

ExploreTM

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

FRIDE

Big Sky

Jan. 31 - Feb. 13, 2020
Volume 11 // Issue #3

TEDx Connects Big Sky
Thank you, Chief Farhat

Steamboat Dry Goods
docks in Wilson

Local ski racers sharpen edges

Ski map artist James Niehues



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ON THE COVER:

The Team Stevens Nation crew took part in many local festivities during their time in Big Sky for TEDx 2020, including the Lone Mountain Ranch sleigh ride dinner. PHOTO COURTESY OF AMANDA STEVENS

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TEDx connects Big Sky

The theme of the 2020 TEDx Big Sky conference was connection. Speakers came from around the country and presented a powerful array of topics from climate change to salmon killing hydro dams.

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Thank you, Chief Farhat

On Jan. 24, Big Sky community members and firefighters gathered at the Big Sky Fire Department to celebrate the eight-plus years of service by departing Fire Chief William Farhat. Farhat is relocating to Florida where he will assume a new role as Fire Marshal.

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Steamboat Dry Goods docks in Wilson

Owner Carolyn Whitmer recently opened up her second business. Steamboat Dry Goods is located within The Wilson Hotel and features a broad array of items from clothing to fine foods.

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Local ski racers sharpen edges

The Big Sky Ski Education Foundation alpine ski team has been on the slopes since the middle of December. Catch up on the results of their latest competitions.

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Ski map artist James Niehues

After more than 30 years mapping ski mountains across the U.S., artist James Niehues was ready to lay down his paintbrush. Now he has a new book showing how he became a ski-map legend.



Three's company: a big horn sheep ram rests between two iron brethren off Highway 191. PHOTO BY ASHLEY MCENROE

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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What or who inspired you most at the TEDx talks and have they inspired you to act?



Tory Cyr
Big Sky, MT

“The woman who talked about her husband’s ALS was most inspiring. I contributed to her cause and I plan to visit their site and reach out to my local Senators and Congressman regarding getting people the treatment they need.”



Bob Ingrum
Santa Barbara, CA

“Each speaker touched my heart. Amanda has inspired me to act. I lost my older sister to ALS and I saw my next-door neighbor succumb to the terrible disease. I am sharing the AXE ALS story with my Congressman and all others I can reach.”



Ewa Zirkle
Big Sky, MT

“Bob Hall inspired me the most. I’m going to tell myself ‘you got this’ every time, if I have a challenge I’m facing. Of course, they all were very moving and there’s lots of things to think about with being better to our planet. I’m definitely looking forward to getting that email with the contacts for the ALS one.”



Rich Addicks
Big Sky, MT

“I was most inspired by Bobby Gill with the Savory Institute. Their idea of holistic management of global grasslands was an idea that really resonated with me. Issues surrounding our natural world mean the most to me. Gill presented a big idea, but one worth embracing as they try to save the world’s grasslands through their work. What I learned was if grasslands are managed properly, and saved from “desertifying”, the benefits are tremendous, especially in the area of climate change, poverty, biological diversity and so much more. The only way I can support their work is through a charitable contribution, which I plan to do.”

Do the Gallatin a favor

BY THE GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

On Jan. 7, the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board approved Big Sky Water and Sewer District’s 1 percent for infrastructure application. Now, residents will vote in May to approve the additional tax, with revenues helping pay for a portion of a new, upgraded wastewater treatment plant, and a lift station and pipeline to convey wastewater from the canyon area to the plant in the years to come.

Not surprisingly, the decision was met with a mixed bag of reactions. There has been confusion about the funding mechanism, concerns about the impacts to the watershed and questions around the wisdom of enabling even more growth in a town that appears stretched to its limits. Here’s what we know, what we’re in the process of finding out and where we stand on the overlap between the watershed’s ecological health and our town’s infrastructure needs.

First, we know that the proposed wastewater treatment plant is a requirement; the district is legally obligated to serve already planned growth in its district. Already planned development alone will push our current water and sewer plant past its capacity soon, and doing nothing solves nothing. Like it or not, people want to live here and others want to visit.

The upgraded plant will treat wastewater to a much higher level than the current plant, greatly reducing harmful nutrient loads while allowing for new reuse opportunities like groundwater recharge and snowmaking. This ensures more clean water in our creeks and tributaries, a net win for the watershed, its piscine population and its human inhabitants.

While the treatment plant will be expensive, our watershed is worth it. A maximum of \$27 million for the new plant will come from the 1 percent tax, about 60 percent of the plant’s overall cost. Big Sky needs to invest in watershed security, and the watershed deserves the highest standards.

An upgraded plant is part one of Big Sky’s wastewater treatment projects. The second element of the Water and Sewer District’s application is a lift station and two pipelines running from the proposed new plant down to the canyon and back. These pipelines will be built if and only if canyon residents and businesses decide to form a water and sewer district of their own, centralizing water and sewer services, another added benefit to the watershed.

Centralized wastewater treatment for the canyon area will greatly reduce the nutrient load currently entering groundwater likely connected to the river from canyon residents. Most canyon residents are on individual septic systems that are antiquated and in desperate need of maintenance or replacement. A centralized system could connect those residents to BSWSD’s new and improved treatment facility, resulting in an estimated 99 percent less bacteria, 90 percent less nitrogen and 90 percent less phosphorus entering the canyon area’s groundwater.

While forming a centralized water district is the best option for the ecological health of the watershed, it’s also the best option for property owners. The longer canyon residents remain on individual systems, the greater the odds of nutrient loads impairing the Gallatin, an unacceptable outcome for the river and a major threat to property values. Maintenance costs also go down with a centralized system, another cash-saving benefit to homeowners.

The moment anyone mentions a pipeline, river enthusiasts’ ears perk up. In the past, pipelines have meant direct discharge, but that is not the plan in this case, and the Gallatin River Task Force does not support such a project. Instead, some of the wastewater treated at the new and improved plant in Big Sky would be piped to the canyon and reused and recycled in a way that would benefit the watershed. It could be used to recharge the aquifer, irrigate landscaping and/or for snowmaking on cross-country ski trails. The ultimate methods of reuse will depend on further analysis, and a study is underway by the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology.

Recycling this highly treated wastewater is far better for the ecological health of the watershed than leaving canyon residents relying on separate, failing septics. Again, there is no intention for this pipeline to connect to the mainstem of the Gallatin River.

It’s easy to think of the Gallatin as a wild, pristine river. In fact, it more closely resembles an urban waterway, threatened in many of the same ways. The human impact is a threat from the canyon all the way to Three Forks, and our primary concern is mitigating that threat. Step one is upgrading Big Sky’s current wastewater facility. Step two is forming a water and sewer district in the canyon and centralizing that area’s water and sewer services. By taking these two steps, we can stack the odds in the Gallatin’s favor.

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BZN continues to add new nonstop flights

BOZEMAN YELLOWSTONE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

BOZEMAN – On Jan. 16, Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport (BZN) announced that JetBlue will begin new summer and winter seasonal nonstop service between BZN and both New York-JFK and Boston Logan International Airport (BOS) in June.

JetBlue will become the only airline offering nonstop service to Boston and the New England region from Montana. Additionally, they will offer the first nonstop service to New York's JFK airport which will offer connecting opportunities to JetBlue's broad JFK network with easy connections to upstate New York, Florida and their extensive Caribbean network.

New York-JFK flights will operate three times weekly or up to daily at various times throughout the seasons. Boston flights will operate twice weekly on Saturdays and Wednesdays.

Big Sky sees recycling uptick

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – Big Sky residents recycled more pounds of recyclable materials in 2019 than they did throughout 2018. The data, gathered by the Gallatin County Waste Management District, showed a 4 percent raise in total pounds recycled and is drawn from the Highway 191 recycling site provided by John Hass of Haas Builders.

The numbers speak for themselves: 294,780 pounds of recyclable materials, almost two-thirds of which consisted of cardboard, were recycled this past year, a nearly 12,000-pound increase from 2018. No. 1 and No. 2 plastics bottles, aluminum and steel cans, cardboard and paper comprise the list of acceptable recyclable materials that can be discarded at the Highway 191 site.

Highway 191 travel study ongoing

EBS STAFF

GALLATIN COUNTY – The Montana Department of Transportation recently sought input with a series of public meetings regarding the ongoing travel study along Highway 191. The area covered by the study begins in Four Corners at the intersection of Jackrabbit and Huffine Lanes and Norris Road and will conclude at the Beaver Creek Road intersection near Big Sky.

Public meetings were held in Gallatin Gateway and Big Sky on Jan. 28 and 29, respectively, in order for MDT to provide the public with additional information and an opportunity to voice their concerns. MDT's aim for the study is to identify safety concerns along this particular stretch of Highway 191, as well as additional environmental and geometric needs, and how to best remedy them in the future.

For additional information and to comment on the study visit mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/US191

Fun Run set to take place Superbowl Sunday

EBS STAFF

BOZEMAN – The third annual Super Bowl Fun Run 5k is set to help tackle pediatric cancer on Feb. 2. At 10 a.m., children 12-and-under will commence the event with the “Kiddo Kickoff”, a 3/10-mile course, before the 5k race for all, which is slated to begin half an hour later. Participants of both races will start at the Rocking R Bar on East Main Street in downtown Bozeman. 260 participants took part in last year's event, raising more than \$9,000 to help families in the area with a child battling cancer.

At the conclusion of the run, festivities will continue at the Rocking R Bar. Free food and beverages will be provided by local distributors, including ice cream from Sweet Peaks, and hot dogs from Hail Mary's. All participants are eligible for prize drawings beginning at noon and one grand prize will be presented to the “Best Dressed” competitor.

REACH closes Bozeman location

EBS STAFF

BOZEMAN – Jan. 24 marked the closing of the REACH Air Medical Services operation located in Bozeman. The announcement comes after the organization observed a consistent lack of reimbursement for its services. Only about half of the costs associated with air transport patients were recovered from individuals who were covered by Medicare, which make up over two-thirds of the organization's clientele.

The closure of the REACH base will not result in a complete cease of air transport services in the area. Additional organizations in the area, that have the capabilities, will assist as REACH is phased out. Approximately 300,000 patients are moved by air transport annually in the U.S.



Voters to decide about funding for new wastewater infrastructure

BY DOUG HARE

BIG SKY – Earlier this month, the Big Sky Resort Area District Tax Board approved putting the following usage of the 1 percent resort tax proposal before the registered voters of the district in May:

“...60 percent of project costs, up to a maximum of \$27 million, towards construction of an expansion and upgrade to the Big Sky County Water and Sewer District (BSCWSD) Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF).”

The potential funding would address future shortcomings of the existing WRRF, upping average day-rated treatment capacity from 600,000 gallons to 910,000 gallons. The upgrade would also be conditioned by the BSCWSD’s commitment to facilitate 500 additional Single Family Equivalents in a bid to address ongoing workforce housing shortages. The proposal continues:

“...100 percent of project costs, up to \$12 million, towards construction of a wastewater lift station and forcemain to convey wastewater from a future Canyon Area Sewer District to the WRRF, along with a treated water pipeline from the WRRF back to the Canyon Area for reuse and potential groundwater discharge and/or aquifer recharge.”

This tentative Canyon Area project would only be funded if a Canyon Area Sewer District were to form and request an agreement with the BSCWSD to take wastewater from the Canyon. BSCWSD agreed to own and operate the future Canyon Area lift station and pipelines.

According to the BSCWSD’s website, taking raw wastewater from the Canyon Area, treating it to Class A-1 standards, and returning it to the Canyon Area for reuse and potential groundwater discharge/recharge would be a significant improvement for the Gallatin River watershed over the current situation, where they estimate 100,000 gallons per day of Gallatin Coun-

ty-approved septic tank effluent and Montana Department of Environmental Quality approved Level II treatment system effluent is being discharged into the groundwater.

Treated water from BSCWSD’s speculative WRRF Upgrade will result in approximately 99 percent less bacteria, 90 percent less nitrogen, and 90 percent less phosphorus entering the groundwater in the Canyon Area, according to project documents.

BSCWSD General Manager Ron Edwards said this project would be a net benefit to the environment and would not alter zoning or land use that has been previously permitted by Gallatin County. Land use, zoning and resulting development density can only be changed by Gallatin County officials. Edwards also noted that the availability of water and water rights in the Canyon Area will ultimately limit growth, a constraint that will prevent the area from significant densification.

Representatives from local conservation groups, including the Gallatin River Task Force and the Upper Missouri Waterkeeper, Inc., have expressed concerns about the Canyon Area project as putting the cart before the horse, demanding that more caution and due diligence must be done before giving the project the green light.

Pete Manka, board member of the BSCWD, takes those concerns to heart. “There are so many contingencies before the Canyon Area project comes to fruition,” Manka said in a phone interview. “We are really just playing the cards we are dealt to try and find the most environmentally sound decision for Big Sky and the Gallatin River. We will be working with conservation groups along the way to assuage fears that this project would be detrimental to our local river.”

Visit the BSCWSD website at bigskywatersewer.com to read more.



Montana's unemployment rate remains steady at 3.4% in December

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

HELENA – Montana's unemployment rate remained at 3.4 percent in December, with 1,200 jobs added over the month. The U.S. unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.5 percent.

"I am optimistic as we begin a new decade with a strong economy and growing wages that benefit workers, businesses and communities," Gov. Steve Bullock said. "More Montanans are working than ever before, and we're continuing efforts to build a skilled and talented workforce with opportunities to pursue meaningful careers."

Total employment, which includes agricultural, payroll and self-employed workers, grew by 1,200 jobs in December with similar growth in the labor force of 1,400 workers. Payroll employment indicated relatively flat employment levels.

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers rose 0.2 percent in December, with increases in gasoline, shelter and medical care. The gasoline index increased by 2.8 percent over the month. The index for all items less food and energy, also called core inflation, rose by 0.1 percent. Core inflation rose 2.3 percent over the last 12 months.

Atlantic Richfield scraps second Berkeley Pit water plant

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BUTTE – Atlantic Richfield has scrapped a proposal to build a second water treatment plant to lower the level of acidic, metal-laden water that has collected in a former copper mining pit in Butte.

There were concerns that reducing the water levels in Berkeley Pit could destabilize portions of the walls of the pit, Cameron Nazminia, director of state and local affairs for Atlantic Richfield, told "The Montana Standard."

Berkeley Pit began filling with water after Atlantic Richfield turned off underground pumps in 1982. Atlantic Richfield/BP and Montana Resources are responsible to maintain the water level in the pit below the level at which it would enter Butte's groundwater.

Last year, Montana Resources began a pilot project to pump and treat enough water from Berkeley Pit to stop the water levels from rising.

Atlantic Richfield had proposed lowering the pit's water levels by between 50 feet and 150 feet. The water is about 1,000 feet deep.

In addition to pit wall stability, Mark Thompson of Montana Resources said reducing the water level would expose sulfide-ore minerals to oxygen, generating acid that would increase the acidity of the water in the pit. Leaving the minerals covered with water takes the oxygen out of the equation, Thompson said.

Documentary examines a Western town: Jackson Hole, China

BY HANNAH HABERMANN

JACKSON HOLE NEWS & GUIDE

JACKSON, Wyo. (AP) – Halfway around the world from this Western ski town there's a place called Jackson Hole, China.

And no, the name isn't a coincidence. Located a few hours north of Beijing, Jackson Hole, China, is a small town that bears an uncanny resemblance to Jackson, Wyoming, and the surrounding valley.

How did China's Jackson Hole come to be? Why was it built to imitate Jackson Hole, USA? How do the citizens of the replica town live day to day?

Those questions were what inspired filmmaker Adam James Smith to make his new feature-length documentary "Americaville," along with co-producers Qi Zhang, Wang Qihan, Wei Guang, Song Ke and Tang Yi.

The documentary's story took shape around the collision and contrast of American and Chinese culture, and Smith began to examine what it meant for a community to copy an inferred lifestyle of another country. It primarily follows the life of a woman named Annie Liu, who came to Jackson Hole, China, because of her love for American culture and her hope of fulfilling the ever-elusive American dream.

"Watching the film may help locals answer the question 'Why is Jackson Hole so popular in the Chinese imagination?'" Smith said. "I hope it might change how people think about their hometown. I'm hoping it will be like holding up a mirror—seeing your place through someone else's eyes."

Montana tourism 2019: Nonresident spending down, visitor numbers up

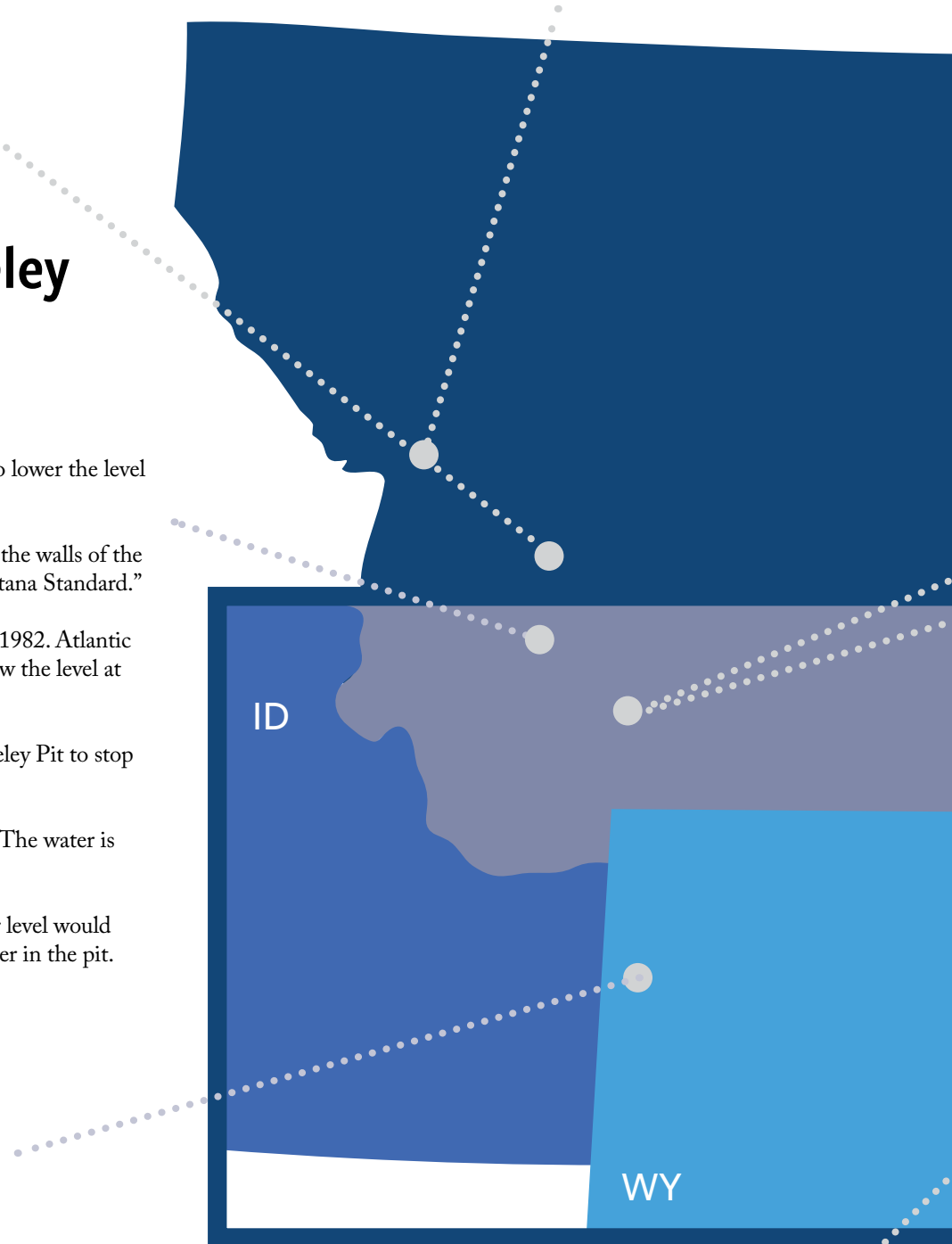
INSTITUTE FOR TOURISM AND RECREATION RESEARCH

MISSOULA – About 12.6 million nonresidents visited Montana in 2019 and spent around \$3.6 billion in Treasure State, according to preliminary estimates by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at University of Montana.

The number of travelers visiting the state in 2019 appears to have increased slightly, up 2 percent compared to 2018. Despite the higher number of individual travelers, third quarter spending was down just over 1 percent compared to third quarter 2018. Slightly smaller group sizes, combined with shorter average stays in Montana resulted in around a 2 percent decrease in total spending compared to 2018.

