

Explore

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

FREE

Big Sky

Jan. 20 - Feb. 2, 2017
Volume 8 // Issue #2

Big Sky 2025: Vision for the future

And the future is now

Lukas Nelson and POTR to rock Montana Jack

Back 40:

How to choose a backcountry partner

Planning the future of recreation in Big Sky

Plus: TEDxBigSky program inside



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PUBLISHER
Eric Ladd

EDITORIAL
EDITOR / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MEDIA
Joseph T. O'Connor

SENIOR EDITOR / DISTRIBUTION DIRECTOR
Tyler Allen

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Amanda Eggert

CREATIVE
SENIOR DESIGNER
Taylor-Ann Smith

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Carie Birkmeier

VIDEO DIRECTOR
Wes Overvold

VIDEO EDITOR
Ryan Weaver

SALES AND OPERATIONS
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
Megan Paulson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SALES AND MARKETING
E.J. Daws

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FINANCE
AND ADMINISTRATION
Alexis Deaton

MEDIA AND EVENTS DIRECTOR
Ersin Ozer

MARKETING COORDINATOR
Amy Delgrande

DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR
Doug Hare

CONTRIBUTORS

Lonnie Ball, Jen Bennet, Matthew Brown, Alan Bublitz, Daniel Bullock, Anne Cantrell, Noah Clayton, Jackie Rainford Corcoran, Matthew Daly, Jeff Daniels, Dan Egan, Matthew Ellwood, Chris Ferguson, Sarah Gianelli, Christopher Guy, Denise Hoepfner, David Johnson, Gene Johnson, Ted Kooser, Derek Lennon, Stuart Levine, Matt Ludin, Scott Mechura, Jennie Milton, Freddy Monares, Chelsi Moy, Brandon Niles, Michael Siebert, Diane Smith, Kene Sperry, Lyn St. Clair, Becky Stirling, Patrick Straub, Jennie White, Cody Whitmer, Todd Wilkinson, Ciara Wolfe

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ON THE COVER:

Lukas Nelson (at left) and Corey McCormick of Promise of the Real perform "Four Letter Word" during a September 2015 show in Folsom, California. PHOTO BY STUART LEVINE

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OPENING SHOT

Canada geese fly over the Lower Madison River during sub-zero temperatures on Jan. 4. PHOTO BY ED COYLE

Do you want to see your photography in the pages of EBS? Submit a maximum of three images via email to carie@outlaw.partners or use #explorebigsky on social media to be eligible. One photo per issue will be chosen for the opening shot.

CORRECTION:

In our top stories of 2016 section, EBS erroneously wrote that 30,000 gallons of treated effluent spilled out of the Yellowstone Club wastewater pond. The amount was 30 million gallons. EBS regrets the error.

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VICE PRESIDENT OF SALES, FOUNDING BROKER
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Big Sky School District receives grant for solar panels, renewable energy education

BIG SKY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Big Sky School District was awarded a Green Sense Universal Systems Benefit grant by North-Western Energy to help fund the installation of a solar power-generating unit on the roof of Ophir Middle School.

Energy 1, a Bozeman-based company specializing in clean energy, will design and install the 7.125-kilowatt solar photovoltaic unit this spring.

The grant will also help fund renewable energy educational tools for K-12 students. Live viewing of the data from the solar unit will be displayed in the school lobby on an interactive kiosk for students and community members, and remote online viewing of the data will also be available.

The Big Sky School District selected the award-winning Solar 4R Schools program to complement the solar unit. It will be available online for all Big Sky students and offers a comprehensive K-12 renewable energy STEM education experience.

“The educational opportunities available through this technology as well as economic and climate benefits are immeasurable,” said Big Sky School District Superintendent Dustin Shipman. “We are hopeful that this phase one project is just the beginning, and that we can expand our clean energy production even more in the future and do our part to tread lightly.”

A community event to unveil the solar system is planned for early summer. Experts will be on hand to explain how the system works and how students and community members can access the online tools to learn more about renewable energy.

Tester, Daines introduce Little Shell Recognition bill during first week of 115th Congress

EBS STAFF

Senators Jon Tester and Steve Daines kicked off the 115th Congress by introducing bipartisan legislation to grant federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of the Chippewa Cree, a tribe of more than 4,500 members headquartered in Great Falls.

The Little Shell Tribe has sought federal recognition for nearly four decades, and has been recognized by the state of Montana since 2000. Tester has worked on federal recognition for the Little Shell Tribe since his first congressional term in 2007.

“The federal government can’t fulfill its trust responsibility to Montana’s Little Shell Tribe until it recognizes their sovereignty,” Tester said in a press release. “These folks have been waiting long enough for what they deserve, and we won’t stop fighting until we get this bill across the finish line.”

Montana tourism and recreation conference to feature Shark Tank competition

MONTANA SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

This March, the Montana Small Business Development Center Network will partner with the Governor’s Conference on Tourism and Recreation to increase its reach to one of the state’s leading industries. The center will consult with businesses, host classes, and hold its annual Shark Tank live pitch business plan competition.

Shark Tank creates a forum for local entrepreneurs to present a business plan and receive constructive feedback from a panel of industry professionals. First place in the competition will win \$5,000, second place will receive \$2,500, and third place will take home \$1,000.

Applications for the Shark Tank competition will be accepted until Feb. 4. Entrepreneurs with Montana startups in the pre-venture idea phase with less than one year of activity can participate.

This year’s panel of judges will include high-profile experts from Montana’s banking and finance industries. Participants will first pitch their business idea to an initial screening panel on March 13, and the live pitch will be held during the closing luncheon on March 14.

Advisors from the Small Business Development Center will also teach classes open to all attendees on human resources, financials and marketing. Advisors will also consult clients via prescheduled appointments during the conference.

To register for the March 12-14 Governor’s Conference on Tourism in Helena, visit bit.ly/2ib8m5O. To register for Shark Tank, go to sbdc.submittable.com before Feb. 4. Contact Rebecca Ziegler at (406) 841-2747 for more information.

Tester and Daines ushered the bill through the Senate Indian Affairs Committee during the last congressional session, but it did not receive a vote on the Senate floor.

“The Little Shell Tribe has waited far too long and jumped through too many bureaucratic hoops to [not] secure federal recognition,” Daines said. “It’s time to do what is right and give the Little Shell Tribe the recognition they greatly deserve.”

Native American tribes must be recognized as sovereign nations by the federal government to exercise full self-governance. Under this nation-to-nation relationship, tribes access critical economic development, health care and education resources, and regulate affairs on tribal lands on terms socially and culturally appropriate.

Tribes can be recognized by the federal government through congressional legislation, or an administrative process through the U.S. Interior Department.

American Legion Post 99 holds second annual speech contest

EBS STAFF

Big Sky’s American Legion Post 99 is holding its second annual oratory competition at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 5 p.m.

The Constitutional Speech Contest, part of the national American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program, will feature Lone Peak High School students giving 8-10 minute speeches that will focus on the U.S. Constitution and emphasize duties that citizens have to their government.

The Big Sky contest winner will advance to the district competition, which this year will be held in Big Sky on Feb. 25. The winner of the district contest will qualify to compete at the state-level in Helena on March 11, and the national competition follows in Indianapolis in April.

While this is only the second Constitutional Speech Contest held in Big Sky, the American Legion has sponsored national contests since 1938, and participants compete for cash scholarship prizes. First-, second- and third-place contestants will receive scholarship prize money for the top speeches.

“I think [speaking in public] enhances their confidence tremendously,” said Dick Allgood, adjutant for the local Post 99. “It’s eye-opening to see these youngsters compete.”

LPHS social studies teacher Tony Coppola helps spearhead the contest as part of his government and political science course, which includes the Constitution in its curriculum. Last year, four students competed in the inaugural Big Sky event, and now-senior Louisa Locker took home the first place prize then won third place at the district contest in Bozeman.

“Last year it was on a volunteer basis, but this year it’s part of a class assignment, and I’ll take the top five in the class,” Coppola said. “It’s not an easy task to get up and speak for 10 minutes in front of your classmates or anyone for that matter. I’m very proud of their progress and I’m looking forward to the competition.”

The public is encouraged to attend the contest, and admission is free of charge. Visit mtlegion.org/departments/oratorical-contests.html for more information.



Lukas Nelson, TEDxBigSky and Big Sky Big Grass are coming up.

What's one of the most memorable events you've ever attended?
What event would you like to see held in Big Sky?



Jesse Knox
Big Sky, Montana

"I'm a big fan of classic rock acts. I loved the Led Zepplin cover band that was here for PBR a couple years ago. I would love to see a bigger music venue and bigger musical acts. Just to have one huge [performance] or even a festival, where it was a couple of days of shows."



Jennifer Boutsianis
Big Sky, Montana

"Dead & Company at the Gorge in Washington last year. They played "One More Saturday Night" while the sun was setting and the whole crowd went completely insane."

I wouldn't bring in anything new. Keeping Music in the Mountains how it is, family friendly but also allowing local, young adults to enjoy themselves . . . is one of the best things about Big Sky. We're growing too quickly anyways."



Zack Landen
Big Sky, Montana

"The 36 hours of Keystone. Your team of four had to take at least one run per hour for 36 hours. They ended up canceling it because people got too drunk and got hurt."

[I'd like] something during the winter that would counter the PBR. I think a snowcross event like freestyle snowmobiling would bring in a completely different demographic to Big Sky."



Rebecca Mendiola
Las Vegas, Nevada

"The Lion King in Las Vegas on their Broadway Production. I'm a big Disney fan so it was pretty memorable."

It depends on the season, because when it's cold like this I can't imagine anything going on. But if there was a music festival or maybe . . . I've seen a lot of local breweries . . . I'd totally go to a beer fest."



Op-ed: Preserve coverage to protect the health of Montanans

BY DICK BROWN

From food recalls to Zika, healthcare issues were among the most popular online searches in 2016. Montanans increased their knowledge of antibiotic resistant “superbugs,” contributed to the social media firestorm following a spike in the cost of Epi-Pens, and advanced the global effort to erase the stigma of mental illness and improve access to suicide prevention and addiction services.

Montanans care about their health and the health of their communities. The Montana Hospital Association continues to advance these attributes with its commitment to ensuring every Montanan has access to healthcare and healthcare coverage in the New Year.

The Montana Legislature and Congress have the privilege of adopting public policy solutions that have a direct impact on improving the lives of their neighbors. As our elected leaders move forward with the debate over the future of the Affordable Care Act, it is imperative that they take into consideration the impact of their actions on the millions of Americans who have benefitted from the monumental health law.

The ACA enabled 2.2 million new customers and 6.6 million returning customers to obtain coverage through the health insurance exchange during the 2016 open enrollment period. More than 52,000 Montanans selected a plan for coverage starting Jan. 1, 2017. In addition, more than 60,000 Montanans have obtained coverage through Medicaid. This coverage expansion has contributed to a drop in the uninsured rate in our state from about 20 percent in 2012 (one of the highest in the nation) to 7.4 percent in 2016.

The impact of the coverage expansion on individual lives is undeniable. Newly insured Montanans now have improved access to primary care providers. Many are benefitting from preventive health measures and are addressing previously unmet medical needs, including chronic conditions that cripple their ability to work.

Progress made in our communities demonstrates that health coverage is key to ensuring Montanans have access to the care they need. MHA believes healthier communities result in a more viable economy, a more efficient and effective healthcare delivery system and, over time, will lead to a long-term slowdown in healthcare spending growth.

If Congress decides to reconsider the ACA and move forward with strategies to eliminate health coverage gains or healthcare access, rural and frontier America may lose more than its local safety-net services.

Our communities already face challenges brought on by an aging population, a higher percentage of low-income residents and persistent shortages of physicians and other healthcare professionals. Recent history has shown that a lack of health coverage for rural residents and support for rural healthcare providers can exacerbate these threats and also lead to a loss in jobs. Eventually, this could lead to boards on the windows of local businesses and homes.

The Montana Legislature and Congress must ensure the number of Montanans covered by some insurance plan does not diminish under efforts to repeal and/or replace the ACA. MHA's members are community-driven organizations whose mission is to serve the healthcare needs of their friends and neighbors. We ask our elected leaders to ensure we can continue to fulfill our mission to make Montana a “Top 10 Healthy State” that provides viable opportunities for current and future generations.

Dick Brown is the President/CEO of the Montana Hospital Association.

Op-ed: Booming Recreation Economy

BY MARY SEXTON

While our legislators and Congress are tackling big issues, let's take a look at what really makes Montana tick, and for many people, that's recreation. And, it ain't just about huntin' and fishin' anymore.

Recreation on our public lands is not only what many of us do, even on cold, winter days, it's also a true economic driver in Montana. At a roundtable discussion on recreation and the economy in Missoula a few months ago, folks from bike touring companies, GPS mapping businesses, IT groups, and gear makers to local city council representatives talked about the need to keep recreation opportunities alive and well because businesses thrive on recreation and tourism.

Plus, business people say that potential employees come to and stay in Montana because they can enjoy the great outdoors. People love to hike, trail run, paddleboard, ski, snowmobile, ride horses, as well as hunt and fish.

And visitors to Montana love our public recreational and outdoor assets. Glacier and Yellowstone national parks break visitation records every year. Over the past six years, use of our state parks has increased almost 50 percent from both in-state and out-of-

state visitors. It's estimated that 64,000 jobs in Montana are directly related to recreation while consumer spending amounts to \$5.8 billion.

As we see this boom, many of the folks who share common interests in recreation—public lands advocates, traditional hunters and anglers, tourism businesses, local chambers of commerce—do not talk to each other as well as they might.

Gov. Steve Bullock has proposed an Office of Outdoor Recreation to bring more determined focus to issues surrounding the recreation economy. Other states have successfully used such an office to bring folks together, to give attention to infrastructure needs, access, and business support.

With federal funding for maintenance of infrastructure on public lands declining, and funding for state parks some of the lowest in the nation, our booming recreation economy faces some tough challenges ahead. If we don't cooperate, talk to each other and work together better, we are harming what we truly love about Montana and an important economic sector: recreation!

Mary Sexton is the vice-chair for the Montana State Parks and Recreation Board. She lives in Choteau, Montana.

Obituary: Richard Marcelin Wambsgans Jr.

Richard “Dick” Marcelin Wambsgans Jr., age 86, died of natural causes on Jan. 5, 2017, in Boise, Idaho.

Dick is survived by his children, Sue Ann Limoges, Nancy Elizabeth Bingman, Richard M Wambsgans III, Denise Isla Paporello and David Howard Wambsgans. He is preceded in death by his wife of 50 years Charlotte Jane Wambsgans and survived by 11 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

Dick was born on June 20, 1930, in New Orleans, Louisiana, to parents Richard Marcelin Wambsgans Sr. and Nancy Gugel Wambsgans. He graduated from Tulane University in New Orleans with a degree in Art and Science. Dick served in the theater of war in Korea as a radio operator.

In 1962, he moved to Omaha, Nebraska, and accepted a position as a sales manager at Van Heusen Clothing Co., where he worked for more than 12 years then retired and moved to Aspen, Colorado, and eventually Big Sky, Montana. Dick loved his hobby with ham radios and his search for the gold nugget as a professional rock hound.

Dick was a great family man and a loving father. He married Charlotte Jane in 1952 and the couple had five children together. He was a social, active man who was deeply involved in the community in Big Sky for much of his life. He enjoyed serving the community from the start of the local fire and tax boards and was very involved with the American Legion in Big Sky. His family and friends will always remember him as a “good man” and always there to help anyone in need.

A funeral was held on Jan. 12 at the Idaho Veterans Cemetery with a reception that followed. The family would like to thank the Idaho Veterans Home in Boise for their long exceptional care and love they have provided for the past 10 years.



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Big Sky North Fork Ranch sits just above the Meadow Village and Town Center just five minutes from all Big Sky area amenities. The 484 +/- acre ranch backs up to National Forest Service land and the wild country of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem providing miles of hiking and hunting in some of the most scenic country in the lower 48 states. The ranch is very private with elk and deer your only neighbors. This is a ranch that will keep everyone in the family coming back time and again. // **MICHAEL THOMAS | 406.581.2400**



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CLOCK TOWER BUILDING | \$1,325,000

Premium retail space in desirable Meadow Village location, referred to as the Clock Tower Building. The space is 5,496 square feet in total. Upper level is 2,757 square feet with a large conference room facing Lone Peak, 12 offices, two bathrooms and a kitchenette. Main level is 2,154 square feet with a reception area, fireplace, four offices, one bathroom and a kitchenette. Lower level is 585 square feet with a storage and utility space. Perfect investment for the fast-growing Meadow Village Center. // **JACKIE MILLER | 406.539.5003**



SUMMIT CONDO 10310 | \$419,000

This 2 bedroom corner unit of the Summit Hotel is in the heart of the Big Sky Resort, with views of the canyon and of the ski hill. Walk to all base area amenities or just call for room service or stay in-house for spa services, pool, hot tub, fitness facilities, children's activities, etc. One bedroom has two queen beds, a full bath and wet bar. The connecting room has a master suite, a full kitchen, living area with sleeper sofa and fireplace & another full bath. // **MARY WHEELER | 406.539.1745**



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Big Sky 2025: The future is now



E.J. Daws shredding the goods Jan. 12 beneath the new Challenger triple. PHOTO BY WES OVERVOLD

BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

“There is probably no pleasure equal to the pleasure of climbing a dangerous Alp; but it is a pleasure which is confined strictly to people who can find pleasure in it.” – Mark Twain

BIG SKY – The first time you see Lone Mountain wrapped in a fresh blanket of snow and cloaked by an azure sky, it may give you pause and beg the question of whether you’re still in the Northern Rockies. You might find yourself whisked back to Twain’s day and the quote above, which he wrote in “A Tramp Abroad,” his work of travel literature published in 1880.

Fortunately for visitors to Big Sky Resort, this “American Alp” has a tram reaching its 11,166-foot summit, and most who descend from its lofty peak find great pleasure in schussing down its steep faces, chutes and gullies.

When Big Sky Resort announced last August that it would be investing \$150 million in improvements over the next decade, Steven Kircher conjured mountains halfway around the world.

“This is about making Big Sky not just bigger but making it better,” Kircher said at an Aug. 24 press conference at the resort’s Summit Hotel. “We believe we have a unique positioning statement ... where we become the American Alps.” Kircher is the president of Boyne Resorts’ eastern operation and his father Everett purchased Big Sky Resort in 1976, three years after it opened.

Big Sky is turning heads, and not just those with eyes drawn daily from the meadow to its volcano-shaped hulk. More than 90 media outlets around the world picked up the “2025” story once a press release issued by the resort hit news wires, according to Big Sky Resort Public Relations Manager Chelsi Moy.

The plan includes 12 new or upgraded lifts—including eight bubble-enclosed lifts, a gondola originating at the Mountain Village and a lift on the south face—night skiing on Andesite Mountain and 10 new

restaurants, as well as extensive renovations and construction in the Mountain Village.

A new lift at the base of the Moonlight terrain is planned, creating the longest lift-served vertical drop in the U.S. at more than 4,500 feet.

The investment is scheduled to roll out in near-, mid- and long-term phases, and many of the short-term plans have been completed, including a \$9 million project last summer that replaced the Lone Peak Triple and Challenger chairlifts with two new Doppelmayr lifts.

The Powder Seeker six-person lift rushes skiers to the top of The Bowl in just three minutes, its heated seats and opaque blue windshields adding maximum comfort. Locals have been bragging about, “five-minute Bowl laps,” Moy said.

The conveyor-loading Challenger triple reopens some of the steepest lift-served terrain in the region, after the original double chairlift stopped spinning its bullwheel for good last winter.

The resort also rolled out variable ticket pricing this season—a day ticket costs \$89 to \$129 this winter—with the biggest discounts offered for early and online purchases. It’s nothing new to the industry, Moy said, but it’s been difficult to gauge how successful the new online pricing structure has been during this first year.

“We’re confident that, with time, guests will turn online first for their lift tickets—much as they do for many of their everyday shopping needs,” Moy said. “As that message reverberates to our many guests, we’re confident that more and more people will resort to purchasing their tickets online to save the most money.”

If all goes according to plan, new lifts would include a North Village Gondola, additional lifts in the Moonlight area and a chairlift that would access the south-facing Lone Mountain terrain that the tram services now. But it doesn’t seem like Big Sky Resort visitors are waiting for the mid- and long-term projects to be complete.

On Dec. 28, Big Sky recorded its busiest day in history with 8,392 skier-visits, followed by its second biggest skier-day on Dec. 29 with



Big Sky Resort General Manager Taylor Middleton and his daughter Kate soak up rays on opening day, Thanksgiving 2016. PHOTO BY TYLER ALLEN

8,137 skiers and riders. The reliably busy week between Christmas and New Years was exceptional this winter, and set another record of more than 48,000 skier visits from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1.

“It certainly helped that we received more than 2 feet of snow in the last week of December, with a foot of it falling in about eight hours on Tuesday, Dec. 27,” Moy said.

Resort profits are fueling this infrastructure growth, especially since Big Sky acquired the terrain and began operating the lifts of Moonlight Basin and Spanish Peaks Mountain Club in 2013. Since the expansion, revenues have increased \$10 million to \$15 million annually.

Big Sky Resort has long been integral in drawing travelers from afar to this remote corner of the world, and on Jan. 9 American Airlines announced a nonstop summer flight between Chicago and Bozeman. The once daily service will be available from June 2 to Oct. 4 and is thanks in large part to a heavy push by a coalition including the resort, the Yellowstone Club, Lone Mountain Land Company and the Bozeman Chamber of Commerce.

This same partnership helped bring the airline’s first direct service to Bozeman last year, with its winter and summer flights from Dallas/Fort Worth. There are now 17 direct flights between Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport and major cities throughout the country.

In addition to expanded summer offerings for its visitors, like mountain biking trails, mountain coasters and high-alpine ziplines, Moy said this vision of the future is also focused on Big Sky Resort’s employees.

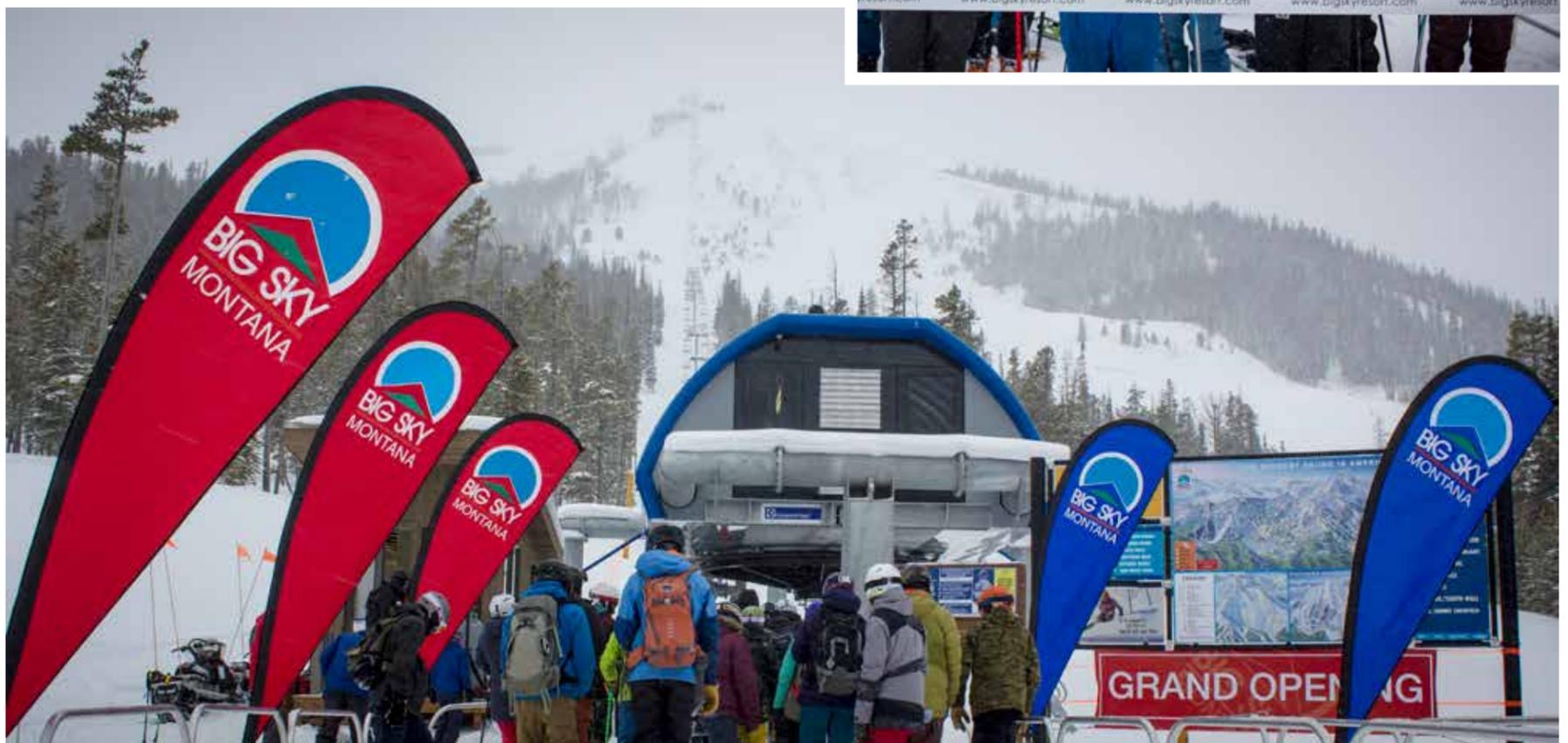
“As we talk about investing and developing our mountain operations ... we’re also simultaneously, as always, looking at our employees’ needs,” she said.

