to happen "as soon as we possibly can," he said.

Montana FWP to change invasive mussels rules

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MISSOULA – A Montana reservoir that had a suspicious result in testing for invasive mussels in 2016 has been cleared and the state has lifted a requirement for mandatory decontamination stations at the reservoir east of Helena.

Canyon Ferry was removed Feb. 14 from a list of bodies of water confirmed or suspected for aquatic invasive mussels after it recorded a suspicious result in 2016, officials from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks said.

СС РНОТО

Aquatic mussels have no natural predators and can clog water pipes and displace native species.

The change means boaters will no longer have to complete a mandatory inspection when leaving Canyon Ferry.

Those rules are expected to remain in place at the Tiber Reservoir. The reservoir has had no positive tests in three years but restrictions, including a certified boater program and decontamination stations, will remain in place for at least two more years. Last year, Montana conducted about 99,000 watercraft inspections and intercepted 16 boats with invasive mussels coming into the state.

Air quality data report conducted in Montana neighborhood

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BUTTE – Health officials have conducted a report evaluating air quality in a southwest Montana neighborhood to determine if material in the air exceeded permitted air quality standards.

The health consultation evaluated air quality in Butte from March to September 2019 for particulate matter and metals, the "Montana Standard "reported. The report is under scientific review and is expected to be made available to the city once completed.

The report was led by the state Department of Public Health and Human Services under an agreement program with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Ambient air quality collected at the former Greeley Elementary School near the Montana Resources mine was analyzed in the report, state epidemiologist Laura Williamson said.

"We were hearing from the community that ambient air quality is a concern, and the health department has data but not the technical expertise to analyze the data, so we stepped in," Williamson said. The state partnered with the agency to produce a brief report of the analysis.

Vigil held for Montana boy who was beaten to death

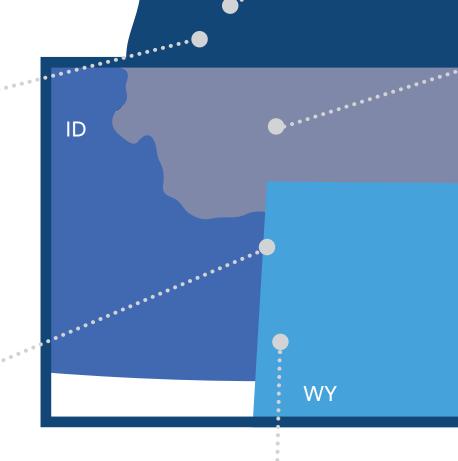
Public scoping begins for Glacier telecommuni

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

West Glacier – Glacier National Park is initiating public scoping for an environmental a improve telecommunications in the park. The proposed action would correct deficiencies computer or data-based communications that support park operations and would also de connectivity in developed areas for non-governmental end-users.

A scoping newsletter with more information is available on the NPS Planning, Environm Comment website at parkplanning.nps.gov/GNPtelecommunicationsplan. Comments c website, or sent by mail to Superintendent, Glacier National Park, Attn: Telecommunica West Glacier, Montana, 59936.

Public scoping is open until March 9.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEST YELLOWSTONE – About 200 people attended a Feb. 23 vigil for a 12-yearold Montana boy who was beaten to death earlier this month.

James "Alex" Hurley of West Yellowstone died on Feb. 3 of head injuries, officials said. His grandparents, James Sasser Jr. and Patricia Batts, and his 14-year-old uncle face deliberate homicide charges. They have not entered pleas.

Alex had been living with his grandparents for about two years and had been taken out of school in West Yellowstone in September, charging documents said.

Prosecutors said Alex's grandmother and uncle were seen in video not allowing him to



use the bathroom, beating him with a paddle and forcing him to remain in a squatting position while he cried in pain. Other evidence indicated he was beaten with a wooden paddle and that his family withheld food from him.

Toni Brey spoke during the vigil, calling Alex an All-American boy who always greeted her with a hug and a smile. "I think of the bravery and the strength it takes to be a light when the darkness is all around you," Brey said. "When it threatens to consume you, to smile when others make you cry." Wyoming winery shows its grape stuff with California medals

BY GABE ALLEN JACKSON HOLE NEWS AND GUIDE

JACKSON, Wyo. – Anthony Schroth, founder and vintner of newly opened Jackson Hole Winery, believes climate provides many benefits. In addition to the fact that it is cheaper to cold-stabilize the wine, low micr process leads to wine that is low in sulfites.



CC PHOTO

And while purveyors of French and Californian wine might be sh Schroth has some evidence to back it up.

In January, Jackson Hole Winery took home four awards at the S annual wine competition. The 2020 competition hosted more that over 6,000 wines from over 1,000 wineries. Jackson Hole won gol medals for its pinot noir, chardonnay and Rendezvous Red.

While the wine is produced and aged in Jackson, the winery grow and Washington state.

According to Schroth, a gold medal at the San Francisco Chronic landmark win. "From my point of view, it's the best wine competi

cations plan

ssessment on a plan to s in radio, phone and evelop guidelines for

ment and Public an be posted to this tions Plan, PO Box 1,

\$6 million grant to provide lifesaving equipment to law enforcement

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

HELENA – On Feb. 27, Gov. Steve Bullock announced a \$6 million grant to provide 2,200 lifesaving Automatic External Defibrillators to law enforcement across Montana. The AEDs will help first responders rapidly respond to patients in cardiac arrest.

Law enforcement is often first on the scene, especially in rural areas. Studies show patients defibrillated by law enforcement have a higher rate of survival. The announcement took place during the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Game Warden Training Seminar.



CC PHOTO

FWP seekingcomments on proposed temporary FAS closures

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

BOZEMAN – Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is seeking public comment on proposals that would temporarily close two fishing access sites for road construction.

One proposal would close the Ennis Fishing Access Site, located a half mile south of Ennis on the Madison River, during a seven-day, early-season construction window between April 1 and May 15. Another proposal would close the Mallard's Rest Fishing Access Site, about 13 miles south of Livingston on the Yellowstone River, for three weeks between May 1 and June 15.

As there are no access alternatives to these sites, and for public safety, a full closure in both sites is required during road construction. FWP will work to notify the public in advance of these closures.

Comments on these proposals can be submitted in several ways: by email to jpape@ mt.gov, by phone at (406) 577-7873, or by writing to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Attn: Jay Pape, 1400 S. 19th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718.

The deadline for comments is April 3.

US pushes changes to Western land plans that judge blocked

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS – U.S. Interior Department officials are seeking to bolster their case for easing restrictions on energy development, mining and grazing in Western states inhabited by a declining bird species.

A federal judge in Idaho blocked the Trump administration plans last year over concerns that they could harm greater sage grouse, a ground-dwelling bird.

Assistant Interior Secretary Casey Hammond says a new set of environmental studies published Feb. 21 clarifies the steps the government will take to conserve the bird's habitat. The Interior Department opened a 45-day public comment period on the studies that cover millions of acres of public lands in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon and California.

Sage grouse have been in decline for decades due to habitat loss and other factors, and their numbers dropped sharply last year across much of their range. Sage grouse territory in Montana, Washington and the Dakotas was not impacted by the proposed changes.

The legal dispute over the administration's proposal is before Judge B. Lynn Winmill In Idaho. The case dates to 2016, when environmental groups sued the Obama administration over a previous set of rules that they described as insufficient to protect grouse

....

from heading toward extinction.

Buy-back program meant to return reservation land to tribes ASSOCIATED PRESS

CASPER, Wyo. – Land owners on a Wyoming Native American reservation will be able to sell their property to the federal government through a program meant to return ownership to the reservation's two tribes.

The "Casper Star-Tribune" reported Feb. 23 that the U.S. Department of the Interior's Land Buy-Back Program for tribal nations will enable the purchases on the Wind River Reservation. Participation in the program is voluntary and only tribal members with allotments will be eligible to sell their land.

Much of the property was allotted to tribal members by the government but is often underutilized due to a tangle of ownership. The original allotments have been passed down through generations for the reservation's tribes to control, but tangled ownership webs can result in hundreds or thousands of owners of a single allotment.

After the property is returned to tribal jurisdiction, the land could be used for purposes including economic development, right-of-ways, cultural preservation and housing.

"I've seen allotments that have 1,000 owners," said Lynnette Grey Bull, who is leading the federal program's efforts on the reservation. While property is tied up among multiple owners, the land fails to serve any beneficial purpose, Grey Bull said. 'This way, the land goes back to the tribes."

s making wine in a colder obial activity during the aging

ceptical of these claims,

an Francisco Chronicle's in 60 judges, who evaluated ld for its Outlaw and silver

vs its fruit in Napa, Sonoma

ele Wine Competition was a tion," he said.

How far we've come The evolution of search and rescue in and around Big Sky

BY BRANDON WALKER

BIG SKY – You're driving Highway 191 through Gallatin Canyon when you see a car accident. It's spring of 1991, so there aren't any guardrails yet, and when the vehicle went off the road it landed in the middle of the river. A family is stranded on top of the car, surrounded by heavy spring runoff, and no one can help them. Eventually the water sweeps them away.

Three of the four white crosses below Deer Creek in Gallatin Canyon are constant reminders of this tragic story.

The following year, a group of six community members formed the Big Sky Search and Rescue team. Ed Hake, a founding member and a current board member, cited that horrible day as one of multiple instances that drove the group to found the BSSAR team.

A sector of the Gallatin County Sheriff's Department, BSSAR is one of 11 branches in Gallatin County's search and rescue hierarchy. GCSAR also includes an Alpine team, West Yellowstone search and rescue, the Civil Air Patrol and the Western Montana Search Dogs, to name a few.

"We are so resource-rich in this county, with the volunteer skill sets we have, that we created individual groups that were technical experts at alpine climbing, skiing, snowmobiling, divers, dogs ..." said retired Gallatin County Sheriff's office search and rescue commander Jason Jarrett. "Three groups are generalist groups—West Yellowstone, Big Sky, and the [Sheriff's] posse. They do a little of everything, but then they're supported by those technical specialists."

GCSAR formed in 1986 with the passing vote of a mill levy, which provided funding for training, daily operations, and equipment.

In BSSAR's infancy, the team's volunteer members provided their own equipment. "It was just personal equipment, whatever we had," Hake said. At times, the organization even used snowmobiles from Hake's business, Canyon Adventures.



A Big Sky Search and Rescue member is pictured repelling down a snow-covered cliff face. PHOTO COURTESY OF BSSAR

According to Big Sky Resort Tax records, after BSSAR received its first public funding from the resort tax board in 1994, the team began purchasing first aid supplies, gear and vehicles. The group now funds regular trainings every month and finished construction on its own building in 2009. The BSSAR "cache," as it's called, provided a permanent home for the organization and its equipment, but most importantly, a place to meet and prepare for a SAR mission and hold trainings.



Members of the Big Sky Search and Rescue squad after the completion of a recent rescue. PHOTO COURTESY OF BSSAR

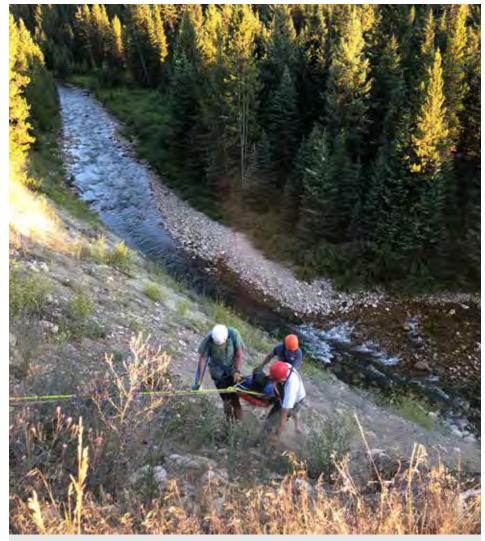


Members of Big Sky Search and Rescue in action on a winter day. PHOTO COURTESY OF BSSAR

Prior to construction of the building, a modest truck and trailer located near Canyon Adventures served as the organization's headquarters, according to current BSSAR President Jeff Trulen.

An experienced backcountry snowmobiler, Trulen has been involved with BSSAR since 2005. He originally joined the team as "a way to get to know people and hang out with like-minded folks," he said. "Plus [it] was good Karma for all the dicey stuff we somehow managed to survive back in the day."

Today, the Big Sky squad has grown from the original six founding members to more than 40 volunteers, many of whom are also firefighters, paramedics and ski patrollers. "The people that we have on search and rescue now are some of the best trained people in Montana, if not the entire western U.S.," Hake said.



GCSAR has been expanding, as well, with more than 150 volunteers lending a hand throughout the region. "It is much more capable, much more consistent, and much more nimble in its abilities to solve the problems that our community finds itself in," said Jarrett, a 24-year veteran of the GC Sheriff's office who was also involved with search and rescue for more than 35.

Gallatin Country Search and Rescue, which is the busiest SAR county in the state and immediate surrounding area, fielded 101 distress calls in 2018 according to the Gallatin County Search and Rescue strategic plan.

"The interesting piece is that we by far have more activity than anybody else around," Jarrett said. "I mean, several states around. We run about 100 calls a year, [and] the next busiest places are running 50 [or] 60 calls a year. It's a very outdoor activity-oriented community, all the way to West Yellowstone. We don't have people that're more gravity challenged than anybody else, we just have so many more people outside."

Of those calls, nearly two-thirds of the individuals requesting help are Gallatin County locals, according to GCSAR's strategic plan. Big Sky accounts for about 25 percent of GCSAR call volume annually, and the rescues are usually in response to common injuries, Jarrett explained. According to Trulen, the BSSAR president, Big Sky Search and Rescue specifically responded to 19 distress call in 2019, which was less than a typical year. The amount of calls averages around 24 each year has remained relatively constant since the organization's inception.

Members of Big Sky Search and Rescue make their way back up a steep hillside. PHOTO COURTESY OF BSSAR

But each call is different, so rescuers must not only be skilled, but flexible. "It feels good to be in a position to help people who are not having such a good day. Each call is different in that you could be dealing with the issue for two hours or two days...or in rare cases two [to] three months," said Trulen.

Now 28 years later, Hake is the only founding member still involved in BSSAR. "Very, very proud of what Big Sky Search and Rescue has become," he said. Looking back, he believes things could have gone differently in 1991, if only someone had the knowledge and equipment to help. To this day, he carries his rescue gear with him everywhere he goes—especially in the spring.

$OUTLAW_{m}$

News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

HATCH to foster Peak to Sky with PURPOSE

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY – HATCH founder Yarrow Kraner had a "seminal" moment standing in the audience at the first Peak to Sky concert in July 2019.

"I looked around to see who was co-creating and sharing that moment with me, sharing that joy," Kraner said. "I realized there were people from all over, not just Montana, who had flown in from cities like New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chicago. I recognized a real opportunity to harvest the collective brainpower assembled to create tangible impact locally and globally."

Even after the second and final night came to a close, a notion stuck with Kraner—the event could be given a purpose larger than providing two days of music-based entertainment.

So he approached Outlaw Partners, the Big Sky media, marketing, and events company—and publisher of this newspaper—that produced Peak to Sky, with a pitch: At the summer 2020 iteration of the groundbreaking concert event, HATCH would facilitate sustainability and zero-waste community-building initiatives via their "HATCH Lab Design Sprints" model known for summoning actionable change in rapid fashion.

"I was excited to have HATCH approach us and think it's a really strong match," said Eric Ladd, founder, CEO of Outlaw Partners. "We're inspired to try to curate some big-picture thinking with even bigger results."

Annual HATCH summits are networking events specializing in curated and hyper-focused cohorts that bring seemingly unrelated minds from diverse industries and talents to collaborate meaningfully on some of the world's most pressing challenges.

The HATCH Lab "Design Sprints" model will be applied to the second annual Peak to Sky concert event, with set dates of Aug. 7 and 8, where the sheer influence of Big Sky, rendered through it's often famous and powerful residents, will be tapped to tackle what some say is the ultimate issue: remedying the rapidly accelerating effects of climate change via those sustainability and zero-waste community focal points.

The notion is a significant continuation of last year's Peak to Sky sustainability efforts, in which more than 1,000 pounds of material were compiled for recycling—with only nine pounds of plastic bottles collected in total—thanks to mostly compostable and aluminum serving materials and collection services provided by 406 Recycling.

"Some specific talking points that have already been discussed for sprints are eliminating single-use plastic use on a community-wide basis, examining more sustainable ways to handle food waste and moving Big Sky to a completely green, clean energy source," Ladd said.

HATCH has deep experience in spearheading such out-of-summit success, leading 160 executives from corporate and NGO organizations in 2019 in an Ocean Plastics Leadership Summit, totaling more than \$250 billion in aggregate revenue participation from Dow, Nestle, Procter & Gamble, Coca Cola, Clorox, Unilever, GE, HP, Kimberly-Clark and SAP along with international non-profits such as 5 Gyres, Greenpeace, National Geographic, Ocean Conservancy and the World Wildlife Fund, among others.

In theory, a handpicked network of minds in attendance in August, particularly those of community and industry leaders, will meld their spheres of influence for greater goods.

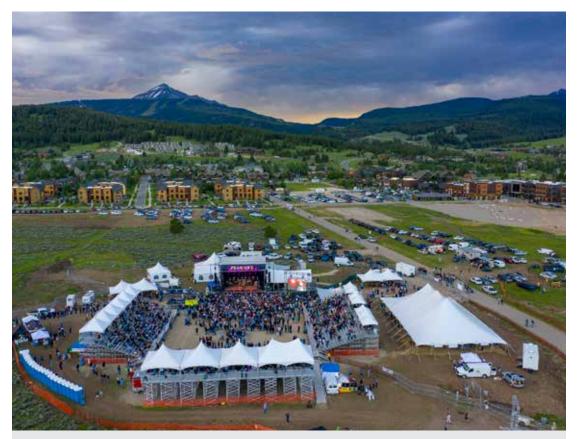
Kraner noted additional "ingredients" made the setting primed for such a seminal moment.

"I've been around this area for a long time and have been involved in many large productions, but that was next level, totally pro, and the talent on stage was unlike anything I'd ever seen here," Kraner said. "Top 10-list musicians on stage, and you could tell they were having so much fun after time spent enjoying outdoor time in Montana before performing ... It impacted the energy."

It's no small observation coming from Kraner who's been ranked among the top 100 creative people in the U.S.

"We're thinking about the archetypes we want present to be able to implement lasting solutions, the different players," Kraner said. "You definitely need the CFOs, CMOs, CIOs, and CEOs in the room... the decision-makers that can implement and navigate the massive ripple effects in the supply chain and businesses. We'll also have local students a part of this. They're not bound by norms and biases that are learned over the years that what's not possible when approaching problem-solving. These experiences also tap the insights of future leaders, and expand their horizons on what's possible."

Due to Big Sky's relative infancy, at least as far as Big Sky's chapter of global renown is concerned, Kraner cites a unique opportunity to weave these concepts into the very fabric of the community and its culture, versus "retro-engineering" change in response to crisis.



Tapping the energy of Peak to Sky, the people present including the world-class musicians—and HATCH's global network of experts in this area, there's a real platform for HATCH to propel the energy of those sprints into an executable game plan for one of the best up-and-coming resort towns in the nation.

The crowd gathering in preparation for evening performances at the First annual Peak to Sky concert event, returning this August for a second iteration. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

And the buck doesn't stop there.

"If we're successful in harnessing best practices to move toward becoming a model sustainable community, [We can] create an actionable map for communities everywhere," Kraner said, capping on the potential turnkey scalability of the sustainable models conceived in the Peak to Sky Design Sprints.

Of course, Peak to Sky with PURPOSE begins with the music, but HATCH could feasibly set the high-water mark for musical events everywhere.

"This isn't just a concert catering to several thousand people that just want to have fun," Kraner said. "[We will] shine light onto problems in ways that have never been done before."

Interested in learning more about HATCH or being considered for a Peak to Sky with PURPOSE sprint cohort? Email Yarrow Kraner at yarrow@hatchexperience.org

Tickets for Peak to Sky go on sale on March 18. Get yours at peaktosky.com

$OUTLAW_{M}$

News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

Big Sky PBR returns for 10th year Tickets on sale March 2

OUTLAW PARTNERS

Outlaw Partners, event producers of Big Sky PBR and publisher of this newspaper, is thrilled to announce that we're upping the ante for this year's music scene after the bull riding. We're celebrating 10 Years of Big Sky PBR this year so big bulls, big acts and big sound are heading to Big Sky!

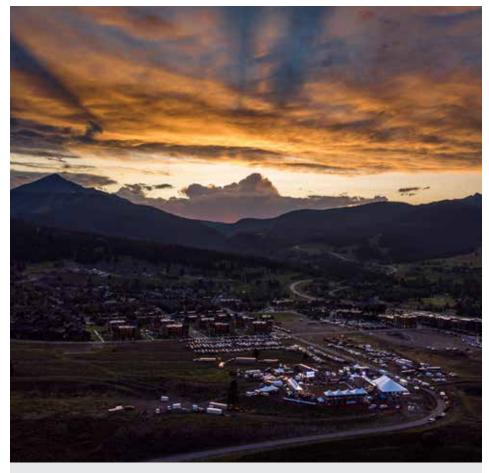
Legendary singer-songwriter Robert Earl Keen will hit the SAV stage at the PBR Arena on Saturday, July 25 for what is sure to be an unforgettable evening of storytelling and music that have made the Houston, Texas native a renowned performer.

Jason Boland & The Stragglers, the gritty, honkytonk Texas Country/ American Red Dirt band will warm up the stage on Friday, July 24 with their chart-topping hits and iconic country sound.

This summer, July 23-25, Big Sky PBR, seven-time Event of the Year, will stomp into Town Center for three nights of action-packed bull riding, mutton bustin' for the kiddos, live entertainment, an enhanced VIP experience and a new vendor basecamp located at the Plaza at The Wilson Hotel.

Tickets for bull riding include access to the nightly music events and go on sale Monday, March 2 at 9 a.m. MST online only at bigskypbr. com. Limited music-only tickets will also be available online at bigskypbr.com beginning March 2.

So, save the dates, dust off your hats and shine up your boots. We'll see you there!



