

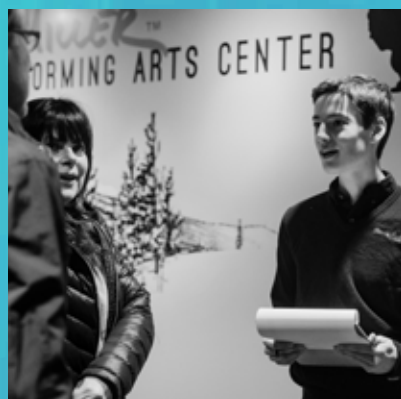
# BEST OF BIG SKY 2020

In a year plagued by immense hardship and toil, the Big Sky community turned out in record numbers to show love, support and appreciation for their favorite businesses, people and community bright spots for the eleventh annual Best of Big Sky round-up. This year's Best of Big Sky is not only a compilation of outstanding local anchors but a collective expression of gratitude—from the people of Big Sky to those who keep it going. Writer Orson Scott Card said every person is defined by the community they belong to. Here's the best of ours.

*-The Editors*



COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE YEAR PHOTO BY CHRIS KAMMAN



BEST NONPROFIT  
PHOTO BY TORI PINTAR



BEST BUSINESS  
PHOTO COURTESY OF KALEY BURNS



BEST ANNUAL EVENT  
PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY TOWN CENTER



COVID MPV  
PHOTO BY CHRIS KAMMAN



# BEST BUSINESS



Ace Hardware has been a Big Sky staple, from its small location on U.S. Highway 191 to its upgrade along Lone Mountain Trail. Despite pandemic challenges, ACE has remained open and helpful to the community throughout 2020. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

## 1ST: ACE HARDWARE

While the typical visit to the hardware store is usually an in-and-out forgettable affair, anyone who frequents Ace Hardware in Big Sky knows it can be so much more than that. Upon each visit, customers are greeted without fail by a friendly red-vested hardware helper. You'll never leave empty-handed because the attentive staff will also help you find what you need, and you'll likely enjoy some pleasant banter to accompany your shopping.

True to its reputation of reliability, Ace is one of the few Big Sky businesses to have stayed open without exception throughout the entire pandemic thus far, making sure that Big Sky has everything that it needs to 'Stay strong.' Though it's not been without challenge, Ace has been a community anchor in the face of rough waters.

"Being selected Big Sky's Business of the Year has really put an exclamation point on this year for us," said owner Kevin Barton. "Our staff has been working long hours under some adverse conditions in a very scary climate at times. It's a nod to their professionalism that they are being recognized in this way." A humble and well-adored employer, Barton said he considers his staff "the backbone of Ace Hardware." [acebigskytools.com](http://acebigskytools.com)

## 2ND: TWO PINES PROPERTIES

Two Pines Properties, also named Best Property Management by Best of Big Sky voters, has quickly become a community favorite. Local owners Alex and Wes Hoecker bring a true family spirit to business, from staff to clients. It's no wonder they continue to rank among the top Best of Big Sky. [twopinesvacationrentals.com](http://twopinesvacationrentals.com)

## EDITOR'S CHOICE: BIG SKY NATURAL HEALTH

Dr. Kaley Burns and her new Big Sky business have proven that it doesn't take much time to become a community staple. During a time where health is of the utmost importance, Dr. Burns' holistic approach to healthcare brings an outstanding option to those looking for a healthcare experience rooted in a strong and compassionate relationship with their provider. [bigskynaturalhealthmt.com](http://bigskynaturalhealthmt.com)

# BEST GREEN ENTITY

## 1ST: RECYCLING CENTER

In 2015, Big Sky went six months without any recycling. Six years later, after the town's recycling moved from Aspen Leaf Drive to the east side of U.S. Highway 191 south of town, the Recycling Center has been voted the Most Sustainable/Green Entity by Big Sky residents. The move, and continued operation of the Recycling Center, is made possible by a long list of people including, John Haas, who donated his land, Haas Builders, Mike McDaniel, Alan McLain, Jeremy Harder, Justin Rau, Kevin Barton, Dave Leverett, John Delzer, Jim Simon, Moonlight Painting and Simkins-Hallin.

"It takes a lot of very giving people to make a community project like this possible," said Haas, founder of Haas Builders. "I am extremely grateful to all the people who have, and continue to, give of their time for such a great community asset. And especially to all the people of Big Sky, who utilize this asset, to help keep our world a cleaner and better place. I believe I speak for everyone (listed above), we are honored to receive such recognition by the community. Thank you." [werecyclemt.com](http://werecyclemt.com) & [gallatinsolidwaste.org](http://gallatinsolidwaste.org)



John Haas donated his land south of town to be the new home of the recycling center. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER

## 2ND: GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

Named Big Sky's best nonprofit in 2016, the Gallatin River Task Force has been active in the Big Sky community since 2000 when a group of passionate community members wanted to stop the release of treated wastewater into the Gallatin River. Since its inception, the Task Force has monitored the Upper Gallatin River Watershed and created a valuable database. Their current projects include water conservation, river restoration and a water management forum to help plan for growth and development in Big Sky. [gallatinrivertaskforce.org](http://gallatinrivertaskforce.org)

## 3RD: YES COMPOST

As the only composting service offered in Big Sky, Karl Johnson's one-man show allows businesses and households in the community to minimize food waste and help provide the fuel for food growth. [yescompost.com](http://yescompost.com)



# BEST RESTAURANT



The Best Restaurant in Big Sky serves up quality sushi and an authentic dining experience. PHOTO BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR

## 1ST: BLUE BUDDHA SUSHI

Blue Buddha has been the backdrop for many Friday Afternoon Club live music events over the summer, providing pandemic-safe entertainment—and phenomenal sushi rolls and cocktails—to the Big Sky community. Troy “Twist” Thompson, founder and owner, has over 15 years of sushi rolling under his belt, as well as thorough training at the Sushi Chef Institute in Los Angeles under America’s legend of sushi rolling, Andy Matsuda. After opening his first restaurant in Page, Arizona, in 2007, Thompson and his family looked to Big Sky for their next venture, opening Blue Buddha in Town Center in the summer of 2019.

Although many of Blue Buddha’s rolls come with a contemporary twist, Thompson is determined to honor sushi rolling as the respected, timeless art it is. “Don’t come here expecting fast food,” he told EBS just before they opened in August 2019. “That’s not what we do. We’re crafting an experience, from start to finish. Enjoy yourself.”

[bigskybluebuddha.com](http://bigskybluebuddha.com)

## 2ND: GALLATIN RIVERHOUSE

If you know Gallatin Riverhouse Grill owners Greg Lisk and Kyle Wisniewski, you’ll know that seeing them on the side of the road in their respective cow and pig costumes isn’t out of the ordinary. The flavorful duo have been at the helm of the Gallatin Riverhouse Grill since 2013 with a fiery passion for dry-rubbed, slow-smoked meats, craft beer and a panoramic view of the Gallatin River.