Visitor spending during 2019 supported an estimated 40,700 jobs directly and more than 56,000 jobs in total. Associated with those jobs is over \$1.08 billion of labor income directly supported by nonresident spending.

An additional \$602 million of labor income is indirectly supported by nonresident travel spending. These travelers contributed more than \$222 million in state and local taxes in 2019.



Wyoming governor: Carbon capture technology can help coal

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CASPER, Wyo. – Climate change is a man-made problem, but the solution doesn't have to come at the expense of fossil fuels, said Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon.

Gordon, who spoke Jan. 24 at the Wyoming Press Association's banquet in Casper, said developing carbon capture technology could be the solution.

"This is a climate crisis we really need to address," said the first-term Republican governor. "But we can only address it if we are serious about what the solutions are."

The School of Energy Resources at the University of Wyoming has been researching carbon capture technologies that could reduce pollution from burning coal to make electricity in an effort to sustain the demand for Wyoming coal. Wyoming has passed legislation to govern carbon sequestration and have received grants to study the feasibility of carbon capture and sequestration and different ways of burning coal, Gordon said.

Wyoming is the nation's top coal-producing state and is one of 13 states with no voluntary or mandatory renewable energy requirements for electric utilities. Just 0.34 percent of Wyoming's energy is produced from renewable resources, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Fire destroys post office but mail to resume in Montana town

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISMAY – U.S. Postal Service officials say mail service will resume in an Eastern Montana town where a fire destroyed the post office.

The fire in early January has prompted some residents of Ismay to worry about their mail. Since the fire, they've taken turns dropping off and picking up mail in a town almost 20 miles away.

Postal officials plan to put a mailbox in a community center in tiny Ismay, population 20, Postal Service spokesman James Boxrud said.

Meanwhile, property owners Rita and Gene Nimitz tell the "Billings Gazette" they're making tentative plans to rebuild the post office, which dated to the 1920s.

A faulty furnace or electrical wiring is believed to have started the blaze.

Reptile exhibit on display at Museum of the Rockies

MSU NEWS SERVICE



PHOTO COURTESY OF PEELING PRODUCTIONS

BOZEMAN – "Reptiles: The Beautiful and the Deadly," an exhibit that showcases living reptiles from around the world, will be on display at the Museum of the Rockies through Sept. 13.

The family-friendly exhibit will feature 19 different reptile species ranging from turtles and tortoises to crocodiles, snakes and lizards housed in naturalistic habitats in changing exhibit galleries in the front and back of the museum.

Museum hours will vary throughout the exhibit's run. From January through May 22 hours will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; May 23 through Sept. 7, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sept. 8-13, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The showcase will explore common myths about reptiles and give attendees an understanding of how reptiles fit into the animal kingdom as well as in their native habitats.

The self-guided exhibit will have dioramas for further information as well as trivia areas and games, such as "Turtle Trivia or Lizard Wizard" for visitors to test their knowledge of reptiles. An experienced zoo professional will remain with the exhibit to care for the reptiles.

"Reptiles: The Beautiful and the Deadly" was created by Clyde Peeling's REPTILAND in Allenwood, Pennsylvania and is sponsored by The Oakland Companies.

For more information and schedules, please visit museumoftherockies.org or call (406) 994-2652.

Former MSU president publishes dictionary to help preserve language of California tribe

BY CAROL SCHMIDT
MSU NEWS SERVICE



PHOTO BY ADRIAN SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ

BOZEMAN – A project that retired Montana State University President Geoffrey Gamble launched nearly 50 years ago may help preserve the language of a California Indian tribe that has all but disappeared.

Gamble, a linguist who served as MSU's 11th president from 2000 to 2009, has just published a dictionary of the language of the Wikchamni people of California's southern San Joaquin Valley, a tribe with a declining population that has only one native speaker remaining.

It is a 50-year labor of love for Gamble, who first began on the project in 1969 while he was working in a master's program at Fresno State College. He worked on the dictionary in spare moments throughout a career that evolved from anthropology professor to college administrator to university president.

To learn more about the Wikchamni project go to wikchamnidictionary.library.fresnostate.edu. Visit montana.edu/news/19526 to read the complete story.

High schools to offer girls wrestling, boys powerlifting in 2020

EBS STAFF

BILLINGS – The Montana High School Association executive board recently passed a proposal to add girls wrestling and boys powerlifting as sanctioned school sports. Both will be offered to schools that are members of MHSA—including Lone Peak and Bozeman high schools—beginning in the 2020-21 school year.

The decision comes amid an increasing interest in offering collegiate women's wrestling programs at universities across the country.

Wyoming's governor reiterates support for lodging tax

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHEYENNE, Wyo. – Wyoming's governor is reiterating his support for a statewide lodging tax to boost state revenue.

Lodging tax is the only new tax he would support, Gov. Mark Gordon said Jan. 24. It would make Wyoming's tourism promotion efforts more self-sufficient, Gordon told reporters at the Wyoming Press Association's winter convention in Casper.

A 3.5-percent statewide lodging tax passed the Wyoming House but failed in the Senate in 2019, the "Wyoming Tribune Eagle" reports. The tax would have generated about \$20 million a year.

The four-week legislative session devoted primarily to the state budget begins Feb. 10.

Farewell, Chief

Community says goodbye to BSFD's Chief Farhat after eight years

BY BRANDON WALKER

BIG SKY – A crowd of about 30 individuals were in attendance at the Big Sky Fire Department on Jan. 24 to see off departing BSFD Chief William Farhat. Colleagues and community members celebrated the man in the very station he has overseen for nearly a decade.

“I’ve been cleaning out my office and every time I find something that I haven’t seen in a while it triggers a memory,” said Farhat, surrounded by friends who congratulated and thanked him. “The community has grown a lot and we had to grow along with it ... It’s going to hit, you know, when everybody leaves, I go to a quiet office and turn lights off for the last time and leave my keys.”

The celebration kicked off with speeches and award presentations by President of the Local IAFF 4732, John Foster, and Interim Chief Greg Megaard. Lastly, Farhat addressed the crowd that came out to wish him well. His speech was light and cheerful as he worked in some jokes and even told the tale of how he never anticipated becoming a fire chief in the first place.

Megaard, who served with BSFD as Deputy Chief-Operations from 2016 until he took the helm at 5 p.m. on Jan. 24 as Interim Chief, said Farhat’s exit is bittersweet.

“Obviously, Chief Farhat’s done some remarkable things here, but when you do make a move for your family, nobody can begrudge that,” Megaard said after addressing the crowd. “It means everything to be able to send him off the right way and have members of the public, the board, the fire staff here.”

Next on the docket for Farhat is a move to Florida where he will assume the role of Fire Marshal for the Orange County Public Schools in Orlando, Florida. His new position will be no small task: Orange County is the eighth largest in the U.S. Farhat’s lengthy experience as



IAFF local 4732 President John Foster (far left) presents departing Fire Chief William Farhat (second from left) with a plaque thanking him for his dedicated service to the Big Sky community and Fire Department. PHOTO BY BRANDON WALKER

a first responder will be invaluable as he oversees 2,000 schools housing some 215,000 students and 2,500 employees.

Although Foster detailed that Farhat is no stranger to handling a lofty workload, citing his track record in Big Sky as proof. “We had a board meeting just a couple days ago [and] we talked about our call volume increasing 111 percent since 2010. So, the growth in the community has been massive and he’s been able to keep up with it and he’s just done so much for the fire department,” Foster said.

The departing chief’s legacy will live on long after his departure. During his eight-year tenure, the size of the BSFD more than tripled in size from eight full-time employees to 28. Farhat hired 21 of them himself.

“A lot of us are here ... have our jobs because of the mill levies that he helped pass within the community,” Foster said. “I was hired on one of those mill levies, some of the other guys have been hired on other ones and on grants that he’s gotten passed through. He’s been great for the area, he’s been great for us, and good for the relationship between the local [IAFF 4732 union] and the fire department.”

Then, as if it was written into existence by a Hollywood screenwriter, a fire call rang out during the celebration. The need to ensure the coast was clear lined the departing chief’s face as he checked for updates. True right up to his last day, he fulfilled his duties to the best of his ability no matter the situation.

Farhat shared a final sentiment of how much the Big Sky community and station has meant to him over the years. “It’ll be sad, no doubt. I have left jobs before. It’s not the first time for me, but this one is different ... I have a much stronger attachment to the people I work with here, care about them a lot more. They’ve been great to me so I’m going to miss that.”



Awards and mementos line a table at the thank you celebration for departing Fire Chief William Farhat on Jan. 24. PHOTO BY BRANDON WALKER

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News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

TEDxBigSky 2020: The power of talk and action

BY MIRA BRODY

BIG SKY – Whitney Petty strummed a chord on her guitar while Molly Sides lightened the mood with a few jokes that paired well with her tech-colored suit. Sides and Petty are the founding members of the Seattle based all-female rock n' roll band Thunderpussy, and were the final speakers of the TEDxBigSky speaker series that took place last Saturday, Jan. 25.

If you were in the audience of the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center five minutes prior, the mood was a bit heavier, but that's the power of "Connection," the theme of this year's fourth-annual event put on by Outlaw Partners, publishers of this newspaper, featuring 10 passionate talks by those looking to connect and spread their truth.

"If I threw a piece of string out to one of you tonight who I know really well, it wouldn't take long for us to work that piece of string around the room, because we're all connected," said Outlaw Partners CEO and Founder Eric Ladd—also the publisher of this newspaper—motivating listeners with a powerful call to action, which he says is an essential follow-up to events like TEDxBigSky. "We could create this big, beautiful, powerful web, but let's do something with it."

Outlaw Partners Media and Events Director Ersin Ozer, who introduced each speaker throughout the night, emphasized the importance that TEDxBigSky maintain a larger impact beyond the local stage.

"At Outlaw we tell stories ... but this event is bigger than Outlaw," Ozer said. "Our company was founded on the Code of the West, and a couple credos stand out: 'Always finish what you start' because our job is not done; 'When you make a promise keep it' because everyone in the audience made a promise to take action; and 'Do what has to be done' because we all have an opportunity to help, so why not?"

"While people are still inspired from the event, I encourage everyone to pick one speaker that they feel a connection with and take action to help them with their cause," Ozer added.

Speakers included Kate Atwood, founder of Kate's Club, the Atlanta, Georgia-based nonprofit that supports children through the grieving



The 2020 TEDx Big Sky speakers, Outlaw team members, and community members pose for a photo at the conclusion of the event on Jan. 25. PHOTO BY JENNINGS BARMORE

process after loss; Chris Adams whose positive life view (and obsession with Pearl Jam) has helped him share his story about living with Crohn's Disease; Steven Hawley and Michael Peterson spoke of their recent project, "Dammed to Extinction," a film that screened at Lone Peak Cinema the previous night and highlights the effects plummeting salmon populations have on Orca whales.

Christine Baker encouraged us to "speak our truth" in order to spread compassion; Bobby Gill, talked about his work with the Savory Institute and their efforts to regenerate the world's grasslands through holistic management; and Riley Becker, a young advocate whose passion for climate change was sparked after counting the steps it took to reach the Mer De Glace glacier in Chamonix, France, only to find that they had increased upon a later visit.

"Every new experience you have in life you're probably underqualified for," said speaker Bob Hall, who kicked off the second half of the series with a theme adopted by his late father, whose words "You've got this" served as a driving force in his life. "That's a liberating thing," he added, "that you don't have much to lose."

Hall was instrumental in securing funding for the new Big Sky Community Center, an accomplishment in good company on his lengthy resume. He spoke of life's "second mountain" – the concept, based on David Brooks' eponymous bestseller, that after securing our own stability and success, and in order to lead the most fulfilling life, your ambitions should involve helping others.

Following Hall was Olympic skier Bode Miller with a talk on the power of emotion, and Amanda Stevens, who spoke on behalf of her husband Eric Stevens who was diagnosed with ALS last August at the age of 29. Together, they are raising awareness about the effects a tedious bureaucratic process has on patients fighting terminal illness.

In the audience, a woman in the second row pulled out a full-size box of tissues. "I took this from the hotel room," she said, offering them to her surrounding seatmates. "I heard we might need them tonight." By the time Amanda Stevens finished her talk, the tissues were spent.

ALS, or Lou Gehrig's, is a motor neuron disease that robs the body of its ability to function. More than 30,000 Americans die of ALS annually and a patient's life expectancy is just 2-5 years. Although it was diagnosed



"Dammed to Extinction" Director Michael Peterson (left) and Writer Steven Hawley (right) present at the 2020 TEDx Big Sky conference on Jan. 25. PHOTO BY JENNINGS BARMORE

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News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners



Guitarist Whitney Petty (left) and Singer Molly Sides (right) of the band 'Thunderpussy' perform at the 2020 TEDx Big Sky conference. PHOTO BY JENNINGS BARMORE

150 years ago, only two treatment options exist and they do nothing substantial for the quality of life of the patient as they slowly revert to a state hauntingly described as a “glass coffin.”

NurOwn, a treatment produced by a small biotech company in Israel called Brainstorm Cell Therapeutics, has been shown to slow, stop and even reverse symptoms of ALS for the first time in history. Although it passed phases 1 and 2 of testing, it has been stuck for more than 10 years in the FDA trial process. This means a life-changing treatment for ALS, a fatal disease, is on the same pathways as acne and migraine medication, Stevens said. Each day without treatment is a day lost, a frustrating predicament you can hear in Stevens' voice as she addressed the audience.

“At what point does the scientific method surpass human compassion, decency and common sense?” Stevens asked. She paused, taking deep, steadying breaths and fighting back tears. “If we allow people to die while waiting on science, then we have failed as human beings to help those facing an unimaginable hell.”

Amanda and Eric are traveling to Washington, D.C. to advocate for ALS patients across the country.

“We have a term at the fire department that says ‘You risk a lot, to save a lot,’” Stevens said, speaking on behalf of her husband. “I think the FDA needs that same approach. People are dying, and there is treatment showing promising results. You have to risk a little bit more to give these people a chance.”

Between speakers, audience members were already living up to the night's theme, making connections of their own. “I saw you guys in Copenhagen over a decade ago,” said one man frantically, reaching two rows down to shake the hand of Peal Jam guitarist Mike McCready, who was featured in Adams' talk earlier in the night. “Your music changed my life.”

Being one of 280 learning about grief, the extinction of animals, chronic diseases and climate change, you can feel a bit underqualified to do much about it, which, as we learned from Hall, is how we're supposed to feel when we're taking on something new.

Maybe the most powerful thing we can do to keep the momentum going is talk about these amazing moments, encourage action and ensure that this event impacts lives beyond the stage.

“It's going to happen from this room,” Ladd said. “It's good place for it to happen – we're at the top of mountains, we're at the headwaters of streams—let's do it.”



Amanda Stevens' TEDx talk in Big Sky, Montana on Jan. 25 was called “Fight for Hope,” about her 29-year-old husband Eric who is dying from ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). It was profound: How can terminally ill patients be denied treatment that has been proven to help slow and even reverse a disease like ALS? Her TEDx video is now online. Find it by searching “Amanda Stevens, TEDxBigSky.”

Take a stand for Eric Stevens and 30,000 Americans suffering from ALS. Here's what to do:

1. Watch the video
2. Share this video on social media and with family and friends
3. Lobby President Trump and your state Representatives or Congressmen (sample letters: stevensnation.com/help-us/)
4. Donate here: gofundme.com/f/eric-stevens-care-trust?

“Love humanity? Start with one person.”
– Gabriel Laub

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News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

Brody, Wold bring experience and passion to Outlaw team

EBS STAFF

Mira Brody

Originally from a Sonoma suburb in California, Mira Brody appreciates the change of pace that Montana presents for her. She currently resides in Bozeman and is approaching her fifth year living in the Treasure State.

Brody joins the Outlaw team as the editor of the Arts & Entertainment section of the Explore Big Sky newspaper. She brings not only a background in writing, graduating with a bachelor's degree from California State University, Chico in English and a minor in creative writing, but also a passion for the arts.

"My day job is office manager at the Emerson Cultural Arts Center in Bozeman," Brody said. "Being surrounded by art all day is refreshing. There's always something going on in that building."

The California native possesses previous journalism experience working for her hometown paper, "The Community Voice," for nearly three years. She began as an intern while attending college in 2012, before shifting to a full-time role after graduating in 2013.

"I'm excited to be working with creatives and to collaborate and improve my craft with others. I'm a hardcore believer in the power of journalism and storytelling and it's great to work on a team with similar beliefs," Brody said.

Favorite Athletic Team: San Francisco Giants – "I miss that stadium clam chowder and fighting off hordes of seagulls after the last pitch."

Treston Wold

Treston Wold hails from Minneapolis, Minnesota. He attended the University of North Dakota where he earned a degree in accounting. Wold is happily acclimating to the weather, temperatures and recreational opportunities that Big Sky offers for him and his family.



PHOTO BY BRANDON WALKER



PHOTO COURTESY OF BEN JOHNSON

Favorite Film: "Airplane!"

Favorite Food: Wilcoxson's Chocolate Mint & Cookies ice cream

Favorite Writer: David Sedaris – "Life is weird ... and he describes those little moments of weirdness we experience every day so perfectly."

"UND is the second coldest university in America, so it's nice to be in the warmer climate of Big Sky," said Wold, who joins the Outlaw Partners crew as the financial controller, bringing with him a wealth of experience in the world of finance.

"I started my career in public accounting where I earned my CPA license. From there, I transitioned into the accounting/finance departments for two different publicly traded companies where I spent four years before coming to Big Sky and working for Outlaw Partners."

The Minnesota native recently moved his family to Big Sky, although his wife, Ally had already discovered the area having previously lived and worked in town as a ski instructor. Wold was no stranger himself, having married Ally here and visiting for 14 years before making the move.

The small town feel that Big Sky offers was an attractive perk for Wold. "One of the companies I previously worked for had 35,000 employees. While this was an amazing opportunity to gain experience, it was difficult to make meaningful changes," he said. "What drew me to Outlaw was the amazing team and how nimble we are. We can execute visions quickly and we really care about making a difference in our community and the world."

Favorite Athletic Team: Minnesota Vikings

Favorite Film: "Lone Survivor," "Inception," "Garden State," and "Touching the Void"

Favorite Food: Sushi

Favorite Writer: Malcom Gladwell

Gianforte plays up Trump ties in Montana governor's race

BY MATTHEW BROWN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS – U.S. Rep. Greg Gianforte is playing up his close ties to President Donald Trump as he tries to squash questions raised by his Republican primary opponents about his ability to reclaim Montana's governor's seat.

In the contest's first debate to feature all the candidates, Attorney General Tim Fox and state Sen. Al Olszewski at times paired up against the state's lone congressman, who has a huge lead in campaign cash.

They made thinly-veiled references Jan. 23 to Gianforte's 2017 assault of a reporter and questioned whether he has sufficient appeal within the GOP after losing a bid for governor in 2016.

But Gianforte never struck back. He drew parallels between his experience building a large technology company in Bozeman and Trump's business background, and shared anecdotes of visits to the White House meant to illustrate their ties. The impeachment trial underway in Washington was largely ignored.

"Who do you trust to leverage his relationship with Donald Trump to make sure we have better outcomes for Montana?" Gianforte asked. "We've seen what President Trump has done for our national economy. The same thing needs to happen in the state."

The primary is June 2.

Term limits prevent Gov. Steve Bullock from seeking re-election. Lt. Gov. Mike Cooney, businesswoman Whitney Williams and House Minority Leader Casey Schreiner are seeking the Democratic nomination.

Fox suggested Gianforte would best serve the party by not abandoning his House seat, and noted he received some 96,000 more votes during the 2016 election than Gianforte, a who lost a bid for governor that year.

Olszewski evoked Gianforte's assault on a reporter the day before he was elected to the U.S. House in a 2017 special election. Olszewski said he wasn't going to be "body-slammed out of this race" and said rumors that he might drop out were "lies" and "backstabbing."

The three candidates largely agreed on many of the central issues raised by moderators, including reining in state spending, lifting barriers to energy development and reducing tax burdens.

They sought instead to draw distinctions based on their ability to get elected and track record: Fox pointed to his years of public service, Gianforte touted his corporate credentials and Olszewski offered up a blend of legislative know-how and the experience he's gained as a surgeon in

private practice.

Democrats have occupied the governor's mansion in Helena since 2005, a sore point for Republicans who hold almost every other statewide seat.

"We must pick the right candidate to get through the primary to actually win the governor's election," Fox said. "We need ... not just a conservative Republican as I've proven myself, but somebody who has a proven record of uniting people."