Brian Wheeler, the resort’s director of real estate and development, is presenting to the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, Jan. 24, a proposal to add 200 beds for on-mountain employee housing. Construction on a 42-bed facility could begin as early as this summer, Moy said.

The resort added 44 new employee beds this winter after renovating the former Black Bear and Grill building.

“While we’re trying to consider this \$150 million on-mountain development,” Moy said, “we also have the best interest of our employees in mind.”

Visit bigsky2025.com for more details about the 10-year project.



The new conveyor-loading Challenger triple chair opened with fanfare Dec. 15. PHOTOS BY CODY WHITMER

National Honor Society brings poverty awareness to Big Sky

BY BELLA BUTLER
EBS EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

BIG SKY – The world is full of unfortunate challenges, including diseases, violence and inequality, among many others. One particular issue, with details that can often be misunderstood, is poverty.

The Lone Peak High School National Honor Society is hoping to shed light on the the subject in Big Sky when they host a screening of the documentary “Poverty, Inc.” on Saturday, Jan. 21, at the Lone Peak Cinema.

Countless organizations around the globe put up efforts to fight the cycle of poverty, but how many people actually stop and ask: “Am I really helping?”

This was a question raised to LPHS senior Sayler Tatom last summer, when she attended a two-week program studying the issue under professor Connie Mick at the University of Notre Dame. Mick is co-director of the Poverty Studies Interdisciplinary Minor at the Indiana university.

“We talked about how poverty happens [and] the logistics of it globally,” Tatom said.

The camp was only two weeks long, but what Tatom took away from it will last a lifetime, she said. Students watched “Poverty, Inc.,” which dives into the truth about breaking the poverty cycle through wiser means of international involvement.

The film features Magatte Wade and Daniel Jean Lewis, two entrepreneurs who argue that long-term solutions to poverty in foreign nations are best created through local entrepreneurship rather than free aid and gifted resources. After watching the film, Tatom had the opportunity to speak with Wade and Lewis and to discuss the ideas proposed in the film.

Soon after this experience, Tatom contacted LPHS National Honor Society President Dasha Bough with a proposition to bring the film to Big Sky to spread awareness of a global topic, which is one of the missions of NHS.

“I thought it could be a great thing for the people of Big Sky,” Tatom said. “A lot of times we are very sheltered and I thought an event to show the documentary could be eye opening.”

The National Honor Society (of which I’m a member) hosted an event earlier this year, where we showed the film “Screenagers,” and hosted speakers who investigated the digital age children are raised in today. The committee planning the “Poverty, Inc.” event decided to model the affair similarly by bringing in two speakers on the topic.

Prior to the Jan. 21 screening, professional educational and cultural consultant Shane Doyle for the Department of Native American Studies at Montana State University, and the founder of the Livingston Food Pantry, Michael McCormick, will present their experiences to the community to tie the film in with local perspectives.

Doyle grew up in Crow Agency, Montana, and is an expert on the topic of impoverished Native American reservations, not only in a professional manner, but also personally.

“I guess I kind of grew up in poverty,” Doyle said. “It’s a complex issue, and it’s difficult to articulate it in a way that is meaningful and relatable.”

Raised by a single working mother, Doyle grew up with a vastly different understanding of his financial struggles than an outsider would have perceived it. He believes that poverty is a matter of context—it’s circumstantial, he says.

“When people talk about poverty, you don’t think about yourself,” Doyle said. “It was difficult to reconcile with what other people thought was poverty, and the way I lived.” He now has 17 years of teaching experience, including 13 at MSU in Bozeman, where he lives with his wife and five children.

Doyle will be a key part of the awareness event, Tatom said, and NHS is eager for him to share his personal experiences and professional opinions with Big Sky.

The free event will begin with presentations by the speakers at 4:30 p.m., followed by the screening of “Poverty, Inc.”

Big Sky takes Great Kindness Challenge

BIG SKY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ophir Elementary and Middle schools, as well as Lone Peak High School, encourage community members and businesses to come together and participate in the Great Kindness Challenge taking place from Monday, Jan. 30, through Friday, Feb. 3.

The Great Kindness Challenge is a positive, proactive bullying prevention initiative, reaching millions of students at the end of January every year. Local events and activities to help support a safe and caring school environment include Kindness Stations, school-wide service projects, a global service project, Spirit Days, and more. Students receive a 50-item kindness checklist and do as many kind acts as possible.

In addition to school-based activities, Big Sky businesses have also been challenged to offer something special for the week.

In order to create a consistent, positive message throughout the school and community, Ophir Elementary is inviting local businesses, parents, and community members to meet in front of the school to form a Kindness Tunnel as students arrive at school at 8:15 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 30. Attendees can then join students and staff for a kick off pep rally with motivational cheers and high-energy activities from 8:45-9 a.m.

“This national program is a terrific way to give a hands-on experience to our students learning about caring, empathy, and tolerance in the month of January through our International Baccalaureate program,” said Ophir Elementary School Counselor Jackie Clawson. “The challenge also matches perfectly with the American School Counselors Association’s ongoing efforts to meet the social and emotional needs of the whole child.”

The Great Kindness Challenge was created by Kids for Peace to provide schools with a tool for creating a positive school environment. In 2016, more than 5 million students participated, performing over 250 million acts of kindness worldwide.

For more information on the program visit greatkindnesschallenge.org. To learn how to get involved locally, contact Jackie Clawson at (406) 995-4281 or jclawson@bssd72.org.

RECYCLE



Enjoy our publication and please remember to recycle.



Inside the Big Sky

By Derek Lennon



Big Sky Rippers skating back from another spicy line with Fan Mountain in the background. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY

Big Sky Rippers

BY DEREK LENNON
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The Rippers program is Big Sky Resort's flagship big mountain program for kids. This local youth program caters to skiers and riders aged 10 and older who want to learn how to safely ski and ride Big Sky's black and double black diamond terrain, while learning about avalanche safety and developing the skills and techniques to navigate and enjoy big mountain terrain safely.

There are two six-week sessions of Rippers every season and kids are placed into small groups based on age and skill. Each group works with the same instructor every Saturday for the entire six-week session. The first session began Jan. 7 and runs through Feb. 11, and the second session will be held March 4 to April 8.

"Many participants have been in the program for several years, and have been skiing with the same instructor each season," said Matt Ruuhela, the Rippers program supervisor.

Ruuhela handpicks some of Big Sky's top instructors to work with the Rippers. Besides perfecting every child's skiing and riding techniques in big mountain terrain, instructors also work with students to ensure that they are familiar with and understand avalanche terrain, avalanche rescue skills, risk assessment, and big mountain decision making.

The goal is to create ripping skiers and riders who understand, respect, and enjoy the terrain that Big Sky offers.



Big Sky Rippers boot packing to earn their turns last year at Big Sky Resort. PHOTO BY MATTHEW ELLWOOD

Every Saturday the participants review avalanche and condition reports, then they explore the mountain with qualified instructors who know the mountain and understand the snow conditions. "This is the ultimate way for kids to safely explore the mountain while developing the skills they need to build a solid

foundation for mountain sports," Ruuhela said. It's safety, fun, and learning at the highest level.

The Big Sky Rippers program is the perfect option for any advanced level skier or rider. Before signing up for the Rippers, every child must be comfortably skiing terrain like Marx or Cold Springs. This is mandatory to ensure that participants are skilled and ready to meet the objectives of the program.

The Big Sky Rippers Program runs out of both Mountain Village and Madison base areas from 9:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. One Saturday per session, the Rippers participate in Big Sky's First Tracks Program, where they load the lift prior to the public and get the mountain all to themselves.

If your kids aren't quite ready for the Big Sky Rippers, there are numerous other local ski programs for kids. Find the perfect program for your child and help them build the skills they need to love and experience all that Big Sky Resort has to offer.

To sign up for the Big Sky Rippers Program, visit bigskyresort.com. If you have questions, contact the Big Sky Ski School at (406) 995-5743 (Mountain Village) or (406) 993-6062 (Madison Village).

Derek Lennon is a skier and writer who lives, works, and plays in the mountains of the world. He is based in Big Sky, Montana, where he lives with his wife Mia and two dogs.

A version of this story was originally published on the Visit Big Sky blog at <https://visitbigskymt.com/big-sky-rippers/>. Read more interesting content about the area on Visit Big Sky's blog at <https://visitbigskymt.com/category/blog/>.



Big Sky Rippers program quick facts:

- Two six-week sessions (Saturdays only)
- Group sizes capped at four
- Ages 10 and up
- Advanced skiing ability required
- Beacon, shovel and probe required
- Participate in First Tracks program one time per session
- Operates out of the Mountain Village and Madison base areas



PHOTO BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR

Lotus Pad puts down new roots

Big Sky staple Lotus Pad opened up shop in its chic new space at 47 Town Center Drive across from East Slope Outdoors on Jan. 20. A remarkably cozy space for its 2,900-square feet, Lotus Pad owner Alex Omania and her staff sought the best of both worlds.

“We wanted [it] to remain intimate,” Omania said after a soft opening on Jan. 17. “I’m so grateful for the opportunity to share joy, fill bellies and make people smile.”

Omania moved the Asian cuisine restaurant from its significantly smaller location in Westfork Meadows to Town Center Drive earlier this month and is now open seven days a week.

“You can’t do something like this without the support of the people,” Omania said. “I’m so proud of my staff. They nailed it!” – *J.T.O.*

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Affordable housing on chamber’s 2nd community forum agenda

EBS STAFF

The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce will host a community forum at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 24, at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center to update the community on efforts to tackle Big Sky’s affordable housing issue. The evening will also address the formation of a Tourism Master Plan, prompted by the results of Visit Big Sky’s recent DestinationNEXT survey.

Britt Ide, interim CEO of the chamber of commerce, will present a brief overview of the DestinationNEXT survey results—an in-depth research tool for marketing organizations in tourist destination areas—which was completed by nearly 80 community members and stakeholders. The responses resulted in a recommendation for the community to focus on developing a Tourism Master Plan and address the issue of affordable housing.

Brian Guyer with the Human Resource Development Council will provide an update on the Bough Big Sky Community Subdivision, which received over \$1 million in funding during the Big Sky Resort Tax Board’s 2016 appropriations cycle.

Ide will also summarize the pros and cons of current “penny for housing” legislative efforts to allow for a local option to increase the resort tax to 4 percent.

Following these updates, a significant amount of time will be set aside for a town hall-style question and answer period.

“We look forward to this being an evening dedicated to helping us all better understand the issue of affordable housing in our community,” Ide said. “It is an issue that affects us all.”

Members of the chamber of commerce’s housing committee, as well as many local developers, will be in attendance to help answer the public’s questions.

The event is open to the public and will take place from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 24, at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.

While the budget looms, Montana Legislators also consider bills on air ambulance costs and infrastructure

BY MICHAEL SIEBERT
COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

HELENA - Budget subcommittees proposed further cuts to Gov. Steve Bullock's budget throughout the second week of the Montana Legislature.

"If we can get through the budget and balance it, that will be probably all we can do," said Rep. Nancy Ballance, R-Hamilton.

There is conflict between Gov. Steve Bullock's proposed budget and what the Republican-dominated legislature says is a more fiscally responsible approach. Gov. Bullock proposed roughly \$73 million in cuts, but Republican lawmakers are proposing cuts of roughly \$120 million.

Gov. Bullock's budget would fund new projects, including infrastructure, by incurring debt through bonding, and raising money through taxes on items like cigarettes and wine. Bullock's plan also calls for increased income taxes on Montanans making more than \$500,000 a year and taxes on gas and coal to help balance the budget.

The Republican plan aims to balance the budget by making bigger cuts.

"We need to reject the governor's proposal for new income taxes against the good job creators of this state," said House Majority Leader Ron Ehli, R-Hamilton, referring to the proposed income tax change.



Rep. Jim Keane, D-Butte, introduced two bills that would substantially increase infrastructure funding largely by incurring debt through bonding. PHOTO BY FREDDY MONARES/UM COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

While committees cut an additional \$5.5 million the first week of the session, Republicans proposed even more drastic cuts last week, including a \$23 million funding cut to the Montana University System, an increase from the roughly \$13 million cut proposed by Gov. Bullock.

The Office of Public Instruction would also see a slightly deeper cut from what was initially proposed, totalling nearly \$24 million.

Rep. Ballance also noted a decrease in senior and long term care Medicaid funding that would be bigger than the governor's proposal, but said that may change.

"The good news is, I think we're moving down the right path," Ballance said, citing a \$10 million loan to the Department of Transportation from the state's general fund that will fund highway construction projects as a success.

Big infrastructure bills get first hearing

The Long-Range Planning Subcommittee began hearing the first of the infrastructure bills at the Montana Legislature aimed at building and repair projects across the state. Rep. Jim Keane, D-Butte, introduced two bills that would substantially increase infrastructure funding largely by incurring debt through bonding.

House Bill 11 provides a total of \$1 million to fund the Treasure State Endowment Program, which would help fund projects like roadway construction and other infrastructure needs. Under the bill, \$100,000 would be set aside for emergency costs, while the other \$900,000 would go toward grants for local governments.

"This is a critically important program, particularly to some of our smaller communities," said Tim Burton, executive director of the Montana League of Cities and Towns.

House Bill 14 is a broad bill that would allocate funding for and implement many new infrastructure programs across the state. The bill attracted many supporters, with a line extending outside of the small hearing room.

Two specific parts of the bill got a lot of attention: the construction of a veterans home in Butte, and the renovation of Montana State University's Romney Hall.

Rep. Keane said the construction of the veterans home is "near and dear" to the heart of veterans in the area. Keane said Montana had set aside funding for the shelter, but construction was waiting on a federal funding match. HB 14 would allow construction to begin without that money.

Gov. Steve Bullock's Budget Director Dan Villa stressed the importance of the Romney Hall expansion, saying that Montana State University's annually increasing enrollment puts them in need of significantly more classroom space.

MSU Director of Community and Government Affairs Tracy Ellig echoed that statement, saying the university has seen increased enrollment of about 4,200 students. The 1,000 seats that the expansion would add, he said, would see as many as 10,000 visits from students each academic day.

Bill would help patients slapped with big air ambulance bills

Montanans who paid exorbitant costs for life flight services not covered by insurance testified at the Montana Legislature last week for a bill that would eliminate these costs.

Senate Bill 44 would remove the burden of cost for patients using out-of-network air ambulance services and would instead require that insurance companies and out-of-network air companies come to a voluntary agreement on the charges, or else make a determination through litigation. The Airline Deregulation Act, which currently covers air ambulances, does not allow state governments to regulate airline fares.

Jesse Laslovich, chief legal counsel for outgoing State Auditor Monica Lindeen, said the issue "exemplifies the worst of what is a broken system."

Laslovich said many parts of Montana are outside of air ambulance coverage areas. Should Montanans in those areas have a medical emergency, they would be forced to use an out-of-network provider and then pay the full cost of the service.

That cost often reaches into the tens of thousands of dollars.

Sonia Moscolic-Andrews of Anaconda tearfully told the story of how her husband, John, had to be life-flighted twice for a head injury—once from Anaconda to Missoula, and again from Missoula to Seattle. She was billed roughly \$34,000 for the first flight and about \$58,000 for the second. It was only after her husband died that the charges were waived, she said.

Many others told both personal stories and those of loved ones who were saddled with excessive charges. The costs often exceeded \$50,000.

The Montana Air Ambulance Coalition supported the bill. Bill Bryant, representing the group, called it a "long overdue" consumer protection bill.

However, several insurance lobbyists argued in strong opposition to the bill. Many said the bill would actually drive air ambulance companies away from networks. Others said the bill would over-regulate providers who are in-network, and that the exorbitant costs are coming from only one or two unnamed providers.

Jennifer Hensley, a lobbyist for PacificSource Health Claims, said a better solution would be to attempt to fix the federal Airline Deregulation Act, and to remove language that makes air ambulance providers a part of that legislation.

"A true federal fix is necessary," Hensley said. "You must use the megaphone of your office to speak to your congressional delegation and urge a federal fix to the Airline Deregulation Act."

Michael Siebert is a reporter with the UM Community News Service, a partnership of the University of Montana School of Journalism and the Montana Newspaper Association.



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Section 2: ENVIRONMENT, SPORTS & HEALTH



The New West: From back of the Absarokas, Lyn St. Clair paints wild life



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

A near life-sized black bear, maybe 500 pounds, rises from her easel, standing on its hinds, locking our eyes. Nearby, the vision of a red fox, peering through a wild bouquet of Carolina jasmine, appears to hold the light of Old World masters.

Soon, the bruin will be bound for a collector's wall and the vixen headed cross-country to Thomasville, Georgia, where painter Lyn St. Clair was a featured artist at the Plantation Wildlife Arts Festival.

For 30 years, I've written about hundreds of nature artists, some of whom, disappointingly, project photographic slides of animals onto blank surfaces and then trace the outlines of their subjects.

I've also interviewed talented artists known for their portrayals of American wildness and the creatures dwelling inside of it, yet seldom do they find the opportunity to actually prowl around it themselves.

"Get in," St. Clair said. "Let's go for a ride."

The invitation came shortly after I arrived at the door to St. Clair's studio recently, an airy, high-ceilinged space situated in an old renovated country schoolhouse. The sun-drenched sanctum on a ranch near Livingston, Montana, overlooks the Absaroka Range's rugged backside.

As I climbed into the cab of St. Clair's pickup, I took note of the special Montana license plate on the bumper. It held the letters "T-R-U-E" perched above the phrase "Women of the West."

St. Clair had pointy, stylized cowboy boots on her feet, was wearing blue jeans and a flannel shirt and had a pile of saddle tack in the truck bed. Her painting hands weren't soft. They were firm, strong and slightly calloused from holding ropes and reins.

A native daughter of Tennessee, she is a consummate horse person as well as being a dog person and a naturalist never far from sketchpad, camera and binoculars.

Before the truck reached a distant timbered ridgeline, she pointed to game trails where she's seen black bears and mountain lions feeding on elk and deer carcasses, hills where she's heard wolves howl. Along the way, she called my attention to soaring golden eagles, red-tailed hawks and harriers dive-bombing prey.

"I live what I paint," she says. "For me, I want to be authentic. I believe in painting what I know and if I'm going to paint it, I better know it."

A cancer survivor, St. Clair has overcome tragedy and adversity. The zest of her painting is an expression of pure gratitude—and fearlessness. She credits a move to the Greater Yellowstone Region decades ago as being a pivotal step in the evolution of her work.

She settled first in Victor, Idaho, on the other side of the Tetons from Jackson Hole and used it as a basecamp for launching long wildlife watching excursions in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks.

Eventually, she headed north to be closer to Yellowstone's wildlife-rich Lamar and Hayden valleys, little American Serengetis where grizzly bears and wolves intermix with elk, bison, moose and deer in a dynamic intersection of predators and prey.



Artist Lyn St. Clair in her element outside of Livingston, Montana. PHOTO BY LYN ST. CLAIR

On the day I visited St. Clair, she was finishing up a large, almost op-artish tribute to a famous grizzly titled "Icon." The bear, given the identity Grizzly 211 by researchers, was known colloquially to others as "Scarface." The bruin had been shot in autumn 2015 just outside Yellowstone's northern border under suspicious circumstances.

Most of the time, St. Clair hikes or hoofs her way on horseback to spots vehicles cannot go.

"I constantly see animal behavior that is new to me," she says. "There are countless little discoveries and amazing things that I have seen while spending time in the wild. Similarly, when it comes to training the horses, they teach me more than I could ever teach them."

Donald Zanoft and Mick Burlington run A Stone's Throw Bed and Breakfast in Livingston and were St. Clair's neighbors on C Street when she lived in town. Zanoft remembers when St. Clair would rush to Yellowstone and camp out of her vehicle for weeks, studying birds in the spring as they approached fledging or elk mothers and calves as they were on the move.

"The stories she tells in her paintings are genuine," said Zanoft, adding that he and Burlington commissioned St. Clair to draw portraits of four pets, including an animal that passed away.

"The thing I love most about art is that you never get 'there,'" St. Clair says. "No matter how hard you work, there is always more to learn, a different direction to explore, another edge to push your envelope toward and something new to discover about what you are capable of. Each painting inspires the next one."

That may be, that it's really about the journey and not the destination. One thing is certain: St. Clair's work transports us.

Todd Wilkinson has been a journalist for 30 years. He writes his New West column every week, and it's published on explorebigsky.com on EBS off weeks. Wilkinson authored the recent award-winning book "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek: An Intimate Portrait of 399, the Most Famous Bear of Greater Yellowstone," featuring 150 astounding images by renowned American nature photographer Thomas Mangelsen. His new article on climate change, "2067: The Clock Struck Thirteen," appears in the winter 2017 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine, on stands now.

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Montana snowpack off to a slow start this winter

Delayed snow onset leads to below-normal snowpack for Jan. 1, 2017

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

With La Niña forecasted to bring above average precipitation and below normal temperatures to the Treasure State this winter, conditions seemed to be looking up from the previous two winters leading into the new water year.

The water year, which began on Oct. 1, 2016, started off wet. Well above average precipitation fell in Montana's river basins in October after a relatively dry summer in parts of the state, said Lucas Zukiewicz, water supply specialist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service in Bozeman.



Ty Gittins skiing the backcountry south of Cooke City, Montana, on Dec. 26. Late December storms favored the southern portion of Montana. PHOTO BY WES OVERVOLD

Previous records at mountain NRCS snowpack telemetry, or SNOTEL, locations were smashed in parts of Northwest Montana. Precipitation in October largely fell in liquid form, although some higher elevation sites received snow.

As soon as the promise of a wet winter seemed to be coming true, the month of November returned the state to above average temperatures and below normal precipitation, continuing the trend from the previous summer.

Warm temperatures took a toll on the emerging snowpack, melting mid- and low-elevation snow, and leaving only the highest elevations with snow cover. Mountain snowpack was near record low in many basins on Dec. 1, but the return to a more seasonal weather pattern toward the end of the month brought snowfall and colder temperatures, which allowed the seasonal snowpack to start building.

Even though December precipitation improved the snowpack, all basins in the state—with the exception of the Yellowstone River basin—are slightly below to well below normal for Jan 1. The snowpack in northern basins is only slightly below normal, and conditions generally deteriorate to the south and east.

The higher elevation Yellowstone River basin, which experienced snowfall from the dominant storm track in December that brought snow to states south of Montana, was the only basin in the state that recorded an above normal snowpack for Jan. 1.

Zukiewicz said a weather system known as the atmospheric river or Pineapple Express has been dropping heavy precipitation to the south while cold air from Canada settled over Montana for much of January.

“Colorado, Utah, Idaho [and] Wyoming are reporting record-breaking snowfall and we’re just a little bit [north] of that flow path right now,” Zukiewicz said.

Although snowpack totals on Jan. 1 were generally below normal, there’s plenty of winter left for conditions to improve.

“Typically, only 35 to 40 percent of seasonal snowpack has accumulated in the mountains and the months we typically experience the most precipitation are yet to come,” he said. “This early in the season we are really only one or two big storms away from normal, and the storm track only needs to shift a bit north for that to happen.”

Zukiewicz said basins west of the Continental Divide typically hit their peak snowpack in April. East of the divide, that generally doesn’t happen until late April or early May. He added that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is calling for above-average precipitation over Montana for the next three-month period.

Monthly Water Supply Outlook Reports can be found at nracs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nracs/main/mt/snow/waterproducts/basin/

January 1, 2017 Snow Water Equivalent

River Basin	Jan. 1 Percent of Normal	Percent of Last Year
Columbia River Basin	89	95
- Kootenai, Montana	93	103
- Flathead, Montana	96	116
- Upper Clark Fork	82	78
- Bitterroot	88	84
- Lower Clark Fork	64	74
Missouri River Basin	80	75
- Jefferson	76	64
- Madison	79	80
- Gallatin	78	79
Headwaters Mainstem	85	72
Smith-Judith-Musselshell	62	57
Sun-Teton-Marias	96	122
St. Mary-Milk	102	120
Yellowstone River Basin	107	132
Upper Yellowstone	103	110
Lower Yellowstone	113	164

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MSU offers distance-learning class on Montana's changing climate

MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – Montana State University's Extended University and the Montana Institute on Ecosystems are offering an online non-credit class called "Montana's Changing Climate."

The course will explore three key aspects of Montana's climate: agriculture, forests and water resources, as well as the Montana Climate Assessment, an effort currently underway to describe past and future climate trends that affect different sectors of the state's economy.

