

Explore

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

FREE

Big Sky

Jan. 8 - 21, 2016
Volume 7 // Issue #1

Best of Big Sky 2015

Former locals buy Maverick Mountain

A break down of Big Sky development

LPHS basketball teams roll

Yellowstone bison gain year-round space to roam



OUTLAW
PARTNERS

explorebigsky.com

ON THE COVER:

Alexis Deaton enjoys fresh corduroy at Big Sky's Lone Mountain Ranch on Jan. 2. PHOTO BY WES OVERVOLD

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Explore

Big Sky

What is this publication?

Explore Big Sky is the local paper for Big Sky, Montana, and a news and lifestyle journal for the Greater Yellowstone Region.

Best page layout and design
Montana Newspaper Awards

Best niche publication
Montana Newspaper Awards

General advertising excellence
Montana Newspaper Awards

1st place, Government Issues
Montana Newspaper Awards

Frequency:

26x/year

Our 2 week shelf-life allows for extensive exposure for our advertisers.

33,000

readership/issue

1 million

annual readership

45 mins.

median time readers spend with an issue

Distribution

HUNDREDS OF DROP POINTS

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CONTRACTED PLACEMENT

- Top-tier hotels
- Private mountain clubs
- Luxury transport companies
- Art galleries
- Preferred rack placement in Bozeman/Yellowstone International airport
- Bedside at luxury lodging and recreation properties

Bozeman/Belgrade

Big Sky

West Yellowstone

Yellowstone National Park

Major distribution areas

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“If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way.”

- Napoleon Hill



MARTHA JOHNSON Owner | Broker
Martha@BigSkyRealEstate.com | 406.580.5891

Martha has been in real estate in Big Sky, Montana for approximately 20 years and she's been a full time resident since 1988! She's an entrepreneurial spirit and is Founder, Broker and Owner of Montana Living ~ Big Sky Real Estate – the top luxury boutique real estate firm in Big Sky, Montana. Her experience includes brokering the sales, marketing and launch of resort, residential, commercial and ranch sporting properties. Call Martha now and utilize her grass roots knowledge of Big Sky for purchasing or selling your real estate.



39 SWIFT BEAR
Offered for \$3,582,000

39 Swift Bear Road is a stunning, one of a kind 5 bed 6 bath custom Durfeld log home in the Cascade Subdivision of Big Sky's Mountain Village! This exceptional ski in/ski out mountain home sits on 1.572 acres with a year round stream and is adjacent to open space. Main house contains 3 bedrooms and 3.5 baths. In addition there is a 1,500 square foot guest apartment with 2 bedrooms 2 baths plus a loft. Also has Tulikivi Finnish soap stone fireplace, gourmet chef's kitchen, custom designed furnishings, outdoor hot tub and a beautifully landscaped yard!



180 THOMAS MORAN DRIVE - BIG EZ ESTATES
Offered for \$2,350,000

A custom built 4 bedroom/5 bath residence with over 5,000 square feet that encompasses the best that Big Sky has to offer. A handsome home located in a natural private setting that is still just a short drive to all the amenities offered at Spanish Peaks Mountain Club. (ski/social membership is available with this property). A luxurious Montana home that sits on 19 pristine acres located in the Big EZ Estates offering expansive mountain views that go on for miles.



ELKRIDGE 33
Offered for \$6,400,000

862 Elk Meadow Trail, an elegant 6 bed, 9bath Spanish Peaks Mountain Club ski in/out country manor perfect for entertaining! Spectacular mountain views will be appreciated from every room of this majestic home. This residence is approximately 9,000 square feet and has 6 en suite bedrooms allowing comfort for both family and guests. Home theater, cigar room, chef's kitchen, private office with hidden door to master bedroom, 3 laundry rooms, large outdoor hot tub, and a recirculating creek that circles the home are just some of the features of this one of a kind property! Club membership required.



307 WILDRIDGE FORK
Offered for \$3,950,000

A fully furnished 6 BR, 6.5 BA home that will absolutely blow you away! With a prime location in Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, one can revel in 6,550 square feet of exquisitely decorated space that offers an open living room with gas fireplace and a dining area where you will enjoy spending leisure time with family and friends. A large chef's kitchen with dual dishwashers will make meal preparation and party hosting a joy.