The iconic, eponymous setting for the Big Sky PBR—a sure factor in the seven-time PBR Event of the Year designation. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO



One hand in the air! Thems the rules. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

'Roll Tide' Richard "Dick" Allgood | May 20, 1944 – Feb. 22, 2020

BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR

BIG SKY – On Feb. 22 at 4:44 p.m. the Big Sky community lost one of its own. Richard "Dick" Allgood died at his home in the Legion Villa apartments in Bozeman after a brave



On Jan. 15, 2018, Dick Allgood was presented with the 2017 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation, which recognizes standout Montana veterans who served the country and continue to serve their communities. Allgood is pictured here with his daughter Alisa, grandson Wylie, and son-in-law Tyler. PHOTO BY SUSAN GIANFORTE battle with stage four lung cancer. He was 75.

The time of day was a fitting one, said Allgood's daughter Alisa. "That's called 'Angel time' when the numbers line up," she said.

A former Air Force pilot during the Vietnam War and then a helicopter rescue pilot, Allgood has been a staple of the Big Sky community since the late 1970s when he and Alisa began vacationing here.

Allgood lived in Florida after his service in the Air Force but decided to leave Miami and a career in commercial real estate to move to Big Sky in 1992 after Hurricane Andrew struck, leaving the seaside town—and the Allgood's home—devastated. "He called me up at college and said, 'I have a U-Haul packed and I'm moving to Montana," Alisa said. "He was a really good teacher. He was a really good father. He

was unshakable and unwavering, loyal, confidant, friend, teacher. He was always there to help you make good choices and help you learn to make better ones."

In 1993, a few months after arriving in Big Sky, Dick Allgood opened Allgood's Bar and Grill, which he ran for the next 18 years. After selling the business, now Broken Spoke Bar and Grill, in 2011, Allgood had planned to retire. He visited various businesses during that time, a hobby that earned him the nickname "Drive-around Dick."

"He would drive to the bank on free cookie day, go hang out at the Conoco to talk with people," Alisa said. And he would repeat his favorite sayings: "He had 'The multiple p's': Prior planning prevents piss-poor performance. He would say, 'Kid, you gotta stay five miles ahead of the airplane."

After earning the nickname, Dick began shouldering administrative work for Lynne Anderson, owner of The Country Market in Big Sky Meadow Village. While he had a sincere smile and is described as kind and generous by many community members, he wouldn't suffer fools, according to Alisa. "He could come across as kind of gruff, and he didn't put up with putzes," she said. "But if you needed a hand or someone to talk to, he was there. It would be his wish to not let the glitz and the glamor overrun everybody's human nature."

Allgood, a proud member of the University if Alabama's Class of '66, was active with Big Sky's local American Legion post since he moving to the area—he helped raise a significant amount of money to help fund a veterans' cemetery at Sunset Hills Cemetery in Bozeman. The two-acre plot is near the Vietnam memorial on the grounds. For nearly 30 years on Armed Forces Day—the third Saturday in May—the American Legion Big Sky Post 99 installs and refurbishes white crosses at all vehicle fatality sites on Lone Mountain Trail and Highway 191, from the Yellowstone National Park boundary north to the mouth of Gallatin Canyon. Allgood, the former adjutant for Post 99, participated in the annual white cross program, a national initiative for the American Legion, which was founded in 1919 and has 2.2 million members. He will be remembered for his altruistic nature, his toughness and his love for this community.

"The first thing that comes to me is he was someone who stood up for the community—whether at Allgood's or the American Legion or work for the Country Market—he seemed to give back," said Jeremy Harder, sixth through twelfth-grade technology teacher at Big Sky School District who served with Allgood at Post 99. "On a personal level he was a tough dude. I think it's that kind-hearted, selfless thing though [that I'll remember]."

But the community was what embodied Dick Allgood and Dick Allgood embraced that sense of community.

"I think it always makes you appreciate different things, people," Allgood told EBS in 2018 after undergoing emergency open-heart surgery. "I'm very thankful to the community for the support given, granted, thoughts, wishes and prayers along the way."

From Alisa Allgood's perspective, the Big Sky community has lost a longtime member and one who was a daily reminder that we all must support one another.

"The community lost ... somebody who understood the undercurrent of Big Sky; how people have to work together," she said. "He is a constant reminder—take care of each other: If your brother has a problem let's figure it out together. It was his hope that people would continue to take care of each other and not get lost ... Without that [sense] of community, there is no Big Sky."

Dick Allgood is survived by his daughter, Alisa, her son Wylie Allgood Tollefson, and her husband Tyler Tollefson. A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, Feb. 28, 4 p.m. at Big Sky Chapel, followed by a gathering at Buck's T-4 Lodge.

Skye Aurora Swenson Sep. 19, 2002 | Feb. 20, 2020



It is with shattered hearts that we announce Skye Aurora Swenson, born to Paul and Using her augmentative communication device, Skye would often ask to go outside. She could be found in her three-wheeled runner stroller on the trails around Big Sky and Yellowstone Park or sit-skiing with Eagle Mount at Big Sky Resort and Lone Mountain Ranch. Even just sitting in the sun on the front porch with a soft breeze and sunshine on her body brought a smile to her face.

Skye Aurora Swenson, sporting her infectious smile. PHOTO COURTESY OF DOKKEN-NELSON FUNERAL SERVICE

Lori Swenson in Billings, Montana on Sep. 19, 2002, passed away Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020, after a lifelong battle with complications from congenital CMV. Skye and her family have resided in Big Sky, Montana since 2009.

Skye loved being around people. Her favorite places included the farmers market, church and school, where she especially enjoyed working with the preschool and elementary children who accepted her differences seamlessly. A special thanks to her 1-on-1 special education teacher, Mrs. Julia Tucker, who always believed in her and was willing to dig deep every day using low- and high-tech methods to help her express what she knew. Most of all, Skye loved her family. Her expression of joy at seeing, hearing and getting hugs from her siblings, parents and relatives will always be remembered. Skye is predeceased by her paternal grandfather, Dr. Robert Swenson. She is survived by her parents, Paul and Lori Swenson; siblings, Solae and Soren "Rin" Swenson; aunts, Jill Danieli, Laureen Danieli, Kari Swenson and Johanna Swenson; uncle, Brian Danieli; grandparents, Janet Swenson, Bill Danieli, Phyllis MacIsaac and Fred O'Keefe; great-grandmother, Mildred MacIsaac; cousins, Connor and Mia Danieli; and extended family.

The family would like to thank the Big Sky community for accepting and loving Skye. We have always known that Skye held a special place in people's hearts, but it isn't until now that we are learning how much she impacted their lives. We are also grateful to the medical community in Seattle, Kalispell, Billings, Bozeman and Big Sky. They helped Skye and her family have a quality life until the very last day.

Skye will always be remembered for her smile, unending strength and infectious laugh. A Celebration of Skye's Life will be held at the Big Sky Chapel in Big Sky, Montana at 11:00 a.m. on March 21, 2020. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Skye's name to Eagle Mount Bozeman.

Arrangements are in the care of Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service. dokkennelson.com

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ENVIRONMENT & OUTDOORS



SECTION 2:

OUTDOORS

ENVIRONMENT &



Proposed 'glampground' on Gallatin River concerns neighbors

DNRC calls potential underwater utility lines 'safe depth' as developer seeks permitting

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BOZEMAN – A landowner on the Gallatin River near Gallatin Gateway is seeking to develop his property into a riverside "glampground," eliciting concern from his neighbors. The proposed "Riverbend Glamping Getaway" would offer a riverside stay in one of 37 canvas wall tents or 20 Conestoga wagons near the town of Gallatin Gateway, population 850.

According to the project's developer Jeff Pfeil, the glamping resort is intended to connect people with nature and make the camping experience more accessible without requiring a person to have a camper or tent gear. Each wall tent and wagon would include a bathroom and small kitchenette and the property would also include a tiki bar, patio lounge and children's playground.

As Pfeil seeks the necessary permits to develop his site, which would require several land- and water-use permits that authorize installing natural gas, fiberoptic and sewer lines beneath the Gallatin River, neighbors and concerned citizens have filed more than 250 complaints against the proposal.

While progress is stalled as several state agencies, the Gallatin County Department of Planning and Community Development, and Gallatin Conservation District consider Pheil's permit applications, emotions are running high on the Gallatin.

Floodplain woes

"It's representative of a lot of common issues that seem to be going on in Montana," said Megan Buecking, a former Big Sky School District art teacher who lives near the property proposed for the glampground. "You see how much development is going on. I think people need to be really cognizant of how it's affecting the environment."

Buecking added that ultimately the development isn't the problem, pointing out that tourism has allowed the Bozeman area to grow and prosper, but Buecking calls for "thoughtful growth." Among her chief concerns for the Gallatin glampground is the fact that the site exists on an island in the Gallatin River that's prone to flood.

In January 2019, Pfeil purchased approximately 16 acres of land west of Gallatin Gateway's downtown. The land is adjacent to Gateway South Road in a place where the Gallatin River splits into an east and west channel. There are three landowners with property on the so-called Gallatin island on the north side of Gateway South Road: Pfeil, Dick and Donna Shockley, and Peggy and Gordon Lehmann.

"The Gallatin River is a source of such great pride and prosperity to Montana," Dick Shockley said. "There are so many concerns and it's in the floodplain. There is some [land] that's above the floodplain, but historically it has been flooded."



A view of the Gallatin River from the Mill Street Bridge looking north toward where a proposed pipeline under the river would supply utilities to a glamour campground on the left side of the river. PHOTO BY MEGAN BUECKING

Due diligence

Pfeil, who has lived in Bozeman for 20 years, hired engineering professionals to ensure the development is in accordance with the law and guide him through obtaining the necessary permits.

"At the end of it all, my wife and I are very avid outdoors people," he said. "I'm an entrepreneur at heart and it felt like a fun way to share the outdoors with others. People are not as connected to nature and they grow farther away from it every day."

Ultimately, Pfeil said the Gallatin River would be the highlight of the camping stay. "The river is the recreation," he said. "[It's] right out the front door so we'd never hurt it."

Pfeil added that currently trash and debris gather all along the banks of the Gallatin, but he intends to maintain his streamside and keep it clean. "Regular maintenance is going to be an obvious part of our business model and stewardship plan."

Shockley, who has resided in his home west of the Pfeil place for 45 years, says he's seen the Gallatin River flood it's banks and sweep across his property numerous times, even washing away garden beds and flooding Gateway South Road. "I'm here to tell you that when the Gallatin floods, it's a huge force."

Shockley, Buecking and the Lehmanns have expressed concern over the fact that in order to provide municipal wastewater services and utility hookup, NorthWestern Energy will have to bore underneath the east channel of the Gallatin River and run a line for natural gas and an additional line will be installed for fiberoptic and waste water.

"It's one thing to be concerned about this project," Shockley said, "but it sets a precedent. What if something similar comes up down the road or up in the [Gallatin] Canyon?"

During floods, Buecking explained, fast-moving water erodes sediment and can expose buried lines, leaving the potential that effluent could seep into the river. Shockley added that with the proposed number of sites, some 200 people could be concentrated on 16 acres, leading to plastic liter in the Gallatin and a disturbance to the wildlife that live on the land, which has historically been used as cow pasture. Additionally, Pfeil said the tent sites will be placed in an area of the property that was recently reassessed as occurring above the floodplain. The tents will be on pads built 2 feet above the existing grade. The sites for the Conestoga wagons, which fall within the floodplain, will be fitted with quick-connect utility lines so they can be moved in the event of an imminent flood.

In order to supply utilities to the campsites, Pfeil and NorthWestern Energy have applied to install lines under the Gallatin River. It's a move Pfeil says is far better than relying on septic tanks that must be frequently maintained and could seep effluent in the event of a flood.

Jo Dee Black, a spokeswoman for NorthWestern Energy, said the utility is obliged to serve the energy needs of its customers. "As with all our natural gas lines, they are non-liquid carrying infrastructure," she wrote in an email to EBS. "Natural gas lines under a river or stream bed are often in a floodplain, which requires permitting from the municipal jurisdiction."

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation as well as the Gallatin County Planning Department are currently reviewing Pfeil and NorthWestern Energy's applications to install the lines 10 feet below the streambed.

DNRC Public Information Officer John Grassy said these kinds of requests are not unusual. "There are utility lines that run under a number of rivers and streams in the state," Grassy said. "Ten feet is regarded as a pretty safe depth in terms of dealing with changing river conditions."

Explore Big Sky

THE NEW WEST



BY TODD WILKINSON ebs environmental columnist

What drives extreme athletes or, sometimes, any outdoor-oriented person, to court the perilous edge? Why do some engage in potentially self-cancelling acts of derring-do?

What ethical and moral obligations do people have to loved ones, should they become survivors? How much pressure are sponsored

athletes under to keep pushing the envelope, and what kind of toll does it take on them psychologically?

Why do we have such a weird voyeuristic fascination with desiring to witness people doing extraordinary things and perhaps perishing right in front of us?

These are not obtuse existential questions. They are examined in a new "New Yorker" profile of two Bozeman friends titled "Survivor's Guilt in the Mountains: Alpinists are intimately familiar with death and grief. A therapist thinks he can address the unique needs of these elite athletes."

The piece is written by former Bozeman resident Nick Paumgarten. The story could just as well be featuring heroes and tragic figures in any mountain community or town where extreme sports are venerated.

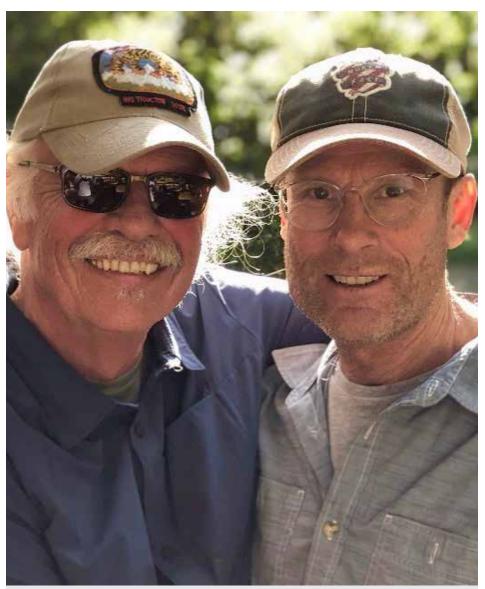
Paumgarten tracks the career of famed mountaineer Conrad Anker and his pal, the local Bozeman psychotherapist Timothy Tate. Tate relates to the world as a sort of modern mystic and he's bestowed with a nickname by Anker. The moniker is "Gandalf," as in the fictional wizard from J. R. R. Tokien's "The Lord of the Rings."

At least part of the background for Paumgarten's investigation began with a series of pieces Tate had written for Bozeman-based "Mountain Journal" as part of his column, Community Psyche. Tate's writings dealt with the trauma of athletes being lost to the mountains, and the grief and search for meaning that settles in hard.

Tate often invites readers to reflect on the ultimate personal inquiry: for what purpose are we here? When we head into the wilderness is it to lose ourselves or find ourselves?

Amid communities where the social persona is all about being "forever young," with steady perpetual streams of 20-somethings to sow their wild oats, and with a higher percentage of middle-aged Peter Pans, public discourse and introspection is often pushed aside.

Climber Anker and Bozeman therapist Tate featured in 'New Yorker'



Timothy Tate, left, and close friend Conrad Anker PHOTO COURTESY OF TIMOTHY TATE

Tate has been his confidante and blood brother. He's had a therapy practice in downtown Bozeman for decades and he admits to being a "shamanistic seeker." He is rapt with Carl Jungian's theory of the archetype, and tales of the quest to find the holy grail and ancient religions, be they indigenous or druid. He is, in the truest sense, a character.

His columns in "Mountain Journal" are popular with readers. They call attention to not only the bright lights of illumination that come with living in outdoor-oriented towns where a premium is placed on spectacular gestures of athletic hedonism, but there are the downsides, the dark side, the shadows and the sometimes wailing pain of self-destruction.

Be the best, the fastest, the most death-defying performer possible; do it for catharsis, for ego or death wish; do it because you think it's important or for legacy or for shattering limits and boundaries, or for an impetus only you can understand and appreciate.

Paumgarten has not produced his long riff to judge. He delves into the topes of adventure as seen or interpreted through the eyes of globally-iconic alpinist Anker and friend Tate, whose writings in "Mountain Journal" helped earn him a gig as a counselor to some of the most talented people in outdoor sport sponsored by The North Face.

Anker's feats are legendary, exhilarating and they've led him to attend more memorials for fallen comrades than most could bear.

His story is the kind of stuff ready made for a Hollywood biopic. And if I may acknowledge a bias here, Anker is fundamentally a good caring person, a consummate introvert, a valued neighbor, a person who thinks deep about the problems of the world. And, as a physical specimen, he's taken himself into the highest rafters of the planet.

I don't want to give too much away about the Paumgarten piece except to say his goal wasn't to perpetuate a cult of hero worship. He lays threadbare the human trajectory of soaring high and falling back again to earth.

For some, it will be a hard and cursing read, viewed as an attack on fun hog culture. For others, it's an insightful glimpse into the compulsions of outdoor rock stars who seem larger than life.

With Anker and friends, Paumgarten has protagonists who are wrestling with the big questions, with the same ones we do—how do we confront our own mortality, what's the value of love and leaving behind more than we've taken or squandered? Tate has his own interpretations. Is he really Bozeman's version of Gandalf?

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. 

BY DAVID TUCKER EBS CONTRIBUTOR

As if we needed another reason to stop eating bacon cheeseburgers, it turns out that greasy foods are clogging more than just our arteries. According to the Big Sky Water and Sewer District, fats, oils and greases, or FOGs, are also clogging Big Sky's sewer system, leading to nasty overflows and damaging vital infrastructure.

"We've all seen the fat that congeals in the bacon pan," said Grant Burroughs, wastewater superintendent for the Big Sky Water and Sewer District. "Now multiply that by a million." That's a rough "estimate" of the volume of FOGs flowing from town's restaurants, bars and hotels, and into the sewer system, but how are they getting there and how can they be stopped?

As with many of the challenges facing the community of Big Sky, the FOG issue has been exacerbated by rapid growth. "The vast majority of the problem comes from commercial businesses," Burroughs said. "We have more restaurants cooking food with butter and grease."

Most restaurants have a solution for separating FOGs from other wastewater, but that solution only works if it's maintained. Grease traps, as they're aptly named, are designed to filter out the majority of the fatty residue that gets washed off dishes and down the drain. Over time, grease builds up in the traps, but if they aren't inspected and maintained, the grease can overflow back into the main wastewater pipes. In the pipes, the grease congeals, causing clogs that ultimately result in overflow.

"Last winter, a 10-inch sewer main got clogged, causing a sewer overflow," Burroughs said. "This is bad for the environment and a real pain to clean. Blocked sewer mains can also back up into a house through the sewer lateral, carrying waste from the house to the main."

As more restaurants come online and the volume of FOGs increases, the problem isn't going to get any smaller. High concentration areas like Town Center and the

Big Sky's FOG problem

Meadow Village, where most of the restaurants are, see the most FOG build up. "We clean these areas year after year, and cleaning the sewer costs a lot of money and time," Burroughs said.

Messy, damaging overflows are just the first part of Big Sky's FOG problem. When FOG-filled wastewater reaches the treatment plant, another destructive process begins. Much like fat coats our arteries and diminishes the function of our heart, FOGs can coat sensors, plug pumps and generally diminish the function of treatment-plant infrastructure. Burroughs said cleaning the equipment slows everything down and is expensive, and coated sensors lead to misleading readings.

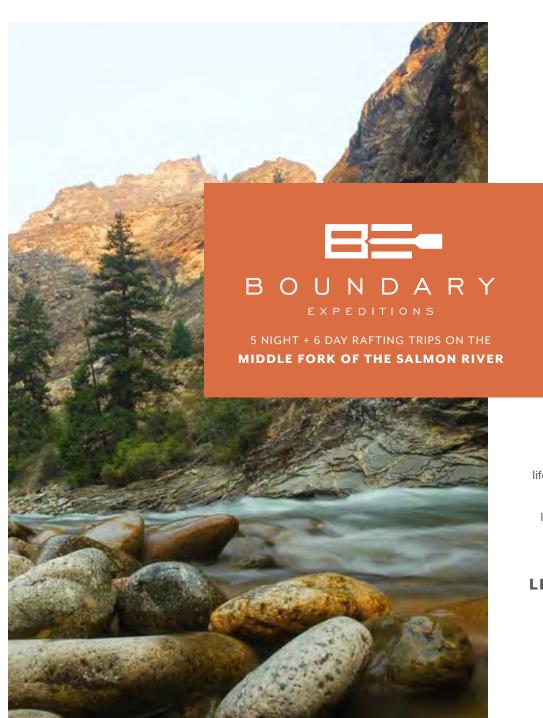
In addition to coating and clogging, FOGs also promote filamentous bacteria, which prevents waste from settling in the treatment process. "We're not getting full treatment of wastewater," Burroughs said. This might be the biggest problem of all. If FOGs are impairing the wastewater treatment plant's functionality, that's a major potential issue for watershed health.

So, what's the solution? As with many things, education and outreach could go a long way.

"We need to change our ordinances to better reflect the problems we see," Burroughs said. "That will help businesses handle this problem." He suggested grease-collection sites around Big Sky where grease-removal companies could repurpose oil for biofuel, which seems like a great way to solve two problems at once, and a great upcycling opportunity.

As for residential sewer systems, Burroughs doesn't see as big of a problem. "Typically, this is more of a commercial thing. We don't really see it in residential sewer-collection systems." If you do cook with a lot of oil or fat, avoid washing it straight down the drain. Throw it out in the bottle or wait for grease to congeal, then wipe it from the pan and throw it in the garbage.

David Tucker is the communications manager for the Gallatin River Task Force.