[riverhousebbq.com](http://riverhousebbq.com)

## 3RD: OLIVE B’S

Last year’s crowned victor, Olive B’s Big Sky Bistro, claimed another spot in the Best Restaurant category this year due to their consistent and delicious menu that has secured a loyal patronage over the years. The next time you’re craving a meal crafted with care and experience, pop into Olive B’s.

[olivebsbigsky.com](http://olivebsbigsky.com)

# BEST LOCAL MEAL DEAL

## 1ST: BLUE MOON BAKERY

Christian and Amy Johnsen moved to Big Sky under the trance of Lone Mountain and became Blue Moon Bakery’s third owners, evolving the foundation set by the previous owners into a community staple. Known for their fresh-baked muffins, pastries, lunch sandwiches and pizzas, the Johnsens’ focus is on customer relationships and establishing a familiar community gathering place for both residents and visitors alike. Once professional ski bums, and now parents to two college students, the Johnsens are proud Big Sky residents who cherish the ability to wave hello to passerby.

“We love Big Sky,” they told EBS for an interview last fall. “Some people would be driven crazy by small town living, but we’ve taken to it. We feel very fortunate to be successful here.”

[bigskybluemoonbakery.com](http://bigskybluemoonbakery.com)



The pizza lunch special is just one of the many affordable and delicious options at the Blue Moon Bakery. PHOTO BY BELLA BUTLER

## 2ND: GALLATIN RIVERHOUSE

The Gallatin Riverhouse knows that respectable barbeque doesn’t come fast. Every piece at the Riverhouse is dry rubbed—with their house mix, of course—and slow cooked for 12-18 hours over hand-cut mesquite wood. Whether your love language is finger-licking ribs, steaming hot cheese curds, crispy onion rings or that classic \$7 fried chicken dinner, swinging by on your way to or from your favorite fishing hole or ski run is a no-brainer. [riverhousebbq.com](http://riverhousebbq.com)

## 3RD: MI PUEBLITO TACO BUS

Don’t let the immobile school bus fool you—Mi Pueblito Taco Bus is as authentic as you can get while still within earshot of Lone Mountain’s avalanche TNT. Stop by or call in ahead for a side burrito, taco plate or heaping platter of nachos and you’ll always be greeted by a friendly “hola” at the bus window.

[ordermipueblitotacobus.com](http://ordermipueblitotacobus.com)



# BEST BURGER



The bywom burger continues to reign supreme in Big Sky, with all the fixings of your favorite burger loaded up with the bistro's secret sauce. PHOTO COURESTY OF JOHN FLACH

## 1ST: BYWOM

Every local knows the craving—the craving for a bywom burger. It's no wonder the addiction has swept the town. What do you expect when you sandwich two juicy patties, caramelized onion, pickle and lettuce between fresh Montana buns and pack the punch with a secret yet tantalizing sauce? For 25 years, the family-owned restaurant has been serving up delicious bistro-style dishes, but for regulars and newbies alike, the burger (Best of Big Sky winner for \_\_\_\_\_ consecutive years) reigns supreme.

“We just really appreciate all the locals and visitors that have supported us for all these years,” said Pam Flach, bywom co-owner. “It is definitely a great burger!” In addition to thanking the community, Flach and her husband, John, offer thanks to “Big Boy” for the inspiration for Big Sky’s Best Burger. [bywombywordofmouth.com](http://bywombywordofmouth.com)

## 2ND: COPPER-BIG SKY

While Copper is new on the Big Sky gastronomic scene, the Bozeman restaurant’s newest location has wasted no time sweeping up local fans, especially with their irresistible burgers. The Slushman’s Burger, named for the Bridger Bowl chairlift called, by one writer, “the greatest chairlift ever,” is packed with crowd favorites, from bacon jam to the Swiss and blue cheese duo. Pair that with one of their craft cocktails, each infused with the rugged yet refined taste of Montana, or a cold beer and you have yourself a meal to remember. [coppermontana.com](http://coppermontana.com)

## 3RD: LONE PEAK BREWERY

Not to be excluded from the menu of best burgers in town, Lone Peak Brewery’s award-winning ground round has been a favorite for years. Don’t forget to thank one of the owners when they swing by your table for a friendly check-in! [lonepeakbrewery.com](http://lonepeakbrewery.com)

# BEST PIZZA

## 1ST: OUSEL AND SPUR

Since 2012, Ousel and Spur has been serving up high quality pies with an extra dash of sophistication. More than just a standard pizzeria, Ousel and Spur also brings to the table a wide selection of authentic Italian dishes.

Owner Jennifer Kettleridge places a heavy emphasis on high quality, locally sourced ingredients to craft her delicious pizzas. With fresh house-made sauces, hand tossed crust, vegetables from Montana farms and toppings like elk sausage, Ousel and Spur’s gourmet pizzas are sure to tickle your taste buds.

“Everyone’s working so hard right now, and everyone’s doing their best effort,” Kettleridge said. “I would really like to share this award with all the restaurant owners out there. It’s been a really hard year for everyone, and I know how challenging it’s been. ... It seems every day there’s some new restriction or something we have to abide by so it’s been real challenging, but I look forward to getting past COVID and hopefully getting back to normal sometime soon.”

Kettleridge also offered a big shoutout to her staff. “We might have the best pizza, but we definitely have the best staff.” [ouselandspurpizza.com](http://ouselandspurpizza.com)



High- quality locally sourced ingredients elevate Ousel and Spur’s gourmet pizzas. PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER KETTLERIDGE

## 2ND: BLUE MOON BAKERY

For over 25 years, Blue Moon Bakery has kept Big Sky residents well-fed for every meal. A variety of baked goods, pizzas made from scratch, sandwiches and the famous “Benny” round out the wide variety of offerings from this family-owned bakery. [bigskybluemoonbakery.com](http://bigskybluemoonbakery.com)

## 3RD: PINKY G’S

A staple in Jackson Hole, Wyoming since 2011, Pinky G’s expanded to Big Sky in 2019 and the pizzeria specializes in New York style pizza with a variety of other comfort food offerings. [pinkygys.com](http://pinkygys.com)



# BEST BAR



Beehive Basin Brewery, voted Best Bar, is conveniently located in Town Center and offers a roster of some of Big Sky's most stellar brews. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER

## 1ST: BEEHIVE BASIN BREWERY

A favorite among all who grace its warmly lit, energetic space, Beehive Basin Brewery is a quick-pick for a quality beverage and quality company. When swinging by for a classic Green Bridge IPA or an imperial that will knock your socks off, take your pick between cozy heated outdoor seating or saddling up at an indoor table next to a buddy who's sure to be there. Be it summer or winter, Beehive is a great venue to kick back with your pals (and your dog) and enjoy a true taste of Big Sky. And as if their beer wasn't already good enough, the Town Center brewery also offers beer delivery.