YELLOWSTONE PRESERVE
Offered for \$39,900,000

Yellowstone Preserve is a collection of 9 homesites totalling 1580 acres with 2.5 miles of adjacent boundary with Yellowstone Club, 1.2 miles of the Southfork of the Gallatin River and over a mile of adjacent border with National Forest - all accessed off the private YC road. Recreate on your own property with private access into Gallatin National Forest. You can build an executive retreat or family compound and put the remaining densities into a conservation easement or sell each parcel individually - own it privately or pull together a consortium of your friends.



ANCENEY RANCH
Offered for \$6,900,000

An original homestead in Big Sky and one of the finest sporting properties available in Montana, Anceney Ranch sits on 83 prime acres of forest, springs and meadows. With almost a mile of the legendary Gallatin River frontage and multiple spring-fed trout ponds, this is the ideal place for the fishing enthusiast. The land is surrounded on three sides by the Gallatin National Forest. Anceney Ranch has 7 total bedrooms and 6 total baths with a main house, guest cabin and a caretakers' home along with a horse barn. There aren't enough adjectives to describe how incredible this property is!

MARTHA JOHNSON
Owner | Broker
Martha@BigSkyRealEstate.com | 406.580.5891

MONTANA LIVING
BIG SKY REAL ESTATE



This information is subject to errors, omissions, prior sale, change, withdrawal and approval of purchase by owner. All information from sources deemed reliable, but not guaranteed by Montana Living - Big Sky Real Estate, independent investigation is recommended. For properties being purchased at Spanish Peaks Mountain Club approval for membership is required prior to closing. If you are currently working with another real estate agent, this is not intended as a solicitation. Montana Living is a registered trademark of Newwest LLC.





NEWS IN BRIEF



Gubernatorial hopeful made \$220M over 10 years

BY MATT VOLZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – Technology entrepreneur and Republican gubernatorial hopeful Greg Gianforte reported income of \$220.5 million and federal and state tax payments of nearly \$35 million between 2005 and 2014, according to his tax returns.

The Bozeman businessman is exploring a run for governor in 2016, four years after selling RightNow Technologies, the software company he founded in 1997, to Oracle for \$1.8 billion. He released 10 years of federal and state income tax returns in response to a request from The Associated Press.

Gianforte told the AP that he released his tax returns because he believes in transparency and because one of Montana’s biggest problems is low-paying jobs that force young people to seek work outside the state.

“What Montana needs is more transparency, and if nothing else, this shows that people can prosper from Montana,” he said.

However, the state Democratic Party says Gianforte’s wealth could very well become a factor in a gubernatorial bid.

“It’s going to be difficult for him to relate to Montanans when he’s flying around in a private jet,” Montana Democratic Party spokesman Jason Pitt said.

Gianforte, who moved to Bozeman in 1995, told the AP that the question for Montana voters is whether they want someone like him to create more jobs so their kids don’t have to leave the state.

Big Sky Resort hires new public relations firm

REVOLUTION HOUSE MEDIA

Big Sky Resort welcomed back Kate Ketschek in early January, signing her company Revolution House Media as its public relations agency. Ketschek managed the resort’s marketing initiatives from 1999-2007 before moving to the East Coast for nearly a decade.

“It was perfect timing,” said Big Sky Resort Director of Marketing Lyndsey Owens. “We were looking for someone to spearhead our national and international communications and knew Kate was moving back to the area.”

Owens added that finding someone who intimately knew the mountain, the resort and it’s history, was an ideal situation.

“My heart has always been in Big Sky,” Ketschek said. “This is my third time moving to the community and I see it being the last – there’s no place like it. And Lone Peak, well, I haven’t skied anywhere else that compares.”

With El Niño being all the buzz this ski season, Big Sky Resort analyzed its 33 years of snow data, and noted 10 of those have been El Niño years – and 60 percent of those El Niño years have resulted in above average or average snowfall at the resort.

As of EBS press time on Jan. 6, Big Sky’s mid-mountain base depth was 36 inches and the summit station was reporting 54 inches.

Ice fishing tournament hits Hebgen Lake Jan. 15-17

WEST YELLOWSTONE TOURISM BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

West Yellowstone will host a North American Ice Fishing Circuit national qualifier with a weekend full of events Jan. 15-17. The tournament takes place on Sunday at Hebgen Lake, is open to two-person teams and registration closes Saturday night.

Family activities, product demonstrations and free educational opportunities are planned in conjunction with the tournament. One of the most popular activities of the weekend is the free kid’s ice fishing camp taking place Jan. 16 at Kirkwood Resort and Marina on Hebgen Lake. Other activities happening in West Yellowstone during the weekend include the Fun Run Sled Dog Race and the Kids’N’Snow event with free sledding and skating.