Fox, who grew up in Hardin and is finishing up his second term as attorney general, cast himself as the candidate with the most statewide appeal.

He pointed to a range of issues he's been active on while in office—including litigation challenging Washington state's resistance to new ports that would ship Montana coal, curbing Medicaid fraud and pursuing sex traffickers.

Gianforte said his years building up the Bozeman-based company Right Now Technologies, which was later sold to Oracle, taught him the importance of letting private industry drive innovation.

He promised to cut state spending and give Montanans a tax break if elected—a proposal that Fox appeared to reference when he warned against "pandering" by candidates who promise across the board cuts.

"It's not about who we are or what we're going to promise. It's about why we want to be governor," said Olszewski, an orthopedic surgeon and Air Force veteran from Kalispell. "As a doctor, I'm frustrated by being burdened by regulations that force me to focus more on the regulations than you."

With the impeachment trial now underway seeming to harden support for Trump, that could play to Gianforte's advantage given that he's got a personal relationship with the president while his opponents do not, said University of Montana political analyst Robert Saldin.

But Saldin added that Fox's claims to be more electable in the general election could resonate with party leaders eager to end the Democratic lock on the governor's seat that began with the 2004 election of former Gov. Brian Schweitzer.

"If you're Fox, there's a good argument that Gianforte has always under-performed. In 2016, he was the only Republican to lose in Montana" in a statewide election, he said. "If the main thing that matters to you is who is the most Trump-y guy out there, then Gianforte is going to win that every time."

While Olszewski finished fourth in the 2018 U.S. Senate primary, Saldin said the lawmaker enjoys strong support in northwest Montana and among his fellow legislators in Helena.

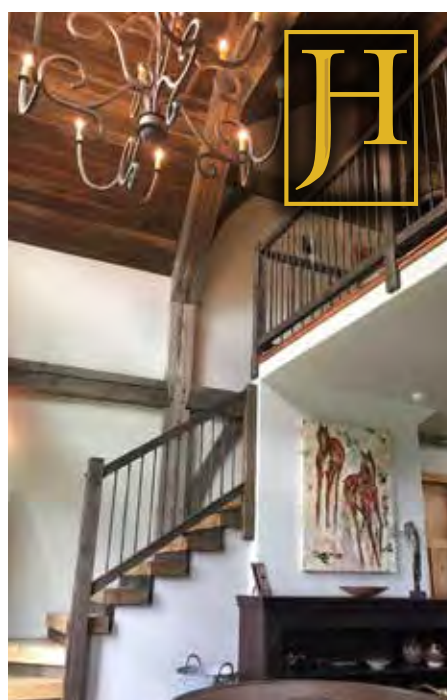
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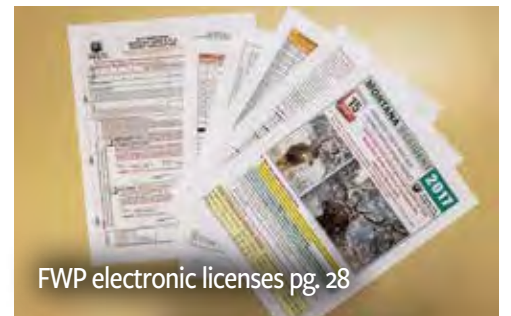
SECTION 2: ENVIRONMENT & OUTDOORS



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Mountain lion thrills wildlife viewers pg. 23



FWP electronic licenses pg. 28

Living with wildlife

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BIG SKY – Under the gentle glow of a headlamp, Big Sky homeowner Vince Meng has caught glimpses into the secret lives of wild animals. He glides, the swish-swish of skis on snow a steady sound in the night. He takes pause from a distance to watch a coyote; other times it's a fox or a sparse handful of browsing elk.

Sometimes he may not spy a wild animal at home on the same trails he skis—the very golf course positioned in the meadow near Town Center—but more often than not he'll see their tracks: the swaths of elk hooves or depressions left by moose, the pitter-patter or slide left by otters or beaver as they meander the West Fork of the Gallatin River.

“There's a lot of wildlife here,” he said, reflecting on how special it is to have wild animals in Big Sky. “We're surrounded by the Lee Metcalf [Wilderness]. There's wild, wild country all around us here.”

In the daylight hours, Meng—like many homeowners who've been drawn to Big Sky—occasionally spots moose or elk, and was thrilled to spot an entire herd of elk moving through the Crail Ranch area in early December.

“I would guess they are moving to winter range somewhere,” he said. “The elk crossed the main highway near Town Center and fortunately a patrolman was there who stopped traffic and acted as a crossing guard.”



A herd of elk gathers near Crail Ranch in early December 2019. PHOTO BY VINCE MENG

Meng has owned a vacation home at Crail Ranch for 15 years where he stays during the winter season. Over the years, he says he's seen an increasing amount of wildlife, something he's not sure is the result of just spending more time in Big Sky, a product of town growth or animal population changes. Either way, he said, “It seems we see more wildlife all the time in spite of the continuing development.”

“Overall, everybody should feel so fortunate to live here,” he said. “I think most people who live here understand they need to respect the wildlife here but we get a lot of visitors.”

Meng said he watched a cross-country skier yell and harass two bull moose right in front of his condo last year. “He was lucky he wasn't charged,” he said. “Many people I encounter on the trails are from out of state and have no familiarity at all with the animals.”

He added that folks are obviously excited to see different animals, but education goes a long way in safely living and recreating with wildlife.



The Spanish Peaks bighorn sheep herd gathers on Lone Mountain Trail in Big Sky during the spring of 2016. PHOTO BY WES OVERVOLD

TIPS FOR LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

- Don't feed wildlife
- Keep your distance
- Minimize fencing or consider wildlife-friendly fences
- Embrace native landscaping that can serve as wildlife habitat

Visit fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/livingWithWildlife for additional resources as well as species specific recommendations.



A moose strolls the Big Sky Town Center sidewalk beneath the Lone Peak Cinema in November 2019. PHOTO BY MICHAEL PITCAIRN

Kris Inman, who oversees the Wildlife Conservation Society’s Bear Smart Big Sky Campaign, has frequently written on this topic as it applies to bears in her “Bear Basics with Bernadette Bear” column for EBS—where she takes a close look at how human actions can have grave consequences for bears—but the concept applies to all of Big Sky’s wildlife: a few concerted actions on the part of everyone coming to and living in Big Sky can keep Montana’s wildlife healthy and wild.

For Meng, this means keeping your distance and giving wildlife space. “You just shouldn’t bother [wildlife] in the winter,” he said, adding that wildlife encounters with dogs can also be an issue and dog owners should be aware of what trails are open or closed to dogs and consider leashing their pets in the vicinity of known wildlife areas.

Additionally, Meng said, motorists should be aware that wildlife could cross the road at any turn in Big Sky.

Bozeman area biologist Julie Cunningham for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, says there are a number of resources available online at the department website that include species-specific tips for dealing with different wildlife situations.

“Of particular note, I always like to highlight the importance of having minimal fences and wildlife-friendly fences,” she wrote in an email to EBS. “Entanglement is a terrible way for wildlife to die, and wildlife need to be able to move across the landscape.”

Cunningham said it’s also important not to feed wildlife, whether intentionally or not. Bird feeders, as just one example, can attract more than just birds, and can become a problem when moose, bears or deer start clambering onto a deck.

“Some people think they are ‘helping’ the animals by offering feed, but this is an illegal and often dangerous practice,” Cunningham said.



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THE NEW WEST



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

You may have seen Michael Osterholm's name in a national newspaper because, as a global disease expert, he has investigated things like the deadly Ebola virus, and reporters have recently solicited his opinion about the rapidly-spreading coronavirus that started in China.

In 2019 I had a conversation with Osterholm, who is based at the University of Minnesota, about another zoonotic menace, one that is the deer-family equivalent of mad cow disease and is quickly exerting a presence in wildlife throughout the Northern Rockies: chronic wasting disease.

In February 2019 he offered this grave observation about mad cow to the Minnesota state legislature:

"It is my best professional judgment based on my public health experience and the risk of [mad cow disease] transmission to humans in the 1980s and 1990s and my extensive review and evaluation of laboratory research studies ... that it is probable that human cases associated with the consumption of contaminated meat will be documented in the years ahead. It is possible that the number of human cases will be substantial and will not be isolated events."

Here are some excerpts from our conversation:

Todd Wilkinson: What caused you to deliver such a forceful warning before the Minnesota legislature?

Michael Osterholm: Several things. First of all, it's one of those things, like so many issues, that I could work 28-hours-a-day on. I've been very involved with influenza outbreaks and other diseases, like Ebola, and traveling 200,000-miles-a-year for work. CWD should be regarded on the same scale of other diseases we are worried about.

I just became more and more unsettled about this issue. I had been involved with providing professional input in the 1980s on BSE [bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease]. And at that time had expressed my severe concern about this idea that there was this magical disease barrier existing between species that would keep everything from coming to humans. It was something I thought was naïve and my suspicions were validated.

At the time, some said you were just a scare monger, that kind of person who just needlessly upsets people. And, of course, the story's been told since that time. I wasn't alone and our worries were indeed justified.

TW: What's needed?

MO: We ought to aggressively be developing testing methods that can be done on site, [and are] reliable, cheap and effective.

The last thing we want to have happen is for hunting as a tradition and a management tool to be reduced. Right now there are 200,000 white-tailed-deer-a-year that are harvested in Minnesota and if we suddenly saw the white-tailed deer hunting experience change, that's only going to increase the problem on the wildlife side because of the animal population density [and having higher concentrations of animals with CWD coming in closer contact with uninfected animals]. However, we need to face the facts and make sure people are protected by providing the best available knowledge.

TW: You have called attention to the risk of CWD animals passing through meat processing facilities.

MO: Yes, the second thing I'm very concerned about, and it comes from some of my foodborne disease work ... is what the hell happens when

Prominent public health official shares frank thoughts about Chronic Wasting Disease



Disease expert Dr. Michael Osterholm PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

you introduce CWD into meat processing environments? If somebody's deer or elk comes through and it's contaminated, what does that mean for everything else behind it? I'll tell you: it's not good because it's not easy to sterilize and decontaminate places and surfaces that become tainted with prions.

TW: You've taken your concern a step further, emphasizing your fear that with potential prion mutation, CWD could cross a species barrier from cervids to domestic livestock and then reach people.

MO: Something that's been very concerning is the lack of national leadership, whether it be on the wildlife side or on the agricultural side. Clearly, I think we have some serious challenges here with what it means to the bovine world.

Is there going to be potential cross exposure [to cattle] and would that happen? The ag people can't just back out of the conversation about it potentially reaching livestock and, of course, public health officials need to be paying attention to the human side. The World Health Organization and CDC advisement to not eat suspected meat is limp compared to what we need. A lot of CWD-infected deer and elk may not look sick.

I'm not telling anybody this [CWD] is going to be a BSE crisis but I am suggesting that it could be. Why do we want to experiment with ourselves to find out?

TW: As CWD continues to spread, what are your priorities?

MO: I absolutely have no doubt that animal-to-animal transmission is really important. How much of that is from direct saliva contact is really unclear. I think the human exposure question involves really, for me, the venison and game meat consumption issue. The extent of using your own utensils and knives in butchering deer or elk and bringing it back to the kitchen raises serious questions about contamination. And, in terms of people coming in contact with lymph nodes and other tissue of infected animals, we just don't know the degree of risk but that doesn't mean risk doesn't exist.

TW: We know that there are different prion strains and mutations that can occur. Is your concern that it's only a matter of time?

MO: That's part of it; actually, it's all of it. Look at the accelerating number of cases. This is out of control in the wildlife populations.

Todd Wilkinson is the founder of Bozeman-based "Mountain Journal" and is a correspondent for "National Geographic." He's also the author of "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek" about famous Jackson Hole grizzly bear 399.

REFLECTIONS

Thoughts for sustainable living



Trees turned to tissue

BY KATHY BOUCHARD
EBS CONTRIBUTOR



A chart by the National Resource Defense Council illustrating what products make the sustainability grade. Also read the NRDC's article "The Issue with Tissue."

Every few months I travel to Chicago to visit my kids and grands. While there, the very best nature fix available is only a few miles away at The Morton Arboretum, whose forests are splendid and consoling regardless of season. One mission of the arboretum is to propagate trees from around the globe to educate visitors about the habitats and histories of the specimens. They possess more than 100 varieties of oaks alone.

By contrast, our mountains, while glorious, display a scant fraction of that variety as altitude and latitude impose extremes of endurance for the few available hardy species. There is a similar lack of variety further North. But what it lacks in arboreal variety, the great boreal forest makes up for in abundance.

Named for Boreas, Greek god of the north wind, the boreal forest is home to caribou, lynx, pine marten, bear and billions of nesting migratory birds. These forests circle the globe across Canada, Alaska, the Scandinavian countries and Russia. Crucially, they comprise a vast carbon sink that holds 22 percent of the world's land-based carbon. And in Canada, it is losing 78,000 trees per day so we can softly, strongly, absorbently wipe our counters, our noses and our ... well, you know.

In the history of keeping various domestic and anatomical surfaces clean, tissue is a relatively new development. Toilet paper replaced mullein leaves, the Farmer's Al-

manac, Sears catalogue and corncobs—not kidding—around the 1920s. Handkerchiefs did service for noses, while cloth towels and repeatedly washed rags mopped up kitchen spills.

Most Americans have replaced any or all of these utilitarian items with tree-sourced virgin pulp, meaning we consume 20 percent of the world's tissues, though the American populace is only 4 percent of the global population. The cost: a huge carbon footprint.

To make those plump super-soft extra ply tissues, chlorine is added to break down the fiber content and whiten the product. We are merely a production process away from simply flushing trees down the toilet, into the treatment systems where more carbon is released as decomposition occurs.

There are replacements for virgin pulp such as recycled paper—no, not recycled TP—agricultural residue like wheat fiber or bamboo fiber. I've experimented with a company that offers both recycled paper and bamboo, and I like the bamboo. This company and at least one other use profits to establish toilets in impoverished villages around the world, demonstrating a social conscience as well as enterprise.

Without the demand for virgin pulp, the boreal forest might be preserved. The Forest Stewardship Council certifies sustainable practices like replanting trees, and some companies are seeking their endorsement as environmental activists exert pressure. But a single mature tree contains more carbon than thousands of seedlings, and will for decades. It is a sentinel of the wilderness, protector of bear cubs, and larder of squirrels and chickadees. As part of a vital carbon sink, and with its service to wildlife, it is much more valuable thriving in place than being pulped to wipe our ... well, you know.

Kathy Bouchard is a member of the Rotary Club of Big Sky's Sustainability Committee. She has been a Montana resident for 20 years and is inspired to work for sustainability on behalf of her grandchildren.



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Water Wisdom

BY DAVID TUCKER
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

So far, this season has been a mild one. While the Natural Resources Conservation Service is reporting a Gallatin watershed snowpack that's 102 percent of normal, it hasn't felt like an average winter—at least not yet. For now, we can enjoy the warm temps—there's nothing in the week-long forecast lower than 30—and even soak up some sun on the river.

If the mild temps keep coming, and our snowpack dips below average, we're going to need a community effort to keep water in the river come August. With that in mind, there's no time like the present to start planning for conservation. With Gallatin River Task Force's indoor-amenities rebates and outdoor water-saving programs, we have you well positioned to make a difference, so this winter, enjoy the river, then plan on protecting it.

Here are just a few ways you can enjoy the river this time of year.

1. Go Fishing. Trout tend to mellow out in the winter, conserving energy in deep pools and rarely moving much in pursuit of food. With warmer temps, ice-free flows and sunny days, they're more likely to be on the move. Check fishing reports and keep an eye out for warmer afternoons. These are your best bets for mid-winter action.

If cold-weather fishing isn't your thing, check out the fly-tying nights at Gallatin River Guides. The shop hosts every Wednesday.

2. Take a Hike. Trails that are usually snowbound, like the Gallatin River trail between Storm Castle and 35 MPH bridge, are largely free of accumulation or at the very least, packed down enough to walk on comfortably. Ousel Falls is

Wet and mild

another creek-side trail that shouldn't have much in the way of fresh powder, and it's always popular with ski-season visitors. If you're hiking Ousel, we suggest traction aids or trekking poles for stability.

3. Head Cross-Country. Groomed town trails follow along or nearby the forks of the Gallatin that flow through the Meadow Village. Take a few laps at lunch or after some turns at the resort. Once you've worked up an appetite, you'll be in close proximity to several happy-hour specials.

There are also options along the river south of Big Sky before you enter Yellowstone National Park. If you're dogless, follow the river to its source inside the Park for a real adventure, starting at the Bighorn Pass trailhead. Be sure to bring the camera along, watch for wildlife and even pack bear spray. It's a common misconception that grizzlies den up all season long, but they've been known to get up and wander about, especially during warmer winters.

4. Make Some Home Improvements. Even if our snowpack stays at average, planning for a below-average year and leaving water supply in the watershed is a good thing. Do your part by upgrading your water-using appliances to more efficient models. The Task Force offers a rebate program that pays you cash for low-flow toilets, washers and showerheads, and that's just indoors. There's even more savings for irrigating efficiently.

5. Make a Friend. Later this spring, we'll be launching our Trout-Friendly Landscaping program, the first of its kind in Montana. Participants will receive accreditation for reaching certain standards regarding their landscape management, and there are several money- and water-saving options to choose from. Stay tuned to our website (gallatinrivertaskforce.org) for the program's launch in March.

David Tucker is the communications manager for the Gallatin River Task Force.

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BY SARA MARINO
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The Upper Beehive Basin trail may see more visitors in the summer, but winter is a magical time to explore this spot for a unique backcountry experience, be it on skis or snowshoes. Backcountry winter recreation has inherent risks, keep these tips in mind to help make a safe and memorable day.

Getting there

Follow the signs to Big Sky Resort and continue 1.5 miles past the resort entrance and turn right on to Beehive Basin Road just past the brown U.S. Forest Service Beehive Basin trailhead road sign. Continue up this windy road for 1.8 miles until reaching the trailhead on the left.

Many a vehicle has slid off the final steep windy section in the winter, so use caution. Be prepared for icy roads, have a 4-wheel drive vehicle with snow tires, and remember that downhill traffic must yield to uphill traffic.

The first mile of the trail is a Forest Service easement located on private property. Respect the landowners by staying within the blue blazes mounted on wooden posts that mark the private property boundaries until you reach Forest Service land.

Be avalanche aware

In the 2019–2020 winter season there have been 12 avalanche fatalities in the United States as of Jan. 20. While you can't predict exactly when or where an avalanche will occur, you can take several steps to reduce your risk.

Bring the basic safety gear of a beacon, probe and shovel, and know how to use them. Big Sky Community Organization and Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center have teamed up to install a beacon station at the Upper Beehive Basin trailhead. It serves as a

Winter in Beehive Basin

safety reminder by displaying a red "X" if you do not have a working beacon and displays a green circle if your beacon is functional and turned on.

Before you head out, check the GNFAC website at mtavalanche.com for a daily condition advisory. Educate yourself. Take an avalanche course, be it the first time or a refresher. Learn more about what to look for and how to dig a snow pit to gauge the stability of the snow you want to ski or board. Again, the GNFAC website is a good resource to find a listing of educational opportunities.

Be prepared

Sometimes outings don't go quite as we expect, so be prepared. Never go it alone in the backcountry. No matter how experienced you are, if something goes awry, you still need someone to get help. And tell someone at home what your plans are.

Watch the weather and be prepared for conditions that can go from bad to worse quickly. Bring enough layers of clothing to keep you warm, and don't forget a snack and hydration. Consider wrapping your water bottle in a sock to keep it from freezing, or pack a thermos with your favorite hot beverage. Bring snacks that are easy to eat and have a low-moisture content like dried fruit, jerky, string cheese and chocolate.

Most important, bring your sense of adventure and positive attitude. Discover how fun a winter adventure can be, stop and look for animal tracks in the snow, breathe the crisp, fresh air and appreciate the beauty around you.

Visit bscomt.org to learn more about Big Sky's parks, trails and recreation programs.

Sara Marino is the Big Sky Community Organization community development manager. BSCO engages and leads people to recreational and enrichment opportunities through thoughtful development of partnerships, programs and places.

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INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



Mountain lion feeding on carcass thrills wildlife viewers

BY MIKE KOSHMRL
JACKSON HOLE NEWS & GUIDE

JACKSON, Wyo. (AP) – Photo safari trip leader Brent Paull’s game plan one day in January happily went out the window.

