









Feb. 17 – March 2, 2017 Volume 8, Issue No. 4

Owned and published in Big Sky, Montana

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#### ON THE COVER:

Lone Mountain Ranch cowboy Tom McCombs and a Belgian draft horse named Pearl walk off into the snowy expanses of Lone Mountain Ranch. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY

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## An exclusive interview with Montana's U.S. Senators

Big Horn basketball stampeding into postseason





57 International Guitar
Night returns to WMPAC





An otter family poses on the Gallatin River near House Rock on a cold December morning. As usual, mom looks mad and the kids won't look at the camera! PHOTO BY PAUL HOLDORF/SINGING SKY PHOTOGRAPHY

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## Storms pass south again in January, resulting in decreased Montana snowpack

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Hit or miss may be the best way to describe this winter in terms of precipitation. October and November brought well above average precipitation across Montana, while November and January were well below average with regards to mountain and valley precipitation.

Two storm systems brought the bulk of the snowfall in January, and did increase the snowpack, but not enough snow fell during these events to keep the basin snowpack percentages from falling, according to snow survey data collected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Significant moisture stayed just south of most of the state again in January, but did drop snow on the southern ranges that feed Montana's rivers. While January wasn't wet, it certainly was cold. Daily average temperatures through the month were well below average across the state, and temperatures plummeted below zero for extended periods at the beginning and middle parts of the month.

Northern river basins received 35-65 percent of average precipitation at mountain SNOTEL locations for the month, while southern basins received 80-131 percent.

Most river basins were well below normal as of Feb. 1, except the Upper Yellowstone, which remained slightly above normal. Compared to last year, most basins had snowpack totals for Feb. 1 that were lower than last year at this time.

## Montana NorthWestern Energy customers using record electricity, natural gas this winter

NORTHWESTERN ENERGY

Montana has had its fair share of winter weather this season and it's reflected in customer bills.

Through January, the winter season in NorthWestern Energy's service territory has been colder than normal—16 percent colder in December and 26 percent colder than normal in January. This is a wide departure from this time last year when the weather started out average and then turned warmer than average in February.

NorthWestern Energy set a record for natural gas outflows in December 2016 from its storage fields located at the northern and southern points on the system, and set an overall record for on-system deliveries to customers. That system record was subsequently broken the following month in January with a new record of 6.7 billion cubic feet of delivered natural gas. Its electric system hit a new peak load of 1808 megawatts in mid-December.

This demand is showing up in customer bills as usage increased significantly due to the prolonged and persistent deep cold. Customers are encouraged to look closely at the comparisons provided on their bill that displays usage patterns for the current billing period compared to the previous billing period and the same time last year. The corresponding average daily temperatures over the periods are provided to highlight the correlation between usage and weather.

Customers are also encouraged to call NorthWestern Energy immediately if they are worried about their ability to pay high winter bills.

### Feb. 4 fire severely damages home

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Fire Department responded to a fire at an unoccupied residence the evening of Feb. 4. The house, which is located to the west of Firelight Meadows at 230 Running Dog Road, is listed for sale.

According to BSFD Chief William Farhat, firefighters arrived to heavy fire burning under the deck at the back end of the house.

"Crews had to maneuver through heavy snow to get to the back side of the house, but were able to stop the fire from extending farther into the home," Farhat said, adding that the blaze had already caused windows on the structure to break and was starting to consume the inside of the house when the department arrived.

The deck and hot tub area of the residence was significantly burned and the lower level of the house sustained smoke and water damage.

"Right now the guys are assisting the owner by boarding it up for him because you can't find anyone to board it up on Superbowl Sunday," Farhat said Feb. 5.

The Yellowstone Club Fire Department and Gallatin County Sheriff's Office also assisted in the response. Farhat said the fire department's investigation indicates that a mechanical malfunction in the hot tub started the fire."

## Big Sky snowboarder makes splash on world stage

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – Lone Peak High School junior Holden Samuels traveled from his home in the small resort community of Big Sky to a tiny nation nestled in the Pyrenees Mountains to take seventh in a Freeride World Tour event Feb. 4.

The 17-year-old snowboarder qualified for the competition in the Principality of Andorra by winning the point total last winter on the International Freeskiers Association's junior tour and the IFSA's culminating event at Whistler, British Columbia in April. Either victory would have punched his ticket to the Grandvalira resort, in the country located between the France and Spain borders.

This was Samuels' first time snowboarding, let alone competing, in Europe and the conditions weren't ideal, he said.

"The snow conditions were pretty variable, and it had been pretty windy before the event," Samuels said. "The snow piled up in some spots, but was scoured and icy in other spots." The competition was scheduled for the morning, but pushed to the afternoon due to fog.

Visibility was poor and Samuels said the light was so flat that he couldn't make out any definition in the snow. "[They were] not optimal conditions." However, the circumstances at the event didn't dampen his experience across the Atlantic.

"It was an amazing trip. It's great that snowboarding has taken me all these places," Samuels said. "I had never been to Europe before ... it was a really cool experience."

Samuels, who is sponsored by Never Summer Snowboards, will compete on the IFSA junior tour at Red Lodge, Montana Feb. 27-28, followed by events at Crystal Mountain in Washington, the Big Sky Resort Headwaters Runoff and then at Grand Targhee Resort.

# **Op-ed:** Why Big Sky needs to incorporate now, and not across two counties

BY STEVE JOHNSON

Over the course of its 40-plus year history, Big Sky has tried just about every conceivable alternative to forming a municipality, so perhaps it's time to give incorporation a chance.

Among the political initiatives currently being promoted here are a tax increment financing (TIF) district, and a resort tax increase, both of which may raise some useful funding. But neither would address the fundamental need to have the right form of government to competently manage that funding, with clear accountability to local voters. The municipality toolbox in our state constitution would be a great place to reach into for both reasons.

Incorporating across both counties is raised as a necessity to be able to tap into the golden goose tax base that exists largely in Madison County. Here's why that may not be such a good idea:

- Incorporating across multiple counties is not provided for in Montana's constitution. Doing so would require legislation, and the resultant delay. Meanwhile, the current challenges of Big Sky continue, and grow.
- Incorporation as a local government concept is intended to serve a concentration of residents, and there simply is no such concentration in Madison County. Current state law regarding the formation of a local government also requires a density of 200 inhabitants per square mile, a requirement that was already reduced from 500 residents in an earlier legislative session (see Montana Code Annotated 7-2-4101).
- If a municipality in Big Sky taxed property owners in Madison County, it would be obligated to serve those property owners. We need to manage our community, not manage resorts.
- Montana state law requires every city and town in the state to put its head on the block every 10 years in the form of a constitutionally mandated "government review" (Montana State Constitution, Article XI, Section 9). As a result, a new municipality in Big Sky would have a 10-year window to demonstrate its value to its voters. We would be wise to not bite off more than we can chew.
- Helena, our state capital, is spilling over into adjacent Broadwater County. As such, they have an emerging two-county problem, and are much better equipped to deal with it than we are. Let them figure this out—we have more pressing issues.

Our problems are here now, and we as local residents need to take action now to equip our community to deal with them. Let's get into the local government game, and begin asserting ourselves into the management of our community, using the same proven tools every other city and town have at their disposal.

Steve Johnson has been retired and living fulltime in Big Sky since 2001. He has served on the boards of Big Sky Community Organization, Big Sky Fire Department, the Parks District, and the Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Zoning Advisory Committee. He is also active with Warriors and Quiet Waters, based in Bozeman.

## Letter:

## Equal playing grounds

Seeking affordable housing solutions is a good idea. Raising taxes is the wrong way to pay for it.

The Big Sky Resort Area District tax already collects more than \$4.5 million dollars every year and collections are growing by 13 percent annually. The resort tax is already funding affordable housing solutions, with over \$1 million allocated to the Bough/HRDC project just this year. There is major funding already available for projects, and even more money available without increasing taxes.

It's neither necessary, nor fair, to ask the locals, guests, skiers, golfers, retail customers, and restaurant patrons of Big Sky to pay or collect 30 percent in additional tax. What is necessary is for all organizations, both private and public, to consistently apply Big Sky Resort Area District Ordinance section 9.4.b.

When the above ordinance is consistently and fairly applied, additional tax dollars will be available for community "needs" solutions, thus creating an equal playing ground for everyone.

Chris Lunt
Big Sky, Montana

## Letter:

## Support the 1 percent for housing initiative

I am one of the many Big Sky School District employees that commute every day from Bozeman. This is my fifth year of teaching technology education, athletic directing and coaching football at Lone Peak High School.

During the football season I'm required to work late, which results in me not being able to see my children when I get home, since they're already in bed, and usually are just waking up as I leave in the morning. Instead of a typical eight-hour workday, it's often 10-12 hours with driving time.

Driving the canyon every day with a wife and 2-year-old twins at home is tough for many reasons. First, it takes two hours each day from my precious family time. Second, the effects of driving that much are also felt on the wallet. Third, it's a dangerous drive and is often a white-knuckle experience in the winter, with serious accidents and deaths each year. Lastly, the commute also places extra stress on my marriage and family, as every daily burden and errand falls on the shoulders of my wife.

We've been looking to purchase a home in the Big Sky area for the past five years, but haven't been able to find anything affordable. Currently my wife is a stay-at-home mom and full-time student, so we're living on one income, which makes affording a home in Big Sky that much more difficult.

Many of my co-workers fall into the same category. I've seen several great teachers leave the district in the past few years, finding work closer to their homes in the Gallatin Valley. I believe that this is a serious issue for the community, and something has to be done to provide affordable housing to everyone who helps make Big Sky such a unique, wonderful community.

Matt Bakken
Bozeman, Montana

## Letter:

## Support the 'Penny for Housing' effort

Big Sky's remote location is part of its beauty and its charm, but it also poses a set of obstacles for the people that live here. Attainable housing is, perhaps, the biggest of those obstacles. I fully support the efforts underway to provide attainable housing, especially for the young people that want to make Big Sky their long-term home and for the working families that are such a vital part of this community's success.

I often hear people say that housing is the responsibility of the employers in the area, but that is a gross oversimplification of the issue. We are a community, not a collection of employers. To be a balanced and thriving community, we need a full spectrum of attainable housing.

Through my work with Big Sky Resort, Buck's T-4 Lodge, Morningstar Learning Center, the school district and Women In Action, I've seen first-hand how important attainable housing is to our teachers, police officers, health care providers, small business owners, local employees and families. It means improved work and school performance and that our local young people and families feel invested in this community. That means our businesses and our students flourish and our community prospers.

Attainable housing is not a problem for our community; it's an opportunity. We are lift operators and billionaires and everything in between. We all came to Big Sky for the same reason and this is the time for us all to come together to provide a balanced and bright future for our amazing community.

Jennifer O'Connor Big Sky, Montana



# How do you feel about the U.S. government instating more restrictive immigration policies?



J.T. Kitchings
Big Sky, Montana

"This country was built by immigrants who came here to get a better start than what they had. That's kind of why we all came to Big Sky, right?"



Melanie Wooldridge Ocean City, Maryland

"My whole thing is, everybody's welcome, but come in legally. Everybody else had to."



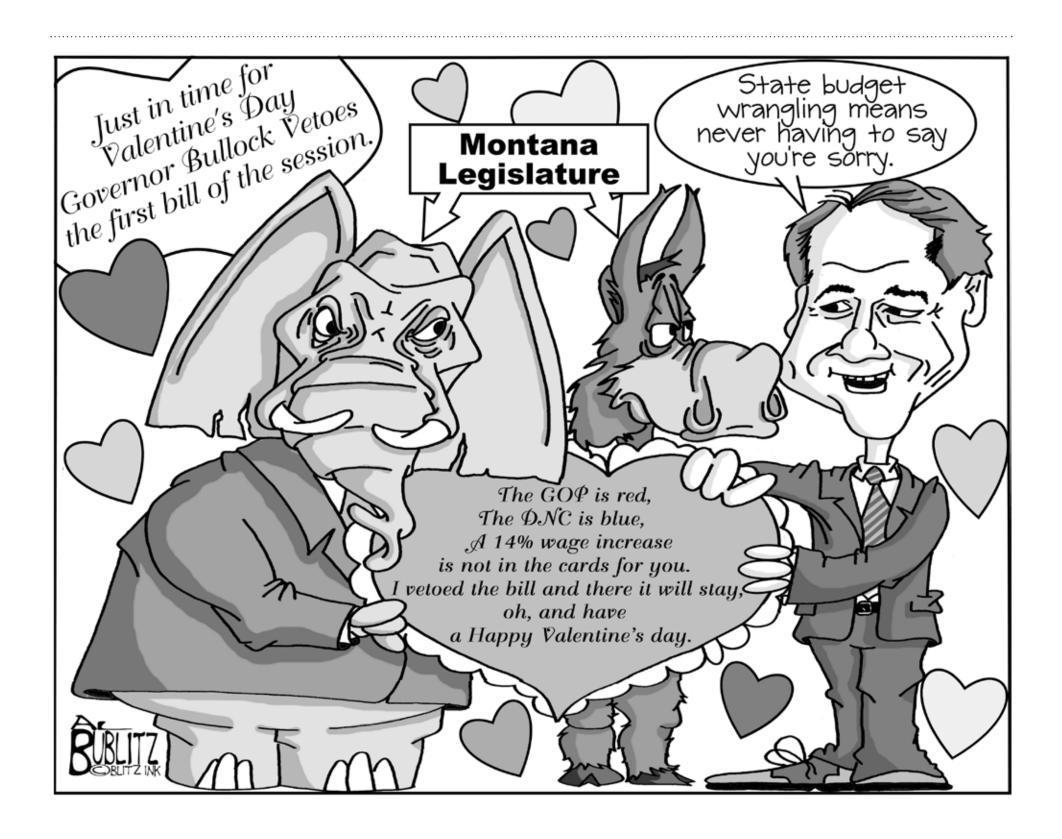
James Dekoek Wyckoff, New Jersey

"I don't like it at all. There are already tough restrictions. They might just need to be reformed, not made harsher."



**Yenny Chase** *Bozeman, Montana* 

"As an immigrant myself, born in Bogotá, Columbia, in the early '90s when it was a war-torn area, and adopted by a family in the states, my belief is in vetting. There are a lot of really good people trying to come over from countries that are war-torn and it's important to be understanding of that and have compassion for them."



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## \$45,000 in scholarships raised for LPHS graduating class Deadline for senior applications Feb. 24

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY - This year, the Big Sky community collectively donated a total of \$45,000 to the Friends of Big Sky Education to create 28 scholarships for the 17 seniors in the 2017 graduating class of Lone Peak High School. Donors included 100 individuals, eight businesses, four foundations and four organizations.

This figure marks a nearly 45 percent increase in funds raised from the previous year, indicating a steadily increasing investment in BSSD students that parallels the district's increasing enrollment and graduating class size, which is up from eight in 2016, and is projected at 23 for 2018.

"We're super excited because this [scholarship program] started from nothing four years ago," said Loren Bough, chair of the Big Sky School District Board and president of FOBSE. "Our community has generated a real sense of pride in the school and the outcome of our students. Now people can see we're the third highest test scorers in the state and [students are] getting accepted into the Air Force Academy, Ivy League [schools] and other prestigious colleges and universities throughout the country."

Bough hands the credit to BSSD board member Whitney Littman, and FOBSE members Jerry and Anne Marie Mistretta, who canvased the community to encourage donors. The Mistrettas started the scholarship initiative three years ago in honor of the memory of their late son.

"What we try to do is help people to understand why it's important to support students going to college and why it's important for their business or organization to support it. It's a very personal approach," said Ann Marie, who serves as vice president and secretary on the FOBSE board and was formerly Big Sky School District superintendent.

Individual donor Kristin Kearn created a scholarship in the name of her late uncle Chet Huntley, founder of Big Sky Resort, which reflects his passion for the environment and conservation. "To be able to have a personal impact and offer a student a scholarship, I didn't even know I could do that, so I decided to jump right in," Kearn said.

The 2017 scholarships range from \$500 to \$5,000, and students can be awarded more than one. Last year, one student garnered as much as \$6,700 in funding. If the right student match is not found for a particular scholarship, it will roll over to the following year.

"We are really grateful that the community of Big Sky shows so much support for our students as they embark on the next journey of their lives," said Big Sky School District Superintendent Dustin Shipman. "I am constantly amazed, not only at the level of student we have here, but also the immense contributions of the community."

FOBSE scholarships are for Lone Peak High School seniors only and the deadline to apply is Friday, Feb. 24. Scholarships will be awarded during graduation ceremony. For a complete breakdown of scholarships available, visit friendsofbigskyeducation.org.







#### 217 GOSHAWK TRAIL | \$4,225,000

Stunning ski-in/ski-out property situated in a pristine setting. Breathtaking views, groomed ski access and the elegant home create this masterpiece. This 6 bedroom, 6.5 bathroom home is ideal for entertaining guests with large open living spaces, three ensuite bedrooms, two guest bedrooms, and a bunk room. Extensive log and stone detail highlight the surrounding mountain environment. Spanish Peaks Mountain Club membership required. Golf membership included in sale. // JACKIE MILLER | 406.539.5003



THE HOMESTEAD CHALETS | \$1,750,000

Come experience Big Sky's newest ski-in/ski-out neighborhood! With spaciously designed interiors, oversized windows, and ample outdoor living spaces, these 5-6 bedroom, free standing condominiums combine a mix of contemporary and rustic design. Nestled at the base of Lone Mountain, these chalets provide close proximity to the base area of Big Sky Resort as well as unparalleled ski access to the White Otter chairlift. // MICHAEL THOMAS | 406.281.2400



ULERY'S LAKES LOT 7 | \$985,000

Located within the gated community of Ulery's Lakes of Moonlight Basin, this 20 acre home site maximizes privacy and views. Drive through majestic Lodge Pole Pines to an open meadow offering incredible views of Lone Mountain. Enjoy fishing across the street and hiking, snow-shoeing and cross-country skiing in your own back yard. A short drive will take you to the Moonlight Lodge, ski hill, golf course and Big Sky Ski Resort. // LYNN MILLIGAN | 406.581.2848



#### MOONLIGHT PENTHOUSE 3 | \$1,995,000

Enjoy unsurpassed location, views and luxury from this spacious penthouse in the Moonlight Lodge. With three bedroom suites plus a large sleeping loft, there is plenty of room for everyone! Large picture windows, vaulted ceilings, ski-in/ski-out access, a one car garage and elevator service are just a few of the wonderful features of this gorgeous residence. Moonlight Membership is required for use of fitness area, pool and spa. // SANDY REVISKY | 406.539.6316



60 CRAIL RANCH ROAD | \$1,145,000

Beautifully situated in the heart of the Big Sky Meadow Village, this immaculate condominium is a rare find! Tucked in the center of the development for maximum privacy, the residence features four bedrooms, four baths, den, two decks, balcony, lower level walk out to the stream and pond and a heated 2 car garage. Walking, biking and cross-country ski trails are all close by as well as all Meadow Village amenities. // MICHAEL THOMAS | 406.581.2400



#### **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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### YELLOWSTONE CLUB



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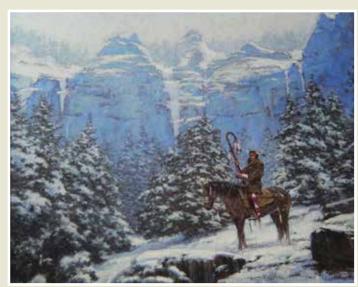
Lone Peak Physical Therapy has been treating sports injuries and chronic pain in Big Sky since 2001. Now, our new fitness facility is set to take you to the next level. Lone Peak Performance and Fitness is a full-service gym with personal trainers and dieticians dedicated to helping you reach your personal summit. Drop in and join us.

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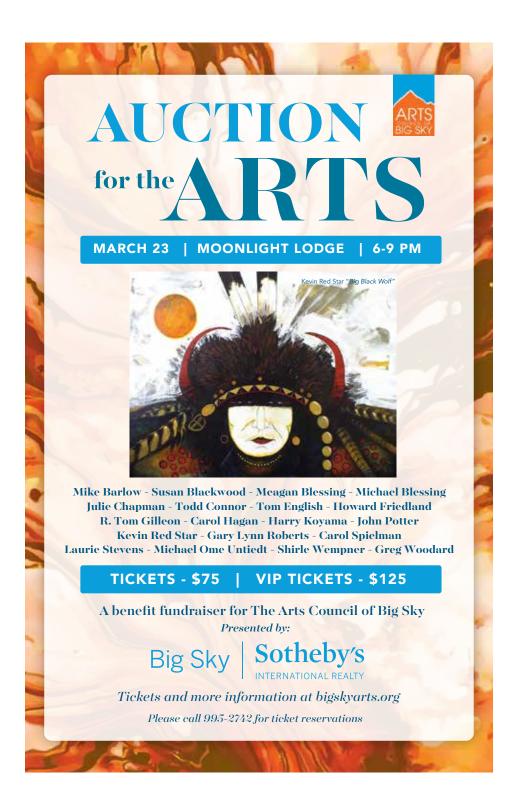
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## Inside the Big Sky

By Derek Lennon

## A winter survival kit for your car can save your life

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DEREK LENNON EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Winter lasts a long time in Big Sky Country and as the snow stacks up, Montana's roads can become hazardous. If you have an unexpected emergency, you're going to want to have a winter survival kit in your car.

In southwest Montana, there are long stretches of road that travel through remote mountains where you cannot rely on cell phone service. When the temps drop and the roads get slick, accidents can happen.

Whether you run off the road during a blizzard, break down on a snowy forest service road, run into a long term traffic jam in Gallatin Canyon, or blow a tire in the middle of the night while driving through Yellowstone National Park, you're far from help in remote and wild country. In the event of an emergency, you could be stuck for extended periods of time in cold and wintry weather conditions.

Every driver needs to be prepared for the unexpected and the best thing you can do is to make a winter survival kit for your car, which can help you survive in the event of an emergency. It's one of those things that you'll probably never need, but if you ever do, you'll thank your lucky stars that you made one and left it in your vehicle.

It's easy to make a winter survival kit for your car and here are the things that drivers should carry in their vehicles during the snowy season:

- Road flares/reflective triangles
- Headlamp with fresh batteries
- Gorilla Tape or duct tape
- Metal shovel
- An independent phone charger in case your car battery is dead
- Old cell phone that's fully charged
- Jumper cables
- Spare tire and jack to change a flat
- Paper maps, road atlas or gazetteer
- Multi-tool
- First aid kit
- Snow brush/scraper
- Cat litter/sand for added traction when you're stuck
- Empty fuel container in case you run out of gas
- Basic tool kit including pliers, wrenches, screwdrivers, and other vehicle-specific tools
- Tire pressure gauge
- Book to entertain you while you wait
- Snacks/food
- Extra medications (if necessary)
- Rags for cleaning up after an accident
- Trash bags for picking up trash after an accident, or for lying on to protect you from the ground
- Down jacket/hat/gloves and additional warm clothes
- Sleeping bag/blanket
- Extra water
- Lighter/matches
- Candle
- Tow straps, which are useful in case you need to get pulled out of a snow bank
- Cord/rope in case you need to tie anything down after a minor fender bender
- Tissues/napkins
- Extra fuses
- Extra windshield wiper fluid, oil and other necessary vehicle fluids
- Satellite messaging device (These can save your life by allowing you to send text messages from literally anywhere on the globe.)



