

Explore

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

FREE

Big Sky

January 6 - 19, 2017
Volume 8 // Issue #1

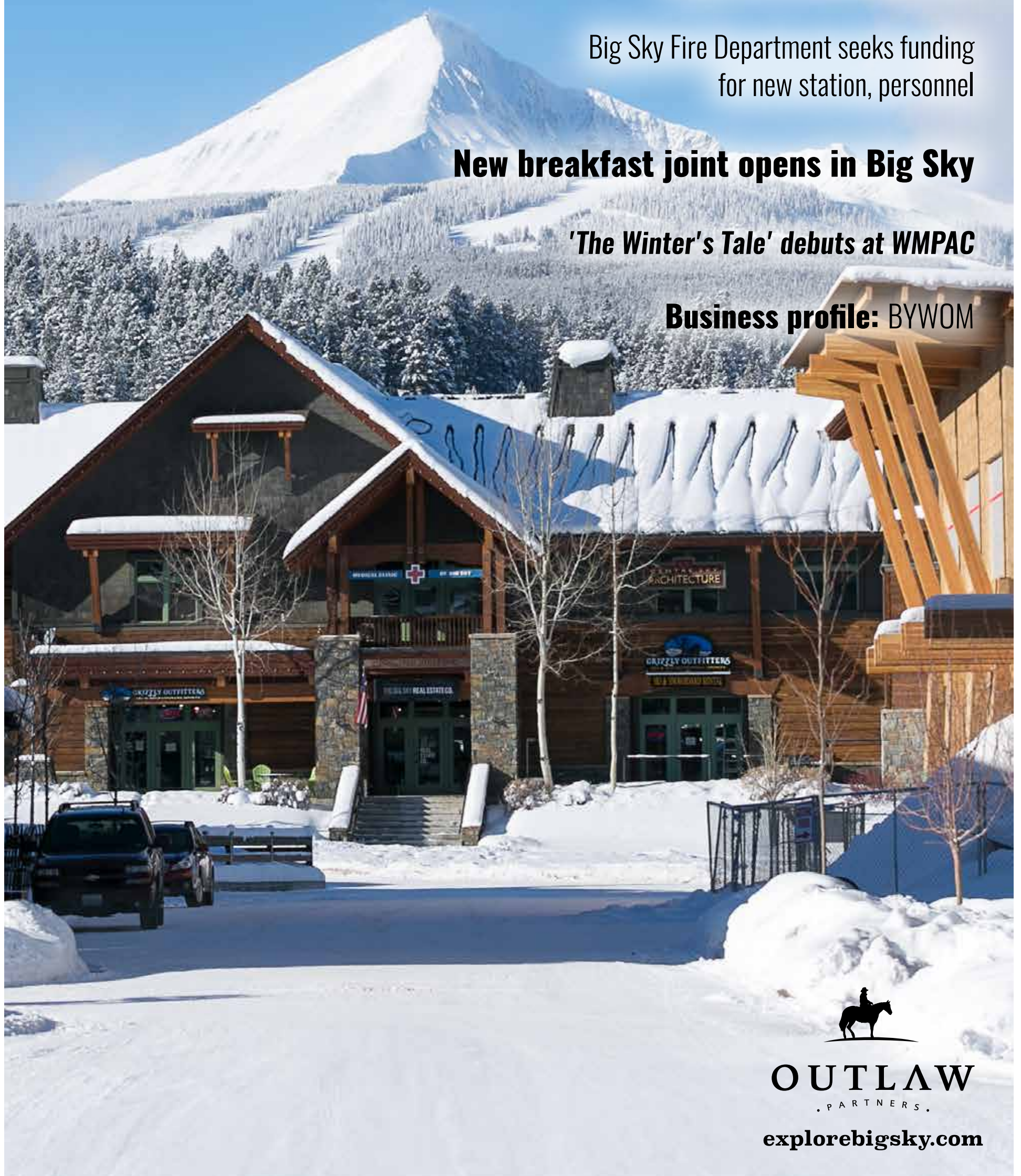
Top Stories of 2016

Big Sky Fire Department seeks funding
for new station, personnel

New breakfast joint opens in Big Sky

'The Winter's Tale' debuts at WMPAC

Business profile: BYWOM



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ON THE COVER:

Fresh snow blankets Big Sky Town Center in the final week of December 2016, bringing powder-filled days to cap off the year that was. See our special section with Explore Big Sky's top stories of 2016. PHOTO BY KEVIN NOBLE

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Big Sky Fire Department seeks funding for new station, personnel

12 Breakfast joint opens in Big Sky



'The Winter's Tale' debuts at WMPAC

SPECIAL SECTION:
Top stories of 2016



Snowmobilers Lee Arnold, Sean Mattick and Adam Arnold ride in the Taylor Fork south of Big Sky, in the Custer Gallatin National Forest in April 2016. PHOTO BY COLTON STIFFLER

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

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862 ELK MEADOW TRAIL SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB

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180 THOMAS MORAN DRIVE SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB

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YELLOWSTONE PRESERVE

The Yellowstone Preserve is a 1,580 acre collection of eight mountain ranches located in Big Sky, Montana and is situated between the restricted enclaves of The Yellowstone Club, the Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and the Gallatin Preserve. This unique Collection of spectacular ranches is approximately 40 minutes south of Bozeman, Montana and only 45 minutes from Yellowstone National Park, the world's first national park.

Offered for \$39,000,000



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Gallatin County now capable of Wireless Emergency Alerts

GALLATIN MEDIA CENTER

Gallatin County is now one of only a handful of counties in Montana that can generate Wireless Emergency Alerts during an emergency.

These alerts allow officials to send emergency messages to any cell phone in a defined area, without the need for cell phones being registered or downloading an app. This operates in the same way as AMBER Alerts where the phones will display an emergency message.

“Now we can reach out to visitors, as well as residents who have not registered in the Community Notification System,” said Gallatin County Emergency Manager Patrick Lonergan.

While Wireless Emergency Alerts bring a great advance in warning to county residents, the system is not perfect and is still being refined by industry and the Federal Emergency Management Administration. Limitations in the message length, content and size of the alerting area currently exist with WEA. Many of these limitations are currently under revision and will likely be refined over the next couple of years.

Despite the ability for agencies in Gallatin County to send a WEA message to cell phones, all residents are encouraged to register with the Community Notification System, as WEAs are generally only used for large widespread events.

Register with the Community Notification System at alerts.readygallatin.com.

Montana Legislature starts 65th session, budget battle looms

BY MATT VOLZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – Just before the Montana Legislature gavelled in its 2017 session Jan. 2, Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock looked to ease the tension building over a looming budget battle by calling on the two parties to work together for the state’s best interests.

Bullock used his second inaugural address in the packed state Capitol’s rotunda to appeal to the Republican legislators in the audience to rise above partisan rancor as the session begins.

“I ask all of you taking an oath today, how will you positively influence Montana?” Bullock said. “Will you be remembered for your rhetoric or your results?” After Bullock’s speech, House Republicans gave no sign that they were ready to play nice.

In a news conference outside the House chamber, Speaker Austin Knudsen, R-Culbertson, blamed Bullock and his predecessor, former Gov. Brian Schweitzer, for a sagging economy that must now be fixed because of poor management, excessive regulations and too much government spending.

“We have a problem in this state,” Knudsen said. “We have 12 years of growth under Democratic administrations and we don’t have the revenue to pay for it.”

A drop in energy production has had a ripple effect across the different taxes the state collects to pay for government operations. As a result, the revenues collected last year are not enough to cover existing state spending, meaning cuts loom for the next two-year budget cycle.

4 rehabilitated raptors find permanent home

MONTANA RAPTOR CONSERVATION CENTER

The Montana Raptor Conservation Center is set to transfer four rehabilitated, but not yet releasable birds of prey to the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center in West Yellowstone during the week of Jan. 9.

The raptors—two great horned owls, a short-eared owl, and a peregrine falcon—will be on display at the Discovery Center and may become part of the center’s education program.

The two male great horned owls came to MRCC as nestlings—one in 2014 and one in 2015. They both have limited eyesight, which impairs their ability to hunt for themselves. The male short-eared owl came to MRCC from the Lewistown area in 2015. It soon became apparent that he was imprinted on humans, and would therefore always look to people for food.

The female peregrine falcon was admitted to MRCC in 2015 with a fractured wing that has left her with compromised flight.

“None of these birds would be able to make it on their own in the wild,” said MRCC Director Becky Kean. “While releasing them would have been our first preference, it’s rewarding to know that they can act as ambassadors for their species and teach the important message of conservation to so many members of the community and visitors to the Yellowstone area.”

For more information visit montanaraptor.org.

BSSHA hosts 7th annual Marty Pavelich Invitational

EBS STAFF

The Big Sky Skating and Hockey Association (BSSHA) hosts the seventh annual Marty Pavelich Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 7, from 2-4:30 p.m. at the ice rink in Town Center Park.

The tournament is held in honor of Big Sky resident Marty Pavelich, the unsung hero of the 1950s powerhouse Detroit Red Wings. Pavelich’s outstanding ability, statistical performance, and character ultimately helped the Red Wings achieve four Stanley Cup victories during his time with the team, according to a BSSHA press release.

Pavelich, 87, moved to Big Sky more than 20 years ago and was instrumental in making the local ice rink a reality. Keeping with tradition, Pavelich will drop the ceremonial puck at 2 p.m. sharp.

“This is outdoor hockey at its best,” said BSSHA President Ryan Blechta, “played between Big Sky locals who helped make this rink happen, in honor of Marty Pavelich, four-time Stanley Cup champion. Come out to support the BSSHA, get out and enjoy some good old hockey, and come and meet Marty Pavelich himself.”

Carmen Wooldridge will sing the national anthem, and Sarah Phelps will sing the Canadian anthem. Big Sky Resort’s Brandon Bang—of Pond Skim fame—will emcee the event.

The BSSHA—a nonprofit that has been bringing ice hockey and skating to Big Sky since 2009—encourages locals and tourists to come out for this free, family-friendly event. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and other items will be available for sale or donation. The Pleasure Rink will be open during the tournament for kids.

Visit bssha.org for more information.

New, permanent beacon park opens in West Yellowstone

EBS STAFF

A new beacon park in West Yellowstone will give snowmobilers, skiers and snowboarders the opportunity to practice their avalanche beacon skills before heading into remote, avalanche-prone terrain.

The park, located in West Yellowstone near the trail leading up Two Top Mountain, opened on Dec. 19, 2016. This new park will be permanent; West Yellowstone’s previous beacon park was temporary and located out of town near the old airport.

Eric Knoff, an avalanche specialist with the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center, said beacon proficiency is critical in the event of an avalanche.

“Being efficient with your beacon will give you the best chance of recovering a buried victim,” Knoff said. “Companion rescue is the No. 1 chance of survival if you’re buried in an avalanche.”

He said a portable beacon park that the GNFAC has been setting up in Cooke City every weekend has been met with a positive reception and a decent amount of use. “People are very interested in becoming better with their search and rescue skills,” Knoff said.



What are your thoughts on New Year's resolutions? Do you have one?



Trevor Harapat
Big Sky, Montana

"Most people talk about how they're going to improve at the beginning of the year—they should just be [practicing their resolutions] all the time. I just want to try not to get hurt this year—that's my resolution. Last year I got hurt [while snowboarding] three times, including fracturing a rib and breaking my collarbone. Sometimes I just try to send bigger than I can go."



Heather Rapp
Big Sky, Montana

"I feel like I have tried to make them in the past, always with good intentions, but I never seemed to fully follow through. So, I think that I truly didn't really make any major resolutions, just ... set my intentions and motivations, and keep it simple. I would say that if I were to make a resolution, it would to stay motivated and inspired."



JT Kitchings
Big Sky, Montana

"If I were less honest with myself I'd have one. I don't have a resolution because I know that I'll probably fail rather quickly. Resolutions are great for those who stick to them. For those who lack self-discipline they're kind of a haunting reminder that you're failing."



Hannah Johansen
Big Sky, Montana

"My thought on New Year's resolutions: it's always nice to set an intention for your year, and also to be forgiving of yourself when we fall short of those. My resolution is gratefulness. Which is gratitude but also great-fullness. Lots of fullness."

Now we take you live to the opening of the 65th Montana Legislature.



Letter: 320 Ranch open to the public

Big Sky is a small town, and the rumor mill is always present and almost never accurate. I would like to address the latest rumor that the Yellowstone Club has bought the 320 Ranch or that 320 Ranch is leasing the entire ranch to the Yellowstone Club.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

The 320 Ranch has been in business since 1898 and will continue to be in business for the foreseeable future. We have the same ownership that we’ve had for nearly 30 years with no change in sight.

For the last six years we’ve offered long-term seasonal rentals during the winter and have housed anywhere between six and 60 winter employees including teachers, dining room managers, retail outlet employees, construction workers, and lift operators.

This past spring 320 Ranch made a strategic decision along with the Yellowstone Club to use nearly the same inventory that has been for winter rentals in the past as inventory for Yellowstone Club employees. Some of their employees have not been able to live in our community in the past due to the housing crisis. Not only does this help the winter housing squeeze, these seasonal employees are dining and shopping in our community.

Through the winter season, the 320 Ranch will continue to offer 40 percent of our cabin inventory for rental to the public, and the Yellowstone Club will use the remaining cabins for a limited seasonal lease. Nothing has changed with the exception of 320 having one renter rather than sixty separate renters.

We have been, are today, and will tomorrow be open to the public. The entire 320 Guest Ranch Staff looks forward to serving you this winter and in the coming years ahead.

John Richardson
Big Sky, Montana

Obituary: Ernest L. Larson

Ernest “Ernie” Leonard Larson passed away on Dec. 28, 2016, at Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital at the age of 84.

He was born to Ernest and Polly Larson in Spokane, Washington, on Jan. 9, 1932. Ernie attended grade school, high school and Gonzaga University in Spokane.

Ernie met the love of his life, Ulla “Lou” Karlsson, in high school and they spent the next 61 years together having many adventures.

Following college, Ernie worked for Nalley’s in Spokane, Missoula and Billings. In 1972, after reading about Chet Huntley’s vision at Big Sky, Ernie and Lou took a leap of faith and established the first grocery store in Big Sky Meadow Village. Soon after, they opened Ernie’s Deli in the mountain mall followed by the mall grocery store. In 1989 they purchased the Exxon service station and convenience store at the entrance to Big Sky.

Ernie sat on the original Big Sky Owners Association board beside Chet Huntley as the BSOA articles of incorporation were created. He and Lou were an integral part of the Big Sky community. During their

Letter: An act of kindness

Every day should have one thing in common: an act of kindness.

To me, this is anything done without thought, motive or benefits derived from doing—well, other than a smile maybe. It’s always good to smile, it lightens our hearts in this hustle and bustle world, as we’re always on our cell phones or whatever other device these days. It is, sadly, something I see going by the wayside. That’s something I expect in a big city, but not here in Big Sky.

This feeling really kicked in after I recently tried to turn left while heading north on Highway 191—and 56 cars would not let me go across. Laughing, a friend said to me, “and you counted.” Well yeah, after about six cars!

Finally an older, well-used pickup truck, with what looked to be a gentleman and his daughter, waved me on, surely annoying the traffic behind him. I flashed a smile, but felt like getting out and giving him a hug!

I also believe we’ve become immune to the phrase “an act of kindness.” To me, it’s “an act of being human.”

I wish a warm, safe winter to all.

Misty Castle
Big Sky, Montana

Big Sky years, they were also part owners of Sun Downs Horse Racing in Kennewick, Washington, and were recipients of many horse racing awards.

1992 found them moving to West Yellowstone to open the world-famous Ernie’s Deli, where they served thousands of box lunches to river guides, their clients and hardworking forest fire crews. They operated Ernie’s Deli until their retirement in 2002. Upon retirement, they moved to Bozeman.

Ernie was fun loving, had a fantastic dry sense of humor that was enjoyed by everyone around him, and was at his happiest in the kitchen whipping up the best cinnamon rolls for Lou.

Ernie is survived by his loving wife, Lou; his boxer, Maria; and many loving friends.

At his request, no services will be held at this time.

Memorials may be made to Galavan c/o HRDC, 32 S. Tracy Ave., Bozeman, MT 59715. Arrangements are in the care of Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service at dokkennelson.com.

Best of
BIG SKY
2016 WINNER

PURE *big sky*

BIG SKY • MOONLIGHT BASIN • SPANISH PEAKS • YELLOWSTONE CLUB



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**



THE HOMESTEAD CHALETs | \$1,750,000

Come experience Big Sky's newest ski-in/ski-out neighborhood! With spaciouly 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 | 406.581.2400**



7 SITTING BULL 1202 | \$749,000

In a park like setting on the shores of Lake Levinsky this beautiful three bedroom, three bathroom condominium has commanding views of Lone Peak and the Spanish Peaks. Upscale furnishings and fixtures include hardwood floors with radiant heat, granite counter tops, propane fireplace and single car heated garage. You're only minutes from the Biggest Skiing in America and summer fun on the lake is right out your door. // **MICHAEL THOMAS | 406.581.2400**



SUMMIT PENTHOUSE 11004 | \$1,995,000

This four-bedroom Penthouse is situated on the 10th and 11th floors of the Summit Condominium Hotel and is a perfect legacy property for your extended family and friends! Boasting one of the largest floor plans in the building at 2,906 +/- sq. ft. of living area, it also features a spacious exterior deck overlooking the ski hill. This premier location is close to the plaza activities, restaurants, shopping and all Big Sky Resort area services. // **MARY WHEELER | 406.539.1745**



CLOCK TOWER BUILDING | \$1,325,000

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



SHOSHONE CONDOMINIUM 1920 | \$235,000

Located in Big Sky Ski and Summer Resort's Mountain Village Center, this fully furnished condominium offers ease of ownership. The Shoshone Condominium Hotel is next to the slopes and offers ski storage, an exercise center, pool and laundry facility on the premises. Restaurants, shopping and ski rental services are in immediate proximity. Relax by your fireplace, watch the skiers on Andesite Mountain and enjoy the view. // **LYNN MILLIGAN | 406.581.2848**



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SADDLE RIDGE A5 TOWNHOME

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News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

'Ideas worth spreading'

TEDx brings big ideas to Big Sky

BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR
EBS EDITOR

BIG SKY – What began in 1984 as a conference to share new ideas concerning technology, entertainment and design has become the most renowned speaking series in the world. TED Talks now encompass nearly any conceivable topic, and occur around the globe in more than 100 different languages.

And now an independently organized version of TED, called TEDx, is coming to Big Sky.

On Jan. 28, the first-ever TEDxBigSky will offer six hand-picked speakers at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center to tell their unique and groundbreaking stories related to the 2017 event's theme: "Big Ideas Under the Big Sky."

Outlaw Partners—the media, marketing and events company that also publishes this newspaper—launched the idea to bring a TEDx event to Big Sky when its Media and Events Director Ersin Ozer reflected on the journalism and stories coming out of the region.

"I was inspired by our magazine, Mountain Outlaw, to put on this event on a live platform," said Ozer, who chose a group of Big Sky community members to sit on the TEDxBigSky committee and bring the concept to fruition. "Outlaw has mastered the art of storytelling. We tell stories with our media, graphic design, videos, marketing and events, so producing TEDxBigSky brings it all full circle."

Past TED speakers have included Bill Gates, Jane Goodall, Al Gore, Bono, author Elizabeth Gilbert and Sir Richard Branson, among scores of others. Just like TED

event speakers, TEDxBigSky presenters will have up to 18 minutes to deliver their talk to the audience.

In an effort to reflect the spirit of TED's objective to share "ideas worth spreading," the organization in 2009 created TEDx, events that allow independent organizers to put on TED-like talks in their respective communities around the world.