A traveling wildlife guide from Tulare, California, Paull had just wrapped up leading three West Coast photographers on a three-day Yellowstone National Park tour. The group rolled into Jackson in the late afternoon to round out their week in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, pulling in around 4:15 p.m. to the parking lot of the Super 8 Hotel.

Greeting the bunch was “a line of 150 photographers” immediately across Highway 89. Naturally, they moseyed over with their cameras to see what was up.

Even as sunlight faded, there was no mistaking the critter centered in the viewfinder of Paull’s long-lensed camera, mounted on a tripod on the sidewalk next to the Maverik convenience store. In the frame was a mountain lion, tucked into the base of a juniper tree on High School Butte.

For almost a week the buzz around Jackson has been about a mountain lion drawn down to the base of the butte towering above town and staying put to dine on a mule deer carcass stashed by a rock-retaining wall above South Park Loop Road. Word spread quickly after the secretive cat was first sighted, and quickly dozens of onlookers had assembled to lay eyes on a cougar, a rare sighting anywhere in the world let alone in view from your gas pump.

Peak cat activity, at least in the light, came that first day.

“Here it comes, here it comes, here it comes!” Bridger-Teton National Forest wildlife biologist Jason Wilmot exclaimed from the driver’s seat of his pickup truck. “It’s moving.”

The apex feline predator took a few big bounds and bombed the hillside, sending magpies fleeing from the remains of the deer carcass, which partially protruded from the snow. On Jan. 15, the awe-inspiring behavior repeated itself a handful of times: The mountain lion would linger upslope obscured by the branches of the nearest juniper tree, and then, seemingly annoyed, scamper downhill to send scavenging corvids skyward.

But the chance at seeing the native big cat on the move proved fleeting.

In the overnight hours on Jan. 15, the cougar took the initiative to fully cache its carcass, covering it entirely in snow. With ravens and magpies out of the picture, the cougar appeared content napping in the trees and sagebrush during nearly 10 daylight hours in subsequent days, padding down only to chew off pieces of frozen venison once the sun had set.

“This has been the name of the game,” bundled-up Victor, Idaho, resident and avid wildlife photographer Jack Bayles said from the seat of a lawn chair. “We’re all disappointed how good she’s been at caching [the deer]. There were a hundred crows through here today, but none of them actually touched down.”

The lion, Bayles explained, hardly budged during daylight hours for three straight days,



A mountain lion lingered on a slope above Jackson, Wyoming, for several days in January, alternating between feeding on a mule deer carcass and lounging beneath a juniper. The cat’s presence attracted throngs of observers. PHOTOS BY RYAN DORGAN/JACKSON HOLE NEWS & GUIDE

though there were a couple of exceptions, including one feeding foray around dawn. Out on a walkabout much higher up High School Butte on the morning of Jan. 19, the cougar was also observed spooking a herd of mule deer, he said.

Wildlife officials, who didn’t intervene by moving the carcass, said they were not too concerned with the cat and its proximity to a crowd. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department dispatched employees on occasion to check in, but the agency didn’t maintain a presence at the scene.

“Obviously, the priority for us is public safety, and we don’t view it as a public safety issue really,” Game and Fish spokesman Mark Gocke said. “The cat’s been keeping to itself for the most part, and it seems like everybody’s staying at a safe distance.”

Gocke said that because the cat isn’t “marked”—wearing an identifiable tracking collar or ear tags—it’s difficult to say anything about its life history with certainty. While not exactly routine, the animal’s presence right at the edge of town on a slope that holds mule deer in the winter isn’t shocking, he said.

“We have good lion habitat all around us,” Gocke said. “I’m sure they’re around more than we know. They’re just so secretive.”

When lions do come within eyeshot of roads and developed areas, a carcass, which can sustain a cat for a week, is often the reason. Such was the case in March 2018, when a cougar fed on a downed bull elk carcass about 500 yards off of the National Elk Refuge Road across from Miller Butte. Dozens of viewers turned into hundreds, fueled by the cat’s snowballing presence on social media, which attracted wildlife watchers from afar.

The Elk Refuge also was host to Jackson Hole’s most famous visible mountain lion, a cat nicknamed “Spirit.” In 1999, the lioness denned with her three kittens on the southeast corner of Miller Butte near the road. The weeklong show inspired the formation of a Jackson-based advocacy group the Cougar Fund and a book, “Spirit of the Rockies: The Mountain Lions of Jackson Hole,” along with ample press from national media.

This go-around at High School Butte, Jackson Hole wildlife filmmaker Jeff Hogan was a mainstay at the scene. A cinematographer who has left remote cameras at many mountain lion kill sites, he was glad the public has had a chance to see what he has observed many times.

“I think everything that cat is doing is completely normal behavior,” Hogan said nine hours into filming on Jan. 23. “The only thing that’s kind of unusual is that we spotted her. If that kill was behind one of those junipers up there, we’d never even know that cat was there.”

Some folks surmised the cat looked unusually thin and bony, but to Hogan’s eye the animal looked to be in good shape.

“She looks frickin’ great,” he said. “She’s a gorgeous, sexy-looking cat.”

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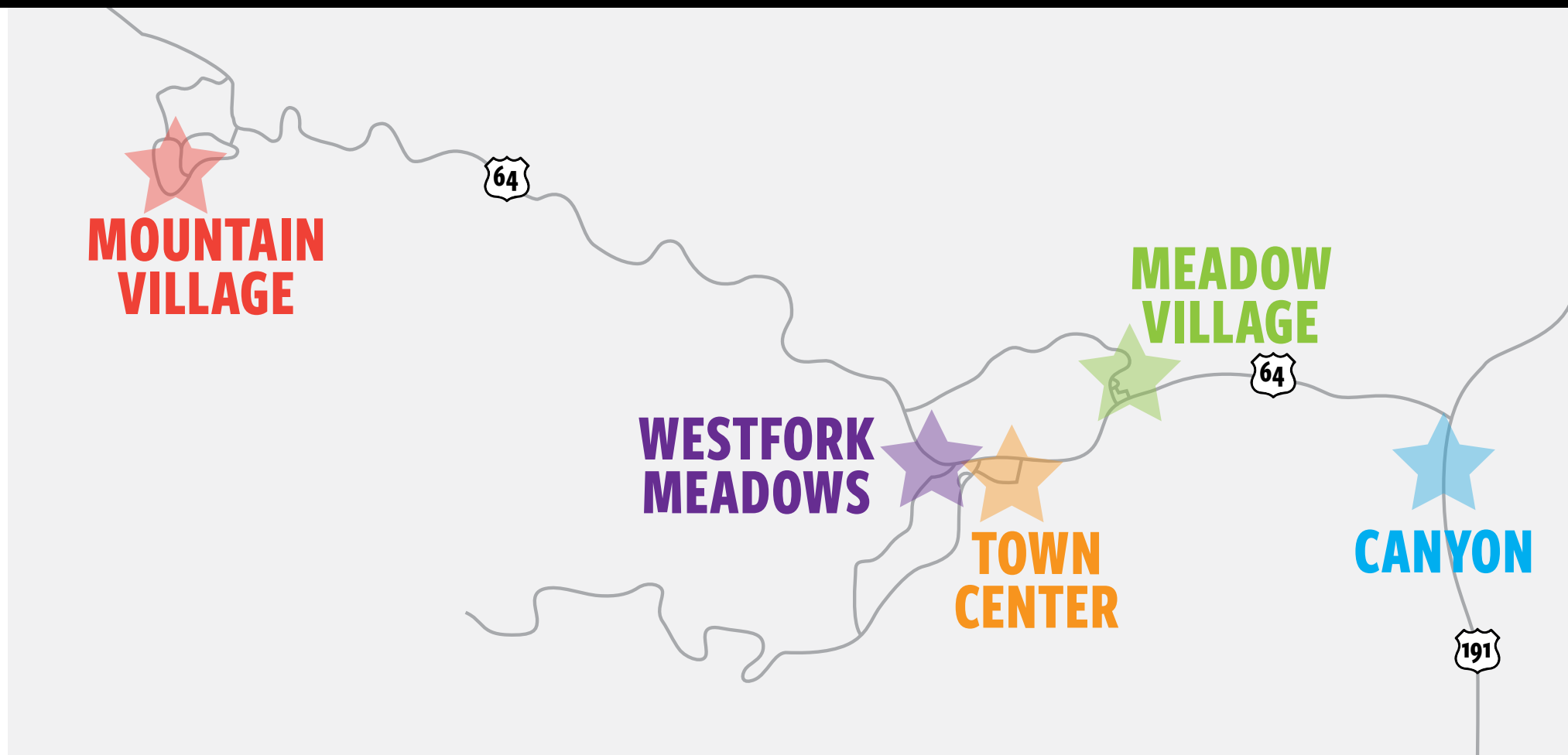
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Fish and Wildlife Commission to decide on hunting regulation changes Feb. 13

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BOZEMAN – The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission will make a final decision on a number of state-wide hunting regulation changes that would take effect for the 2020 season at their next meeting on Thursday, Feb. 13 in Helena. The meeting comes after a month-and-a-half-long public comment period that closed Jan. 27 and is part of the biennial season-setting process that includes proposals for deer and elk, moose, bighorn sheep and wolves, among others.

In many cases, proposals for Region 3, which encompasses most of southwest Montana, seek to clarify regulations by combining select hunting districts into single larger districts or adjusting species-specific districts so that area boundaries are more consistent with other species.

As an example, FWP is proposing to combine moose hunting districts 306, 307 and 310, which include portions of the Gallatin Canyon, under the single 310 hunting district. Combined this way, moose hunting district 310 would match deer and elk hunting district 310. The department is proposing to allow a single bull moose to be harvested from this area.

“Discussions within MT FWP and with Gallatin residents and sportspersons led to the idea that if we opened the three districts together to one antlered bull license, it would retain hunter opportunity on the landscape, while keeping it at a conservative level to protect moose populations,” Bozeman area biologist Julie Cunningham told EBS last fall. She added that in recent years there’s been a downtick in moose numbers.

“Regarding why moose numbers have declined, there are many potential factors,” she said. “I’ve opportunistically documented moose mortalities since 2012 and have documented 17 mortalities on Highway 191. The next most common cause of death has been disease with winter tick infections and arterial worm infections.”

In another effort to simplify regulations and to prevent mule deer in the greater Bozeman area from becoming urbanized, according to justification documents released by FWP, there is a proposal to eliminate the 25 mule deer B licenses that were initially created in 2005, instead making either-sex mule deer hunting valid for the area’s general district 309 deer tag.

According to the documents prepared by Cunningham, “This proposal alone may not be enough to prevent urban mule deer challenges, but it should help. The proposal would allow all hunters ... freedom to harvest mule deer does in the greater Bozeman area. Mule deer harvest data in HD 309 will continue to be monitored annually.”

Cunningham also reported that mule deer buck harvest is above the long-term average, which indicates the population is likely above average and could support additional hunting.

In regard to wolf hunting, the Fish and Wildlife Commission during a Dec. 5 meeting directed the department to request public input on lowering the quota from 2 to 1 in the two hunting districts adjacent to the Yellowstone National Park boundary near Gardiner and Cooke City.

Commission Vice-Chairman Rich Stuker made the initial recommendation, saying the area’s elk numbers are at objective and that there is a large cohort of individuals who come to the area to view wolves. He added that given Senate Bill 200 which was passed in 2013 and authorizes landowners to kill wolves that threaten human safety, livestock or domestic dogs, there are tools available to landowners to manage wolf conflicts. Under this authority, Montana landowners have taken between three and 12 wolves each year.

“We’re not just looking at one group of users for our wildlife. The non-consumptive users, they also have a place within our society,” Stuker said. “I’m hoping that somewhere down the road we can get that group to provide additional funding for the department as right now we all understand the hunters and the anglers pretty much fund the department.”

Among the proposals for elk hunting is the suggestion to continue many of the elk shoulder seasons—a structure that allows elk to be harvested outside of the general five-week hunting season in October and November. This measure is an effort to reduce elk populations that are over objective and in some cases also addresses concerns over the spread of the highly contagious brucellosis disease.

For the areas around Bozeman, hunting districts 312 and 317, elk numbers are still too high and future shoulder seasons are proposed to continue to Feb. 15.

Proposals for the area’s mountain ungulate populations reflect an apparent ebb in numbers. The only regulation change in the region for mountain goats looks at combining districts 327 and 328 on the south end of the Madison Range north of Quake Lake and dropping the combined quota from 4 to 2. “These two areas have not shown high enough counts to justify current harvest rates,” Cunningham wrote in the justification documents.

For bighorn sheep in the Spanish Peaks and Taylor-Hilgards, Cunningham has suggested removing the ewe licenses that were initially introduced in 2012 and 2016 following several years of the highest population counts ever recorded in the area. At the time, Cunningham said, the goal was to keep the sheep populations at a number suitable for the available winter-range habitat. However, since then the sheep have experienced years of low lamb production and severe winters that killed lambs.

“These licenses are no longer needed to regulate this population,” Cunningham wrote. “Currently, both districts are meeting population objectives but both districts have seen several years of lower-than-average recruitment.”

There are no proposed changes to the either-sex bighorn sheep tags released for these districts.

The Feb. 13 commission meeting will be streamed live online and broadcasted for the public to all regional offices. Visit fwp.mt.gov/doingBusiness/insideFwp/commission or fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2019/biennialSeasonSetting.html for more information or to view a complete list of proposals and a commission agenda.



FWP to permit electronic licenses, adopt online-only applications

Change will speed up drawing results

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Hunters and anglers can expect a few changes this year when they buy their 2020 licenses starting March 1.

The most visible change Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks customers will see is a change to license paper. Starting this year, both licenses and carcass tags will be printed on normal-sized paper, and license buyers will be able to print them at home.

For years, FWP licenses and tags have been produced on weather-resistant paper. However, this paper is not only expensive, but requires printing technology so outdated that it's almost impossible to replace. The switch to standard 8.5 by 11-inch paper will provide significant savings and ultimately be easier for customers.

What this means is hunters won't have to wait for special permits or licenses to come in the mail from FWP, but rather will be able to print them at home or at their local license provider.

This change also will reinforce the ability in Montana to have your license electronically on your mobile device and not printed out in your pocket. While carcass tags still need to be printed out, other licenses, such as a fishing license, do not. If checked in the field, this electronic version of your license is perfectly legal.

FWP recommends that people carry small plastic bags with them while hunting, and place validated carcass tags in the bags before attaching them to an animal. Small plastic bags ideal for this application will be available at all license providers, but any small sandwich bag will work.

Additionally, in 2020, hunters applying for licenses or permits will be able to do so online or at an FWP office. Mail-in applications will no longer be accepted.

With modern technology, the number of online applications continues to steadily grow. Eighty-six percent of Montana hunters now choose this method. The small percentage of mail-in applications creates a time-consuming, expensive and inefficient delay in the license-drawing process. Mail-in applications must be entered manually in the licensing



For the 2020 fishing and hunting season which begins March 1, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks will no longer accept mail-in applications for license permits. All applications will be available online, ultimately speeding up the process so permits can be issued as soon as two weeks after the application deadline. PHOTO COURTESY OF MT FWP

system, leaving room for human error and delays.

Customers who still look for written guidance to help them through the application process will be able to find information sheets online or at an FWP office in the coming weeks. These information sheets will not be accepted as applications.

This simple change means that drawing results will now be available two weeks after the application deadline, rather than six weeks, allowing hunters to begin making plans for the upcoming season that much earlier.



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FWP seeks volunteer instructors for Hunter, Bowhunter Education

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Montana's hunting legacy depends on active, skilled and ethical hunters who pass on their traditions to new generations.

This happens in hundreds of classrooms across Montana each year through the state's Hunter and Bowhunter Education program. Instructors in the program volunteer their time and talents to give new hunters baseline instruction on safety, ethics, procedure and other components of successful hunting.

Hunter Education, which is administered by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, is also a statutory requirement for new hunters in the state. Anyone born after Jan. 1, 1985, must pass a Hunter Education course in order to purchase a hunting license.

Montana needs more volunteer instructors—especially women instructors—who are willing to perpetuate these opportunities for new hunters. Anyone with experience in hunting or bowhunting is encouraged to apply.

"Archery has given me so much in my life," said Brian Koelzer, who has been teaching Bowhunter Education in Montana for 13 years. "That's when I really decided I wanted to help share that."

Volunteers in the program must meet certain requirements. They must have experience in the use of firearms or archery equipment, possess a

valid Montana driver's license or ID card, pass a background investigation and criminal records check, have experience in or be comfortable with public speaking or teaching, and be eligible under state and federal law to handle and possess firearms and ammunition.

Once an application is submitted and those requirements are met, applicants will receive training on teaching, course curriculum and program policies and procedures. Experienced instructors help mentor volunteers who are new to the program.

Hunter Education is personally rewarding for many volunteer instructors. They often feel they are making a difference in the lives of new hunters by passing on their knowledge, experience and enthusiasm for hunting. Many instructors also discover common interests and camaraderie with other program volunteers.

"If you're a hunter, and you know where to go and what to do and how to do it safely, and you know what ethics are about, then we need you," said Jim Johnson, a Hunter Education instructor of 21 years. "We need you to instruct the next generation of people to keep the sport alive."

Visit fwp.mt.gov/education/hunter/instructors or youtu.be/pAaUgLCTv-jI to learn more or apply. You may also call (406) 444-9948.

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Grizzly panel reaches half-way point

Begins considering recommendations

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

POLSON – Michele Dieterich and Trina Jo Bradley met for the very first time in October 2019 during the first gathering of the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council. Dieterich, an educator from Hamilton, and Bradley, a cattle rancher in Valier, alongside 16 fellow Montanans have since spent nine full days listening and learning from each other, with their latest meeting marking the half-way point in a process designed to create a long-term vision for Montana's grizzly bears.

The 18-member panel represents a diverse array of perspectives and backgrounds but shares in the Montana value of community—evident through their thoughtful conversations as the panel started brainstorming specific regulations and actions they'd like to see adopted through Montana's state legislature and wildlife department.

The panel was selected from more than 150 applicants to represent the Montana public in developing recommendations for the management of Montana's grizzly bears. While initial meetings in October, November and December 2019 focused on gathering facts about grizzly bears and current conservation strategies—the panel heard from bear biologists, management specialists, watershed groups and conservation organizations—January's Polson meeting was a transition point where the council began talking specifics.

During a breakout session the council divided into smaller groups to discuss various hypothetical grizzly bear conflict scenarios as a mode to generate thoughts on how state managers could respond. Dieterich and Bradley were among one group considering a scenario in which a bear kills a cow in Martinsdale 90 miles northeast of Bozeman and outside of what is recognized as existing grizzly bear range.

While Bradley voiced support for lethally removing the hypothetical bear in order to improve trust and social tolerance with the theoretical rancher, Dieterich said she'd rather see relocation and giving the bear another chance. Even though there was not a consensus decision either way, and the council made it clear they were not in support of one management action over another, the conversation proved a discussion rather than an argument.

"This is not 'should we remove the bear' or 'should we relocate the bear,' the takeaway is really what tools are missing here for the bear managers," Dieterich said, noting that funding is often allocated to areas where bears already are rather than places they occasionally show up, even though conflicts can occur in both places.

"We have a funding issue because everyone should be working on creating areas where we're not going to have problems if at all possible," Dieterich added. "There has to be flexibility for the bear managers, we can't say, 'you have to do it this way' because I think every situation is different."

As the group discussed their rationales, a moment passed that illustrated the council's development of trust. Bradley took the microphone and described the vulnerability that comes with expressing an opinion and that council members are working hard to create a safe place where opinions can be expressed.

"I feel like that is part of our struggle here as the state of Montana—there's a disconnect," Bradley said. "I love Michele, she's a sweet lady, but we don't come from the same background and we may not agree on things."

Speaking directly to Dieterich, Bradley added, "I'm proud of you for sticking to your guns."

The scenario exercise broadened the conversation and was a way of looking closer at some of the ideas council members compiled between the December and January meetings and discussed in a round-table format on the first day in Polson.

These emerging ideas included thoughts about generating additional funding for conflict prevention, how to deal with a bear that's causing

harm and how to develop increased social tolerance in bear country, among other topics.

Several members of the public were critical of the process so far, fearing the council was moving too quickly and shouldn't be drafting recommendations just yet.

"I have a real problem with bringing forth recommendations and the urging toward that at this particular point," said Sierra Club Montana Chapter member Claudia Narcisco, noting that the council still has more to learn—subjects slated for future meetings include a deep dive into the role of recreation and hunting—which means recommendations drafted today might need to be changed after those meetings.

