

ExploreTM

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

FREE

Big Sky

Feb. 14 - 27, 2020
Volume 11 // Issue #4

POW!

Wild, wild bison

Resort tax increase pending

Winter camping

Bees in decline

Honey to the rescue

Animals in winter



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ON THE COVER:

A skier shreds the fresh powder at Big Sky Resort after the recent storm. The Resort saw more than five feet of snow from Feb. 4 to Feb. 12. PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY RESORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OPINION.....	4	BUSINESS.....	42
REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS.....	8	HEALTH.....	45
LOCAL.....	10	FUN.....	47
OP NEWS.....	12	ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT.....	49
REGIONAL.....	14	DINING.....	59
ENVIRONMENT & OUTDOORS.....	17	REAL ESTATE GUIDE.....	65
SPORTS.....	33		

17

Wild, wild bison

On Jan. 7, after an eight-year public process, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks announced a decision to support statewide bison restoration and the establishment of a wild, free-roaming herd—controversial, and will it stick?

10

Resort tax increase pending

Two local boards have ratified the language of an Interlocal Agreement, which would dictate how the boards move forward pending an upcoming community vote that could increase the resort tax collected on luxury goods and services from 3 to 4 percent.

23

Winter camping

If you take to the snow covered mountains and plains of a mid-winter Greater Yellowstone, you'll want to abide by some basic tips and rules—if not for comfort, then for survival.

49

Bees in decline

Honey to the rescue

Bee populations are declining at alarming rate—40 percent drops in the population in a single year, claim some studies. What would happen if they were gone completely? Billions of dollars in economic losses, for one, pg. 62 and a Bozeman honey and beekeeping shop is on the frontlines, pg. 49.

31

Animals in winter

The Greater Yellowstone is home to an abundance of wildlife, each utilizing its own biological and behavioral approaches to survive the months of to-the-bone cold.

Opening Shot



A car sits buried at Big Sky Resort underneath the ample amount of snow on Feb. 9. Accumulation from the recent storm totaled more than two feet. PHOTO BY KIRBY GRUBAUGH

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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What is your “go-to” meal in the area during the winter months?



Abigail Gunther
Big Sky, MT

“The ‘man wrap’ from Wrap Shack because it’s the best thing after skiing.”



Brian Squillace
Four Corners, MT

“Beef jerky at ‘Casey’s’...because I can get it to go and I can pick up my kids and be on my way”



Patty Hamblin
Big Sky, MT

“The ‘hood club’ panini from BYWOM because it’s delicious.”



Rosie Hewitt
Big Sky, MT

“I would say the fried chicken dinner at the Riverhouse for \$7...[because of] price, and taste, and atmosphere.”

Fund the Montana Heritage Center

To the Editor,

During the 2019 Legislature, Gov. Steve Bullock, legislators, and Montanans across the Treasure State worked tirelessly to keep history alive in a variety of ways.

Senate Bill 338, also known as the Montana Museums Act, is best known for providing a portion of the funds to build the new Montana Heritage Center. But the legislation also creates an ongoing historic preservation grant program for counties, incorporated cities or towns, tribal governments, associations and incorporated nonprofit groups.

Feb. 28 is the deadline to apply for the first round of grants, which are administered through the Montana Department of Commerce and provide up to \$500,000 for improvements to historic sites, societies and museums and can include building repairs and renovations, security and fire protection upgrades or infrastructure work.

The grants are meant to increase economic development, revitalize communities and enhance tourism statewide while adding jobs, expanding businesses and improving local tax bases. The 2021 legislature will

determine grant recipients, with funds being distributed in 2021 across Montana.

The money for the grants and for some construction costs for the Montana Heritage Center doesn’t come from general tax revenues. Instead, the law increases by 1 percent the state lodging tax, which will add only \$1 per \$100 to a night’s lodging costs.

The new Montana Heritage Center will be adjacent to the existing Montana Historical Society building and directly across the street from the state capitol. Its estimated \$53 million construction costs include \$10 million in private donations, with about \$4 million already raised.

Everyone benefits from this farsighted legislation, which hopefully will last into perpetuity. The Board of Trustees and Director Bruce Whittenberg appreciate both your support and contributions to this “Program for the Ages.”

Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees
Helena, MT

Considering the 1 percent vote

To the Editor:

A study has been going on to find solutions to deal with the water quality in the Gallatin River and aquifer for drinking. My first thought was: How are the results of this study going to benefit me by costing me money?

After much research, though, I believe we have been given a gift of the 1 percent for infrastructure to improve the quality of life for every Big Sky resident. If passed, we can expand the capacity of the current sewer system and solve effluent issues by building a pipeline to the canyon. This pipeline will allow for additional homes to be built for workers.

Whether you want more visitors to Big Sky or not, I think the secret is out

about our beautiful destination which means expansion of Big Sky services is necessary. However, after these current issues are solved, there will still remain the same sewer problems in the canyon and another community subdivision that will need 1 percent funding to solve.

I was told this would mean another vote by the constituents. Voting “yes” in a few years to help solve the additional Big Sky sewer issues would mean the upgraded sewer district would need to rescue these older septic systems, which are causing nitrogen contamination in the river and aquifer. But by doing so, we would have a clean river that we all can enjoy and clean drinking water for the entire community, a Big Sky win from mountaintop to river’s edge.

Lori Wetzel
Big Sky

Proposed glamping resort could harm Gallatin River

To the Editor,

My name is Megan Buecking. I am writing today to inform the public of a new resort that has been proposed for the island in Gallatin Gateway. I believe there are serious issues with this proposal and it will cause irreparable harm to the Gallatin River ecosystem and the quality of life for the residents of Gallatin Gateway.

The proposed "Riverbend Glamping Getaway" resort will include 57 units comprised of wall tents, tiny houses, travel trailers and Conestoga wagons. The property owners, Jeff and Jimira Pfeil, also see the potential for further development, including a potential gift shop, coffee shop, fly shop, tiki bar, outdoor patio, etc.

While I could go into great detail about the numerous negative impacts of this project, the current public comment period is focused on the pipelines that will be installed under the river and on the floodplain. In order to provide utilities to the resort, natural gas, wastewater and fiber optics will need to be routed from the town of Gallatin Gateway, under the river, to the island using horizontal directional drilling. The end result will be the piping of hazardous materials under the river and within the floodplain, where the pipes will be susceptible to damage and leakage.

I believe that the building of such a resort and subsequent pipelines is in opposition to the floodplain regulations and should not be approved. The purpose of this regulation is to ensure the safety of the people on the river while avoiding rescue and relief efforts, prolonged business and public service interruptions, and damage to public facilities and utilities. Can you imagine what would happen if a flood were to unexpectedly rip through a glamping resort in Gallatin Gateway? What would happen to the

wastewater and natural gas lines? After living on the river for five years, I've seen the damage flooding causes without the added risk of natural gas and sewage. The potential results of a flood are dire and in direct contrast to the purpose of the floodplain regulations.

What can we do? Luckily, there is still time to for public comment in regards to two of the four permits the property owners are seeking. The first permit is from NorthWestern Energy to allow a natural gas pipeline under the river to the island. The second is from the property owners to route a wastewater pipeline and fiber optic cables. Public comment on issues regarding building in the floodplain associated with these pipeline permits is open until Feb. 18. If you have concerns about this proposed project, specifically concerning issues of installing pipelines in the floodplain, please send your comments to the before Feb. 18 to planning@gallatin.mt.gov or by mail to Gallatin County Floodplain Administrator, 311 W. Main Room 180, Bozeman, MT 59715.

Additionally, reaching out to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Gallatin Conservation District, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation could also help highlight the issues.

I have created a Facebook group titled "Save the River: Gallatin Gateway Citizens Against Glamping Resort." Please join this group if you would like to stay up-to-date on our fight against the glamp-ground. Thank you all!

Megan Buecking
Big Sky, Montana



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WMPAC to host two events

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – The Warren Miller Performing Arts Center is set to host two mainstay events—International Guitar Night on Feb. 16 and the James Sewell Ballet on Feb. 22.

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 a musically diverse program.

International Guitar Night will be the only Arts Council event held in the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center this winter.

Next, the James Sewell Ballet, often called Big Sky's favorite dance group, returns with their annual winter performance for the seventh consecutive year.

Dubbed “Different and unpredictable, this is the company to see” by “The New York Times,” the troupe blends classical, modern and vaudeville performance styles for a unique performance.

Visit warrenmillerpac.org for more information and tickets.

LPHS to host community blood drive

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – On the heels of January, National Blood Donor Month, Lone Peak High School is set to host a community blood drive on Feb. 19, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The critical role of blood and platelet donors has been celebrated each January for nearly 50 years during National Blood Donor Month, which coincides with one of the most difficult times to maintain a sufficient blood supply for patients, a fact that doesn't lessen into February.

According to the American Red Cross, busy holiday schedules, extreme winter weather and seasonal illnesses often impact donor turnout this time of year.

The urgent need for blood and platelets is a constant, and donating is a potentially life-saving act.

Visit the main office at Lone Peak High School to schedule an appointment. For community members outside of the school, call 1 (800) RED-CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor keyword “BIGSKYSCHOOL.”

Lone Peak Cinema to screen ‘Climb to Glory,’ 15th annual backcountry film festival

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – Big Sky's Lone Peak Cinema will get into the Valentine's spirit, showing some serious love to the hordes of skiers and wintertime enthusiasts that call Big Sky home with two separate film events, “Climb to Glory” and the 15th annual Winter Wildlands Alliance Backcountry Film Festival.

“Climb to Glory,” a Warren Miller Entertainment film, celebrates the legacy of the 10th Mountain Division Ski Troopers, a band of post-WWII servicemen who first trained at Camp Hale in the Colorado Rockies. At an altitude of 9,200-feet, the trainees were transformed by the brutal alpine conditions in preparation for deployment to Europe.

The veterans—who continued skiing after returning stateside from Italy—are often credited with transforming skiing into a lifestyle sport, spearheading resort development, innovating ski tech and proving instruction to aspiring skiers, among other contributions.

The film is narrated by Olympian and Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame inductee Jeremy Bloom, and is free to view on Feb. 15 at 3 p.m., courtesy of Big Sky's Sons of the American Legion.

“I wanted to help people make the connection between the 10th [Mountain Division Ski Troopers] and our ski industry,” Jeremy Harder, a member of Big Sky's Sons of the American Legion and an educator for the BSSD, told EBS.

Harder's own grandfather was in the 86th regiment of the 10th Mountain Division, and hopes to honor the soon-to-be-97-year-old's service, while also educating Big Sky's youth “about a piece of our military that they may not have been aware of to build a deeper understanding of men and women in our services.”

Later that evening, the 15th annual Winter Wildlands Alliance Backcountry Film Festival kicks off at the cinema, produced by the eponymous Winter Wildlands Alliance—a nonprofit “dedicated to promoting and preserving winter wildlands and a quality human-powered snowsports experience on public lands through education, outreach and advocacy.” Viewers can expect a lineup of pure backcountry action bliss.

Visit lonepeakcinema.com for more information.

Special Olympics of Montana returns to Big Sky

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – On Monday, Feb. 24, the Special Olympics of Montana is set to host its Big Sky Area Winter Games at Big Sky Resort, again tapping the Moonlight Basin and Madison Base areas for the day of competition and community spirit.

Complete with music, ski and snowshoe racing, among others, the event is made possible through volunteers with several positions still unfilled.

According to the signup website, “please spread the word and share your support for these amazing athletes and this competition on social media. We can never have enough awareness, volunteers and spectators and we appreciate your help. This competition can't happen without dedicated volunteers like you, so on behalf of the athletes, their families, spectators, Big Sky Resort and Special Olympics Montana, we thank you.”

Visit signupgenius.com/go/30e084fa8af2ca5f85-2020 for more information on registering as a volunteer.

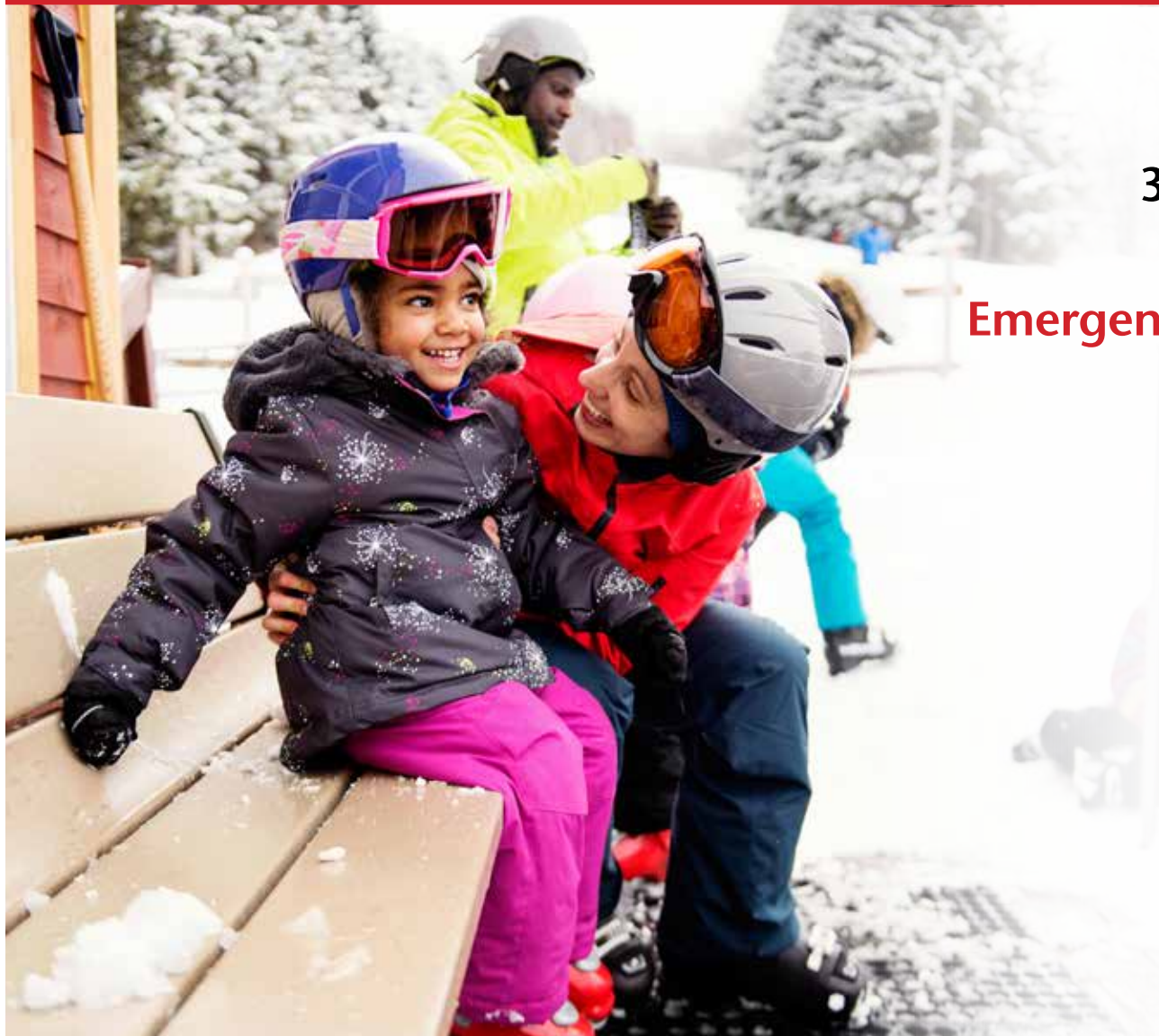
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Infectious disease lab in Montana studying coronavirus

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAMILTON – An infectious disease lab in western Montana is joining the worldwide effort to study a coronavirus that originated in China, has infected over 45,000 people and killed more than 1,300.

Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Hamilton received its first sample of the 2019 novel coronavirus on Feb. 5, the “Ravalli Republic” reported.

Emmie de Wit, the lab’s principal investigator on the new virus, said researchers have already started projects and more will get underway soon. About 10 scientists are working with the deadly flu-like virus, with tasks based on their area of expertise.

One of the first experiments will likely focus on how long the virus remains viable on a surface and still be able to infect someone. Other research will include learning how the virus binds to cells so therapies can be developed to prevent that binding and stop the infection, establishing an animal model to study the virus, and testing the safety and effectiveness of vaccines and treatments, de Wit said.

Researchers will also test different antiviral drugs that have been shown to work on similar viruses.

Labs all over the world are studying the new virus. While the majority of people with the illness are in China, more than 200 people with the illness have been reported in other countries, including the U.S.

Wyoming town debates length of liquor license suspensions

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JACKSON, Wyo. – The penalty for liquor license holders in a Wyoming town who repeatedly sell alcohol to minors could be reduced from a suspension of four months to 10 days.

The proposed change is part of an overhaul to municipal liquor codes in Jackson, “The Jackson Hole News & Guide” reported Feb. 9.

The town council voted to approve a 10-day suspension period for three failed compliance checks in a year, but to leave other violations to the discretion of elected officials. The change was due to concerns among town councilors that the license suspension for failing three compliance checks in a year was too severe, officials said.

The longer suspension could result in a business going without revenue for 120 days and possible job losses among employees, officials said.

Mayor Pete Muldoon was the sole vote against the liquor code update.

The council should give itself leeway to decide against suspensions for cases in which liquor license holders present convincing cases why they should not be held responsible, even after selling alcohol to underage people three times in a year, Muldoon said.

The council needs to approve the change two more times, allowing opportunities for amendments.

Quebec musher wins second straight Wyoming-Idaho dog sled race

ASSOCIATED PRESS



CC PHOTO

JACKSON, Wyo. – Anny Malo of Quebec, Canada, won the Pedigree Stage Stop Race for the second straight year on Feb. 8.

Malo won six of the seven stages of the 25th annual sled dog race through Wyoming and Idaho, including the final stage that ended Feb. 8 at Lower Slide Lake northeast of Jackson, the “Jackson Hole Daily” reported. Nearing the mid-point turnaround for the final

stage, strong winds and spitting snow made it nearly impossible for mushers to see their dogs, forcing them to slow down.

“I was really focused on the trail and to make sure I didn’t go out of the trail,” Malo said. “I think that would have been the only thing that maybe could have been a mistake for me.”

Malo earned \$10,000 for her victory, with a cumulative time of 15 hours, 55 minutes and 11 seconds. Lina Streeper of British Columbia, Canada finished second and Alix Crittenden of Bondurant, Wyoming finished third.

Eight-dog teams were discontinued for this year’s race and featured only traditional 10-dog teams.

Montana Climate Solutions Council s

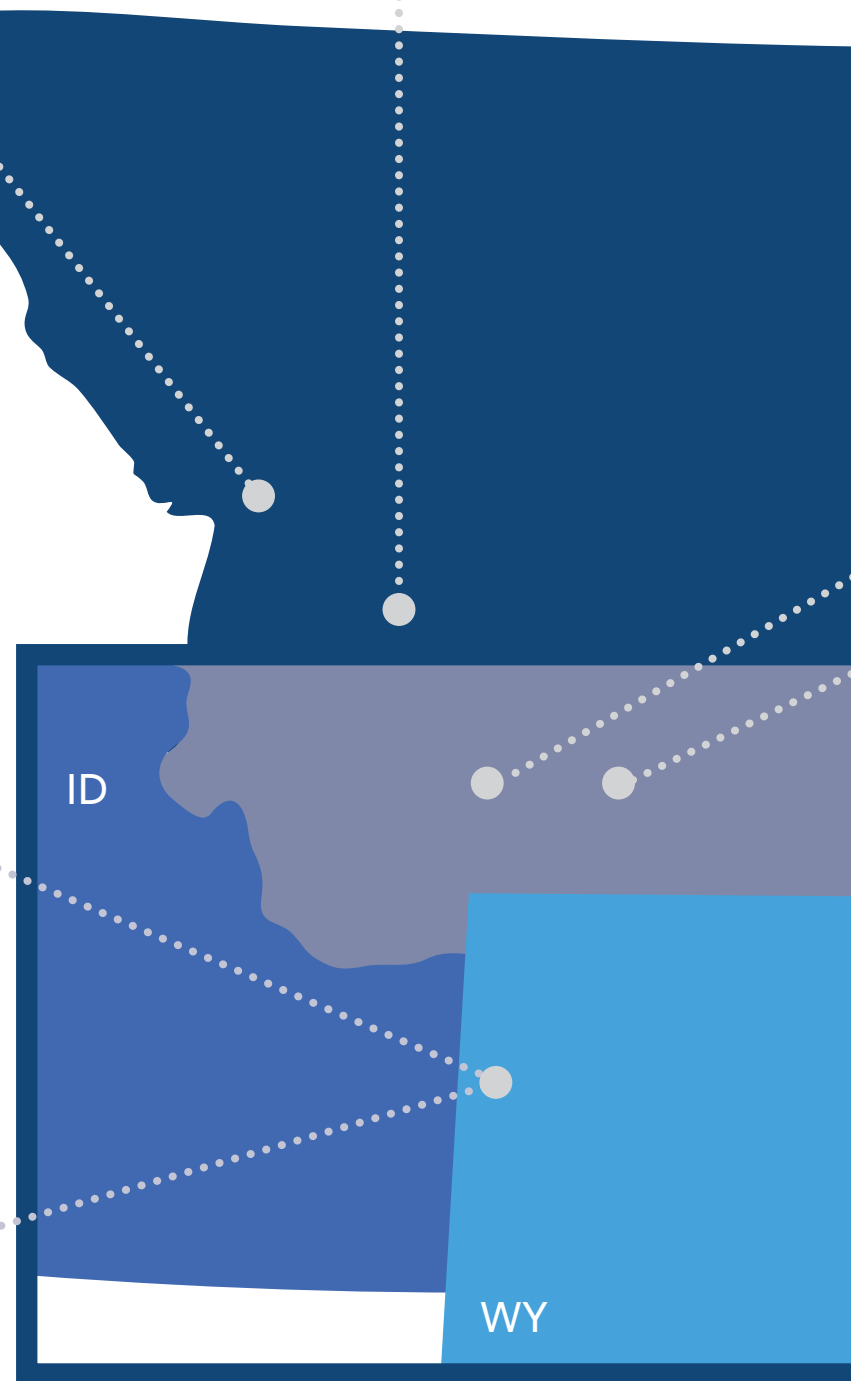
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

HELENA – The Montana Climate Solutions Council has released a set of climate impacts and address challenges and opportunities tied to transition to a net-zero emissions economy. The council’s recommendations were developed by the Solutions Council, and have been issued for public review and comment.

On July 1, 2019, Gov. Steve Bullock established the council and tasked it with the goal of net greenhouse gas neutrality for average annual electric loads in the state by a date to be determined by the council. In addition, the council must identify and address climate impacts through appropriate economic and workforce development, and harness positive opportunities.

The draft Montana Climate Solutions Plan includes preliminary recommendations. The council works toward its final product in June.

Visit deq.mt.gov/Climate to view the draft plan. Comments may be submitted during the public review.



Wyoming school district discusses plan to arm educators

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GILLETTE, Wyo. – Officials in a Wyoming school district have held the first of three public meetings to discuss a proposal to arm educators at six rural campuses.

The regulations would allow educators to conceal carry handguns at Recluse, Little Powder, 4J, Rozet, and Conestoga elementary schools, the “Gillette News Record” reported Feb. 5.

The Campbell County School District held the meeting Feb. 4 and included a 30-minute public comment session.

