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Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

FREE

Big Sky

April 24 - May 7, 2020
Volume 11 // Issue #9

"Hope is an incredibly small thing when you are in a very broken place in your life. I don't think it is something that looks bubbly and enormously bright and fills up the room – not when you are in total darkness ... [but] always be looking for hope. No matter how small, no matter where. Find it."

-Sarah Treanor



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. P A R T N E R S .

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ON THE COVER:

In her blog post "Hope," part of the "Still, life" series about coping with the tragic loss of her fiancé, award-winning photographer Sarah Treanor discusses keeping hope alive at all costs—and today, as hope begins to sprout in a world reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic, we can learn from Treanor's words and photographs. Read and view more of her work at streanor.com. PHOTO BY SARAH TREANOR

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State prepares to enter reopening phases

At an April 22 press conference, Gov. Steve Bullock announced his plan for a phased reopening of Montana's economy. On Sunday, April 26 the stay-at-home order in Montana will be lifted, beginning to gradual phase of reopening within the state.

11

Big CAREavan celebrates seasons end

Big Sky celebrated the originally scheduled Big Sky Resort closing day in a creative way. The annual staple event, pond skim, did not occur, nor were there spring turns on the sunny south face of Lone Mountain, but a party was had nonetheless.

27

Front steps family quarantine portraits

As the statewide stay-at-home order shrinks our social circles, local photographers are adapting their craft to capture this neighborhood spirit with the Front Steps Project. The concept allows photographers to hone their skill, donate all or a portion of their service fees to local nonprofits and capture family photos from a safe distance.

19

Isolated in Lamar Valley

The evening in Lamar Valley is quiet. While the wide-open spaces of Yellowstone National Park's northeastern corner are usually calm, there is an obvious absence. The typical whirring traffic of eager tourists is inaudible to the residents of the valley; the roads are empty.

38

Starz continuing playing career

Lone Peak High School senior quarterback Frankie Starz will be trading his Big Horns blue and white for Chapman University Panther black and red this fall. The three-year starter for LPHS will depart for the Orange, California campus this upcoming season to continue his football career at the collegiate level.

Opening Shot



The CDC released a recommendation that suggests people braving the public should wear cloth masks to protect themselves and others from virus transmission. Some have taken the PPE crafting into their own hands, adding a flare of personal style to their facial protection.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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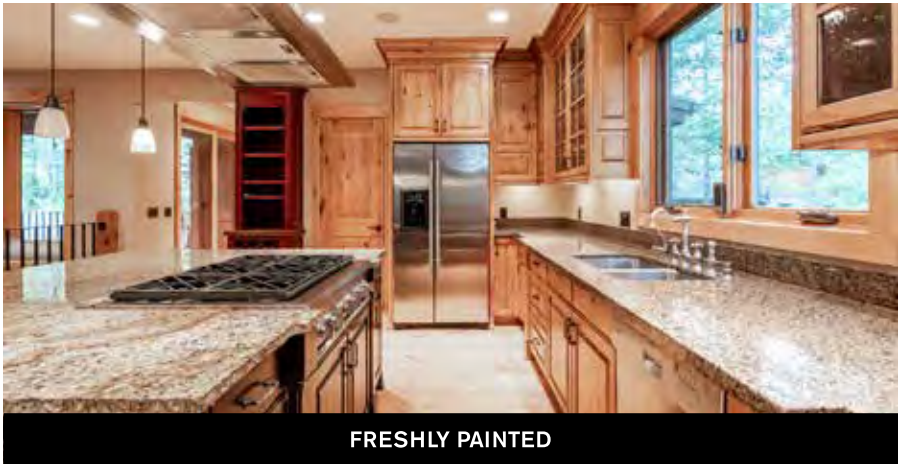
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LETTERS

Op-ed: Preparing for life as it were

BY BOB HALL

I don't know about you, but I'm anxious to return to the way things were.

Perhaps this is a bro hug from one of your old pals, an invite for a beer at your neighbor's, or a workout at your favorite gym. A crowded Lotus Pad, a line for coffee at Toast, or seeing the spring line at Grizzly Outfitters all sound pretty enticing right now. There's a short guy on TV most everyday named Dr. Fauci who tells us things are forever changed ... could this be true?

Let's examine something as traditional as the handshake, an age-old practice. We've all had a mom or dad tell us to look them in the eye and give a firm shake and I am just about getting it right after practicing for over 60 years. A handshake is an amazing thing and provides an indication of what someone might be like within 30 seconds of meeting them. I'm not sure you get the same feedback from an elbow tap? I guess we are going to have to monitor this virus situation, but I for one am not ready to give up the handshake.

How about parties? That one word invokes so many connotations. Is it the blow out fraternity gig with eight kegs, no food and a song like Sandstorm turned up to 11 on the sound system (for you Spinal Tap followers!)? Perhaps it's a holiday party where you actually do have food, lots of red wine and you have invited 20 percent more people into your home than capacity. Then of course there are the various pond skims, ice bars and outdoor concerts that all constitute major gigs. These are all highlights of any given year, and I'm not ready to give them up for a life of self-quarantining!

How about shopping? It can be arduous finding a parking space, striking out on a size 12 EE in your favorite trail runners, or waiting for that perfect boot fit from

one of Big Sky's best. But is there a better way to hear how "the Big" is skiing, inquire when the new Community Center is opening, or hear you gotta go see Andy Frasco during Music in the Mountains (he kicks ass!)? The other benefit is that some of your purchases just might spruce up your wardrobe. Hey, that gold North Face jacket from the '90s needs a lift, 115-centimeter powder skis actually make you float, and nothing taste like a double latte from Caliber.

When will we go to a restaurant and not be met curbside for take-out? I yearn for things hopping at the Riverhouse, having to wait for a table at Ousel and Spur, or standing in the bar at BYWOM. It's fun to run into that guy from the pick-up line at school (even if he drives too fast), the patroller who talked you down Lenin when the light went completely flat (buy that gal a beer!), or the snowboarder who cut you off trying to get on Swifty (sorry, couldn't resist). And just think: choosing one of 10 beers on tap at most restaurants in town and opening up that menu. Yes, choices! You get to compare notes with your server about what Netflix shows to watch, enjoy a great dinner and not do the dishes.

These honored traditions can't just go by the wayside. Yup, there are a lot of smart people who will tell us what to do. Many are working on therapies, vaccines and other preventative measures. Yes, it might be a while, but we have survived worse (or at least our grandparents have) and we'll figure this out.

When you have not just the entire country but the whole world breaking the back of this virus, good things will happen! Keep the faith. It's hard to stop a lot of very smart people with a laser-like focus on battling this virus. In the meantime, if you get the elbow tap from a buddy at the grocery store or at the post office, have solace- you'll be hugging it out soon!

You got this Big Sky!

Another Covid 19 Commercial

And remember we're all in this together, separately, so like don't come over because I said we're in this together. I mean come on, even in the "New Normal" we would never hang out! So to recap, we're all in this together, separately.
DO NOT COME OVER HERE!



LETTERS

Timing wrong for BSSD school bond

To the Editor:

I am a big proponent of public education. However, now is not the time to pass a \$23 million bond for Big Sky School District #72. The three areas outlined in the bond proposal are for programs including:

- 1) wood shop, art and music
- 2) expansion to increase student/teacher capacity over the next 10 years
- 3) after-hours adult education.

Although I fully support all these measures, now is simply not the time to increase the tax burden of Big Sky property owners.

According to a recent WalletHub study, Montana has the second-most affected tourism industry due to COVID-19 (Hawaii being No. 1), and these effects are clearly seen throughout our community since Big Sky Resort closed for business nearly a month earlier than planned. And we have no way of knowing what the longer-term affects will be six months from now, a year from now or longer.

With so much of our local economy dependent on tourism, I think it would be irresponsible to pass the \$23 million bond at this time.

Terry Thomas
Big Sky



Gov. Steve Bullock said as the economy reopens, we’ll be returning to a “new normal.” What is a new habit you hope to bring with you into the “new normal?”



Stephanie Sarmiento
Big Sky, Montana

“Reconnecting and staying connected more often with conference FaceTime and Zoom calls with distant friends and family. Unfortunately, my immediate family is quaranting all over—Big Sky, Washington D.C., Norway Florida—so these conference calls are super special!”



Lander Bachert
Big Sky, Montana

“I think the most useful and human thing I’d like to bring to later times is starting each conversation or meeting with ‘How are you?’ And then listening and responding to the answer. I’ve been on both sides of that question over the past weeks and I appreciate both in an extraordinary way. What better way to get on the same page then to figure out what we’re all reading?”



Mel Libby
Big Sky, Montana

“Eating so well! I’ve had more time to focus on what exactly I’m eating and how to make food taste so much better. That being said, have you tried Pinky G’s chicken tenders? Those are a staple now too!”



Katie Reid
Big Sky, Montana

“From having to stay within my own home, not only has it forced me to keep myself and my family healthy, it has helped me kickstart a healthier lifestyle in general. I’ve had to plan ahead meals so I know what to get in my grocery order, and when I place my order it’s only the things I need and not the things I want. And overall it has showed me all of the places where I can be saving money. Come this “new normal,” I will definitely keep up the healthy eating and making time to work out and spend smart.”



Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center opens at Gallatin Mental Health Center

BOZEMAN HEALTH

BOZEMAN, MT—Health providers in Gallatin County have tracked an increase in demand for mental health services, likely due to stress, social distancing and crisis associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. To meet these behavioral health needs, Bozeman Health, Western Montana Mental Health Center and the Help Center are proud to announce the opening of our community's first Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center (BHUCC) made possible through an innovative partnership. These services can be accessed by calling 211 and the center is located at Gallatin Mental Health Center on Farmhouse Way in Bozeman and is available to receive referrals Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"As Bozeman Health has responded to and prepared for a medical response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we've also been hard at work behind the scenes ensuring access to needed behavioral health services," stated Maureen Womack, M.S., Bozeman Health's system director of behavioral health. "It's important that people know how to seek care for mental health and crisis by calling 211. We are also coordinating with local law enforcement and community leaders so they are aware of the care that is available to them and this change in how we are addressing the increased need for mental health services through the Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center."

Any person who calls 211 will speak to one of Help Center 211's crisis counselors who will provide immediate help for those in crisis in addition to appropriate referrals to address each person's specific need. People who call may be directed to the BHUC for appropriately social distanced in-person help and care including a safe space for individuals and families, crisis interventions, psychiatric evaluations and clinical assessments, brief counseling, brief medication management services and referrals and links to community resources.

For more information, visit bozemanhelpcenter.org and for immediate help, call the Help Center at 211.

Grizzly euthanized in Blackfoot Valley

EBS STAFF

On April 13 and April 16, two male grizzly bears were euthanized following attacks on livestock.

The first bear launched its attacks on a ranch east of Ovando, Montana in the Blackfoot Valley.

The young male had killed three calves in the span of three days and continued to pursue livestock herds before its capture. A grizzly that becomes habituated to the ease of stalking and killing livestock is often euthanized, as it's a behavior that is difficult to break, said Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks bear management specialist Jamie Jonkel.

To prevent further incidents, the victimized rancher is working with the local Blackfoot Challenge watershed group "to set up an electric fence to help prevent future livestock depredations," according to a Missoulian article. The other young male, weighing 586 pounds, had continually killed livestock along the Rocky Mountain Front southwest of Augusta, and was reported have been regularly approaching ranch homes in dangerous proximity.

Mike Madel, FWP bear management specialist, said the removal was allowed under Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Guidelines developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FWP and Wildlife Services. The animal's hide and skull were kept for educational purposes.

Gov. Bullock announces Phase One of reopening including bars, restaurants

EBS STAFF

HELENA—At an April 22 press conference, Gov. Steve Bullock announced his plan for a phased reopening of Montana's economy. On Sunday, April 26 the stay-at-home order in Montana will be lifted. Beginning on Monday, April 27, main street retail businesses will be allowed to reopen and on Monday, May 4 restaurants and bars will be allowed to operate, all with capacity restrictions in place. Finally, on May 7, the remote learning directive placed on public schools will be lifted.

Still, Montanans will still be asked to practice social distancing and to refrain from gathering in groups larger than 10 people. Places of worship can operate at a reduced capacity, bars and restaurants will limit seating to 6 or fewer people per table, though those entities are asked to close no later than 11:30 p.m. Movie theaters, gyms and other venues where large gatherings occur will remain closed during this phase.

Gov. Bullock has refrained from putting an expiration date on Phase One but will monitor the COVID-19 situation in the state carefully alongside and with the guidance of public health officials. He cited Montana's early and aggressive response rate to the state's low case numbers—Montana has the lowest number of positive COVID-19 cases per capita in the country and the lowest number of hospitalizations in the nation.

Bullock reminded Montanans this isn't the occasion to host a celebratory block party and that the virus is not gone from Montana. Everyone is asked to continue diligent hand washing, social distancing practices, working remotely, if possible, and to minimize unnecessary travel. Traveling in or out of the state is still limited to as well as visits to assisted living and other at-risk facilities.

For up-to-date information about the stay-at-home order and phase one of reopening, visit covid19.mt.gov.

High school spring athletics canceled

EBS STAFF

MONTANA – The Montana High School Association announced the cancelation of all 2020 state high school spring athletics on April 22 due to COVID-19, following Governor Bullock's announcement, earlier in the day, of a phased reopening, set to begin throughout the state on April 27.

MHSA's announcement is in accordance with a prior MHSA board action that concluded spring sports would only commence if students were back to traditional classroom settings by May 4. Under Governor Bullock's phased reopening plan, students wouldn't return to this setting until May 7 at the earliest, and is at the discretion of each individual school district.

At this time MHSA is preparing to commence with all planned high school athletic activities once the 2020-2021 school year begins.



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Water resource recovery facility expansion update

Ballots due May 5 for 1 percent vote

BY BRANDON WALKER

BIG SKY – At the April 16 Water Resource Recovery Facility expansion meeting, the current rendering of the proposed Big Sky County Water and Sewer District WRRF plant expansion was presented via a pre-recorded video by Tanner Skelton, the project manager of the architectural team for 45 Architecture, and recapped by Scott Jungwirth, a project engineer for AE2S Engineering.

In the pre-recorded video, Skelton detailed that the membrane bio reactor’s design drew inspiration from grain elevators that can be found throughout Montana.

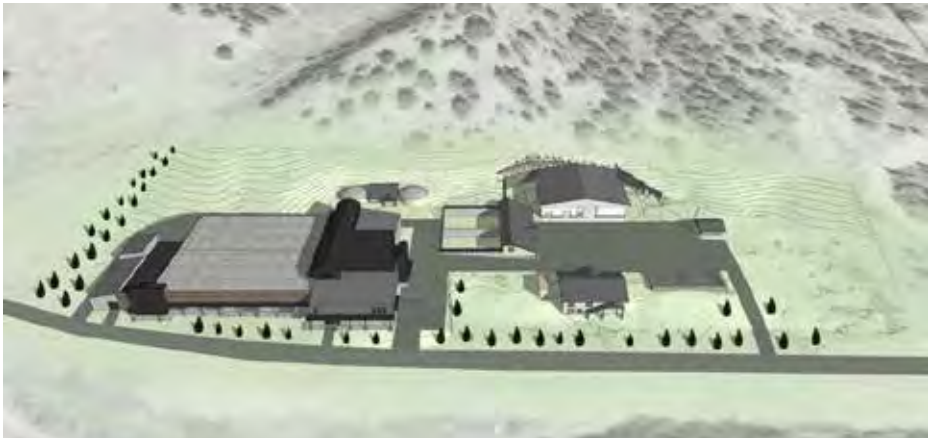
The MBR plant could be completed in two separate phases and located just to the west of the current sequencing batch reaction plant. The first phase would allow the BSCWSD to keep pace with the continued development throughout Big Sky, providing additional single family equivalents to the current thinning total, while a second phase could be implemented in the future when necessary.

“The district doesn’t need all that capacity right now,” said AE2S senior project manager, Scott Buecker. “When you overbuild a treatment plant, it can be as bad as under building a treatment plant because you have a lot of facilities there that aren’t necessary and so you’re mothballing them, trying to figure out how to preserve them.”

Referring to the timeline of events, Jungwirth said that a final design would likely be completed in September of 2020, followed by the bidding process in October. Construction would then begin by the end of the year and continue through mid-2022.

Jungwirth confirmed that the project cost remains around \$35 million even as the economy flexes due to COVID-19. If the 1 percent resort tax increase vote passes, 60 percent, or up to \$27 million, of the \$35 million WRRF expansion would be covered by resort tax revenue.

“That’s still approximately where we are. It depends on the cost of concrete and the construction economy, which is also anybody’s guess right now with COVID” Bucker said. He added that the plan is to update the project’s estimated cost at least twice before the bidding process were to occur, taking into account other



An early rendering of the Big Sky County Water and Sewer District Water Resource Recovery Facility upgrade. The rendering depicts the new membrane bio reactor plant (left) next to the existing sequencing batch reaction plant (right). PHOTO COURTESY OF AE2S & 45 ARCHITECTURE

area bids such as the Big Sky Community Organization’s Community Center project. “So, if you look at the remaining SFE’s on the books, if [the BSCWSD] grew at the rate they were growing before COVID, we need this plant online in 2022,” he said.

If passed, the 1 percent resort tax increase would go into effect starting July 1 of this year, and cover 100 percent, or \$12 million, for the construction of a lift station, force main and a disposal return pipe to the canyon area. The money would be made available for the aforementioned project, but wouldn’t proceed until the canyon area has formed their own water and sewer district.

The agreement between the Big Sky Resort Tax Area District board and the BSCWSD board also allocates 500 SFE’s for workforce housing to help address the community’s employee housing shortage.