A winter survival kit like this one can prevent a bad situation from becoming much worse.

Use this list as a starting point to build your own winter survival kit. Since emergencies are situational, you might need to get creative with the above items to get yourself out of a jam. Most of these things you can pick up in Big Sky at the local Ace Hardware store. Buy what you need and then pack them up in the back of your truck or in the trunk of your car. I hope you'll never need to use your winter survival kit, but if you do, you'll be glad you have it.

As Benjamin Franklin said, "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." Take the time to prepare so that you can survive an unexpected emergency that leaves you stranded for long periods of time. This simple winter survival kit has the potential to save your life.

If you're new to winter driving, be sure to invest in a trusty pair of snow tires that will help your vehicle stick to the road and consider taking a winter driving

Always prepare for those just-in-case moments and please stay safe on the roads of Big Sky Country this winter.

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/tips-for-safe-winter-driving/. Read more interesting content about the area on Visit Big Sky's blog at https://visitbigskymt.com/category/blog/.



This car skidded off Lone Mountain Trail in Big Sky during a heavy snowstorm.

## Tell me, Tallie

## Where is Big Sky, exactly?



BY TALLIE LANCEY

Where is Big Sky? Well, it depends on whom you ask. In the 1960s, it was merely a twinkle in Big Sky Resort founder Chet Huntley's eye. To Montanans, it's all around us.

The Montana Annotated Code describes Big Sky as a "resort area" in southwest Montana.

Local leadership characterizes Big Sky as an unincorporated censusdesignated place without municipal boundaries that straddles the Gallatin/Madison county line. It's sort of a mouthful!

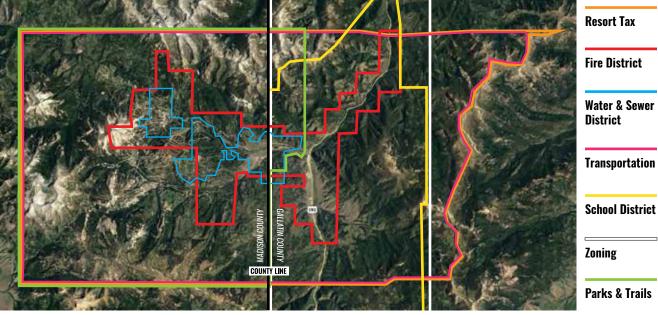
Delineating where Big Sky ends and the "real world" begins is nuanced, and storied. The community operates within seven distinct districts that deliver many of the services typically provided by a city.

In addition, there are more than 100 homeowners associations that keep Big Sky's wheels turning. We can compare the federal census's definition to the local real estate brokerages' maps showing where you can live the dream. Big Sky itself is like a dream, its edges are hazy and its storyline zigs and zags. The best way to answer the question at hand is to consult a map. Below is a guide illustrating the community's assortment of locations based on the seven district boundaries.

In the March 3 issue of EBS, I will list each district's board members, how their positions are determined, and a bit of history for good measure. In the future, I'll address mapping, an issue near and dear to the hearts of local realtors. The U.S. Postal Service has yet another definition of Big Sky's location: the zip code 59716. Stay tuned!

Tell me, Tallie, are you wondering why something is particularly unique to our community? You want to know and I'm eager to learn. This column commits to answering your burning questions about why Big Sky exists the way it does. Ask me at tallie@reallybigsky.com.

Tallie Lancey is a broker with Big Sky Sotheby's International Realty and spends her free time serving Big Sky on the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center board of directors and in other various ways.



## Gallatin River Lodge receives Trip Advisor award

**GALLATIN RIVER LODGE** 

Gallatin River Lodge, Bozeman's only boutique luxury hotel, restaurant, and fly-fishing outfitter, was awarded the Traveler's Choice, Top 25 Small Hotels in the United States for 2017 by Trip Advisor.

Traveler's Choice Awards are the highest honor Trip Advisor grants each year, as they include only the top 1 percent of all hotels. This award is based on reputation, reviews and opinions from millions of travelers.

"We feel fortunate to have a stunningly beautiful setting on the edge of Bozen, incredibly talented staff that go above and beyond with every guest, and amazing group of partners that provide us with the highest quality product possible," said lodge manager PJ Wirchansky. "All of this with Yellowstone in our backyard is really amazing—we love to share our home with each of our guests at the Lodge, and are ecstatic about the recognition."

Gallatin River Lodge is located on the west side of Bozeman, near the famed Gallatin River. The lodge has 12 rooms, including six suites in the main lodge, each with a Jacuzzi and fireplace, and six rooms in the new Trout Lodge, each with radiant floor heat, and tiled spa showers.

The lodge has a fine dining restaurant featuring farm-to-table cuisine, an extensive wine list, and a full bar. The menu features local product from Montana farmers, as well as fresh herbs and vegetables from the kitchen garden, just steps away from the restaurant. The patio dining room has floor to ceiling windows overlooking pastures, and surrounding mountains. Each year, the lodge hosts many special events, weddings and corporate gatherings.

For the outdoor enthusiast, there is fly fishing on-site in the lodge's stocked trout pond, as well as private access to the Gallatin River within walking distance. The lodge is also a licensed outfitter offering guided fly-fishing trips daily on area rivers and private lakes.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER LODGE

In the summer, there is nearby horseback riding, hiking, climbing, white water rafting, excursions to Yellowstone and kayaking. The winter months offer downhill and cross-country skiing, snowboarding, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, sleigh rides, dog sledding, and snowmobiling in the area.

To learn more about the Traveler's Choice Award, visit tripadvisor.com and click on Best of 2017, Small Hotels category. Visit grlodge.com for more information about Gallatin River Lodge.

## Farmers, ranchers may see fewer barriers to diversifying income

BY MICHAEL SIEBERT UM COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

HELENA – Montana farmers may soon face fewer regulations when it comes to diversifying their farm's income if three bills in the Montana Legislature find enough support.

One bill, House Bill 325, would legalize the direct sale of raw milk. Another, House Bill 352, would allow farmers to sell food from their own kitchens and a third bill would give them less liability when their farmland is used for tourism purposes.

"The farm economy has been up and down," said Rep. Ross Fitzgerald, R-Fairfield. "We need to put another spoke on the revenue wheel."

Fitzgerald is carrying House Bill 342, which passed second reading 79-21. The bill would add "agritourism" to a list of activities in which guests are liable for their risk. Agritourism encompasses a wide variety of recreation, including everything from corn mazes to pumpkin patches.

"I would like to remind you that again there's such a thing called personal responsibility, and that has a major part in this," Fitzgerald said.

But some lawmakers have reservations about just where personal responsibility begins and ends. Rep. Nate McConnell, D-Missoula, argued because agritourism encompasses so many different activities, it would be difficult to determine what reasonable risk looks like in each case. He said this would make the likelihood of lawsuits increase significantly.

"It's going to increase your insurance rates," McConnell said. "What's that going to do? It's going to make it harder for the farmer or the landowner to get insurance."

#### Raw milk

Other bills proved similarly contentious.

Rep. Nancy Ballance, R-Hamilton, introduced House Bill 325 the second week of February. The bill would allow farmers and ranchers to sell unpasteurized, or "raw" milk, exclusively from their farms and direct to consumers, and would allow for herds of up to 10 cows and 20 sheep or goats for production.

"This is the ultimate freedom bill," Ballance said. "What could be more natural and more healthy?"

HB 325 also requires raw milk producers to label their products indicating the product has not been inspected by the state, and that it is for personal use only.

Ballance said the inspiration for the bill partially came from seeing her mother overcook vegetables as a child, eliminating much of their nutritional value.

"When you apply that to milk it's exactly the same issue," Ballance said.

During the bill's first reading, the committee room was filled to capacity with both supporters and opponents. The bill attracted so many supporters that there wasn't enough time for many of them to testify. More than a dozen people also came prepared to testify against HB 325, largely because of what they say are health risks.

"It does not provide adequate disease, drug or antibiotic testing," said Krista Lee Evans, representing the Montana Milk Producers Association.

Evans' concerns stem from the lack of clarity provided by the bill for who performs those tests, as well as the fact that results would be self-reported. She said that creates a self-regulating industry.

"The tests are collected by the permittee, the lab is selected by the permittee, and most importantly there's no reporting requirement," Evans said. "There's no way to know."

Jeanne Rankin, a veterinarian based in Judith Basin County, also expressed concern about the spread of brucellosis due to many cows coexisting with elk, a risk of which she says is mitigated by the pasteurization process.

Ballance, however, said there are plenty of other foods that carry similar risks, and the pushback from health organizations is because "it just makes their life easier not to have to worry about it."

Echoing Fitzgerald's comments about agritourism, she said the issue comes down to personal responsibility.

"Your responsibility as a buyer is to know who you're buying from, look at the farm, see if it's clean, see if the conditions are right ... and know the person you're buying from," Ballance said. "It's a totally different buying experience than you would have if you were in the store."

#### **Food Choice**

Rep. Greg Hertz, R-Polson, wants to see farmers be able to sell more than just raw milk. House Bill 352 is Hertz's attempt to allow farmers to sell any food product from their homes.

"We've always bought and sold product, bartered with our neighbors," Hertz said. "The local sanitarians primarily seem to think that the kitchen in my house isn't as clean, or doesn't have the proper equipment that the restaurant down the street does."



Republican Rep. Nancy Ballance, R-Hamilton, listens to testimony against House Bill 325, which would create an exemption for raw milk producers Thursday, Feb. 9. The room was packed with supporters and opponents of the bill. PHOTO BY FREDDY MONARES/UM COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

Hertz's bill, called the Food Choice Act, would allow for the sale of home-made food products for home consumption. Producers of these products would not be susceptible to the regulations that traditional retailers or cottage food producers are.

The Food Choice Act would be an expansion of the deregulations put in place by last session's cottage food law changes. That law allows producers of low risk items like jam or baked goods to sell food they produced in their kitchens.

HB 352 would allow for the sale of any food product.

Levi Ostberg and Eric Bergman of the Montana Farmers Union said the Food Choice Act may be contradictory to federal livestock regulation, and have specific concerns with the sale of meat under the law.

"Our current meat processing inspection laws are good," Bergman said.

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.

## Senators Tester and Daines talk Trump, partisan politics, and checks and balances

BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – The early weeks of 2017 have been marked by significant transition and vigorous debate in the United States' lawmaking bodies and courts. The debate isn't confined to the government, though: The intense political engagement evident on the media feeds of Montanans also extends to local streets and living rooms.

EBS interviewed Montana's two U.S. senators for their opinions about the transition that's accompanied President Donald Trump's Jan. 20 inauguration. Sen. Jon Tester spoke with EBS on Feb. 3 and Sen. Steve Daines was interviewed on Feb. 10. Their remarks have been edited for brevity and clarity.

**Explore Big Sky:** There's recently been an incredible amount of rancor between Republican and Democrat lawmakers. What do you believe can be done to break down partisan politics and change the tone of the discourse?



**Jon Tester:** I just introduced three bills on campaign finance reforms. I think the way campaigns are run now—how long they run and the amount of money that's poured into them, especially by dark money groups—increases partisan politics.

There are a lot of things we can work together on, but I think that money coming into campaigns drives individuals to the far right and the far left. We used to get 70 percent of the work done in the middle, but it seldomly happens that way anymore. In fact, we just don't get anything done. I think a good part of that has to do with campaign finance, dark money and how's it's totally been blown up since the Supreme Court's Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission decision.

**EBS:** You've said you'll move forward with Supreme Court justice nominee Neil Gorsuch's hearing even though other Democrats are taking a different tack and mirroring Republicans' approach when former president Barack Obama nominated Merrick Garland. Explain your thought process.

**J.T.:** I've got to meet the guy to give him a fair shake. I believe in giving people a fair shake. I need to find out where nominees stand on the U.S. Constitution, campaign finance reform, and making sure women and minorities are treated equally.

Montana's a Libertarian state and I think freedom's something that we very much value—freedom and privacy. I'm going to ask Gorsuch a lot about individual freedoms and privacy.

**EBS:** Are there cabinet nominees or appointments that you're particularly concerned about?

J.T.: I'm concerned about a number of them. I think there's a fair amount of anxiety about the potential direction of his Cabinet pick of Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education. We've gotten thousands of comments from people concerned about her and whether or not she understands the value of public education.

I did not vote for Rex Tillerson because I just did not think he could separate himself from Exxon and I also thought he had some connections with Russia that, quite frankly, upset me. That being said, he is confirmed as Secretary of State now and I want to be able to work with him whenever possible to try to do the right thing for this country.

I also have real problems with Scott Pruitt, the nominee to lead the Environmental Protection Agency. Climate change is real; I see it on my farm every day and I can tell you that if we ignore it, that's the easy way out.

We have to have somebody in the EPA who has commonsense solutions and doesn't over regulate, but ensures that we have clean air and clean water. We need someone who ensures corporations that pollute pay for the pollution—not the taxpayers. I just don't see that in Pruitt at all.

**EBS:** From what you've seen as a congressman, what's been the most challenging aspect of Trump's presidency thus far?

J.T.: I think the most challenging aspect of this is the number of executive orders. Obama did some of this, but he didn't have the control over the House and the Senate and he didn't get what he needed on certain issues so he chose to do this. But he didn't do it everyday, and he didn't do it multiple times every day.

We have three branches of the government for a good reason—to be checks on one another. So far he has cut the Legislative branch out. And the interesting part is the Legislative branch has majorities of his own party. That's been a bit challenging, I would say.

**EBS:** Do you think there are specific skills or qualities that will serve President Trump particularly well in this role?

**J.T.:** I think he's a master communicator. I think that he oftentimes relays information that may not be absolutely the truth, but he does it in such a way that people believe it.

I think some of the things he wanted to do on "draining the swamp" and infrastructure are things that could serve him well. I don't necessarily think he's drained the swamp with his Cabinet nominees. Some of them are very good, and others are more alligators to the swamp, quite frankly.

All of that aside, he would not be elected president if he did not have skills and I think his strength is communication.

**Explore Big Sky:** What do you believe can be done to break down partisan politics and change the tone of the discourse?

**Steve Daines:** The U.S. Senate has been described as the greatest deliberative body in the world and it's important that civility and statesmanship is upheld and modeled on the floor of the Senate.

There was a great speech by Marco Rubio this week admonishing both sides and insisting that whether you're a Democrat or a Republican, the United States Senate must behave in a civil manner. We can have vigorous disagreements, but not personal attacks.

One way to do that is by working on bipartisan legislation. I just introduced a bill with Amy Klobuchar, a Democrat from Minnesota. One of my mentors in the Senate is Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat from California. I think ultimately it comes down to a person-to-person relationship, building trust, and that needs to be modeled in the U.S. Senate.

**EBS:** Are there any issues—in terms of both legislation and the confirmations of Trump's Cabinet—where you'd be willing to break with the Republican ranks and go a different way?

**S.D.:** Historically the Senate has given the president the Cabinet that he or she chooses. The lack of bipartisan support that we're seeing for these Cabinet

nominees is virtually unprecedented. Generally Congress will give the president the Cabinet that he nominates.

It's getting tougher nowadays, but I look at every Cabinet official through the lens of "Is this the right fit for Montana and our country?" I've had long conversations with every nominee before I will make a decision to support them. I think whether it's a Republican or a Democrat, generally we should be getting behind the president after an election.

I broke ranks with the party on the vote for the USA Freedom Act because I put the privacy of Montanans as a very important Fourth Amendment right. I broke ranks with Republicans and I have a healthy distrust of the federal government's intrusion into our lives.

**EBS:** Are there any Cabinet nominees that have conflict of interest or other issues that are concerning to you?

There are still a few more nominees to go. We're going to be examining them. Before they go through the hearings, they have extensive FBI background checks and fill out extensive disclosures on financial transactions. I'm ready to get some more information on nominees that are yet to come through the Senate. If we see something in there that rises to an issue where that person's not qualified to serve, I will not be afraid to flag it.

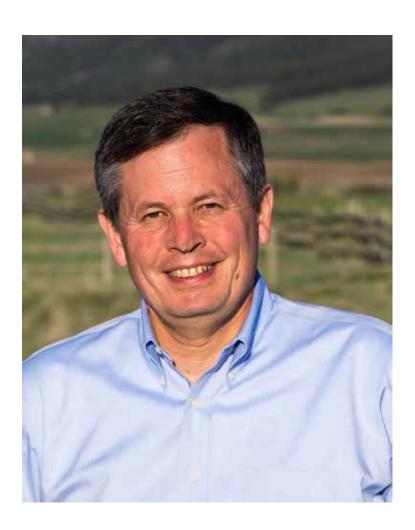
**EBS:** Public land is an important issue in Montana because we have so much federally-owned land and outdoor recreation is a large part of our economy. Last year the GOP platform included the sale or transfer of public land. Where do you come down on that?

**S.D.:** I oppose the transfer of federal land to the state. I realize that it may be a Republican platform, but I don't agree with it. I do support the state having a stronger voice and a greater say in the management of our public lands in Montana. I think that's important, and most Montanans agree with that.

**EBS:** If there's one thing that you could say to President Trump in regards to how he's handled the presidency during the past three weeks, what would you tell him?

**S.D.:** I would say, "I look forward to bringing you out to Montana." I know he wants to get out and visit the state and I'd tell him that I'm looking forward to having him come to our state. He is passionate about jobs and I've already made some suggestions to his administration in regards to jobs here in Montana.

He is an advocate for the hardworking men and women that oftentimes have gone unnoticed and have almost been forgotten. He is a champion for the working class in this country. I'd like to see him come out to Montana and spend some time with us.











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**Section 2:** ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH, & SPORTS







## The New West:

## Trump is creating a bull market for whistleblowers



BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

With the Trump administration only weeks old, fear and declining morale are already pervasive in federal land management agencies that together steward some 600 million acres of public land, mostly in the West.

Talk of gag orders, clampdowns on how public information is dispensed, disavowing established science, removing mention of climate change from government websites and unilaterally imposing a hiring freeze on agencies struggling to keep up with workloads are just part of a new unprecedented era in civil service.

Nearly 20 years ago, I authored a book "Science Under Siege: The Politicians' War on Nature and Truth," which profiled a wide range of federal and state whistleblowers involved with wildlife and land management agencies. I interviewed attorney Thomas Devine, then with the Government Accountability Project, which represents thousands of clients punished for speaking the truth.

Many believe the Trump administration will create a booming business for public interest organizations like the Government Accountability Project and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. Devine identified eight tactics often used by bureaucrats and political appointees to silence civil servants challenging policies that undermine natural resource protection.

**Tactic one**: Make dissenters the issue, instead of their message. "The first commandment for this brand of 'political science' is to obfuscate [the message of] the dissenter by attacking the source's motives, professional competence, economic credibility, sexuality, or virtually anything else that will work to cloud the real scientific issues," he said.

**Tactic two**: Isolate the scientific dissenter. "Here the technique is to transfer the 'troublemaker' to a bureaucratic Siberia, both to make an example of them and to block the employee's access to information," Devine said. At the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency and Bureau of Land Management, "the most popular reprisal technique has been to reassign employees from active environmental monitoring projects in the field to headquarters desk jobs where they don't receive any assignments and are monitored by bureaucratic babysitters."

**Tactic three**: Place the dissenter on a pedestal of cards. A common practice is to give the whistleblower an assignment but make it impossible to complete in a timely or professional manner. "This technique involves appointing the dissenter to solve the problem and then making the job impossible through a wide range of techniques, undercutting any realistic possibility of actually getting it done," Devine says. "The finale then is to fire the employee for being incompetent when the problem is not solved."

**Tactic four**: Create trumped-up charges against the person the agency wants to silence. "The technique here goes well beyond merely defeating a whistleblower. In order to prove to others that no one is safe, the goal is to make the most outrageous charges possible," he said. "For example, a dissenter who is renowned for being a gentleman may face sexual harassment charges. A soft-spoken, self-effacing individual will be branded a loud-mouthed egomaniac."

**Tactic five**: If you can't make conditions miserable enough so that the whistleblower quits, eliminate the job. A common practice is to lay off employees committed to resource protection even as the agency hires new staff. Also, gut funding for research.

**Tactic six:** If intimidation doesn't work, prosecute them. Attack whistleblowers for "stealing" the public information they use to expose corruption, even if they collected or prepared the information themselves. This tactic is often used in the corporate world and was used against whistleblowers trying to show that tobacco companies knew that smoking caused cancer. In the case of federal agencies, the "government," which is to say political appointees who don't want information released, argues that they alone control what information should be made available, even though the information by law belongs to the public.

**Tactic seven**: Substitute "democracy" for the scientific method. In other words, employ the bureaucratic equivalent of mob rule. For example, those unwilling to challenge suppression or distortion of science and who are loyal to corrupt managers, outvote whistleblowers or shun them in management decisions.

A more subtle variation of this tactic is to misuse scientific peer review as a discrediting tactic by packing an allegedly "objective" panel with people who have a particular bias that is sympathetic to a political agenda or worldview. An administration, for example, may install senior bureaucrats who forbid agencies under their command from acknowledging that climate change is real.

**Tactic eight**: Don't put anything in writing, especially when it involves people you wish to intimidate. At the same time, autocratically issue informal gag orders against possible dissidents, warning that if they say anything public, talk to the media, or seek outside help they will be punished.

Managers skilled in this art of intimidation carefully restrict any threats they make to oral dialogue and hearsay. Such intimidation is supported by applying verbal peer pressure, holding meetings behind closed doors and carrying out harassment over the phone. The point is that it is difficult to accuse someone of wrongdoing if there are no paper trails and no witnesses.

A more recent iteration of this in the digital age is for agencies to withhold damning email and internal documents from the media targeted through the Freedom of Information Act, claiming backchannel correspondence is "pre-decisional" and therefore covered by open data laws. Some states have made it difficult or costly for public interest entities, including the media, to have open records requests processed.

If you are a natural resource whistleblower, or know one, and want to discretely share information, I can be contacted at tawilk@aol.com.

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 article on climate change, "2067: The Clock Struck Thirteen," appears in the winter 2017 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine, on newsstands now.



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## Organic artifacts in Yellowstone being lost to ice melt

SHERIDAN, Wyo. (AP) - Organic artifacts preserved by ice patches in Yellowstone National Park are being lost to research because warmer temperatures are melting the ice, an archaeologist said.

Before his current position leading the cultural and natural resources program at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument in Montana, Staffan Peterson was park archaeologist at Yellowstone for four years.

Peterson told members of the Sheridan-Johnson County Chapter of the Wyoming Archaeological Society this past week that archaeologists can't collect the organic pollen, pine needles, sticks, dung, bones and other artifacts preserved in the ice patches.

"They're cryogenically preserved, and so once that stuff melts, that protection's gone, and these things will decay very quickly," he said. "I mean they're ancient and they've been in the ice—entombed in this ice for millennia—and they don't stand a chance out in the open air."

Archaeologist Sarah Mostek of Hope Archaeology in Bozeman, Montana, told The Sheridan Press that this was the first time that she's heard of ice patch archaeology.

Peterson said he and other scientists and park officials initially got the sense that something was changing in the higher Yellowstone elevations about 10 years ago and have since done reconnaissance to determine where the ice patches are and to track their size. He said in the four times they've revisited the ice patches, the changes have been drastic.

"We've seen a marked decrease," Peterson said.

Peterson said artifacts preserved in ice patches in Yellowstone are critical in understanding the bigger picture of the human past.