“This is intended for the very worst moment that could ever happen in a school district,” district Human Resources Manager Larry Reznicek said in response to a question about how the district would prepare educators. “It’s not about shooting a firearm. It’s about preparing yourself mentally and not backing away from danger, going to the danger and mitigating it quickly.”

Educators would be given de-escalation and verbal-control techniques and must take psychological evaluations the same as law enforcement, designed to discover participant tendencies, officials said.

The district is expected to pay for ammunition, lock boxes, evaluations, drug and alcohol tests and 56 hours of training. It would not pay for firearms and holsters. An estimated cost has not yet been provided. Based on information, evaluations would cost about \$500 each, the drug and alcohol tests would cost up to \$100 each, and background checks would cost up to \$75, Reznicek said.

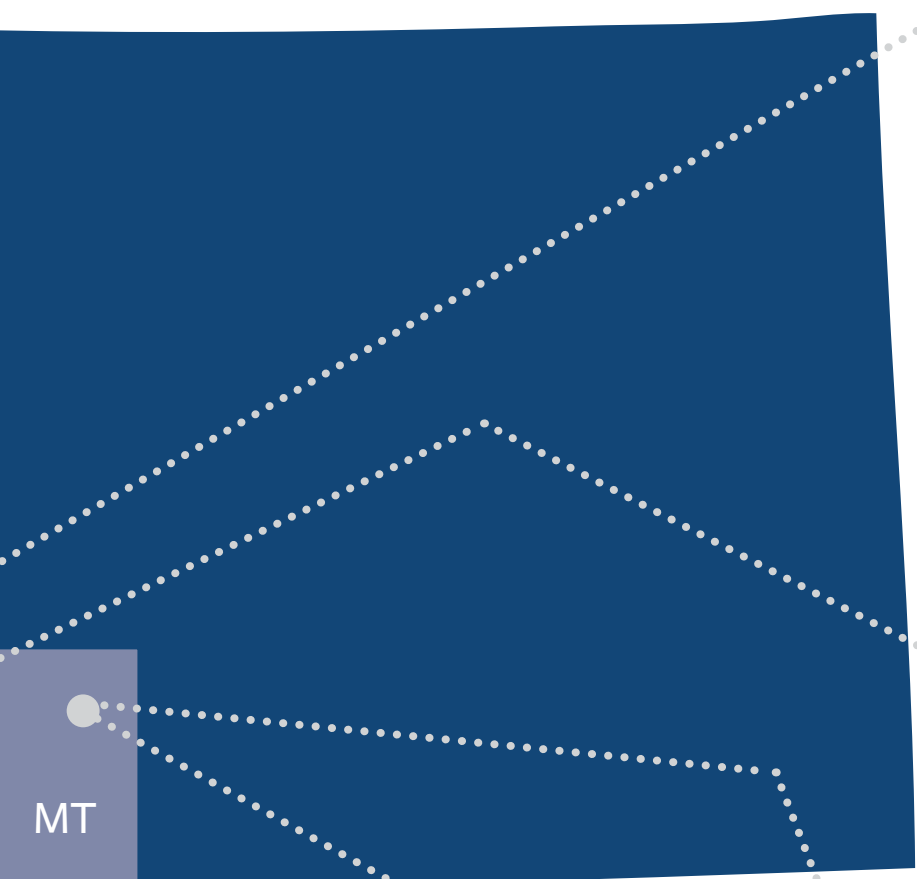
Weeks public input through March 31

of draft recommendations intended to help Montana reduce emissions, prepare for
ns. The recommendations come from the early deliberations of the Montana Climate
through March 31.

with issuing recommendations by June 1, 2020, that move the state toward an interim
e state by no later than 2035, and a goal of net greenhouse gas neutrality economy-wide
ntify strategies that build resilience, address the needs of communities in transition
ntential opportunities in the development and commercialization of new technologies.

ndations, dissenting views and key questions to encourage upfront engagement as

by email to ClimateCouncil@mt.gov. All comments received will be made available for



Montana has four flu-related deaths this season

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS – The state of Montana has recorded four flu-related deaths this season, with three of them happening in the week ending Feb. 1.

The Department of Public Health and Human Services reports there were just under 1,000 cases of influenza reported during the last week in January, an increase from 800 cases the previous week. Last year’s flu season peaked during the week of Feb. 23.

The health department says there’s been just over 4,000 flu cases since the season started in October and every county has reported at least one case. So far this season, 186 people have been hospitalized in Montana with the flu, “The Billings Gazette” reported.

The deaths involve four adults, three over the age of 65, health officials said.

During the 2018-19 flu season there were more than 13,500 cases reported, 767 hospitalizations and 38 deaths.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates there have been 22 million flu illnesses, 210,000 hospitalizations and at least 12,000 deaths this season.

MSU again recognized for community engagement from Carnegie Foundation

BY ANNE CANTRELL
MSU NEWS SERVICE



PHOTO BY KELLY GORHAM

BOZEMAN – Montana State University has once again received recognition for its outstanding community engagement efforts, university officials announced Jan. 31.

MSU is one of 119 U.S. colleges and universities to receive the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, an elective designation that indicates institutional commitment to community engagement by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The

classification brings national recognition to MSU’s commitment to engaging with external partners in all aspects of teaching, research and service in order to benefit the public, said MSU President Waded Cruzado. MSU first received the classification in 2010.

To be selected for the 2020 Carnegie classification, MSU submitted an extensive application last year that provided descriptions and examples of community engagement practices that are ingrained in MSU’s institutional culture and which align

Montana bakery to provide job training, bread for pantries

ASSOCIATED PRESS



CC PHOTO

population, he said.

LIVINGSTON – A bakery in southern Montana that is expected to provide job training and fresh bread to residents and food pantries statewide has started to prepare for opening day. The Livingston Community Bakery expects to open in less than a month about 25 miles east of Bozeman, “Montana Public Radio” reported.

The goal of the bakery is to provide free artisan bread to any food pantry in the state that wants it, Executive Director Michael McCormick said. Bozeman-based company Quality Food Distributors has agreed to then transport the bread pro bono, he said.

The bakery is an extension of the nearby Livingston Food Resource Center that provides people in need with food, opportunities in culinary education and economic development, McCormick said. The center serves about 700 people, or about 10 percent of the city

The center has served about 150 loaves each week, but with the bakery, the organization expects to more than triple the number, officials said.

The bread will also be made with Montana grain, McCormick said. “We’re teaching people a trade, we’re creating a new market for Montana farmers who are growing wheat and grains, and we’re feeding people in ways that’s truly nutritious and will help them be well. So we cover a lot of bases when we do a project like this,” he said.

Three inmates escape from jail in southern Montana

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS – Authorities are searching for three inmates who escaped from a jail in southern Montana.

The men escaped from the Big Horn County jail the night of Feb. 7 and sheriff’s officials say the men, identified as 25-year-old Andrew Parham, 34-year-old Anthony Castro and 34-year-old Stephen Caplett, are not armed but are considered dangerous.

No one was injured during the jail break.

Sheriff Mike Linder declined to give details about the escape but said the inmates caused some property damage. The men were last seen wearing grey and white striped uniforms.

Two of the men, Caplett and Castro, were take into custody on Feb. 10.

Boards ratify infrastructure agreement language

Upcoming vote to determine 1 percent resort tax increase

BY BRANDON WALKER AND MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY – After months of work and facing down an expanding population and exploding development, two local boards have come to a critical agreement that, upon voter approval, could allow an additional 1 percent of Big Sky resort tax dollars to help fund a \$35 million upgrade to local water and sewer infrastructure.

At its Feb. 4 open meeting, the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board's agenda included a key item: the ratification of the language of the Infrastructure Interlocal Agreement with the Big Sky Water and Sewer District.

Capping a months-long collaborative effort with the Big Sky Water and Sewer District, the board unanimously approved the Interlocal Agreement language. The agreement seeks to activate Senate Bill 241, a piece of legislation that failed in 2017 and passed during the 2019 session that allows Montana's 10 resort tax communities to propose a 1 percent tax increase for the duration of vetted infrastructure projects.

A critical infrastructural endeavor looms large: upgrades to the existing wastewater treatment plant combined with expanded service to the growing community in Gallatin Canyon.

BSRAD District Manager Daniel Bierschwale noted the ratified agreement will be null and void if the community fails to pass the measure, which would add 1 percent to the existing 3 percent resort tax, in a May 5 mail-in vote—a date that doubles as the BSRAD's election day.

"I think this was a really good example of how this subcommittee worked with Water and Sewer to accomplish something that not only benefits Water and Sewer, but also the community," said BSRAD Secretary Buz Davis.

Water and sewer board follows suit

One day after BSRAD voted favorably on the language of the proposed Infrastructure Interlocal Agreement, the Big Sky County Water and Sewer District board voted unanimously on Feb. 5 in favor of proceeding with the agreement.

The pending 1 percent bump in resort tax would be applied to the improvement of the quality of treated water and increase the facility's daily intake capacity by more than 300,000 gallons to a total of 910,000 gallons.

The aforementioned service to the residents of the Gallatin Canyon would be rendered through the installation of a lift station and pipeline systems in Gallatin Canyon, pending the formation of a separate water

and sewer district in the canyon by 2022. That newly formed district would in turn have to enter into an agreement with the existing water and sewer district regarding the handling of its wastewater. If the canyon fails to form a new water and sewer district by 2022, then the agreement would be disbanded.

Water and sewer General Manager Ron Edwards explained that if the existing district were to get the necessary approvals and install pipelines from the current plant to the canyon, water from the canyon would go to the newly proposed lift station, then up to the existing water and sewer plant. A second pipeline would take treated, reclaimed wastewater back to the canyon where, pending the granting of a permit by Montana Department of Environmental Quality, it could be used for groundwater disposal in the canyon area.

"There's a line that would pump raw influent to the plant and then there's a second line which would allow us to take water by gravity back down the hill," Edwards said.

According to the water and sewer district's website, the facility upgrade will offer benefits in addition to the expanded holding capacity. Bacteria, nitrogen and phosphorus levels will all be decreased by 90 percent or better in the treated water after the upgrade, meaning less will enter existing groundwater after its disposed.

Per the agreement between the two boards, 60 percent, or a maximum of \$27 million, would be allotted to the facility upgrades and all costs would be covered for construction of the new canyon lift station and pipe systems up to a maximum of \$12 million.

"These are based on engineering cost estimates that are being done in a really crazy period of time the way costs have been rising in these infrastructure projects, so it's our best numbers, at least right now," Edwards said. "But you don't know until you actually bid the project what you're going to have."

The \$35 million in total granted for these projects caps the amount resort tax district can award to the water and sewer district during the term of the agreement, which would last until 2032. If additional assistance is necessary, the original agreement would need to be amended, according to language in the current agreement.

The potential roadblock was one of the larger causes for concern within the water and sewer board as they discussed the agreement before the May 5 vote.

Based on current growth projections, BSRAD believes the \$35 million commitment could be collected in just over a decade.

1%?

"I think this was a really good example of how this subcommittee worked with Water and Sewer to accomplish something that not only benefits Water and Sewer, but also the community," said BSRAD Secretary Buz Davis.

BSRAD talks Interlocal Agreement, appropriations, community priorities

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY – On Feb. 4, the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board held an open board meeting in the Resort Tax office, its first in several months. The organization recently expanded operations into an adjacent office space, freeing real estate for its well-attended board meetings.

With an agenda of critical and year-defining items, the return held a semblance of pageantry. These items included the ratification of the language of the Infrastructure Interlocal Agreement with the Big Sky Water and Sewer District; viable means to implement the Our Big Sky Community Visioning Strategy; and tentative dates and procedural updates to the 2020 resort tax appropriations slated to be realized by late June.

The Resort Tax Board ratified the agreement language and the BSWSD board followed suit on Feb. 5, setting up a voter decision on the 1 percent increase on May 5 (see more on pg. 10), a date that doubles as the BSRAD's election day. The board then turned its attention to how it will realize the implementation of monthslong commissioned surveying and discussion, ultimately leading to BSRAD's Community Strategic Plan, a platform on which the community voiced its opinions about the most important issues and initiatives in Big Sky.

A council comprised of community leaders, with Bierschwale representing BSRAD and the board's newest member Ciara Wolfe representing the Big Sky Community Organization, of which she is CEO, aims to ensure the plan's implementation "for the greater good of Big Sky."

Legally speaking, BSRAD is not empowered to implement the strategic plan in the same way a traditional municipal government might.

"Trying to implement, that's not our business," Wolfe said. "[But] that doesn't mean there's no involvement in any capacity. This staff team would have an equal seat at the [council] table with everybody and



Last year's appropriations meeting lasted several hours, enhancing fatigue. The BSRAD will seek splitting appropriations sessions into two, accounting for the phenomenon in order to ensure fresh attention to each applicant. PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

I would hope this board uses that plan going forward to consider its allocations."

While the board isn't expected to implement, it is expected to fund, said BSRAD Vice Chair Steve Johnson. "When you look at the initiatives that were identified in the visioning strategy, so many of them involved multiple players ... We need to be able to fund in a responsible way."

Funding, in this context, is rendered through appropriations of the resort tax collected by qualifying businesses on various luxuries and goods and services, per an ordinance revised in November 2019. This year's collections are expected to outpace last year's roughly \$8 million, but with single appropriations sometimes totaling in the millions, the amount available was still nearly \$3 million short of the total requests from community groups and organizations.

For the resort tax board, the appropriations process needs some tweaking in order to best serve the vetted interests of the requesting groups, with two key changes: The first will be splitting the appropriations meeting into two shorter sessions rather than one lengthy affair in order to curtail "fatigue"—a measure geared at affording fresh attention to each applicant, no matter their position in the session lineup.

The second adjustment will be to enhance lines of communication and understanding between members of the board leading into the appropriations sessions, so there will be a measure of expectation on how various board members will vote.

Following the April 30 application deadline, the board will also have the opportunity to ask questions of the staff and the applicants, ensuring minimal friction and maximum preparation come June 10.

As of press time, the BSRAD appropriation meeting dates are set for June 10 and 17.



The Big Sky Resort Area District tax board met in their Big Sky Town Center office for their Feb. 4 meeting—a first in months. PHOTO BY BRANDON WALKER

OUTLAW News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

Outlaw design team doubles down

EBS STAFF

Mary Elizabeth (M.E.) Brown

The newest addition to the Outlaw team has called many places home over the years. She has lived in Texas as well as Florida, but spent the most time growing up in Clifton, Virginia. Mary Elizabeth Brown, or “M.E.” for short, went on to attend High Point University in North Carolina and earned a degree in graphic design in May 2019.

Stepping into a role as a Graphic Designer for Outlaw Partners, Brown, 23, has always been drawn to the world of design, and experimented in various iterations, first studying interior design before settling on graphic design.

Brown has a rich history with Big Sky, working for local businesses including The Big Sky Real Estate Company and Rhinestone Cowgirl, among others. Her family has been visiting the area for the past 20 years, and purchased a home in Big Sky in 2005.

“I am grateful to work in a beautiful place with such a friendly, supportive and talented team,” Brown said. “At Outlaw, I’m excited to have the creative freedom to design for so many different clients and getting to work on awesome events like PBR and Peak to Sky.”

Brown will utilize her creative talents to help design advertising materials as well as assisting with the layout of Outlaw Partners’ publications including this newspaper as well as Mountain Outlaw and Explore Yellowstone magazines.



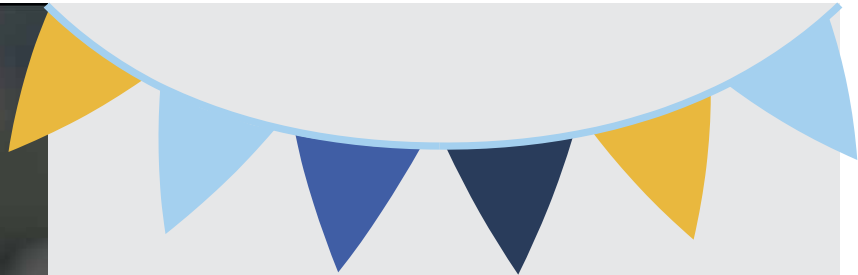
M.E.’s favs:

Athletic Team: Philadelphia Eagles

Film: “Moulin Rouge” and “The Little Mermaid.” “I’ve always loved ‘The Little Mermaid’ since I was a little kid. I remember watching it over and over on VHS for like a year straight. My mom was surprised the tape didn’t give out.”

Food: Dark chocolate – “I’m definitely a sweets person. I love chocolate, specifically dark chocolate. Everything is better with chocolate.”

Writer: Suzanne Collins – “My favorite series is ‘The Hunger Games’ by Suzanne Collins. It was the first series that I got hooked on. It evoked so many emotions, and was shocking and intricate in the world that Collins created.”



Happy Birthday to the best Outlaw Editor-in-Chief in the Greater Yellowstone! 40 looks good on you, Joe!

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Push to scale back US environmental law draws ire at hearing

BY JAMES ANDERSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER, Co. – The Trump administration on Feb. 11 hosted the first of two hearings on its proposal to speed energy and other projects by rolling back a landmark environmental law. Opponents from Western states argued the long-term benefits of keeping the environmental reviews.

Among other changes, President Donald Trump wants to limit public reviews of projects—a process that’s enshrined in the National Environmental Policy Act signed in 1970 by President Richard Nixon. The administration also wants to allow project sponsors to participate at an early stage of drafting federal environmental impact statements.

Dozens of environmental and tribal activists testified at the Denver hearing of the president’s Council on Environmental Quality.

The act “is not just a tool to reduce impacts to the environment,” said Gwen Lachelt, a commissioner in Colorado’s La Plata County. “It’s a basic tool of democracy.”

Representatives of oil and gas groups countered that multiyear environmental reviews of pipelines, coal mines and renewable energy projects kill jobs, increase costs and often outlast a project’s economic feasibility.

That proposed changes chagrined Jeannie Crumly, a rancher from Nebraska who has fought construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline for more than a decade. President Barack Obama canceled the project, only to have it resurrected by Trump.

“We’ve learned over the 10 years in our dealings with the pipeline supporters about falsehoods,” said Crumly, sporting a “No Oil on Our Soil” button. “The possibility that they could create their own environmental impact statement is just ludicrous to us.”

Trump has proposed narrowing the scope of the environmental law that along with the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act spell out the nation’s principal environmental protections. The environmental law requires federal agencies to determine if a project would harm the environment or wildlife. It gives the public the right to consider and comment on the projects.

Trump’s plan is backed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, American Petroleum Institute and other business and trade groups.

Among other changes, the proposal would streamline environmental assessments and would not require “analysis of cumulative effects,” which environmentalists say include a project’s potential impact on climate change.

The law “has done more than any other law in the last 50 years to protect America’s lands and wildlife and ensure public comment,” said Aaron Weiss, deputy director of the Center for Western Priorities. “It’s completely on brand that the Trump administration is cutting the American public out of the process.”

Activists held a rally and other events outside the hearing at the regional headquarters of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Backers of the proposed changes call the law outdated and a deterrent to infrastructure investment. They also insist the changes won’t eliminate environmental reviews. Montana U.S. Sen. Steve Daines, a Republican, has released a letter signed by 17 other senators urging adoption of the new rules.

Colorado Gov. Jared Polis, a Democrat, issued a statement acknowledging the need to reduce red tape but said it must be done without weakening environmental protections. Several members of Polis’ cabinet testified Feb. 11, including the director of the Colorado Energy Office.

Ben Rhodd, a tribal historic preservation officer for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in South Dakota, labeled the proposed changes a “direct affront to the sovereignty of Native Americans” because, he said, tribal governments weren’t consulted beforehand.

The administration’s proposal does call for increased involvement of tribal governments.

Another hearing will be held Feb. 25 in Washington.

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SECTION 2: ENVIRONMENT & OUTDOORS



Painter David Hall celebrates
Yellowstone region pg. 18



Winter camping pg. 23



How animals survive winter pg. 31

Denizens of the Great Plains

FWP announces support for establishment of wild bison herds

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

LIVINGSTON – In the shadow of Sepulcher Mountain and Electric Peak, wind mounts the flats north of Gardiner and fractures the air, screaming past cuts and cracks in the lower valley hills and funneling straight down the Paradise Valley toward Livingston. Specks of snow pound the gnarled junipers and sage.

It's there in the Gardiner Basin, along the northern boundary of Yellowstone National Park, that the northern Yellowstone bison herd seeks forage and respite from the heavy snowfall that engulfs the higher elevations of Yellowstone National Park in the last months of winter.

When the animals move beyond the park boundary, they are only granted passage on adjacent National Forest land in the Gardiner basin. If they try to move north toward Yankee Jim Canyon, state and federal partners with the Interagency Bison Management Plan push them back toward the park and by May 1, all cows and calves are hazed back into Yellowstone. During the winter, permitted Montana hunters and tribal members hunt those that linger outside of Yellowstone, and National Park Service employees capture some of the migrating animals for quarantine or slaughter.

On Jan. 7, after an eight-year public process, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks announced a decision to support statewide bison restoration and the establishment of a wild, free-roaming herd. But department officials also said that despite their support for restoration, they are not seeking to establish a wild herd just yet, as more work still needs to be done to create space where buffalo can roam.

In 1910, there were an estimated 151 bison in public herds in the U.S., approximately two dozen of which were in Yellowstone National Park. Today, there are roughly 5,000 bison in the Yellowstone herd, and although they have been a fracture point between Montana's agricultural and environmental communities, overall public support for statewide bison restoration has grown.

The process

In 2012, MT FWP began formally evaluating how bison restoration would impact Montana, considering environmental, social and economic consequences, both positive and negative. This process, known as developing an Environmental Impact Statement, is required by law prior to an action by a governmental agency.

The department formed a "Bison Discussion Group" comprised of stakeholders from agency, tribal, governmental, agricultural and conservation interests. This panel guided the development of a draft EIS that was released for public comment in June 2015. At the time, hundreds of people attended public hearings and MT FWP received comments from 51 Montana counties and 38 states.

It took five years for the department to collate public comment and come to a final decision, and in January officials released the final EIS. It stated that MT FWP supports bison restoration under strict provisions. While the agency is not going to develop any specific proposals at this time, it will consider collaborative stakeholder proposals that take into account various landowner and community interests. Any proposal would undergo a period of public engagement, as well.

"FWP recognizes that a sustainable future for wild bison in Montana depends on carefully balancing complex biological, sociological and economic considerations," wrote MT FWP Director Martha Williams in a Jan. 7 statement. "Only by building trust and working earnestly with these various interests, especially people concerned that their livelihoods might be affected by restoration, will Montana be able to return bison to its rightful place among the other successfully restored wildlife species that, collectively, make Montana a state unlike any other."

Next steps

Many wildlife organizations commended MT FWP for supporting bison restoration, but some wish to see more immediate action.

"This long-awaited plan is really a 30,000-foot vision document," Chamois Andersen, senior Rockies and Plains representative for Defenders of Wildlife, told "National Parks Traveler" after the EIS was released. "While we are encouraged that Montana will now officially restore wild bison to the state, it is unfortunate that the state wildlife agency leading the charge did not offer any specific sites where bison can return."



A bison crosses Yellowstone's Firehole River at sunset. NPS PHOTO

Andersen said Defenders of Wildlife will advocate for and help develop proposals for specific sites outside of Yellowstone including the Badger-Two Medicine/Chief Mountain areas of the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest and the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge.