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REFLEC Thoughts for sustainable living

Innovations to temper climate change

BY KATHY BOUCHARD EBS COLUMNIST

In 1714, the British government decided to offer the Prize of Longitude, £20,000or more than 3 million pounds in today's money—to anyone who could develop an instrument upon which, it can reasonably be argued, they built an empire. The business of shipping the mercantile wealth of their little isle was notoriously susceptible to all manner of hazards, but the one by which a ship sailed past the little West Indian cay or foundered on reefs in the fog for lack of a decent mechanical reading seemed most easily remedied.

A carpenter named John Harrison solved the puzzle with the most accurate chronometer to-date, though the prize money was only grudgingly awarded piecemeal, until King George III intervened. Using the new and ultra-secret navigational advantage, the Royal British Navy established a colonial and mercantile empire which lasted two centuries.

There's a new prize in the world today, the Bezos Climate Pledge. Jeff Bezos, the CEO of Amazon, has pledged \$10 billion of his own wealth to help solve the problem of climate change. He says that the first grants will be awarded this summer. Not much else is known about focus, criteria or how decisions will be made. The man and his company are not without critics, and this action is not the only option available for decreasing the carbon footprint of Amazon. But I am fascinated by the possibilities.

My grand idea, for which I only need a teensy as-yet-uninvented machine, is a household plastic reducer. Take any of those type-1 plastic clamshells, currently unacceptable for recycling here, and insert them into the teensy machine. It reduces airspace by 99 percent, rounds sharp edges and deposits the resulting pellet in my recycling box, ready to return to the place where it was sold.

In my opinion, any business whose vendors use plastic clamshells, or any type of plastic packaging, ought to furnish recycling options to their consumers. If that happened,

we'd immediately see far fewer types of plastic used and far more of it recycled. Remember that less than 10 percent of plastic is recycled in the U.S., and that since it is a petroleum product, plastic has a huge carbon footprint.

Do you have an idea? When I returned from visiting the grands recently, I caught up with several publications which celebrate good news in conservation. What struck me was the number of simple tech solutions used in a variety of problems. The World Wildlife Fund reported that a lion-afflicted cattle herder in Kenya strung flickering LED lights around the cattle enclosure at night, and hasn't lost a cow to lions since. A college student at George Washington University, eating only two meals a day because of the stress of tuition, financial aid and scholarship requirements, came up with Last Call, an online service that connects hungry students to restaurants and cafeterias which can discount their meals to prevent food waste.

India completed the All India Tiger Estimation in 2018 using more than 26,000 camera traps across 20 Indian states, announcing to delighted tiger fans that the feline's numbers are stable and growing. Another techie triumph I read about is the first solar-powered LED fishing net, which reduces sea turtles and other by-catch by 60-95 percent, proving extremely cost effective. Thank you National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Jesse Senko of Arizona State on behalf of sea turtles everywhere.

While I work on my teensy machine, kick your cranium into gear and design the machine that pulls carbon dioxide from the air, or offer to share your Bezos money in partnership with your genius child or grandchild. You could even share the idea of my teensy machine as I am not mechanically gifted. The Bezos Climate Pledgeand I wonder what those Big Sky school kids are dreaming up now?

Kathy Bouchard is a member of the Rotary Club of Big Sky's Sustainability Committee. She has been a Montana resident for 20 years and is inspired to work for sustainability on behalf of her grandchildren.



INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



Yellowstone announces major employee housing improvement initiative

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS, Wyo. – Yellowstone National Park has initiated a major, multimillion-dollar housing improvement effort that will substantially upgrade National Park Service employee housing across the park.

The effort focuses on four goals:

1) Replace 64 outdated trailers with high-quality modular cabins. Yellowstone currently has 64 trailers, built between 1960-1983, that house 80-100 employees annually. The condition of each trailer is extremely substandard and immediate replacement is necessary. In 2020, the park will replace about 35 trailers at Old Faithful, Lake Village, Mammoth Hot Springs and Bechler with high-quality modular cabins. In 2021, the remaining trailers will be replaced. All replacements will be in existing developed areas.

2) Improve the condition of 150 non-trailer and non-historic housing units. Yellowstone is investing millions to upgrade dilapidated employee housing units between 2020 and 2023. Many of these units have not had improvements in decades. Planned improvements range from roofing and siding replacements, to major interior work including new flooring, better insulation and improved heating systems. Over 50 improvement projects are scheduled for 2020.

3) Rehabilitate deteriorating historic homes. The park intends to improve the condition of a wide range of historic housing structures, many that date back to the late 1800s in Fort Yellowstone, a National Historic Landmark, and in other areas of the park. The park is in the process of conducting necessary condition assessments, historic structure reports, and consultations to determine the funding needed and prioritization and execution timelines of this goal.



Current seasonal employee housing in Yellowstone is comprised of outdated trailers installed between 1960 and 1983. NPS PHOTO

4) Add new housing capacity. The lack of available housing in surrounding communities is substantially impacting workforce recruitment. Additionally, park visitation has increased 45 percent since 2000 and requires more staffing to manage park operations. For these reasons, the park is assessing the number of additional housing units that may be needed. New housing units would only be placed in existing developed areas.

About 50 percent of Yellowstone's 800 employees live in park housing, many in highly remote areas.

Over the next 24 months, the park will spend tens of millions of dollars to demolish and replace trailers with high-quality modular cabins, upgrade aging utility lines, perform site improvements including landscaping, and invest in other housing improvement projects.



"Our ability to attract and retain talent in Yellowstone is strongly tied to the availability and affordability of housing options in and around the park," said Superintendent Cam Sholly. "Thanks to the support of Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt and the National Park Service, we now have the funding and support needed to help us begin addressing one of the biggest issues facing Yellowstone's workforce. The goals we have outlined in Yellowstone's housing improvement strategy work not only to replace trailers ... but also to improve the condition of historic and other housing assets, while also looking for better ways to respond to the changing real estate markets in our gateway communities, which have limited private housing options for our employees."

An example illustration of a new modular cabin that would house park employees. About 35 of these cabins will be constructed in 2020, replacing a number of outdated trailers. NPS DESIGN

All projects will proceed in conformance with requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and any consultation that is necessary. Future public engagement will occur as planning and actions develop specific to the goals.

Public comment sought on Yellowstone River Bridge replacement Deadline March 15

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS, Wyo. – The National Park Service seeks public comment on a proposal to replace the Yellowstone River Bridge in Yellowstone National Park. The bridge is located on the Northeast Entrance Road near Tower Junction.

This project will maintain safe visitor access from the park's Northeast Entrance near Cooke City, Montana, since the bridge is part of the only road corridor in the park that is open year-round and plowed in the winter. Built in the early 1960s, the bridge's concrete deck, sidewalks and parapets have deteriorated.

The Environmental Assessment analyzes impacts to geothermal resources, visitor experience, vegetation and wetlands in the project area. The EA evaluates three alternatives.

In Alternative A, if NPS took no action, the bridge would remain in its existing condition.

Alternative B, the agency's preferred alternative, would replace the bridge with a larger 1,200-foot-long bridge about 500 feet south of its existing location. One mile of new road would be constructed to line up with the new bridge location. Following construction, the existing bridge and approximately 1.5 miles of existing road would be removed, and the area restored.

Alternative C would include construction of a new bridge directly adjacent to and slightly north of the existing bridge. Following construction, the existing one would be removed. The new bridge would be about 600 feet long and the road that approaches the bridge would be moved north.

Alternative B and C would reconstruct and widen the 24-foot-wide bridge to a 30-foot paved width. In addition, 1-1.5 miles of road from Tower Junction to the Yellowstone River Picnic Area would also be widened to a 30-foot width. Both alternatives would reconfigure and expand the Yellowstone River Picnic Area and improve turnouts for vehicles along the road.

Construction would begin in the summer or fall of 2022 and continue through 2024, depending on funding availability.

If the proposed project is implemented, construction delays would vary by alternative. This could range from no delays up to 30-minute delays with occasional two to four-hour delays. There may be temporary closures, including regular nighttime closures, depending on the alternative. The public would be notified of closures in advance if they occur.

Comments must be received by March 15 and may be submitted online, by hand-delivery or by mail. Comments will not be accepted by fax, email or by any other means.

Visit parkplanning.nps.gov/yrb to submit comments online. Hand-deliver comments during business hours to Albright Visitor Center, Attention: Yellowstone River Bridge Replacement, Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190. Mail comments to Compliance Office, Attention: Yellowstone River Bridge Replacement, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190.



The National Park Service is considering replacing the bridge spanning the Yellowstone River near the Northeast Entrance to Yellowstone National Park. NPS PHOTO

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Stemming the tide Managing chronic wasting disease in the Greater Yellowstone

As the deadly wildlife disease known as chronic wasting disease, or CWD, spreads into Montana, EBS is looking closely at what that means for the Greater Yellowstone Region and how wildlife managers will respond. This is the first in a series about CWD in Montana.

PART 1: LAY OF THE LAND

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

LIVINGSTON - Emily Almberg, the state's disease ecologist for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, is vexed by a growing dilemma. The neurological disorder known as chronic wasting disease, found in deer, elk, moose and caribou, has population-level impacts on wildlife herds. Asymptomatic in its early stages but ultimately fatal, CWD can survive in the soil and remain infectious for a yet unknown length of time. There's no live-animal test. And thus far, we still don't know if humans can get it.

Sometimes called "zombie deer disease," the ailment causes stumbling, lethargy and weight loss in its advanced stages. It is caused by prions-misfolded, naturally occurring proteins—normally found in the central nervous system. As the prions build up, they cause a Swiss cheese effect in the nervous system—literally resulting in holes in the brain and degeneration to the point of death.

As test results rolled in at the close of 2019 and early 2020, wildlife managers watched the positive toll tick steadily up in wild herds. Around the same time, the

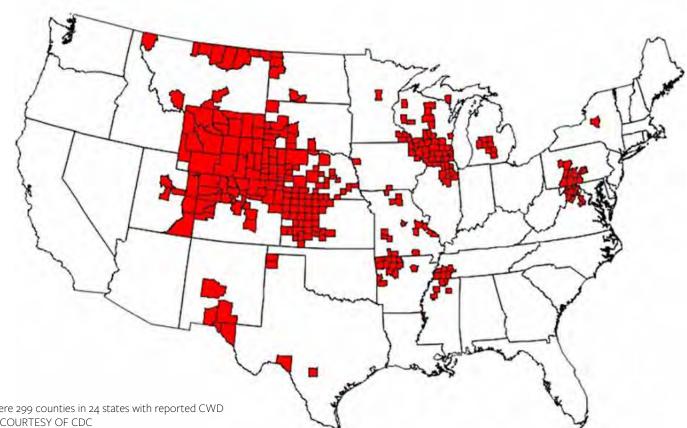
Montana Department of Livestock reported a positive result from a game farm in eastern Montana. The facility is now under quarantine while DOL investigates.

CWD showed up in Montana for the first time in the wild in 2017. and as it continues to pop up in new areas, state wildlife officials are transitioning their practices and considering how things will change if the disease is here to stay.



A new sign at the Sunny Brook Springs Fishing Access Site in Paradise Valley north of Yellowstone National Park warns of the risk dumping carcasses can pose to the spread of chronic wasting disease. PHOTO BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

U.S. presence of CWD by county



As of January 2020, there were 299 counties in 24 states with reported CWD in free-ranging cervids. MAP COURTESY OF CDC



In the late '90s, elk tested positive at a captive game farm in Phillipsburg southeast of Missoula, the only blemish on Montana's pre-2017 record. Livestock officials with the Montana Department of Livestock killed the herd, burned the carcasses and facility equipment, and the game farm closed. CWD hasn't been found in the area since, but its presence on a game farm worried managers.

Montana biologists tested 6,977 deer, elk and moose for CWD in 2019. It's a record number of tested animals, and has led to a record number of positive samples: 142. While our neighbors to the north in Alberta and to the south in Wyoming and Colorado have dealt with the disease for decades, the Treasure State has only begun to manage for CWD since finding the disease in the wild in 2017.

Colorado State University scientists identified the illness for the first time in 1967 in a research mule deer herd in Colorado. At the time, the world had never seen the impacts of the disease in deer or elk, though a similar disease known as scrapies has periodically ravaged domestic sheep herds since the 18th century. CWD and scrapies belong to a class of disease known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathy, TSE, or spongelike degeneration. Among its brethren are mad cow disease, which infected the British beef industry in the early 1990s, and Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease in humans. While the common denominator for all TSEs is the fact that prions cause holes in the brain, it appears the diseases can be species-specific. In the case of CWD, so far it has only infected the deer family, but lab studies about transmission across species remains inconclusive.

By the late '70s and early '80s, researchers found CWD in captive facilities in Toronto, Colorado and Wyoming, and in 1981 it was documented in Colorado's wild elk. After wild mule deer in Colorado and Wyoming began testing positive for CWD in 1985, MT FWP began surveillance efforts in the mid '90s.

Since Montana documented CWD in Phillipsburg, the state's CWD monitoring in wild populations has undulated with the flow of federal dollars to support the cost of testing, with a focus on high-risk areas along the state's northern and southern borders, and near Phillipsburg. Meanwhile, the disease appeared in the early 2000s on a game farm in South Korea and in free-ranging Norwegian reindeer in 2016.

While test results stream in across the nation, wildlife managers and disease specialists are strapped for a solution. "We don't have a lot of options right now in terms of trying to manage [CWD]," said Jonathan Mawdsley, a science advisor for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, during a panel discussion on CWD held in Bozeman in 2018.

"Removing the disease agent is incredibly difficult," Mawdsley said, explaining that toxic compounds like lye or bleach have been used with some success to destroy the prion, but because it is a protein and not a living organism the disease agent can't just be killed-it has to be destroyed. Scientists still don't know how long CWD remains infectious in the ground, but Mawdsley said scrapies has been found to survive for 16 years.

NEW POSITIVES

When the dreaded positive result arrived in Montana in 2017 from a test center at Colorado State University, MT FWP ramped up its surveillance efforts. In 2019, the agency offered free statewide testing to hunters for the first time to aid surveillance and of the 6,977 samples, about 15 percent were submitted by hunters from across the state.

"[Statewide testing] gave us a glimpse into populations across the state," said Almberg, the MT FWP disease ecologist. "In many places we didn't get enough samples to say it was absent, but we did get a bunch of new positives that we probably would not have found otherwise, at least not really soon."

Among those samples hunters voluntarily submitted were three that came somewhat as a surprise. MT FWP found the disease in 2017 in wild animals, but hadn't since detected it in species other than mule deer and whitetails. However, in November a hunter-harvested moose near Libby in the northwest corner of the state tested positive, as did an elk killed on private land northeast of Red Lodge. Then, in December, first case of CWD in Southwest Montana was confirmed in a white-tailed deer in the Ruby Valley near Sheridan. "That paints a pretty different picture of CWD in the state than even just a year ago," Almberg said. "It's more widespread than we thought."

The percentage of animals infected varies from less than 1 percent to as high as 7 percent in mule deer, depending on the area, and up to 4 percent in white-tailed deer. In Libby, which has a large urban deer population, up to 13 percent of deer have the disease.



A mule deer buck in Yellowstone National Park, where CWD has yet to be found. NPS PHOTO

KEY FACTS

What you should know about chronic wasting disease

WHAT IS CWD?

CWD is a disease that infects cervids—deer, elk, moose and reindeer. It is caused by prions (abnormally shaped proteins) that destroy the brain of an infected animal, causing the animal to eventually become uncoordinated, emaciated and die. Deer appear to be more susceptible to CWD than elk, moose or caribou, and bucks are more likely to become infected than does.

WHERE IS IT FOUND?

CWD has been found in deer, elk and moose in various parts of Montana. As of January 2020, CWD had been reported in free-ranging cervids in 24 U.S. states and two Canadian provinces, Saskatchewan and Alberta, as well as in reindeer and moose in Norway, Finland and Sweden. It has also been found in farmed cervids in South Korea.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

While researchers don't know much about CWD, they have learned that it appears to impact herds and species differently. Even though it is slow-moving, they believe it could affect large-scale population declines. While CWD has not been reported in humans, researchers haven't proven we can't contract the disease from eating infected animals. Public health officials advise against consuming animals that test positive.

LEARNING FROM OTHERS

Scott Talbott witnessed the perplexity of CWD in Wyoming's wild deer and elk herds for the entirety of his 34-year career. The former director of Wyoming Game and Fish, Talbott retired at the beginning of 2019. When he spoke during the Bozeman CWD panel in 2018, he still led the agency.

"All of us face our own unique set of circumstances when it comes to this disease," he said to the audience of mainly journalists and outdoor writers. "It's interesting to me how little is actually known, not only by agency people, but going out and talking to the public."

Talbott said Wyoming's attempts to eradicate infected small herds were unsuccessful, and the disease has continued spreading. With the prion able to sustain itself in the soil, CWD is conflagrated further by wildlife moving around on the landscape, often over long distances. He cited studies in Wyoming indicating mule deer migrate in excess of 250 miles from central Wyoming up into Idaho annually.

"When you look at those migrations into and out of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, into and out of Colorado as well, the implications for the movement of that disease naturally are pretty significant,"Talbott said.

Biologists in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks opportunistically test for CWD in roadkill and at predation sites. All results in Yellowstone have so far been negative, but a roadkill mule deer buck from Grand Teton tested positive for CWD in 2018.

The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 2018 released recommendations on how to reduce the spread of CWD. Among them is the need for reducing artificial concentrations of wildlife.

Wyoming has the largest complex of feedgrounds on the continent, supporting elk at the National Elk Refuge in Jackson Hole and at 22 state-run feedgrounds in other parts of the state. Wild elk have used these sites where wildlife managers supply hay in the wintertime for more than a century, and according to Hank Edwards, the Wyoming Game and Fish Wildlife Health Laboratory supervisor, you can't just stop the feeding overnight.

"The feedgrounds are incredibly complex," he said, describing the animals' dependence on the feed and the number of stakeholders and livelihoods affected by the feedgrounds, which draw tourists each winter.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Once Montana and Wyoming release their revised CWD management plans in March and April after the wildlife commissions review them, you can participate in the public review process by submitting comments. Health-wise, avoid handling or consuming animals that appear to be sick. If you're processing an animal, wear rubber gloves and minimize your contact with the brain, spinal cord tissues, eyes, spleen and lymph nodes. Dispose of all animal parts in a Class II landfill to prevent accidentally spreading the disease from one area to another. Finally, you can help move the research forward by bringing the head or lymph nodes to MT FWP for free voluntary testing to confirm whether a deer, elk or moose has CWD.

Wyoming has largely taken what some critics call a reactive approach to CWD. "We have proven what happens if you don't do anything," Edwards said. "It's sobering. We have a lot of CWD."

He added that Wyoming is seeing an effect on wildlife herds. Researchers don't know why, but deer tend to be the most susceptible, and bucks are hit harder than does. Edwards said Wyoming has some deer populations that are experiencing 50 percent prevalence and are experiencing a decrease in the number of older bucks.

Edwards mentioned Wyoming's work to create a new management plan, which would identify ways his department could try reducing the disease's spread. The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission is slated to hear the proposal in March, which will be available for public review before final approval.

As Wyoming takes a hard look at how it is going to respond, so too is Montana. A citizen panel and agency working group are working to revise the state's current management plan, which the Montana Fish and Game Commission will consider in April, before opening a public review process.

Additionally, various entities are looking to get to the bottom of the science of CWD, considering how the disease spreads across the landscape, whether it can spread to other species, and the potential impacts of predators.

Read the next edition of EBS to learn more about CWD in the Greater Yellowstone.



Winter biking 101

BY SARA MARINO EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Take a look around the trails of Big Sky, and you'll see that you don't need to put your bike away just because the snow is flying. Winter biking, or fat biking, is a growing sport and you don't need to be a hardcore rider or invest in all new gear to try it out. I spoke with local biking enthusiast and Big Sky Community Organization winter grooming volunteer Matt Jennings to get some tips on how to get started and here's what he had to say.

Layer up. Even though its cold outside, fat biking is a workout like crosscountry skiing. Dress in breathable layers to keep warm and comfortable without overheating. Put on warm socks and winter boots and you'll be set if you find yourself off the trail.

Take it slow. Riding on snow will be slower than what you're used to when riding on dirt. Be aware of conditions on the trail changing from packed snow to ice to soft snow. When riding downhill, stay in control and light on the brakes to avoid skidding off the trail. Keeping your weight to the back of the saddle and your body relaxed also helps.

What to ride. A fat bike comes equipped with tires between 4 to 5 inches wide compared to a typical mountain bike tire that would max out around 2.5 inches. Whereas the tire pressure in a mountain bike is kept around 28 to 30 pounds per square inch, fat bike tires are kept at about 6 psi. This allows the tire to flatten out across the snow, creating a stable surface and flotation. If your bike leaves deep ruts in the snow, let some air out of the tires.

Where to go. If you're new to fat biking, a good place to start will be the groomed community trails in Town Center and the Big Sky Community Park. The trails are wide and mostly flat to give you a good feel for the bike. Once you've mastered that, the Hummocks Trail is a local favorite. This trail is packed down by users, so try to stay on the packed trail or you will find yourself quickly sinking in the snow.



The Hummocks Trail in Big Sky Town Center offers a great location for intermediate fat biking. PHOTO BY MATT JENNINGS

If you're looking to get out of town, consider Harriman State Park, located south of Island Park, Idaho, about a 1.5-hour drive from Big Sky. The park features 24 miles of groomed multi-use trails, and yurts for an overnight stay.

Fat biking is a great way to extend your biking season, stay in shape and just have fun.