However, council members repeatedly expressed a desire to start talking specifics so that they can discuss and draft thoughtful suggestions over the course of the next six months when recommendations come due to the Governor in August.

"I really commend the council for putting their ideas on paper and for them being open and willing to share with the public at this stage, which is a really vulnerable point," facilitator Heather Stokes of the University of Montana said in response. "I really want to make sure that everyone in this room understands that these are just thoughts and ideas at this point ... It's really possible at the next meeting that that document could look completely different."

"We're trying to be thoughtful about how we engage the public," Stokes added. In addition to offering a formal public comment period at the end of each day, Stokes and co-facilitator Shawn Johnson frequently invite the public to weigh in or engage in the same activities as the council.

At one point, a woman from the public who introduced herself as an elder tribal member, offered words of encouragement to the panel: "I think of myself as a person who's danced with bears all my life," she said. "There was a time, so far back, when the animals and the people could talk to each other. And I'm so happy to see you doing this talking."

"At this time, I think you cannot have enough conversation. I think that it's wonderful that you're going ahead and every person, from the Governor's executive all the way down to each one of us, is so important," she added. "If I could make one recommendation, it would be to keep talking to each other, keep getting these ideas going. I'm really happy that I could be here today."

On the second day of the meeting, the council heard from wildlife officials with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife Services and the U.S. Forest Service about relocation protocols and what's going on in the Bitterroot Ecosystem where there is no longer an established population of grizzly bears.

"If you care about the grizzly bear as a species and about the possibility of recovering the bear ... you need permission for that bear to live there," said FWP Region 2 wildlife manager Mike Thompson, who oversees the Montana portion of the Bitterroot. "What we bump up against is the societal permission to have bears."

"What we need at this point ... is some way to get permission from Montanans and have acceptance through compromised mutual understanding that we can manage this," he said. "We're going to have grizzly bears here, what's that look like?"

The council's next meeting is scheduled Feb. 26-27 in the Ponderosa Room at the City Building in Libby. Meetings are open to the public and public involvement is solicited throughout both days. Public comment is also accepted online.

Visit fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/management/grizzlyBear/gbac.html for more information about the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisor Council and to submit public comment.



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SPORTS, BUSINESS,
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THE LONE PEAK PLAYBOOK

Ennis comes back to top Lone Peak

BY BRANDON WALKER



Lone Peak senior Austin Samuels (0) attempts to shoot over West Yellowstone senior Sam Coffin (55) in a Jan. 17 game. Samuels and the Big Horns most recently lost to the Ennis Mustangs on Jan. 25. PHOTO COURTESY OF RICH ADDICKS

ENNIS – The Lone Peak High School varsity boys basketball team came within one quarter of winning their second contest of the season on Jan. 25 before being overtaken by the Ennis Mustangs on the road, 58-47.

Ennis’s Ian Swanson and Cordell Severeid combined to score 17 fourth quarter points, lifting their squad over the visiting Big Horns. Swanson contributed eight of his game high 19 points in the quarter, while Severeid accounted for nine.

“They hit some key threes that fired up the crowd and gave them the momentum. We struggled from the free-throw line and weren’t able to make those shots at the end to stay in the game,” Lone Peak head coach John Hannahs said of his team’s late demise.

Free throws were a glaring disparity between the teams as Lone Peak put up a goose egg from the line on only seven attempts. Meanwhile, Ennis was better

than 57 percent from the charity stripe, shooting a modest 15-for-26. The Big Horns outshot the Mustangs in all other categories from an efficiency standpoint but were unable to overcome their struggles at the line.

LPHS was in control throughout the first half, taking a 31-21 lead into the break. The Big Horn trio of seniors Austin Samuels and Frankie Starz and junior Michael Romney led the charge, accounting for 22 of Lone Peak’s 31 points in the first half.

“Everybody who stepped on the floor was a threat,” said Hannahs of his team’s scorching first half. “We were all looking towards the basket and we were able to spread the scoring out.”

In the second half, the Mustangs buckled down defensively, holding the trio of Samuels, Starz, and Romney to a manageable 14 points combined the rest of the way.

Romney ended his night with a team-high 13 points, five assists, and five steals. Samuels contributed 12 points and four assists, while Starz accounted for 11 points and two assists in the losing effort.

Swanson had five rebounds and four steals to go along with his 19 points for the Mustangs. Severeid chipped in 15 points and seven rebounds for Ennis.

LPHS dropped to 1-11 for the season. The Big Horns will look to earn their first victory at home on Jan. 30 when they host the Gardiner Bruins.

Box Score	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Lone Peak	13	18	6	10	47
Ennis	8	13	14	23	58

Lone Peak: Michael Romney 13, Austin Samuels 12, Frankie Starz 11, Isaac Gilmore 5, Nolan Schumacher 4, Bennett Miller 2

Ennis: Ian Swanson 19, Cordell Severeid 15, Brand Ostler 13, Jaxson Kloote 9, Jarrett Jenkins 2



LEADING LONE PEAK

Frankie Starz – Senior #11

Starz added another athletic accolade to his growing list on Jan. 25 when he moved into second place on the Lone Peak High School all-time leading scorers list. The senior now has 715 career points for the Big Horns, surpassing the 697 career points by 2015 LPHS graduate Justin McKillop. Over the past four games, Starz has averaged over 16 points, four rebounds, and two steals per game. The captain led all scorers in two of those games, racking up a total of 65 points, 18 rebounds, four assists, nine steals and a block in those contests. Lone Peak head coach John Hannahs values Starz’ effort and leadership. “He played some incredible defense on Friday and his consistency was a big part of why the Twin [Bridges] game was so close. He is doing an excellent job as a team captain going into the last weeks of the season,” Hannahs said.

PHOTO BY BRANDON WALKER

THE LONE PEAK PLAYBOOK



Mustangs hold off Lady Big Horns

BY BRANDON WALKER



LPHS sophomore Carly Wilson (5) skies for a layup against a Twin Bridges defender on Jan. 24 against the Falcons. The Lady Big Horns fell to Twin Bridges and Ennis on Jan. 24 and 25 respectively. PHOTO COURTESY OF RICH ADDICKS

ENNIS – The Lone Peak High School varsity girls basketball team dropped their second game in a row on Jan. 25, falling to the Ennis Mustangs, 42-34. The Lady Big Horns were bested by the Twin Bridges Falcons the previous evening in another closely contested matchup.

The Lady Big horns had no answer for Ennis's Landri Paladichuk who scored a game-high 17 points, lifting her team to a hard-fought victory. Ennis relied on strong shooting and solid post defense, holding LPHS freshman standout Maddie Cone to only three points, to secure the win.

"In the second half of the season, we notice that as people saw our post play-

er, Maddie [Cone], they've adjusted to that and made life a little bit more difficult for her," Lady Big Horn head coach Loren Bough said following the loss. "But that's opened up our outside shooting and we are getting our shots off, so we just need to make more."

Lone Peak held a three-point lead at the half, 19-16, thanks in part to freshman Kate King who scored seven of her team-high 10 points in the first half. Ennis began to run away after the break thanks to an offensive outburst headed by Paladichuk.

Neither team gained an advantage in the rebounding column, as they both brought in 18, but the Mustangs did slightly outpace the Lady Big Horns with 15 assists, as a team, to LPHS's 12. Free throw shooting was the biggest difference between the squads with Ennis shooting nearly 67 percent from the line, only missing six attempts. Lone Peak managed only a 44 percent effort on the night from the charity stripe.

King added four rebounds and a steal to her performance. She was aided by freshman Jessie Bough, who had seven points and two assists, and junior Ivy Hicks who scored seven points, dished out four assists, and grabbed three rebounds.

LPHS briefly returned to full strength as they welcomed back Bough. She paid instant dividends by leading the team in scoring against Twin Bridges on Jan. 24. Unfortunately, that was short lived, with junior forward Sara Wilson suffering an injury during the Ennis game to leave Lone Peak short-handed yet again. Wilson was having a strong showing against the Mustangs. She scored three points, added three assists, and pulled down four rebounds before exiting the contest.

"[I] couldn't ask for more effort. [I] couldn't ask for a better defense. I think we're doing well on that, but we're still a young team," coach Bough said.

The loss dropped the Lady Big Horns' road record to 2-4 for the year. Overall, Lone Peak currently stands at 5-7 on the season and will host two conference opponents in Gardiner and Shields Valley on Jan. 30 and 31 respectively.

Box Score	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Lone Peak	7	12	5	10	34
Ennis	12	4	10	16	42

Lone Peak: Kate King 10, Ivy Hicks 7, Jessie Bough 7, Carly Wilson 4, Sara Wilson 3, Maddie Cone 3

Ennis: Landri Paladichuk 17, Jenna Snider 10, Shea Lovett 9, Shelby Klein 3, Tanner Inman 3



LEADING LONE PEAK

Jessie Bough – Freshman #10

In the past two weeks, Bough battled through an injury she sustained against the West Yellowstone Wolverines. As a result, she was only able to play in less than three full games of the team's four over that stretch. The freshman persevered, averaging over six points and two rebounds per game. In total, she accounted for 20 points, seven rebounds, five assists and three steals. Lady Big Horns head coach Loren Bough felt that her strong ball handling and long range shooting has set her apart of late. "She's really exhibited some crucial maturity by being able to bring the ball up against any press and being able to hit 3-pointers late in the game that keep us in it, in multiple games. That's been really important to our success. Down the road we hope to see more of that," coach Bough said about his daughter's recent performance.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JILL BOUGH

Alpine racing season off to fast start

BY LUKE KIRCHMAYR
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Ski Education Foundation (BSSEF) Alpine team started the season off with a ceremonial ribbon cutting for their new permanent clubhouse situated right above the day parking lot. The new facility is equipped with lockers for both athletes and coaches and will serve as a team meeting space, lunchroom and an office as well.

“We are thrilled to have begun using our new team clubhouse this season. It’s taken getting some used to given the location, but every family has figured out what works for them—whether it’s dropping off and booting up in the clubhouse and taking the skier shuttle to the lifts or dropping kids in the 15 minute parking zone and dropping lunches at the building afterwards,” said Callie Pecunies, executive project director of BSSEF. “It’s working great for the teams to have lunch, review video, and enjoy some downtime at lunch out of the fray of the main lodge.”

“Ski racing, competition and education are core to the industry and our mission of developing lifelong mountain enthusiasts,” Troy Nedved, general manager of Big Sky Resort, added in a press release. “This building is a key piece to our continued support of BSSEF, their mission at Big Sky and the broader community.”

To begin the season, the U14 team went to Red Lodge for the Red Lodge Slalom Camp and Skills Jamboree from Dec. 14-16. The BSSEF girls claimed the top spots in both races with Brooke Brown in first place followed by Chloe Unger in second place. On the boys side, Cameron Ueland placed third in both races.

From Dec. 19-22, the top 30 U16 boys and girls from the Western Region met in Mission Ridge, Washington, for a qualifier race to the Alpe Cimbria Children’s Cup held in Folgaria, Italy at the end of January. Despite tough conditions with rain, fog and strong winds, BSSEF racers demonstrated their grit throughout the competition. The top scorer for the BSSEF program was Skylar Mank, coming in 12th place in the slalom.

“The Mission Ridge races were a tough way to start the race season for our U16s. Terrible visibility, gale force winds, and extremely soft snow conditions made it an especially challenging couple of races,” junior development head coach Aaron Haffey said after the competition. “The fact that BSSEF had five of the six Northern division athletes selected to attend the series showed the depth of our U16 group this year.”

From Dec. 14-18, the U18 and older FIS teams had a great start at the WR Regional Open Tech in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Caleb Unger charged to 30th



BSSEF athlete Hillary Davis digs her edges in during a giant slalom competition at Big Sky Resort. PHOTO BY MARSHALL TATE / BIGSKYPHOTOS.COM

place with bib 86 and Francy St. Cyr finished in 32nd place with bib 98, both in their first ever FIS competitions.

“Jackson was a great experience with tons of great competition. FIS races help provide perspective on how hard you need to work to be able to compete with some of the top older guys. All and all—a great experience,” Caleb Unger said.

After Mission Ridge, the BSSEF U16 and FIS teams met at their home hill for the Big Sky Tech Series and competed in two giant slaloms and one slalom. The conditions were great and many members from the community came out to cheer on local racers. BSSEF athletes managed to capitalize on their home field advantage and crowd support.

“The Big Sky Tech Series saw multiple BSSEF athletes reaching the podium each day on their home hill. It was especially great to see Caleb Unger coming back from his broken leg just barely a year ago to get second place in both GS races,” junior development head coach Aaron Haffey said.

Only a few days after the Big Sky Tech Series, the BSSEF FIS team returned to Big Sky Resort from Jan. 9-14 for the Western Regional FIS Elite Series, consisting of two giant slaloms and two slaloms and hosting over a hundred top alpine racers from all around the country and the world. Due to the vast number of racers and challenging courses, on some runs, less than half of the field finished. Big Sky athletes pulled through and finished most of their races, including great results from both Caleb Unger and Ryan Beatty, scoring their lowest FIS points to date.

“All of our athletes in the WR FIS Tech Elite races were among the youngest athletes in the races. They battled from high bibs to have very respectable finishes and all scored FIS point results which will surely move them earlier in the start order for their next FIS races,” junior development head coach Aaron Haffey said.

While the FIS racers battled tough competition at home, the U8, U10, U12 and U14 teams went to Red Lodge for three slalom races. The U14 girls dominated all weekend by taking podium spots each day. U10 stand out racer Maeve McRae won all three of her races with big margins, and BSSEF’s very strong U10 and U12 boys took top spots all weekend.

“The Red Lodge race went pretty good. The athletes were skiing very well and applied what they learned in training,” U14 head coach Tomas Rivas reported after the competition. “It was very nice to see their confidence in slalom and we look forward to focusing on giant slalom for the upcoming race in Whitefish.”

For more information, visit bssef.com.



From left to right: Callie Pecunies, Aaron Haffey, Eric Becker, Brian Wheeler and Jeremy Ueland celebrate the opening of the new BSSEF clubhouse in the Big Sky Resort base area. PHOTO BY DAVE PECUNIES



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Balance is the key to all-terrain skiing

BY DAN EGAN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Skiing requires dynamic movement in varying conditions, on diverse pitches and at varying speeds. Remaining in balance in all of these situations is the key to becoming a better skier.

Balance is something we are all born with. It's instinctive and natural; we rarely have to consciously think about it. Basically, we were born to walk, run, skip and jump. With this gift of balance comes trust—a subconscious trust of standing up and not falling over, whether we are walking, running or participating in athletic activities.

With this natural sense of balance and trust in our natural abilities, we humans have been able to accomplish extraordinary athletic feats. One of my underlying themes for teaching skiing is that when you, the skier, are in balance, you will be able to achieve proper ski technique naturally.



Legendary skier and coach Dan Egan will be hosting three steep skiing camps this winter at Big Sky Resort. PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN EGAN

Understanding the basic aspects of balance is the key to understanding how to ski. I can't stress this enough. Ruedi Bear wrote in his book *Ski Like the Best*: "When you ski, never get locked into any kind of firm position." Skiing is a dynamic sport. It's disastrous for your skiing to become stuck in a static position.

We were born in balance, without having to take lessons or receive instructions. Children have an easier time learning balance sports, such as skiing or riding a bicycle, because they don't think about it—they just do it. The brain is good for many things, but at times it can act at cross-purpose with our natural instincts and abilities, especially if fear sneaks into the equation.

It's only when our brain starts thinking about what we're doing that our natural instincts falter and the brain takes over. When that happens, we consciously act, instead of instinctively reacting. We try to take control and suddenly we find that we've gotten out of balance.

Simply said: our reactions happen faster than our thoughts about how to act.

Many times, while skiing down a steep slope or through mogul fields, I have recovered my balance by simply throwing my upper body down the fall line and letting my feet follow. It works almost every time when I trust that gravity, balance and my natural instincts will work the way they are meant to.

There are several foundational movements that can be developed that will help skiers become reacquainted with a natural sense of balance and all of them have to do with the relationship between your hands, shoulders, hips and feet.

This can be as simple as skiing a low-angle slope and marching by lifting your feet while keeping the tips of your skis on the snow. Try it in a straight line if you can make slow smooth marching steps, then progress to a slightly steeper run and make smaller marching steps as you turn. Any place during the arc that you can't move your feet or you feel stuck, you are out of balance and most likely your hips are behind your feet rather than over them.

At my camps and clinics, I focus on basic foundational balance movements, which allow the skier to function in a dynamic fashion. The results show themselves as skiers explore more of the mountain with a newfound trust in their abilities.

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 Resort, where he'll be teaching camps Feb. 20–22, Feb 27–29 and March 5–7, 2020. For more information, online coaching tips or photos, go to skiclinics.com.

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Reason #13

Our People - Please help us congratulate Julie Burgess, who was recently promoted to Consumer Lender. Julie, who formerly served as First Security Bank's Operations Manager, will continue to serve the Big Sky area in her new roll. She brings over 10 years of banking experience to her new position. Congratulations Julie! Discover the 100's of reasons why your neighbors choose First Security Bank.

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7424 BRIDGER CANYON ROAD | \$7,185,000
 • "Friends & Family Compound" with 15 buildings, 46 +/- acres just 10 minutes from Bozeman
 • The main house offers 5 bdms/5bath over 7,639 +/- SF; 2 other homes offer 6 bdms & 3 baths
 • The original, 1930s Bridger Canyon Dancehall is onsite and has been refinished
MICHAEL THOMAS | 406.581.2400



ULERY'S LAKE, LOT 7 | \$1,100,000
 • 24.75 +/- acres
 • Located within the gated 500-acre community of Ulery's Lakes of Moonlight Basin
 • Enjoy privacy with access to fishing, hiking, snow-shoeing, cross-country skiing and more
LYNN MILLIGAN | 406.581.2848



120 FIRELIGHT DRIVE, UNIT C-1 | \$360,000
 • 2 bdrm | 2 bath | 1,092 +/- SF
 • Beautifully appointed, fully-furnished and turnkey condo located in the Meadow Village
 • Proximity to Town Center, area trails, free winter shuttle and just a short drive to skiing
MARY WHEELER | 406.539.1745

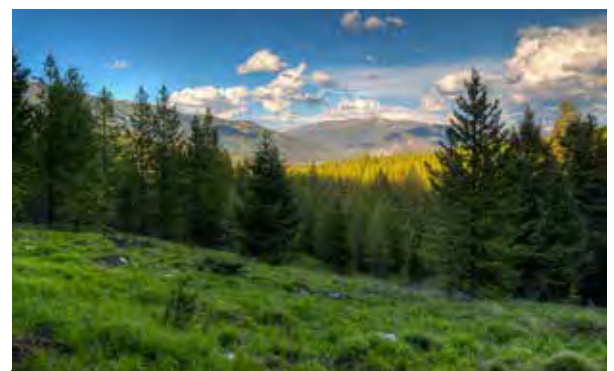
BIG SKY • MOONLIGHT BASIN • SPANISH PEAKS • YELLOWSTONE CLUB



7 SITTING BULL ROAD, UNIT 2303-C | \$1,995,000
 • 5 bdrm | 5 bath | 2,918 +/- SF | Private, underground, heated parking
 • Located in Big Sky's Mountain Village with immediate proximity to the Big Sky Resort
 • Ideal mountain basecamp for year-round activities with majestic Lone Peak views
MICHAEL THOMAS | 406.581.2400



135 SUMMIT VIEW DRIVE | \$450,000
 • 3,853 +/- acres
 • Perched on a knoll at the top of the exclusive Summit View Community
 • Panoramic views, old-growth trees, and privacy can be yours from this beautiful Big Sky homesite
SANDY REVISKY | 406.539.6316



TBD OUTLOOK TRAIL, LOT 1 | \$359,900
 • 2,962 +/- acres
 • Old growth trees, abundant wildlife, and live water
 • Close to all Meadow amenities and adjacent to x-country and mountain biking trails
JACKIE MILLER | 406.539.5003



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Word from Big Sky Resort

Your guide to events, activities and news at Big Sky Resort

BSR announces new initiative to reduce carbon footprint, promote sustainability

BIG SKY – On Jan. 21, Big Sky Resort announced a new sustainability initiative, The Big Picture, with a long-term goal to reach zero carbon emissions by 2030. This net zero goal will be shared by all of the ski and golf resorts in the Boyne Resorts family.