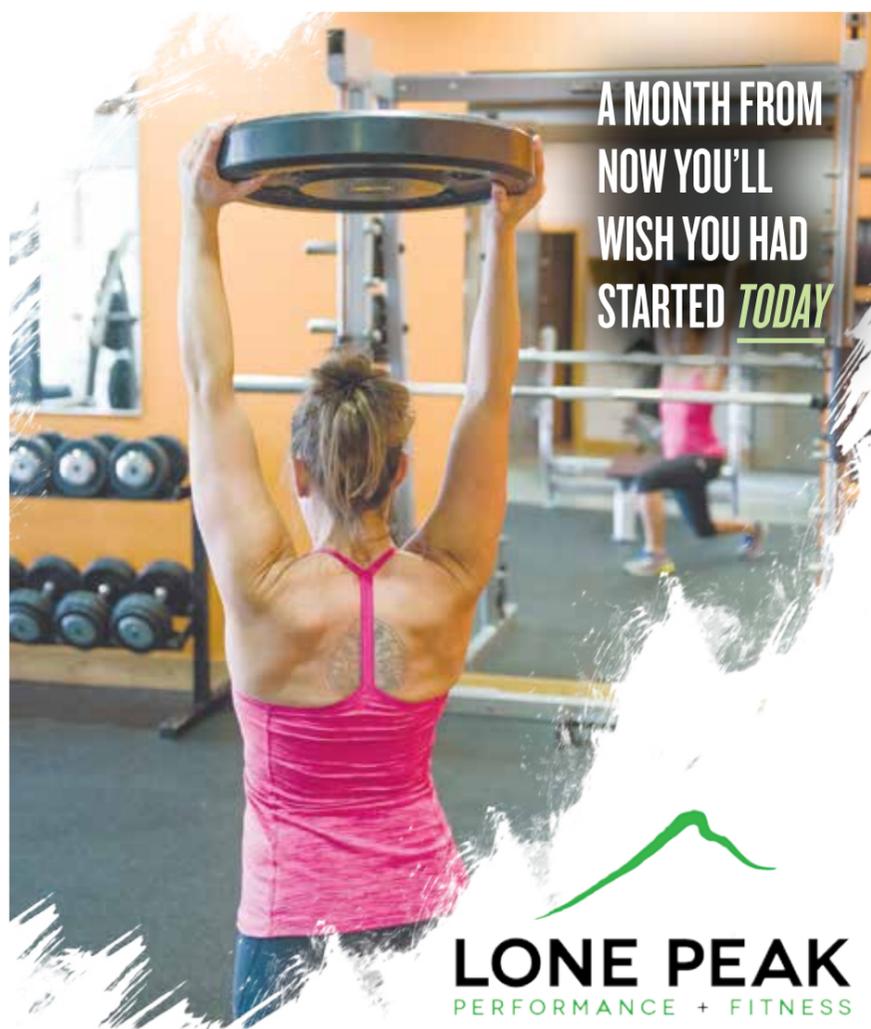
The course begins Feb. 3 and features four interactive presentations by speakers from the Montana IoE, all of whom are Montana Climate Assessment authors. Presentations take place online each Friday in February from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Students can access the course from any personal computer with broadband Internet access. Participants will be able to type questions to instructors during the sessions, and each presentation will be recorded for future access.

The course will be particularly relevant for landowners and agricultural producers, natural resource managers, educators, local and state government officials and employees of organizations such as the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and other state and federal agencies.

The course is free and there are no prerequisites. The opportunity allows Montana teachers to earn Office of Public Instruction renewal units and working professionals to earn continuing education units.

To register for the course, visit eu.montana.edu/noncredit and click on the course named "Montana's Changing Climate." Registration is limited to 100 people, though the recordings will be available with unlimited access. For questions, email outreach@montana.edu.



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US seeks changes to coal program, but Trump could alter path

BY MATTHEW BROWN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) – U.S. officials said Jan. 11 that a yearlong review shows coal sales from public lands need to be modernized to deal with climate change and give taxpayers a fair return, but it's uncertain whether the incoming Trump administration will follow through.

The Interior Department imposed a moratorium on new coal sales last year following longstanding complaints from federal investigators and members of Congress that the program was shortchanging taxpayers.

In a preliminary report released Jan. 11 as part of a broad review of U.S. coal sales, Interior officials said they were considering raising coal royalty rates and requiring compensation from mining companies to offset the climate change effects of burning the fuel.

Publicly owned coal accounts for 10 percent of total U.S. greenhouse-gas emissions.

It is being bought by mining companies sometimes for less than a dollar per ton—a fraction of the cost of coal from private reserves, outgoing Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said.

"Increased emissions of carbon into our atmosphere are having a profound impact and if we don't get on this, future generations will pay a heavy price," Jewell said during an appearance at Columbia University.

Most federal coal comes from six states—Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Utah, North Dakota and Oklahoma. Production has fallen sharply in recent years as coal companies have struggled to compete with cheap natural gas.

President-elect Donald Trump has promised to rescind the sales moratorium. He's described it as part of a broader effort by the administration of President Barack Obama to kill the coal industry.

But Jewell said even after the Obama administration is gone, the public will demand that the government deal with subsidized fossil fuels that contribute to climate change.

She also suggested the report's findings could be used in lawsuits, presumably from environmentalists, that could be filed to challenge any end to the reform effort she began.

The Trump transition team did not immediately respond to emailed messages seeking comment. Trump's Interior appointee, Rep. Ryan Zinke, is from Montana, which holds some of the world's largest untapped coal reserves.

Montana U.S. Sen. Steve Daines dismissed the Interior report as "laughable" and predicted the moratorium would be overturned.

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MSU professor's photo to be featured on cover of BioScience

BY DENISE HOEPFNER
MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – A Montana State University professor's prize-winning photo of a graduate student holding an endangered fish has been selected for the cover of a journal dedicated to the biological sciences.

Christopher Guy, affiliate professor in MSU's Department of Ecology, won first place in the 2016 Faces of Biology photography contest for his photo of MSU graduate student Luke Holmquist releasing a 19-year-old hatchery-reared female pallid sturgeon into the Missouri River.

The photo was taken during a sampling of pallid sturgeon in the Missouri River above the confluence with the Marias River. The fish in the photo became sexually mature this past year, but did not spawn. A large part of Guy's research program is focused on why pallid sturgeon are not recruiting—surviving to sexual maturity—in the Missouri River.



Christopher Guy, MSU affiliate professor of ecology, shot this photo of graduate student Luke Holmquist releasing a 19-year-old female pallid sturgeon into the Missouri River. The photo was selected as the winning entry in the 2016 Faces of Biology contest, and will be featured on the cover of BioScience sometime this year. PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER GUY

Holmquist, of Harlowton, earned his bachelor's degree in biological sciences from MSU in 2013 and is currently pursuing his master's in fish and wildlife management. His research focuses on the reproductive ecology of hatchery-reared and wild pallid sturgeon in the Upper Missouri River.

Guy, who is also the assistant unit leader with the USGS Montana Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, said he was thrilled to learn his photo took the top prize and will be featured on the cover of a 2017 issue of BioScience, a peer-reviewed biology journal from the American Institute of Biological Sciences.

"I believe the photo epitomizes the type of research conducted in the Department of Ecology and by the Montana Cooperative Fishery Research Unit," Guy said. "It illustrates the incredible experience our students obtain while working on their degrees."

Second and third place honors went to photographs from Harvard University and Yale University, respectively.

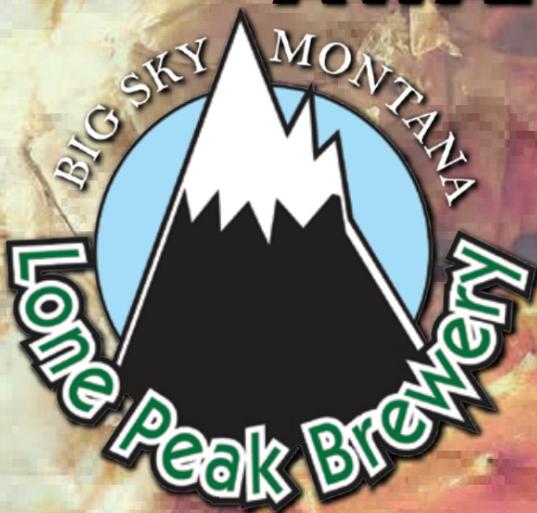
This is the sixth year the AIBS has sponsored the contest, which provides scientists an opportunity to showcase the different forms that biological research can take. The three winning photos will be used to help the public and policymakers better understand the value of biological research and education.

"More than ever, scientists need to communicate how scientific research is done," said Robert Gropp, interim co-executive director of AIBS. "This photo contest has been effective in inspiring scientists, educators and students to explore how they can communicate their work to a broader audience."

The photo was also used in a July article appearing in The New York Times about the decline of the wild pallid sturgeon in the Upper Missouri River. The article, "A fish outlived the dinosaurs. Can it outlast a dam?" referenced Guy's research on how dams have prevented the prehistoric fish from successfully recruiting. The pallid sturgeon embryos drift into sediment-filled reservoirs where they die from lack of oxygen.

Guy said he will donate the \$250 monetary award that accompanied his first-place honor to the MSU student sub-unit of the American Fisheries Society.

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McConnell outlines environmental wish list for Trump action

BY MATTHEW DALY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) – The top Republican in the Senate outlined a series of actions he hopes President-elect Donald Trump will take to overturn environmental regulations imposed by President Barack Obama, including a rule to protect streams from coal-mining debris.

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., urged Trump in a letter to scrap a rule to protect small streams and wetlands from development and other regulations that the GOP considers overly burdensome. He also asked Trump to drop a legal defense of the Clean Power Plan, Obama's signature effort to limit carbon pollution from coal-fired power plants.

The plan, the linchpin of Obama's strategy to fight climate change, is on hold awaiting a court ruling.

In a Jan. 4 letter to the president-elect, McConnell said Trump "inspired the American people with your vision of less regulation, free and fair competition and enhanced job opportunities." McConnell said he personally appreciated Trump's public commitment to "provide relief for coal communities" such as Kentucky, the state that is the third-largest producer of coal in the U.S.

McConnell's letter decried what he and other Republicans describe as Obama's "war on coal," a series of regulations that the GOP says has made coal more expensive to mine, transport and use for energy production.

U.S. coal production has declined sharply in recent years amid stiff competition from cheap, easy-to-produce natural gas. But McConnell said those who attribute coal's decline simply to low gas prices "are not seeing the full picture," which he said includes costly federal regulations that place an unfair burden on coal.

McConnell called the stream-protection rule "a direct assault on coal mining operations" that "must be stopped." He pledged to use the rarely invoked Congressional Review Act to overturn the stream rule and asked for Trump's support in that effort.

The review act requires a simple majority of both chambers and the president's signature to make a recently enacted regulation invalid. The Congressional Research Service estimates that rules submitted on or after June 13 are subject to disapproval by Congress. The stream rule was finalized in December.

Separately, McConnell urged Trump to drop legal defense of the Clean Power Plan and the clean-water rule, calling each "an abuse of power" and harmful to coal communities.

McConnell also urged Trump to scrap a separate rule targeting future power plants and to boost technology that captures and stores carbon dioxide, a key contributor to global warming. Carbon-capture technology is considered crucial to development of so-called "clean coal," a concept that Trump has supported in the past.

The technology is expensive and unproven, but it has long been a goal of coal producers and their supporters in Congress.

McConnell asked Trump to work with lawmakers to ensure long-term health benefits for retired coal miners, including at least 16,500 who face a loss of benefits at the end of April. Democrats, including Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, have made retention of coal benefits a top priority and criticized a four-month extension McConnell and other GOP leaders pushed for in December.

Democrats want to extend health benefits for at least a year and are seeking to ensure hundreds of millions of dollars in pension benefits they say are at risk because of a host of coal-company bankruptcies. McConnell's letter to Trump does not address pension benefits.

Court throws wrench in plans for big Washington oil terminal

BY GENE JOHNSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE (AP) – The Washington Supreme Court threw a major wrench Jan. 12 in plans for a big oil terminal on the coast, saying the proposal must be reviewed under a 1989 state law designed to protect marine life following the Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska.

In the latest of a string of victories for tribal and environmental groups challenging fossil fuel projects in the Northwest, the justices unanimously reversed decisions by a state board and the state Court of Appeals, which held that the Ocean Resources Management Act did not cover plans by Houston-based Contanda to ship crude out of Grays Harbor.

Kristen Boyles, an attorney with the environmental law organization Earthjustice, which represents groups that challenged the project, called the opinion "vitaly important for Washington state coastal protection."

"The opinion is clear that extra protective measures apply to these kinds of crude oil projects," Boyles said. "The requirements are such that I don't believe the terminal will be able to go forward. It's dead."

Westway Terminal, recently renamed Contanda, wants to expand its existing methanol facility in Hoquiam to receive up to 17.8 million barrels of oil a year, including from the Bakken region of North Dakota and Montana, for shipping to refineries in California and Puget Sound.

The plans include the construction of four aboveground storage tanks that would each hold up to 8.4 million gallons, with a trainload of oil arriving every three days.

A spokesman for the company said it did not have an immediate comment. In court, it argued—and the city of Hoquiam, state Department of Ecology and Court of Appeals agreed—that the Ocean Resources Management Act did not apply to the proposal because it was an expansion of an existing terminal and because the project would be located onshore, rather than in the water.

The Supreme Court said that reading of the law was far too narrow.

"Because the entire purpose of respondents' projects is to store and transfer fuel from Washington's coast to Washington's waters, the projects fit squarely within ORMA's broad reach," Justice Susan Owens wrote.

Among other requirements, such projects cannot be permitted under the law unless applicants show "significant local, state, or national need" for the proposed activity; that there is no reasonable alternative to meet that need; and that there will likely be "no long-term significant adverse impacts to coastal or marine resources."

The Quinault Indian Nation, Sierra Club and community groups challenged three oil terminal projects initially proposed for Grays Harbor, successfully forcing additional environmental reviews in 2013. Two of the projects have dropped out, leaving only the Contanda proposal.

In late September, the Department of Ecology issued its final environmental review, which called for dozens of steps to protect the coast, including tug escorts for oil tankers in the harbor and other spill prevention and response measures.

But the review also found that "no mitigation measures would completely eliminate the possibility of a spill, fire, or explosion, nor would they completely eliminate the adverse consequences."

Hoquiam had been weighing whether to grant a permit for the project. City Administrator Brian Shay did not immediately return a message seeking comment, and the Department of Ecology was reviewing the court's decision.

"We are just elated," said Arthur Grunbaum, president of Friends of Grays Harbor. The 1989 law, he said, "gives recognition to the sustainable resources within the harbor—the fishing industry, the crabbing industry, those resources that depend on clean water. This project would dramatically affect those resources in the long run."

Early in January, Washington's outgoing public lands commissioner said he would refuse to allow the state's aquatic lands to be used for a major coal-export terminal along the Columbia River.

Last spring, the Army Corps of Engineers and the state Department of Natural Resources denied necessary permissions for the Gateway Pacific Terminal, a proposed deep-water coal port at Cherry Point, north of Bellingham, saying the terminal would interfere with the Lummi Nation's treaty-reserved fishing rights.

A proposal to build the nation's largest oil-by-rail marine terminal on the Columbia River in Vancouver, Washington, remains alive. The Tesoro Savage Vancouver Energy terminal would handle about 360,000 barrels of crude oil a day.

Big Horns set pace in 84-60 win over Panthers

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – Eddie Starz broke another school scoring record during a Jan. 14 game against Sheridan and the Big Horns came within three points of their highest-scoring game of all time.

Four-and-a-half minutes into the first quarter, Starz sank a 3-pointer and became the first Big Horn to score 1,000 career points. When the final buzzer sounded, Starz had scored 30 points on the night. Last year, Starz set records for most points in a season (434), most free-throw points in a season (85), and most points in a game (39).



Senior guard Eddie Starz set a school record by becoming the first Big Horn in Lone Peak's history to score 1,000 career points—and the basketball season is only halfway through. PHOTO BY AMANDA EGGERT

Despite near-heroic efforts by senior Panther Tristen Horn, who scored four 3-pointers to push him to 38 points, the Big Horns maintained the lead throughout their 84-60 win at home.

Lone Peak came within three points of their 87-point record for its highest-scoring game, set Jan. 23, 2016, against the Panthers. LPHS Head Coach Al Malinowski said an improvement in their free-throw shooting could have tipped them over their previous record. The Big Horns went 7-for-17 from the foul line.

“We’ve got things we can work on, but I really like the way we’re playing stronger as a team,” Malinowski said. “We’re scoring points because we’re sharing the basketball and getting it to the open person.”

Halfway through the second quarter, junior guard Liam Germain knocked down back-to-back 3-pointers, widening Lone Peak’s lead to 30-16.

Freshman guard Austin Samuels sank a 3-pointer at the buzzer, closing the half with the Big Horns still comfortably in the lead, 37-22. “[Samuels] continues to show the coaching staff why he deserves to be out there in those varsity games,” Malinowski said. “He goes out and plays hard and he’s never afraid of the moment.”

Junior post Jackson Wade and sophomore point guard Kolya Bough both played strong second halves, with Wade scoring 12 of his 18 points in the second half and Bough earning all 13 of his points in the third and fourth quarters.

Bough earned the first double-double of his career during that game, netting 13 points and 10 assists. “He really sees everything that’s going on,” Malinowski said of Bough’s court vision. “He had a good balance of finding the open man but also [scoring] ... He’s a tough guy to cover one-on-one, and once he beats his defender he’s able to find the open guy.”

After winning a road game against Harrison/Willow Creek 61-59 on Jan. 17, The Big Horns’ record stands 6-3 overall and 2-2 in district play.

“I like the direction we’re headed and we’ve got another [nine] games to continue improving so we’re ready for districts,” Malinowski said.

The Big Horns will play at home at 5:30 p.m. for three consecutive Fridays.

They’ll take on Ennis on Jan. 20, Shields Valley on Jan. 27, and Twin Bridges on Feb. 3.

Lady Big Horns post 7-2 record in first half of season

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – After winning three games in a row by large margins, the Lady Big Horn basketball team is looking strong heading into the second half of its season.

Lone Peak crushed West Yellowstone 50-5 on Jan. 13, handily defeated Sheridan 57-13 on Jan. 14, and scored another decisive win on Jan. 17 when they beat Harrison 51-25.

LPHS Head Coach Nubia Allen said these recent wins have allowed her to develop more depth in her nine-player roster.

“It’s one of the advantages of having a small team ... everyone gets to play more and they [get] more experience,” Allen said of the Big Horns’ home game against the Sheridan Panthers on Jan. 14. “Everyone played and everyone scored.”

Leading the Panthers by such comfortable margins—by the end of the first quarter, the score stood 18-0 in Lone Peak’s favor—allowed Allen to give plenty of court time to her less experienced players.

Sheridan also gave the Lady Big Horns ample opportunity to practice their free-throw shooting: The Panthers racked up a total of 22 fouls, giving up 29 free throws to Lone Peak. They made 17, or 59 percent, of their free-throw attempts.

Senior guard Dasha Bough led in scoring, earning 15 points and going five-for-five from the foul line.

But each Lady Big Horn contributed to the win, including the team’s younger players. Freshman Emma Flach scored two points and sophomores Solae Swenson and Kodi Boersma scored nine and six points, respectively. Allen played Flach for much of the game to give the budding point guard more experience.

Allen said she’s seeing improvement on two aspects of the game the team has been focusing on—staying between their opponents and the basket on defense, and hustling down the court for defense-to-offense transitions. “We wanted to focus on our transition game, and I think we did a better job pushing the ball up the floor,” Allen said.

As of Jan. 16, the Lady Big Horns are ranked third in the district with a 3-1 conference record and a 7-2 record overall. Allen said both of Lone Peak’s losses, to Shield’s Valley on Dec. 20 and to Twin Bridges on Jan. 6, were competitive games.

The Lady Big Horns will play at home for three consecutive Fridays. They’ll take on Ennis on Jan. 20, Shields Valley on Jan. 27, and Twin Bridges on Feb. 3. Game times are scheduled for 7 p.m., or after the boys wrap up.



Senior point guard Luisa Locker grabs a defensive rebound during the Lady Big Horns’ 57-13 win over the Sheridan Panthers on Jan. 14. PHOTO BY AMANDA EGGERT



EYE ON THE BALL

Watson back on draft radar



BY BRANDON NILES
EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

Clemson quarterback Deshaun Watson has been considered a top NFL draft prospect ever since midway through his freshman year, when he put up six touchdowns and 435 yards in a victory over North Carolina.

After his sophomore season, when he threw for 4,104 yards and 35 touchdowns on his way to a narrow loss against Alabama in the national championship game, he entered the 2016 season as a near-lock for a top-five spot in the 2017 draft.

However, despite another season of prolific statistics as a junior, Watson looked inconsistent at times and was more turnover prone. Despite the team's success this year, Watson had multiple bad outings, including a two-interception playoff game against Ohio State.

Clemson won that game handily, in part due to a pair of rushing touchdowns from Watson, but the turnovers didn't put to rest the concerns NFL scouts had over his ability to translate into a dominant pro player.

Following a strong performance against Alabama in the national championship rematch Jan. 9, Watson is starting his ascension back into top-10 consideration.

Against the favored Crimson Tide, Watson led his Tigers to an improbable game-winning touchdown with only one second left on the clock. He finished the game with 420 passing yards and three passing touchdowns, with 43 rushing yards and a touchdown on the ground as well. With one game, and most notably, one game-winning drive, Watson catapulted himself back into consideration as an elite draft option.

Watson—at 6 feet, 3 inches and 215 pounds—boasts good size, excellent athleticism, and an NFL-caliber arm. He has the ability to make every throw, has shown incredible leadership, and is an accomplished runner as well.

Scouts have questioned how accurate he is, but he anticipates his receivers well, which is a trait I don't always see from college quarterbacks. He needs to work on

his ability to place the ball in the best spot, but he seems to rise to the occasion in big games and all the reports out of Clemson are that he's a tremendous guy to have in the locker room.

Sometimes, when a player is viewed as highly as Watson was going into his junior year, he can be over-scouted. While other quarterbacks burst onto the scene and benefit from new attention, a guy like Watson can sometimes be critiqued and criticized for so long that he becomes underrated as a draft prospect.

This happened with Minnesota Vikings quarterback Teddy Bridgewater, who slid all the way to the end of the first round in the 2014 draft, and may have been part of the reason Watson has slid down draft boards over the past five months.

After such a great game to finish the season, Watson should be able to avoid the same kind of fall that Bridgewater experienced. If he has a good combine and shows up big during his pro day, he should continue to rise in pre-draft rankings.

While some have Watson as a risky pick, or a player who needs a lot of work, I see him as a playmaker with the intangibles to become a franchise quarterback in the NFL. While it's easier to quantify the prototype measurables you see from Notre Dame quarterback DeShone Kizer, or the raw physical upside and accuracy that North Carolina's Mitch Trubisky showed during an improbable season for the Tar Heels, the winning attitude and work ethic that you get from Watson is less of an exact science.

You can't always point to why players like Russell Wilson and Aaron Rodgers have that special "it" factor that makes them great quarterbacks, but you know it when you see it.

Watson has the "it" factor. With the value placed on a good quarterback in the NFL right now, don't be surprised if Watson once again enters the conversation for the first overall pick. And if he does suffer the same slide that Bridgewater experienced just three years ago, don't be surprised to see him emerge as a draft day steal with whatever team is lucky enough and smart enough to draft him.

Brandon Niles is a longtime fan of football and scotch, and has been writing about sports for the past decade. He is a fantasy football scout for 4for4 Fantasy Football and is co-host of the 2 Guys Podcast.



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RECYCLE



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DOCTOR'S NOTE

Concussions are common on the mountain



BY DR. JEFF DANIELS
EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

One of the more common injuries that we're seeing in the medical clinic this winter is head trauma, with signs and symptoms of a concussion. Most of the time the symptoms have been mild, which may be due to the fact that nearly all of these patients were wearing a helmet at the time of their injury.

Most of the injuries involved skiing or snowboarding, but we did see one person who wasn't wearing a helmet because she was on a dog sled adventure, and when the sled tipped over her head hit the trunk of a tree. She wasn't very dazed or confused, but had a swelling the size of a tennis ball, which prompted us to get a CT scan.

A concussion occurs when the substance of the brain is traumatized, either by a direct blow to the head, or by a violent shaking (think whiplash injury). There does not have to be loss of consciousness, and symptoms begin immediately.

Most will experience confusion and memory loss, which becomes readily apparent to anybody around. A common scenario is when the person after suffering head trauma continues skiing, and then on the chairlift repetitive questions and confusion of immediate events become apparent to friends and family.

Loss of memory of the event is a given. Memory loss for anything that happened earlier that day—I usually ask what was for breakfast—and failure to remember anything done or asked after the event are ways for judging the severity of the concussion, the rapidity of improvement, and the need for further studies (e.g., a CT scan).

Signs of a concussion, in addition to bruises, cuts or goose eggs on the head, include vomiting, visual abnormalities—blurry vision or double vision—and balance issues. Simply standing still with your eyes closed is sometimes impossible. Balancing with one foot in front of the other, or with all weight on one foot, is a test being used on football fields and in other sports venues to determine if there's been a concussion, in order to establish the ability of returning a player to sports.

The symptoms of a concussion can linger for days or weeks. One mitigating factor will be if there have been previous concussions, especially in the recent past. A post-concussive syndrome of headache, sleep disturbance, and inability to concentrate is common, and it's recommended not only to avoid any situation that might lead to another concussion, but also to put the brain into complete rest—no school, no reading, no video games—until symptoms have cleared.

When we discharge a patient from the clinic after an observation period, we've convinced ourselves, the patient, and family and friends that the concussion was mild and the risk of complications are minimal. For those where symptoms don't improve, or worsen, a CT scan is considered to prove that there has not been any internal bleeding inside the skull or into the substance of the brain.

Concussions are a problem for young and old, and the risk is inherent in many of the activities in which we participate. Wearing head protection is important, but also limiting the risk of head trauma, especially if there has been a previous concussion, has to be considered.

Have a safe ski season, enjoy this great snow year, and remember that the Medical Clinic of Big Sky, on the mountain seven days a week, is there to help.

Dr. Jeff Daniels was the recipient of the 2016 Big Sky Chamber of Commerce Chet Huntley Lifetime Achievement Award and has been practicing medicine in Big Sky since 1994, when he and his family moved here from New York City. A unique program he implements has attracted more than 700 medical students and young doctors to train with the Medical Clinic of Big Sky.

Blood shortage spurs emergency call for donors

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

The American Red Cross is issuing an emergency call for blood and platelet donors after approximately 37,000 fewer donations were given in November and December than expected. Donations are critically needed now so that patients can continue to receive lifesaving treatments.

The next blood drive in Big Sky will be held Tuesday, Feb. 7 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Lone Peak High School. Details can be found at redcrossblood.org.

Hectic holiday schedules for many regular blood donors contributed to about 37,000 fewer donations in November and December than expected. Snowstorms and severe weather also affected donations. Nearly 100 blood drives were forced to cancel in December, resulting in more than 3,100 blood donations going uncollected.