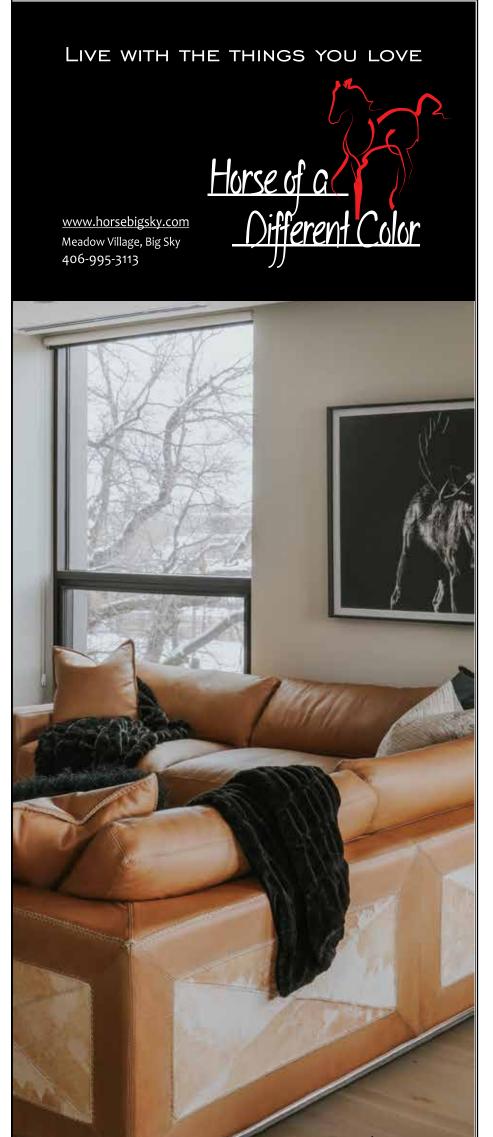
A version of this article originally appeared in the Feb. 1, 2019, edition of EBS.

Sara Marino is the Big Sky Community Organization community development manager. BSCO engages and leads people to recreational and enrichment opportunities through thoughtful development of partnerships, programs and places.



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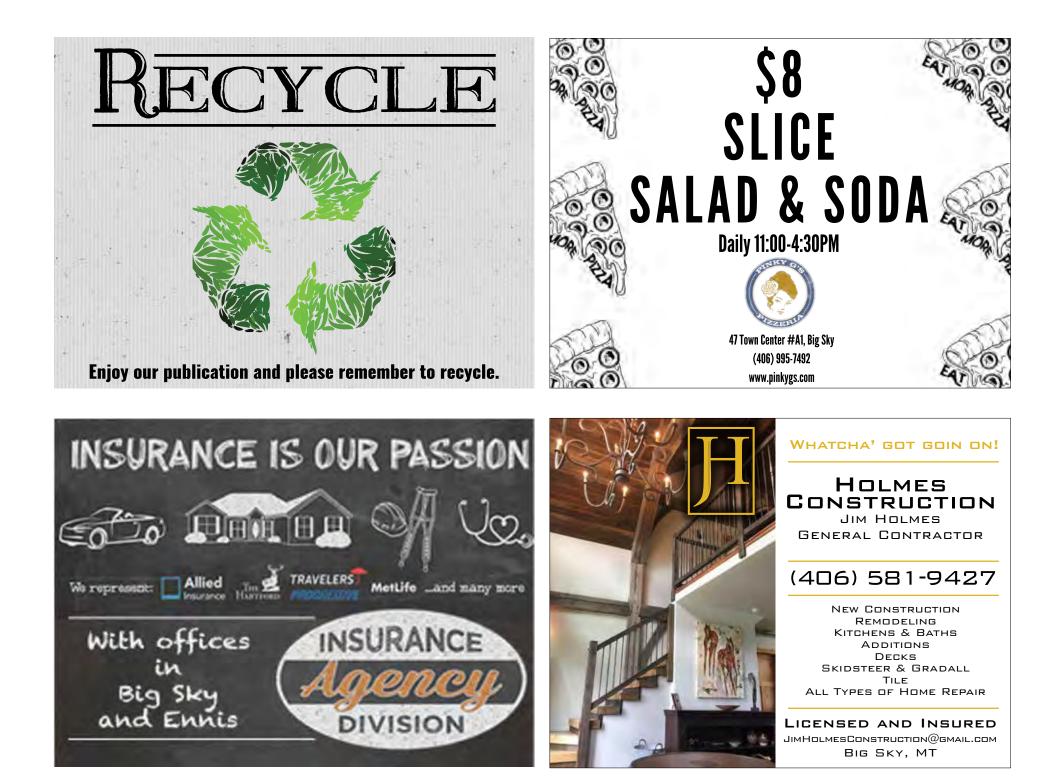


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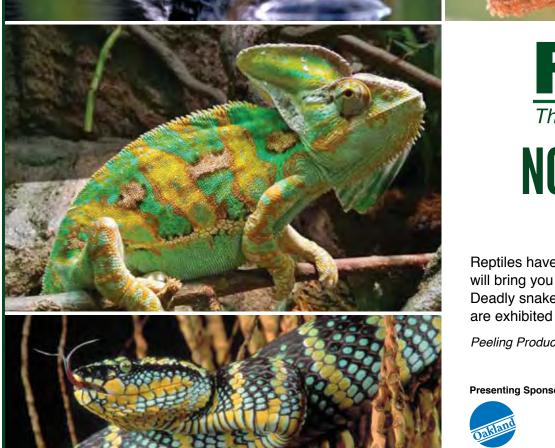
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FWP investigating elk, pronghorn poachings in **Park County**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

BOZEMAN - Game wardens with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks are seeking information on several elk and pronghorn that were killed illegally in Park County in February.

On Feb. 13 wardens received reports of poached elk near the intersection of Trail Creek and Old Yellowstone roads, about 17 miles south of Livingston. After talking with landowners, wardens found that three cow elk had been shot from the road on private property, and the meat was wasted.

Wardens also learned of nine pronghorn-three bucks and six does and fawns-that were poached on private property about 1 mile south of the three poached elk. The pronghorn were also shot from a roadway, and the meat was left to waste. Several houses and buildings were adjacent to where the pronghorn were shot.

Wardens have been gathering evidence from both areas. They found blood trails away from the carcasses, indicating other animals may have been wounded and ran away. One area landowner reported hearing multiple gun shots on the morning of Feb. 13 around 2 a.m.

Anyone with information on either of these incidents is asked to contact Livingston-area Game Warden Drew Scott at (406) 581-7613 or Gardiner-area Game Warden Gregg Todd at (406) 224-5207. Informants can also remain anonymous by calling Montana's poaching hotline, 1-800-TIP-MONT (847-6668). Persons who provide information that leads to a successful prosecution in this case may be eligible for a monetary reward.

On Feb. 13, game wardens with Montana, Fish, Wildlife and Parks received reports of poached elk and pronghorn south of Livingston. PHOTO COURTESY OF MT FWP

Two elk found exposed to brucellosis in Ruby Mountains

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

BOZEMAN - Two elk sampled recently in the Ruby Mountains were found to be seropositive for brucellosis, indicating they've been exposed to the disease. The Ruby Mountains are east of Dillon and are currently outside but near the boundary of the Montana Department of Livestock's Designated Surveillance Area, an area where livestock brucellosis testing and traceability requirements exist due to the presence of brucellosis in elk.

MSU professor studies insect vibrations as model for flying machines

These seropositive elk were two among 100 elk sampled by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks in the Ruby Mountains this year. The sampling is part of the ongoing Targeted Elk Brucellosis Surveillance Project. The goal of the project is to determine the presence of brucellosis in elk and understand the movement patterns of elk populations. This research provides important data on the overlap between elk and livestock on the landscape.

"The discovery of brucellosis-exposed elk in the Ruby Mountains emphasizes the importance of elk surveillance near the boundary of the DSA," said Montana State Veterinarian Martin Zaluski. "We appreciate the continued partnership with FWP which helps us identify where livestock are potentially at risk."

Brucellosis is a bacterial disease that infects cattle, bison and elk and can result in abortion or the birth of weak calves. The disease is primarily transmitted through contact with infected birth tissues and fluids.

Visit fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/diseasesAndResearch/healthPrograms/brucellosis for more information about brucellosis and the Targeted Elk Brucellosis Surveillance Project.

"The question really is, how do we look at these natural systems, learn the concepts behind them and apply them to engineering," Jankauski said.

In his lab, Jankauski has specialized devices that can apply precise forces to wing replicas and insects and measure how they bend and flex. In this project, he will observe how the intricate flight systems of insects such as honeybees and hawk moths respond to vibration. Using that data, his team can develop sophisticated computer algorithms that approximate the vibrating flight behavior. The models can then be used to predict the workings of vibrating structures that don't exist in nature.

MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN - In the engineer's world, vibration is usually a bad thing. It means that something is loose, out of balance or unexpectedly catching the wind, that energy is being wasted or a part is being damaged. Engineers usually try to make vibration go away.

So it's notable that Montana State University engineering researcher Mark Jankauski studies beneficial vibrations that could help create a new generation of flying machines. To do that, he turns to an unusual inspiration: insects.

"Insects have really leveraged vibration to enhance their flying efficiency," said Jankauski, assistant professor in MSU's Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering. "It allows them to do some amazing things."

A fruit fly, for example, flaps its wings 10 times or more with a single nerve pulse to specialized muscles in its midsection, according to Jankauski. The muscle contraction creates a vibration that does the actual flapping, conserving energy and giving the fly the maneuverability that comes with rapid wing motion.

Backed by a new, \$619,000 CAREER grant from the National Science Foundation, Jankauski will develop models that explain the inner workings of vibrational insect flight and how they could be applied to designing drones or other small aircraft.



Mark Jankauski, right, works in his lab with collaborator Erick Johnson on instruments used to study the complex shapes and motions associated with insect flight. PHOTO BY ADRIAN SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ



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Copper enters Big Sky bar, restaurant scene

BY BRANDON WALKER

BIG SKY – Owners of Copper, the popular Bozeman-based restaurant and bar, have officially opened their doors for business in Big Sky Town Center. Located inside the Wilson Hotel lobby, Copper held a steady stream of soft-open events leading up to the grand opening that took place Feb. 21.

Owners kicked things off with a soft opening on Feb. 7 and the official opening on Feb. 11, before the grand opening.

The interior of the Copper location in Big Sky welcomes patrons into a warmly lit space with an abundance of natural light from the large exterior windows. The restaurant is complete with a fireplace, accompanied by dark walls and ample seating throughout the bar and floor area.

Casey Durham, who founded both locations, is a Bozeman native thrilled about the opportunity to set up shop in Big Sky.

When asked in a phone interview with EBS, Durhamn described what he is most excited for with the opening of the Big Sky location: "Probably just the growth and seeing how this location does. The hardest part about Big Sky, somewhat, is you just don't know how fast Town Center is going to grow around you," said Durham, "Obviously, the Town Center is still fairly new, but we do have a lot of confidence in our brand and being accepted in the community."

Durham manages Copper with the assistance of hospitality group Ok Cool, which has played a large role in the successful launch of the second location, Durham said. The original Copper location in Bozeman opened six years ago and isn't the only bar and restaurant venture that Durham has taken on over the years. Aside from the original Copper, he also had a hand in founding Bozeman's Kitty Warren and El Camino bars.

Durham attended Montana State University where he studied marketing and added a minor in entrepreneurship. Initially, he wasn't headed down a career path in the bar and restaurant industry, instead beginning in real estate.

"Real estate development and restaurants kind of go hand in hand somewhat, because you're always looking for restauranteurs to lease your space," Durham said. "I was always putting together opportunities and deals through real estate and [and] my focus is now more a restauranteur than it is a real estate developer."

Similar to its founder, Copper has started down a new path as well. Durham explained that when it was founded the intent was for Copper to be mainly a bar, but over time the food has gained popularity.

"It just started as us trying to create a really cool niche for ourselves in more of a bar concept," he said. "But like I said our food has really started to take off over the last three [or] four years from when we first opened."

Durham and Ok Cool have made it a point to keep the theme and menu as consistent as possible between the two locations, although Durham did note that there are more steak options at the new Big Sky location.

Depending on the interest within Big Sky Town Center, Durham mentioned the possibility of another Copper opening in Big Sky in the future.



The interior of the Big Sky, Copper location as seen through a decorative structure as you enter the restaurant. PHOTO COURTESY OF NICOLE WICKENS, GREEN DOOR PHOTOGRAPHY



Making it in Big Sky: Handy Randy's Maintenance

Q&A with Randy Van Horn

BY BRANDON WALKER

One may not see signs or banners advertising Handy Randy's Maintenance scattered around the Big Sky area, and that's for good reason: there aren't any. Founder and owner Randy Van Horn—the only employee in his business—operates his maintenance services strictly on a word-of-mouth basis and has for nearly 15 years.

Van Horn has a background in a wide array of industries. Before starting his own business, he worked construction jobs, with scrap metal, and even ventured into plumbing.

Born and primarily raised in Morris, Minnesota, it didn't take long for Van Horn to visit Montana for the first time. The first experiences he recalls are his childhood summers spent at his father's Wheat Farm in Fort Benton, Montana. After attending two years at Alexandria Technical College where he focused on production agriculture, Van Horn was steered down a new path by his grandfather who advised him it wasn't an opportune time to start in the agriculture industry. From there he went on to Southwest Technical School where received a degree as a machinist.

Van Horn moved to Livingston and became an avid outdoorsman. He enjoys hiking, camping and skiing among other activities, and was naturally drawn to the Big Sky area. Explore Big Sky caught up with Van Horn to discuss how he operates his small business and what got him started.

Explore Big Sky: How long have you been in the business? When did you originally start?

Randy Van Horn: When I married my wife, Beth, I was working for Harvey's [Plumbing] and she said 'I don't want you driving the canyon once we get married,' and I said 'OK, what do you want me to do?' She says, 'Well you seem pretty handy since I've known you. Why don't you start your own maintenance business; I know enough people up here.' The rest is history.

EBS: What differentiates your service from any other maintenance service provider in the area?

R.V.H.: Maybe a good work ethic. Since I've started my business I've never advertised; it's all been word of mouth and I've never been without work. Somehow work always finds me. I never have to look for it. I'm always busy, sometimes a little bit too busy because I have a hard time saying no.



Randy Van Horn, of Handy Randy's Maintenance, has been servicing the Big Sky community for nearly 15 years. From tiling a floor to replacing a sink to installing banners on the light poles, Handy Randy's Maintenance does it all. PHOTO BY BRANDON WALKER

EBS: What is the biggest obstacle that you face running a business in a Montana ski town?

R.V.H.: From my experience, I don't know that there really is any. I always kid that I have three employees: me, myself, and I. So if I want to take a day off, I have to ask I and I says yes and me says ok.

EBS: What is something you wish you had known before starting your own company in Big Sky?

R.V.H.: I mean for me personally I can't really think of anything ... Throughout my jobs and everything I've been in different positions where I know kind of what to expect. For anybody else getting into a business I would just say, you know, do your homework, don't just jump in with both feet. Find out what you're getting into so you have a better outcome.

EBS: What is the best business advice that you've ever received?

R.V.H.: Always do the best quality work you can for your customers.

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THE LONE PEAK PLAYBOOK

"I think the hardest thing for them was adjusting to the

offensive scheme, without the person who is in one of

those positions consistently,"

Big Horns head coach John

Senior Austin Samuels and junior Michael Romney led LPHS with nine points apiece. Romney added five rebounds and five assists to his stat line. Seniors Nick Brester and Isaac

Gilmore were also strong

contributors for the Big Horns. Brester finished with five points,

eight rebounds, and three steals,

while Gilmore contributed five points and five rebounds for Lone Peak in the loss.

West Yellowstone was paced by Parker Young, who scored

a game-high 14 points, and

showing from Mac Hauck.

Now in the consolation

also received a strong 11-point

Hannahs said. "So, there were

guys playing in parts of the floor

[that] they weren't used to. They just worked their butts off."

Big Horns season comes to an end

BY BRANDON WALKER

MANHATTAN - The Lone Peak High School varsity boys' basketball team ended the regular season with a statement senior night victory over the Sheridan Panthers on Feb. 15, 64-25, before heading to the district tournament. The victory improved the team's regular season record to 3-15.

LPHS drew rival West Yellowstone as their first matchup in the tournament on Feb. 20. The Big Horns were without senior guard Frankie Starz due to injury, but played competitively in his absence, even leading after the first quarter, 12-11.

The Wolverines pulled ahead 21-16 at the half, before creating even more breathing room in the third quarter, as they outscored the Big Horns 21-8 and extended their lead to 18 points. Lone Peak wasn't able to close the gap in the final quarter of play, ultimately falling 51-34.



LPHS junior Nolan Schumacher (20) eyes the basket for a shot against West Yellowstone defenders on Feb. 20. Lone Peak fell in their District tournament matchups with the Wolverines and the White Sulphur Springs Hornets on Feb. 21. PHOTO COURTESY OF **RICH ADDICKS**

bracket, LPHS was matched up with the White Sulphur Springs Hornets, whom they had recently beaten by eight points on Feb. 7 on the Hornets homecourt.

In this Feb. 21 matchup, the Hornets came out victorious, 52-37. White Sulphur Springs won every quarter against Lone Peak en route to knocking them out of t he tournament.

LPHS found themselves trailing by half a dozen after the first quarter and 10 at the half. White Sulphur Springs continued to slowly widen their lead. After the third quarter they held a 14-point advantage, before eventually winning by the 15-point margin of victory.

"Their leading scorers were a little more aggressive," Hannah's said. "They got to the basket a little more consistently than they did when we beat them in White Sulphur Springs.".

Starz returned to action for the Big Horns, leading the team with 13 points, but it wasn't enough to slow down the Hornets. Samuels poured in 11 points, while Romney chipped in six for Lone Peak in the losing effort.

Sam Davis paced the Hornets with a game-high 14 points in the victory.

"Our success was certainly relative; you know it didn't come in the form of a win-loss record. It came in forming relationships and bonding and preparing to improve each week, which we absolutely did," Hannahs said. "... There's never been a question, in my head about the guys' commitment and how hard they work." The Big Horns will graduate four seniors from this year's team.

Box Scores	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Totals
Lone Peak	12	4	8	10	34
West Yellowstone	11	10	21	9	51

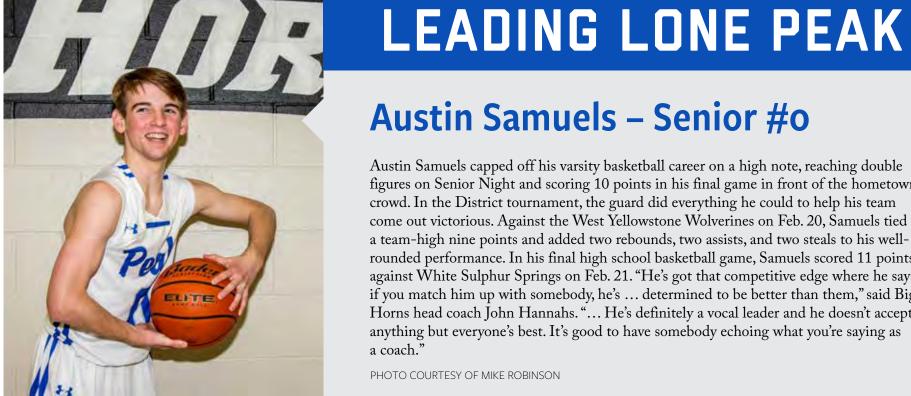
Lone Peak: Austin Samuels 9, Michael Romney 9, Nick Brester 5, Isaac Gilmore 5, Gray Gitchell 2, Nolan Schumacher 2, Bennett Miller 2

West Yellowstone: Parker Young 14, Mac Hauck 11, Sam Coffin 8, Blake Loomis 8, German Vazquez 4, Jackson Gospodarek 3, Taylor Hales 3

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Totals
Lone Peak	10	6	10	11	37
White Sulphur Springs	16	10	14	12	52

Lone Peak: Frankie Starz 13, Austin Samuels 11, Michael Romney 6, Nick Brester 2, Nolan Schumacher 2, Isaac Gilmore 2, Gray Gitchell 1

White Sulphur Springs: S. Davis 14, A. Davis 12, S. Ogle 8, A. Novark 7, K. Hereim 4, T. Hanson 4, A. Collins 3



figures on Senior Night and scoring 10 points in his final game in front of the hometown come out victorious. Against the West Yellowstone Wolverines on Feb. 20, Samuels tied for rounded performance. In his final high school basketball game, Samuels scored 11 points against White Sulphur Springs on Feb. 21. "He's got that competitive edge where he says if you match him up with somebody, he's ... determined to be better than them," said Big Horns head coach John Hannahs. "... He's definitely a vocal leader and he doesn't accept

THE LONE PEAK PLAYBOOK

Lady Big Horns fall to Shields Valley and Gardiner in Districts

BY BRANDON WALKER

MANHATTAN – The Lone Peak High School varsity girls' basketball team capped off their season at the district tournament in Manhattan on Feb. 20 and Feb. 21 with losses to Shields Valley, 49-24, and Gardiner, 36-25.

The Lady Big Horns entered the tournament after closing out the regular season with a 34-27 victory over Sheridan on Feb. 15. That win improved their regular season record to 8-10 and primed them for a rematch with the Rebels, whom they previously beat in a dramatic win that came down to the final seconds.

LPHS entered the contest versus Shields Valley missing junior captain Ivy Hicks and the veteran's presence was heavily missed. Lady Big Horns head coach Loren Bough believes nerves may have factored into the team's performance in the playoffs. "It's almost a cliché to say that freshman are going to struggle in the first game of districts, but I can confirm it's a fact," he said.

The young Lone Peak squad only mustered a single point—a Jessie Bough free-throw in the opening quarter, as Shields Valley jumped ahead, taking an early 8-1 lead.



LPHS freshman Maddie Cone (31) shoots in the post amidst a crowd of Shields Valley defenders on Feb. 20. The Lady Big Horns came up short in both of their District tournament contests, losing to the Rebels and the Gardiner Bruins the following day. PHOTO COURTESY OF RICH ADDICKS The Lady Big Horns' luck didn't change in the second quarter as the Rebels outscored them 18-6 thanks in part to Aspen Sanderson, who scored nine points in the quarter, helping her team take a commanding 26-7 halftime advantage.

Freshman Maddie Cone tried her best to help LPHS mount a comeback, contributing a game-high 16 points, including eight in the fourth quarter. It wasn't enough as Lone Peak dropped their first contest of the tournament and were sent to the consolation bracket.

Lady Big Horns' freshmen Bough and Kate King contributed four and two points respectively for their team in the losing effort. Shields Valley was paced by Sanderson and Haven Sager who scored 13 points each for the Rebels.