Throughout the weekend, ice fishing professionals and members of the USA Ice Fishing Team will share their knowledge and demonstrate their technical skills.

Tournament participants will have access to classroom instruction, ice fishing equipment and technique demonstration, and information about safety, conservation and environmental stewardship. Thousands of dollars in cash and prizes will be awarded to the top teams, with the top ten finishing teams receiving an invitation to the 2015 NAIFC National/ North American Championship to be held in December in Minnesota.

For more information on the NAIFC including how to enter, visit naifc.com or call (320) 252-0428. For a detailed event schedule, visit westyellowstoneicefishing.com. Lodging information is available from the West Yellowstone Visitor Center at (406) 646-7701 and at destinationyellowstone.com.

Big Sky native buys Maverick Mountain

EBS STAFF

Kristi Knaub and her fiancé Erik Borge, along with two other college friends, purchased Maverick Mountain Ski Area in Polaris, Mont. for \$600,000 late this fall. They opened Maverick for the season on Dec. 19 and its one riblet chairlift spins Thursdays through Sundays.

Kristi, 28, grew up ski racing in Big Sky and is a Montana State University graduate. In addition to helping with ski area operations, Kristi is teaching eight students in the one-room schoolhouse at the base of the mountain. She and Borge have been living in a 32-foot motorhome in Maverick’s parking lot since June.

“They have a very loyal base – a lot of local people from Dillon and surrounding ranch families,” said Kristi’s father, Big Sky resident J.C. Knaub, adding that the mountain has been a destination for skiers since the 1940s.

Skier visits at Maverick have been strong so far this season and the mountain has received good snowfall, according to J.C.

“The whole vibe is like Bridger [Bowl] in the 60s,” J.C. said. “God bless them for keeping the mom and pop vibe alive. It’s skiing the way it’s supposed to be.”

D’Amico named executive director of Christian organization

LOVE INC

BOZEMAN - Gallatin County Love In The Name of Christ, also known as Love INC, appointed Big Sky’s Sheila D’Amico on Dec. 21 as its new executive director.

Big Sky Resort’s former public relations manager, D’Amico brings experience to Love INC by serving on nonprofit boards, as well as working in public relations, sales, and business management.

“I’m blessed to have the opportunity to bring together my skills and faith with Love INC,” D’Amico said. “It’s exciting to see so many churches working together to meet the continually growing needs of our county.”

Love INC unites Christian churches to fully engage in actively living out their faith by serving people in need in their community. Love INC accomplishes this by fielding requests for help, providing an analysis of the need, and matching partner church volunteers to respond to those needs, as well as working with local agencies.

“We are very excited to have Sheila as our new executive director,” said Marc Yeley, the 2016 Gallatin County Love INC board president. “Sheila has a love for Christ that radiates to everyone she is near.”

D’Amico worked for 13 years in television and video production, as well as working in the ski industry at Whitefish Mountain and Big Sky resorts. She is a Rotary Club of Big Sky board member and former board member of the United Way in Kalispell.



News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

Outlaw hires new marketing coordinator

BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

Amy Delgrande was first introduced to Big Sky while working as a nanny for a Southern California family with a house in the Yellowstone Club. She's now back in southwest Montana and working as Outlaw Partners' new marketing coordinator.

Delgrande started with Outlaw in late December, helping the sales team lead initiatives with clients and marketing accounts. She says she's excited for the challenge and believes her background will be an asset to the company.

"I feel like I can bring a different perspective coming from California, a new pair of eyes, [and] a different perspective not being from Montana," Delgrande said. "That's my goal."

Working from 2013-2015 as creative director for Kin Los Angeles, a high-end fashion boutique on Sunset Boulevard, Delgrande focused on photography, design and e-commerce.

Delgrande grew up in Torrington, Conn., a town in the northwestern corner of the state. She received an associate's degree in film and animation from Northwestern Connecticut Community College



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

before moving to California and earning a bachelor's in advertising at the Art Institute of California-Orange County.

She met her fiancé Eddie Hafemeyer during one of her nanny trips to the Yellowstone Club – Hafemeyer has been a snowboard instructor at the YC for more than a decade.

They spent a summer together in Big Sky two years ago, paddle boarding the Gallatin and Madison rivers, enjoying live music, camping and hiking.

"Big Sky really has a great community feel," she said. "The summer time is pretty amazing around here."