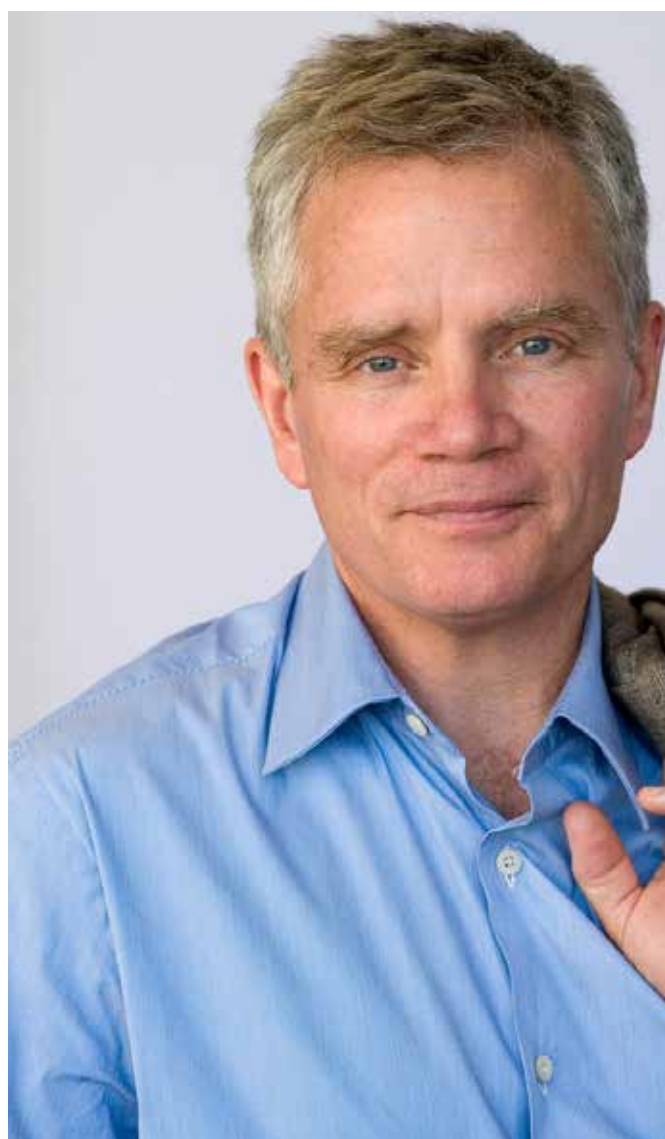
While TED conferences are held annually in Vancouver, Canada, along North America's west coast, numerous TEDx events are underway at any given day and time at multiple locations on Earth. The TEDx concept is to bring big ideas and profound conversation to issues and ideas at local levels. These events use similar formatting to TED events through free licenses provided to successful applicants by TED.

Under these license agreements, TEDx organizers cannot profit from the event. It's all about the speakers' stories and the reflection they inspire.

Ozer and the committee have spent the past 12 months planning for TEDxBigSky, searching for speakers that would leave an impact on viewers.

"We networked and researched and found some special people who would tell their stories and share ideas that will leave the audience members inspired and with their jaws to the floor," Ozer said. "People can expect an event that will grow into an annual destination celebration. It's something that I think Big Sky is hungry for."

Visit tedxbigsky.com for more information, updates and ticket availability.



Scott Wyatt

As a partner at NBBJ—the tech industry's architecture firm of choice according to Wired and Popular Science magazines—Scott Wyatt oversees the talents, accomplishments and business strategies of the company's corporate workplace design practice. Wyatt is recognized for highly functional, sophisticated designs that translate a client's vision, purpose and culture into an elegant expression of interiors, structure and landscape. These designs foster inspiring environments for businesses, employees and the community at large. Wyatt has led the creation of new global headquarters for some of the world's foremost corporations including Google, Boeing, Samsung, Amazon and Microsoft, among many others.

Explore Big Sky: Do you remember the moment you fell in love with architecture and design?

Scott Wyatt: I fell in love with New York in 1966 when I flew into JFK [airport's] TWA terminal—I had never experienced such a powerfully expressive building—its glass and concrete form made me want to fly...it was incredibly moving. It was all of New York that inspired me toward a career in design—the streets, avenues and parks—some of the great places in the world.

EBS: Can you provide an example of a time when you witnessed the positive effects your innovative designs had on a company and its employees?

S.W.: The Reebok headquarters, south of Boston is one. [Founder and CEO] Paul Fireman's vision was to construct a new headquarters that would be a key ingredient in turning his failing company back toward success. He believed that the right design could inspire better product design and higher company performance. We won that commission and the company had a spectacular turnaround in the two years

Below are Q-and-As with three of the six speakers.

after completion. Paul credited the new headquarters as the key to that turnaround.

EBS: The Big Sky community is currently undergoing a boom in development. Your projects are predominantly urban, but how might your design philosophy be applied to a small, remote area whose growth impinges on the natural surroundings that make it so desirable?

S.W.: It is very hard to get things right during boom times—I recommend looking at, and learning from, other successful communities. I am impressed with Boulder, Colorado's green belt that limits sprawl. Consider higher density development, less suburban sprawl, preserving more untouched land. Denser communities can enhance social interaction and create more meaningful lives.

EBS: You talk about "biophilia"—the idea that humans innately seek connections with nature and a theory that has been applied to architecture and design. What kind of cues do you take from nature?

S.W.: Biomimicry, or form inspired by nature, can generate positive human responses, as well as innovative structural solutions. The "cue" for me is to do everything I can to conserve nature, as well as integrate it in all of my work.

EBS: Where do you see the future of architectural design heading?

S.W.: The future of design will be figuring out how we (animals and plants) can thrive on our planet with a population of 10 billion people. Most of us will be living in large, dense cities. They must be inspiring cities, not frightening, dangerous places. The difference is design. – Sarah Gianelli



Ann Herrmann-Nehdi

Ann Herrmann-Nehdi travels the world as a speaker, author and thought leader helping people, teams and organizations apply what we know about the brain to improve personal and business performance. As CEO of Herrmann International, she continues to build on the pioneering research of her father, whose studies revealed four patterns in how the brain perceives and processes information. This led to the development of a system to understand one's preferred mode of thinking and maximize the use of one's entire brain to improve performance and results.

Explore Big Sky: *Why is it more important than ever for people to unlock and utilize their full brain potential?*

Ann Herrmann-Nehdi: Our world today is so demanding of our brains—we are asking so much more of [them]—so the more we can unlock, the better our lives are.

EBS: *How have you expanded on the brain research initiated in the 1970s by your father, Ned Herrmann, as head of management development for General Electric, to remain relevant in our rapidly changing society?*

A.H.: There have been many “aha’s” along the way. One of the most impactful has been the understanding that our brains are malleable—that we can change our thinking and how we process and see the world. It is not a casual change, but I believe that once understood, it is a message of hope and gives us a roadmap for the learning we all need to pursue throughout our lives.

EBS: *How can individuals apply “Whole Brain Thinking” concepts and tools—typically employed by*

businesses to encourage productivity, effectiveness and innovation—to their personal lives?

A.H.: Individuals can apply “Whole Brain Thinking” to almost every aspect of their lives: improving relationships at home with partners or family by better understanding how they may think differently; [and] making better decisions, solving problems more creatively or getting more out of their “brain time” every day—becoming more productive.

EBS: *You lived abroad for 15 years, predominantly in France. Did that experience, and travel in general, have an effect on your ability to be a flexible thinker?*

A.H.: Absolutely! It required [that] I learn to think and understand the world in very different ways. I studied several languages—Russian, French and even Arabic—and found that each time I was stepping into a mindset and view of the world that was unique and different. Travel is a great way to stretch your thinking, but you can also become more flexible by shifting your interests to an area that may be out of your natural comfort zone. For some people that might be art, for others writing code, mentoring someone or embracing a highly disciplined fitness plan.

EBS: *What are some simple exercises people can practice throughout their day to get out of “rut thinking”?*

A.H.: A great brain hack to break thinking patterns is to appeal to the brain’s natural appeal for novelty. I recommend getting up, ideally once every hour or so, and taking a brief walk outside to literally change your perspective. Research has shown that will shift your thinking and increase your creativity.

– Sarah Gianelli



Lukas Nelson

It’s all but impossible to talk about Lukas Nelson without mentioning that that the 28-year-old musician is the son of legendary country rocker Willie Nelson. He and his band Promise of the Real have also toured as the back-up band for another living legend, Neil Young, but the “cowboy hippie surf rockers,” as they’ve dubbed their sound, have chops in their own right. In this interview with EBS, Nelson speaks about his father’s influence and what it means to fulfill “the promise of the real.”

Explore Big Sky: *In previous interviews you’ve talked a lot about integrity and the importance of being true to yourself. Your band’s name “Promise of the Real”—a nod to lyrics in the Neil Young song “Walk On”—also suggests the importance of living with authenticity. What does that mean to you personally, and collectively as a band?*

Lukas Nelson: My mom always used to say, “Who you are is what you do when no one’s looking.” Everybody makes mistakes ... we’re constantly fighting our temptations and desires in life. The Promise of the Real, the band name, is like a mantra, really. We’re able to look at that, and say, no matter what we do, even if we make a decision that other people might not like, or even if we’re not proud of it, we own it. I don’t trust anybody who doesn’t recognize they’re a bit of a rascal. There’s a bit of a rascal in all of us.

EBS: *How do these thoughts and beliefs come through in your music?*

L.N.: It comes out in the writing, I imagine. I definitely don’t write as if I’m perfect; I write about my flaws, about the epiphanies I’ve had, [and] my perspective on life. Or I can try to put myself in somebody else’s shoes, and write from their perspective on life too. It’s all about perspective with art.

EBS: *Many of your ballads—the heart wrenching “Sound of Your Memory,” for example—are filled with such longing and poetry that they provide hope that romanticism may not be dead after all. What are your thoughts about romanticism in this day and age?*

L.N.: My dad’s a pretty romantic guy I guess. He’s definitely a poet. And he’s 83 years old now. I think I grew up with and [was] raised with an older sense of relationship to the world, and a sense of who I am. I feel like there is a sense of losing, really, the poetry of life with the saturation of social media. It’s not necessarily nostalgia because it still exists; it’s still out there, it just seems increasingly rare.

EBS: *Why do you play music?*

L.N.: I don’t know, I just do. I grew up with it. It feels like home. I first started because I wanted to be with Dad and he was always gone so I thought it was something I could do to keep us closer together. I started writing songs to make him proud. And then I fell in love with it myself. – Sarah Gianelli

Everything's better with Buttr

New breakfast option opens in Big Sky

BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – There are certain elements of a resort community that make it desirable for locals, and an essential destination for visitors.

In Big Sky, this means a massive ski area with reliable snow, a burgeoning mountain bike scene, golf courses designed by PGA legends, blue ribbon trout streams, and great restaurants. Scott Hoeksema believes he's found an opportunity to improve the latter, and on Jan. 18 he'll open a new breakfast joint call Buttr in the space formerly occupied by the Lotus Pad, which he also co-owns.

The Lotus Pad is moving to the brand-new 47 Town Center building and he jumped on that occasion to fill what he identifies as a deficiency in Big Sky breakfast options.

"There's such an obvious niche that wasn't being filled in the market," Hoeksema said.

Buttr will be open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday and offer a simple, speedy dining experience.

The menu will be small with an emphasis on quality, simplicity and quick preparation, using regional and natural ingredients whenever possible, Hoeksema said. Offerings planned include fried chicken and waffles; crispy, shredded hash browns; and healthy options like granola and yogurt. The first menu item listed will be the old standby of two eggs, hash browns and toast.

The restaurant's name was inspired by—you guessed it—butter.

"It's definitely a major ingredient in a lot of breakfast items, and it's catchy," Hoeksema said.

The Grand Rapids, Michigan native has lived in Big Sky since 2004 and in addition to his business ventures, also works part-time as the asset manager for Big Sky Community Organization and a bartender at Beehive Basin Brewery. His passion for the area is apparent when you get him talking about this new business venture.

"I partly feel like it's a community service to do this," Hoeksema said. "I went to school in Bozeman and going out to breakfast was a huge deal. If we truly want to be a ski town, to me it feels incomplete without a great breakfast place to go to. I'm doing my part to make the town a better place to live."

The Cat's Paw was one of Hoeksema's favorite Bozeman haunts during college, and he hinted at bringing back one of its simple, very cheap specials on occasion for Big Sky breakfast patrons.

Hoeksema hopes to have a liquor license by the spring, with mimosas, bloody marys and likely a couple of beers on the menu.

"It won't be an expansive selection of alcohol—same with the theme of the food—a very small menu to do a few things very well," he said. "We're going to just ... concentrate on quality, execution and making it fast."

Hoeksema has hired six employees—three in the kitchen and three in the front of the house—and says he'd like to have some lunch items on the menu by summer.

Buttr will be located at 120 Big Pine Drive, No. 2, in Westfork Plaza's Blue Mall building.



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Inside the Big Sky | By Derek Lennon

How to start a conversation on a chairlift

BY DEREK LENNON
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Every skier and rider spends a good chunk of their time riding the lifts during an average ski day. There aren't many sports where you're sitting shoulder-to-shoulder with a total stranger on a cold chair dangling from a cable high off the ground. It's the perfect time to strike up a conversation and get to know the person sitting next to you.

Riding a chairlift with like-minded snow-sports enthusiasts is a unique experience to say the least. Being friendly and engaging in a bit of mindless chitchat helps to pass the time, accentuate the atmosphere, and complete the ski experience. Plus, it's easy to start a conversation on a chairlift. All you need to do is start talking.

Whether you're a happy local, an aspiring Big Sky skier, a curious tourist, or a mountain employee, the chairlift is the ideal time to spread the positive mountain vibes and be nice to your new neighbor.

If you're not sure how to start a conversation on a chairlift, here are a few simple conversation starters and points of discussion that you can use:

- Comment on the weather.
- Ask how the day is going.
- Discuss snow conditions.
- Ask what runs they skied today.
- Compliment their equipment.
- Ask where they are from.
- Talk about the news (but avoid politics).



You never know what interesting people you'll meet while skiing, until you spark some dialog.
PHOTO COURTESY OF LOVE STREET MEDIA



The new six-place Powder Seeker chairlift at Big Sky Resort is the perfect place to strike up a conversation about blue wind bubbles. PHOTO BY CODY WHITMER

Not everyone is a conversationalist, but the vast majority of people are keen and willing to chat for a short lift ride. If you tend to be a bit of an introvert and someone tries to strike up a conversation with you, have the courtesy to engage in conversation with him or her. You never know whom you might meet.

The chances are good that after a brief stint on a chairlift with a random person, you'll never see them again. In most cases, the conversation and your chairlift friend will quickly fade from memory by the time you make a few turns—but not always.

Make a point to start more chairlift conversations. You'll be blown away by the interesting people you'll meet, the new connections you'll make, the business opportunities that present themselves, the chance encounters with long lost friends, and the potential to make new ski buddies.

Of course, you're bound to have a few wild and memorable chairlift rides along the way too. There's nothing quite as entertaining as someone who's competing to be the best skier on the mountain, or that one guy who makes everything obnoxious and awkward. But on a whole, the people you'll ride the lifts with are quality folks who just want to have a good time.

The next time you ride the lift with a stranger, say hi and start a chairlift conversation. It's fun.

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 Big Sky Winter blog at <https://www.bigskywinter.com/about/big-sky-blog/how-to-start-a-conversation-on-a-chairlift/>. Read more interesting content about the area on Visit Big Sky's blog at <https://visitbigskymt.com/category/blog/>.

Big Sky Fire Department looks to community for new station, additional firefighters

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Fire Department is in the planning phase to build a new fire station and bring 13 more firefighters on board. The undertaking would require the passage of two mill levies in November and an appropriation from the Big Sky Resort Area District board this June.

Chief William Farhat said the community ask has three parts: a mill levy bond to build a new fire station; a permanent mill levy increase to add nine firefighters and one fire marshal to the department's payroll; and a Big Sky Resort Tax Board request to the tune of approximately \$950,000 for the addition of three battalion chiefs.

Farhat said he knows it's a lot to ask of the community, but the need is significant. "We don't have enough people responding to emergencies from enough locations," he said. "We are still trying to [address] the issues that were brought up in 2005—in 2017. After 12 years trying to make things work and having this exponential growth, it's almost like, enough's enough."

Farhat said the department struggles to serve the area's sprawled-out topography, especially given the limited availability of mutual aid, or assistance from other fire departments in the form of additional firefighters and engines.

The fire department responds to an area that stretches roughly from the Yellowstone National Park boundary to the south, the 35 mph bridge to the north, approximately halfway to Ennis on the Jack Creek Road to the west, and east into the Gallatin Range.

Farhat said the department considered remodeling the station in Town Center, but it didn't pencil out. The department still wouldn't have been able to fit its ladder truck in its main facility—currently the department keeps it at Station 2, an unstaffed facility near Big Sky Resort—and the price tag for renovations totaled \$3.7 million.

"The [primary] station is a 31-year-old building that was designed for volunteer firefighting," Farhat said, noting its makeshift bedrooms and deficient training facilities. "It just didn't make sense to put that much money into the building."

While the current facility is inadequate, the location is good; the fire department is looking for another property in Town Center and is recruiting a construction manager to manage the building process.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY FIRE DEPARTMENT

"It's very difficult to find 3-acre parcel that's not only available but affordable," Farhat said of the fiscal challenges before the department.

Another component of the department's plan includes remodeling Station 2 by 2019, if not sooner. That station was built during a time when the department was mostly volunteer-based and has no bedrooms; a remodel would allow for 24-hour staffing.

Additional firefighters would help the department manage 24/7 staffing, respond to multiple calls at once, and decrease response times. Right now, it takes the fire department 15 minutes or longer to respond to 20 percent of its calls. "Our goal should be eight minutes," Farhat said. "Fifteen minutes is just ridiculously long and it's a problem for us."

It doesn't appear that the volume of calls the department responds to—and the number of concurrent calls in particular—will drop any time soon. A report prepared last year by Emergency Services Consultants International forecasted that by the year 2020, the department would respond to 762 calls. Last year ended with 728 calls and Farhat predicts 2018 will top 780 given Big Sky's growth.

"Even our professional forecasts said we'd have more time to prepare for this and we just don't," Farhat said. "We can't put this off anymore ... We have outstanding employees, but they aren't superheroes."

The fire department's resort tax request for three battalion chiefs will total about \$950,000, or approximately 18 percent of total appropriations if this year's collections keeps pace with last year's. Asking for funding from the BSRAD makes sense given that 60 percent of the department's operations address the needs of non-residents, Farhat said.

Details haven't been completely ironed out yet, but some preliminary numbers have been identified. The bond for the new building would total \$5.5 million collected over 15 years, and Big Sky residents would also vote up or down on a permanent mill levy increase for personnel that would result in an additional \$1 million of annual funding.

In 2013, voters approved a \$485,000 bond that helped the department bring on five additional firefighters, and the department currently employs 15. Each shift is staffed with five firefighters, in addition to three paid on-call firefighters and three paid on-call EMTs that are used as needed.

The owner of a property with a \$300,000 taxable value would pay an additional \$13.75 per month if both mill levies pass in November. That number would decrease as the bond is paid off, but wouldn't exceed \$13.75.

"That's not cheap, but I don't think it's ridiculous," Farhat said. He added that in many ways, the area's growth is a success story—but it's not something he steers one way or the other. "That's for other people to decide, but people look to me and say, 'Why aren't you prepared to address it?'"

"We just have to bite the bullet and do it," Farhat said. "If I could do it with less, trust me I would."

Anti-refugee sentiment from election spills over to states

BY MATT VOLZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – The push to restrict refugee resettlements and immigration in the U.S. that figured so prominently in Donald Trump’s election is now headed to states that are preparing to convene their legislative sessions early this year, immigration advocates said.

In Montana, which took in just nine refugee families from January to early December 2016, about a dozen bill requests related to refugees, immigration and terrorism have been filed ahead of this month’s session. The measures include requiring resettlement agencies to carry insurance that would defray the cost of prosecuting refugees who commit violent crimes and allowing towns and cities to request a moratorium on resettlements in their communities.

Refugee rights advocates say those measures are a sign of what is to come as the anti-refugee rhetoric that featured prominently in the presidential election spills over to statehouses and local governments.

“It’s pretty widely known that this is going to be a hard year for those of us who are seeking to protect the rights of refugees and immigrants,” said S.K. Rossi, advocacy and policy director for the ACLU of Montana.

The president-elect campaigned on building a border wall with Mexico to stop illegal immigration, deporting immigrants who are in the nation illegally and halting the resettlement of refugees to strengthen the federal program that vets them.

Some down-ticket conservative candidates took Trump’s cue and integrated the anti-refugee platform into their campaigns. Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke, for example, spoke multiple times about the possibility of child terrorists slipping into the U.S.

Empowered by the issue’s prominence, anti-immigrant groups have state and local governments in their sights as targets to push restrictive measures in addition to whatever changes may happen at the federal level, said Michele McKenzie, deputy director of the Minneapolis organization The Advocates for Human Rights.

That would lead to further manipulation of the deeply visceral fear of newcomers to the U.S. that was exposed during the election campaigns, McKenzie said.

“It absolutely does not end with the presidential election,” McKenzie said. “It’s a national strategy by a small but organized group of anti-immigration advocates and anti-refugee advocates.”

It’s unclear if Trump will make good on his pledges. But his election appears to be enough for an Indiana legislative panel led by state Sen.

Mike Delph, which didn’t recommend any legislation after it spent eight months reviewing illegal immigration.