Lone Peak's final game of the season may not have ended favorably on the scoreboard, but the nine-point loss did yield hope for the future. "Despite being a loss, it was a big success for the team," coach Bough said. We proved we could break the press, finally. We had a lot of very good looks at the basket on fast breaks, we didn't make them all, but again we broke the press and we proved we could fast break. Those were season long goals that kind of only came together on this last game against Gardiner."

LPHS entered the matchup with the Bruins having been defeated by them in their last matchup on Jan. 30 by a 22-point margin. In that game, Gardiner guard Sophia Darr scored a game-high 31 points.

This time around, Darr was limited on the night. She was hounded defensively by Lady Big Horns freshman and first-time varsity starter Avery Dickerson. "A standout performance was Avery Dickerson," coach Bough said. "We used her as our kind of lockdown defender on Sophia Darr, who last year was an all-state player, and she held her to seven points."

The Bruins leaped out to a 15-4 advantage after one quarter of play, thanks in part to seven first quarter points from Josie Thomas, and they never looked back, leading the rest of the way.

Cone contributed a game-high 17 points for Lone Peak. She was aided by sophomore Carly Wilson, who chipped in six points of her own. Bough added two points on the night to round out the Lady Big Horns scoring. Gardiner was led by Thomas, who finished with 13 points, followed by Darr's seven.

"I couldn't be more proud of the girls based on the positive energy and positive attitude they brought through the whole season. I think we exceeded expectations over and over again, but we have plenty to focus on for next season," Bough said.

The Lady Big Horns will not graduate a single athlete from this year's squad and hope to build on the team chemistry they cultivated this season. "Keeping all those same girls coming back next year is going to be a huge advantage for chemistry, for skills improvement, and I think people expect that we will be a top tier team next year, as a result of what they saw this year," coach Bough said looking ahead to next season.

Box Scores	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Lone Peak	1	6	5	12	24
Shields Valley	8	18	10	13	49

Lone Peak: Maddie Cone 16, Jessie Bough 4, Kate King 2, Carly Wilson 1, Katrina Lang 1

Shields Valley: Aspen Sanderson 13, Haven Sager 13, Jaeli Jenkins 6, Perry Dominick 5, Rane Sager 4, Jules Croston 3, Brooklin Baukol 3, Tyler DeFord 2

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Lone Peak	4	8	6	7	25
Gardiner	15	9	7	5	36

Lone Peak: Maddie Cone 17, Carly Wilson 6, Jessie Bough 2

Gardiner: Josie Thomas 13, Sophia Darr 7, Alexis McDonald 6, Kyndra Long 5, Leah Veress 3, Bailey Fuhrman 2



LEADING LONE PEAK

Avery Dickerson – Freshman #41

Avery Dickerson shined as she took the biggest stage of her career. Due to injuries, she played the most minutes that she had all season for the varsity squad in the District tournament, including her first starting nod against Gardiner on Feb. 21. In that game, the scrappy guard held the Bruins standout player, Sophia Darr, to only seven total points, after Darr torched the Lady Big Horns for 31 points back on Jan. 30. "Given the shortage of girls we had, I turned to Avery to be a starter, in the final game," Lady Big Horns head coach Loren Bough said. "…I asked her to have one job, which was to prevent the girl who scored 31 points on us last game and was an all-state player. I said I needed her to shut her down and she totally accomplished the goal … Avery played the entire game and contributed on [full-court] press breaking as well as on lock-down defense."

PHOTO COURTESY OF RICH ADDICKS

Racing under the sun Local BSSEF athletes land top results in pristine race conditions

BY LUKE KIRCHMAYR EBS CONTRIBUTOR

RED LODGE – The Big Sky Ski Team took full advantage of the fabulous weather over the Presidents' Day weekend from Feb. 20-23. The U14/16/19 team traveled to Red Lodge to battle the steepest terrain of the season.

Under blue skies all four days, most podium spots went to BSSEF racers. This was the final regional qualifier race of the season. The U14 team will travel to Mammoth Mountain in California, the U16 team to Schweitzer Mountain in Idaho and the U19 team to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, for this year's Western Regional championship. Big Sky Resort will host the Tri Divisional event on March 20-23.

"We had an excellent four days of racing," said BSSEF U14 Head Coach Tomás Rivas. "The athletes' efforts to ski with seriousness and courage in difficult conditions was admirable. Now that the last qualifier for the U14 regional is behind us, the team is preparing for the final stretch of this season."

While the U16 and FIS athletes were in Red Lodge, the U8/U10/U12 team traveled to Great Divide for a dual slalom and a Kinder Kombi. Under near perfect race conditions the teams battled a newer event the dual slalom and Kinder Kombi, which is a mix of slalom and giant slalom. BSSEF athletes took advantage of the conditions and many earned podiums among tough competition.

"BSSEF was represented by 39 athletes at Great Divide YSL race with many top 5 finishes," said BSSEF Program Director Jeremy Ueland. "It was a great weekend of racing for all BSSEF athletes."

Visit bssef.com for more information.

Red Lodge Results:

Thursday, Feb. 20 U14 Ladies Slalom Brooke Brown (1:45.47) Carson Klug (1:47.98) Johnson Allene (1:48.16) U16 Ladies Slalom Winter Johnson (1:40.40) Drew Ditullio (1:41.30) Lili Brown (1:43.18) U14 Men's Slalom Cameron Pecunies (1:53.85) Finnegan Mc Rae (1:59.76) U16 Men's Slalom Luke Kirchmayr (1:33.16)

Kjetil Hassman (1:40.52) U19 Men's Slalom Ryan Beatty (1:49.95) 3. Miles Hoover (1:51.57)

Friday, Feb. 21

U14 Ladies Slalom Carson Klug (1:50.10) Chloe Unger (1:50.57) Brooke Brown (1:53.12) U16 Ladies Slalom 2. Drew Ditullio (1:46.08) 3. Skylar Manka (1:46.67)



U19 Ladies Slalom Rilley Belle Becker (1:50.53) U16 Men's Slalom Luke Kirchmayr (1:27.87) U19 Men's Slalom Ryan Beatty (1:24.20)

Saturday, Feb. 22

U14 Ladies GS Brooke Brown (1:51.50) 3. Chloe Unger (1:56.85) U16 Ladies GS Drew Ditullio (1:54.32) U14 Men's GS Broderick Kneeland (1:48.84) U16 Men's GS Kjetil Hassman (1:48:73) Luke Kirchmayr (1:48.80) U19 Men's GS Miles Hoover (1:50.94)

Sunday, Feb. 23

U14 Ladies GS Brooke Brown (1:49.27) U16 Ladies GS Winter Johnson (1:49.19) Skylar Manka (1:49.54) U19 Ladies GS 3. Franci St. Cyr (1:48.32) U16 Men's GS Luke Kirchmayr (1:44.41) Kjetil Hassman (1:47.21)

Great Divide Results:

Saturday, Feb. 22 U10 Girls Dual Slalom Mave McRae (1:01.14)

Camryn Morton (1:05.31) Peyton Wenger (1:05.33) U8 Boys Dual Slalom Michael Schreiner (1:16.59) Ethan Hardan (1:18.91) U10 Boys Dual Slalom Dominic Ditullio (57.28) 3. Ty Mittelstaedt (1:02.28) U12 Boys Dual Slalom Anthony Ditullio (56.04)

An impressive all-BSSEF podium sweep for the slalom in Red Lodge with Winter Johnson in first place followed by Drew DiTullio in second, and Lili Brown in third. PHOTOS BY AARON HAFFEY

Cooper Bourret (56.38)

Sunday, Feb. 23 U8 Kinder Kombi 2. Harper Bedell (53.20) U10 Girls Kinder Kombi Paige Schreiner (45.83) Olive Wolfe (46.18) U12 Girls Kinder Kombi Anna Taylor (44.22) U8 Boys Kinder Kombi Ethan Hardan (56.93) Michael Schreiner (57.19) U10 Boys Kinder Kombi Dominic Ditullio (39.94) Ty Mittelstaedt (42.98) Cullen Sheil (43.55) U12 Boys Kinder Kombi 2. Anthony Ditullio (38.52) 3. Ian Pecuies (39.27)

Ski Tips with Dan Egan Rhythm romance: How to become a fluid skier

BY DAN EGAN

Watching a great skier is like watching a live dance or theatrical performance. There is lightness and a touch to their movements, each of which is accented by the constant fluid motion of energy.

In skiing, fluidity is the point where dynamic tension no longer limits motion. Rather, the skier's motion is innate and instinctive, happening in anticipation of the terrain, not in reaction. Fluidity adds the art of dance to the movement of skiing.

How do you become a fluid skier? Situational skiing is the best way to find the dance within yourself. This means constantly readjusting your body position to stay in control.

It doesn't mean tackling the most challenging terrain you're able to get down, which is how many skiers judge themselves. They wear the runs they've skied like badges of honor, defining their day by what and where they skied. This is all fine; however, if your chosen terrain causes you to ski with dynamic tension, you won't ski fluidly.

If someday you want to dance down a steep or bumpy run, you need to step back and relax on terrain you can move confidently through, rather than just survive. The result will be a more fluid style.

As I often tell students in my clinics, the best way to break through on skis is to pick a run you can master and ski it again and again—maybe five or six times in a row—taking roughly the same line each time. This will help you build confidence and discover how to anticipate the terrain rather than react to it. It's why racers train on the same course throughout a day. The repetition allows you to relax and let your body take over. You'll release the dynamic tension you've been holding, and move with more dynamic motion.

Being relaxed like this also helps you tune into your body position. You will start instinctively understanding how your skis feel and react in certain situations, and how to use them. You'll also start naturally anticipating changes in conditions and terrain. Speed will no longer scare you; rather, you'll be able to control and enjoy it.



The author demonstrates skiing rhythm in fluidity of motion. PHOTO BY JEN BENNETT, RUMBLE PRODUCTIONS

As you begin mastering terrain, you'll end up trying out different body positions. Through this experimentation, you'll develop new ways to change direction and turn your skis in a wider range of motion.

Just watching someone who moves like this is a delight—experiencing it for yourself is transformative. In time you'll begin skiing the mountain instead of letting it ski you.

Extreme skiing pioneer Dan Egan has appeared in 12 Warren Miller Ski films and countless others. Today he teaches clinics and guides trips at locations around the world including Big Sky, Val-d'Isère, France. He'll be in Big Sky Feb. 20-22, Feb. 27-29 and March 5-7, 2020.

Visit skiclinics.com for camp dates, online coaching tips, photos and information.

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SxS Ranch Bozeman, MT 483.78 ACRES / \$6.95M



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



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



380 Mountain Man Trail Montana Ranch 20.8 ACRES / \$325K

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Yellowstone Ranch Preserve List Price: \$19M

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Mountain Meadows 120 Acres / \$3.495M



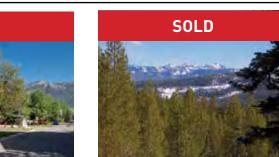
Big Sky Corner Property List Price: \$3.24M

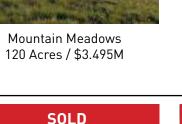


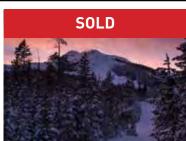
78 Meadow Village Dr. Big Sky, MT 4,769 SQ FT / \$2.1M



Crail Ranch Unit 40 List Price: \$1.35M









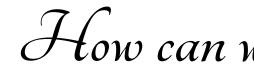
Hidden Village 15 Blue Flax Place 2,788 SQ FT / \$599K

Summit 911/912 List Price: \$595K Lot 39 Diamond Hitch 1 ACRE / \$595K

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

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j Buck Road ES / \$480K



Lot 4 Beaver Creek 20 Acres / \$539K



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



Lot 3 Joy Road 6.83 Acres / \$395K



Lot 71 Morning Glory 3.65 Acres / \$375K

COMMERCIAL



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





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



Airport Garages Bozeman, MT \$29.9K per unit Taking reservations for building G



2078 Little Coyote List List Price: \$1.079M



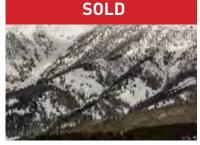
Ski Tip Lot 10 List Price: \$975K



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



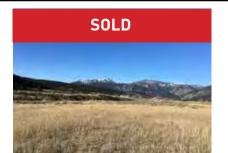
Lot 64 Goshawk 1.04 ACRES / \$775K



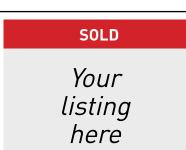
Lot 44 Diamond Hitch 1.25 ACRE / \$699K











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Local skier crowned King of Corbet's Couloir

BY KIRBY GRUBAUGH

JACKSON HOLE, WY – On Feb. 11 Jackson Hole Mountain Resort held the third annual King's and Queen's of Corbet's Couloir competition. The King's and Queen's is an invite only competition that brings 24 of the world's top skiers and snowboarders together to take a ride down one of the country's most famed runs, Corbet's Couloir.

Local Montana skier Parkin Costain was one of the 24 athletes invited to the competition this year, following up the invite to compete he received the previous year as well.

To keep the course as pristine as possible and preserve the snow, athletes were not permitted to pre-ride the course prior to their run. Costain and fellow competitor, Jake Hopfinger, built a jump at the top of the couloir so they would have ample hangtime to land whatever trick they had up their sleeve. When Costain dropped-in for his run, he committed to an ambitious double black flip. After soaring through the air, his skis touched down in the powder below as he landed the impressive display of athleticism. He managed to hold his composure for three more features further down the course and pulled off a flawless run that would crown him the undisputed King of Corbet's Couloir.

Results from King's and Queen's of Corbet's Couloir:





Costain in the second rotation of his double backflip. PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY JIMMERSON



Costain being crowned victorious on top of the podium. PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY JIMMERSON



Costain looking back towards the top of the venue after his run down Corbet's. PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT DOHERTY



Costain takes flight in his Corbet's Couloir run. PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT DOHERTY



DID YOU Know?

- Bobcats are elusive and nocturnal, so they are rarely spotted by humans. Although they are seldom seen, they roam throughout much of North America.

- Fierce hunters, bobcats can kill prey much bigger than themselves, but usually eat rabbits, birds, mice, squirrels and other smaller game.

- In some areas, bobcats are still trapped for their soft, spotted fur. North American populations are believed to be quite large, with perhaps as many as one million cats in the United States alone.

They face habitat destruction from agricultural and industrial development as well urban sprawl. The ever-expanding human population further limits their ranges.

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For more information, email the Gallatin River Task Force at headwaters@gallatinrivertaskforce.org



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EBS would like to congratulate the Lone Danglers on their glorious victory on Tuesday night (2/25).

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Life 101: When only one thing matters



BY LINDA ARNOLD EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Pop quiz: What's the great equalizer in life? What's the one thing that puts all of us on a level playing field?

I'll give you a hint. It doesn't make a fashion statement. That's because it often comes adorned in that bluecheckered hospital gown. In an instant, a Fortune 100 CEO can be sitting right next to the mailroom clerk, waiting to get a CT scan or an MRI.

Three things came across my radar in this vein last week, making me reflect on why we often need a major external event to make the changes we know we need to make in our lives.

The first comment was from one of my friends who was diagnosed with cancer and began making wide-sweeping changes in her life.

"I'm playing the 'C' card," she said. It's as if the diagnosis gave her "permission" to change. As humans, we're resistant to change, and it often takes an external event to prod us.

Another friend shared how she copes with an autoimmune disease, equating the illness to one of a number of cards in her hand.

"So, I've got this card that says 'disease.' And I decide not to play it," she said. "It's that card that motivates me to play other cards though. I involve myself in activities. When pain arises, I work it out, lessening the inflammation. I hardly give the pain attention because I don't want it to grow. It gets voted down when it comes to decisions like sitting at home and nursing my hurt or enjoying the day. Whenever I've done my soul wrong by concentrating on my weaknesses, they've become monsters in my life."

And finally, I came across this gut-wrenching post from author James Altucher. It's about a text he received from an estranged friend.

"You around later?" he asked his friend.

"Sure."

Altucher mentioned he had been holding a grudge. "We used to hang out five days a week, until I stopped talking to him for 18 years," he said.

Then the rest of the text popped up. "Oh, I forgot. You don't even know. I have terminal stage IV cancer."

Altucher's friend went on to say that he was diagnosed with thyroid cancer seven years ago and despite removing it, the disease spread to the rest of his body. He was put on a clinical trial, one that people often develop resistance to by 18 months.

"Then it's a death sentence," the friend said. "I'm at 24 months."

Altucher relayed in his post that he didn't know what to say and felt badly about holding that grudge. So, he replied, "What's up?"

"I'm happier now than ever," his friend said. "I don't do anything I don't want to do. One thing I realized ... relationships are the only important thing in the world. Be with the people you like. Don't be around people you don't like. At any moment in the day I'm exactly where I want to be and with whom I want to be. Because of this, I'm always happy. I know that every day I will be doing the things I want to do.

"What else is there for me to worry about? I don't care about potential accomplishments or anything artificial," he added. "Relationships are important. Time is important. And my happiness is 100 percent a choice."

It's your choice, too.

Linda Arnold is a syndicated columnist, psychological counselor and founder of a multistate marketing company. Reader comments are welcome at linda@lindaarnold.org or visit lindaarnold.org for information on her books.









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American Life in Poetry: Column 779

BY TED KOOSER U.S. POET LAUREATE

Robert Bly is one of the last living major American poets of his generation, and W.W. Norton recently published his "Collected Poems." I and many other poets of the central states owe Bly, who grew up on a Minnesota farm, a great deal for showing us how to write about what's around us, the turkey sheds, the great skies, the rain-filled roadside ditches, all of it. Here's one poem about our life force that I'm especially fond of.

Why We Don't Die

In late September many voices Tell you you will die. That leaf says it, that coolness. All of them are right. Our many souls—what Can they do about it? Nothing. They're already Part of the invisible. Our souls have been Longing to go home Anyway. "It's late," they say, "Lock the door, let's go." The body doesn't agree. It says "We buried a little iron Ball under that tree. Let's go get it."

We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts. American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2019 by David Baker, "Mercy," from Swift, (W. W. Norton, 2019). Poem reprinted by permission of David Baker and the publisher. Introduction copyright @2020 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.

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"He said, 'There are only two days in the year that nothing can be done. One is called yesterday and the other is called tomorrow, so today is the right day to love, believe, do and mostly live." – Dalai Lama



JUST SHORT OF A DECADE AGO, DAFT PUNK RELEASED THEIR SECOND STUDIO ALBUM "DISCOVERY," ATTRACTING PRAISE FROM CRITICS FOR INNOVATING THE HOUSE MUSIC SCENE—IT WAS ALSO THE ALBUM THAT UNVEILED THEIR ICONIC ROBOT COSTUMES.

OF THE SIX SINGLES ON THIS ALBUM, "ONE MORE TIME" STANDS AS ONE OF THEIR MOST ACCLAIMED EARNING NUMBER FIVE ON PITCHFORK'S TOP 500 SONGS OF THE 2000S, NUMBER 33 ON ROLLING STONE'S TOP 100 SONGS OF THE DECADE, AND NUMBER 307 ON THEIR COVETED ROSTER OF 500 GREATEST SONGS OF ALL TIME. IT PROMINENTLY FEATURES VOCALS BY ROMANTHONY, WHO WILL JOIN THEM AGAIN ON THE TRACK "TOO LONG," AND IS DESCRIBED BY PITCHFORK AS A SONG THAT "DISTILL[S] 25 YEARS OF POP AND HOUSE INTO FIVE AND A HALF MINUTES OF FIRST-TIME JOY."

ODDLY ENOUGH, "ONE MORE TIME" WAS COMPOSED AND COMPLETED IN 1998, BUT REMAINED ON A SHELF UNTIL ITS EVENTUAL RELEASE IN 2000. IF THE FIVE-AND-A-HALF-MINUTE RADIO VERSION FAILS TO EXHAUST YOUR RESERVOIR OF DANCE MOVES, NEVER FEAR—THE CLASSIC CLUB REMIX IS EIGHT MINUTES LONG.





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Explore Big Sky

SECTION 4:

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Feb. 28 - March 12, 2020 49



Art's role in the preservation of Yellowstone

BY MIRA BRODY

DINING

BIG SKY — In 1871, American painter Thomas Moran joined the Hayden Geological Survey during their pivotal exploration of the Yellowstone region. For 40 days, Moran documented the unique landscape with his pen and paint brush, capturing the wildness, vastness and grandeur of what is now Yellowstone National Park—many today believe his visions are what inspired Congress to execute on the park's establishment in 1872.

It is only fitting a community of Yellowstone Park supporters gathered at Creighton Block Gallery in Big Sky Town Center on Feb. 16 to discuss the future and new leadership of Yellowstone Forever, tucked amongst similarly inspiring works of Western art.

Yellowstone Forever is Yellowstone National Park's official nonprofit partner, dedicated to preserving and protecting America's first park. Recovering from a financial crisis that led to six layoffs in May 2019 and a budget deficit of \$3.8 million, despite as much as \$35,000 pay increases to top-tier employees, Yellowstone Forever is refocusing their efforts and moving forward in confidence.

The fundraiser agenda included talks from Park Superintendent Cam Sholly, YF's Interim President and CEO John Walda as well as support from Yellowstone Club's Sam Byrne. It yielded \$5,000 in sponsorships and although they are still confirming gifts and pledges, organizers are confident that number will surpass \$10,000.

"It's important Yellowstone Forever continues to focus on philanthropy fundamentals, priority activities to support Yellowstone National Park, and being thankful stewards of our current donors," said J.D. Davis, interim Chief Development Officer. "Through staff attrition and a critical look at expenses, Yellowstone Forever has spent the past several months recalibrating our budget and we'll continue to do that.'

Davis says this includes raising \$1 million for the North Entrance project that was matched by a National Park Foundation \$1 million grant, funding Yellowstone cutthroat trout recovery programs and raising some \$3.5 million to support trails and overlooks in the traffic-heavy Canyon Village area. Recalibrating the budget also included a comprehensive review of the park's vendor contracts and transitioning work in-house, when possible.