Ballots were mailed to registered voters within the BSCWSD boundary on April 17. Voters are encouraged to postmark their returning ballots by April 28 to accommodate for shipping time, or drop them off at the Gallatin County Courthouse by 8 p.m. on May 5.

School bond vote approaches

BY BRANDON WALKER

BIG SKY – Among the many important votes that will take place in Big Sky on May 5 is the Big Sky School District bond vote—slated to potentially foot the bill for a multitude of upgrades and expansions to the school’s facilities.

The \$23.5 million bond is intended to fund increases in educational opportunities—for subjects such as science, engineering and the arts—as well as athletic facility upgrades, additional adult education courses, increased community use and improved student safety with more parking options. The five goals are outlined in an informational pamphlet published by the school district.

“The biggest opportunity presented by the bond is to increase our vocational offerings,” BSSD School Board Chairman Loren Bough said. “...I think that’s a category of services that the larger school districts offer in Montana and I think we have demand for it here in this community.”

BSSD Superintendent Dustin Shipman said the addition of classrooms and common spaces would allow for a broader range of learning opportunities and settings, not only for students but community members as well. The addition would be tacked onto the existing Lone Peak High School building, outside of the Big Sky Community Library.

Bough detailed that he hasn’t fielded many questions or concerns from the community as the vote draws near. Of those that he has received, the theme reflects the financial fears imposed by COVID-19 and its proverbial impacts.

“In this situation with the shutdown of businesses, we’re very sensitive to the fact that we need to be prudent with taxpayer money,” Bough said. “...I think the flipside of that coin is everyone’s realized how much they love this place and that when they do have to make some financial commitments it should be for the things that really matter, and it appears that education really matters in our community.”

The bond will impact taxpayers differently, dependent on the value of their home. For example, as described in the pamphlet, for homeowners whose home is valued

at \$500,000, the yearly increase in taxes will be just shy of \$333, or a little less than \$28 per month.

With a student body—currently over 380 students—showing an upward trend for at least the last half decade, according to the pamphlet, the possible corresponding renovations and expansions will create more space as the student count continues to rise.

In fact, even amidst the pandemic, the BSSD is currently seeing an increase in inquiries from families of prospective students, according to Bough and Superintendent Dustin Shipman.

Additionally, with the anticipated growing student population will come a jump from a Class C to Class B designation. This will have the greatest impact on the school district’s athletic programs.

Bough described that BSSD polled other Class B schools and found that typical crowd sizes would exceed the Bough-Dolan Athletic Complex’s carrying capacity. The facility upgrades, including a new gymnasium and revamped track and field course, would help meet said crowd capacities.

“We’d have an issue finding seats for the [visiting] spectators and for our own spectators in our current facility. Secondly, Class B football we’d move to a larger field and we’re also wanting to offer soccer,” Bough said describing the sport’s popularity within the community. “...We’ll be the first Class C school in Montana to put a team forward to play in the Class A league, and that’s really a reflection of how many kids we have playing the sport.”

A contractor has not been identified for the facility improvements and will not be selected unless the vote passes. If passed, BSSD will seek bids for the renovations and proceed from there.

The mail-in ballots were sent to voters on April 17 and are recommended to be returned by April 28 to allow time for shipping.

Montana and Gallatin County plan for reopening

BY MIRA BRODY AND BELLA BUTLER

GALLATIN COUNTY—On the afternoon of April 17, Gallatin County Health Officer Matt Kelley held a press conference to discuss upcoming reopening planning and measures.

“We want to open up, but we want to open up in a way that we can remain open,” he said.

Both the state and local directives are now in harmony, Kelley said, with the stay-at-home directive scheduled to lift on April 24. Kelley shared a comparison between Montana, which has been proactive in social distancing measures, and South Dakota to show the assumed effectiveness of social distancing. He warned, however, that reemerging into an adjusted form of normalcy has inherent risks. “This remains a serious pandemic even as we are seeing signs of promise here locally.”

The Gallatin County-City Health Department has been operating focus groups comprised of 36-40 business owners to gather intel on how to safely begin to reopen businesses with consideration for the current economic context. Kelley said that reopening will be less like flipping a switch and more like slowly turning a dial.

In an earlier press conference with Gov. Steve Bullock, he explained a similar statewide, phased reopening. “I want to open up Montana as much as any Montanan out there,” said Gov. Bullock, “but we’ll do it responsibly in phases in order to ensure we keep the curve flat and mitigate the risks knowing the risks remain there. If we get this wrong, it’ll hurt us even more.”

On a national governor’s call the day prior, President Trump laid out plans for reopening the economy and informed state governors that each would

determine what the best plan of action was for their state. Gov. Bullock said that the Montana Coronavirus Relief Fund Task Force, instated on April 15, will study and consider the unique needs of the state’s regions to send Montana forward on a successful path of economic recovery while avoiding a subsequent outbreak in the coming months.

Kelley cited an American Enterprise Institute Report, which outlines four phases of recovery. The health officer located Montana in phase one, which entails slowing the spread of the disease and attempting to reduce deaths. Phase two is the gradual reopening. In order to move into phase two, Kelley said, the state is looking for a 14-day period of consistent decreases in cases. He added that another extremely important piece to reopening is testing availability. “It’s not the cases that we’ve found that I’m so concerned about, it’s the cases we haven’t found.”

Phase three is reached when the state is able to test everyone in need of testing, and the fourth phase is supporting sick individuals in remaining in isolation and preventing further transmission.

Details of what a reopening looks like for Gallatin County and Montana as a whole are still in the works as the situation evolves daily. Metrics that will be considered leading up to and after a reopening will include case numbers, deaths, hospitalizations, percent of positive tests, testing capacity and information gathered during case investigations.

As of the publication time of this article, the state of Montana had 422 confirmed cases, with 142 of those in Gallatin County. There are 233 recovered cases in the state and a ninth death was confirmed from Cascade County this morning. The Governor credits the state’s low rate of infection per capita to our aggressive and early response.





Big Sky Relief moves to weekly meetings

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY—After ten biweekly meetings, the Big Sky Relief Operational Partners Coordination meetings will shift to weekly meetings every Tuesday.

“The group has done an excellent job of nailing down needs that have existed in the community,” said Daniel Bierschwale, executive director of the Big Sky Resort Area District. “As we move from a sprint to a marathon our lines of communication are still open, but we found it only necessary to pull this group of important partners together for a shorter period of frequency.”

On the health front at the April 21 meeting, Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center announced that Lone Peak Physical Therapy will resume in-hospital services beginning the week of April 27. Bozeman Health is also in the process of planning communications for elective procedures. Taylor Rose, BBHBSMC director of clinical services and operations offered the reminder that the lack of burden on the local medical center is being largely credited to social distancing efforts. Even as things begin to reopen, social distancing guidelines still must be heeded.

Women in Action and the Big Sky Community Organization presented movement in the behavioral health realm, beginning with the introduction of local licensed marriage and family therapist Ally Wold’s virtual series on COVID-19 related mental health issues. WIA’s newest counselor, Kacey Anderson, has availability and is currently taking new clients.

BSCO also announced that to date, they have 62 local registered volunteers that assist with individual and community needs. The Big Sky Community Food Bank is expecting increasing needs and will be publishing sponsorship opportunities.

The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce continues to offer support and resources for businesses navigating different aid outlets. BSCC and Visit Big Sky CEO Candace Carr Strauss also announced that beginning April 22, VBS, in partnership with Bozeman’s Assistant City Manager Anna Rosenberry, will launch a regional tourism recovery sub-committee that will meet virtually on a weekly basis. The sub-committee will exist under the Economic Resiliency and Recovery Committee within the Gallatin County Emergency Operations Center.

50 years of Earth Day Local groups celebrate virtually

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY—Gallatin County communities will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, in a virtual fashion. While this Earth Day will look slightly different, some are finding ways to embrace the pandemic’s presence as a way to pay homage to the national day’s establishment.

In 1969, Sen. Gaylord Nelson witnessed a devastating oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Around the same time, an anti-war movement had erupted across the United States, fueled by students protesting the Vietnam War.

Sen. Nelson sought to harness the energy stoking the movement and apply it to action against water and air pollution, issues recently illuminated at the time by texts like Rachel Carson’s groundbreaking “Silent Spring.”

Sen. Nelson recruited Rep. Pete McCloskey, a republican, to join him as co-chair and hired over 85 employees to promote the day and his purpose. On April 22, 1970, millions of people across the country turned out to demonstrate on behalf of environmental issues.

Prior to the first Earth Day and the years leading up to it, the effects of pollution to the environment as well as human health were little known and hardly discussed. “This planet is threatened with destruction, and we who live in it—with death,” said professor Barry Commoner in his Earth Day keynote address.

The CBS program that ran to recap the day, titled “Earth Day: A question of survival” was hosted by Walter Cronkite, who described the inaugural event as “a day dedicated to enlisting all the citizens of a bountiful country in a common cause of saving life from the deadly biproducts of that bounty.”

“I think everyone is concentrated on health issues right now,” said Anne Ready, chairperson of the Gallatin Valley Earth Day Festival. “Earth day was founded 50 years ago. . .because so many people were concerned about the impacts of environmental degradation on our health.” In addition to bringing awareness to



environmental issues, Ready believes this 50-year celebration has the opportunity to bring the focus and intent of Earth Day full circle in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gallatin Valley Earth day brought a number of celebrations to screens across the region. Music for the Earth hosted local artists on the newly established Bozeman-Live! platform as well as held a virtual screening of two earth-centric short films.

A combined effort between Visit Big Sky and Big Sky Town Center flooded social media for eight hours with eco-friendly travel tips. The Big Sky Sustainability Network Organization rewarded social media posts of people’s favorite memories in the outdoors with reusable Roxy’s

Market bags and water bottles, and a grand prize winner received a \$250 gift card to the local grocery store.

While not directly associated with Earth Day, the Runoff Cleanoff, hosted by the Big Sky Community Organization and the Gallatin River Task Force, certainly fits in with the Earth Day theme. The dog waste clean-up, which begins at 3 p.m. on April 24 and lasts until 3 p.m. on April 26, aims to encourage watershed stewardship and responsible pet ownership in the community.

Participants are asked to maintain social distancing but can interact by posting photos of their clean-up on social media and using the hashtags #doodiecalls and #runoffcleanoff. Prizes will be given to scoopers who collect the most dog waste. Supplies will be provided at the BSCO shed at the Big Sky Community Park.

Big Sky CAREavan celebrates closing day

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY—On April 19, the community of Big Sky celebrated the originally scheduled Big Sky Resort closing day in a creative way. The annual staple event, pond skim, did not occur, nor were there spring turns on the sunny south face of Lone Mountain—but a party was had, nonetheless.

A brigade of colorfully decorated cars—a rough count estimated upwards of 200—filled with people clothed in their finest costumes snaked through Town Center and up the mountain in a vibrant show of resilience and community spirit. Aptly dubbed the Big Sky CAREavan, the event was a heartfelt hour of connection.

The parade moved to a playlist, curated by Arts Council of Big Sky Executive Director Brian Hurlbut and broadcasted in each vehicle via The Eagle 104.7 FM radio station. Between jovial songs like the Beastie Boys’“(You Gotta) Fight for Your Right (To Party!),” familiar local voices came across the radio waves to address the community on behalf of businesses and organizations, encouraging people to donate to Big Sky Relief. A Big Sky Relief fundraising goal has been set in accordance with the Big Sky CAREavan of \$11,166, symbolic of the elevation of Lone Mountain.

As families and friends followed one another up the winding road, spectators watched from pullouts, waving and blowing kisses. The parade made a detour through the parking lot of the Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center, where an eruption of cheers and honking serenaded health care workers standing in the parking lot.

Up at Big Sky Resort, cars filtered through a makeshift photo booth, where photographer Kirby Grubaugh captured sweet and silly moments. A donation of \$25 is suggested to obtain Grubaugh’s photos from the Big Sky Relief website.

“It blew my mind how much energy people put into decorating their cars and getting dressed up,” said Tallie Lancey, the event’s organizer. “I was completely overwhelmed with positivity at the beginning of the parade watching so many smiling families listening to the radio.”

Lancey is now hoping other community members will work on bringing creative community celebrations to fruition. “All it takes is a little bit of vision and a lot of gumption,” she remarked.

To cap off the excitement, participants were encouraged to return to their homes and tune into local musician Brian Stumpf’s weekly live show “Stumpy Sundays.” Despite the economic and cultural disappointment of Big Sky Resort’s early closure, the Big Sky CAREavan unified a community in celebration. It was a display of fight—the fight for the right to party.



The Big Sky CAREavan paraded from Town Center to Big Sky Resort while playing a broadcast of local voices and lively music. PHOTOS BY BELLA BUTLER



The Big Sky CAREavan was a mix of lively music, fun costumes and inspirational messaging. This van had banners on each side as well as one on top in order to be visible in the drone shots.



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MEET THE CANDIDATES:

Editor's note: Four local boards are holding their board member elections via mail-in ballot on May 5. They are: Big Sky Resort Area District, Big Sky County Water and Sewer District, Big Sky School District and the Big Sky Fire District boards. In an effort to introduce them to community members EBS featured introductions of two of the local boards candidates in the last edition and will conclude this segment with the final two local boards candidate introductions in this edition.

Big Sky Fire Department Board of Trustees candidates



Alan McClain

I picked Big Sky as home over 20 years ago after finishing school at the University of Kansas. Danielle and I are thrilled to be raising our children here. As owner of Big Sky Landscaping, I have the privilege of working with many Big Sky residents. I am proud of our community and feel a duty to be active within it. 15 years in the EMS system with the Big Sky Ski Patrol originally brought me to the Big Sky Fire Board of Trustees. I am wrapping up my ninth year on that board, serving as Board Chair since 2013.



Ryan Blechta

I moved to Big Sky in 2005 and after my wife and I started our family I wanted to find more ways to give back to the community. I joined the Fire Department in 2012 and stayed on until the program ended several years later. It is with that involvement in mind that I am uniquely qualified to give back to the station that I enjoyed being a part of. Because of my time on the station I have a passion for the Department and the team and I want to use this to support them and all they do.

Big Sky School District School Board candidate



Stacy Ossorio

I have always been thankful for the opportunity to have access to education, and during my 25 years here in Big Sky I have made education a priority for my own three children and the Big Sky school community. Along with another Big Sky mother, we founded the Stepping Stones Pre-School in 1994 as there was no pre-school here in Big Sky at that time. Upon my children's matriculation into the Ophir School, I was active in the OSC for 13 consecutive years.

Over the years I have watched the growth in the school and the leadership and commitment to making the school a more challenging and comprehensive educational experience on all fronts - academics, the arts, and athletics. Our public school is the backbone of our community and giving our children the best tools possible to reach their full potential through high school and beyond is a priority. On a personal level, I have enjoyed working with the outstanding board members, teachers and staff. I am running for a second three-year term and look forward to further participating in planning for the anticipated growth and expansion of our town's school facilities.



Rotary Club of Big Sky

\$2,000 George Macdonald Scholarship

The Rotary Club of Big Sky is proud to announce its annual scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 to be awarded to a Big Sky resident attending college or a vocational post-high school program. This scholarship is another community project that the Rotary Club of Big Sky is able to fund as a result of the community's generous support of the annual Gold Raffle and Auction held each January.

The criteria for the scholarship will be based on financial need, community service, and academic performance. A committee of three Rotarians will review each application, and a winner will be announced by May 31st, 2020. The deadline for the application is April 30th, 2020. All information provided to the review committee will be kept strictly confidential to the members of that committee.

The scholarship will be awarded to the student and paid to the institution upon receipt of a tuition bill. Big Sky residents interested in applying for this scholarship should contact a Rotarian for an application or send an email to bigskyrotary@gmail.com for more information. A school transcript and detailed description of community service must be included.

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Town Hall talks COVID-19, reopening Montana with key players

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – The third and fourth installments of EBS’s virtual Town Hall meetings brought both regional and local key voices to the weekly conversation. The most recent meeting kicked off with Montana Gov. Steve Bullock.

The state executive joined the meeting in between conversations with business leaders, public health experts and others to determine the best way to roll out a phased reopening anticipated to begin April 25, the day following the termination of the governor’s stay-at-home directive. Bullock echoed statements he made in his own press conference last week, advising Montanans to reshape their expectations of what life outside of quarantine conditions will look like.

“Our new normal is going to look a lot different,” the governor said. “The virus isn’t going to go away, and we are going to have to adapt to how we are going to live with it for the next while.”

Bullock stressed the importance of adequate testing availability and capacity in order to achieve progress toward recovery, a feat yet to be achieved. “We’re working on it but as every governor will tell you, we need the federal government to be working with us, not against us.”

Forty-five days after he issued a state of emergency for Montana, Bullock remains wrought with concerns. He acknowledged the reality that his directives—aimed largely at protecting public safety—keep kids at home who are safer going to school and strain economic welfare. “Keeping people from getting sick and dying have been part of what has kept me up for the last 45 nights, and the next 45 is making sure we don’t get in that position where we’re spiking.”

Joining in on the reopening discussion, Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Cam Sholly followed the governor. Sholly, clad in his national park uniform, touched briefly on the series of events leading up the park’s complete closure to visitors as well as how reopening may take form in the coming weeks.

The vast national park, which in recent years has seen the likes of 4 million visitors on an annual basis, many of whom are international, will be challenged with implementing social distancing measures, particularly at hot spots like the Old Faithful boardwalk, which hosts around 11,000 spectators shoulder-to-shoulder every day.

“People talk about wide open spaces,” Sholly said. “The fact of the matter is that when people come to parks like Yellowstone, they go to specific areas normally.”