Delph said after the election that the U.S. government’s actions may make immigration less of a problem for the states.

Conservative lawmakers in other states such as Montana aren’t waiting to find out, and are instead looking at measures to give towns and cities a larger voice in the federal resettlement process.

“We need to get serious,” said Nancy Ballance, a Republican state representative from Ravalli County.

Ballance said refugees are a “gigantic issue” in her southwestern Montana county, just south of the liberal college city of Missoula. “People expect to see some legislation brought,” she said.

Missoula took in all of the state’s refugees last year and has been approved to accept another 150 through September. That makes leaders in rural surrounding areas nervous that people will settle in their towns, where housing and job opportunities are limited.

“If Missoula wants to have their soft-landing program, that’s fine,” said Bob Keenan, a Republican state senator from Bigfork, a town north of Missoula on Flathead Lake. “Those communities may not be as willing to expend their social service dollars for a soft landing.”

Soft Landing Missoula and the International Rescue Committee have been the main organizations working with the federal and state governments to resettle the refugees, who come from Congo, Iraq and Eritrea.

Mary Poole, Soft Landing Missoula’s director, said much of the legislation being proposed in Montana is based on misinformation. Some measures—such as requiring surveys of communities’ capacity to take refugees—already are part of the federal process, she said.

“I hope people are still open to talking to us and getting accurate information,” Poole said. “Our doors are definitely open for conversation.”

Other state-level bills conflict with federal refugee laws and will lead to lawsuits, Rossi said.

Just the act of introducing these measures sustains the anti-refugee fear and xenophobia that grew during the election, the ACLU lobbyist said.

“Filing this and making it a public conversation automatically undermines the refugee process,” Rossi said. “They can’t legally undermine the process, but they can socially undermine the process.”





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Section 2: ENVIRONMENT, BUSINESS & HEALTH



The New West: Saving Greater Yellowstone means confronting elephants in the room



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

In 1804, President Thomas Jefferson tasked Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and their expedition known as “the Corps of Discovery” with finding a pathway to the Pacific Ocean from present-day St. Louis, Missouri.

Based upon sketchy fur trapper intel, Jefferson believed it might be possible to get there and back by water. Lewis and Clark floated up the Missouri River unaware of the formidable obstacle represented by the northern Rocky Mountains.

Two years later, after covering thousands of miles, the explorers returned to Washington D.C. with a fairly accurate map of the linear route they circumnavigated. But when examining their cartography in hindsight today, it's striking how much they missed—or overlooked—in charting the interior West.

Lewis and Clark's travels via the Missouri did not often extend more than a few miles, relatively speaking, beyond the river corridor; without benefit of an aerial perspective and modern knowledge, their mapmaking was hobbled by a limited 19th-century perspective.

How do we, as denizens of Greater Yellowstone, similarly suffer from our own narrow conceptualization of what the ecosystem is, and where is our own myopia leading us?

As difficult as it is trying to discern things beyond our own understanding, it's equally as daunting trying to make sense of problems right before our eyes but which we choose, for a variety of reasons, to skirt.

Indeed, why not simply play today and worry about the future when it arrives?

Dr. Susan Clark, who has spent 45 years in Jackson, Wyoming, says the British coined an appropriate term. They called it the elephant in the room—the metaphorical idiom for an obvious truth that goes unaddressed. The expression also applies to obvious challenges or risks no one wants to discuss—and to a condition of groupthink no one wants to challenge.

On Monday, Jan. 9, Clark and I invite you to a conversation about some of Greater Yellowstone's lumbering elephants in the room. The free event in Jackson starts at 5:30 p.m. in St. John's Church's Hansen Hall and is being sponsored by the Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative, a scientific think-tank co-founded by Clark 35 years ago.

We'll begin by pondering this conundrum: what makes Greater Yellowstone incomparable? And given the fact that it's sui generis the world over, can it remain that way in the face of trends that have doomed most other places?

Some of the obvious elephants in the room for Greater Yellowstone include the impacts of climate change and its implications for water, wildfire, agriculture and the recreation economy; growth in human population, corresponding development patterns and outdated thinking about planning and zoning; the balance between resource exploitation and protection; and our willingness—or lack of willingness—to accept some limitations of private self interest in order protect the public common interest.

In a valley like Jackson Hole, where working families and young people, teachers, firefighters, police officers, nurses and service workers already cannot afford to live, what is the remedy and what are the costs of the spill-over effect for the environment and other communities?

How are the challenges of Jackson Hole and cities like Bozeman elephants in the room for other valleys in the region and for our society as a whole?

By the middle of this century, less than one lifespan from now, Clark notes, Earth's population is expected to climb to 10 billion people from the current 7 billion—or by nearly 40 percent.

Some demographers believe the number of people pouring into our ecosystem will accelerate beyond its current unprecedented pace as emigrants flee urban centers and megacities. Fifty years from today, the Gallatin Valley cradling greater Bozeman could be a city as large as Minneapolis.

Clark, who is on break from Yale University where she teaches in the school of Forestry and Environmental Studies, says part of what makes Greater Yellowstone extraordinary is the promises that society makes to itself—past promises, future promises and present promises.

“For over 140 years, dating back to the creation of Yellowstone and continuing to the conservation of wildlands and passage of environmental laws, past generations made a promise to the future and we are now reaping those benefits,” she says.

“So one of the questions is: what promise are we willing to make to future generations? The promise of the present involves asking, ‘How are we willing to live by that ethic daily?’ One could argue that we are failing to meet the promises given to us from the past and which we're bound to pass along to the future.”

Clark says elected officials and civil servants in Greater Yellowstone, from city and county commissioners to the senior leadership of land management agencies and non-government organizations, are beset by “bounded rationality”—the idea that when individuals make decisions, their rationality is limited by the tractability of small problems at hand, the cognitive limitations of their minds, and time available—usually not enough—to make foresighted decisions.

“For high-level leaders, learning and education should be about active reflective efforts on their experiences directed at shaping the future in Greater Yellowstone,” Clark writes in a draft of her forthcoming book, “Signals from the Future: Our Greater Yellowstone of Tomorrow?”

“Leadership should be about focusing on putting practices, thinking, organizations, institutions, and society on a trajectory that is sustainable and open to continual learning, reflection, and adaptation,” she writes. “This to me seems to be the needed real mission for all of us who care about the future of this place.”

We hope you can join for a lively, no-holds barred discussion about this ecosystem we call home. And if you can't join us in Jackson, the discussion will be a perpetual one.

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

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21+ SHOW



MSU's Yellowstone Hall receives national recognition as LEED Gold building

BY ANNE CANTRELL
MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – Yellowstone Hall, Montana State University's first freshman residence hall to be built in half a century, has earned LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council for energy-efficient and sustainable design and construction.

The building's design means it is projected to cost significantly less per square foot to heat, cool and light than most other residence halls on campus, according to administrators with MSU's Facilities Services.

"Managing the operating and maintenance costs of our facilities is critical to MSU's financial stewardship obligation to the taxpayer, our students and their families," said Dan Stevenson, associate vice president of University Services. "The LEED certification process allows MSU to verify, through a third party, that we are designing and constructing our buildings to standards necessary to achieve that stewardship."

Among other design features, Yellowstone Hall features beetle-kill pine wood boards throughout the building and a solar wall to pre-heat hot water and help the university lower its utility bill.

MSU received points on the LEED rating system for numerous performance factors and design features of Yellowstone Hall, including the following:

- Diverting 96 percent of construction waste from the landfill.
- Using recycled materials for nearly 12 percent of the total building materials.
- Reducing potable water use by 42 percent in the building. Yellowstone Hall uses faucets that dispense .5 gallons of water per minute and showerheads

that use 1.5 gallons of water per minute, according to Duke Elliott, resource conservation specialist with MSU Facilities Services. Both methods use less water than traditional methods and result in significant water savings, Elliott said. In turn, those savings result in reduced costs for water and sewer and reduced energy needed to heat water.

- Providing covered bicycle storage facilities to encourage alternative transportation use.

- Projected energy cost savings of more than 30 percent.

- Using regional materials (those manufactured and extracted within 500 miles of the project site) for more than 23 percent of the total building materials.

Yellowstone Hall opened this fall to 436 incoming freshman students.

The \$34.5 million project was funded by proceeds from a 2013 bond and will be repaid with MSU Auxiliary Services revenues from student housing fees, according to Tom Stump, director of MSU Auxiliary Services. No tuition or legislature-appropriated tax dollars were used for the project, Stump said.

Langlas & Associates was the general contractor and the architect was SMA Architects of Helena, with NAC Architecture serving as consultants.

Yellowstone Hall is the fifth LEED-certified building on the MSU campus. MSU's Cooley Laboratory, which opened in October 2012 after a renovation, earned LEED Gold certification; a renovated Gaines Hall received LEED Silver in 2011; Gallatin Hall, a suite-style residence hall, received LEED Gold in 2015; and Jabs Hall, home of the MSU Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship, earned LEED Gold in 2016.

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New wood technology may offer hope for struggling timber

GILLIAN FLACCUS AND PHUONG LE
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RIDDLE, Ore. (AP) – John Redfield watches with pride as his son moves a laser-guided precision saw the size of a semi-truck wheel into place over a massive panel of wood.

Redfield's fingers are scarred from a lifetime of cutting wood and now, after decades of decline in the logging business, he has new hope that his son, too, can make a career shaping the timber felled in southern Oregon's forests.

That's because Redfield and his son work at D.R. Johnson Lumber Co., one of two U.S. timber mills making a new wood product that's the buzz of the construction industry. It's called cross-laminated timber, or CLT, and it's made like it sounds: rafts of 2-by-4 beams aligned in perpendicular layers, then glued—or laminated—together like a giant sandwich.

The resulting panels are lighter and less energy-intensive than concrete and steel and much faster to assemble on-site than regular timber, proponents say. Because the grain in each layer is at a right angle to the one below and above it, there's a counter-tension built into the panels that supporters say makes them strong enough to build even the tallest skyscrapers.

"We believe that two to five years out, down the road, we could be seeing this grow from just 20 percent of our business to potentially 60 percent of our business," said Redfield, D.R. Johnson's chief operating officer. "We're seeing some major growth factors."

From Maine to Arkansas to the Pacific Northwest, the material is sparking interest among architects, engineers and researchers. Many say it could infuse struggling forest communities like Riddle with new economic growth while reducing the carbon footprint of urban construction with a renewable building material.

Visually blemished wood that currently goes to waste can be used in the middle layers of a CLT panel without sacrificing strength or look. Supporters say it could bring sawmills back online while improving forest health through thinning dense stands and making use of low-value wood and local tree species. Trees as small as 5 inches in diameter at the top and those damaged by pests and wildfire are prime candidates.

But challenges remain before CLT becomes as common in the United States as it is in Europe and Canada, and not all builders are sold.

U.S. building codes generally place height limits on all-wood buildings for safety reasons, though a special committee of the International Code Council is investigating potential changes to address the use of CLT in such structures. And research is still underway on critical questions of how these buildings withstand fire and earthquakes in high-seismic regions.

Building codes in Oregon allow cutting-edge designs using new technology like CLT in some cases, but only after rigorous testing and an intensive approval process.

That can make such projects cost-prohibitive, said Peter Dusicka, an engineering professor at Portland State University who's been researching the strength of CLT panels.

"The early adopters are looking at it and seeing it as a good opportunity," but before CLT can take off, there will have to be more examples to get people excited and more mills producing it, said Thomas DeLuca, professor and director of University of Washington's School of Environmental and Forest Sciences.

SmartLam in Montana is the other company producing CLT panels.

This spring, cross-laminated timber will get its ultimate test in the United States when a Portland architectural firm breaks ground on a 12-story wood building in the city's trendy Pearl District. It would be the tallest all-wood building in the world constructed in a seismic zone and the tallest all-wood building in North America.

An all-wood building in Norway is taller, but is not in a seismic zone. An 18-story wood building in British Columbia is also taller, but rests on a traditional concrete core.

Lever Architecture is using \$1.5 million it won in a tall wood building competition sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the softwood industry that's intended to promote CLT as a domestic building material. A 10-story residential tower in New York City also got \$1.5 million.

The Portland firm has been working with scientists at Portland State University and Oregon State University to test the panels' strength by subjecting them to hundreds of thousands of pounds of pressure. They are also testing various methods for joining the massive panels together.

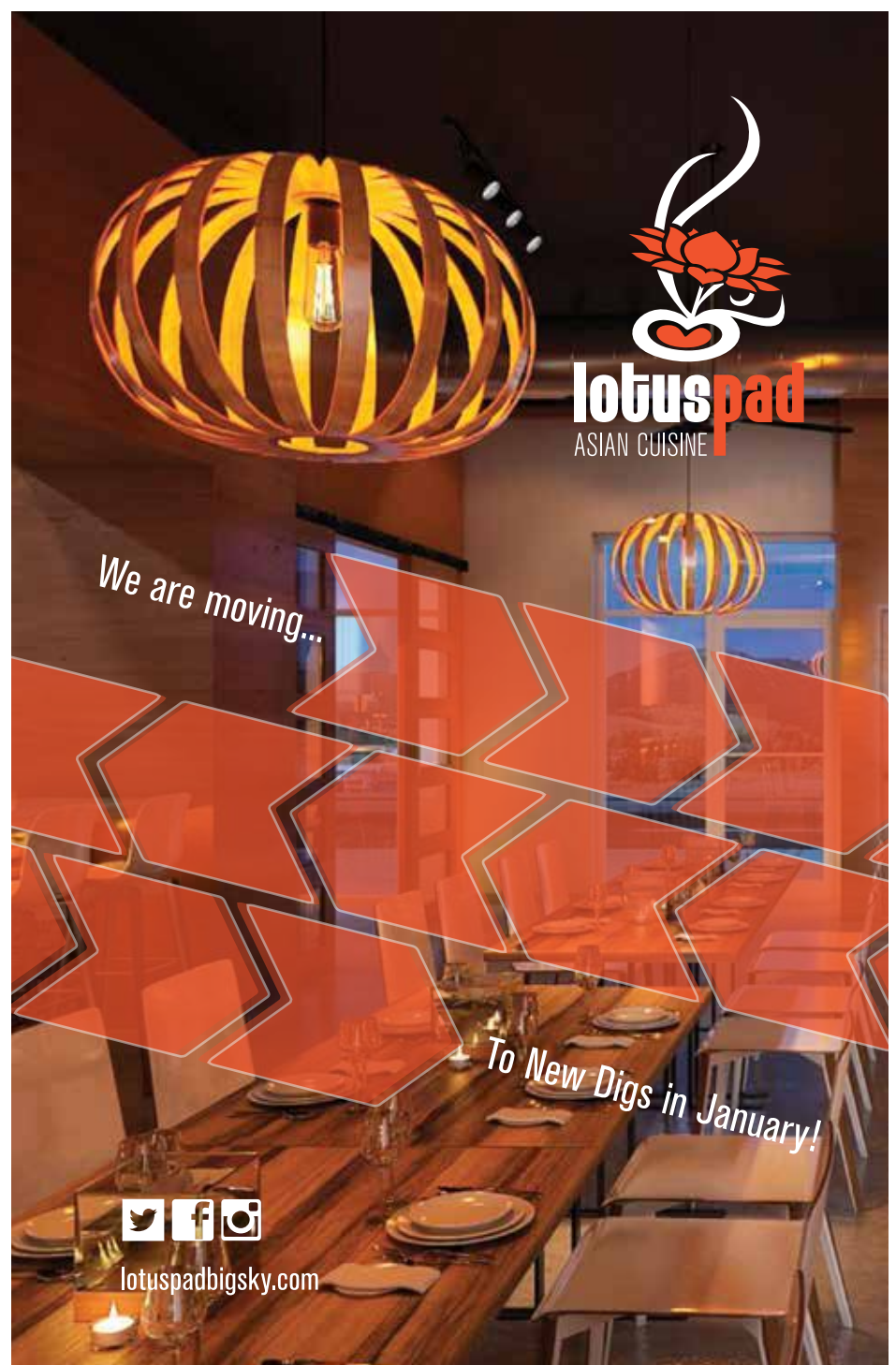
"We're looking at creating a resilient design, a design that could withstand a major earthquake—basically the earthquake that we all worry about—and be repaired," said Thomas Robinson, founder of Lever Architecture.

The results of the structural testing in Oregon will be made public for other U.S. designers, bringing the material one step closer to the mainstream, Dusicka said.

Back in Riddle, a tiny town tucked in the mist-shrouded forests of Douglas County, Redfield is once more excited about timber in a place where logging used to be king.

The 125-employee company has been inundated with visitors from around the country interested in touring their new CLT business expansion.

Watching as layers of beams whirled through a glue machine, Redfield said: "We're able to take wood that may be turned into chips or pulp and turn it into a product that's pretty exciting."





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EYE ON THE BALL

Rex Ryan is a great coach



BY BRANDON NILES
EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

Contrary to popular opinion, Rex Ryan is a great coach. The much-maligned Ryan was fired from his position as head coach of the Buffalo Bills after an overtime loss in Week 16 to the Miami Dolphins. It was only his second season in Buffalo after a six-year stint with the New York Jets.

Ryan gets blamed for extending Buffalo’s playoff drought to 17 years, but a two-year window is an awfully short period of time to grade out an NFL head coach. Ryan’s Bills finished with an 8-8 record in 2015, and were 7-8 this season before Ryan’s firing. While those are not improvements over the 9-7 squad from 2014, Ryan can hardly be blamed.

This is a quarterback driven league. While there are notable exceptions to the rule, the majority of playoff teams have a star-caliber quarterback. That goes double for teams that are perennial playoff contenders, such as the Pittsburgh Steelers, New England Patriots, and Green Bay Packers, who all have elite players at the quarterback position.

Ryan has never had a star-caliber quarterback. With the Jets, he made Mark Sanchez look like a good player for a couple of years before his lack of talent finally caught up to him. Sanchez took the Ryan-led Jets to two AFC Championship games in 2009 and 2010, but has failed to make an impact since. He had some inflated stats in Philadelphia under Chip Kelly as a backup before failing to beat out Trevor Siemian in an open competition in Denver prior to this season.

With Buffalo, Ryan inherited a first-round bust in E.J. Manuel, who finished the 2014 season with a quarterback rating of 80.3, 56th in the NFL. To create competition, the Bills signed former Baltimore Raven Tyrod Taylor, a career backup, who ended up beating out Manuel for the starting job. Taylor had some good performances over the past two seasons, but ultimately was benched for the final

week of the season this year and the Bills will undoubtedly bring in someone else to compete for the job this offseason.

The Bills defense also regressed under Ryan, but so did the personnel. Safety Jairus Byrd bolted in free agency; pass rusher Mario Williams got hurt and then fled for Miami; defensive linemen Marcell Dareus and Kyle Williams have battled suspensions and injuries; and Ryan’s top two defensive players in the draft this year—pass rusher Shaq Lawson and linebacker Reggie Ragland—spent most of the season on the injury report.

Ryan has always been a player’s coach, and has made a career of getting the most out of the personnel he has. Under Ryan, players have thrived and journeymen have found homes. Given the right kind of support, and an above-average quarterback, Ryan is exactly the kind of coach that can lead your team to the Super Bowl.

Ryan can sometimes turn people off with his bravado and his bigger-than-life personality, but I see a guy who is willing to put himself out there for his team, and someone with unwavering support for the guys that fight for him week in and week out.

If I ran the Jacksonville Jaguars or the Los Angeles Rams, I would be on the phone right now offering Ryan a chance to come in and turn my team around. Both of these teams need new coaches, both have talent on the defensive side of the ball, and both teams have young quarterbacks who have at least as much potential as the players Ryan has been given in the past.

Ryan doesn’t need a lot to field a productive team. He just needs support from the front office and some patience as the team tries to find a quarterback. If he gets another opportunity, Buffalo may look back on this decision and regret getting rid of a great coach as they go up against him with another squad.

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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By Word of Mouth: Big Sky's bistro

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – A small bistro tucked in the Westfork Meadows near Big Sky Town Center, By Word of Mouth (BYWOM) will celebrate 22 years in business this year. Located in the same building and operating for more than two decades, BYWOM has seemingly perfected what they do.

Step through the glass door and you just might feel time take a breath. BYWOM offers casual lighting, a song drifting through the air, candles, white plates, crisp napkins and a menu offering burgers, sushi, lamb, fondu and even pork osso buco.

Co-owner Pam Flach will seat guests at a table, all smiles, before serving neighboring diners their selections from the menu. Meanwhile, her husband, John Flach, is in the kitchen preparing items to cook or performing the finishing touches on a dish.

