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Big Sky

Nov. 21 - Dec. 7, 2017
Volume 8 // Issue #24

Big Sky Resort opens Thanksgiving Day

Cats claw Griz in Brawl of the Wild

Moonlight Lodge closes to public

Affordable housing project denied by county

LPHS athletes honored

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ON THE COVER: Skier Dave Neal soaks in the beauty of the Big Sky backcountry on Nov. 6, 2017. "It's not happiness that brings us gratitude. It's gratitude that brings us happiness," the photographer wrote. "Give thanks." PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY

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OPENING SHOT

On Nov. 12, the RYDE Foundation donated 150 helmets to Ophir School for local kids in need. The RYDE Foundation was formed by Big Sky's Scottie Williams, pictured here with third-grader Teagan Miller, to promote the use of a helmet during any and all gravity-based activities. PHOTO BY JEREMY HARDER

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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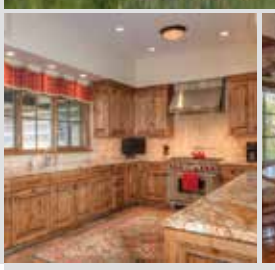

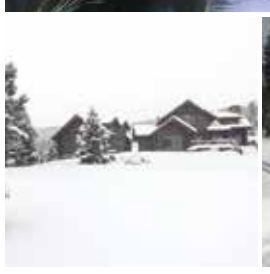

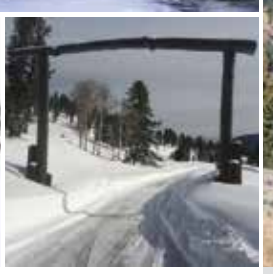

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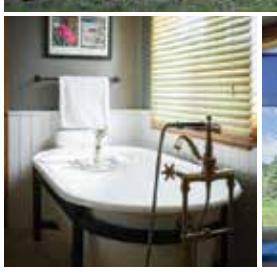

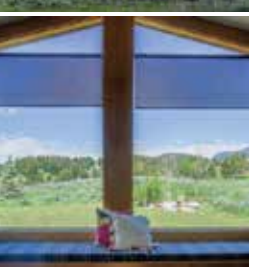

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Citizen petition to protect open lands circulating in Gallatin County

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – A coalition of local land conservation organizations, including the Gallatin Valley Land Trust, Montana Land Reliance and The Trust for Public Land, are circulating a citizen petition that would place a $20 million open lands bond on the November 2018 ballot.

"As the population in Gallatin County continues to increase, the need for funding to protect open space is more and more critical," said Jessie Wiese, southwest manager for MLR and a resident of Big Sky. "We're just trying to get it on the ballot so Gallatin County voters can make the decision themselves."

This initiative comes several months after the Gallatin County commissioners voted in a 2-1 decision to decline a $15 million bond on this year's ballot. Commissioner Steve White voted against the initiative, saying his priority is to fund improvements to the county's law enforcement and judicial infrastructure.

Without unanimous approval from the commission, an initiative cannot be included on the county ballot. However, a petition with support from at least 20 percent of registered voters allows citizens to place initiatives on the ballot. In order to be successful, the groups will need to gather 15,097 in-person signatures.

The open lands bond is a part of the Gallatin County Open Lands Program. If enough signatures are gathered and voters approve the initiative on next year's ballot, it will result in an anticipated cost of $15.92 a year for every $200,000 of home value. The $20 million levy would allow for future conservation of open land for another 15 to 20 years.

For 17 years, GVLT, MLR and others have worked within the county to protect land from future development as a way of ensuring space in the future for working farms and ranches and wildlife habitat.

Wiese said previous open space bonds have been allocated for local projects. "We've seen the benefits here in Big Sky with several conservations easements and the Big Sky Community Park being made possible by open space dollars."

Documents detail Gianforte's assault on reporter

BILLINGS (AP) – Law enforcement officials in Montana have released a trove of materials from their investigation into a Republican House candidate who assaulted a reporter on the eve of his election to the U.S. House.

More than 100 pages of documents, photos and audio from the investigation into Rep. Greg Gianforte were released under a court order Nov. 17 following requests from The Associated Press and other news organizations.

Gianforte threw Guardian reporter Ben Jacobs to the ground on May 24—the day before his victory in a special election over Democrat Rob Quist.

In the attack's immediate aftermath, the Republican's campaign portrayed Jacobs as the instigator. That version of events was contradicted by audio from Jacobs and by a Fox News reporter who witnessed the attack.

Gianforte later pleaded guilty to assault.

Rotary Club sponsors Christmas Giving Tree

EBS STAFF

Once again, the Rotary Club of Big Sky will sponsor the annual Christmas Giving Tree to assist families during the holiday season. For the 10th year in a row, the Giving Tree will help families during Christmas by providing gifts for children and a Christmas dinner for families.

The Giving Tree is located in the Big Sky Post Office lobby, decorated with cards that indicate each child's wish for a gift. Community members are encouraged to fulfill those wishes by donation, and gifts must be received no later than Dec. 13.

Last year, 28 Big Sky children received gifts through the Christmas Giving Tree.

Families wishing for support this holiday season can make their requests by picking up a Santa Letter from First Security Bank, American Bank, Big Sky Western Bank, Big Sky Food Bank, or the Country Market. Santa Letters, which remain completely confidential, must be returned by Dec. 12.

Wrapped gifts and a family Christmas dinner basket will be delivered by members of the Rotary Club on Dec. 20 and 21.

Survey on community housing needs circulating in Big Sky

BIG SKY COMMUNITY HOUSING TRUST

The Big Sky Community Housing Trust and Resort Tax Board have commissioned a study to update the housing needs of Big Sky residents and develop a Housing Action Plan to address housing needs in the community.

WSW Consulting, Inc., out of South Lake Tahoe, California, has been contracted to conduct the study and is comprised of housing research and development professionals that specialize in mountain resort communities in the intermountain west.

Using the 2014 Big Sky Chamber of Commerce/EPS Housing Development Plan as a base, this study will update housing information and solicit input from Big Sky residents and employees on their housing needs and preferences to target housing goals.

The study will then help Big Sky develop an action plan containing various housing strategies for addressing those needs. The housing needs phase of the project will be completed in February. The action plan phase, which will include a series of work sessions with community stakeholders, will be completed in early June 2018.

From Nov. 27 through Dec. 27, Big Sky residents can participate through an online survey. The confidential survey responses will help BSCHT to understand the housing needs, preferences and challenges of Big Sky residents and employees.

The survey will become available Nov. 27 and the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce as well as various town employers will distribute a link to the online survey.

For more information on the study or the upcoming survey, please contact Brian Guyer with the Big Sky Community Housing Trust at (406) 585-4863 or bguyer@thehrdc.org.

Montana campus leaders promise no faculty furloughs

BOZEMAN (AP) – Montana State University's president is promising that faculty and staff won't be furloughed though the state university system faces $4.5 million in budget cuts.

Montana lawmakers wrapped up a special session the week of Nov. 13 intended to fill a state budget shortfall. The Montana University System anticipated a $44 million budget cut without a special session.

Montana State University President Waded Cruzado said Nov. 16 that she plans to shield faculty and staff from any cuts the wider university system makes. Cruzado told members of the Montana Board of Regents that faculty and staff "are our most important assets."

But higher education officials at the meeting said the university system will have to make other adjustments because of the cuts.

406 Forum

For this winter season, Big Sky Resort improvements include a new real estate chairlift, a couple of magic carpets, some gladed runs and improved access to Liberty Bowl off of the tram, as well as rental delivery services.

In your opinion, what would most enhance the Big Sky skiing experience?

Lance Lovelace
Big Sky, Montana

"Take it back 10 years."

John Berezny
Big Sky, Montana

"I think that the most important thing that Big Sky Resort can focus on in the future is to get people aware of what they need to be safe… In particular, the [people using the] terrain parks [should] participate officially in the [Park Etiquette and Education Program] on the mountain."

Sommer Huhn
Big Sky, Montana

"Make the [season] pass cheaper, that's all I have to say."

Pat Collins
Big Sky, Montana

"I have no criticism about the skiing … I wish they'd quit advertising because it's getting discovered. … The skiing in Big Sky is probably some of the best in the United States."

Op-Ed: Foreign worker programs depress wages

BY RICHARD SCHWALBE

I was happy to see your article on J1 foreign workers ("Uncertainty over future of J-1 Visas worries resort town like Big Sky") in the Sept. 29 issue of EBS. A public understanding of these issues should benefit our community.

My research, including two Freedom of Information Act filings, show that there are actually two temporary foreign worker programs in use in the Big Sky area and nationally. The second is the H-2B seasonal visa program. There are 150 such temporary workers in Gallatin Gateway, Big Sky and West Yellowstone in 2016 at wage rates ranging from $9.07 per hour to $15.76 per hour, mostly at the low end. In 2016 the Trump administration sharply reduced the total number of H-2B visas in use to about 81,000.

There are 14 categories and more than 1 million participants in the J1 visa program, most of whom are students on exchange programs. In Montana, in 2016, the five "employee" categories totaled 2,019 individuals. The mailing addresses of the employers (not necessarily the job locations) in the Big Sky, Bozeman and West Yellowstone area totaled 632, with an additional 463 in Yellowstone National Park. I have seen statements made that wages under the J-1 program are generally lower than under the H-2B program, but have not been able to verify this at the local level.

I would like to comment on two points in your story:

You interviewed someone who used the J-1 program five times; this seems (to me) to be beyond the intent of the program, which is "to acquaint" foreign nationals with US culture and business, not to provide long term seasonal employment; that is what H-2B is for.

Concerning the claim that the use of these programs is necessary to maintain services, et al. Economic studies in other areas have found low wage rates to be the primary drivers of the establishment of such programs. It could be that maintenance of profit margins, and not maintenance of services, is the primary goal.

The largest such study was in southern Florida (published in 2016) by a Harvard economist, George Borjas. This study found that entry-level and lesser skilled wage rates declined by about 25 percent when the labor force expanded by just 8 percent through a foreign worker program. The Big Sky area is a relatively expensive housing market; I faced similar issues when recruiting employees to Silicon Valley during my career. I learned that if you pay a decent wage, people are attracted to beautiful areas such as Big Sky.

My conclusions are:

Don't panic if these programs are curtailed. Ending these programs was a Trump campaign promise. There might be an adjustment period for local businesses to attract a more permanent work force, but Big Sky will not be materially harmed.

There could be a silver lining to the ending of these programs in the form of a stronger community from a work force that lives here and cares about the long-term health of the area. I suspect this would require paying "living wages" and reducing the "worker ghettos" and barracks-like living conditions experienced by a stream of temporary employees.

Rich Schwalbe is a retired Big Sky resident who holds an undergraduate degree in economics, and a master's degree in finance, investments and

OUTLAW PARTNERS

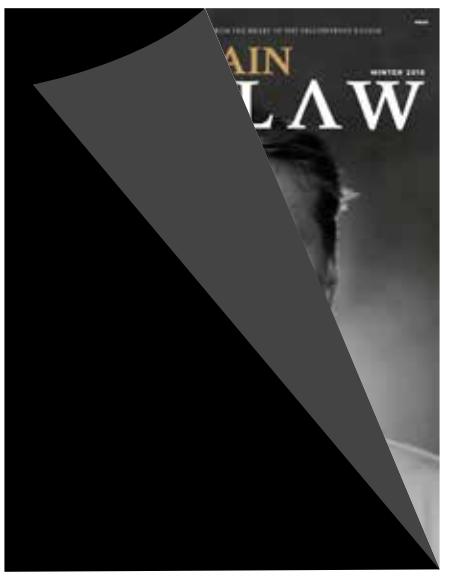
News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

Mountain Outlaw hits newsstands Dec. 1

BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS MANAGING EDITOR

As the hangover from the Thanksgiving holiday heals, readers in our region are treated to the release of Mountain Outlaw magazine's winter edition. This 15th issue of our twice-annual glossy publication is an experience in journalism and visual storytelling.

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is our backyard and where we draw inspiration for the stories we pursue every six months. Lander, Wyoming's Claire Cella dives into the economic crossroads faced by Bozeman, Big Sky and Jackson, Wyoming, where technology has helped encourage telecommuters and startups to carve out their dreams in the Northern Rockies, and she discovers the resulting pressures on real estate markets and the lifestyle we cherish here.



Senior Editor Amanda Eggert continues that theme with her profiles of four entrepreneurs in the region, staking their claims to the future of this corner of the West. And our gear reviews celebrate the intrepid business owners that draw inspiration from the northern Rockies to design and build their apparel and hard goods.

The tireless scribe Todd Wilkinson tackles grizzly bear delisting from the Endangered Species Act, and what the potential for impending trophy hunts in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho means to passionate outdoorsmen.

Longtime contributor Yogesh Simpson followed up his summer music roundup in the Greater Yellowstone, published in our previous edition, with a profile of four regional music venues that are helping to ignite our burgeoning music scene.

Mountain Outlaw's founding editor Emily Stifler Wolfe has a big footprint in this edition with two features, including a riveting story about a 70-year-old woman who survived an hour and 45 minutes buried in a devastating avalanche. Editor-at-Large Joseph T. O'Connor will take you on a trip through the life of Evel Knievel from the lens of a museum just opened in Topeka, Kansas, which celebrates the Butte native's daredevil exploits.

The Outbound Gallery in each issue of Mountain Outlaw is an opportunity for us to tell compelling stories through the lens and paintbrush, and this edition's is no exception. Art Director Kelsey Dzintars put the call out to photographers and artists who devote their work to affecting social change, and it's likely our most powerful gallery yet.

When Mountain Outlaw arrives in the Greater Yellowstone on Dec. 1, grab yourself a copy and find a quiet place to read—we look forward to hearing your feedback.

Let us know what you think by emailing us at media@outlaw.partners.

Happy Thanksgiving.

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Commissioners deny preliminary plat for 39-unit affordable housing project

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BOZEMAN – Gallatin County commissioners unanimously denied preliminary plat approval for a workforce housing subdivision spearheaded by Big Sky developer and realtor Scott Altman at a Nov. 14 meeting held at the Gallatin County Courthouse.

Altman and the commissioners couldn't agree upon improvements to the site access—namely the installation of right- and left-hand turn lanes leading into the subdivision for both eastbound and westbound traffic on Highway 64, also known as Lone Mountain Trail.

Although conflicting numbers were presented, the Powder Light subdivision near Ace Hardware was expected to generate between 2,300 and 2,500 trips per day—a measurement of the amount of people turning into or out of the access road. The subdivision was designed to include 39 units with four bedrooms each, split between three buildings. The lower level of each building would have been designated for commercial space, per its community commercial zoning.

Commissioners Don Seifert, Steve White and Joe Skinner voted down the subdivision based upon the recommendation of Gallatin County planners and traffic engineers who felt it would be unsafe without the turn lanes.

Altman and his advisors argued that a recent traffic study found that turn lanes are warranted at eight points along Highway 64, and it would be unfair to require one developer to make roadway improvements given that other recent developments like Big Sky Medical Center and Roxy's Market were approved without them.

Speaking to that concern, Gallatin County Planner Tim Skop said the Town Center development was approved in 2000 and the county can't ask for additional improvements beyond what was agreed to in their 2000 application.

"The way things have been done in the past—I don't think that's a good justification for continuing to do that," said traffic engineer Levi Ewan, reiterating that he believes there would be a safety hazard created by building the subdivision without the turn lanes.

Nearly everyone could agree that Montana Department of Transportation's role in the process was a source of confusion and at times frustration. MDT gave Altman's team and the county planning and zoning department conflicting messages about whether or not turn lanes were required.

County officials took issue with the fact that Altman started building an approach road—which was signed off on by MDT—prior to receiving preliminary plat approval. Skop said the road installation is a form of construction that should have been undertaken only after preliminary plat approval.

Altman replied that it took 11 months just to get the approval from MDT and he jumped the gun because construction season in Big Sky is short and he was eager to get started. "We honestly thought this [approval] was going to happen more [quickly]."

In a Nov. 15 interview, Jeff Ebert, MDT's southwest region administrator, said MDT supports putting in turn lanes but can't require it. "We don't have any police powers," he said.

"We issued the approach permits two years ago when it was just a small development. Now they're doing a larger development, yet they're using the same access," Ebert said. "In order for them to address the traffic caused by the development, they need to put the turn lanes in."

Highway 64 is a state highway without the same access to funding that other state highways have, Ebert added.

Most everyone present at the hearing seemed resigned to the fact that getting the state to make safety improvements to the highway would take a decade or longer, if it happens at all.

A road grader sits near a recently completed approach road off of Highway 64 that was built in anticipation of the Powder Light subdivision gaining approval from the Gallatin County commissioners. PHOTO BY AMANDA EGGERT

There is the possibility of the improvements being made via other avenues, though. The Big Sky Chamber and Big Sky Community Organization applied for a competitive federal grant in the amount of $10.3 million that, if approved, would fund improvements to Highway 64 from its intersection with Highway 191 up to Big Sky Resort. They expect to know if they will receive the grant this spring.

As an alternative to fully funding the turn lanes himself, which is expected to cost $1 million, Altman offered $25,000 toward a future solution that could include a rural improvement district along the full corridor. Commissioners did not find that alternative sufficient, citing concerns that some serious accidents could occur between the subdivision completion and the installation of turn lanes.

A variety of Big Sky community members—residents, developers and business owners—submitted approximately 30 letters in favor of the subdivision, and the need for affordable workforce housing pervaded in those letters.

Commissioners agree that workforce housing is needed in Big Sky, but don't feel that it trumps the safety concern. "I think the affordable housing aspect of this is very commendable, and I want to vote for this … but I'm not convinced that if we approve this we would be mitigating public health and safety adequately," said commissioner Skinner.

Big Sky Chamber of Commerce CEO Candace Carr Strauss, one of about a dozen Big Sky community members who attended the hearing, argued against separating transportation concerns from affordable housing and voiced her support for the development. "Please don't disconnect those two thoughts because they are critical and they are integrated," she said.

Others said that providing local workers a place to live in Big Sky would remove the traffic pressure on Highway 191 in the canyon between Four Corners and Big Sky.

At a Nov. 13 informational community meeting at Compass Café, Altman characterized his subdivision as high-density housing intended for the workers who are new to the area and have a job but leave because they can't find accommodations. He envisioned renting units to businesses for their employees, and emphasized that the units would be offered below market rate, per its zoning.

On Nov. 15, Altman said funding the turn lanes himself is unlikely. "A million dollar turn lane is not going to happen—there's no way." Altman added that he's probably dedicated 1,000 hours to the project in the four years he's been working on it. "What a disappointment … It feels like none of [the commissioners] represent Big Sky."

Altman said he was going to meet with his team and discuss options. "I'm not really a litigator," he said. "But we might litigate on this."

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31 BEAR TRAP LANE | $419,000
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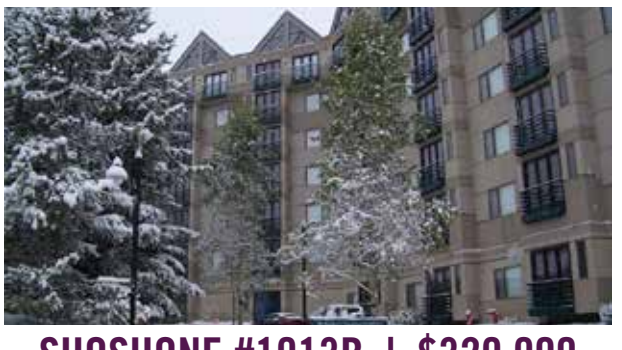
Great views from this 3 bd, 3 ba Deer Run Condo. End unit with vaulted ceilings, two decks and fireplace in the living room. Sold partially furnished.

LOT 114A, CASCADE | $339,000
#309556 | CALL DON

Beautiful lot in the highest part of Cascade Subdivision. This lot borders Ulery's Lakes Subdivision to the North. Great views of Lone Mountain and the Mountain Village area.



SHOSHONE #1913B | $329,900
#220444 | CALL STACY OR ERIC

Spacious corner unit in the Shoshone Condo Hotel. Very quiet and private with amazing views of Lone Mountain and the Spanish Peaks. Sleeps up to six people.

TBD FOUR POINT RD | $240,000
#214051 | CALL DON

This ridge lot has views of Lone Mountain, Yellow Mountain and even looking East toward Ramshorn and the Gallatin Canyon. Great building site.

HILL CONDO #1258 | $215,000
#220805 | CALL STACY OR ERIC

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Water Solutions Forum finalizes plan for public review

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – After a year and a half of monthly meetings, the Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum is close to finalizing a recommended plan of action to address the complex web of water-related issues facing Big Sky in the short and long term.

"This is the most ambitious plan I've ever seen a community put together," said facilitator Karen Filipovich at the final stakeholder meeting on Nov. 16. "You're trying to do what municipalities do and what nonprofits do. But you said you wanted to be a model community, and that's what you're trying to be."

The meeting was devoted to identifying gaps in the plan and to confirm that the 30-plus stakeholders—a diverse group of representatives from local and national conservation groups, Big Sky Water and Sewer District, Big Sky Resort, state and county agencies, and other invested parties—were all on board with the plan and the steps to implement it.

The Big Sky Water Solutions Forum aims to have the plan completely finalized by Dec. 31, and to present it to the community in late January 2018. Once approved, it will become part of a comprehensive watershed stewardship plan that stretches into 2028 and beyond.

Wastewater reuse continues to be the touchiest issue, but consensus was reached to propose moving forward with using treated wastewater for irrigation, snowmaking and groundwater recharge. Discharging into the Gallatin River was not discussed, because stakeholders were unable to reach consensus on the issue.

The immediate priority needs identified included water reuse, conservation and restoration; the expansion of surface and groundwater monitoring; and forming partnerships with residents in Gallatin Canyon to address loosely regulated septic systems.