"I would just like to thank all of our customers and employees for making Beehive Basin Brewery what it is," said owner Casey Folley.

Proven by a repeat appearance in the Best Bar category, there's no better place to sip a cold one in Big Sky. Cheers, Beehive! [beehivebasinbrewery.com](http://beehivebasinbrewery.com)

## 2ND: THE ROCKS TASTING ROOM AND LIQUOR STORE

Celebrating Montana for its treasured flavor, The Rocks is a must for picking up a Montana-made ale or spirit. Whether you're swinging by to grab a unique bottle to bring by a friend's or sticking around for the good service and a well-made drink, locals know that The Rocks has you covered. One of the newer bars in town, The Rocks is also stand-out for its hospitality and character. [the-rocks-tasting-room-and-liquor-store.business.site](http://the-rocks-tasting-room-and-liquor-store.business.site)

## 3RD: THE BROTHEL

Where else can you get your bike tuned and grab a drink? For those looking for the true local experience, The Brothel's it. (406)-995-7896

# BEST APRES

## 1ST: SCISSORBILLS SALOON

A 'scissorbill' is an old western term for a less-than-skilled laborer—someone who didn't know what they were doing or didn't care. Although the name of Scissorbills Saloon has changed alongside the owners through its history—which dates back almost to the beginning of Big Sky Resort—the haunt has always celebrated those looking for a good après. Keith Kuhns, the operating partner, bought the restaurant 10 years ago and has been behind its success ever since. [scissorbills.com](http://scissorbills.com)



Scissorbills Saloon has been an après favorite for boarders and skiers alike for decades. PHOTO COURTESY OF KEITH KUHNS

## 2ND: BEEHIVE BASIN BREWERY

Whether you have an old favorite, such as the Working Guys Cream Ale or Green Bridge IPA, or are the kind of person looking for something new upon every visit, Beehive Brewing is the ideal après for you—and your pup. The staple of Town Center has been in business since August 2015 and since then, they have made a name for themselves, including a "best beer" win at the 2016 Big Sky Brewfest. [beehivebasinbrewery.com](http://beehivebasinbrewery.com)

## 3RD: CARABINER

Located in the Summit Hotel, skiers can practically ski into the Carabiner Lounge's newly renovated patio directly from Tippy's. They offer live music, fresh brews, craft cocktails and a global-inspired menu. [bigskyresort.com/resort-dining/carabiner](http://bigskyresort.com/resort-dining/carabiner)



# BEST COFFEE



Katherine Berceau mans the counter at Caliber Coffee. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER

## 1ST: CALIBER COFFEE

As Big Sky's only local roaster, Caliber Coffee offers some of the freshest beans around. Caliber boasts house roasted whole bean coffee as well as a variety of traditional espresso drinks, pour overs, drip coffee and a small selection of nibbles. Not only does the Westfork Meadows coffee shop offer some of the best caffeine in town, the location is a great spot to meet a friend for coffee, perhaps to get some work done in a relaxed atmosphere. Caliber has two locations throughout Big Sky, one in Westfork Meadows and one along U.S. Highway 191. Caliber owner Stephanie Alexander, who bought and took over the business in 2017, has a professional and dedicated staff to carry out her vision. [calibercoffeeinc.com](http://calibercoffeeinc.com)

## 2ND: ACRE CAFE

The new kid on the block, ACRE café, replaced Toast and is led by General Manager Adam Harman. Not only does ACRE offer a wide variety of traditional espresso drinks with many customizable options, the café also boasts a daily menu featuring healthy meals suitable for vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, keto and paleo diets. [acreibigsky.com](http://acreibigsky.com)

## 3RD: THE HUNGRY MOOSE MARKET & DELI

Conveniently located in the Town Center, The Hungry Moose can fulfill all your cravings, including one for a hot cup o' Joe. [hungrymoose.com](http://hungrymoose.com)

# BEST ARTIST

## 1ST: HEATHER RAPP

No matter where you go in Big Sky, the vibrant world of Heather Rapp is everywhere you look. The utility box on Ousel Falls Road, the walls of Beehive Basin Brewery, even on the faces of passersby in the form of her unique Lone Mountain face masks. To say she's in love with the surrounding landscape would be an understatement—in addition to her familiar Lone Mountain scene, she estimates she's painted Beehive Basin at least once a year, yet each version is unique. The Colorado Springs, Colorado native made Big Sky her permanent home in 2007 and, like her colorful palette, works to bring joy to those around her. During the COVID-19 shut down, Rapp brought her paint parties to the virtual platform, encouraging empowerment through the arts.

"Trying to paint even when you have no formal training can really empower you," she told EBS in an interview in March. "You can see them light up as they connect with other people as they're creating together. Art allows them to express themselves in a positive way." [heatherrapp.com](http://heatherrapp.com)



Artist Heather Rapp loves to paint the landscape around her and her work can be seen throughout Big Sky. PHOTO COURTESY OF HEATHER RAPP

## 2ND: SHELLY BERMONT

Shelly Bermont has worn a lot of hats in her lifetime—flight attendant, realtor, caterer, baker, chef and full-time mom—but she

seems to have found her calling right here in Big Sky at her jewelry store, Shelly Bermont Fine Jewelry. Whether casual or sophisticated, Shelly and her team of Geologist Institute of America-certified employees work one-on-one with every customer to find that perfect piece of handmade jewelry. [shellybermont.com](http://shellybermont.com)



# BEST PHOTOGRAPHER



Photographer Ryan Turner has lived in Big Sky for 22 years and his work has been featured in 60 publications. PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN TURNER

## 1ST: RYAN TURNER

Capturing the mountain lifestyle is a “takes one to know one” form of art, one that Ryan Turner has mastered in his 22-year residency in Big Sky. He names renowned Jackson, Wyoming nature and wildlife photographer Thomas Mangelsen as an inspiration and was fortunate to be able to hone his craft in places like France and Alaska before settling here. His work has been featured in 60 different publications through the years, including Powder Magazine and Big Sky Journal. He finds himself drawn to the light, the way it ignites a situation, brings focus to something and creates a mood.

You can find Turner’s work at the Wilson Hotel and the Yellowstone Conference Center, and he’s currently working on his first photography book.