"It's really an unparalleled storehouse of information that is vanishing," Peterson said.

He said that while this isn't just a problem in the world's first national park, there's only about a dozen ice patches left in Yellowstone. While some are very large, he said the smaller areas won't last much longer.

Peterson said the next time they'll get to return to these areas in Yellowstone is 2019 with funding from the National Park Service.

He said Grand Teton National Park also puts a lot of effort into recovering artifacts from ice patches and researchers will head to those areas sooner than they will in Yellowstone.

## Rehabbed rare owl found dead in Yellowstone

#### MONTANA RAPTOR CONSERVATION CENTER

Last fall, Montana Raptor Conservation Center admitted an uncommon raptor under very uncommon circumstances. The bird was a male great gray owl, a species not frequently seen in southwest Montana. The owl was rescued in Yellowstone National Park and brought to the center for rehabilitation.

"It was kind of historical because it was the only great gray rescued inside of, and released back into, the park," MRCC Director Becky Kean said. "Normally, the National Park Service doesn't rescue injured animals. The policy is to let nature take its course."

However, park rangers made an exception in the case of this owl. Since it had been struck by a car and suffered a human-related injury, they felt that it would be appropriate to rescue and get treatment for the owl.

The bird spent two-and-a-half months in rehabilitation recovering from a fractured radius. In the meantime, Kean said, the raptor center volunteers came to respect and admire the magnificent bird. "He was huge, but he would fly down without a sound to get one mouse at time," she said.

In early January, Kean drove the owl back to the park and released him into the Yellowstone wilderness.

Two days later, the owl was dead. A Park Service employee found his body about 5 miles from the release site near Gardiner, Montana. Bands on its legs identified the owl as the one MRCC rehabilitated, and a necropsy revealed the owl had a broken pelvis and detached femur. It also revealed heavy metals near the fracture site suggesting the bird had been shot and died from the wounds.

"It's very disheartening," Kean said. "All the time and effort the volunteers put into rehabilitating the owl ... It's so sad that it ended this way." Shooting and killing the bird is also illegal because the Migratory Bird Treaty Act protects great gray owls.

The incident was reported to the local game warden, but despite ongoing federal and state investigations, Kean doubts that the perpetrator will be found or fined.

If anyone has information regarding the case, Kean urges them to call 1-800-tip-mont, noting that callers can remain anonymous.





## EYE ON THE BALL

## 2017 Super Bowl recap



BY BRANDON NILES EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

After a thrilling Super Bowl that culminated in one of the most impressive comebacks in NFL history, hyperbole has reached new levels in the sports media. Phrases like "greatest ever" and "best game" abound in a climate where reactionary hot takes are the norm. I don't tend to exaggerate when discussing sporting events, but I will say one thing: it was an amazing game.

The Atlanta Falcons jumped to a 21-3 lead over the New England Patriots in the first half. They moved the ball effortlessly down the field, with running back Devontae Freeman getting big gains and quarterback Matt Ryan slinging pinpoint passes that had Patriots fans wondering what could possibly have gone so wrong.

The Falcons came into the game boasting the league's best offense with an average of 33.8 points scored per game during the regular season. However, the Patriots led the league in defense, allowing just 15.6 points per game. This was a classic competition between an unstoppable force and an immovable object, and for the first half, it seemed as though the Atlanta offense was the more dominant squad.

An interception of Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, which was run back for a Falcons touchdown late in the second quarter, left the Patriots dejected and looking for answers.

I don't know what Patriots head coach Bill Belichick said to his team at halftime, but whatever it was, coaches should frame it and put it in every locker room in the country. The Patriots came out in the second half and outscored the Falcons 25-7 to force overtime. By the time it got to the extra period and the Patriots won the coin toss, there was little doubt that Brady would deliver a winning score.

On the final drive in overtime, Brady completed passes of 14, 18, and 15 yards before a defensive pass interference call in the red zone gave the Patriots first-and-goal on the 2-yard line. Running back James White punched it in for the game-winning touchdown, and the Patriots hoisted their fifth Lombardi Trophy.

Tom Brady will go down as one of the best quarterbacks to ever play the game, and he was sensational in his unprecedented seventh Super Bowl appearance. At age 39, it's incredible that he continues to play at such a high level.

Ryan finished an MVP season with disappointment, but it's hardly shameful to lose to such a seasoned team. In the end, the defense made big plays when it needed to, and the moment proved too big for a Falcons offense that struggled to finish drives after the Patriots started their epic comeback.

For the Patriots, as long as No. 12 continues to defy age and coach Belichick is at the helm, this team will be a force to be reckoned with and has to be considered the favorite to get back to the big game next year. The sustained success that this franchise has experienced over the past 17 years has been a testament to the historic coach and quarterback tandem.

The Falcons fired their defensive coordinator Richard Smith, and offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan accepted a job to coach the San Francisco 49ers. However, as long as they can keep that explosive offense in place and get even a nominal improvement on the defensive side of the ball, they have the talent to repeat as NFC champions.

The Super Bowl is always bittersweet for me. While it's the biggest game in my favorite sport, it also signals the end of football season. At least this season, I get an incredible game to finish on as I look toward free agency and the draft to tide me over till next fall.

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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## Big Horns triumph over West Yellowstone, close season on three-game winning streak

BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – During their last home game of the season on Feb. 10, the Big Horns displayed a fluid ease on the court that they've been working toward all season, taking—and making—smart shots all night long.

"We're playing the best basketball of the season right now," said Lone Peak head coach Al Malinowski. "We're starting to see the same comfort, the same play, that we've seen in practice for a while that just [hadn't] translated in a game."

Shooting 67 percent from inside the 3-point arc, the Big Horns maintained a comfortable lead over West Yellowstone and demonstrated to the sizable crowd gathered that their two prior wins, against Sheridan on Feb. 9, and White Sulphur Springs on Feb. 4, weren't flukes.

Lone Peak was led by senior guard Eddie Starz, who made a particularly strong impression on his senior night. At one point in the third quarter, he went on an unbroken 10-point scoring streak, driving to the basket and pulling up for jumpers with virtually unshakeable confidence.

"It was his senior night, and I think he was going to make sure that the team got a victory," Malinowski said. "[West Yellowstone] made a dent in our lead a couple times and it seems like he had the answer every time."

Bridger Babcock, the Big Horns' other senior, was out sick, but played a good game the night before against Sheridan with 10 points, including two 3-pointers.

Junior post Jackson Wade dominated in the paint, earning a career-high 22 points during Lone Peak's 77-61 victory over West Yellowstone.

Malinowski said the team, which is seeded No. 3 in the District tournament, has benefitted from greater experience and more depth this season. "We've increased our scoring average 11 points from last year [and] we played a tougher schedule ... Our team's improved, there's no doubt about it."

Starz ended his career as the top-scoring player in the program's eight-year history with 1,247 points.

He'll have an opportunity to tack another few dozen points onto that when the Big Horns compete in the District tournament at Manhattan Christian.

Lone Peak was scheduled to play their first game in the district tournament—against West Yellowstone—on Feb. 16, the day after EBS went to press.

If Lone Peak finishes as one of the top two teams, they'll advance to the Divisional tournament in Butte Feb. 22-25.



Senior guard Eddie Starz scored 35 points against West Yellowstone during the Big Horns' last home game on Feb. 10. Lone Peak finished the season with a 5-5 conference record and an overall record of 10-8. PHOTO BY MILOSZ SHIPMAN

## Lady Big Horns beat Wolverines, end season No. 1 in District

BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – After defeating West Yellowstone at home 64-29, the Lady Big Horns finished the regular season No. 1 in the District, marking the program's most successful season to date.

"That was our goal going into the season, we wanted to be No. 1," said Lone Peak head coach Nubia Allen. "I just couldn't be happier and more proud of these girls for reaching that goal."

Despite getting off to a slow start Feb. 10, Lone Peak settled into a rhythm and played a strong game on both ends of the court.

Allen said she thinks the girls might have been a little overly hyped in the first quarter because it was senior night. Before the girls' tip-off, LPHS's graduating basketball players were recognized with an emotional tribute from their coaches.

Point guard Luisa Locker, guard Dasha Bough and posts Bianca Godoy and Jenna McKillop played the last regular-season game of their high school careers. They've played together as Lady Big Horns for five seasons; all four started competing at the high school level as eighth graders.

Against West Yellowstone, it was nearly 2.5 minutes into the game before either team made a basket, but once the Lady Big Horns scored their first points, they proved to be unstoppable.

During the second and third quarters, Lone Peak scored 23 and 21 points, respectively. "We don't score more than 20 points in a quarter very often, so I was happy about that," Allen said.

The game was a physical one, with both teams going into bonus during the first half and the Lady Big Horns committing 15 fouls during the second half.

"I knew West [Yellowstone] was going to come out to play—they always do," Allen said. The Wolverines played a quick and tough man-to-man defense, but couldn't match it with the same degree of intensity on offense, scoring just five points in the first and third quarters.



Lone Peak seniors Dasha Bough (at left) and Luisa Locker scramble for a loose ball during the Feb. 10 game against West Yellowstone. The Lady Big Horns finished the regular season 8-2 in conference play and a 14-4 overall record. PHOTO BY AMANDA EGGERT

Bough, who holds the school record for career points and 3-pointers, scored 18 points on the night. Down in the paint, junior KP Hoffman had the game-high with 19 points.

Locker—who holds the school record for assists, free throws made and steals—ended the night with 10 points.

As the top-ranked team going into the District tournament at Manhattan Christian, the Lady Big Horns won't play a game until the second day of tourney play. At 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17, Lone Peak will take on the winner of the Shields Valley versus Gardiner game.

If they earn one of the top two spots in the tournament, they'll go on to the Divisional tournament in Butte Feb. 22-25.

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## Patient-driven treatment improves mood disorder outcomes

BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BOZEMAN – Montana has ranked among the top five states in the country for suicide rate for the past 40 years, since the statistic was first compiled.

Among the 10- to 34-year-old age group, Montana is double the national average for suicide rate. That rate is on the rise, said psychiatrist Matthew Byerly, during his introduction of Dr. John Rush on Feb. 2 at the Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture.

Regionally, 53 percent of respondents to last year's Community Needs Assessment survey administered in Gallatin, Park and Meagher counties said mental health and suicide prevention services were lacking in their communities, according to the Human Resource Development Council.

Rush, professor emeritus at Duke National University of Singapore, addressed these troubling trends with a lecture on his commonsense, "patient-driven" approach to mood disorder treatment.

Rush uses a few straightforward guidelines designed to thwart what he calls the "evil coach" we all possess. The evil coach, Rush says, is an irrational part of our brain that causes us to misbehave in ways that aren't good for us.

The approach Rush uses is not particularly trendy, and it's not a quick fix either. But it appears to be an effective one, given his commitment to both reading and conducting the latest research on the subject, and the outcomes he's helped patients achieve during his four-plus decades in the field.

First, Rush recommends people who are at risk for mood disorders like depression and bipolar disorder partner up. As humans, we tend not to be very good at judging changes in our subjective experience. Oftentimes, family and close friends will notice mood changes we won't necessarily register. The support of friends and family can also be vitally important to sticking with a treatment program.

Second, Rush emphasizes finding a way to put objective measures around a subjective experience so patients and their doctors can reliably monitor their condition. "The depression measure gives you a kind of thermometer," said Rush, who's been named as one of the "World's Most Influential Minds." He recommends three surveys that are available online: the Patient Health Questionnaire, the Quick Inventory of Depressive Symptomatology—Self-Report, and the Sheehan Disability Scale.

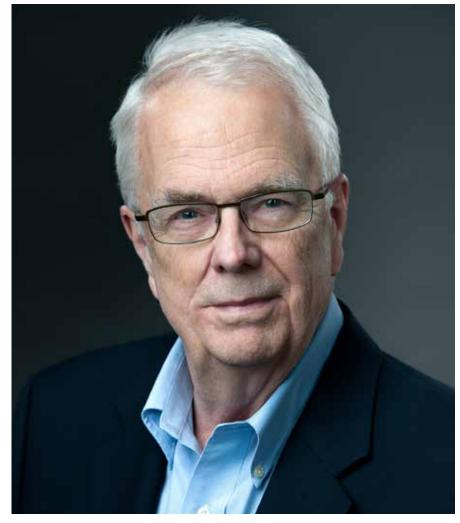
Rush said approximately 17 percent of psychiatrists, and an even lower percentage of psychologists, measure outcome. He recommends that patients do so themselves if their doctor or mental health specialist does not—"then you can tell them if you're getting to where you want to go."

People suffering from a mood disorder must also evaluate side effects of the options they're considering. Rush says he tries to proactively address factors that might lead to noncompliance with a treatment program.

"What are the reasons why you might not follow what I just told you might be a good idea?" Rush asks his patients before they leave his office.

Rush says it's important that patients give treatments time to take effect, but it's also key that they're willing to try a number of different approaches.

"It is definitely not the case that the first treatment is the last treatment. The first treatment is the first strike on goal," Rush said. "Sometimes several shots on goal are necessary to get people from sick to well, or even sick to better."



Dr. John Rush delivered a Feb. 2 public lecture sponsored by the Mental Health Research and Recovery at Montana State University. The talk was held as part of the MSU College of Letters and Science Distinguished Speaker Series. PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN RUSH

When people ask Rush if he "believes" in certain approaches like medication, hypnosis, or cognitive therapy, he responds, "It's not a religion. It's a science kind of thing."

What he wants to know is whether or not it works.

"I think it's very important for all of you to know that we honestly don't know what the right thing to do is when you walk into our office," Rush said. He's familiar with a broad range of treatments including electroconvulsive therapy; transcranial magnetic stimulation; antidepressant medications; and cognitive, group and couples therapy.

"I've been trained in all that ... I've even done all that," Rush said with a chuckle. "But which one do I pick for you? I don't know. I have to have a conversation."

Rush reemphasized patience in dealing with depression, which accounts for twothirds of all suicides.

"It isn't go in, tell them you're depressed, you go in they change the carburetor and the engine runs great. It doesn't work like that," Rush said. "It's multiple steps trying to figure out what's wrong. [You] try a key in the lock, try [another] key in the lock—and then incrementally, consistently, persistently [get] better."

A video link to Rush's lecture, including his brief notes on specific treatments, is available at montana.edu/lettersandscience/speakers/speakers.youtube.html.



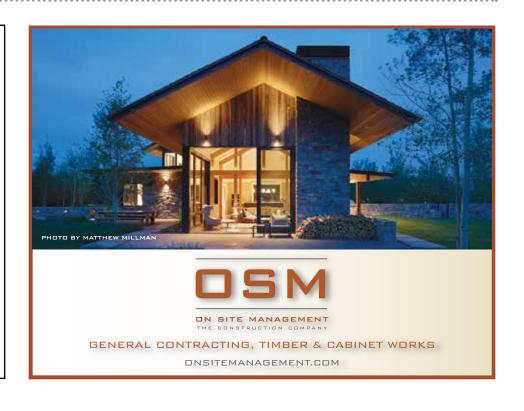
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## Our medical adventure in Montana

BY MEAGHAN SMITH AND ANJA FROST EBS GUEST MEDICAL COLUMNISTS

We are fourth-year medical students from George Washington Medical School in Washington, D.C., and spent the month of January working at the Medical Clinic of Big Sky with Dr. Jeff Daniels. Aside from all the interesting people we met at the clinic, we'd like to tell you about our "extra-curricular" adventure.

Friends of ours came to town, and like all good hosts we wanted to participate in an activity unique to the area. We heard about a sleigh ride dinner in the mountains and embarked on an adventure for the night. The sleigh ride up the hill is just over an hour long, and several stops are made along the way for the horses to rest and passengers to enjoy the views.

Our sleigh was packed with friends, the views were breathtaking, and we were truly isolated, without cell phone service or the noise of busy roads. But halfway through our journey, one of the wranglers approached our carriage and asked if there were any medical personnel present, as a member of the group was having trouble breathing.

As medical students only four months away from graduation, and soon to be introducing ourselves as Dr. Smith and Dr. Frost, we were hesitant to speak up, yet we felt a sense of moral obligation and medical duty. We aren't doctors yet; surely there had to be someone else to step up to the plate. We soon realized that we were the closest to medical professionals on this trip.

We hopped out of our carriage, ran up the hill, and found a little girl huddled in her carriage in respiratory distress, with a look of fear on her face. Her parents informed us that she had a history of asthma induced by cold and exercise, and on further questioning we discovered her allergy to horses.

Her parents were not carrying a rescue inhaler, and without a stethoscope to listen to her lungs or pulse oximetry to measure the oxygen saturation in her blood, our ability to adequately assess her condition was limited. We were lucky enough to have a friend as a part of our group who also had a history of childhood asthma, and graciously offered up his rescue inhaler for our use.

Unfortunately, the advances of modern day medicine have pushed medical students and residents away from using the most basic and informative physical exam maneuvers, especially for assessing a child in respiratory distress. The most revealing clinical sign of child struggling to breathe is to lift their shirt and look for retractions around the rib cage, breastbone and clavicle. Retractions are a sign someone is working hard to breath.

Normally, when we take a breath the diaphragm and the muscles around your ribs create a vacuum that pulls air into your lungs. When someone is having trouble breathing, extra muscles kick in to help and these can be visualized by looking at the rib cage.

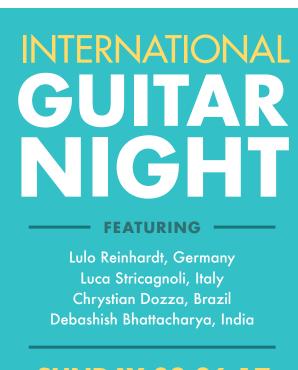
The little girl was showing significant evidence of subcostal (below the rib cage) and substernal (bottom of the breastbone) retractions. Additional revealing signs that our new patient was in respiratory distress included her quick and labored breathing, and fast heart rate revealed by feeling her radial pulse.

We spent approximately 30 minutes educating the young girl about why she may be struggling to breathe and how the medicine we had could help her. She was able to take four puffs of the rescue Albuterol inhaler with excellent effect. Her respiratory rate began to decrease, her heart rate slowly declined, and she informed us that she was having a much easier time breathing.

Although she had clinically improved at that time, her parents made the educated decision to return back to the base of the mountain, as they didn't have an epinephrine pen with them and were unsure if she would remain stable for the rest of the journey. We checked in with the head of the touring company two days later and were informed that she was doing very well and had only continued to improve after we left her.

The moral of this story is that when you're out in the middle of nowhere, you have to be prepared. If you have asthma, carry your inhaler at all times.

Meaghan Smith and Anja Frost are senior medical students from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. They both spent January participating in the elective opportunity at the Medical Clinic of Big Sky. Smith will be specializing in pediatrics, and Frost will be doing gynecological oncology.



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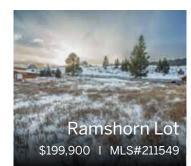


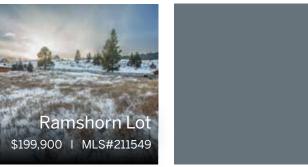


























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## From Jackie with love



## BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

What if I told you that studies have proven that mice and humans on a high-fat, high-sugar diet were able to lose weight and increase muscle mass? Are you intrigued?

Well, it's true. Dr. Rhonda Patrick of foundmyfitness.com is my favorite nutrition nerd. She does extensive research on aging, metabolism and cancer. In a recent interview with Dr. Satchidananda Panda, a professor at the Salk Institute for Bio

logical Studies, they discuss in great detail this one simple life hack that can have a tremendous impact on your metabolism.

Here's the hack: Eat within a 12-hour-or-less time period each day.

How it works: Upon waking, whatever you consume—outside of drinking plain water—will start your metabolism, even black coffee. Note the time and from that moment on, consume all food and drink within the next 12 hours. It's that simple.

If you're curious but not ready to commit to this, start by noting the time you take your first bite or drink to your last each day without altering your patterns, and learn more about your personal habits. Perhaps you're already eating in your optimal range. Panda has found that most people eat during a 15-hour-or-greater duration. He also suggests that if you want to reap even greater health benefits, eat within an eight-to-nine-hour period.

This metabolic hack gets even better. Studies in mice have shown that individuals that went past the 12-hour eating time only two days a week still reaped the same rewards—hello weekends!

## Hack your metabolism

Panda's studies have now turned from mice to humans. Starting with a small but highly controlled group, he asked eight overweight adults who ate for more than 14 hours a day to eat within a 10-to-11-hour period, seven days a week. No recommendations for altering their normal diets were offered. After 16 weeks of following this protocol, not only did each participant lose an average of 3.5 percent of their body weight, they also reported having more energy and better sleep.

Why it works: Every organ in your body has its own biological clock that dictates how it functions. Each organ's clock responds to when we eat. Eating turns on the genes responsible for digestion and there's a specific time for every metabolic activity that follows. For many of us, eating for longer than 12 hours a day causes a build-up of undesired byproducts, which puts stress on our cells and can lead to many chronic diseases.

On the Salk Institute website, Panda advises that: "One should not take away the message that changing the eating duration is the only method to improve health. This may also be risky for individuals with undiagnosed fasting hypoglycemia." (A person with fasting hypoglycemia has a blood sugar level that drops to an unhealthy range when their stomach is empty.)

If you would like to track your own intake and to contribute to Panda's experiment, you can download the free app My Circadian Clock. You will be asked to track everything you eat and drink down to a glass of water, a handful of chips, a piece of a cookie, supplements, medicine, etcetera, and to log all activity and exercise, as well as when and how well you sleep.

Visit mycircadianclock.org/ and download the app "myCircadianClock" from the iOS App Store or Google Play.

Alternatively, you can simply watch the clock, eat within an eight-to-12-hour timeframe, five-to-seven days a week and notice the effects it has on your physical and mental health.

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





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## **Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides**

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



We're about to reach the midway point of our winter season! The chance of sub-zero temps is starting to fade away, ice buildup on our rivers is starting to recede in many areas and fish are continually feeding on available insects to survive.

If you've been itching to fish, but just aren't motivated by the cooler temps here are some suggestions that can help.

Hand and foot warmers. They are inexpensive and being able to stick your hands in your pockets for 5 minutes to find mini heat generators will make the decision to stay on the water much easier.

Hot food and beverage. Myself and a couple of fishing guides grilled our lunch the other day on the upper Madison. A brat never tasted so good. If grilling sounds a little too involved having a thermos of hot coffee or soup is much easier to pull off and will be a nice way to warm up after a few hours on the river.

Pre rig your rod. The flies we use and the way we rig doesn't vary much in winter. Setting up your rod in the comfort of your own home will make getting to the river faster and will avoid cold fingers right out of the gate. You could also set up a nymph rod and a dry fly rod in advance, because nobody wants to undo their nymph rig in winter because they saw a single fish rise. Carrying two rods has its downsides though.

Start warm stay warm. Get dressed indoors. You lose a lot of body heat as soon as you step outside of the car and if you also have to partially undress you could feel chilled before you even get to the river. Imagine stepping out of your vehicle and the only thing you have to do is grab your rigged rod and wading pack!

Walk. Trudging through snow or wading upstream is a great way to get your blood flowing. Just be careful not to fall in while wading. There's no quicker way to end a fishing trip in winter.

Be like a mountain goat. Nobody likes to fall in and no worse time of year than in winter. You can improve your stability with Patagonia's Foot Tractor boot with aluminum bars and a wading staff. There is a stigma attached to wading staffs, but having an extra point of contact while wading or trudging through snow could be a huge asset.