In Montana, there isn't an established road map for using treated effluent for snowmaking, and between the technical aspects and potential policy hurdles, Myla Kelly with Montana Department of Environment Quality estimated it would likely take more than a year to get through that process. The goal is to have the system in place at the Yellowstone Club and Big Sky Resort by winter 2020.

"Everyone [at Boyne] was cautious about it in the beginning but we've really embraced it as a company," said Brian Wheeler, director of real estate and development at Big Sky Resort. "It's a really exciting time and it all comes down to treatment levels."

All were in agreement that high treatment levels were a necessity; and for irrigation, the water is required to be fully consumptive.

Wheeler said in terms of snowmaking, they'd start with the "low hanging fruit," such as the Southern Comfort area, and joked that it was unlikely that they'd be snowmaking back in Liberty Bowl.

Generally, the stakeholders agreed that the benefits of using treated wastewater for snowmaking would be threefold: more snow at higher elevations would be a late season source of groundwater recharge, remove the need to draw fresh water from area aquifers to make snow, and strengthen the ski industry the community relies on by providing more reliable snow.

In the short term, a subcommittee would identify Montana requirements for snowmaking with reused water, establish monitoring criteria and begin collecting data, explore engineering and legal options from states with established snowmaking systems, and identify necessary treatment levels to ensure it would have no ecological impact.

The large, diverse group of stakeholders were unified from the beginning on the importance of the ecological health of the regional river systems. Filipovich looked to Kristin Gardner, executive director of the Gallatin River Task Force, for insight into improving and maintaining the area watersheds. Gardner said additional funding was needed to increase monitoring, and action steps were established for the short and long term to locate such funding.

Finally, the big issue was how to secure long-term funding sources to be able to carry out its recommended action plan, and the related need to foster community engagement.

"That's what you've said consistently for 18 months—that you want to address the problem that there are a lot of people in this community who don't understand water resources." Filipovich said.

It was decided that funding has to be sought from other sources outside of resort tax, because it is already burdened by so many demands from the community.

At the close of the three-hour meeting, Filipovich asked those who have participated in this lengthy, involved process how they felt about what had been achieved and the path ahead.

"The power in this is that we all met consensus and we can move forward with these actions," said Scott Bosse of American Rivers. "We may not all be in total agreement on every issue, but we all said we could live with it."

There was remarkably little tension and dissent throughout this process—there were a few little skirmishes—but personality-wise and issue-wise I think it's outstanding we all had this vision of Big Sky being a model community," Bosse added. "I think we set the bar high and we got over it."

Moonlight Lodge goes private

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – This year, Moonlight Lodge will be open exclusively for Moonlight Basin members, after the Tavern operated publicly for a number of years.

Moonlight has recently grown to encompass more than 270 members, and according to Kevin Germain, vice president of Moonlight Basin, the decision to privatize the lodge was based upon this growth.

"The lodge was opened in 2000, before there was even a ski area contemplated on the Moonlight side of the mountain," Germain said. "It was to become the living room for the Moonlight community."

Beginning Dec. 15, the lodge will only be open to Moonlight Basin members and their guests, while lodging guests renting a member's home will have access to the lodge for a daily fee. This winter, Moonlight is also offering a Sports Membership that will grant the public access to the lodge and fitness amenities without staying in a member home.

This winter, Moonlight says they will renovate the Great Room in the lodge in order to create additional soft seating options and an expansion of the lodge kitchen will allow for greater culinary variety.

For those who enjoyed public access to Moonlight Lodge in the past, this year's change comes as a bit of a disappointment.

"I think [the lodge] is an asset on its location and they're going to be missing out on an inclusionary feeling that the entire resort has developed," said Joe Muggli, a ski technician at Grizzly Outfitters Ski & Backcountry Sports. "I think it's a downgrade for what the resort can offer to the public. … You should be able to pop in and warm up and get food."

While the lodge will be for members only this winter, ski access will remain public, as will trails for hiking and biking in the spring. Big Sky Resort Public Relations Manager Chelsi Moy reiterated the fact that the ski area, which is owned and managed by Big Sky Resort, will remain completely public.

Big Sky Resort sent an email to its employees, stating that, "Closing public access to the Moonlight Lodge matches plans contemplated during the 2013 integration of Moonlight Basin. That plan anticipated the eventual full privatization when the Moonlight Community (club) grew in memberships. With club growth, the Moonlight Lodge can no longer effectively serve dual functions, so it is being converted to the private club asset it is best suited to serve."

Despite the privatization of the Moonlight Lodge, public access on the Moonlight side of the mountain has been expanded. Big Sky Resort has widened Fast Lane, a primary corridor between the Moonlight side of the ski area and Mountain Village. Also, a new magic carpet lift has been added to the Madison Base Area.

"Big Sky Resort has installed a new magic carpet at the Madison Village, built two new gladed ski runs, as well as improved the connectivity over to Mountain Village by improving Fast Lane and Blue Moon," Germain said. "Their investment into the Moonlight terrain will continue to make Big Sky one of North America's most popular and celebrated mountain resorts for both the local community and visitors alike."

While still in the early stages, several future developments at Moonlight have been proposed. These include a new lodge at Ulery's Lake, a hotel at Lee's Pool, and added trails that could access destination yurts and cabins.

Beginning this winter ski season, Moonlight Lodge will operate as a members-only facility. PHOTO COURTESY OF MOONLIGHT BASIN

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'An evening for Mark' benefits LPHS Interact club

BY JULIA BARTON
EBS EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

BIG SKY- Mark Robin, longtime co-owner of the Hungry Moose Market and Deli, invites the community to join him in celebrating his birthday at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 30, at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. The evening will feature a piano concert by local pianist and music teacher Klaudia Kosiak. All proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the Lone Peak High School Interact club, and their annual service trip to Nepal.

Robin was diagnosed with ALS in September 2016, and since then, the Big Sky community has been nothing but supportive of him and his family during this difficult time. It is truly beautiful to see the town come together with such love for one of their own.

Kosiak, a friend of the Robin family, had the idea of honoring Robin with a special piano concert. "I was thinking about what I could do for Mark for a long time," she said. "I started thinking how nice it would be to play in the theater for even more of his friends and family."

Kosiak has decided to perform pieces by Bach, Chopin and Rachmaninoff, among others. "I will be playing all of the pieces I really love," she said. The event will be the pianist's first solo recital. "Mark gave me a good reason to do this," she said.

Originally from Wroclaw, Poland, Kosiak has lived in Big Sky for 11 years, teaching piano lessons, involving herself with WMPAC events, and acting as the music director for Big Sky Broadway and all of the local musicals. Through her community involvement, she formed a friendship with the Robin family. Upon Robin's diagnosis, Kosiak began holding private concerts at the Robin's home.

Though the primary purpose of this event is to show love and support for Mark, the Robins have graciously decided to donate all proceeds of the night to the LPHS Interact Club's 2018 service trip to Nepal.

Pianist Klaudia Kosiak will perform at a special birthday celebration for Mark Robin at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. on Nov. 30. All proceeds will benefit the Lone Peak High School Interact Club. PHOTO BY JACKIE ROBIN

"We are especially thrilled to be a part of Klaudia's first-ever piano recital in Big Sky," said Mark's wife Jackie. "The idea to help raise funds for the Interact club's trip to Nepal was the perfect beneficiary."

The Interact Club is a Rotary-sponsored service club currently fundraising to send nine seniors to Nepal this coming April, including Mark and Jackie's son, Howie.

The students embarking on this trip will be trekking between villages, visiting orphanages, schools and homes for the elderly. Accompanying them will be as many donation items as will fit in their luggage. The Interact Club is teaming up with Pete Schmieding and the Tsering's Fund to bring aid to Nepal in whatever form they can. It is gearing up to be a very special trip, and the club is grateful to

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- In some areas, bobcats are still trapped for their soft, spotted fur. North American populations are believed to be quite large, with perhaps as many as one million cats in the United States alone.

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Legislature reaches budget fix without raising taxes

BY AMY BETH HANSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – Montana lawmakers have agreed to a plan to address the state's projected $227 million budget deficit without raising taxes in a complicated mix of interconnected bills that make it nearly impossible for the governor to reject any part of the plan without further cuts.

The largest objectionable piece for Gov. Steve Bullock creates a fund to manage about $30 million in proceeds if the governor negotiates an agreement to extend for 10 years the contract of CoreCivic, which manages a private prison in Shelby.

"We can't negotiate a prison contract," House Speaker Austin Knudsen said before the special session began. "But we can incentivize the governor to take a look."

If the governor does not place $15 million of that money in the state fire fund by next June, the bill triggers further reductions to state agencies already reeling from cuts made due to lower-than-expected revenues and a devastating fire season, said Rep. Rob Cook, R-Conrad, whose district houses the prison.

Lawmakers passed a bill late in the regular session that triggered $97 million in spending cuts as revenues lagged. The governor implemented another $76.6 million in cuts Nov. 14 as the special session began.

Should the state's finances improve, the prison bill sets terms for saving some of the money and reversing some of the cuts and transfers.

"Frankly, we've given the governor all the tools he needs now to fix this crisis he says he has," Knudsen said early Nov. 16 after the House adjourned. "We've given him $230 million worth of options."

Democrats argued that the Legislature should not be dictating the governor's actions with regard to a state contract, much less threatening further cuts to services for vulnerable citizens. Montana's contract with CoreCivic includes setting aside money that could be used toward purchasing the prison when the contract ends in 2019. If the state does not renew the contract, the money would go to CoreCivic.

"The solution before us is far from perfect, but it allows us to avoid hundreds of millions of dollars in unacceptable cuts that would hurt people across our state," House Democratic Leader Jenny Eck of Helena said in a statement.

The budget package lawmakers approved includes $94 million in transfers and other savings, about $20 million more than the governor initially proposed.

"Tonight we reached a reasonable and responsible compromise to balance our budget and pay for Montana's record fire season," Bullock said in a statement. "While I'm disappointed we were not able to reach a full agreement, I would be remiss not to acknowledge all the progress made to minimize the impacts of severe budget cuts on the most vulnerable among us."

House Appropriations Chairwoman Nancy Ballance said lawmakers and the administration negotiated additional transfers that were allowable, reasonable and not harmful.

Other Actions

- Lawmakers passed a bill that would temporarily charge a 3 percent management fee on Montana State Fund assets above $1 billion, expected to bring in nearly $30 million.

- Both houses approved bills proposed by the governor to withhold $8.2 million in block grants to schools, withhold payments into the state employee health plan for two months to save $10.4 million and to withhold state payments from the judge's retirement system through July 2019 to save $2.8 million. Those amounts are included in the $94 million in transfers and delays.

- Lawmakers also sent the governor a bill that calls for $15 million in employee cuts that can be made by furloughing workers who make more than $50,000 annually. Democrats spoke emotionally against the bill, saying it amounted to further cuts in services to state residents.

Keystone pipeline leaks 210K gallons of oil

AMHERST, S.D. (AP) – TransCanada Corp.'s Keystone pipeline leaked an estimated 210,000 gallons of oil onto agricultural land in northeastern South Dakota, the company and state regulators said Nov. 16, but state officials don't believe the leak polluted any surface water bodies or drinking water systems.

Crews shut down the pipeline the morning of Nov. 16 and activated emergency response procedures after a drop in pressure was detected resulting from the leak south of a pump station in Marshall County, TransCanada said in a statement. The cause was being investigated.

Discovery of the leak comes just days before Nebraska regulators were scheduled to announce their decision Nov. 20 whether to approve the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline, an expansion that would boost the amount of oil TransCanada is now shipping through the existing line, which is known simply as Keystone. The expansion has faced fierce opposition from environmental groups, American Indian tribes and some landowners.

Brian Walsh, an environmental scientist manager at the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said the state has sent a staff member to the site of the leak in a rural area near the border with North Dakota about 250 miles (402 kilometers) west of Minneapolis.

"Ultimately, the cleanup responsibility lies with TransCanada, and they'll have to clean it up in compliance with our state regulations," Walsh said.

TransCanada said in its statement that it expected the pipeline to remain shut down as the company responds to the leak. It did not offer a time estimate, and a spokesman didn't immediately return a telephone message from The Associated Press.

The federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration didn't immediately return an email requesting additional information from The AP. Since 2010, companies have reported 16 spills of oil and petroleum products larger than the leak announced Nov. 16 and one the same size, according to U.S. Department of Transportation records.

The existing Keystone pipeline transports crude from Canada to refineries in Illinois and Oklahoma, passing through the eastern Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri. It can handle nearly 600,000 barrels daily, or about 23 million gallons. TransCanada says on its website that the company has safely transported more than 1.5 billion barrels of oil, or about 63 billion gallons, through the system since operations began in 2010.

President Donald Trump issued a federal permit for the expansion project in March even though it had been rejected by the Obama administration. The Keystone XL project would move crude oil from Alberta, Canada, across Montana and South Dakota to Nebraska, where it would connect with existing pipelines feeding refineries along the Gulf Coast.

Kent Moeckly, a member of conservation and family agriculture group Dakota Rural Action, who opposed the Keystone pipeline, said he drove to land he owns near the site of the spill Nov. 16.

"There's a heck of a south wind up here today, and man it just stunk of crude oil," said Moeckly, whose property is crossed by the pipeline. "A mile away, but I'll tell you it was like it was next door."

A leak and spill in southeastern South Dakota in April 2016 prompted a weeklong shutdown of the pipeline. TransCanada estimated that just under 17,000 gallons (405 barrels) of oil spilled onto private land during that leak. Federal regulators said an "anomaly" on a weld on the pipeline was to blame. No waterways or aquifers were affected.

At the time, TransCanada said that the leak was the first one detected on the pipeline since it began operating, though there had been leaks at pumping stations. One of those leaks happened in southeastern North Dakota in May 2011, when 14,000 gallons (333 barrels) spilled after a valve failed at a pumping station near the South Dakota border.

Sierra Club Beyond Dirty Fuels campaign director Kelly Martin said in a statement that the only way to protect against leaks in the future is for Nebraska to reject the Keystone XL pipeline.

"We've always said it's not a question of whether a pipeline will spill, but when, and today TransCanada is making our case for us," Martin said.

Associated Press reporter Matt Brown in Billings, Montana, contributed to this report.

Director of Puerto Rico power company resigns amid scrutiny

BY DANICA COTO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) – The director of Puerto Rico's power company resigned Nov. 17 amid ongoing blackouts and scrutiny of a contract awarded to a small Montana-based company to help rebuild the electric grid destroyed by Hurricane Maria.

Puerto Rico's Electric Power Authority said Ricardo Ramos presented his letter of resignation to the company's board effective immediately. Ramos said in a brief video posted on Twitter on the evening of Nov. 17 that it was a very personal decision and that it had nothing to do with any issues covered by the media.

"The focus has to remain on restoring the electrical system," he said as he thanked his power company crews and those that had arrived from New York and Florida.

Gov. Ricardo Rossello briefly told reporters that Ramos is a professional who worked hard to bring power back to Puerto Rico, but that "there were a series of distractions, and a decision was taken to go in another direction."

"That resignation was taken ... in the best interest of the people of Puerto Rico," he said.

Hours after the resignation, Rossello recommended that the board appoint Justo Gonzalez, the company's power generation director, as interim director.

Earlier this week, Ramos testified before a U.S. Senate committee about a $300 million contract awarded to Whitefish Energy Holdings that has since been canceled. The contract is undergoing a local and federal audit.

Prior to the announcement of Ramos' resignation, local newspaper El Vocero had reported Nov. 17 that Ramos had awarded a nearly $100,000 contract to an attorney for consulting work just days after Hurricane Irma brushed past Puerto Rico.

It was the same attorney Ramos previously had tried to appoint as sub-director of the power company. Rossello said that contract also will be reviewed.

Ramos said in a Facebook post published Nov. 17 before his resignation that the contract was legitimate.

"Absolutely nothing was done outside the law," he said.

Ramos acknowledged mistakes as the utility sought immediate help in the aftermath of the storm, which destroyed the island's power grid.

Whitefish was one of only two companies that offered immediate services, Ramos said. The other company required a guaranteed payment of $25 million—money the bankrupt utility with a $9 billion debt load did not have, he said.

Lawmakers from both parties criticized the power authority for failing to seek mutual assistance from other public power providers—assistance that was offered to Florida and Texas utilities following hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

More than 20 of Puerto Rico's 78 municipalities remain without power nearly two months after Maria hit the U.S. territory as a Category 4 hurricane. A major blackout occurred on Nov. 15 just as the government had announced it had reached 50 percent of power generation. Two more large blackouts have since been reported as crews work to restore power.

Ramos said the recent blackouts were a result of problems ranging from overgrown vegetation to fuel not being supplied on time.

Rossello has said he anticipates 80 percent power generation by end of November and 95 percent by mid-December. However, the U.S. Corps of Engineers has said it expects 75 percent power generation by end of January.

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Section 2:
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The New West: Conference explores future of Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

Next week the Bozeman-based organization Future West is hosting an important symposium focused on trend lines in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Whether one is an elected official, public land manager, businessperson, outdoor recreationist or conservation-minded citizen, the one-day event on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at the Emerson Cultural Center in Bozeman comes at a timely, pivotal moment in the history of our region.

Right before our eyes dramatic changes are sweeping across the landscape and we feel, at a gut level, the character of our communities being transformed.

Future West's conference, "Sustaining the New West: Conservation Challenges – Conservation Opportunities," will bring together a number of big picture thinkers to help us make sense of it all.

"Everyone's talking about how quickly the West is changing, but do we really understand these trends and what they mean for the future of our natural environment?" asks Dennis Glick, the founder of Future West, saying it's time for leaders to seriously reflect on the pace of growth, rural sprawl, intensive outdoor recreation, transportation infrastructure and climate change.

"More important than just calling attention to these issues which cumulatively have far-reaching consequences for the northern Rockies, we'll learn about the actions people and communities are taking to overcome these problems," Glick says. "Unless we act, we are going to lose this place."

Not long ago, Teton County, Wyoming, resident Luther Propst, whose career has been devoted to examining growth trends from Greater Yellowstone to the Sonoran Desert, made the following observation:

"The problem is that the Lords of Yesteryear never disappeared as we were promised and the challenges of the New West are far worse than we were promised," he said. "I don't want a West of man-camps and gas field booms, nor a West of precious tourist towns that exist to feed a global cowboy/mountain man/Disney/ski resort/New Age fantasy, surrounded by busted towns that are ghettos for workers."

The 20 counties of Greater Yellowstone together are the fastest-growing rural region in the country. Bozeman, for its size, is one of the fastest-growing small cities in America.

Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks continue to meet or set visitation records. Jackson Hole is dealing with agonizing affordable housing issues and planning issues spilling over Teton Pass into Idaho. Big Sky is contending with dizzying real estate development and epic water treatment concerns.

In just two decades, at conservative growth rates, the total population of Bozeman/Gallatin County, Montana, will be equal in size to Salt Lake City proper. By 2030, there will be another 100,000 new homes in Greater Yellowstone. In the absence of thoughtful planning, many will be built in critical wildlife habitat and forested areas prone to being burned by wildfire.

The very values that set Greater Yellowstone apart in America and drive prosperity—its unparalleled wildlife, high air and water quality, and inspiring views—are being jeopardized by growth and the unwillingness/inability of communities to plan ahead.

Among those giving presentations are former Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker, who will speak about preventing planning mistakes; and Ray Rasker of Headwaters Economics on the value of protected landscapes for local economies and budget-busting problems being created for counties in battling wildfires.

There will also be discussions with Nobel Prize winning scientist Steve Running on climate change, chats about how highways are becoming death zones for wildlife, a look at human impacts upon wildlands by an unprecedented level of outdoor recreation, and an examination of the need for coordinated city-county planning to confront sprawl.

Besides the undeniable growth trends, Randy Carpenter, a planning specialist with Future West, says the biggest wildcard facing Greater Yellowstone is how the region could be inundated by climate change refugees.

The U.S. desert Southwest is expected to broil even hotter, bringing water shortages in decades ahead; meanwhile U.S. coastal areas are dealing with rising tidal surges and hurricanes. Where will people go?

Greater Yellowstone is attractive to people of means who can afford to live here, but there could be waves of others, he said. "The only thing slowing growth would be water challenges, particularly if we start losing our snowpack," he said.

Unless attitudes change, growth patterns that have harmed other regions will be replicated here, he said.

"In the middle of a boom, we rarely hear about downsides," Carpenter explained. "The boosters don't want to hear it. They choose to live in denial and their attitude works as long as it's not challenged. I've seen a lot of farms and wildlife habitat disappear but I've never seen a subdivision vanish. Concrete, asphalt, roads, traffic, noise pollution—they are forever. What we forget is that the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem isn't just uncommon. It is an American treasure and the only one of its kind in the world."

For more information on the conference, visit future-west.org.

Todd Wilkinson, founder of Mountain Journal (mountainjournal.org), is author of "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek" about famous Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear 399 featuring 150 photographs by Tom Mangelsen, available only at mangelsen.com/grizzly. His profile of Montana politician Max Baucus appears in the summer 2017 issue of Mountain Outlaw and is now on newsstands.

Although Madison Valley (pictured) is not experiencing the same explosive growth as the neighboring county to the east, there are spillover impacts as Gallatin Valley continues to grow at a bruising pace. PHOTO COURTESY OF TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

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Cats upset Griz in Brawl of the Wild

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ERIC LADD
EBS PUBLISHER

BOZEMAN – Under blue skies, crisp mountain air and before a sold out crowd, the Montana State Bobcats held on to win the 117th annual Brawl of the Wild on Nov. 18, 31-23. One of the longest-standing college football rivalries in the country, the Cat-Griz game is always a highlight for Montana football players, students and residents.

The Bobcats had a mixed season with disappointing results and a 5-6 overall record, but their upset of the Griz gave MSU seniors a lasting high note to their college careers, as the Bobcat running attack dominated the football game.