“We have an opportunity as artists to be able to grab people’s attention quickly, and it draws us to it over and over again,” Turner said to EBS back in June, when discussing the role of art in the community and its ability to communicate to viewers. “It can make you feel happy and sad and calm.” [ryanturnerphotography.com](http://ryanturnerphotography.com)

## 2ND: DAVE PECUNIES

Upon your arrival to Big Sky, just before the imposing silhouette of Lone Mountain appears in the frame of your windshield, you’ll see Dave Pecunies’

gallery where Lone Mountain Trail meets U.S. Highway 191. Driven by his passion for skiing, the photographer and videographer has made Big Sky his home since 2015 and the landscape, as well as its structures and people, his primary subject matter since. [davepecunies.com](http://davepecunies.com)

# BEST TOURIST ATTRACTION

## 1ST: BIG SKY RESORT

Conceptualized by Chet Huntley and Big Sky Inc., Big Sky Resort was established in 1973. Big Sky is the largest of 12 Boyne Resorts and offers 5,850 skiable acres suitable for all skill levels and through a clear vision of the future and the implementation of new amenities, Big Sky Resort continues to grow and improve to serve skiers far and wide. Among the newest additions are Ramcharger 8 on Andesite Mountain, the most technologically advanced chairlift in North America, and a newly renovated base lodge now called The Exchange. Not only does Big Sky offer a unique skiing experience, the resort has many summer activities on the docket as well. With 40 miles of mountain biking trails, a network of hiking trails and many other outdoor recreation activities to choose from, there is never a dull moment at Big Sky Resort.

“We are so grateful for the support of the Big Sky community,” said Troy Nedved, general manager of Big Sky Resort. “Here’s to a safe, healthy, long, and snowy ski season ahead!” [bigskyresort.com](http://bigskyresort.com)



The resort offers 5,850 skiable acres as well as a wide variety of activities for every season. PHOTO BY JON RESNICK

## 2ND: YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Founded in 1872 as our nation’s first national park, Yellowstone fascinates millions of visitors every year. With over half the world’s

geysers within its boundaries, the park offers many geothermal wonders, scenic views and wildlife to enrapture visitors. The park is just a brief and scenic drive south from the town of Big Sky. [nps.gov/yell](http://nps.gov/yell)



# BEST HOTEL



The Wilson Hotel has been operating in Big Sky for two years and provides a gathering place for the community. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER

## 1ST: THE WILSON

In its second year in Big Sky, The Wilson Hotel has moved up in the ranks, providing not only top-notch lodging in Big Sky Town Center, but a gathering place for outdoor music, yoga, the Farmers Market and a place to play in the park, drink some coffee or juice, and soak up the sun after a day on the mountain. At the helm is General Manager Mandy Hotovy, a Maine native, who moved out West to earn her turns and gain some knowledge in the hospitality industry. She has been in Big Sky since 2018 and hasn't looked back since. Despite COVID-19, The Wilson has maintained high occupancy numbers throughout, serving both seasonal workers as well as visitors to the area. [thewilsonhotel.com](http://thewilsonhotel.com)

# BEST RANCH

## 1ST: LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH

Lone Mountain Ranch is no stranger to the Best of Big Sky. As 2019's "Best Hotel" winner, and with over a century of experience providing the most authentic experience of Yellowstone Country, LMR has earned its stripes as a world-renowned establishment. On a single property, visitors can experience horseback riding, cross-country and downhill skiing as well as lodging and fine dining all surrounded by some of Big sky's most breathtaking vistas. [lonemountainranch.com](http://lonemountainranch.com)

## 2ND: 320 GUEST RANCH

At the 320 Guest Ranch, and McGill's Restaurant & Saloon, business is a family affair. General Manager Amber Brask was raised on the property nestled in Gallatin Canyon, after her father bought it in 1986. "I'm just trying to think back on things that my dad tells me and one thing that always sticks with me is follow winners," Brask told EBS last month of her father's most notable business advice. "... just keep following winners and you're going to be successful yourself." [320ranch.com](http://320ranch.com)



Ranch, hotel, restaurant cross country skiing area and more, Lone Mountain Ranch is one of National Geographic's Unique Lodges of the World. PHOTO COURTESY OF LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH

# KID OF THE YEAR

## LOGAN BARKER

In honor of our younger champions of Big Sky and with the help of the Big Sky School District, Explore Big Sky is recognizing Logan Barker, LPHS freshman, as Kid of the Year. Barker, who has lived in Big Sky her whole life, is described by both her parents and teachers as being a compassionate young woman.

"Her passions motivate her in everything she does," said Barker's mom, Nicole.

Tony Coppola, the Social Studies teacher at LPHS, said Barker is an exceptional student.

"She is very involved in both the Big Sky community and the culture of the school district," Coppola said. "Logan is well deserving of this opportunity and will continue to thrive as a model student for years to come."



Logan Barker, a freshman at Lone Peak High School, is recognized by her school and family as being both an exemplary student and young community member. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BARKER FAMILY





# BEST SPA



Santosha Wellness Center was founded by Callie Stolz in 2012. PHOTO COURTESY OF CALLIE STOLZ

## 1ST: SANTOSHA WELLNESS CENTER

For the last eight years, Santosha Wellness Center has offered a space for various practices of health and wellness to the community of Big Sky, becoming a go-to place for yoga and other spa services. Founded by Callie Stolz in 2012, Santosha Wellness boasts 20 teachers during their busy season, and has a wide variety of classes for all skill levels. The offerings include a variety of massage practices from around the world and holistic healing services.

“I am honored to have won [best spa], I think it’s great,” Stolz said, “I think it’s been an interesting year and we’ve been doing the best we can, as I think everyone else has as well. I’m stoked and honored.”

Santosha Wellness had to pivot this year and find a way to offer their services in a COVID-friendly way.

“I feel like it really made us, step up, and think about all the protocols and ways in which we could keep people coming in safe and keep one another safe,” Stolz said. “It’s been an interesting process and helping us to shift gears to figure out more technology and ways in which we can offer all of our classes and workshops virtually, has been an interesting challenge but I think it’s gotten pretty smooth overall. I feel really grateful for everyone on our team that has really helped make that all possible and easy.” [santoshabigsky.com](http://santoshabigsky.com)

## 2ND: OZSSAGE

Owner Jacquie Raeger and her staff pride themselves on helping the active community of Big Sky stay well and enjoy all that the

mountain landscape has to offer. Operating in Big Sky since 2001, Ozssage has been serving clients for 20 years with a quality healing experience that leaves customers feeling rejuvenated. [ozssage.com](http://ozssage.com)

# BEST SALON

## 1ST: TRIBE SALON

Hanna Powell opened up The Tribe Salon behind the post office in Meadow Village four years ago and has since provided many glow-ups for Big Sky residents. Book an appointment with Powell or Erin Mulhern and leave the chair revitalized and ready for your close-up. Powell specializes in creative coloring and Balayage, a French coloring technique that leaves the hair looking natural and sun kissed, according to the Tribe’s website. Mulhern prioritizes pursuing continuing education so her guests always leave feeling and looking beautiful.