The superintendent, who referenced the potential of opening the park in stages, also discussed workforce issues due to public health guidance for dormitory housing, as well as rising tension throughout gateway communities. Sholly said that the decision on how and when to reopen will not be as unanimous as the decision was to close the park.

Focusing the meeting locally, Karst Stage CEO Dan Martin offered insight to the visitation climate through the lens of a transportation provider. Martin said Karst’s summer bookings have “fallen off a cliff,” with cancellations extending into the summer. He compared Big Sky’s

early closure to a replication of the trend he typically sees now, when shoulder season begins. “We were busy one day and we weren’t the next,” he said.

It’s this adaptability, however, that Martin and others have said will serve the resort community well compared to others. Martin is taking this opportunity to make room for innovation. He shared that a portion of Karst’s Paycheck Protection Program loans are being used for sales training, and he adopted the town hall format within his own company, hosting a virtual forum with around 50 of his employees.

Big Sky School District Dustin Shipman reported success with the transition to distance learning early on, which has been in place for six weeks now. Due to a proactive approach and a 1:1 device program, BSSD was able to get students online within three days of Bullock’s directive to close school facilities on March 15. “[We’re] far from saying we’re business as usual, but I certainly think we’re one of the top two to three school districts in the state that are operating in the current context,” Shipman said.

Shifting gears, the superintendent of the 384-student school offered up a bite of information on the bond ballots that recently landed in mailboxes across Big Sky. Due to current and projected growth, a group of representative community members met with architects in the fall to draft a master facility plan, which includes additional educational and extracurricular programming as well as expansion to athletic facilities. Ballots are due for the \$23.5 million bond by May 5.

To close out the town hall, CrossHarbor Capital Partners Managing Director Matt Kidd rehashed the decision-making that ultimately led to the closure of businesses overseen by CrossHarbor—which include businesses in the Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and Moonlight Basin as well as those operated by Lone Mountain Land Company. Kidd said the choice to shut down was ultimately made to protect the Big Sky community and its healthcare system, which at the time had just one ventilator.

Kidd imparted a perspective on the current real estate climate in the area, as well, another primary facet to CrossHarbor’s local presence. Despite the absence of new real estate transactions, he said deals currently in progress are carrying on, and the future looks promising as people in metropolitan areas consider shifting their lifestyles post-pandemic. “If we look ... five to eight years down the road, Big Sky looks more desirable than it ever has,” he said.

The week prior, EBS hosted Gallatin City-County Health Officer Matt Kelley and the department’s human services director Tracy Knoedler, Big Sky Water and Sewer General Manager Ron Edwards, First Security Bank Branch President Tim Kent, Lotus Pad owner Alex Omania and Roxy’s Market manager Josh Treasure. The April 13 panel discussed COVID-19 related issues such as local business resources and health department investigations as well as the upcoming 1 percent vote for an infrastructure project and local sustainability initiatives.

The fifth EBS Town Hall meeting, which will feature U.S. Sen. Steve Daines, among others, will stream live on the EBS Facebook page next Monday, April 27 at 5 p.m.

County health investigation: six COVID-19 cases found in Big Sky

No signs of transmission since March 26, officials say

BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR

BIG SKY – County health officials on April 10 completed an investigation into a cluster of positive COVID-19 cases that yielded six infected individuals stemming from a construction project site at Spanish Peaks Mountain Club.

Two workers with a subcontractor at the ultra-luxury Montage Big Sky hotel site in Spanish Peaks tested positive on March 24 and the Gallatin City-County Health Department in response began an investigation that identified six total cases, according to the department's Health Officer Matt Kelley.

Four of the six workers were confirmed with the COVID-19 coronavirus in their respective hometowns after they were removed the same day from the job site, Kelley said in an April 10 phone interview after requesting the call with EBS.

"They went home all across Montana and tested positive in different places," said Kelley, adding that both the subcontractor and Suffolk Construction, the Boston, Massachusetts-based company running the Montage project, made appropriate decisions after learning of the cases. "We've been talking to [Suffolk] for a week and the last positive case that we know of right now tested positive over two weeks ago, which is really good news."

The last confirmed COVID-19 case was on March 26, said Joel Nickel, Suffolk's executive project manager for the \$416 million Montage project.

That same evening, March 26, Montana Gov. Steve Bullock issued a statewide stay-at-home order and said that construction workers are considered "essential employees." The roughly 20-person crew was removed from the project, Nickel said, and as of press time on April 22, there were no positive cases on the job site.

"Our construction site continues to operate in accordance with Governor Bullock's directive and with the strictest of safety protocols outlined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines," Suffolk management said in a prepared statement.

In an April 10 email from Suffolk management to Spanish Peaks stakeholders and obtained by EBS, Nickel stressed that he and his team are taking necessary precautions to keep the community safe.

"These [workers] I can assure you will not be allowed to comeback to the job site without a doctors note allowing them to return to work," Nickels wrote.

"The Gallatin County Health Department did share with us that for more than 2 weeks they have not seen a single positive case linked to the Spanish Peaks job," Nickels' email continued. "Over this time, we have not had any new positive cases reported by our workers, while receiving only negative results from those that have been tested."

Kelley said that Suffolk workers have been tested for COVID-19 since the first positive case was identified, but the company has not seen signs that the virus is still present at the site.

"They tell me that they know of at least 10 people who have been tested up there and have come back negative, so that's a good sign," Kelley said. "By looking at the onset date of their symptoms of the cases we know about and their diagnosis date, it looks like they all kind of got sick around the same period of time in March and we're not seeing any evidence right now of disease transmission."

The roughly 300-worker job site was reduced to near 100 at one point, but has now ramped back up to approximately 300 employees.

Suffolk Construction is taking a number of measures to ensure that its workers are operating in a safe environment, Kelley said. Once the first positive case was identified, Suffolk shut down its bus operations that were shuttling workers from Bozeman to Big Sky.



Downtown Big Sky, Montana, photographed on April 10 following an EBS phone call with Gallatin City-County Health Department officials. Six confirmed cases were identified stemming from the Montage Big Sky hotel project in Big Sky. PHOTO BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR

"We were taking proactive measures even before that," Nickel said. "We were practicing social distancing measures on busses but then when the first case happened we shut it down."

Suffolk is now allowing workers to drive themselves to the job site and is encouraging them to make the commute alone. They are also compensating for gas mileage, according to Nickel.

In addition, the construction company converted a break room in the Montage to a makeshift healthcare clinic where a third-party medical professional is taking temperatures of all employees daily. Hand-washing and hand-sanitizing stations have been installed throughout the building and the company is "fogging" the Montage with a germ-killing product in high-traffic areas like stairwells, corridors, the break room and office every morning before the workers arrive on site.

"We were the first construction company to implement third-party medical temperature testing," Nickel said. "We then passed that information along to numerous general contractors throughout the state."

To limit transmission, Suffolk management is encouraging six-foot social distancing on the site and has purchased 400 buffs, or cloth face coverings, to hand out to tradespeople.

"Suffolk Construction has been really good to work with," Kelley said. "They have a low tolerance for any sort of symptoms on site."

Kelley called this situation an "extenuating circumstance," and one that the health department identified as important to share with the Big Sky community.

"When you're starting to see a significant number of cases that could cause community concern, we want to be proactive in communicating that," said Kelley, adding that communicating every confirmed case in the county would be counterproductive to their efforts.

"We would be running ourselves into the ground and probably not for much good," he said. "In this case, where we have done the work and we've seen that there are six cases we just want to be as proactive as we can and communicate what we can responsibly."

As of press time on April 22, Gallatin County has 145 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 1,842 people have been tested. Statewide, Montana is reporting 437 confirmed cases.



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SECTION 2:
ENVIRONMENT, ARTS
AND ENTERTAINMENT



THE NEW WEST



BY TODD WILKINSON

Ken Scott can speak to you about salvation within the context of skiing. Before COVID-19 struck, he and his wife Ruth had decided to spend the last days of winter as ski instructors at Big Sky. The reason is something that, once you understand why, will become unforgettable in your mind.

In part it involves a paradox of using skiing to overcome trauma—ironically, trauma that has to do with skiing.

In January, Scott was swept by not merely one but two avalanches at Silver Mountain ski area near Kellogg in the Idaho Panhandle. The first left him partially buried; the second slide that could have been triggered by other skiers, submerged Scott nine feet under the snow.

Three of seven skiers died.

What Scott endured is simply unimaginable in that, if you think about the situation, it creates the worst kind of psychological discomfort.

Imagine, as a wave of snow engulfs you, that you are churned as if by an ocean wave. All goes dark. You don't know up from down. No part of your body, any part of it, can move. As the snow hardens, you are frozen in place barely able to breath.

You don't know where you are and you're pretty sure no one else is aware either. Time is transcendent and yet you almost become aware of every passing second. You start with having rational thoughts. And then you start to panic.

When you realize that panic serves no purpose, you try to calm yourself down. As the coldness affects your body and numbness sets in, you do, in a way, make peace with the sudden circumstances that overwhelmed you.

You want to close your eyes, in a realm of frozen white water that offers no light, and just drift away, accepting the seemingly inevitable. But your body does not allow you to pass out. And in a sort of subdued yet hyper-aware mental state you notice every breath you take.

And then.

And then you feel a strange sensation, like something poking you.

It's a probe. It hits your body again but you are unable to scream or call out, "I'm here!"

The probe goes away. You feel or hear nothing for minutes. A half hour has turned to an hour or more. Time stops and moves on in the river of eternity. You ponder how life will be for your survivors after you are gone.

And then, miraculously, thanks to your ski buddy who wasn't swept away and who helped guide rescuers to the likely approximate spot, you are excavated. On a slope measured in football fields where the slide happened, you are found. You are pulled to the surface without serious physical injury.

Harrowing survival tale a metaphor during COVID-19

Thanks to Big Sky resident Tim Foote, Scott was put in touch with Bozeman psychotherapist Timothy Tate, who writes a column called "Community Psyche" for Explore Big Sky collaborator Mountain Journal (mountainjournal.org) in Bozeman. Because of his column, Tate now serves as an advisor to extreme outdoor athletes who serve as brand ambassadors for The North Face.

Scott starts working with Tate. Eventually, before COVID-19 set in, Scott tried to go back and ski at Silver Mountain, but mentally he couldn't do it. He and his wife needed a change of scenery. They came to Big Sky and helped teach skiing, all the while he had sessions with Tate.



The moment Ken Scott was rescued earlier this winter in Idaho, captured in a photo taken by a friend. PHOTO COURTESY OF KEN SCOTT

Tate often uses deep breathing techniques to help victims of trauma forget outside stimulus and dwell in moments without thinking. But with Scott, it was a tricky thing. Whenever he calmed himself and focused on breathing, it brought flashbacks to when, even if he tried to not breathe and pass out, his body wouldn't let him quit.

You can read about what happened to Scott and how Tate assisted him in the two parts at Mountain Journal. But I am sharing it here because, in a way, it serves as a metaphor for these difficult days we are all in.

When events have left our lives unexpectedly transformed and with the loom of a virus or even mass economic paralysis making it possible that we can lose the world we've known and loved, it is important to remember, no matter how hard, to breathe.

Like Ken Scott, like the courage he has to share his story so that others might, in periods of personal agony, reach out to mental health professionals for help, we can and should too. We are not in this, trapped alone. Help is on the way.

Believe it will get better. We will see the light again. The world we encounter will be the same, but different. That differentness is an opportunity to not take anything again for granted, to see the good fortune of life, shed of any material trappings, for what it is: a gift.

When you feel overwhelmed, don't panic: Breathe. Breathe. And keep breathing.

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.

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Living in Lamar Valley

Quarantined among bison

BY BELLA BUTLER

LAMAR VALLEY—The evening in Lamar Valley is quiet. While the wide-open spaces of Yellowstone National Park’s northeastern corner are usually calm, there is an obvious absence. The typical whirring traffic of eager tourists is inaudible; the roads are empty.

A symphony of songbirds fills the void, and wildlife trots across the untouched asphalt. Joe Loviska is sitting in his hammock, observing the scene. Three bison are in the valley below, and a bald eagle swoops overhead. Loviska lives at the Lamar Buffalo Ranch with his partner, Katie Roloson. They are some of the few people that remain living amongst the wild things in the park since it’s temporary closure on March 20.

Loviska notes the stillness; no snowmobiles, traffic jams or wolf watchers gawking through telescopes. “Winter is a scene here in the Northern Range, and that totally just stopped.”

Roloson is the director of fleet and field campus operations for Yellowstone Forever, the official non-profit partner of Yellowstone National Park. She and Loviska moved to the ranch in the fall of 2017 after completing graduate school in Bellingham, Washington.

The Lamar Buffalo Ranch is one of the many relics of rich history in the park. In 1901, rampant poaching left just 25 bison in Yellowstone. In an attempt to preserve the species, Congress appropriated \$15,000 dollars to the effort, which purchased 21 bison from private owners and brought them to the buffalo ranch for breeding and rehabilitation. Today, the ranch is used as a basecamp for Expedition Yellowstone and Yellowstone Forever educational programming.

Despite having been a resident at the ranch for over two years, the remoteness still has a way of gnawing at Loviska every now and then. Beginning in January, he started teaching a leadership studies seminar at Montana State University. A few days a week, he got his town fix in Bozeman, before returning to the ranch for long weekends. Then MSU went virtual, and Loviska was bound to the Lamar indefinitely.

“I wasn’t ready for this to be the rest of my life,” he said of the isolated ranch living. “It was hard for about a week. . .and then slowly it became easier.”

Roloson and Loviska are joined in their solitude by three Yellowstone Forever volunteers who live on the property. Loviska said being that their only human interactions are with one another, they’ve begun to operate as a family unit. “We basically move like an organism,” he said. The five of them share meals, watch movies in the campus classroom and play games like Bang, a Western-themed card game complete with the classic sheriff-outlaw dynamic.

Loviska said that while the outdoor space is vast, the interior of his and Roloson’s cabin, which is the size of a small apartment, still feels tight, and they, like others, are plagued with quarantine boredom some days.

By Loviska’s measure, it’s still winter in the valley because he can still step out the front door and ski. A tele skier, he says he goes for distance—which there



A wintery Lamar Valley view. Yellowstone’s Northern Range is one of the only accessible areas of the park during the snowy season.



The Lamar Valley Buffalo Ranch was established at the beginning of the 20th century as part of an effort to restore bison populations in Yellowstone. Today, it is a basecamp for educational programming, and for some, a home. NPS PHOTOS

is no shortage of in Lamar Valley—but he still enjoys ridge climbs and tagging summits. Last week, he ascended Druid Peak, the iconic onlooker of Yellowstone’s Northern Range.

In the EBS Town Hall meeting on April 20, Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Cam Sholly made remarks on an interesting park dynamic. The roads in Yellowstone only occupy a small fraction of the land, something like 1 percent, Sholly said. Yet the vast majority of visitors concentrate on the roads and in the pullouts, leaving most of the park somewhat untouched. Loviska adds that in the northern range, that small piece of road just happens to cut through prime habitat, part of why the Lamar Valley is treasured wildlife viewing land.

“Out here, for me, the biggest difference of this time is that the animals—the other animals I should say—are all just so much less stressed and they can use the whole space in a very relaxed and uninterrupted way, and that’s really cool to watch.” Loviska does not consider himself one apart from the rest in the valley; he calls the wildlife his neighbors.

Roloson said the other day she spotted a bison laying across the pavement. Assuming it had been hit by a car, she glanced a second time, only to realize it was just napping.

“It’s not like the wolves are doing jumping jacks and the mountain lions are tussling in the valley, but it just feels as though the human world has ended out here,” he said. It sounds haunting, but Loviska imagines the empty streets of shut down cities are more ghostly than even the unsettled valley.

Loviska ponders what human-wildlife interactions will look like when the visitors return. He points to an incident in the late 20th century, when the park stopped their crowd luring practice of bear feeding and a brief period of conflict ensued.

Roloson referenced Yellowstone Forever’s mission of inspiring appreciation for the park, a task more easily achieved when people can spend time inside its boundaries. “It’s a pretty special place to be,” she said. “I really enjoy the experiences [here], and I want other people to experience that, as well.”

Like Loviska, Roloson enjoys existing among the wildlife. Her favorite part of living on the ranch is having bison cruise through campus. Lately, she said big bulls have been trampling through, leaving 3-inch hoofprints on the ground where a human foot barely leaves a mark.

Spring is touching the valley now, Loviska observes, a process him and Roloson haven’t ever witnessed. Usually during this time of year, they move off of the ranch and spend time in Gardiner or traveling while Expedition Yellowstone classes cycle through the campus.

They’ve watched the snow slowly disappear from south-facing hillsides and have seen the spring migrations—from the appearance of the horned larks and robins to large raptors like the eagles.

The near future of the park is uncertain, but surely busier days are around the corner. The songbirds’ tunes will be drowned out by cars, and the bison napping in the roads will find a new bed. For now, the pair is simply enjoying their home, collecting treasured moments living in Lamar Valley.



BY DAVID TUCKER
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Big Sky has a poop problem.

Rapid growth and decentralized infrastructure have led to three streams flowing through our community below state standards for water quality.

Higher-than-ideal levels of certain nutrients qualify the streams as impaired, and these nutrients are in part a byproduct of treated wastewater. The threat stems from two sources: treated wastewater reused for irrigation and treated wastewater from residential septic tanks.

Today, nutrient levels are below the point of compromising the main stem of the Gallatin River or radically altering the watershed's ecological health. But they are high enough to threaten drinking water quality, indicating that additional growth and development will likely impair the river if left unchecked.