One can simply scan the vibrant tailgating scene before the contest to witness the array of license plates from around the state, and region, to get an understanding of the popularity and impact of this annual game. During the past 10 years, the Grizzlies have a 6-4 advantage over the Bobcats, but MSU has now secured the trophy two years in a row with their first win in Bozeman since 2005.

With more than 50 players hailing from Montana collectively between the two teams, it brings an additional meaning to the rivalry as you watch student players from towns like Dillon, Troy and Bozeman suit up to fulfill a lifelong dream of playing in such a big game. Many proud families crowd the stands cheering for their favorite players hailing from the Treasure State.

The MSU campus is actively expanding, with new buildings under construction and expansion of the sports facilities planned. Tickets for this pivotal game were being resold for nearly $150, and tailgate parties overflowed in to the surrounding streets, putting Montana on the big stage for college football this November.

In the final seconds, the Bobcat defense won the game for MSU with incredible plays in the secondary and pressure on Grizzly quarterback Gresch Jensen. The MSU offensive was carried by its running game throughout the contest, with 57 carries and 322 yards. While the Bobcats aren't playoff bound, the offseason will be a sweeter one with this victory in a storied rivalry.

The Montana State Bobcats hoisted the Great Divide Trophy for the second consecutive year, when they beat the Montana Grizzlies 31-23 in Bozeman on Nov. 18.

4 Big Horn football players named to All-Conference team

Jackson Wade becomes second Big Horn to make All-State team

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – Coming on the heels of the Big Horns' best season to date, in which they posted a 6-3 record in the regular season, four Lone Peak football players have been recognized with All-Conference honors.

On offense, senior Jackson Wade was named to the first team All-Conference in the guard position; on defense, he made the second team in the defensive end slot.

"Jackson had an incredible season on both sides of the ball," said LPHS head coach Adam Farr. "[He's] fast, agile, smart, has good size and actually has great hands as well.

"He's a player that I would like to see pursue playing at the next level," Farr added. "I think he potentially has that ability."

Wade was also nominated to the All-State team—the best players from all four conferences are nominated to field positions on two 8-man teams, who then play each other on June 2. Wade is just the second Big Horn to achieve this honor after Eddie Starz, the former Big Horn quarterback who was named to All-State in 2016.

Junior Milosz Shipman made the first team All-Conference in the kicker position.

"He's an all-around weapon when it comes to the kicking game," Farr said. "He consistently kicked with a great deal of accuracy all season [and] got us out of a lot of jams when we were backed up with a great deal of distance on the wrong side of the field."

Howie Robin was named to the second team in the wide receiver position. "He had an incredible season," Farr said. "He improved dramatically over the last year [and] had 18 touchdown receptions on the year, which is, I believe, an all-time {LPHS} record.

LPHS senior Jackson Wade (left) was named to both All-Conference and All-State teams. Big Horn head coach Adam Farr said he would like to see Wade pursue football at the next level. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY

"He was certainly the go-to this season and a huge part of our success," Farr continued.

The second leading scorer for the 2017 season was senior Liam Germain, who made honorable mention for the All-Conference offensive team. Farr commended his quickness and ability to outmaneuver and outrun defenders. "He was a very shifty runner [and] racked up a ton of yards and touchdowns this season."

The Flint Creek Titans, a co-op team that knocked the Big Horns out of the playoffs with a 60-0 win in Drummond on Oct. 28, marched on to become state champions. On Oct. 18, they beat Forsythe 44-30, handing the Dogies their only loss of the season and securing their own undefeated record.

3 Lone Peak volleyball players receive All-Conference honors

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – Lone Peak High School's volleyball program fielded a well-rounded team this year, as demonstrated by the All-Conference honors awarded to three Big Horns at the season's close.

In the setter position, senior Kuka Holder was named to the first team All-Conference. "She's very steady, consistent and reliable," said Lone Peak head coach Missy Botha. "[She's] pretty much the quarterback of the team … she runs the play."

Senior setter Kuka Holder was recognized with All-Conference honors for the second time in her high school career after helping the Big Horns achieve an 11-5 record in regular season play. PHOTO BY AMANDA EGGERT

Botha said Holder did well reading the blocks coming from the other side of the net and making the call to set the ball to one of the hitters, or dump it over the net for a quick tip. Holder was also named to the All-Conference team last year.

Junior middle hitter Solae Swenson is receiving All-Conference honors for the second time as well. She was voted onto the All-Conference team as a freshman at the close of the 2015 season.

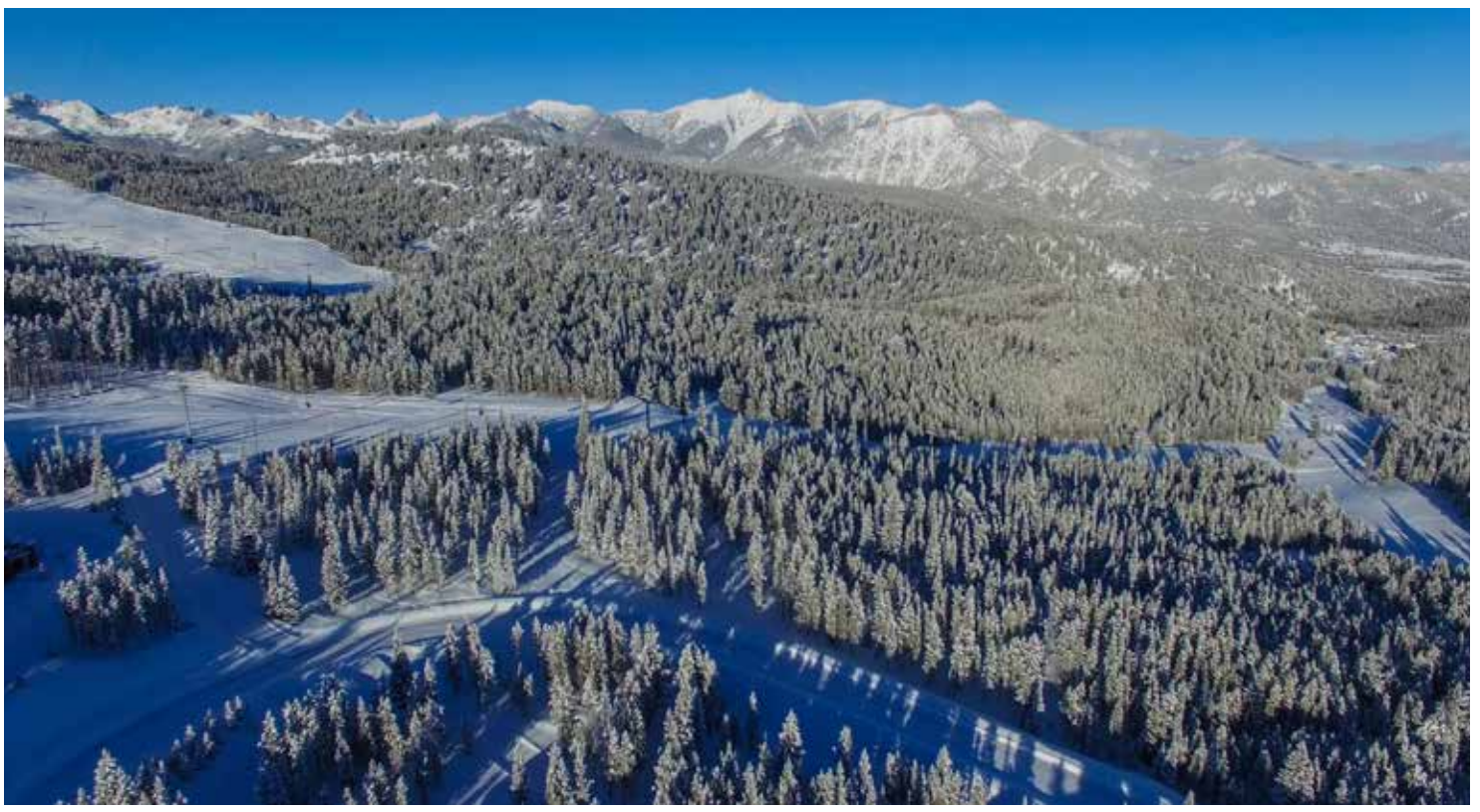
Botha said Swenson's built her reputation upon the sheer strength of her hitting, but she also has an energetic, positive attitude that helped out the team by steering the momentum in Lone Peak's favor. "When she gets set up and puts a ball straight down, it's a joy to watch because it usually gets the crowd going," Botha said.

In the back row, senior libero Bryn Iskendarian proved to be crucial to the team this year by sending accurate passes to Holder, digging difficult hits from opponents, and racking up points with her serves.

"Bryn is a jack-of-all-trades because she's played every position and started in every position over the last four years," Botha said. "It's very impressive that she was voted All-Conference as a libero," she said, adding that the libero position requires a high degree of skill—particularly when it comes to reading the opposing team's offense.

All-Conference awards are voted on by the coaches on all of the district's teams at the close of the district tournament. Each coach votes for the strongest players on other teams in the district; they are not allowed to vote for their own players.

SPANISH PEAKS HOMESITES



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DOCTOR'S NOTE

Medical Clinic of Big Sky readies for 24th season at Big Sky Resort

BY JEFF DANIELS
EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Twenty-four years ago on Thanksgiving, the opening day of my first season treating injured skiers at Big Sky Resort, I became my first accident. Coming down too fast through chunks of ice on Ambush, literally a couple of hundred yards from our first clinic under Gondola One, I tumbled and broke my right wrist. That was a rude awakening, to say the least!

Now, entering our 24th ski season running the Medical Clinic of Big Sky, I still won't go out and ski on Thanksgiving Day. I feel it's jinxed! I'm sure that some, if not most of you, have idiosyncrasies, like saying a prayer or carrying a "lucky charm" when it comes to activities that might lead to physical harm.

I haven't been injured skiing since that opening day in 1994. One reason is that I don't get to ski too often. Another might be that I have worn my "lucky ski outfit," made by Andy Teller of OutaWare fame, since I returned to skiing (in a cast) after that accident. Maybe that has protected me!

We are looking at a better start to the early part of the ski season than in the last couple of years, and that might lead to larger crowds and more accidents in early December. There will still be rocky conditions, which can lead to cuts and bruises. The lack of deep powder can lead to more forceful impact when a fall occurs, which can lead to more wrist and shoulder injuries.

But there's a balance; the deeper, softer snow that usually comes around near Christmas might prevent a hard fall from causing a fracture, but deep powder days lead to more knee injuries. And as snow accumulations lead to the opening of more challenging terrain, skiers and snowboarders are able to take greater risks, which unfortunately can increase the number of injuries we see in the clinic.

This year, as has been the case for the past 18 ski seasons, medical students and young doctors will join me in the experience of taking care of these injuries. The program began in December 1998, and that season there were 12 senior medical students. Now, I can brag that this has become a widely known and sought after experience, with applications coming in not only from American medical schools and residency programs, but from England, Ireland, Canada, Germany, Australia and New Zealand. This year we'll take in more than 50 students and residents.

I take it upon myself to be both the sole administration and admissions committee, so I have the task of sorting through well over 100 applications for a limited number of positions for medical students. I'm already making up the schedule for the 2018-2019 winter season.

Many of you have met one or more of the students and residents that have rotated through Big Sky. Usually, it's a positive experience for everybody.

As we have over the past few years, the Medical Clinic will be open in both the Mountain Village and the Town Center throughout the winter. The Mountain Clinic, next to the ski patrol first aid area, is open seven days a week, every day of the winter, starting at 9 a.m. and closing after we finish treating the last injury of the day. The Town Center office will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Have a safe winter. And get a flu shot!

Dr. Jeff Daniels was the recipient of the 2015 Chamber of Commerce Chet Huntley Lifetime Achievement Award and has been practicing medicine in Big Sky since 1994, when he and his family moved here from New York City. A unique program he implements has attracted more than 800 medical students and young doctors to train with the Medical Clinic of Big Sky.

From Jackie *with love*

Creating holiday cheer

BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

If you celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas or Hanukkah, take a moment to visualize what you love most about these holidays.

There's a lot of effort that goes into creating these magical moments and holidays can be stressful. In order to minimize stress and maximize cheer for the remainder of 2017, consider some of the following tips:

Make a budget: A 2017 survey by the American Psychological Association found that Americans name money as the second-most common source of stress in their lives. For your sanity, create a budget for food and gifts and stick to it.

If you don't have cash to pay for all of the gifts you want to give, consider healthy, low cost and free alternatives like setting aside time for a special ski date.

The Federal Reserve reported that outstanding consumer revolving debt, mostly credit card debt, hit an all-time high of $1.021 trillion in June 2017—higher than it was in 2008 during the Great Recession.

Scale it down: Lofty expectations are often a reason for higher stress levels. Stick with manageable tasks to enhance quality time spent with friends and family.

Stay organized: Disorganization leads to feelings of being overwhelmed and even victimhood. Plan out your "To Do" list so you're not experiencing panic with the rest of the frantic last-minute shoppers.

Get outside: Any cardiovascular exercise stimulates the release of feel-good hormones in our brain called endorphins, which can help us feel happier and less stressed. This includes everything from a Turkey Trot before the big meal, to a post-meal walk, or even building a snowman or igloo.

Take a break: As great as it is to be with your family for the holidays, it can be overwhelming. University of Minnesota psychologist William Doherty suggests anticipating when breakdowns are likely to occur and planning accordingly.

Even if you're in tight quarters, you can still remove yourself from the situation. But do so in a cordial way so you're not isolating and drawing attention to yourself. A 10-minute walk with another person could be a fine remedy.

Eat, drink and sleep wisely: Holidays provide a great example of how interconnected our health is with what we consume, how we sleep, how we move and our stress levels. Overeating causes us to be sedentary but movement allows us to de-stress. Over drinking can make us say or do things we regret (stressful!) as well as negatively impact our sleep. Sleep deprivation (along with alcohol) can trigger cravings and cause us to overconsume empty calories. It's all related.

Get outside of your own head: Connecting with friends and empowering each other is powerful medicine. Watch funny movies and listen to music that makes you feel good.

Breathe: This is the simplest way to alleviate stress. Short, shallow, choppy breathing signals to the body that something is wrong. In response, your body releases stress hormones to prepare you for a fight, flight or freeze response. When you take long, deep, intentional breaths, it signals to the body that everything is OK and it can regain hormonal balance.

Happy Holidays!

Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach, culture consultant and public speaker. For a complementary health consultation, reach her at rainfordcorcoran@gmail.com.

Global health expert Dr. Paul Farmer to speak at MSU on Jan. 31

MSU NEWS SERVICE

Paul Farmer, physician, anthropologist, Harvard University professor and chief strategist and co-founder of Partners In Health, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31, in Montana State University's Strand Union Building Ballrooms.

Lecture tickets went on sale on Nov. 15 at all local TicketsWest outlets. A limited number of VIP reserved tickets are also available and include a post-lecture reception with Farmer.

Farmer is the subject of the bestselling book, "Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World," by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tracy Kidder. Farmer's Partners In Health is an organization that has pioneered new considerations of human rights, health standards and socioeconomic inequalities throughout the world. Operating originally in Haiti, PIH has quickly spread to Liberia, Sierra Leone, Russia, Peru, Mexico, Lesotho, Rwanda, Malawi and the United States and now has more than 18,000 employees.

Paul Farmer, world renowned physician and co-founder of Partners in Health, will speak at Montana State University on Jan. 31. PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL FARMER

Carmen McSpadden, the director of the MSU Leadership Institute, which is bringing Farmer to MSU, said that Partners In Health's "life-saving work paints a picture of the tangible ways in which Farmer has helped create a safer, healthier world.

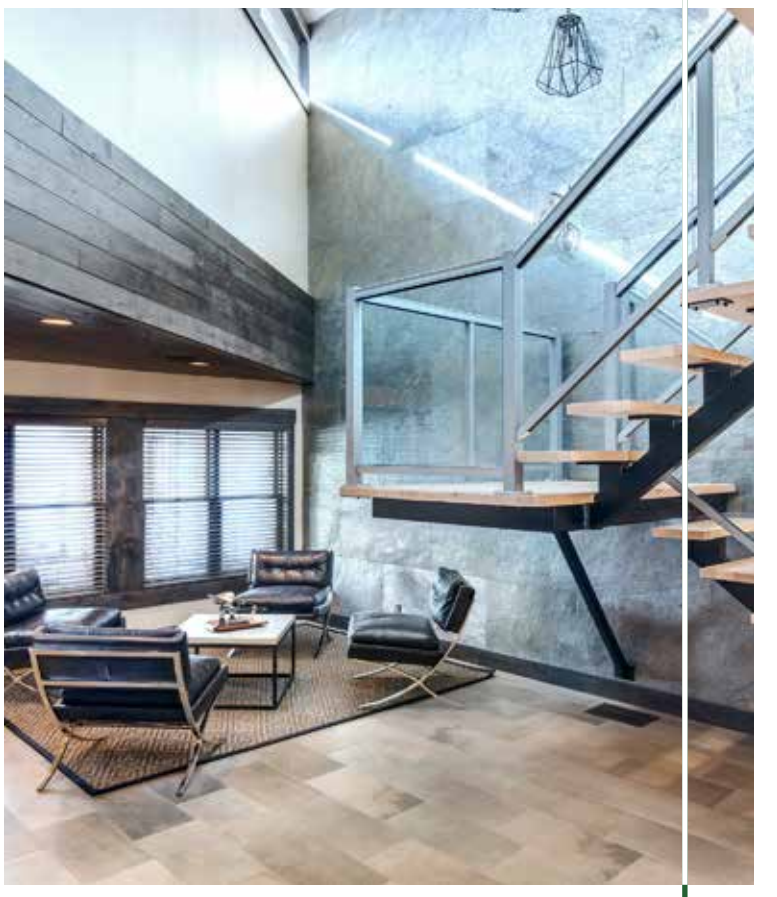
"We are thrilled that President Waded Cruzado has chosen Dr. Farmer to receive the Presidential Award for Global and Visionary Leadership," McSpadden added. This award is reserved to honor individuals of extraordinary vision and accomplishment whose contributions to the betterment of society and the human condition are both exceptional and broad-reaching. As a world-renowned academic and anthropologist, Farmer's research into cultural development and medical care has contributed dramatically to understanding the intricate challenges of meeting various needs of people all over the world.

"Dr. Farmer has dedicated his life to treating the most vulnerable people and it is an honor and privilege to welcome him to Montana State University with this prestigious award," Cruzado said. Past recipients of the award include Maya Angelou, E.O. Wilson, Jane Goodall and Nobel Peace Prize winner Shirin Ebadi.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with live music featuring local artists until the start of the lecture.

Farmer's lecture will be held in conjunction with MSU's 125th anniversary celebration and the MSU Leadership Institute's 20th anniversary celebrations. The Leadership Institute continues to fulfill its mission of inspiring MSU students to become leaders and serve as catalysts for positive change through hosting world-class speakers and leadership workshops. Notable past speakers include Sir Ken Robinson, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Maya Angelou and Condoleezza Rice, among many others.

For more information on the lecture, including ticket pricing, visit montana.edu/news. For more information on MSU Leadership Institute, visit montana.edu/leadership.



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MIX IT UP

Spice up your holiday season

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER
EBS STAFF

Would the holidays be the same without the aroma of nostalgic spices wafting through your home? Research suggests that the sense of smell is strongly linked with memory; and these warm, fragrant spices are likely to make you reminisce of holidays past. Many use these spices without knowing much about the plants from which they come. Here is a little background on these common spices that you'll be using in the coming weeks.

Cinnamon is the bark of the cinnamon tree. It is dried and then sold in both ground and tubular forms, also known as a quill. Its fragrant, sweet, warm taste is available in two varieties—cassia and Ceylon. Cassia is more common and widespread and is grown in China and Indonesia. Ceylon is a sweeter and hard-to-find variety grown in Madagascar and Sri Lanka. It is considered the most "true" variety of cinnamon in terms of its flavor.

Cloves are the tiny, unopened flower buds from the clove tree, native to the Spice Islands of Indonesia. The buds are harvested when they are still pink, and then dried until they turn completely brown. They are sold in both whole and ground form. Their name comes from the Latin word clavus, which translates to nail, which cloves resemble with their tapered shape. Despite their rock-hard exterior, their interior contains a slightly softer oily compound infused with their warm and aromatic flavor.

Ginger is a versatile root that can be used in both sweet and savory applications. It is sold in fresh, dried and powdered forms, all of which have a unique and different flavor. Its pungent, spicy flavor is often used in Asian cooking, but also characteristic of holiday recipes such as gingerbread.

Cardamom, a spice often used in Indian and Middle Eastern cuisine, comes from seed pods of plants in the same family as ginger. It has a strong and pungent flavor with hints of citrus and smoke. It is available in both whole pods and powder.

Star Anise is a seed pod from an evergreen shrub native to China. Its distinctive star-shaped pod has a licorice-like flavor. This spice is commonly used whole as an infuser, but can also be ground—it is one of the main components of Chinese five spice.

Despite its misleading name, **allspice** is its own spice, not a blend of several spices. It comes from the dried berries of a plant known as Pimenta dioica, a member of the pimento family. Allspice comes in whole and ground form, and is often used in pickling, and is perhaps best known for its role in Jamaican jerk chicken. It has a warm, sweet, slightly peppery flavor.

Nutmeg, like cloves, is native to the Spice Islands of Indonesia, and is the seed of a tropical evergreen tree that can grow up to 65 feet tall. It has a distinctive flavor and smell, with a slightly sweet, pungent taste. Buy this spice whole and grate or grind it as needed it to ensure the freshest flavor—ground nutmeg loses its flavor quickly.

Mulling Spice

3 ounces cinnamon quills
6 whole nutmeg
peel of two oranges, dried and chopped
peel of two lemons, dried and chopped
1/4 cup allspice berries
1/4 cup whole cloves
2 tablespoons whole dried ginger

Place all ingredients in a large bag and pound with a meat mallet or the back of a heavy pot to break spices into smaller pieces. You can also use a food processor, but be careful not to over process into a powder.