“We would like to thank our amazing community and clientele for their continued support of Tribe,” said Powell and Mulhern. “This has been a tough year for us all but we feel incredibly privileged to live and work in a place like Big Sky where people look out for the neighbors safety and well being. Thank you for voting us Best Salon two years in a row! Happy holidays and stay safe!” [tribesalonbigsky.com](http://tribesalonbigsky.com)

## 2ND: HAIRNINJA SALON

The three ninjas, or stylists, at Hairinja offer a full range of services, from hair coloring, eyelash extensions, manicures/pedicures and full body waxing. Hairinja will also get any client and their party fully beautified for their wedding day. [hairnijasalon.com](http://hairnijasalon.com)



Hanna Powell and Erin Mulhern show off some of the products they offer at Tribe Salon. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER



# BEST ANNUAL EVENT



At just 20 years old Dalton Kasel rides Keno for 88 points on the final night of the Big Sky PBR in 2019. There's nothing quite like watching a bull ride under the Big Sky. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

## 1ST: BIG SKY PBR

Not only is the Big Sky PBR a consistent top contender for the Best Annual Event in Big Sky, the Outlaw Partners event (publisher of this paper) won the Professional Bull Riders' Event of the Year for the seventh consecutive time in 2019.

Though unsafe pandemic conditions forced the postponement of the community favorite, Big Sky PBR will be back in 2021 for its 10th anniversary—and it's sure to be a party like no other. From the biggest bucking bulls to world class music and company, the summer event is a regular talk of the town all year. Don't miss Big Sky's Best Annual Event when it rolls back into town—the 10th anniversary shouldn't be missed. [bigskypbr.com](http://bigskypbr.com)

## 2ND: MUSIC IN THE MOUNTAINS

Music in the Mountains, the Arts Council of Big Sky's premiere annual event, has become a favorite not only among locals but visitors too. Every Thursday night in the summertime, just about everyone in the community and the surrounding area come out to hear big names rock under the Big Sky. [bigskyarts.org](http://bigskyarts.org)

## EDITOR'S CHOICE: BIG SKY FARMERS MARKET

Not even COVID-19 could stop the Big Sky Town Center from facilitating a safe and treasured summertime favorite. The Big Sky Farmers Market has been providing a chance for locals and visitors to source fresh produce from local farmers, support community craftsmen and get a taste of some of southwestern Montana's finest street-side cuisine. [bigskytowncenter.com](http://bigskytowncenter.com)

# BEST OUTDOOR RETAILER

## 1ST: GRIZZLY OUTFITTERS

Best Outdoor Retailer defending champion Grizzly Outfitters is a well-equipped outdoor retailer located deep in the heart of bear country. Grizzly has everything you could want and more for the wide variety of outdoor ventures in the Big Sky area. Whether you are looking to buy new gear, rent or get a tune up at the ski shop, Grizzly is your one-stop-shop. They will even custom fit your gear to make it suit you perfectly. Grizzly boasts two locations, one just off the Town Center and one near the Gallatin River just off of U.S. Highway 191. Not only does Grizzly offer ski, snowboard and bike rentals, they also offer casting lessons and guided fly-fishing trips since their expansion in 2014. For the past 20 years, the local favorite has served the Big Sky community with a talented and knowledgeable staff of customer service professionals.

If you stop by the ski or bike shop, don't be surprised to see a few young apprentices looking over the shoulders of Grizzly's skilled technicians. The shop is known as a favorite among little shredders in Big Sky! [grizzlyoutfitters.com](http://grizzlyoutfitters.com)



Nate Baker and Ryan Taylor thread straps into ski poles behind the counter at Grizzly Outfitters. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER

## 2ND: GALLATIN ALPINE SPORTS

For over 25 years Gallatin Alpine Sports has been keeping Big Sky residents equipped for the ski slopes and the bike trails. Owner Tom Owen wants to get people outside in summer and winter and with options for rental, delivery and purchase, GAS has Big Sky covered for a myriad of adventurous needs. [gallatinalpinesports.com](http://gallatinalpinesports.com)

## 3RD: EAST SLOPE OUTDOORS

Voted Best Business of Big Sky in 2016, East Slope Outdoors is now comfortably positioned as one of the best outdoor shops in Big Sky, offering a wide range of gear, rentals and guiding services. [eastslopeoutdoors.com](http://eastslopeoutdoors.com)



# BEST SHOPPING



Montana Supply offers a wide variety of products, Morgan Boatner and Brianna Winter show off some of the options. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER

## 1ST: MONTANA SUPPLY

A men's and women's mountain lifestyle shop located in the Town Center, Mountain Supply offers a wide variety of clothing, accessories, bags, books, and a multitude of other fun tchotchkes. The clothing and accessories all exemplify a modern, Western-chic style well-suited for our little corner of southwest Montana. The store is run by Josh Tozier and his wife Alaina Stinson, who co-own the shop together. Montana Supply officially opened its doors in 2017 after the third re-brand since Stinson and Tozier started the business. Shoppers at Montana Supply can easily find selections from their favorite brands and will often discover new ones. No matter the season, Montana Supply has the items to cover the residents of Big Sky head to toe.

## 2ND: ACE HARDWARE

Ace Hardware has been an integral part of the community in Big Sky for nearly two and a half decades. As part of a corporation with the slogan "The Helpful Place," Ace has a business model focused on the nuts and bolts of customer service. Whether you need a 16-millimeter wrench, a new snow shovel or kitchenware, the helpful staff will greet you and help you find exactly what you need. [acebigskytools.com](http://acebigskytools.com)

## 3RD: SKY BOUTIQUE

A women's clothing and accessories boutique, Sky boutique offers a hand-picked selection of high-quality clothing, jewelry, shoes and accessories from local artisans as well as designers across the country. [shopskyboutique.net](http://shopskyboutique.net)