"The fundraiser went well and we were grateful for the opportunity to visit the Big Sky community," said Davis, emphasizing the important and unique



partnership our gateway communities have with the park.

Gateways such as Big Sky, West Yellowstone and Gardiner offer the only points of entry into the



Creighton Block Gallery in Big Sky Town Center was host to Yellowstone Forever staff and supporters on Sunday, Feb. 16. PHOTO COURTESY OF CREIGHTON BLOCK

Continuing the tradition of spreading passion for a place through its artistic renditions, one that began in Yellowstone with Moran, Creighton Block owner Colin Mathews was happy to foster an environment for the Park's nonprofit support arm as it turns a new leaf.

"The world of funding for parks is something that is in my background and that I'm passionate about," says Mathews.

When asked of their ties to local art, Davis referred to YF's annual Plein Air Invitational event and artist-in-residency programs.

The Plein Air Invitational brings artists from around the country to create and auction work inspired by the park for its benefit, a program that holds strong in its third year. In regards to the latter, through the generous support of a Yellowstone Forever donor, a fund was established to host a full-time artist in residence in addition to the existing summer residency program. It is a rotating position that supports artists of all ages and will continue the tradition of telling the Yellowstone story through art.

Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Cam Sholly speaks at Creighton Block Gallery in Big Sky Town Center. PHOTO COURTESY OF CREIGHTON BLOCK

unique world of Yellowstone from Montana, and this geographic distinction provides educational as well as monetary benefits—a 2018 NPS report shows that 4.1 million Yellowstone visitors in 2017 spent nearly \$500 million in communities in close proximity to the park's borders, like Big Sky. That spending supports thousands of jobs and provides a tremendous cumulative benefit to the local economy.

"Having a strong partnership with these communities provides natural education opportunities," Davis said. "It's important for Yellowstone Forever to listen to our Gateway partners so we can learn how to best make those connections to Yellowstone National Park."

With those funds, along with those gathered from other sources, YF works to identify projects that go beyond what is achievable with only the park's base budget, such as long-term wildlife research and recovery efforts, trail restoration and historic preservation. And through their Yellowstone Forever Institute, YF creates more than 600 educational programs per year, reaching around 9,000 visitors.

"We believe that when individuals learn about the park and feel more connected to it, they will become more involved stewards of Yellowstone and all public lands," said Davis, noting the importance of strengthening that connection. "It's an incredible natural system that can still provide an amazing personal experience no matter how often you visit."

Yellowstone National Park includes a collection of more than 10,000 hydrothermal features and is home to an abundance of plants, trees and wildlife species that have called the Yellowstone region home for millennia, so it's no mystery as to why artists across generations have made its landscapes a focal point of their work.

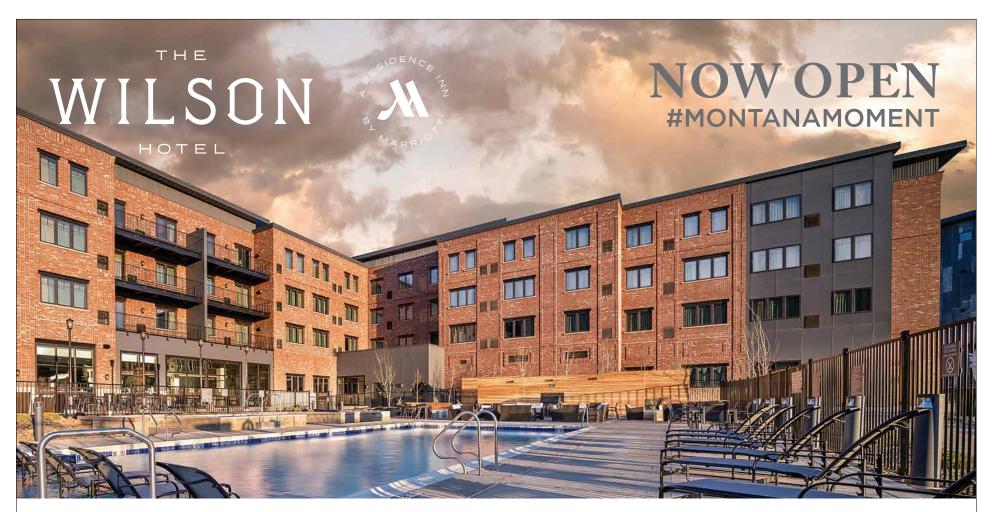
If Moran's work possessed the power of establishment, it's easy to imagine the role art might play in keeping that legacy of natural wonder alive and well for years to come.





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Big Brother and glow-in-the-dark dinosaurs

WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

BIG SKY—This winter, the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center has so far welcomed five shows and looks ahead to finishing with the best performances of its 2020 season.

On Saturday, March 7, WMPAC brings Aquila Theatre's production of George Orwell's seminal novel "1984" to its stage.

Aquila Theatre is perhaps the foremost producer of touring classical theatre in the U.S. and visits Big Sky on this year's national tour as part of their mission "to bring the greatest works to the greatest number." In addition to their production schedule in New York, Aquila performs in over 50 cities annually.

"This is a particularly powerful time for this performance," said John Zirkle, WMPAC's executive director. "The questions Orwell raises about privacy, technology and the role of the media are uncannily pertinent today."

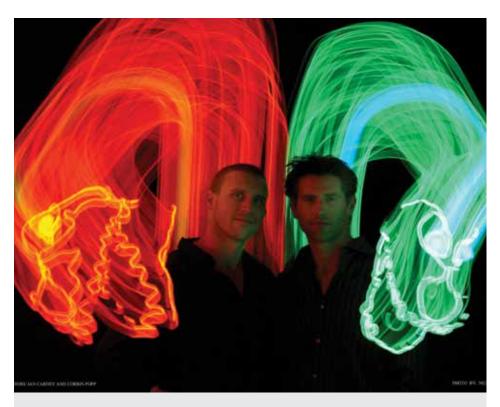
Not to mention Orwell's eerily accurate predictions of technological devices. Among his science fictions that are uncomfortably close to today's reality are the telescreens in every household capable of recording conversations and transmitting them to Big Brother, a shadowy governmental organization that is always watching.

The next show of the season, Lightwire Theater, will be one of the most unique performances WMPAC has ever produced. Lightwire Theater is a New Orleansbased group that blends theater, puppetry and dance; actors wearing glow-in-thedark costumes perform on a pitch-black stage.

The show chronicles the story of a mad scientist who brings a dinosaur to life. When that dinosaur wanders away and gets lost, it encounters all sorts of creatures that illuminate the meaning of love and home.

Zirkle first saw the group five years ago. "It was love at first sight," he said. "I knew this show would be absolutely perfect for a Big Sky audience, and I've been trying to bring them to WMPAC ever since."

The group will light up the WMPAC stage for two performances on Saturday, March 14; the initial 5:00 p.m. showing sold out so quickly that a second showing at 7:30 p.m. was added to meet demand.



Lightwire Theater is a New Orleans-based group that blends theater, puppetry and dance. Their upcoming show will follow the journey of a dinosaur brought to life by a mad scientist and is well suited for families of all ages. PHOTO BY NICHOLSON/CARNEY/POPP

"We're proud to bring this type of world-class entertainment to Big Sky, particularly because both of these shows are coupled with honest meaning," Zirkle said. "I can't wait to hear what our audiences take away from them."

Rolling Stone has called Lightwire "absolutely incredible," and the group's creativity rocketed them to the semi-finals of "America's Got Talent." The show is well suited for families with children, but promises to be mesmerizing for everyone.

MSU African Students Association to host A Night in Africa

MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN — The African Students Association at Montana State University will host their first-ever A Night in Africa, an evening celebrating African culture on Sunday, March 1, showcasing different aspects of African culture, including talks from prominent members of the Southwest Montana community.

Enjoy African dance, music, fashion and food from different countries represented by the students on campus, followed by a keynote talk by Wilmot Collins, the mayor of Helena and the city's first black mayor. Collins will talk about African excellence and draw from his personal story of coming to the United States as a Liberian refugee.



"We want [attendees] to come in and see a different type of Africa that is not just what the media says," said Nnamdi Kalu, the secretary and public relations officer for the African Students Association. "It is a continent with so many countries and so many diverse cultures and experiences."

Kalu said that he, along with group president Sam Ojetola and financial secretary Edwin Allan, decided last summer to put together this event to share another side of Africa with the MSU and Bozeman communities.

The African Students Association's purpose is to showcase the mass influence of Africans throughout the world, while also providing a home away from home for students of African descent and those interested in African culture, Kalu said.

A Night in Africa starts at 4 p.m. in "Ballroom A" in the Strand Union Building on MSU's campus and is free and open to the public.

AFRICA

Music, Fashion, Food and lots more from different African Cultures

03.01.2020 | 4Pi

SUB BALLROOM

A Night in Africa is a celebration of African culture hosted by the African Students Association at MSU. PHOTO COUTESY OF MSU NEWS SERVICE

Mayor of Helena

High school intern shares a message of sustainability through Public Arts Program

BY MIRA BRODY

BIG SKY - At the corner of Lone Mountain Trail and Ousel Falls Road in Big Sky Town Center sits a large, green utility box wrapped with a colorful rendition of Lone Peak. The piece in question, commissioned by local artist Heather Rapp, is one of roughly 40 decorated boxes in the community—a design fixture rendered via the Arts Council of Big Sky's Public Art Program bent on the enrichment of the Big Sky public art experience for visitors and residents alike.

With the help of Madison Strauss, this year's ACBS student intern, the ACBS will continue this mission with three new utility box wraps as well as a new sculpture installation of her own creation in town.

"I think the public art in Big Sky is especially important to the community because it all directly relates to what the community members enjoy and connect with," said Strauss, a junior at Lone Peak High School.



Big Sky Arts Council high school intern, Madison Strauss, stands next to an art-wrapped utility box in Big Sky Town Center. PHOTO BY MIRA BRODY

Strauss' internship is baked into the ACBS's education program, which facilitates opportunities for Big Sky kids to foster creativity beyond what's possible in the classroom and to collaborate with local artists for inspiration and mentorship. She is working alongside Education and Outreach Director Megan Buecking to connect with artists interested in having their art displayed on a utility box, and this year they are embracing an increasingly relevant theme: sustainability.

"I think it's important particularly now because we have so much growth," said Buecking. "These boxes will be a good reminder of how we can manage our growth and take care of our environment at the same time."

The tradition of beautifying Big Sky's utility boxes began in 2015 when student Dasha Bough conceived "Art on the Streets," a central piece of her high school senior art project in partnership with the ACBS and the Big Sky Rotary Club. Since then, the organization's education program has grown steadily, working with the school district and offering flexible internships that allow students to volunteer, coordinate trips and events and work on art projects of their own. During Strauss' tenure, she will coordinate the Seattle Art Venture Field Trip, and complete her own installation piece made completely from recycled materials.

The young artist and conservationist believes art is a great way to communicate sometimesdifficult subjects because it serves as a unifying language, allowing the viewer to interpret it in a way that best speaks to them.

"I think that art plays a really large role in unifying the community because it can bring together people from different groups or areas of the community to unify towards one certain topic," said Strauss. "If someone is maybe a little hesitant to speak out about their opinion on a difficult topic, art is a really great way to express it."

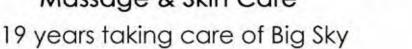
"People use art in so many different ways to communicate their passions or message," said Buecking of their Public Arts Program. "It's a good vessel for getting your thoughts out into the world in a visual way."

As beautiful as the landscape stands on its own, today it's hard to imagine Big Sky devoid of its public art features. Whether through utility boxes, sculpture installations or live music, the program serves as a way to exhibit the town's personality, increasingly rich history and support for local artists-to the benefit of the passerby, but more importantly to those lucky enough to call Big Sky home.

GET INVOLVED

ACBS encourages artists of all ages and skill levels to submit work for their call for utility box art Applications are due by March 31, and can be found at bigskyarts.org/programs/publicart/

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EDITOR'S CHOICE

BEST RESTAURANT BUCK'S T-4 LODGE

BEST ON THE MOUNTAIN RESTAURANT THE CABIN BAR AND GRILL

BEST LOCAL MEAL DEAL
MI PUEBLITO TACO BUSBEST LOCAL MEAL DEAL
YETI DOGSBEST COFFEE
STEELE PRESSED JUICEExplore
Bigs Sky
BASED ON 2019 BEST OF BIG SKY RESULTS

BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR Friday, Feb. 28 - Thursday, March 12

If your event falls between March 13 and March 26, please submit it by March 18 by emailing media@theoutlawpartners.com

FRIDAY, FEB. 28

Theater: The Maids The Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 29

Theater: The Maids The Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 7:30 p.m.

Spring Home & Garden Show Gallatin County Fairgrounds, Bozeman, 10 a.m.

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY'S AUCTION FOR THE ARTS Wilson Hotel, 6 p.m. The only dedicated fundraiser for the Arts Council of Big Sky, their 8th annual auction will feature quick-finish, live and silent auctions, music, food, and drinks. Buy tickets now at bigskyarts.org – this event will sell out.

Live Music: Daniel Kosel Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7:30 p.m.

Live music: Paige & The People's Band The Filling Station, Bozeman, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

Theater: The Maids The Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 3 p.m.

Spring Home & Garden Show Gallatin County Fairgrounds, Bozeman, 11 a.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

Women's Adventure Film Tour Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, Bozeman, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5 Mountain Yarns: a Community Story-Telling Series

The Mountain Project, Bozeman, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

Live Music: Beatles vs. Stones – a musical showdown Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, Bozeman, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

3RD ANNUAL BIG SKY SKIJORING BEST IN THE WEST SHOWDOWN Big Sky Town Center, 9 a.m.

What do you get when you combine a skier, a snow ramp, a tow rope, and a horse? Big Sky Skijoring! Watch professional skijoring athletes from around the country March 7 – 8 in Big Sky Town Center for a unique sporting event you won't want to miss.

Snow Shoe Shuffle Big Sky Resort, Madison Base Area, 5:30 p.m.

Montana Fly Fishing Film Festival Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, Bozeman, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

WORTH THE DRIVE



Visitors gather at the United In Light Draft Horse Sanctuary in Livingston to spend time amongst their herd of rescued draft horses. PHOTO COURTESY OF UNITED IN LIGHT

UNITED IN LIGHT DRAFT HORSE RESCUE OPEN HOUSE

101 BILLMAN LANE, LIVINGSTON SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 10 A.M.

United In Light is a Livingston non-profit that has been rescuing and caring for elder, injured and abused draft horses since 2003. Too often, draft horses unable to work, due to injury or age, are auctioned off for slaughter. At United In Light, they can live out their deserved retirement in the storied and gorgeous Paradise Valley. Starting March 7, the ranch hosts an open house every first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., providing the opportunity for guests of all ages to come brush, pet or simply be among Livingston's resident gentle giants. Guests are encouraged to don weather-appropriate clothing and a \$20 donation per fami-ly is suggested. If you plan to spend the day in Livingston, making an excursion of trip, there will be a Family Movie Night at the Livingston Recreation Department at 7 p.m., and a variety of live music options including The Fossils at The Attic and Squirrel Gravy at The Murray—Livingston's legendary watering hole, eatery and venue. For a side trip deeper to Paradise Valley, take a soak at Chico Hot Springs and then catch Laney Lou and the Birddogs at Pine Creek Lodge. Get a burger and some fries, while you're at it, at Mark's In & Out on your way route back to the Gallatins.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

Live Music: Gina & The Wildfire MAP Brewing, Bozeman, 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

Fundraising Workshop by the Bozeman Area Community Foundation Baxter Hotel, Bozeman, 9 a.m.

Natural Methods for Improving Surgery Outcomes Lone Peak Physical Therapy, Big Sky, 5:30 p.m.

5K Brewery Run Mountains Walking Brewery, Bozeman, 6 p.m.

Author Talk with S.M. Hulse Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 6 p.m.

Porcupine Creek Snowshoe Porcupine Creek Trailhead, Big Sky, 9 a.m.

Beer & Meditation SHINE Beer Sanctuary, Bozeman, 12:30 p.m.

Craft Night: Dog Bowl Design with Megan Sprenger Dee-O-Gee, Bozeman, 2:20 p.m.

Live Music: Honey & Rye Bozeman Hot Springs, Bozeman, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 9

Kid-friendly activities: Preschool Science Series Montana Science Center, Bozeman, 10:30 a.m.

Full Moon Ecstatic Dance Starlite Bozeman at 522 E. Tamarack St., Bozeman, 7 p.m.

Furning Tragedy into Progress: a conversation about hazing Stand-Union Building at MSU, Bozeman, 7:30 p.m.

Live Music: Story Mansion String Jam Story Mansion at 811 S. Willson Ave., Bozeman, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

Gym class: Thursday Night Ice Climbers Spire Climbing, Bozeman, 6 p.m.

Live Comedy: Gilbert Gottfried Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, Bozeman, 7 p.m.

Live Music: The Bridger Creek Boys Red Tractor Pizza, Bozeman, 7 p.m.

Dance: Lindy Hop Lessons Starlite Bozeman, Bozeman, 7:30 p.m.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Feb. 28- March 12, 2020 55



'Honey Boy' ****



Shia Lebeouf's semi-autobiographical "Honey Boy" explores how hard it is to healthily express pain and anger as a kid and even more so as an adult. PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON STUDIOS

BY ANNA HUSTED EBS FILM CRITIC

"Do you know how to close a door gently?" Otis' rehab counselor asks him. "You pull with one hand and push with the other," Otis responds. "Honey Boy" is full of contradictions like this one because our protagonist, Otis, feels conflicted about belonging in this world.

"Honey Boy" is a semiautobiographical film written by actor Shia Lebeouf while he was in courtmandated rehab, and is based on his childhood and relationship with his father. We meet Otis (Lucas Hedges) on the set of an action blockbuster-

for Lebeouf it's the "Transformers" franchise-just before he goes into rehab following a drunk driving accident. Otis is angry and as he explores his anger with his counselors he discovers it stems from his father's anger and how his father treated him as a kid.

The film flashes between older Otis and younger Otis (an incredible performance by Noah Jupe). Young Otis is a child actor living with his dad (played by Shia Lebeouf) in a motel so they can be close to set while Otis films outlandish scenes for an unnamed movie or a TV show. Unspoken details like these are what give "Honey Boy" a this-could-be-any-child-actor feel.

While the script is a deeply personal love letter to his dad, Lebeouf keeps specifics vague enough that we can relate to Otis or his father. Lebeouf's script, through Jupe and Hedges, shows us the struggle of what expressing your feelings as a kid looks like-young Otis doesn't have the words to tell his dad that he both hates and loves him.

In one scene we see young Otis looking into the room watching his dad watch him on their hotel's TV screen. On the TV, Otis' television dad tells Otis's character that he loves him no matter what. Outside the hotel room, Otis is crying in the shadows because he wants his own father to say those words to him, something they both struggle with off screen when the emotions are not scripted.

While "Honey Boy" has touches of melodrama, its sincerity and tight-paced shots give it an unvarnished authenticity. The film moves quickly from closeups to overhead establishing shots, leaving little time to get bogged down in the melodrama. Director Alma Har'el puts Lebeouf's script to screen in a respectful and fun way despite its heavy subject matter.



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Gina Marshall

I have been a huge Shia Lebeouf fan since his days on "Even Stevens." Lebeouf and I are close in age and I watched him grow up on screen as I did. Lebeouf is a wonderful and patient actor who shows genuine anger on screen in his short but circumspect career. He is always the "good guy," but with flaws and emotions. "Honey Boy" is his first screenplay and is an inspiring work.

In one of the final counseling scenes, an older Otis tells his counselor, "The only thing my dad ever gave me is pain. And you want to take that away."

While we are granted with a strange and beautiful reconciliation scene between Otis and his dad, the end of the film feels unfinished, giving us a sense that Otis will always be navigating how to manage his anger and use it well. He will never quite be complete, but it's not because he won't continue to try.

"Honey Boy" is in theaters and available on Amazon Prime.

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

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Skijoring returns to Big Sky

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY – A horse's snorting cuts through the still, clouds of steam engulfing its muzzle as hot breath meets cold air. His rider holds the reins tightly, staying the animal's nerves as it jerks against steel bit and leather tracing its face and throat.

It stamps its hooves into the hard-packed snow.

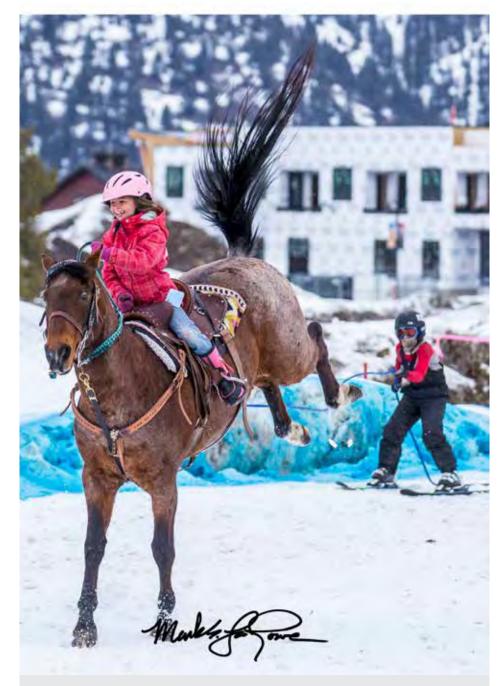
Flanking them, a skier adjusts her grip on a long nylon rope attached the saddle, eyeballing the series of jumps and slopes comprising Big Sky's skijoring course.

The athletes get their signal: It's almost time to thread the obstacles, at breakneck speeds, to a chorus of cheers and hollering. There's money on the line, prestige to be had.

Such has been the scene the past two winters at the Big Sky Skijoring Association's Best in the West Showdown, in which dozens of riders of all ages have taken to a custom course adjacent to Big Sky Town Center. The event will return to the community this March 7 and 8 for its third iteration.

A traditional Scandinavian competition melding horsemanship and skiing, skijoring as a novelty alone is worth carving out time for; for the seasoned viewer, the understood dangers involved contextualize the sheer skill necessary for this synthesis of sports and species.