Place 2 tablespoons of the mixture into cheesecloth and secure with a string. Makes about 14 sachets. Use these sachets to flavor apple cider, make mulled wine, or simply simmer in water on your stove to make your house smell like the holidays.

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.

Shaken, not stirred: The iconic martini

BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

We have witnessed food and restaurants achieve new heights in the last two decades in the form of incredible chefs, and a renewed focus on heirloom vegetables and artisan cheeses to name a few. Advances in cooking equipment and food science has opened so many doors. These really are exciting times in the culinary world.

Despite this renaissance, there are certain dishes that stand the test of time such as the Caesar salad, a well-prepared steak, a Cobb salad or the classic hamburger.

Cocktails and spirits have been riding the same wave. Bartenders are now mixologists, and they are creating bitters, syrups, shrubs and all manner of libation ingredients with amazing talent and precision. Yet certain spirits and cocktails remain timeless—the margarita, or a well-aged bourbon, for example.

But for me, one cocktail stands out above all others. That would be the contrivance of gin, vermouth, ice and an olive—better known as the martini.

The origin of the martini is up for debate, its roots traced to the Occidental Hotel during the California gold rush, the Knickerbocker Hotel in New York City, and the commonly used ingredient of Martini & Rossi vermouth. But the most common belief is that its humble beginnings lie during the California gold rush in either Martinez or San Francisco.

Recipes and interpretations have evolved over the years. For example, the portion of vermouth has increased and decreased. Both Peychaud and orange bitters were at one time the norm, and lemon peels and olives have traded blows over the decades as to which is the proper garnish. But one thing is certain, we love our martinis.

Classic actors and notables, when seen out on the town or on the silver screen, often had the timeless cocktail in their hand. From Hemmingway to Dietrich to Bogart—they all had martinis in their hands, and the public had to have them too.

Not too far behind the facial tissue being called by its most popular brand name, Kleenex, or all cotton swabs being called Q-Tips, the martini has almost become an ambiguous term, referring to any cocktail with alcohol, acid and sugar that is served up in a martini or coupe glass.

Many people, present company included, picture Frank Sinatra and the rest of his Rat Pack with martinis, as they were very popular during the days of their performances at the former Sands Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, but in fact none of the Rat Pack enjoyed martinis. Almost all of them preferred Jack Daniels in some form or fashion.

As if this classic drink wasn't popular enough among the elite, author Ian Fleming created a dapper spy with the name of James Bond who would forever cement the cocktail in the hearts and minds of readers and moviegoers. How can any of us forget "shaken and not stirred."

So just what is a true James Bond martini? The recipe calls for three measures Gordon's London Dry Gin, one measure vodka, half a measure of Kina Lillet, shaken until very cold, and garnished with a thin slice of lemon peel. This cocktail later became known as the Vesper, after the original bond girl, Vesper Lynd.

While the Sazerac, rumored to be the original cocktail, is enjoying a lively revival, and the Manhattan and Old Fashioned have come back into fashion, the martini's popularity has never waned and I believe it will always be in vogue.

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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The Corral Bar, Steakhouse & Motel
The Corral will offer a holiday buffet from 2-8 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day complete with all the fixings, including football. Visit corralbar.com for details.

Lone Peak Brewery
Lone Peak Brewery is serving Thanksgiving dinner starting at 4 p.m. There will be turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing and green beans with all the fixings. Call (406) 995-3939 for more information.

Rainbow Ranch Lodge
Rainbow Ranch Lodge has four seatings for its Thanksgiving buffet dinner at 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. Call (406) 995-4132 to make a reservation.

The Branch Restaurant
If you’re up for a little drive, The Branch Restaurant in West Yellowstone is serving a traditional Thanksgiving buffet featuring all the comfort food classics and a few unexpected surprises. Reservations are recommended but not required. Call (406) 646-7365 for more information.

Or ... have it catered

Gourmet Gals
Gourmet Galls is offering full Thanksgiving meals for pick up or delivery for parties of 10 and more, covering appetizers, dessert and everything in between. Orders must be received 48 hours in advance. Call (406) 995-7300 for details.

Moe’s Original BBQ
Moe’s is catering full Thanksgiving dinners with a southern, smoky twist. Call (256) 339-3485 or visit the Moe’s food truck in Town Center for details. Orders must be submitted by 4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 22.

Compass Cafe by Sola
Compass Cafe by Sola will have its regular menu all day with board games out in the afternoon. For your dessert catering needs call (406) 993-2333.

The Hungry Moose Market and Deli
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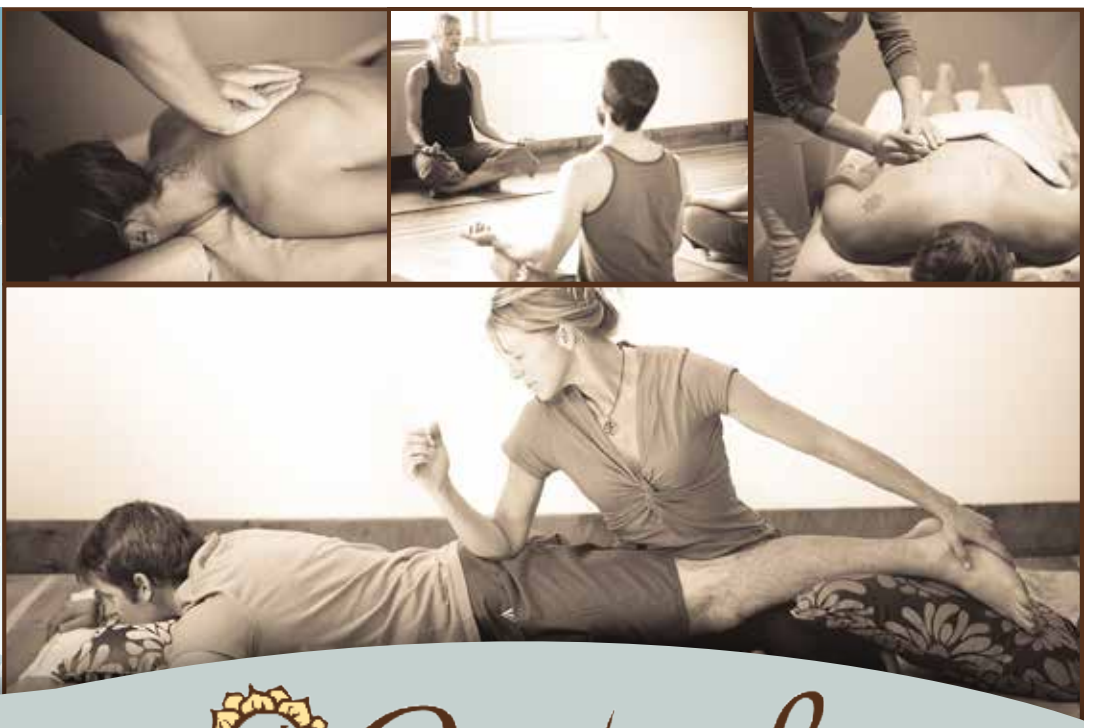

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sunday Dec. 3rd Winter Kick-off Party 5:00-8:00	9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga 11:00-12:00pm All Levels Yoga	7:30-8:30am All Levels Yoga 9:00-10:00am All Levels Yoga 4:15-5:15pm All Levels Yoga	9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga 11:00-12:30 The Practice (level 2-3 Yoga)	7:30-8:30am All Levels Mat Pilates 9:00-10:00am All Levels Yoga	9:00-10:15am Level II Yoga 11:00-Noon Gentle/Restorative Yoga	9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga

Making it in Big Sky: Keith Kuhns of Scissorbills Saloon

BY BAY STEPHENS
EBS EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

BIG SKY - Scissorbills Saloon is a locals' restaurant and bar in Mountain Village beloved for its après scene. Keith Kuhns, the operating partner, bought the restaurant as the Bambu Bar and Asian Bistro 10 years ago with brothers Adam and Kyle Olson as well as their father, Scott Olson.

"Scissorbill" is an old Western term that greenhorn ranchers earned for not knowing what they were doing. From around 1983 to 1999, the restaurant and bar was named Scissorbills. Three separate restaurants and owners came through and with that a name change.

After two years of locals asking the owners to change the name back to Scissorbills, Kuhns and the Olsons decided to make the switch. They changed the menu, rebranded and have been operating under the name for the past eight years. Scissorbills also caters special events in Bozeman as an offshoot of their main operation.

As part of an ongoing series, EBS sat down with Kuhns to find out what it takes to achieve longevity as a small business in Big Sky.

EBS: What's been the key to your success?

Keith Kuhns: The key to our success has been the increased traffic that is making it through Big Sky these days. We've been able to go from open four or five months just in the wintertime to being open for almost 12 months a year. And that is [thanks] to all of the media that surrounds Big Sky, whether it's stuff from the resort or whether it's Outlaw Partners and the magazine, EBS, or a lot of the other marketing that goes into [this] place with all of the different chambers of commerce around the area.

We've always been kind of a locals' kind of place too, so we've found that trying to keep the locals in there has been a very good foundation for what we do.

EBS: How has the business landscape changed since you started out?

Kuhns: I've gone from a lot of print media to a lot of online media. … You start to realize how many people make up this online community and it's a large segment that really needs to be tapped into and used correctly to keep people involved. I'm doing more this winter where I'm trying to get more videos on Facebook [with music] playing.

[There's also an] acceptance of restaurants changing their platforms regularly or changing items on their menus regularly. We change our beers all the time, and staying fresh is important. You don't want to get stagnant, especially when you have a tough location like we do.

EBS: Why do you think so many new businesses fold relatively quickly?

Kuhns: Capital problems, I would assume. With high rent and increased cost of goods, you really have to make sure you have cash in the bank [so] you can weather the storm for a year or two while your brand grows in Big Sky.

It's just getting that breakthrough. I think you probably need more capital to do that than anything else. The other problem [is] it's tough to find employees in Big Sky. … There's not enough reasonably priced housing [for] workers.

EBS: What advice would you give to small business owners just starting out in Big Sky?

Kuhns: Try to avoid turnover with employees. … It basically just comes down to treating your folks well. That could be with pay or how you deal with them or converse with them—anything like that. Folks want to be there for a good time on the hill. My staff, they're all ski bums so they want to have fun on the hill and fun at work too.

EBS: What's the best piece of business advice you've received?

Kuhns: If you treat people well, they'll work hard for you. … You just have to give back to the community and treat your folks right and do what's right by you.

Mountain Village's Scissorbills Saloon is beloved by locals for its après ski scene. Owner Keith Kuhns credits much of his success to avoiding employee turnover by treating his staff right and keeping it a fun place to work. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Scissorbills by the Numbers

6
Beers on tap

4
Best of Big Sky awards for best après

OPEN
2009: **5 months**
2017: **almost 12 months**

50%
Percentage of employees who ride on powder days

80+
Days on snow for Scissorbills' most dedicated riders

Big Sky company moves to produce ice cream in Montana

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – Local company The Emperor of Ice Cream announced on Nov. 8 that it intends to start producing ice cream in Montana. Since the company's beginnings in 2016, owner Alex McKenzie has been developing his own ice cream flavors—like bourbon pecan pie and mojito sorbet—and trucking them to Big Sky from Seattle.

However, the young company hopes to begin producing and packaging its own all-natural ice cream in Montana and would distribute the product nationwide.

"We are eager to share our all-natural ice cream and ice cream alternatives with the rest of the country, and we hope that Montanans will be excited to support a homegrown boot-strap operation with some pretty big goals," said McKenzie in a press release.

"We've already got a stated interest in distributing our ice cream from Bozeman-based QFD, and Town & Country Foods has expressed a desire to carry our products locally too," he added.

The Emperor of Ice Cream also hopes to develop a prototype ice cream truck.

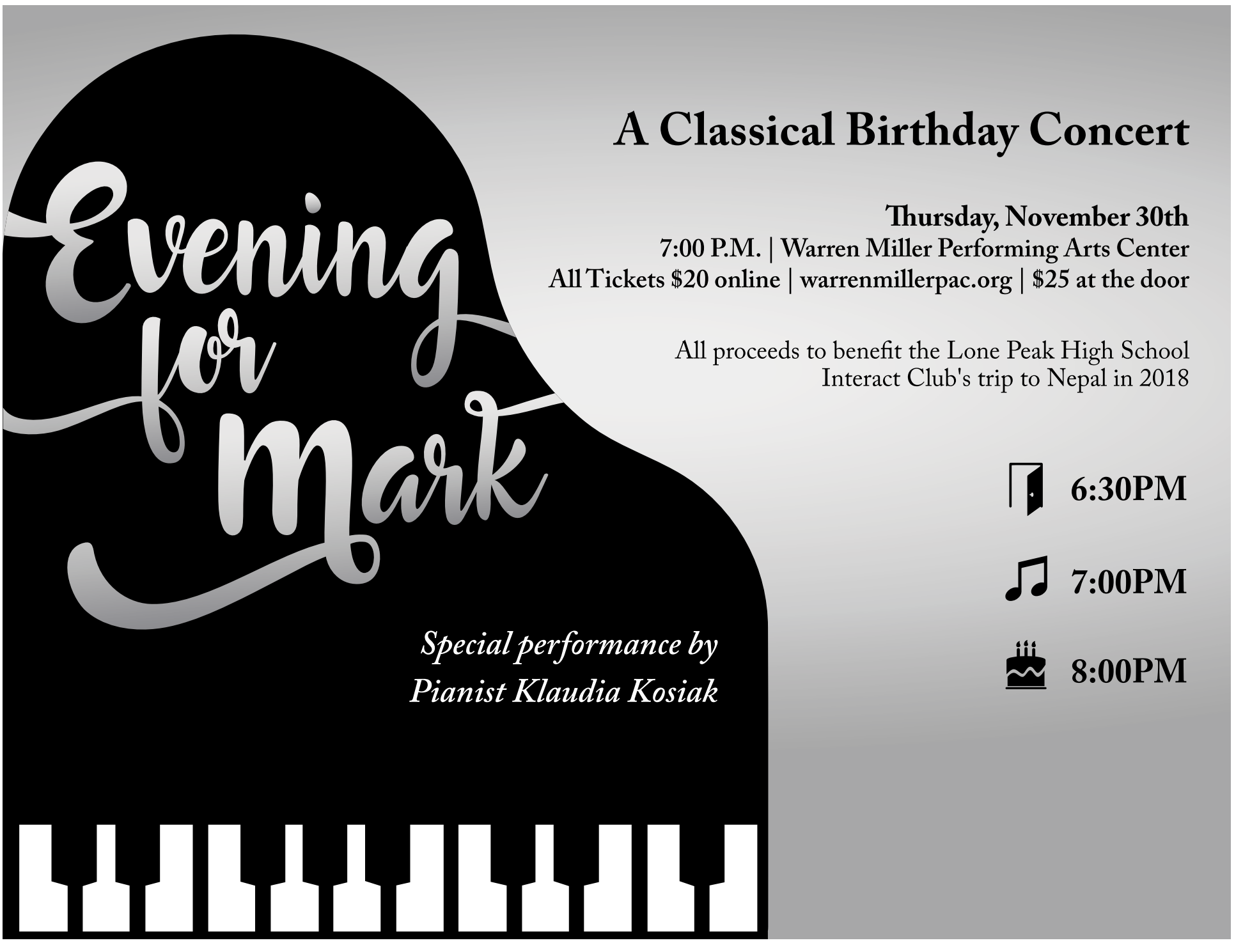
Alex McKenzie, owner of The Emperor of Ice Cream, is looking to begin producing his own ice cream in Montana, and hopes to design a prototype ice cream truck he can use in the future. PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX McKENZIE

"With an ice cream truck, we'll be able to expand our hours considerably, and just set up at the same location regularly. And then of course we'll still have the mobility to travel for special events when we want to do that," McKenzie said in an email to EBS.

McKenzie said that if the truck is successful, he's like to see it expand to other markets. "My ultimate dream is not one ice cream truck, but more like 300 all over the U.S. … And I think our ice cream truck concept would go over like gangbusters in the southwestern U.S., where the sales season would be year-round."

In addition to selling ice cream at the Big Sky Farmers' Market, the summer concert series Music in the Mountains, and other outdoor events, The Emperor of Ice Cream sells its flavors at Bozmean's Sola Market, Red Tractor Pizza, and multiple restaurants in the Big Sky area.

Over the past year, The Emperor of Ice Cream has partnered with Prospera Business Network and the Headwaters RC&D and has recently launched an investment campaign as the first step toward producing ice cream in Montana.



Best of Big Sky voting now open

EBS STAFF

It's that time of year again dear readers, when EBS asks you to vote for your favorite businesses and personalities, which make this resort hamlet so special. The 2017 Best of Big Sky survey opened Nov. 20 and remains live until Monday, Dec. 11.

With more than 20 categories this year, there are many opportunities to celebrate this corner of Montana, and we're excited to tally the results. Last year, Olive B's Big Sky Bistro unseated five-time winner The Lotus Pad as voters' favorite restaurant. For 2017 we've added the category "Best Date Night Restaurant" to see where our readers dine when romance is in the air.

With 17 chamber of commerce ribbon cuttings in the last year, the competition for "Best New Business" is guaranteed to be fierce. And without a designated dog park in Big Sky, we're asking voters to tell us the "Best Place to Take Your Dog," so you'll know where your furry friend is likely to find a social scene.

Peter Schmieding was honored as "Community Member of the Year" by EBS readers in 2016, in a category that recognizes citizens who make a significant impact on this area and the world around them. Schmieding was recognized for his impassioned work on behalf of Tsering's Fund, a nonprofit devoted to supporting education and earthquake relief in the small mountain country of Nepal.

"I really believe it's not about me," Schmieding told EBS last winter. "I'm only out there to try to raise money for others. But I'm very appreciative that people recognize that, it means we're getting the word out."

With a new survey comes new opportunity for readers to identify another standout citizen in Big Sky, as well as your favorite eateries, après ski destinations and outdoor retailers, among others. Best of Big Sky results will be published in the Dec. 22 issue of Explore Big Sky.

2017 Best of Big Sky categories

Best Restaurant
Best Date Night Restaurant
Best Dirtbag Meal Deal
Best Burger
Best Apres
Best Bartender
Event of the year
Best Business
Best Outdoor Retailer
Best Real Estate Agency
Best Architect
Best Builder
Best Artist/ Photographer
Best Teacher
Best Nonprofit
Community Member of the Year
Best Grocery Store/ Market
Best Spa/ Salon
Best NEW Business (opened within the last 12 months)
Best Place to Take Your Dog
Best Ski Run
Best Property Management Company

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Section 3:
OUTDOORS, FUN
& BACK 40

Big Sky opens for the season **pg. 36**

Walkin' Jim's Loop **pg. 39**

Back 40: Winter tires **pg. 48**

INSIDE YELLOWSTONE

Nature guide set to promote conservation

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – Lyrical words of storytellers and poignant details from scientists are joined by the sometimes whimsical, sometimes bold, sometimes ever-gentle strokes of artists and creatives in a soon-to-be published book titled "The Artists Field Guide to Greater Yellowstone."

The collection is a collaborative display dedicated to appreciating our world and is a naturalist's guide to Yellowstone's wildlife. Fifty of the region's most distinguished writers and artists have collaborated to create this field guide, which is pending publication by Trinity University Press.

From the Indian paintbrush and Yellowstone cutthroat trout, to thermophilic bacteria, greater sage-grouse and the grizzly bear, 30 plants and animals of Greater Yellowstone are featured in "The Artists Field Guide."

The book was borne out of a wider movement called the Home to Roam Collective, founded by Bozeman resident Katie Christiansen. Christiansen says her goal is to promote conservation through art. "I'm hoping to use art to bring people together around the values of nature," she said.

After moving to Bozeman in 2010, Christiansen was startled by the area's fast-paced growth. "It's growing so fast, we don't have time to ask if its good or bad," she said. With this in mind, Christiansen set out to find like-minded individuals willing to share their own perspectives on living within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. "It turns out there are lots of other people on the same page," Christiansen said.

Artist Jennifer Lowe-Anker of Bozeman said she was honored to contribute to "The Artists Field Guide."

"Katie impressed me with her knowledge and compassion for the wild places of Greater Yellowstone and I was instantly smitten with her idea of combining artists and writers who champion our precious remaining wild," Lowe-Anker said. "The Greater Yellowstone ecosystem harbors a wealth of diversity that is now a rare thing in our lower 48 as humanity is ever expanding its footprint and climate change is an ever growing and imminent threat to many species."

Lowe-Anker's piece will appear in the front section of the nature guide, and depicts a peaceable kingdom, with a variety of species from the Greater Yellowstone gathered together.

"If we cannot take notice of the incredible vital balance of life and care for it more deeply and carefully, we stand to be the demise of our own hand," she said. "In my painting, those gathered are a testament to the miracle of diverse life and the shared challenges they face to survive. They pose the question: Can we gather together to save life as we know it on our precious planet earth? Another miracle is in order."

Kalon Baughan, an artist and self-taught naturalist and photographer, also hopes to inspire conservation with his work. Baughan produced an illustration of a wolverine that will appear in the field guide, having been captivated by the animal since he was a young man growing up in Michigan.

"In addition to my art, I strive to support wildlife conservation by applying my skill as a self-taught naturalist and photographer to the study of rare carnivores, using remotely triggered trail cameras," he said. "To date, I've taken hundreds of thousands of photographs of a minimum of seven individual Montana wolverines."

Often, field guides are objective, Christiansen said. But speaking about "The Artists Field Guide," she explained that everyone has a different take on the ecosystem and the book tries to capture that by placing readers in the ecosystem as well. "Readers can see plants and animals through so many new lenses. What I hope is that people can see themselves as a part of this project.