"Blood and platelet donations are critically needed in the coming days so that patients can continue to receive the lifesaving treatments they are counting on," said Nick Gehrig, Red Cross Blood Services' communications director. "Right now, blood and platelet donations are being distributed to hospitals faster than they are coming in."

The Red Cross is extending hours at many donation sites so more donors can give blood or platelets. Overall, the Red Cross has added nearly 200 hours to blood donation centers and community blood drives across the country over the next few weeks.

Interested donors can streamline and shorten the process by scheduling a time to donate at redcrossblood.org, using the Red Cross Blood App, or calling 800-733-2767.

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From Jackie *with love*



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

This is part two of a three part series where I share my experiences of the Whole30 with you. Be prepared for the good, the bad and the ugly.

First, a quick recap: the Whole30 is a concept developed by Dallas and Melissa Hartwig. In their book, "It Starts With Food: Discover the Whole30 and Change Your Life in Unexpected Ways," the Hartwigs lay out a concise and sustainable 30-day nutritional plan.

The intention of the program is to help participants connect more deeply with their bodies and better understand its reactions to what we put in it. It promotes self-reflection and self-awareness.

The plan includes vegetables, fruits, meat and healthy fats. It eliminates refined packaged foods, whole grains, legumes, dairy, alcohol and sugar, as the Hartwigs believe these potentially cause inflammation in the body.

While it's fairly easy to follow, there is a learning curve in planning and preparing meals without foods you might normally eat. For my husband and me, eliminating rice, beans, tofu, bread, tortillas, cheese and salty chips were the biggest challenges. We stocked up on kombucha, tea and LaCroix seltzer to replace wine, beer and cocktails.

But following a program that allows potatoes, nuts, fruits, vegetables, eggs, beef and bacon makes it completely doable and enjoyable. We only felt deprived when we focused on what we couldn't have (like peanut butter, which we quickly replaced with tree nut butters).

And we dove in with enthusiasm, with one big modification: we already had a weekend getaway planned to Idaho's Lava Hot Springs from Jan. 6 to Jan. 8. We decided to give ourselves permission to go off of the plan during that time.

Why I love January, part 2

And boy, did we go off! But more about that in a moment.

The first week went great. We noted our weight and waistline measurements on Jan. 1 and then tucked the scale away. I made delicious new recipes. We were upbeat and positive. We noticed our triggers and stayed the course.

When innocent slip-ups happened, like inadvertently putting cream in my coffee at a business meeting, I had a chuckle and moved on.

And then the long awaited weekend came. We decided to weigh ourselves before the debauchery. We both lost 3 pounds; not from eating less, but from eating better. Our faces felt slimmer and our bellies flatter. Digestion improved and energy increased.

While we were prepared with healthy food for the trip, it didn't take long before we were into pizza, nachos, French fries, French toast, burger buns, beer, wine and vodka.

Needless to say, we returned home feeling hungover, tired and bloated. If you're wondering about the 3 pounds, they came right back on.

It was a bit shocking just how far away from the plan I veered. And this brings us to the psychological challenge of changing our eating habits. Before we started the Whole30, I indulged in what I wasn't going to be able to have for the month. And during our "cheat weekend," I made more unhealthy choices than usual.

The weekend made us realize the importance of following the book's plan for slowly and deliberately reintroducing foods when the 30 days is over.

Without regret or remorse, we've decided to start fresh. We want to see what the Whole30 really feels like so here we are, back to week one.

Look for part three of this three-part series in the Feb. 3 issue of EBS.

Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach and Consultant, a public speaker and health activist. Contact her at jackie@corehealthbmt.com.



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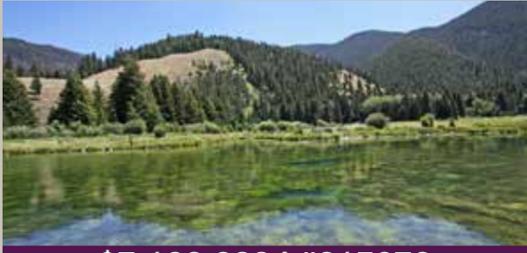
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BUS SCHEDULE

Town Center ↔ Mountain Village

BIG SKY
TOWN CENTER
MONTANA



DINE



GATHER



SHOP

WHERE BIG SKY COMES TOGETHER

Town Center to Mountain Village Bus Schedule Heading Up

DEPARTING
TOWN CENTER

8:20a / 8:35a / 9:35a / 10:35a / 11:35a / 12:35p
1:35p / 2:35p / 3:35p / 4:35p / 5:35p / 6:35p
7:35p / 8:35p / 9:45p / 10:35p / 11:35p / 1:35a

ARRIVING
MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

8:35a / 9:00a / 10:00a / 10:55a / 12:00p / 12:55p
2:00p / 2:55p / 4:00p / 4:55p / 5:55p / 6:55p
7:55p / 8:55p / 10:15p / 10:55p / 11:55p / 1:55a

Mountain Village to Town Center Bus Schedule Heading Down

DEPARTING
MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

7:10a / 8:35a / 9:10a / 10:10a / 11:10a
12:10p / 1:10p / 2:10p / 3:10p / 4:10p
5:10p / 6:10p / 7:10p / 8:10p / 9:10p
10:15p / 11:15p / 12:15a / 2:15a

ARRIVING
TOWN CENTER

7:25a / 8:50a *w / 9:35a / 10:35 a / 11:35a / 12:35p
1:35p / 2:35p / 3:35p / 4:35p / 5:35p / 6:35p / 7:35p
8:35p / 9:35p / 10:35p / 11:35p / 12:35a / 2:35a

*w = whistle stop

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SUNDAY

5:00-6:15pm
All Levels Yoga

8:00-9:00pm
Candlelit Yin

MONDAY

9:00-10:15am
All Levels Yoga

4:30-5:30pm
Apres Ski Yoga

5:45-7:00pm
Heated Vinyasa Flow

TUESDAY

7:00-8:00am
All Levels Yoga

9:30-10:45am
Vinyasa Flow
(all Levels)

6:30-7:45pm
Radiant Body Yoga
(all levels)

WEDNESDAY

7:30-8:30am
Radiant Body Yoga
(all levels)

9:00-10:15am
All Levels Yoga

11:00-12:30pm
The Practice Level
II-III Yoga

THURSDAY

8:15-9:15am
All Levels Yoga

9:30-10:30am
All Levels Yoga

6:30-7:45pm
All Levels Yoga

FRIDAY

9:00-10:15am
Level II Yoga

11:00-12:00pm
Restorative Yoga

SATURDAY

9:00-10:15am
Ashtanga/Vinyasa
Flow (all levels)

Three MSU doctoral students receive 2016 Kopriva Graduate Student Fellowships

MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – Three doctoral students who work on research projects with biomedical applications have been awarded 2016 Kopriva Graduate Student Fellowships from the College of Letters and Science.

Arianna Celis, Amanda Fuchs and Amanda Byer, all students in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, will each receive \$5,000 to support their research, covering travel expenses, instruction, books, supplies and special research services. Each will give a Kopriva Science Seminar Series lecture during the 2016-2017 or 2017-2018 academic years.

Celis studies heme, the compound of iron and the organic molecule protoporphyrin IX that is one of the most ancient and prevalent biological molecules. She is working on a recently discovered pathway for heme biosynthesis that is unique to several bacteria, including many important pathogens.

This pathway ends in a step catalyzed by an unusual enzyme known as HemQ. Celis is studying the mechanism by which the HemQ in *Staphylococcus aureus*, a leading cause of bacterial infections of human skin and soft tissues, performs its function at the chemical and cellular levels.

Researchers hope this work will result in a molecular-level understanding of HemQ's role in *Staphylococcus aureus*, which may be applicable to a full range of pathogens identified as emerging or relevant to biodefense, such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Bacillus anthracis* and others.

Fuchs investigates the interactions between bacterial biofilms and human macrophages, a type of white blood cell found in most bodily tissues. Bacterial biofilms consist of densely packed communities of microbial cells that grow on living or inert surfaces. Biofilms are more resistant to antibiotic treatment and are known to evade the immune system.

Bacteria residing within chronic wounds, such as diabetic foot ulcers, often form biofilms and have been shown to cause a significant delay in the healing time and closure of wounds due to excessive inflammation. Macrophages survey the area for foreign substances, microbes and cellular debris, and it is speculated that macrophages are primarily responsible for the resolution of inflammation in wounds.

Fuchs is studying the metabolites and metabolic pathways involved in the interactions between *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* biofilms and human macrophages to gain insights into the cellular mechanisms contributing to persistent inflammation in chronic wounds.

Byer investigates one of the largest enzyme superfamilies that exists in all domains of life: the radical S-adenosyl-L-methionine (SAM) enzyme superfamily. When human radical SAM enzymes fail, it can lead to diseases such as viral infection, diabetes mellitus, impaired cardiac and respiratory function, congenital heart disease and cofactor deficiency.

Through a SAM and iron-sulfur cluster part, radical SAM enzymes generate radicals, or unpaired electron, which can be destructive in biological systems if uncontrolled.

Byer's research uses various spectroscopic techniques to examine radical SAM enzyme-active sites and identify how radical chemistry is constrained by the protein environment in these organometallic—chemical compounds that contain at least one bond between a carbon atom of an organic compound and a metal—biochemical systems.

Phil Kopriva, a 1957 microbiology graduate, established an endowment to fund the Kopriva Graduate Student Fellowships, which are awarded to recognize and support the research of outstanding graduate students in the areas of physiology and/or biochemistry.

For a list of past recipients, visit montana.edu/lettersandscience/kopriva/fellowship.html.

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An Election of one trustee for the Big Sky Fire District Board of Trustees will be held on May 2, 2017.

Declaration of Candidacy forms for the election are available at the Big Sky Fire Department, Station #1 - Westfork Meadows, 650 Rainbow Trout Run, Big Sky, Montana and the Gallatin County Election Department, Gallatin County Courthouse, 311 W. Main Street Room 210, Bozeman, Montana.

Original Declaration of Candidacy forms must be filed with the Gallatin County Election Department no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 6, 2017.

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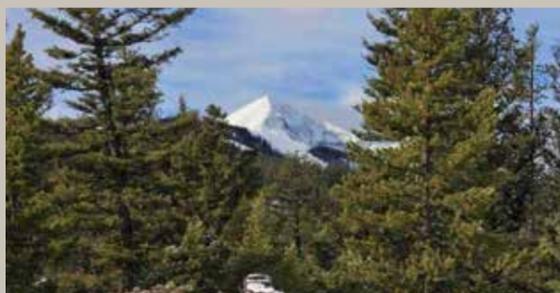
Great location in Westfork's high traffic Blue Grouse Commercial. Space is laid out with reception, offices and open space. Flexible floor, open floor plan with 2,467± sf. Private egress and main entry. Full bath, kitchen, laundry areas.



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Section 3: BUSINESS & DINING

Local wool company hires new design director pg. 35

MSU Blackstone LaunchPad pg. 37

Big Sky Dinner Guide pg. 43

New flavors in Town Center

The Spice & Tea Exchange opens its doors in Big Sky

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – On Dec. 23, Karen and Joel Marshall opened The Spice & Tea Exchange in the new 19,000-square-foot building near the entrance to Big Sky Town Center. The store is nestled next to Asian restaurant Lotus Pad's new location in the same building, and across the street from East Slope Outdoors.

The Marshalls' shop offers an extensive selection of spices, exclusive hand-mixed blends and rubs, naturally flavored sugars, nutritious grains, gourmet salts and the finest teas from around the world.

With more than 50 franchises across the U.S., this is the company's second location in Montana—the couple opened their first storefront in June 2016 on East Main Street in Bozeman, near Ace Hardware. Visiting the Big Sky shop proves to be an enjoyable sensory experience, as the owners encourage visitors to open jars, sample spices and find things they can be creative with in the kitchen.

The Spice & Tea Exchange's mission is "Creating and sharing the experience of a more flavorful life," according to its website, and the Marshalls look forward to exemplifying this mission by sharing flavors, tastes and aromas, and expanding the horizons of the palates of Big Sky residents and visitors alike.

Prior to this entrepreneurial franchising endeavor, the Marshalls each had successful corporate careers in Houston, Texas. Joel was a real estate developer for three decades, and Karen followed her passion for cooking and baking to start her own a catering business.

While the couple was visiting Breckenridge, Colorado, they happened upon a spice and tea shop Karen felt was exactly the kind of store she wanted to bring to Montana.

"We've been coming to ski Big Sky for well over a decade, and we've always known this is a place where we would like to live," Joel said. The Marshalls split their time between their house in Bozeman and an apartment above their Big Sky store.



Joel Marshall opened The Spice & Tea Exchange with his wife Karen on Dec. 23 in Big Sky Town Center.

"Business has been robust at our Bozeman location and we hope that it can be just as brisk here in our new shop," Joel added.

With more than 140 spices, over 85 hand-mixed seasoning blends, 17 naturally flavored sugars, 25 distinctive salts and 35 exotic teas from around the globe, The Spice & Tea Exchange promises to have something for everyone—from the gourmand to those without culinary expertise. Find specialty seasonings for popcorn, pizza, and bloody mary cocktails to boot.

The Marshalls' new store also offers recipes, books, gift boxes and accessories to complement their vast selection of new flavors in Big Sky. Stop in and add some spice to your life.

The Spice & Tea Exchange is located at 47 Town Center Ave., Unit C. Visit spiceandtea.com/bigsky or call (406) 993-2163 for more information.



The shop features a plethora of spices, teas, seasoning blends, sugars and salts.

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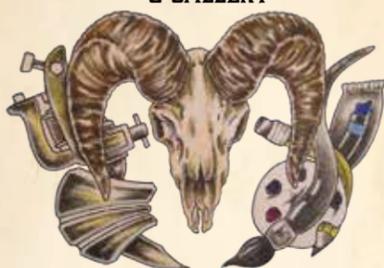
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Local wool apparel company steps up game with new design director

DENNY INK

BOZEMAN – The Montana-based apparel company, Duckworth, has hired San Francisco-based designer Amy Williams as its new product design director.

Originally from Malibu, California, Williams divides her time between playing in the great outdoors and designing in the fashion capitals of the United States. Focused on the future of creative material innovation and industry change, she is purpose-driven and creates with the highest level of integrity, according to Duckworth President Robert Bernthal.

“We’re passionate about functional design and locally grown, high quality materials,” Bernthal said. “We’re excited to partner with Amy, who shares our enthusiasm for building things in the USA, changing the way consumers think about wool and how they use it in their daily lives.”

Duckworth produces eight proprietary fabrics created from Merino wool grown on

the Helle Ranch in Dillon, Montana, and other Montana ranches that grow certified Rambouillet merino wool, a sheep known for its high-quality fleece. In her role with Duckworth, Williams will design new apparel styles that showcase Duckworth’s innovative natural fabrics.

“I’m driven by creating beautiful products made from the world’s finest materials and I’m honored to be able to develop a style-driven collection using a limited and premium fiber, grown entirely in the U.S.,” said Williams, who holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from New York’s Parsons School of Design/The New School of Social Research in Fashion.

Upon graduating from Parsons, Williams returned to California to design contemporary women’s wear before opening a studio in the Bay Area in 1998. Her designs have sold across the country at Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue and Nordstrom’s, among others.

Bozeman’s Downtown Winter Crazy Days takes place Presidents Day weekend

DOWNTOWN BOZEMAN ASSOCIATION

The Downtown Bozeman Association and downtown merchants are proud to present the best winter sale in Bozeman. The Downtown Winter Crazy Days takes place over Presidents Day weekend from Friday, Feb. 17, through Monday, Feb. 20 (business hours vary).

Park once and visit nearly 100 downtown merchants that have unbelievable sales of winter merchandise to get their stores ready for their new spring lines. Look out for the signage in their windows and come stroll downtown—and don’t forget, there’s free two-hour parking everywhere in downtown Bozeman.

The event is free and open to the public, and will go on snow or shine!

For more information, contact the Downtown Bozeman Association at (406) 586-4008 or visit downtownbozeman.org.



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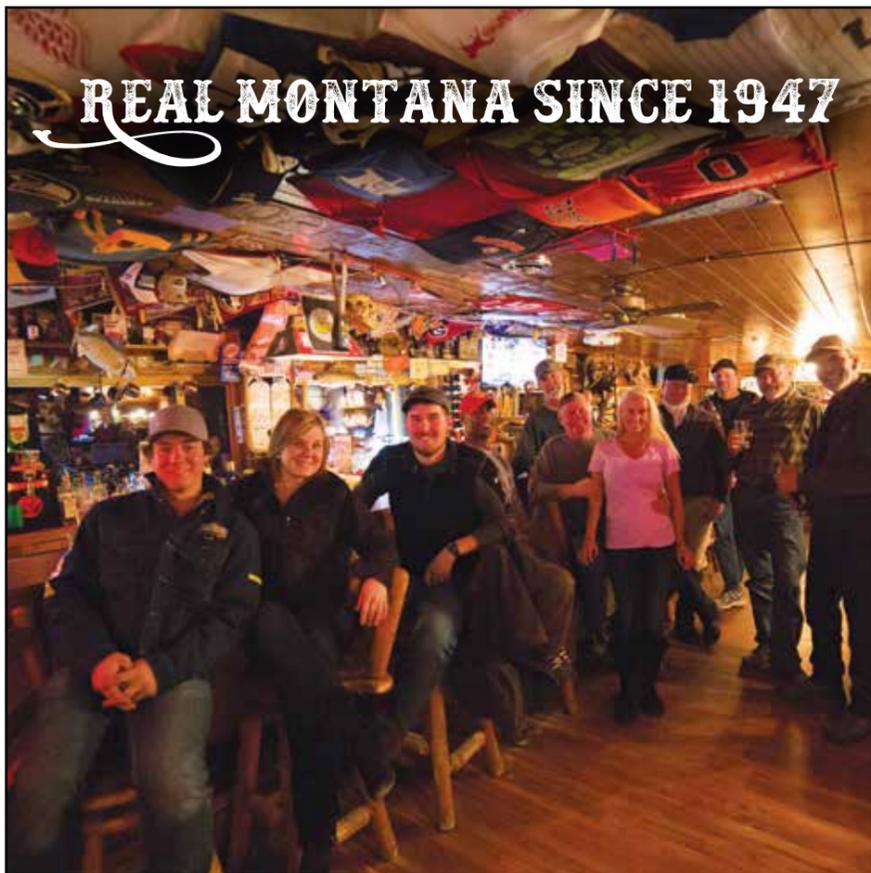


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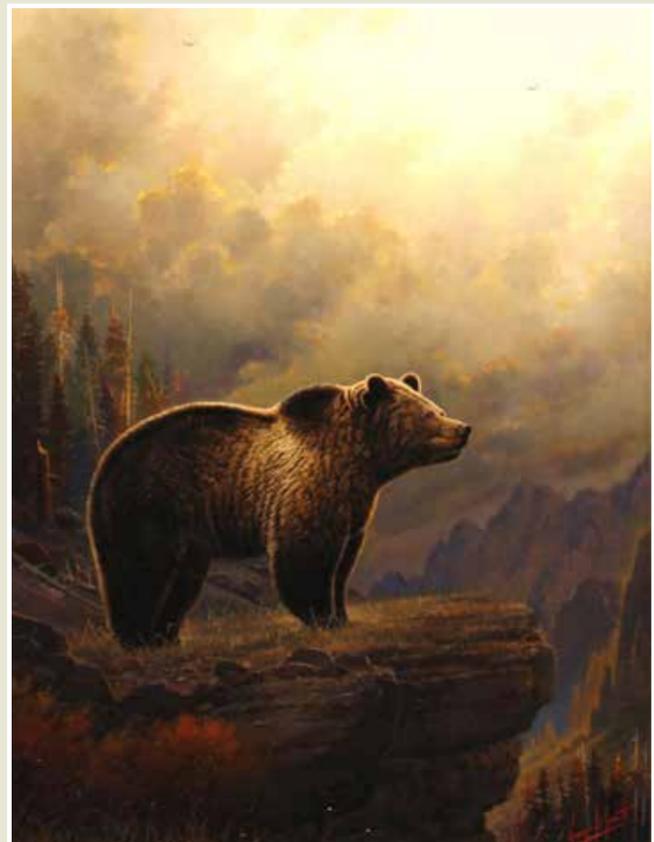
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MSU Blackstone LaunchPad ventures win prize money in recent competitions

BY ANNE CANTRELL
MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – Two entrepreneurial ventures that are participating in the 406 Labs business accelerator program at Montana State University's Blackstone LaunchPad have won prizes recently in national and statewide competitions.

MSU alumnus Michael Fox and his mobile app company, DugalHealth, won the grand prize in the Mobileys competition, which was held this fall in Washington, D.C. Fox won for DugalDiabetes, a mobile app that helps individuals with Type 1 diabetes manage insulin dosing.

In addition, MSU students Sam Kern and Aidan Weltner won second place in a statewide competition in Utah, The Bright Skies Innovation Contest, for their mobile app ShareLift, which facilitates ridesharing to ski resorts.

Fox, Kern, Weltner and their products are deserving of the recognition, according to Les Craig, director of the Blackstone LaunchPad at MSU.

"There are a few common traits that I have observed amongst the successful start-up founders who have worked with the MSU Blackstone LaunchPad," Craig said. "First, they have unwavering persistence in charging through any obstacles they encounter. Second, they are not afraid to learn and adapt their thinking. Both of these recent successes can be directly attributed to the determination, humility and empathy these teams embrace every day."

Fox is CEO of DugalHealth. He said the mobile app DugalDiabetes utilizes machine learning and individualized real-time feedback to make insulin dosing for meals easier, faster and more accurate, significantly improving blood glucose control and quality of life.



Michael Fox, right, demonstrates the DugalDiabetes mobile app to Montana Sen. Steve Daines. PHOTO COURTESY OF DIANE SMITH

Fox said he got the idea for DugalDiabetes during his training to become a registered dietitian with the Montana Dietetic Internship program at MSU. He recognized that the currently accepted insulin dosing approach was lagging behind the research, and rather than educate around an antiquated system, he said he decided to innovate.

In addition to working with the MSU Blackstone LaunchPad and its 406 Labs program, Fox has collaborated on the app with Graham Austin, a faculty member in the MSU Jake Jabs College of Business

and Entrepreneurship; Mary Miles, faculty in the MSU Department of Health and Human Development; and Alison Harmon, interim dean of the College of Education, Health and Human Development.

The Mobileys, sponsored by Mobile Future, is an annual national competition that challenges early-stage mobile entrepreneurs across the U.S. to create game-changing apps, products and services that use mobile to make the world a better place, according to the Mobileys website.

An experienced judging panel of individuals from the worlds of tech, mobile, venture capital, journalism, healthcare and entertainment evaluated the competition entries. For winning the competition's grand prize, DugalDiabetes received \$10,000.

"DugalDiabetes exemplifies all that is possible when mobile technology, creativity and hard work are put to the test," said Diane Smith, incoming Mobile Future chair. "This award-winning app is a true testament to the bold ingenuity of bright innovators across the country who are tapping into the endless possibilities wireless technology offers."

Kern, an MSU senior majoring in computer science and minoring in Hispanic studies, and Weltner, a junior majoring in liberal studies and photography, won \$11,250 for taking second place in the Bright Skies Innovation Contest.

The contest invited applicants who have developed innovations that can immediately improve Utah's air quality to apply for a total of \$45,000 in prize money. Kern and Weltner competed against nearly 40 applicants; of those, eight finalists were selected to pitch their products in an event held this fall in downtown Salt Lake City.

ShareLift is a ridesharing app that facilitates carpooling for skiers and snowboarders traveling to and from ski resorts, with a goal of reducing vehicle emissions. Automatic payment, ranking, pickup locations and other features are all built in to the app. ShareLift launched at Bridger Bowl, Big Sky Resort, and in Park City, Utah, this ski season.

Kern said the idea for ShareLift came from Weltner, who as a freshman at MSU had a ski pass to a local resort, but no car.

"It made it hard to get up to the mountain, even though there were tons of people driving up with extra seats," Kern noted.

"Winning this competition was a big win for us, not just for the prize money but also for the validation it brings to the idea and our team's ability to execute," Kern said. "We've been slowly working on ShareLift for over a year without any outside funding, so this award will go a long way in speeding up development and helping us spread the word."

406 Labs is a program of the Blackstone LaunchPad at MSU that provides focused resources designed to help high-growth potential LaunchPad ventures establish product-market fit.

Funded in part by a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration, the program assists companies with various items related to launching a business. These include prototype creation, go-to-market strategy, business development pipeline creation, sales training, fundraising strategy and hiring. A wide network of Montana-based mentors assists each company that is selected to participate in 406 Labs.

406 Labs is on Twitter at @406Labs. More information about ShareLift is available at shareliftapp.com.



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VA Montana Health Care System rating falls to 1 star

HELENA (AP) – An internal evaluation of the VA Montana Health Care System saw its performance rating downgraded to one star for July, August and September, compared with two stars for the same period in 2015, U.S. Sen. Steve Daines announced Jan. 11.

Public affairs officer Mike Garcia said that officials are reviewing the report and looking for areas of improvement, but he notes the star ratings are not equivalent to those one might find for a hotel or restaurant. The nation's VA hospitals are rated on a bell curve, and there will always be a dozen five-star facilities and 12 or 13 one-star facilities, he said.

Veterans should remain confident that they are receiving high quality health care in Montana from the VA, and that the system is always evaluating its performance and working to improve, Garcia said.

The hospital's patient satisfaction scores continue to improve from 102nd out of 129 facilities in October, November and December of 2015 to 40th in the most recent report, he noted.