It is a familial atmosphere and, accompanied by the good food, it keeps people coming back. Pam takes pride in the menu, one that offers a taste for everyone. John routinely updates the offerings, but several popular dishes just won't go away. One particular favorite, the Flachs explained, is the tuna katsu, which can be ordered as an appetizer or as a small entree. In this dish, ahi tuna meets nori, vegetables and sushi rice, all flash-fried with panko and sweet soy syrup.

The tables are often filled with skiers, locals and passersby, and familiar faces turn up at the restaurant bar. John described the setting in a few words: "Dirt bags with duct tape [on their clothes] sitting next to fur coats."

Pam and John met while working at Buck's T-4 Lodge in Big Sky, and in 1995 they purchased BYWOM as a deli and catering service. The business was already named By Word of Mouth, so the Flachs kept it. Later, when customers started calling it BYWOM, the acronym started to take hold.

In the early years, the space was nearly one-third the size it is today. Since then, the couple has expanded BYWOM several times, adding a bar and pub, as well as a dining room. Now the bistro can seat 30 in the dining room and another 30 people in the pub.

The couple had been in the restaurant business long before purchasing BYWOM—Pam started waitressing in college while John began his career in the kitchen at 15 years old. Hailing from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, John cooked while in high school, but it wasn't until



By Word of Mouth co-owner Pam Flach, at left, hosts diners on Sept. 15 when they reopened for lunch, Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI

working for Kurt Sanborn, the former executive chef at Big Sky Resort's Huntley Lodge, when he started on his first formal cooking job.

"I don't think we'll ever get rich having a restaurant," Pam said with a slight smile. But for her and John, the benefits of running their own flexible business in a beautiful place like Big Sky certainly outweigh the challenges.

The parents of three school-aged children, Pam and John have been able to set their operating hours in a way that works for the family. For the first few years of operation, BYWOM served only lunch.

However, when Pam and John had their first of three children, the duo focused their attention on dinner so that Pam could stay home with the kids. Now, with all three children in school, the Flachs are serving a variety of dishes for lunch, in addition to dinner.

Pam describes their employees as a family, noting the relatively small turnover rate and the way everyone works together to make BYWOM a warm and friendly place for their customers. However, she also noted their continuous staff shortage in the kitchen.

"John and I feel lucky to have a restaurant in Big Sky mainly because it is such an amazing place for our kids to grow up," Pam said. "The opportunities for them are endless—academically, artistically and recreationally.

"We may not ever make a million [dollars], but most times we feel like we do," she added. "We truly chose Big Sky for a place to live, and make a living, because we love it here."

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DOCTOR'S NOTE

Casualties of the holiday season



BY DR. JEFF DANIELS
EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

When the end of December comes, we look forward to one of the busiest weeks of the entire ski season at the Medical Clinic of Big Sky. As the hotel rooms and condos fill, more people are zooming down the slopes, and we are bound to see more injuries—especially injuries to the knee and the shoulder.

With the deep, powdery snow, some unlucky skiers got caught and fell with enough force to tear apart the ligaments and bones of the knee joint. On Christmas Day, one woman took a slow fall in the powder and ended up fracturing her knee joint in three different places. It was not the most devastating knee injury I've seen in the clinic, but a very unusual one that would require surgery once she got home, and her journey there would be all the more difficult with a knee brace and crutches.

Every day this winter we've had a number of ACL injuries, where a major internal ligament of the knee gets torn. Interestingly, so far most have not followed the usual pattern of a twisting fall, followed by a pop, pain and an unstable knee. We've been surprised by some patients who didn't sound like they did much damage, only to find a very loose knee on examination and a torn ACL on an MRI.

Other injuries to the knee occur during the same traumatic events, but the loss of an ACL in most people these days leads to a surgical repair. It's not a great way to end a ski vacation.

With all of the soft snow, you would expect that the number of shoulder injuries—which often occur with a fall onto rocks or hard-packed snow—would be less than what we saw in the sketchy conditions earlier this season. Unfortunately for a few people, they're still coming in with dislocated shoulders, fractures through the upper arm and clavicle injuries.

Some skiers manage to find the rocks hidden under the powder. We saw one young man who landed in a pile of rocks and took a direct hit to his kneecap (patella), which then shattered from the blow. He was on a steep slope, but was expertly brought down off the mountain by the Big Sky Ski Patrol.

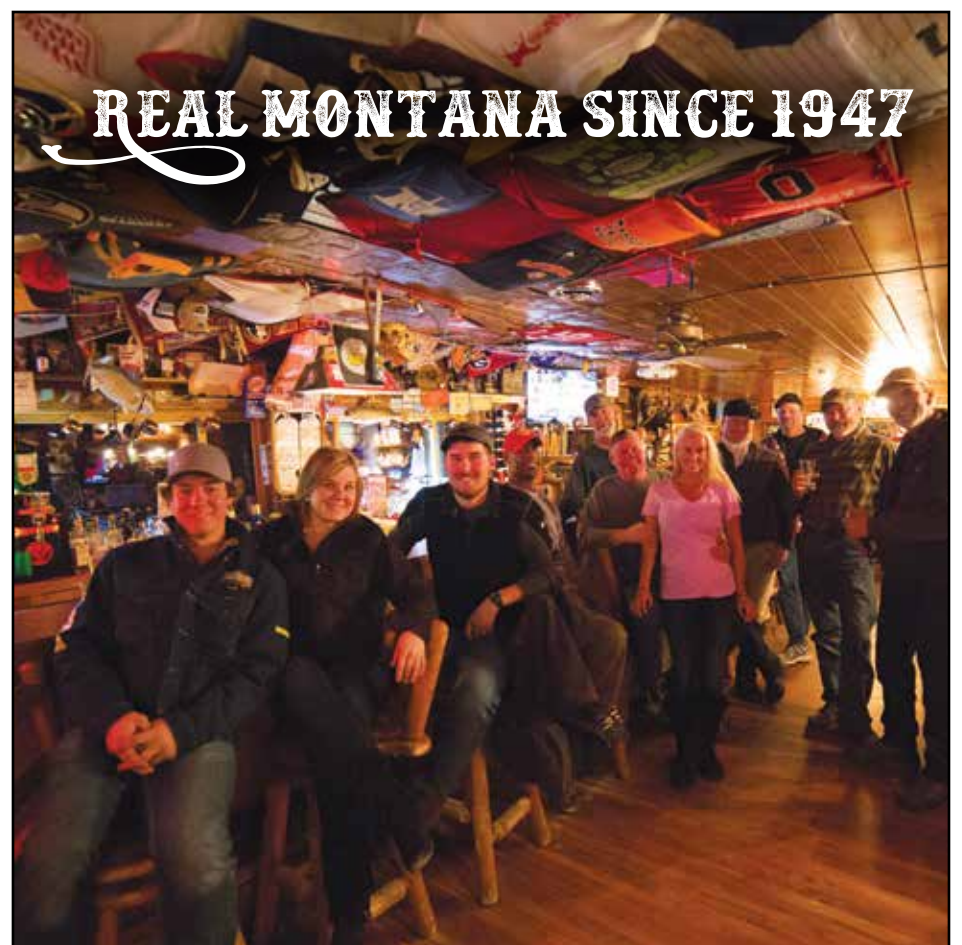
We suspected a patella fracture when we saw the tremendous amount of swelling over that part of his knee, and X-rays proved that he split his patella in half. This will require surgery when he gets home from his holiday.

We've evaluated and treated several people for concussions this season. All were wearing helmets at the time of their head trauma, and all of the concussions were comparatively mild. These cases remind us that wearing a helmet can be a lifesaver, yet there are still people out there who refuse to ski with a helmet on.

This was my 23rd Christmas season caring for the injuries and illnesses that happen over this busy holiday week. Half of the people that come in to see us have been to the clinic in previous years, either accompanying family members or friends, or as patients themselves.

Most of them remember me and my assistant Brad Poore, who has only been here for 21 Christmas seasons! They even remember some of the students and residents who helped take care of them.

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



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From Jackie *with love*

Why I love January



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

January encourages us to slough off last year’s debris and start fresh.

This natural flow of growth and progression helps us to continually move forward. As much as we’d like to wake up and be perfect every New Year’s Day, life keeps us coming back to the drawing board. Success is moving that needle, even if just a little bit, in the right direction day after day, and year after year—in spite of set backs.

Thanks to two of my health coaching clients introducing me to the book “It Starts With Food: Discover the Whole30 and Change Your Life in Unexpected Ways” by Dallas and Melissa Hartwig, this January my husband and I are going to follow the Whole30 eating and drinking plan.

There’s no measuring or weighing your food or yourself—you just keep checking in with how you feel while eating whole foods and eliminating processed and refined foods. The book offers interesting and entertaining scientific support to the Whole30 program while laying out a clean and concise path on how to follow it.

My three initial motives for doing it were: I believe in it; it will improve our health; and I’d like to hold group classes on the Whole 30 in Big Sky and Bozeman in February, and must experience it firsthand.

The subsequent two editions of this column are going to be dedicated to sharing our trials and successes with you.

Although writing about this is a great accountability tool, it also brings up feelings of self-doubt, as I fear that not drinking alcohol for a month will present a great challenge to me. Two years ago, I did something called

“Janopause”—where I didn’t drink alcohol for the month of January. It was challenging, but it felt like a successful accomplishment in the end. But then it was back to drinking wine at 5 p.m. each day in February.

Last year, I skipped the New Year’s resolution and instead began developing my Big Hairy Audacious Goal (BHAG); discovering what it will take for America to become the No. 1 healthiest country in the world by 2040. In retrospect, I may have been avoiding another Janopause.

This year, I thought I was simply doing the Whole30 as a means to an end, but as I read “It Starts With Food,” the section on sugar and alcohol came up. It explained that if sugar is empty calories, alcohol is that times two. I had a moment and realized I can’t keep railing against sugar while I’m indulging in sugar times two.

You might think that’s obvious and I should have known that already, but the ability to rationalize our way out of a habit is powerful. For some reason, seeing that information about alcohol, at that particular moment, made it very real.

So step-by-step we go, moving forward in an effort to become better, stronger, smarter people year after year.

The more mental and physical health I create in my mind and body, the better my life will be and the closer we’ll get to becoming the No. 1 healthiest country in the world by 2040, one person at a time.

Happy New Year!

Look for part two of this three-part series in the Jan. 20 issue of EBS.

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



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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.

Ready or not, the curtain goes up. Every night.



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Many chefs compare a shift in the kitchen to a sport. To them, it’s about winning or losing. A night without issues along with satisfied, fulfilled guests is considered a win. And subsequently, when those challenges are not met, that would be considered a loss.

You hear cooks and chefs say things like, “It’s game time,” or “Game on,” or, “Let’s go team.” We have pep talks and game plans as we head into a big night, but I liken it more to an evening at the theater.

I remember the night we opened Aquavit Minneapolis. It was a Friday and we were nervous. I’ve been a part of restaurant openings before, but that night a few of us cooks were talking about how we had nerves in our stomachs. After all, we were about to open what was being heralded as the new best restaurant in the upper Midwest by a nationally known chef.

Marcus Samuelsson gave us a speech that evening in our pre-service meeting. He didn’t have a certain tone or sound like a coach before the team leaves the locker room. It wasn’t a “Now let’s go out there and ... ” speech. It was poignant. It was enthusiastic, yet stoic.

Cooking and service is an art, he said. More specifically, it is theater and we were putting on a show of sorts.

He said that whether you go to a greasy spoon or Aquavit, it’s the same process. You have a menu, you order, you are served, you eat, you pay and you leave—but that the difference between a diner and dining is the details in between. I have never forgotten that.

So, you write your screenplay, or menu as it were. You edit and re-write it, until the final draft is ready to go. The play may be a drama. It may also be a love story or a comedy. What is your menu’s theme? Is it contemporary American? Is it Italian, Thai or Tex-Mex?

Next the owner, or director, needs to find his actors. Who will play the lead? The executive chef or general manager? Will actors’ agents reach out or will the director begin recruiting? Then the rest of the cast needs to be assembled. The restaurant owner needs to find a general manager and executive chef. Then bartenders, cooks and servers are brought to the cast.

Each day, I watch our team come in to work. Cooks get changed and begin to set up their stations. Servers put their aprons on, get their pagers and apron book with their daily notes. They begin their set up and I give them the daily special sheet with the day’s new items to memorize. You could think of it as learning their lines.

So rather than likening cooks and wait staff as suiting up for the field, I believe a more accurate comparison is that they’re donning their wardrobes or costumes for the stage. It’s a live performance every night, and the curtain always goes up, on time, whether you’re ready or not.

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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LEGAL

Big Sky School District #72 Resolution Authorizing Sale of Property

At a regular meeting of the Big Sky School District Board of Trustees, held on Tuesday, November 29, 2016, a resolution was passed authorizing the disposal/sale of the following property:

- 1993 International Amtran conventional bus, diesel, 71 passenger capacity, manual transmission
VIN: 1HVBPHP3PH497354
Proceeds from the sale of this property will be placed in the Bus Depreciation Fund.

This resolution will not become effective until 14 days after date entered into the papers in December, 2016. Should any taxpayer protest this resolution please contact the Big Sky School District at 406-995-4281.

Big Sky School District #72 Audit Publication Statement

An audit of the affairs of Big Sky School District #72 has been conducted by Olness & Associates, P.C. 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 at the Big Sky School District #72 Business Office and that Big Sky School District #72 will send a copy of the audit report to any interested person upon request.

Sincerely,

Corky Miller
Business Manager
Big Sky School District #72
45465 Gallatin Road
Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730
(406) 995-4281



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*Not valid with other offers or for JHMR Passholders. Must show valid 16-17 winter season pass and photo I.D. if purchasing Golden Ticket online, you must still physically present your valid pass upon arrival to activate your lift ticket. Pass must be 10 days or more for a winter alpine resort. Promotion is valid for passholder only. Non-transferable, not for resale. For passes without printed season date, please bring proof of purchase for this season.

Section 3: INSIDE YELLOWSTONE, OUTDOORS & FUN

On the Trail: Town Center Loops pg. 37



Eddy Line:
Angling's New Year's resolutions pg. 37



Ski tips: The power of powder pg. 44



INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



Exploring Yellowstone's Northern Range

YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

Yellowstone's Northern Range is the only area of the park accessible by automobile year-round. Spectacular in every season, this region also happens to be one of the best places in the world to view wolves and other free-roaming wildlife.

It covers 600 square miles along the Lamar and Yellowstone river basins. A breathtaking 57-mile route traverses the range, bracketed by the Montana communities of Gardiner at the park's North Entrance and Cooke City outside the Northeast Entrance.

The large concentration of wildlife, combined with open, rolling hills, makes the Lamar Valley an ideal location to see your favorite creatures. In winter, animals are even easier to spot against a snowy white canvas. Observe them from the frequent pullouts along the road, and don't forget your binoculars! If you prefer, Yellowstone Forever offers guided, wildlife-watching private tours with pickup locations in Gardiner, Mammoth, or Lamar Valley.

Other winter trip ideas to this area include:

Hit a trail on cross-country skis or snowshoes. Several popular, beginner-friendly winter trails are in the Northern Range. Be sure to download free maps before you go.

- Although it is accessible year-round, visit the frozen Tower Fall in the winter on skis or snowshoes. The dramatic, 132-foot waterfall is framed by the towering rock pinnacles for which it is named.
- Browse downtown areas of Gardiner or Cooke City, where you can visit shops and art galleries, or grab a bite to eat.

Where to stay during winter

Visitors can make reservations at one of the hotels in Gardiner, Cooke City, Silver Gate or Mammoth Hot Springs. The Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel is



Gardiner, Montana, contains one of two entrances to Yellowstone National Park open to vehicle traffic in the winter. The other is located in Cooke City, Montana. PHOTOS BY MATT LUDIN

closed for the next two winter seasons for renovations, but the gateway town of Gardiner makes a great winter base camp for accessing Yellowstone and the Northern Range. For information on lodging and other services, visit the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce website.

Driving

The roads through the Northern Range are plowed throughout the winter but temporary closures are possible in extreme conditions. Check the park's road status webpage before you go.

Yellowstone Forever is the official education and fundraising partner of Yellowstone National Park. To learn more about the organization, visit yellowstone.org.



Electric Peak is the tallest mountain in the Gallatin Range. The 10,969-foot peak is located just north of the Montana-Wyoming border in Yellowstone National Park

2017 Winter Wilderness Walks include guided excursions in the Madison, Gallatin and Absaroka mountains

MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

This winter Montana Wilderness Association is offering 45 guided hikes—some on snowshoes and others in regular footwear—across some of the state’s most magnificent backcountry.

Now in its 14th season, MWA’s Winter Wilderness Walks program offers hikers of all ages and experience levels an opportunity to participate in a traditional recreation opportunity while enjoying Montana’s quiet beauty and treasured wild places. Winter Wilderness Walks are also a great way to meet new people, explore, and view wildlife in a winter setting.

Below is a detailed list of all the hikes located in the southwest Montana and hosted by MWA’s Madison-Gallatin Chapter.

Cascade Creek to Lava Lake

Date: Saturday, Jan. 28
Nearest town: Bozeman
Public land management: Custer Gallatin National Forest
Distance (round trip): 6 miles
Difficulty: Strenuous
Elevation gain: 1,600 feet
Leaders: Tom Ross and Bob Bayley
Description: This hike in the northern end of Gallatin Canyon follows a rocky and sometimes steep wooded trail into the Lee Metcalf Wilderness Area to an alpine lake located below Jumbo and Table mountains. The trail is mostly shaded, so dress in layers and bring winter hiking boots in case the conditions are not suitable for snowshoes. Bring water and food, and plan on having lunch beside the frozen lake. The hike should take about five hours.

Lick Creek Loop

Date: Saturday, Feb. 4
Nearest town: Bozeman
Public land management: Custer Gallatin National Forest
Distance (round trip): 4.5 miles
Difficulty: Moderate
Elevation gain: 800 feet
Leaders: Kenneth Hapner and Ron Brekke
Description: The trailhead for the Lick Creek Loop hike is located 8 miles up Hyalite Canyon Road. This hike snakes mostly east through both open and dense forest on a gradual climb with spectacular views of surrounding mountains. We’ll keep an eye out for the tracks of snowshoe hares, weasels, fox, deer, elk and maybe even a large cat. It’s difficult to predict snow conditions, so dress for the weather in layers. Bring lunch, water, snacks, sunglasses and a yearning for the smells, sights and sounds of the winter forest.

Mill Creek

Date: Saturday, Feb. 11
Nearest town: Ennis
Public land management: Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest
Distance (round trip): 6 miles
Difficulty: Moderately strenuous
Elevation Gain: 1,400 feet
Leaders: Bob Bayley and Tom Ross
Description: Our destination is a wild, roadless and remote parcel of land in the Madison Range accessed by a trailhead near Mill Creek, a tributary of Jack Creek. If conditions are favorable, we’ll enjoy spectacular views of Lone Peak and Fan Mountain as we climb through moderately steep terrain on a seldom-used trail.

Climbing Snowbank

Date: Saturday, Feb. 18
Nearest town: Emigrant
Public land management: Custer Gallatin National Forest
Distance (round trip): 6 miles
Difficulty: Moderately strenuous

Elevation gain: 950 feet
Leaders: Roger Jenkins and Susie McDonald
Description: A steady—but not steep—climb up the Mill Creek drainage in the Absaroka Range, this hike offers sweeping views of the Mill Creek Valley, the Bridger Range and the depths of the Absaroka Range.

The Hogback

Date: Saturday, March 18
Nearest Town: Livingston
Public land management: Custer Gallatin National Forest, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Distance (round trip): 8 miles
Difficulty: Strenuous
Elevation gain: 1,000 feet
Leaders: Karen Williams and Roger Breeding
Description: This hike follows the spine of a hogback ridge that runs east-west from the Trail Creek area to Paradise Valley, with great views of the Gallatins to the west and the Absarokas to the east. Since this trail traverses a considerable amount of bedrock, its surface is rocky, uneven and not commonly snow-covered. It can generally be hiked (rather than snowshoed) from mid- to late-March. This is a great early spring hike, but with significant elevation gain.

All outings are free and open to the public, but participants need to preregister online. MWA will provide snowshoes for participants if necessary.

To download the complete 2017 Winter Wilderness Walks schedule and preregister for a walk, visit wildmontana.org/walks.

Nordic Hot Tub

How Big Sky gets into hot water

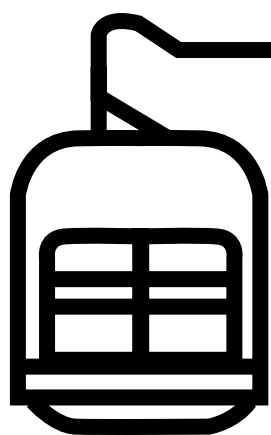




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WORD FROM THE RESORTS

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



BY CHELSI MOY
BIG SKY RESORT PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER

The holidays are behind us, leaving nothing to distract skiers and snowboarders from fresh snow and long runs.