A wolverine illustration by Kalon Baughan appearing in "The Artists Field Guide to Greater Yellowstone," a nature guide set for publication by Trinity University Press. ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF KALON BAUGHAN

"Just by planting two feet on the ground in Bozeman, you're in this ecosystem," she added.

Illustrating her point, Christiansen turned to several prints from the book, pointing out the whimsical nature of some pieces, set alongside others that are much more representational.

The text also supports the belief that experiencing the ecosystem is inherently subjective. Christiansen described some authors' approach as practical and scientific, while others might be more lyrical.

For the mountain lion entry, as an example, Red Lodge author Gary Ferguson writes of two experiences meeting a lion on the trail. "Each time all I got was a glimpse—a small wink of tawny elegance floating across the trail," Ferguson writes. "Since then I've come to think of them as figments, chimeras, less fur and muscle than whisper and dance."

In some cases, Christiansen paired whimsy with practicality, partnering artists and writers together to focus on a single plant or animal. Speaking of the different approaches, she said, "They're both real and genuine. They produce two different pieces, but both have reverence and respect."

Beyond publishing the field guide, Christiansen hopes the Home to Roam Collective can provide platforms for discussion. As the book nears publication, Christiansen would like to display prints from the artwork in the guide at a variety of locations throughout the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, including within Yellowstone National Park.

"I'm not expecting this to change the world," Christiansen said. "But maybe it can start a conversation."

To learn more about "The Artists Field Guide to Greater Yellowstone," visit artistsfieldguide.com.

Ecological research site approved in Yellowstone

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone National Park has permitted the National Ecological Observatory Network to build an ecological research and monitoring site on Blacktail Deer Plateau in the northern section of the park.

With at least 81 field sites across the U.S., NEON measures the causes and effects of environmental change. The site in Yellowstone will produce long-term monitoring data about the impacts of climate change, invasive species and landscape changes. The data will be made available to scientists, researchers and the public to collectively help understand how the ecosystem responds to various types of change and stress.

The Finding of No Significant Impact was approved by Acting Intermountain Regional Director Kate Hammond on Oct. 23.

All facilities and monitoring equipment will be located on the Blacktail Deer Plateau. The project will consist of a 59-foot tower with monitoring equipment and a satellite communications dish, an instrument hut, electrical power, a precipitation collection system, soil study plots and aquatic monitoring equipment.

Construction will take place this fall, will be suspended during winter, then resume in July 2018 once the annual bear management closures in the area are lifted.

NEON will collect data in Yellowstone for 30 years. Once activities end, all infrastructure will be removed. All areas will be returned to as natural a condition as possible.

This project is funded through the National Science Foundation's Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction Program.

More information about this project is available at parkplanning.nps.gov/ynpneon.

Park experiences third busiest October on record

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The park hosted 211,987 visits in October 2017, down 12.40 percent from October 2016, which saw 242,004 visits. The busiest October was in 2015 and saw 252,013 visits.

Visits may have declined due to several days of inclement, snowy weather.

So far in 2017, the park has hosted 4,084,763 visits, down 3.04 percent from the same period in 2016, which was the highest on record. Year-to-date visitation in 2017 is 19.6 percent higher than five years ago in 2012.

2017: 4,084,763 recreational visits through October
2016: 4,212,782
2015: 4,066,191
2014: 3,483,608
2013: 3,159,485
2012: 3,415,197

The continued high level of visitation at Yellowstone underscores how important it is for visitors to plan their trip to the park. Visitors should anticipate delays at popular attractions and check road conditions on the park's website.

Detailed park visitation information and additional information on how these statistics are calculated is available online at irma.nps.gov/Stats/Reports/Park.

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A trot through Town Center

Ski Foundation hosts Thanksgiving run

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – As a celebration of Thanksgiving and an opportunity to tack on a few miles before dinner, the Big Sky Ski Education Foundation will host the eighth annual Turkey Trot 5K on Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 23. There will also be a free fun run for children 8 and under.

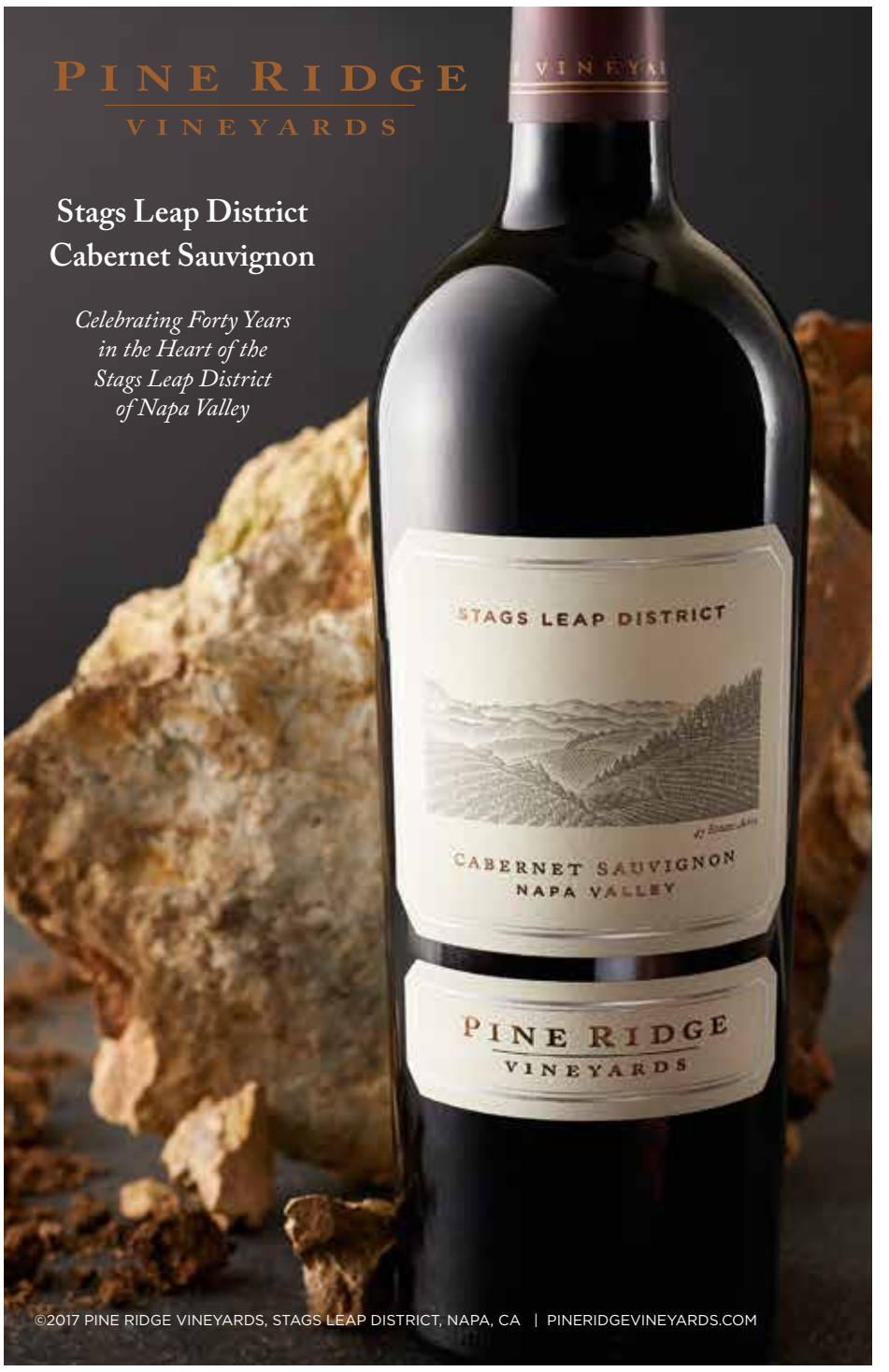
Runners are encouraged to dress in costume, and prizes will be awarded for best individual costume and best team costume.

Advanced registration for the 5-kilometer race can be completed online until 5 p.m. on Nov. 22 and registration on the day of the event begins at 8 a.m. at the Firepit Park. The race will begin at 9 a.m., with the start line also located in Firepit Park.

Proceeds from the Turkey Trot benefit BSSEF and their alpine, freeride and Nordic skiing programs. BSSEF Program Director Jeremy Ueland said fundraising efforts like the Turkey Trot cover about half the annual budget for the foundation, keeping tuition fees lower for participating athletes.

BSSEF hosts a number of competitive ski races at Big Sky Resort throughout the winter season. On Jan. 6-8, BSSEF will host the MSU Invitational, an NCAA race in the International University Sports Federation. The FIS Masters World Criterium will come to Big Sky this winter as well, on March 19-24. Of the latter competition, Ueland said he anticipates upward of 400 master competitors from all over the world will attend this year's event.

To learn more about the Big Sky Ski Education Foundation or the Turkey Trot, visit bssef.com.



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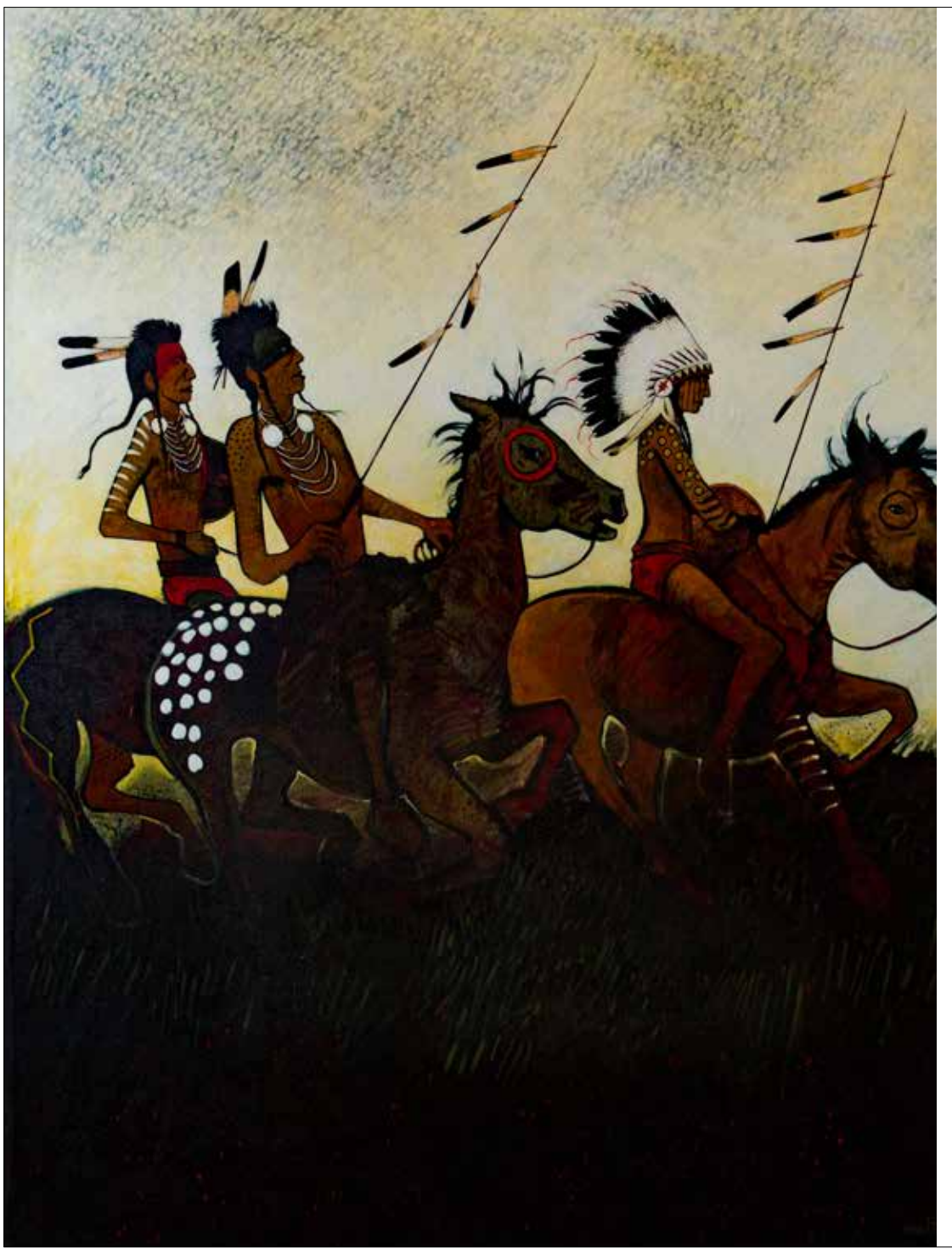
Big Sky Resort's opening day draws near

As of EBS press time on Nov. 19, it was too early to tell which chairlifts and runs would be open for the first day of Big Sky Resort's 2017-2018 ski season, but it's not too early to ignite a little excitement with images from last season. Here's to a season full of deep snow, big smiles and lots of shared good times—starting with opening day on Thursday, Nov. 23. Let it snow!

OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

(ABOVE) PHOTO BY DAVE PECUNIES



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Big Sky Resort opening with more than 80 inches of snow

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Since the end of September, more than 80 inches of snow have fallen on Lone Mountain, amounting to a deep early season base just in time for the opening month of ski season in Big Sky.

The first lifts to open at the Big Sky Resort begin humming Nov. 23, Thanksgiving Day, and Big Sky Resort Public Relations Manager Chelsi Moy says they can't wait.

"We are at about 195 percent of average for snowfall for this time of year," Moy said in an email to EBS. "Needless to say, we are looking forward to a great opening."

As of Nov. 17, 82 inches of snow have fallen, amounting to a 24-inch base at mid-mountain and 36 inches on the upper mountain. Big Sky Resort plans to open as much terrain as possible on opening day, Moy said.

While the resort has not released an opening schedule for the runs, the upcoming events at the resort, as well as the new improvements to the mountain are sure to attract visitors and locals alike.

Improvements include three new runs, a new chairlift and improved access to Liberty Bowl off of the tram, as well as extended slopeside amenities. On Nov. 14, TurnKey Vacation Rentals ranked Big Sky Resort one of the top 25 ski and snowboard resorts in the U.S., second only to Mammoth Mountain in California.

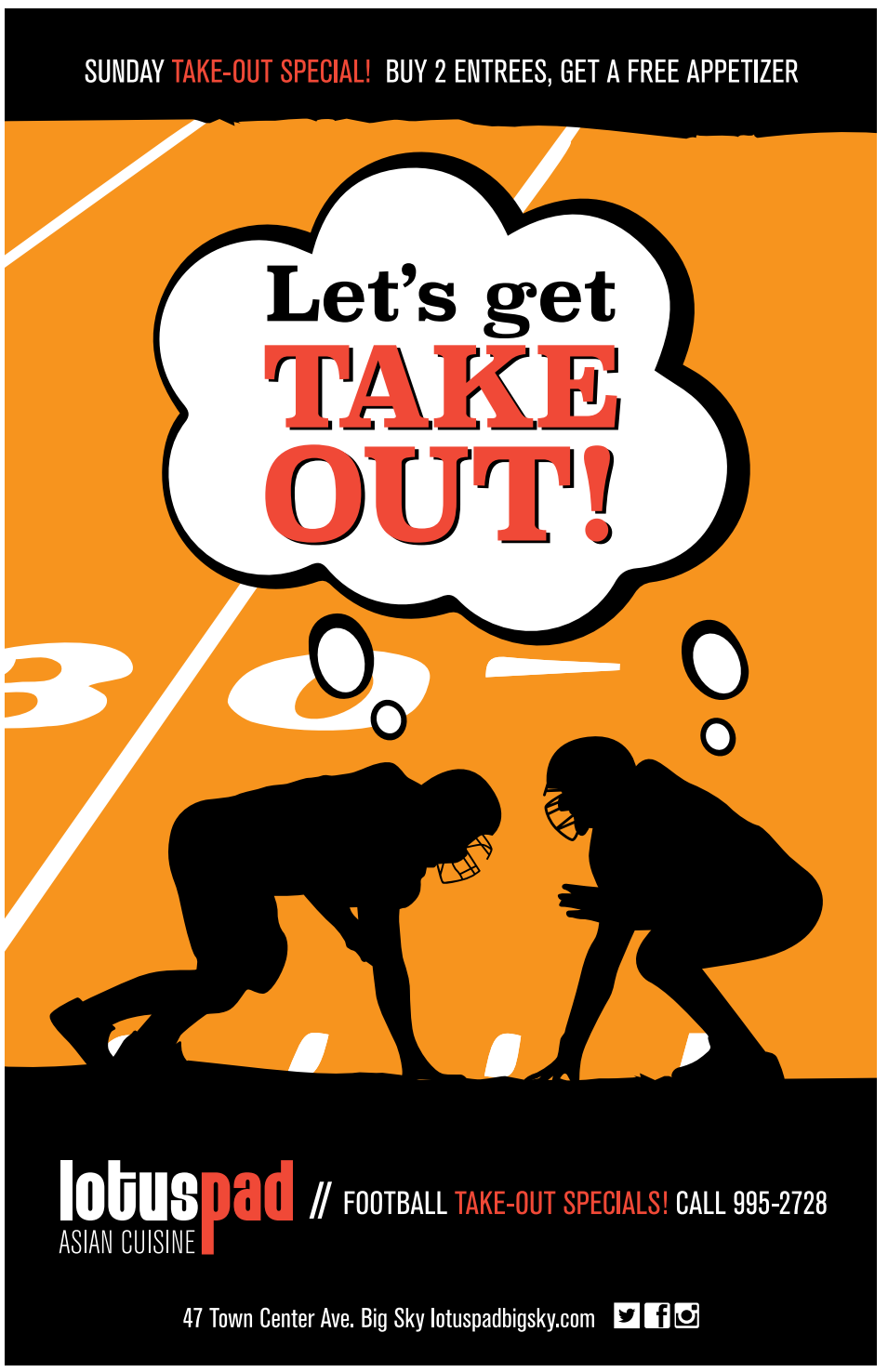
One week after opening day at the resort, skiers can hit the slopes Dec. 1 with the purchase of a $29 pass. Those interested in partaking in $29 Day are encouraged to purchase a ticket online in advance to avoid lines at the ticket window. The following week, on Dec. 7, the resort hotels will open.

Dec. 8-10 marks military appreciation day at the resort, and with a valid military ID, active duty or retired service members and their family can get a half-price ticket.

The following weekend, Dec. 15-17, Big Sky Resort will honor educators with a discounted ticket upon presentation of a valid educator's ID. For those staying at the resort, educators will receive a free day of skiing and immediate family members get a ticket at half-price.

To celebrate the winter holidays, Big Sky Resort will host the annual Torchlight Parade on Christmas Eve, where spectators can watch the procession of torches down the mountain from Meadow Village, and fireworks will bring in the new year on the mountain on New Year's Eve.

With a deep base, discounted ski days, favorite holiday events, and slope improvements to boot, the first month of skiing at Big Sky Resort is shaping up to be a good one.



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BIG SKY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

On the Trail: Walkin' Jim's Loop

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

BY CIARA WOLFE
BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

From the U.S. Forest Service North Fork Trailhead, you can enjoy an early season 7.5 kilometer Nordic ski along the North Fork Trail, also known as Walkin' Jim's Loop. The trail falls within Lone Mountain Ranch's 85 km groomed trail system, but provides an excellent opportunity to ski before LMR begins grooming in early December. The densely forested area retains snow pack, and being fairly flat, the trail is accommodating to early season conditions.

The loop begins with 1.1 kilometers of easy skiing that passes through private property on an easement the USFS holds. The trail then cuts through a ravine, with the North Fork of the West Fork tributary found on the east side of the trail at the bottom.

After crossing a paved road, the trail continues for another 0.8 km of intermediate terrain that features some short climbs and descents. After a total of 1.9 km, you will come to the lollipop loop junction.

The North Fork Trail to Walkin' Jim's Loop is an option for those seeking an early season ungroomed Nordic ski in Big Sky. PHOTO BY ALEXIS DEATON

From here, you can continue on for a 3.7-mile intermediate level loop. This section of the trail offers the solitude of nature and the benefits of an aerobic ski.

If you get tired or are skiing with youth, there is a cut-off trail in the middle of the loop that will greatly shorten the distance of the trail. Upon completion of the loop, you return to the intersection where you began, and enjoy a relatively gradual downhill ski back to the trailhead on the same trail that led to the junction.

The trail is a backcountry ski until LMR begins grooming, so classic or backcountry Nordic skis are recommended. The road to the trailhead is not entirely groomed, so a four-wheel drive vehicle is also recommended.

Once LMR begins their grooming season, Walkin' Jim's Loop—named after the late poet, musician and environmental activist Jim Stoltz who drove the horse drawn sleigh at Lone Mountain Ranch for over 25 years—can be accessed from the ranch itself.

Walkin' Jim's Loop can be found on LMR's winter trail map at lonemountainranch.com/the-ranch/.

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.

BIG SKY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

TRAIL STATS

Distance
7.5 km out-and-back loop

Uses
Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking

Difficulty
Intermediate

Elevation
7,170 feet

Surface
Classic track with both skate and classic groomed trails

Directions: From the Canyon: Take Lone Mountain Trail west from Hwy 191 for approximately 4.7 miles. Past the entrance to Lone Mountain Ranch, turn right onto North Fork Road and then take a left onto Ridge Road for approximately .3 miles to the trailhead.

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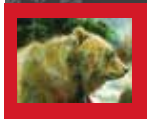

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Inside the Big Sky

Who is Chet Huntley?

The founding father of Big Sky Resort

VISIT BIG SKY

Plenty of Big Sky Resort guests stay at the Huntley Lodge or take turns down Tippy's Tumble, but few may be aware of the namesakes behind them. Chet Huntley and his wife Tippy founded Big Sky Resort in December 1973.

Huntley is best known for his role on the NBC flagship evening news program The Huntley-Brinkley Report, which ran from 1956 to 1970. Huntley met David Brinkley during the National Republican Convention in the summer of 1956 and their coverage of the event gained quite a favorable audience response.