VA Montana Health Care System's score for continuity of mental health has been low for the past six quarters, Garcia said. But he

added that's because up to 20 percent of veterans are receiving mental health services outside the VA system so they can be seen more quickly or closer to home.

"Just because we have a low rank it doesn't mean we have a problem," he said. "It could be a result of rural health care."

Another metric where the hospital scored lower was leadership. Former Director John Ginnity resigned in June, and there have been other vacancies in senior leadership, Garcia said.

Daines, R-Montana, issued a statement saying it was disturbing that the hospital at Fort Harrison "is performing far below a level that Montana veterans deserve," adding that "Clearly, major improvements are needed so that our vets get the best possible care."

U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, D-Montana, said veterans tell him they're happy with the care they get through the VA, although he'd like to see wait times reduced. Tester is supporting legislation that would help cut wait times and make it easier for veterans to seek specialty care outside the VA.

Lawmakers propose slashing health department budget by \$93M

BY MATT VOLZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – A legislative panel proposed Jan. 11 to slash the Montana health department's budget by \$93 million despite concerns that lawmakers don't know which programs for the elderly and vulnerable would be cut.

The Republican-led panel's proposed cuts to the state Department of Public Health and Human Services budget include \$42 million in state and federal money to senior and long-term care programs in 2018 and 2019. That's a 15 percent reduction compared to this year.

The cuts don't include any details beyond the dollar amounts in the spreadsheets lawmakers used as a guide, said Sen. Mary Caferro, D-Helena.

"We just voted on services that some members on the committee haven't even learned about yet," she said.

The health department's Senior and Long Term Care Division's services include nursing home care, home-delivered meals, hospice care and personal assistance.

Department Director Sheila Hogan said in a prepared statement the reductions beyond the governor's budget plan would put families, seniors and children at risk.

Caferro also objected to the governor's proposed cuts, particularly the elimination of an \$87,000 contract to provide services to 30 blind children across the state. Caferro's attempt to put that money back in the budget failed in a committee vote.

Republican leaders say the cuts being made now are only starting points for budget negotiations, and some of that money will be re-inserted in the coming weeks of the legislative session.

"We'll have an opportunity to build some of this budget back—not to get anyone's hopes up," said Rep. Rob Cook, R-Conrad. "But it will be built back up based on legislative priorities."

The health department cuts voted on Jan. 11 would reduce its budget to about \$2.41 billion in 2018 and 2019, which is a nearly 2 percent overall reduction.

The proposed reduction is the largest so far in a series of deep budget cuts planned across state agencies.

The Republican-led Legislature is trying to balance the 2018-2019 state budget and leave cash in reserve without raising taxes or adding new ones, as Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock is proposing.

Republican leaders are taking the more modest spending cuts proposed by Bullock and going deeper.

On Jan. 10, budget subcommittees voted to make cuts to other state agencies, including \$24 million for the Office of Public Instruction, \$23 million for higher education and \$3.4 million for the Department of Corrections, the Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported.

House Appropriations Chairwoman Nancy Ballance, R-Hamilton, said budget panels will spend the next few weeks looking closely at the cuts they are proposing.

"We know we have a budget shortfall we have to deal with," Ballance said. "Our job is to figure out where we can deal with this so it's the least pain possible."

Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



Great time of year for some casting and carving. Spend a few hours hitting the slopes in the morning then take a drive down the mountain to spend a few hours wetting a line on the Gallatin.

We're finally getting some relief from the painfully cold arctic weather. That means spending some time on the water is not only tolerable again, but is a great way to enjoy the beautiful winter outdoors. And fish are hungry!

The Gallatin and Madison Rivers are really where it's at this time of year. But for the more adventurous taking a drive out to the Yellowstone River between Livingston and Gardiner, the spring creeks in the Paradise Valley,

or maybe even the Missouri can prove to be quite fruitful. Best to wait for a warmer day to justify the effort.

The sections of the upper Madison we prefer to fish this time of year are between Hebgen and Quake Lake or just below Quake near Raynold's Bridge or \$3 Bridge. Keep in mind that deep snow makes getting to the river a challenge on the upper, so be prepared to "post-hole" your way to the river or take some snowshoes or cross-country skis. Rolling to the river isn't the best method, but sometimes it beats walking through crotch deep snow!

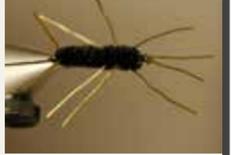
Bugs and rigs are pretty basic in winter and are applicable to all rivers with some tweaking. Pat's Rubber Legs, Zebra Midges, JuJu Midges, San Juan Worms, Flashback Pheasant Tails, Lightning Bugs, Rainbow Warriors and more are all great options for nymphing. The typical rig is a Pat's Rubber Legs or San Juan worm tied about 4-6' below a strike indicator and the dropper tied about 16' below that. You may need to add some split shot about 18" above the first fly to get them down. You can also fish with two smaller bugs if you aren't getting any action on a Pat's or Worm.

We do see a fair amount of midge activity if you're in the right type of water at the right time. Midges are what's on the menu and fish aren't usually too picky about having exact imitations this time of year. A good rig is a CDC Cluster Midge with a T Midge or other lightweight midge larvae about 18-24" behind the dry. Or if you're a purist we've found Silvey's Adult Midge to be a very productive single midge pattern.

JuJubee Midge



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SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

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.

What our election could mean for the restaurant industry



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Our nation has never wavered on this iconic phrase from the Emma Lazarus poem, "The New Colossus," emblazoned at the foot of the Statue of Liberty.

The nation's next presidential inauguration on Friday, Jan. 20, will for many reopen some wounds first inflicted on Nov. 8—wounds that for some have probably not healed yet.

We all have our opinions and most of us have one or two issues that are close to our lives and emotions, usually when we have some skin in the game. As a chef, I definitely have some crispy fried, tasty skin in this game.

I bet we'd all agree that no president to date has had a more rigid stance on immigration than Donald Trump, specifically immigration from our southern neighbors. America is no stranger to Mexican immigration. In fact, from 1900 to 1930, we recruited cheap labor from Mexico heavily, as we all but banished Japanese and Chinese workers from our labor force.

I have traveled through my fair share of this great country and I don't know if there is any state more "American" than Texas. They truly bleed red, white and blue. Yet walk through most kitchens or hotels in the Lone Star State, and you'll find that the lion's share of staff was born under a green, white and red flag.

So here's the conundrum we face: Given that a restaurant makes, on average, five cents on the dollar, the lower wages that many Hispanic immigrants will accept create the margins necessary for many restaurants to succeed.

Many young people today simply aren't interested in work in a real kitchen, an opinion I learned from a conversation I had with Iron Chef Cat Cora over a year ago, and one that I share. We both agreed that, much like idolizing athletes, today's youth would rather leapfrog culinary school and avoid cutting their teeth in the industry to build a career as a chef, and instead become an instant sensation on food TV.

That's where immigration comes in.

If there's one thing I've come to experience as universal in restaurants across America, it's this: an underbelly of Hispanic workers in hotels and kitchens. I do not intend the term "underbelly" to be derogatory in any way, quite the opposite. In echoing Chef Anthony Bourdain's subtitle of his first book, "Kitchen Confidential: Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly," those housekeeping and kitchen roles are the cornerstone of any establishment.

No matter the ethnicity of the restaurant, many of its kitchen workers are Hispanic in larger metropolitan areas. The chef may be of the same ethnicity as the food he features, but most of the worker bees are Hispanic, a fact that I've witnessed and lived for three decades in this business.

Trump has appeared to ease slightly on his south-of-the-border immigration stance. He obviously dines out and travels extensively. Given that no less than nine restaurants pay him rent, perhaps someone on his team walked him through one of his own kitchens or hotel hallways.

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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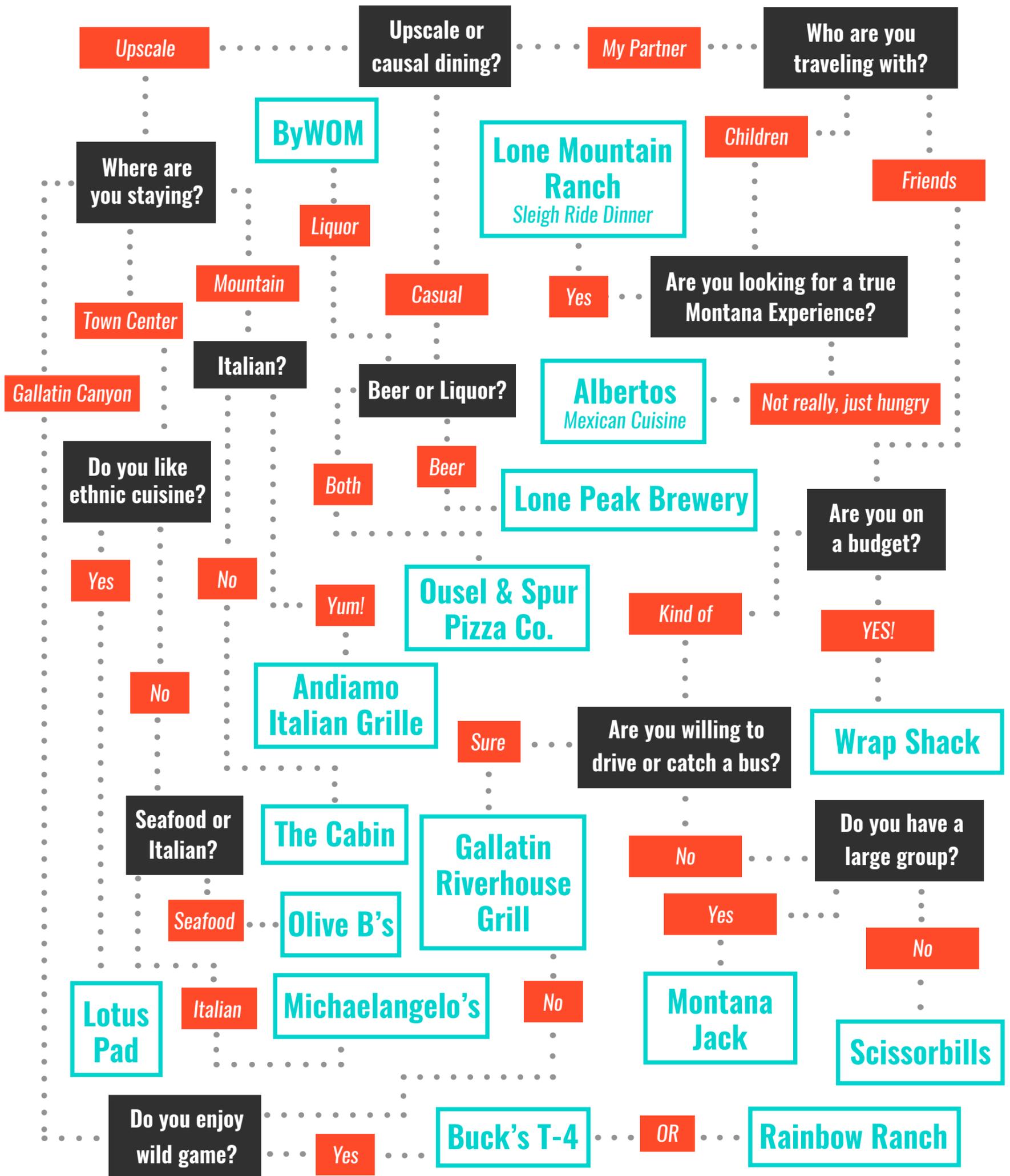


Big Sky Dinner Guide

Too many options? Can't make a decision? Use this flow chart to find the perfect place to enjoy dinner in Big Sky.



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Matt Carter is Assistant Professor of Biology at Williams College, where he teaches courses in neuroscience and physiology. His research focuses on how the brain regulates innate behaviors including sleep and food intake. All humans spend about one third of their lives asleep, yet most people don't understand why sleep is so beneficial and restorative. This talk will provide an understanding of what happens when we sleep and what is meant by "a good night's sleep." We will examine some amazing new discoveries from the world's top sleep scientists, and survey some simple methods that anyone can use to get a better night's sleep!

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Section 4: OUTDOORS, FUN, BACK 40



INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



How mighty mustelids survive winter

YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

Most park enthusiasts know a thing or two about how Yellowstone's more visible animals survive winter, but what about the smaller creatures that also have a lengthy cold season to endure?

Yellowstone is home to the largest concentration of mammals in the lower 48 states, and more than 60 different mammal species live there—many of them smaller and less visible.

The family *Mustelidae* is made up of remarkably fierce carnivores commonly known as the weasel family. Of the 57 species of mustelids, Yellowstone is home to eight of them: badgers, fishers, marten, mink, river otters, long-tailed weasels, short-tailed weasels, and wolverines.

Worldwide, the various species share some characteristics, but also differ greatly. For example, the least weasel is not much larger than a mouse, while giant otters can measure up to nearly 8 feet in length.

“Badgers, martens, and weasels are the most common mustelids seen from park roads,” says Kerry Gunther, YNP bear management biologist. “River otters are frequently seen, but not as often from roads—they usually require a short hike [to view].”

Gunther notes that fishers are the least likely to be spotted anywhere in the park, while wolverine are also rare and have a very limited distribution—a fact that prompted Yellowstone Forever (then the Yellowstone Park Foundation) to fund a Wolverine Conservation Study in 2008.

The wolverine diet is unique in that it includes scavenging of mostly large animals like mountain goats and elk. This is in contrast to river



Yellowstone's short-tailed weasels, also known as ermine, turn from brown to white during the winter.
PHOTO COURTESY OF YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

otters, which according to Gunther are specialists that eat “mostly fish, but also crustaceans, insects, amphibians, and birds.”

Weasels are active all winter long, despite commonly lacking the impressive body fat stores that other mammals active in winter rely on. Long and short-tailed weasels, both of which turn from brown to white in winter, have a resting metabolism that is often twice that of other animals their size. Because of this, they have to eat more food per day than other winter-adapted animals, according to Bernd Heinrich, author of the book “Winter World: The Ingenuity of Animal Survival.”

Heinrich writes that these weasels need to be small and skinny to enter a rodent's tunnel (one of their main food sources), and balance their energy needs with their behavior.

“Radio tracking studies show that most of their time in a typical 24 hours in winter is spent eating and resting,” Heinrich says. “Weasels need no permanent den, nor do they need a large stomach, because after reaching the rodent nest they use their victim's nest for their own and curl up into a ball to conserve energy while feeding about five to 10 times per day. After finishing their meal and again in need of energy supplies, they sally forth on their next hunt.”

Keep an eye out for this interesting and diverse family of mammals the next time you visit the park.

For an overview of the many wildlife-focused programs Yellowstone Forever supports or to find out how you can help protect and preserve Yellowstone's mammals visit yellowstone.org.

Yellowstone Forever is the official education and fundraising partner of Yellowstone National Park.



A river otter spotted at the confluence of the Gardner River and Obsidian Creek in Yellowstone National Park. NPS PHOTO

Yellowstone grizzly decision stalls amid opposition

BY MATTHEW BROWN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) - A deluge of opposition from dozens of American Indian tribes, conservation groups and some scientists is tying up a decision on lifting protections for more than 700 grizzly bears in and around Yellowstone National Park.

Officials had planned to finalize by the end of 2016 a proposal to turn management of grizzlies over to state officials and allow limited hunting.

But U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Assistant Regional Director Michael Thabault said it could take the agency another six months to finish reviewing 650,000 public comments that have poured in on the proposal.

Researchers tallied 106 Yellowstone-area grizzlies killed in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming during the past two years, often by wildlife managers following attacks on livestock and occasionally during run-ins with hunters.

That's the highest number of deaths in such a short time since the animal was listed as a threatened species in 1975. But Thabault said the death rate was sustainable given that the overall population has greatly expanded from 136 bears when protections were first imposed.

"The bear population has been increasing over time and those mortalities are within the bounds of what we've been considering," he said. "We expect the population to go up and down, but basically revolve around this [current] level."

Officials in Wyoming, Idaho and Montana have been lobbying heavily to take grizzlies off the threatened species list. They say the animals have recovered from near-extinction last century and limited trophy hunting should be allowed.

Critics argue that hunts sponsored by state wildlife agencies could reverse the grizzly's four-decade recovery. Representatives of dozens of Indian tribes have signed onto a treaty urging the Fish and Wildlife Service not to lift protections for an animal that's regarded as sacred within many native cultures.

Federal officials have held talks with some tribal officials to address their objections. However, the government is not bound to make any changes based on the tribal consultations.

Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk raised concerns in November about the way scientists count bears, which could impact how many are made available to hunters.

But in December, Wenk's superior, National Park Service Associate Regional Director Patrick Walsh, signed off on a Yellowstone grizzly conservation plan that's required in order for protections to be lifted. The reversal came after the states agreed to use a conservative bear counting method going forward, in part to help prevent excessive hunting.

An estimated 50,000 Grizzlies once roamed much of North America. Most were killed off by hunters in the 19th and early 20th centuries and they now occupy only about 2 percent of their original range across the Lower 48 states.

Through an intensive recovery effort, two large populations have been re-established around Yellowstone and in northwest Montana around Glacier National Park, which has roughly 1,000 bears.

Montana officials say the Glacier-area population is also recovered and should lose its federal protections, but no formal proposal has been offered.

Ski Tips: Master the mind in moguls

BY DAN EGAN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Years ago the Zen "Master of Moguls," Joe Nacka, shared with me how to master the mind in moguls.

"The key to skiing moguls is to relax and the key to relaxing is to breathe," Nacka said. "And remember, mogul skiing is a state of being, not doing, free of self-judgment and critical thinking."

Then he shared the mogul mastery, which had existed since the time of mogul creation on the day after the first powder field was skied out, and moguls formed due to lack of snow and over use.

Start with two to three warm up runs on a groomed trail making short turns in sets of eight to 10 turns per set. Make the first turn of each set the best because it sets up the rest of your turns.

While skiing, repeat the "Mogul Mantra" out loud: "I am calm and strong, fluid and loose, I am calm and strong, fluid and loose."

While riding the lift focus on your breathing and slightly swing your feet from the chair and chant: "I am calm and strong, fluid and loose, I am calm and strong, fluid and loose."

Next, find a low angle mogul field—traverse into it so moguls surround you. This is less intimidating than standing on top of a mogul field.

Then ski the bumps in sets of six to eight turns per set. Remember, make the first turn of each set the best because it sets up the rest.

While skiing, the critical motion is your feet retracting and extending under your upper body as you ski.

As you ski into each mogul, extend your downhill pole in preparation of the pole plant and allow your feet to retract up and under your hips.

As you crest the bump and plant your pole, push your tips down the backside of the bump. You can create this motion by pulling your heels slightly up and pressing on the balls of your feet.

Repeat for six to eight turns and stop.

The key to the retraction is to actively pull your feet up under your hips. This will create the absorption required to remain calm and strong.

Stand up between moguls and keep your arms reaching out for the next pole plant. This will act as a counter force to the mogul allowing you to remain in balance.

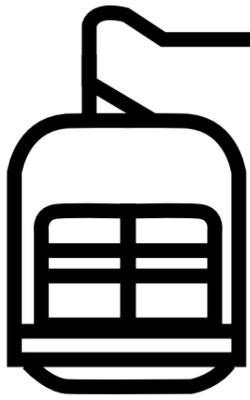
If you become frustrated, stop. Leave the mogul zone and take a free run while repeating the Mogul Mantra, then come back to the mogul zone free of frustration.

And remember, to master the mind in moguls, the key is to relax and the key to relaxing is to breathe. Mogul skiing is a state of being, not doing, free of self-judgment and critical thinking.

Extreme skiing pioneer Dan Egan has appeared in 12 Warren Miller Ski films and countless others. Today he teaches clinics and guides trips at locations around the world including Big Sky, where he'll be teaching Feb. 23-25, March 2-4 and March 9-11, and throughout the season (contact Big Sky Mountain Sports for availability). Find more ski tips from Dan Egan at skiclincs.com/education/skitips.



Dan Egan demonstrates his mastery of moguls. PHOTO BY JEN BENNET/RUMBLE PRODUCTIONS



WORD FROM THE RESORTS

Giving you the news directly from the region's top ski resorts



BY CHELSI MOY
PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER AT BIG SKY RESORT

Big Sky Resort has been alternating between snowy powder days and blue bird skies for weeks. As soon as the sunscreen comes out, it's time to grab your snorkel again. No complaints here—it means there has been epic skiing at Big Sky Resort.

Have a need for speed? Big Sky Resort has installed a NASTAR course on Andesite Mountain. NASTAR is the largest public grassroots ski race program in the world. Big Sky Resort guests can pay to challenge their friends on the dual giant slalom course—loser buys après drinks!

Then enjoy luxury American alpine fare on the top of Andesite Mountain at Everett's 8,800. Every Thursday through Saturday evening from 5:30–8:30 p.m., dine in an elegant, rustic restaurant with views of the iconic Lone Peak. Reservations are required and non-skiers are welcome with a pedestrian lift ticket.

If you missed the last SnoBar, there is still time to break out your dancing boots on Saturday, Jan. 21. SnoBar is back for one more evening. This slopeside winter dance party, located next to the Swiftcurrent chairlift, is built of snow and ice thanks to the help of Big Sky Resort's terrain park maintenance crew.

Hundreds of partygoers dance the night way to the beats of DJ 5Star, Party Girl, Chrome and Downpour. Attendees must be 21 or older and show an ID at the door.

There's lots of entertainment at Big Sky Resort – both day and night! Come on out, and we'll see you on the slopes!

Visit bigskyresort.com for more information.



On Sunday, Jan. 29, Bridger Bowl hosts the Skin to Win Randonnee Rally for both pros and amateurs alike. The ski mountaineering event challenges Pro Division racers to climb and ski about 5,000 vertical feet, and Rec Division competitors tackle approximately 2,000 vertical feet.

Racers must be at least 16 years old to enter and the event is limited to 100 participants. Pre-registration is required by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 25, and there is a mandatory competitors' meeting Jan. 28 at 5:30 p.m. at the Beall Center in Bozeman.

The King and Queen of the Ridge returns to Bridger on Saturday, Feb. 4, where competitors collect pledges for each ridge hike they can do in five hours. All of the proceeds benefit the Friends of the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center, and more than \$130,000 has been raised for avalanche education in southwest Montana since 2003.

Pre-registration for King and Queen of the Ridge is required by noon on Friday, Feb. 3, and teams are strongly encouraged.
– Tyler Allen

Visit bridgerbowl.com for more information.

BY JENNIE WHITE
GRAND TARGHEE MARKETING AND SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER



This January's snowfall is one for the record books! It's Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month and if you have not had the opportunity to take advantage of all this snow, then our 1-2-3 Start Me Up to Ski or Ride package is for you!

This package includes three two-hour group lessons with our professional ski and snowboard instructors, daily rental equipment, and all-day beginner lift tickets. After you complete all classes, we'll give you a free winter season pass for the rest of the 2017 season! Now that's a reason to hit the slopes. Don't wait, this great value is only available in January. Call (307) 353-2300 ext. 1352 today to sign up.

With all this new snow, one of the best ways to take advantage of the perfect powder day is with our Snowcat Adventures. You and 11 other skiers or riders will experience up to 18,000 vertical feet of untracked runs through open bowls and gladed trees. This all-day adventure includes professional guides, snacks, lunch, and all the hydration you'll need to get through the day. It's time to experience Wyoming's only cat skiing! If you have a private party, you can book the whole cat and get 12 seats for the price of 10.

Now that you have a reason to break away, check out our midweek special where you'll save up to 40 percent off your stay. Enjoy slopeside rooms, authentic Wyoming fare, Western charm and so much more. We'll see you on the mountain!

Visit grandtarghee.com for more information.



BY DAVID JOHNSON
MARKETING, JACKSON HOLE MOUNTAIN RESORT

The powder party won't stop here in Jackson Hole! Following a near record-setting December, Mother Nature has kept her foot on the gas pedal and early January delivered. A storm during the second week of January brought 40-plus inches to the valley and we've surpassed 300 inches on the season. As of Jan. 16, we're sitting at 311 inches of snow, an amount we didn't reach until Feb. 28 last season. What a difference a year makes! This is the second-best snowfall and depth total for this point in the season in the last 40 years.

Our favorite promotion, the Golden Ticket, continues through Jan. 31. JHMR will offer season pass holders from any resort worldwide 40 percent off lift tickets here in Teton Village. Bring your season pass from your home mountain and we'll discount your lift ticket. Come out and ski the big one! This is your chance to take advantage of cheap but amazing skiing here in Jackson Hole.

While you're here, check out the opening leg of the Eukanuba Stage Stop dog sled race on Friday, Jan. 27. Visitors are invited to see the teams off at the opening ceremony held in Jackson Hole Town Square with refreshments and fireworks.

On the horizon, we've got exciting events upcoming in February that you won't want to miss. The weekend of February 6, the Powder 8 Grand Nationals return to Cody Bowl, where competitors from all over will link turns with a partner in hopes of being crowned Powder 8 Champs. It's a spectacle and certainly a sight to see. The following weekend, the historic crossroad of cowboys and skiers return in Jackson Hole in form of skijoring. This event takes place across the street from JHMR at the Snake River Ranch.

Visit jacksonhole.com for more information.