It's always good to fish with a friend in winter. Be safe and have fun. These fish will not be this easy to catch in August!













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Big Sky Community Organization

Interested in helping shape the future of parks and trails here in Big Sky? The Big Sky Community Organization is hiring a FT Project Manager to lead all aspects of construction, land management and recreation projects as a critical member of the leadership team. For more information and to apply visit:



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The West Yellowstone Tourist Business Improvement District is seeking a Part-Time Marketing Director. The work week consists of an 25-30 hour work week. A back ground in Hospitality and Tourism is preferred. Must have good communication skills, be computer savvy, be organized and able to work independently. Must have marketing experience and understanding of all social media platforms and be able to plan, administer, and place print and digital ad campaigns. Will need to administer marketing and product development programs, both short and long range, targeted toward existing and new markets by performing the following duties personally or through subordinates. Wage: \$19.00 - \$21.00(DOE) with wage increase of up to \$1.00 per hour after successful completion of the first 6 months of probationary period. All resumes will be submitted to the West Yellowstone Tourist Improvement District by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, March 7, 2017. Please submit resumes to: Kristy Coffin Administrator at: 303 Canyon Street Suite \*C West Yellowstone, Mt. 59758 or email: to kcoffintbid@gmail.com. (Or to request a full job description.)

Big Sky Owners Association - Communications and Events FT, 30-35 hours per week with benefits or PT, 20 hours per week as a job share in Big Sky, MT. Competitive wage and perks, great benefits with FT position. Provides diversity of responsibilities and flexible work schedule. Join us at the Big Sky Owners Association working in a unique multi-task position of Communications and Events. Looking for personable, customer service oriented people with writing and organization skills. Responsibilities include reception, website updates, monthly newsletter publication, event planning, other office duties. Team players, discreet, detail-oriented and positive attitude wanted. Send resume & cover letter to suzan@bigskyoa.org or just call us at 995-4166. Full job description @ www.bigskymt.org.

Gallatin River Task Force seeking participants to assist in drought and water conservation planning in the Big Sky area. Contact Emily Casey at emily@gallatinrivertaskforce.org for details.



#### **LEGAL**

## GALLATIN COUNTY Notice of Meeting

The Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Zoning Advisory Committee ("BSAC") will consider the following items at its monthly meeting on Monday, March 6, 2017 at 9:30 AM, at the Big Sky Water and Sewer District office, 561 Little Coyote Rd, Big Sky, MT. The BSAC is an advisory arm of the Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Planning and Zoning Commission and invites the Big Sky Community to attend meetings and participate in discussions concerning Big Sky planning matters.

- 1. Public Forum (items not on agenda)
- 2. Kedrowski Accessory Apartment CUP. This is the application for Philip Kedrowski for conditional use permit approval to allow for an accessory apartment, which is required in the R-MF-6,500 district of the Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Zoning Regulation. The property is 0.32 acres in size, and described as Lot 18 of the Southfork Phase 5 Subdivision, located in Section 2, Township 7S, Range 3E, Gallatin County, Montana, generally located on Spruce Cone Drive.

Questions and comments should be directed to the Gallatin County Planning Department, 406-582-3130 or e-mail to tim.skop@gallatin.mt.gov

#### **AUDIT PUBLICATION STATEMENT**

An audit of the affairs of Big Sky Fire Department has been conducted by Holmes & Turner (a professional corporation). The audit covered the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016.

Section 2-7-521, MCA, requires the publication concerning the audit report include a statement that the audit report is on file in its entirety and open to public inspection. This report is available to the public at 650 Rainbow Trout Run, Big Sky, MT 59716 or at www.bigskyfire.org (Home Page/About BSFD/ Annual Reports/2016 Audited Annual Financial Report). Big Sky Fire Department will send a copy of the audit report to any interested person upon request.

Sincerely, Big Sky Fire Department

Need some help or want to spread the word?

## Place a classified!

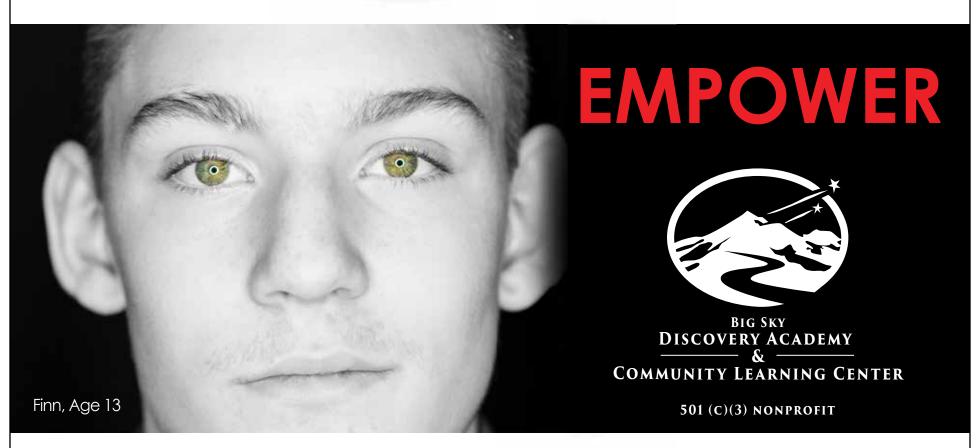
\$10 for the first 35 words +\$10 for any additional copy, business logo, or photo

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**Section 3:**OUTDOORS, GEAR, & FUN







## INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



## **Splitboarding Yellowstone's Grand Prismatic Overlook Trail**

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JOHN LAYSHOCK EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The largest hot spring in the world, Grand Prismatic Spring, is one of Mother Nature's most brilliant treasures.

In Yellowstone National Park's Midway Geyser Basin, Grand Prismatic has flowing hot water that drains into the Firehole River and also sits next to another feature called the Excelsior Geyser Crater. The Excelsior Geyser historically erupted 300 to 400 feet high until pressure caused it to explode in the 1890s, leaving the hot spring found there now. The Grand Prismatic is one of Yellowstone's most recognizable and famous features.

A new overlook trail was constructed and opened this winter season. It starts from the Fairy Falls trailhead and crosses the bridge over the Firehole River. It's less than 1 mile to the overlook and gains about 300 to 400 feet in elevation. Since the 1988 fires cleared the nearby ridgelines of dense forests, the open terrain was a natural lure for people to climb for a better view.

At least a dozen "social" trails were created as visitation and popularity has grown. These trails were not safe for the general public and caused a lot of added erosion. As the re-growth of the forest continues and the volume of summer visitors increases, this trail is a big improvement and benefits all visitors with safe and easy access.

The summer parking situation for this trailhead is not large enough for the volume of visitors hoping to use this new overlook trail. While there is always a flow of traffic that continually moves, I always choose to go very early, or very late in the day.



Splitboarder Dave Jessup skins through cold snow and long shadows in Yellowstone National Park.



Dave Jessup finds deep powder above the billowing steam of Yellowstone's Midway Geyser Basin.

Winter visitation is another story, and the parking lot only experiences a tiny fraction of the vehicle volume that summer has. It's like another world in winter with harsh and beautiful contrasts: hot and cold, life and death.

My friend Dave Jessup and I had about half a day to enjoy this latest trail opening. We immediately noticed two huge wolf tracks walking the old Fountain Freight Road along the Fairy Falls Trail. It's territory for the Canyon wolf pack, but we didn't see any of them to make proper identifications.

Using skis and a splitboard, we climbed another 200 to 300 feet to the top of the Yellowstone Caldera rim with fresh, light powder and bluebird skies. The only tracks to be seen were from bison, wolves and other animals. The moderate ascent delivered up to a dozen turns on the way down before you hit the trailhead at the bottom.

Remember: always follow the federal park rules and stay on boardwalks and designated trails in the thermal basins, and be aware of where you are at all times.

We didn't have enough time to continue to Fairy Falls, but that is also a great cross-country ski of about 2 to 3 miles one way. The trail to Fairy Falls is good for beginners, with a very slight elevation change.

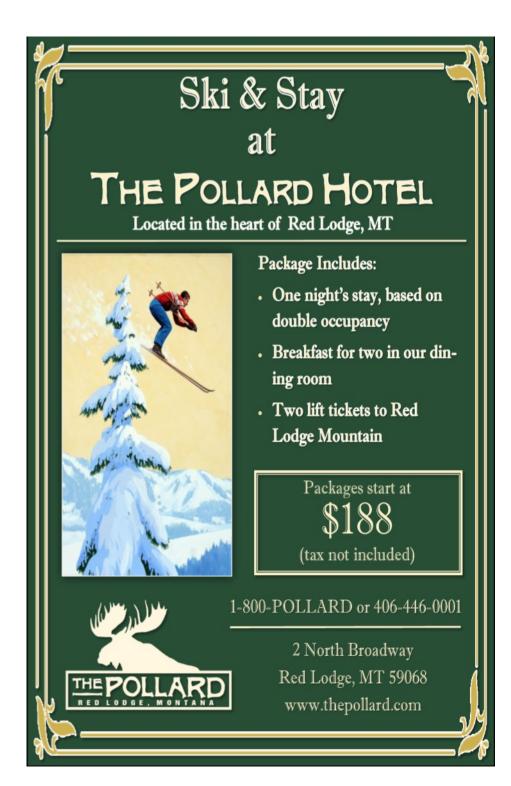
Most visitation here during the winter requires a guide. Many tour companies offer limited opportunities for skiing and snowshoeing during public tours, but private tours can organize their own day with the company and a guide. A small group of friends and/or family (five to 12) can book a private tour all day together.

John Layshock is a guide and photographer in Island Park, Idaho, and West Yellowstone, Montana, and works for Yellowstone Alpen Guides. Contact them at (406) 646-9591 or visit seeyellowstone.com for more information. Visit layshock.com to see Layshock's photographs and videos, or contact him at john@layshock.com.



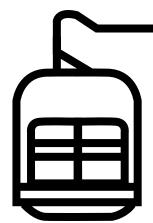
The Bighorn Pass Trail bridge over the Gallatin River is now available for use. The bridge is located approximately half of a mile from the Bighorn Pass trailhead, near Highway 191 in the northwestern corner of the park.

The damaged bridge on the popular trail was removed in 2014 out of concern for safety. After the bridge was replaced, Yellow-stone National Park reopened the Bighorn Pass Trail for public use in October 2016. NPS PHOTO











## **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

Steady winter storms continue to blanket Big Sky Resort, creating powder pockets for days and days. Mid-season conditions are in full effect, and Lone Peak is offering chalky turns for miles.

Skiers and riders are shaking hands with Old Man Winter right now, but let the good times keep

on rolling through April when the north-facing slopes are in full powder mode. Big Sky Resort is offering a brand new deal: the April Pass. For the first time, ski all of April for \$179. Sky Card holders can purchase the April Pass for \$129 and maintain the Sky Card's lodging benefits through the remainder of the season. Don't stop skiing when the snow's still fresh and light! This deal is only available through Feb. 20.

The Mad Wolf Relay is right around the corner. Help raise money for the Big Sky Ski Education Foundation by fat biking, skiing and running in this multidisciplinary race on Feb. 25. It's not too late to sign up. Don't miss out on this fun community fundraising event! Also, Big Sky Resort is once again hosting the 2017 Special Olympic Winter Games on Feb. 27. Come out and cheer on these athletes as they charge the slopes near the Madison Base Area.

No matter whether you're participating or spectating, there's plenty to cheer about at Big Sky Resort!

Visit bigskyresort.com for more information.



## BY DENISE WADE LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH DIRECTOR OF GUEST OPERATIONS

Skate skiing, classic skiing, touring ... It's all so good these days. Lots of snow and some warmer temperatures have helped to firm up the trail and make the gliding smooth and fast.

The elk and moose are liking the firmer trails too, so keep an eye out for them—especially on the meadow trails, Ranch Loop and Walkin' Jim's. If they're in the middle of the trail, it's best to turn around and go the other direction. This is the time of year that wildlife is trying to conserve energy to make it through the winter. Making them run into the deep snow uses more energy and causes stress for the animal. A small change in your ski plans keeps you both safe and healthy.

The Mad Wolf Winter Relay is around the corner on Feb. 25. Do you have your team and costume yet? Sign up on the Big Sky Ski Education Foundation website at bssef.com. The awards party will be a lot of fun at our newly branded restaurant, Horn and Cantle.

Lone Mountain Ranch is pleased to host the Montana Special Olympic Nordic skiers, who will compete on the Chapel Loop in the meadow on Monday, Feb. 27. Come out and cheer them on Monday morning from 9:30-11 a.m.

Our annual Glide and Gorge is coming up March 19. Enjoy a four-course meal as you eat, drink and ski your way around Carlin's Cruise. Each course is paired with a featured spirit to add to the fun. The proceeds from this event go to the Ophir School PTO.

Call LMR Outdoor Shop at (406) 995-4734 for more information.

BY JENNIE WHITE Grand targhee resort marketing and social Media manager

February is here and the snow continues! The days are getting longer and that means spring is quickly approaching. It's time to spend some days in the terrain park. Erik, our new terrain park supervisor, has been stacking up features and jumps.



If you're just getting into park riding, check out our North Pole beginner park. You can gradually build confidence by practicing on small boxes and jumps. If you need a little coaching, you can always book a terrain park specific lesson with one of our professional and certified ski or snowboard instructors. They'll teach you how to properly ride the park while building confidence and skills.

When you're ready to head to the Sweetwater Park, you'll find lines that you can perfect throughout the day. Get your practice in because our Terrain Park Takeover is Saturday, March 11. This jam style format is open to all ages and levels. Participants will have the opportunity to judge their fellow competitors. Registration takes place in the plaza from 9-10:30 a.m. and the competition will run from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Please note that helmets are mandatory.

Spring break is in the near future and it's time to start thinking about what to do and where to go. Our Spring Break Away kicks off March 17 and is jam packed with great events and live music. Get your cardboard out and start thinking about your craft for the 13th annual Cardboard Box Derby! Enjoy the snow and we'll see you on the mountain.

## BY DAVID JOHNSON MARKETING AT JACKSON HOLE MOUNTAIN RESORT



After five days without power due to a winter storm last week, Feb.13 marked the reopening of Teton Village

for business. JHMR reopened all lifts at 9 a.m. to eager destination visitors and local skiers and riders.

We currently stand at 434 inches of total snowfall for the season, and snow depths of 135 inches on the upper mountain and 91 inches mid-mountain, meaning we are in the midst of one of the deepest winters in the resort's history. It snowed every day the first twelve days of February. During that period, Rendezvous Bowl received over 7.5 feet of snow, resulting in the second-deepest snowpack Rendezvous Bowl has ever seen.

The recent storm event that resulted in the collapse of 17 power poles on Feb. 7 left all of Teton Village without power for four days. "We worked to coordinate with Lower Valley Energy, and immediately started supporting their efforts in power restoration," said JHMR President Jerry Blann. "It was a superb community effort to get power restored so quickly, and we are very grateful to the many organizations that provided support last week."

With the resort up and running again, the biggest remaining date on the JHMR calendar takes place in March, when the Rendezvous Spring Festival returns with the Zac Brown Band headlining it once again. The weekend of March 18 will bring Jamestown Revival, Samantha Fish, Yonder Mountain String Band and Iration to the Tetons. Most of these concerts are free, except for the Yonder Mountain String Band and the Zac Brown Band show on Saturday, March 18.

.....

Visit jacksonhole.com/rendezvous for more information or to purchase tickets.



Bridger Bowl hasn't been favored by the big storms hitting the southern mountains this winter, but its predominately eastern aspect has preserved a decent base for skiers and riders. The Bridger Gully Freeride on Saturday, Feb. 18, will feature some of the best young talent attacking that base in the ski area's famed ridge terrain.

On Saturday, Feb. 25, the competition will move to rails, rollers, boxes and banks for the Terrain Park Jam, a slope-style competition featuring two judged runs and a "jam" on a feature chosen by each age group.

The event will take place in the terrain parks off the Sunnyside chairlift from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and race day registration will be held in the Jim Bridger Lodge from 8:30–10 a.m. – *Tyler Allen* 

Visit bridgerbowl.com for more information.



## On the Trail: Low Pass at Jack Creek Preserve

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

#### BY CIARA WOLFE **BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The Jack Creek Preserve, 4,500 acres of protected habitat west of Big Sky, acts as a key migratory corridor for wildlife. The preserve provides a vital connection between two units of Lee Metcalf Wilderness and extends critical habitat from Yellowstone National Park through the Madison Range and northward.

The preserve is managed by the Jack Creek Preserve Foundation, a local nonprofit that's offering several miles of groomed cross country ski trails on the preserve free and open to the public for the first time this winter. To access these trails on the private Jack Creek Road, you must contact the foundation staff to fill out appropriate waivers and provide vehicle and driver information. The foundation staff can be reached at info@jackcreekpreserve.org or (406) 995-7880. Please give them 24 hours of notice.

After completing the process to access the preserve, I chose the shorter of the two main trails for my first adventure at the preserve. I started my 2-kilometer ski on the Low Pass Trail from the trailhead located in the back right corner of the parking lot of the Outdoor Education Center.

The trail immediately crosses a thin log bridge over East Hammond Creek and then climbs a short steep hill. Once on top of the hill, I began the gradual, rolling downhill ski along a steep ravine to a creek bed. From the top of a small plateau, I took in the view of the impressive Fan Mountain. From there, I continued past a small building and picnic area. This campsite provides a beautiful vista and is a great spot for a picnic lunch or to rest before your return trip back. The ski back is a continuous and gradual climb for 2 kilometers that ends back at the Outdoor Education Center.

I was impressed by the scenery and stillness of the area throughout the entire ski and I felt like my dogs and I were the only ones for miles and miles—save for the wildlife we shared the preserve with. Dogs are welcome, but must be on voice control. Please bring your own bags to pick up after them.

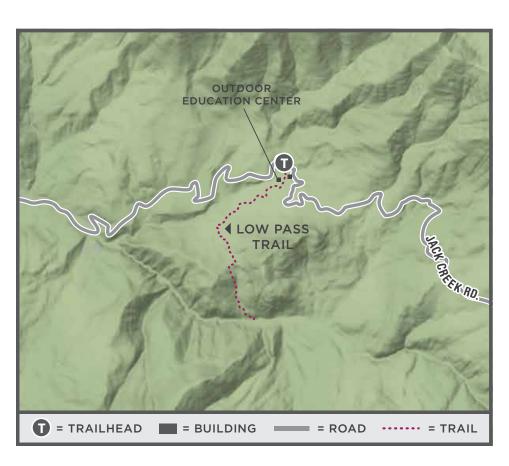
The trail is groomed weekly and well-packed, so skiers have a clear trail to follow. Backcountry or classic skis are recommended due to the varying conditions of the trail. Snowshoes are also welcome. Trail maps can be found at the trailhead or jackcreekpreserve.org. If you're not comfortable attempting this adventure on your own, the foundation also provides free guided tours upon request.



Junebug explores the Low Pass Trail in the Jack Creek Preserve. PHOTO BY CIARA WOLFE

To arrange a guided tour, call the foundation or contact emily@jackcreekpreserve.org. Trail grooming is made possible thanks to donations to the foundation and a sponsorship from the NorthWestern Energy Community Works program. The preserve is a beautiful piece of property that is a must-see experience. I encourage you to plan your ski now. Plan ample time to enjoy the beautiful scenic drive to the preserve from Big Sky and back. Four-wheel drive vehicles are recommended on Jack Creek Road during winter.

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** 4K round trip

Uses Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, dog friendly



**Difficulty** Intermediate



Gain



**Surface** Packed/ groomed trail

**Directions:** Head west on Highway 64 toward Big Sky Resort and continue until you reach the Moonlight Basin entry. At at the roundabout, turn right onto Jack Creek Road. Turn right at the Upper Jack Creek Gate across from Cedar Mountain Corals. Enter the gate code obtained with prior permission from Jack Creek Preserve Foundation staff and continue following Jack Creek Road approximately 8 ¾ miles. Turn left at the sign to the Outdoor Education Center. The trailhead can be found in the back right corner of the parking lot. Approximately 40 minutes from Big Sky.

### **Ski tips: How is your radius?**

BY DAN EGAN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

It's time for a radius check: If you're looking for speed and edge control from green to double black diamond slopes then start to focus on the radius of your turns.

Radius can be a forgotten element of our skiing and unless round turns are practiced they can be hard to execute when we need them the most.

Most of us feel like a skiing hero on groomed slopes, making arcs and imagining winning World Cup races, but this falls apart as soon when we become intimidated by a change in terrain, skiing glades or inconsistent snow conditions. When skiers reach the outer edge of their comfort zone the arc and roundness of their turns will fall apart and with it goes performance.

#### There are five key elements to linking turns that have the same radius:

- 1. Dynamic body motion that creates compression and extension in the legs
- 2. Consistent pole plants
- 3. No braking or skidding in the last third of the turn
- 4. Short transitions between turns
- 5. Confidence in your ability

#### Maintaining a round arcing turn will provide five main benefits:

- 1. A carving ski is a stable ski
- 2. A round smooth turn allows the ski to flex and perform
- 3. The arc of the ski keeps our body moving down the fall line
- 4. Linked turns with consistent radius will create more control
- 5. Round turns allow you to ski more of the mountain

#### Five ways to improve the radius of your turns:

- 1. Find a trail that has short pitch that you are comfortable carving turns on
- 2. Ski the pitch linking short to medium radius turns from the top to the bottom (10-15 turns max)
- 3. Repeat five times on the same pitch

- 4. Analyze each run where the radius of the turn is breaking down and what is causing the breakdown. Is it acceleration, lack of balance, lack of confidence or poor pole plants?
- 5. Count your turns and as you approach the trouble area—turns eight through 15, for example—focus on your body position, pole plants and transition between turns.

If you spend a portion of your day training in this manner, you are bound to improve the radius of your turns and over time your confidence will grow in proportion to your control.

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 he 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 skiclinics.com/education/skitips.



Dan Egan demonstrates a round, arcing turn as he prepares for the next one with an impending pole plant. Egan will be hosting his steeps camp Feb. 23-25 at Big Sky Resort. PHOTO BY JEN BENNET/RUMBLE PRODUCTIONS







#### **PARENT & TEEN AVALANCHE LEVEL 1**

### Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn and practice avalanche skills alongside your teen this March Break!

Taught by America Avalanche Association Instructor, Tom Thorn, this workshop combines classroom instruction with two days of field experiences to learn avalanche fundamentals, including avalanche types, terrain, snowpack and weather, decision making and avalanche resuce.

Required Equipment: Skis or Snowboard, Avalanche Beacon, Shovel, Probe & Ski Pass

Minimum participant age is 13 Cost is \$335 per participant **Space is limited!** 

Classroom Session
Thursday
March 9th
5-8 PM

**Big Sky Discovery Academy** 



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#### **Field Sessions**

Friday & Saturday March 10th & 11th 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM Big Sky Resort

### **CONTACT US TODAY**

nancy@bigskydiscoveryacademy.org | 406.993.2008 | bigskydiscoveryacademy.org Visit www.americanavalancheassociation.org to learn about the Avalanche Education Progression





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Brett Evertz Real Estate Loan Officer NMLS #523473

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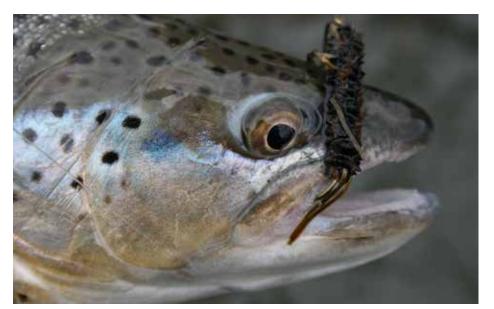


BY PATRICK STRAUB EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

We are in the heart of winter. Snow covers most of the ground, the skiing is consistently good in this nice cycle of storms, and temperatures range from near zero to forty degrees. So I am asking you to think about fishing. Fishing? It's February for goodness sake.