From there, NBC decided to give them their own evening news program which resulted in one of television's most famous catchphrases: "Good night, Chet … Good night, David … Good night, NBC news." In its 14-year run, the show won eight Emmy Awards and two Peabody Awards for Outstanding Achievement in News.

NBC News not only brought great fortune to Huntley's career but also to his love life. While working for NBC in Washington D.C., Huntley met Tipton (Tippy) Stringer who was working as a weather reporter at the time.

They were married in early March of 1959. After Huntley's passing in 1974, Tippy continued building her life while continuing his legacy. In 1995, she founded the Stringer Foundation to support causes that included public broadcasting, literacy groups and women's shelters. She passed away at her Los Angeles home in October 2010.

After retiring from a successful career in journalism, Huntley decided to return to his home state of Montana with Tippy to make his dream of opening a ski resort a reality. His conceptualization of the resort began while he was still working at NBC in 1968 and only took approximately six years to become a reality.

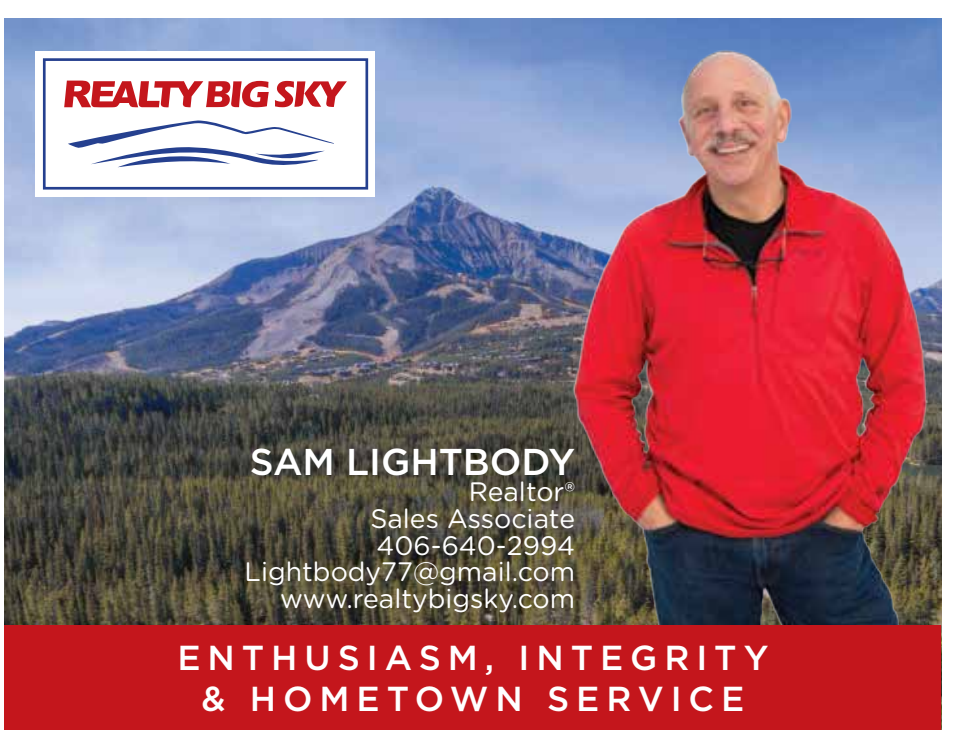
Unfortunately, Huntley passed away on March 19, 1974, just a few months after the opening of Big Sky Resort.

Chet Huntley enjoyed an illustrious career as an NBC news anchor before founding Big Sky Resort in late 1973. His original roll-top desk is on display in Big Sky's Visitor Information Center. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HUNTLEY FAMILY ARCHIVES

When Big Sky Resort opened, it only had three chairlifts and a gondola, where the current-day Ramcharger, Explorer, Swiftcurrent and Powder Seeker lifts are, but under different names and not nearly as modern as they are today.

A piece of Huntley history—the newscaster's roll-top desk that he used at NBC—is on display at the Visitor Information Center located at the intersection of Highway 191 and Lone Mountain Trail.

A version of this story was originally published on the Visit Big Sky blog at visitbigskymt.com/chet-huntley-founding-father-big-sky/. Read more interesting content about the area on Visit Big Sky's blog at visitbigskymt.com/category/blog/.



Ski Tips: A skier rips through it

BY DAN EGAN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Visualization is a great tool to kick off the ski season. I use it all the time to reinforce both the physical and emotional side of skiing.

One of the biggest benefits of the visual exercise is it allows for flawless skiing, which in turn will allow you to break through bad habits and poor body positions that may have plagued you in the past. Also, if used correctly you can change any fear-based patterns into positive emotions that will greatly enhance your future skiing experience.

The idea is to reprogram the connection between your mind and body. To accomplish this, allow yourself to be completely engulfed emotionally and physically in the setting of your vision.

First, set the stage for the location. Where are you skiing? What's the temperature of the day? How are you dressed? And what equipment are you skiing on?

Equally important, what are you seeing? Are you there on a freshly groomed trail or shredding fresh tracks in powder? Answering these questions will anchor the vision.

Then embrace the emotions generated within the vision. How are you feeling standing on your skis in this place? What emotions are swelling up within you as you anticipate your descent? Answering these questions provides an emotional attachment to the vision, which will reinforce the exercise.

Now think about why you ski and then state the purpose for this vision, use a phrase such as: I want to ski the ultimate run with the goal to improve my ski skills. I'm going to make long smooth turns with dynamic body movements throughout the arc and feel light and free in the transitions.

When you're ready to push off down the mountain, take a deep breath, exhale and go.

Once you're in motion, feel the wind in your face, sense the snow under your skis, balance yourself over your feet and tip your skis into the first turn. Now sink into the arc and as the skis build up pressure to carve, drive and bend your knees to the inside of the turn and pressure the front of your ski boots with your shins.

Feel the arc of the ski generating power and precision as it rips through the snow. Absorb the ski flexing as it vibrates over the terrain and brace for the acceleration generated in the last third of the turn.

Then actively move your body down the hill and over your skis, floating through the transition and into the next turn.

While this is happening, embrace the emotions of the moment, are you excited, relaxed and joyful, or are you intense, focused and determined?

This has worked for me since I was a young skier and today when I partake in this exercise, I start by looking around the snow-covered peaks and then allow the visions of tracks and turns to flood my mind.

As the images of my skiing start to take shape in my mind, I feel a deep inner satisfaction that results in a broad wide smile.

In these visualizations I embark on a journey that delivers the emotions of the moment, a mixture of anticipation, excitement and joy that can only be felt when skiing, especially after a long off-season.

As I visualize these ski runs, I allow my body to sway, my hands start to mimic the angle of the skis and duplicate the arc of the turn. Feeling the momentum build both emotionally and physically, I start to duplicate my movements and adjust my breathing in anticipation of a long, powerful run.

I see myself as the skier that rips through it. Even as I write this, I'm smiling, enjoying the experience of skiing and enjoying how the mental vision of the ultimate skiing daydream will find its way into reality one day on the slopes.

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 Dec. 16-17, Feb. 22-24, March 1-2 and March 8-10, as well as throughout the season (contact Big Sky Mountain Sports for availability). To find more information on Dan Egan camps and clinics go to skiclinics.com.

Visualizing yourself on a ski run can help reprogram the connection between mind and body, helping to build good habits and positive emotions. PHOTO COURTESY OF CHANDLER PRODUCTIONS

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THE EDDY Line

What's the deal with these funny spey rods?

BY SHANE STALLING
GUEST EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

A loyal customer came into a Big Sky fly shop recently, on a relatively slow day with what he thought would be a pretty simple question: "What's up with this thing I keep hearing about called trout spey?"

He continued to tell me about a handful of trips to the Pacific Northwest, where he'd gotten his hands on a two-handed rod. He said he'd seen others more competent than he casting well and hooking some fish. Then he mentioned that he wasn't able to make it west much anymore. The Gallatin and Madison are his waters now, yet he was still curious about two-handed casting.

Spey casting was developed on Scotland's River Spey in the mid-1800s to help cover a large body of water while fishing for salmon. The first spey casters used 22-foot rods and casting was a tedious affair; accuracy was a bonus. Today, spey casting rods are typically between 11 and 16 feet long.

In the U.S., spey casting first became popular in the Pacific Northwest on large coastal waters like the Skagit River. The primary targets were steelhead and migratory salmon runs. Over the past decade, spey casting's popularity has grown beyond coastal waters to include our local streams.

Trout spey or micro-spey are terms for lighter-weight spey rods ranging from 10 to 12 feet long and appropriately sized between two- and five-weights. They are able to cast a good amount of line while still being sensitive enough to feel the movements of a hooked fish. When choosing a spey rod, inquire locally to garner some insight; learning to cast with two hands is always harder than it seems, akin to patting your belly and rubbing your head at the same time.

Understanding the different lines used in spey casting is crucial. For trout, the two lines you need to know about are Skagit head and the Scandi head. In fishing, a line's "head" refers to the end of the fly line. The Skagit has a shorter and heavier head made for casting heavier flies with sink tips and casting in tight spaces. A tip is required on a Skagit head to allow for length to make your D-loop. Don't know what a D-loop is? Visit your local fly shop and they can educate you. The Scandi line features a slightly longer head that is great for throwing floating lines and smaller flies like soft hackles.

Soft Hackles and streamers swinging slowly through runs have produced some of my best days on the river. Yes, a dry fly eat is pretty exciting, and feeling the tug of a wild trout never gets old. Add a new casting method to the mix and you've got the joy of spey casting.

The Gallatin is a great local option for spey casting as there are plenty of trout willing to eat flies in winter. The Gallatin is thick with willows and overhanging trees that are responsible for hundreds of lost flies every summer—use a smaller rod with more control to minimize the number of flies lost. An 11-foot three-weight with a Scandi head works best in the summer; in the spring and fall, a Skagit head would be ideal.

A spey cast is both enjoyable and challenging. An angler on the Gallatin River perfects his "D" loop, a critical component of the cast that enables an angler to stretch a line all the way across the river. PHOTO BY SHANE STALLING

The Lower Madison is the home river for most area spey junkies. There is good access to lots of great water, and swinging a crayfish on a Scandi line can be highly productive. A three- to five-weight rod is ideal for this waterway.

The Yellowstone River is a spey caster's dream. From the park boundary to Billings, there is no shortage of swing water and streamer-hungry browns. While a bigger five- or six-weight rod is ideal for throwing the larger streamers that are common on the Yellowstone, a smaller rod works just fine.

As fly anglers, we're constantly learning new ways to catch fish on the fly. Trout spey is a unique skill that comes in handy on most of our local rivers. If you're curious about what type of water to fish, or would like to drill down into the best rod and line setup for you, stop into your local shop. It's the slow season and shop staffers are willing and eager to talk fishing and help you understand this new technique.

Shane Stalling is a self-proclaimed two-handed swing addict and longtime Big Sky local.

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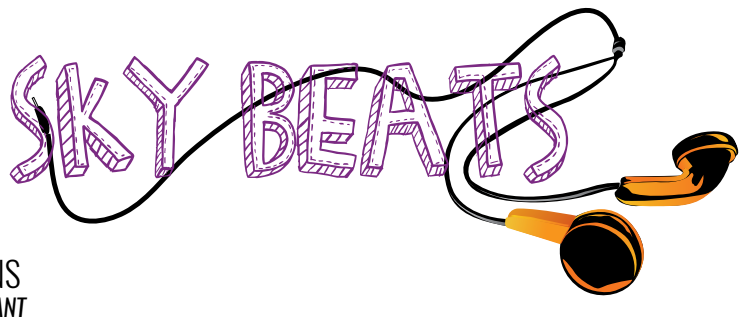
BIG SKY BEATS



BY BAY STEPHENS
EBS EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Find out what tunes we're bumping! In Big Sky Beats, Explore Big Sky staff suggest 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 the time being, we've got you covered.

The lifts are spinning, and so begins the season of charging. To live like your life's a movie, and make your turns as epic as those in the latest Warren Miller or Teton Gravity Research flick, a bomber soundtrack is a must. The songs below should help kick off a good long season of schralping.

Listen to them in the car, as you ride up the lift or as you spray snow 20 feet for every turn. Just remember, these songs are for charging.

1. "Coltrane," Amasa Hines
2. "Keep the Light On," Overcoats
3. "Fortune Days," The Glitch Mob
4. "Little Lion Man," Mumford and Sons
5. "Can You Imagine," Prop Dylan
6. "Hurricane," The Native Howl
7. "I Followed Fires," Matthew And The Atlas
8. "Codeine," Trampled by Turtles
9. "Feeling Good - Bassnectar Remix," Nina Simone
10. "Nosebleed Section," Hilltop Hoods

American Life in Poetry: Column 660

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

I love poems that delightfully offer voices for otherwise mute things, and I like what the following cash register has to say about her life and times. This poem is from Maria Nazos' chapbook, "Still Life," from Dancing Girl Press & Studio. For the past two years, Maria has been our graduate assistant at American Life in Poetry, during which time she's had a good deal of success with her own poems, including a recent publication in The New Yorker.

Cash Register Sings The Blues
By Maria Nazos

This isn't my dream-job. As a young sheet
of steel and plastic I dreamt of being melted

down into a dancer's pole in Vegas. I wanted
a woman in a headdress glossy as a gossamer

to wrap her lithe limbs around me. I wanted
to be strewn in lights, smell her powdery perfume.

Instead I'm a squat box crouched behind the counter,
noticed only if someone robs me. I'm touched all day,

but never caressed. Listen: somewhere gold tokens
spew from slots. I want to drink space-alien-dyed martinis on black

leather sectional couches. Watch tipsy women with acid-
washed jeans and teased hair dreamily press their faces

against slot machines while people treat currency
carelessly as spit in the wind.

I'm everywhere you look, ubiquitous and ignored.
I'm the container of your dreams that tossed aside my own.

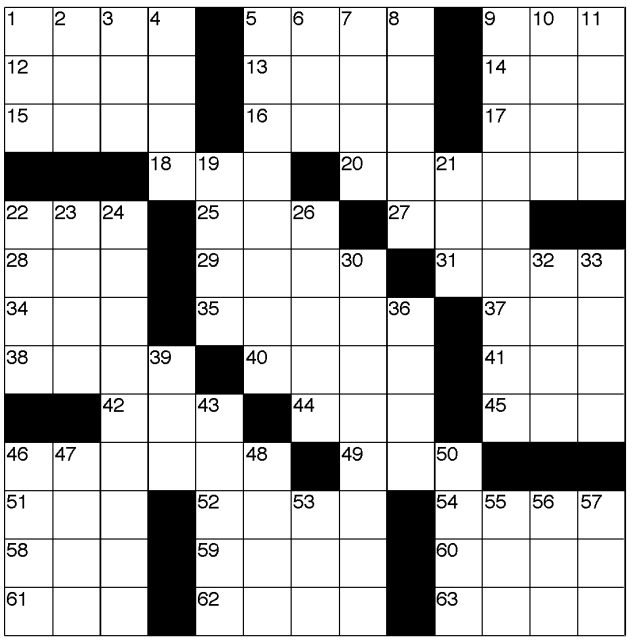
I've kept my clean, sleek lines but you never say a thing.
Feed me, feed me with the only love we know.

We do not accept unsolicited submissions. American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2016 by Maria Nazos, "Cash Register Sings The Blues," from "Still Life," (Dancing Girl Press & Studio, 2016). Poem reprinted by permission of Maria Nazos and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2017 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Burglar
5 Madam
9 Life (pref.)
12 Ecuador (abbr.)
13 King Atahualpa
14 Arrival (abbr.)
15 Unfeeling
16 Diaper
17 Royal Air Force (abbr.)
18 Political party
20 Hairy
22 Article
25 Pub fare
27 Batter
28 King
29 Embellish
31 Eelworm
34 Finesse
35 Heavenly being
37 Brown
38 Reward
40 Sport
41 A (Ger.)
42 Capture
44 Carmine
45 Recommended daily allowance (abbr.)
46 Santa's reindeer
49 Bobbsey twins
51 Husband of Fatima
52 Alaska Hawaii Std. Time (abbr.)
54 River into Tatar Strait
58 Civil (abbr.)
59 Fat (pref.)
60 Sugar source
61 Summer (Fr.)
62 N.Z. evergreen
63 Eucalyptus secretion

DOWN
1 Longing
2 Five-franc piece
3 Exudate plant
4 Taro
5 Soso
6 Black colonial cuckoo
7 Alternating current/direct current (abbr.)
8 Urban office holder
9 Weather indicator
10 Cleopatra's attendant
11 Yellow ide
19 Female camel
21 Bub
22 Trolley
23 In this place
24 Ample
26 "Pomp and Circumstances" composer
30 Madness
32 Girl
33 Fraction of a rupee
36 Queen of Sparta
39 Burmese knife
43 Monster
46 Carplike fish
47 Dismounted
48 Mother of Zeus
50 Salt
53 Compass direction
55 Sheep's cry
56 "Faerie Queene" lady
57 Agent



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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	M	O	■	S	A	A	R	■	E	A	C	H
M	U	D	■	A	G	R	A	■	D	A	C	E
B	R	I	T	T	A	N	Y	■	I	M	A	M
I	A	N	U	A	■	■	A	A	L	■	■	■
■	■	■	S	N	O	W	■	B	E	L	E	M
A	L	P	H	■	C	O	M	B	■	I	A	O
G	A	I	■	A	T	R	I	A	■	M	R	S
A	C	C	■	B	A	L	D	■	T	B	L	S
G	E	O	D	E	■	D	I	T	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	D	M	■	■	E	X	I	S	T
U	D	I	C	■	I	N	I	T	I	A	T	E
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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"

Where the rubber meets the road

The lowdown on tires for the winter

BY BAY STEPHENS
EBS EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

What's the most important factor in keeping cars on the road in the winter? Experts overwhelmingly agree that it's tires.

Although having four-wheel or all-wheel drive is helpful for climbing a hill, when a car brakes it doesn't matter how many tires have power. No technology built into a vehicle is as crucial as the technology that connects a vehicle to the road.

With that in mind, here are some tire options to consider for the winter months:

All-season tires

Probably the most common tire on the road most of the year, all-season tires have a longer lifespan because they wear slowly. They have deeper tread than summer tires and are built to maintain traction in mud and light snow.

However, the rubber compound that comprises all-season tires is designed to work best in warm weather. Below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, the rubber in all-season tires becomes rigid and traction is reduced even on dry asphalt, much less snow and ice.

Winter tires

Winter tires or snow tires have specific modifications that allow them to grip better in the cold and on snow and ice. They are made of a far more pliable rubber than all-season tires. As temperatures drop, snow tires will continue to be flexible, contouring at a microscopic level to the imperfections of the road.

Snow tires have a deeper tread, which gives snow and slush somewhere to go instead of between the tire and the road surface. The same thing takes place at a microscopic level, as well. When driving on ice, tires melt a very thin layer so that water is between the tire and a grippable surface. To give that moisture somewhere to go, tire manufacturers have developed tread with microscopic pores so that rubber will actually maintain contact with the road.

These tires are also siped, which means that every block of tread has cuts in it, allowing it to move and contour to the surface even more than solid tread blocks.

All these features combine for better traction. In a brake test conducted by Tire Rack using the same models of BMW coupes equipped with summer tires, all-season tires and studless snow tires, the vehicles came to a stop after 47 feet, 39 feet 10 inches, and 21 feet 2 inches, respectively. Studless snow tires stopped in nearly half the distance of all-season tires.

Winter tires aren't designed for summer, though. Their softer rubber wears down quickly on dry roads. Having different tires for the summer will ensure longevity for both sets.

All-weather tires

All-weather tires are a bit of a hybrid between winter and all-season tires. According to John Chepulis, owner of Tire World in Bozeman and Four Corners, they have far more siping than an all-season tire but will not wear as quickly as a winter tire.

"They [don't have] quite as good of traction as the snow tire but they [have] a lot better traction than an all-season tire," Chepulis said.

Studded tires like the ones pictured are made with tungsten carbide embedded in the tread. They are best suited to clear ice that's at or near the freezing mark while siped winter tires with softer rubber tend to have better stopping power on snow and in colder temperatures. CC PHOTO

Studded tires

With tungsten carbide studs embedded in the tread, studded tires are designed to literally dig into the ice beneath them. Although they were the gold standard two decades ago, the technological innovations made in studless snow tires have largely closed the gap.

According to an overview of tire studies by Pemco Insurance, "Consensus seems to hold that old-fashioned studs still perform best on clear ice that's at or near the freezing mark. However, studless models have the edge in stopping and handling when temps drop below freezing and on wet or dry pavement."

Studded tires are the noisiest option and are known for damaging roads. According to TireBuyer.com, only six states allow studded tires without restrictions. The Montana Department of Transportation allows studs from Oct. 1 to May 31.

Other helpful info

People often think that if tires have a "M + S" symbol on the sidewall, they are designed for mud and snow. However, the Tire Industry Association asserts that if tires only have this symbol, they have not been tested under winter conditions.

Instead, look for a symbol of a snowflake within a mountain on a tire's sidewall, which, according to TireBuyer.com, shows it is approved by the Rubber Manufacturer's Association for "severe snow service."

Section 4:
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WMPAC winter season announced **pg. 51**

Madrigal Dinner returns **pg. 53**

Martin Sexton to perform in Big Sky **pg. 54**

IN THE
SPOTLIGHT

Katelee McTaggart: An island in the mountains

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – With choppy blond hair and a tasteful lip piercing, Katelee McTaggart could easily pass as just another young, stylish American artist. That is, until she begins to share her story, which is anything but ordinary.

McTaggart currently resides in Gallatin Canyon's Karst neighborhood, and has lived on and off in Montana for the past eight years, but she spent the first 18 years of her life in the Cayman Islands, a British Overseas Territory in the Caribbean Sea. She enjoys dual citizenship in the United States and Great Britain, but the 25-year-old identifies more as a Caymanian (pronounced kay-mon-ion) than a Brit, and more as a Brit than an American.