In the Canyon area, south of the Hwy. 64 junction, decentralized sewer treatment poses additional risks. Individual and small community septic systems don't treat wastewater to high levels, and there is no sewer district managing the septic system needs or maintenance of Canyon residents and businesses.

Given the certainty of more development in both the Canyon and within the Big Sky Water and Sewer District, it is a near guarantee that without action, the Gallatin will become impaired, an unimaginable outcome that no business or resident can abide. Within this context, the situation seems bleak.

But there is an outcome—one based on proactive management of our wastewater—that is far more favorable.

On May 5, you will have the option to vote for a 1 percent increase in the Big Sky Area Resort Tax. This 1 percent for Infrastructure tax will fund part of an upgraded Water Resource Recovery Facility—wastewater treatment plant—and could potentially fund sewer

Let's get our poop in a group

pipeline infrastructure that would convey wastewater from the Canyon to be treated at the new Big Sky plant.

The Canyon project is contingent on residents in the Canyon area forming their own Sewer District. This independent district would decide on crucial wastewater management, and if they see fit, connect to the Big Sky Water and Sewer District's upgraded plant.

Centralized wastewater collection and treatment would greatly improve the Canyon's groundwater quality. Septics in the Canyon are not capable of treating wastewater to the new plant's standards, and already pose a threat to drinking water as well as the Gallatin River.

In Big Sky the upgraded facility would treat wastewater far above the current plant and well above state standards. Even with the forthcoming growth, projections show that nutrient loading will decrease. Additionally, reuse options that mimic the natural water cycle will expand, meaning the idea of discharge into the Gallatin fades further into the rearview.

Taken together, these two projects are a major win for watershed health in our growing community. The 1 percent will pay for the lion's share of both upgrades, and locals won't be reaching as deeply into their own pockets. The tax will pay for 60 percent of the treatment plant and 100 percent of the pipeline infrastructure. If the Canyon does not form a district, or if it does but decides not to convey wastewater to Big Sky's plant, the pipeline project simply doesn't happen.

Big Sky's new wastewater-treatment plant, however, is going to happen, regardless of the results on May 5. Without the 1 percent, the existing District will pay for it by raising your rates, and in this scenario your quarterly bills could double.

Our current crisis may have temporarily slowed Big Sky's rate of development, but we all know that won't last. To maintain and restore the health of our beloved Gallatin, our wastewater-treatment infrastructure needs an upgrade.

The 1 percent tax is how we should pay for it.

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

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Lessons from Mother Earth

BY KATHY BOUCHARD
EBS COLUMNIST

“...You don’t know what you’ve got til it’s gone.” Joni Mitchell’s verse from her 1970 hit single “Big Yellow Taxi” could be the lament of our lives right now as we endure the pandemonium of this pandemic.

We miss our hugs with friends, the camaraderie of sports, concerts and congregations. Inexplicably, many parents are missing their kids’ teachers while scrambling to home-school their little heathens. In sober truth, unique and beloved individuals are losing their precious lives even as the “curve” is starting to bend.

The reverse of not appreciating something until it’s lost, discovering something you didn’t know existed, is exemplified by a near mystical revelation in northern India. For the first time in more than 30 years, the air is clear enough to display the Himalayas, pristine and ponderous. Visible from a distance of 130 miles, they appear not on the horizon, but levitating majestically above it to a most awe-inspiring height. Villagers and farmers have been thunderstruck by their appearance, which among their parents had been but a fading memory. Such presence and glory was not expected.

Around the world, major cities are reporting the lowest level of airborne pollutants in decades. People with compromised lungs are breathing more freely in Chinese, European and American cities, according to the European Space Agency and NASA.

I’ve seen several photos of Los Angeles taken recently in the absence of diesel-fueled traffic or carbon-based manufacturing. Fluffy clouds scud through crystalline skies above a gleaming cityscape. I once watched my toddler son sicken in minutes as our flight descended through the LA smog in the late 70s, and now fully appreciate this transformation.

The World Health Organization estimates that 3 million people die each year from deadly effects of air pollution. Eighty percent of all city dwellers are at times exposed to pollution levels the WHO deems dangerous, and 98 percent of cities in low-income countries have air pollution that exceeds the level deemed dangerous. A lifetime of this exposure weakens the body, making it more susceptible when disease comes calling.

This won’t be the last viral threat to civilization. It’s only the most recent of the coronavirus family, all of which are known to attack the respiratory system. Data is emerging now which suggests that the widely divergent mortality rates of different regions, such as northern Italy’s 10 percent rate compared to Germany’s less than 2 percent, may be positively correlated to air pollution levels.

Around the globe, clean air is present for the first time to young folks who have never experienced it, whose lives may now and in the future depend upon it. How long can this gift, so vital and unsuspected in its simplicity, be enjoyed? How long before the greatest mountains on the planet vanish in the haze?

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.

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A photograph of a yellow puzzle box titled "Life of the Party" by Melissa Dugan. The box features a vibrant illustration of a hand holding a slice of cake over a table covered with colorful confetti. The box is positioned diagonally on a dark, reflective surface, possibly a table or a mirror, which creates a subtle reflection of the box. The background is softly blurred, showing hints of other objects and a warm, indoor lighting.

COVID-19 pandemic illustrates Idaho's split personality

BY JERRY BRADY
WRITERS ON THE RANGE



PHOTO COURTESY OF WRITERS ON THE RANGE

Some say there are two states of Idaho. It's true that the Gem State is divided by mountains, desert and a time zone. It's also true that it's split by radically different political temperaments—on one hand there's the spirit of cooperation and belief that government can be helpful, on the other there's outright contempt for anything governmental. Although other Western states also exhibit this mostly urban-rural split, Idaho's extremes can seem more extreme than most.

In the state capitol of Boise, population 225,000, where I live, signs of a positive response to fighting the COVID-19 pandemic are everywhere with American flags flying on some streets to show this is a time for patriotism.

After Gov. Brad Little stepped up on March 25 to close non-essential businesses and order Idahoans to “stay at home as best you can,” helpful initiatives have been so numerous in Boise that our two local newspapers (yes, we have two!) cannot seem to document them all. Consider just one: residents began sewing protective masks well before the recent recommendation by the Center for Disease Control.

Boise's mask-making campaign enlisted 1,300 participants in 13 days, and one woman alone cuts out 800 cloth masks a day for others to add tie strings. The initiative expects to provide 10,000 masks to clinics, hospitals and retirement homes.

In Idaho Falls, population 62,000, a group called the Sewing Sisters is filling a request for 4,000 masks from nursing homes and other care centers. The 200-person Idaho Falls Chinese Community raised \$9,500 to buy masks from around the world for hospitals.

Under Little's order, construction continues full-tilt in this fast-growing state. The hospitality industry has slowed to a crawl, though we still can buy takeout cocktails at local bars, yet enough of us are working from home that it appears the governor's order has been mostly followed, at least in southern Idaho.

In more rural, northern Idaho, where about a quarter of Idahoans live, it's a different world.

Mary Sousa, a state legislator from Coeur d'Alene, told the Idaho Statesman that not a single constituent has spoken to her in support of the governor's order.

Tim Remington, another Coeur d'Alene legislator and a pastor, defied the governor's order by holding in-person church services. In nearby Bonner County, Sheriff Daryl Wheeler not only supports mass church services, but, in a letter to the governor declared it was also “unconstitutional” for him to prohibit healthy people from going to work.

Not surprisingly, Ammon Bundy, the rancher who organized the occupation of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge four years ago, also defied

the governor by holding a rally in Emmett, Idaho, on Easter Sunday for about 100 people. He said people needed to challenge government orders that infringed on constitutional rights: “We want to be with each other. We thrive on that. It's part of our life. It's part of liberty,” reported the New York Times.

Moreover, Northern Idaho is the center of what's called the Redoubt Movement. This movement of well-armed survivalists imagines a future in which adherents from eastern Washington and eastern Oregon, along with partisans from western Montana and western Wyoming, will join with Idaho in self-defense when society inevitably disintegrates. During this pandemic, Redoubt advocates have purchased even more arms and ammo, saying they need to be prepared to fight outsiders coming for their food and land.

Meanwhile, this year's session of the Idaho Legislature appropriated \$2 million for virus testing but otherwise paid little attention to the pandemic. It did, however, prevent transgender persons from changing their sex on a birth certificate, authorize concealed carry of weapons for non-residents, and came close to defunding public television. At issue was the children's cartoon Clifford the Dog, which apparently offended because the dog visited a lesbian couple. North Idaho's extremists have many friends in the state legislature.

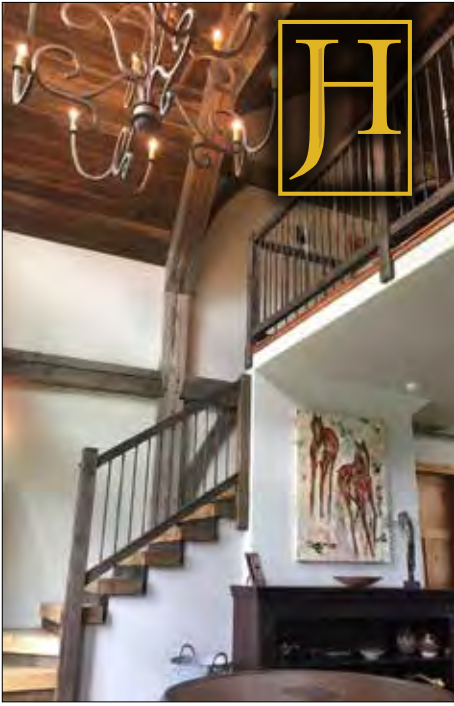
Yet here in Boise there is a “school's out” quality to these radiant spring days, though hard times lie ahead: This is a state that ranks near the bottom in most categories of education and social wellbeing, and where about a third are renters living paycheck to paycheck—now without paychecks.

Recovery will be largely dependent on the federal government, a bitter pill to swallow for the disaffected government-haters of this state. Like it or not, we are all in this together and most of us want to help each other, not run away or stockpile more guns.

Jerry Brady is a contributor to Writers on the Range.org, a nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He published the Idaho Falls Post Register for 25 years.



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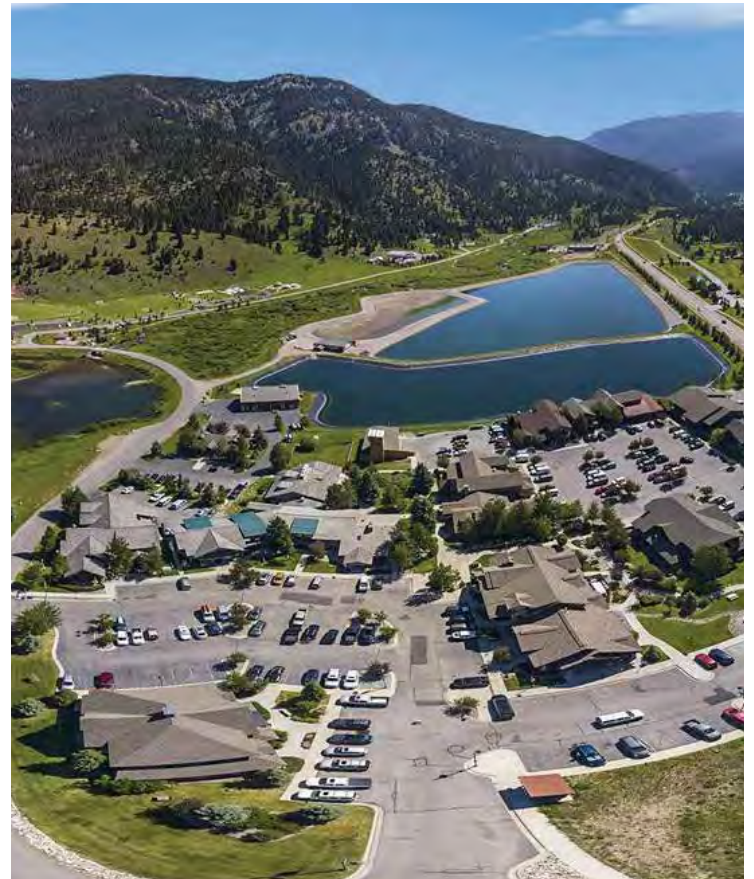
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BIG SKY CHAMBER

Photographers adapt craft to benefit local nonprofits

BY MIRA BRODY

BOZEMAN – In his infamous expression of love for the state of Montana, John Steinbeck in “Travels with Charlie” penned his admiration for our ability to “undertake the passing art of neighborliness.” As the statewide stay-at-home shrinks our social circles, local photographers are adapting their craft to capture this neighborhood spirit with the Front Steps Project.

The concept allows photographers to hone their skill, donate all or a portion of their service fees to local nonprofits and capture family photos from a safe distance—from the subjects’ own front porch. The movement that began on the East Coast in the Boston area has spread across the country and was quickly adopted up by local photographers, including Connor Bergin of Bergin Photography, Mike Greener of Greener Visuals in Bozeman, and Kirby Grubaugh in Big Sky.

“Artists and entertainers aren’t considered essential, but they can still create by themselves as a way to escape,” said Bergin, who is sending donations from his Front Steps Project photography sessions to the Gallatin Valley Food Bank. “What we can do is create by ourselves, maintain that safe distance and give people something to smile about outside of their house.”

Bergin, a Boston native, says this is the first time he’s captured family portraits completely pro bono and he said it’s been an opportunity for those unable to donate to get professional photos and also be educated about the local resources available to them should they need the help. The sessions, which are taken from about 20 feet away, are also a reminder of what’s important, Greener says—whether that’s family, friends or pets.

“I wanted to change the narrative from one of fear and uncertainty and instead focus on what you have around you,” said Greener, who donates 50 percent of his regular portrait sessions to nonprofits. He has so far raised \$1,000 for the Greater Gallatin United Way and \$1,000 for the Bozeman Community Foundation. “It gives you something positive to focus on and at the same time raise money for the helpers in our community.”

One family had just brought their newborn home from the hospital. Another noticed Bergin taking photos of their neighbors and came outside to ask him to photograph his family as well. These are the moments the young photographer is happy to capture. He hopes that people see the finished product and get a sense that while the world may seem at a standstill, life does go on.

“You’re not in a prison but it can certainly feel like that sometimes when we can’t go out and gather or go to a movie—a lot of people end up feeling trapped in their own homes,” Bergin said. “Your neighborhood is your community; you’re not alone.”

Maintaining a sense of purpose and positivity is vital during times of isolation and another motivator for the artists behind their lenses.

“I think mental health is going to be a very huge thing throughout this whole pandemic,” said Grubaugh, who is donating 10 percent of his service fees to the Big Sky Relief Fund. He said the greatest reward has been the genuine moments of laughter between families as they gather outside in front of the camera. “I think that keeping your sanity and figuring out whatever you need to do to keep your happiness is important.”

At its heart, the Front Steps Project is a reminder about what is important—although our favorite places are closed and events are canceled, love is not.

Join the Front Steps Project

Big Sky:
Kirby Grubaugh visit Kirby’s website or email him at kirbygrubaugh@gmail.com

Bozeman:
Bergin Photography visit Connor’s Facebook page or email him at abergind@gmail.com
Greener Visuals visit Mike’s website or email him at mike@greenervisuals.com

In the neighborhoods of Bozeman and Big Sky, while quarantined to their homes due to the statewide stay-at-home order, families and dogs gather on their front porches to be the subject for local photographers who are donating all or a portion of their time to nonprofits.



PHOTO BY MIKE GREENER OF GREENER VISUALS



PHOTO BY MIKE GREENER OF GREENER VISUALS



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MSU graduate uncovers the ugly truth behind plastic in acclaimed documentary

BY MIRA BRODY

BOZEMAN—Bottles of honey, store bought seafood and even arctic sea ice—plastic has left its footprint on nearly every surface and food chain on the planet. The production, use and disposal of plastic is a global crisis explored in the critically acclaimed documentary “The Story of Plastic” directed by Montana State University graduate, Deia Schlosberg.

Schlosberg, a native of Upstate New York, is currently sheltering in place there with her family, said at first the project, proposed to her by the movie’s Producer, Stiv Wilson eight years ago, didn’t catch her attention right away. As time went on and plastic’s role in our environment became more of a threat, it became a no brainer; Schlosberg knew its story had to be told.

“At first I wasn’t sure if I could bring a lot of new commentary to that project,” said Schlosberg. “As time went on and international laws changed, plastic became more and more integral to fossil fuel development and it started overlapping with the work I was doing with fracking and climate impacts.”

Schlosberg’s career in film began near the end of a two-year trek through the Andes, an adventure that was featured in National Geographic’s 2009 “Adventures of the Year,” when she started researching programs that would marry her cinematography skills with her passion for shedding light on climate change issues. She settled on MSU’s filmmaking program.

After earning an MFA in Science and Natural History Filmmaking at MSU in 2013, she directed and produced “Backyard,” which looks at the human

cost of fracking, and produced Josh Fox’s “How to Let Go of the World and Love All the Things Climate Can’t Change” and co-produced “Awake, A Dream from Standing Rock and The Reluctant Radical.”

Schlosberg is no stranger to getting her hands dirty in the name of environmental journalism. In 2016, she was arrested while filming protesters of the Keystone Pipeline in North Dakota. Fox wrote an open letter to U.S. President Barack Obama calling for her release, which was signed by a variety of celebrities, including Mark Ruffalo and Neil Young.

“I was just there as a filmmaker journalist and documenting what I thought was important and got swept up into it,” said Schlosberg of the experience. “Journalism as a profession is an absolutely necessary service that we as a society have agreed to protect. It’s shining a light on something that hasn’t been seen or explored or viewed in that particular way. If people aren’t informed then they can’t responsibly make a decision about how to act.”