Fishing in February is not unusual—in fact, there's a small cadre of anglers who argue the next few weeks serve up some of the year's best fishing. The yardstick for measuring this: fewer people on the rivers, the potential for abundant hatching midges, mid-day fishing hours cease the need to start early or stay late, and the box-of-chocolates ideology is amplified in winter.

If you head out to our local waters to fish in the coming weeks, be sure your fly box is well stocked with the following patterns to avoid common pitfalls.



Choosing the right fly for winter fishing is important. The Pat's Rubber Legs stonefly nymph is an essential fly for the Gallatin River this time of year. Fish it as a lead fly in a two-fly nymph system. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

**Zebra midge.** The beadhead version is preferred but not essential. If I had been exposed to this fly earlier in my angling, I would have caught many more trout. The pattern is very simple and is tied by adding thread to a hook, adding a bead, wrapping the layers of thread with some wire, and calling it good. As fly patterns go, it cannot be simpler. As flies that catch fish go, it's versatile and effective. In winter it's best fished as nymph as part of a two-fly rig, but an un-beaded Zebra midge can be fished as an emerging insect under a dry fly or small indicator. Tied in various colors, with black being the most popular, this fly is tied onto my rig at some point during any winter outing.

**Pat's Rubber Legs.** Here it is again. This fly makes every "must-have" list out there. There's even a story circulating that a bonefish in Belize ate this fly. Tied to imitate a stonefly nymph, this pattern is just plain good. You will most often fish it as a lead fly in a two-fly rig. Similar to the Zebra midge, it is easily tied and also easily fished. Very few flies are effective year-round, but a Pat's rubber legs is one of those rare patterns that can entice a fish to eat any day of the year.

**Griffith's gnat.** As February wanes, the potential for hatching midges increases. Midges are small insects that provide the bulk of a trout's winter diet. Read more about midges in my Feb. 2014 column titled "Midges: Little itty-bitty bugs of huge importance to winter fly fishing." The Griffith's gnat mimics a midge cluster on any river. This pattern is effective on the Gallatin and Upper Madison, but it should work on any body of water where midge clusters dominate in winter.

The original pattern is tied with hackles to allow it to sit high on the surface, making it easier to see, but a colored post can also be used for better visibility. When fishing the Griffith's gnat, I place fly floatant on my leader as well as the fly so the fly floats higher on the surface.

# The best flies for winter fly fishing

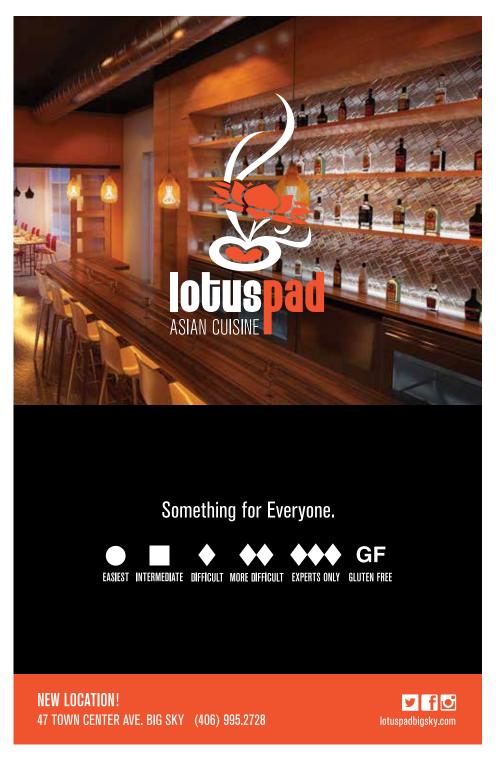
### Five simple yet vital patterns

**Any firebead nymph**. In choosing which firebead was the best—between Czech nymphs, Ray Charles, Scuds, Sunkists and worms—I took the easy way out. In winter trout are on the lookout for easy meals with lots of calories, and a firebead, a fly tied with a pink or orange beadhead, is just that. Firebeads burst onto the angling scene around ten years ago. A few purists argue the firebead imitates an egg. We'll never know what a trout is thinking while eating a fly, but there's no arguing this fly's effectiveness.

**Jujubee midge.** In addition to having the coolest name of the group, this fly is a fish-catching machine. Created by Charlie Craven and inspired by the ultra-selective trout on pressured waters, the Jujubee midge has become a local favorite. For years we were able to keep the secret quiet, but the more effective it became the harder it became to keep it quiet. Jujubee's are tied in a variety of colors. Similar to a Zebra midge, they can be fished as a deep nymph or emerging insect. Once you go Juju you'll catch trout through and through.

I cannot remember if a few weeks ago the groundhog's shadow was seen or not. With snow thick on the ground, it feels like winter is here for awhile longer. For skiers and riders that's a good thing, and for anglers it is too—snow now means more water come summer. As the snow flies, embrace it. And now with the flies above, you can enjoy your winter fishing even more. Just be sure to carry them all because when fly fishing in winter you never know what you're going to get.

Pat Straub is the co-founder of the Montana Fishing Guide School, 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 and he co-owns Montana Fishing Outfitters.



# Snowshoe Shuffle brings frosty fun to Big Sky Resort 13th annual event will benefit community animal shelter

HEART OF THE VALLEY ANIMAL SHELTER

On Saturday, March 4, Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter and Big Sky Resort will team up again to host the Snowshoe Shuffle. This family-friendly event features a torch-lit course, chili dinner and an exciting raffle to benefit the animal shelter.

"We're pleased to announce the 13th annual Snowshoe Shuffle, a great way to get outdoors with your friends, family and canine companions," said Emily Burkhardt, HOV's Volunteer and Education Manager. "Our supporters look forward to this annual tradition as a great opportunity to have fun and benefit the dogs and cats at HOV."

The event begins at 5:30 p.m. at Big Sky Resort's Madison Base Area. Participants will trek with their dogs on an off-leash adventure ending at the Headwaters Grille for chili and raffle drawings. Prizes include gift cards, dining and lodging packages, and more.

The course is about two miles long, takes about 45 minutes to complete, and is challenging enough to be fun for everyone. Since the course is well groomed, participants can easily complete the course with or without snowshoes. This year's event sponsors include Big Sky Resort, Bridger Animal Nutrition, the Yellowstone Club, The Shaw Family, Yellowstone Dog Sled Adventures, First Security Bank, Canine Kneads, Sandy Epstein, Rainbow Ranch and Outlaw Partners.



Snowshoe Shuffie participants start the groomed hike through Big Sky Resort. PHOTO COURTESY OF BEREZA PHOTOGRAPHY

HOV will give away bandanas for participating dogs. Early Bird tickets are available for a discount at both Bridger Animal Nutrition locations and at Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter and children under 10 years old can participate free of charge.

Visit heartofthevalleyshelter.org for more information.

Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter is an open-door shelter that finds homes for the lost and surrendered animals of the Gallatin and Madison valleys.

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# West Yellowstone hosts a biathlon and a winter event combining cross-country skiing and cuisine

WEST YELLOWSTONE SKI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

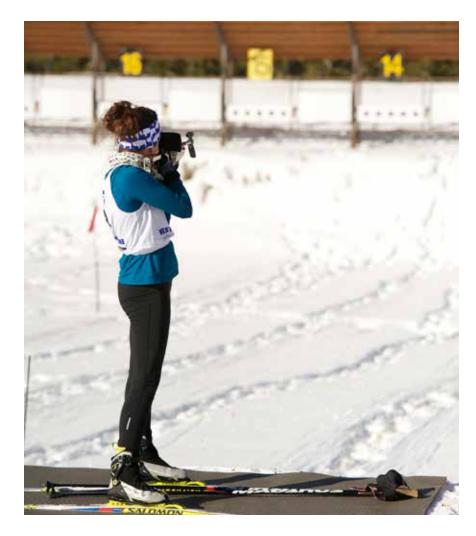
On Feb. 25, the West Yellowstone Ski Education Foundation is hosting the annual Taste of the Trails, an event designed to encourage skiers of all ages and abilities to try cross-country skiing in a simple and festive format. A 5-kilometer (3.1 mile) course will take skiers and snowshoers around gentle rolling terrain on the Rendezvous Ski Trails.

Four feed stations are staffed by volunteers along the way so participating skiers can enjoy homemade snacks and beverages. Skiers can casually stride from spot to spot, revel in the winter landscapes, refuel with friends, and explore the trails in a relaxed, non-competitive atmosphere.

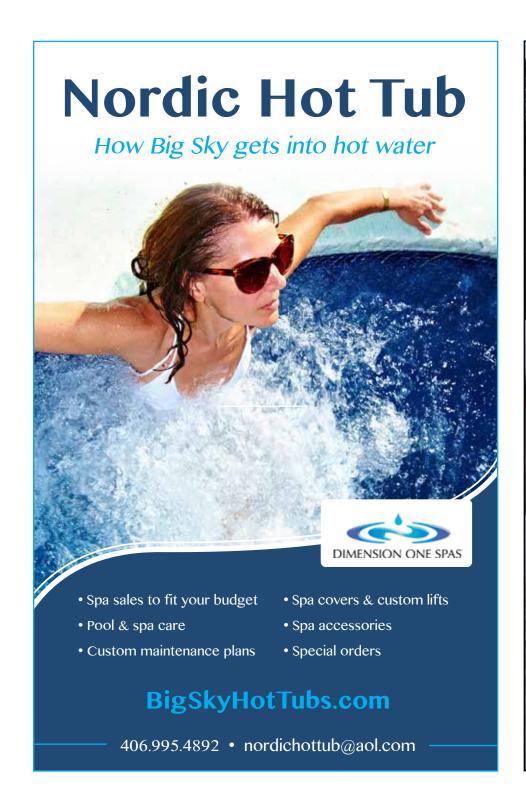
The ticket includes stops at the four feed stations. There are stations devoted to appetizers, soups, main dishes and desserts. Skiers must have a Rendezvous Ski Trails trail pass, available for purchase at Freeheel & Wheel located at 33 Yellowstone Avenue, or at the Trailhead Building located at 201 S. Geyser Street. Taste of the Trails tickets must be purchased in advance. Purchases can be made online at skirunbikemt. com/taste-of- the-trails.html

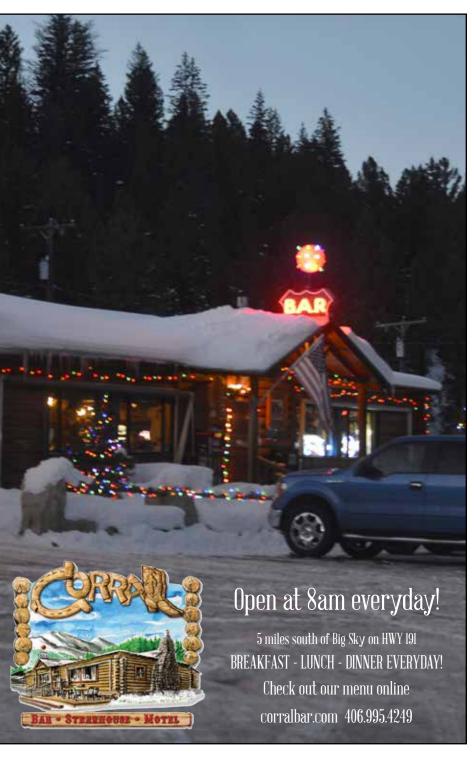
Interested in staying in West Yellowstone for the weekend? WYSEF and Altius Handcrafted Firearms are hosting the third and final biathlon race of the season on Sunday, Feb. 26 The Biathlon Cup #3 is a mass start format and offers races for experienced biathletes as well as those who are interested in trying their first race. Novice athletes are encouraged to participate. WYSEF will provide instructions, rifles and ammunition.

For more information or to register for one or both events, visit skirunbikemt.com.



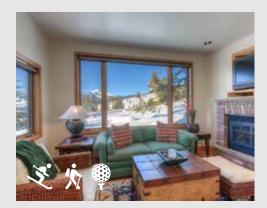
A biathlon race is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 26 at West Yellowstone's Rendezvous Ski Trails. PHOTO COURTESY OF WEST YELLOWSTONE SKI EDUCATION FOUNDATION





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### Skijoring at the 320 Guest Ranch: Like waterskiing on snow

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

BIG SKY - The sport of skijoring returned to the 320 Guest Ranch for the seventh consecutive year on Feb. 4-5 with 50 teams competing for cash prizes in three sections: open, women's and sport.

Originating in Norway, skijoring is an increasingly popular sport where skiers are pulled by dogs, horses or motorized vehicles. At the 320 Ranch, skiers were pulled by horse and rider through a 400-yard course as spectators looked on and cheered.

Equine skijoring resembles waterskiing if you squint hard enough. The skier has no poles, only a rope to hang on to as they navigate gates, jumps and other obstacles on short skis, reaching speeds up to 30 miles per hour.

Competitors raced the course twice on both Saturday and Sunday. The best times from each day were then averaged to determine the overall winners in their respective sections.

On Saturday, many teams had trouble navigating a banked gate near the end of the course, causing many skiers to lose their grip on the rope and, as a result, have their times disqualified. Some teams chose to intentionally miss a gate, taking a five second penalty to ensure they had one run that counted towards their overall score. By Sunday afternoon, many teams had figured out the right way to successfully make the final turns without missing a gate or dropping the rope.

It was local Carrie Lee's third time competing in the event as a skier at the 320 Guest Ranch. "This was my first overall win after lots of second places skijoring. Now I'm on the hunt for a belt buckle," Lee said.

On-the-fly decision-making, rope management, and staying balanced are allies when you're trying to go as fast as you can, Lee added. She plans to compete in other Montana skijoring events this winter, one in Wisdom and another in Red Lodge.

Thanks to the 320 Guest Ranch and Skijor International, skijoring has become a welcome winter tradition just south of Big Sky. Combining our state's strong skiing heritage and cowboy roots, this action-packed event is worth putting on your calendar next time it comes to town.



Skier Chris Plank navigates a banked gate at 320 Ranch with ease. PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVE REEVES PHOTOGRAPHY

#### **Results**

#### **Open Division**

1st Place: Ebbie Hansen pulling Aaron Griffen 2nd Place: Richard Weber pulling Tyler Smedsrud 3rd Place: Cal Douglas pulling Sayre Smith

#### **Sport Division:**

1st Place: CR Kunesh pulling Colin Cook 2nd Place: Richard Weber pulling Ryan Griffen 3rd Place: Kristi Herbig pulling Jarid Gibson

#### **Women's Division:**

1st Place: Kristi Herbig pulling Carrie Lee 2nd Place: Mariah Rys-Sikora pulling Jill McNamara 3rd Place: Krissi Block on Baxter pulling Alex Estes

# Celebrate our public lands through live storytelling at second annual Tales from the Backcountry

#### FERMANTANA

Storytelling is an act ingrained in our human makeup. This compulsive desire to tell stories includes our hunting and angling experiences. Whether it's chasing a trophy bull elk, harvesting your first upland bird, encountering a bear on the hunt, or landing the trout of a lifetime, these memories live on in our stories as we share them with family and friends.

For many of us in Montana and across the West, public lands serve as center stage for these outdoors experiences. Given the increasing threats public lands face, it's important now more than ever, that we share these stories, our public lands stories.

Fermentana is proud to present the second annual Tales from the Backcountry: Celebrating Our Public Lands. Join the Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers and special guest speakers and outdoors professionals for a live storytelling pint night March 1. Jason Matzinger, Ryan Callaghan, Land Tawney, Rachel Vande Voort, Sarah Keller and Elliott Woods will share stories of hunting and fishing on public lands at the Ballroom of the Emerson Center for Arts & Culture in Bozeman.

Doors open at 6p.m. and the event starts at 7p.m. sharp. Beer from MAP Brewing Co. will be on tap and similar to last year, attendees will have the opportunity to win some new gear in a giveaway of BHA swag, as well as items donated by sponsor outdoors companies like Schnee's Montana, Kimber, First Lite, Extreme Performance Archery, Timbers Trails and more.

Tickets are currently available at the following Bozeman retailers: Schnee's Montana, Extreme Performance Archery and Rivers Edge West Fly Shop in Four Corners. Tickets can also be purchased online at bhastorytellingpintnight.bpt.me.

Event organizer Jesse Bussard recommends that interested parties purchase tickets sooner rather than later. "If last year's attendance is any indication, this event will probably sell out," she said.

More information about the event and the speakers who will be sharing stories can be found at fermentana.com/events.



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### **Burton Step On bindings**

BY ZACK LANDEN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The art of snowboarding began to surface in the 1970s, and began to skyrocket into a powerful subculture in the '90s. Since then, there's been constant technical experimentation with the equipment. The snowboards, bindings and boots aren't what they used to be, and the industry giant Burton Snowboards is digging deep into the past to change the game once again.

I remember my first snowboard setup when I was 14 years old—having been on skis for many years, I was immediately drawn to a particular type of bindings that allowed snowboarders to step into their bindings like skiers, and quickly get moving at the top of the run.

"Step in" bindings were a new trend, catering to those who were looking for a more convenient way to become connected with their board. But after a few years most brands had parted ways with the concept, struggling to master the construction. However, the people at Burton have revisited the idea, attempting to correct any flaws that may have existed before.

Burton is calling their new system "Step On," and plans to release it to the public for winter 2017-2018. As someone who has grown accustomed to using traditional ratchet bindings without issues, I was skeptical when Burton unveiled their new technology.

I had the opportunity this winter to try on a pair of the Photon Boa Step On boots and pop into the new system. I was blown away by the amount of support and response from the lightweight, strapless setup. I recalled my old step-in bindings as bulky, heavy and difficult to operate, but Burton's new system doesn't have any of those concerns.



While it may not be enough to permanently move many snowboarders away from a two-strap binding, it's a perfect option for those who are seeking an ultimate level of convenience met with functionality and performance.

#### Price to be announced, burton.com

Zack Landen manages the retail outlets at Big Sky Resort, including Big Sky Sports and the Burton Store. He has spent nearly a decade working in snow sport retail operations. If you can't find him in the shop, you'll most likely find him taking hot laps on Shedhorn with a crew of equally passionate powder hounds.







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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.

The 59th Grammy Awards recently celebrated the top figures in music during a night filled with red carpet fashion, live performances and little gold gramophones. While Adele may have taken home the most awards with five total, it was Best New Artist and Best Rap Performance winner Chance the Rapper who captured the most attention.

The Chicago-born rapper released the streaming-only mixtape "Coloring Book" last year that features the chart topping single "No Problem." The album has a profound connection to gospel as Chance the Rapper's lyrics speak of his struggle to break out of stigmas associated with a city of crime to become an independent artist.

"Coloring Book" also features prominent rappers, such as Kanye West, Lil Wayne, and 2 Chainz, who collaborated with Chance to exemplify his stories of struggle. Pure honesty exudes from this album, making Chance the Rapper a well-admired artist and worthy of these accolades.

Below is a list of winning songs from the 59th Grammy Awards:

- 1. "Hello," Adele Record of the Year, Song of the Year, Best Pop Solo Performance
- 2. "Stressed Out," Twenty One Pilots Best Pop Duo
- 3. "Don't Let Me Down," The Chainsmokers Best Dance Recording
- 4. "Blackstar," David Bowie Best Rock Song
- 5. "No Problem," Chance The Rapper Best Rap Performance 6. "Hotline Bling," Drake Best Rap Song
- 7. "Humble And Kind," Lori McKenna Best Country Song
- 8. "My Church," Maren Morris Best Country Solo Performance
- 9. "Lake By The Ocean," Hod David & Musze Best R&B Song
- 10. "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," John Williams Best Score Soundtrack

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.

			4	7			6	
4	7		<b>4 2</b>		5	1		
4 2 7				1	8			
7	2	6				9		
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		9					7	4 6
				5			2 4	6
8							4	

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DIFFICULTY: ★★★

### **American Life in Poetry:** Column 621

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

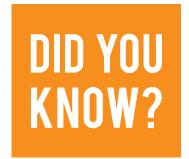
The next time you open your closet, this poem will give you reason to pay a little more attention to what's hanging inside. Gary Whited is from Massachusetts and his most recent book is "Having Listened," (Homebound Publications, 2013).

#### My Blue Shirt By Gary Whited

hangs in the closet of this small room, collar open, sleeves empty, tail wrinkled. Nothing fills the shirt but air and my faint scent. It waits, all seven buttons undone, button holes slack, the soft fabric with its square white pattern, all of it waiting for a body. It would take any body, though it knows, in its shirt way of knowing, only mine has my shape in its wrinkles, my bend in the elbows. Outside this room birds hunt for food, young leaves drink in morning sunlight, people pass on their way to breakfast. Yet here, in this closet, the blue shirt needs nothing, expects nothing, knows only its shirt knowledge, that I am now learning—how to be private and patient, how to be unbuttoned, how to carry the scent of what has worn me, and to know myself by the wrinkles.

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 © 2013 by Gary Whited, "My Blue Shirt," from "Having Listened," (Homebound Publications, 2013). Poem reprinted by permission of Gary Whited and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2017 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.





In 2000, the US Fish and Wildlife Service listed the lynx as "threatened" in the lower 48 states

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## Section 4: EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT









### **Artist Carol Spielman**

### Expressing the timeless through the contemporary

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Billings artist Carol Spielman can trace her connection to horses back to a very specific time in her childhood growing up on Washington's Orcas Island. Although she didn't realize how unique her upbringing was until much later, it left its mark in the vibrant, abstracted equines the painter is best known for.

Most of the families on the island had horses, and at age 11 and 12 they were Spielman's mode of transport and riding them was what she and her friends did for fun. Spielman recounts a poignant memory of how they would take the horses to the island's one sandy beach and ride them bareback far out in the water until their hooves lost contact with the earth and they began to swim.

"We'd literally stand on their backs and dive off of them, swimming around them and with them, then climb back on them all slippery and do it again," Spielman said. "It's a really unique feeling being in the water with them ... you can feel every muscle—it's almost like you become one with them."

It would be many years and a career with Nordstrom's later before Spielman took up the paintbrush and that memory emerged onto the canvas in the form of spindly-legged horses, angular faces, bold outlines and even bolder color schemes.

"I try to get it down to the essence of the horse," Spielman said. "There isn't a lot of detail—sometimes they only have three legs, but the eye automatically fills in the fourth or, if you look close an eye is actually just a blob of paint. I'm more interested in creating a feeling, rather than an exact replica of a horse."

Spielman compares her work to something akin to a pictograph—primal, minimalistic—intended to trigger a feeling or memory in the viewer.

Distorted and exaggerated as they are, they exude grace and admirers of her work respond in a very personal manner, often finding resonance in a subtle gesture or tilt of the head and relating it specifically to a horse they had known.