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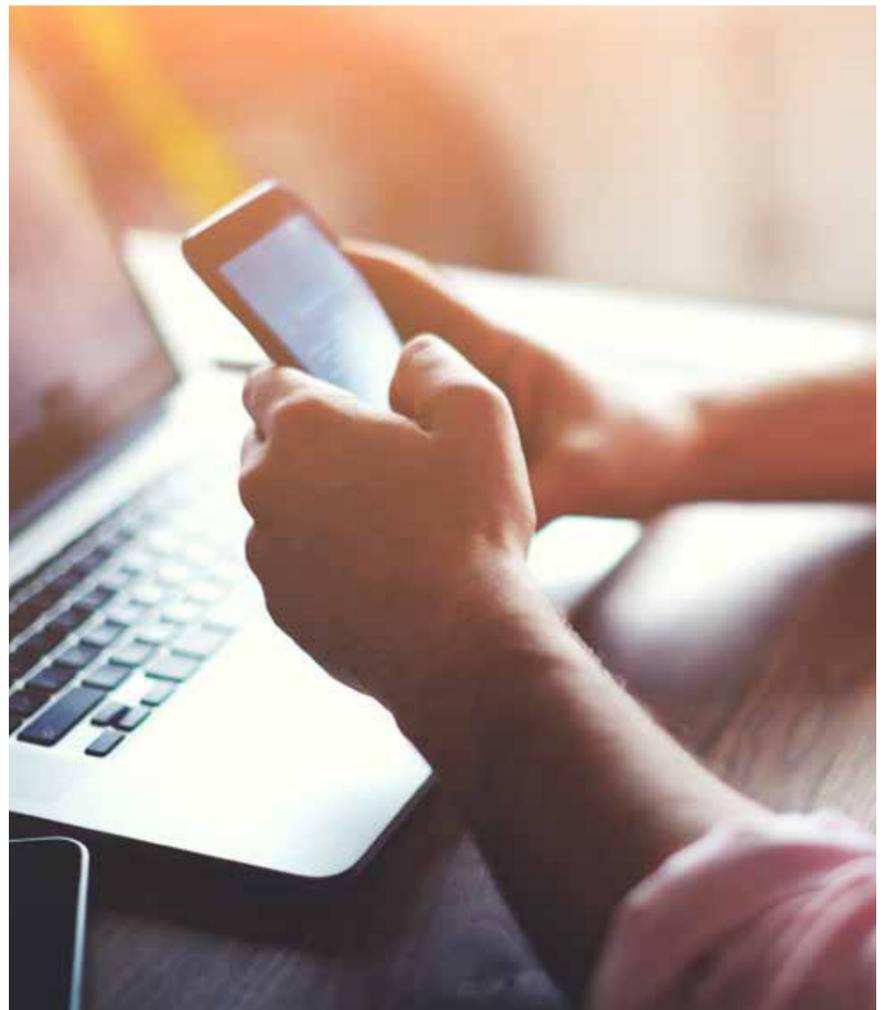


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Planning for Big Sky's future in parks and open spaces

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY - What should Big Sky look like in 10 years? What kinds of parks, trails and recreation facilities do residents and visitors want access to?

The Big Sky Community Organization is working with Peaks to Plains Design, a Billings-based civil engineering and parks planning firm, to get a handle on the future of recreation in Big Sky. Once the two groups have arrived at a vision for the area, they'll codify it in a planning document that will guide the community's efforts in the coming years.

Given the rapid clip of residential and commercial development in Big Sky, there was a sense of urgency around the issue at a Jan. 10 town hall meeting held at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.

In response to a question about what participants want the planning advisory committee to keep in mind throughout the process, one of the four brainstorming groups wrote, "Stand your ground in this fast-paced development" and urged the committee to keep the community's best interests in mind.

So, what's on the wish list? Recreation facilities that were highlighted included a pool or water park, a community gathering space open in the evening (read: not a bar), a fenced dog park, a picnic area in Town Center, access to water sources, and a fenced play area for children, among others. A facility for outdoor movie screenings and places for "sophisticated, developed play"—a climbing gym, for instance—also found champions in the group.

The unbuilt "green" quality that brought people here in the first place was also discussed at the meeting, which drew approximately 35 people. The group tended toward consensus on the question of open space—several people present expressed an interest in protecting the undeveloped natural character of the area.

Many of the participants were surprised to learn that none of the 24 platted parks in Big Sky are publicly owned. Gordon Lemmel, a Peaks to Plains landscape architect, said most parks are owned by homeowners associations or nonprofits.

"Big Sky, as it is today, just doesn't have the means to make large land purchases [for public parks] easily," Lemmel said. "It's expensive and, frankly, it's complex."

Both planners and participants voiced concerns about popular trails being "loved to death"—a situation planners hope to avert by expanding options.

At the same time, Peaks to Plains founder Jolene Rieck said that she's surprised by how much has been accomplished. "It's astonishing what such a small community has been able to do," Rieck said.

During the next phase of the planning process, Peaks to Plains will collect survey responses from a random sampling of approximately 300 people. Rieck said this stage is about obtaining input from a diverse sample of Big Sky community members and it's OK, and maybe even desirable, for differing ideas to emerge.

After BSCO feels comfortable with the proposed plan, a process that will include public comment on a draft of the document, the organization will submit it to the commissions of both Madison and Gallatin counties.

"If it's adopted by your local governments, it just gives it a little more teeth," Rieck said, adding that if issues about open space and parks arise in the future, the community can refer back to a well-informed plan to guide discussions.

BSCO is aiming for a late summer 2017 project completion date. "It's an important time to do this for all future development and growth," said BSCO Executive Director Ciara Wolfe.

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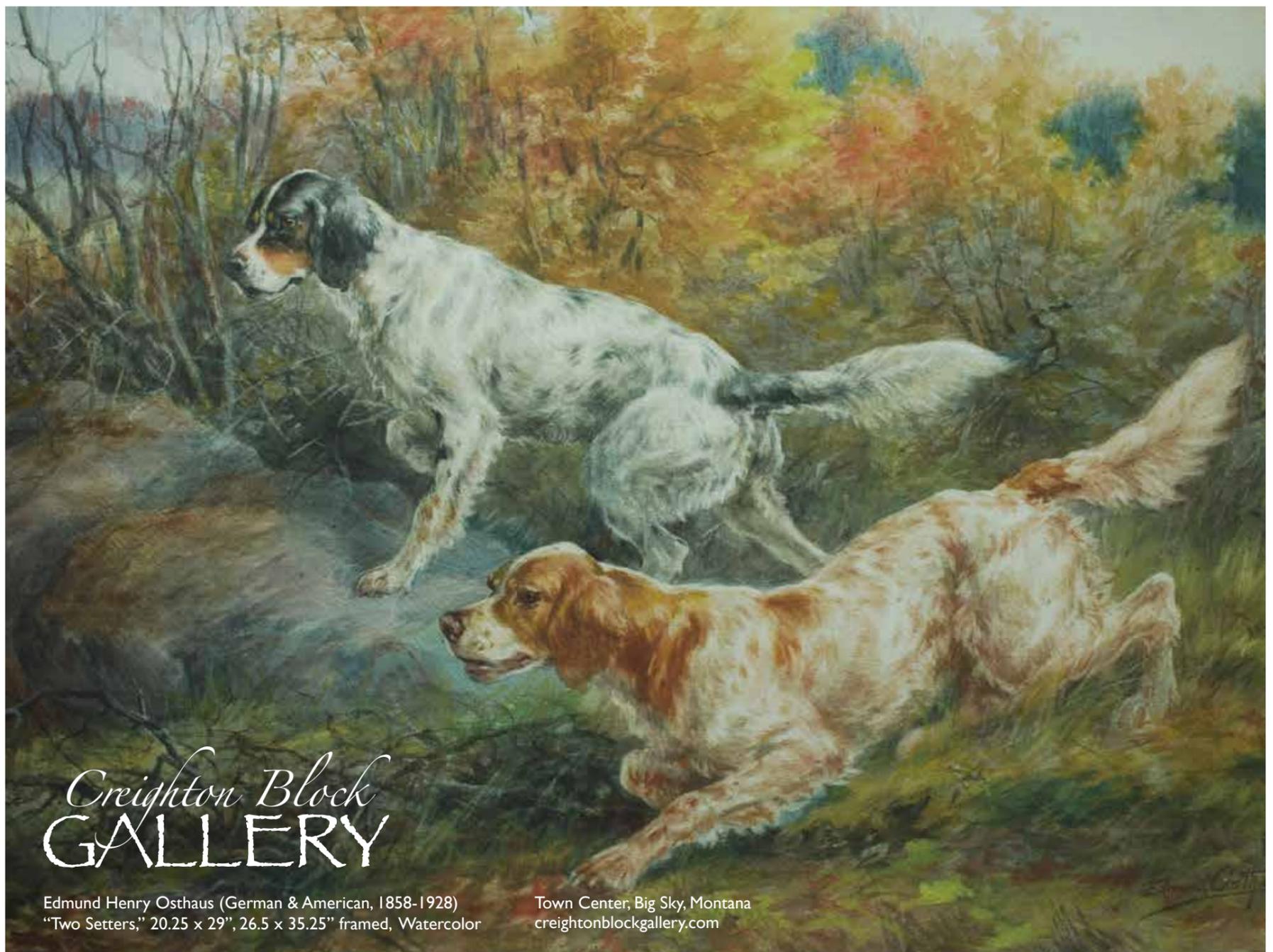
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Edmund Henry Osthaus (German & American, 1858-1928)
"Two Setters," 20.25 x 29", 26.5 x 35.25" framed, Watercolor

Town Center, Big Sky, Montana
creightonblockgallery.com



On the Trail: The Ranch Loop

Explore local hiking, biking and equestrian trails with Big Sky Community Organization's trail series.



Groomed goodness on the Ranch Loop cross-country ski trail. PHOTO BY CIARA WOLFE

BY CIARA WOLFE
BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Named after the beautiful ranch it encircles, Ranch Loop is an intermediate 5-kilometer cross-country ski trail that calms the mind and elevates the soul.

Skiers will start at the Lone Mountain Ranch Outdoor Shop, which is located on the northwest side of the LMR parking lot. From there, you'll head north through a forested area with cabins scattered throughout. Approximately 0.5 kilometers in, you'll climb a hill and loop up above the ranch buildings on a beautiful open hilltop. This section of the trail is easy and flat, allowing you to take time to embrace the expansive views of Big Sky's Town Center, Lone Peak and the mountains surrounding the area.

After enjoying the sights, you'll cross a snow-covered road and come to an intersection. Every intersection on Ranch Loop is labeled with a number and trail directional signs. Using this signage in combination with a trail map (which can be found in the Outdoor Shop or online) will ensure that you stay on route. At this intersection, you'll stay left on the Ranch Loop to begin the next 2.5-kilometer section of the trail. New to the sport of cross-country skiing, I quickly learned why this trail was labeled intermediate—it has long winding corners with several hilly sections. The combination of an enjoyable trail with the solitude of the location provides an experience that will surely bring a smile and sense of gratitude.

Once you turn the final large corner of this section, you'll see the Lone Mountain Ranch driveway as it spurs off Highway 64. Ski down your last hill, cross over the driveway and begin a 1-kilometer ski through the forested creek bed back toward the ranch and Outdoor Shop. I shared this portion of the trail with a small elk herd that obviously wintered in the area. Skiing slightly uphill through snow-covered trees provided the perfect end to the experience. Back at LMR, you can follow your ski with a visit to the Saloon for a small bite to eat, a meal with friends, or a warm drink by the fire.

Lone Mountain Ranch is located just off Highway 64 approximately 4.5 miles west of its intersection with Highway 191. After you pass through Town Center, you'll begin your climb toward the peak and see the Lone Mountain Ranch sign and driveway on your right. The Outdoor Shop and parking lot can be found on your left about a half-mile up the road. You can purchase an annual season pass or a day pass (\$20/day) there. All proceeds from pass sales go toward the cost of grooming our winter Nordic trail system. For a complete map of Big Sky's 85 kilometers of groomed Nordic trails, visit lonemountainranch.com/winter-things-to-do/nordic-skiing.

For more information about Big Sky's parks, trails and recreation programs, visit bscomt.org. The Big Sky Community Organization is a local nonprofit that connects people to recreational opportunities by acquiring, promoting and preserving sustainable places and programs for all.



TRAIL STATS

Distance	Uses	Difficulty	Elevation Gain	Surface
5K	Cross-country skiing	Intermediate	200 ft	Skate and classic groomed trails

Directions: From Gallatin Canyon/Highway 191, turn west on Highway 64. Drive approximately 4.5 miles and turn right at the Lone Mountain Ranch sign. The parking lot is located another 1/2 of a mile up the road.



THE EDDY Line



BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

Snow. It's an essential reality in our mountain town. Whether we ski on it, need its water in summer, or move it around in plow trucks, snow on the ground translates to happy people. As the snow keeps piling up in parking lots and in your driveway, keep your eye on the prize: snow now means stream flows come summer.

But just because it's snowing and your brain is on fresh powder doesn't mean you can't—and shouldn't—go fishing. Quite the contrary, now is a great time to fish. Here's some insight to get more enjoyment out of your winter fishing.

Adjust your mindset. This is a biggie. Winter fly fishing is a process. Grabbing a pair of sandals, a four weight, and a few dry flies won't get it done. Most winter fishing in our area is walk-and-wade fishing, which may mean a personal gear audit and improvement. Simplicity is the exception—double nymph rigs, shelf ice, safety and access all play a role in the complexity of fly fishing in winter. It's not mysterious, it just requires more effort. The silver lining is less people are willing to put on five layers of clothes and that translates to having most of the best holes to yourself.

There are important gear requirements. Dressing in layers and wearing quality waders and wading boots is essential. Hats, gloves and outerwear will work best if they are windproof and water-resistant. And this list doesn't include tackle ...

Overhaul your tackle. If you want to stand a chance of catching fish in winter, you must fish subsurface. Fishing weighted flies or adding weight to your leader will help, but there's another part of the equation to consider: how much weight and how deep you fish. In order to fish a cumbersome weighted two-fly rig you'll need a longer or heavier weight rod, stouter leader and tippet material to include fluorocarbon in sizes 4X and 5X, and a different set of skills ...

Learn the water-haul cast. Known also as the tension cast, this simple cast is effective for fishing clunkier rigs like a two-fly weighted nymph rig, and when you have obstructions limiting a normal backcast. At the end of your drift, allow the fly line to straighten out downstream of you. Raise your rod hand about head-weight, ensuring your submerged flies rise to the surface or slightly under the surface. When that happens, turn your wrist so your palm is parallel to the water's surface. At that point make a normal forward casting motion, stopping it abruptly as you normally would. As you stop, be sure not to rotate your wrist any further forward and keep your thumbnail pointed up, not forward.

Simplify your fly selection. I'm telling you to invest in gear, buy some fluorocarbon tippet, and learn a new cast, but at least you can carry fewer flies. On the Gallatin River your winter fly selection should include some size 10 or 12 coffee and black Pat's Rubberlegs, some size 18 black and red beadhead Zebra midges, some size 16 or

Winter: It can be your favorite season

Get more out of your winter fishing

18 firebead sowbugs or Czech nymphs, and your favorite size 18 mayfly nymph. Dry flies in winter are rare, but you still want to be prepared—like a baby boomer with Viagra in his wallet—so always have floatant and a few adult midge patterns in your box. A Griffith's



Can a powder day get any better? Perhaps if you had a little fishing to it. Winter fishing can be both challenging and rewarding. PHOTO BY PAT STRAUB

Gnat is the best performer, but any adult midge pattern in size 18 or 20 could entice the rare rising trout. Dry flies are fun to dream about in winter, but most of your fishing will be subsurface.

Is it wrong to think about fishing on a powder day? While guiding on the Upper Madison in high summer, I often tune out from watching a client make one bad cast after another to gaze at Lone Peak and pick the lines I'll ski in six months. So, no, it's not wrong to think about fishing on a powder day.

Because if you're like my last client, you can do both on the same day. Get after it the next few months. We are in the dream season now.

Pat Straub is the author of six books, including "The Frugal Fly Fisher," "Montana on the Fly," and "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Fly Fishing." He and his wife own Gallatin River Guides in Big Sky.

5

Ski Vacation Activities for Kids...

That let parents play too

BY BECKY STIRLING

The mountains in Montana and Wyoming are home to phenomenal ski areas. And many ski hills have family-friendly events such as Christmas and New Year's celebrations, or epic Easter egg hunts. But which activities will hold the kiddos' interests?

These resorts offer unique experiences for our kids—the secret is the bonus for parents. When you plan your family ski vacation, consider what the kids will do while you're lapping the tram. Here are the top five unique programs to entertain your little ones at our regional ski resorts. >>

This story first appeared in the winter 2016 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine.

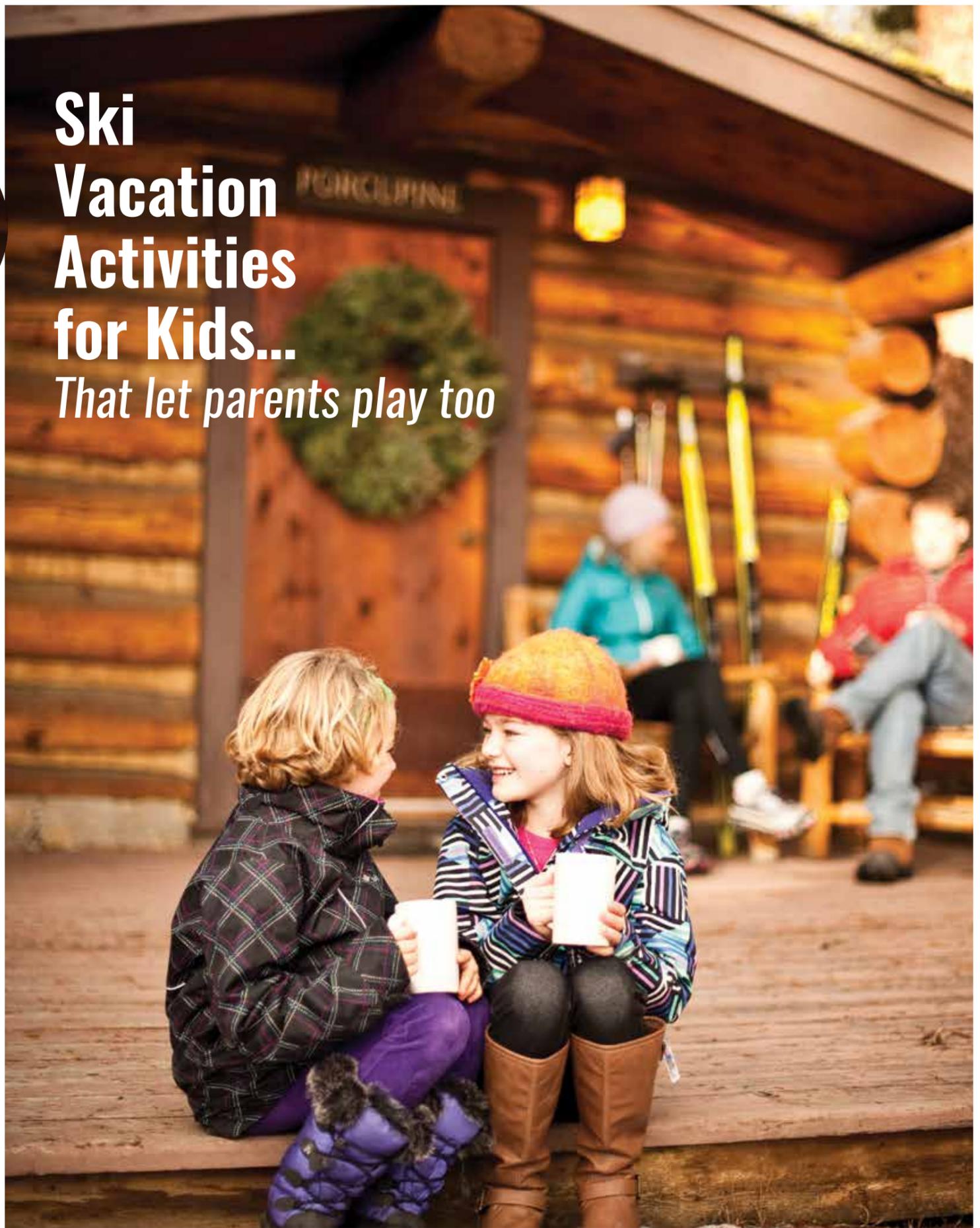


PHOTO COURTESY OF LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH

1 Lone Mountain Ranch

Winter Outdoor Youth Adventures Program

During Christmas and New Year's, Big Sky's Lone Mountain Ranch has the ticket for kids' winter fun. The Winter Outdoor Youth Adventures Program at LMR allows the adults to enjoy their preferred outdoor activity, while the kids partake in their own adventures such as snow-cave building, snowshoeing, Nordic skiing, animal tracking and sledding, and finally hot chocolate and s'mores by the fire. Part of LMR's Holiday Discovery Package, the program includes authentic Montana lodging, adult Nordic ski and/or snowshoe tickets, three meals a day, yoga, live music, and a family sleigh-ride dinner you won't forget.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH



PHOTO BY LONNIE BALL

2 Big Sky Resort

Kids Club

Big Sky Resort's Kids Club engages your child with daily themes such as Mask Making Mondays, Tie Dye Tuesdays, Wild Montana Wednesdays, and Slimy Sundays, plus special events that involve a bungee trampoline, climbing wall, games, dinner and movies all while the adults take to the slopes on their own. Big Sky Resort boasts "The Biggest Skiing in America," and offers the Kids Club along with free skiing to children 10-and-under staying with their families at Big Sky Resort-managed properties. Additionally, check out the "Lost Frontier," a family friendly adventure area off of the PonyExpress lift that opened last season.

3 Grand Targhee

Tubing Park/Kids' Night Out

After hitting the slopes—or even instead of skiing—take a magic carpet ride up and whiz down Targhee's specialized tubing park on a huge inner tube. Riders must be at least 42 inches tall and hours are limited. Ready for a break by week's end? At Targhee, parents and kids can each have their own special night out on Saturday evenings from 4:30-8:30 p.m. Targhee's Kids' Night Out provides children ages 2-12 with dinner, gazing at the evening sky, crafts and all around fun. Parents can take in an evening snowcat tour, treatment from Anew Massage, a soak in the heated outdoor saltwater pool, or fine dining at the resort.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GRAND TARGHEE RESORT



PHOTO BY NOAH CLAYTON

4 Whitefish Mountain Resort

Kid's Center, Ski and Ride School

Whitefish Mountain Resort offers programs to get your kids proficient on the snow while you enjoy the mountain. The Kid's Center provides a Child Ski/Board and Play. The option of a half or full day includes an on-snow lesson with tickets or indoor activities. Alternatively, children can be dropped off for daycare if they're not ready to rip up the slopes quite yet. Young ones can also join the Ski and Ride School, which offers everything from private lessons to kids groups that receive "Adventure Card progress reports" with a Montana Mountain Animal theme, letting you know what terrain your child can handle.

5 Bridger Bowl

Playcare, Torchlight Procession and Fireworks

Bridger Bowl Ski Area offers Playcare, a slopeside, sunny facility with qualified caregivers who encourage your children in creative play, snowman building, and sliding in an outside arena. Playcare also has a ski lesson option or a Snowsports School for more advanced kids. You relax and enjoy an adult day of skiing. Just in case you start to miss the kids, some fantastic family fun awaits. On December 30, Bridger Bowl celebrates New Year's Eve a day early with a spaghetti dinner and festivities starting at 4 p.m. Watch the torchlight procession and fireworks with your family as the sun sets, and enjoy live music in the Jim Bridger Lodge.

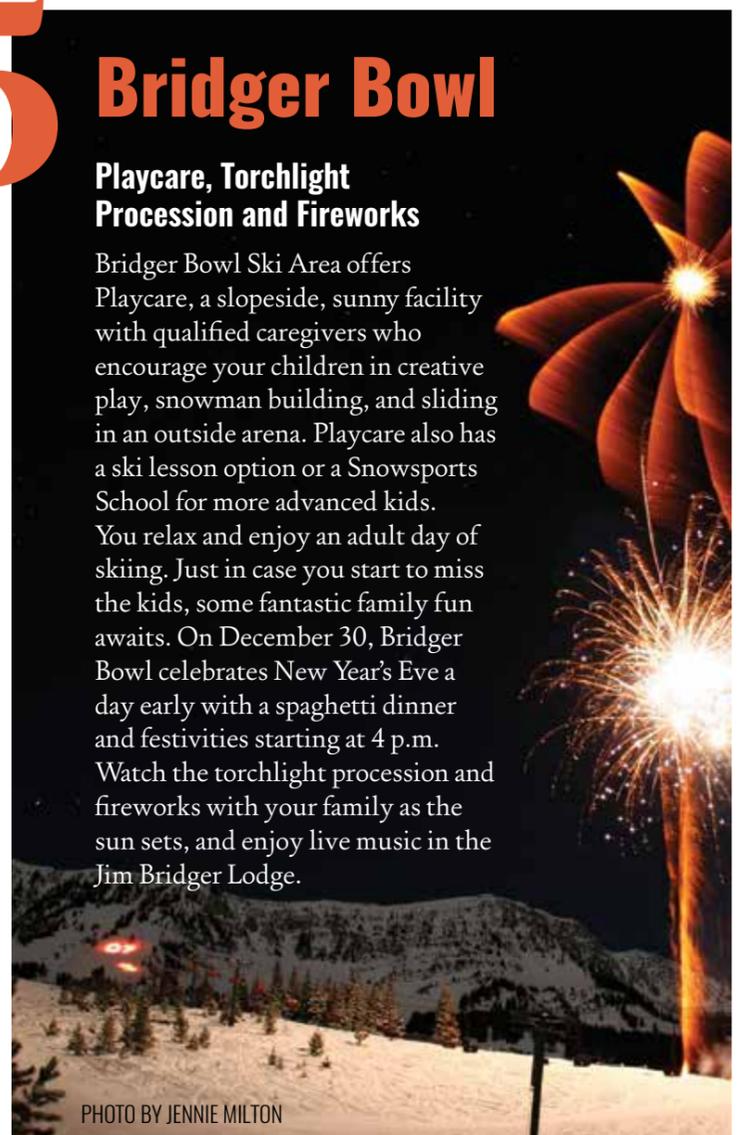


PHOTO BY JENNIE MILTON

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Two Top Yellowstone Winter Tours

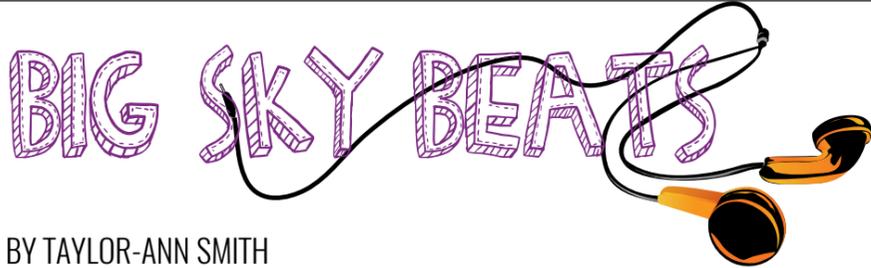
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BY TAYLOR-ANN SMITH
EBS GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Find out what tunes we're bumping! In *Big Sky Beats*, *Explore Big Sky* staff offers suggested tracks for your next playlist. Whether you need to freshen up your music library, want to expand your collection, or just need some tunes for a powder day, we've got you covered.

