PROSPERA

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PROSPERA ANNOUNCES BUSINESS IGNITE LUNCHEON SPEAKERS

Bozeman, MT – Prospera is excited to announce the speaker line up for this year's Business Ignite Luncheon. The Business Ignite Luncheon has become a signature event for Prospera showcasing the remarkable initiatives and innovations that are happening in the community. This gathering is designed to showcase individuals from diverse backgrounds and the projects, companies, and initiatives they are leading.

The 2025 speakers include:

- **John Acheson, Madison River Brewing**
  John Acheson is a proud Montana native, born in Superior, raised in Helen, before settling in the Bozeman/Belgrade area after graduating from MSU. A dedicated family man, John is a loving husband and father of two young sons. He is the owner of several local businesses and is deeply committed to his community. In addition to his entrepreneurial pursuits, John volunteers his time as a coach for both the Belgrade Little League program and the Belgrade High Panther girls' softball team. John will share his journey in purchasing Madison River Brewing and the changes they had to go through to ramp up production.

- **Lilly Corning, Corning Companies**
  Lilly joined Corning Companies in early 2018. As Vice President, she works on all aspects of leasing, development, and financing for both new and existing projects. Prior to joining Corning Companies, Lilly spent four years at Google in Mountain View and San Francisco, California. She is an honors graduate of Harvard College and holds a master's degree from the University of Oxford. At the luncheon, Lilly will talk about a key focus of her current work - the development and long-term vision for the Gallatin Valley Mall, shaping it into a vibrant, community-centered destination.

- **Yves Idzerda, Montana State University**
  Dr. Yves Idzerda currently serves as both and the Director of the NSF-supported MonArk Quantum Foundry (a 6-year, $23 million project funded by the National Science Foundation) and as CSO of the QCORE. Prior to that he served as the Dean of the College of Letters and Science and the Head of the Department of Physics at MSU. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society with over 230 publications in magnetic materials, spin-transport electronics, and quantum materials to his credit. Yves will describe scientific capabilities of the QCORE and new research directions that have direct technical relevance on quantum materials and the related quantum ecosystem.

- **Matt Skoglund, North Bridger Bison**
  Matt Skoglund is the founder and owner of North Bridger Bison, a regenerative bison ranch in Montana's Shields Valley. Before starting the ranch in 2018, Matt spent a decade working on

conservation issues with the Natural Resources Defense Council. What is Regenerative Agriculture? Matt will explain how he and his family are protecting open space, improving wildlife habitat, supporting rural communities and economies, and producing healthy, delicious, nutrient-dense food. He lives in Montana with his wife, Sarah, and their two kids.

- **Sky Sterry, FARA**
  From building his first backpack in a ski dorm room to designing for global brands, Sky has followed a unique path shaped by creativity and bold decisions. In this talk, he shares pivotal moments that led to the founding of FARA, a futuristic urban bag brand. It's a story about designing with intention, embracing uncertainty, and creating your own road when none exists.

- **Event Emcee, Justin Barth, Gallatin Valley Land Trust**
  Justin is a failed social distancer, a lover of the high and dry portions of our state, and a newly minted dad. He can typically be found at Wild Crumb or Vienne connecting with GVLT supporters for his day job as GVLT's Director of Development, rambling about our trails and open spaces, or waiting for the mailman to come in hopes of a new edition of the Costco coupon catalog. Justin will give you the inside scoop on a GVLT project that hasn't yet been released to the public. Consider yourselves lucky as you'll be some of the first to learn about an exciting new 66-acre bike park that will provide an opportunity for bikers of all ages to learn, grow, and take risks together.

The Business Ignite Luncheon is not just an opportunity to witness inspiring projects unfolding in our midst but also a chance to connect with like-minded individuals who are passionate about making a positive impact. Engage in meaningful conversations, network with fellow community members, and leave inspired by the collective efforts driving innovation and change in our community. Purchase tickets online at proseramt.org.

About Prospera: Founded in 1985, Prospera is a non-profit that helps businesses and communities find their pathway to success, acting as the navigator, problem solver, and catalyst for a strong Montana economy. Prospera offers no-cost business advising and training, access to capital and loan financing, community development, and professional networking.

For more information, visit prosperamt.org.
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