Old Man Winter is bringing deep powder to coincide with January's Deeper Discount Days for Sky Card holders. The deal goes through Jan. 12. Big Sky Resort received more than six feet of snow in December and the white stuff hasn't stopped falling. There's no better way to start the New Year than with accumulating snow...

...except when it also involves dancing! SnoBar, the ultimate winter dance party, is scheduled for two back-to-back Saturdays, Jan. 14 and Jan. 21. Imagine a bar made of ice full of people in puffy jackets dancing outside to the best beats of DJ 5Star, Chrome and Party Girl. There will be colored lights, lasers and specialty drinks. This 21 and over event is the hottest dance party to hit the slopes this winter.

Speaking of good times, it's never too early to get your tickets to the 11th Annual Big Sky Big Grass, the best bluegrass festival this winter. Big Sky Resort's Live Big package offers the greatest discounts on lodging and tickets for premiere acts such as Sam Bush Band, Del McCoury Band, Billy Strings and many, many more. For more information on reservations, check out bigskyresort.com/biggrass.

The skiing is incredible and the entertainment is abundant. Don't miss out! Book now, and we'll see you on the slopes.

Visit bigskyresort.com/event for more information.



BY NICOLE CAMPBELL
SALES AND MARKETING COORDINATOR AT LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH

Make Lone Mountain Ranch part of your New Year's resolution! Get in great shape this year by buying a season trail pass for access to our 83-kilometer trail system, rated the No.1 Nordic trail system in North America by Cross Country Skier magazine. Meet some new faces by joining us for our daily skier's lunch and/or enjoy nightly entertainment in our Saloon with musicians Bruce Anfinson, Christoph Bayr, Tom Georges, Julie Rox and Ric Stienke.

Maybe you're looking for something completely unique to make this year special? Try our sleigh ride dinner event in the historic North Fork Cabin. A dinner of Montana-raised prime rib complete with live music and friendly camaraderie make this night a one-of-a-kind dining experience you will be sure to remember for years to come. Lastly, join us for National Winter Trails Day on Saturday, Jan. 7. Enjoy a free ski pass to the Nordic trails and \$5 rentals in our Outdoor Shop. To schedule your \$5 lesson, call the Outdoor Shop at (406) 995-4734.

Visit lonemountainranch.com for more information.



For those willing to brave the cold temps that have gripped southwest Montana, the skiing and riding at Bridger Bowl has been excellent during the early days of 2017.

On Sunday, Jan. 8, athletes of all abilities will test their mettle at the Apron Challenge, an off-piste giant slalom race. The timed hike and descent of the Apron's ridge terrain will feature alpine and telemark skiers, as well as snowboarders. The course inspection is scheduled for 11 a.m. with racing held from noon to 2 p.m., and an awards ceremony at 4 p.m. in the Jim Bridger Lodge.

Bridger's 62nd birthday will be celebrated Friday, Jan. 13, with "three on a wheel to get the deal"—skiers and riders that carpool with at least three in their rig will get vouchers for discounted lift tickets and lessons. Happy birthday Bridger, you've aged well! – Tyler Allen

BY JENNIE WHITE
GRAND TARGHEE MARKETING AND SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER



What a December! With more than 116 inches of snow in the last month of 2016, we hope you enjoyed some awesome powder days at Grand Targhee Resort.

We're looking forward to even more powder days, good times and great events in 2017—including the White Lightning Open Mic Night held every Tuesday at the Trap Bar and Grill.

If your New Year's resolution is to get out and ski more, we're here to help. Boost your confidence off the groomers and challenge yourself in 2017 with our "Knowledge is Powder" Off Trail Camp. Jump start your off-piste skiing and snowboarding with three days of coaching, video analysis, social events, lift tickets, cat skiing and more. The next camp starts on Jan. 13.

It's time to get your biking legs back under you and hit the trails. We have over 7 miles of groomed single-track trails and 15 kilometers of groomed Nordic trails ready for fat bike exploration. This year Andy has added two new trails that will get your heart pumping. Challenge yourself at our second fat bike race of the season on Saturday, Jan. 21. Make sure to pack a headlamp and bike lamps because this one is a night race! Choose from one or two 8-mile laps. Registration starts at 4 p.m.

Make a weekend out of it and check out the Teton Valley Great Snow Fest Jan. 19-22, where you can enjoy snow sculpting, a film festival, a hockey tournament and more. You can even enter another fat bike race. Get out and enjoy winter! We'll see you on the mountain.

Visit grandtarghee.com for more information.



BY DAVID JOHNSON
MARKETING AT JACKSON HOLE MOUNTAIN RESORT

What a 'DEEPcember' it has been here in Jackson Hole. As mentioned in our last update, we've had the deepest December snowpack in the last 40 years here at JHMR. Over 140 inches of snow fell during the last month of 2016 and the skiing/riding has been phenomenal. Holiday visitors experienced Jackson Hole the way it was meant to be: with deep snow, good visibility and a healthy dose of Western charm. All lifts are now fully operational and all major runs, including the famed Corbet's Couloir, have opened for the season.

Our favorite promotion, the Golden Ticket, runs from Jan. 9-31. JHMR will offer season pass holders from any resort worldwide 40 percent off lift tickets here in Teton Village. Bring your season pass from your home mountain and we'll discount your lift ticket. Come out and ski the big one!

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

Visit jacksonhole.com for more information.

MONTANA RANCH PROPERTIES

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Diamond Bar 7, Big Timber
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\$778,000 | #200670

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FWP hears public comment on proposal to restrict motorized use on select waterways

TOM KUGLIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) - A proposal to limit motorized watercraft use on nearly 50 western Montana river and stream segments is the subject of a series of public hearings that started Jan. 3 and will continue through Jan. 11.

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers' Quiet Waters initiative offers a mix of certain seasonal and horsepower restrictions as well as the closure of some small tributaries for motorized use. The group cites advancements and future advancements of motorized technology as a primary reason for bringing the initiative.

Various regulation changes are sought on the Yellowstone, Flathead, Marias, Stillwater, Sun, Teton Bitterroot, Missouri, Swan and Whitefish rivers, with additional changes for multiple tributaries. Examples of proposed regulations include limiting the Missouri River near Craig to 10-horsepower or less motors from June 1 through Sept. 15, and closing all tributaries of the Bitterroot River to motorized watercraft.

A full description of impacted waterways is available at fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/rules/pn_0218.html.

"We recognize that jet boats and motorboats have a place in Montana, but that's not in every stream all the time," said John Sullivan, BHA Montana chair. "Quiet Waters for us is an honest conversation about a give and take."

The petition process allows the public to bring proposed regulations directly to the Fish and Wildlife Commission. In May, the commission bucked opposition from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and voted unanimously to move Quiet Waters forward, putting the proposal into state rulemaking which includes public comment. Commissioners agreed with supporters that a "proactive" approach to regulations was a discussion worth having.

Meetings to take public comment were held in Kalispell on Jan. 3, Missoula on Jan. 4 and Bozeman on Jan. 5. Hearings are also scheduled for Monday, Jan. 9 in Billings, and Wednesday, Jan. 11 in Great Falls and Helena.

WORKSHOPS & SPECIAL EVENTS


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SUNDAY

5:00-6:15pm
All Levels Yoga

8:00-9:00pm
Candlelit Yin

MONDAY

9:00-10:15am
All Levels Yoga

4:30-5:30pm
Apres Ski Yoga

5:45-6:45pm
Pi-Yo

5:45-7:00pm
Heated Vinyasa Flow

TUESDAY

7:00-8:00am
All Levels Yoga

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

9:00-10:15am
All Levels Yoga

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

THURSDAY

8:15-9:15am
All Levels Yoga

9:30-10:30am
All Levels Yoga

6:30-7:45pm
All Levels Yoga

FRIDAY

9:00-10:15am
Level II Yoga

11:00-12:00pm
Restorative Yoga

3:15-4:00pm
Kids Yoga (3rd-5th grade)

4:15-4:45pm
Kids Yoga (K-2nd grade)

SATURDAY

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



On the Trail: Town Center Loops

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



Drifter and Junebug get a little exercise with their owner while lapping the Town Center Loops. PHOTO BY CIARA WOLFE

BY CIARA WOLFE
BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Town Center Loops are your go-to multi-use winter trails here in Big Sky. Dog-, bike- and ski-friendly, this 15-kilometer network of classic groomed trails has something for everyone. These loops are predominantly flat with a couple small hills and several different links that can increase distance, allowing for flexibility on duration and difficulty. Skiers can connect to the golf course Nordic trails along Simkins Drive or to the South Fork Loop along Aspen Leaf Drive for an additional 5 kilometers of trail.

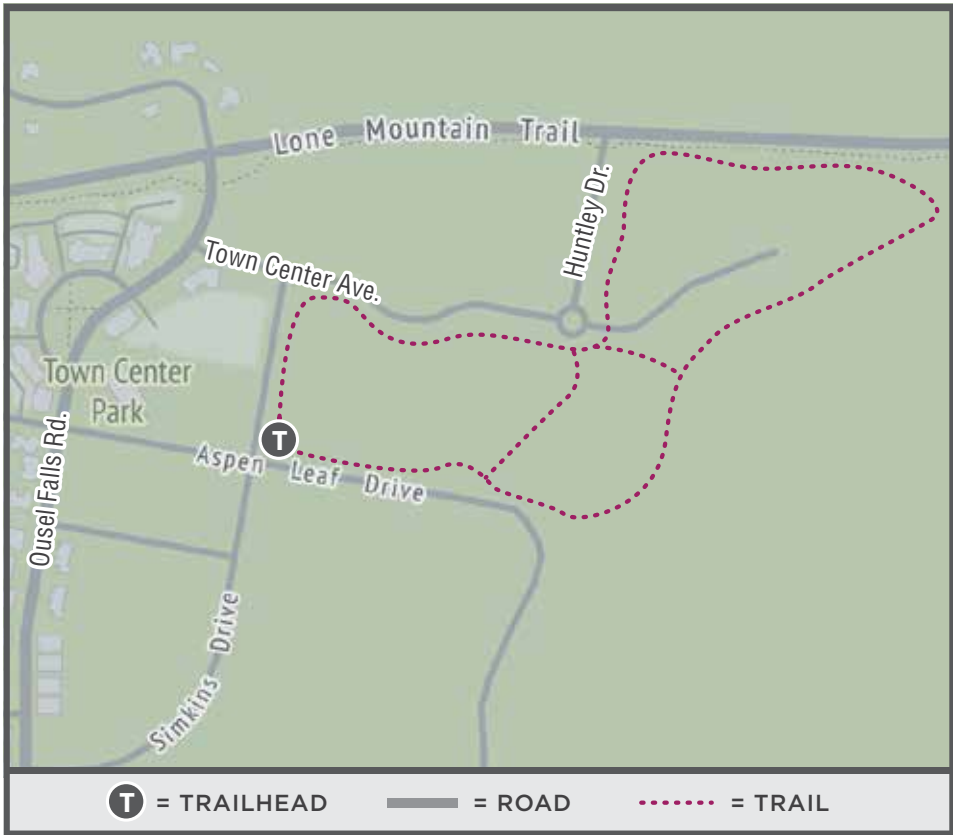
Locals like to explore the Town Center Loops during lunchtime breaks; while exercising with friends, family and pets; and on evening fat bike rides. With several restaurants so close, make sure to schedule some extra time to grab a bite to eat in Town Center or an après drink at Beehive Basin Brewery.

Visitors and residents who are not able to access the Nordic trail system from their home or lodging can park in Town Center behind Lone Peak Cinema and Ousel and Spur Pizza, at Roxy's Market, or at the intersection of Aspen Leaf Drive and Simkins Drive. Make sure to pick up your annual season pass or a day pass (\$20 per day) from one of the following locations:






- 1) Lone Mountain Ranch
- 2) Grizzly Outfitters
- 3) The Hungry Moose
- 4) Gallatin Alpine Sports
- 5) East Slope Outdoors

All proceeds from pass sales go toward the cost of grooming our winter Nordic trail system. A complete map of Big Sky's 85 kilometers of groomed Nordic trails is available at lonemountainranch.com/winter-things-to-do/nordic-skiing.

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



TRAIL STATS

 Distance	 Uses	 Difficulty	 Elevation Gain	 Surface
15km	Cross-country skiing, fat-biking, dog friendly	Easy	0 ft	Skate and classic groomed trails

Directions: From Highway 191, turn onto Lone Mountain Trail and travel west approximately 3 miles. Turn left onto Ousel Falls Road. Parking in the commercial area of Town Center or along the road at the intersection of Aspen Leaf Drive and Simkins Drive.



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BUS SCHEDULE

Town Center ↔ Mountain Village

BIG SKY
TOWN CENTER
MONTANA



DINE



GATHER



SHOP

WHERE BIG SKY COMES TOGETHER

Town Center to Mountain Village Bus Schedule

Heading Up

DEPARTING TOWN CENTER

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

ARRIVING MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

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

Mountain Village to Town Center Bus Schedule

Heading Down

DEPARTING MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

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

ARRIVING TOWN CENTER

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

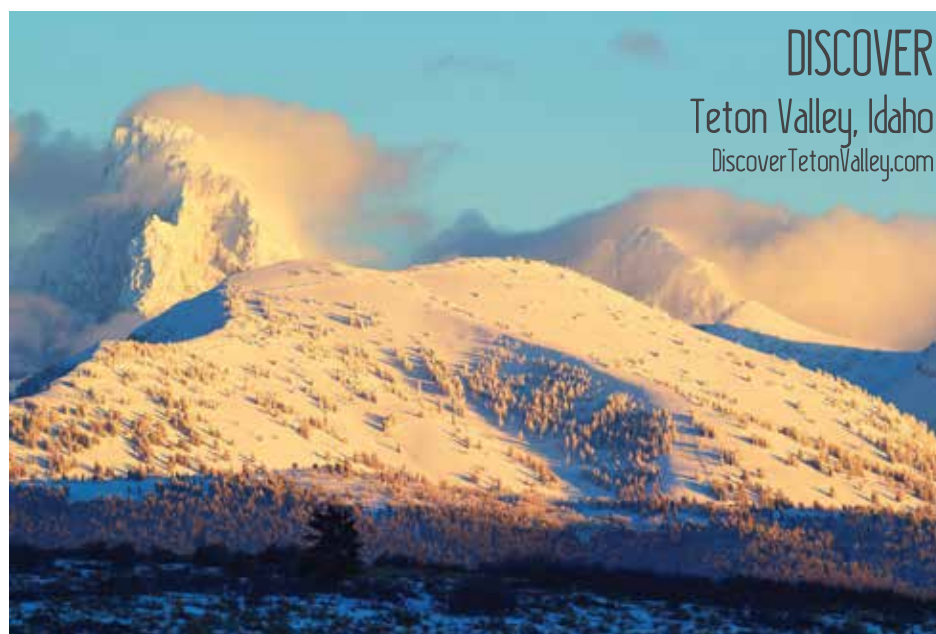
*w = whistle stop

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THE EDDY Line



BY PAT STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

2016 is done. Está terminando. It was an interesting year on many fronts—and thankfully we are not going to revisit it anymore. It's time to move on. And ... go fishing. So I did just that on the first day of 2017.

My destination was the Gallatin River north of Big Sky, and it did not disappoint. Can I remind you how lucky we are to have this trout stream in our backyard? Can I remind you how vital it is we work to protect it, especially after 2016's elections?

Dang. I promised to move on. Please just don't get lazy in 2017, in fact get empowered. You can start by agreeing to take action in 2017—and that's one of the New Year's fly fishing resolutions. Here's the list I came up in between fish on New Year's Day.

Get involved now for the future. Whether it's ensuring public access, protecting public lands, educating fellow anglers that climate change is real, or just picking up someone else's trash on the river, the things that make living here special will not protect themselves.

Catch a native trout on the fly. Put some thought into this and it's not as easy as you think. In our immediate area our native trout are Westslope and Yellowstone cutthroat trout. Head a few hours west and you can add bull trout to the mix. Venture to the west coast and your odds increase with steelhead trout and sea-run cutthroat trout. Westslope and Yellowstone cutthroat are your best bet, but in order to do that you may have to fish more. Thankfully fishing more is on the list.

Fish more. Rip the Band-Aid off. A great angling friend of mine once said, "The sooner you put things off to go fishing, the more time you have to make them up once you catch the biggest trout of the day." Or something like that. There's truth in that statement. Fishing can be a means to escape the pleasant distractions in life: jobs, kids, spouses, and keeping-up-with-the-Joneses. Or fishing can be an opportunity to enhance those relationships—bring along the family and the spouse or invite Mr. and Mrs. Jones to go fishing. Obligation or opportunity is in the eye of the rod holder.

Fish safer and better by investing in better gear. You took care of all the nice people on your holiday list. Now take care of yourself. None of us is getting any younger. Fortunately, gear manufacturers know that and have created products to help us stay safe, which means we can fish longer and more effectively. Patagonia's Foot Tractor wading boot—the product that's done the most to enhance angling safety and success in the past five years—has made walking-and-wading on slippery rocks safer.

Learn to tie better knots. Find some old fly line, old tippet or string and finally learn to tie the blood knot or the nail knot. While you're at it, learn the perfection loop or the non-slip mono loop. Tying knots faster and better means one thing: more fishing time. On a recent trip to Belize I was able to catch and land two bonefish while my angling partner for the day struggled to re-tie a fly.

Take five minutes to observe before fishing. This will cue you into what could be hatching or could help you see wildlife you might have missed while sprinting from car to riffle.



Fishing can be a means to escape the pleasant distractions in life: jobs, kids, spouses, and keeping-up-with-the-Joneses. Or fishing can be an opportunity to enhance those relationships. PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK STRAUB

Support your local fly shop. We're lucky in southwest Montana because fly shops are alive and well. They are your best source for local fishing reports and free information.

Be more friendly on the river. We fish for various reasons: to be in nature, to challenge ourselves, for exercise, for solitude, for camaraderie, and many other personal reasons. Upon encountering other anglers, offer a polite "hello" or a "how's the fishing?" You might meet a new angling friend or learn of an effective fly. If not, at least you offered a pleasant greeting.

What happened in 2016 will surely shape 2017. As I finished my New Year's Day fishing outing and left the river to walk back to my truck, a large bull moose cautiously walked from the woods on the opposite bank. He paused and gazed in my direction. I reached for my phone and took a picture. My five year old and two year old daughters have seen moose many times before, but on this first day of 2017 it was important to share this with my future anglers.

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



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What better way to ring in the new year than catching some spunky winter trout!

In winter it's not about whether it's warm enough for fish to bite, it's about having the right layers and attitude to comfortably play outside. Fish need to consume a certain number of calories to survive and the colder it is the more they need to thrive.

The best fishing access on the Gallatin in winter is from the Big Sky intersection down to about Deer Creek Bridge. Below that anchor and shelf ice tend to make access challenging and dangerous at times. All

depends on recent air temperatures. Some warm springs feed into the Gallatin right near the stoplight. That is also true just north of the Yellowstone Park boundary Snowflake Springs.

If you're patient and not worried about catching as many fish as possible in an outing getting a few fish to sip a dry is not out of the question. It is important to be at the right place, at the right time and with the right flies on. A CDC Cluster Midge or Silvey's Adult Midge are good options. A lightweight midge larvae dropper is also a good idea.

For you streamer junkies out there it's important to keep it "low and slow" this time of year. You'd be pretty hard pressed to find a fish willing to chase in the dead cold of winter, but if you slowly swing it in their front yard you may stand a chance. Hard to beat smaller black streamers, but by all means throw the box at 'em.

I will play my broken record again for you. Hard to beat a Pat's Rubberlegs with a midge or Lightning Bug dropper. Size 8-12 in black or coffee/black for the Rubberlegs, a black Zebra Midge or Copper John about 18-20 or a smaller silver or copper Lightning Bug sizes 18-20. With an indicator of your preference place the Pat's about 3-5' below that and then your dropper about 12-18" below that.

Most fish will be in 2-4' of water that is relatively slow moving, but provides good access to food and cover.

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Ski tips: The power of powder

BY DAN EGAN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

At the core of every winter morning, even before the coffee is poured, the possibility of fresh tracks is the motivation for most skiers and riders.

A pristine powder slope sparkling with snow diamonds is a vision that is hard to forget. That same slope with arcing tracks on it tells the world that we were there that day.