Delgrande found Outlaw while job searching more than six months ago. "It was rated one of the top agencies in Montana," she said, and was impressed with the company résumé once she did some more research. "All that you guys did ... a magazine, a newspaper and an agency – whoa!"

Delgrande will be responsible for a host of tasks with both the marketing and video teams, including managing video content, scriptwriting and supervising social media outreach. Her strong background in film and advertising should serve her well in the new role.

"We're excited to have Amy on board to help give another level of service to our clients," said Outlaw COO Megan Paulson. "Her expertise in advertising and marketing within high-end boutique markets is a great fit for our team."

Delgrande says she also hopes to manage as many projects as possible with Outlaw, her "ideal position in a company," she said.

"I'm really excited to be a part of Outlaw."

Warm Wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2016!



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Town Center, Big Sky, Montana

Virgine Blaude "Lone Wolf," 20 x 16, Oil on linen



Big Sky building boom:

A look at the community's feverish growth

Infographic by Taylor-Ann Smith



YELLOWSTONE CLUB



~ **300 PROPERTIES**

to sell to reach the club's 864-residence build out



100 HOMES

currently under construction (priced between \$5-15 million)



24,500-sq.-ft. golf course clubhouse due to open June 2016 at a cost of \$28 million



\$450 MILLION

in **average annual** sales during the last three years*



~\$170 MILLION

The rest of Big Sky's **average annual** sold real estate value during the last three years**



SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB



550 FUTURE DOORS

to be built



\$45 MILLION

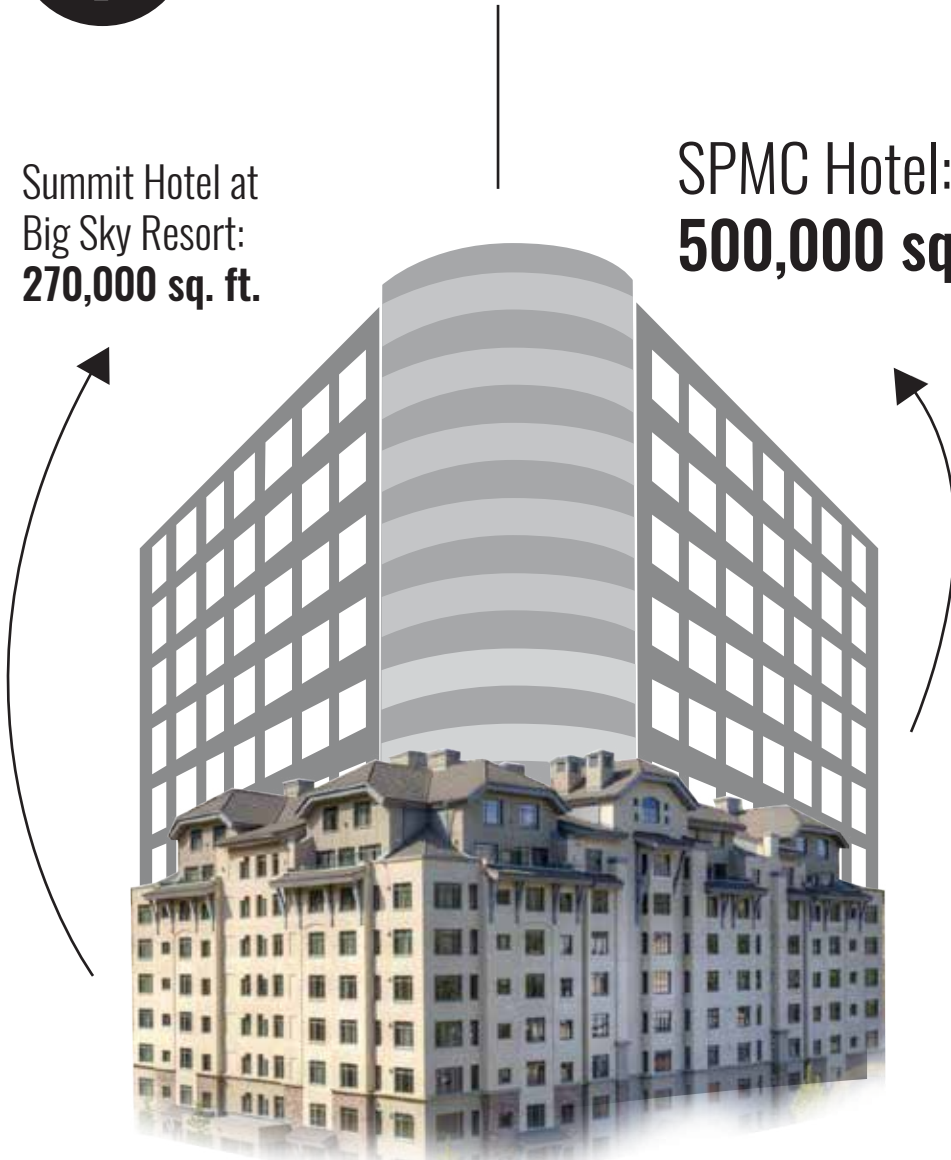
in construction over the last two years



Five star hotel under construction: **500,000 sq. ft., 100 rooms, 40 condos**

Summit Hotel at Big Sky Resort: **270,000 sq. ft.**

SPMC Hotel: **500,000 sq. ft.**



* According to a Yellowstone Club representative

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In the 1860s, thousands of prospectors in covered wagons flooded the Montana Trail as they rushed to Virginia City hoping to strike it rich in nearby gold mines.

Today’s gold rush has shifted to the towering mountains east of Virginia City, as contractor pickups along with cement and gravel trucks flood Gallatin Canyon on their way to mine the dollars spent building Big Sky’s resort communities.

More than \$1 billion is currently being spent on construction and development in the Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, Moonlight Basin, Big Sky Resort and Town Center.

This represents the largest current resort real estate development effort in the Northern Rockies.

At a Dec. 14 luncheon hosted by the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, CrossHarbor Capital Partners co-founder Sam Byrne presented some staggering numbers related to development and construction in Big Sky. EBS decided to dig a little deeper and give some examples of the magnitude of this growth.



MOONLIGHT BASIN



1,300 FUTURE DOORS

to be built, concentrated between Moonlight and Madison lodges



ULERY’S LAKES:

30 “Lake Cabins” at 1,200 sq. ft. each

10 single family homes called “Timbers Residences” at approx. 4,000 sq. ft. each



BIG SKY RESORT



690 FUTURE DOORS

to be developed



BIG SKY TOWN CENTER



375 FUTURE DOORS

to be built



COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES UNDER CONSTRUCTION

~30,000 SQ FT



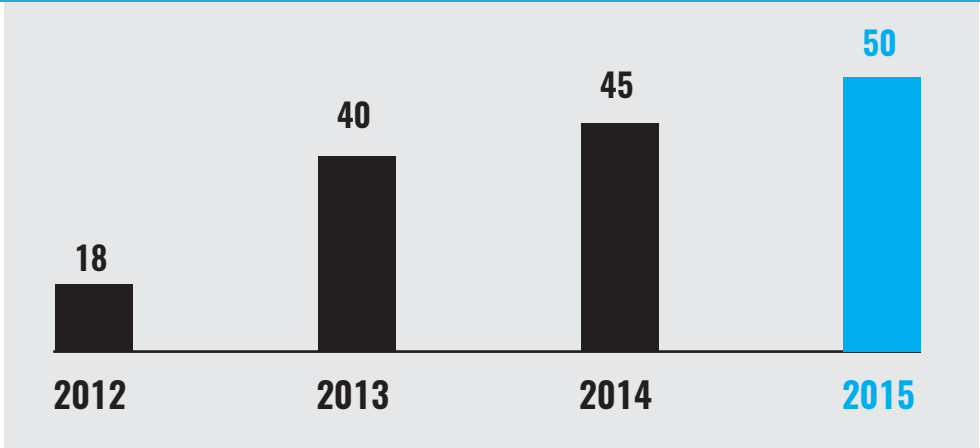
RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES UNDER DEVELOPMENT

~100

THE BIG PICTURE

- **3,215 UNITS TO BE BUILT**
- **11 HOTEL SITES IDENTIFIED**
- **~ \$1 BILLION UNDER CONSTRUCTION TODAY**

BIG SKY AREA LAND USE PERMITS ISSUED BY GALLATIN COUNTY





With hundreds of ski resorts in the country, why did you choose to vacation in Big Sky this year?



Ronni Poore (at left), *Helena, Mont. Hairstylist*

“It’s a tradition that [my mom, aunt and I come here] every year for the first week of January. It’s the best in the country, it’s the biggest in the country ... [There are] tons of runs and not a lot of lift lines.”



Syd Eubanks, *Sitka, Alaska Construction Worker*

“We’re here for a wedding, so it was kind of chosen for me, but it’s nice. I’ve worked and lived in a few mountain towns [like] Park City and Jackson.