The American Prairie Reserve, a Bozeman-based nonprofit that manages a herd of genetically pure bison on lands it owns in eastern Montana and acreage it leases from the Bureau of Land Management, also supports FWP's bison restoration rule.

"We view FWP's decision as a positive step forward for wildlife restoration for the state of Montana," APR spokeswoman Beth Saboe told EBS. She added, however, that APR isn't currently planning to put forth a proposal for wild bison, and for now, it will continue to manage its 800-head bison herd as livestock.

Within the agricultural community, many remain skeptical of bison reintroduction.

Montana Rep. Dan Bartel of Lewistown has carried legislation aimed to stop APR from grazing bison on public lands out of concern for over-grazing. Plus, he points out, under the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, grazing rights are only granted to horses, cattle or sheep. Bison are difficult to control and can break fences, mix with cattle and threaten human safety, he said.

"You just can't have bison everywhere. It's not the bison's fault, it's our fault," Bartel explained. "It sounds great to have bison—it does—but how do you fundamentally employ it not to affect adjoining landowners? What do you do when you have federal lands that are patchwork? FWP, the counties, are not ready to rewild bison."

"In central Montana there hasn't been a lot of participation in the ag community to rewild the bison," Bartel said. "I think we need to have a seat [at the table]."

Yellowstone's plan

As the state grapples with the idea of bison roaming wild throughout Montana, Yellowstone National Park is pressed to manage a herd that's growing by an estimated 10 to 17 percent every year.

Managers have established a working partnership with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho of the Wind River Reservation, and the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation to ship some of the bison that migrate out of the park during the winter for slaughter; others are placed into a quarantine program with final release at the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. This year, park officials intend to remove between 600 and 900 bison through hunting and capture. Approximately 110 of those bison will be placed in the quarantine program.

"For long-term conservation, Yellowstone bison need access to more suitable habitat outside the park..." YNP Superintendent Cameron Sholly told EBS last year. "It's our goal to find ways of expanding the quarantine program, at Fort Peck and other locations, to ensure a more regular and predictable number of bison can move through the pipeline."

THE NEW WEST

Painter Dave Hall celebrates lifeblood of Yellowstone region



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

For many rivers, discovering what remains of their wild essence requires heading upstream. Humans throughout time have exacted tolls from our waterways and in terms of their character, lower reaches often

disappoint for the trappings of civilization that have wrung the life out of them.

In Mexico where the Colorado trickles into the delta with the pulse of the Green a distant hindsight confluence; in the Northwest where the Columbia churns into the Pacific having absorbed the Snake; and south of New Orleans where the Mississippi finds the Gulf long forgetting the flows of the Missouri, there's little hint that, were you to trace each course back to the common region where they began—Greater Yellowstone along the Continental Divide—you may find the tracks of grizzly bears imprinted in the melting snowpack.

Dave Hall will tell you there are lots of extraordinary places on planet Earth to dip a paddle, cast a line and set up a portable easel, but few water corridors remain in the developed world where a human can bump into the full complement of original four-legged megafauna that were there half a millennial ago.

At Last Chance, Idaho, within eyeshot of the Henrys Fork of the Snake River, Hall takes his work commemorating rivers seriously. Greater Yellowstone has been famously painted by a glorious parade of visual artists dating back to the Hudson River School. From Thomas Moran—whose sketches and finished oil paintings convinced Congress to create a new kind of nature preserve called Yellowstone National Park—to Albert Bierstadt who portrayed the geyser basins, Tetons and Wind River Range, the fine art legacy continues de rigueur in the 21st century.

Hall's work is known for melding color fields and harmonious tonal bands in a way that is both contemporary and timeless without being sentimental. It's akin to the moody representations of the Northern Rockies perfected by the late Russell Chatham, who spent most of his adult life along the Yellowstone in Paradise Valley near Livingston.

Both are known for their masterful ways of reading the water and haunting it during crepuscular hours. "I am moved by the half-light of dawn and dusk, and my paintings are inspired by the Greater Yellowstone country of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming," Hall said. "A piece of my heart resides there, due in large part to the poetry associated with the convergence of family and friends, moving water and mayfly hatches."

Hall doesn't "paint fish" but his soothing scenes make anglers and river people swoon. There have been countless edges of day when even if the bite is on, Hall will set the rod aside and just stand in the evanescence, absorbing it as a kind of experiential osmosis.

I had known of Hall's work and met him a few years ago when he was a painter in residence at the Taft-Nicholson Center, operated by the University of Utah in the Centennial Valley of southwest Montana.

A New Englander by upbringing, Hall graduated from the University of New Hampshire and Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Today he divides his seasons between Salt Lake City and Last Chance.



Artist Dave Hall PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVE HALL

Besides operating an online art gallery, Hall shows his work in Greater Yellowstone at ABanks in Bozeman and Altamira Fine Art in Jackson, Wyoming.

"I like people who show courage. From an art perspective, I've admired the abstract expressionists—Rothko, et al.—for their work and their journey into the new and experimental," he said. "Most artists, I think, have had the experience of being seduced into painting what has worked in the past, that is, what is recognized as good, if not inspired, and what will sell in a gallery. David Bayles' wonderful book 'Art and Fear' speaks to this."

In 2018, Hall's well-received and lushly illustrated book "Moving Water: An Artist's Reflections on Fly Fishing, Friendship and Family" was published. Now he is working on a series of large abstract landscapes called "The Harriman Suite," which look at the Greater Yellowstone and the Henry's Fork country in particular. One work in the series, titled "Dawn on the Henry's Fork," is among Hall's most ambitious paintings.

"I see it as the essence of how I feel about my decades on that river," Hall said about the piece. "It was completed very quickly without a great deal of planning—more emotion than thought." The original, completed in 2009, is owned by folks in Salt Lake, and about five prints were made.

"One is in our home, one hangs at the fishing lodge Trouthunter on the River in Last Chance and another hangs in Executive Director Brandon Hoffner's office at the Henry's Fork Foundation's campus in Ashton, Idaho," Hall said. A devoted conservationist, he believes in giving back and has donated over \$40,000 to land and wildlife protection causes based on the sale of his paintings.

I asked him, what as an angler and artist, concerns him about the future of Greater Yellowstone?

"The number of people and the growing numbers among us who can't or don't relate to the experience and value of wilderness," he replied. "We all can [and] should do what we can—however small—for the Greater Yellowstone."

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.

Water Wisdom

Buck's T-4 sees water savings after high-efficiency upgrades

BY DAVID TUCKER
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Though Big Sky's full-time population is rapidly growing, this is still a tourist town. As such, there are a variety of inns, lodges, hotels and motels, all catering to visitors itching to enjoy southwest Montana's natural beauty.

While AirBnB-style rentals are popular, traditional hospitality businesses still service the vast majority of the tourists, and those tourists use a lot of water. That puts this industry in a powerful position when it comes to water conservation, a critical element of resource management here in Big Sky.

As a semi-arid headwaters community, we're water-stressed, and our supply is further limited by our unique geology. Add to that our closed-basin status regarding water rights, and supply is even more challenging. Implementing water savings in the lodging sector could have huge benefits for the watershed.

One such opportunity recently presented itself to the managers at Buck's T-4 in Gallatin Canyon. This iconic road-side lodge was renovating its 73 guest rooms and had a decision to make: leave the 1970s toilets in every bathroom, or upgrade to efficient models. Buck's chose the latter, and after just three months, the managers are very glad they did.

Since installing 63 new toilets, Buck's has seen a water savings of 600,000 gallons over the same period last year. The new toilet models use 1.28 gallons per flush, whereas the old ones used close to 3. That's roughly half the water usage from one simple upgrade.

Buck's co-owner and general manager David O'Connor said they weren't expecting such results. Buck's is on its own sewer system, essentially a miniature version of

Big Sky Water and Sewer's lagoon system, but with one major difference: "If our lagoons are full, we close," O'Connor said. He was at a point where he had to find a way to decrease the volume of treated wastewater in his ponds.

The low-flow toilets were part of the solution, creating less wastewater and drawing less water out of the ground. Because of the canyon's shallow aquifer, groundwater withdrawals have a bigger impact on surface water flows, as all water would eventually flow to the river. "Our property is next to the river, so we've always had an ethic about water," O'Connor said. "That's part of running a business in the canyon. This was a business decision that supported the ecological decision, and it didn't cost a dime we weren't spending anyway."

While a conservation ethic seems to run deep at Buck's, other businesses should take note. "In Montana, business and ecological health aren't in conflict," O'Connor said, adding that one must support the other, or neither is guaranteed.

Most of us don't have 73 toilets to replace in our homes, but there probably are 73 toilets in each of our subdivisions. Upgrading our own appliances, and then encouraging our neighbors to do the same could lead to similar water savings. "Don't underestimate tiny consumers of water," O'Connor said. "A bunch of small things add up."

That mentality is at the core of the Big Sky Water Conservation Program, which provides rebates to Big Sky homeowners who upgrade their appliances and water systems to high-efficiency products. Individual savings won't be on the order of 600,000 gallons every three months like Buck's has experienced, but in our water-stressed community, every drop counts, and we all need to do our part.

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



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The marathon for clean energy

BY KATHY BOUCHARD
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

After spending nearly every possible vacation moment in Big Sky for nine years, my dad, Dick Barton, became a permanent resident in 1985. While thoroughly enjoying “another day in paradise,” he proceeded to serve on various commissions like the fire board and planning commission, and you may remember a column he wrote for years called “Reflections from the Beaver Pond.”

But before that, he was head of the legal department for a large steel fabrication company known as Chicago Bridge and Iron Company that supplied containment vessels and drilling platforms to the oil industry. Having gone to law school on the G.I. Bill, he entered CB&I as a young lawyer and worked there his entire career. He proudly furnished his family’s table from the success of the energy industry, a pillar of the mighty American economy.

I wonder what he would make of the world today, with drowning coastlines and supercharged hurricanes fed by ever-warming oceans. Transitioning to a Clean Energy Economy that slashes our reliance on fossil fuels “demands that we run a marathon at the pace of a sprint,” according to Gina McCarthy, former U.S. Environmental Protection Agency chief and newly elected president of the National Resource Defense Council.

Depressing, no?

No! In the United States, carbon emissions in the power sector have already fallen 28 percent in the past decade, and renewable energy costs have declined by 70 percent, according to the NRDC.

Want more good news? After learning about the warm water under that Antarctic glacier, so did I. So here are a few conservation items from goodnewsnetwork.org.

Humpback whales have recovered from 450 individuals mere decades ago, to more than 25,000. The National Pollinator Garden Network has dedicated five million enhanced or new acres of habitat to the pollinators responsible for one of three bites of food in America—are there any domestic bee hives in Big Sky? A French company named Carbios has developed a process to recycle all types of plastic using enzymes, and has the backing of major corporations to get up and running.

My dad’s undergraduate degree was in engineering, so he may have liked this one. A three-story water battery at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Australia stores energy from six solar panels and reduces electric usage by more than 40 percent. There is also a blast furnace from a company named Sierra Energy that “vaporizes” trash and turns it into clean energy with no carbon emissions.

Those two guys from 4Ocean who sell bracelets to fund ocean cleanup have removed over eight million pounds of trash from their coastal waters. So progress is being made, and everyone can have an impact. Inspired? Back to the marathon.

Five years ago I divested my portfolio of any company that explored, drilled, transported, stored, wholesaled or retailed in the fossil fuel industry. Tomorrow, I’ll start negotiating the ground mount solar panel system that might have an inverter for an electric vehicle. I hope my dad would have approved.

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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New geothermal system for MSU's Romney Hall

BY MARSHALL SWEARINGEN
MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – Above ground, Montana State University's historic Romney Hall is being transformed into a home for high-impact student programs and much-needed classrooms, but underground, one of the biggest energy conservation projects in university history is also beginning.

The Romney Oval, open space situated directly north of Romney Hall, will be underlaid with about 80 boreholes that will anchor a high-efficiency geothermal energy system serving Romney Hall and eventually several other nearby buildings.

"This geothermal field will make Romney Hall a leading energy performer at MSU and in the state," said Dan Stevenson, associate vice president of University Services. The system will allow the 98-year old Romney to use less than half as much energy per square foot as other MSU buildings such as nearby Reid Hall, he said.

By enabling a more efficient heating and cooling system for several campus buildings and reducing reliance on MSU's natural gas-fired steam heating plant, the geothermal boreholes are projected to reduce MSU's associated carbon emissions by 1 million pounds per year, or about 20,000 metric tons over the lifetime of the system, Stevenson said.

"Establishing major energy conservation assets like this geothermal field and combining those with strategies like solar heating and sharing energy between buildings will allow MSU to become one of the most energy-efficient campuses anywhere," Stevenson said.

The geothermal boreholes—each 700 feet deep and 7 inches in diameter—will consist of closed loop water pipes encased in a special grout. Together, the boreholes will act like a giant battery for storing heat extracted by Romney Hall's ventilation system when the building is being cooled. The boreholes will also store heat captured by a "solar wall" that will convert sunlight to heat on the building's south face. The water circulating in the boreholes warms the surrounding earth by only a

few degrees, but devices called heat pumps can later concentrate the stored energy to warm the building.

"We think we'll be able to heat Romney almost entirely with the geothermal system and the solar wall," with very little need for heat from the central campus heating plant, Stevenson said. The main energy input will be efficiently used electricity to power the heating, air-conditioning and ventilation units throughout the building, he said.

Romney's geothermal system will connect with the one at Norm Asbjornson Hall, nearly doubling the size of that heat battery and creating what's called an energy district. As other nearby buildings are upgraded, they too can connect to the system to reduce energy demand, Stevenson said. MSU pioneered that approach during its biggest energy conservation project, a multi-phase effort in 2011-2015 that was integrated with the construction of Jabs Hall. The Jabs geothermal system serves a total of four MSU buildings and has reduced energy costs an average of \$130,000 per year.

"We've really reached a tipping point with these energy districts," Stevenson said. "We've proven how effective they can be, and we're looking to expand this concept all across campus. MSU is a pioneer in this type of large-scale geothermal system, and our projects can serve as a model for similar systems worldwide."

In preparation for constructing the boreholes, two pilot holes were drilled to assess subsurface conditions. A plan was developed for upgrading large sewer and storm water pipes serving adjacent buildings while doing the earthwork for the geothermal system, Stevenson said. The plan includes adding new paths and landscaping to the Romney Oval. A number of trees need to be removed for the valuable project, but for every tree removed the university will replant a new one, he said, adding that the long-term benefits of the project are significant, and careful consideration has been made regarding the short-term impacts to the space.

"This is an incredibly important project for the future of MSU's energy infrastructure and sustainable energy design everywhere," Stevenson said of the Romney geothermal project.

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INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



Yellowstone recruits for 2020 Youth Conservation Corps program

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS, Wyo. – Yellowstone is currently recruiting for the 2020 Youth Conservation Corps, a residential work-based education program for young men and women between the ages of 15 and 18. Completed application materials must be received by March 1.

Two, month-long YCC sessions will be offered June 7-July 8 and July 12-Aug. 12. Sixty youth will be randomly selected from across the country to participate in the program. Applicants must be citizens of the United States and 15 years of age by June 7, but not over 18 years of age by Aug. 12. Yellowstone recruits youth from all social, economic, ethnic and racial backgrounds for the program.

No previous wilderness experience is required. Applicants should possess a positive attitude, a willingness and ability to work in a physically active outdoor program, and get along well with others.

Participants will be required to live in the park. Room and board will be provided at a minimal cost. Wages will be set at the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.

YCC is designed to develop an appreciation for the nation's natural resources and heritage through unique educational, recreational and work experiences. Corps members work together with National Park Service staff to complete

conservation projects such as trail rehabilitation, campground restoration and a wide variety of resource management, visitor support services and maintenance projects.

Participants develop their job and leadership skills while exploring personal values, gaining self-esteem, expanding their awareness of work ethics and learning firsthand about environmental and conservation issues. Corps members also participate in evening and weekend recreational activities and discover the many options for careers in the NPS and other land management agencies.

The Yellowstone YCC Program is funded by park entrance fees and generous donations to Yellowstone Forever, the park's official nonprofit partner.

Visit nps.gov/yell/learn/management/ycjobs.htm for more information or to apply for the Youth Conservation Corps. Questions may be directed to Yell_YCC_Office@nps.gov.



Participants of the 2018 Youth Conservation Corps build bumper logs at Boiling River parking lot. NPS PHOTO

Park skier bitten by coyote

Coyote tests negative for rabies

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS, Wyo. – On Tuesday, Jan. 28, at approximately 9:50 a.m., park dispatch received a call that a coyote bit a woman in the Canyon Village area. The individual was cross-country skiing on the Grand Loop Road near the South Rim Drive when the incident occurred.

Witnesses took the 43-year-old woman to the Canyon Visitor Education Center, where rangers provided initial treatment for puncture wounds and lacerations to her head and arm. Rangers transported her to Mammoth Hot Springs by over-snow vehicle, and then she continued on to a medical facility.

Park staff temporarily closed the road, then positively identified and killed the coyote. The coyote was necropsied and tested negative for rabies.

“Encounters like these are rare, but they can happen. We suspect this coyote may have been starving due to having porcupine quills in its lower jaw and inside its mouth. Its young age likely led to its poor condition and irregular behavior,” said wildlife biologist Doug Smith.

Wildlife in Yellowstone National Park are wild and unpredictable. Be aware of your surroundings. Never feed wildlife. Animals that become



A coyote trots along the Madison River in Yellowstone NPS PHOTO

dependent on human food may become aggressive toward people and have to be killed. Keep all food, garbage or other smelly items packed away when not in use. Stay 25 yards away from all large animals—bison, elk, bighorn sheep, deer, moose and coyotes—and at least 100 yards away from bears and wolves.

Winter Camping: Like Hell, Frozen Over

BY MAGGIE SLEPIAN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

There are plenty of sensible winter activities in Montana. Most folks ski, snowboard, ice climb or borrow a kid and go sledding. I'm in the minority of Montana-dwellers. I spend the frozen season dashing from house to car and back, cranking the living room thermostat.

Then I tried winter camping.

I was contemplating this decision when I stomped out of the woods, my pack digging into my shoulders and my stupid gaiters sliding down my calves. The final snow-covered meadow stretched out before me, one last godforsaken booby trap on this frigid hike.

I took a tentative step onto the open snowfield, then another. On the third, I plunged through the crust jamming myself so deep I had to flop onto my stomach and rock like a beached whale to free the entrapped leg. I rolled to a solid spot, took three steps and repeated the torturous process. My fiancé Rocky followed, falling waist-deep and muttering a string of curses under his breath.

We weren't on an impressive mountaineering trip or backcountry expedition. On this February day, Rocky and I, along with our giant mutt Sako, were just trying to get to Mystic Lake, outside of Bozeman. We'd spent the past four hours slipping and postholing, and planned to spend the freezing night under ripstop nylon and soggy down.

Our "campsite" at the frozen lake was silent and still on arrival, the area slumbering under a blanket of snow. I turned in slow circles beneath the dull gray sky, looking for a place to set my backpack.

"There's nowhere dry," Rocky said, pulling the tent from his pack. "There's snow. Everywhere. Let's get the tent set up before my hands freeze off."

We stamped out a semi-flat area, and pitched the tent with numb fingers. I shoved the stakes into the snow. They instantly popped out as we tightened the fly. In an uncharacteristic show of common sense, we reburied them horizontally, and counted it a short-lived victory.

The most basic of camp chores turned infuriating as we fumbled through crusty snow attempting to keep our gear dry. By the time we'd unloaded our packs and inflated our sleeping pads, the sweat from our hike had dried, and we were both shivering under clammy, synthetic base layers. We changed into dry camp clothes, which I'm convinced saved my life.

As the sky dimmed and Sako began chasing snowflakes, I pictured friends back in Bozeman sitting in a cozy restaurant booth, stuffing their faces with sushi and knocking back \$9 cocktails. Rocky lit our thimble-sized stove and gingerly wedged it in a pocket of snow, balancing the pot on top. Within a minute, the snow under the stove melted and tipped our sad clump of shelf-stable Alfredo to the ground.

I retreated to my sleeping bag and gnawed a half-frozen granola bar, trying not to think about a warm bed or real food. Rocky trudged off to hang the food bag (to deter hibernating bears) then reappeared and dove shivering into the tent, shoving his Nalgene into his sleeping bag. "We need to sleep with our water bottles so they don't freeze."

"The fuel canister too."

"Someone told me the water filter breaks if it gets too cold."

"Put your socks in there so they'll dry out."

I shuffled the debris pile at the bottom of my sleeping bag until I could lay flat, then buried my head in the mummy hood and tried to sleep, listening to the dog leaping through branches outside.

It was pitch-black when I opened my eyes, and my watch said 2 a.m. I lay there for a moment, trying to figure out where I was and why I was lying on a canister of fuel. As my mind cleared, I heard a rattle and "clack-clack-clack" from Rocky's side of the tent.

"Rocky?" I hissed, shaking him. He was shivering.

"I don't think ... my sleeping bag ... is warm enough."

"Which one did you bring?"



"My 37-degree. I thought I'd be warmer."

If I hazarded a guess, I'd say the temperature that night hovered around 200 below zero. It might have been 25 F. Instead of berating my popsicle fiancé, I whacked the tent to shatter the crusted ice, unzipped the fly and stuck my head out, squinting for our dog.

"Sako!" I called hoarsely. He crunched over and stuck his head inside the tent. I knew the added body heat would make the night bearable, so I grabbed Sako's collar and dragged his bulk inside, wedging him between Rocky and the tent wall. We spent the rest of the night tossing around the stinky nylon sardine can, but at least we weren't hypothermic.

In the morning, we hacked our way out of the ice-encrusted nylon igloo, frozen shut with the condensation from our breaths. I stuffed my feet into frozen shoes and we shook off the tent, crushing it down to pack into its stiff stuff sack. Without ceremony, we began the 6-mile posthole/ice luge back to the truck.

While we wouldn't win the award for savviest campers, we didn't die, so points for that. And we did some good ol' fashioned learning.

It turns out venting your tent is key to escaping it the next morning; a 37-degree bag just will not do; camp clothes will save your sorry life; and snow won't keep your tent stakes down just because you wish it so. Our glorious shakedown hike also made me bite the bullet and learn to ski. Those people tend to stay on top of the snow.

Maggie Slepian lives in Bozeman and hates winter. In 2015 she returned from through-hiking the Appalachian Trail, which incidentally, was really cold.

A version of this story first appeared in the winter 2016 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine.

SNOW CAMPING SAVVY

If you still think winter camping sounds fun, here are some pointers to make the process more enjoyable. We learned the hard way so you don't have to.

- 1) Bury your tent stakes horizontally using a "deadman anchor." Or invest in snow stakes, aka tent stakes on steroids.
- 2) At camp, immediately remove hiking layers and don dry camp clothes before you get chilled. It's harder to warm yourself up than to stay warm.
- 3) Melting snow uses more fuel than boiling water – bring enough fuel for melting snow and cooking.
- 4) Bring the right gear. Sleeping bags have two ratings: "comfort" and "lower." Still screwed it up? Put a bottle of hot water in your sleeping bag. And secure the bottle cap.
- 5) Vent your tent. Condensation builds when warm air can't escape the tent. Keep the fly pulled tight, but leave the zipper partially open.