It's a magical moment when a skier or snowboarder complements the mountain scenery. These moments are most commonly captured in our mind's eye, through the goggle lenses of our winter companions, or by the lens of a camera.

When riding a chairlift on a powder day, gazing off toward the horizon, you can often pick out tracks left by a snow-rider bold enough to venture off the beaten path. On long drives through mountainous regions, I frequently find myself daydreaming about the possibilities of carving up the slopes beyond my windshield. Oh how quickly these moments trigger memories of powder days gone by.

Sometimes after a fellow skier has ripped a fresh line, I will relive that vision and try to complement their tracks by making figure eights with my own. The result is an inner grin as I discover the rhythm and pace of their turns.

While skiing behind someone, I'm often drawn into the power of the energy they create as their skis dive in and out of the snow. That image puts my body into autopilot and their motion occupies my mind as my body mimics their movements.

When a group of skiers or riders have tapped into this energy and emerge from a magical run you can often see it in their eyes, smiles and soft-spoken chatter. You think, ah, they found it and tracked it.



Skiers leave their mark on the powder slopes of Val-d'Isère, France. PHOTO BY DAN EGAN

It's amazing how powder motivates our need for adventure and to arc down a wide open bowl or dance through the trees, and to leave tracks so others will know we were there first.

The power of powder stirs the soul.

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

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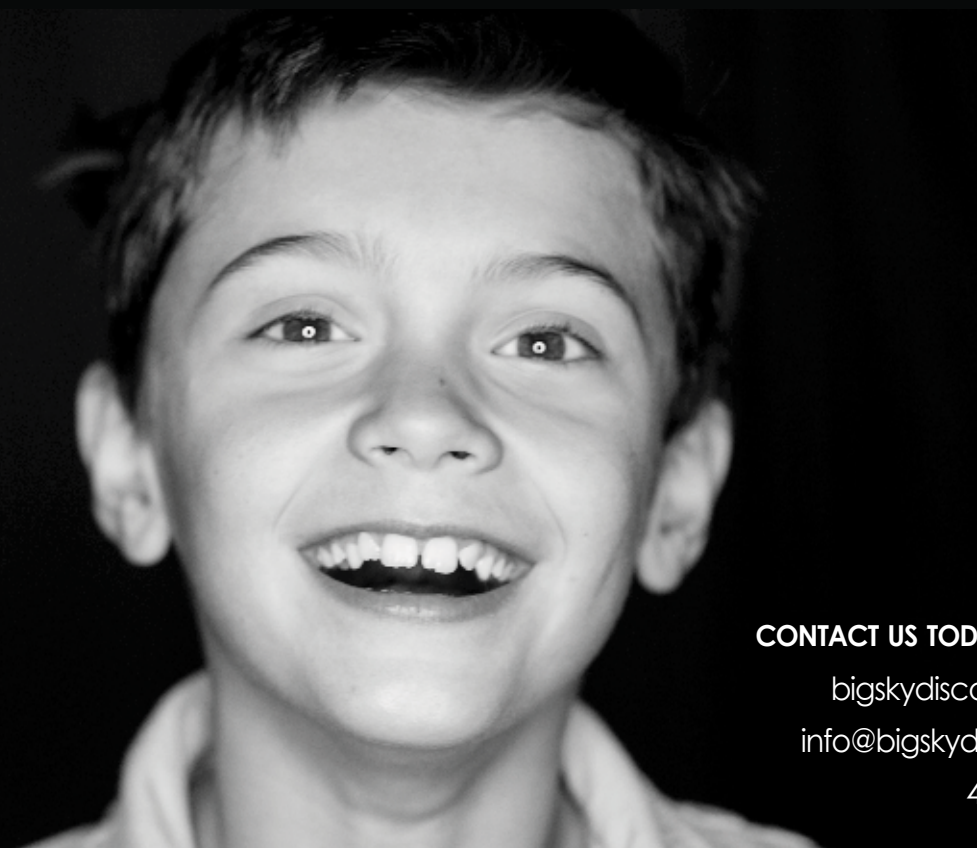
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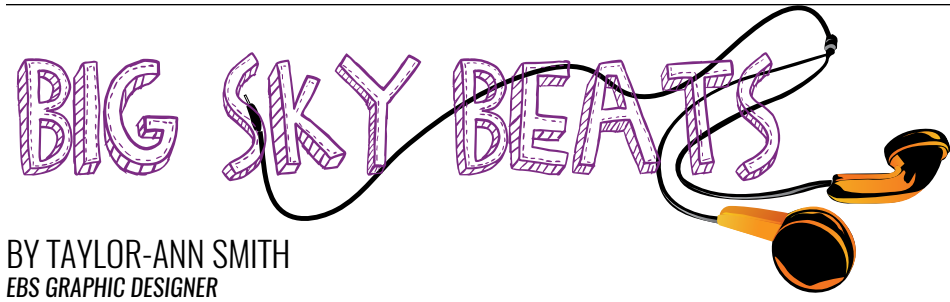
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BY TAYLOR-ANN SMITH
EBS GRAPHIC DESIGNER

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

With the new year comes new music and emerging artists. While there were plenty of major album and single releases in 2016, I’m hoping for some even bigger surprises in 2017 from up-and-coming musicians.

One of my favorite rising stars is electro pop artist Halsey. Her thoughtful lyrics and melodic use of electronic and instrumental elements make her a standout in the industry.

Halsey released her first album “Badlands” in 2015, and gained major attention in the last year. She provided guest vocals to The Chainsmokers’ single “Closer,” which became both artists’ first No. 1 single on the Billboard Hot 100 list, and remained the top song for 12 consecutive weeks.

Below is a list of tracks from artists that I predict will have major breakouts in 2017:

1. “Colors,” Halsey
2. “You Don’t Know Me,” Jax Jones
3. “Lights Down Low,” MAX
4. “Ritual,” Marshmello
5. “Oh No,” Goodbye June
6. “Poppies,” Kngdavid
7. “Better Now,” Cloves
8. “Talk Too Much,” COIN
9. “Savage feat. Flux Pavillion & MAX,” Whethan
10. “Keep You in Mind,” Guordan Banks

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

American Life in Poetry: Column 615

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

I’m fond of poems in which we see people working together, helping one another. I’ve never folded a sail, nor seen anybody fold one, but here I get to watch it happen, and feel it happen, too. Alan Feldman is from Massachusetts and his most recent book is “Immortality” (University of Wisconsin Press, 2015).

Love Poem
By Alan Feldman

The sail is so vast when it’s laid out on the driveway.
I stake it with a screwdriver through the shackle
at the tack to stretch it smooth,
pulling on the head and clew. Now it’s smooth
as a night’s worth of new snow.
My wife, my partner, has been torn from her busy day.
We face each other across the sail’s foot
and with my right hand and her left hand
(I’m right handed, she’s left handed)
we pull an arm’s length of the sail
down over itself, then do this again,
keeping my left hand, and her right hand, towards the foot.
Each fold is easier since the sail grows narrower
near the top. Then we fold towards each other
and I wrap my arms around it, while she holds the bag’s mouth open,
the gray bag that will cover it through the winter.
Then I thank her. And the driveway is visible again
as it is in spring, when all the snow has melted.

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 ©2014 by Alan Feldman, “Love Poem,” from “Immortality” (University of Wisconsin Press, 2015). Poem reprinted by permission of Alan Feldman and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2016 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction’s author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.

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9			7				8	2
1		3		4				
					8		1	
						6		9
							3	
7		6			4	8		
	3		6		7	9		
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Section 4: EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT, BACK 40



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Back 40:
Winter raptor watching pg. 64

Lukas Nelson keeps it 'real' for sold out Jackson show

Band plays Big Sky Resort Jan. 27

SHOWBY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

JACKSON, Wyo. – Country rockers Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real had an audience of 500 out of their seats and getting down before the end of their first song, turning Jackson's civilized Center for the Arts into a rowdy cowboy bar for the duration of their Dec. 29 performance.

They're scheduled to bring that high energy to Big Sky Resort's Montana Jack on Friday, Jan. 27.

The band set the tone for the night in Jackson by opening with three new rocking tracks from a yet to be titled album, scheduled for release in May 2017.

The second song, a rollicking tale called "Running Shine," tells the story of father and son moonshiners that Nelson loosely relates to his own upbringing with father Willie Nelson.

"I'm not 'running shine,'" he said in an interview before the show, "but I've immersed myself in a business that is kind of a family business; it's kind of a circus, and my dad's not exactly the most law abiding citizen."

Not only did Nelson inherit a bit of his father's rascallion ways, iconic nasal twang and innate musicality, but also his mastery of showmanship.

Nelson and his band mates, drummer Anthony LoGerfo and bassist Corey McCormick, have no trouble filling the stage with their presence. Whether Nelson is head-banging his shaggy 'do, picking his guitar with his teeth or doing scissor kick calisthenics with McCormick—somewhat of an athletic feat in scuffed up cowboy boots—they're as visually engaging as they are audibly.

They're also attuned to the fact that their audience wants to be taken for a ride, and Nelson and POTR know precisely when to bring it down a notch and insert one of Nelson's soul-slaying ballads—especially hard-hitting for the ladies in the crowd.

Two such highlights during the Jackson show were the heart-wrenching "Sound of your Memory" and a cover of his father's "Crazy." The latter offered a rare chance to see Nelson take a seat at a Steinway piano and perform a duet with captivating show-opener Nicki Bluhm that, with all due respect, put Willie and Emmy Lou Harris's version to shame.

The evening covered all the bases and hit all the right notes—from a dusty hoe-down, to sultry blues, bare bone jams, good old rock 'n' roll, soulful love songs and the perfectly picked and placed cover. On this night it was none other than Paul Simon's "Graceland" hit, "Diamonds on the Soles of her Shoes."

Shannon McCormick, programming director for Jackson's Center for the Arts, has been booking Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real for nearly a decade, and had no doubt the band would generate a sold out show.

"Every once in a while, it's great to have a band come in here and punch us in the nose," McCormick said. "Jackson loves that rootsy rock 'n' roll and that's what Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real delivers."



Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real performed to a sold out crowd at Center for the Arts in Jackson, Wyoming on Dec. 29. The band is expected to sell out their Jan. 27 performance at Big Sky Resort's Montana Jack. PHOTO BY STEVEN POOLE

McCormick is such a fan that he's road-tripping from Jackson to Big Sky to catch the Jan. 27 show at Montana Jack.

"That's how excited I am about these guys," McCormick said. "Get ready for a fun show because here it comes."

Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real perform at Big Sky Resort's Montana Jack on Friday, Jan. 27, at 9 p.m. For tickets and more information visit explorebigsky.com.

This show is being co-produced by Outlaw Partners (publisher of EBS) and Big Sky Resort.

SnoBar is so hot we hope it doesn't melt

BIG SKY RESORT

Back for the 12th consecutive year, Big Sky Resort's SnoBar is the hottest dance party to hit the slopes—it takes après-ski to a whole new level.

The party takes place on back-to-back Saturdays in January, on the 14th and 21st, at an outside bar created entirely out of snow and ice thanks to Big Sky Resort's terrain park team. The SnoBar takes three days to build using only what Mother Nature provides, at the base area of Big Sky Resort next to the Swift Current chairlift.

Hundreds of party-goers in their puffy jackets and neon head gear dance the night away to the up-tempo beats of DJs Party Girl, Chrome, 5Star and Downpour.

Lasers, glow sticks and a mass of colored lights illuminate the dance floor, as well as the snow if it's falling from the night sky. Go-go dancers in shiny onesies show off their acrobatic skills by hanging from hula-hoops and dancing across the stage.

Not only is SnoBar the biggest slope-side dance party this year—it's also one not to miss.

The event is open to anyone 21 and older; identification is required for admission. Specialty drinks will be available while the SnoBar is open from 6 to 10 p.m. Visit bigskyresort.com/snobar for more information.



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Ranger-led snowshoe hikes offered in Grand Teton National Park through mid-March

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Grand Teton National Park rangers are leading two-hour snowshoe hikes from the Taggart Lake Trailhead every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday through mid-March, dependent on conditions. The guided walks begin at 1:30 p.m. and reservations are required.

Previous experience is not necessary to participate and snowshoes are available.

Guided tours of the Taggart Lake area are a great way for beginners to get an introduction to winter recreation, and a way for the more experienced to delve deeper into the worlds of snow science and winter ecology. Topics covered during the hikes vary, but can include park history, winter wildlife adaptations, animal tracks and snowpack.

The experience is enhanced by the use of historic wooden snowshoes, the oldest of which date to 1943. While the precise history of the snowshoe is unknown, some of them likely came from the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division.



CC PHOTO BY JEFF GUNN

During and after World War II, soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division trained for winter combat in mountain areas using skis and snowshoes. Veterans of the division were largely responsible for the growth of the snow sports industry after the war and many of them had ties to the Teton Range. The historic snowshoes are available to hike participants for a suggested donation of \$5 per participant. All donations are collected by Grand Teton Association and used to maintain the snowshoes.

Skiers and snowshoers are also welcome to explore the park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway on their own. While winter recreationists are not restricted to established trails, visitors are required to observe the following public closures, which are in place for wildlife protection during the winter:

Dec. 1 through March 3: Static Peak, Prospectors Mountain and Mount Hunt.
Dec. 15 through March 31: Snake River floodplain from Moran to Menor's Ferry near Moose, Buffalo Fork River floodplain within the park, Uhl Hill, and Kelly Hill.

A map of the closed areas can be found at nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/upload/GRTE-Winter-Map.pdf.

Call (307) 739-3399 for more information or to make a reservation for a guided walk.



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EVENTS CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6 – THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

***If your event falls between January 20 and February 2, please submit it by January 13**

Big Sky

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

Live Music: Kenny Diamond
Big Sky Resort, 3:30 p.m.

Apres Ski Music: Mark Davidson
Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

Live Music: Lauren Jackson
Big Sky Resort, 4 p.m.

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Karaoke
Big Sky Resort, 10 p.m.

Gallatin Grass Project
Choppers, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

Subaru Preferred Parking Days
Big Sky Resort, all day

7th Annual Pavelich Invitational
Town Center Park, 2 p.m.

Apres Ski Music: Kent Johnson
Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

WMPAC presents: Roomful of Teeth
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

Subaru Preferred Parking Days
Big Sky Resort, all day

Apres Ski Music: Stumpy
Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 9

Subaru Preferred Parking Days
Big Sky Resort, all day

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

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

Big Sky Chamber Board Meeting
Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, 8:30 a.m.

Live Music: Patrick McCann
Big Sky Resort, 4 p.m.

Master Parks Planning Town Hall Meeting
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

BSCO Brown Bag Lunch Talk: Sustainability Plans & Green Schools
Big Sky Community Organization, 12 p.m.

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

Skate or Classic Nordic Races
PBR Arena, 4 p.m.

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

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

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

Live Music: Patrick McCann
Big Sky Resort, 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

Women’s Ski Clinic
Big Sky Resort, all day

Apres Ski Music: James Salestrom
Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

Women’s Ski Clinic
Big Sky Resort, all day

Apres Ski Music: Telemark Tom
Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

SNOBAR 2017
Big Sky Resort, 6 p.m.

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

Women’s Ski Clinic
Big Sky Resort, all day

Apres Ski Music: Stumpy
Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

Freeskier Magazine Apres Party
Lone Peak Brewery, 5 p.m.

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

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

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

Live Music: Patrick McCann
Big Sky Resort, 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

Apres Ski Music: Staycation
Scissorbills Saloon, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

Visit Big Sky Board Meeting
Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, 8:30 a.m.

Business After Hours
Vacation Big Sky, 5 p.m.

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

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

Bozeman

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

Jimmy Smith System (Formerly of the Gourds)
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Jazz Night
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Fantasia: Surrealist Ball
The Emerson Center, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

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

Galloping Dog Agility & Flyball Club
Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.

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

MSU Women’s Basketball vs. Idaho
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 2 p.m.

Schzoid Johnny
Bridger Bowl, 3:30 p.m.

Pilots
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Clozee + Psymbionic
The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

Scottish Music Jam
Lockhorn Cider House, 4 p.m.

Petty John’s Underground
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 9

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

Tom Kirwan
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

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

Dan Bradner
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Mike & Mike
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

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

Fifty-Six Counties: A Montana Journey
Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

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

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

Luke Flansburg
Outlaw Brewing, 6 p.m.

Why Meditate?
Bozeman Dharma Center, 7 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

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

Gallatin Ice Foundation Grand
Opening Celebration
Ice Barn, 3:30 p.m.

The Vibe Quartet
406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

Squirrel Gravy
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Whiskey & Woodblocks
Rockin’ R Bar, 6:30 p.m.

Jazz Night
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

MSU Men’s Basketball vs. North Dakota
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7 p.m.

Bozeman Documentary Series:
One More Time with Feeling
The Emerson Center, 7 p.m.

Mathias
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Satsang & Gipsy Moon
The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

Tales from the Verge: Resolutions
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Cackling Eagles Comedy
Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

Scotty Nelson
Bridger Bowl, noon

Gallatin Ice Foundation Grand Opening Celebration
Ice Barn, 7 p.m.

Tales from the Verge: Resolutions
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Back to School Blackout Party
Bar IX, 8 p.m.

Drunken Hearts
The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

Gallatin Ice Foundation Grand Opening Celebration
Ice Barn, 10 a.m.

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

MSU Men’s Basketball vs. Northern Colorado
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 2 p.m.

4th Annual Bozeman Ping Pong Tournament
Emerson Ballroom, 4 p.m.

The McCartney Years
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Tales from the Verge: Resolutions
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Cure for the Common + Shakewell
Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

Classic Telemark Race
Bridger Bowl, 9 a.m.

Galloping Dog Agility & Flyball Club
Gallatin County Fairgrounds, noon

Ben McKee
Lockhorn Cider House, 4 p.m.

Alex Robilotta
Outlaw Brewing, 5 p.m.

Squirrel Gravy
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

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

Lang Termes
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Robert Earl Keen
The Ellen Theatre, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16
Kyle Helm
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

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

Improv on the Verge
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17
Tommy Georges
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Richmond Slim
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

**Friends of the Avalanche Center
Forecasters Social
Montana Ale Works,
5:30 and 7:30 p.m.**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18
Backcountry Film Festival
The Emerson Center, 6 p.m.

Dynamite Dads Culinary Adventure
Belgrade High School, 6 p.m.

Science Inquiry Lecture Series: The Dinosaur in
the Window
Museum of the Rockies, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19
The Vibe Quartet
406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

Regenerating the Rez
Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

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

The Memphis Strange
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

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

Weston Lewis
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 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.

Music & Mussels
Bridger Brewing, Wednesdays at 5 p.m.

Pickin' in the Parks
The Story Mansion, Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Bluegrass Thursdays with
The Bridger Creek Boys
Red Tractor Pizza, Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Karaoke
Eagles Lodge, Thursdays at 8:30 p.m.

Yoga for All
Bozeman Public Library,
Tuesdays at 11 a.m and 12 p.m.

Livingston & Paradise Valley

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6
Swingley Funk-Latin-Jazz
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7
Spare Change Open House
United in Light Horse Sanctuary, 10 a.m.

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

Erin & The Project
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8
Suds and Bugs
Katabatic Brewing, 4 p.m.

Livingston Film Series: Mad Max Fury Road
Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 9
Kevin Toll
The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10
Beer for a Cause: Spay & Neuter Clinic
Katabatic Brewing, all day

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12
Park County Nonprofit Presentation
Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 11:30 a.m.

Communication: A Changing Conversation
Yellowstone Gateway Museum, 5 p.m.

Danny Bee
The Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13
Heather Lingle Band
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14
Potluck and Jam Session
Senior Citizens Center, 1 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15
Suds and Bugs
Katabatic Brewing, 4 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16
Love is a Dog from Nebraska
The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17
Beer for a Cause: Warriors in Quiet Water
Katabatic Brewing, all day

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18
Larry Hirshberg
The Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19
Unearthing Paradise: Montana Writers in Defense
of Greater Yellowstone
Elk River Books, 7 p.m.

Communist Daughter
The Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

West Yellowstone

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6
Bingo at the Branch
The Branch Restaurant, 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7
Spam Cup #2 Freestyle
Rendezvous Ski Trails, 9 a.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8
Free Ski & Try Biathlon Day
Rendezvous Ski Trails, 10 a.m.

Biathlon Cup #2 Pursuit Format
Rendezvous Ski Trails, 10 a.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 9
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12
Knit Night
Stagecoach Inn, 6 p.m.

Yoga for Everyone
Povah Center, 6:15 p.m.