What better way to enjoy a bass drop than at a custom built, outdoor venue complete with a snow and ice bar? Few events on the mountain compare to SnoBar at Big Sky Resort and it's definitely one of my favorites to attend. The dance party is held on successive Saturdays each winter—the first was held Jan. 14, and second on Jan. 21.

Electronic dance music by DJ 5star, Chrome, Prez, Party Girl and Downpour gets the crowd dancing, which keeps you warm on the snowy mountain side. The accompanying lasers and go-go dancers help to ensure the energy level is high.

Don't miss out on this exciting winter event and be sure to bring your glow sticks!

Below is a list of EDM tracks to help get you stoked for SnoBar on Jan. 21:

1. "Super Natural - Autoerotique remix," Danny L Harle, Carly Rae Jepsen
2. "Got Me," K Theory
3. "Want U," LDN NOISE
4. "Bloodfire," Arty
5. "Take it Back," Bougenvilla
6. "Collab Bro," Timmy Trumpet, Angemi
7. "Switch," Don Diablo
8. "Fixed On You - Taiki Nulight remix," Hotel Garuda
9. "D.A.N.C.E.," Heiken, Kenshin
10. "Crazy," Wax Motif, Vindata

Visit explorebigsky.com/beats for a sampling of the playlist.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

6				1				
9			7				8	2
1		3		4				
					8		1	
						6		9
							3	
7		6			4	8		
	3		6		7	9		
4	9	1	2				7	

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DIFFICULTY: ★★☆☆

American Life in Poetry: Column 617

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

Those of you who've returned home to visit parents may recognize the way the familiar and the strange wash together in this wise and peaceful poem by Robert Tremmel. The poet is from Iowa and his most recent book is "There is a Naked Man," (Main Street Rag Press, 2010).

All the Questions

By Robert Tremmel

When you step through
the back door
into the kitchen
father is still
sitting at the table
with a newspaper
folded open
in front of him
and pen raised, working
the crossword puzzle.

In the living room
mother is sleeping
her peaceful sleep
at last, in a purple
robe, with her head
back, slippered feet
up and twisted
knuckle hands crossed
right over left
in her lap.

Through the south window
in your old room
you see leaves
on the giant ash tree
turning yellow again
in setting sun
and falling slowly
to the ground and one
by one all the questions
you ever had become clear.

Number one across:
a four-letter word
for no longer.

Number one down:
an eleven letter word
for gone.

We do not accept unsolicited submissions. *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 ©2015 by Robert Tremmel, "All the Questions," from "The Fourth River," (Spring, 2015). Poem reprinted by permission of Robert Tremmel and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2016 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.

BACK40

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.

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

How to choose a backcountry ski partner

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DEREK LENNON
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Skiing is often considered to be an individual sport, but backcountry skiing is a team sport. Whether you're skiing big lines or cranking out powder laps, your life is always in the hands of your backcountry ski partner.

While it may be easy to head out into the backcountry with your best in-bounds buddy, your beer drinking pal, or the local know-it-all, it's more important to find someone who you trust and who is on the same page as you. Your life may depend on their skills.

Here are a few things to consider when choosing a backcountry ski partner:

Mountain sense – Wild mountains deserve respect. Weather comes in quickly, avalanches happen and unmarked hazards exist. Choosing safe routes, finding safe zones, and assessing the hazards of the winter playground need to be a top priority. Is your backcountry partner's mountain sense on high alert?

Snow sense – A good partner will want to see what's going on with the snowpack. Dig a pit and observe the snow, but also observe your partner. Can your partner properly assess stability and can they support their decision-making?

Backcountry experience – Backcountry knowledge and experience is important. Be careful of anyone who brags about wild ski lines and laughs off close encounters with avalanches. Instead, seek out someone who is a bit more humble, keen to share their knowledge and respectful of the snowpack. Can your partner safely navigate through the mountains? Are they lucky or are they skilled?

Avalanche rescue skills – The No. 1 thing you should look for in a backcountry partner is their ability to rescue you in the event of an avalanche. This specific set of skills has the potential to save your life. This means they have avalanche rescue gear and they know how to use it. Plus, they need first aid knowledge to treat injuries. Performing an efficient avalanche rescue requires practice. Can your partner save your life?

Certifications – Avalanche, first aid and other certifications show that your backcountry partner is committed and dedicated to the backcountry. Is your ski partner qualified?



Backcountry skiers skin above Beehive Basin in Big Sky.

Risk tolerance – In the backcountry you must determine if the risk is worth the reward. Sometimes it is and sometimes it isn't. You and your partner need to be on the same page. A gung-ho aspiring pro and a father of two will most likely have different risk tolerances.

Open discussions and the freedom to voice your thoughts, questions, and concerns are vital. It's OK to turn around. Will your partner listen to and respect your decisions?

Pace – It's not fun to be the slowest person in the group and it's equally frustrating to be the fastest person. Try to find someone who moves at the same speed as you. How fast is your backcountry partner?

Preparation – Mountain adventures require preparation. Look at the map, read the avalanche forecast, prep your gear, and communicate with your backcountry buddy. It's not a one-man or one-woman show out there. You both need to do these things to ensure you're both ready for the day. Did your partner prepare for the ski tour?

Gear – Check out your buddy's gear—is it shiny and new? That could be a red flag, indicating they don't get much practice using it. Do they have beacon, shovel, probe, repair kit, first aid kit, water, snacks, extra layers and skins? Do they perform a beacon check at the trailhead? Are they comfortable clicking into touring bindings or are they lugging around heavy alpine trekkers?

Do they have touring gear or snowshoes? Are they going to overheat 100 yards down the skin track because they're starting the day in every layer they own?

Are they ignorant to human safety and selfishly putting a beacon on their dog? The backcountry is a constant classroom. What type of experience are they bringing to the table?

Goals – Always discuss the goals for the day. It's important to have the same objectives in the mountains. Open discussion is necessary for any healthy backcountry relationship. Are you both on the same page?

Test the waters – Skiing gnarly lines with a brand-new ski partner isn't the smartest idea. Test the waters and be dubious of your new partner's abilities until they prove otherwise. Start with a simple tour for some mellow meadow skipping or even some buried beacon drills before you ramp up the terrain choices. Will this be a lasting relationship?

It takes time to trust someone else in the mountains. The right backcountry ski partner will enhance your mountain experience. The wrong one will make you fear for your life. Choose wisely.

Derek Lennon is a skier and writer who lives, works, and plays in the mountains of the world. He is based in Big Sky, Montana, where he lives with his wife Mia and two dogs.



Two backcountry enthusiasts prepare to descend the Apocalypse Couloir in Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park.

Section 5: EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Spotlight: Lorri Lagerbloom pg. 67

Big Sky Big Grass announces lineup pg. 70

Kaia Kater at WMPAC pg. 71

Walk On

Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real are lifting off, inspiring a generation in the process

BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR
EBS EDITOR

This article was adapted from one published in the winter 2015 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine. Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real will take the stage at Big Sky Resort's Montana Jack restaurant on Friday, Jan. 27. This show is being co-produced by Outlaw Partners (publisher of EBS) and Big Sky Resort.

In 2002, Jimmy Carter received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway. Headlining his reception were Country Outlaw Willie Nelson and guitar legend Carlos Santana, among others.

The Nobel Committee recognized Carter, the 39th U.S. president and a Georgia native, for his "untiring efforts" to promote peace, equality and human rights around the world. At Carter's request, Nelson performed a soulful rendition of "Georgia on my Mind" before the entire cast of artists sang John Lennon's "Imagine."

During pre-show sound check, a 13-year-old Lukas Nelson was introduced to Santana, who leaned down from the stage. "Maybe one day I'll be opening for you," Santana told Willie's son.

"I was just starting to play guitar," Lukas recalls. "That blew my mind, you know? And I just kept playing."

Lukas Nelson turned 28 this past Christmas Day, a rising star in a world of prodigious rock 'n' rollers that influence him and his band, Promise of the Real. The band spun a web of dozens of concerts in the U.S. and Europe in 2016 promoting their collaboration with Neil Young on "The Monsanto Years," and their fourth studio album is expected in spring 2017.

But behind this four-man rock show, glows light from a torch seeking new hands: POTR represents the next generation of musicians using their talent to inspire social change.

Lukas Autry Nelson talks of heroes like some folks rattle off their record collection: Willie Nelson, Neil Young, Jimi Hendrix, Bob Dylan, Ray Charles, Eddie Vedder. His middle name comes from his Godfather, the singing cowboy Gene Autry. These artists influenced him musically, but also left their mark as leaders and activists, philanthropists and teachers.

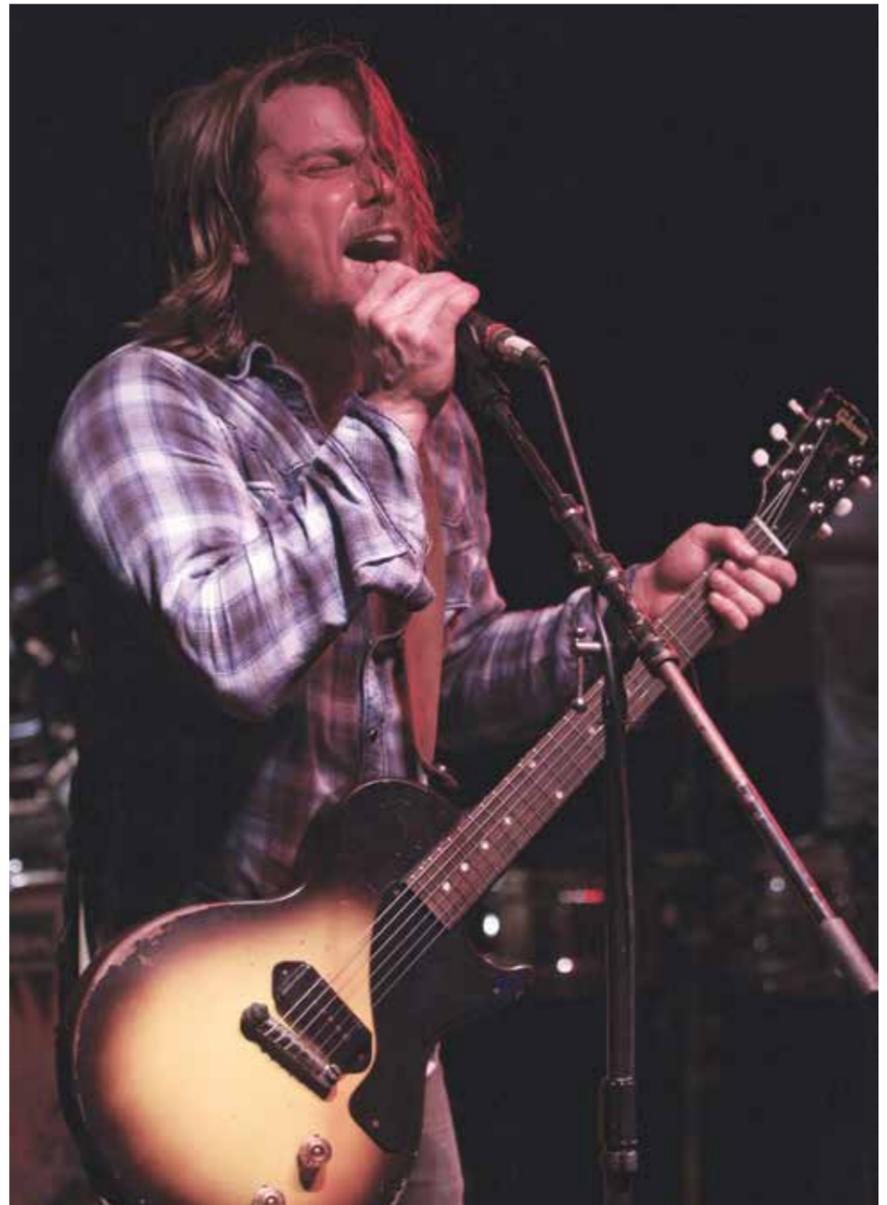
Each found ways to inspire awareness in their fans: Dylan's lyrics, Charles' donations to the deaf, Bridge School, Farm Aid, the list goes on. Lukas is adding to that list and, like his idols, making a stance in a world that's seeking heroes.

"Ask me later! I'm marching," Lukas Nelson texted from an October 2014 March for Elephants and Rhinos in San Francisco. He was filed among a throng of activists protesting ivory poaching before Promise of the Real took the stage in Golden Gate Park the next day for the annual Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival.

In the past five years, Lukas Nelson and POTR have played shows benefiting Free the Slaves, the nonprofit aiming to abolish slavery around the world; the AIDS Service Center; and the Animal Welfare Institute. Believing isn't enough, Lukas says.

"I don't necessarily stand up for what I believe in," he said. "I think that's how wars get started. I stand up for what I see; what I see is wrong...I act according to how I was raised and what my heart tells me."

That October, Lukas and POTR also performed in Mountain View, California at the annual Bridge School Benefit concert, which has raised money and



Lukas Nelson tells it how it is in Bellingham, Washington, on Aug. 22, 2014. PHOTO BY DANIEL BULLOCK

awareness since 1986 for physically impaired children who need advanced communication assistance. Organized by Neil Young, the 2014 concert featured Young, POTR, Pearl Jam and Florence and the Machine, among others. Lukas sat in with Eddie Vedder for an acoustic version of Pearl Jam's "Just Breathe."

The same month, the Matthew Silverman Memorial Foundation, a suicide-awareness nonprofit, recognized Lukas as a 2014 Matt's Hero Award recipient. During the benefit show in Santa Monica, he performed four acoustic songs and dedicated the last one to his late brother Billy, a victim of a 1991 suicide.

"His performance was extraordinary. There wasn't a dry eye in the house," said Ron Silverman, who founded the Matthew Silverman Memorial Foundation two years ago in memory of his son who committed suicide in 2006. "[Lukas] has a big heart and a passion for giving back."

On stage Lukas Nelson is an ace frontman, wielding "Georgia," his 1956 Les Paul Junior with machinist precision during guitar solos in POTR's "Love Yourself"; he flashes the crowd a telling smile covering Paul Simon's "Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes"; he takes up an entire stage seemingly all at once, bouncing from percussionist Tato Melgar to drummer Anthony LoGerfo, to trading licks with bassist Corey McCormick.

continued on pg. 66

continued from pg. 65

"He keeps you on your toes," said McCormick, 39, who joined POTR in April 2010 after an international touring stint with Soundgarden's Chris Cornell.

Lukas met LoGerfo at a Neil Young concert in 2008. Over the next year, Nelson and LoGerfo played music up and down the California coast. Then, after a year studying at Loyola Marymount University in L.A., Nelson picked up the phone.

"He basically called me out of the blue and said, 'I'm quitting school and want to form this band, Promise of the Real, and I want you to play drums,'" said LoGerfo, 33.

Lines from the opening track, "Walk On" from Neil Young's 1974 album, "On the Beach," inspired the name Promise of the Real. "Some get stoned, some get strange, but sooner or later, it all gets real," wrote Young.

"That's the promise," muses Lukas. "That's our band."

Lukas and POTR performed on a cool night at Wild West Pizzeria and Saloon in West Yellowstone, Montana in August 2014. Wild West owner Aaron Hecht spent a few days with Lukas on either side of the show.

"He was raised with a guitar in his hand," Hecht said. "He's a great performer with great stage presence. The rest of those guys are super-talented musicians too. They're a tight, polished band."

After two days of playing golf at the Yellowstone Club and the Spanish Peaks Mountain Club near Big Sky, Hecht drew a bead on Lukas, off stage.

"We talked a lot about social issues," Hecht said. "He just wants to learn and hear other people's points of view, but he can have a meaningful conversation rather than a pissing match about issues. That's the kind of guy he is; no pretension at all."

In September 2014, a warm, steady breeze blew dust into the northwest Nebraska air, the ground covered in trampled cornhusks. Nearly 8,000 people flocked to Harvest the Hope, a concert protesting the Keystone XL Pipeline expansion.

Headlining the show were Willie Nelson, Neil Young, and Lukas Nelson and POTR, featuring Lukas' younger brother Micah.

As the red sun slumped lower in the sky, Willie's famous twang echoed in the heartland air, strumming "Whiskey River" before playing "Good Hearted Woman." Even at 81, Willie was Willie, despite the New Balance sneakers that replaced his cowboy boots. He wore a cap reading, "Pipeline Fighter."

After Neil Young's solo set, which included "Heart of Gold" and a stirring "Mother Earth" performed on the pump organ, he invited Lukas, Micah and POTR back on stage. A red-tailed hawk feather protruded from the headstock of Lukas' guitar, catching the fading sunlight and standing out against Young's black T-shirt reading, "Idle No More."

Young broke into his new song calling on humanity to preserve the earth's natural resources, called "Who's gonna stand up?" Lukas and POTR are answering that call.

"We're here representing our generation for this cause," Lukas said before the show. "There are so many alternative fuel opportunities now. You have to fight against the 'big snake' no matter what," he said, referring to the name Native Americans gave the pipeline. "There needs to be a shift in the way people think."

Young led the band in a raucous rock 'n' roll set, as "Uncle Neil" and Lukas faced each other, swaying, trading guitar solos. Young peered at his apprentice from beneath the brim of his black cowboy hat.

"Keep going," he mouthed.

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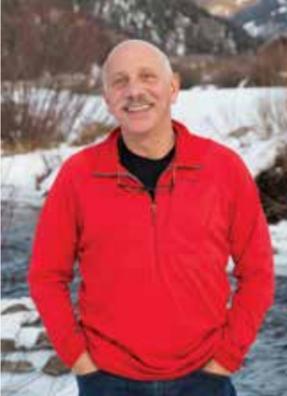

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IN THE
SPOTLIGHT

Building connection bird by bird

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY - Tucked up in the eaves and accessible only by ladder, artist Lorri Lagerbloom's home studio is a veritable birdhouse.

Mountain bluebirds, western tanagers, tree swallows, rufous hummingbirds, house finches, belted kingfishers, black-capped chickadees, ravens, and common redpolls inhabit canvases and panels around the room, enlivening the small, but light and airy workspace with the dashes of color, line and life that define them.

The thoughtfulness Lagerbloom put into designing her Ramshorn neighborhood home is mirrored and magnified by the deep consideration she pours into each individual work of art. Both convey the artist's admitted obsession with the color white—from her artfully minimalistic interior, like a blank canvas itself, to her attempt to capture the essence of her subject with the fewest marks.

Both home and art also speak to the importance of process for the artist in terms of cultivating connection with space and place.

Lagerbloom depicts birds that she has likely seen while immersed in her rivaling passion for gardening, or, in a gesture of summoning, wants to see. Lagerbloom is not yet entirely satisfied with the level of engagement

she feels with some of her new, smaller pieces that keep with this tradition but entail a more painterly process than the highly tactile encaustic, mixed media style that has defined her work thus far.

Examples of Lagerbloom's customary technique are laid out on her work table, in which a series of owls—a great-horned, snowy, great gray and burrowing—are beginning to sculpturally emerge from a whitewash of muslin, spackle and wax, to be accented with color only upon near completion.

"The process is very important to me," Lagerbloom said. "I'm drawn to making images, but I need to feel like I'm building something, more so than painting it."

The artist may still be sussing out the nuances of her relationship with her new

work, but these smaller pieces also involve a multi-layered process of heat-gun fused wax, etching, palette knife painting and buffing. The resulting works have an amber-like depth, and imagery that is both smudged and



Big Sky artist Lorri Lagerbloom takes a minimalistic approach to rendering birds native to Montana. Her encaustic, multi-media works can be found at Gallatin River Gallery in Big Sky Town Center. PHOTO BY CHRIS FERGUSON

sharp, impressionistic and exact, and finished with a dashed off quality that belies their laboriousness.

Our attraction to birds, whether for reasons as simple as their plumed beauty or for their more mystical connotations, is near universal, but also deeply personal for Lagerbloom.

The artist grew up on a 25-acre family compound in New York's Hudson River Valley, surrounded by nature and four generations of eccentric family members. Every summer and winter, Lagerbloom would spend a week with her grandparents—also nature lovers and artists—in New Hampshire.

With great sensory detail, Lagerbloom recounts how her grandfather—a talented wood carver, furniture builder and naturalist—would start a project with her in his shop, where the wood stove would be burning, classical music playing, and out the window, a stand of lofty white pines leading down to the pond. Meanwhile her "Moo Moo" (the Finnish nickname for grandma)—a painter, quilter, chef and baker—would have started a sewing project with Lagerbloom inside the house.

One of her most gilded memories from that time was the early morning ritual of walking the property with her grandfather to feed the ducks and geese on the pond, and filling the woodpecker and the songbird feeders. Later, in the early evening, she and her grandparents would sit together in lawn chairs and watch for winged visitors.

"When I moved here [seven years ago], I wanted to make artwork that would help me connect to this place more, to find a deeper sense of place here," Lagerbloom said. "But also connect me to the place I had come from, in the family sense. My artwork was my way to help that process move along. It's a nonlinear process but it has connected me in a way that I've been looking for—and even though I can't quite verbalize it, it feels like important work somehow."

Lorri Lagerbloom's artwork can be found at Gallatin River Gallery in Big Sky Town Center, where she is currently part of the annual group exhibition "Earth & Sky XVII" which closes on Saturday, Feb. 4. Her work can also be viewed online at tallgrasstudioarts.com and gallatinrivergallery.com.



Mountain Bluebird #3 (Male and Female), 2016, encaustic, mixed media on wood panel, are on display at Gallatin River Gallery in Big Sky. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GALLERY

EVENTS CALENDAR

PLANNING AN EVENT? LET US KNOW! EMAIL MEDIA@THEOUTLAWPARTNERS.COM, AND WE'LL SPREAD THE WORD.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20 – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

***If your event falls between February 3 and February 16, please submit it by January 27.**

Big Sky

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20
BSAFE Avalanche Course
Big Sky Resort, all day

Inebriation Inauguration
Lone Peak Cinema, all day

Kenny Diamond
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Tom Marino
Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Lauren Jackson
Carabiner, 4 p.m.

Rotary Club's 12th Annual Gold Auction & Dinner Buck's T-4, 6 p.m.

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 7 p.m.

The Neverland Collective
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7:30 p.m.

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Karaoke
Montana Jack, 10 p.m.

Metal and Punk Rock Show
Choppers, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21
BSAFE Avalanche Course
Big Sky Resort, all day

Milton Menasco
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

Film Screening: Poverty, INC
Lone Peak Cinema, 4:30 p.m.

Lone Mountain Trio
Chet's Bar & Grill, 4:30 & 9 p.m.

A Winter's Tale
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.

SNOBAR
Big Sky Mountain Village, 6 p.m.

Mike Harring
Carabiner, 8:30 p.m.

DJ M3DINV 3000
Montana Jack, 10 p.m.

SNOBAR After Party
Lone Peak Brewery, 10 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22
BSAFE Avalanche Course
Big Sky Resort, all day

Bridger Ski Foundation Slopestyle
Madison Base Area, all day

Stumpy
Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

Adult Drop-In Hockey
Town Center Park, 7 p.m.

A Winter's Tale
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 23
Big Sky Young Professionals Lunch & Learn
Financial Planning
Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, noon

Lauren & Jeff
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Mike Harring
Carabiner, 4 p.m.

Prime Rib Monday
320 Guest Ranch, 5 p.m.

Kids Hockey
Town Center Park, 5:30 p.m.

Adult Drop-In Hockey
Town Center Park, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24
Patrick McCann
Carabiner, 4 p.m.

Milton Menasco
Chet's Bar & Grill, 4:30 p.m.

Big Sky Community Forum
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25
Montana Roofing Association
Convention & Trade Show
Buck's T-4, all day

Kenny Diamond
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Mike Harring
Carabiner, 4 p.m.

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

Lauren & Jeff
Chet's Bar & Grill, 4:30 p.m.

Awareness Wednesday
Santosh, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26
Montana Roofing Association Convention & Trade Show
Buck's T-4, all day

Kent Johnson
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Kenny Diamond
Carabiner, 4 p.m.

Brian & Ben
Chet's Bar & Grill, 4:30 p.m.

Fly Tying with GRG
Gallatin River Guides, 5 p.m.

Kids Hockey
Town Center Park, 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27
Kenny Diamond
Carabiner, 3:30 p.m.

Live Apres Music with Julia
Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Lauren Jackson
Carabiner, 4 p.m.

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 7 p.m.

Milton Menasco
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real Montana Jack, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28
Milton Menasco
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Mike Harring
Carabiner, 4 p.m.