"The texture is what forms the horse and the color kind of makes it alive," said Spielman, who cites Matisse, Van Gogh and the modern artists of the 1950s as influential in her style and signature bold backgrounds.

Spielman's process is highly interactive and improvisational. Painting on flat ground, she mixes her colors directly on the canvas, building texture and layers out of paint and water that she repeatedly washes and scrapes to build and reveal more depth.

"I really let the paint direct me," Spielman said. "I react to what's going on as the paints mix and drip, as it's happening. It's loose and spontaneous ... The process is really alive and each time it's different."

Spielman is an anomaly in the art world in that she has garnered success and acclaim without striving to do so.

It wasn't until her children were close to college age that Spielman earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Montana State University Billings in 2005. And she never thought she would be an artist—she just wanted her degree.

But while framing some of the work in her student portfolio at Toucan (a Billings gallery, custom frame shop and boutique) the owner asked if they could sell one of her pieces.



Artist Carol Spielman demonstrates her unique technique of mixing paint and blending color directly on the canvas. PHOTO BY JIM SPIELMAN

Today, Spielman is still represented by Toucan, as well as by galleries in Red Lodge, Missoula; Jackson, Wyoming; Park City, Utah; Scottsdale and Tuscon, Arizona; and in Big Sky at Creighton Block Gallery. She credits word of mouth with her success.

"It just kind of happened," Spielman said. "It was my passion, but I was doing it more for myself and it just kind of evolved. I'm glad it happened that way; it took the pressure off."

In 2012, she was the fourth artist-in-residence—and first painter-in-residence—at the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings. A year later, she was named YAM's artist of the year. Recently, a multi-panel piece entitled "Welcoming Committee" returned from an extended stay in Beijing, China where it hung in the formal dining room of American ambassador and Montana's former U.S. Sen. Max Baucus' residence as part of the global Art in Embassies program.

For Spielman, the philanthropic aspect of art-making is very important. A Big Sky homeowner with deep ties to the area, Spielman is participating in the Arts Council of Big Sky Art Auction at Moonlight Lodge on March 23, as she has every year since the auction's inception in 2013. Along with nearly 40 artists, she is donating a portion of the proceeds from two Big Sky-inspired works to benefit the Arts Council in its biggest fundraising event of the year.

Images of the paintings she contributed to the auction—of a moose before Lone Peak and a herd of bighorn sheep along the Gallatin River—will also be emblazoned on the art auction tote bags.

"It's special to be able to give artwork for a cause close to my heart," Spielman said. "It makes it personal. The community supports me by buying my work and I want to support the community in return. We've benefited from everything the arts council has done there—they really enrich the whole Big Sky experience. I love what they do and want to help them and support them any way I can."

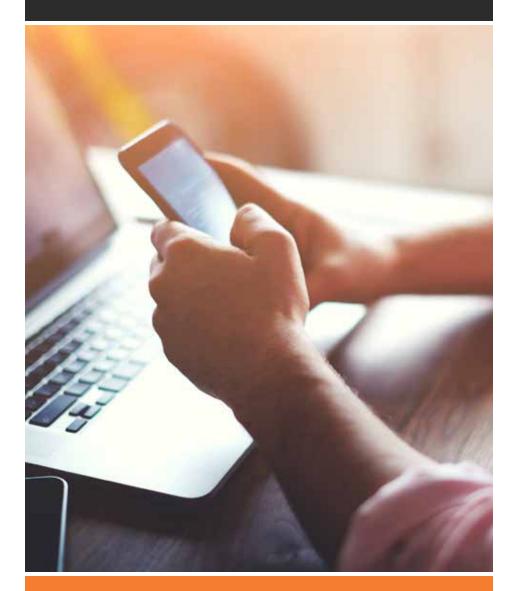
This is the first part of a three-part series spotlighting artists participating in the Arts Council of Big Sky's fifth annual art auction. To see more of Spielman's work, visit carolspielman.com or Creighton Block Gallery in Big Sky. For a full catalog of artists featured in the auction on March 23 visit bigskyarts.org.



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Beat box music and comedic legend Reggie Watts performs for a sold-out WMPAC March 3. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

# Reggie Watts sells out WMPAC March 3 Waiting list for last minute

# Waiting list for last minute tickets available

WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Internationally renowned vocal artist and comedian Reggie Watts will perform before a sold-out audience at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on Friday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. Watts, whose comic and musical versatility shines regularly on late night TV, grew up and attended high school in Great Falls, Montana. Watts studied jazz at Cornish College of the Arts in the early '90s and began his performance career in the Seattle area.

Watts brings to the WMPAC stage the evolution of his musical and artistic genius. His TED Talk, "Beats that Defy Boxes" has been viewed over 8 million times. In his solo performances, Watts uses his formidable voice, looping pedal technology and vast imagination to blend and blur the lines between music and comedy.

Given the widespread demand for Watts to appear live, this is the show that John Zirkle, artistic director of the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, is most surprised to be able to present.

"I'm still pinching myself thinking that we actually got Reggie Watts to agree to come," Zirkle said.

Although Watts' performance is officially sold out, you may join a waiting list for last minute tickets by sending an email to john@warrenmillerpac.org with your name, number of tickets requested, email address and phone number.

For more information visit warrenmillerpac.org.

# Gallatin River Gallery presents Holly Manneck and 'A Pop of Culture'

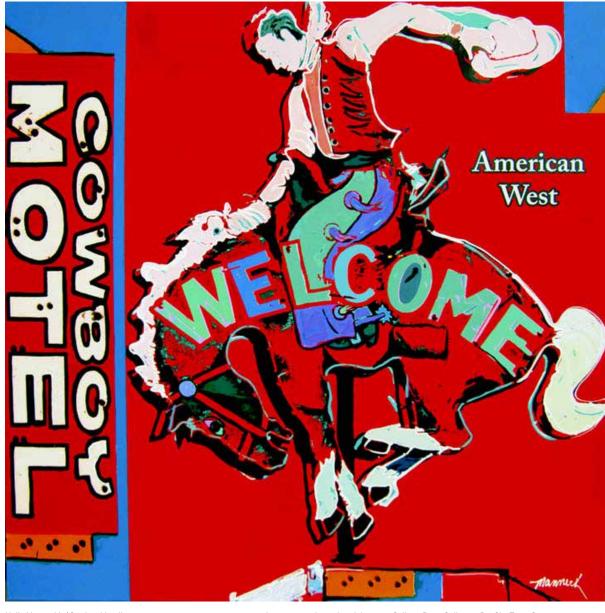
GALLATIN RIVER GALLERY

Gallatin River Gallery presents "A Pop of Culture," a solo exhibition by gallery artist Holly Manneck through April 15.

With a flair for fun, Manneck blends the past and present into one-of-a-kind paintings. With blasts of vivid, layered color; text and iconic images, she creates pieces that represent our cultural society—incorporating movie stars, rock stars, landmarks and social media symbols. Her reverence for the past fuses with modern trends and appeals to all ages.

Manneck has perfected her mixed media technique through years of practice. She collects current symbols and content from archives of history, manipulates and transfers them, and then adds paint. The finished works reflect her adventures, experiences, and sense of wonder at our united cultural experience.

Gallatin River Gallery is located on Ousel Falls Road in the Big Sky Town Center. Call (406) 995-2909 or visit gallatinrivergallery.com for more information.



Holly Manneck's 'Cowboy Motel' is one of many western pop art pieces that comprise her solo exhibition at Gallatin River Gallery in Big Sky Town Center. PHOTO BY HOLLY MANNECK

### HELP ENRICH THE LIVES OF BIG SKY KIDS!

Women In Action offers winter and summer camp scholarships to children of local families who meet financial criteria set forth by Heathly Montana Kids standards.

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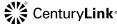
CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone or broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the Federal Communications Commission and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or broadband service per household, and can be on either wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain a Lifeline discount can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

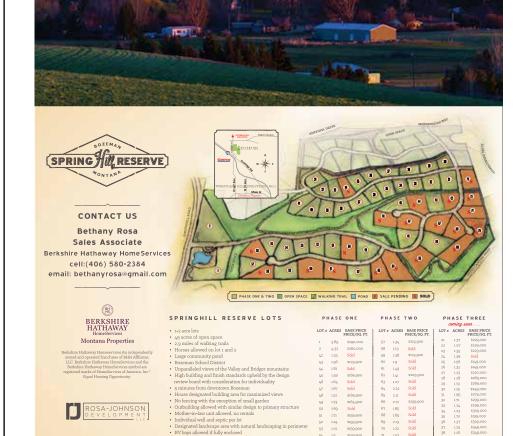
Internet Basics may also be available to Lifeline eligible subscribers and provides reliable home high-speed Internet service up to 1.5Mbps for \$9.95\* per month for the first 12 months of service. Please call 1-800-257-3212 or visit centurylink.com/internetbasics for more information regarding CenturyLink Internet Basics.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-855-954-6546 or visit centurylink. com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.

\*CenturyLink Internet Basics Program – Residential customers only who qualify based on meeting income level or program participation eligibility requirements, and requires remaining eligible for the entire offer period. First bill will include charges for the first full month of service billed in advance, prorated charges for service from the date of installation to bill date, and one-time charges and fees described above. Qualifying customers may keep this program for a maximum of 60 months after service activation provided customer still qualifies during that time. Listed High-Speed Internet rate of \$9.95/mo. applies for first 12 months of service (after which the rate reverts to \$14.95/mo. for the next 48 months of service), and requires a 12-month term agreement. Customer must either lease a modem/router from CenturyLink for an additional monthly charge or independently purchase a modem/router, and a one-time High-Speed Internet activation fee applies. A one-time professional installation charge (if selected by customer) and a one-time shipping and handling fee applies to customer's modem/router. General - Services not available everywhere. Customers must not be currently subscribed to CenturyLink Internet service. CenturyLink may change or cancel services or substitute similar services at its sole discretion without notice. Offer, plans, and stated rates are subject to change and may vary by service area. Deposit may be required. Additional restrictions apply. **Terms and Conditions** – All products and services listed are governed by tariffs, terms of service, or terms and conditions posted at centurylink.com. Taxes, Fees, and Surcharges - Applicable taxes, fees, and surcharges include a carrier Universal Service charge, carrier cost recovery surcharges, state and local fees that vary by area and certain in-state surcharges. Cost recovery fees are not taxes or government-required charges for use. Taxes, fees, and surcharges apply based on standard monthly, not promotional, rates.







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# Bozeman Film Society presents the Oscar-nominated shorts

**BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY** 

For the eighth season, Bozeman Film Society proudly presents the popular "2017 Oscar-Nominated Short Films" on Saturday, Feb. 18 and Sunday, Feb. 19 at The Ellen Theatre. With all three categories offered this year—live action, animation and documentary—this event provides a chance for attendees to view and predict the winners before the Academy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 26.

A perennial hit with audiences around the country—and now the world—this year's nominees are not to be missed. Titles in each program, along with synopses and final running times are listed at shorts.tv/theoscarshorts.

Live action films will be screened at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18; animated shorts at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18; and documentaries at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19.

For ticket packages, ratings and complete program details visit bozemanfilmsociety.org.

### The Elling House hosts Chautauqua program on Feb. 18

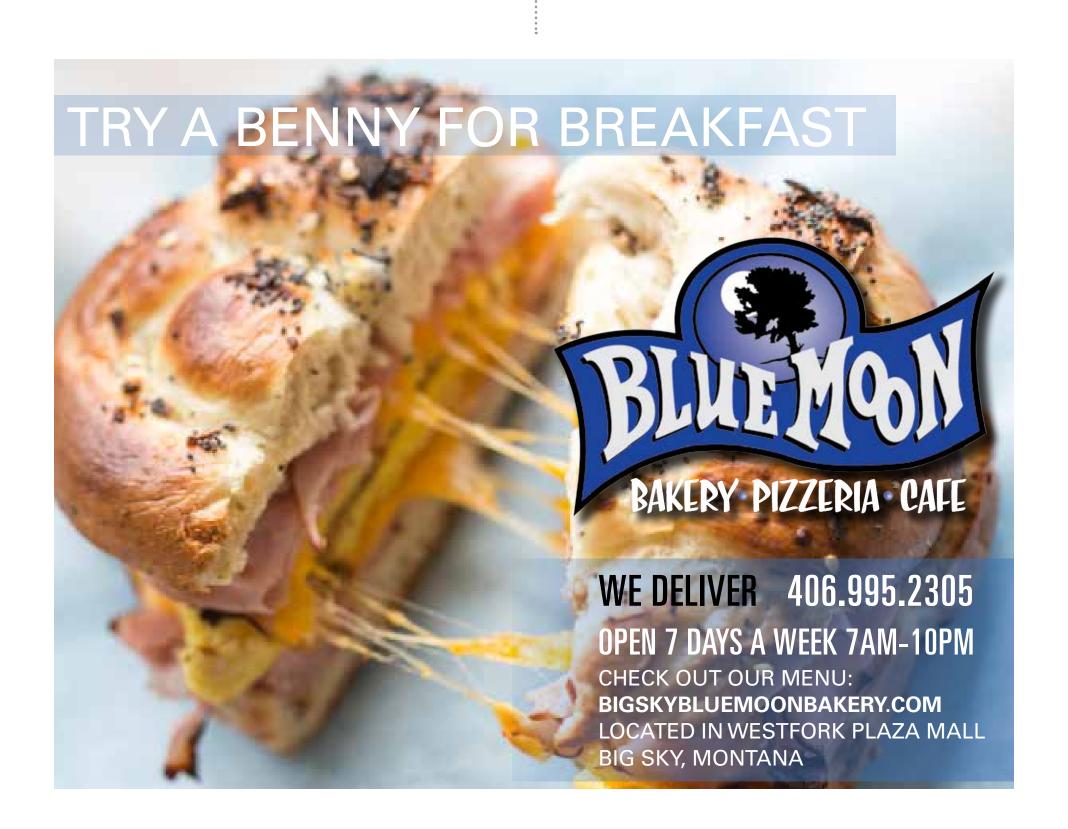
THE ELLING HOUSE ARTS AND HUMANITIES CENTER

The Elling House Arts and Humanities Center in Virginia City continues its popular Chautauqua Winter Series on Saturday Feb. 18.

The Chautauqua programs provide a wonderfully entertaining blend of music and original writing presented by area residents. The Chautauqua concept, founded in 1874, is a uniquely American tradition of bringing entertainment and cultural programs to rural communities. Several Montana communities once hosted one or more of the "circuit Chautauqua" companies during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Today the tradition continues with a variety of writers, musicians and special topic speakers taking center stage at the Elling House on Saturday, Feb. 18. Two remaining programs are scheduled for March 18 and April 15. Each program begins at 7:30 p.m., preceded by a potluck dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m. Those interested in performing should call (406) 843-5454.

Visit ellinghouse.org for more information.



### EVENTS CALENDAR

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

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17 -THURSDAY, MARCH 2

\*If your event falls between March 3 and March 16, please submit it by February 24.

#### Big Sky

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

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

Iran and Tonga: Documentary Travel **Photography** Warren Miller Performing Arts Center,

Live Music Lone Mountain Ranch, 7 p.m.

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

John Derado Carabiner Lounge, 8:30 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18** Subaru Winterfest

Big Sky Resort, all day

The Spice & Tea Exchange Grand Opening The Spice & Tea Exchange, 11 a.m.

Kent Johnson Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

John Derado Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

### 2017 Big Sky Ski Ball Buck's T-4, 6 p.m.

Horn & Cantle Grand Opening Lone Mountain Ranch, 6:30 p.m.

Mike Super Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.

Mike Haring Carabiner Lounge, 8:30 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19** Subaru Winterfest

Big Sky Resort, all day

Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

John Derado Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Live Music Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

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

#### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20** Mike Haring

Carabiner Lounge, 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, FEBRUARY 21**

Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Stakeholder Meeting Big Sky Water & Sewer District, 1 p.m.

John Derado Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Community Learning Center Big Sky Discover Academy, 4 p.m. Big Sky Young Professionals Networking Event featuring Olympian Heather McPhie Lone Peak Cinema, 5 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

Mike Haring Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Live Music Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

Creative Writing Circle led by Liz McRae Santosha Wellness Center, 6 p.m.

John Derado Carabiner Lounge, 8:30 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

Dan Egan's Steeps Camps Big Sky Resort, all day

Headframe Spririts Tasting Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Dan Dubuque Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Kenny Diamond Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

**Community Learning Center** Big Sky Discover Academy, 4 p.m.

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

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

Mike Haring Carabiner Lounge, 8:30 p.m.

#### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24** Dan Egan's Steeps Camps

Big Sky Resort, all day

Kids Yoga Santosha, 3:15 & 4:15 p.m.

Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Lone Mountain Ranch, 7 p.m.

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

John Derado Carabiner Lounge, 8:30 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

Dan Egan's Steeps Camps Big Sky Resort, all day

#### Mad Wolf Relay Big Sky Resort, noon

Jeff Bellino Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Mad Wolf Relay After Party & Awards Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Fools Gold Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

Mike Haring Carabiner Lounge, 8:30 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

John Derado Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

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

Oscar Party Lone Peak Cinema, 7 p.m.

### International Guitar Night Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27** Special Olympics Montana Madison Base Area, All Day

Mike Haring Carabiner Lounge, 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, FEBRUARY 28**

BSAFE Avalanche Course Big Sky Resort, all day

#### Preliminary Plat Hearing: Bough Subdivision Gallatin County Planning Department, 9 a.m.

Community Learning Center Big Sky Discover Academy, 4 p.m.

John Derado Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Live Music Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

HRDC Free Homeownership Education Big Sky Water & Sewer, 5 p.m.

Marc Yaffee and Myk Powell Lone Peak Brewery Loft, 7 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 2

Northern Division YSL Championships Big Sky Resort, all day

Dan Egan's Steeps Camps Big Sky Resort, all day

Staykation Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Community Learning Center Big Sky Discover Academy, 4 p.m.

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

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

#### Bozeman

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17 Winter Crazy Days Downtown Bozeman, 10 a.m.

Claudia Williams Kountry Korner Café, 5:30 p.m.

BYEP's Carnival Bingo Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 6 p.m.

Nowhere to Go but Up Kaleidoscope Youth Theatre, 7 p.m.

Trivia Night: Caddyshack The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Ben McKee Townshend's Bozeman Teahouse, 7 p.m.

Tango- Singles Night Oba Café, 7 p.m.

Jazz Night Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

A Little Night Music MSU Black Box Theater, 7:30 p.m. Lanev Lou & the Bird Dogs with Two Tracks The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 8 p.m.

Tsunami Funk American Legion, 9 p.m.

Groovewax Eagles Lodge, 9 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18 Bozeman Trapper Education Course**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional Headquarters, 8:30 a.m.

Bozeman Winter Farmers Market Emerson Ballroom, 9 a.m.

Sweet Pea Ice Carving Exhibition Bozeman Public Library, 9 a.m.

Winter Crazy Days Downtown Bozeman, 10 a.m.

MSU Men's Basketball vs. Sacramento State Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 2 p.m.

Silly Moose Improv Comedy Verge Theater, 2 p.m.

2017 Oscar Nominated Shorts The Ellen Theatre, 3:30 & 7 p.m.

Wild Joe's Coffee Spot, 5 p.m. Nowhere to Go but Up

Kaleidoscope Youth Theatre, 7 p.m. Brianna Moore Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Open Mic Night

A Little Night Music MSU Black Box Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Pajamarama The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

Kitchen Dwellers with Screen Door Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 9 p.m.

Tsunami Funk American Legion, 9 p.m.

Groovewax Eagles Lodge, 9 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

Winter Crazy Days Downtown Bozeman, 10 a.m.

Galloping Dog Agility & Flyball Club Gallatin County Fairgrounds, noon

Nowhere to Go but Up Kaleidoscope Youth Theatre, 2 p.m.

A Little Night Music MSU Black Box Theater, 2:30 p.m.

2017 Oscar Nominated Shorts The Ellen Theatre, 3:30 & 7 p.m.

The Fog MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

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

Kenny Diamond Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20** Winter Crazy Days Downtown Bozeman, 10 a.m.

Edis Kittrell Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

Spanish Class with Kristin ND Wolf Lockhorn Cider House, 7:30 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

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

Life Stressors/ Raising Resilience Willson School, noon

Women's Lunch Hour Healing Retreat Montana Lotus Center, noon

Creole for the Soul: Dinner for Thrive Montana Ale Works, 5 p.m.

MSU Awards for Excellence MSU SUB, 5:30 p.m.

Kate and the Allery Kats

MAP Brewing, 6 p.m. Richmond Slim Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY. FEBRUARY 22**

**DBA Showcase Series** Downtown Bozeman, 4:30 p.m.

A Cultural History of Skiing in Yellowstone REI. 6 p.m.

### The Wedding Series The Baxter Hotel, 6 p.m.

Pecha Kucha 22 The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Wilderness and the Wild, Sacred Pryors Bozeman Public Library, 7 p.m.

Comedy Night Red Tractor Pizza, 7:30 p.m.

Trivia Night Rockin' R Bar, 8 p.m.

The Molly Brown, 8 p.m.

The B Side Players

The Filling Station, 8 p.m. Karaoke Night

Bacchus Pub, 9 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

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

The Vibe Quartet 406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

Chinese Medicine and Cooking Class The Hummingbird's Kitchen, 6 p.m.

Hands-On Ski & Snowboard Waxing

**Basics** REI, 6 p.m. Cole & The Thornes

Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m. Pecha Kucha 22 The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

A Little Night Music MSU Black Box Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Nvnorski! Reynold's Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

**West Coast Swing** Townshend's Teahouse, 7:30 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 Art Restoration and Conservation Expo Old Main Gallery & Framing, 10 a.m.

Friends of the Library Used Book Sale

Bozeman Public Library, 4 p.m. Claudia Williams Kountry Korner Café, 5:30 p.m.

Nowhere to Go but Up Kaleidoscope Youth Theatre, 7 p.m. Jazz Night Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Bozeman Icedogs vs. Helena Bighorns Haynes Pavilion, 7:30 p.m.

A Little Night Music MSU Black Box Theater, 7:30 p.m.

MSU Symphony Orchestra Concerto Reynold's Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

#### Rebelution The Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture

Jerry Joseph & The Jackmormons Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 8 p.m.

Marjorie Prime Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Exit 288 American Legion, 9 p.m.

Quenby & The West of Wayland Eagles Lodge, 9 p.m.

Colvenhoof: Mardi Gras Party The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25 YMCA SnowBall Gala

The Commons at Baxter & Love, 5 p.m.

Crocs: Ancient Predators in a Modern World Museum of the Rockies, 9 a.m.

Art Restoration & Conservation Expo

Old Main Gallery & Framing, 10 a.m.

MSU Women's Basketball vs.

Montana Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 2 p.m.

Silly Moose Improv Comedy Verge Theater, 2 p.m.

Derek Hughes The Ellen Theatre, 4 & 7:30 p.m.

Ballet: Snow White Willson Auditorium, 4 p.m.

Skavocado MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

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

Nowhere to Go but Up Kaleidoscope Youth Theatre, 7 p.m.

A Little Night Music MSU Black Box Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Jerry Joseph & The Jackmormons Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 8 p.m.

Marjorie Prime Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

The Old Soles & Left on Tenth The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

Exit 288 American Legion, 9 p.m.

Quenby & The West of Wayland Eagles Lodge, 9 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Friends of the Library Used Book Sale Bozeman Public Library, 10 a.m.