Adult Co-ed Volleyball
West Yellowstone School Gym, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13
Hebgen Lake Ice Fishing Tournament Pre-
gathering
Holiday Inn, 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14
**Hebgen Lake Ice Fishing
Tournament Pre-fishing events
West Yellowstone, all day**

Kids Ice Fishing Camp
Kirkwood Marina, 11 a.m.

Kids'N'Snow Weekend
West Yellowstone, registration required

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15
Hebgen Lake Ice Fishing Tournament
Hebgen Lake, all day

Kids'N'Snow Weekend
West Yellowstone, registration required

MONDAY, JANUARY 16
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19
Knit Night
Stagecoach Inn, 6 p.m.

Yoga for Everyone
Povah Center, 6:15 p.m.

Adult Co-ed Volleyball
West Yellowstone School Gym, 7 p.m.

RECURRING EVENTS
Winter Snowshoe Programs
Refugee Point, daily at 1 p.m. through 2/3

Ennis
FRIDAY, JANUARY 6
Downtown BZN Partnership: Chris Naumann
First Madison Valley Bank, 10 a.m.

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

Aran Buzzas
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7
Tom Kirwan
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8
Lang Termes
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13
Live Music
Willie's Distillery, 5:30 p.m.

Joe Schwem
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14
Heather Lingle
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15
Chad Ball
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

The Pollard Pub Red Lodge, MT Live music schedule

Friday, January 6
Little Jane & The Pistol Whips -
Country/Americana

Saturday, January 7
The High Country Cowboys -
Country Western Ballads

Wednesday, January 11
Cory Johnson - "Songwriters in the
Round"

Friday, January 13
Big Jim & The Twins - Rockgrass

Friday, January 20
Mathias - Acoustic Folk/Rock/Funk

Saturday, January 21
Al Cooper - Country Western

Wednesday, January 25
Cory Johnson - "Songwriters in the
Round"

Friday, January 27
Big Jim & The Twins - Rockgrass

Saturday, January 28
The High Country Cowboys -
Country Western Ballads

Gallatin Roller Girlz Fresh Meat Boot Camp

Kick off the new year with the Gallatin Roller Girlz annual Fresh Meat (i.e. new skater and referee) Boot Camp. The eight week coached program—and the only opportunity in 2017 to join the team—through March 2 with open enrollment between Jan. 5 and Jan. 12. Skaters must be 18 or older to join.

Fresh Meat Boot Camp is held Mondays from 7-10 p.m. and Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds, building 2. Show up with a mouth-guard at one of these sessions during open enrollment to sign up. Bring gear or contact Gallatin Roller Girlz via private message on Facebook to borrow “try before you buy gear.”

Visit grgderby.com for further information.



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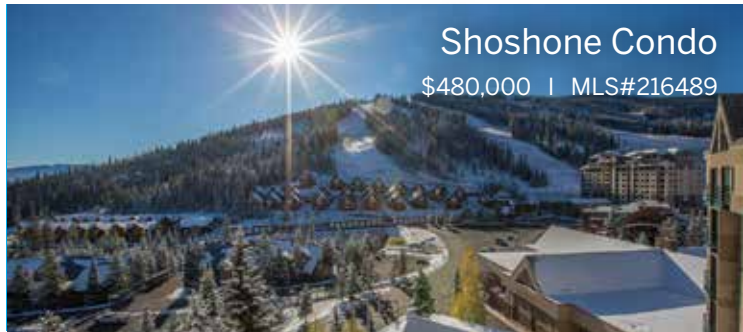
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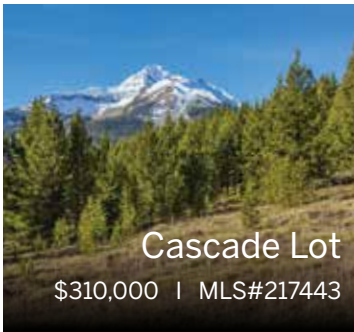
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LAURA T. SACCHI | 406.570.9651
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Statewide competition features young musicians in January

BOZEMAN SYMPHONY

Finalists will be performing in Bozeman as part of the biennial Montana Association of Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Competition, on Saturday, Jan. 14, at Montana State University’s Reynolds Recital Hall.

Young artists, ages 13 to 22, that play any of the standard orchestral instruments will be featured as part of this statewide competition. The event is free and open to the public.

“The MASO Young Artists Competition has a great tradition of identifying and presenting some of the most talented musicians in our state,” said John Zoltek, chair of the Young Artists Competition and music director of the Glacier Symphony and Chorale. “It’s a tremendous opportunity for young musicians to participate in the thrill of competition and to ultimately have the chance to play with a professional symphony orchestra.”

In addition to an opportunity to perform with a Montana symphony orchestra, winners of each division earn cash scholarships: Junior (ages 13-15), \$450; Senior (age 16 through high school graduate), \$650; and College (post high school through age 22), \$1,000.

Participating orchestras include the Glacier, Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Great Falls and Helena symphonies.

Finalists are invited to perform in person and a panel of judges will announce the winners immediately following each division’s performance.

Performance times will vary and for specific times, contact the Bozeman Symphony at (406) 585-9774 or info@bozemansymphony.org.

The Young Artists Competition, which recognizes and nurtures talented young Montana musicians, is made possible, in part, through a legislative grant from Montana’s Cultural Trust and grants from the Montana Arts Council and National Endowment for the Arts. For more information on the MASO Young Artist’s Competition, call the Glacier Symphony and Chorale office at (406) 407-7000.

Livingston Film Series presents ‘Mad Max: Fury Road’ on Jan. 8

SHANE LALANI CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Livingston Film Series presents a free screening of “Mad Max: Fury Road” at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 8, at the Shane Lalani Center for the Arts.

Years after the collapse of civilization, the tyrannical Immortan Joe enslaves apocalypse survivors inside his desert fortress. When the warrior Imperator Furiosa (Charlize Theron) leads the despot’s five wives in a daring escape, she forges an alliance with Max Rockatansky (Tom Hardy), a loner and former captive.

Fortified in massive armored truck, they try to outrun the ruthless warlord and his henchmen in a deadly high-speed chase through the Wasteland. This screening will mark the debut of the Dulcie Theatre’s new Surround Sound system.

The Livingston Film Series presents a wide variety of independent features, documentaries, local films, and special screenings on the second Sunday of every month in the Dulcie Theatre at the Shane Lalani Center for the Arts. A reception precedes each screening at 6:30 p.m. and films start at 7 p.m.

The Livingston Film Series is always free, although donations are accepted and encouraged. For more information, visit theshanecenter.org.



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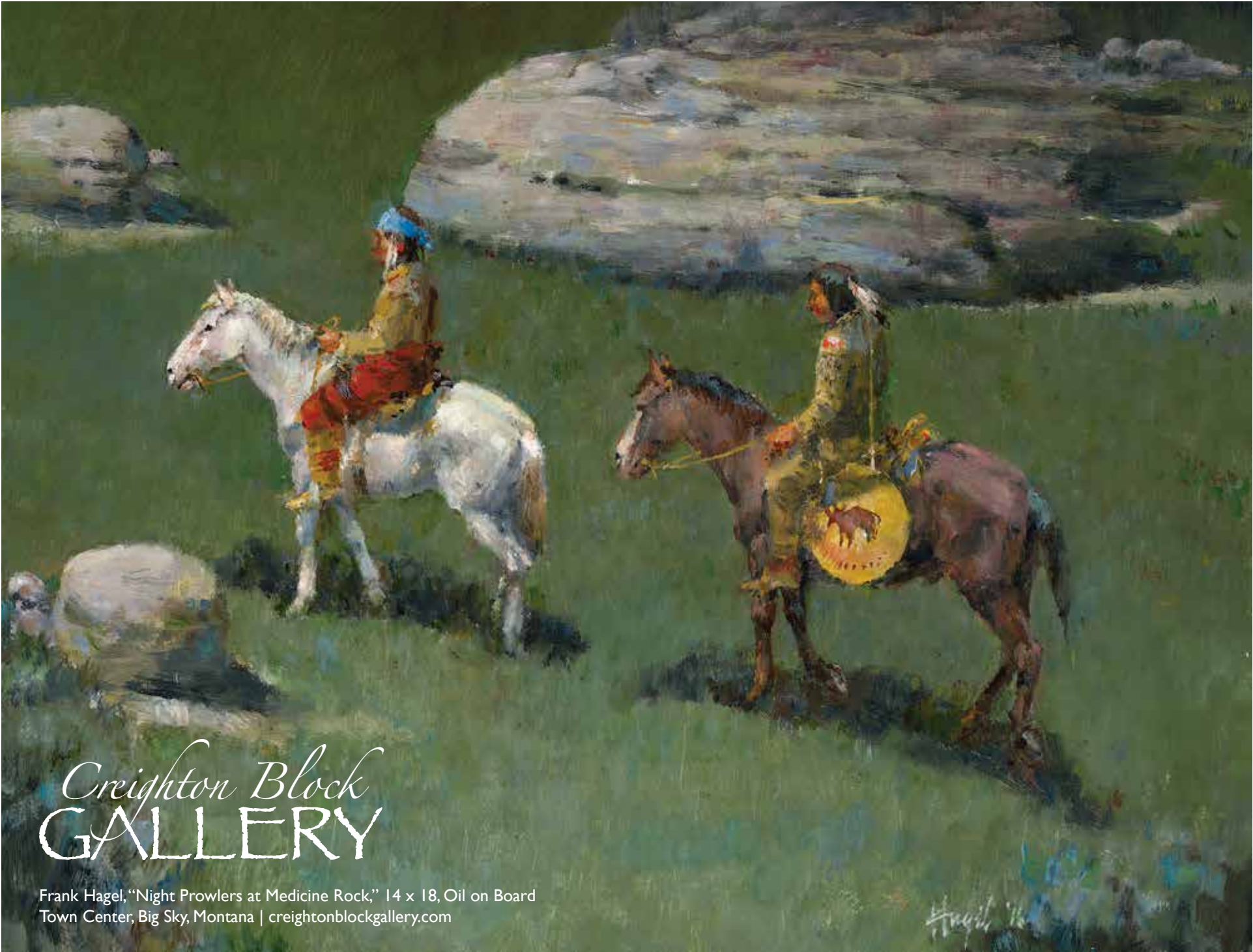






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Frank Hagel, "Night Prowlers at Medicine Rock," 14 x 18, Oil on Board
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❄️ *Inside Yellowstone*

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❄️ *Outside Yellowstone*

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WMPAC presents original production of Shakespeare's 'The Winter's Tale'

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – With an all-star cast of Broadway actors and artists alongside select local talent, Warren Miller Performing Arts Center introduces its first original theatrical production. One of Shakespeare's most powerful plays, "The Winter's Tale" will be exclusively presented in Big Sky on Saturday, Jan. 21, and Sunday, Jan. 22.

Part comedy, part tragedy, part romance, "The Winter's Tale" is a cautionary tale of a jealous king, his wronged queen and the magic (sometimes literal) that brings them redemption.

In a fit of wild, unfounded jealousy, Leontes, the King of Sicily, convinces himself that his pregnant wife is carrying his best friend's love child. Leontes's jealousy turns to tyranny as the king proceeds to destroy his entire family and a lifelong friendship.

Written toward the end of Shakespeare's theatrical career, "The Winter's Tale" spans 16 long years before culminating in arguably one of the most dramatic endings in English literature.

"The Winter's Tale" has been reimagined and brought to life expressly for the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center stage by Broadway director Laura Savia, who participated in WMPAC's first Big Sky Theater Workshop in the summer of 2015.

"I fell in love with Big Sky immediately," Savia said. "The people were amazing, the environment was inspiring, and I flipped out over the rodeo."

Savia said she has been looking for a way to come back to Big Sky and the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center ever since.

WMPAC Artistic Director John Zirkle couldn't be more thrilled that they found a way to make Savia's return a reality.

"After seeing [Savia's] work and getting to know her creative process, I knew that she could make a great show in our space," Zirkle said. "The

time that these artists are putting into this show, for our small community, is something for the history books. On a national scale, we are just a small mountain theater, and to have secured talent and vision like this is truly remarkable on all fronts."

Savia's rendition of the Shakespearean classic is a fast-paced, music-infused 90-minute ride, with just five actors playing more than 15 roles in a play that encompasses multiple generations.

Savia was attracted to "The Winter's Tale" because of its inclusion of many genres—from slapstick comedy, to life and death drama, and music.

"It's extremely rare to find all of those elements in one play," Savia said.

She also finds the play exceedingly timely in its exploration of a country whose fate hangs largely on the decisions of its leader and the tensions between fact and imagination—all wrapped up with the timeless themes of self-sabotage, forgiveness and redemption; love versus jealousy and youth versus age.

In addition to the core cast of professional actors, the play will feature two local performers—one of Big Sky Broadway's young stars, Henry Flach, in the role of King Leontes' son; and Bozeman musician Milton Menasco as Cleomenes.

"This is what great theater is made of," Zirkle said. "Top national talent from Broadway and Hollywood working alongside developing local talent to make for a more organic world of performing arts."

"The Winter's Tale" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21, and Sunday, Jan. 22 at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center in Big Sky. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For tickets and more information visit warrenmillerpac.org.



Top national talent from Broadway and Hollywood join forces with local talent in an original production of Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale" premiering at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on Jan. 21 and 22.
PHOTO COURTESY OF WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

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1	3.85	\$290,000
2	4.39	\$260,000
43	1.33	Sold
43	1.46	\$175,900
44	1.81	Sold
45	1.59	\$189,900
46	1.64	Sold
47	1.47	Sold
48	1.51	\$189,900
49	1.73	\$164,900
50	1.69	Sold
51	1.71	\$189,900
52	1.24	\$159,900
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57	1.34	\$210,900
58	1.13	Sold
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66	2.17	\$209,900
69	1.85	Sold
68	1.65	Sold
69	2.13	Sold
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1	3.85	

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Best Builder - **Big Sky Build**

Best Teacher in Big Sky - **Renee Zimmerman**

Best Artist/Photographer - **Ryan Turner**

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Big Sky Community Member of the Year - **Peter Schmieding**



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Jim Harrison: Poet

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

Jim Harrison was a screenplay writer, a novelist, a master of the often-neglected novella form, and a talented essayist. While he might be best known for his collection of novellas “Legends of the Fall,” he considered himself first and foremost to be a poet.

January 2016 saw the publication of “Dead Man’s Float,” his 14th collection of verse. Harrison once said that a poet always needs to be ready for the bread that comes fresh from the oven. While he felt he could put off a novel, poems came to him in moments of revelation.

Below are three short poems reprinted with permission of Copper Canyon Press.

Another Country

I love these raw moist dawns with
a thousand birds you hear but can’t
quite see in the mist.
My old alien body is a foreigner
struggling to get into another country.
The loon call makes me shiver.
Back at the cabin I see a book
and am not quite sure what it is

Harrison used to say that the best poetry was what your soul would say if you could teach your soul to talk. His poetry is introspective, elemental, jolting and raw. Even when talking about the ravages of time, the ailments of old age, or the inevitability of death, he has the ability to convey the sacredness of wonder and awe.

Warbler

This year we have two gorgeous
yellow warblers nesting in the honeysuckle bush.
The other day I stuck my head in the bush.
The nestlings weigh one-twentieth of an ounce,
about the size of a honeybee. We stared at
each other, startled by our existence.
In a month or so, when they reach the size
of bumblebees they’ll fly to Costa Rica without a map.

Where is Jim Harrison?

He fell off the cliff of a seven-inch zafu.
He couldn’t get up because of his surgery.
He believes in the Resurrection mostly
because he was never taught how not to.

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

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BACK 40

For Explore Big Sky, the Back 40 is a resource: a place where we can delve into subjects and ask experts to share their knowledge.

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

Winter raptor watching

BY JEANNIE COUNCE
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Just because hunting season is over, it doesn’t mean you should stop watching the wonders of Montana wildlife. In fact, the crisp blue winter skies and snow-covered mountains are an ideal backdrop for raptor watching.

These aerial predators—eagles, owls, hawks, and falcons—are capable of fantastic in-flight maneuvers that are more visible in the stark white winter landscape.

Since 1988, Montana Raptor Conservation Center has been rehabilitating injured birds of prey from across the state and educating the community on the importance of raptors in the environment. Whether you’re carving turns on the ski hill, crunching along on a trail, or après-skiing by a big picture window, the experts at MRCC suggest you watch for these seasonal raptor behaviors.



Snowy owls can be identified by their piercing yellow eyes and thick white mustache. PHOTO BY BECKY KEAN

Look for rough-legged hawks, which have flown south from Alaska and Canada to winter in this area. Because they live and breed in the arctic—between latitudes of 61 and 76 degrees north—rough-legged hawks are one of the few hawk species to have feathers down to their feet for insulation.

While up north, these hawks feast on lemmings and nest on cliff sides. Here in the lower 48, they can be found in open country hunting small rodents.

“The weather influences how long they stay, but rough-legged hawks usually begin heading back to the tundra sometime in March,” said MRCC Director Becky Kean.

Gyrfalcons are another arctic species that sometimes make their way to Montana for the winter. The largest falcon in the world, the Gyrfalcon is as fast as a Peregrine, but is silvery white with black spotting. They can also appear in shades of gray and dark brown.



Rough-legged hawks are one of the few hawk species with feathers on their feet because they breed in the Arctic. PHOTO BY BECKY KEAN



Look for bald eagles soaring over southwest Montana during winter, especially near rivers and streams. PHOTO BY JERRY TAYLOR

“Their hunting areas and diet are similar to the rough-legged hawk, but their hunting style is typically to spot prey in flight or from a high perch and strike from above, driving it to the ground,” MRCC’s Assistant Director Jordan Spyke said. “You can also see them perched on the ground.”

The ultimate winter migrant is the snowy owl, according to Kean. “People love to spot these beautiful, curiously white owls, but they can be elusive,” she said. Their appearance here depends on several factors, including their population and that of their food source—lemmings and ptarmigan—as well as weather patterns.

The closest snowy owl sightings this season have been in Phillips and Sheridan, Montana, in the northern part of the state. If you want to track snowy owls, or other migrating birds, check out e-bird.org from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society.

“Usually, the first-year birds make the trip south while older birds stay on the tundra,” Kean explained. “So, when we see snowy owls, they are young and pretty green.” That inexperience can get them into trouble.

“They’re not used to humans, and don’t realize the danger of things like moving cars. We’ve treated a few snowy owls over the years, but they don’t do well in captivity,” Kean said. “As magnificent as they are, I’d rather see one out in the wild than up-close in the hospital setting.”

The heaviest North American owl—great grays are taller, but lighter—snowy owls are white with piercing yellow eyes and a thick white mustache. Both young males and females have black or brown markings, but the patterns are usually heavier on the females, making them look more variegated. Like rough-legged hawks, snowy owls have feathered feet, which make them look wide and sturdy at the base. They often perch on rises on the ground, hay bales and fence posts, and fly close to the ground.

There is no shortage of bald eagles in southwest Montana this time of year, according to Spyke. “They are pretty easy to spot and never disappoint,” he said. Bald eagles congregate near flowing water, so watch for them near rivers, streams and dams.

“This is also a good time to scout out eagle nests because there are no leaves on the trees,” Spyke said. “The nests are gigantic—5 to 6 feet in diameter and 2 to 4 feet deep—so they are easy spot. Remember these locations and watch for young fledglings in flight training this spring.”

Jeannie Counce is a Bozeman-based writer and editor. She is a board member of the nonprofit Montana Raptor Conservation Center, which has a mission to improve the welfare of raptors across Montana through rehabilitation of injured birds, community education, and partnerships for raptor conservation and research. Visit montanaraptor.org for more information.

Explore

Big Sky

TOP STORIES OF





OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTOS

Yellowstone Club pond spill: 30,000 gallons of treated effluent enter the Gallatin watershed

On March 3, effluent from a failed pipe leading from a wastewater pond located in the Yellowstone Club began cascading into Second Yellow Mule Creek, a tributary of the Gallatin River.

From Second Yellow Mule Creek, the effluent continued into the South Fork of the West Fork before joining the main stem of the Gallatin. The flow stopped four days later, after nearly 30,000 gallons of treated wastewater entered the watershed, turning the Gallatin a milky brown.

The majority of the treated effluent had been piped up to the pond from the Big Sky Water and Sewer District treatment plant, where it joined water treated at the Yellowstone Club’s sewer plant.

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality sent specialists to test water quality, determine if there was a public health threat, and examine design flaws leading to the spill.

Water quality standards for the unpermitted discharge were exceeded for ammonia and turbidity, a metric for measuring suspended sediment in the water, which negatively affects fish. Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks officials attributed the death of five westslope cutthroat to the spill and noted that long-term impacts might take years to discern.