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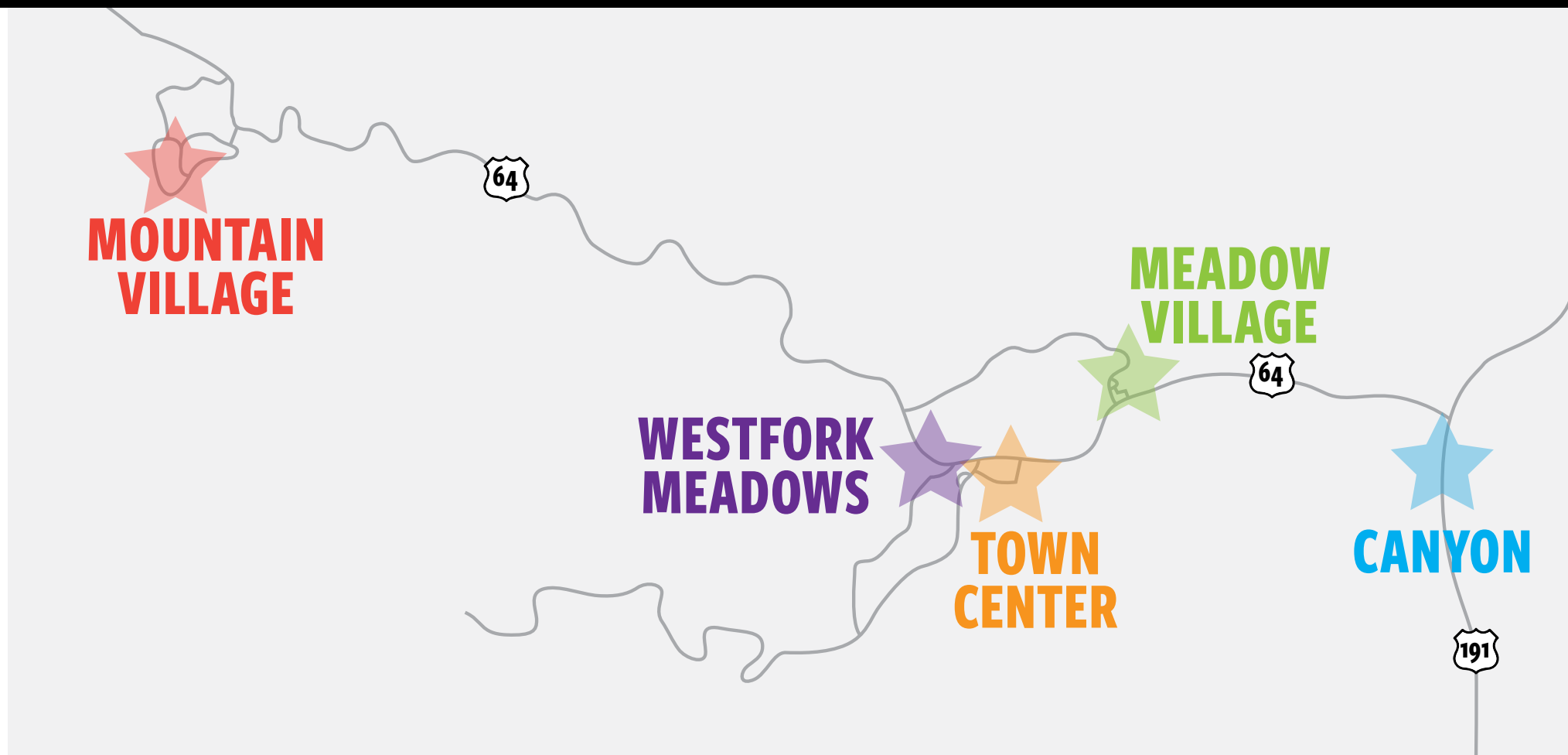
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Women’s ice fishing course highlights safety



BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BOZEMAN – With winter heavy on the landscape in Montana, it can be daunting to find ways to spend time outdoors. But frigid temps mean frozen waters and the perfect time for ice fishing.

On Feb. 7, Montana’s Becoming an Outdoors Woman program hosted a course on ice fishing in Bozeman geared toward helping women spend time outside. Ranging in age from college students to retirees, approximately half of the BOW course’s 16 attendees had never been ice fishing. Some drove all the way from Great Falls to attend the classroom session at Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks’ Region 3 headquarters, and one woman flew in from Seattle to participate with her Livingston friend.

Dave Hagengruber, educator for MT FWP’s Hooked on Fishing program for school kids, and BOW coordinator Sara Smith who grew up ice fishing in her hometown of Sheridan, Montana, co-taught the class, covering topics like ice safety, how to fish, and the ins and outs of clothing and gear.

On Feb. 8, the class was scheduled to ice fish at Glen Lake Rotary Park, but heavy snow the night before and warm nighttime temps made the ice conditions unsafe—it was impossible to see holes previously drilled by ice fishermen. Typically drilled holes freeze overnight, but warm temps kept them open. Another ice fishing course scheduled the same weekend in Billings was also canceled due to poor ice conditions, and Smith said that with warm temps so far this winter, ice safety is top of mind.

While BOW participants didn’t get to wet a line, they did learn about ice safety, equipment and fish identification, thanks to the classroom session. Ice fishing is a popular winter activity that is relatively inexpensive, social and can yield great

results, Hagengruber said, noting that it is often easier to catch more fish under the ice than on open water.

Ice is never 100 percent safe and must be a minimum of 4 inches thick to withstand the weight of one person, Hagengruber added. Groups should look for 8 or 9 inches. To check ice depth, he suggested drilling a hole with a hand-crank or electric-drill-powered auger and measuring the thickness at intervals as you move out onto the ice. Awareness of the ice conditions becomes increasingly precarious during warmer temperatures as the water-body thaws and refreezes.

Hagengruber said lake ice is safer than river ice, as river currents can erode and thin the ice. Signs that ice may not be safe include water pooling on the surface, unusual patterns in the ice, and visible open water. The best ice is either clear or black, while white ice means it has air and is less strong.

In addition to conditions awareness, safety equipment can help, Smith said. Cleats can provide traction on glazed ice, commercial ice picks can be used to self-rescue and pull yourself out of the water if you fall in, and some anglers use life jackets or invest in coats and bibs with built-in flotation.

Montana waters are home to a variety of fish species. Common fish caught during the winter include yellow perch, rainbow trout, kokanee salmon, smallmouth bass and northern pike.

Montana BOW, which is administered through MT FWP, is a part of national BOW network. In addition to ice fishing, Montana BOW teaches snowshoeing, archery, gun handling, Dutch oven cooking and kayaking, with courses are offered year-round throughout the state. Smith said MT FWP is working with REI in Bozeman to offer additional BOW programming this spring.

Visit fwp.mt.gov/education/bow for more information.

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Brew-Ski

BY SARA MARINO
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

We've made it to the halfway point between the Winter Solstice and Spring Equinox. But there is still plenty of time left to enjoy all the fun in the snow Big Sky has to offer.

A perfect opportunity is the upcoming "Brew-Ski" presented by Glide Big Sky, a bi-weekly ski program hosted by Big Sky Community Organization, Lone Mountain Ranch and Visit Big Sky that is designed to connect community members through our shared love of cross-country skiing and the outdoors.

This ski will begin at the Town Center stage and continue on the series of easy Town Center area groomed trails, finishing up on the aptly named Brewery Loop that ends at the local favorite Beehive Basin Brewery. Plan to be outside between one and two hours for this 2-mile round-trip ski.

These wide-open trails are easy to navigate on your own as well, and you can continue on the groomed Ousel Falls Road Trail if you'd like to add some mileage (approximately 1.5 miles one way). There is room for everyone, cross-country skiers, snow-shoers, fat bikers, walkers and dogs alike. Please respect your fellow trail users by making use of the dog waste stations provided. There is easy access to the trails by parking in the plowed lot by the ice rink at the intersection of Aspen Leaf and Simkins Drive.

If you're new to cross country skiing, Mackenzie Johnson, BSCO program manager and organizer of the ski series has the following tips to keep in mind:

- Body Position: Stay loose and flexible instead of stiff. Keep your eyes up, don't look down at your skis.
- Poling: Keep elbows in, baskets behind you.
- Glide: Transfer your full body weight from ski to ski as if you are riding a scooter.

The Glide Big Sky ski series ends on March 18, but ski trails will remain open as conditions allow. Trails are open to the public free of charge, but there are many behind-the-scenes resources that make it happen. If you've enjoyed these trails all winter, consider joining BSCO as a Trail Partner. An annual donation helps BSCO keep our community trails maintained all winter and summer long. From trail repair to waste management, we can't do it without the Big Sky community.

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.

What: Brew-Ski

When: Feb. 19 at 2:00 p.m.

Where: Meet at the Town Center stage

What to bring: Basic skiing skills, gear (rent at Lone Mountain Ranch, Gallatin Alpine Sports, East Slope Outdoors or Grizzly Outfitters) and money for a post-ski beverage.

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IMAGE DEPICTS A SIMILAR UNIT

Making it in Montana's winter

How animals survive

BY BRUCE AUCHLY
MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Animals of Montana have long prepared for winter. Those still here, that is those that did not migrate, are either asleep or hunkering down for the long winter.

Asleep means hibernation, both real—think marmots and bats—and those that simply enter a deep sleep but technically do not hibernate, bears for example. True hibernators lower their body temperature and respiration rates. Bears, while not truly hibernating, are curled up, insulated by fur, fat and snow depth from the ravages of winter. They can and occasionally do wake up briefly, but they will generally sleep for months.

Deer, elk and antelope stay awake and survive winter through four main adaptations: an insulated coat, reducing their metabolism by as much as one-third of what they need to meet basic life functions, remaining bedded for long periods during bad weather and relying on stored body fat.

Up to 30 percent of a deer's winter energy requirements can be met through body fat. By the way, don't believe the old hunter's tale of predicting a winter's severity by the amount of body fat on a deer or elk. The amount of fat says more about the animal's ability to find adequate food in the late summer and fall than the upcoming winter.

Birds that survive a Montana winter require special equipment. Waterfowl, like geese and ducks, will stand or sit for hours on an ice shelf next to a river's open water to better see and escape predators. They survive by wearing a nice, plump down coat. Their exposed feet have adapted, too.

First, their legs and feet have very little muscular, or soft, tissue that needs blood to keep warm. The few muscles that operate the foot are mostly higher up in the feather-covered leg and connected to the bones of the feet with long tendons.



Trumpeter swans are among several waterfowl species that have adapted to endure the Montana winter. NPS PHOTO

Second, warm blood flowing through the birds' arteries passes close to cold venous blood returning from the feet. As arterial blood warms up the venous blood the few tissues in the feet receive just enough warmth to avoid frostbite.

All birds have feathers that create air pockets between the feathers and the skin that help contain heat. And many have behavioral techniques to survive. Some cluster together. Others will roost in tree cavities, dense foliage or brush piles to cut both the wind and heat loss. Grouse will bury themselves in snow. Depending on the species, some birds can even shiver specific muscles to increase metabolism and generate extra heat.

Animals that spend their winters in Montana have evolved some amazing strategies to survive. We should be so lucky.

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SECTION 3:
SPORTS, BUSINESS,
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THE LONE PEAK PLAYBOOK



Starz, Big Horns outlast hornets

BY BRANDON WALKER

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS – On the road for the second evening in a row on Feb. 7, the Lone Peak High School varsity boys' basketball team captured their second victory of the season, defeating the White Sulphur Springs Hornets 56-48.

One night removed from losing by a 60-point margin to the Manhattan Christian Eagles, the Big Horns took their frustration out on the Hornets. LPHS bullied WSS



LPHS senior Nick Brester (21) shoots over a Shields Valley defender in a Jan. 31 game. The Big Horns have been playing their best basketball of the season over the last two weeks. PHOTO COURTESY OF RICH ADDICKS

in the paint, outscoring them by 20 points inside, 32-12, despite being outbounded on the offensive glass.

"It is a sweet victory, especially for my seniors to go into White Sulphur Springs and get a win is something we have struggled with in recent years," Big Horn head coach John Hannahs said of his team's victory.

After trailing by a point at the half, 19-18, the Big Horns started gaining momentum, taking the lead midway through the third quarter. With the score 31-29 in favor of LPHS, the Big Horns went on a 10-3 run between the end of the third and the beginning of the fourth quarter, sparked by senior Frankie Starz who scored five of the 10 points during that stretch. Starz went on to finish with a game-high 23 points, adding three rebounds and three assists to his stellar performance.

Lone Peak led by as many as 12 points halfway through the final quarter of play, 45-33, but WSS

battled back to within five with under 40 seconds to go, thanks to a pair of free-throws by Alex Novark. Hannahs was confident, even as the Hornets closed the gap in the latter stages of the game. "Not really, we were playing so well that I knew we were going to be able to answer. They came back because they made a couple contested shots, but the boys stayed composed and played smart," he said. To cement his coach's optimism, Big Horn junior Michael Romney knocked down a pair of free-throws in the closing seconds to put the game out of reach, resulting in the final score, 56-48.

Lone Peak was efficient shooting the basketball, capitalizing on more than 37 percent of their field goal attempts and shooting better than 72 percent from the charity stripe as a team.

Romney had a solid outing, totaling 14 points, eight rebounds and five assists. He was aided by senior Nick Brester, who finished with eight points and 10 rebounds for the Big Horns. Junior Nolan Schumacher handled the dirty work for LPHS, compiling 11 rebounds, three blocks and two steals to help his team earn the win.

"It feels great, I like where the boys are at physically and mentally, I have been saying for weeks that we continue to grow and still have a lot to prove. I think that is beginning to show in our play," Hannahs said.

Novark finished with a team-high 14 points for the Hornets and added six rebounds to his night. His brother Devon chipped in nine points and eight rebounds for White Sulphur Springs.

The victory halted a five-game losing streak for the Big Horns and improved their season record to 2-12. Lone Peak heads into the final week of the regular season with two games remaining on their schedule. First up is a much-anticipated Valentine's Day trip to West Yellowstone for the Wolverines' senior night on Feb. 14. LPHS will cap off their season by hosting Sheridan on Feb. 15 for senior night.

Box Score	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Lone Peak	10	8	20	18	56
White Sulphur Springs	9	10	12	17	48

Lone Peak: Frankie Starz 23, Michael Romney 14, Austin Samuels 8, Nick Brester 8, Mikey Botha 3

White Sulphur Springs: Alex Novark 14, Devon Novark 9, Shane Ogle 9, Sam Davis 6, Shaw Davis 5, Austin Collins 3, Knute Hereim 2



LEADING LONE PEAK

Nick Brester – Senior #21

Big Horn senior forward Nick Brester was a rebounding juggernaut over the last two weeks, while also attacking the rim more frequently to increase his scoring totals. During the team's last four outings, Brester averaged an impressive eight-and-a-half rebounds, more than four points, and better than one steal per game. "Nick is always setting the energy level in practice," Lone Peak head coach John Hannahs said of his senior big man. "His quiet leadership has elevated the team this week. Nick has been more aggressive offensively and as a result is finding the basket more, and he continues to do what he does best: rebound." In total, Brester compiled 18 points, 34 rebounds, six steals, and three blocks during that two-week span.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE ROBINSON

THE LONE PEAK PLAYBOOK



Lady Big Horns topple Hornets

BY BRANDON WALKER

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS – The Lone Peak High School varsity girls’ basketball team secured their seventh victory of the season on Feb. 7, defeating the White Sulphur Springs Hornets 49-26.

The win was the team’s second in their last three contests, beating Shields Valley in a thrilling win at the buzzer Jan. 31 and dropping their previous matchup with Manhattan Christian on Feb. 6.

A 16-point first-quarter outburst from the Hornets, including an early 11-0 lead led by Callie Menard’s eight points in the quarter, had LPHS reeling.



Lady Big Horn freshman Jessie Bough (far left) shoots over a Hornet defender on Feb. 7. Bough finished with 12 points as Lone Peak pulled out a decisive 49-26 road victory against White Sulphur Springs. PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE HORNING

“We had tried to play a little 2-3 zone [defense] in the first quarter and we went back to man [defense] in the second quarter,” said Lady Big Horns’ head coach Loren Bough. “We’ve really been working on stepping up our man-to-man defense and it really showed in that quarter.”

Lone Peak relied on a strong defensive showing the rest of the way to coast to victory on the road. The Lady Big Horns allowed only 10 points total through the final three quarters of play, including a second quarter shutout. “Really a good kind of initial test and then a nice recovery,” Bough said of his team’s comeback. “So I think the girls gained a lot of confidence from that.”

After trailing by a half-dozen through one, the second quarter proved

decisive as LPHS took advantage of White Sulphur Springs’ shooting struggles to win the quarter 17-0, taking an 11-point lead into the half that they would never relinquish. Freshman Maddie Cone led the charge offensively for the Lady Big Horns with seven of her game-high 16 points in the quarter. She added 15 rebounds and four steals to round out her strong stat line.

Freshman Jessie Bough also reached double figures for the Lady Big Horns, finishing with 12 points of her own on the night and a couple assists. Sophomore Carly Wilson had a strong evening with nine points and an active night defensively, coming away with seven steals for Lone Peak.

Menard led White Sulphur Springs with eight points, while her teammate Ashtyn Tome contributed seven. Kenzie Hereim rounded out the top three scorers for the Hornets with five points on the night.

The Hornets struggled with free-throws to the tune of a 6-for-14 showing, only a 42 percent clip, however the Lady Big Horns displayed a solid effort from the free-throw line. Lone Peak shot 66 percent, or 8-for-12 from the stripe as a team on the evening. “Friday was probably the best game the girls played all season,” Bough said. “They shot better, attacked the basket better and played pretty incredible defense.”

LPHS improved to 7-9 on the season and picked up their third road victory in the process. The Lady Big Horns have two contests remaining before the District tournament begins the week of Feb. 17. First up is a road matchup with the West Yellowstone Wolverines on Feb. 14 before they finish the season at home against the Sheridan Panthers Feb. 15.

Bough said the victory propels the team into the season’s final matchups with a full head of steam. “I think, you know with a young team like we have its all about confidence and playing with high energy, so a big win where everybody plays well and we put up a lot of points ... sends us into the end of the season with much better bearing.”

Box Score	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Lone Peak	10	17	13	9	49
White Sulphur Springs	16	0	5	5	26

Lone Peak: Maddie Cone 16, Jessie Bough 12, Carly Wilson 9, Ivy Hicks 6, Kate King 6

White Sulphur Springs: Callie Menard 8, Ashtyn Tome 7, Kenzie Hereim 5, Aspyn Myrstol 3, Brooke Thorp 3

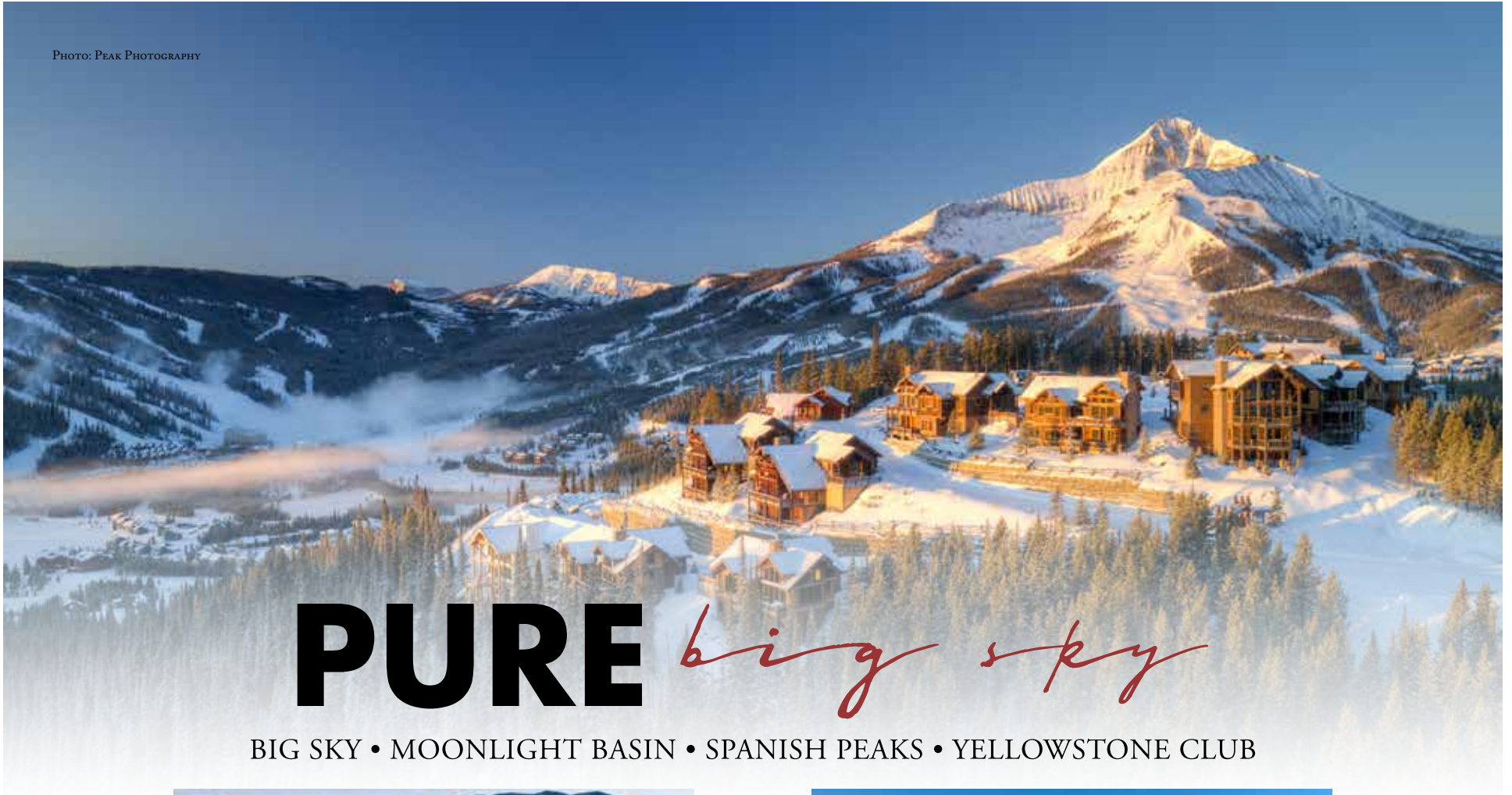


LEADING LONE PEAK

Carly Wilson – Sophomore #5

Lone Peak sophomore guard Carly Wilson played a game she will never forget on Jan. 31 against Shields Valley. Wilson scored the winning basket for the Lady Big Horns with under two seconds remaining, lifting her team to a thrilling victory. Adding to the memorable performance, Wilson averaged four steals and six points-per-game over the team’s last four contests. “Carly always leaves everything on the court,” said Lady Big Horns head coach Loren Bough. “She’s all in every play of the game and I think that it drives the rest of the girls to continue to put in the same level of energy.” Over the last four games, Wilson shot 60 percent from the free throw line, scored 24 points, came away with 16 steals and added six assists.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RICH ADDICKS



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Shootout thriller a fitting end to 10th annual Pavelich Invitational

BY BRANDON WALKER

BIG SKY – The match began under heavy snowfall and it ended with a thrilling flurry of shootout goals—on Feb. 8, Big Sky locals took to the Town Center ice rink to mark the decade anniversary of the annual Pavelich Invitational hockey game.

The game features Big Sky community members divided into two teams, with one wearing the home reds of the NHL's Detroit Red Wings, and the other donning the road white, in honor of former Stanley Cup champion and Big Sky resident Marty Pavelich.

