

Visitors enjoy run, fun, sun in Big Sky festival

By [WALT WILLIAMS](#), Chronicle Staff Writer

BIG SKY - There wasn't much of a crowd waiting for Steve Bullock of Helena when he crossed the finish line at the 5K Fun Run during the Mountain Fest at the Big Sky Ski Resort on Saturday, just a few resort staff and one reporter.

Bullock came in first of the 16 people who participated in the race, but given that it wasn't competitive in nature, no one was really following it too closely. The most cheering he received was from his two young daughters, who came sprinting up to give him a hug.

It turned out the race wasn't the only thing Bullock was running for.

He is one of three Democratic candidates seeking their party's nomination to run for Montana attorney general. The run was part of his "Justice Tour," in which he has pledged to run in a race in every one of the state's 56 counties. The Fun Run counted for Madison County, given the Mountain Village is on the Madison County side of the border.

"It's a great way to get out and meet folks," Bullock said.

The 5K Fun Run was a new feature at this year's Big Sky Mountain Fest. The free festival, held at the resort, featured vendors selling their wares at discounted prices, good food and live music from the country band [www.Twang](#).

The race could be a bit taxing, given the Mountain Village is above 7,000 feet in elevation and most of the course was uphill. Thomas Angelone, a lift operator at Big Sky, is in good shape, but having come from the New Jersey coast, he found himself a little short of breath afterward.

"I'm feeling it right now," he said.

The Fun Run wasn't the only thing to do at four-hour festival. Among the activities were a climbing wall and a 25-foot-high inflatable slide that seemed to have a constant stream of children coming down it.

Shannon Grader and her family came down from Missoula to enjoy the sunny day. So, what did they think of Big Sky?

“We like it enough we bought a place,” she said, adding that the family has a condo in the community.