# BEST FISHING OUTFITTER

## 1ST: GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

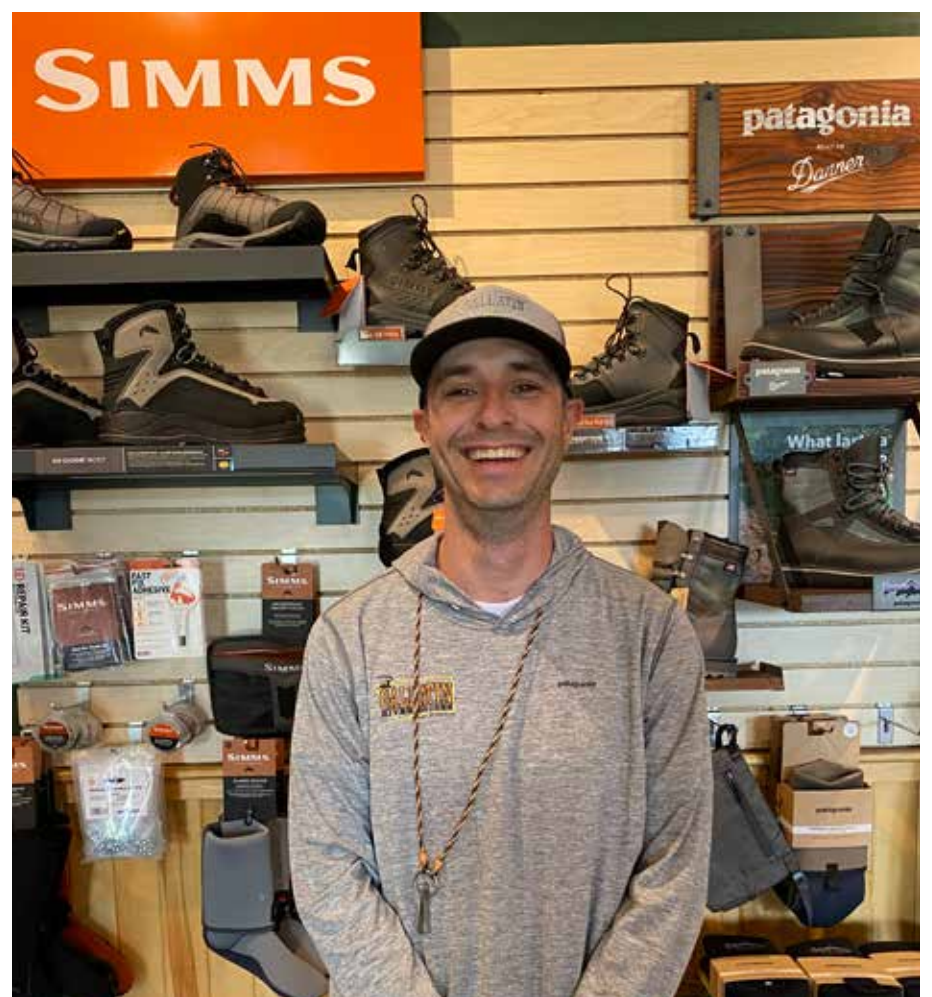
For more than three decades, Gallatin River Guides has been fishing four rivers in the Big Sky and Bozeman area. Their services are available year-round, and their guides have the best inside info on when and where fish will bite in this fisherman's paradise. GRG hosts the Montana Fishing Guide School and the Montana Women's Fly-Fishing School, as well as guided fishing trips all year round. If you're hooked on fishing, like many voters in the area, GRG can help you land the big one.

Owner Mike Donaldson grew up fishing in southwest Montana and pursues his passion every day.

"It's been a pretty crazy year, and this means the world to all of the guides and staff over here at Gallatin River Guides," Donaldson said. "We are really proud of how our community handled the peaks and valleys of 2020 and want to thank Big Sky for the continued support of all the local businesses." [montanaflyfishing.com](http://montanaflyfishing.com)

## 2ND: EAST SLOPE OUTDOORS

East Slope Outdoors, a staple in the Big Sky community for 35 years, offers guided half- and full-day fly-fishing trips, floats on the Madison and Yellowstone Rivers, and essential gear rentals. [eastslopeoutdoors.com](http://eastslopeoutdoors.com)



Owner Mike Donaldson grew up fishing in southwest Montana and pursues his passion every day. PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE DONALDSON



# BEST REAL ESTATE COMPANY



Currently representing one of every three real estate listings in Big Sky, Big Sky Real Estate Company is a stand-out firm in the competitive Big Sky market. PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY REAL ESTATE COMPANY

## 1ST: BIG SKY REAL ESTATE COMPANY

Big Sky Real Estate Company is indisputably a stand-out firm in a town full of tough competition. According to the company with an all-star line-up of brokers, Big Sky Real Estate currently represents one of every three listings in Big Sky, or \$249 million of the total \$640 million in listings in the Multiple Listings Service.

Big Sky Real Estate's staff is peppered with seasoned veterans of the real estate market who have been around Big Sky long enough to know how to sell it. From the prestigious Spanish Peaks Mountain and Moonlight clubs to down in the meadows, Big Sky Real Estate has made an impression in all corners of Big Sky. [bigsky.com](http://bigsky.com)

## 2ND: L&K REAL ESTATE

As the demand for real estate in Big Sky and Bozeman continues to trend upward, locally owned L&K Real Estate, named for co-owners Eric Ladd and Ryan Kulesza, has been a go-to for those looking to sell and buy in the popular area. The dedicated team is committed to matching a piece of beautiful Big Sky with the many who continue to fall in love with it. [lkrealestate.com](http://lkrealestate.com)

## 3RD: BIG SKY SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

2019's best real estate company, Big Sky Sotheby's International Realty has been a locally owned community favorite since its beginning in 1992. [sothebysrealty.com](http://sothebysrealty.com)

# BEST ARCHITECT

## 1ST: CENTRE SKY ARCHITECTURE

For 16 years Centre Sky Architecture has been crafting custom residential, ranch, resort and commercial architecture across the Rocky Mountain West. Since 1998, Principal Architect Jamie Daugaard and his team have been turning dream homes into a reality, with four offices sprinkled throughout the Rocky Mountains. Centre Sky has completed projects in the prestigious private communities of the Yellowstone Club and Spanish Peaks Mountain Club. An emphasis on sustainable design, client needs and site integration combined with Centre Sky's unique flair produce specifically tailored designs sure to be a sight for sore eyes.

"Centre Sky Architecture congratulates all recipients of this cool award and is grateful to be voted by our community, clients, friends, builders, subs, artisans and consultant team members as 'Best Architect in Big Sky!'" Jamie Daugaard, Principal, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP said in an email. "In this time of Covid our offices in Big Sky, Bozeman, and Park City have been empty due to social distancing, however our work continues with communication, collaboration, presentation and development of projects. We are also thankful to Big Sky for believing in us and giving us the opportunity to demonstrate our talents as a firm." [centresky.com](http://centresky.com)



For 16 years Centre Sky Architecture has been crafting custom residential, ranch, resort and commercial architecture across the Rocky Mountain West. PHOTO COURTESY OF CENTRE SKY ARCHITECTURE

## 2ND: BECHTLE ARCHITECTS

Bechtle Architects is a small company comprised of outdoors-oriented, passionate people. The company works on a wide range of projects from small residential remodels to million-square-foot, mixed-use town center. Bechtle Architects have deep roots in Big Sky as they have designed many of the buildings throughout Town Center and Big Sky Resort. [bechtlearchitects.com](http://bechtlearchitects.com)

## 3RD: REID SMITH ARCHITECTS

Reid Smith Architects is focused on the use of local and natural materials to create unique designs for residential and commercial projects. [reidsmitharchitects.com](http://reidsmitharchitects.com)



# BEST PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



Wes and Alex Hoecker, owners of Two Pines Property Management, bring family values to all parts of their company, Two Pines Property Management. PHOTO COURTESY OF WES AND ALEX HOECKER

## 1ST: TWO PINES PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Following a Best of Big Sky win from 2019, Two Pines fans have perhaps more to recognize this family-owned operation for this year. In mid-March, on what co-owner Alex Hoecker remembers as one of the most difficult days she and her business partner and husband, Wes, have ever experienced together, the duo witnessed an outpouring of support from both their clients and the Big Sky community as a whole.