Ballet: Snow White Willson Auditorium, 2 p.m.

Nowhere to Go but Up Kaleidoscope Youth Theatre, 2 p.m.

A Little Night Music MSU Black Box Theater, 2:30 p.m.

Erin & The Project MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

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

Lang Termes Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

Tom & Chelsea Cook Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

Monday Night Blues Jam The Filling Station, 7 p.m.

Improv on the Verge Verge Theater, 7 p.m.

Spanish Class with Kristin ND Wolf Lockhorn Cider House, 7:30 p.m.

Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7:30 p.m.

Trivia Bacchus Pub, 8 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Free Health Screenings Gallatin Valley Food Bank, 11 a.m.

Women's Lunch Hour Healing Retreat Montana Lotus Center, noon

Divine Mercy Academy's Mardi Gras Dinner & Fundraiser Holiday Inn, 5:30 p.m.

lan Thomas MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

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

ARTrageous The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1** 1 Million Cups

Red Tractor Pizza, 7:30 p.m.

Gallatin History Museum Lecture Series Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

2nd Annual Tales from the Backcountry The Emerson Center for the Arts & Cultures, 6 p.m.

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

Trivia Night Rockin' R Bar, 8 p.m.

Trivia The Molly Brown, 8 p.m.

Karaoke Night Bacchus Pub, 9 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 2

The Vibe Quartet 406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

Art on the Rocks: Margaritas and Macrame Rockin' R Bar, 6:30 p.m.

Buffalo Ruckus Live From the Divide 8 n m

Live From the Divide, 8 p.m.

The Fresh Boys & Dusty Green Bones Band 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.

Rockin' R Bingo Rockin' R Bar, Tuesdays at 7 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.

Bozeman's Original Pub Trivia Pub 317, Wednesdays 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 Peet's Hill, Fridays at noon

### **Livingston & Paradise Valley**

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Friday Skate Nights Livingston Civic Center, 5:30 p.m.

Bob Britten Uncorked, 6 p.m.

Tom Catmull's Radio Static The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

The Fossils Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Logan Auction Park County Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.

Deadrock Writers Livingston Park County Public Library, 2 p.m.

Dan Meyer Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

The Two Tracks The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

The Fossils Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

Jay's Lounge The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

#### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Shelly Besler & Tony Polecastro The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

Bluegrass Jam Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Beer for a Cause: Absaroka-Beartooth Hunters & Anglers Katabatic Brewing, all day

Livingston Business Series MSU Park County Extension, 9 a.m.

Painting with Potter Neptune's Brewery, 6 p.m.

Bluegrass Etc The Attic, 7 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22**Painting with Potter

Neptune's Brewery, 6 p.m.

Creek & Rivers Writer's Night Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23** Danny Bee

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

The Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

Friday Skate Nights Livingston Civic Center, 5:30 p.m.

Creek & River Writers Night Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

Downtime Band Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25**Kalyn Beasly Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Teen After Hours Game Night Livingston Park County Public Library, 7 p.m.

Denny & The Resonators The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

Jay's Lounge The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

Dan Henry The Murray Bar, 5 p.m. Bluegrass Jam Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Beer for a Cause: Adult Rec Basketball League Katabatic Brewing, all day

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 2

Speaker Series: A History of Floating the Yellowstone Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

Kalyn Beasley The Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

#### **West Yellowstone**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17 Bingo Branch Restaurant, 6:30 p.m.

Jensen Buck The Buffalo Bar, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18 Ranger-led Snowshoe Walk West Yellowstone Visitor Center, 10 a.m.

Winter Snowshoe Program Hebgen Lake Ranger Station, 1 p.m.

Afternoon Talk with a Yellowstone Ranger Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center, 2 p.m.

Jensen Buck The Buffalo Bar, 9 p.m.

Live Poker The Buffalo Bar, 7 p.m. Yellowstone Ranger Led Evening

Program West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19 Afternoon Talk with a Yellowstone Ranger Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center, 2 p.m.

Yellowstone Ranger Led Evening Program West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20 Martial Arts Classes Povah Center, 5:30 p.m.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21**Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22**Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23**Knit Night
Stagecoach Inn, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 Bingo Branch Restaurant, 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25 Ranger-led Snowshoe Walk West Yellowstone Visitor Center. 10 a.m.

Annual Taste of the Trails Rendezvous Ski Trails, 11 a.m.

Afternoon Talk with a Yellowstone Ranger Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center, 2 p.m.

Live Poker The Buffalo Bar, 7 p.m. Kayle Allgood and Sunshine James The Buffalo Bar, 9 p.m.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26**Biathlon Cup #3
Rendezvous Trails, all day

Ranger-led Snowshoe Walk West Yellowstone Visitor Center, 10 a.m.

Afternoon Talk with a Yellowstone Ranger Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center, 2 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27 Martial Arts Classes Povah Center, 5:30 p.m.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28**Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 Martial Arts Classes Povah Center, 5:30 p.m.

The Late Bloomers The Buffalo Bar, 10 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2 Knit Night Stagecoach Inn, 6 p.m.

#### **Ennis**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17** Live Music Willie's Distillery, 5:30 p.m.

Nathan North Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18 Hazel Hue Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19** Lang Termes Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 Live Music Willie's Distillery, 5:30 p.m.

Dan Henry Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Travis Yost Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m. SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25** 

Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m. **THURSDAY, MARCH 2**Business After Hours

Plain Janes, 5 p.m.

Heather Lingle

#### Creek to Peak:

**Adult Soapbox Derby** 

Livingston, MT

Registration deadline:
February 22, 2017

**Event Date:** 

Brewfest

April 8, 2017 \$250 registration fee Registration Includes: A derby shirt & free entry

into Tap into Montana

### **Lone Peak Cinema Oscars Party**

February 26 // 7 p.m. Lone Peak Cinema, Big Sky

Red Carpet Pictures, Best Dressed, Oscar Bingo, Hors D'Oeuvres



BOZEMAN HEALTH
BIG SKY MEDICAL CENTER

**Emergency Department:** Monday-Sunday 24/7 Family Medicine Clinic: Monday-Friday 8:00 am-5:00 pm

Retail Pharmacy: Monday-Friday 9:00 am-6:00 pm Saturday-Sunday 9:00 am-1:00 pm 406-995-6500

24/7 Hospital and Emergency Services

Family Medicine Clinic same- and next-day appointments

Diagnostic Imaging X-Ray, CT, and MRI

**Laboratory** provider ordered testing

**Retail Pharmacy** *new, transfer and refill prescriptions* 

406-995-6995

334 Town Center Avenue, Big Sky BigSkyMedicalCenter.com



THE EXPERIENCE TO BRING YOUR VISION TO LIFE







## International Guitar Night features four virtuosos

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

The Arts Council of Big Sky concludes its winter concert season with a celebration of fingerstyle acoustic guitar at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 26, when four acclaimed musicians will share the stage at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.

The concert, dubbed International Guitar Night, is one of the most popular touring events that showcases guitar music. It features some of the hottest players in the world, including the grandnephew of famous jazz musician Django Reinhardt, Lulo Reinhardt. Also appearing are Luca Stricagnoli, Chrystian Dozza and Debashish Bhattacharya.

This annual tour has been a forum for the world's finest guitarists and composers to play their latest original songs and share musical ideas since its inception in 1995.

"We're excited about bringing this annual event back to Big Sky," said ACBS Executive Director Brian Hurlbut. "Last year's response was overwhelmingly positive and the audience will again be amazed at the talent level of these guitarists."

Gypsy jazz legend Lulo Reinhardt will be acting as the host for the evening. Last year, Reinhardt amazed the crowed with his impressive Gypsy-style guitar playing and it was easy to see that this unique style runs in the family.

Reinhardt will be joined by three new, incredibly 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.

Stricagnoli's inventive "tapping" techniques have garnered over 7 million views on YouTube. Dozza has won many prestigious awards as one of Brazil's leading young guitarists, and Bhattacharya has invented his own technique for playing classical Indian music on the slide guitar and collaborated with musicians from around the world.

Tickets are on sale at warrenmillerpac.org. For more information call (406) 995-2742 or visit bigskyarts.org.



Lulo Reinhardt returns to Big Sky for International Guitar Night at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on Feb. 26. PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY



# Another reason their title is deserved

BIG SKY

2016 WINNER

Real Estate Agency

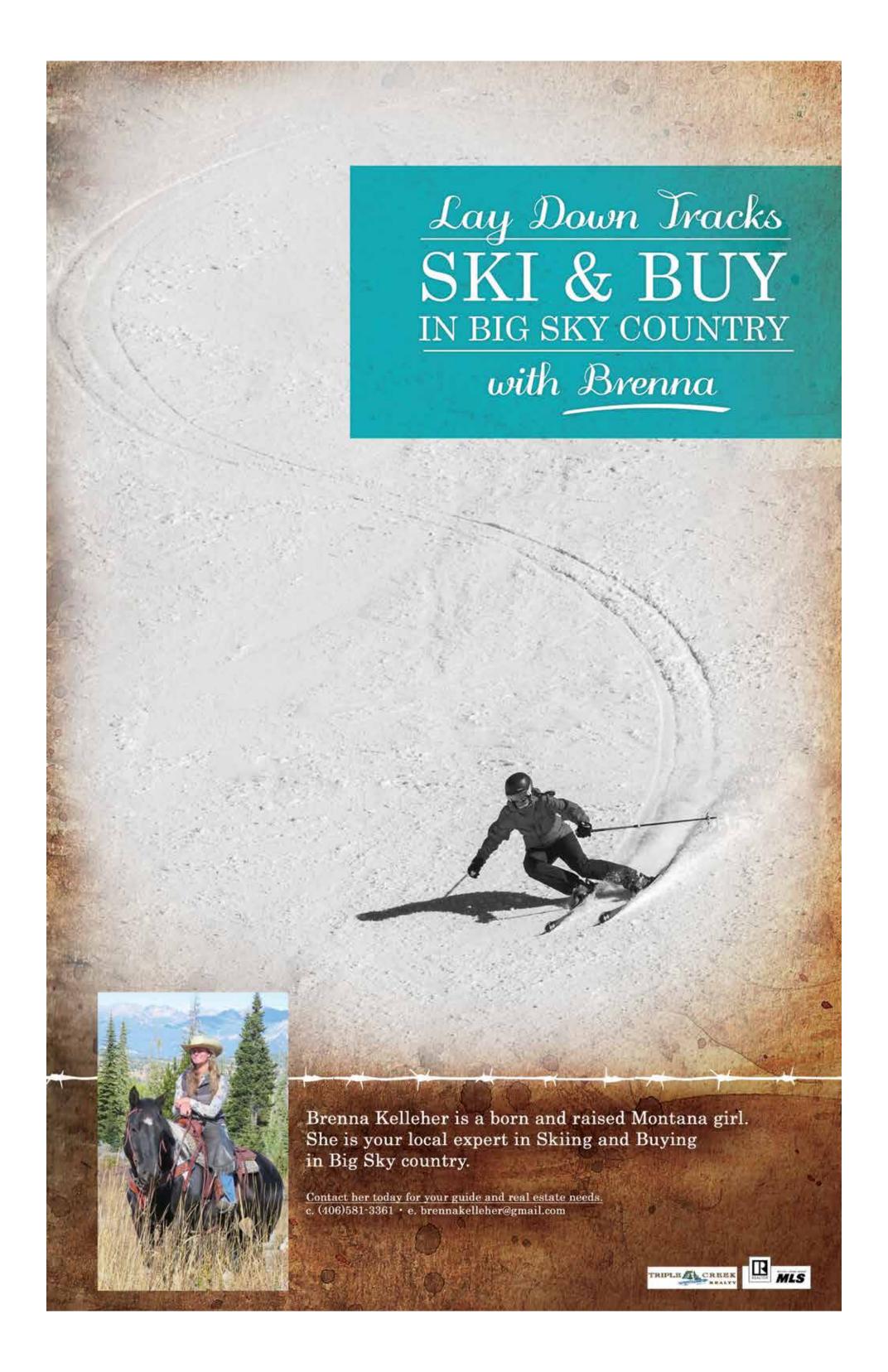
Big Sky Resort wishes to thank our partners and our exclusive listing team, Sandy Revisky, Michael Thomas and Mary Wheeler of PureWest Christie's Big Sky, for donating their time, talent and generosity, making it possible for EAGLE MOUNT to substantially benefit

from a recent property donation. Thanks for giving back to our community and congratulations to PureWest Christie's Big Sky, on being the Best of Big Sky 2016 Winner for Best Real Estate Agency!





featuring Rendezvous Nordic Ski Race



### **Annual Arts Council Art Auction expands to Moonlight Lodge**

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY - The Arts Council of Big Sky will host its fifth annual art auction fundraiser on Thursday, March 23 from 6 to 9 p.m. After two years at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center and another two at Lone Mountain Ranch, the fundraising event has moved to Moonlight Lodge in order to accommodate more than double the artists and patrons.

An impressive roster of preeminent Western artists—R. Tom Gilleon, Kevin Red Star, Carol Hagan, Gary Lynn Roberts, Michael Ome Untiedt, Carol Spielman, Michael Blessing, Laurie Stevens, Susan Blackwood, Meagan Blessing, Julie Chapman, Todd Connor, Howard Friedland, Harry Koyama, John Potter, Tom English, Shirle Wempner and Greg Woodard—will perform quick-finish demonstrations at the event prior to a live auction of the completed works.

A silent auction featuring an additional 18 local and regional artists will coincide with the live event.

Half of the proceeds from the auctioned works will benefit the Arts Council of Big Sky. As the organization's biggest fundraiser of the year, the art auction largely makes possible the many programs the organization brings to the community.

Although best known for its popular Music in the Mountains summer concert series, the arts council also puts on the annual holiday Madrigal Dinner and "The Nutcracker," winter concerts at WMPAC, Telluride's Mountainfilm on Tour festival, and is responsible for a Big Sky public art initiative and ARTventure—an annual program that takes Big Sky School District students on fieldtrips that expose them to regional and national art. Last year, 17 Big Sky students traveled to Bozeman for a day of art immersion. This year the program's reach has extended to take seven participants on a three-day trip to Seattle on March 29.

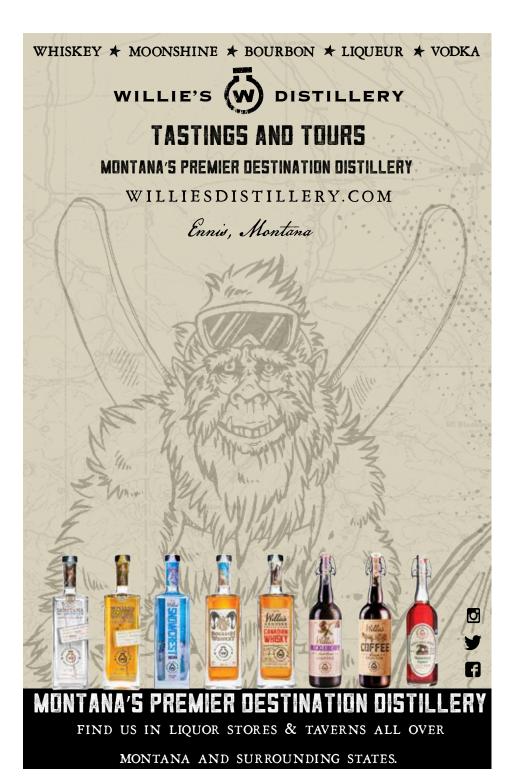
This year, the Arts Council is also adding pre-events to the annual auction—including a reception the evening prior hosted by event sponsor, Big Sky Sotheby's International Realty, that will feature Native American artist Kevin Red Star, and a private luncheon with the artists for VIP ticket-holders the day of the auction.

"We're so excited to be at Moonlight this year," said Linda Goldinger, Arts Council secretary and overseer of the art auction committee. "It's such a beautiful setting and a fun night of food, drink and art. And if you've never had a chance to interact on a personal level with artists, this is a great opportunity to do that."

Visit bigskyarts.org to view the auction catalog or call (406) 995-2742 for more information and reservations.



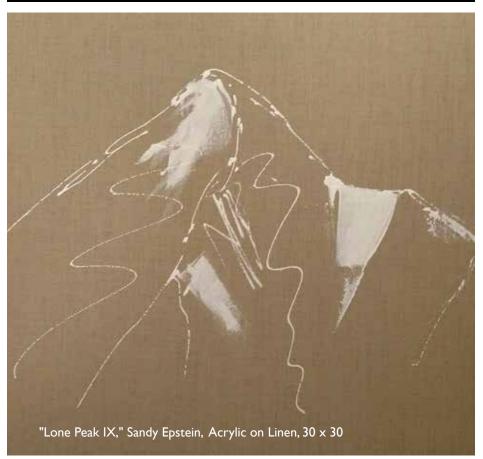
Harry Koyama finishes a painting at the 2015 Auction for the Arts. Koyama will have a new work in the live auction at this year's event at Moonlight Lodge on March 23. PHOTO BY RICH ADDICKS

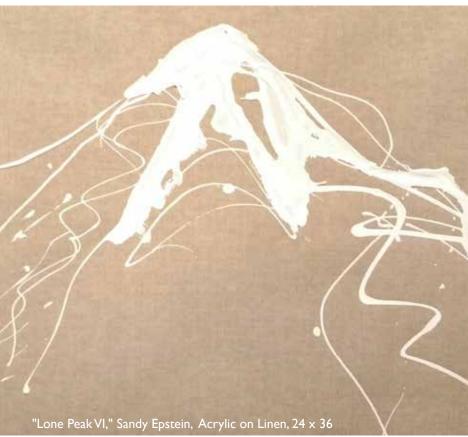






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### Mad Wolf Winter Relay is back—with an added leg Multi-sport race to benefit Big Sky Ski Education Foundation

**EBS STAFI** 

Pre-registration is now open to individuals and teams interested in participating in the second annual Mad Wolf Winter Relay on Feb. 25.

Lone Mountain Ranch has partnered with Big Sky Resort and Big Sky Ski Education Foundation (BSSEF) to host the combined Nordic, downhill, run and snowshoe/fat bike relay race to benefit BSSEF youth ski programs and the 200-plus children who participate in ski racing.

The new and improved course starts with the alpine leg on Andesite with skiers, snowboarders and tele-skiers charging through gates set up on Hangman's at Big Sky Resort. The alpine racer will meet the next racer, a runner, at the bottom of Hangman's.

The running leg—new to the race this year—commences with a sprint across the groomed ski slope above the base of Ramcharger to the Summit foot path, past Scissorbills Saloon, onto the Arrowhead foot path, and down to the Low Dog Road cul-de-sac, where the runner will hand off to the Nordic skier.

The Nordic skier will race from Low Dog Road, past the bottom of the Thunderwolf chairlift, then straight above the Lone Moose Meadow chairlift, and onto Middle Fork Nordic trail. From Middle Fork, the Nordic skier will zip down Beaver Slide and head to the Tunnel for the hand-off to the fat biker or snowshoer.

Whether on wheels or shoes, these racers will charge up from the Tunnel to the Lone Mountain Ranch sleigh trail, pass behind the barn up to Kid's Loop, and turn right at intersection two, heading back to the B-K lodge for the grand finish.

Afterward, join the party at the Lone Mountain Ranch Saloon from 4 to 6 p.m., which will feature live music by the Hooligans. Prizes will be awarded to competitors with the best team and individual costumes, and the top finishers will also receive their awards at the Saloon.

Registration closes on Thursday, Feb. 23.

To register or for more information, visit lonemountainranch.com or bssef.com.



Competitor Emerson Frank ready to roll at the 2016 Mad Wolf Relay. PHOTO BY PAUL ROBERTSON





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### **Dorothy M. Johnson: Pioneer**

BY DOUG HARE **EBS STAFF** 

When the Western Writers of America voted on the best Western short stories of the 20th century, four of the top five selections were written by Dorothy M. Johnson. Jack London's "To Build a Fire" came in third.

Johnson was quite simply a genius of short fiction. Growing up in Whitefish, Montana, she began writing for the local paper in high school after her father's death to help with the family's finances. Her tenacity and self-sufficiency helped her become a trailblazer in a genre dominated by male authors.

After earning a degree in English from the University of Montana, she moved to New York City but her fondness for the mythology, history and allure of the West only grew stronger. She spent significant time in New York libraries reading histories about the place where she grew up, taking whatever writing and editing jobs she could find to make ends meet.

Shortly after World War II, she moved to Missoula, began teaching, and penned three of her most celebrated short stories: "A Man Called Horse" (1950), "The Hanging Tree" (1957), and "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valence" (1962), all of which were adapted into popular films.

Her writing about Native American lore was recognized as being so authentic that she became an honorary member of the Blackfeet tribe. Johnson was also awarded the Spur Award from the Western Writers Association for her contributions to fiction.

Johnson's "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance" might be her most iconic work. On full display is her talent to hook the reader within a few lines. She had an uncanny ability to get narratives off the ground without preamble. Like many of her stories, it begins in the midst of things with a tenderfoot named Ranse Foster beaten, broken and crawling around on the prairie near a fictional backwater town called Twotrees, being reluctantly rescued by the iconic Bert Barricune.

"Barricune rode off, scowling, with the memory of his good deed irritating him like lice," Johnson writes.

It is a classic tale of heroes and villains, innocence lost and manhood found set against the backdrop of the lawless frontier. Similar to other 1950s short fiction about the West, the plot follows a typical formula: a foolhardy Easterner heads West and has to reckon with a nefarious outlaw, along with a little help from an old gun slinging cowboy and a beautiful lady.

"The Man Who Shot Liberty Valence" is at once a period piece and a timeless tale of revenge, love and honor redeemed that culminates in a shootout. Johnson's prose is effortless, and while her short stories might be formulaic, they're also always gripping and nuanced, with subtle forms of irony at each turn. Eventually turned into a classic film directed by John Ford, starring John Wayne and James Stewart, this is one short story that has stood the test of time.

Doug Hare is the Distribution Coordinator for Outlaw Partners. He studied philosophy and American literature at Princeton and Harvard universities.



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**Section 5:**BUSINESS, DINING &
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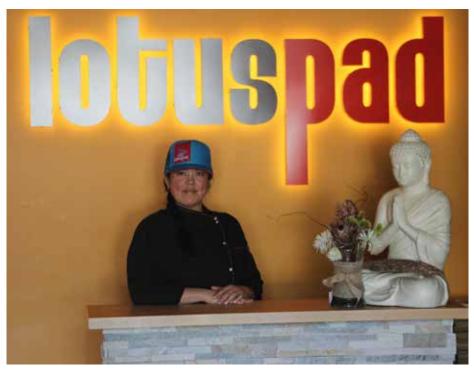
### Lotus Pad moves to Town Center, doubles workforce

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – When the Lotus Pad moved from Westfork Meadows to their new location at 47 Town Center, it was a move nearly seven years in the making. The old restaurant was a cozy 1,200 square feet with two woks and sat 36 inside; the new space is 2,900 square feet with four woks and easily accommodates 90 patrons.

"During busy times of the year at our old spot, we were turning away just as much business as we did," said chef/owner Alex Omania. "Moving to a larger spot in Town Center was a no-brainer."

Omania now has 40 employees compared to 19 previously. "More than doubling in size is a big jump, but my team held down the fort and executed everything that I asked of them," Omania said. "It made a big transition a smooth one."



Alex Omania is always happy to greet customers at the new host stand.