Currently Schlosberg is working on a docuseries that explores the concept of a universal basic income and follows 11 households through basic income trials over the past couple of years. She says working on the project during the Coronavirus has been a strange turn of events as much of the country is relying on the basic income framework that’s already in place—we are watching the premise of her docuseries unfold in real time.

“The Story of Plastic” was featured at a sold-out Bozeman Doc Series event at the Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture last February and it is slated for a global premiere on the Discovery Channel in celebration of Earth Day April 22, 2020.

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Poet Billy Collins offers wit, charm during WMPAC reading and Q&A

BY MIRA BRODY



Poet Laureate (2001-2003) Billy Collins offered his wit and eloquence at a reading and Q&A event hosted by the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on April 18. PHOTO COURTESY OF WMPAC

BIG SKY—“Poetry forces us to slow down. I know that right now a lot of us are being asked to slow down,” began acclaimed poet, Billy Collins who joined guests remotely via Zoom on April 18. The reading and Q&A, hosted by John Zirkle, was a virtual event hosted by the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center—instead of audience members filling the seats in the auditorium in Big Sky, they were holed up in their homes, still enjoying the comforting power of the fine arts.

Collins is an American poet—appointed as Poet Laureate from 2001 to 2003—and a distinguished professor at Lehman College of the City University of New York, where he retired in 2001, and a Senior Distinguished Fellow of the Winter Park Institute, Florida. He was recognized as a Literary Lion of the New York Public Library in 1992 and selected as the New York State Poet for 2004 through 2006. Currently, he is a teacher in the MFA program at Stony Brook Southampton, teaching a master class on poetry and preparing for the release of his newest book, “Whale Day: And Other Poems” this September.

Despite his roster of acclimations, the 79-year-old poet was open about the fact that he wasn’t published until he reached the age of 50. “What was I doing between high school and 50?” he asked with a laugh. “I don’t want to tell you. Those were the dark years.”

A lot of those years he did reveal, involved finding his persona, an acquired voice he credits to other modern American poets, including Philip Larkin, who taught Collins that it was okay to be both funny and serious at the same time.

“You have to assume the reader is indifferent,” he said of his persona when presenting his work to a crowd of listeners. “They need to be entertained and persuaded. It’s about making strangers fall in love with you.”

Many of the pieces he read during WMPAC’s event began comically and got darker as they unfolded, “which is how poems sometimes go,” he said inconsequentially.

Rikka Wommack, WMPAC’s Communications Manager says that despite the theater’s temporarily empty seats due to the stay-at-home order, that WMPAC is as committed as ever to enriching the Big Sky community through art by adapting their presentation style.

“When we’re living through unsettling times like these, art becomes more important than ever, as it enables us to better understand the experiences of ourselves and others,” said Wommack. “Art isn’t a luxury, but rather a necessity, for a healthy community.”

Reading from his home in Florida, Collins touched on the role of literature through human archives, noting that “Poetry is the history of human emotion,” and that many of the anxieties we are experiencing today, our ancestors experienced hundreds of years ago as they dealt with their own pursuits of health and happiness in an ever-changing and sometimes turbulent world.

Of our present crisis, Collins believes that although necessary, social distancing is an oxymoron and that depriving ourselves of human contact is unnatural for our species. “Six feet is much too distant,” he said. “This thing we’re going through is absolutely horrible and its happening behind closed doors.”

About halfway through his reading, Collins looks up at the computer screen at the audience, invisible to him but present, scattered all over the state and country. “I think you’re still there,” he said, adjusting, as we all are, to this new, distant form of entertainment. “It is an act of faith, this telecommunications.”



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BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR

Friday, April 24 – Thursday, May 7

If your event falls between May 8 and May 21, please submit it by April 29 by emailing media@outlaw.partners

Friday, April 24
Camp Big Sky Dance Party
Register at camp@bscomt.org, 4 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Club
EBS Facebook live, 5 p.m.

Saturday, April 25
Theater: The Dogs of Pripyat
Register at warrenmillerpac.org, 5 p.m.

Monday, April 27
Big Sky Virtual Town Hall
EBS Facebook live, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, April 28
Middle and High School Spanish Tutoring
meet.google.com meeting code: [tutoriaELL](https://meet.google.com/tutoriaELL), 3 p.m.

Wednesday, April 29
Virtual Community Yoga with Santosha
facebook.com/santoshawellnesscenter, 12 p.m.

Youth ELL tutoring with Discovery Academy
meet.google.com meeting code: [youthELL](https://meet.google.com/youthELL) 2 p.m.

Middle and High School Spanish Tutoring
meet.google.com meeting code: [tutoriaELL](https://meet.google.com/tutoriaELL), 3 p.m.

Big Sky Artists Collective sip n’ paint
Register at bigskyarts.org, 4 p.m.

Arts & Crafts with Camp Big Sky
Register at camp@bscomt.org, 4 p.m.

Thursday, April 30
Youth ELL tutoring with Discovery Academy
meet.google.com meeting code: [youthELL](https://meet.google.com/youthELL), 2 p.m.

Parenting Through Transition Forum
zoom.us/j/156227497, 3:30 p.m.

WRRF Upgrade and Expansion Overview
global.gotomeeting.com/join/541221685, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, May 1
Camp Big Sky Dance Party
Register at camp@bscomt.org, 4 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Club
EBS Facebook live, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, May 6
Art-to-go with Arts Council of Big Sky
Pick up at Big Sky School District, 11-1 p.m.

Thursday, May 7
Drawing with Meg
Zoom ID: 892 2585 3672 Password: 376549, 5:30 p.m.

GiveBig Gallatin Valley

GiveBig is a two-day fundraising event hosted by the Bozeman Area Community Foundation celebrating the amazing nonprofits in our community! Nonprofits need your help now more than ever. Although we cannot connect in person, from April 30 to May 1, you can still donate to your favorite nonprofit organization online. Every dollar counts! Visit <https://www.givebiggv.org> for more information.

Big Sky Artists Collective to offer online painting event

BIG SKY ARTISTS COLLECTIVE

BIG SKY—A group of local Big Sky artists have converged to explore ways to work collaboratively, whether it’s working together on community art activities, sharing information on upcoming events and calls for artwork or promoting productive relationships among artists. This new collaboration, called the Big Sky Artists Collective, hopes to be the go-to for painters, photographers, sculptors and all visual artists—veterans and emerging artists alike.

“We’re lucky to have groups like the Arts Council and the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center in Big Sky,” said Maggie Shane, who is spearheading the new organization, “but this group is solely focused on connecting artists in Big Sky. We want to support, inspire and promote local artists. Our vision is to work with the Arts Council and local business to build a more vibrant visual arts community that celebrates local artists and provides art resources for the residents of Big Sky.”

The group has met at local restaurants, artists’ home studios and most recently an online meeting platform to discuss how to nurture the local artistic scene and a strong creative economy. Their initial goals include organizing a local art show this summer, participating in existing festivals and exhibits (such as the July 4th Artisan Festival) and making this year’s Open Studio Tour a more robust, high-traffic event.

“We’ll provide information about local artists and artist activities on social media and eventually a Big Sky Artists Collective website,” said Shane.

To kick things off, the Artists Collective and Arts Council of Big Sky have partnered to offer an online “paint n’ sip” event on Wednesday, April 29 at 4 p.m. Local artist and Artists Collective member Donna LaHue will be walking participants through the steps of creating a non-representational, abstract landscape.



Local artist Donna LaHue will be walking participants through the steps of creating a non-representational, abstract landscape as a part of the Artists Collective’s “paint n’ sip” event on April 29. PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTISTS COLLECTIVE

Painting packets will be provided by the Arts Council for those who do not have a canvas and paints on hand; Experienced painters are asked to use their own supplies. This class targets adults of all ages and levels of experience and if well-attended, the collective hopes to follow with additional online classes instructed by other local artists. Visit bigskyarts.org to sign up for this free online workshop.

For younger artists, the Arts Council is also providing a series of free virtual drawing lessons for fourth through eighth graders. Drawing with Meg, instructed by Education and Outreach Director Megan Buecking, takes place online every Thursday from 5:30-6:30

p.m. Email education@bigskyarts.org to sign up.

Those interested in more information on the Big Sky Artists Collective can access facebook.com/bigskyartistscollective or call Maggie Shane at 406-995-7121



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SECTION 3:
BUSINESS, HEALTH,
SPORTS & FUN

New Big Sky Taxi Service pg. 34

COVID-19: A Holistic approach pg. 37

Starz commits to Chapman University pg. 38

Making it in Big Sky: L&L Site Services & Republic Services

BY BRANDON WALKER

Editor’s note: As local businesses adjust to the ongoing restrictions and guidelines relating to COVID-19, EBS will feature businesses and organizations that are doing everything in their power to continue responsibly serving Big Sky.

BIG SKY – As people have adjusted their daily routines to fit the new normal caused by COVID-19 and its associated restrictions, there are a number of aspects in life that remain unchanged—among those is trash production.

Individuals may not be venturing to work every day or leaving their houses as often, but despite our new lifestyle, we are all still producing trash on a daily basis. That’s where L&L Site Services and Republic Services come in.

L&L Site Services—based in Belgrade—was established in 2007 by owner Lance Johnson. Johnson and his 29-person team have been servicing the Big Sky community ever since, expanding their offerings to include residential and commercial pickup four years ago. The veteran-owned business serves roughly 1,000 individuals in Big Sky.

Republic Services has been part of the Gallatin County community since 1996 when they opened their Bozeman location. Although customer numbers vary slightly by season, General Manager Donald Moss and his employees serve up to 1,200 people in the Big Sky community.

Representatives from L&L Site Services and Republic Services exchanged emails with EBS to discuss their adjusted roles as they continue to provide their offerings to the community throughout the pandemic.

Explore Big Sky: *What adjustments have you made to address COVID-19 guidelines?*

Lance Johnson (L&L): We have closed our office to foot traffic, we are practicing social distancing amongst employees and customers. Our main focus during this time has been the safety and health of our employees.

Donald Moss (Republic): Our top priority is the health and safety of our employees. The waste management industry is a heavily regulated business, and Republic Services already has extensive safety protocols in place. We made changes several weeks ago to help ensure proper social distancing for all our employees. This includes adjusting our procedures to limit the number of drivers interacting with other drivers and employees when they crew in and out at the beginning and end of the day. We have instructed employees on personal hygiene protocol for COVID-19 and provided necessary personal protective equipment for their roles (PPE). We are providing face masks designed for this specific purpose to all field employees. And all of our facilities and equipment are on an enhanced cleaning schedules, with cleanings scheduled multiple times per day.

EBS: *How has your daily work routine been impacted by COVID-19?*

D.M. (Republic): Our frontline employees are working every day as usual to take care of our customers. To thank them, Republic Services launched our “Committed to Serve” initiative, which provides meals twice a week to frontline employees, including a dinner for four on Fridays that employees can take home to their families. And



REPUBLIC SERVICES PHOTO



PHOTO COURTESY OF LANCE JOHNSON

we’re buying the meals from local restaurants to help support them during this time. We also are providing our frontline employees \$400 in gift cards that they can spend at local businesses. It’s important to us to take care of our employees and to help our communities.

L.J. (L&L): Unfortunately, we have limited our interactions with customers and employees in an effort to maintain social distancing.

EBS: *Have you seen an increase in household trash production now that many individuals are home more often than they otherwise would be?*

L.J. (L&L): Yes

D.M. (Republic): We have seen a significant increase in residential trash and recycling.

EBS: *Overall, how has trash production been affected, in terms of total pounds produced, as opposed to before COVID-19?*

D.M. (Republic): The volume has shifted. Commercial and industrial waste is down with businesses and construction sites shut down, but residential is up.

L.J. (L&L): There has been a marked increase in the total amount of residential waste that we are picking up right now, but that is being offset due to some of our commercial accounts being shut down.

EBS: *What reminders do you have for community members as the seasons change?*

L.J. (L&L): As the days get warmer and longer, please help us keep your neighborhood clean. This includes bagging your waste and using animal resistant cans whenever possible.

D.M. (Republic): Please be bear aware as these animals are just coming out of hibernation and will be looking for food.

EBS: *What’s the best business advice you’ve ever received?*

D.M. (Republic): Take care of your people and make the customer first in everything you do, and you will always be right.

L.J. (L&L): Take care of your customers, as they will take care of you.

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New Big Sky taxi service shifts gears

BY BRANDON WALKER

BIG SKY – Three years ago Ben Keefe came up with the idea to create a taxi service in Big Sky. Having ventured into the Uber realm with minimal success in the Big Sky community, he concluded that a consistent schedule was the key factor lacking to make the industry successful. Fast forward to present day and COVID-19 has altered that plan for now.

Keefe and his business partner, Jade Nef, have adapted their vision to fit the COVID-19 landscape—albeit in a complimentary way. Rather than providing taxi service for the time being, Mountain and Canyon Cab Company will offer grocery and food delivery to the hungry, holed up bellies of Big Sky.

“[I] just love this place and been living here for years and wanted to give back and help the community out,” Keefe said. MAC Cab will be providing their services free of charge, but welcome any generous contributions from those benefiting from their services, according to mountainandcanyoncab.com.

Originally from Albany, New York, Keefe and his wife relocated to Big Sky seven years ago. After trying his hand at a couple different jobs in town, he decided that he wanted to work for himself. Keefe already owns and operates his own home inspection company, Gallatin Home Inspections, which led him to seek help, in the form of a partner, to assist with the operations of MAC Cab.

Prior to the pandemic-related challenges, Keefe was faced with adversity in finding a business partner. “I have talked to multiple people over the past few years about that and...[we] weren’t on the same page about it,” Keefe said in a March 13 interview. “Then I finally got ahold of my friend, Jade, who is my now-business partner.”

Prior to the pandemic, Keefe and Nef were preparing to launch their business by the end of March. The plan was an on-demand taxi service to provide transportation throughout Big Sky, even offering airport rides dependent on demand at the time.

Projected hours of operation were slated for 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. in the winter with adjusted hours to offer more daytime service in the summer months. MAC Cab’s vehicles, 2020 Toyota Highlander Hybrids, selected with sustainability values in mind, will even be complete with the traditional dome-style taxi light.

“Eventually we will just be 24-hour service, but for right now, starting off, those are going to be our...hours of operation,” Keefe said before COVID-19 events began to unfold.



MAC Cab is lending a hand during the time of need. PHOTO BY JOHN PAUL BEREZNY

Insert the unforeseen health crisis, stay-at-home directives, delays in obtaining their vehicles and MAC Cab has emerged with an altered plan to lend a hand to the community they aim to serve with their two-vehicle fleet.

“Starting when this is all happening is pretty scary,” Keefe said in a phone interview with EBS on April 9. “Just not knowing whether or not we would be able to make it work with...everything shutting down.”

Nevertheless, MAC Cab is forging on to assist their friends and neighbors, starting this week by reaching out to area businesses, asking if they need help with deliveries.

“Hoping we can help serve the community and just help everyone stay safe and get people what they need,” Keefe said. “...help the businesses maybe get a little more business in town—restaurants, grocery stores and stuff—and just help keep the town moving.”

Help Montana supports local businesses, employees affected by COVID-19

BY MIRA BRODY



Help Montana is a website that allows patrons to purchase gift cards to benefit local businesses and their employees who were affected by COVID-19. PHOTO COURTESY OF HELPMONTANA.ORG

BOZEMAN—After a few emotional phone calls to local business owners, Ryan Rickert felt motivated to do something. It was March 16; Gov. Steve Bullock had just issued the closure of all dine-in food establishments and overnight, many mainstays of the community were laying off most, if not all of their staff, some making the difficult decision to shutter their doors entirely.

Rickert is a local business owner himself. He owns Clean Slate Group and the Wrap Agency in Bozeman and his work has

brought him close to many local service industry business owners, including his friends Caleb and Laura Walker, owners of Cold Smoke Coffeehouse. The morning after the governor’s directive, he rallied a group of friends and family to get takeout coffee in an effort to bring them some business on an otherwise melancholy day with a single mantra on his mind: “how can we help.”

That’s when Rickert partnered up with Colter Fretwell to build a website platform called Help Montana that would get cash in the hands of employees who have been affected by COVID-19-related layoffs. The duo had already

worked on entrepreneurial projects like FanUp and PintPass together and knew they could put their skillset to work helping those in need.

HelpMontana.org is a mutually beneficial support system between patrons in the community, local businesses and employees affected by COVID-19. On the website, local businesses sell \$15 gift cards, which are then bundled with four other businesses into what is called a 5-card pack and each bundle is then sold for \$65. The business earns \$10 per gift card sold and employees of that business are issued a promo link to share. For each 5-pack sold through an employee’s promo link, that employee will get \$5.

Those who enjoy local restaurants and retailers can purchase gift cards to help financially support local businesses right now when they most need income. These gift cards can be spent now for restaurants offering takeout or be saved to use when places are able to reopen. A single purchase, or even share, helps over 40+ local businesses and 1,500+ affected employees.

“This is a community effort—none of us want a struggling town,” said Rickert. “Why not benefit as many people as we can? Help Montana takes Cold Smoke’s affected employees, and turns all the employees that are affected into a virtually linked arm helping one another.”

By design, Help Montana wanted to take disassociated businesses such as Cold Smoke, Dave’s Sushi and Knife Sandwiches and cast the support net out as far as possible. Rickert hopes that every business can benefit from Help Montana, including retail and businesses outside of Bozeman as well.

To get involved, spread the word about Help Montana or purchase a 5-pack from HelpMontana.org today.