The Hoeckers are proud to have fought to keep their valued staff employed and were able to reopen after a brief two-week closure. As they learned to navigate property management in a tricky time, Wes says their clients stepped into a partnership role, offering help, advice and strategy—a welcome gift, as the Hoeckers noted many of their clients are esteemed and accomplished business folk themselves.

“Alex and I have always said that we love Big Sky because when the going gets tough, the community really circles their wagons and looks out for their own.” A community, he added, that he realized was bigger than he ever thought before.

The Hoeckers humbly share their Best of Big Sky win with all of the other people who make their work happen, from cleaners to owners to staff and everything in between.

“For us this year, [the win] just feels really welcomed,” Alex said. [twopinesvacationrentals.com](http://twopinesvacationrentals.com)

## 2ND: ALPINE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Alpine Property Management is a truly local, veteran-owned property management firm that stands out for being steeped in all things Big Sky. The Alpine team is made up of experienced professionals with proud ties to the local community and aged knowledge in protecting and managing Big Sky properties—their team members average more than 10 years of property management experience in Big Sky. [alpinebigsky.com](http://alpinebigsky.com)

## 3RD: HAMMOND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Another valued, family-owned property management firm, Hammond is not only a respected business but a network of friendly familiar community faces. [hpmmontana.com](http://hpmmontana.com)

# BEST INTERIOR DESIGN

## 1ST: ERIKA AND COMPANY INTERIOR DESIGN

The reigning champ from 2019, Erika and Company Interior Design continues to add the best aesthetic touch to Big Sky homes. Owner and designer Erika Jennings worked under the distinguished Carole Sisson for 15 years before rebranding her Big Sky location in 2017 as Erika and Company. A proud community member, Jennings emphasizes the importance of relationships in her business.

Jennings said that while 2020 has not been easy on small businesses like hers, she is excited to be coming out on the other end with new projects. “To have the support of our awesome small town makes me want to keep pushing forward even on the loneliest day,” Jennings said. [erikaandco.com](http://erikaandco.com)



Erika Jennings, owner of Erika and Company Interior Design, is excited to have braved many of the challenges this year posed to small businesses and will come out on the other end with new projects. PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIKA JENNINGS

## 2ND: ALDER AND TWEED

With decades of quality experience to boast, the family owned and centrally located Alder and Tweed is an easy pick for one of Big Sky’s best in interior design. With a special focus on customer service and exceptional design, Alder and Tweed is a great choice to spice up any room. [alderandtweed.com](http://alderandtweed.com)

## 3RD: TATOM DESIGNS

One of Big Sky’s best designers and friendliest faces, Kathy Tatom brings experience in a range of styles and a curated design experience to fit your home and budget. [tatomdesign.com](http://tatomdesign.com)



# BEST LANDSCAPING



Big Sky Landscaping had a humble beginning in the early 2000s but now has 50 employees, a landscaping operation and a retail garden center. PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY LANDSCAPING

## 1ST: BIG SKY LANDSCAPING

During the warm months, landscapers donning Big Sky Landscaping shirts fill almost every yard and community greenspace in Big Sky. Local Alan McClain started the company in 2003 with a few tools, a homemade trailer and a 1982 Dodge truck. Today, the company operates with 50 employees, offers residential and commercial landscaping services and a retail garden center.

With a strong work ethic and an emphasis on customer service, it's no wonder Big Sky Landscaping prides itself on having a high retention rate—for both employees and clients.

“Thanks to Big Sky for voting BSL as the best landscape company for 2020,” McClain said. “My awesome crew of hardworking, dedicated people and our great clients are what makes it possible.” [bslmt.com](http://bslmt.com)

## 2ND: WILDWOOD NURSERY

Wildwood Nursery is not only notable for quality of work, but also what they're working with. The nursery and landscaping service only use organic and microbe-based products to support the wellness of Big Sky's native plants and ecosystem. [wildwoodbigsky.com](http://wildwoodbigsky.com)

# BEST BUILDER

## 1ST: BIG SKY BUILD

You may not have been able to tell when spotting their logo floating high above the canyon in the clouds on a crisp summer day, but Big Sky Build is a staple of the community. Funnily enough, owner John Seelye came out there by chance after college, driven by the prospect of a Lone Mountain Tram.

Seelye started Big Sky Woodwork & Design in Big Sky in 1997 and over two decades later, it has grown into a company that specializes in all aspects of the building process. He believes that the company's success can be attributed to the quality of the men and women who work for him as well as the community's unwavering support over the years. And support they do: Big Sky Build is on its sixth consecutive win for Best of Big Sky. [bigskybuild.com](http://bigskybuild.com)



John Seelye started Big Sky Woodwork & Design in 1997. PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN SEELYE John Seelye started Big Sky Woodwork & Design in 1997. PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN SEELYE

## 2ND: BLUE RIBBON BUILDERS

Before the hustle and bustle of today's Big Sky, there was plenty of open space, and Blue Ribbon Builders. Owners Doug and JoDean Bing started their life, and business here 45 years ago and are still going strong today, earning them second place in this year's Best Builders of Big Sky. They stand by their core values and recipe for success: open and honest communication, exceeding customers' expectations, quality craftsmanship and safety. [blueribbonbuilders.com](http://blueribbonbuilders.com)

## 3RD: HAAS BUILDERS

John Haas founded Haas Builders in 1989 in Park City, Utah moving the business to Big Sky in 1998. They follow the philosophy that every project deserves the full attention of their hardworking staff and is a beautiful finished product. [haasbuilders.com](http://haasbuilders.com)



# BEST FINANCIAL INSTITUTION



First Security Bank remains a local favorite among Best Financial Institution. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER

## 1ST: FIRST SECURITY BANK

Another collector of Best of Big Sky awards, First Security Bank has won over many clients' hearts and trust with the friendly faces behind the counter, involvement in local events and most recently, the adoption of their new paperless statement program. For every customer who signs up for paperless banking statements, First Security partners with the National Forest Foundation and the U.S. Forest Service to identify areas in our neighboring forests where additional growth is needed, and works to plant new trees.

[ourbank.com](http://ourbank.com)

## 2ND: AMERICAN BANK

Although they've had to put the lobby popcorn on hold through the pandemic, American Bank, and Ross Pfohl, the branch manager at the forefront, is still in the top-tier as far as local banking goes. Patrons can bet on being greeted by friendly, familiar faces upon every visit.