The event has become a winter staple in Big Sky thanks to immense efforts from countless volunteers. “A lot of folks take skating here very seriously and put in a lot of work to make it happen and get a product for members and visitors of the community to enjoy a pretty high level of hockey,” said Joseph Mcfadden, a volunteer coach for BSSHA.

Spectators and players alike braved the weekend snowstorm to take part and enjoy the annual festivities. “In [this] weather ... if you're not skiing, you're here,” said Jeff Trulen, a Big Sky Skating and Hockey Association board member representing the sport of curling. “It's worth the effort for all the volunteers who put the rink together.”



Young skaters from Bozeman and Big Sky, ranging in age from 7-12, took part in the second kids game prior to the 10th annual Pavelich Invitational on Feb. 8. PHOTO BY KIRBY GRUBAUGH

Prior to the adults' game the puck dropped at noon for the second annual kids' match, with skaters ranging from ages 7 to 12, as a group of young skaters from Bozeman squared off against the youngsters from Big Sky. It was the first opportunity for the Bozeman group to partake in a full-ice contest and one of the few games that the Big Sky team participates in each year.

“I mean it is just great,” said Mcfadden, who also refereed the game. “The kids work pretty hard most evenings so to watch them apply the drills that they might think are useless at the time, is a pretty cool feeling.”

The Big Sky squad came out victorious 8-3, but the game was about much more than the result.



PHOTO BY BRANDON WALKER

Russell “Elvis” Mitchell – Big Sky

EBS: *Did you have fun?*

RM: Mhm

EBS: *What was it like to play out here in the snow, in front of everybody?*

RM: It was really scary, but I had a lot of fun.

EBS: *Did you score any goals?*

RM: No, but I tried my best.



Big Sky locals shake hands after the completion of a thrilling edition of the Pavelich Invitational game on Feb. 8. The 10th annual game finished following the first ever shootout in the history of the event. PHOTO BY KIRBY GRUBAUGH

The 10th annual Pavelich Invitational game did not disappoint either. From the second that former Detroit Red Wings Stanley Cup champion Marty Pavelich strode to center ice to drop the puck, it was clear the game would be one for the ages.

Two local athletes, Alex Schwab of the white team and Brad Rierison of the red team, put on an impressive shooting display in the opening half, recording hat-tricks in the first of two 30-minute periods. Schwab and the white team held a slim 4-3 advantage as the teams entered intermission.

The second period was equally as competitive, with neither team gaining more than a two-goal lead at any point. The red team found themselves winning by a goal until the 1:38 mark of the game. That's when Griffin Kilby of the white team carved his way through the defense before depositing a goal into the back of the net to knot the score at eight apiece and send the game to a dramatic shootout.

The shootout score was tied 2-2 as Adam Ducomb, the final skater, prepared for his attempt. Ducomb of the white team handled the puck confidently as he approached the net and fired home a well-placed wrist shot for the final goal of the shootout, lifting the white team to the thrilling victory.

It was the first shootout finale in the history of the Pavelich Invitational game. “I think it was one of the better games I've seen in a long time,” Trulen said. “I've never seen a shootout in Big Sky, so that was [the] cherry on top right there.”

The strong community turnout to support friends on a snowy Saturday afternoon proves that hockey is growing in Big Sky, much to the delight of BSSHA.

“There's been talk about getting a new indoor rink so the kiddos could play more than four months out of the year, [but] the rink has been great and only gotten better,” Mcfadden said. “The evolution [since] the first year I started to help has been tenfold.”

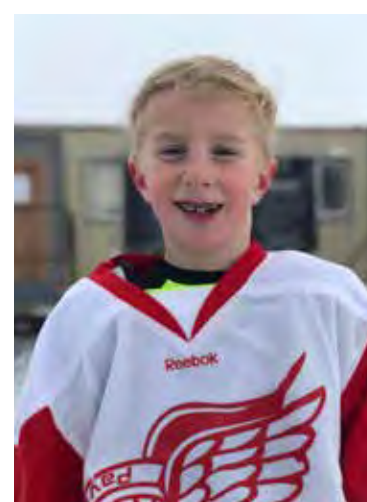


PHOTO BY BRANDON WALKER

Nicklaus Vander Weit – Bozeman

EBS: *Did you have fun?*

NVW: Yeah

EBS: *What was your favorite part of today's game?*

NVW: That we got to play full-ice and it was our first time.

EBS: *What was it like to play in front of everybody in the snow today?*

NVW: Kind of weird.

Ski Tips with Dan Egan: The power of dynamic motion

BY DAN EGAN

The essence of skiing is in the turn—that time and space when your body experiences a sublime mix of gravity, friction, centrifugal force and acceleration that creates a power only skiers can feel.

This elemental power can be fluid and graceful, or explosive and dynamic. Each skier hides his or her own power within, shaping and expressing it as movement, and leaving behind only a path in the snow. Many come away from fresh corduroy or intensely demanding steeps feeling not tired, but exhilarated, and brimming with this power. Hours and even days later they carry it into their daily lives as a sustaining energy.



An athletic stance is a powerful stance. PHOTO BY JEN BENNETT, RUMBLE PRODUCTIONS

“Wow, you look different there,” people often say when they see a photo of me skiing.

“Of course,” I say. “When I put on my skis, I’m in the moment, soaking up joy and confidence that stays with me in everything I do. It makes me feel alive.”

Accessing this kind of power in your skiing is about balance first. To remain in balance, you must stay forward and over your feet. If your feet get out in front of your body, you’ll be off balance. I like to say, “The feet can follow the body, the body struggles with following the feet.”

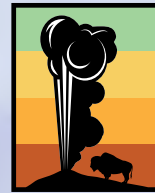
When you add power to this equation, you must do two major things:

1. Press your upper body forward from the hips, shoulders, arms and hands.
2. Actively adjust your position to stay in balance, because balance is a roaming, moving position, not a static stance.

Consider, if you will, a basketball player shooting a ball. Her eyes are on the basket. Her shoulders, arms and hands are reaching up and out, away from her body, while her legs sink down into an athletic position in preparation for springing up and forward. This is dynamic motion, and it is powerful. Dynamic motion creates a power position. But many people ski instead with dynamic tension in a static position. Dynamic tension takes more energy and is weaker because it restricts a skier’s ability to adjust his balance.

Dynamic motion is vital for all-terrain skiing. It also allows you to master the techniques of sliding, edging and carving, which make up the foundation of control. My camps and clinics are focused on these basic foundational balance movements, helping participants access dynamic movement on their skis. As result, they’re able to explore new, challenging terrain with confidence.

Extreme skiing pioneer Dan Egan has appeared in 12 Warren Miller ski films and countless others. Today, he teaches clinics and guides trips around the world. He’ll be teaching in Big Sky this Feb. 20–22, Feb. 27–29 and March 5–7. For other camp dates and locations, online coaching, tips, photos and information visit skiclinics.com.



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Big Sky speed week

BSSEF racers overcome deep snow, land multiple podiums

BY LUKE KIRCHMAYR
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – From Jan. 29- Feb. 5, the Big Sky ski team—Big Sky Ski Education Foundation—hosted a six-day training camp focusing primarily on super-G and other necessary skills required for various speed events. The event was managed by both the Western Region and BSSEF and the camp saw athletes from all over the West and even some from Alaska.

After the camp, three super-G races were held Feb. 8-9 on Hangman's at Big Sky Resort. Saturday Feb. 8 was a tough day for athletes and coaches as they contended with 18 inches of new snow on the course.

The resort's mountain operations crews came out with multiple snow cats and the BSSEF race crew performed multiple top-to-bottom slip runs to prep the race hill.

"There is a saying in the ski racing world that 'if you need snow, schedule a speed race,'" said BSSEF Junior Development Coach Aaron Haffey. "This past week was a perfect example of this phenomenon. While everyone else in Big Sky was celebrating three straight powder days, the racers of Northern Division were doing constant slip laps to try to save the Hangman's arena from being buried."

Even with all the work, high winds and excess snowfall created a soft racing surface but BSSEF athletes pulled through and took a number of podiums. The weather cleared on Sunday allowing for excellent race conditions and enough time to host two super-G races. The BSSEF athletes took full advantage of the clear weather and scored



Caleb Unger flies by a gate on the super-G course. PHOTO BY DAVE PECUNIES

numerous podiums and first-place medals. The most notable athlete was U14 racer Brooke Brown who earned second and a third place overall finishes, beating many U16s, U19s and even U21s.

"Our BSSEF athletes had a great week winning the overall team title every day and the end tally," Haffey said. "Our athletes did a fantastic job representing Big Sky on their home hill and everyone in the team improved with each lap down the course."

Visit bssef.com for more information.



Kjetil Hassman goes full tuck skiing super-G on Hangman's at Big Sky Resort. PHOTO BY DAVE PECUNIES

BSSEF PODIUM RESULTS:

FEB. 8

U19 Female:

- Riley Belle Becker (55.62)

U16 Female:

- Winter Johnson (55.08)

U14 Female:

- Brooke Brown (55.25)

U19 Male:

- Caleb Unger (51.51)

U16 Male:

- Luke Kirchmayr (53.51)
- Kjetil Hassman (54.17)

U14 Male:

- Broderick Kneeland (54.93)

FEB. 9 RACE 1:

U19 Female:

- Riley Belle Becker (56.76)

U16 Female:

- Winter Johston (58.55)

U14 Female:

- Brooke Brown (56.77)
- Chloe Unger (1:0016)

U19 Male: Race 2:

- Caleb Unger (54.83)
- Ryan Beatty (55.53)

U16 Male:

- Luke Kirchmayr (57.92)
- Kjetil Hassman (58.19)

U14 Male:

- Broderick Kneeland (58.33)

FEB. 9 RACE 2:

U16 Female:

- Winter Johnson (56.79)

U14 Female:

- Brooke Brown (55.88)

U19 Male:

- Ryan Beatty (54.23)
- Caleb Unger (54.25)

U16 Male:

- Luke Kirchmayr (55.62)

U14 Male:

- Broderick Kneeland (56.33)

SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB



Royal Coachman Ranch
160 ACRES / \$5.9M



Lot 38 Bitterbrush Trail
1.27 ACRES / \$800K



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



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



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

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
20 ACRES

BOZEMAN & GREATER MONTANA



SxS Ranch
Bozeman, MT
483.78 ACRES / \$6.95M



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

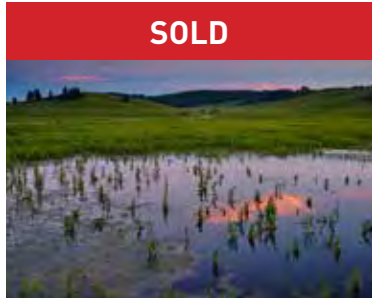


Rocking S7 Ranch Lot 4
Bozeman, MT
20.232 ACRES / \$650K

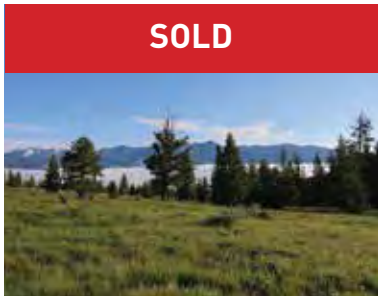


380 Mountain Man Trail
Montana Ranch
20.8 ACRES / \$325K

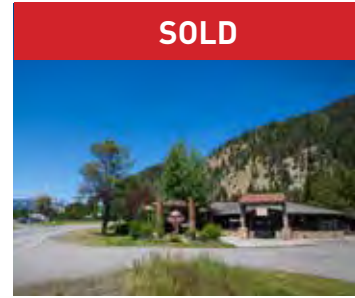
RECENTLY SOLD



Yellowstone Ranch Preserve
List Price: \$19M



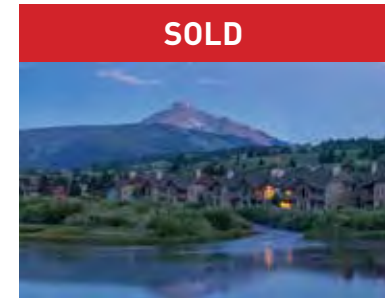
Mountain Meadows
120 Acres / \$3.495M



Big Sky Corner Property
List Price: \$3.24M

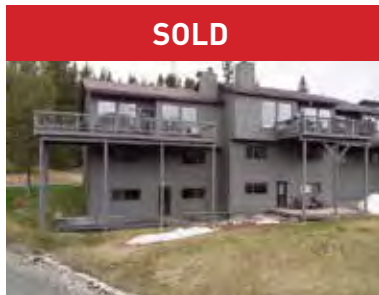


78 Meadow Village
Dr. Big Sky, MT
4,769 SQ FT / \$2.1M

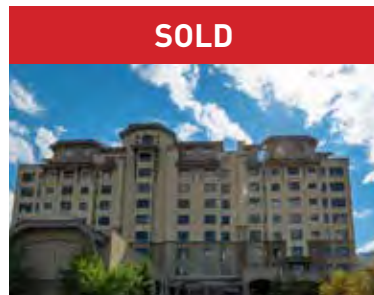


Crail Ranch Unit 40
List Price: \$1.35M

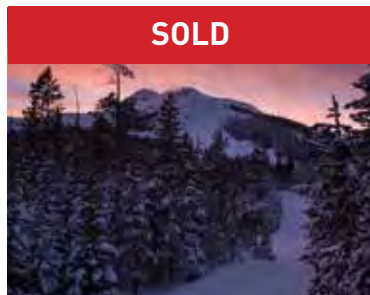
RECENTLY SOLD



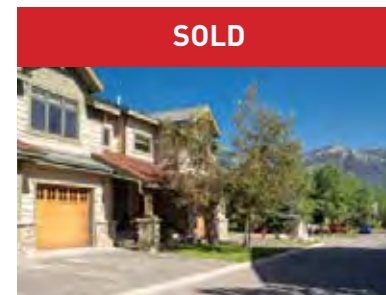
Hidden Village
15 Blue Flax Place
2,788 SQ FT / \$599K



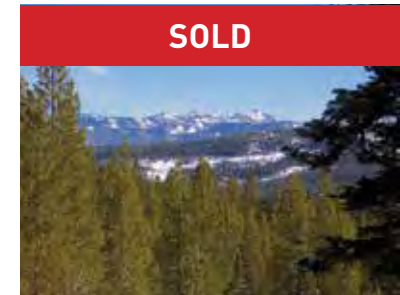
Summit 911/912
List Price: \$595K



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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NEW LISTING



49820 Gallatin Road
3,677 SQ FT / \$1.895M

NEW LISTING



Gallatin Foothills
Call for more information



211 B Pheasant Tail
\$720K

UNDER CONTRACT



Hill Condo 1278
440 SQ FT / \$195K

UNDER CONTRACT



Hill Condo 1321
440 SQ FT / \$185K



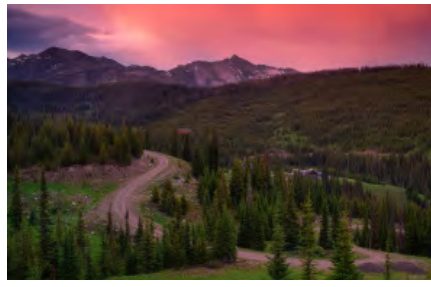
g Buck Road
ES / \$480K



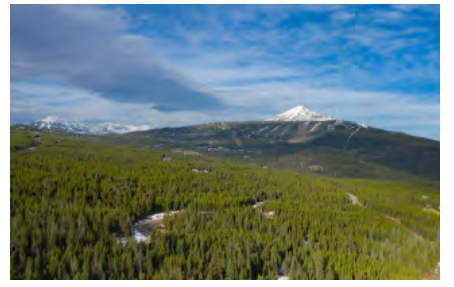
Lot 4 Beaver Creek
20 Acres / \$539K



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



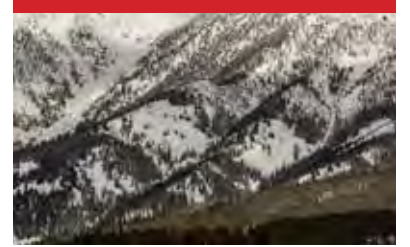
81 Pheasant Tail Ln. Unit 2
2,707 SQ FT / \$839K

SOLD



Lot 64 Goshawk
1.04 ACRES / \$775K

SOLD



Lot 44 Diamond Hitch
1.25 ACRE / \$699K

SOLD



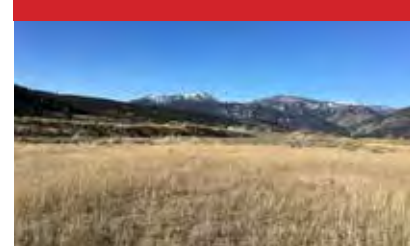
3197 Rose Street
Bozeman, MT
1,970 SQ FT / \$430K

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

SOLD



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Word from Big Sky Resort

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

The storm during the first week of February dumped more than 5 feet of snow on Big Sky Resort and bringing the stoke back to the locals and visiting skiers and snowboarders.

During storm cycles especially, ski resort employees across the country work countless hours to manage snowfall and crowds, and mitigate any potential hazards while seeking to enhance the guest experience. The task is not an easy one, and it's no different at Big Sky.

“The snow has been relentless,” said Big Sky Resort Public Relations Manager Stacie Mesuda in an email to EBS. “We appreciate your patience while we assess conditions on Lone Mountain. As always, our focus is on the safety of our guests and employees.”

Here are some photos from the storm and updates for mountain news and activities from Feb. 14-27. Get out there and rip some turns! – *The Editors*

PHOTO BY KIRBY GRUBAUGH



Tickets on sale now for Big Grass fest

The Big Sky Big Grass music festival is returning to Big Sky Resort for its 14th year from April 9-12. You can ski all day then dance the night away at small-stage and large-stage venues to performances by renowned artists including The Travelin' McCourys, Keller Williams Trio, Lindsay Lou and the Sam Bush Band, among many others. Tickets are on sale now at bigskyresort.com/events/biggrass.

April Pass on sale until Feb. 26

Get your hands on a solid deal and access to the best spring skiing in the Rockies. The April Pass gives you 19 days of skiing for a price you can handle. Visit bigskyresort.com for more information.

Big Sky Resort Seasonal snow

(as of EBS press day, Feb. 12):

61" of snow from Feb. 4-12. Yup, that's 5 FEET of pow in eight days.

231" of snow season to date

Big Sky Resort Entertainment - February 2020

		CARABINER LOUNGE		MONTANA JACK		CHETS BAR	Westward Social
		4:00-6:00	8:30-11:00	3:30-5:30	9:30-12:30	4:30-8:00	3:00-6:00
FRI	14-Feb	Mike Haring		Mathias	Karaoke		Josh Lewis
SAT	15-Feb		Mike Haring	Leslie Fox			Hoppy
SUN	16-Feb						Leslie Fox
MON	17-Feb	Mike Haring		Lauren & Brian		Mathias	
TUES	18-Feb			Mathias			
WED	19-Feb					Brian & Ben	
THURS	20-Feb		Lauren & Brian	Kent Johnson		Jeff n Lauren	Josh Lewis
FRI	21-Feb	Mike Haring		Mathias	Karaoke		Kent Johnson
SAT	22-Feb		Mike Haring	Leslie Fox		Lone Mountain Duo	Hoppy
SUN	23-Feb						Leslie Fox
MON	24-Feb	Mike Haring		Lauren & Brian		Mathias	
TUES	25-Feb			Mathias			
WED	26-Feb					Brian & Ben	
THURS	27-Feb		Lauren & Brian	Kent Johnson		Jeff n Lauren	Michael Natal



Making it in Big Sky: Buck's T-4 Lodge

David O'Connor and Chuck Schommer of Buck's T-4 Lodge

BY SARAH GIANELLI

EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY - Buck's T-4 Lodge has been a Big Sky tradition for 61 years. Co-owners David O'Connor and Chuck Schommer have a history with Buck's that long pre-dates their official partnership in the business in 2009. Since then, they have stayed true to the establishment's roadhouse roots while continuing to elevate the standards of the guest experience. A rustic elegance extends to the carefully conceived menu, the accommodations and the casual, yet professional service, attracting tourists and locals alike.

As part of this ongoing series, O'Connor shared his thoughts with EBS on the reasoning behind their success and longevity as a Big Sky small business.

Explore Big Sky: *What has been the key to your success?*

David O'Connor: Buck's has always been known for consistency and authenticity. We have been a family-owned business—with one short gap—since our 1946 inception, and that brings a certain warmth and home-like feeling for both our guests and employees. Buck and Helen Knight had a very strong ethic of hospitality, and that love of caring for travelers still permeates the business today. Buck's has always managed to attract employees who share these values, and those people, over the years, have allowed Buck's to grow with Big Sky.

One of our team's agreed-upon core values is "relationships matter"; with our guests, our employees and our vendors. That basic idea was at the heart of Buck and Helen's success, and we try our best to let that drive our decision-making day to day.

EBS: *What are the biggest obstacles to operating a small business in Big Sky?*

D.O.: Right now, the highest hurdle facing most, if not all, businesses in Big Sky is staffing; a challenge which is mostly driven by the dire scarcity of attainable workforce housing. Chuck and I see many daily examples of how fortunate we are to have the people around us that we do, but it grows more and more challenging every season to find those people.

Seasonality also contributes to this challenge, as it often is a detractor for career-minded individuals who might consider joining our team. Not to mention the myriad financial obstacles that arise from being seasonal.

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

D.O.: Buck's has two complimentary businesses: the hotel and the restaurant, and each has evolved in different ways.

Big Sky, as a community, has been working hard to position itself in a closer relationship to Yellowstone National Park, and that effort is finally yielding a gradual reduction in the shoulder seasons for lodging. It was not very long ago that all of May, most of June and the majority of the fall were so slow that we closed outright. In the past few years we have seen an exponential increase in Yellowstone visitors making Big Sky part of their trip. The result is that the hotel is now (as of 2016) open 365 days a year, which was a huge step for us. Also, Big Sky's growth overall has allowed us to diversify and even out our market segments, so we are less dependent on any one kind of traveler. In the long run, this is the best insurance against a bad snow year, fire year ... becoming catastrophic.

Buck's restaurant has always been very fortunate to have the support of the Big Sky community at large, and we are incredibly grateful for that every day. However, increasing competition is outpacing the growth of the community right now. We are very confident this will even out, and relatively shortly, but in the meantime the slices of the pie are smaller for all of us in the restaurant business here.



The owners of Buck's T-4 Lodge, Chuck Schommer (left) and David O'Connor, share secrets to their business' success and discuss the obstacles facing small businesses in Big Sky. PHOTO BY AMANDA EGGERT

The American restaurant industry as a whole has also irrevocably changed in the past couple of decades. The interest in, and access to, a wide variety of cuisine means we can really explore, along with our guests, all sorts of cool things in food. We are foodie geeks at our core, and it's been tons of fun to be a part of the wave in this country powered by Food TV, locavore-ism, health consciousness and the rise of artisanship. From Chuck's representation of Montana at the Beard Foundation in New York City in 2000 to the wide variety of tools and ingredients we have access to today, there has been no better, no more fun time to be in the restaurant business.

EBS: *What is it about Big Sky that compels you to stick it out through the hard times?*

D.O.: The people, the people, the people. The nature of the Big Sky community, both for residents and businesses, is really one of inclusivity. For the most part, when things are challenging for us, they are challenging for all of us. We've seen countless examples of the community pulling together in tough times, in countless ways. That's incredibly rare in any community, and that sense of shared challenge and success across Big Sky is a huge lift when the chips are down.