Enjoying the Ride

The “ménage à trois” between risk profile, asset allocation and portfolio volatility



BY SCOTT BROWN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The threesome that exists between an investor’s risk profile, their asset allocation strategy, and the volatility their portfolio experiences is an important and powerful relationship. In these uncertain and volatile times driven by the COVID-19 pandemic and the global shutdowns and quarantines, I thought it would be timely to review this dynamic group.

The first component, risk profile, is the foundation of every investment plan. At its core, an investor’s risk profile is how one feels about taking certain amounts of risk with certain amounts of money. A simple way to consider one’s risk profile is using a scale from one to 10. In this format, one is considered the least risky or least volatile and 10 the most risky. If your risk profile for your portfolio was a one, you might invest in FDIC-insured cash, CDs or U.S. Treasury bonds.

A risk tolerance of five or six would be moderately risky and you might own a nice mix of global stocks, global bonds, cash and commodities. A rating of 10 might mean you purchase growth stocks, emerging market stocks or private equity strategies.

You could also think about risk in the context of some of your favorite lake activities. I think we would all agree fishing is pretty safe, while wakeboarding or waterskiing may be in the middle of the risk spectrum, and cliff diving or rope swings are more risky. However, in reality risk profiling is slightly more complex than that.

Investors need to consider their personal investment experience, time horizon, liquidity needs from their investment, tolerance for loss of principal, age and possibly other factors. In fact, new research suggests that other determinants of one’s risk profile include their genetic predisposition to take financial risks, their social

lives’ influence on their financial beliefs, and their life experiences. Obviously, risk profiles can differ wildly from person to person.

Asset allocation is the art of marrying an investor’s risk profile to their goals or life priorities. It aims to control risk by diversifying investment portfolios using a multitude of asset and sub-asset classes that are not perfectly, positively correlated. It looks a little bit like your Memorial Day weekend barbeque plate after you’ve loaded it full of all your favorite summertime foods.

You have your main course (possibly your high-quality stocks and bonds) and all of your yummy sides (international stocks, commodities, emerging market debt and cash instruments, for example). The goal of asset allocation is to smooth an investor’s risk or portfolio volatility over market cycles while still allowing their wealth to grow and ultimately achieve their life goals.

By working with a competent wealth management advisor or by using the whole slate of tools available to do-it-yourself investors, you can hopefully reach the desired return while staying aligned with your risk profile. Understanding that your risk profile and corresponding asset-allocation strategy drives portfolio volatility gives investor’s confidence in their investment strategies.

This realization also helps alleviate concerns over short-term portfolio volatility and uncertainties related to market fluctuations and economic slowdowns. It’s important to note that many pieces, not just this trio, need to come together in order to make an investment plan a successful component of a sound goal-oriented financial plan.

I hope you have found a new appreciation for this classic relationship and that you and your loved ones are well during these difficult times. Remember, before you embark on your next life adventure, set your sites on your goals and keep enjoying the ride.

Scott L. Brown is the cofounder and managing principal of Shore to Summit Wealth Management. His wealth management career spans more than 25 years and he currently works and lives in Bozeman with his wife and two sons.

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When our world slows down



BY LINDA ARNOLD
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Remember the song, “Shout?”

Many of us have danced to this and recall the part that goes, “A little bit softer now. A little bit softer now.”

That’s the way our world feels. The volume has been turned way down. Every event is being canceled, postponed or moved to a technological connection. The lack of external noise is providing us with ample opportunities to listen. If

we only will.

The past few weeks have rocked our worlds. No behavioral shift has spread more rapidly across our planet than that caused by the COVID-19 virus.

Your Reality Show

If you had been told a few months ago that schools, churches and many businesses are closed indefinitely—and that you’ve been ordered by the government to stay home for the most part—you would have thought it was a sci-fi fantasy. But here it is—your personal reality show.

Many of you have more time on your hands than ever before, and some of you—healthcare workers, grocery/drug store personnel and first responders—are stretched to the max.

Now that you’ve had time to adjust to your new normal, you’re likely settling into a rhythm. Economic stimulus efforts are on the way that will, hopefully, benefit individuals, businesses, and the stock market. Will it be enough, though?

The Great Equalizer

Many people are hurting. Jobs have been lost, and incomes are uncertain. People are sick—and dying. It can be hard to listen to those “silver lining” stories when you’re suffering. It can also be a matter of perspective, though, if you’re able to take in the bigger picture.

My observations, research and a few quotes—originally attributed to Bill Gates, although later found to be anonymous—point to the game changer COVID-19 is becoming in our lives:

- It’s the great equalizer—regardless of our culture, occupation, financial situation or fame.
- It’s reminding us how materialistic our society has become and how it’s the essentials—rather than the luxuries—that we truly need.
- It’s showing us how we’ve neglected our families by forcing us back into our houses -- so we can rebuild them into homes and strengthen the family unit.
- It’s pointing out how precious our health is—and encouraging us to look at the food we eat and the way we exercise.
- It’s reminding us we’re all connected.
- It’s emphasizing our true work is not our job. That is what we do, not the reason we were created.
- It’s keeping our egos in check.
- It’s reminding us that the power of free will is in our hands. We can choose to help each other. Or we can choose to be selfish and hoard.
- It’s bringing out our true colors.

Your Future Self

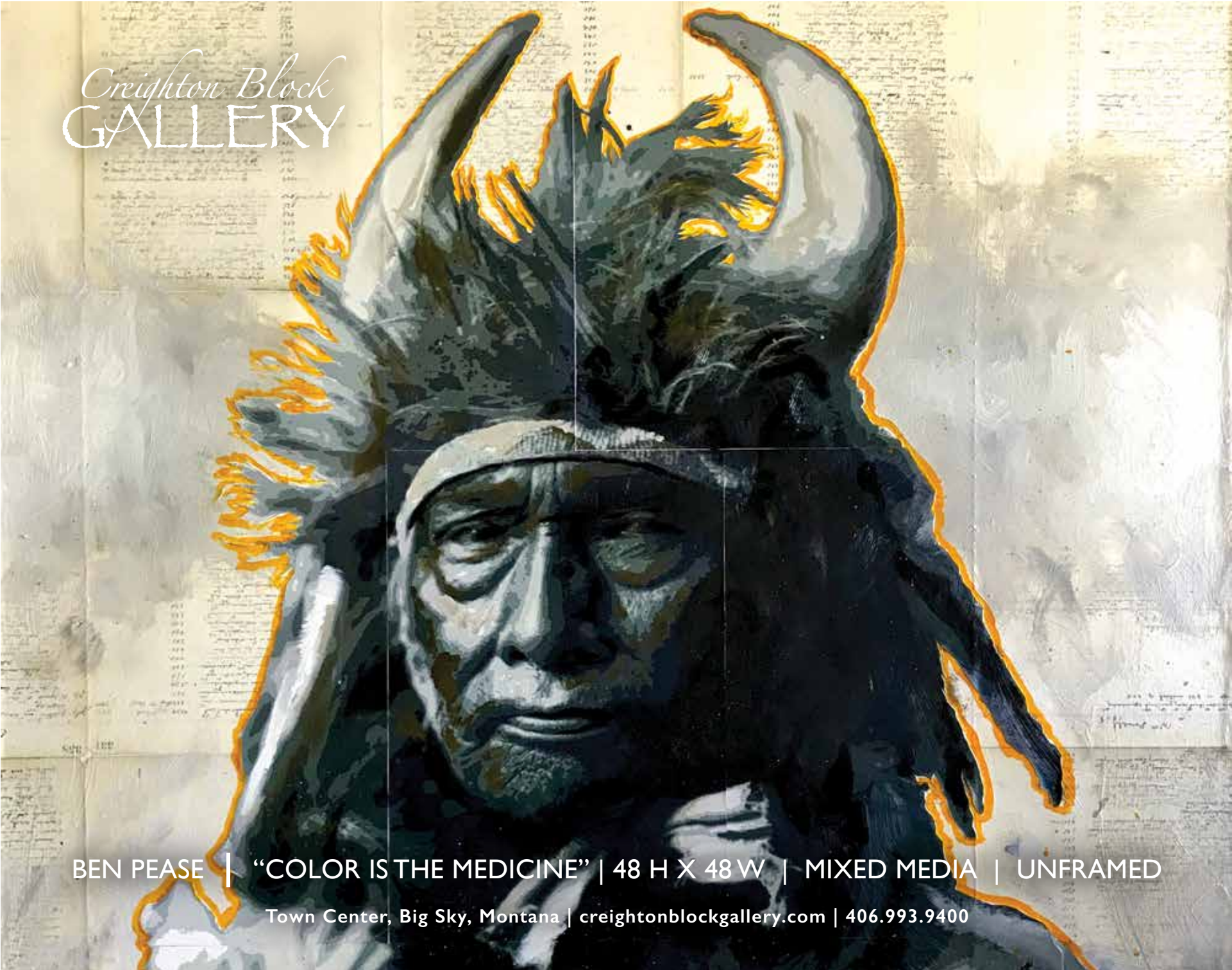
When you come out the other end of this pandemic, how do you want to emerge? Maybe you’ll be more grateful to have your freedoms restored. And find you’re more resilient. Or that you were able to reorder your priorities during this unprecedented “timeout.”

Whatever your answer, design a reverse timetable from a month out back to now. Look at the steps you need to take each day. When you get to your future self, you’ll be able to look back to see how far you’ve come.

With the volume of our world turned down, we’re finally able to listen.

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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COVID-19:
A HOLISTIC APPROACH

A holistic approach to COVID-19

BY BELLA BUTLER

With the physical wellbeing of the global community in jeopardy, the COVID-19 pandemic has instigated many to take an introspective look at personal health, but not everyone is taking the traditional approach.

“I think people are taking a little bit more of an interest in their health, in general, which is exciting,” said Dr. Kaley Burns, owner of Big Sky Natural Health. Dr. Burns is a naturopathic doctor, who approaches patient’s health with a holistic perspective.

“For naturopaths, we look at the whole person,” she said, adding that immunity is a central component to the holistic approach.

On March 16, researchers with the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity published a study in which they examined a 47-year-old Chinese woman who had been diagnosed with COVID-19. After studying the subject’s immune responses over the length of her illness, the researchers concluded that “early adaptive immune responses might correlate with better clinical outcomes.” One of the researchers later said that although COVID-19 is caused by a novel virus, a robust immune system is associated with recovery, according to their study.

Dr. Burns offered what she dubbed “the big three” tips for supporting immunity from the vantage of a naturopath: hydration, nutrition and rest and relaxation. She added that enjoying the outdoors is a bonus to this trifecta, an especially accessible practice in Big Sky and all of southwestern Montana.

Just as the driving concept behind social distancing is collective cooperation, Dr. Burns added that supporting individual health can have much broader effects. “Each of us focusing on our own health also makes our families and our community healthier,” she said. “There’s kind of that ripple effect of all of us supporting ourselves to support each other.”

Dr. Burns suggested that while she hopes to bolster healthcare options for Big Sky, she believes that naturopathic medicine works really well when paired with conventional medicine. Especially during these times when the healthcare system is overwhelmed, she is hopeful that her clinic as well as other conventional clinics can support the community adequately and collectively.

Using more alternative and homeopathic methods, the Cauldron Apothecary in Big Sky is also tackling COVID-19 from a nonconventional approach. The Cauldron Apothecary’s owner, Tara Gale, describes herself as a healer. Having completed various trainings in herb and aromatherapy, nutrition and energy, Gale uses the Cauldron’s space for various types of health consultations as well as to



Tara Gale, a self-described healer, is backdropped by rows of homemade remedies, including tinctures, oils and herbal blends. PHOTO COURTESY OF TARA GALE



Dr. Kaley Burns, owner of Big Sky Natural Health, spends a lot of her time enjoying the outdoors, a practice she describes as being extremely important in maintaining daily mental and physical health. PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. KALEY BURNS

sell a wide selection of natural remedies and homeopathic medicine.

Gale does 60 percent of her business with clients outside of the community, from Los Angeles to Thailand. In late March, Gale worked with three out-of-state clients diagnosed with COVID-19. According to Gale, some of these clients reported experiencing a complete reversal of symptoms within 24 hours of receiving intuitive healing from her.

Gale described intuitive healing as looking into the emotional, mental, spiritual and physical realms of the body collectively to identify imbalances of energy. For one specific client with COVID-19 that reported a complete reversal of symptoms, Gale said she did “heart work,” addressing the client’s childhood trauma and how it

was still affecting her. Results from intuitive healing, including those shared by Gale, are often self-reported.

Dr. Maren Dunn, a physician with the Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center added that mental health does correlate in some instances with physical health and that in some cases untreated depression and anxiety can affect the immune system.

She referenced heart disease patients, such as those that have suffered a heart attack and experience depression instigated by that event. When the depression goes untreated, the patient is more likely, according to Dr. Dunn, to suffer a second heart attack.

For those seeking less exploratory holistic approaches, Gale reiterated Dr. Burns’ big three, with an emphasis on drinking enough water and eating lots of colorful fruits and vegetables. Gale also suggested diffusing essential oils with antibacterial and antiviral properties.

Despite the current amplified concern for health and wellbeing, Dr. Burns said our bodies are often stronger than we give them credit for, and that an opportunity for empowerment comes when we take our health into our own hands. There are many fundamental things that we can do to feel better, she said, that give us a lot of control. Gale concurred through her own observations, expressing a belief that bodies know what they need, it’s just a matter of drawing out those needs.

Dr. Burns hopes that the heightened inspiration people are experiencing to take better care of health survives the COVID-19 pandemic. “One of the things I hope can be a takeaway for us is how we approach our health in general,” she said.

“We’ve got a lot of other chronic diseases in the country and I think it would be a great thing for a lot of people to maybe come to an understanding with themselves of how they might want to feel better on a daily basis.”

Starz commits to Chapman University

Intends to continue football career

BY BRANDON WALKER

BIG SKY – Lone Peak High School senior quarterback Frankie Starz will be trading his Big Horns blue and white for Chapman University Panther black and red this fall. The three-year starter for LPHS will depart for the Orange, California campus this upcoming season to continue his football career at the collegiate level.

“We think that he’s got leadership skills, and certainly traveling from there to Chapman, a little bit of assertiveness in terms of being able to look at a situation, evaluate it, and determine that that’s where you would like to go to school,” said Chapman University head football coach Bob Owens of Starz. “...That also demonstrates a little bit of confidence in himself, to be able to step into a program that is on the rise like our program is.”

Starz’s final campaign as a Big Horn was one to remember as he and his teammates achieved milestone victories over the course of the season. Starz also earned second team All-Conference honors on both the defensive and offensive side of the ball.

“Frankie has made a mark on [LPHS] that won’t be going away anytime soon. He is an outstanding football player and gave all of his heart, energy and effort for his team and his program,” said LPHS athletic director John Hannahs. “He is going to be missed very much by all of his coaches. Not just for his dominant ability, but his leadership and attitude towards his team and coaches.”

Starz said he will miss his teammates most from his days as a Big Horn. “[I] just formed a great relationship with everyone there and the bus rides and practice—joking around at practice—and stuff like that. Just the whole atmosphere there,” he said.

The quarterback accumulated nearly 1,300 yards passing to go along with 13 passing touchdowns, seven rushing touchdowns and over 400 rushing yards on the year. He will depart LPHS with the most passing and total touchdowns in school history.

“I’m just really proud of him. He’s worked very hard,” said Starz’s mother, Barb Rooney. “...I think it speaks volumes to his tenacity and dedication to his athletics and continuing his education too.”

CU—a competitor at the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division three level of play—is coming off their winningest season in program history, including their first postseason victory, according to chapmanathletics.com. Starz attended one of the Panthers contests last season and is awaiting team workouts—slated to commence in August—pandemic permitting, with the team’s first game set for Sept. 5.

“I thought it was a good fit for me and I’ve always wanted to go to school in California,” Starz said. “They have a great coaching staff there and a great program, so I’m just excited to be a part of that.”

The Panthers graduated only 14 athletes from last year’s team and will be returning many players for this season, according to Owens, who has led the

program for the past 14 seasons. “We just say the best player plays and with that stated, Frankie’s walking into a situation where the door is open and he can challenge, just like every other guy, and we’ll play the best guy,” Owens said.

Starz is currently preparing for the season by working out with his older brother, Eddie Starz, a football player at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. Their father, Doug, praised both of his children for their work ethic as they practice for the coming season.

“They don’t wait until day one when football or basketball season starts, they’re out there months in advance. They’re doing it right now. Him and his brother are throwing and working out,” he said.

After competing in eight-man football throughout a majority of his high school career, Starz will now make the switch to the traditional 11-man football in the context of steeper competition. “Just learning that it’s like a whole new game,” Starz said of the different style of play, “so as a quarterback you need to learn a bunch of new stuff like reads and how to read zones and stuff like that.”

Doug believes that his son’s resilience and speed will help him quickly adjust to the greater number of players on the field. “The thing about Frankie that’s the most outstanding thing about him is he never quits, and when he fails, he gets right back up and he keeps going,” he said.

The University of St. Thomas also competes at the Division three level of NCAA athletics, meaning the Starz brothers could meet each other in a potential playoff matchup this season. “You root for both of them, you don’t root for either one...You just want to watch your kids do well,” Doug said.

Rooney said that she has already discussed the possibility with her sons. “We’ll see if that ever happens, but it would just be kind of an out of body experience for me as a mom actually,” she said.

Starz may be playing under the California sun next fall, but his impact in the small Montana town where he first learned to throw a football will live on. “I can’t say enough about his character; he is a talented athlete, but the fact that he can graduate from a small Class C school and move on to compete in athletics at the college level already speaks volumes about his work ethic,” Hannahs said. “We are extremely proud of Frankie.”