Lotus Pad will still use the same recipe, so to speak, that earned them "Best Restaurant in Big Sky" five years in a row in EBS's annual Best of Big Sky survey: fresh, mostly locally sourced ingredients, bold Thai-inspired flavors, large family-style portions, impeccable service and a lively, but intimate atmosphere.

The classics are all still on the menu: lettuce wraps, drunken noodles, pad thai, and bison curry to name a few staples. Or try the pad see ew, which isn't on the menu but is a local favorite. Omania also plans to unveil a new bar menu with five items, including Vietnamese fries and spicy duck wings.

The new bar seats 10 patrons and still serves savory cocktails like Lotus Tea and the Green Dragon, but check out bar manager Cara Lindeman's new creations: the Burmese Spring with a refreshing celery-infused gin or the Tiger Blossom made with pomegranate liqueur and Yuzu juice.

All of the dishes at Lotus Pad balance sweet, salty and sour flavors while experimenting with exotic Asian ingredients like kaffir lime and galanga, a plant in the ginger family. The best seats in the house might just be at the counter overlooking the open kitchen. Watching Thai food being cooked on the wok can be both mouth-watering and hypnotizing.



A revamped kitchen space means room for more cooks.

When asked about the recent economic boom in Big Sky, Omania said she has no reservations about Big Sky's rapid growth.

"Change is inevitable so it's better to embrace it," she said. "Sure, Big Sky isn't exactly the same sleepy town it was when I first moved here, but it still has that positive vibe and good quality of life that drew me here in the first place."

Omania said that she was able to double the size of her workforce because she's willing to pay relatively higher wages to recruit and retain employees.

"Maybe I'll have a higher operation cost, but if you treat your employees well, it creates a positive work environment and that, in turn, attracts other good people. And I always make sure they have housing before I hire them."

If you haven't had a chance to check out the new Lotus Pad, stop in and treat yourself to some of the best Asian food in southwest Montana. Actually, make reservations first—business is brisk.



A spacious dining room provides plenty of room for large parties.

# **Refining the taste of place**Horn & Cantle opens at Lone Mountain Ranch

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – A feeling of warmth, enhanced by quilt-draped lodgepole pine chairs and a blazing fire on the veranda, exudes from Lone Mountain Ranch even before stepping inside its newly rebranded restaurant Horn & Cantle. The guest ranch celebrates the official relaunch of the restaurant on Saturday, Feb. 18.

That feeling of a polished rusticity carries visitors over the threshold where it's further reflected in the staff's casual, friendly attentiveness, the décor and the cuisine.

Lone Mountain Ranch has been undergoing a slow and steady makeover since Makar Properties purchased it in 2013. But each choice has been made in service of the preservation of the ranch's biggest asset, the history and aesthetic that has attracted visitors through its many incarnations since the land was homesteaded in 1915.



Lone Mountain Ranch's newly re-envisioned restaurant Horn & Cantle will open to the public for normal lunch and dinner service beginning Sunday, Feb. 19. PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI

The opening of Horn & Cantle, a restaurant concept that began to take shape in early 2016 with the hiring of Executive Chef Eric Gruber, is a key component of Lone Mountain's Ranch's reinvention of itself.

The fanfare around the opening of Horn & Cantle intends to dispel any uncertainty about LMR's accessibility once and for all—to establish an independent identity for the restaurant and to let the Big Sky community and its visitors know that all are invited to partake, not only in the dining and saloon experience, but in the ranch's many offerings, including its world-class Nordic skiing trail system.

Although in part a marketing strategy, Horn & Cantle is worthy of the buzz. During a trial dinner for friends and family on Feb. 12, the restaurant expertly fulfilled the three-pronged criteria of a truly memorable dining experience: stellar service, pleasurable atmosphere, and exceptional food and drink.

The evening began with sampling two of the saloon's eight new specialty cocktails: the Lone Mule, served in the classic copper mug but filled with Montana moonshine white whiskey, smoked apple puree, sage syrup and ginger beer; and the Ritz on the Ranch, made with Montana Cold Spring vodka, lemon, St. Germain liqueur, mint and prosecco. Both cocktails supported the cohesive vision of the Horn & Cantle experience, by honoring the local, the classic and the familiar while keeping it fresh.

Prior to taking a seat in the dining room, we enjoyed our beverages in the fire-warmed saloon accompanied by the country-folk sounds of Ric Steinke and Linda Hauser of Open Range. Steinke and fellow true-blue Montanan Bruce Anfinson have long been musical fixtures at the ranch. Both men regularly perform their individual brand of cowboy songs and storytelling during après hours in the saloon and for patrons of LMR's enchanted sleigh-ride dinners.

The changes in the dining room are subtle—new artwork, more comfortable chairs, new glass-, stone- and flatware, some pieces mindfully mismatched. But the aesthetic anchors of the room remain, such as the enormous antler chandeliers and stuffed mountain lion stealthily stalking in the rafters. The overall impression is, again, warm: flashes of copper and accents of leather and flannel amid stone, cast iron and wood.

"A lot of it is based on that initial impression you get when you arrive on the ranch," Gruber said. "When you walk into the dining room, it has to fit. I try to create food that creates that same ambience—to me it's authentic Montana. If you're coming here, this is what you would expect."

The new Horn & Cantle menu has an option for all types of diners and appetites from shareable appetizers, traditional soups and salads, feasts served family style for two or more, and single entrée options. All are built around regionally sourced ingredients and product, and sometimes a piece of Montana history.

For example, one might wonder how the Deadwood pork belly appetizer—prepared in the Chinese char siu, or barbecue, fashion—falls in line with an authentically Montanan experience. But as Gruber points out and has passed along to his servers, in the 1870s Chinese immigrants, riding the gold boom and building the railroad, comprised nearly 10 percent of the Montana Territory population.

When our server brought the homemade bread to the table, she shared another story about how they still have the original sourdough starter three years later. The kitchen crew named her Betty and cares for her almost like a beloved pet.

"Served in a cast iron pot, it epitomizes the effect that LMR and Horn & Cantle [are] all about," Gruber said. "It's very approachable—everyone knows what [sourdough bread] is, but there is a lot of effort that goes into it; it's not easy to bake bread in cast iron, but it really fits the ranch."

Despite the tempting Amaltheia Dairy fondue and smoked elk meatballs, we settled on the Montana trout spread, steak tartare, and beet and grapefruit salad for starters.



'Cowboy singer-songwriter' and Montana native Bruce Anfinson has been entertaining patrons of Lone Mountain Ranch for a quarter of a century and is a musical fixture in the saloon and at the ranch's sleigh-ride dinners. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY

The trout spread, a whipped mixture of house-cured local trout and mascarpone, arrived in a jelly jar, and was refreshingly light and tangy. Warm olives, pistachio pesto and delicately grilled bread were the perfect accompaniment. The tartare was a timbale of hand-chopped New York strip steak from Yellowstone Grass Fed Beef, topped with a quail egg and served with a side of truffled potato chips. It was so spot-on in texture and cleanliness of taste that my companion was compelled to temporarily suspend her vegetarianism to try it.

Candied spiced pumpkin seeds delivered the finishing touch on a beet, grapefruit and arugula salad that harmoniously intermingled sweet, citrusy, creamy and earthy notes.

Throughout our expressions of culinary delight, our server was readily available but not hovering, graciously allowing us to set the pace of the evening. She was knowledgeable about each dish, as well as the wine list, and comfortable offering suggestions for both.

Although near-to-full, we selected the McFarlane Farms pheasant from the "feast" category and the braised bison short rib from the main options, despite our server's endorsement of the maple-brined Heluka pork chop. Both entrées offered pleasant surprises in terms of texture and taste—a lemony parsley gremolata cut through the richness of the tender short rib jus; and soft figs and crisp apple brightened the earthy farro and Cipollini onion in the pheasant dish.

The meal was complete with the flourless chocolate cake, served warm with cinnamon crème fraiche and berry compote; and a delectable hazelnut panna cotta, which had more of a whipped cream consistency than that of a custard, dolloped over a delicately granular sea salt caramel sauce.



Horn & Cantle Executive Chef Eric Gruber has constructed his menu around regionally sourced ingredients and products that reflect and accentuate a true Montana experience. The coffee-rubbed Rocky Mountain elk chop can be ordered as a single or double portion and is served with sweet potato apple hash with brussel sprouts, spiced butternut squash purée and huckleberry ancho chile demi-glace. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY

We headed back into the frosty night, the ranch in its cozy winter dress of snow, towering pines and hunkered cabins, flushed from an evening defined by warmth and, in line with chef Gruber's hopes for guests of Horn & Cantle, one we would remember, "not just for the food, but for the entire experience."

Horn & Cantle will be serving lunch daily from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and dinner from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 5:30 to 10 p.m. Friday through Sunday. The saloon is open daily from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. For more information visit bornandcantle.com or lonemountainranch.com.



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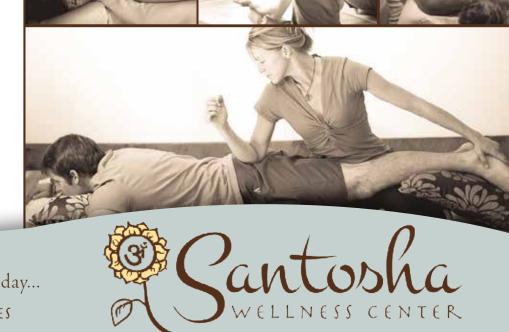
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6:30-7:45pm All Levels Yoga

#### WEDNESDAY

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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

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# Mountain Ventures Summit illuminates bigger possibilities for Big Sky

BY MARGO MAGNANT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Big Sky Chamber of Commerce Membership Director Margo Magnant represented Big Sky at the first annual Mountain Ventures Summit Feb. 2-4, in Telluride, Colorado. The three-day "unconference" attracted more than 100 individuals interested in joining a conversation about how to create sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystems in mountain towns and promote faster and more reliable progress in our communities. Inspired upon her return, Magnant reported the following from the summit.

TELLURIDE, Colo. – The Mountain Ventures Summit was, hands down, one of the coolest things I've been a part of in my professional career.

The attendees represented a diverse group of backgrounds and consisted of mayors, chamber representatives, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, ski resort personnel and, mostly, people working to connect visionaries with funding and shared workplaces to diversify the economies of mountain towns throughout the western U.S.

Although we could be seen as competitors in terms of attracting vacationers, we're also each other's greatest allies. As Scott McGuire, president of The Mountain Lab in Mammoth Lakes, California, said at the beginning of the conference, when mountain towns work together, "all ships rise with the tide."

Most of the conversations focused on the concept of fostering healthy "entrepreneurial ecosystems," which translates as diversifying mountain town economies and creating jobs that are less dependent on weather and tourism.

In regards to Big Sky, I walked away from the experience feeling as if we still very much have our training wheels on—when compared to communities such as Jackson, Telluride and Mammoth Lakes—but we're also fortunate to have these communities to look to as we try to guide our growth in a smart, sustainable manner that supports a culture of commitment to our unique town.

I think it's very important that we keep thinking in a visionary and long-term way. All of the communities represented at the summit have housing problems. Fostering a healthy entrepreneurial ecosystem in Big Sky would ultimately aid in the efforts to address the housing issue. Very few jobs in our community currently allow for home ownership in Big Sky, and these concepts would seek to change that by creating upward career mobility that will lead to reinvestment in the community itself.



Big Sky Chamber Membership Director Margo Magnant was one of more than 100 representatives from mountain towns of the western U.S who gathered in Telluride for the Mountain Ventures Summit to discuss how to encourage healthy, entrepreneurial ecosystems in their communities. PHOTO BY ALEC JACOBSON

If we find a way to support those individuals who may be here to ski the Big Couloir, but are also looking to take an idea from concept to fruition, we could start creating partnerships that would ultimately strengthen our strong-rooted community.

One final note is that the conference really got me thinking about incorporation in a way that I hadn't before. Virtually all of the success stories from our fellow mountain communities relied on some level of public/private partnership.

When you look at the Tahoe area of California and Nevada, you see two states, five counties and 14 downhill ski areas working together as one, so surely we can find a way to better connect our mountain, meadow and canyon villages for the sake of our community's future.

"In mountain towns, you either have two jobs, or two houses," said Kathryn Kemp Guylay from Sun Valley, Idaho.

Our community can only benefit by bridging the gap between these two camps of important locals.

### Town Center wine bar open for business





Enoteca, a traditional Italian wine bar serving Italian-American mountain peasant food using high quality local ingredients, opened its doors Saturday, Feb. 11. Enoteca is open for business 3-10 p.m. daily, serving après small plates 3-5:30 p.m. and dinner 5:30-10 p.m. PHOTOS BY SARAH GIANFI II





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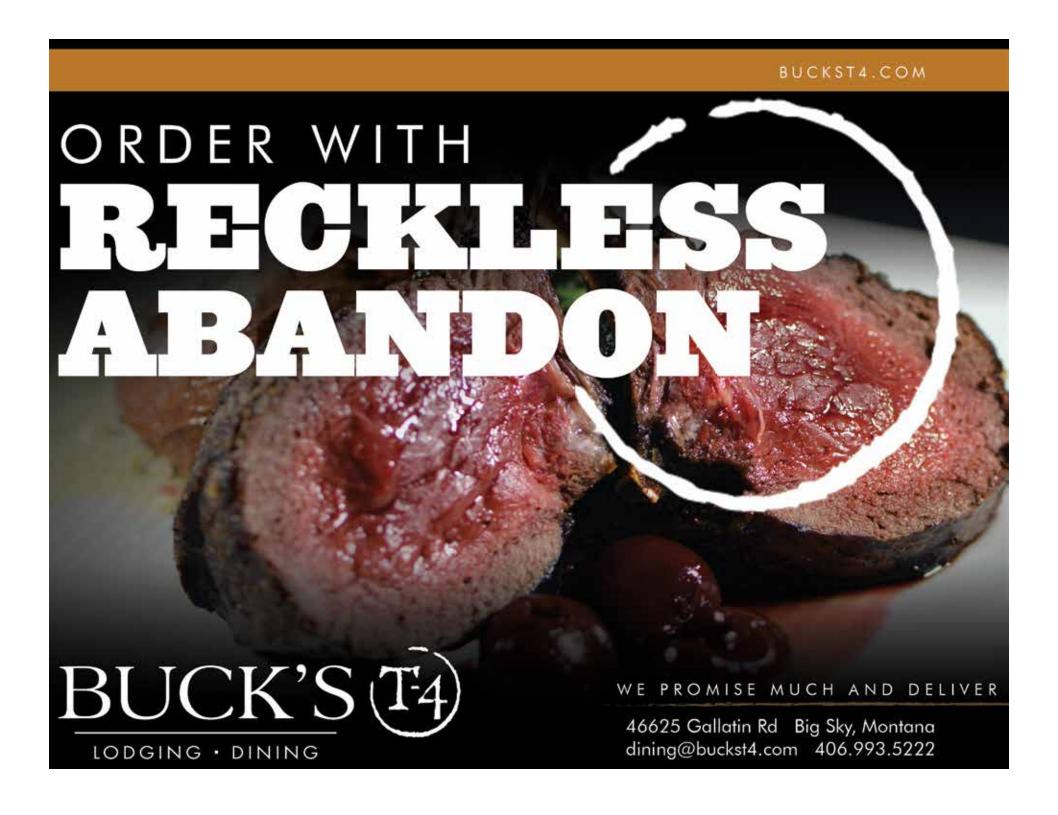












### **AMUSE-BOUCHE**

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.

### Did you always want to be a chef?



BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

My culinary career has spanned over three decades, from dishwasher to executive chef. In that time, two questions asked of me have been common: "Where did you go to culinary school?" and, "Have you always wanted to be a chef?"

The answer to the first question is I did not, which is a topic I've written about in the past and will continue to touch on in the future.

The answer to the second question is also no I did not. I know it seems unusual for someone who has made a career in hospitality and kitchens.

Like many professions and disciplines in which people have taken the roundabout way to their passions, not everyone always wanted to be a chef. In most of Western Europe and France the culinary arts have long been regarded as a noble trade. This was a much different view than in the U.S., before food TV became popular.

Generally, chefs begin at a younger age in the Old World. Most chefs I have either worked for or spoken to from Europe attended some type of training, be it in a professional kitchen or in school, during their teen years.

Here in the U.S., many of us had different callings, education or directions to follow that were vastly different than cooking.

David Chang, one of New York City's most well known and nationally recognized chefs, was a formidable golfer as a youth, taught English in Japan, and spent a brief time in finance. His father spent 30 years in restaurants and strongly discouraged Chang from becoming a chef. But he didn't listen, thank goodness.

Tim McKee is perhaps one of the most recognized chefs of the upper Midwest. He rose to fame at D'Amico Cucina in downtown Minneapolis before branching out on his own to open La Belle Vie, where I was his original sous chef. As talented as McKee was even then, in college he majored in anthropology and the thought of becoming a chef never crossed his mind.

Conversely, Chef Marcus Samuelsson was drawn to the kitchen as young as he can remember. In the rare down times at Aquavit Minneapolis, Samuelsson often spoke of fond memories watching and helping his Swedish grandmother prepare traditional dishes and sweets, and recognized at a very young age that that's what he wanted to do. Subsequently, he attended culinary school and both worked and staged—or worked for free to learn from the chef—all over Europe.

In a conversation with former Iron Chef, restaurateur and friend Cat Cora, she told me of her childhood cooking memories. She always wanted to be a chef and cook great food, especially her native Greek cuisine.

For me, a kitchen was far from my trajectory as a youth. In my mind, I was destined for a life somewhere in between graphic design and architecture. I worked in kitchens after school and on weekends. Homework was not exactly my strong suit as I was always working, and at that age I didn't have my priorities straight.

Around the point when I realized higher education was not going to happen, I also realized that this cooking thing was something I was good at and loved.

No matter your education, culture or family influence, follow your calling and never look back.

Scott Mechura has spent a life in the hospitality industry. He is a former certified beer judge and currently the Executive Chef at Buck's T-4 Lodge in Big Sky.

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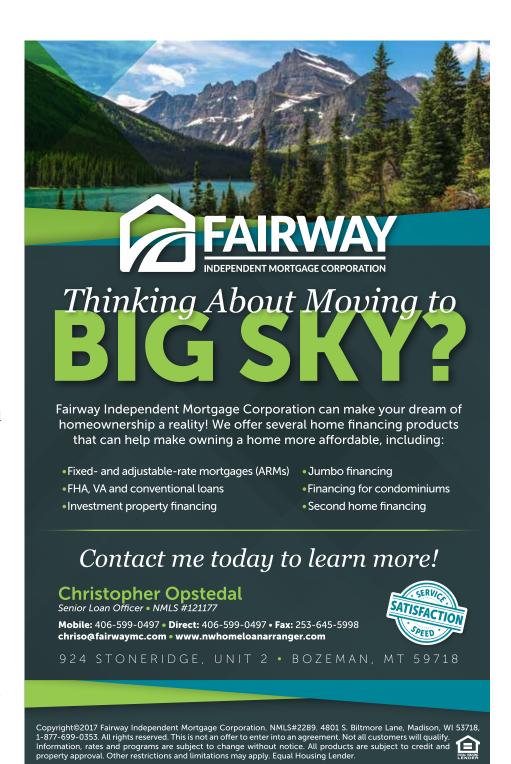
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# BACKLI

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"

### Soup for the soul: No recipe required

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CARIE BIRKMEIER

There is nothing better than cozying up with a bowl of soup after a day out in the cold. Don't settle for a mediocre, store bought option though—make it yourself! Making soup from scratch might seem like a bear of a task, but with a few ingredients you can whip up something delectable right in your own kitchen.

Each step in the process presents an opportunity to add a layer of flavor, resulting in a deep, rich-tasting soup. The following guide breaks the process down for you. Use it as a guide of soup building blocks to create your next meal. Be sure to taste your mixture every step of the way and add salt with each step as you see fit.

#### **Aromatics**

Start with a foundation of flavor. A classic French combination known as mirepoix consists of onion, carrot and celery. You might add garlic to this for an Italian soup; ginger if you're going for Asian flavors; or eliminate carrot in lieu of bell pepper, known as the trinity in Cajun cooking. Regardless of specific ingredients, this base is crucial to establish the initial foundation of the soup.

You will want to cook these vegetables in fat. Butter, olive oil, or even bacon fat all work. Choose something that mirrors the flavors of the cuisine you're going for.

For a lighter soup, cook these vegetables until they're translucent. For a roasted flavor, cook them until they're brown, but not burnt. Longer cooking releases sugar, which allows for browning and caramelization, aka flavor. This process would work well for something like French onion soup or mushroom bisque, but not for chicken noodle, for example.

Now is the time to add herbs and spices. For a Mexican soup, you might add chili powder and cumin. For a classic soup such as vegetable beef, add a bundle of stems of herbs like parsley and thyme tied together with butcher's twine, referred to as a bouquet garni.

#### The liquid

Next, decide which liquid will make up the bulk of your soup. Ideally, you would use stock made from scratch, but this might not be realistic. It's rare, but some local grocery stores and butchers sell stock made from scratch, so check these places first.

When choosing a packaged stock or broth, look for options that are low in sodium so you can control the salt content of the dish. Look at the ingredient list. Is turmeric high on the list? Many brands use this ingredient to create a golden color that gives the illusion of a rich broth, but it actually tastes quite bland.



Finishing your soup with a garnish, like a dollop of sour cream, provides an opportunity to add a final layer of flavor to your dish



Mirepoix is a mixture of two parts onion, one part celery and one part carrot that provides a base of flavor for your soup.

If you're going for a creamy soup, you'll want to include some sort of dairy. Use milk or half and half, depending on how rich you want the end result to be. Always add dairy last in the cooking process to avoid curdling.

Think about the flavors of your dish and consider adding another liquid. Crushed tomatoes provide a great consistency to a beef chili. If you used dried mushrooms preparing a wild mushroom bisque, save the liquid that you rehydrated the mushrooms in to add to the broth.

#### The main ingredients

For the star of the show, you probably already know what protein and veggies you'll use. Add these ingredients to the soup raw, so that they infuse their flavors into the mixture. An exception is when you are seeking certain flavors that cannot be achieved in wet cooking—roasted or charred vegetables, for example.

If your soup includes meat, always choose a bone-in option when you can. Marrow running through the bones will provide the liquid with a rich flavor that can't be achieved with other ingredients. Remove the bone and shred or cut the meat into bite sized pieces before serving.

#### The garnish

Whether it's a dollop of sour cream to impart a tangy creaminess, or a scattering of toasted nuts to deliver texture, use the garnish as an opportunity to bring in a final element to round out your dish. Did your Thai coconut soup turn out great, but seem a tad heavy? Garnish with chopped cilantro and a squeeze of lime. Since we eat with our eyes, the garnish also makes your soup enjoyable to look at.

Never be afraid to experiment with flavors in your soup, but be mindful of what flavors do and don't go together. Taste as you go, and ask yourself if the flavors are balanced. If not, decide what's missing. Does it need something acidic? Add a splash of vinegar. Too spicy? Add some honey to mellow the heat.

Anyone can make a soup, but these steps will ensure that yours will turn out incredible.

Carie Birkmeier is a Graphic Designer for the Outlaw Partners. She worked as a chef at Big Sky's Rainbow Ranch after graduating from Michigan's Les Cheneaux Culinary School, and now keeps her knife sharp by teaching culinary classes and experimenting in her home kitchen.