Justa Adams, a Big Sky Skijoring Association board member who organizes the race, remembers her first time watching skijoring live, at 320 Guest Ranch in 2015. It was addictive.





The tension created by the weight of the skier and the momentum of the horse lends itself to quick turns and big air. COURTESY OF MARK LAROWE PHOTOGRAPHY

"I didn't think I could love Montana any more than I did then," Adams said. A Florida native who moved to Big Sky with her husband nearly 6 years ago, she grew up breeding, breaking and training racehorses with her mother.

Plying her experience with nonprofit fundraising (she's worked for an organization that tackles cancer treatment and another that cares for abused and neglected children), Adams was able to scrape together funds, with help from a few others, for the first skijoring event held in Big Sky Town Center in 2018, a now-permanent deviation from those held for years at 320 Guest Ranch.

Part of her motivation came from competitors urging the community to think about hosting something more visible, more accessible to the town's foot traffic and nearby residents.

"I just started cold calling," Adams said of her work to rally financial support, an announcer and a sound system, and a location. The Simkins family, who own the Town Center, loved the event, Adams said, and they gave the go ahead to move it to a prime spot.

This year's Showdown is "going to be the best yet," Adams said.

Located next to the South Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin River, the event site will have "snow bleachers" built atop a gentle slope, so the audience will be able to clearly see the competition.

Even youngsters can try their hand at the sport, like this beaming girl, totally composed despite her horse's bucking. COURTESY OF MARK LAROWE PHOTOGRAPHY

"I'm over the moon about it," Adams said, adding reference to the community's generous donations—both financial sponsorships and donated equipment to build the site. "That would have been a huge financial burden."

The design expertise of decorated skijoring racer Colin Cook and the technical horsemanship insights of Lone Mountain Ranch's Horse Program and Grooming Manager Patrick McVey, have yielded a world class course worthy of Big Sky, Adams said. "Plus, previous years had us right next to Town Center construction, and this year you won't be able to see any. It's truly in the woods. The scene will be perfect.

Skis, horses, cowboys, racing, music, cheers, forests, snow bleachers, rivers, food and free-flowing beer. Does it get any better in a mountain town?

Or, in Adams' words: "The event is genuinely the biggest and best in The West." For information on registration, Saturday's Calcutta auction and event timing, visit facebook.com/bigskyskijoringassociation

BIG SIZZ BIFES Lazy Chicken Pot Pie

BY MIRA BRODY

Wintertime cooking is a veritable catch-22—while the cold weather intensifies your cravings for something warm and hearty, the motivation, nay necessity, to maximize your time outside before the sun sets leaves you with little time or energy to shop, prep and cook a meal. Enter the Lazy Chicken Pot Pie, a piping-hot dish combining a choice selection of my favorite comfort foods, baked into soul-nurturing goodness: creamy soup, rotisserie chicken, buttery Pillsbury dough and, of course, a bounty of cheese. The dish can be prepped in about 10 minutes, and in advance if needed, aka it'll be waiting in earnest for your forks and knives once you return from your hike, ski or long day at work.

Ingredients:

rotisserie chicken
 ounce can of condensed cream of chicken soup
 ounce can of condensed cream of mushroom soup
 small bag of vegetables, frozen
 teaspoon *salt* teaspoon pepper
 can crescent rolls
 cup cheddar cheese, shredded

Oven temp: 375 F **Prep time:** 10 minutes **Cooking time:** 15-20 minutes

- 1. Preheat oven to 375 F and spray an 8-by-11 inch glass pan with nonstick spray
- 2. In a large stove pot, combine condensed soups with two cans full of water and set burner to medium
- 3. Add the bag of frozen vegetables, salt and pepper and stir until combined
- 4. Turn the heat up a touch until the filling mixture bubbles
- 5. Shred the entire rotisserie chicken and add to the pot
- 6. Stir to combine and remove from heat
- 7. Pour the pie filling into the pan and sprinkle the top with liberal dose of shredded cheese, chef's preference
- 8. Unroll the can of crescent rolls without breaking them apart, keeping the dough in one long sheet



The Lazy Chicken Pot Pie is hearty, checks all the comfort food boxes, and is quick and easy for a busy cook. PHOTO BY MIRA BRODY

- 9. Gently lay it across the top of the pan and stretch to fit, tucking the excess down into the sides of the pan
- 10. Place the pie into the oven, placing a cookie pan on a rack underneath to catch drips
- 11. Cook for 15-20 minutes, until the crust is golden brown

Enjoy!

Tips:

- The crescent roll version makes for a softer crust. If you prefer a crispier crust, you can try a can of biscuits or pre-made pie dough instead.
- Another set of ingredients to bring into the mix is varied vegetables.
- Try: mushrooms, bell pepper, zucchini, spinach or potatoes.

This is the perfect recipe to keep handy for post-Thanksgiving leftovers substitute chicken for 3-4 cups of leftover turkey for a turkey pot pie.





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- AQUILA THEATRE: 1984 -March 7

BIG BROTHER ON STAGE



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.

All that and a sesame seed bun



BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

If I asked you to think of foods you thought were universal, the ones that span cultures across all continents, many of you would come up with similar ingredients. My guess is some of these items might include garlic, onions, tomatoes and peppers and of course, common proteins such as eggs, beef, pork and fish.

Think about the last time you and your group of friends were deciding between Italian, Tex-Mex, Chinese, Vietnamese, Middle Eastern or even Peruvian. The odds are high, no matter what you decide, that many if not all of the aforementioned ingredients were on the menu.

There's one ingredient that probably slipped under your radar. It is a bit more unique and doesn't always strike us as being truly global.

I'm talking about sesame — most commonly, sesame seeds.

Discovered about 5,500 years ago and cultivated for 3,000 years, sesame is one of the oldest oilseed crops in the world.

Sesame originated in Sub-Saharan Africa, and archeologists have evidence of its first domestication on the Indian subcontinent.

Farmers call it the "survivor crop" for its ability to grow in conditions that would not sustain most other plants and crops. For instance, it can grow in high wind, low moisture areas and even during drought, then when rains and excessive moisture come, it's one the very few crops to survive these contradicting conditions. Sesame's ideal growing condition, though, is well-drained, fertile soil with a neutral ph.

Sesame seeds do not dry well in either natural or processing conditions. Their small, flat shape and size mean they rest and store compactly, thus limiting airflow for processed drying. This is why it's important to pick them from the already harvested plant when that plant is as dry as possible.

Sesame seeds are in dishes on almost every continent. As a general rule, black sesame seeds are more common in Far East cooking, while the white seem to be utilized more in the Americas and Middle Eastern preparations.

Japan and China are the world's first and second largest importers, respectively. And their use is overwhelmingly oil, rather than the seeds themselves. In Mexico, you will find them in many mole sauce recipes. Mole dishes vary depending on the region, but you'll find sesame seeds in most of them.





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Though China and Japan utilize the oil far more extensively, the seeds and pastes are found in numerous dishes, sushi rolls being an obvious use in Japan. In China, the seeds and paste are in many cake preparations that date back well over 150 years.

Tahini, a condiment made from toasted sesame seeds, has become popular throughout Europe and America, but finds its roots in Eastern Mediterranean countries, such as Iran and Turkey as well as North Africa, specifically Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt.

In America these seeds are as commonplace as the topping on hamburger buns.

However, we also use it here in many other applications. Grinding the black seeds into a paste with oil adds a dramatic color to a plate and has a great toasty nutty flavor, and we use both black and white seeds to crust chicken or fish.

Go to a grocery store deli counter full of salads and see how many of them have sesame seeds in them.

And the next time you are deciding where to have lunch or dinner, maybe the next time you travel to a big city, odds are you'll come across the versatile sesame seeds in your dish.

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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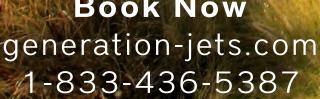
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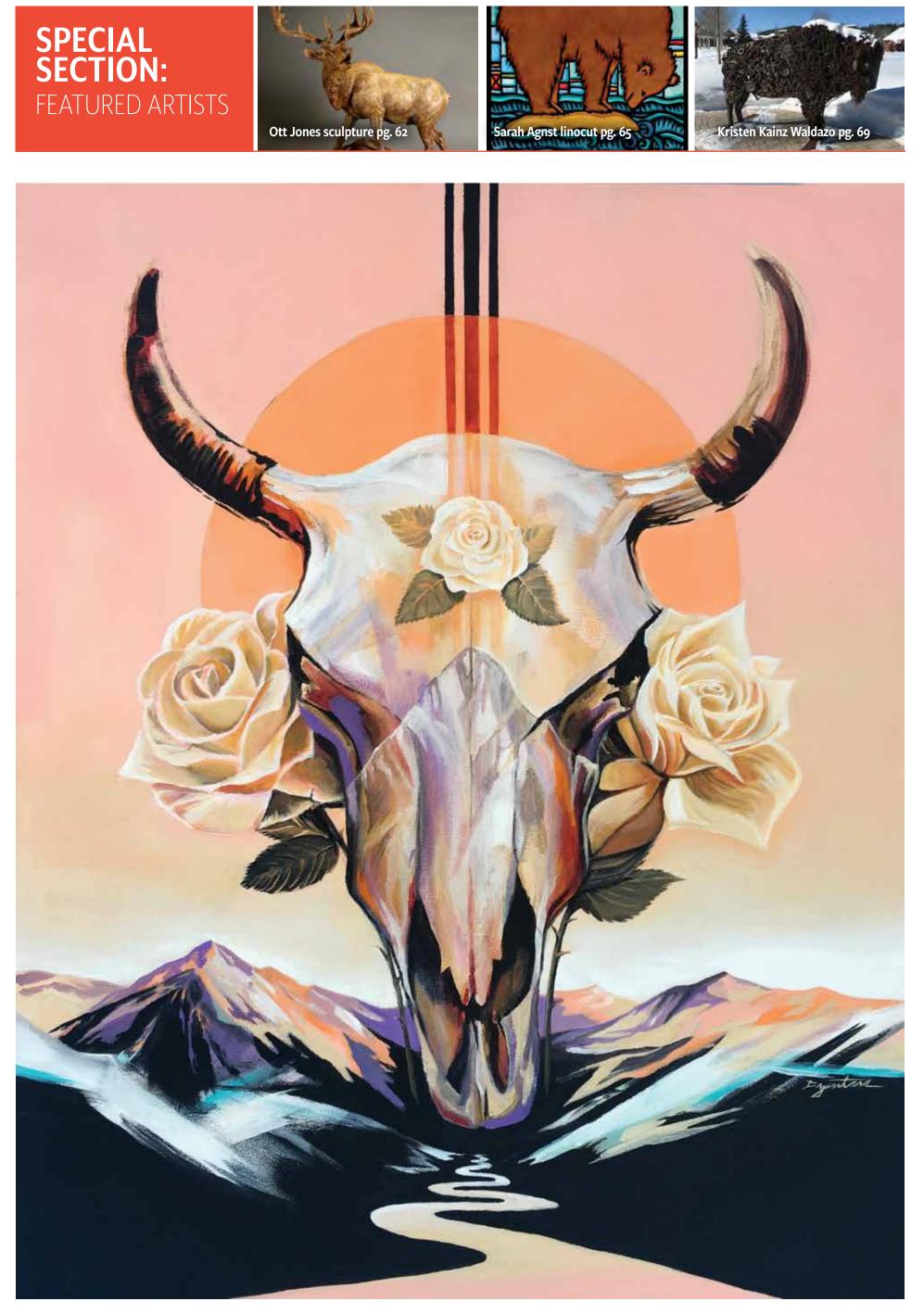
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FEATURED ARTISTS

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"Protection" I was recently introduced to the idea of roses as a symbol for boundaries and protection, with their absorbent petals and protective thorns. This painting evolved while I was processing intense grief, a vulnerable time in which visualizing and standing in these boundaries became more important than ever. While my past work has largely been a reflection of experiences in the outer world, with this piece I felt a shift of focus to the inner self. KELSEY DZINTARS, 'PROTECTION' ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, 20X30

Immortalizing wildlife in bronze

BY SARAH GIANELLI

BOZEMAN – In addition to observing wildlife, studying anatomy books, sketching and taking photographs, Bozeman-area sculptor Ott Jones also keeps a "roadkill freezer" for reference. It's currently inhabited by game birds and a fox, although he's been known to have a resident coyote from time to time.

"It's great research between observing in the wild and using a dead animal," he said, explaining that the corpses are especially helpful for rendering details like feathers, feet or a beak. "Of course they get quite ripe, so I can't keep them a long time."

That said, he prefers to work from live models whenever possible, and has corralled dogs, chipmunks, roosters and turkeys for extended sessions. Jones focuses on the details prior to constructing the original clay mold, so that they inform his bronze sculptures with accuracy, but don't necessarily show up in the finished result.

"If you don't have your subject's anatomy right, your whole sculpture is going to be off," he said.

However, Jones abides by the "less is more" aesthetic.

"I want viewers to look and to really enjoy the form and the composition and not get tied up in every feather or hair," he said. "Detail in certain areas is crucial—faces, eyes, the fins on a fish, antlers—but you don't have to have every hair on an elk [defined] for it to be a nice sculpture."

Because his pieces are built on a foundation of anatomical accuracy they ring true, but aesthetically lean toward the impressionistic, his fingerprints visible in many of his finished bronzes.

"Art is a very subjective field and that's the nice thing about painters and sculptors ... our techniques and philosophies are all unique," he said. "Some are entirely abstract, some are very tightly detailed. There's no right or wrong—it's all good in that realm of creativity."

The artist starts with a mental picture of how he wants to present his subject and creates a maquette—a very rough, loose study in clay. Once he creates another, more perfected sculpture, he sends it to a foundry in Livingston or Belgrade where it's turned into bronze through an involved eight-step process. While the creation of a single sculpture might take two to four months, Jones said each piece is really the culmination of decades of experience and observation.

"It really takes a lifetime to complete a piece," he said. "It's my lifetime of working in the field, observing animals, research in the field, and trying to perfect my technique."

A major highlight of Jones' career is having one of his pieces in Queen Elizabeth II's vacation home in Sandringham, England.

One of his friends buys Labrador puppies from the royal kennels and commissioned Jones to make a sculpture for the queen. "Birth of the Labrador" depicts cod fishermen off the Newfoundland coast in the 1600s, and Labradors that were first used to retrieve cod from the sea that had gotten off their hooks.



Jones traces his love of wildlife and sporting game back to his childhood in Spokane, Washington, where some of his fondest memories are hunting and fishing with his father. He first started sculpting wildlife in third grade.

"My mom would find all these little balls of wax in the carpet, but she was very understanding," he said.

Despite his parents' support of his artistic tendencies, Jones pursued an education in college with an eye toward pre-med. But, he said, when he was supposed to be in the library studying, he was working on his art.

Upon graduation, Jones got a job as a fishing guide in Iliamna, Alaska. He would guide during the day—observing the arctic caribou, fox and birds of the tundra—and sculpt at night.

His boss allowed him to display his bronzes in Iliamna's Rainbow King Lodge, which is how he began to build a customer base for his work, even after he went on to work as a welder's helper on an oilrig in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.



"Timberline Titan" by Ott Jones PHOTO COURTESY OF OTT JONES

Jones also has a fly fisherman and Labrador sculpture in the Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport, and a monument of mountain man Jim Bridger at the Bozeman Chamber of Commerce. His work can also be found locally at Rocky Mountain Rug Gallery in Bozeman and Creighton Block Gallery in Big Sky.

"I want to paint animals in a desirable and honorable way," Jones said. "But the other important satisfaction for me is how happy the client is with their piece. It may remind them of a special experience they had or a place they visited ... [or] if I patina a hunting dog sculpture to look like their dog it can memorialize their companion forever."

Visit ottjones.com to see more of the artist's work.

BSSD art project highlights social justice issues Hard topics tackled in pop art paintings

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY - The youth have long been hailed—in some instances, scorned—for their role in society as the de facto social critics.

Some might chalk it up to youthful need for rebellion, or, in a reductive dismissal, hormones. More likely, it's recognition of the immediate inheritance of the world and its affairs.

Whatever one's position on the matter, the phenomenon is a fact of life. And eighth-graders of the Big Sky School District answered the call of outspoken advocacy in the first semester of the 2019-20 school year through a series of pop art paintings highlighting some of the most pressing, sometimes contentious, problems of the era.

Touching upon a wide range of topics, from white tigers being inbred, to pill addiction, gun violence, political strife in Hong Kong and police brutality, among others, members of the eighth grade class put brush to canvas in hopes of illustrating what matters to them.

"They are incredible," art teacher DJ Soikkeli told EBS. "[It's] cool for them to see their work in the paper, because then they are validated that their voice does matter and is being heard."

Soikkeli had each student write an artist statement to accompany the pieces, designed to underscore their creative vision and why they chose the topic they did. Take Logan Barker's commentary on rape culture.

"The big idea that my artwork illustrates is how as a whole our society encourages rape culture," Barker wrote about her piece, "Encouragement at the Circus." "I intend to single out how as a society as a whole we practice encouraging this idea that it is OK to rape."



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"Hand Guns" by Mason Dickerson PHOTO COURTESY OF DJ SOIKELLI/BSSD

Or Mason Dickerson's portrayal of gun violence in the U.S.

"A growing issue in the United States is gun violence and gun legislation," Dickerson wrote. "The goal of my art piece is to spread awareness for the growing gun violence in the U.S. and to show all we need to do is put out a helping hand for everybody."

Through this creative project, students were given a platform to voice their outrage and sadness for woes of today. Art and activism are staunch associates-through the BSSD curriculum and Soikkeli's oversight, that relationship is now celebrated by the eighth-graders of Big Sky.

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In the Spotlight: Ben Miller, fly fishing as an art form

BY SARAH GIANELLI

BIG SKY - On a warm August afternoon, artist Ben Miller prepared himself for a painting—and casting—session on the banks of the Gallatin River near Big Sky.

I was skeptical. Painting with a fly rod? Seemed kind of gimmicky. But in no time, Miller had me convinced of the parallels between fly fishing and painting, and that his work comes from a place of authenticity and integrity.

He recalls one skeptic asking, "Why paint with a fly rod?"

Miller had a quick response: "Why fish with one? There are so many more efficient ways to catch a fish."

An aluminum easel was set up in the shallow water, a paint-splattered A-frame fitted into a base that allowed the river to flow through it.

He strapped a rinse bucket to his upper thigh, and a fly box palette to his wrist. A creel basket at his hip held his paints and the materials to make the flies that would act as his brushes.

"To me fly fishing and painting are essentially the same," said Miller, rummaging in his creel for a fluffy piece of yarn he ties just as he would if he were going fishing, something he's done ever since his grandpa gave him his first fly rod when he was 8 years old.

"For centuries people have been using

fur and feathers to emulate a bug," he said. "Painters, they've been doing the same thing-they've just been putting the fur or feathers at the end of a stick."

PAINTING BY BEN MILLER

After dipping the fly in silvery-white paint, he draws back his Winston fly rod and casts, slapping his canvas and creating a mark meant to simulate the flash of a fish.

Because the painting will eventually be flipped over and viewed through the glossy side of the transparent "canvas," Miller starts with Miller has been fishing with a fly rod a lot longer than he's been painting with one, an idea he came up with only three years ago when he moved to Bozeman from Darrington, Washington, a small town northeast of Seattle, where he was a high school art teacher.

"I pretty much knew what would be on my headstone," he said, explaining why he left his hometown. "I'd be the art teacher that grew up and died in Darrington and I wanted something different ... I knew there was more to life than that."

That's when Miller got the idea to paint rivers with a fly rod, something he never heard of another artist doing. He's been giving it his all ever since, creating paintings during fundraising events and donating proceeds to charities such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of Gallatin County and Gallatin River Task Force.

Miller has surprised people who see him on the river numerous times—evoking delight as well as occasional disdain.

"One guy walked away saying 'that's the dumbest thing I've ever seen,"" but Miller just laughed.

"Brook Trout/Brown Trout Flank," like several of his pieces, was painted via "strokes" laid to canvas by a fly rod.

the surface layers, working backward into the river's depths.

"See that guy out there?" he says, pointing to a man fly-fishing a few hundred feet downstream. "He has to make a decision when he opens up that fly box-what size of fly and what color. To a certain degree I'm doing the same thing."

Even when painting, Miller says he assesses the river from the perspective of a fisherman.

"A fisherman studies exactly what the water is doing. You see if the river is high or low, or a little bit muddy, which determines the actions you're going to take. It's just like painting-this water is going to determine the actions I'm going to take [to capture it]."

Miller stops every so often to change his fly—to achieve a different kind of mark—and the paint color, progressing from the silver-blue of the riffles, to deeper shades of cobalt, into the refracting greens, yellows, and earth tones of the river bottom.

"I love that—even if he didn't agree with it, he had come to terms with it. For better or worse I had changed the way he thought about things ... that's one of the purest things."

As if right on cue, a family of Asian tourists carefully made their way down to the river's edge and watched in awe as Miller put the final touches on his painting-slashes of shimmery gold that would just fleck through to the surface of the other side.

Later, long after I had left Miller on the river banks fielding questions from the foreigners, he sent me a photo of one of the boys holding up a fish on a line with a big smile on his face, and a note that read: "You know that family that was there at the end? I got to introduce them to fly fishing."

Visit dutchroguecove.com to see more of Ben Miller's artwork, both his *impressionistic fly-fishing pieces and more representational resin paintings.*

In the Spotlight: Sarah Agnst

BY TIMOTHY BEHUNIAK

BOZEMAN – Have you ever tried, in a sense, imagining backwards? For printmaker Sarah Angst, this is a daily, artistic routine, as her craft of choice requires that every etch, imprint, design and alphabetical character to be laid out in reverse.

Though, despite her tremendous success in mastering the art printmaking, with over 300 stores nationwide carrying greeting cards baring her work, Angst initially disliked the medium when introduced to it in college.



"The Wait," a 5x7 inch, hand-painted linocut. COURTESY OF SARAH ANGST

"I took one printmaking class and hated it," Angst said with a laugh. "There were too many different styles of printmaking that were squished into one quarter class. But then I went to an art fair and there was this man, Ken Swanson, and I fell in love with the graphic qualities of his work."