Frankie Starz (6) attempts a pass during one of the Big Horns games from this past season. Starz will continue his playing career at Chapman University in the fall. PHOTO BY BRANDON WALKER

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.

It’s hard work. And we can’t wait to get back at it.



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

I’ve written several articles over the years about the challenges we face in the restaurant business; hospitality as well, but particularly restaurants and bars. From steward to executive chef, these are among the most difficult occupations out there as compared to their compensation.

Even on a cold winter’s day, a kitchen is hot. Think about opening your oven at home then multiply that by five much larger ovens opening every minute with several burners and a flame broiler running virtually nonstop.

A kitchen is also loud: the constant clatter of china and metal pans and utensils could be considered a method of torture to those who aren’t acclimated to it.

And in a kitchen there’s constant pressure; more like relentless pressure sometimes. And it certainly isn’t for everyone.

I remember having beers with some chef friends once and we all joked that we should go into selling furniture or jewelry because they don’t go bad like seafood, freshly cut steak or beautiful produce. The moment we receive it, it’s deteriorating before our eyes.

And who wants to deal with unruly guests who are intoxicated on a semi-regular basis?

But despite all this, we miss it. Each component of the aforementioned creates a bond and a solidarity in the workplace and the industry at large that never lets you see society and commerce the same way again.

We are among the lifeblood of this country. Along with the U.S. Postal Service, firefighters, police officers, healthcare workers, and service men and women.

We are not nearly as vital in terms of health and security, not even close, but we provide a substantial portion of your social interaction in a way no other industry can. And restaurants and bars are the first businesses that gentrify an up-and-coming neighborhood or entire city for that matter.

According to the National Restaurant Association, 15.6 million people work in the restaurant and bar industry in America, and before this shutdown the NRA said that the industry would generate just a hair under \$900 million dollars in projected sales in 2020.

We need to work, plain and simple. To work, day in and day out, with all the chaos I listed only to have it quite literally yanked out from under us overnight, is akin to attending a rock concert and someone cutting the power mid song. It was that abrupt.

How many times have you had a conversation with friends who said that if they won the lottery, they’d quit their job and never work again? Yeah, basically everyone says that.

Of course winning the lottery is vastly different than suddenly being unemployed without a paycheck. I get that. But of the several cooks, servers and bartenders I know and have spoken to, they all pine for the day when they again have a place to go as much as they are relying on that paycheck.

So, add to the list of lessons we are learning in these trying times. Americans still really do crave a solid day’s work.

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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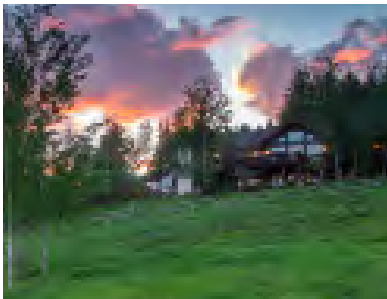
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Royal Coachman Ranch
160 ACRES / \$5.9M



Lot 38 Bitterbrush Trail
1.27 ACRES / \$800K



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



64 Lodgepole
6,160 SQ FT / \$3.895M



8 Little Thunder
4,321 SQ FT / \$3.1M

BIG SKY - LAND



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



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



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



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Lot 43: \$375K / 20 ACRES
Combined: \$699K

COMMERCIAL



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



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

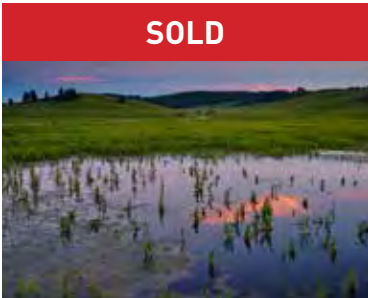


380 Mountain Man Trail
Montana Ranch
20.8 ACRES / \$325K

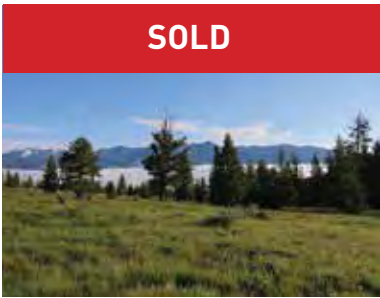


223 Town Center Avenue
Big Sky, MT
2882 SQ FT / 1601 SF Patio
\$1.525M

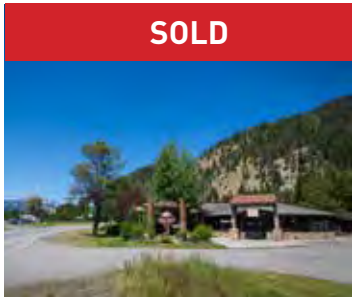
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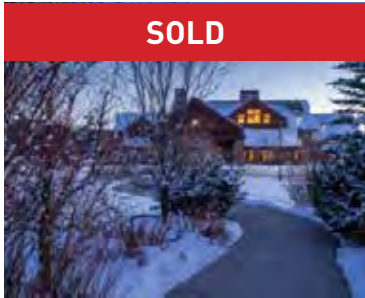
Yellowstone Ranch Preserve
List Price: \$19M



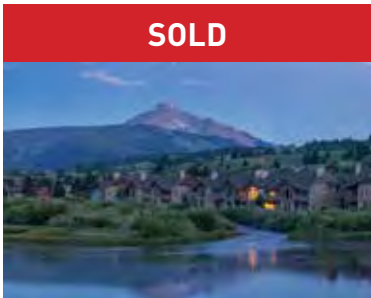
Mountain Meadows
120 Acres / \$3.495M



Big Sky Corner Property
List Price: \$3.24M

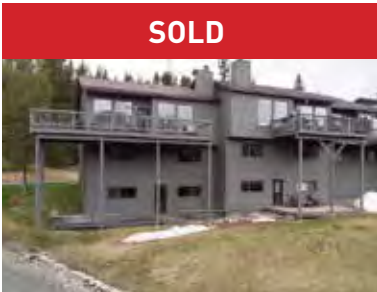


78 Meadow Village
Dr. Big Sky, MT
4,769 SQ FT / \$2.1M

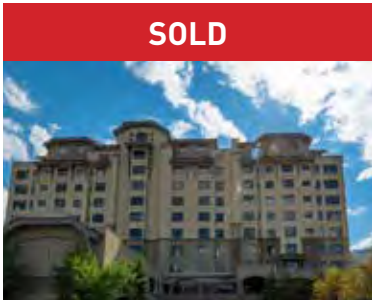


Crail Ranch Unit 40
List Price: \$1.35M

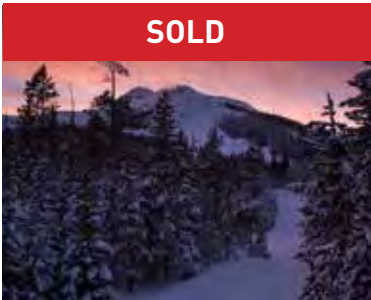
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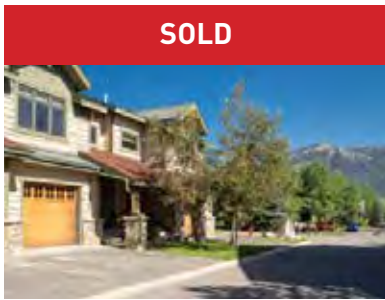
Hidden Village
15 Blue Flax Place
2,788 SQ FT / \$599K



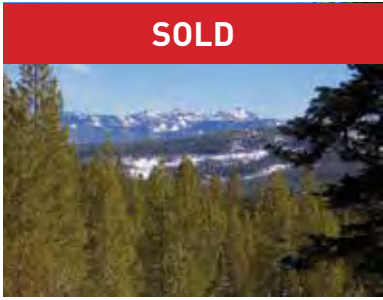
Summit 911/912
List Price: \$595K



Lot 39 Diamond Hitch
1 ACRE / \$595K



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



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

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3,677 SQ FT / \$1.895M



Gallatin Foothills
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211 B Pheasant Tail
\$692K



80 Aspen Leaf Unit 4
1400 SQ FT / \$549K

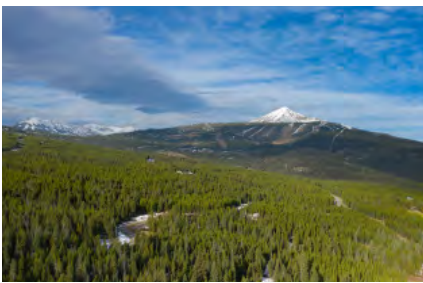


Hill Condo 1313
440 SQ FT / \$219K

BOZEMAN & GREATER MONTANA



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



Lot 71 Morning Glory
3.65 Acres / \$375K



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



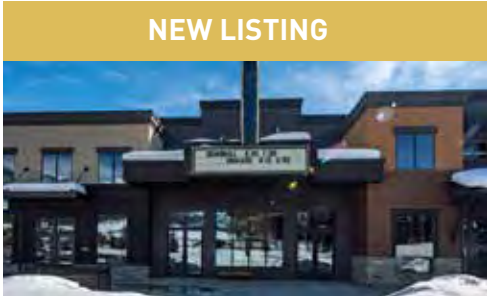
13285 Dry Creek Road
Bozeman, MT
7448 SQ FT Total / \$5.95M



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



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



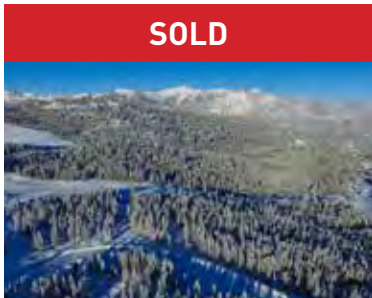
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Big Sky, MT
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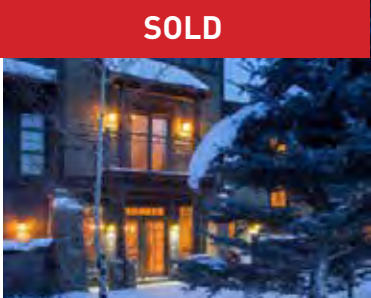
Airport Garages
Bozeman, MT
\$29.9K per unit
Taking reservations for building G



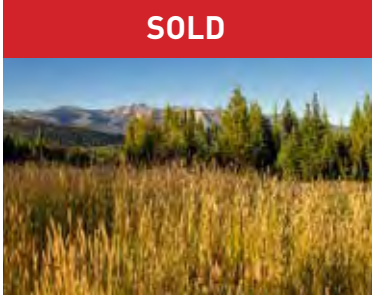
2078 Little Coyote List
List Price: \$1.079M



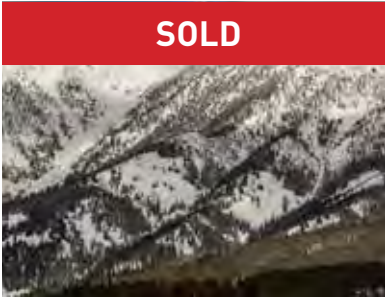
Ski Tip Lot 10
List Price: \$975K



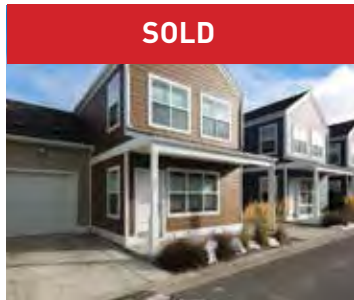
81 Pheasant Tail Ln. Unit 2
2,707 SQ FT / \$839K



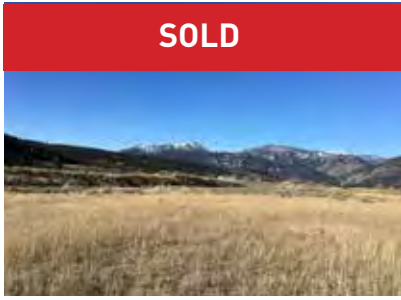
Lot 64 Goshawk
1.04 ACRES / \$775K



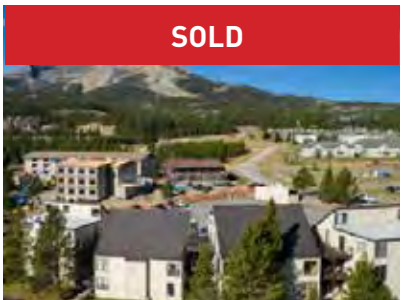
Lot 44 Diamond Hitch
1.25 ACRE / \$699K



412 Enterprise Blvd., Unit 30
Bozeman, MT
1,304 SQ FT / \$315K



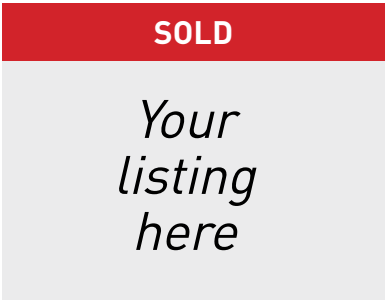
COS 2071 Tract 1 Gallatin Road
3.14 Acres / \$299K



Hill Condo 1321
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47220 Gallatin Rd. Unit #2
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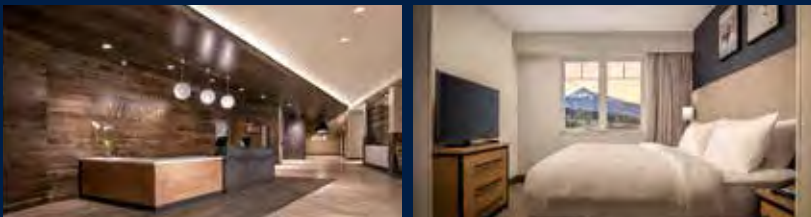
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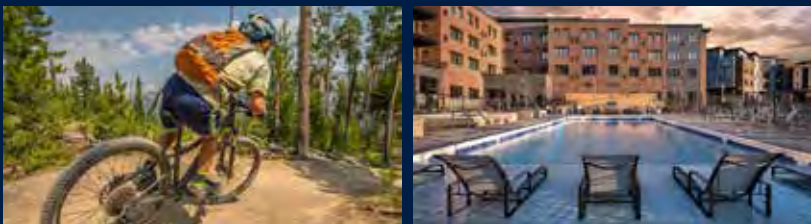
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Virtual cooking classes in line-up for community programming

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY—As the world battles pandemic and normalcy crumbles, communities are mining through the rubble for nuggets of human culture to offer a glimmer of light in the darkness. One such relief is in the kitchen.

The treasured American novelist Truman Capote famously articulated the therapeutic value of cooking in his first book “Summer Crossing.” “Oh, I adore to cook,” he wrote. “It makes me feel so mindless in a worthwhile way.” Perhaps we all should have such a chance right now to feel so mindless, and maybe learn something new with others while we’re at it.

The Big Sky Virtual Kitchen, a program presented by the Big Sky Community Organization, is bringing free cooking classes to homes throughout the community via Facebook Live to offer an opportunity to engage with community through a fun activity and bring attention to some valued chefs and their businesses during the challenging period.

“Cooking is a great way to connect with people, even if it’s just at home,” said Richard Sandza, Camp Big Sky manager and one of the coordinators for the virtual kitchen. “There are a lot of benefits of just having a place where people can just come together.”

Every Monday at 4:30 p.m., local baker Ashley Dodd hosts “The Great Big Sky Baking Show,” followed by a cooking class taught by a rotating local chef on Tuesday at 5 p.m. Alex Omania, owner of the Lotus Pad, taught the first two classes, guiding home cooks on an international culinary journey through Thailand and India. Dodd’s classes have featured buttermilk cake-style donuts and banana chocolate chip muffins.

When Sandza started working out the details of the program, he said it was a no-brainer to include The Hungry Moose Market and Deli. He brought on the grocery store’s marketing director, Andrew Robin, to organize prepared ingredient bags to make it even easier to successfully participate in the virtual classes. Participants can order ingredient bags by calling The Hungry Moose a few days prior to the class and pick them up outside of the store’s Town Center location.

Robin and Sandza said that while participants are cooking in independent locations, the virtual classes, which offer opportunities to comment and interact with other participants, are good opportunities to connect with others during this time of physical separation. In her inaugural classes, Omania created “socials,” where viewers collectively cheers one another. After classes, participants have been posting their final products to the page, creating the appearance of a not only a virtual kitchen but also a virtual dinner table.

“There is a nice reward, you get to eat a fun meal [and] everyone can share their meals together,” Robin said.

The BSCO, a partner in the Big Sky Behavioral Health Coalition, recently began offering a number of other virtual programming options to meet needs from after school activities to virtual fly-tying lessons.

“The Big Sky Community Organization is committed to keeping our community connected during this difficult time,” said Ciara Wolfe, BSCO CEO. “By reaching out to all of our wonderful program partners and working together we have been able to put together a community calendar of virtual programming that offers something for everyone.”

For more information on additional BSCO programming, visit bscomt.org.



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American Life in Poetry:

Column 784

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2004-2006

Jane Hirshfield, who lives in California, is one of our country’s finest poets. I found this beautiful meditation in Poetry of Presence: An Anthology of Mindfulness Poems, published by Grayson Books of West Hartford, Connecticut. Ms. Hirshfield’s most recent book of poetry is the newly-published Ledger: Poems from Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.

Meeting the Light Completely
Even the long-beloved
was once
an unrecognized stranger.

Just so,
the chipped lip
of a blue-glazed cup,
blown field
of a yellow curtain,
might also,
flooding and falling,
ruin your heart.

A table painted with roses.
An empty clothesline.

Each time,
the found world surprises—
that is its nature.

And then
what is said by all lovers:
“What fools we were, not to have seen.”