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

D.O.: The cash management challenges posed by seasonality are a real killer. It's tough for many new business owners to wrap their mind around how they can be both profitable and broke at the same time. It takes a few years under your belt to get a sense of the rhythm of your business's financial resources.

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

D.O.: Be grateful for every customer that comes in the door and every employee that punches the clock; and take every opportunity to let them know that you are. Keep your commitments, be open when you say you will be and make a conscious effort to stop talking and listen. If you wake up every day thinking "woe is me," find something else to do.

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

D.O.: Mike Scholz, who acquired Buck's from the Knights and built Buck's into what it is today, taught us pretty much everything we know about owning and operating Buck's T-4. His mentorship has been a foundation in both of our lives. There are so many valuable pieces of advice Mike has imparted over the years it's difficult to identify one as "best," but one that is constantly on our minds is that this business is won or lost on nickels and dimes. It is all too easy to lose sight of the small stuff while we try to think of the big picture, and losing track of those things, when taken in the aggregate, can be lethal.

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Yours in Health

Understanding chakras

BY DR. ANDREA WICK
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The world of energy medicine focuses on a basic understanding of your body's energy centers—or chakras—and how our wellbeing is affected by and can influence those energies.

Chakras have been receiving a lot of publicity during the last decade; even the famous Dr. Oz has taken up the topic of energy medicine in his full television special dedicated to chakra healing modalities. Chakras can be a powerful tool in learning how to heal the body and figure out what sorts of ailments may be going on within.

The theory of chakras originated in early Hindu teachings that referred to chakras as energy wheels in the body. There are seven chakras in the body and each one is matched with a particular color, aromatherapy and sound vibration. These vortexes are linked to a certain part of the musculoskeletal system, organs and glands.

Dr. Christine Northrup, a well-known women's health practitioner and "New York Times" best-selling author, describes chakras as "a link between your vibrational anatomy and your physical anatomy. Chakras act as transformers that take refined emotional, psychological and spiritual information and distribute it to your cells."

Physical, emotional and mental stress can impact the chakras and cause these energetic wheels to shrink, expand or shut down. Here we will begin a series of columns exploring each of the seven chakras and how to balance their energies.

The first chakra is known as the root, base or muladhara. The root chakra settles at the base of the spine, and is associated with the color red. This chakra is related to the feet, knees, spinal column, coccyx, adrenals, bladder and kidneys. Basic survival needs, safety and security encompass this chakra.

Physicality is at the forefront of the first chakra's health. If your basic needs aren't being met, such as food, security, physicality and safety, this may lead to stress that can cause a health issue. Emotions connected to the root chakra include excessive fear, anxiety, paranoia and instability, and may manifest as knee and foot injuries, sciatica, low back pain and adrenal or kidney stress. The kidneys and adrenal glands are what generates our life force and vitality. If we are living in a constant state of fear or anxiety, there may be an imbalance within.

Self-healing methods to balance your root chakra include grounding techniques and yoga. Aromatherapy application of vetiver or cedarwood oils to the lower abdomen or bottom of the feet can create a sense of calm in the body. Eating protein is essential—if you are a meat eater, bison is one of the most grounding forms of food.

Getting outside in nature is vital for balancing the root chakra. Put your feet in the sand or dirt. Visualize red, especially if you do a meditation practice. Crystals that are beneficial for the root chakra include black tourmaline, hematite, onyx, shungite and red jasper.

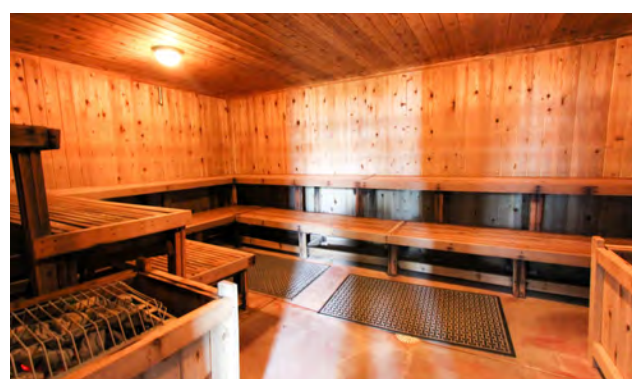
Side effects of root-chakra balancing include feeling a strong sense of purpose in who you are and living comfortably day to day.

This article is the beginning of a series that will explore the seven chakras and how to balance them. Watch for the next edition of Yours in Health published in EBS on March 13 to learn more.

Dr. Andrea Wick is a chiropractor and applied kinesiologist. She graduated from Life University in Marietta, Georgia, and now practices at Healing Hands Chiropractic in Big Sky. She has a passion for holistic health care and being active in the outdoors.

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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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American Life in Poetry: Column 776

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. POET LAUREATE

Last week, I said that I planned to publish two beautiful poems of grief and loss by David Baker, from his new and selected poems, "Swift," published last year by W. W. Norton. This is the second of those poems. Baker teaches at Denison University in Ohio and is the poetry editor of "Kenyon Review," one of our most distinguished literary journals.

Mercy

Small flames afloat in blue duskfall, beneath trees anonymous and hooded, the solemn trees--by ones and twos and threes we go down to the water's level edge with our candles cupped and melted into little pie-tins to set our newest loss free. Everyone is here.

Everyone is wholly quiet in the river's hush and appropriate dark. The tenuous fires slip from our palms and seem to settle in the stilling water, but then float, ever so slowly, in a loose string like a necklace's pearls spilled, down the river barely as wide as a dusty road.

No one is singing, and no one leaves--we stand back beneath the grieving trees on both banks, bowed but watching, as our tiny boats pass like a long history of moons reflected, or like notes in an elder's hymn, or like us, death after death, around the far, awakening bend.

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 David Baker, "Mercy," from Swift, (W. W. Norton, 2019). Poem reprinted by permission of David Baker and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2020 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 Lass
- 5 Old times
- 8 Fr. singer
- 12 Lt. wine region
- 13 Sea (Fr.)
- 14 Sayings (suf.)
- 15 Scientific name (suf.)
- 16 Sheep's cry
- 17 Biblical giants
- 18 Wrinkle
- 20 Sing
- 22 Cereal spike
- 23 Grampus
- 24 Austral. gum tree
- 27 Wedge-shaped
- 31 Radio Free Europe (abbr.)
- 32 Explosive letters
- 33 Babism founder
- 34 Name
- 37 WWI battle
- 39 Borough (abbr.)
- 40 Damage
- 41 Profession

DOWN

- 1 Volcano crater
- 2 Spore sacs
- 3 Account entry
- 4 Diddy
- 5 Wheat
- 6 "Brave Bulls" author
- 7 Attenuate (2 words)
- 8 Gore
- 9 Poetic foot
- 10 Indigo plant
- 11 Reputation
- 19 Fr. medieval tale

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

ACROSS

- 21 Scot. alder tree (abbr.)
- 24 Crab-eating macaque
- 25 Afghanistan (abbr.)
- 26 Kidney (pref.)
- 27 Television channel
- 28 Abridged

DOWN

- 29 To (Scot.)
- 30 Compass direction
- 32 Geological formation
- 35 Spotted eagle ray
- 36 One of the Three Stooges
- 37 Sweet potato
- 38 Inspire
- 40 Civil War commander
- 41 Madam
- 42 Outer (pref.)
- 43 Malay title of respect
- 45 Force
- 46 Noun-forming (suf.)
- 47 White-flecked
- 50 Voice of America (abbr.)

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Corner Quote

“Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life.” – John Muir

BIG SKY BEATS



“Good as Hell” – Lizzo

The year 2019 was the year of Lizzo. She was named Entertainer of the Year by Time magazine and her music has been played all over the world from Super Bowl ads to pumping you up in your morning workout class. After spending years learning how to love herself and dealing with a negative self-image she has transformed into an icon of self-love and empowerment. Lizzo’s positivity rings loud and clear in her lyrics.

Lizzo’s “Good as Hell” was first released in the spring of 2016 and reached the No. 1 spot on Billboard’s Hot 100 in September of 2019. “Good as Hell” has become an anthem for positive self-worth and confidence and truly shines during her energetic live performances. Lizzo calls out to the crowd, “Baby how you feelin?” and the chorus filled response by thousands is “Feeling good as hell.” For each person reading this, take this last lyric from Lizzo and practice: “Go on dust your shoulders off, keep it moving.”



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SECTION 4: ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & DINING



Kelsey Dzintars art show pg. 51



Abby Meredith captures TEDxBigSky pg. 53



Back 40: Pollinating an Economic Boom pg. 62

Montana Honey Bee Company: keeping Montana's liquid gold alive

BY MIRA BRODY

BOZEMAN – Steve Thorson doesn't believe in squeezable honey, and if you ask him or his wife Joyce about it while perusing their shop in Downtown Bozeman, they'll gladly point to a sign on the wall mocking the little plastic bears we've been buying from the grocery store for generations.

"Real honey is way too valuable to be throwing it into plastic bottles," says Thorson. You see, it has a legacy in human culture—a 3,500-year-old jar was recently discovered by archeologists in an Egyptian tomb, making it the best- and longest-known natural substitute for processed sugar, with antibacterial, medicinal and allergy assuaging qualities to boot. Paired with a virtually unlimited shelf life, honey is practically divine.

Montana Honey Company has been in Downtown Bozeman for four years now, but the Thorsons have been keeping bees in the Gallatin Valley for closer to 15.

With a background in construction and architecture, Steve built some of their first hives, and Joyce, tired of her job as a TSA agent at Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport, was ready for a career change. It was only after they were producing more honey than they could give away that they decided Joyce should quit and they would open the storefront on South Tracy Ave in Downtown Bozeman. Today, the shop is well-stocked by their 75 hives of hardworking honeybees.

Although most honeybees are considered "mutts," the variety we most commonly see here in North America are a variation of the Carniolan Russian bee. You may also be surprised to learn that bees are not a native species—they were brought here from Europe around 1700.

Thorson teaches beekeeping courses and says the hobby is thriving in the Gallatin Valley—he sees nearly 100 students a year of all ages, some as young as six, and estimates there are about 150-200 hives within Bozeman City Limits and nearly 200,000 in the county. Good thing too, since Montana consistently ranks amongst the top four honey-producing states in the country.

"If you had a beehive on the top of this roof, those bees have the capability of foraging the entire city," said Thorson. He said bees forage for pollen about 3-5 miles from their hive. "I always tell people, with very few exceptions, there really is nowhere in Montana that you can't keep bees."

Unfortunately, as valued and celebrated as honey is, honeybees are constantly under threat by a variety of factors—around 40 percent of honeybees in the U.S. died last year and Montana is not immune to the phenomenon. Thorson calls it a "perfect storm of factors," citing the Varroa mite—which can infect an entire hive—noxious chemical sprays such as Roundup, and in general, the negative ways in which the general populous treats the environment. Although there are



Steve Thorson, who owns Montana Honey Bee Company with his wife Joyce, teaches an introduction to hobby beekeeping course to a classroom full of students. PHOTO BY MIRA BRODY



Montana Honey Bee Company in Downtown Bozeman opened four years ago and sells all local honey and homemade products. PHOTO BY MIRA BRODY

treatments available, bees only continue to get weaker.

At a Pecha Kucha storytelling series titled "Honey Politics," Thorson recalls presenting a series of slides from an experiment by Whole Foods where the chain removed all products that were honeybee-related. They then took pictures of the produce section, the meat section and the dairy section, before and after.

"The produce section was obliterated," said Thorson. "The dairy section was almost obliterated, and the meat section was completely obliterated. Because what do cows eat? Alfalfa. What pollinates alfalfa? Honey bees."

Albert Einstein once said, "If the bee disappeared off the face of the Earth, man would only have four years left to live." At the very least Thorson believes the disappearance of honeybees would have an incredible impact: "We'd be eating a lot of cardboard."

Another battle beekeepers face is that of competing with fake honey products. Honey is the third-most faked food in the world, fostering an illegal market of cheap honey tainted by antibiotics outlawed in the U.S. and shipped in from China. It is also common for honey found on grocery store shelves to be micro-filtered and cut with up to 80 percent corn syrup. Due to lax labeling laws that don't require ingredient listings on honey containers, most consumers are simply unaware of the issue.

It's a flaw of perception, explains Thorson. The American consumer wants that perfect, golden bottle of honey, when in reality it's the cloudiness that makes it authentic.

The solution? "Buy as close to the source as you possibly can," said Thorson.

If you're interested in starting your own hive, Thorson says patience is key, as beekeeping, although a hobby with high reward, can be a frustrating one.

You'll have to register your bees with the Department of Agriculture and have \$500 to invest in a class and your first hive set up, which includes a hive box, protective gear and your bees. As with any hobby, it is easy to grow as you gain experience.

While planting bee-friendly flowers and trees is also helpful for the population, bare in mind in order to produce a single honey straw one often finds at farmer's market and the like, a single bee will have to collect the pollen of 25,000 flowers—a lesson, perhaps, from the honeybees to humanity about the effect thousands of small efforts can have on a grand scale.

For more information on these vulnerable pollinators, head to pg. 62 for an article from our sister publication, Mountain Outlaw magazine.

Annual Auction for the Arts slated for Feb. 29 at Wilson Hotel

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

BIG SKY – In their ever-growing effort to keep the art scene alive and well in the Big Sky community, the Arts Council of Big Sky is gearing up for their eighth annual Auction for the Arts event on Saturday, Feb. 29 from 6-10 p.m. at the Wilson Hotel. The evening includes quick-finish, live and silent auctions, music, food and drinks—proceeds raised will be applied to educational program support, Music in the Mountains and public art presence in the community.

“The auction has grown over the years and has been a sold-out event,” said Arts Council Executive Director Brian Hurlbut. “Each year we have several new participants and this year is no different. We feel we have some exciting new artists that have not been seen in Big Sky before.”

The live auction will feature artwork by Kevin Red Star, Julie Chapman, Terry Cooke Hall, Rachel Warner, Ben Pease, Amber Blazina, Barb Swartz-Karst, Miles Glynn, Harry Koyama, Tabby Ivy, Tom Gilleon, Carrie Wild and many more notable and regional favorites. Some of the artists will be participating in the quick-finish portion of the event, where attendees are encouraged to come early and watch as the pieces come to life before they are framed on the spot.

Please visit bigskyarts.org or call the ACBS office at (406) 995-2742 for more information or to purchase tickets. The event is presented by Big Sky Sotheby's International Realty, with additional support from Security Title and Blue Ribbon Builders.



Harry Koyama is a Billings-based artist and contributor to this year's auction. He utilizes a painting knife and bold color scheme to bring vibrancy to his subjects, which often depict scenes and faces of the American West. PHOTO COURTESY OF ACBS

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Moments of the Infinite art show explores space between dream and reality

BY MIRA BRODY

BOZEMAN – Every April, after months of sitting dormant under the snowpack, the roads of Yellowstone National Park are a road biker's paradise. Free of motor vehicle traffic, visitors are granted with the surreal experience of riding through a serene landscape teeming with its wild, year-round residents. One group in particular, dressed in festive tutus, are met by a bison jam and, after patience yielded no progress, a ranger waved them through, imploring them to continue their ride directly through the herd.

This scene—a tiny human figure clad in a splash of pink, weaving through the towering bovine—is brought to life by Bozeman artist Kelsey Dzintars in her piece “Bison Jelly,” one of the featured acrylic works on display at her show “Moments of the Infinite,” hosted starting on Feb. 14 in the Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture's Lobby Gallery.

For Dzintars, the infinite is about being consumed by the space between dream and reality.

“It's about specific moments when you're awestruck,” said Dzintars. “For me it's when I'm in nature, or doing something active where I'm overwhelmed. It catches me. I have to paint this.”

Which is exactly how Bison Jelly, and many of her other pieces, come to life—after her friends told her about their bison jam bike ride through Yellowstone, she had to paint it. “It's about facing your fears and to look good doing it,” she said of the finished product.

Dzintars has been painting her entire life and quickly found a way to make art a part of her living. A Rapid City, South Dakota native, she has an impressive background in graphic design, including a degree from Montana State University, extensive work for Outlaw Partners, publisher of this newspaper, Arete Skis, OARS Whitewater and Boundary Expeditions. As someone who draws inspiration from nature, she prioritizes her relationship with that muse by spending summers working as a river guide on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho.

Finding the right balance between her career in graphics and pursuing her passion for painting is an important part of Dzintars' identity—it wasn't until 2015 when she made the conscious decision to make the latter a major part of her path.



Kelsey Dzintars' acrylic paintings capture her “soul-energizing” experiences while living in the Northern Rockies. Her collection of work is hanging in the Emerson Center for Arts & Culture's Lobby Gallery. PHOTO COURTESY OF KELSEY DZINTARS



Buffalo Jelly is one of Dzintars' acrylic paintings based off of a bike ride through a bison jam in Yellowstone National Park. PHOTO COURTESY OF KELSEY DZINTARS

Today, she's careful about her practice, making it a habit to paint first thing in the morning so as to guard those first few hours for herself.

When discussing the “infinite” as a theme in her show, she aptly references Van Gogh, whose whimsical approach to the natural world would relate with Dzintars', perhaps had he spent some time in the American West. Both, too, are strong advocates for their subject matter.

“When people find an emotional connection to the places that they're playing in or experiencing, that forces action or behavior. It drives the desire to then save it,” said Dzintars, a staunch advocate for conservation.

“Moments of the Infinite” is a strong collection of Dzintars' contemporary western, acrylic landscapes. The artist fearlessly uses bold colors in a way that enhances without overwhelming, and her gallery is a refreshing palette in an area that tends to lean toward classic styles. A patron will find familiar scenes including Boiling River in Yellowstone, Hyalite Canyon and Storm Castle Peak, as well as some stunning pieces such as “Protection,” which features a large animal skull as a centerpiece set against a rugged mountain landscape, her most recent project.

“Art is about connecting with people in a different language that gets a person thinking differently,” says Dzintars.

Meet Kelsey at her “Moments of the Infinite” gallery opening on Friday, Feb. 14 at 5 p.m.—her work will remain in the Emerson Lobby in Bozeman through May 3.

‘Tornillo’ by The Lil Smokies



BY MIRA BRODY



Tornillo is the third studio album for Montana-based bluegrass band, the Lil Smokies and named for the small Texas town where it was recorded. PHOTO COURTESY OF LIL SMOKIES

If you’ve spent any time reading theater marquees in southwest Montana, you’ll probably notice our affinity for shoe-stomping bluegrass shows. The Lil Smokies, who formed in 2009 in Missoula and quickly acquiring a national following, are no exception to that theme and have spent their time in the music scene performing energizing shows around the nation.

The release of their newest album, “Tornillo,” is an evolution of their

craft. Produced by Bill Reynolds, from legendary groups The Avett Brothers and Band of Horses, and named for the remote Texas town where it was recorded, their third studio album has already warranted praise by Billboard and American Songwriter magazine.

“Tornillo” unfolds beautifully—a steady stream of Matt Cornette’s rapid banjo plucks and Jake Simpson’s fiddle, layered with the guitar and vocals of Andy Dunnigan and Matt “Rev” Rieger, and backed by a strong rhythm section led by Scott Parker on bass. Some moments we feel as though we’re being guided toward, and then exposed to, a grand reveal, apparent in a couple of the album’s centerpieces, “Carry Me” and “World’s on Fire”—both of which should not be skipped.

“It’s about the dreams we have, and what we go through to make those dreams live on,” said Dunnigan in a recent interview with American Songwriter, noting that Carry Me was inspired by the long days the band often spends on the road.

Listeners will notice one prominent shift when comparing past albums against “Tornillo”—the band intentionally experimented with the concept of space, letting notes breathe as opposed to trying to fill silences, something Dunnigan attributes to the solitude the band often finds in their outdoor lifestyle. Because of this, the album will put you in the right mindset for your next road trip through Montana on your way to a trailhead or fishing hole.

If you’re looking for a track that emulates a more classic rock sound, the band did play around with some of ZZ Top’s guitars during their time in the Sonic Ranch Recording Studio, apparent on the track “Blood Money.”

“The word ‘tornillo’ in its literal definition means a screw or a bolt. That’s exactly what this experience in the studio did for us as a band,” said Dunnigan. “We really came together and worked as a unit, and we got back to those reasons why we do this.”

This unity is apparent throughout, and for fans of the vocal harmony they love from the track “Might As Well” off of their celebrated “Changing Shades” album, “Tornillo” is full of it.

“Tornillo” is available on Spotify, iTunes and Pandora, and with an album cover as pink as guitarist Matt Rieger’s signature stage glasses, you won’t miss it.

The Lil Smokies play regularly in the area—keep an eye on their website for upcoming shows.

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Abby Meredith sets her eyes on the stage during TEDxBigSky

BIG SKY – While audience members at TEDxBigSky were indulging in the laughter, tears and inspiration brought on by the annual speaker series on Jan. 25, 14-year-old Abby Meredith was behind the scenes at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center capturing it all on film.

The Ophir Middle School student was in the control booth, monitoring the two live stream cameras on what is called a stream deck, a small LCD keyboard that a video-streamer uses to switch the positions of the cameras depending on the angle needed for the shot. Although she had a little experience under her belt recording middle school volleyball and basketball games, this was her first time working an AV gig in a theater and event of this magnitude.

“I like theater a lot, I love the WMPAC, so it was really fun to go down there and work,” said Meredith. “Even though I’ve never really had a job before, it was fun actually being in charge of something.”