Her family had vacationed in Big Sky since she was a child, and when she graduated from high school, they relocated to the resort community full time. Although she says the schooling in the Caymans is more rigorous than in the United States, the credit system was different, and she had to repeat her last year of high school.

McTaggart, with fellow student, Kelly Goode, became the first graduating class of Lone Peak High School in 2010.

After giving Montana State University a whirl, McTaggart returned to Grand Cayman for a year, drawn back by its cultural diversity and, more than anything, to be reunited with a love she still swoons over from her mountain home—the ocean.

"I feel like an island in the mountains," said McTaggart, fondling a bracelet made out of recycled glass and plastic removed from the ocean. "It's this constant pull to go back."

As a teenager, McTaggart worked in the water recreation industry, leading boat and snorkeling tours, and spending her leisure time scuba diving and exploring shipwrecks and underwater caves.

Eventually, she got hooked on freediving—deep sea diving without oxygen—and at the peak of her prowess could hold her breath for seven minutes.

"Being underwater without a tank affected me in a way that was so enlightening," McTaggart said. "There is no other feeling like it in the world—the weightlessness, the silence, the beauty of everything around you."

Since leaving the Cayman Islands, McTaggart has shifted her focus from saltwater sea creatures to the wildlife of the mountains and streams. PHOTO BY KATELEE MCTAGGART

Katelee McTaggart's paintings can be found at Trove West, Caliber Coffee Inc., and wrapped around a utility box near the basketball courts in Big Sky Community Park. PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI

Since moving back to Montana—the current victor in an ongoing tug-of-war between place—she has had to shift the focus of her colorful paintings from reefs and whales, sea turtles and squid to more regionally appropriate subject matter.

Trout were a natural transition, and like her ocean-themed work, convey the artist's fascination with marine life and her ability to provide a unique perspective on common subject matter. For instance, a recent painting portrays a swimming trout from above, the dusky-hued river rock acting as a softly abstract background.

McTaggart has also been experimenting with landscapes, and two of her paintings—one of the Spanish Peaks aflame with the last rays of light under a twinkling twilight sky—were selected to wrap a utility box near the basketball courts in Big Sky Community Park.

"I definitely feel that moving here has opened up my art," McTaggart said. "Everything just seems to be clicking right now."

At the conclusion of our interview, McTaggart pulls what looks like a heart-shaped rock from her pocket. In fact, it is a sea bean, or large seed that is light as a feather with a black-brown surface polished smooth and glossy from her touch. Also called "sea hearts"—although McTaggart and her friends called them "horse eyes"—sea beans are carried long distances by rivers and streams until they are deposited on the seashore. They are often carried as good luck charms, and as a reminder of the wonders of the ocean and the distant, unknown lands beyond the horizon.

McTaggart has had this particular sea bean for several years and she carries it daily.

"To me, the horse eye is a comfort," McTaggart said. "It reminds me of my beautiful home; it reminds me of the journeys I have taken to be where I am today, as the seed travelled to me to find it."

In Big Sky, McTaggart's paintings can be found at Trove West and Caliber Coffee Inc. Her work can also be found on many online platforms under the moniker kateleemonster.

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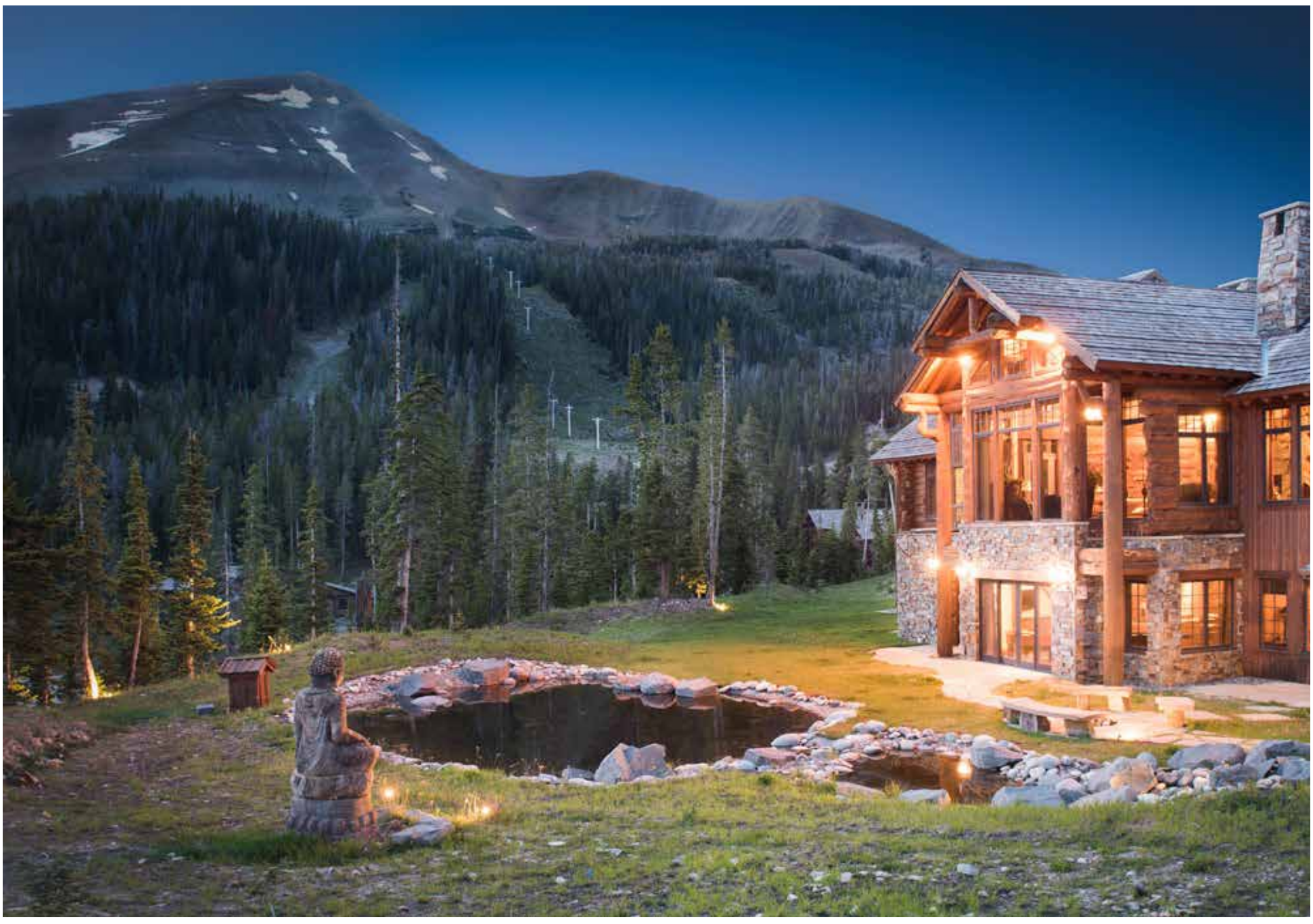

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WMPAC raises the bar once again for the 2017-18 season

Tickets go on sale Dec. 1

EBS STAFF

For its fifth season, the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center will present what is becoming a trademark for the young and artistically ambitious center: a season of surprising breadth, featuring artists who are among the most accomplished professionals in theater, movement and music.

The season begins on Dec. 27 and 28 with one of the biggest names on Broadway—Audra McDonald. McDonald, who has won a record-setting six Tony Awards, is joined on stage by fellow Broadway stars Vanessa Williams, Jessie Mueller and Abby Mueller in a Concert for America event.

Started by husbands Seth Rudetsky and James Wesley of the SiriusXM radio program "On Broadway," Concert for America is a touring production that benefits five national charities. For the program itself, each performer will sing hit songs from their successful careers on Broadway and beyond.

"Getting stars of this caliber on our stage is just mind-blowing," says WMPAC Executive Director John Zirkle. It is possible, Zirkle said, because the stars want to support the mission of Concert for America—raising funds for human rights, civil rights and the environment. The combination of stars and causes works for audiences too, Zirkle added. "Concert for America sells out because people are so excited about the performances and the purpose of this show."

The Broadway-themed start to the season will be followed by—more Broadway. Two original theater productions and several more Tony winners and nominees will take the WMPAC stage. Michele Pawk and David Alford (from ABC's hit television show "Nashville") will appear in the world-premiere of "Levity," a play developed during WMPAC's summer acting workshop that will run Jan. 19 through Jan. 21.

Legendary double-bass player of bluegrass fame Edgar Meyer performs as part of WMPAC's diverse and exciting winter season of performing arts on March 3.

Experience the fiery footwork of a troupe of Argentinean gauchos, formally known as Che Malambo, at WMPAC on March 31. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

A month later, from Feb. 16 to 18, WMPAC will premiere its first-ever professional musical, "[title of show]." No, that's not a typo, Zirkle explained. That's actually the name of the show, a production The New York Times hailed as "genial, unpretentious and far funnier than many of the more expensively manufactured musicals that make it to Broadway these days."

Both shows mark WMPAC's continuing commitment to developing new work, Zirkle said. "Producing our own shows is the next logical step for a theater like WMPAC, and we've seen how well our audiences respond to this effort."

In addition to theater, the movement arts have also been a focus of WMPAC, and this effort continues with three high-energy programs, all geared toward family audiences throughout the season.

These offerings feature world-class juggler and comedian Mark Nizer on Jan. 6, the astounding mind and body athleticism of the James Sewell Ballet accompanied by the accomplished Ahn Trio on March 10, and the fiery footwork of a troupe of Argentinean gauchos, formally known as Che Malambo, on March 31.

Finally, music aficionados know that WMPAC's signature events always include artists internationally recognized for pushing their art in new and different ways. Cantus, an a cappella group renowned for its trademark warmth and innovative programming, performs on Jan. 13, followed by legendary double-bass player of bluegrass fame Edgar Meyer on March 3.

The modern music collective wild Up rounds out the listening experience on Feb. 3. Zirkle said the group will impress listeners with an auditory experience that pushes the boundaries of instrumental music with an adventurous, thought-provoking performance that leaves audiences with a totally new perspective on what "chamber music" really means.

"I think the word for this season is 'excitement,'" Zirkle said. "There's the excitement of the new, the excitement of intensity and excellence, and, I think, the excitement of anticipation. There's a lot to look forward to this winter."

Tickets for all season events go on sale Dec. 1 at warrenmillerpac.org.

Montana Ballet Company performs 'The Nutcracker' at WMPAC

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

The Arts Council of Big Sky presents the fourth annual production of Montana Ballet Company's "The Nutcracker" at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 4 p.m.

Underwritten by the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation, the Spanish Peaks Community Foundation, Buck's T-4 and NorthWestern Energy, MBC's production of "The Nutcracker" is one of the largest artistic collaborations in the region. Set to Tchaikovsky's beloved score, the production features the work of locally and nationally accomplished dancers, choreographers, guest artists, live musicians, seasoned stage technicians, lighting and costume designers, and a host of dedicated volunteers.

For the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center performance, a live chamber orchestra will perform the music with local dancers performing as mice and angels.

A one-night performance of Montana Ballet Company's "The Nutcracker" comes to The Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on Dec. 3.
PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTANA BALLET COMPANY

"Having a production like 'The Nutcracker' in Big Sky is a real treat for our community," said ACBS Executive Director Brian Hurlbut. "It's one of the most popular ballets in the world and great for audiences of all ages."

Montana Ballet Company welcomes guest artists Rachel Van Buskirk and Christian Clark, principal dancers with the Terminus Modern Ballet Theater in Atlanta, Georgia, who will be appearing in the Big Sky performance. Both artists have notable careers and have danced professionally throughout the United States and abroad. They will share the stage with MBC's company dancers and local dancers from Big Sky. Also featured in the cast is Soren Kisiel, co-director of the touring musical and sketch comedy troupe Broad Comedy, who will once again dance the role of Drosselmeyer.

Tickets are available at warrenmillerpac.org. Visit bigskyarts.org or call (406) 995-2742 for more information.

Festive Madrigal Dinner returns to Buck's T-4 on Dec. 4

THE ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

The Arts Council of Big Sky presents the 21st annual Madrigal Dinner on Monday, Dec. 4, at 5 p.m. in the Montana Room at Buck's T-4 Lodge. This event is considered by many to be the official start to the holiday season and a tradition that is a highlight for the Big Sky community.

The evening begins with a no-host bar at 5 p.m., followed by seating for the dinner promptly at 6 p.m., in preparation for the Ceremonial Procession of the Lord and Lady of the Manor and their guests. Olde English customs and fanfares are the theme throughout the evening, including the Ceremonial Procession, the Wassail Bowl and Christmas Toast, the Boar's Head Procession and Flaming Pudding Dessert.

The Montana State University Montanans, a select vocal ensemble, will serenade guests throughout the evening with a concert finale by the MSU Chorale. The dinner closes with the audience joining the musicians in singing familiar carols.

The Arts Council presents the 21st annual Madrigal Dinner on Dec. 4 and 5. The event has become a holiday tradition for many and tends to sell out quickly. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

This year marks the 52nd annual Madrigal Dinner, produced by the MSU School of Music, and the 21st year the production has traveled to Big Sky.

"The Madrigal dinner is a fun, festive event," said ACBS Executive Director Brian Hurlbut. "Not only is the food amazing, but the singing from the Montana State students is incredible."

Tickets for the Madrigal Dinner are by advance reservation only and have historically sold out. The price includes a three-course dinner prepared by Buck's T-4 chefs, and festive music performed by the MSU Montanans, Brass Quintet and Chorale.

For tickets call (406) 995-2742. Visit bigskyarts.org for more information.

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Martin Sexton brings his soulful sound to Big Sky Jan. 26-27

EBS STAFF

Acclaimed singer-songwriter Martin Sexton will perform at Big Sky Resort's Montana Jack on Jan. 26, followed by a special appearance at TEDxBigSky on Jan. 27, at The Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. Both events are productions of Outlaw Partners, the publisher of EBS.

Sexton, whose soulful blend of blues, rock and roll, folk defies easy categorization, released his eighth full-length studio album "Mixtape of the Open Road" in 2015. A musical ode to the cross-country road trip, the album blazes through a changing landscape of style, time and place, unified by what Rolling Stone magazine has called Sexton's "soul marinated voice."

A native of Syracuse, New York, Sexton grew up in the '80s, the 10th of 12 children.

The ever-soulful American singer-songwriter Martin Sexton makes a two-appearance stop in Big Sky, performing at Big Sky Resort's Montana Jack on Jan. 26, and at TEDxBigSky on Jan. 27. PHOTO COURTESY OF CHATTMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Uninterested in the music of the day, Sexton fueled his dreams with the timeless sounds of classic rock 'n' roll. As he discovered the dusty old vinyl left in the basement by one of his older brothers, his musical fire was ignited. Sexton eventually migrated to Boston, where he built a following singing on the streets of Harvard Square, gradually making a name for himself in the local music scene. His 1992 collection of self-produced demo recordings, "In the Journey," was recorded on an old eight-track in a friend's attic. He managed to sell 20,000 copies out of his guitar case.

From 1996 to 2002 Sexton released "Black Sheep," "The American," "Wonder Bar" and "Live Wide Open." The worldwide touring behind these records laid the foundation for the career he enjoys today. With an especially loyal fan base, Sexton has sold out venues from New York City's Nokia Theatre to Los Angeles' House of Blues, and tours regularly across Canada and Europe.

Determinedly independent, Sexton launched his own label, KTR, in 2002. Since then he has infiltrated many musical worlds, from pop (collaborating with John Mayer) to classic rock (collaborating with Peter Frampton); and has performed at a broad spectrum of events and venues that include the Newport Folk Festival, Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival, New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, and Carnegie Hall.

Regardless of his reputation as a musician's musician, Sexton's songs can be heard in many feature films and television programs including the NBC series "Scrubs" and "Parenthood," and the Showtime series "Brotherhood."

In 2007, Sexton launched his most successful years to date with the release of "Seeds." The studio album debuted at No. 6 on Billboard's Heatseekers chart, and a review in the Los Angeles Times read, "call him a soul shouter, a road poet, a folkie or a rocker and you wouldn't be wrong."

The live CD/DVD set "Solo," which features his performance at Denver's Mile High Festival, followed in 2008.

In 2010, the album "Sugarcoating" showcases this genre-busting troubadour doing what he does best: locating larger truths. After hearing it, NBC news anchor Brian Williams sought Martin out to sit down for an interview backstage at New York City's Beacon Theatre.

Tickets to Sexton's intimate Jan. 26 performance at Big Sky Resort's Montana Jack are available at explorebigsky.com. Tickets for TEDxBigSky go on sale Dec. 1 at tedxbigsky.com.

POSITIVITY

JANUARY 27, 2018

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WITH SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY MARTIN SEXTON

TEDXBIGSKY.COM

OUTLAW PARTNERS

TEDx BigSky
x = independently organized TED event

Get into the holiday spirit at the Big Sky Christmas Stroll

BIG SKY TOWN CENTER

The streets of Big Sky will come alive during the 20th annual Christmas Stroll on Friday, Dec. 8, from 5:30-9:15 p.m. The yearly community-wide event spans Meadow Village, Westfork Meadows and Big Sky Town Center with an evening of festive family fun, entertainment and fanfare.

The holiday season is not all Big Sky is celebrating during the stroll. The ski season is just beginning and it's been a long-standing tradition for many to come to Big Sky for a day on the slopes followed by après with family and friends at the stroll.

Big Sky Resort and many local businesses also offer ski and stay packages and open houses that weekend.

The stroll kicks off at 5:30 p.m. in front of Big Sky Owners Association in the Meadow Village Center with a tree lighting hosted by Santa Claus, caroling and sleigh rides.

At 5:45 p.m. strollers are invited to First Security Bank, also in Meadow Village, for photo opportunities with Santa Claus. At 6:30 p.m. Lone Peak Brewery will host a magic show upstairs in the Loft.

After the Meadow Village activities, it's time to make your way to Westfork Meadows where a chocolate fountain will begin to flow at 7 p.m. at Big Sky Sugarbuzz.

A fireworks show at 8:15 p.m. will light up the heart of Big Sky Town Center in the Center Stage and Fire Pit Park area, with live music provided by DJ Walker, and s'mores around the bonfire.

Carrie Bryan and Marie Rapp get in the holiday spirit at last year's Big Sky Christmas Stroll. The 20th annual Christmas Stroll will light up the streets of Big Sky on Dec. 8 with festivities beginning at 5:30 p.m. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

In addition to these scheduled events, many Big Sky businesses will keep their doors open late for passersby, while others can partake in activities that include sleigh rides departing from Meadow Village Center and Town Center provided by Lone Mountain Ranch and ice skating in Town Center, or take advantage of the illuminated pathways to Nordic ski or fat bike on the trails connecting the two shopping areas.

There will also be free holiday shuttles between Meadow Village and Town Center courtesy of the Skyline Bus service.

Annual group exhibition opens at Gallatin River Gallery

Opening reception held during Christmas Stroll on Dec. 8

GALLATIN RIVER GALLERY

Gallatin River Gallery, located in Big Sky Town Center, presents "The Earth & Sky XVII." The 10th annual group exhibition runs Dec. 5 through Jan. 31, 2018, with an opening reception from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8, during the Big Sky Christmas Stroll.

Featured in this themed exhibition are a diverse group of 15 artists creating pieces that reflect the beauty of nature. Included are paintings, bromoils, metal, encaustic mixed media, and ceramic works by local Montana artists and beyond.

Gallatin River Gallery is located at 114 Ousel Falls Road in the Big Sky Town Center. The gallery showcases paintings, sculpture, jewelry, ceramics and photography; and offers art-consulting and installation services.

Visit gallatinrivergallery.com or call (406) 995-2909 for more information.

Holly Manneck's "Under the Light of the Moon" is part of Gallatin River Gallery's annual group exhibition which runs Dec. 5 through Jan. 31 with an opening reception during the Christmas Stroll on Dec. 8. PHOTO BY HOLLY MANNECK

Acclaimed film 'The Florida Project' screens at The Emerson

BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY

On Wednesday, Nov. 29, the Bozeman Film Society presents a screening of "The Florida Project" at 7 p.m. in The Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture's Crawford Theater.

Warm, winning, and gloriously alive, Sean Baker's "The Florida Project" is a deeply moving and poignant look at childhood.

Set on a stretch of highway just outside the imagined utopia of Disney World, the film follows 6-year-old Moonee, in a break-out performance by Brooklynn Prince, and her rebellious mother Halley, played by Bria Vinai in another impressive casting of a first-time actress, over the course of a single summer.

Mother and daughter live week-to-week at The Magic Castle, a budget hotel managed by Bobby (expertly portrayed by Willem Dafoe), whose stern exterior hides a deep reservoir of kindness and compassion.

Despite her harsh surroundings, the precocious and ebullient Moonee has no trouble making each day a celebration of life, filling her endless afternoons with mischief and grand adventure as she and her ragtag playmates fearlessly explore the utterly unique world into which they've been thrown.

However, unbeknownst to Moonee, her delicate fantasy is supported by the toil and sacrifice of Halley, who is forced to explore increasingly dangerous options in order to provide for her daughter.

Minneapolis Star-Tribune film critic Colin Covert raves, "It doesn't just show what its characters go through, it observes. It notices. It studies. This is a film that pays attention to the little details that communicate huge feelings." Rated R, the film runs 115 minutes.

Visit bozemanfilmsociety.org for more information.