The Yellowstone Club repaired the pond and introduced new elements to its design to prevent a future failure. The new pond was approved and operational within two months and slope reclamation to minimize erosion will continue into 2017. The Department of Environmental Quality is still working on penalty calculations to be levied against the Yellowstone Club for the spill.

As a result of the spill, the Big Sky Water and Sewer Board reexamined its wastewater storage and disposal agreement with the Yellowstone Club. The spill also played a role in the reinvigoration of a community forum designed to address the intersection of development and water issues in Big Sky.

Big Sky: 2025

Resort plans \$150 million investment over next decade

BIG SKY – Big Sky Resort announced Aug. 24 a \$150 million investment in a 10-year vision for future improvements to create a European-style ski resort experience.

The plan includes 12 new or upgraded chairlifts—including eight bubble-enclosed lifts, a gondola originating at the Mountain Village and a lift on the south face—night skiing on Andesite Mountain, 10 new restaurants, as well as extensive renovations and construction in the Mountain Village.

“This is about making Big Sky not just bigger but making it better,” said Stephen Kircher at the Aug 24 press conference. Kircher is the president of Boyne Resorts’ eastern operation and his father Everett purchased Big Sky Resort in 1976, three years after it opened.

“We believe we have a unique positioning statement that ultimately we’ll roll out in the next decade where we become the American Alps,” he said. A new lift at the base of the Moonlight terrain is planned, creating the longest lift-served vertical drop in the U.S. at more than 4,500 feet.

Kircher laid out the investment in near-, mid- and long-term phases, and many of the near-term projects have been completed or are under construction, including two new Doppelmayr lifts that replaced the Lone Peak Triple and Challenger chairlifts for the 2016-2017 season.

Additional lift upgrades envisioned include Six Shooter, Ramcharger, Shedhorn, Iron Horse, Lone Moose, Swift Current, Thunder Wolf and a Lone Peak Tram capacity upgrade. New lifts would include a North Village Gondola, additional lifts in the Moonlight area and a chairlift that would access the south-face terrain that the tram services now.

This capital investment will help accommodate an anticipated 650,000 annual visitors by 2025, and give Big Sky Resort international appeal. Employee housing, additional non-stop flights to Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport and expanded summer offerings—including more mountain biking trails, mountain coasters and high alpine ziplines—are also built into the plan.

Kircher said this is part of \$1 billion he expects to be invested in the next decade in the Big Sky community, by the resorts, developers and other business interests.



The new six-place Powder Seeker chairlift at Big Sky Resort is one of the most technologically advanced lifts in North America. PHOTO BY CODY WHITMER

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Yellowstone weathers biggest wildfire season since 1988

More acres burned in Yellowstone National Park in 2016 than any year since 1988. By the time season-ending precipitation fell on the most persistent wildfires in the park boundaries, more than 62,000 acres, or almost 100 square miles, had burned. Many of those acres burned within fire scars from 1988, when over 1,200 square miles were scorched during an exceptionally dry and windy summer and fall.

High temperatures and strong winds in late August contributed to the growth of a handful of large fires, like the Maple Fire, which grew to more than 45,000 acres. Late July and August were warmer and drier than average—according to the Western Regional Climate Center, precipitation in the West Yellowstone area was between 25 and 70 percent of average for the month of August.

The Maple Fire, which came within three miles of West Yellowstone, triggered the most robust response, including a public meeting attended by 300-plus people. In late August, management of the Maple Fire was turned over to a Type 2 Incident Management Team that engaged in more aggressive suppression tactics.

Most of the 22 fires that started in 2016 season were caused by lightning and didn’t grow larger than 1 acre. The majority of the fires started by lightning were monitored but unsuppressed so wildfire could play its natural role in the ecosystem.

Although park roads and facilities were by and large unimpacted by the wildfires, several trails were closed for much of the summer, strict fire restrictions were put in place during peak visitation times, and a low haze of smoke hung over West Yellowstone for much of August and September.



The 45,250-acre Maple Fire, shown on Sept. 10, was the largest fire in Yellowstone this summer in terms of total acres consumed. NPS PHOTO



CC PHOTO

Zinke appointed Trump’s interior secretary

Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke won a decisive victory over Democratic challenger Denise Juneau in the November election to earn his second term as Montana’s sole representative in the U.S. House. However, before the year was out, he accepted a position in President-elect Donald J. Trump’s cabinet as secretary of the Department of the Interior.

If confirmed by the Senate, the retired Navy SEAL will be the first interior secretary from Montana. Many political pundits view Zinke’s confirmation as a potential win for Democrats in the 2018 midterm elections, when he was likely to challenge Sen. Jon Tester and try to flip the seat for Republicans.

Like Trump, Zinke has publically denounced Republican proposals to transfer federal lands to the states, but environmentalists didn’t sing his praises in concert when the news was announced. Zinke is a vocal supporter of Montana’s coal industry and fossil fuel extraction on public lands.

And on Jan. 3, 2017, Zinke voted in favor of a Congressional rules package that contains a provision allowing public land transfers to be considered “budget neutral,” making it easier for the government to transfer federal lands to the states.

“[Zinke] has built one of the strongest track records on championing regulatory relief, forest management, responsible energy development and public land issues,” Trump said in a Dec. 15 statement. “As a former Navy SEAL, he has incredible leadership skills and an attitude of doing whatever it takes to win. America is the most beautiful country in the world, and he is going to help keep it that way with smart management of our federal lands.”

It was not clear as of EBS press time, on Jan.4, when Zinke will vacate his U.S. House seat. But when he does, as reported by the Associated Press, Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock will need to call a special election for voters to choose a replacement to serve out Zinke’s two-year term.

Housing continues to plague businesses, workforce in Big Sky

On June 20, the Big Sky Resort Area Tax Board appropriated \$1.05 million of a \$1.2 million request from the Big Sky Housing Trust to address affordable housing in this resort community.

Big Sky Resort completed in the late fall a renovation of the Black Bear Bar and Grill, adding 44 beds to its employee housing. The Yellowstone Club this winter is renting out 60 percent of 320 Ranch’s cabins to house some of its employees.

All of this points to an issue that just won’t go away in Big Sky—there aren’t enough beds for everyone that wants to work, play and live here.

Brenda Godoy, co-owner of Alberto’s Mexican restaurant in Town Center, told EBS she faced staffing challenges during one of the busiest summers she’s seen in 10 years in Big Sky.

Exhausted after an especially busy Big Sky PBR weekend, Brenda and her husband Alberto closed the restaurant for four days, concluding that the only option was to stop lunch service and focus solely on dinner. Blue Moon Bakery and Chopper’s Grub and Pub, among others, also curtailed their hours of operation claiming the same staffing shortages.

The Bugaboo Café shut down for approximately one month this summer, and owner Geoff Calef pointed to housing as his main challenge in finding dependable employees.

The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and the Human Resource Development Council announced March 23 the formation of the Big Sky Community Housing Trust. Local businessman Loren Bough provided an initial land donation of 10 acres in the South Fork neighborhood to build housing for year-round workers in the community.

“[Since] Big Sky is unincorporated, the tools that other resort communities use to build and maintain affordable housing are not available, but it doesn’t mean it’s impossible,” HRDC Community Development Manager Brian Guyer told EBS at the time.

“We here in Big Sky see workforce housing as the biggest hurdle to economic growth,” said BSRAD board member Kevin Germain, during a Dec. 12 conference call with six other resort tax communities or areas. He added that a 2014 affordable housing study showed 83 percent of Big Sky’s workforce commutes from elsewhere.

BSRAD has again employed lawyer Mona Jamison to lobby for a bill in the Montana Legislature enabling communities to raise their resort tax from 3 to 4 percent, and earmark that additional 1 percent for specific projects like affordable housing. A similar bill failed in a 25-25 tie in the Senate during the 2015 legislative session.



2016 YEAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 10 - English pop icon David Bowie dies

Jan. 28 - The World Health Organization announces an outbreak of the Zika virus

JANUARY

Feb. 12 - Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill sign an Ecumenical Declaration in the first meeting between leaders of the Catholic and Russian Orthodox Churches since their split in 1054

FEBRUARY

March 6 - Former First Lady Nancy Reagan dies

March 22 - Three coordinated bombings, claimed to be executed by ISIS, kill 32 and injure 250 in Brussels, Belgium

MARCH

April 21 - Famous singer and pop icon Prince dies

APRIL

May 28 - The Cincinnati Zoo kills Harambe, a 17-year-old, 400 pound gorilla after a child slips into the animal's enclosure

MAY

June 1 - The Gotthard Base Tunnel, located in Switzerland, opens and is the world's longest and deepest railway tunnel

June 3 - Famous American boxer Muhammad Ali dies

June 12 - Omar Mateen opens fire inside Pulse, a gay nightclub, in Orlando and kills 49 people

June 23 - The United Kingdom votes in a referendum to leave the European Union

JUNE



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Parasite results in massive fish kill, weeks-long closure of Yellowstone River

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks on Aug. 19 closed 183 miles of the Yellowstone River and its tributaries to all recreational activities in response to a fish kill unprecedented in the state.

FWP enacted the closure to lessen recreational stressors and reduce the spread of a parasite that killed an estimated tens of thousands of mountain whitefish as well as dozens of trout. The full closure remained in effect for 13 days, dealing a substantial blow to the largely tourism-based economy of Livingston and prompting Gov. Steve Bullock to declare a state of emergency due to an aquatic invasive species.

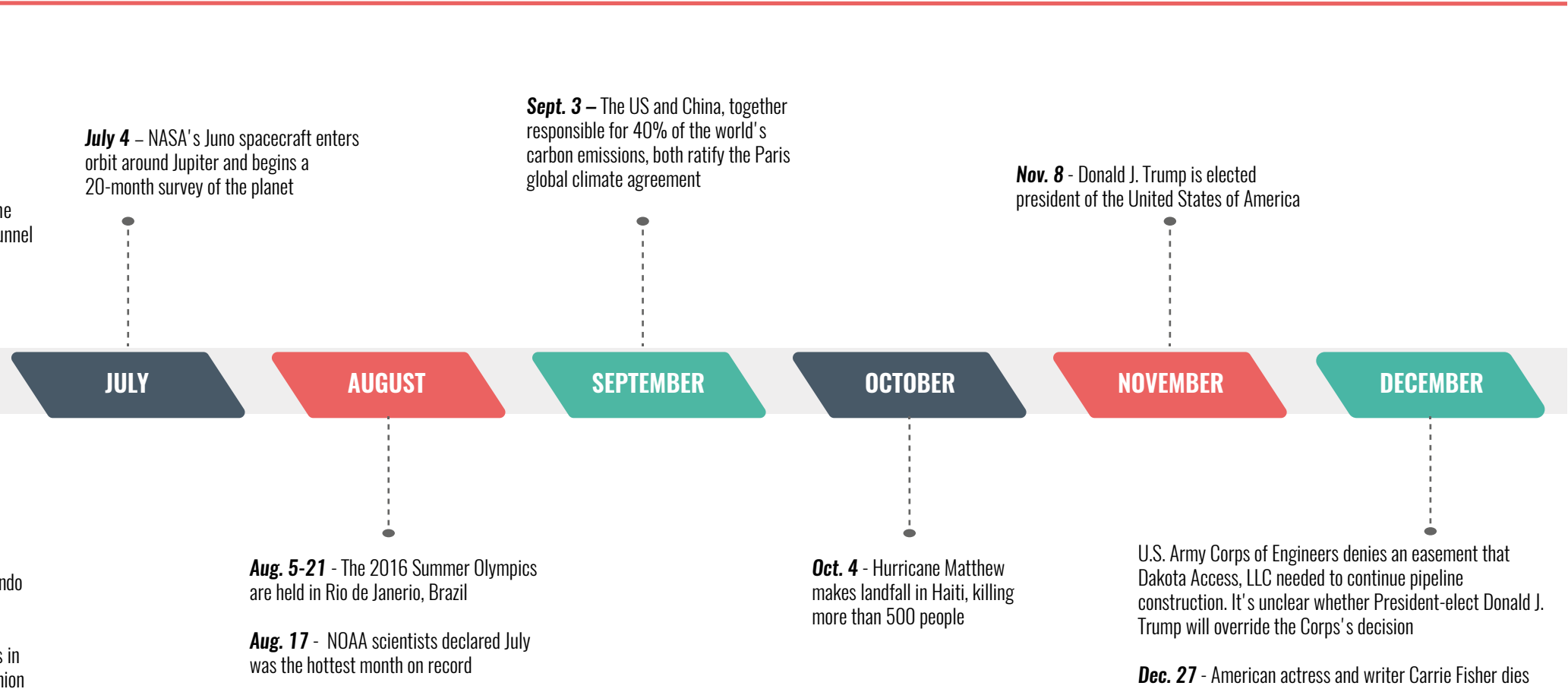
The governor’s declaration was enacted on Aug. 29 to ease the financial burden of the closure by freeing up Montana Department of Commerce grants and helping businesses recoup lost income from their insurance policies. A study by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana estimates those economic losses totaled \$360,000 to \$524,000 in an area that draws its lifeblood from the Yellowstone.

The governor’s declaration likely stemmed in part from a packed, and at times heated, public meeting hosted in Livingston by FWP on Aug. 24.

During that meeting, FWP spokesperson Andrea Jones emphasized to a crowd of approximately 400 that the summer of 2016 was unusually hard on fish. Daytime high water temperatures frequently reached 70 degrees on the Yellowstone in August—well above the ideal temperature for trout and whitefish. Jones said the Yellowstone was running just 280 cubic feet per second above its all-time low from records dating back 120 years.

Those conditions made whitefish highly susceptible to infection by a parasite named *Tetrascapula bryosalmonae* that causes proliferative kidney disease with often-fatal consequences.

Sections of the river upstream and downstream of the hardest-hit area near Emigrant opened on Sept. 1, followed by a complete lifting of the closure on Sept. 23.



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Big Sky traffic at boiling point

In the Dec. 23, 2015, issue of EBS we ran a feature story titled “Boiling point: Big Sky traffic ‘a concern for community’”—it appeared in the same issue as our Top Stories of 2015 special section—and in 2016 the area’s traffic issues showed no signs of simmering.

On Jan. 19, a westbound vehicle was stopped at the entrance to Roxy’s Market on Lone Mountain Trail when a van rear-ended the car, sending it into oncoming traffic. The three-vehicle accident resulted in minor injuries to two of the drivers who were treated at the Big Sky Medical Center.

Big Sky Fire Department Chief William Farhat pointed to a lack of turn lanes on the highway. “If there was a middle lane, [the driver] would have been able to [turn safely],” Farhat said at the time.

The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and Western Transportation Institute held three public meetings in January and February, collectively attended by more than 100 people, to address transportation issues in the area.

Big Sky taxpayers are paying nearly \$540,000 in road taxes to Gallatin County and \$700,000-plus to Madison County, according to Western Transportation Institute’s David Kack. None of that money sent to Gallatin County—and very little of the Madison County revenue—is being reinvested in road construction or maintenance in Big Sky, he said in January.

Former Big Sky Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Clemens added that traffic in Gallatin Canyon and Lone Mountain Trail is at “carrying capacity right now,” and if Big Sky doesn’t have safe, dependable roads, community businesses could see a negative effect on the number of customers from Bozeman and elsewhere in Gallatin County.

Based on these community meetings, in early spring Kack released a study outlining residents’ concerns. These included turn lanes, sight lines, speed limits, pedestrian crossings, wildlife crossings, cell phone distraction zones, traffic, proper signage and funding, among many other issues. The report suggested an immediate speed and safety study, as well as a full transportation study of the Big Sky area.

In July, the Big Sky Community Organization announced the Montana Department of Transportation determined the intersection of Lone Mountain Trail and Ousel Falls Road has met criteria for the installation of a traffic control signal. BSCO will take the lead on the traffic signal project at this busy intersection in 2017.



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO



National Park Service Director Jonathon Jarvis, who retired from his post on Jan. 3, 2017, after celebrating the agency’s 100th birthday. NPS PHOTO

National Park Service celebrates its 100th birthday in Gardiner

Yellowstone posts record visitation numbers

The National Park Service celebrated its centennial at the doorstep of the world’s first national park on Aug. 25 to pay homage to what writer and historian Wallace Stegner deemed America’s “best idea.”

The program, which included remarks by a handful of heavy-hitters in public land management agencies and national park conservation organizations, was attended by an estimated 6,000 people. Music from Emmylou Harris and John Prine and a dynamic impersonation of Teddy Roosevelt brought levity to the evening’s events.

The 51st U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell celebrated America’s newest addition to the national park system—the Katahdin Woods and Water National Monument in Maine, which was designated by President Barack Obama on the eve of the centennial—and embraced a message of inclusiveness.

“All Americans—no matter where they come from, how they worship or who they love—should see themselves in these public lands,” Jewell said, bringing to mind a NPS initiative called “Find Your Park.” Jewell said national parks across the country were experiencing record visitation at the time.

In a press conference before the formal program, Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis addressed some of the challenges facing the NPS. Jarvis said the park system is “chronically underfunded” and private dollars are necessary for the park service to fulfill its mission.

That message—become accustomed to private and commercial funding in the national park system—was echoed in the public program by several speakers, including Jewell; Yellowstone Superintendant Dan Wenk; and Kay Yeager, the board chair of Yellowstone Forever.

As of Nov. 8 (the most current data available), Yellowstone National Park was on track to break the visitation record it set in 2015. During the first ten months of 2016, Yellowstone logged more than 4.2 million recreational visits, a 3.6 percent increase from the same period the previous year and a 21 percent jump from 2014.

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OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Voters approve building reserve levy for Big Sky’s growing school district

By mail-in ballot, Big Sky voters approved an \$830,000 building reserve fund levy to finish Ophir Elementary facilities last spring.

On May 4, the Gallatin County Election office released vote tallies. Fifty-five percent of voters in the district were in favor of funding the levy and 45 percent were opposed. Fifty-seven percent of eligible voters participated in the election.

A similar measure was put before Big Sky School District voters in March 2015. That measure was defeated, with 57 percent of voters opposed to it. Turnout was approximately 12 percent lower in the 2015 election.

“We’re really happy to make this next step forward in this school and really grateful to everyone who participated in the election,” said Big Sky School District Superintendent Dustin Shipman.

In May 2013, voters approved a \$10.2 million bond to fund the purchase of two lots and the construction of the Ophir Elementary School building. Problems with soil at the site led to at least \$800,000 in unanticipated construction expenses to shore up an unstable foundation. As a result, there was a budget shortfall and parts of the school—the library, gym, locker rooms, and outdoor landscaping as well as six rooms—remained unfinished.

“I think voters understand now that the school’s open that we built a quality school and really, the need was there,” said BSSD board chair Loren Bough, adding that the district probably saved about \$2.5 million by funding the measure now rather than waiting a couple years, when building expenses will likely increase.

Enrollment in the Big Sky School District is growing at a rapid clip: Bough said Big Sky has the fastest-growing school district in the state and enrollment increased by 10 percent leading into the 2015-2016 school year.



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Big Sky’s ‘Main Street’ on the rise

In addition to the townhouses and condos springing up east of Ousel Falls Road, commercial construction during 2016 in Town Center is populating the vertical skyline of this resort hamlet.

Lone Mountain Land Company built the 19,000-square-foot building at 47 Town Center, and its butterfly-roofed neighboring structure at the corner of Lone Mountain Trail and Ousel Falls Road is set for completion in early summer 2017.

LMLC was formed in 2014 by CrossHarbor Capital Partners specifically for CrossHarbor’s development of Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and Moonlight Basin—CrossHarbor is also the principal owner of the Yellowstone Club.

Rotherham Construction is adding an addition to the Peaks Building, which is home to Beehive Basin Brewery, and should be finished in March. When the building is completed, the brewery will have additional basement storage and bathrooms, and two commercial spaces will open.

Big Sky’s Lotus Pad will be one business finding a new home at 47 Town Center. The Asian restaurant is moving from its Westfork Plaza location into the larger space and is slated to open by Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 16, 2017.

The 10,000 feet of commercial space will also host The Tea & Spice Exchange, a national chain that also has a Bozeman location. Bozeman-based SAV Digital Environments will have a showroom and retail space. On the second and third floors are 16 residential apartments, including 14 two-bedroom units and two one-bedroom units.

Once construction is complete on the 38,000-square-foot 25 Town Center Ave building, the second floor will be headquarters to Lone Mountain Land Company and The Big Sky Real Estate Co., the luxury real estate company that LMLC formed earlier this year.

“We’re hoping that with the completion of the Town Center [buildings], ‘Main Street’ will really come together,” said Bayard Dominick, LMLC’s vice president of planning and development. “It will start building that critical mass of people living there, shopping, [going to] restaurants that will really make Town Center a destination.”

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