The Big Picture prioritizes reducing carbon emissions to net zero through emission reductions and offsets, as well as a focus on reducing waste. This initiative will also prioritize preserving the beauty and health of the ecosystems where the company operates.

This fall, Big Sky Resort hired a full-time sustainability specialist and signed on to the 2019 National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) Climate Challenge, a voluntary program dedicated to helping ski areas inventory, target and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Many of the resort's efforts won't be obvious to customers. Buying energy from renewable sources, choosing high-efficiency snowcats and lifts, reducing energy use with smart lighting and thermostats, and supporting mass transit and on-site housing are key components of the resort's initiatives that happen in the background.

Other efforts are visible, such as how the new Vista Hall—the resort's largest restaurant venue—has minimized single-use plates, bowls and silverware and transitioned take-out containers to compostable materials. Recycling efforts, already in practice, will be increased, specifically by eliminating 99 percent of glass, which cannot be recycled in the state of Montana, and focusing on proper sorting of cans and other recyclable materials in place of unrecyclable plastics.

Additionally, a composting program in Vista Hall will pilot diverting food waste from landfills to a local composting facility in Bozeman. This winter, Big Sky expects to keep more than one ton of waste out of landfills, and plans to expand the effort to other food and beverage operations in the near future.



On the top floor of The Exchange, the new Vista Hall—the resort's largest restaurant venue—has minimized single-use plates, bowls and silverware and transitioned take-out containers to compostable materials in an concerted effort to reduce waste. PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY RESORT

“While we plan to put significant focus in efforts to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, waste reduction is also an important step to take responsibility for our environmental impact,” said Kryn Dykema, sustainability specialist for Big Sky Resort. “Rather than sending organic material to the landfill, compost created by this waste diversion program contributes to local agriculture with healthy soil.”

“Our goal is to continue innovating and reimagining our approach to a changing climate,” said Big Sky Resort General Manager Troy Nedved. “We are dedicated to balancing our environmental footprint, social responsibilities and growth. We believe that by honestly and openly evaluating our impact, and working together with other stakeholders, we can make a positive difference.”



April Pass goes on sale Jan. 30

Get the most out of the end of the ski season with a direct to lift pass valid April 1-19, 2020. With spring conditions, bluebird days and classic events like Big Sky Big Grass and the end-of-season Pond Skim on the docket, the April Pass is one of the best ski deals in the Northern Rockies.

That's 19 days included, 38 lifts accessed including Lone Peak Tram access, for less than it would cost to buy two normal day passes during peak season. Check out bigskyresort.com/aprilpass for more information and to secure early bird pricing: Adults: \$189, Seniors: \$149, Juniors: \$49. Now, that's a bargain. PHOTO BY JOE RESNICK



Guild of Sommeliers Educational Foundation Dinner promises culinary extravaganza

On Feb. 8, treat your taste buds to an evening of wonder and delight with Master Sommelier Jay Fletcher and Google Program Chef Scott Giambastiani for the Vine & Dine Guild of Sommeliers Educational Foundation Dinner at the Peaks Restaurant in the Summit Hotel.

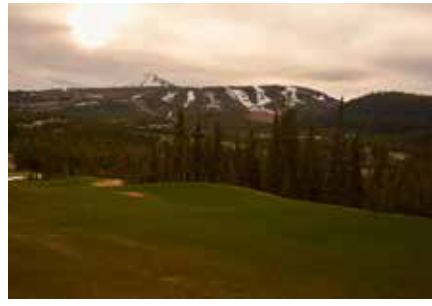
Hor d'oeuvres will begin at 6:30 pm, beginning a night full of lively discussion, enlightened cuisine and a variety of wines from the Guild of Sommeliers Cellars. Dinner will be served at 7:15 p.m.

The cost per person is \$125.00, plus an 18% gratuity. A portion of sales are donated to SommmFoundation, a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation committed to assisting aspiring beverage professionals to achieve their full potential. PHOTO BY DOUG HARE

SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB



Royal Coachman Ranch
160 ACRES / \$5.9M



Lot 38 Bitterbrush Trail
1.27 ACRES / \$800K

BIG SKY



2005 Upper Chief Joseph
7,690 SQ FT / \$4.3M



64 Lodgepole
6,160 SQ FT / \$3.895M

BIG SKY - LAND



The Ranches at Yellow Mountain
2A-1B
526 Acres / \$5.8M



The Ranches at Yellow Mountain
Tract 3B-1
23 Acres / \$875k



The Ranches at Yellow Mountain
Tract 1A-1
21 Acres / \$795k



Big EZ
Lot 42: \$339K / 20 ACRES
Lot 43: \$375K / 20 ACRES
Combined: \$699K



Lot 2 Big Sky
20 ACRES

BOZEMAN & GREATER MONTANA



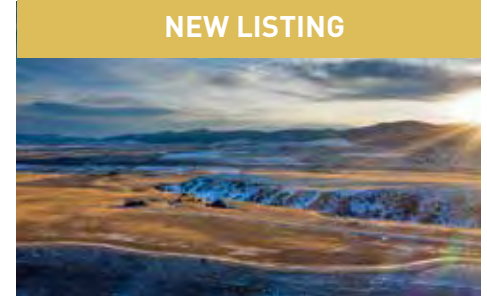
SxS Ranch
Bozeman, MT
483.78 ACRES / \$7.5M



Homestead at the Beacon
Butte, MT
640 Acres / \$1.65M

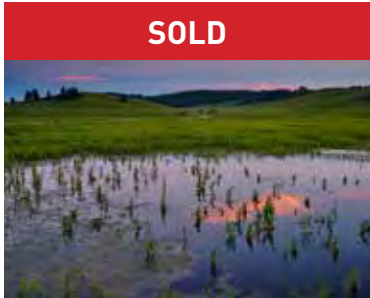


Rocking S7 Ranch Lot 4
Bozeman, MT
20.232 ACRES / \$650K

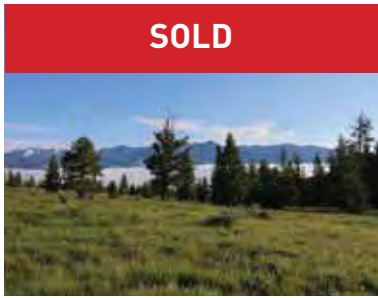


380 Mountain Man Trail
Montana Ranch
20.8 ACRES / \$325K

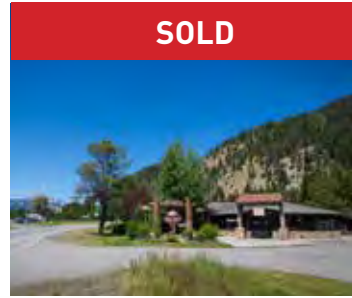
RECENTLY SOLD



Yellowstone Ranch Preserve
List Price: \$19M



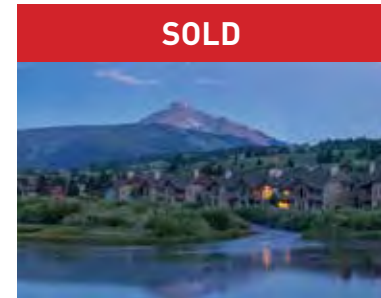
Mountain Meadows
120 Acres / \$3.495M



Big Sky Corner Property
List Price: \$3.24M

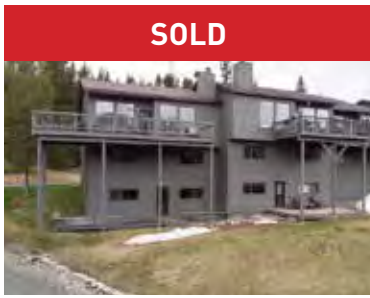


78 Meadow Village
Dr. Big Sky, MT
4,769 SQ FT / \$2.1M

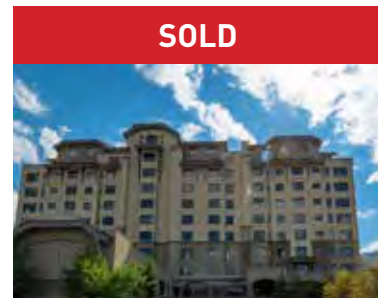


Crail Ranch Unit 40
List Price: \$1.35M

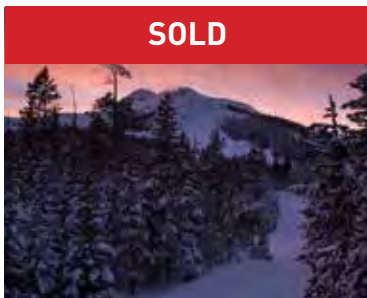
RECENTLY SOLD



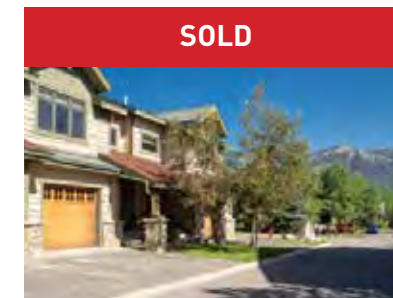
Hidden Village
15 Blue Flax Place
2,788 SQ FT / \$599K



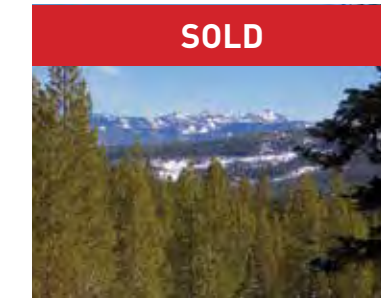
Summit 911/912
List Price: \$595K



Lot 39 Diamond Hitch
1 ACRE / \$595K



Cottonwood Crossing Unit 5
1854 SQ FT / \$565K



Lot 119 Old Barn Rd.
3.13 Acres / \$490K

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PRICE CHANGE

30 Beehive Basin Rd.
6,203 SQ FT / \$2.8M



211 B Pheasant Tail
\$720K



UNDER CONTRACT

Hill Condo 1278
440 SQ FT / \$195K



UNDER CONTRACT

Hill Condo 1321
440 SQ FT / \$185K



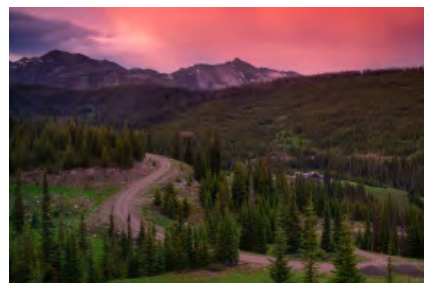
g Buck Road
ES / \$480K



Lot 4 Beaver Creek
20 Acres / \$539K



Bear Paw Ponds Parcel 7
20.04 Acres / \$399K



Lot 3 Joy Road
6.83 Acres / \$395K



Lot 71 Morning Glory
3.65 Acres / \$375K

COMMERCIAL



NEW LISTING

223 Town Center Avenue
Big Sky, MT
2882 SQ FT / 1601 SF Patio
\$1.525M



Marketplace Unit 104
Big Sky, MT
1,204 SQ FT / \$560,920



Marketplace Unit 202
Big Sky, MT
966 SQ FT / \$389K

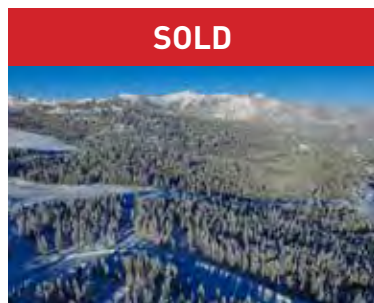


Airport Garages
Bozeman, MT
\$29.9K per unit
Taking reservations for
building G



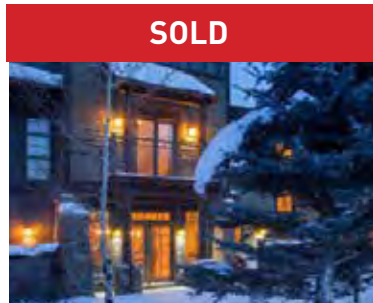
SOLD

2078 Little Coyote List
List Price: \$1.079M



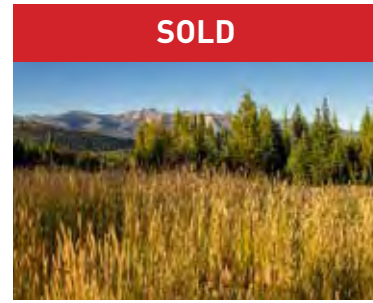
SOLD

Ski Tip Lot 10
List Price: \$975K



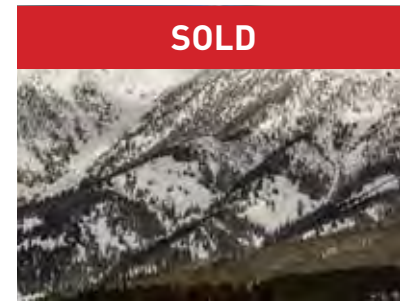
SOLD

81 Pheasant Tail Ln. Unit 2
2,707 SQ FT / \$839K



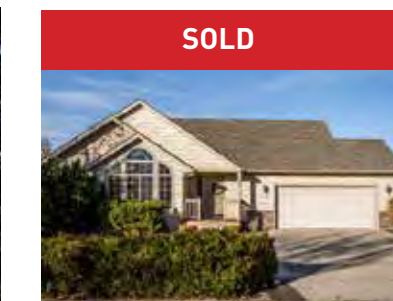
SOLD

Lot 64 Goshawk
1.04 ACRES / \$775K



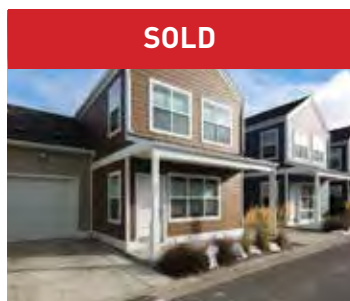
SOLD

Lot 44 Diamond Hitch
1.25 ACRE / \$699K



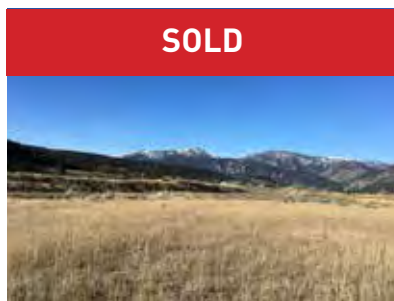
SOLD

3197 Rose Street
Bozeman, MT
1,970 SQ FT / \$430K



SOLD

412 Enterprise Blvd., Unit 30
Bozeman, MT
1,304 SQ FT / \$315K



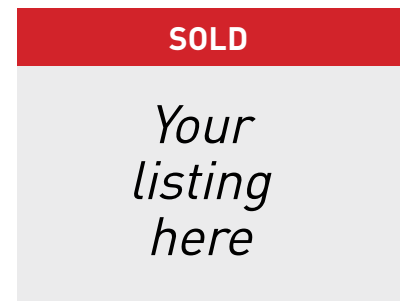
SOLD

COS 2071 Tract 1 Gallatin Road
3.14 Acres / \$299K



SOLD

47220 Gallatin Rd. Unit #2
840 SQ FT / \$149K



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4 of the 7 Special Districts are holding elections for their Board of Directors in the May 5th election. Participation on these boards is invaluable to providing direction and management of growth opportunities for the Big Sky community. Get involved by seeking election for one of the following board seats.

BIG SKY COUNTY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT #363

- 3 SEATS | 4 YEAR TERM
- BIGSKYWATERSEWER.COM



BIG SKY RESORT AREA DISTRICT (BSRAD)

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- RESORTTAX.ORG



REQUIREMENTS FOR RUNNING:

- You must be a resident of the Special District's boundaries
- You may be eligible for Big Sky Fire Department, Big Sky County Water & Sewer if you own property within the District boundaries
- Gallatin County filing is open until Monday, February 10, 2020 at 5:00 PM



BIG SKY SCHOOL DISTRICT #72

- 1 SEAT | 3 YEAR TERM
- BSSD72.ORG



BIG SKY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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- BIGSKYFIRE.ORG

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Making it in Big Sky: Steamboat Dry Goods

Q&A with Carolyn Whitmer

BIG SKY – On Jan. 28 in The Wilson Hotel, a ribbon cutting celebrated the grand opening of Steamboat Dry Goods, a retail shop featuring an eclectic array of clothing, footwear, jewelry, accessories for both men and women, crystal stemware, fine food items, bath and beauty products, swimsuits, wine and beer. Not many stores can boast about offering Osprey backpacks and lingerie under the same roof.

The daughter of farmers from Wolf Point, a small town on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in northeast Montana, Carolyn Whitmer was working in the corporate sales world based out of Oregon, traveling most of the year, when she decided to open a nursery in her hometown in 2008. Her journey as an entrepreneur has had its twists and turns, but her commitment to her customers, her love of storytelling, and her strong work ethic have remained constant.

Whitmer's Montana roots run deep. Some of her ancestors originally came from Kentucky to survey the Gallatin Canyon down to Yellowstone National Park and the Bozeman Pass, others worked in Glacier National Park during its early days, a few were rugged homesteaders in eastern Montana, and some streets in Bozeman are named after her grandparents.

A proud Ohio State University graduate who majored in landscape horticulture with a minor in natural resources management while also a member of the school's waterski team, Whitmer sat down with Explore Big Sky to discuss what drew her to southwest Montana, her philosophy of retail, and what makes her second retail venture unique.

Explore Big Sky: How did your formal education influence your career path?

Carolyn Whitmer: Everything in my college degree was centered around parks, recreation and environmental education. I did an internship down in Callaway [Resort &] Gardens down in Georgia. Since then, everything in my field has been centered around the outdoors and retail. That's how I decided to start the store in Wolf Point in 2008. It originally started as a just a greenhouse nursery and that evolved into the clothing, footwear and accessories storefront based on demand in 2011. I really had to build everything from the ground up.

EBS: How did the opportunity arise for you to open up shop in Big Sky?

C.W.: The market is constantly changing in eastern Montana. ... Besides getting a lot of business from locals, we get a lot of traffic from tourists because we're right on U.S. Highway 2 on the way to Glacier [National Park]. We had to become tour guides for them, making recommendations for stops along the way to Jackson Hole, Yellowstone National Park or Bozeman. Nine times out of 10, we'd receive phone calls, Christmas cards and gifts in the mail thanking us for the advice, and these same tourists would return a couple years later and tell us we needed to spread our wings and branch out.

A year ago, my ski trip friends recommended I reach out to my contacts that are real estate agents in Bozeman—who I knew from my days studying at Montana State [University]. I didn't know if the timing was going to be right. I made three phone calls and got the ball rolling. Things picked up speed after that.

EBS: How did you go about picking out the brands and accessories to include in your shop here?



Carolyn Whitmer plans to work seven days of week to get her new store, Steamboat Dry Goods, up and running, demonstrating the kind of work ethic she inherited growing up on an Indian reservation as the daughter of farmers in northeast Montana. PHOTO BY DOUG HARE

C.W.: I used the same model that I did for my other store. Obviously, you have very different demographics for either location. I scouted and really wanted to focus on lifestyle apparel and travel and gift items. ... In the wintertime in Wolf Point, we end up selling more summer gear than in the summer. I think that will be similar here. Even in the first week and a half, I've seen people from Texas, Florida or South Carolina buy out-of-season items.

EBS: Where does the name "Steamboat Dry Goods" come from?

C.W.: It gives homage to Montana and discovering the West. At our other location, we're about a half mile from the Missouri River. Steamboats were originally built on the banks of the Ohio River and those boats would stop at Wolf Point, where you could see the wolf pelts, and that was a natural stopping point with their mercantile on their venture West. They were really important for the economic development of this state. Navigating the Missouri River is no easy task.

EBS: What is the best business advice that you've ever received.

C.W.: Always treat your customers like they're family. The more they feel at home and that they are valued the better. That's the biggest thing: values, love and safety. ... If you don't value and love those around you and make them feel safe they won't support you. That goes beyond retail. That goes for everything.

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Life 101

Ten rules for being human



BY LINDA ARNOLD
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

If you're like me, you're drawn to those lists of quick tips that bombard us from supermarket checkouts and social media feeds.

This got me thinking. Wouldn't it be nice if we had some quick tips on being human? Combining my professional experience and research with insights from licensed clinical social worker, Lewis Quinby, of R&M Seminars, I've come up with the following.