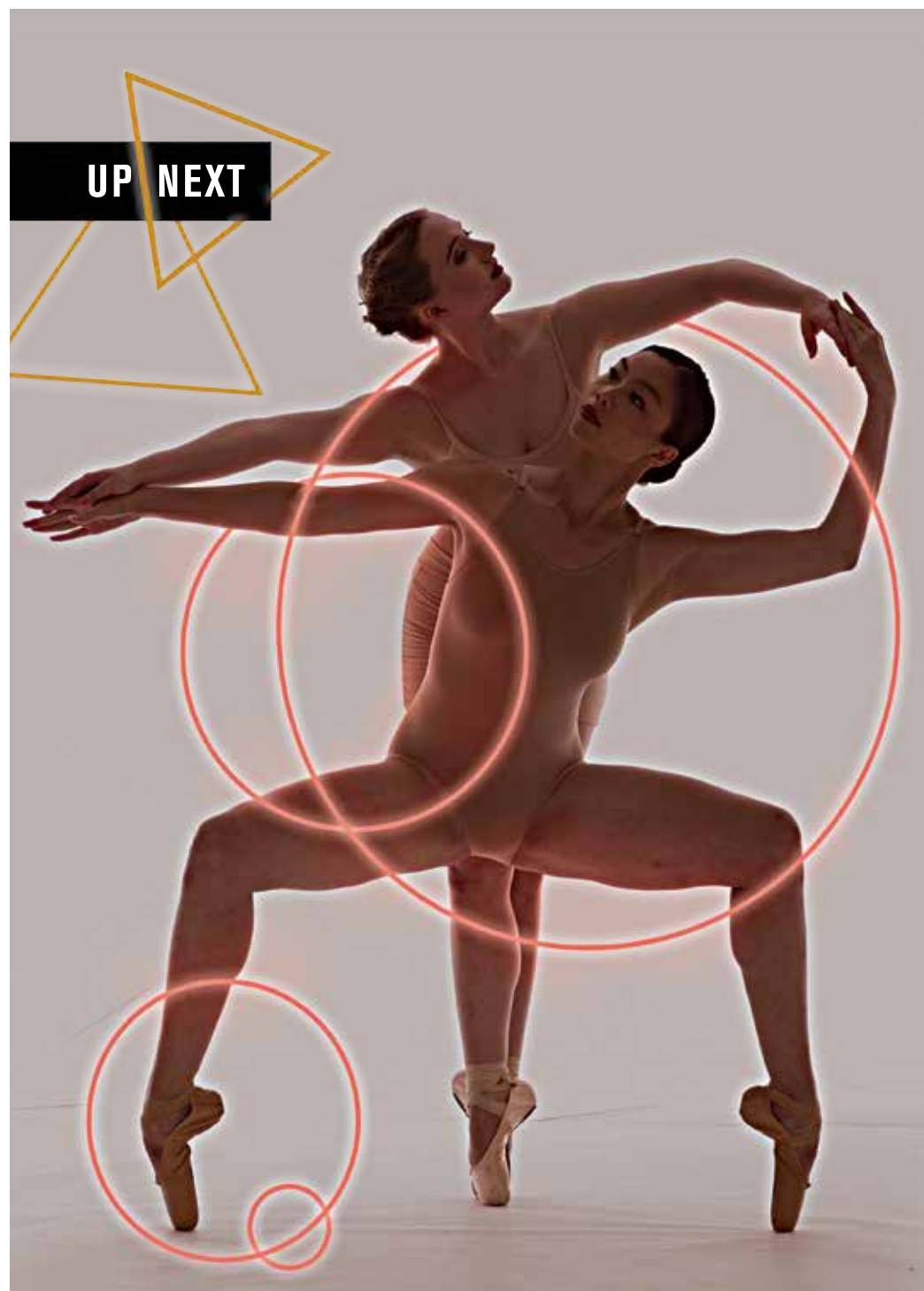
Her passions has roots in a serendipitous moment, when Meredith accidentally walked into a newscast meeting for the Big Sky School District. Andrew Blessing, the technology director, who was familiar with her previous experience, asked if she would be willing to help him out during the production of TEDx.

The rest, as they say, is history.



Ophir Middle School student, Abby Meredith, and Lead Videographer at Outlaw Partners, Jennings Barmore, in the sound booth at WMPAC during TEDxBigSky on January 25. PHOTO BY ANDREW BLESSING

When she’s not at school or behind the camera, Meredith enjoys drawing, playing the piano and working with animations. Although unsure of her plans for future, save the immediate, she hopes it involves another stint behind the scenes in a theater’s control booth.



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BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR

Friday, Feb. 14 – Thursday, Feb. 27

If your event falls between Feb. 28 and Mar. 12, please submit it by Mar. 4 by emailing media@outlaw.partners

FRIDAY, FEB. 14

Gallery Opening: “Moments of the Infinite,” “The Wait” & “The Space Between”
Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, Bozeman, 5 p.m.

Gallery Opening: “Works in Color” by Jeff Corwin
Creighton Block Gallery, 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 15

“Winter Wildlands Alliance” Backcountry Film Festival
Lone Peak Cinema, 6:30 p.m.

Kid’s Crafts: Love Bugs
Cowboy Cricket Farms, Bozeman, 10 a.m.

Cinema: “Climb to Glory”
Lone Peak Cinema, 3 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEB. 16

Live Music: International Guitar Night
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 6:30 p.m.

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

Live Music: Left on Tenth
Bozeman Hot Springs, Bozeman, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 17

MOSS PIR Days: Marvelous Messy Science
Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman, 9 a.m.

Pint Night with the Bozeman Symphony
Mountains Walking Brewery, Bozeman, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 18

Wild & Scenic Film Festival
Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, Bozeman, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB 19

XC Series: Brew-Ski
Big Sky Community Organization at 32 Town Center, 2 p.m.

Kid’s Crafts: Dynamite Dads
Cowboy Cricket Farms, Bozeman, 6 p.m.

Book Reading with Author Carrie La Seur
Bozeman Public Library, Bozeman, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB 20

Denali Prep & Story Night with Conrad Anker
Uphill Pursuits, Bozeman, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 21

Splitboard-Specific Level 1 Avy Course
Montana Alpine Guides 13 Enterprise Blvd., Bozeman, 6 p.m.

Theater: “One Man, Two Guvnors”
The Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 22

Parenting Workshops: Making Sense of Adolescence
Discovery Academy, Big Sky, 9:30 a.m.

Bozeman Winter Farmer’s Market
Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, 9 a.m.

The National Conference on Wilderness Medicine
Huntley Lodge, Big Sky Resort, 2 p.m.

WORTH THE DRIVE



Satisfy your beer cravings with craft brews from over 12 different Montana breweries this weekend at the Philipsburg Brewfest. All money raised goes to benefit the Philipsburg Ice Association. PHOTO COURTESY OF PHILIPSBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PHILIPSBURG BREWFEST

Saturday, Feb. 15, 12 p.m.
Phillipsburg, MT

Although “brewfest” season hasn’t quite kicked off yet, Phillipsburg is set to lead the pack. On Feb. 15, take a drive down to this historic mining town and raise a pint from over 12 Montana breweries to benefit the Philipsburg Ice Association. A \$20 entry will get you a souvenir glass, three beer tickets and front row seats to two different local Americana bands: Simon Valdez opening, followed by The Fossils. In addition, the Philipsburg Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a silent auction for their annual fundraiser. Bundle in some laps at the historic Discovery Ski Area or some world-class ice fishing on Georgetown Lake, along with the great beer and views of the Sapphire and Flint Creek Mountain ranges.

Live Music: Smith/Kay All Day
Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Free Movie Night: “Roxanne”
The Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEB. 23

Sound Healing Workshop
Santosha Wellness Center, 6:30 p.m.

Cinema: “Abominable”
The Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 2 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 25

Dinner & Movie Night
Fork & Spoon, Bozeman, 5 p.m.

Brews & the Big Sky: Dude Ranches
Museum of the Rockies, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26

Art Reception: Mountaintown Art™
Rialto, Bozeman, 5:30 p.m.

West Coast Swing Lessons
The Baxter Hotel, Bozeman, 6 p.m.

Live Music: Pigeons Playing Ping Pong
The Rialto, Bozeman, 7 p.m.

Cinema: “The Trouble with Wolves”
The Ellen Theatre, Bozeman, 7 p.m.

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REEL REVIEW

Top 20 Films of 2019

BY ANNA HUSTED
EBS FILM CRITIC



Jessie Buckley stars as Rose-Lynn, a talented singer with a gift for trouble, in this Scottish tale about dreams, family and class. It may sound cheesy, but it's brilliant and empowering. PHOTO COURTESY OF NEON

In lieu of a top 10 list, I'm giving you a top 20 yet again—there are easily 50 movies I enjoyed in 2019 and another 20 I have yet to catch up on, including Pedro Almodòvar's "Pain and Glory" and Shia Leboief's "Honey Boy." In addition to those two, you'll also see some films missing that most critics adored such as James Mangold's "Ford v Ferrari" (worth watching for Christian Bale alone) and Bong Joon Ho's "Parasite" (also worth watching since it garnered Best Picture, but it's no "The Host").

You'll also see some Oscar contenders farther down my list than perhaps expected such as Sam Mendes' "1917." If you didn't see "1917" in theaters then don't bother seeing it at all. It is a master class in filmmaking with cinematographer

Roger Deakins at the helm using not just a Steadicam, but also the Trinity System rig, creating what appears to be two long takes and seamless transitions. This type of cinematography is unprecedented and will most likely remain unmatched for years.

I hope this list inspires you to watch something new and find something you love. Enjoy.

- "Little Women" – In theaters
- "JoJo Rabbit" – In theaters
- "Diane" – Hulu
- "The Mustang" – Hulu
- "Wild Rose" – Hulu
- "Fighting with my Family" – Amazon Prime
- "The King" – Netflix
- "To Dust" – Hulu
- "The Lighthouse" – Bozeman Public Library or rent on iTunes
- "The Art of Self-Defense" – Hulu
- "Honeyland" – Hulu
- "Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw" – Bozeman Public Library or rent on iTunes
- "The Peanut Butter Falcon" – Bozeman Public Library or rent on iTunes
- "Monos" – Rent on iTunes
- "Uncut Gems" – In theaters
- "Joker" – Bozeman Public Library or rent on iTunes
- "The Irishman" – Netflix
- "1917" – In theaters
- "Us" – Hulu
- "Ready or Not" – Bozeman Public Library or rent on Amazon Prime

Other strong films that didn't quite make the cut:

- "Knives Out" – In theaters
- "Dolemite is My Name" – Netflix
- "The Beach Bum" – Hulu
- "Her Smell" – Hulu or HBO NOW
- "Woman at War" – Hulu
- "The Farewell" – Big Sky Community Library or rent on iTunes
- "I Lost My Body" – Netflix
- "Ford v Ferrari" – In theaters

Anna Husted has a master's in film studies from New York University. In Big Sky she can be found skiing down a mountain 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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Big Sky Brew: Auld Reekie by Beehive Basin Brewing

BY MIRA BRODY

In the aftermath of last week’s snowpocalypse, which left Big Sky residents in ecstasy—at least those that got some record-breaking hillside action—one may feel compelled to stop by Beehive Basin Brewery to see what they have on tap, clinking glasses over good times had. This week, amongst their mainstays, is a Smoked Scotch Ale dubbed Auld Reekie.

Auld Reekie is a play on “Auld Reeky,” or “Reekie,” meaning Old Smoky, a nickname for Scotland’s capital city, Edinburgh. Before the comforts of modern heat, the densely populated city would burn coal to keep warm resulting in a lingering, thick smog. When viewed from the countryside beyond, the city often appeared to have a halo of smoke, a spectacle lovingly illustrated by Scottish poet Allan Ramsay: “Auld Reeky. A name the country people give Edinburgh from the cloud of smoke or reek that is always impending over it.”

Fortunately, the skies here in Big Sky are bluebird, and at Beehive there is ski bib banter and curious dogs aplenty. An old edition of the Beer Bible sits propped against the glass windows that provide an aquarium’s view of the seven-barrel brew room, its pages curled from use. Patrons chat about snow conditions, asking questions such as, “you work or play today?” The answer is always positive.

Scotch ales are known for having a malty taste, hints of smoke and caramel, and Auld Reekie hits those notes in stride. The beer is woody with a hint of cherry that comes out after a few sips, but not quite as smoky as cousins and siblings. It’s a bit lighter on the malt compared to our well-known Cold Smoke Scotch Ale by Kettlehouse Brewing, and with less bite, but will still give you your money’s worth at 6.8 percent ABV.



Warm up with Beehive Basin’s latest rotator, Auld Reekie, a smoked Scotch Ale named for Scotland’s capital city. PHOTO BY MIRA BRODY

I’m not sure what Ramsay would pen about Montana, but he’d have to find something other than air quality to lament. The closest regionally relatable metaphor for this beer short of a coal-choked city would probably be: a Forest Service cabin with mature wood fire going, say, after you’ve unpacked and are well underway with dinner (and have a handle on how to properly use the damper).

Next time you’re heading back down the mountain in the wake of the next epic snowstorm, stop by Beehive Brewing. If you’re curious to stray from your weekly Working Guys Cream Ale and divulge in something a bit warmer to help heal your battered knees, order an Auld Reekie before it’s out of rotation.



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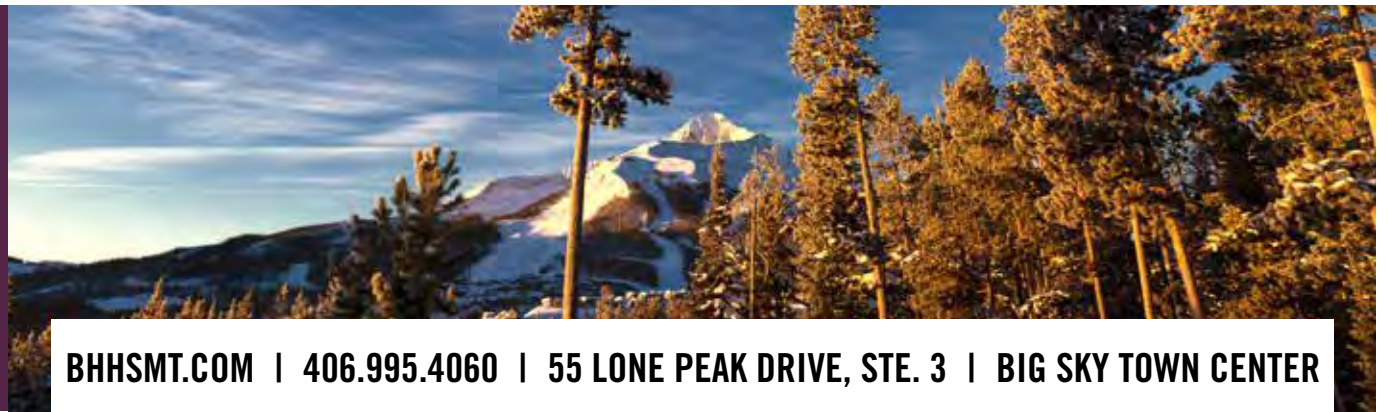
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AMUSE-BOUCHE

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.

So you want to open a restaurant?



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

I see it all the time: people in professions that couldn't be more different from the restaurant or bar industry, like Wall Street or dentistry, deciding to buy or open a restaurant.

"I think it would be fun," they say. Whenever I hear that, I cringe. And then I start to piece together how I'm going to intervene and dissuade them as quickly as possible.

Don't get me wrong. There is tremendous fun in this industry but it doesn't just happen. For the most part, the general public has no idea the level of work, teamwork, perseverance and challenges that go into a restaurant before you open each day.

If you received an inheritance from your deceased uncle who had distant ties to, say, puzzle master Erno Rubik, and you're dead set on quitting your engineering job to open a restaurant, let me give you some advice:

Restaurants are stressful.

I've known more than one person who left what they felt was a stressful career to open a restaurant, only to have them pine for the days at their old job.

Take famous NYC chef David Chang. He left a life on Wall Street because the stress was getting to him and he opened his first restaurant. A friend of mine who interviewed with him said he was tenser than comedian Lewis Black delivering a punchline. So if you think you were burned out before, hold on to your hat and learn to meditate, ASAP.

Business is fleeting.

The number of restaurants that make big money are so few and far between it would shock you. You can catch lightning in a bottle, have a captive audience due to an incredible location, or have been around so many years that every debt and investor is paid. But even then, it can be gone in the blink of an eye. Never ever take your success for granted.

The numbers are tight.

Know your numbers and pay attention to them. I can't tell you how many restaurants have amazing food, cocktails and culture, only to close because they weren't making money. Don't ever think that just because a restaurant is busy or full that they're making money. Those two things coincide less often than you might think. Good atmosphere or food may get people in your door, but it's consistent business that will keep those doors open.

Learn to get handy.

Things break, leak, malfunction and die all the time. Are you going to call a company for service and travel time on Saturday night when a dishwasher breaks down, or instead learn how to check fuses and learn where reset buttons are? Or learn the WD40/duct tape rule?

Cooking is one small part of opening a restaurant.

Just because you are a great cook at home or everyone loves your lasagna doesn't mean you're ready to run a kitchen. I know a lot of people who can change the oil in their car but aren't mechanics. And cooking on demand, day in and day out, is harder than it seems.

Work in a restaurant first.

Many trades and disciplines come with apprenticeships. Doctors, engineers and even culinary schools insist on it as part of their curriculum, and with good reason. Immerse yourself in the industry first and try your hand at working in at least three different restaurants or bars if you really want to open one. Get a job as a cook, server or bartender. Follow a manager around. Interview owners. Whatever you need to do, do it. You need real experience before you jump in.

What's the best thing that could come from all of this? That you hate the restaurant industry and decide it's not for you. Why is that the best thing? Because the worst thing that could happen is you discover you hate it after you have already committed to a business lease and invested all your uncle's inheritance.

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. Here, we highlight stories from our flagship sister publication Mountain Outlaw magazine.

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

Pollinating an Economic Boom

For beekeepers, there’s money in almonds despite colony losses

BY MARIA WYLLIE

Beginning in November each year, Montana beekeepers load thousands of honeybee hives on flatbed trucks and migrate to California’s Central Valley for the coming almond pollination, a major event in commercial beekeeping.

The Golden State has a virtual monopoly on the crop, producing approximately 80 percent of the world’s almonds, which require pollination by 1.6 million – more than half – of America’s bee colonies. This means big business for beekeeping states like Montana, which ranked fourth in honey production in 2014 and is home to about 160,000 colonies.

Without the help of honeybees, we wouldn’t have almonds – a primary reason the insect’s declining health is raising eyebrows. It’s been a topic of debate since 2006, when beekeepers started seeing significant colony attrition in the U.S., suffering an average annual loss of 32 percent.

Some beekeepers attribute these fatalities to Colony Collapse Disorder, a phenomenon occurring when a hive’s worker bees mysteriously disappear, but the queen remains. However, CCD itself is quite rare, according to Cam Lay, Natural Resource Program Manager for Montana’s Department of Agriculture.

“Usually when a hive dies, you can tell why,” says Lay, who inspects apiaries—or collections of beehives—and issues health certificates allowing companies to bring their bees into California for pollination services, and then back to Montana where they’re based.

Instead, high annual bee losses usually result from a complex variety of factors ranging from poor bee management and nutrition, to pathogens and agrochemical exposure. But a definitive cause is up in the air.

“The real answer is we still don’t know,” said Michelle Flenniken, an assistant professor at Montana State University’s Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology. For one study, Flenniken and her team examined the role of pathogens—including viruses, bacteria, parasites and fungi—on honeybee health before, during, and after almond pollination.

“You really need to know what pathogens are present before you can correlate any of them with colony loss,” she said.

Despite these losses and recent reports claiming bees are in dire straits, honeybees are not facing extinction and our nation’s food supply is not running out. Beekeepers are actually doing well because, right now, there’s money in bees.

An almond has two primary needs: water and honeybee pollen. Approximately one gallon of water is needed to grow a single almond, a problem for California’s drought-ravaged agricultural landscape. Because honeybees are the only pollinators, almond growers pay the highest rental fees for their services, consequently dictating much of what happens in commercial beekeeping.



MSU Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology assistant professor Michelle Flenniken inspects a frame of bees from a colony at a research farm on MSU’s campus in Bozeman. PHOTO COURTESY OF MSU MOUNTAINS AND MINDS/KELLY GORHAM

“All the commercial guys migrate [to California],” Lay said. “They can’t afford not to.”

Greg Fullerton, president of the Montana State Beekeepers Association and owner of Glacier County Honey in Babb, Montana, says the almond industry is a central reason why people are running so many hives right now. He points to poor management practices as a reason for colony losses, and says some beekeepers are losing colonies because they’re raising more bees than they can handle.

“It’s like overgrazing cattle,” Fullerton said. “It’s profitable enough now that everyone’s running way more than what I consider their economic threshold.”

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, honeybees, which are considered a specialty crop at the state and federal level, provide \$15 billion annually in agricultural products including honey and pollination services.



A honeybee pollinates an almond flower in California's Capay Valley. PHOTO BY KATHY KEATLEY GARVEY

Glacier County Honey is a small-scale operation, cultivating approximately 1,600 colonies and working on a hive-to-hive basis rather than running up the numbers. By comparison, many of the bigger commercial companies are running multiple thousands of hives but don't have the resources to adequately manage them, according to Fullerton.

"I don't think the bees are completely dying across the country, and we're going to be without," he said.

A second-generation beekeeper, Fullerton says his family saw a mere 2-3 percent loss of bees in the 1980s and '90s. Now he sees 25 percent losses annually – a decline he believes is a consequence of increased stresses, such as new mites, pesticides and frequent migration.

Still, Fullerton doesn't believe the bees are disappearing anytime soon. He and other apiarists cut their losses by splitting one colony into two and adding an extra queen. This is typically done right before almond pollination so the required 1.6 million colonies are ready to go.

Splitting hives enables beekeepers to meet the soaring demand for almonds, as well as more than 130 other crops pollinated by honeybees such as citrus fruits, alfalfa, and canola oil. The technique has also kept the average number of bee colonies in the U.S. at 2.5 million – a figure that hasn't changed much since 2006, even when considering the 32 percent average annual loss.

"The business has continued to thrive," Fullerton said. "Beekeepers are doing quite well."

But Flenniken says splitting hives to meet demand is a poor method of balancing bee attrition. "If you think of honeybees like any other agricultural crop, we would not tolerate a 32 percent annual loss," she said.

Increasing losses are also requiring beekeepers to work harder to maintain their hives. This compromises many of the foods we rely on for a solid, nutritious supply – a major reason why the Almond Board of California supports ongoing honeybee research, according to the group's website.

The 2014 Almond Almanac states that the 2013-14 almond-crop year achieved the highest overall shipments and the second highest production level by almond growers worldwide. The U.S. market set a record for the eighth consecutive year, with shipments up 9 percent over 2013, at 641.8 million pounds.

The \$6.4 billion industry couldn't exist without honeybees, and if demand for almonds – one of the world's favorite snacks – increases as expected, it remains to be seen if the honeybee supply can keep up, even when splitting hives.

Consequently, while the bees aren't likely to disappear, the cost of pollination services will rise. This means food prices will go up, and you'll either need to find a new go-to snack, or pony up for almonds.

Editor's note: A version of this article first appeared in the summer 2015 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine.

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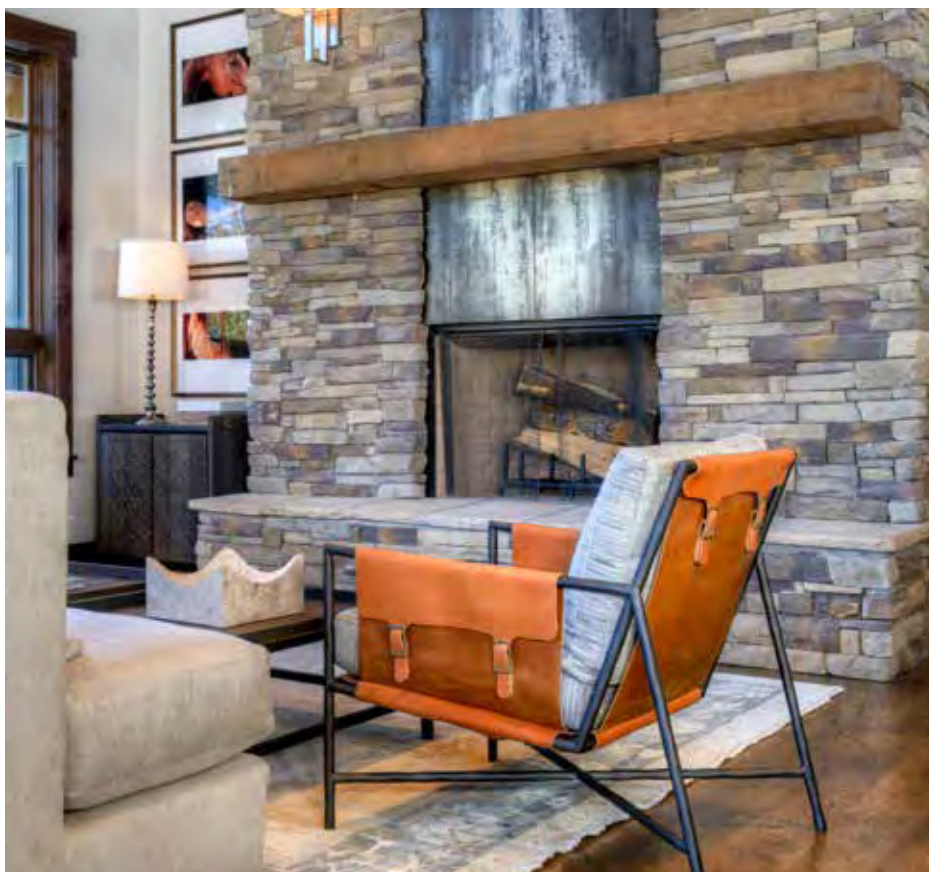
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CONTENTS

<i>'Do It Yourself,' a movement in home improvement.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>The remarkable beauty of custom digital environments by SAV.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Unplugging.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>First time home buying.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Big Sky's newest Neighborhood: Gallatin Foothills.....</i>	<i>12</i>

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Celebrating 10 years of growth and EBS real estate guides Outlaw Partners proudly presents 'Views'

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – For anyone that's lived in Big Sky during the last decade, or longer, the period is best defined by one word: metamorphosis.