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Poem copyright 1994 by Jane Hirshfield, “Meeting the Light Completely,” from Poetry of Presence: An Anthology of Mindfulness Poems. Poem reprinted by permission of Jane Hirshfield 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.

Corner Quote

“Transitions are a part of life, allowing for perpetual renewal. When you experience the end of one chapter, allow yourself to feel the emotions of loss and rebirth. A bud gives way to a new flower, which surrenders to the fruit, which gives rise to a seed, which yields a new sprout. Even as you ride the roller coaster, embrace the centered internal reference of the ever-present witness.” – *David Simon*

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Truth: Chin.
4 Scot. alder tree
7 Noncommissioned officer (abbr.)
10 Weakling
11 Monkey
12 Small goby
14 Afr. fruit
15 Got
17 Citizen (abbr.)
18 Occipital protuberance
19 Hole-in-one
20 Chin. dynasty
22 National Bureau of Standards (abbr.)
24 Sec (2 words)
27 S.A. porridge
31 Mitigate
32 Detective
34 Girasol
35 Rose essence
37 Monster in Gr. myth
39 Indian dance drama

41 Jewish month
42 Gamble
45 Siberian antelope
47 Exclamation
50 Keats poem
52 Great Barrier island
53 Spore (pref.)
54 Aggregate
55 Wander
56 Nat'l Security Agency (abbr.)
57 To or from a distance (pref.)
58 Dadaist

DOWN

1 Polynesian amulet
2 Birthstone
3 Unclose
4 Not voiced
5 Islamic month
6 Radium emanation
7 No middle initial (abbr.)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

HEAT OFF SKAT
ISBN FLA ANDA
STATAGEM MOAB
SES RUMEN BTU
MAL DEAL
CADELLE TWITE
EMIR SAC AKAN
AISLE TRIREME
TEAL EDE
SER NANNASB
INIT SEAEAGLE
ONCE SAT FUEL
NATL OPE LEDA

8 First miracle site
9 Org. or Petroleum Exporting Countries (abbr.)
10 Women's Army Corps (abbr.)
13 Pindar work
16 Coptic clergyman
18 3 (Rom. numeral)
21 Aver
23 Mouthlike orifice
24 Goddess (Lat.)
25 Rodent
26 Eur. Economic Community (abbr.)
28 Worker
29 Malay gibbon
30 Guido's note (2 words)
33 Fr. artist
36 Demolish: Brit.
38 Mountain on Crete
40 Muslim prayer
42 More!
43 Television channel
44 New Mexico art colony
46 He (Lat.)
48 Mass
49 Air-to-air missile (abbr.)
51 Underwear
52 Medieval money

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BIG SKY BEATS

“Black Hole Sun”
– Soundgarden
BY MIRA BRODY

Legendary rock band Soundgarden’s “Black Hole Sun” was written in 15 minutes. On a drive to the band’s recording studio, Soundgarden guitarist and vocalist Chris Cornell misheard a news anchor on the radio hearing the words “black hole sun” and thought it would make for an interesting song title. The rest, he said, came together organically and after some fine tuning the single was released in the summer of 1994.

“I wrote the song thinking the band wouldn’t like it—then it became the biggest hit of the summer,” said the late Cornell. The song reached the top of multiple charts, including No. 25 in VH1’s countdown of the “100 Greatest Songs of the ’90s” and its infamous guitar solo, performed by Soundgarden guitarist Kim Thayil, was ranked number 63 on Guitar World’s list of the “100 Greatest Guitar Solos.”

Greg Prato of AllMusic called the song “one of the few bright spots” of the summer of 1994 when the world was still reeling from Nirvana leader Kurt Cobain’s suicide the previous April.

After Cornell’s death in 2017, “Black Hole Sun” was a go-to tribute, with memorable performances by Nora Jones, Ann Wilson, Ryan Adams, Cody Jinks, Metallica and Guns N’ Roses.

BACK 40

For Explore Big Sky, the Back 40 is a resource: a place where we can delve into subjects and ask experts to share their knowledge. Here, we highlight stories from our flagship sister publication Mountain Outlaw magazine.

Noun: wild or rough terrain adjacent to a developed area **Origin:** shortened form of “back 40 acres”

The Shooter

Jackson Hole wildlife photographer Thomas D. Mangelsen shows how nature art can inspire viewers to save the wild world

BY TODD WILKINSON



“There is only you and your camera. The limitations in your photography are in yourself, for what we see is what we are.” – Ernst Haas, pioneer of color photography

Suppose you are a globally renowned wildlife photographer, a shooter who’s been at it for more than 40 years. Right before your eyes you see animal subjects – individual, spectacular creatures you’ve come to know better than any others – and now, it seems, they are about to be killed.

What would you do? Exercise journalistic objectivity and passively witness their potential demise? Chronicle the tragedy with your camera?

Or, would you intervene by crossing the thin line separating artist from activist?

For Thomas D. Mangelsen, there was never a choice. Looking back, the “combat nature photographer” who makes his basecamp near Moose, Wyoming, still can’t decide whether the feeling welling up inside him was one of desperation, powerlessness or pure dread.

As he stood high on the edge of Teton Point Overlook in the valley of Jackson Hole watching the ingredients of mayhem materialize, he saw people and grizzly bears converge.

The jagged crown of the Teton Range rose to the west, burning with an accent of dawn light. The tranquility of sun-up, however, was quickly broken by the reverb of gunshots popping all around.

“It was kind of surreal,” Mangelsen will tell you. “I knew it had the potential to end up badly and there was nothing I could do to stop it.”

What a dozen and a half hunters below Mangelsen could not see in the wavy, choppy topography obscuring their sightlines was a mother grizzly with three near-grown cubs weighing 200 pounds apiece. The hunters were firing at elk in what the National Park Service terms the “Elk Reduction Program” in Grand Teton National Park.

The bears were feeding on the full carcass of a spike bull elk felled and abandoned by an unscrupulous hunter. Mangelsen had been observing the bruins with a long, booming camera lens. It could have gone badly, but mother and cubs took off on the only line to the Snake River that avoided hunters. And miraculously, the hunters never saw them.

The ursid matriarch is among 60 grizzlies known to inhabit Jackson Hole today, though she isn’t just any griz. A 400-pound celebrity bruin given the name “399” by researchers with the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team headquartered in Bozeman, Montana, she and her brood had become favorite subjects of Mangelsen and a cadre of wildlife watchers. Images of 399 are among the most popular in Mangelsen’s portfolio, which has attracted collectors around the globe.

Just as 399 does not fit the profile of an average bruin in Greater Yellowstone, Mangelsen is no run-of-the-mill nature photographer. He is counted among the best on Earth. Millions have seen his groundbreaking “Catch of the Day” portraying a spawning Alaskan salmon sailing through the air into the awaiting jaws of a massive brown bear. He was named BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year for a sweeping panoramic, “Born of the North Wind,” featuring a polar bear and Arctic fox set in the Far North. Another image, “Polar Dance” – capturing two polar bears and summoning attention to the issues of climate change – was voted among the top 40 wildlife photographs of all time by the International League of Conservation Photographers.

Mangelsen also has galleries in a half dozen states and his works are considered touchstones for those interested in collectible nature photography, a market that started long ago with Ansel Adams, Eliot Porter and others.

In person, Mangelsen is somewhat of a silvertip himself – a naturally shy and soft-spoken product of the American heartland. He grew up working in a family-run five

and dime store in Nebraska. Only after his mentor, Dr. Paul Johnsgard, one of the country’s foremost waterfowl biologists, handed him a camera to conduct research, did he discover he had a gift. Until then, his greatest accomplishment had been twice earning the title “world champion goose caller.”

Few wildlife photographers in the world have cultivated a more intrepid mystique than Michael “Nick” Nichols who often ventures to the front lines of environmental crises. Nichols is the lead coordinating photographer for a special issue of National Geographic devoted entirely to the Greater Yellowstone region as the National Park Service marks its centennial in 2016. (That special May 2016 issue also will be written entirely by famed science journalist David Quammen of Bozeman).

A guy who doesn’t bestow praise easily, Nichols told me he holds Mangelsen in highest regard. “As shooters, our pictures are a reflection of who we are. I am the ultimate assignment reporter, an adrenaline junkie, who came up through the system of photojournalism. Assignments pay my way. For Tom it’s different. There are no guarantees that him sitting for long stretches will give him a monetary reward,” Nichols explains.

Mangelsen patiently waits for the moment when all of the variables – the animal itself, backdrop of habitat, good light, and sometimes atmosphere – align. It can take days, months, years to materialize, returning to the same place and preparing for magic to happen.

Mangelsen’s work has been featured in several best-selling books but this autumn he produced a volume that he says, “is the most personally meaningful of my career.” Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek, An Intimate Portrait of 399, the Most Famous Bear of Greater Yellowstone tracks the dramatic ongoing tale of Jackson Hole grizzly 399 and her family.

Full disclosure: I wrote the narrative. Mangelsen and I intended for the book to serve as a window into contemplating the federal government’s plans to soon remove the Greater Yellowstone’s grizzly population from federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. After management of grizzlies is handed over to Montana, Wyoming and Idaho, those states intend to bring back a trophy sport hunt.

The thought of it riles Mangelsen, who believes it’s anachronistic that conserving large carnivores means humanity has to kill them. “Grizzlies are worth far more alive today than they are dead, not only from an economic standpoint [but] they reflect our worth as a society,” he says.

Mangelsen has followed 399 and her offspring for a decade and amassed a quarter of a million frames, which he edited down to his 150 favorites for Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek.

In contrast to some of his contemporaries, Mangelsen has no interest, he says, in being known as just an “art photographer” whose interactions with wildlife are superficial. Rather, he wants to be remembered as a lensman who bore witness, who used the camera as a tool for seeing without resorting to radical digital manipulation. Most of all, he hopes that when he is gone and his work serves as his testament, viewers realize he took a stand for the survival of species.

Critics and connoisseurs like Kathy Moran, the photo editor at National Geographic, reference another rare distinction that Mangelsen and a select few hold in today’s world. With four million images in Mangelsen’s corpus, ranging from penguins in Antarctica, tigers in India, elephants and rhinos in Africa to jaguars in Brazil, breaching whales from the Pacific and Atlantic, to all manner of North American creatures, every single one is a photograph of animals under wild conditions.

In September 2015, Reader’s Digest magazine interviewed prominent photo editors to talk about their favorite shooters and their images. Mary Anne Golon of The Washington Post singled out Mangelsen. “My photography collection consists primarily of black-and-white prints of dark subjects like war, famine, poverty, and neglect,” Golon said. “For some visual relief, I approached Tom Mangelsen years ago to buy one of his images. When I chose this photo of a silverback gorilla running through the green mountains of Rwanda, he laughed and said, ‘Of all the photographs in my gallery, you have selected the only war picture!’ I still find this image soothing.”

Why is having an “all-wild” portfolio notable? Although many readers here might assume that all the wildlife pictures they see in magazines, art galleries or online were shot in the wild, the truth is that a huge percentage are not.

Many photographers harvest photos of wild animals at game farms. None of Mangelsen’s result from visiting game farms and enlisting captive animals as model for

hire, but while he has attracted the scorn of some photographers who did not want the secret let out of the bag, he has never worried about being outspoken.

“I’m not going to judge them personally because each of us has to make our own choices according to conscience and our convictions. But for me wildlife photography is about celebrating animals that are expressions of wild lives,” Mangelsen says. “And as far as commercial game farms go, their emphasis isn’t on doing what’s right by the animal but exploiting the animal. If you want to do what’s right for an animal, you protect its habitat, you make space for it to live in our crowded world, and you speak out against abuses.”

A dozen years ago, he was on the ground floor in establishing the International League of Conservation Photographers, whose tenets require photographers to disclose if images were shot in wild or captive settings.

The noted ethologist Marc Bekoff, professor emeritus of ecology at the University of Colorado Boulder, says Mangelsen’s photographs tap into something invisible that communicates the sentient spirit of his subjects. “Tom sees wildlife as fellow beings, as extensions of the places they live, and that out there on Earth is a sense of relatedness among life forms,” Bekoff says. “It’s what makes our planet special.”

Every spring, Mangelsen heads home to Nebraska to get grounded. For the last 18 years, he and his close friend, the legendary conservationist and chimpanzee researcher Jane Goodall, have gone to the Mangelsen family shack along the Platte River to watch hundreds of thousands of migrating sandhill cranes. A few years ago they were joined by musician Dave Matthews.

Goodall says it was Mangelsen who first made her aware of the challenges facing grizzlies in the Northern Rockies. For Goodall, his photographs are a reminder of how nature can be a balm to chaos, and the next best thing to being in nature is having it ever-present on the wall.

“Tom is among a rare breed of wildlife photographers who doesn’t only aspire to pull us in visually. He wants us to empathize with his subjects, which is just another way of saying he wants us to relate to them,” Goodall says.

Today, a debate rages over whether humans should bestow wild animals with human names or if numeric references, used as markers for identification are enough. Mangelsen sees nothing wrong with a little anthropomorphizing. He notes that when Goodall started her pioneering work with chimpanzees, she was roundly criticized with bestowing names, but the world would never have connected so deeply with her subjects – or cared—had they been given cold numbers, the effect of which only distances at a time when humanity should be re-embracing its bond with nature.

“I wish that your bear – 399 – had a name,” Goodall told Mangelsen in autumn 2015. “Names are how we acknowledge recognition of individuals and recognition is the first step to knowing ... By spending time with animals, we bring them into our hearts and indeed, in that place, we rally our power to protect them.”

Mangelsen echoes a theme that runs through both Goodall’s and Bekoff’s numerous best-selling books that call attention to intellects and emotions of animals. He has watched both 399 and her grown daughter, 610, run frantically in search of their cubs, bawling and seeming to call for assistance when mothers and offspring became separated.

Mangelsen’s advocacy for 399 and family has been uncompromising and he has called for an end to making them the targets of “too much invasive research.” In particular, he says it’s time to leave bears alone, to refrain from trapping, anesthetizing, radio collaring and ear-tagging large numbers of bears. He points out that 399 as well as 610 and other kin have been captured more than a dozen times.

“Much can be learned about bears and bear behavior by simply spending long hours



Grizzly 399 and her three cubs walk down a dirt road in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming.

observing them in the field with a pair of binocular, a camera lens, a journal and a tape recorder just as Jane Goodall and her research teams still do today with chimpanzees.”

The West, Mangelsen says, has evolved past the adage that “the only good bear is a dead bear.” Wolf and grizzly watching are anchors in a \$1 billion annual nature-tourism industry, he notes. “I’ve heard that we need to ‘manage’ grizzlies by hunting and killing them. But do we really need to send a message to bears, telling them that every time they see us they should turn tail and run for their lives?”

Of the more than 15 bears descended from 399, half have perished, many in various kinds of lethal run-ins with people which only shows, Mangelsen says, that even for an incredibly smart and fertile mother like 399, surviving in Greater Yellowstone isn’t easy. He has spent thousands of hours photographing grizzlies and has seen numerous bears bluff charge clueless tourists. “You need to give them room. There are times when circumstances don’t feel right so I just pack up the camera and go home,” he says. “Grizzlies are nothing to mess around with. They can kill you.”

The photographer wants his new book to inform readers about the plight of 399 and her species. “I’m hoping Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek will not only give people insights into grizzlies but make them more aware and sympathetic of the challenges this population faces going forward,” Mangelsen says. “It’s amazing we still have them in Greater Yellowstone. It’s part of what makes it a privilege to live here. It’s also a testament that in the wild backyard of America we’ve learned to co-exist with grizzlies, and maybe it will show other countries they can live with tigers and lions now pushed to the brink.”

Bill Allen, the now-retired editor of National Geographic, explains why Mangelsen sits inside the pantheon of the great talents.

“So many things compete for our attention that often we are forced to focus on the here-and-now rather than considering the long term,” Allen explains. “We see headlines on environmental issues when a catastrophic oil spill or other disaster hits; yet the bigger challenges often get lost in the cacophony of our everyday lives.”

That day not so long ago when Mangelsen watched people and grizzlies converge at Teton Point Overlook, he was standing not far from the spot where Ansel Adams famously composed the black-and-white landscape portrait, “The Tetons and the Snake River.”

Mangelsen, Allen says, has taken collectible nature art to a new level where it can serve as a daily meditation on what’s important in the modern world.

“A still photograph made into art by someone like Tom Mangelsen lets us study that moment, find a myriad of connections within it, and process it in our own minds perhaps to find larger truths.”

Todd Wilkinson lives in Bozeman and has been writing about the environment for 30 years. He is the author of several critically acclaimed books including Last Stand: Ted Turner’s Quest to Save a Troubled Planet. Autographed copies of Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek, by Mangelsen and Wilkinson, are available at mangelsen.com/grizzly.

A version of this story first appeared in the winter 2016 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine.



A long line of bison trek through the snow beneath the Tetons in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming.

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- Metal Shop
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- Culinary Arts
- Music & Band Room
- Collaboration Spaces to Facilitate Cross-Disciplinary Teaching & Learning

ACCOMMODATE
GROWTH

The Big Sky School District has been experiencing continued success and significant student growth. This Master Plan will accommodate the projected growth for at least the next 10 years. This plan will add six additional teaching spaces to provide specialized offerings not currently available. This expansion will increase the student capacity by over 180 students.

This bond will also provide the needed space to transition to Class B, resulting in additional sports participation, larger crowds, and facilities similar to competing schools across Montana.

EMPOWER OUR
COMMUNITY

The Big Sky community is in need of increased opportunities for adult education programs, and spaces to expand technical skills. The District's goal with the STEAM addition is to provide after-hours community access to the shop and technical spaces. This will provide a unique opportunity for the community to access innovative tools and technology within the facility.