Rules for being human

1. You will receive a body. You may like it or hate it, but it will be yours for the entire period this time around.
2. You're enrolled in a full-time informal school called life. Each day you will be given lessons. You may like the lessons—or not.
3. There are no mistakes, only lessons. Growth relies on trial-and-error. The "failed" experiments are just as relevant as the "successful" ones.
4. A lesson is repeated until learned. A lesson will be presented to you in various forms. When you have learned it, you can then go on to the next lesson.
5. "There" is no better than "here." When your "there" has become a "here," you will simply obtain another "there" that will again look better than "here."
6. Others are mirrors of you. You cannot love or hate something about another person unless it reflects to you something you love or hate about yourself.
7. What you make of your life is up to you. You have all the tools and resources you need. The choices are yours.
8. Your answers to life's questions lie inside you. All you have to do is look, listen and trust.

Taking it all in

Items 4 and 7 speak the loudest to me right now. When presented with a challenge in the same arena over and over, refer to item 4. Life lessons tend to repeat themselves.

Maybe there's a way you could handle situations more directly or discreetly. Or even spot a challenge before it has the chance to take hold.

Quinby advises that "you define reality by what you know, what you believe and what you do about it," a reflection of the transactional analysis therapy model.

Mirror, mirror on the wall

Item 6 holds particular intrigue for me. Though I don't doubt its validity, I find it difficult to reconcile at times.

Is that person who is getting on your very last nerve a mirror of you? When I first learned this concept, I heard a slight variation: "Those people who bug you the most provide a mirror for you to look at something about yourself you don't like or are afraid you will become."

Think of someone who bugs you and test this out. See if you have any "a-ha" moments. I'll admit it can be hard. Sometimes I get it, and sometimes I don't.

Our living laboratory of life

Different items will speak to you at different times. If you're frustrated, item 4 may resonate. If you're contemplating a career or geographical move, or if you're the type who is always thinking the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, item 5 may jump out.

No matter how or when you look at the list, though, there are some universal theories. And I find item 3 the most comforting. "There are no mistakes, only lessons." Whew, what a relief!

Linda Arnold, M.A., M.B.A., is a syndicated columnist, psychological counselor and founder of a multistate marketing company. Reader comments are welcome at linda@lindaarnold.org or visit lindaarnold.org for information on her books.



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NOTICE



NOTICE TO THE BIG SKY FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE DISTRICT MEMBERS

An Election of one trustee for the Big Sky Fire District Board of Trustees will be held on May 5, 2020.

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

Original Declaration of Candidacy forms must be filed with the Gallatin County Election Department no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 10, 2020.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

An election for three (3) board of directors positions for the Big Resort Area District (Resort Tax) Board of Directors will be held on **May 5, 2020**. Declaration of Candidacy forms for the election are available at the District office at 11 Lone Peak Drive #204, Big Sky, MT, the Gallatin County Election Department, Gallatin County Courthouse, 311 W. Main Street Room 210, Bozeman, Montana and online at <https://gallatincomt.virtualltownhall.net/election-department/pages/candidates>. Candidates must be a registered voter within the boundaries of the District. Original Declaration of Candidacy forms must be filed with the Gallatin County Election Department no later than **5:00 p.m.** on **February 10, 2020**.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BIG SKY COUNTY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

An election for three (3) board of directors positions for the Big Sky County Water & Sewer District No. 363 Board of Directors will be held on **May 5, 2020**. Declaration of Candidacy forms for the election are available at the District office at 561 Little Coyote Road, Big Sky, Montana, and the Gallatin County Election Department, Gallatin County Courthouse, 311 W. Main Street Room 210, Bozeman, Montana. Original Declaration of Candidacy forms must be filed with the Gallatin County Election Department no later than **5:00 p.m.** on **February 10, 2020**. Candidates must be a resident of the district or an owner of real property in the district who is a resident of the state of Montana.

American Life in Poetry

Column 773

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. POET LAUREATE

Poets Tom Montag and David Graham have just published a fine anthology, *Local News: Poetry About Small Towns*, from MWPB Books, P.O. Box 8, in Fairwater, Wisconsin. Here's one of the many poems I've enjoyed, by Peggy Trojan, who lives in Wisconsin. Ms. Trojan published her first poem in 2010 at the age of seventy-seven. *All That Matters: Collected poems 2010-2018*, is her fifth book.

Noon Hour

Unless hot lunch at school
was serving something special
like corn chowder
and baking powder biscuits
or creamed chipped beef
potatoes and brownies
I went home
to what my
mother made
like most town kids

Jack walked the furthest
almost to the river
to his unpainted house
by the railroad tracks
We all knew nobody was there
his mom at the tavern already
He always came back
just in time for the bell.

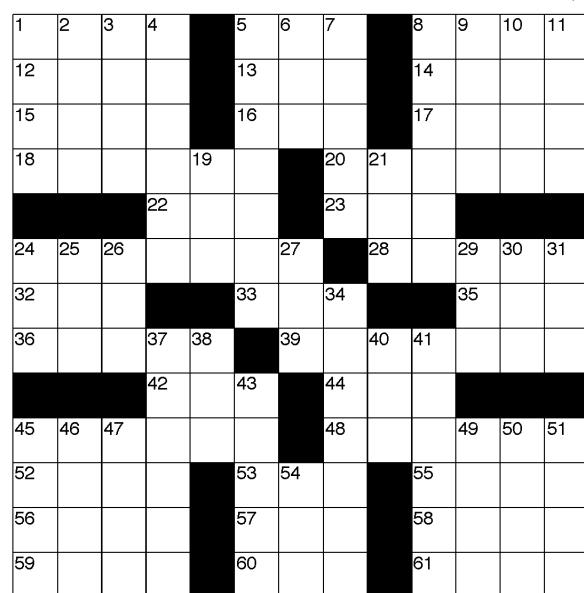
We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts. American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2019 by Peggy Trojan, "Noon Hour," from Local News: Poetry About Small Towns, (MWPB Books, 2019). Poem reprinted by permission of Peggy Trojan and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2019 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 Noted psychiatrist
 - 5 Adverb (abbr.)
 - 8 Carplike fish
 - 12 Forest ox
 - 13 Plead
 - 14 Norse mythical hero
 - 15 Eire legislature
 - 16 Jutting rock
 - 17 Point
 - 18 Phoenician princess
 - 20 Occasional
 - 22 Poetic contraction
 - 23 Knot lace
 - 24 Spear-shaped
 - 28 Pall
 - 32 Singleton
 - 33 Tree
 - 35 Classic car
 - 36 Calorie
 - 39 Name
 - 42 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
 - 44 Defamatory remark
 - 45 Grape
 - 48 Scope
 - 52 High (pref.)
 - 53 Girdle
 - 55 Muttonfish
 - 56 Unknown author
 - 57 Indo-Chin. people
 - 58 Hall (Ger.)
 - 59 Gender
 - 60 Compass direction
 - 61 Yearn
- DOWN**
- 1 Gem
 - 2 Two-toed sloth
 - 3 Black (Fr.)
 - 4 Uncouth person
 - 5 Moon goddess
 - 6 Pair
 - 7 Russ. distance measure
 - 8 Argument
 - 9 Culture medium
 - 10 Circuit (abbr.)
 - 11 River into the North Sea
 - 19 Size of coal
 - 21 Bird's cry
 - 24 Cloche
 - 25 Exclamation
 - 26 Look
 - 27 Guido's note (2 words)
 - 29 Limb
 - 30 Arikara people
 - 31 There
 - 34 Leo (2 words)
 - 37 Fr. author
 - 38 Sheep's cry
 - 40 Cloud (Fr.)
 - 41 Black Sea port
 - 43 S.A. porridge
 - 45 Lady's title
 - 46 Arm bone
 - 47 Short takeoff and landing (abbr.)
 - 49 Women's Army Aux. Corps (abbr.)
 - 50 Oriental maid
 - 51 U.S. mountain
 - 54 Babism founder

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

G	L	E	N	R	O	B	A	B	A	S	
A	X	L	E	A	B	A	G	A	B	I	
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E	V	E	R	N	I	A	P	I	C	R	O
			L	A	D	K	E	N			
G	H	A	Y	N	J	A	N	B	A	N	
O	A	K	K	I	A	N	G	A	L	A	
A	B	A	E	C	T	U	R	B	A	N	
			L	E	A	V	I	E			
S	U	D	A	N	C	O	N	D	O	N	E
A	N	A	G	R	E	M	A	B	E	L	
N	I	D	E	I	I	I	C	O	X	A	
S	O	A	R	B	L	T	T	E	T	H	



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A111

Corner Quote

“A man who procrastinates in his choosing will inevitably have his choice made for him by circumstance ... but beware of looking for goals: look for a way of life. Decide how you want to live and then see what you can do to make a living within that way of life.”

– Hunter S. Thompson

BIG SKY BEATS



“This Land” - Gary Clark Jr.

Gary Clark Jr. cut his teeth in the same Austin, Texas, venue where Stevie Ray Vaughn channeled Jimi Hendrix's prowess. The Lone Star State's bluesman just swept up three awards at the 62nd Annual Grammys for Best Contemporary Blues Album, Best Rock Performance and Best Rock Song.

The song that won him the latter award is also the namesake of his latest album. His most politically tinged music to date, here is an incendiary, take-no-prisoners track about a confrontation with a neighbor who couldn't believe that a black man could own property adjacent to his. Clark Jr.'s grisly, distorted vocals compliment his guitar wizardry to set up a song that takes aim at casual racism through its defiant, volcanic sounds.

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SECTION 4: ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & DINING



Guitar night at WMPAC pg. 50



Bug buffet pg. 51



Back 40: James Niehues pg. 62

Peking Acrobats soar into Big Sky



The Peking Acrobats are a sight to behold, from both a cultural and sheer visual standpoint. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ACBS

WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

BIG SKY – On Saturday Feb. 8, the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center will host the Peking Acrobats, an act the New York Post raves will “push the envelope of human possibility.” The group performs jaw-dropping feats that defy the laws of gravity including trick cycling and gymnastic stunts such as backflips through hoops suspended nearly 10 feet above the ground.

“In our center’s seven years, this was easily the fastest we’ve ever sold out of a show,” said John Zirkle, WMPAC’s executive director. “The demand was so high that we approached the group about doing a matinee show for us that same day, and fortunately for us they agreed.”

“The earlier show is perfect for families,” Zirkle added. “The performance is going to be astonishing for everyone, but kids in particular will enjoy it and the family can be home before dinner.”

As a testament to their skill, the Peking Acrobats were featured in the 2001 heist classic “Ocean’s Eleven” as the acrobatic troupe from which The Amazing Yen, the contortionist and acrobat required for the heist, was recruited.

Qin Shaobo, the actor who portrayed Yen, is an alumnus of the Peking Acrobats, and was a regular touring member of the group before beginning his Hollywood career. Shaobo went on to be a cast member of all three “Ocean’s” sequels.

Chinese acrobatics is an ancient art with colorful variety shows dating to at least the Qin Dynasty, around 200 B.C. Developing lively forms of folk art in the fields as a means of personal entertainment, troupes of farmers would tour the countryside demonstrating their skill in art forms like plate spinning, improbable balancing feats and contortion.

Eventually, these traveling troupes caught the attention of the ruling class and acrobats were elevated from lowbrow populist entertainment to a na-



The group has Hollywood presence, with a scene in ‘Ocean’s Eleven,’ with member Qin Shaobo cast in all three iconic heist films.

tional art form that was cultivated and revered. Two thousand years later the skills are no less astonishing and the audience has broadened to encompass the globe. The Peking Acrobats is one of the most well-respected acrobatic groups on the planet.

“It’s not just that they’re incredible to watch,” said Rikka Wommack, communications manager for WMPAC. “They also embody and share a rarely seen cultural history, so it’ll be a rich performance on all levels.”

The Peking Acrobats perform on Saturday, Feb. 8 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Visit warrenmillerpac.org for tickets and more information.

Arts: At a glance

EBS STAFF

Mountain Time Arts receives NEA grant

Mountain Time Arts, a Bozeman nonprofit that produces public art projects to engage participants in the history and culture of the Rocky Mountain West, has been approved for a \$30,000 Art Works grant.

The grant will support “Standby Snow, Chronicles of a Heatwave, Chapter Two,” a project that will premiere in the Gallatin Valley in the summer of 2020. Chapter one of the series premiered at Story Mill Grain Terminal in Bozeman last August. The work brings together video, architecture, music and live performance, and involves a

team of talented artists, designers and scholars focusing on the devastating effects of climate change and the resiliency of people and place. The Art Works grant, which supports projects that focus on public engagement, provides access to various forms of art across the nation and the integration of the arts into the fabric of community life.

“Standby Snow, Chronicles of a Heatwave, Chapter Two” is the 10th major production by Mountain Time Arts since the organization’s founding in 2016.

ACBS, WMPAC cohost International Guitar Night



Mike Dawes plucking with his unique two-hand contemporary style. PHOTO COURTESY OF WMPAC

Now in its 20th year, International Guitar Night celebrates the diversity of acoustic guitar with an eclectic lineup: Guest host Mike Dawes from England and his unique two-hand contemporary style joins fretless Turkish guitarist Cenk Erdoğan, electrifying Finnish jazz virtuoso Olli Soikkeli and Hawaiian Slack Key master Jim Kimo West.

The evening will feature each artist playing individually, as well as duos, trios and the full quartet performing musically diverse program.

“It’s an amazing experience to see these eclectic guitarists come together for one show,” said Brian Hurlbut, ACBS executive director. “These are some of the world’s best musicians and it’s really cool to see them in Big Sky.”

International Guitar Night will be the only Arts Council event held in the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center this winter and will take place Sunday, Feb. 16. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30 p.m.

Big Sky Broadway announces season titles

Big Sky Broadway has named the performances and dates of its three annual productions for 2020: “Legally Blonde,” “The Wizard of Oz,” and a production by Big Sky Broadway Junior, “Frozen Junior.”

The group will kick off the season working alongside the Lone Peak High Thespian Club with support from the Big Sky School District PTO with a production of Disney’s “Legally Blonde” on April 3 and 4.

The flagship program, Big Sky Broadway, will commence the first Monday after school lets out for the summer on June 7 with “The Wizard of Oz” on June 19 and 20. To be eligible to participate, campers must be current fifth- to current eighth-grade students.

Big Sky Broadway Junior, BSB’s newest program, accepts current kindergartners through current fourth-graders. “Frozen Junior,” which will once again be directed by LPHS junior Michael Romney, will be performed on Aug. 21. Rehearsals begin Aug. 17.

Over the course of a two-week camp, Big Sky Broadway provides students the opportunity to gain acting, dance and voice training, to work on set and gain experience as stagehands. High school students interested in trying out for upcoming performances can learn more at bigskybroadway.com.

MSU to host 32nd annual Bug Buffet

MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – While 80 percent of the world eats bugs on a regular basis without batting an eye, the U.S. has always kept at arm’s length the practice of consuming insects. At Montana State University, they’re trying to change that, one bug buffet at a time.

MSU’s 32nd annual Bug Buffet, hosted by the Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology and the Department of Health and Human Development, is a celebration of the nutritional and environmental benefits of edible insects. The event is part of a weeklong celebration of edible insects as a sustainable food source.

According to James and Kathy Rolin, owners of the Bozeman-based cricket farm Cowboy Crickets, these insects aren’t only a solid source of protein, they’re also much more ethical to farm.

The Bug Buffet will feature samples of Cricket Acorn Bread, Chapulines (grasshopper) Sunchoke Chips With Crème Fraiche; Tenebrio (mealworm) Quesadilla with Chapulines Salsa; Orthoptera Three Sisters Soup; Smokey Jumper Watermelon-Jicama salad; Tenebrio Montana Lentil Succotash; Bombyx (pupae) Wild Rice With Juniper Berries and Spruce; Iced Mexican Chocolate Brownies With Cricket; and Black Ant Chokecherry Smoothies.

All meals are prepared by chefs Jill Flores and KayAnn Miller, along with Food Safety Supervisor Dustin Schreiner and this year’s guest chef Joseph Yoon, executive director of Brooklyn Bugs and a chef in New York City.

The buffet is bookended by a series of other insect-related events, including a cook-off, sustainable food workshops, field trips to Cowboy Cricket Farms and the Bozeman Fish Technology Center, as well as several short films



Insects: food of the future? PHOTO COURTESY OF MSU NEWS SERVICE

following the topic of sustainable and ethical food production.

The Bug Buffet takes place on Wednesday, Feb. 12 from 12-4 p.m. in “Ballroom A” of the Strand Union Building. The event is free and open to the public and those curious about the future of insect agriculture, integrating more sustainable practices into their lives, or simply have a desire to see how professionally prepared bugs taste, are encouraged to attend.

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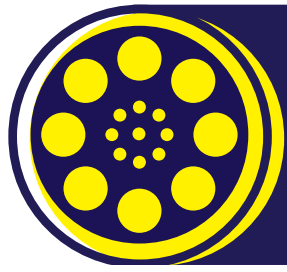
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REEL REVIEW

‘Little Women’

BY ANNA HUSTED
EBS FILM CRITIC

“I want it to be great, or nothing,” says Amy March (Florence Pugh) regarding her painting in director Greta Gerwig’s 2019 adaptation of “Little Women.” Surely Gerwig was channeling Amy’s sentiment because “Little Women” is—while taking a different ending than the book—great.

Louisa May Alcott’s 1868 coming-of-age novel is about four sisters during the Civil War, each with their own worldview despite being under their mother’s tender care. Meg (Emma Watson) is the oldest and most levelheaded, Jo (Saoirse Ronan) is the writer and feminist, Amy is destined for great things, and Beth (Eliza Scanlen) is the caregiver.

Gerwig tells the story in flashbacks mostly from Jo’s perspective rather than telling the story chronologically as Alcott does. This time-hopping sensation gives the film a modern identity and in the end gives life to the sisters where the novel ends in the author succumbing to the times.

“Little Women” has been adapted for the screen five times, each adaptation more thoughtful than the last. Gerwig’s adaption, however, was the first one where I liked Amy March. Part of this is due to Pugh’s acting range, giving her character depth of soul and not just selfish tears and complaints. The other part is Gerwig’s dialogue: she teeters between 19th century proper English and unorthodox modern American English.

For example, when Amy talks about love to their childhood friend, Laurie (Timothée Chalamet) she says, “It isn’t something that just happens to a person.” Their attitudes toward each other are informal, even in a formal setting. At another point, Laurie attends a New Year’s party drunk and Amy yells at him in public. These realistic sensibilities give “Little Women” a fresh life.

Each sister is masterfully shot: Low angles frame Jo as she navigates New York City and her new role as family provider, while Beth is shot in close-ups and soft light as she cares for their impoverished neighbors. Gerwig’s camera and her ability to get her actors to speak and move naturally makes her style light and uninhibited.



The classic Civil War-era coming-of-age tale, written by Louisa May Alcott in the late 1860s, is now on the big screen—and with a star-studded cast. COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES

By far, Gerwig’s direction is what gives this adaptation its charm, but not without Ronan, Pugh, and Chalamet does this version of “Little Women” work. Pugh is not afraid to dominate the screen, even overshadowing strong-featured, young heartthrob Chalamet. They compliment each other’s movements well. Chalamet’s Laurie is abashed and fluid, while Pugh’s Amy is strong-willed and confident. It’s no coincidence these two actors have appeared only in great films over the past three years.

While much has been said about Ronan’s dominance as the lead character Jo, I would argue that this version of “Little Women” belongs to Pugh’s Amy. Amy has never been written with the complexity that she has here, shown through her differing relationships with each character.

“Little Women” is my favorite movie of 2019. I’m still catching up with films that may bump it from the top spot, but that’s unlikely. Gerwig and her cast bring passion, love and weightlessness to this timeless story.

“Little Women” is now showing in theaters.

Anna Husted has a master’s in film studies from New York University. In Big Sky she can be found skiing or at the movies at Lone Peak Cinema. When not gazing at the silver screen or watching her new favorite TV show, she’s reading, fishing or roughhousing with her cat, Indiana Jones.

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THE ROAD AHEAD IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

TOOLS TO HELP MAKE BETTER AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT DECISIONS UNDER INCREASING UNCERTAINTY
Prof. Bruce Maxwell, Co-Director of the Montana Institute on Ecosystems, MSU-Bozeman

WEATHER MODIFICATION
Jim Hagenbarth, Rancher, Dillon

WATER POLICY UPDATE
Krista Lee Evans, Blake Creek Project Management, Helena

In addition, several local organizations will offer information on their programs and services.

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BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR

Friday, Jan. 31 – Thursday, Feb. 13
If your event falls between Feb. 15 and Feb. 27, please submit it by Feb. 5 by emailing media@outlaw.partners

FRIDAY, JAN. 31

Country Bookshelf Open Mic
 The Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 1

Live Music: Rocky Mountain Pearls
 Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7:30 p.m.