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

Lone Mountain Trio
Chet's Bar & Grill, 4:30 & 9 p.m.

A Winter Ball for Nepal Service Trip Buck's T-4, 5 p.m. Tickets Required

TEDxBigSky
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center,
5:30 p.m.

DJ M3DINV 3000
Montana Jack, 10 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29
Stumpy
Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

Adult Drop-In Hockey
Town Center Park, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 30
Lauren & Jeff
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Mike Harring
Carabiner, 4 p.m.

Prime Rib Monday
320 Guest Ranch, 5 p.m.

Kids Hockey
Town Center Park, 5:30 p.m.

Adult Drop-In Hockey
Town Center Park, 7 p.m.

The Neuroscience Behind a Good Night's Sleep
Big Sky Resort: Talus Room, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31
Patrick McCann
Carabiner, 4 p.m.

Milton Menasco
Chet's Bar & Grill, 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1
Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2
Fly Tying with GRG
Gallatin River Guides, 5 p.m.

Jack Creek Preserve Winter Lecture Series
Lone Mountain Ranch, 5:30 p.m.

Kids Hockey
Town Center Park, 5:30 p.m.

MAP Tasting
Scissorbills Saloon, 9:30 p.m.

Bozeman

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20
Banff Mountain Film Festival
Willson Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Jazz Night
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Useful Jenkins
The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21
Bozeman Winter Farmers' Market
Emerson Ballroom, 9 a.m.

Community Dual GS Series
Bridger Bowl, 11 a.m.

MSU Women's Basketball vs. Portland State
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 2 p.m.

Banff Mountain Film Festival
Willson Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Brianna Moore
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Wylie and the Wild West
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Soulacybin
The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

Standing Rock Benefit Show
Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22
Community Dual GS Series
Bridger Bowl, 11 a.m.

Resposado and the Tearjerkers
Lockhorn Cider House, 4 p.m.

Vivaldi's Four Seasons
Hope Lutheran Church, 4 p.m.

Edis Kitrell
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Bridger Mountain Big Band
Eagles Lodge, 7 p.m.

Analog Son
The Filling Station, 7 p.m.

Kenny Diamond
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 23
Drop-In Improv: Grades 6-12
Verge Theater, 4 p.m.

BYEP's Wax Future
MAP Brewing, 4 p.m.

Midtown Mondays with BAHA
Midtown Tavern, 5 p.m.

Weston Lewis
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24
Tours for Tots
Museum of the Rockies, 10 a.m.

Heather Lingle
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Game Night
Townshend's Bozeman Teahouse, 7 p.m.

Left on Tenth
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25
Business Lunch Seminar
Bozeman Chamber of Commerce, 11:30 a.m.

Tours for Tots
Museum of the Rockies, 2 p.m.

Interchange Symposium
Blunderbuss, 6:30 p.m.

Bozeman's Original Pub Trivia
Pub 317, 7 p.m.

Bozeman Improverts
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Den Himmlischen Freuden: Heavenly Joys
Reynold's Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Before the Flood
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26
Tours for Tots
Museum of the Rockies, 10 a.m.

Lindley Chase
Lindley Center, 4:45 p.m.

Winter Staycation: Introduction
to the Great Barrier Reef
Belgrade Community Library, 5:30 p.m.

Health & Wellness Fair Health in Motion, 5:30 p.m.

Standing Rock and The Sacred Stone Camp
Old Main Gallery, 5:30 p.m.

The Vibe Quartet
406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

Greater Gallatin Watershed Council's
Annual Meeting
Baxter Hotel, 6:30 p.m.

MSU Men's Basketball vs. Idaho
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7 p.m.

Bozeman Doc Series: Notes on Blindness
The Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, 7 p.m.

Barefoot Band & The Oshima Brothers
The Story Mansion, 7 p.m.

Mathias
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7p.m.

Brad Parsons Band
The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

**Celebration of the Arts 2017
The Emerson Center for the Arts &
Culture, 6 p.m.**

2017 Winter Grateful Dead Celebration
Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 7 p.m.

Jazz Night
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

East of the Sun, West of the Moon
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Annie The Musical
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 8 p.m.

6th Annual All Original Comedy Revue
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28
David Maslanka Clinic
Willson Auditorium, 1 p.m.

Winter's Bounty: A Farm to Table Feast
The 1915 Barn, 6 p.m.

Bozeman Icedogs vs. Great Falls Americans
Haynes Pavilion, 7:30 p.m.

East of the Sun, West of the Moon
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

6th Annual All Original Comedy Revue
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29
Skin to Win Randonnee Rally
Bridger Bowl, 9 a.m.

East of the Sun, West of the Moon
The Ellen Theatre, 3 p.m.

Dave Lansverk
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Bridger Mountain Big Band
Eagles Lodge, 7 p.m.

Acony Belles
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 30
Midtown Mondays with BAHA
Midtown Tavern, 5 p.m.

Energy Medicine 101
Willson School, 6:30 p.m.

Johnathan Bashoum
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31
Thomas Kirwan
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Energy Medicine 101
Willson School, 6:30 p.m.

Zach Deputy
The Filling Station, 7 p.m.

Adam Paccione
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1
1 Million Cups
Red Tractor Pizza, 7:30 p.m.

Gallatin History Museum Lecture Series
Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Bozeman's Original Pub Trivia
Pub 317, 7 p.m.

Barefoot in the Park
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Montana Chamber Music Society
Reynold's Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2
Grant Writing Boot Camp
Country Inn & Suites, 9 a.m.

The Vibe Quartet
406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

Going Global: Intercultural Skills for
Work and Play
MSU Bozeman, 6:30 p.m.

The Magic Beans with Cycles
The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

RECURRING EVENTS:
Pints with Purpose
Bridger Brewing, Mondays at 5 p.m.

Burgers & Bingo
Eagles Lodge, Friday Nights at 5:30 p.m.

Open Mic Night
The Haufbrau, Sundays, Mondays, and
Wednesdays at 10:30 p.m.

Karaoke
American Legion, Mondays at 9 p.m.

Cribbage Night
Eagles Lodge, Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Karaoke
Bar IX, Tuesdays at 9 p.m.

Music & Mussels
Bridger Brewing, Wednesdays at 5 p.m.

Pickin' in the Parks
The Story Mansion, Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Bluegrass Thursdays with The Bridger Creek Boys
Red Tractor Pizza, Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Karaoke
Eagles Lodge, Thursdays at 8:30 p.m.

Yoga for All
Bozeman Public Library, Tuesdays at 11 a.m and
12 p.m.

Walk for the Health of It
Peets Hill, Fridays at noon

Livingston & Paradise Valley

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20
Virginia Warner
Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar, 7 p.m.

Creek & River Writers Night: Marc Beaudin
Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

The Memphis Strange
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

The Wench
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21
Women's Weekend Creative Retreat
Chico Hot Springs, 9 a.m.

Dave Landsverk
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

The Sweet Lillies
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

The Wench
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22
Women's Weekend Creative Retreat
Chico Hot Springs, 9 a.m.

Jay's Lounge
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 23
Shelly Besler & Tony Polecastro
The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

Bluegrass Jam
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24
Open Auditions for EVITA
Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25
Creek & River Writers Night: Scott McMillion
Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

Many Cultures of Montana: Chinese in Montana
Livingston Park County Public Library, 6 p.m.

Hazel Hue
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27
Bob Britten
Uncorked Wine & Cheese Bar, 7 p.m.

Creek & River Writers Night: Marc Beaudin
Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

Brad Parsons Band
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Laney Lou and The Bird Dogs
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28
The 3rd Annual PPI Seed Extravaganza
Livingston Food Resource Center, 1 p.m.

Dan Henry
Neptune's Brewery, 5 p.m.

Shaun Ray
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Way Station
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Laney Lou and The Bird Dogs
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29
Jay's Lounge
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 30
Peter King
The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

Bluegrass Jam
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Sip & Create:
Vision Board Workshop with Bev Dawson
Livingston Center for Art & Culture, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2
Chad Okrusch
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

West Yellowstone

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20
Bingo Night
Branch Restaurant, 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 23
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26
Ride Rasmussen Style: Couples Clinic
West Yellowstone, 8 a.m.

Knit Night
Stagecoach Inn, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27
Bingo Night
Branch Restaurant, 6:30 p.m.

The Late Bloomers
The Buffalo Bar, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 30
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2
Knit Night
Stagecoach Inn, 6 p.m.

Ennis

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20
Live Music
Willie's Distillery, 5:30 p.m.

Coyote Gypsies
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21
Lost Gold Mines of Madison County
First Madison Valley Bank, 4 p.m.

Kalyn Beasley
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22
Weston Lewis
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 23
Ennis Range School
Madison Valley Baptist Church, 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25
Madison Watershed Planning Meeting
Ennis School, 6 p.m.

Concealed Carry Weapons Permit Class
Braggin' Rights Guns, 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27
Live Music
Willie's Distillery, 5:30 p.m.

Concealed Carry Weapons Permit Class
Braggin' Rights Guns, 6:30 p.m.

Cole Thorne
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28
Neil Filo Beddow
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29
The Sweet Lillies
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Winter's Bounty: A Farm to Table Feast

Gallatin Valley Farm to School is hosting a fundraising event, Winter's Bounty: a Farm to Table Feast, to be held at the 1915 Barn on January 28, 2017. Enjoy a festive meal highlighting the seasonal bounty of local farms and ranches, artfully prepared by Chef Justin Koller of Blue Smoke BBQ. The evening will include live music and a silent auction. Proceeds will benefit Gallatin Valley Farm to School's effort to teach kids about where food comes from and the importance of local agriculture.

Sierra Club Gallery Show and Sale

February 2, 2017 / 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Sundog Fine Art Gallery, Bozeman

RSVP by Jan.23 / Invitation only
Contact: karina.murillo@sierraclub.org

50% of proceeds will be donated to
the Sierra Club's Grizzly Recovery
Campaign

Big Sky Big Grass announces star lineup

BIG SKY RESORT

Find out why music sounds better in the mountains at the 11th annual Big Sky Big Grass festival Feb. 9-12 at Big Sky Resort. The 2017 music lineup includes headline acts such as Grammy Award winner Sam Bush, the Travelin' McCourys, Billy Strings, the Drew Emmitt Band, and many more.

The four-day festival will include a mix of small-stage and large-venue shows at the Montana Jack, Chet's Lounge, the Carabiner and the Missouri Ballroom, with the majority of shows on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Mandolin-extraordinaire Bush is often credited as the father of "newgrass," a bluegrass style that uses electronic versions of common bluegrass instruments. In June of this year, Bush released his most recent album, "Storyman," his first solo studio project since 2009. Liveforlivemusic.com says Bush's new album "gives fans a reason to get excited."

Billy Strings brings two genres together often thought impossible: punk and bluegrass. Take his popular song, "Dust in a Baggie," a cleverly written mountain song about a destructive substance that he translates into bluegrass vernacular.

Revered as one of the most energetic and innovative mandolin players on the jam band/newgrass scene today, Drew Emmitt's talents don't end with the instruments that he picks. His storytelling and versatile vocal abilities are incomparable.

Sierra Hull has been recognized as a virtuoso mandolin player from age 11, astonishing audiences and fellow musicians alike. Now a seasoned tour-



Leftover Salmon jamming at Big Sky Resort during the 2015 Big Sky Big Grass festival. PHOTO BY WES OVERVOLD

ing musician nearing her mid-20s, Hull has delivered her most inspired, accomplished and mature record of work to date.

The Travelin' McCourys can't stand still. They are on the road entertaining audiences with live shows that include some of the best musicians and singers from all genres.

The Colorado-based Jeff Austin Band has played the stages of the Fillmore Auditorium in San Francisco and Red Rocks Amphitheater in Colorado. But with the launch of his solo career in 2014, Austin is now building on the foundation of previous ventures while honing his own sound.

If banjo toe-tapping and swing dancing is your idea of a good time, then kick up your heels at Big Sky Big Grass.

Tickets are on sale at bigskyresort.com/biggrass.

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Standing Rock and the Sacred Stone Camp Presentation at Old Main Gallery and Framing

OLD MAIN GALLERY AND FRAMING

On Thursday, Jan. 26 at 6 p.m., speakers Dustin Monroe (Assiniboine, Blackfeet) and Luella Brien (Apsáalooke) will discuss the recent and on-going events at Standing Rock and the Sacred Stone Camp at Bozeman's Old Main Gallery and Framing. Monroe will share his perspective as a Native American combat veteran, and Brien will speak on the role of women activating social change.

The talk is in conjunction with the featured exhibit, "Voices from the Plains: John Isaiah Pepion and Ben Pease." Twenty percent of art sales from the featured exhibition on the day of the event will be donated to an organization on the Standing Rock Reservation.

As a member of the Assiniboine Tribe of Fort Belknap and Blackfeet Tribe of Montana, Monroe has worked for national nonprofits such as the Wounded Warrior Project and grassroots projects such as the Chief Mountain Coalition. He is the founder and CEO of Native Generational Change, a grassroots organization that is working to change intergenerational mobility for all Native Americans in all communities in Montana.

The call to action and family connection led Monroe to Standing Rock last June. Since then, Monroe has made numerous trips back in support of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and their fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Brien, a member of the Crow Nation, is a 2006 graduate of the University of Montana School of Journalism. She has worked as a reporter for several publications, including the Seattle Times, Indian Country Today and Native Peoples magazine, as well as the Great Falls Tribune, the Missoulian and the Billings Gazette. Brien taught communication arts at Little Big Horn College and currently works as the Community Outreach Coordinator for St. Labre Indian Schools.

A light reception will precede the presentation beginning at 5:30 p.m. Old Main Gallery and Framing is located at 129 E. Main Street in Bozeman. Call (406) 587-8860 or email galleries@oldmaingallery.com for additional information.

Bozeman Symphony presents musical montage 'Signs of Life'

BOZEMAN SYMPHONY SOCIETY

The Bozeman Symphony presents performances of "Signs of Life" at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 4 and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 5 at the Willson Auditorium in downtown Bozeman.

Featuring the intimacy and richness of the chamber orchestra and a program of diverse musical gems, both performances will begin with composer Russell Peck's playful work for strings, "Signs of Life II"—guaranteed to awaken your senses with an exuberant frolic.

No one could write for woodwinds better than Mozart; and next, the superb wind section of the BSO will warm your heart with his most cherished serenade in E flat major.

After a brief interlude from Gluck's "Orfeo ed Euridice," the chamber orchestra will conclude with a work that was originally written to help solve a labor dispute with a little creativity and some visual effects, Haydn's famous "Farewell Symphony."

Join Maestro Matthew Savery and the chamber orchestra musicians for a catered reception immediately following each performance, Saturday at Fresco Café; and Sunday at the Legacy Gallery.

Call (406) 585-9774 or email info@bozemansymphony.org for more information.



Lynx // *Felis lynx canadensis*

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In 2000, the US Fish and Wildlife Service listed the lynx as "threatened" in the lower 48 states

Lynx are one of the rarest species seen in Yellowstone, with only 112 known observations

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Arts Council presents folk artist Kaia Kater at WMPAC

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

The Arts Council of Big Sky is pleased to present Canadian folk artist Kaia Kater—the first of two ACBS concerts at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center this winter—at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 4.

A counterpart to its Music in the Mountains summer concert series, the winter series will focus on high-quality, critically acclaimed acoustic artists in an intimate, theater-style setting.

Born of African-Caribbean descent in Québec, Kater grew up between two worlds:

one informed by her family's deep ties to Canadian folk music in her Toronto home; the other by the years she spent studying Appalachian music in West Virginia.

Her acclaimed 2015 debut album "Sorrow Bound" touched on this divide, but her new album, "Nine Pin," released in May 2016, delves even further, casting an unflinching eye at the realities faced by people of color in North America every day. The songs on "Nine Pin" are fueled by Kater's rich, low tenor vocals, jazz-influenced instrumentation, and beautifully understated banjo—and have as much in common with Kendrick Lamar right now as they do with Pete Seeger.

Heavy Rotation, a National Public Radio program, included Kater's song "Paradise Fell" on their "best music of 2016" list, and Rolling Stone named Kater as one of 10 country artists to watch in 2016. In December, "Nine Pin" won the "pushing the boundary" category at the Canadian Folk Music Awards.

The second Arts Council concert is the annual International Guitar Night on Sunday, Feb. 26. This year, gypsy jazz legend Lulo Reinhardt will be stepping in as guest host for International Guitar Night's 17th year of touring.

Reinhardt will be joined by three new, dynamic musicians: Italy's innovative contemporary guitarist Luca Stricagnoli; brilliant young Brazilian composer-performer Chrystian Dozza, and India's ground-breaking slide guitarist Debashish Bhattacharya.

In a tried-and-true format, the four guitarists will each perform a concise solo, then return to the stage in various configurations during the second set, culminating in a four-guitar finale.

"We're excited to be bringing more offerings to Big Sky this winter," said Brian Hurlbut, ACBS executive director. "We feel our concerts compliment what is already being offered at the theater, and give music lovers more options to discover new artists."

Tickets for both performances are now on sale at warrenmillerpac.org. For more information call (406) 995-2742 or visit bigskyarts.org.



Award-winning Canadian folk artist Kaia Kater will perform at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on Saturday, Feb. 4. Kater's album 'Nine Pin' has been garnering critical praise since its May 2016 release. PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY



PRESENTS:



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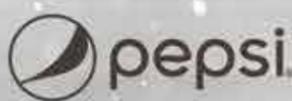
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CHANMAN ROOTS BAND

3/19 • SUNDAY
FREE • TETON VILLAGE



Celebrate the arts and support the Emerson on Jan. 27

EMERSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS AND CULTURE

The Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture's annual Celebration of the Arts Exhibit is on display in the Jessie Wilbur Gallery and will culminate in the Emerson's largest fundraising event on Friday, Jan. 27 from 6-10 p.m. Enjoy the warmth of Tuscany and an evening filled with entertainment, quick draw artists, fine dining, Italian wine, and live and silent auctions.

Step inside the Jessie Wilbur Gallery to experience the artistic vitality of southwest Montana and appreciate the deep level of commitment to the Emerson reflected in the skill and creativity of the center's exhibitors.

From oils to watercolors, and ceramics to metalwork, the Celebration of the Arts Exhibit is a juried collection of original art donated by local and regional artists and auctioned off in support of the Emerson's exhibits, education and restoration programs. The exhibit closes on Jan. 31.

The Emerson Center for Arts and Culture has been an important community institution in Bozeman since its formation in 1992. Originally built as a school in 1916, the large facility is home to scores of artists, galleries, fine dining, small businesses, event spaces, and the Crawford Theatre.

The pieces included in the Celebration of the Arts Exhibit are available for viewing online at theemerson.org. To reserve tickets for the fundraising event call (406) 587-9797, ext. 105.

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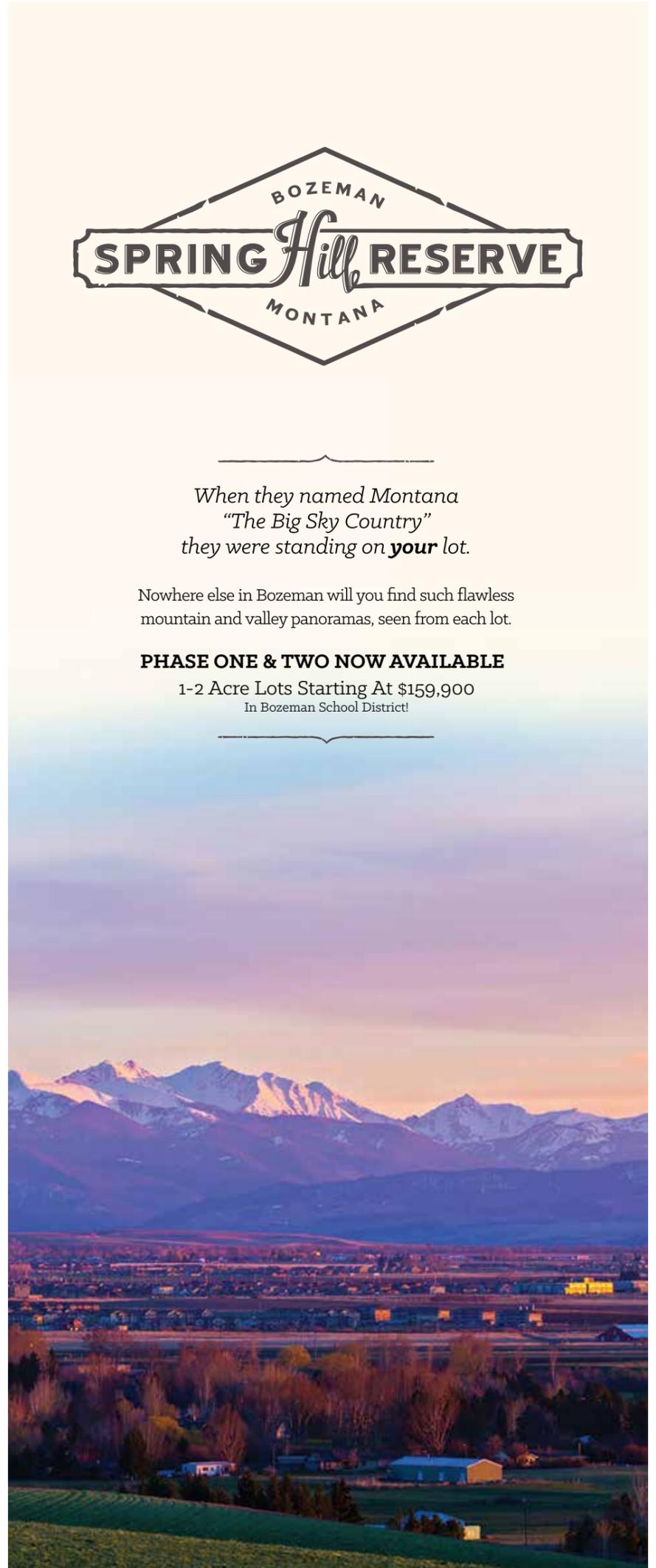


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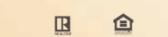
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3	4.32	\$265,000	61,343	59	1.39	\$175,900	126,583
4	1.33	Sold		60	1.9	Sold	126,583
5	1.05	\$175,900	167,524	61	1.9	Sold	126,583
6	1.81	Sold		62	1.49	Sold	104,900
7	1.59	\$189,900	119,434	63	1.41	\$209,900	149,575
8	1.6	Sold		64	1.27	Sold	104,900
9	1.87	Sold		65	2.22	Sold	189,900
10	1.12	\$189,900	169,554	66	2.11	Sold	175,900
11	1.73	\$164,900	95,318	67	2.17	\$299,900	138,198
12	1.69	Sold		68	1.89	Sold	129,900
13	1.71	\$169,900	99,357	69	1.69	Sold	129,900
14	1.84	\$189,900	103,207	70	2.13	Sold	189,900
15	1.01	\$169,900	168,218	71	1.53	Sold	104,900
16	1.5	\$169,900	113,267	72	1.3	Sold	99,900
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Cowboy's Quill

The American West has produced some of the most thoughtful and moving literature in U.S. history. Read on and enjoy the Cowboy's Quill: insight into the best writers, books and poetry this side of the Mississippi.

'Montana: Warts and All'

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

Scott McMillion, editor in chief of Montana Quarterly magazine, has for many years described the editorial philosophy of his publication as "Montana: warts and all." That motto is now the name of a book that collects some of the best pieces from their first decade.

As the title suggests, this is not a book that profiles trophy mansions, recommends high-end resorts and expensive restaurants, or romanticizes living in the Treasure State. It is a book written by Montanans, about Montanans, for Montanans.

McMillion writes in the introduction: "That's what we try to do ... Rise above the fray to gain some perspective, then zero in for a good look around a small town, a cool bar, an overlooked piece of history, or somebody who's trying to make the world a little better. Then we tell the story."

The book is divided into eight sections. The first section "Living Wild" includes an unforgettable story by Tim Cahill about his death (and resurrection) in the Grand Canyon along with other less-fatal adventure stories. "Living Local" examines hardscrabble towns from the dusty corners of the state and reveals how their residents manage to live and make a living in these far-flung locales.

"Living History" and "First Montanans" are filled with historical nonfiction that reads like fiction. Ted Brewer's article on a group of renegade cops in 1960s Butte is more thrilling than most crime novels. "Truth Tellers" takes a close look at painters, sculptors, musicians, and writers who use their artistic medium to make a positive social impact. Bill Kittredge's piece cements Bud Guthrie's classic "The Big Sky" as one of the greatest novels ever written about the last, best place.

"Eating and Drinking" brings the culture of some Montana's most unique establishments to the forefront: saloons, bars, and distilleries whose history illuminates the uniqueness and difficulty of trying to make a buck from our state's hard ground.

Perhaps the best section of the book is the last: "Fiction." Craig Lancaster's "Cruelty to Animals" is guaranteed to make you laugh and Pete Fromm's "Orphan" is close to being a perfect short story.

Montana Quarterly is not a lifestyle magazine; our state already has plenty of those. It is a publication that takes a sober look at real life in Montana. Sure, there are criminals, miscreants, poverty, and tragic events in any state. There are "warts" to be sure but this book leaves you thinking more about the "and all": the kind of people who get up every morning and go to work but wouldn't mind being late if they had to pull someone out of a ditch.

The in-depth investigative journalism from this collection is a much-needed antidote to often superficial, tourist-oriented, whitewashed accounts of Montana. We are lucky so many talented contributors have told authentic stories—the ones you won't find in a travel brochure. I think it is safe to say that Montana Quarterly will continue to be one of the Pacific Northwest's premier publications for another decade and beyond.

Doug Hare is the Distribution Coordinator for Outlaw Partners. He studied philosophy and American literature at Princeton and Harvard universities.



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