The term, traditionally applied to the transformation experienced by caterpillars as they become butterflies, is appropriate as just ten years ago Big Sky was practically unrecognizable, with contemporary achievements, in some instances, a twinkle in an eye.

In Big Sky, developments abound—residential, commercial and community-oriented—consistently rendering a Big Sky vastly more equipped for the practically guaranteed surges in visitation and permanent residency, a result of increased international awareness for the epic slopes at Big Sky Resort, paired with a burgeoning job market and growing desires to call Big Sky home.

During that period of (ongoing) growth, Explore Big Sky and our real estate guides were there to chronicle it all, telling the stories of real estate as the area rebounded in remarkable fashion from the days of the Great Recession.

From the installation of new hotels and restaurants, to the construction of inviting community spaces, EBS covered it, providing raw market data and showcasing gorgeous alpine listings along the way.

Together, we celebrated local businesses and builders, learned about tiny homes, trap doors and advancements in “smart home” technology.

However, one thing remained consistent—support from our readers and advertisers. Without either, those stories that defined a town in rapid growth would have gone largely undocumented.

We at EBS thank you for your patronage, and proudly reveal our new product: “Views.”

Named after perhaps the most significant selling point in our unique setting, “Views” is a revamped approach to highlighting the real estate magnificence found in Big Sky.

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‘Do It Yourself,’ a movement in home improvement

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BIG SKY – Between 2012 and 2018, the “Do It Yourself” home improvement industry market value jumped a whopping \$13.5 billion—on average \$2.25 billion per year—per Statista, a leading economic database company.

Few industries boast such unceasing and significant growth.

You might be asking why? How? Where did this paradigm shift take root, with people turning increasingly less to contracted-out home improvement teams and more toward themselves, spouses and friends?

Well, according to Inc., an American business magazine reporting on small businesses for over four decades, the DIY experience can be somewhat therapeutic in times of increasing rates of work-related stresses, in the same ways other hobbies have always provided reprieve to members of the modern workforce. Additionally, there is a sense of tangible accomplishment in DIY that often escapes many in their day jobs, where progress isn’t always obvious—in turn, an accompanying stress release follows the finishing of a project.

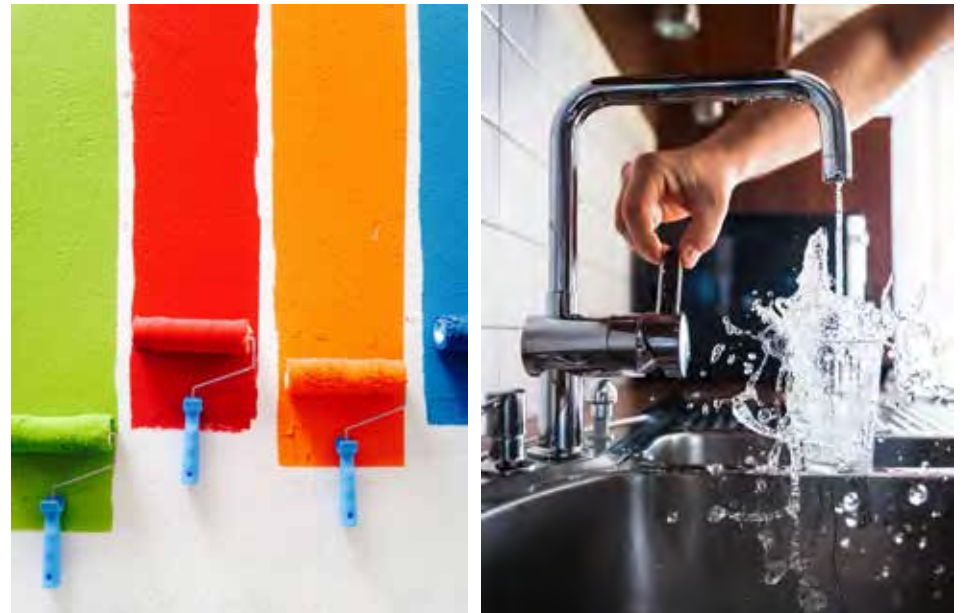
The proliferation of social media in society is also attributable to the growth of the DIY market; for better or worse many, especially younger generations, feel increasingly compelled to share the mundane day-to-day through photos, videos and text-based status updates.

Think of it this way: If they’ll snap a pic of their lunch, snooze-inducing affair, you better believe they’ll share the new bookshelf or paint job they just finished. This creates a snowball social effect in which others become inspired to take on DIY tasks of their own.

Inc. goes on to note a fundamental component of our shared humanity, which is to constantly strive for enhancement and improvement of one’s life and living environments, and the puzzle-like quality of DIY for people lacking deep experience in carpentry, masonry, painting or the like is as stimulating as it is ultimately rewarding—pending a job well done, of course.

Looking to take the plunge on a DIY gig, but don’t know where to start? According to Kevin Barton, president of Ace Hardware Big Sky, the three most-common first goes at DIY pertain to painting, plumbing and electrical work.

“One of the most frequent DIY projects people take on is painting,” Barton said. For people needing supplies, he added, “We have a full line paint shop and basically all the supplies



While not the most complicated, or necessarily glamorous of tasks, painting and plumbing can be great DIY entry points for the home improvement novice. PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNSPLASH needed from start to finish.”

Beyond that, plumbing and electrical work are fairly common, with people either upgrading their fixtures or just doing the plumbing maintenance sort of thing.”

Plumbing and electrical fixtures aren’t necessarily the most alluring projects to get a jump on, but the buck doesn’t stop there. Take a moment to walk through your home with family and friends and get a checklist going; what do you want to see improved, and could you effectively tackle the chore without professional help? You’ll be surprised how much disrepair, dysfunction or unsightliness you’ve grown accustomed to through years of habitation.

With Ace Hardware Big Sky, and their liberal hours that accommodate most in the community, the business represents an obvious go-to for all DIY needs in the community.

Be sure to visit acehardware.com for a list of potential DIY projects, including tips and ideas to help make it all happen, and remember this quote from one of the kings of American DIY, Thomas Edison: “I have not failed. I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work.”



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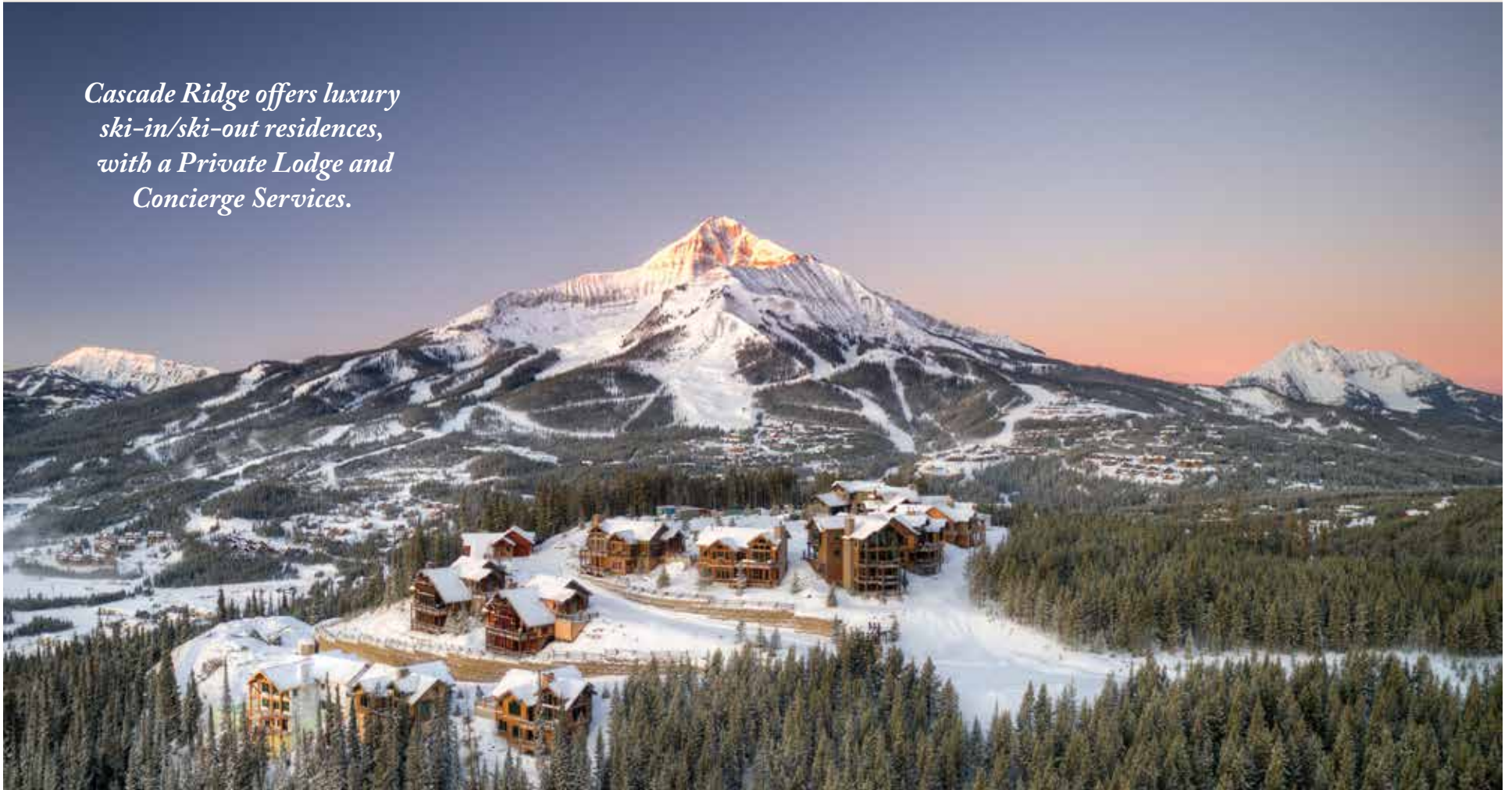
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The remarkable beauty of custom digital environments by SAV



BY SCOTT ABEL

BIG SKY – Often, the SAV Digital Environments team is presented with a host of challenges in each and every installation project, requiring a diverse range products, from audio and video, to shades, lighting and control systems. And there’s an added layer of complexity in rendering the final vision complete: ensuring that an incredibly high aesthetic quality of products is consistent throughout.

To bring a perfectly integrated, fully custom system to its complete potential, the SAV team realized it needed to create digital environments—client experiences—which are not only beautiful and aesthetically pleasing, but simultaneously intuitive and natural to use.

When it came to shading solutions, in particular, being a Black Diamond dealer with Lutron Electronics, and having an all access pass to their fully custom solutions, SAV is able to accomplish incredibly striking results.

“Having the chance to work on a number of different window treatment jobs over the years, it is easy to remember the ones which stand out, and harder to recall the ones that don’t,” said Nels Tate of SAV Digital Environments. “In the case of this Big Sky project [pictured] however, everything about it stands out. It’s rare to see anything with this depth of design, coordination, and final installation, especially using a brand-new product such as their Palladiom line.”

While working with the owners of that particular home, according to Tate, it became obvious early on that the goal of the project was to achieve a high level of technology integration, all packaged within a seamless, highly aesthetic installation.

Because the home was designed with shade-friendly pre-wiring, the SAV team was able to use a combination of Sivoia Wired, Triathalon Wireless and Palladiom shades to cover all of the desired locations effectively. These elections were tastefully complemented by a number of drapery tracks designed by the Bradley Collection, powered by Lutron motors.



Custom, aesthetically pleasing and highly reliable, SAV’s custom integrations blend seamlessly into the residence. PHOTOS BY WHITNEY KAMMAN

Where true-blackout window treatments were required, the combination of said drapery tracks and custom-wrapped Triathalon shades—encased in fabricated wood tracks—provided a perfect solution.

Using Palladiom shades in an inside-mount configuration, the SAV team was able to deliver a beautiful final aesthetic that managed a “Waterfall” appearance that moves with a silky-smooth silence only witnessed in Palladiom motors—all while maintaining unique aesthetic reveals.

Finally, with Lutron’s ability to integrate the window treatments and home lighting through the Homeworks QS system, we were able to place all of the controls for the entire home into a single, completely mobile, highly reliable, interface.

The end product—custom, beautiful and highly tunable—fostered a sense of chic pleasure for the clients.

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Unplugging

BY DON PILOTTE

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOME SERVICES MONTANA

The water is gin-clear. Beneath the incised bank a flash emerges, followed by several more and a ripple in the water as a fin slices through the shallows into deeper pools.

High on the ridge, a shadow moves through the aspens, a glint of black, noiseless in the autumn wind, not emerging again, but lost in the blaze of orange, red and the few remaining green leaves. Vanished.

The cold is piercing, shiver-inducing. All metal has turned white, coated with frost. Mist is swirling from the adjacent shore as the sun begins to heat the cattails. Silence is everywhere, no one speaks and you notice the beating of your heart only disrupted by the overhead cackle.

Simplicity creates vivid memories: the focus is intense, no distractions, something to relive and relate to time and time again. These moments are only made more enjoyable with companionship.



Yellowstone Camp, Park City, Montana 228+/- acres with sloughs, springs, backwaters, Yellowstone River frontage and 19 acres of irrigated crop land. Waterfowl, upland birds and big game hunting. Offered at \$1,650,000.

Unplugging allows these memories and our senses to be laser-like focused on our family, friends and the natural world.

There are special places, where it's easy to step back and focus on the fireplace, the sweet smell of newly cut firewood, or an elk walking out of the shadows and into the last rays of sun at the stream's edge. Places and times that just plain feel good.

Once such place is Trapper's Cabin Ranch, 14 miles, as the crow flies, south of Big Sky. The cabin is situated on a complete alpine section of roughly 640 acres, totally surrounded by public land. An off-grid, completely self-contained compound consisting of three log homes, a barn, numerous support buildings, fenced alpine corrals and some of the most spectacular mountains in the western United States. Not to mention, horse and hiking trails lead to alpine lakes and meadows guaranteed to create a lifetime of memories.

Montana's Tobacco Root Mountains, a mountain range just west of Jack Creek's confluence with the Madison River, is another such place. Those mountains hold memories of a wilder Montana, a time when gold was king.



Trapper's Cabin, a legacy property south of Big Sky, a complete alpine section (640+/- acres) with an off-grid compound sited next to Lightning Creek. Family, corporate retreat, guest ranch. Offered at \$9,995,000. PHOTOS COURTESY OF DON PILOTTE

Back then, early mining ventures sprang up constantly, all now mostly abandoned. Yet, a few places remain vibrant such as Mammoth, Montana—a good example of a true western settlement still retaining the charm of historic Montana. A curious blend of new construction, historic cabins and mining relics are all within sight of a historic mine. Full time residents as well as part-timers are attracted to Mammoth due to the outstanding recreational opportunities surrounding the area.

Another special place is a portion of Yellowstone River that provides a less crowded floating experience where time seems to slow, even stop. Many people are familiar with the Yellowstone as it flows through Paradise Valley, or stretches between Livingston and Big Timber, but floating further east is more peaceful and holds some of the largest fish in the river.

The Corps of Discovery camped on July 20, 1806 near Park City, in order to hollow out two cottonwood trees in creating new canoes, allowing the planned rendezvous with Captain Lewis. The property featured might even be where Clark camped.

Unplugging and enjoying friends and family is easier in special places, but keep in mind March 6 and 7, 2020 are official National Days of Unplugging.



Mammoth, Montana in the heart of the Tobacco Root Mountains, surrounded by public land, hiking, hunting with the South Boulder River flowing through the property. 2+ acres cabin and garage. Offered at: \$254,900.

First time home buying

First Security Bank makes it simple



BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

So, it's time to purchase your first house, a milestone that ranks among life's most significant.

As you dream of evenings spent idling around the table at family dinners, lazy Sunday mornings spent in bed and backyard summer barbecues that become a neighborhood affair, it's critical to remember that those priceless memories come at, paradoxically, a price.

In this journey—comparable to a marathon rather than a sprint—there are pitfalls at every turn, lurking variables that can transform dreams in nightmares.

What happens when you can't comfortably afford your mortgage? When that cute house on the corner comes with an unforeseen mountain of repairs and renovations? When monthly homeowner association and utility fees become a constant strain on your finances?

No pressure.

Seriously, no pressure—remind yourself often this is a marathon, with ample time and opportunity to cross every “T,” dot every “I,” and inform each decision with a combination of research and wisdom shared by friends, family and trusted area professionals.

So, where do you begin?

Start with the basic principles of house hunting, beginning with the cardinal rule of real estate: location, location, location. Listen, this is your first home, likely not the dream home you'll ultimately retire into—there will be some compromise to accommodate your fledgling financial situation, so think logically rather than emotionally.

No better arena to do so than in placing a premium on location, the only facet of a house that can never be changed or upgraded. An “OK” house in a great location is much easier to sell down the road than a “perfect” house in a crummy one.

Supplement that notion with a focus on function; map out your lifestyle and preferences, and temper that understanding with an appropriate level of upkeep; consider the long-term costs associated with the house; ask yourself what you want versus what you need—present and future.



First Security Bank has deep knowledge of first-time home buying in Big Sky—and back dropped by scenic Lone Mountain, their team understands well why people want to call the growing mountain town home. PHOTO COURTESY OF FIRST SECURITY BANK

Of course, with a transaction of this magnitude, there are a host of numerical nuances that remain equally pertinent in the decision making process.

Start with your credit score, a potentially make-or-break figure in large purchases of any kind. For reference, a score above 700 is considered good and anything above 720 is considered excellent. Strive to hit these numbers by maintaining good credit practices, such as by paying off all credit card balances to below 50 percent—33 percent of your credit score is based on what you know—by keeping old accounts open to demonstrate longstanding credit, and by refraining from opening new cards that can affect your overall score by as much as 10 percent.

But what about monthly housing payments, covering mortgage, home insurance fees, property taxes and similar incurred expenses? What should those total? What does it take to build equity, and quickly? What type of mortgage loan should you seek? Fixed rate? Interest-only? Adjustable-rate? How does one source a trustworthy realtor?

Lastly, how do you finalize the deal? What are the steps to make it all real?

Luckily, there are professionals who can help answer these questions and more.



Big Sky ranks among the most inviting places to plant roots, with beautiful summers, deep-snow winters and a strong sense of community. PHOTO COURTESY OF FIRST SECURITY BANK

The Lending team at First Security Bank, with a convenient location in Big Sky Town Center, is the perfect resource to get the ball rolling. And their seasoned professionals can do more for your family than merely offer a loan—they can leverage their local expertise, fostering a connection to the community that begins before a single piece of paper bares your signature.

For any first time buyer, or even the experienced shopper, in the Big Sky area, First Security Bank is your first stop. Bring your questions, concerns and excitements. They'd like to hear them all.

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NEW LISTING PRICE



Lone View Ranch Big Sky, MT | 2,631 Acres | \$15.9M
Voted "House of the Week" in the *Wall Street Journal*, this home sits on the private pass connecting Ennis and Big Sky. It offers trophy big game hunting and is ideal for the outdoor enthusiast.

NEW LISTING PRICE



Reverie Lodge on Lost Horse Creek Hamilton, MT | 20 Acres | \$2.95M
The sights and sounds of Lost Horse Creek, a major tributary of the Bitterroot River, inspired the design of the Reverie Lodge. The creek itself is the visual centerpiece of every room in the 4,537 sqft lodge.



Joslin Creek Ranch Augusta, MT | 277 Acres | \$2.4M
This outstanding property boasts big game and bird hunting opportunities and trails for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. It is in 12 parcels making it an ideal candidate for a conservation easement or light development.

NEW LISTING PRICE



Steelwohl Retreat on Henry's Lake Island Park, ID | 0.46-Acre | \$1.25M
This exceptional recreational retreat is located in the heart of Yellowstone country and boasts a 4 bed/5 bath, 4,149 sqft home with 125' of lake-frontage, private boat slip and a detached garage.



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2665 Bobtail Horse Road | \$1,380,000 | MLS# 338041



Black Eagle Lodge, Unit 29 | \$1,450,000 | MLS# 340727



Crail Creek Condo 612 | \$ 785,000 | MLS# 338452

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Summit Hotel 10808 | \$ 325,000 | MLS# 330037



Low Dog Rd, Lot 243 | \$ 495,000 | MLS# 340625

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L&K Real Estate is excited to announce Big Sky's newest Neighborhood Gallatin Foothills



L&K REAL ESTATE

BIG SKY – L&K Real Estate is excited to announce a new, single-family home development, Gallatin Foothills, which will be situated on an elevated bench in the Gallatin Canyon above the Gallatin River just south of the turn to Big Sky.

The development will be accessible by Highway 191 and Michener Creek Road, a short drive to Big Sky's Town Center and Big Sky Resort, and an even shorter trip to Ophir Elementary School, Lone Peak High School, the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center and countless trailheads and recreational opportunities.

Gallatin Foothills is the first single-family home development to be brought to the Big Sky market in over a decade, and the development's residents will enjoy large lots ranging from 1 to 2 acres with mature trees, privacy and a sense of seclusion while still maintaining close proximity to in-town amenities.

An attractive and thoughtful feature, each homesite was hand selected and laid out to take full advantage of sunrise and sunset, alpenglow and expansive mountain views.

Neighborhood amenities include world class Terra Flow mountain biking trails, sledding hills and open space for hiking and cross-country skiing. At the bottom of the development, there is a trail network primed for accessing public lands for snowmobiling, ATV and mountain biking. Fishing enthusiasts will enjoy access trail to the Gallatin River.

"This is a rare opportunity for new construction and the ultimate Big Sky lifestyle living," said Ryan Kulesza, Broker at L&K Real Estate.



Designed by Dzyn2 Architects, based in Bozeman, Montana, each home will be over 3,500 square feet, comprised of four bedrooms, four bathrooms and communal spaces; homebuyers will have the opportunity to choose from a traditional or contemporary home styles to fit their tastes and needs.

Each home will have a main level that features an open concept floor plan complete with a wood burning fireplace and a master suite. The lower level will boast a large family room and two additional bedrooms and bathrooms.

Expansive decks will allow for outdoor entertaining and taking in the spectacular views of the surrounding mountains. A two-car garage and covered parking offer plenty of storage space for recreational gear.

For more information, pricing and reservations please call L&K Real Estate at (406) 995-2404.



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