Finding inspiration in Swanson's work and in the unique satisfaction of creating multiple pieces from a single image, Angst dived headfirst into printmaking.

Her first professional stab came in the form of a contest in Duluth, Minnesota, home of her eponymous alma mater. Angst lost, yet was able to broker a deal to create artwork for a calendar when several patrons took note of her abilities.

The rest is history.

Today, through years of trial and tribulation, Angst dedicates ample time and effort to the period between the conception and sale of a piece. To get to a final product, Angst starts with a sketch from an idea or from inspiration sourced on the Internet. Then, she transfers the drawing onto linoleum, gouging out the negative spaces.

"When there's text, there's definitely been times where I've had to start over because the letters are reversed," Angst said.

Next, she'll roll black ink onto the remaining raised edges and stamp the linoleum onto a piece of paper, filling the spaces in between the boundaries with watercolor, a break from tradition that simply calls for rerolling pigment onto the stamp-like linoleum.

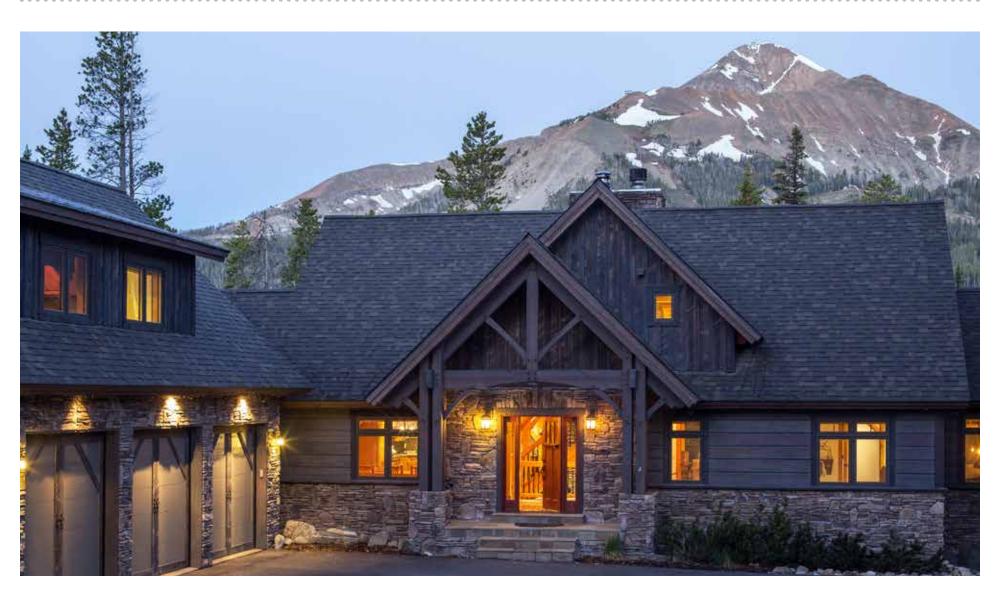
It's a calling card that lends bright and vivid hues to each piece.

"I love the way a black outline makes colors pop," said Angst. "I really love having some sort of complimentary color within a piece—it provides a rich quality."

When looking at the printmaker's portfolio, it's obvious she draws inspiration from nature—pieces feature alpenglow-covered mountains or wild animals roaming the land dominate—so it's no surprise Angst and her young family call Bozeman, in close proximity to abundant natural splendor, home.

"I love the accessibility to the trails and wilderness," said Angst. "It's really exciting to be a part of a community that's growing and thriving."

In this sense, Angst has picked the perfect home, one that parallels her only burgeoning prestige and patronage.





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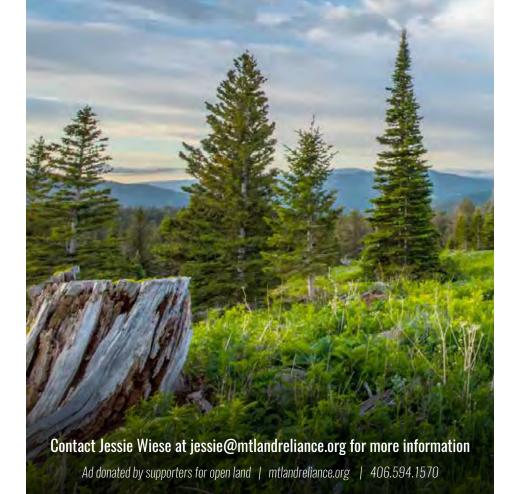
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British photog shoots moon with Montana photography

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY – When London-based photographer David Yarrow decided to venture to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, he didn't opt to photograph the idyllic, caddis fly-strewn summer images of the region. Instead, Yarrow traded classic fly-fishing images for those that capture a hard and wild, yet beautiful, Montana.

A regular associate of heartthrob movie icons such as Leonardo DiCaprio and prolific supermodels the likes of Cindy Crawford, Yarrow was on a series of missions in the name of his work.

One objective entailed photographing perhaps the most iconic American mammal, the mighty bison, in a habitat that fossil records indicate is the species' only continuously populated haunt since prehistoric eras— Yellowstone National Park. This project kept in line with Yarrow's previous endeavors as a photographer, in which notable and intimate shots of wildlife around the world, particularly that found in Africa, has earned him international acclaim.

Yarrow successfully captured these prehistoric beasts on film, their exteriors frosted by subzero temperatures and cut-to-the-bone winds. These adversities, however, mean little to the individuals in his photographs; to them, he says, it's a part of life.

"Lock a bison in a large industrial deep freeze for a month and he will come out laughing," penned Yarrow in a letter he wrote from a friend's in Livingston, which now serves as the forward to a small preview catalogue of his work in the region. "They have been around for 500,000 years and I fancy they will be around quite a bit longer."

The bison was not the only American icon Yarrow captured; immediately before his descent into America's first park last winter, Yarrow shot a series of remarkable images the artist contends "will stand the test of time."

Much like the shaggy behemoths, the Montana cowboy is grizzled, time tested and invariably interesting to the outsider. Juxtaposed with Venusian beauties like Crawford, "a true American idol," wrote Yarrow, and models Josie Canseco and Roxanna Redfoot, the deep, leathery creases on their faces, grease-splattered garb and tobacco smoke-stained facial hair all but scream stories from a life still very much like that experienced by the continent's first frontiersmen.

Supermodels and cowboys: That's how America does it. But Yarrow made sure to throw in some additional American icons, as well as lions, grizzly bears and wolves, for added effect.

The work rendered from these novel compositions of Yarrow's "Storytelling" collection is anything but ordinary, much like the unordinary state, in an unordinary region, of the unordinary country in which they were shot.





"Once Upon a Time in the West," like all of his "Storytelling" pieces, underscores Yarrow's desire to break the mold. PHOTO COURTESY OF CREIGHTON BLOCK GALLERY

Currently featured in a swathe of galleries worldwide, from Los Angeles to Oslo, Norway, including Big Sky's very own Creighton Block, it's hard to argue that they won't indeed stand the test of time.

This is particularly evident when one studies a piece like "Once Upon A Time in The West," in which Canseco, clad in lavish white furs, casually sits next to a wolf in the front seat of a Chevy Impala convertible; behind them, the Crazy Mountains north of Bozeman backdrop a sprawling dirt road.

A handful of Yarrow's ongoing "Storytelling" series pieces, of which the Greater Yellowstone shots belong, loom large on the walls of Creighton Block, which was selected to display the work through a bit of serendipity.

"I received a phone call from a friend in Virginia City who'd gone to work for him," said Colin Mathews, a co-owner of Creighton Block Gallery. "They told me a famous British photographer wanted to have a presence in Big Sky and visit our gallery."

Mathews, along with Gallery Director Courtney Collins, met Yarrow at a dinner party the photographer hosted last March at the Gallatin River Lodge; the Brit had rented the lodge for two weeks as a base for himself and the crew.

"We went down and had a conversation with him about his art and our gallery, and he came by three or four days later," Mathews said. "Now we're in the Yarrow business."

His striking work mirrors his personality, Mathews added.

Yarrow's novel compositions, such as "Crazy Horse" feature Montana landscapes, cowboys, wildlife and world-class American models, and are now on display at Big Sky's Creighton Block Gallery. PHOTO COURTESY OF CREIGHTON BLOCK GALLERY "He is truly a wild and crazy guy, to borrow a phrase from Steve Martin, Mathews said, "a larger than life personality, and such a jolly and artistic fellow."

Much of Yarrow's work is sold to the benefit of conservation efforts around the world, with a percentage of proceeds from sales going to organizations such as Tusk, WildArk, YUNA and Natural World Safaris.

Other charitable ventures, too, with proceeds from "Cindy's Shotgun Wedding," which features Crawford and wolf in the same open convertible, but instead back dropped by a Nevada City saloon and a man adorned a black stovepipe hat, eye patch and an old-fashioned shotgun held at the ready, went toward providing care for children with cancer, an ongoing charity mission of Crawford's.

"A serious part of his work is for conservation," Collins said. "He's selling work to save the planet."



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Explore Big Sky

In the Spotlight: Kirsten Kainz Fusing many parts to create the whole

BY SARAH GIANELLI

BIG SKY - A complex assemblage of repurposed metal-gears, tools, chains, keys, car parts and the like-comprise Big Sky's iconic bison sculpture on the northeast corerner of Fire Pit Park.

Fashioned by Belgrade artist Kirsten Kainz, and introduced to the community via the Arts Council of Big Sky's public arts initiative, the sculpture was designed to be interactive, and incorporates dials that spin, switches that switch, and a tail and fur made of loose, jiggly chain.

Sometimes it's simply the shape or beauty of an object that attracts Kainz. But for the Big Sky piece, which she knew would be seen by a lot of people, she looked for components that were easily identifiable, or had a humorous, playful, or interesting aspect to them.

As Kainz's renown has spread, she's had to spend less time foraging for materials in junkyards, as admirers of her work increasingly contact her with offers of metal castoffs. Such was the case for the Big Sky sculpture, named "Waldazo" after the poetry alias of the late father of the woman who donated its parts.

The artist is often asked how long it took to create the bison, how much it weighs and how many parts it's made of.

"It took too long; it weighs too much; and there are way too many pieces in it," is Kainz's standardized response.

After experimenting with many sculptural mediums in college—ceramics, glass blowing and bronze casting-Kainz discovered metalsmithing and her heart was captured.

"The processes involved are so amazing and then there's the longevity and permanence of the product," she explained. "There are so many avenues you can take-casting, cutting, shaping, soldering, hammering ... there are just so many possibilities."



"Waldazo" is a whimsical, mechanical, pseudo-steam punk bison that has become a Big Sky Town Center public art icon since its 2018 installation. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Her work ranges from the serious to the purely whimsical, a factor of her mood at the time of creation.

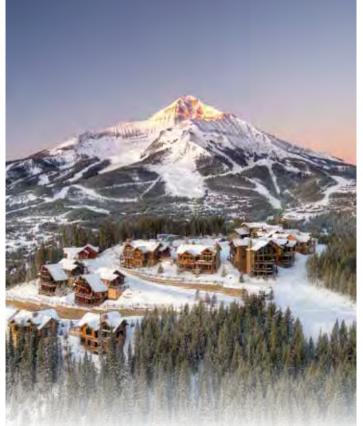
"I think when I'm creating, it just goes in accordance with what I'm feeling or seeing," Kainz said. "So if I'm really feeling intensely about a certain issue, that will come out in my work and sometimes it's a little dark. But there's also a really important place for fun and accessible energy as well. I do make pieces just for the wonderfulness of them too."

When she's not sculpting, or painting—a newer medium for the artist, she can be found at MAP Brewing Bozeman, which she co-owns with her husband, Patrick Kainz.



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In the Spotlight: Kevin Red Star Preserving cultural integrity through art

BY SARAH GIANELLI

ROBERTS, Mont. – Behind an unassuming storefront on a pot-holed side street in a blink-and-you'll-miss-it town north of Red Lodge is the grand studio and private gallery of one of the nation's preeminent Native American artists, Kevin Red Star.

Inside, the walls are adorned with the largest number of Red Star originals amassed in one place. These works—portraits and scenes depicting traditional Crow life with a contemporary, stylized aesthetic are part of the artist's personal collection and while not available for sale are often lent out for museum exhibitions.

Their quiet power evokes a hush. One knows they are beholding something visually arresting but senses that the full extent of their significance might prove forever elusive. A similar aura surrounds the humble artist himself.

Red Star's daughter and artist assistant, Sunny Red Star, guides me to a cavernous warehouse space adjacent to the foyer, where Red Star stands before two large works in progress, paintbrush in hand.

One of them was inspired by a photograph taken of a Crow man by the prolific Edward S. Curtis in the late 1800s. Red Star was captivated by the stark tonal contrast when he came across the image and is reimagining it freehand with graphite and diluted acrylics, although most of his recent work is in oils.

Although still in its early phases, it is already "distinctively Kevin." His style defies rigid categorization—a single painting may combine impressionistic, realistic and design elements—but as Sunny said, "you know when you have a Red Star." You should also know that the utmost attention and care has been spent on the rendering of every detail. "I try to be as accurate as possible when portraying Crow designs," said Red Star, who takes his role as a visual historian with great responsibility. He spends as much time researching his people's culture in libraries and museums and studying artifacts as he does painting. "If I am painting a Crow teepee—it has to be all Crow.

"The design, the dress, the hairstyles, it all has to be taken into consideration. I am portraying who we are, like in a book, like a photograph—in doing so it keeps that integrity there for the young people."

Although Red Star and his work have traveled the globe—his paintings have permanent homes in all the major museums of Western art including the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian—and the artist has a second residence in Santa Fe, he cannot stray too far, for too long, from his Crow roots.

Growing up in Lodge Grass, Red Star had never been more than 50 miles from the reservation until he was 16 when, having demonstrated artistic talent, he was recruited to be among the inaugural high school class of the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe in 1962.

"I didn't know where it was going to take me but I loved what I was doing. Even back then," Red Star said.

IAIA provided an immersive, comprehensive art education and the tools, encouragement and instruction to launch a lifelong career in the arts. Today Red Star is recognized as the first professional artist to emerge from the Crow people. He lived and worked in New Mexico, California and New York, and traveled extensively abroad before returning to permanently reside near or on the reservation in 1987.

"I miss it when I'm too far away," said Red Star. "I'm family oriented. I gotta have the mountains and my rivers ... the Yellowstone, Big Horn and Arrow Creek." In times when work and life have taken him for extended periods elsewhere, he would seek out ceremonies, sweat lodges,

pow wows or drum circles for a fix of the traditional and culturally familiar.

Red Star still generates a childlike enthusiasm for the arts. Painting has enabled him to find personal satisfaction and pure enjoyment while serving a larger purpose. His advice to anyone with a dream artistic or otherwise—is to stay true, whatever the pursuit, and remain dedicated.



Esteemed Crow artist Kevin Red Star at work in his Roberts, Montana studio. PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI

"It's like being a scientist," Red Star said. "It all pays off in the end if you've found something that can help all of humanity—like my art. It teaches and gives to the young people of the world, not just the Crow or Native Americans but to all indigenous people everywhere."

To see more of Red Star's work visit kevinredstar.com or visit Creighton Block Gallery in Big Sky.

In the Spotlight: Jill Zeidler Fusing fine art and functionality

BY SARAH GIANELLI

BIG SKY – It's been three-and-a-half years since ceramicist Jill Zeidler opened a retail and working studio space in the Big Horn Shopping Center, and the artist's business is flourishing. The space is light, airy and clean, very much like the hand-formed functional and decorative stoneware thoughtfully displayed around the room.

On the working side of the studio, clay is in various stages of metamorphosis, from a heap of yam-shaped lumps to tall, smooth cylinders nearly ready for the kiln, a gleaming piece of equipment that will work its magic—or misery—on whatever she puts in it.

"There are a lot of 'seconds' [with ceramics]," Zeidler said. "You can work so hard on



Zeidler creates hand-formed decorative and functional ceramics in her signature minimalistic style and light and airy aesthetic. PHOTO BY TORI PINTAR

a piece, put it in the kiln and it could crack or a fleck from the atmosphere could land on the piece ... it's really unpredictable."

It's the challenge of that unpredictability and having her hands constantly immersed in the making process that keeps Zeidler engaged with the medium.

When Zeidler, who has been making her art in Big Sky for 17 years, transitioned from her home-based studio into a storefront, her business model also shifted, from a largely web-based wholesale clientele, for which she was supplying more than 25 stores nationwide, to a greater concentration on Big Sky and the surrounding region.

She now has the added benefit of walk-in retail traffic, and sells primarily out her gallery-studio, in Big Sky at Gallatin River Gallery and Rhinestone Cowgirl, in Jackson, Wyoming at Workshop, and online through Etsy.

"I'm definitely a global artist," she said. "But the Big Sky clientele has been amazing. The collectors are what drive my business, but with the growth of tourism my business has grown for sure. But it's always a hustle—if you want to work as an artist, you've got to work hard to get the exposure."

While she says she'll "always be making mugs for people," Zeidler's true passion is for large-scale sculptural pieces that serve as utilitarian fine art.

Her vases, platters and signature tall-lipped "gourd" bowls, made with a neutral pastel palette with occasional splashes of gold leaf or accents of grassy green, could just as easily sit on a coffee table as a decorative piece or hold a big salad on the dining room table.

Many pieces, which include cheeseboards and small vases, among others, feature overlayed Xerox images of nature—he greatest inspiration.

Ever work is perfectly imperfect, just enough to retain an elegant handmade quality, and the pursuit, no matter the business model, will be lifelong.

"I'll never stop making art," she said. "Even without a retail space, I'll never stop working. I'll never disappear."

Visit jillzeidler.com for more information.



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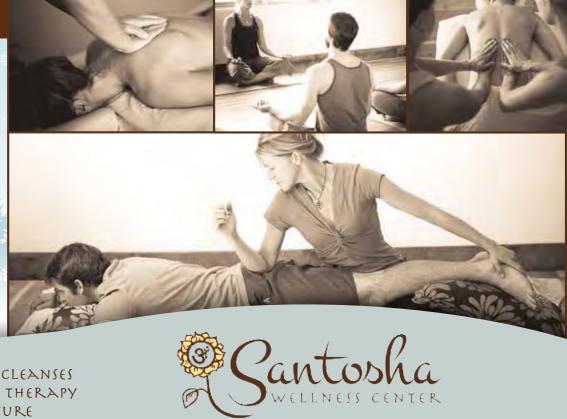
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In the Spotlight: Cyrus Walker Western motifs in modern times

BY SARAH GIANELLI

BIG SKY – Cyrus Walker grew up in a small, rural Vermont community a stone's throw from the Canadian border. After one year at College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine, Walker took some time off to travel, work and explore, landing in Bozeman about a decade ago, still of an "age when you'd piss on an electrical fence on a dare."

Before finishing his degree at Montana State University in 2016, Walker had already started his graphic design business, Cyrus Design Co., and has since



created the logos for many area businesses, including Big Sky's Rad Bikes, and vintage-style poster art for ski resorts, Yellowstone National Park and rodeos.

Today, the young creative is at a milestone moment when the scales are starting to tip from a focus on commercial art toward that of fine art.

Walker's roots are in graphic design—something he attributes to spending a lot of time with an uncle in the advertising business—but he's also a talented illustrator, a skill not all designers have.

"You need to have a knowledge of form, line, texture and composition," said Walker, who took fine art classes at MSU in addition to design prerequisites. "All of these basics make you a more well-rounded artist and designer."

Walker has always been attracted to what he calls "the golden era of design" between the 1930s and 1950s—when all advertising was illustration-based—and this aesthetic comes through in both his commercial and fine art, and work blending the two, like the custom old-timey posters he creates for rodeo events all over the West.

Walker said he's an "analog guy" at heart, but has embraced the digital as well. And he finds ways to make his process more difficult. "It's fun to use an image and try to back-peddle from that as much as you can—it's an interesting twist."

As with the rodeo posters, Western iconography is often the focal point of Walker's fine art, but through his mixed media approach he'll take an old photograph of a cowboy, for example, and place it in a visually contemporary context.

After blowing up and transferring a vintage photograph to a canvas, Walker will draw and paint over it, incorporate paper for added texture, resulting in the juxtaposition of the old with a bright, flashy pop-art aesthetic, a style that artists across the West and Southwest can be found working in today.

Bozeman is the biggest city Walker's ever lived in; his hometown is a place that everybody's leaving, not migrating toward. Art-making is Walker's way of trying to make sense of what he is seeing around him—remnants and relics of the cowboy lifestyle amid the rapid growth and change of Bozeman; a place that prides itself on its rustic, outdoorsy appeal while development paves over more and more of it.

"For me it's a reflection of what we're going through now and the new wave of folks coming here," he said. "The romantic ideal of the West is still very much revered, but I think it's something people are trying to capture but don't necessarily live anymore. When I see a new development in Bozeman, I'm torn because it's going to be a fantastic building in a great location, but it's replacing the classic Western culture ... it's amazing how fast it all changes."

Walker's artwork is well known to patrons of the Big Sky PBR—Outlaw Partners, publisher of this newspaper, has commissioned the Vermont native for several years in designing the event's poster artwork—stay tuned for a special edition 10-year anniversary Big Sky PBR design to be released in the near future. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO Art is what comes out the other side of Walker's processing of the contradictions he perceives in his external world.

"I'm reflecting people and themes that I pick up on by living here, the things we can't quite put our finger on," Walker said.

Playing the devil's advocate, I asked Walker if he was focusing on Western subject matter because it has market appeal in the region, and we launched into a philosophical discussion about co-opting native material as a non-native.

"What does it even mean to be a Western artist?" he asked. "Does it have to do with what you're painting? Where you're painting? I think that you should have the freedom to paint what you feel, not only what you know. If I was only allowed to create work about what I grew up around, I'd only be allowed to paint pictures of dairy cows."

You can see more of Walker's art at Creighton Block Gallery in Big Sky and online at cyrusdesigncompany.com. Stay tuned for a special edition 10-year anniversary Big Sky PBR design to be released in the near future.



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