Screening at The Emerson on Nov. 29, "The Florida Project" has been praised for its unflinching exploration of childhood and poverty, and break-out performances by first time actors. PHOTO COURTESY OF BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY

BIG SKY MONTANA

WINTER EVENTS
2017/2018

BIG SKY MONTANA

NOVEMBER
OPENING DAY | NOV. 23

DECEMBER
$29 DAY | DEC. 1
TORCHLIGHT PARADE | DEC. 24
NEW YEARS FIREWORKS | DEC. 31

JANUARY
SNOBAR | JAN. 13 & 20

FEBRUARY
DUMMY JUMP | FEB. 3
BIG SKY BIG GRASS | FEB. 8-11
SMOKIN' ACES | FEB. 10-11
USASA RAIL JAM | FEB. 17-18
BSF SLOPESTYLE | FEB. 17-18
MAD WOLF RELAY | FEB. 24

MARCH
SNOWSHOE SHUFFLE | MAR. 3
HEADWATERS FREERIDE | MAR. 9-11
SHEDHORN SKIMO | MAR. 17

APRIL
SAM ADAMS BIG AIR | APR. 7
POND SKIM | APR. 21
CLOSING DAY | APR. 22

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Shop local at SLAM's Winter Showcase

EBS STAFF

The 7th annual SLAM (Support Local Artists and Musicians) Winter Showcase returns to downtown Bozeman on Dec. 1 and 2 from noon to 8 p.m.

Held in the Masonic Temple ballroom, the event highlights the talents of Montana artists from around the state and encourages shopping locally for the holidays. SLAM's "pop-up" gallery-style Winter Showcase offers a wide variety of one-of-a-kind handmade gifts including jewelry, ceramics, fashionable textiles, photography, and artwork suitable for all tastes and budgets.

SLAM is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the arts and art education in Montana in ways intended to enrich and involve the community. SLAM hosts events to showcase the artistic talent of Montana residents, funds scholarships to community members seeking education in the arts, and spearheads community art installations.

Artist participation in SLAM festivals is open to Montana residents only, but everyone is welcome to attend, experience and support the talents of this artist community.

The Masonic Temple is located at 14 S. Tracy Ave. in Bozeman. Visit slamfestivals.org or email info@slamfestivals.org for more information.

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Musical classic 'Annie' comes to The Ellen

EBS STAFF

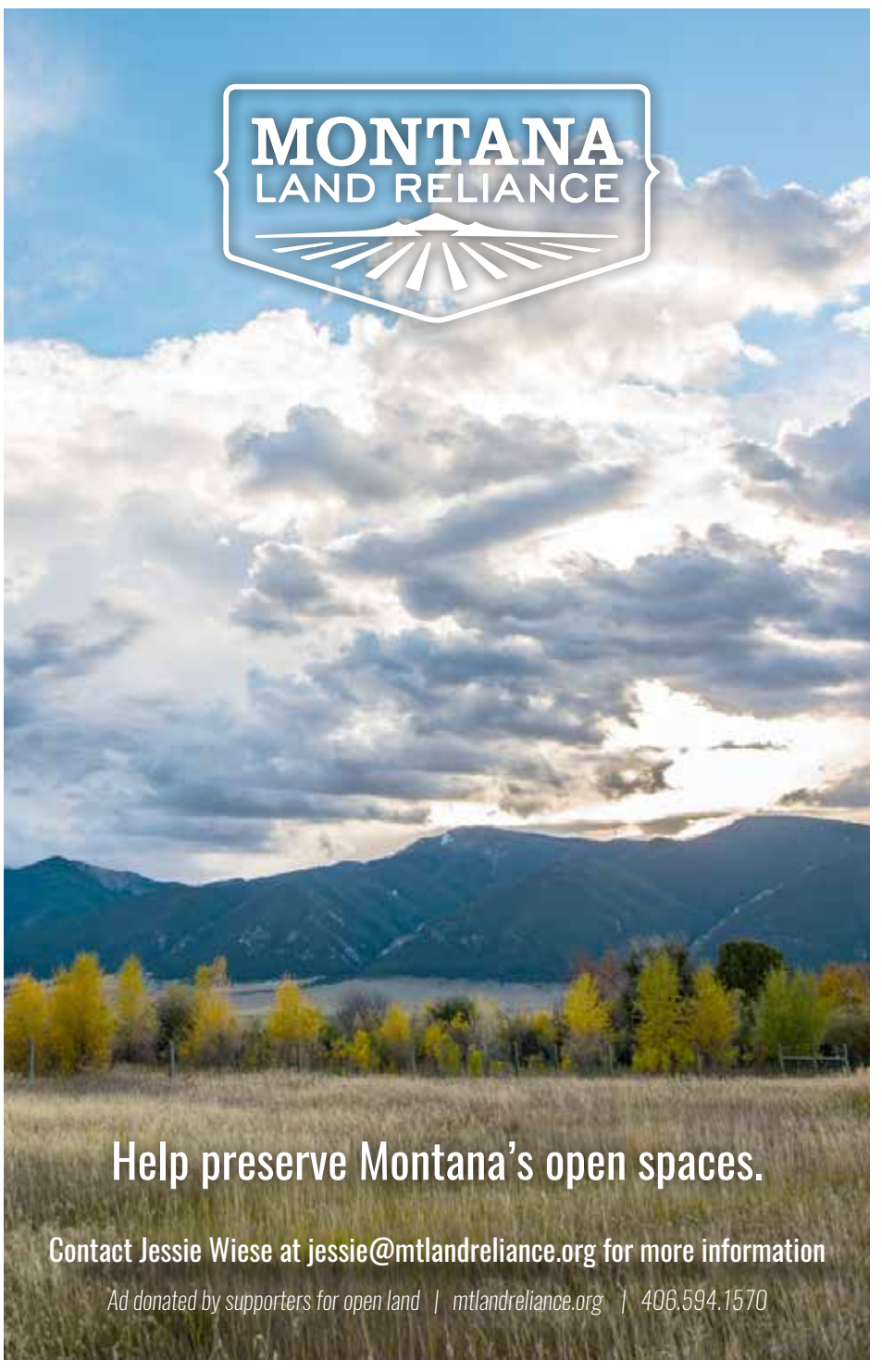
The charming red-headed comic strip heroine comes to life again in The Ellen Theatre's holiday spectacular production of "Annie," which opens on Friday, Dec. 1 and concludes its 13 performance-run on Dec. 22.

Presented by Montana TheatreWorks (producers of "Oliver!," "Fiddler on the Roof" and "White Christmas"), this heartwarming family classic is the winner of seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and tells the story of Little orphan Annie set against the gloomy yet wondrous backdrop of New York City in the 1930s.

The original Broadway production opened in 1977 and was based upon the popular Harold Gray comic strip, and featured music by Charles Strouse, lyrics by Martin Charnin, and book by Thomas Meehan.

The Ellen's production of the all-singing, all-dancing comedy features a live 16-piece orchestra, playing some of the most popular musical theatre hits of all time, including "It's the Hard Knock Life," "Maybe," "Easy Street," "I Don't Need Anything but You," and the optimistic anthem, "Tomorrow."

Visit theellentheatre.com or call (406) 585-5885 for a complete schedule of show times and ticket information. The Ellen Theatre lobby opens one hour prior to show time for refreshments.



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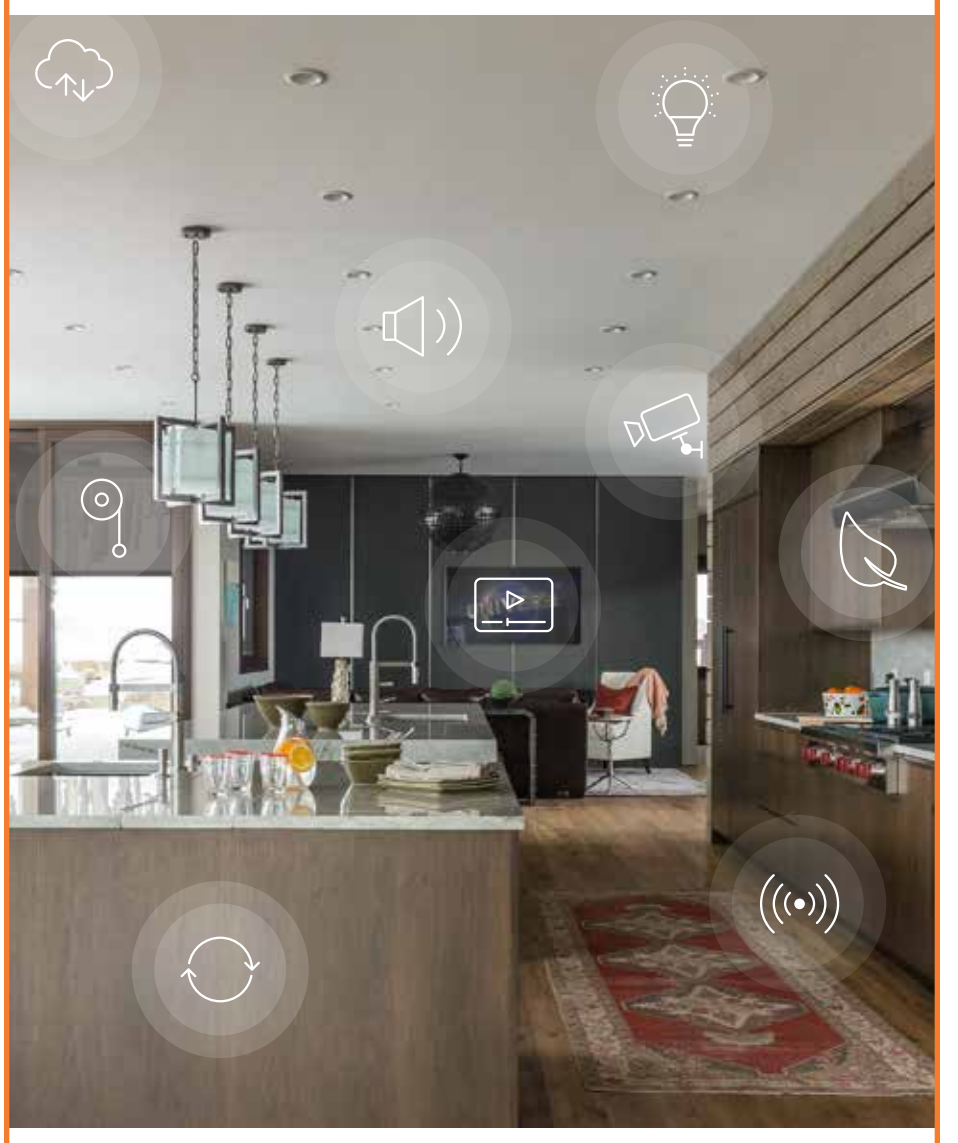

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BOZEMAN, MT | BIG SKY, MT | JACKSON, WY

EVENTS CALENDAR

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

***IF YOUR EVENT FALLS BETWEEN DEC. 8 AND 21, PLEASE SUBMIT IT BY NOV. 30 BY EMAILING MEDIA@OUTLAW. PARTNERS.**

BIG SKY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21
Water & Sewer District Board Meeting
Water & Sewer District Office, 8 a.m.

Top Shelf Toastmasters
Town Center Sales Office, 12 p.m.

Bingo
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23
Big Sky Resort opens

BSSEF Turkey Trot
Town Center, 9 a.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24
Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25
Small Business Saturday
Chamber of Commerce, 9 a.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26
Live Music
Compass Café, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27
Doctor's Clinic
Greener Pastures, noon

Service Industry Night
Lotus Pad, all evening

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28
Top Shelf Toastmasters
Town Center Sales Office, 12 p.m.

Bingo
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30
Evening for Mark, A Classical Birthday Concert
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1
$29 Day
Big Sky Resort, all day

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
Live Music
Compass Café, 11 a.m.

The Nutcracker Ballet
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 4 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4
Service Industry Night
Lotus Pad, all evening

21st Madrigal Dinner
Buck's T-4 Lodge, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5
Top Shelf Toastmasters
Town Center Sales Office, 12 p.m.

Bingo
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7
Parks Committee Meeting
BSCO Office, 5:30 p.m.

BOZEMAN

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21
The Dusty Pockets, music
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22
Comedy Night
Red Tractor Pizza, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23
Huffing for Stuffing Races
Museum of the Rockies, 8 a.m.

Bridger Creek Boys, music
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24
Jazz Night
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25
Left on Tenth, music
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26
Silversmith's Mine, music
Red Tractor Pizza, 6 p.m.

Nathan North, music
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27
Tom Kirwan, music
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28
Brews & the Big Sky: Memory on Glass with Philipsburg Brewing Company, class
Museum of the Rockies, 5:30 p.m.

Weston Lewis, music
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29
New West Symposium
Emerson Cultural Center, all day

The Florida Project, film
Emerson Cultural Center, 7 p.m.

Science Inquiry Lecture: Capturing an Eclipse by Balloon
Museum of the Rockies, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30
Bridger Creek Boys, music
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Rod Morrison, music
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Shwayze, music
Emerson Cultural Center, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1
SLAM Winter Showcase
Masonic Lodge, all afternoon

'Twas the Night Before Christmas
Emerson Cultural Center, 6:30 p.m.

Jazz Night
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

The Musical, Annie
Ellen Theatre, through December
Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.
Sundays at 3 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2
SLAM Winter Showcase
Masonic Lodge, all afternoon

Christmas Stroll
Downtown, 4:30 p.m.

Permafunk, music
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

One Leaf Clover, music
Bozeman Taproom, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
Silversmith's Mine, music
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4
Sista Otis, music
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5
Larry Kiff, music
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6
Montana Hall Holiday Lighting Ceremony
Montana State University, 5:30 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7
Art on the Rocks: Seasonal Ale & Ceramic Ornaments, class
Emerson Cultural Center, 6:30 p.m.

Bridger Creek Boys, music
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

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WORTH THE DRIVE

West Yellowstone, MT

Yellowstone Ski Festival

Nov. 21-25

Start up the cross-country ski season at West Yellowstone's annual Yellowstone Ski Festival—known as Ski Week to the locals—and get a taste of this season's latest and greatest gear, participate in ski clinics, and watch or compete in a series of races. For over 30 years, this event has attracted cross country skiers from across North America. As of EBS press time there were still some openings for registration in clinics and races. Visit skirunbikemt.com/yellowstone-ski-festival for more information.

Livingston, MT

Christmas Stroll and Old-Fashioned Fair

Dec. 1 and 2

As a ringing in of the season, shops will remain open late and the community will come together to stroll down Main Street on the evening of Friday, Dec. 1. Enjoy wagon rides, sled dogs and a variety of winter activities, as well as get in some Christmas shopping. On Saturday, Dec. 2, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. vendors and crafts enthusiasts will be set up at the Park County Fairgrounds for the Old-Fashioned Christmas Fair.

Virginia City, MT

"Wintertide" by Willson & McKee

Dec. 10, 7 p.m.
Elling House

Ken Willson and Kim McKee return to Virginia City to celebrate the "Wintertide" with a mixture of traditional Celtic and new-veau seasonal songs and tunes for the winter season. The event will be a combination of blazing instrumentals, warm harmony vocals, a lot of laughter and a ceilidh dance or two. The historic Elling House will offer a spectacular setting for this holiday event, walls decked with natural trimmings and decorations handmade by local volunteers. Visit ellinghouse.org or call (406) 843-5454 to learn more.

Cowboy's Quill

The American West has produced some of the most thoughtful and moving literature in U.S. history. Read on and enjoy the Cowboy's Quill: insight into the best writers, books and poetry this side of the Mississippi.

William Kittredge: Rancher turned Writer

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

William Kittredge grew up working on his family's sprawling MC Ranch in southern Oregon's Warner Valley, only deciding to pursue a writing career at the age of 33.

"I thought it was about sentences and paragraphs, fashioning elegance out of what you already knew," Kittredge wrote in "Hole in the Sky," a memoir recounting his decision to leave ranching life behind. "I didn't yet see that writing like any art is chancing to know freshly. As such it's always worth doing; it's worth finding gestures that suggest understandings."

After studying creative writing at Iowa Writers' Workshop, "not a discipline anybody ever heard of in our part of the world," Kittredge wrote, he taught for three decades at the University of Montana and still resides, at the ripe age of 85, in Missoula.

Currently working on a quasi-sequel to "Hole in the Sky" called "Another Summer to Run," Kittredge has produced a body of work that both dispels the myths of the Lone Ranger American West, and poses profound questions about the future of the last, best place.

Although he changed careers, the author never left his roots behind. His narratives are burnished and tight-lipped much like the ranch hands he worked with and the cowboys he idolized growing up. He is erudite without coming across as a pretentious intellectual critical of the changes he has seen during his lifetime. And as Western culture moves away from an authentic relationship to the land, Kittredge portrays a sort of show-business parody without ever sounding self-righteous.

Like any good writer from this region, his words evoke the sanctity of majestic landscapes and praise the self-reliance and rugged individualism that are still at the heart of the Western experience.

I just finished reading Kittredge's "The Next Rodeo," a collection of new and selected essays, which I had trouble putting down. While his nonfiction works, "The Nature of Generosity" and "Who Owns the West?" and his only novel "The Willow Field," each represent his distinctive voice, the author is most at home writing essays that move effortlessly between the personal, political and philosophical.

"Drinking and Driving" takes a hard look at the author's battles with alcohol and extramarital affairs, while "Owning it All" is a searing account of the author's relationship to his father and grandfather.

The namesake piece of "The Next Rodeo" tells the story of a rural Oregon rodeo but ends up revealing how the changing economic landscape of the West reflects an untenable situation for a healthy democratic culture. He writes: "The quandaries westerners face will have to be flexibly resolved by the raggedy and the rich, up-country and downtown."

Pick up anything by Kittredge and you can't help but agree that he has earned his reputation as the Bard Laureate of the American West. We should all be grateful that he left the ranch and that his influence from teaching generations of writers and his many brilliant contributions to Western literature will continue to impact the literary world long after he puts his pen down.

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

A version of this story ran in the Aug. 19, 2016 issue of EBS.

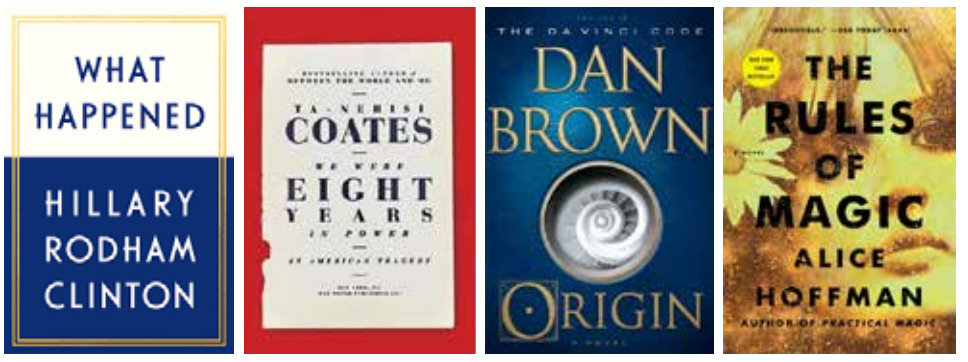
Between the shelves

BY AMY HUNTER
ASSISTANT COMMUNITY LIBRARY

After a full day of skiing, what better way to relax than sitting by the fire with a book? Every time someone comes into the library and asks for book suggestions, it can be nerve racking. What if you don't like the book we recommend? What if we are completely off base with our recommendations and you consider not coming back?

To help out your library and librarians this winter, please share with us the books you have read and what you thought of them. We use your feedback to recommend books to others so they have a good book to curl up with during the shortest days of the year.

The library has just gotten a few political nonfiction books for the winter. "What Happened" by Hilary Clinton looks at her campaign for president last year. Ta-Nehisi Coates' new book, "We Were Eight Years in Power," explores President Obama's presidency. We also have new suspense books like "Origin" by Dan Brown and a prequel to "Practical Magic" by Alice Hoffman titled "The Rules of Magic." We have something for everyone during these long nights, so come visit us in the library.



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Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager

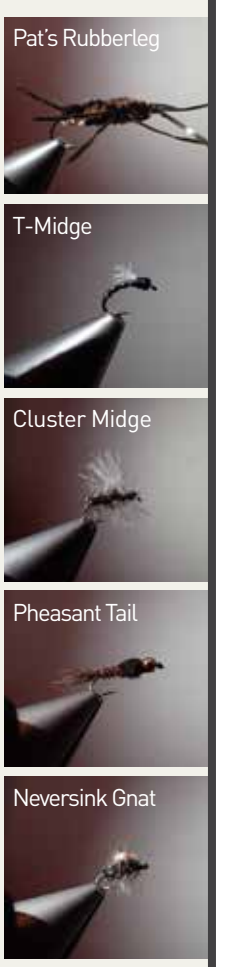
Wow! Ski season is already here and there's only one month left in 2017? I feel like wet wading and evening caddis hatches were just a few weeks ago. As usual, Summer and Fall just flew by. A huge Thank You to all the Big Sky anglers, guides and businesses for such a great summer.

But....just because it's ski season doesn't mean fishing season is over. The fish still have to eat. The Gallatin is one of the best winter fisheries in the area. Downstream of the stoplight is full of natural springs, which keeps the river a touch warmer and (mostly) ice free. When we have some warmer days, fishing is best during the warmest part of the day and your fly selection is pretty simple.

The Madison is without a doubt one of the finest and most consistent winter fisheries in the area due to the controlled water temps from the dam. Very little pressure means great nymphing and great opportunities for fishing dries. Both the Madison and Gallatin have relatively similar rigs this time of year.

A Pat's Rubberleg should almost always be your lead fly, and you can experiment with midge patterns, lightning bugs and other stone fly imitations as your secondary fly. Make sure to add some additional split shot, so your flies are getting down.

Winter fish like to conserve energy while waiting out winter, so they won't move very far to a fly. Choose your water with this in mind. Fish want the food to come right to them, so seams, dropoffs and backsides of boulders are great places to search. Make sure you cover the water completely by making numerous drifts and changing fly depth before moving spots. Once you find one fish you are likely to find others. Remember that fly depth and drift is more important than fly selection.



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