[americanbankmontana.com](http://americanbankmontana.com)

# BEST NONPROFIT

## 1ST: BIG SKY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

The BSCO is continually improving Big Sky's trails and parks, offering many fun programs and now, building the new BASE community center. Big Sky residents have even more reasons to get outside and connect with others with BSCO around to organize a great docket of summer and winter outdoors activities. Wondering how to participate? Just go watch a softball game, take a hike on Beehive Basin Trail #40, or Glide Big Sky on the many cross country skiing trails.

"BSCO is honored by the community to be named best non-profit," said Michelle Kendziorski, BSCO communication and development director. "We appreciate the support of our work with parks, trails and recreation programs. Wising everyone a happy, healthy and outdoor fun winter season!" [bscomt.org](http://bscomt.org)

## 2ND: EAGLE MOUNT

Eagle Mount strives to enrich the lives of children and adults who are differently abled through activity and adventure. The organization offers programs such as skiing and snowboarding with volunteer guides, cross country skiing and snowshoeing, cycling and more. [eaglemount.org](http://eaglemount.org)

## 3RD: BIG SKY COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

The Big Sky Community Food Bank strives to make Big Sky a livable year-round community by enhancing food security in the community. [bigskyfoodbank.org](http://bigskyfoodbank.org)



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BIG SKY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

## EDITOR'S CHOICE: WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The curtain rose on the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center in 2013 and it has been entertaining Big Sky ever since. The 280-seat venue boasts state-of-the-art technology that engages the senses and creates an intimate experience for the audience. WMPAC brings innovative performance art and entertainment to Big Sky year-round as well as supports community art events and education. Even in the midst of a global pandemic, WMPAC has miraculously continued to deliver the arts to entertainment-starved, stir crazy residents of Big Sky.

"We were just coming to the end of our best season yet when COVID hit, and while it has been an incredibly challenging year, we are proud to have adapted to the times and continue serving our community of artists and audiences here in Big Sky and beyond," John Zirkle, the executive and artistic director of WMPAC, wrote in an email to EBS. "Thank you from the whole team at WMPAC for this honor, Explore Big Sky!" [warrenmillerpac.org](http://warrenmillerpac.org)



# COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE YEAR



While not a resident of Big Sky, Montana Gov. Steve Bullock worked day and night throughout the year to make sure that Montana communities, of all sizes, received resources necessary to survive a challenging year. PHOTO BY ERIKA PETERMAN

## 1ST: GOV. STEVE BULLOCK

While not a resident of the town of Big Sky, Gov. Steve Bullock has played a monumental role in maintaining both public health and economic welfare during an unforgiving pandemic.

“Every week was different challenges, from getting the supplies to standing up the testing to some of the efforts of asking fellow Montanans to take this seriously,” Bullock told EBS. Of his 12 years in public office, the governor said this has been the most intense time in office he’s had. From imposing mask mandates to establishing a crisis hotline to using federal dollars to support both businesses and the unemployed, Bullock’s been hard at work protecting Montana communities this year.

“The economic programs that we created weren’t tailored toward one specific either region or urban density, we tried to make an availability of opportunities for everything from the public health to the investments in education to the investments in all businesses to try to provide assistance to our smaller towns as well as our big,” Bullock said.

After 12 years (and one especially wild one) of public service, Bullock, in the final year of his term as governor, has earned a breather.

## 2ND: JOSH TREASURE

The friendly face you see at Roxy’s Market is not only the grocery store’s general manager. Josh Treasure, Big Sky local of seven years, is a committed community member who dedicates his free time as an advocate for the people of Big Sky, volunteering on many boards and committees.

## 3RD: KRISTIN KERN

Niece of the famed newscaster and Big Sky Resort founder Chet Huntley, Kristin Kern is about as steeped in the community of Big Sky as it gets. After taking ownership of the Hungry Moose Market and Deli, Kern has played a vital role in transforming the essential grocery spot into a burgeoning community hub.

## EDITOR’S CHOICE: OUR LOCAL HEALTHCARE WORKERS

In an act of true heroism, southwest Montana health care workers joined the national ranks of selfless citizens who put themselves on the frontlines of the largest health crisis in a century through daily offerings of bravery, empathy and labor.

Despite the mounding physical and mental health risks, those working to protect our communities have never given up. From nursing homes to hospitals, we will never truly be able to thank our healthcare workers adequately. Thank you for holding our hands while we struggled to breathe, for gearing up in full personal protective equipment to administer tests, for being our family when we can’t see ours and for taking care of our loved ones. While this challenge is unprecedented, our healthcare workers rose up in an unfaltering effort—and it will never be forgotten.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally changed what it means to be a healthcare worker,” Dr. Kathryn Bertany and Taylor Rose of Big Sky Medical Center and Deaconess Hospital wrote in a statement. “The mental stress and fatigue that the [BSMC] staff encounter on a daily basis goes beyond what they have ever imagined. However, they show up every day and are happy to care for whatever comes into that facility with ongoing compassion.”

# 2020 COVID MVP

## 1ST: BIG SKY MEDICAL CENTER

While the COVID-19 pandemic brought much challenge to the Big Sky community, it also revealed many bright spots, namely the Big Sky Medical Center. With public health being the top concern, the Bozeman Health-run medical center did everything possible to prepare for the virus’ spread in our community. With the help of Big Sky Relief, the Medical Center acquired additional supplies, ventilators and testing equipment and, with impressive haste, underwent a facility expansion that increased the hospital’s bed count by four.

“Every day the staff at Big Sky Medical Center have arrived ready to care for any new curve ball this pandemic has thrown their way. They have cared for COVID and non-COVID patients in a COVID world,” said Dr. Kathryn Bertany and Taylor Rose of Big Sky Medical Center. “We are truly appreciative of this award and the support we have received from the community. Thank you Big Sky!”

## 2ND: BIG SKY RELIEF

Conceived with the very purpose of supporting the Big Sky community during a time of unprecedented challenge, Big Sky Relief was formed in rapid response to the pandemic by Big Sky Resort Area District and the Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks and Moonlight community foundations.



The Big Sky Medical Center acquired supplies, technology and additional beds in order to prepare for the virus’ spread in the community. PHOTO COURTESY OF BOZEMAN HEALTH

## EDITOR’S CHOICE: BRIAN STUMPF

Nothing soothes a weary soul like the sound of music—especially when Big Sky favorite, and former Dirtbag King Brian Stumpf, is playing it. Throughout the pandemic, Stumpf broadcasted live shows on Facebook as a way to reconnect for all who were in need of a show...and those who were willing to keep up with the hourly shots!

“With all of the change that this town is seeing, the one thing that has stayed the same is the wonderful people who call this town home,” Stumpf said. “After we started doing the Sunday live streams, suddenly there was food and gifts showing up at our door. It’s what community is all about. Plus, we were doing way too many shots by ourselves. Big Sky Dirtbags forever!”