Kids ‘n’ Snow Weekend
 Town Park Ice Rink, West Yellowstone, 9 a.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 6

Mountain Yarns – a community storytelling series
 The Mountain Project, Bozeman, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 7

Live Music: Scavenger
 Choppers Grub & Pub, 10 p.m.

BINGO
 The Branch Restaurant and Bar, West Yellowstone, 7 p.m.

Theater: Wait Until Dark by the Bozeman Actor’s Theatre
 Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 8

Live Music: The Kingston Trio
 Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEB. 9

Snow Full Moon, self-guided recreation event
 Yurt Warming Hut at the Big Sky Community Park, 5:30 p.m.

WORTH THE DRIVE



Corbet’s Couloir is one gnarly feature, and every winter the best skiers from around the region, country and globe come to take the two coveted distinctions: King and Queen. WIKIPEDIA PHOTO

KINGS AND QUEENS OF CORBET’S

Feb. 10 - 15
Jackson Hole, WY

A Jackson Hole tradition to feed the soul of adrenaline junkies, the Kings and Queens of Corbet’s is a one-day competition that involves taking the 10-20 foot drop into Jackson Hole’s famous Corbet’s Couloir. The event requires a weeklong weather window from February 10-15 for optimal conditions and pits 24 of the world’s top skiers and riders against each other for the title, “King or Queen of Corbet’s.” Each competitor is granted two runs down Corbet’s with only the best run counting toward the grand prize.

If risking a broken neck for the title isn’t your thing and you still want to take a drive, there’s plenty left to do in Jackson this week, including Game Night at Elk’s Lodge or a Tribal Seeds show at the Pink Garter.

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bigskyarts.org



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MIX IT UP

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

It's usually difficult for me to choose favorites when it comes to food, but apricots are undoubtedly in my top three favorite fruits. In addition to their attractive, pale orange color and sweet fragrance, they are a versatile fruit that plays well in both sweet and savory applications.

Apricots are related to peaches, and look similar with a velvety skin, soft flesh and smooth texture. Their light color and small size make them distinguishable from a peach, as well as their more tart flavor profile. The taste of an apricot is more similar to that of a plum, but their soft, but not juicy texture differentiates the two. They are harvested from apricot trees and belong to the drupe family. Like cherries, plums and olives, apricots contain a single pit in the center of the fruit.

This stone fruit is packed full of nutrients including high levels of beta carotene and lycopene, as well as vitamin A, vitamin C and plenty of fiber. Despite being among the most nutritious fruits, the average apricot contains only 17 calories. This can be attributed to lower sugar levels.

The growing season of an apricot is quite short, so get the fresh variety while you can, from June and into August. Dried and canned apricots, as well as apricot jam, are popular year-round, but be careful to look out for varieties with a lot of sugar added—this can detract from the delicate tartness of the fruit.

As with many fruits, the more locally sourced, the better. Because there will be less travel time after harvest, local apricots are able to tree ripen, rather than being picked early to ripen on the shelf. When a fruit is allowed to ripen on a tree, more sugars are able to develop, leading to a more flavorful product.

Because of apricots' unique texture, be selective when shopping for the fruit. Soft-

An appetite for apricots

ness is often confused with juiciness, and because this fruit isn't of the juicy variety, you may be selecting an over-ripened fruit by mistake. Look for apricots that are firm with just a slight give; fruits that are rock hard were likely picked early.

To me, the perfect way to enjoy an apricot is straight off the tree. Apricots also make a great foundation for desserts such as pies, tarts and crisps, especially for those who do not enjoy overly sweetened treats. Fresh, roasted, or poached apricots make for an unexpected addition to a salad or sweet and savory sauce for meat. The sauce below pairs especially well with duck, chicken and other poultry and can be used as a glaze for grilling, or as a finishing sauce.

Apricot Sauce

2 fresh apricots, diced (or ½ cup apricot preserves)

** If using fresh apricots, add 1 tablespoon honey*

¼ cup water

1 clove garlic, minced

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

1 teaspoon soy sauce

1 tablespoon rice wine vinegar

Combine apricots, garlic and water in a saute pan, and cook until soft and the water is cooked down.

Add remaining ingredients to the pan and cook until reduced and the mixture coats the back of a spoon. If you like a smoother sauce, mash the apricots with the back of a fork.



BIG SKY BITES

Coconut Granola

BY MIRA BRODY

Rolled oats, sweetener and oil – these are the three base ingredients of granola, yet for some reason companies for years have gotten away with selling the diverse and tasty cereal relative for nearly \$5 per small, one-pound bag. This recipe marks the end of all that nonsense.

Here’s why granola is great: it’s easy to make, keeps well, can be used as a standalone cereal or trail snack or a topper for yogurt, and the oats deliver impressive levels of fiber and iron, while nuts and seeds add heart-healthy unsaturated fats and protein.

In the past I’ve stuck with brown sugar and vegetable oil, but the maple syrup and olive oil combo in this recipe provides a nuttier flavor that pairs well with the coconut.

Ingredients:

- 6 cups of rolled oats (not instant)
- 2 cups of raw pumpkin seeds
- 2 cups of raw sunflower seeds
- 2 cups of unsweetened shredded coconut
- 1 cup of maple syrup
- 3/4 cup of olive oil
- 1 tsp. of salt

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 300 F
2. Mix all ingredients and stir well to make sure oil and syrup evenly coat dry ingredients.
3. Spread ingredients on two cookie sheets
4. Bake until granola is toasted golden, stirring every 10-15 minutes for approximately 45 minutes

Tips:


- Add fresh or dried fruit to the granola when served – consider adding dried fruit after cooking, but it hardens the longer you store it
- Try experimenting by adding different nuts and seeds! This is just the mix we like.




This crunchy treat doubles as a breakfast staple. PHOTO BY DAN COUNSELL

- You can also get creative with spices, such as pumpkin pie spice, cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, etc.

So, next time you sidle by the “healthy” granola-esque section of the cereal aisle (you know, the one with the Grape Nuts and sugarless Bran Flakes) to grab an extra large box of Froot Loops for no one but yourself, do so proudly and with the burning notion that you have your own healthy, homemade stash of granola in the repurposed Costco-sized Andy’s Peanut Butter jar at home – or at least that’s where I keep mine. Enjoy!



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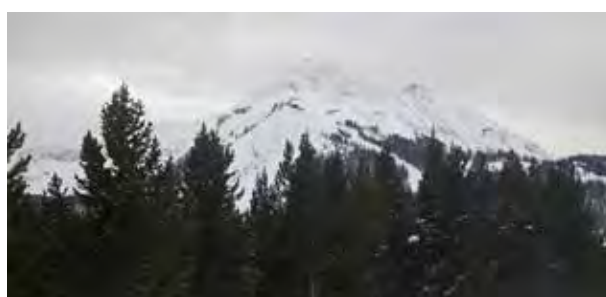
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AMUSE-BOUCHE

Amuse-bouche refers to an appetizer, and by French translation means, "to entertain the mouth." It offers a glimpse into what you should expect from a meal. Also it's free, compliments of the chef.

The end of an era?



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

It is an international phenomenon—an entire generation, all over the globe, who don't want to carry on their elders' family business.

There is an older generation that has worked to build something for their children, a generation that is driven by a work ethic that spans decades and exists worldwide.

They collectively possessed a drive to build something out of mere pittance as a new arrival to a country foreign to them.

Although this generation faced many challenges, from financial to cultural setbacks, they may be facing their biggest one yet—the one they didn't see coming. The issue lies in the passing on of a business in this industry to a generation more interested in pursuing opportunities that do not carry the burden of physical labor.

What business am I talking about? I'm talking about the pedestrian Chinese restaurant.

I call them "pedestrian" because they are always without frills or fashion and seem to be everywhere. On road trips after high school with my best friend Jim, we used to joke that even in the smallest towns in America, there always seemed to be three things: a post office, a NAPA Auto Parts store and a Chinese restaurant

Travel to virtually any metropolitan city in America and it seems that if you stand in one place on a sidewalk for more than 15 minutes, you'll witness the opening of a new restaurant, bar or brewery. Yet with thousands of new restaurants opening in the last few years, the closing of Chinese restaurants has been on the rise—and nowhere is it more noticeable than ground zero.

San Francisco's Chinatown, the oldest in America, has seen a steady decline in family-owned restaurants over the last five years

The restaurant business has always been one of the most challenging businesses to open and maintain. It is hard work with low margins. Two other issues seriously complicate the restaurant business model: rapidly rising rents and increased minimum wage, which, of course, affect everyone.

But something else is happening in sharp contrast to this Chinese decline: other ethnic restaurants, specifically Italian, Mexican, Korean and Indian, are either holding steady or increasing.

There is a theory that has been floated out there that this has been a specific plan all along—that the Chinese specifically opened restaurants and cooked so their children wouldn't have to. As for me, I don't see the logic in spending a lifetime doing a specific thing solely so your children wouldn't have to do that same thing. Why not avoid it altogether?

Also, we are talking about a people and culture who hold the value of tradition and family among their highest. To me, it doesn't align. But I have a somewhat more sophisticated theory to explain the decline in Chinese children carrying on their parents' restaurants.

I speak regularly with my teacher friend who lives in Singapore and travels to mainland China frequently for school trips and vacation. He says many in their culture still believe cooking is "the woman's work." Couple that with the decades-long single child restriction in China, and males being more desirable, and you're left with a disproportionate society of males who do not believe cooking in and owning a restaurant is their destiny. That leaves you with a decline in Chinese restaurants abroad.

Whether you're traveling through rural America, or you burned the turkey dinner on Christmas like in the movie "A Christmas Story," it isn't difficult to find an open Chinese restaurant when you want or need it—at least for now.

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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BACK40

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

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

James Niehues: Last man standing

A ski map artist puts the finishing touches on a 30-year career

BY MARIA WYLLIE

James Niehues starts his art projects in a helicopter approximately 3,000 feet above a mountain summit. He takes hundreds of photos so he can rearrange all aspects of the mountain to fit within a single, panoramic view.

Niehues, 72, lives in Loveland, Colorado and has been painting resort ski maps since 1988, and is often referred to as the “Monet of the Mountains,” or the “Picasso of Powder.” With a portfolio of more than 350 mountain views and more than 75 percent of the United States’ major resorts, he’s rightfully earned the titles.

Although the maps are first and foremost wayfinding aids for skiers, resorts also rely on them as marketing tools.

“From a safety perspective, it’s skier navigation,” said Glenniss Indreland, who served as Big Sky Resort’s brand manager for 30 years. “From an aesthetic perspective, it’s to show how expansive our terrain is.” Indreland worked with Niehues in April 2014 on a rendering of Big Sky Resort to incorporate Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and Moonlight Basin.

However, as the renowned ski map artist enters retirement, he suspects he might be the last man standing.

“I hope this isn’t true but I may very well be the last real map artist that uses a paintbrush,” he said. “I would hate to see that fade away, but I do imagine that will probably be the case. It will just go digital.”

Niehues’ lack of an apprentice isn’t unusual for his craft. During the history of mapping ski resorts, a single artist has always dominated the profession. It began with Colorado-based artist Hal Shelton, who was most active in the 1960s and 70s, before he passed the baton to painter Bill Brown.

In 1987, Niehues met Brown in Denver and accepted his first project – the backside of Mary Jane at Colorado’s Winter Park Resort.

Niehues had a knack for it and his career took off.

“I really enjoy the detail of it and the challenge of arranging things on a one-dimensional surface,” he said. “It’s kind of a unique branch of art.”

Niehues’ brush lets him do things a computer can’t—like having diversity in trees, rather than clones. “In one brush stroke there are variations in shade, color intensity and edge, which cannot be replicated in computer-generated images,” Niehues said, adding that such differentiation helps replicate the natural feel of the great outdoors.

Primarily working in gouache, an opaque watercolor medium, the process isn’t quick. From start to finish, it typically takes several months to complete any given project. Since the paintings are all for commercial use, Niehues has to keep client interests in mind too.

“In the beginning it was a challenge to make sure the clients were happy,” he said. “I would try to think of each illustration as a gemstone, getting a certain sparkle to it to portray the coldness of the winter and the glisten of the snow.”

As Niehues makes his way toward retirement, he’ll continue updating his older maps, he says, but only take on select new projects. A remake of Utah’s Alta Ski Area map is on the books for 2015, as is a trip to the Oregon Coast, which Niehues plans to paint with his oils.

With no successor in sight, the future of the ski map may be digital, but the paintbrush will be waiting.

Editor’s note: A version of this article was published in the winter 2015 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine and certain facts were updated. Niehues had announced his retirement at the time and then unretired. Read about his latest book below, which was published in the 2020 winter edition of Mountain Outlaw.



Read: ‘The Man Behind the Maps: Legendary Ski Artist James Niehues’

The digital age offers nothing to equal the giddy joy of poring over a printed ski map. In college, I would open trail maps from ski hills my schoolmates had visited, examine them closely and either dismiss or dreamily aspire to ski them one day. Yet, like millions of other skiers inspired by those maps, I didn’t realize for years nearly all were hand-painted by one artist: James Niehues.

The recently released coffee-table book, *The Man Behind the Maps: Legendary Ski Artist James Niehues*, lays bare the process of the man’s distinguished career painting trail maps, that most unsung agent of skier dreams.

Published in September of 2019, the book is beautifully laid out with more than 200 ski maps accompanied by essays from professional skiers, cartographers, ski writers and other industry notables. Each illustration has the same amount of attention and reverence, from tiny Cataloochee in North Carolina to giants like Vail, Colorado, or Big Sky, Montana. For any skier, it is enormously entertaining to leaf through.

Niehues, among the inductees for 2019 U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame, has painted more than 300 trail maps for ski areas around the world since 1987, and these have been printed over 300 million times to date.

The book reports amusing anecdotes, such as how ski areas tried digitally designed maps, and came right back to Niehues—something intangible was always missing. It’s true: as an artist, he managed to include just enough detail: little cliffs, say, or a little darker shading to denote exciting steepes; or background illustrations to show the place in the world, such as Anconagua in the background of Chile’s Portillo ski area; or how the morning alpenglow hits Tamarack, in Idaho.

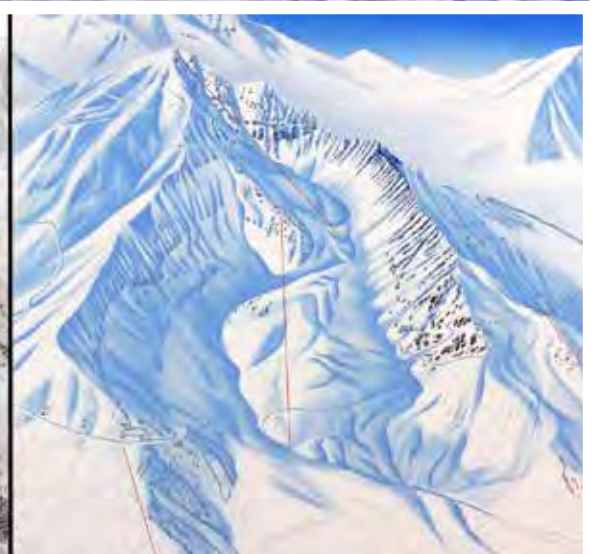
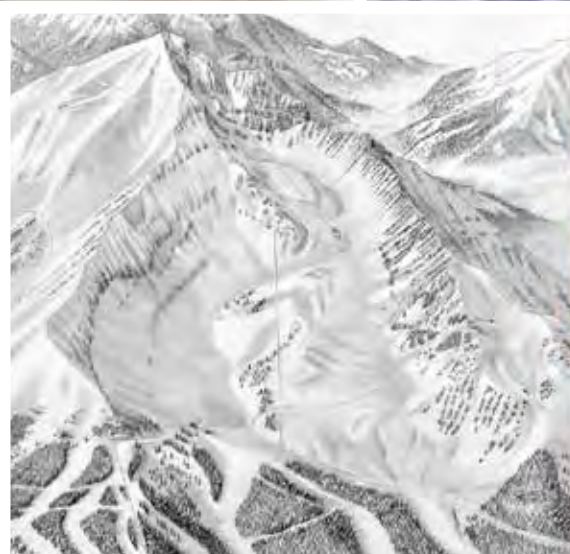
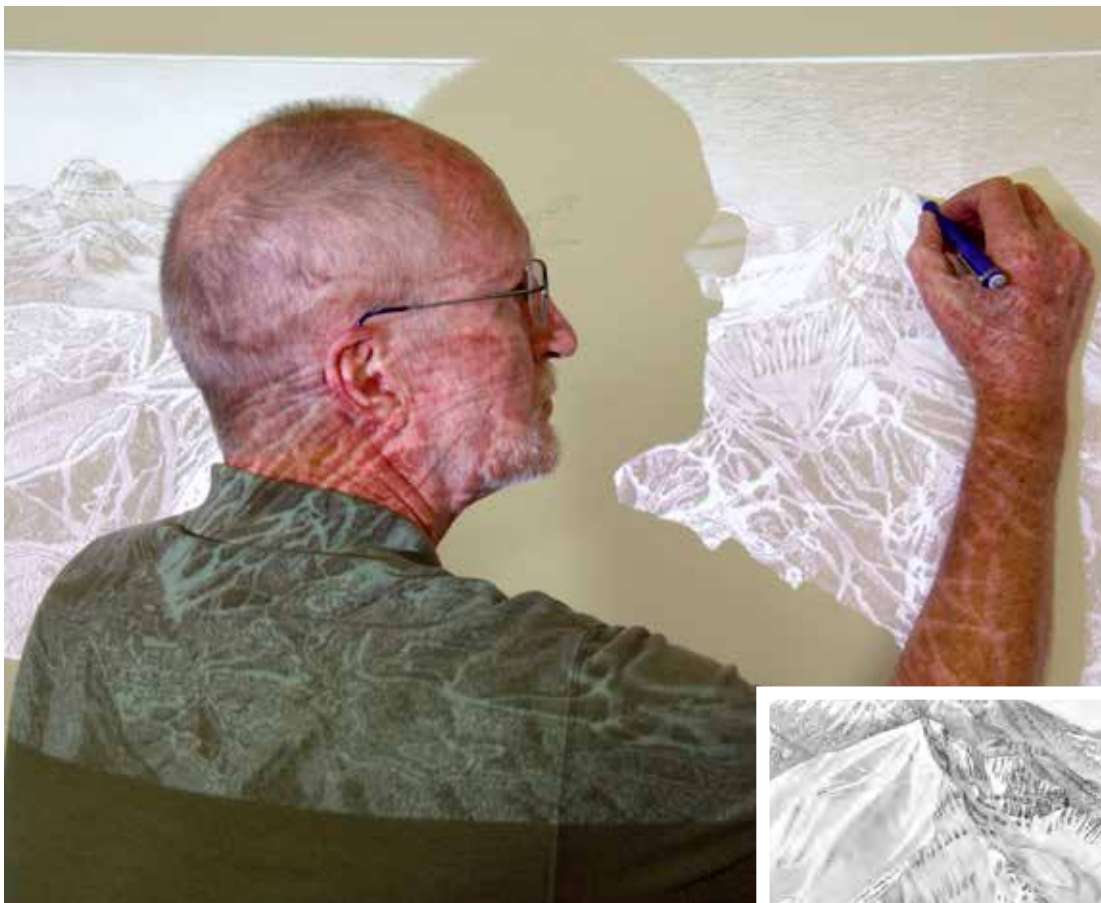
Ultimately, the quality in trail maps we all understood subconsciously becomes splendidly clear in the book: despite their utilitarian purpose, each painted map captures the elemental feel and character of each mountain.

“James Niehues has given the ski industry a phenomenal, enduring gift with maps of exceptional quality and detail,” said Jackson Hole Mountain Resort Executive Tyler Lamotte. “Since his first painting of JHMR in 1993, we continue to find his art an essential tool that perfectly captures the unique character of our big mountain experience in the Tetons.” – Brigid Mander

A version of this story first appeared in the winter 2015 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine.



A hand-painted map of Big Sky Resort's new trail system, which now encompasses Spanish Peaks and Moonlight Basin. The painting was Niehues' final project of 2014. PHOTOS COURTESY OF JAMES NIEHUES



After collecting images of a mountain, Niehues produces a pencil sketch on vellum, which is then blueprinted and sent to the client for review. Next, he adds color, shadows and texture with his paintbrush, and then uses an airbrush to add the sky, clouds and snow on the slopes. Once the illustration is complete, it goes through another round of approval with the client before trail names and symbols are added.

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