Follow up question: How does Big Sky compare? I think Jackson’s a lot steeper and Park City is a little more centralized, as far as the town goes. From what I’ve seen, [Big Sky’s] facilities – shops and restaurants – seem really nice.”



Rush Darnelle, *Montgomery, Ala. Robot Technician, Hyundai-Mobis*

“Variety. You can go down something that’s going to kill you or something that you’re mad you went down because it’s too slow ... You never get hit by anybody unless you’re in the way.”



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Letters:

Reactions to the Dec. 22 EBS story, “Boiling Point, Big Sky traffic ‘a concern for community’

Speed kills

Thank you for the excellent article in the Dec. 22, 2015 issue of Explore Big Sky, “Boiling Point, Big Sky traffic ‘a concern for the community.’”

However, I believe that your article missed one important factor and safety consideration – speed. Montana Department of Transportation constantly reminds us that “speed kills,” yet they permit an insane 50 mph through the middle of our town.

When we first came to Big Sky in 1975 it was lonely. Meadow Village had a couple offices, two restaurants, the Country Store and post office. Westfork had barely started to develop, Town Center was decades away, and all the homes and condos were accessed off Little Coyote Road.

We now have many permanent residences in Southfork, Westfork, and Hidden Village, as well as hundreds of condos. Emergency vehicles are actively coming in and out of the Westfork and now to the new hospital. The Discovery School, two groceries, three banks, numerous shops, restaurants and bars have sprung up on Lone Mountain Trail, and the Town Center continues rapid growth.

This is not the same lonely highway between the golf course and the sagebrush flats that was there in 1975. Yet the speed limit is still 50 mph.

State and federal highways go through our neighboring towns of Three Forks, West Yellowstone, and Ennis with 25 mph speed limits. Big Sky is twice the size of these burgs in permanent population, and even more so if one counts part time residents, seasonal workers and tourists. Why the difference?

It’s well past time that the highway department posted a common sense speed limit from the Conoco to the western outlet of Little Coyote. This would not involve expensive lights and turn lanes, although these are indeed important.

A few black and white metal 35 mph signs and a bit of enforcement would make for better traffic and safety. Speed kills! Let’s get this changed, now!

Dr. Jeff Strickler
Big Sky

Editor’s note: Concerned Big Sky citizens this fall petitioned the Gallatin County Commission to request that the county submit a recommendation to MDT for a speed reduction on Lone Mountain Trail. The commission voted 2-1 to deny the request.

Taxation and usage

My opinion is that we need to annex the Yellowstone Club and Moonlight Basin so they can pay taxes into our school system and our road improvement. Most of the construction trucks are going up there.

Why should we in Big Sky be responsible for the bulk of those tax dollars when they use it too? Why not make them build their own road through Ennis or use the existing Jack Creek one?

Carol Bennett
Big Sky

An essential conversation

I really appreciate you shining the light on Big Sky’s growth and the potential harm that could come if we are not furious about how we prepare for it.

Our family bought our first place in Moonlight in 2011 and our second in 2013 because we fell in love with breathtaking beauty of the canyons, the mountains and the streams. We initially came for the skiing but we discovered so much more.

We have developed this deeper heart connection with all the wonderful wildlife that thrives here and we want to do our part to help preserve their habitat for years to come.

A conversation that includes everyone that has invested in the Big Sky community is essential to preserving this pristine treasure. Although we are part-time residents, we have come to care deeply about protecting this wonderful place while continuing to share it with others that will surely want to come here in the future.

We would like to know more about how we might participate in future conversations.

Bill Williams
Big Sky



**WANT TO
VOICE YOUR
OPINION?**

Submit a letter to the editor at:
media@outlaw.partners

Submissions must be:

- 250 words or less
- Should be respectful, ethical, and accurate
- Include full name and phone number

* Explore Big Sky reserves the right to edit letters



NOTICE TO THE BIG SKY FIRE DEPARTMENT RURAL FIRE DISTRICT MEMBERS

An Election of two trustees for the Big Sky Fire District Board of Trustees will be held on May 3, 2016.

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

Original petitions must be filed with the Gallatin County Election Department no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 8, 2016.

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*Yellowstone cutthroat trout: **Oncorhynchus clarkii bouvieri***



Did you Know?

Native cutthroat trout are the most ecologically important fish in the park and most highly regarded by visiting anglers. Non-native rainbow trout compete with the native cutthroat trout for food, habitat resources, and, even worse, interbreed with native fish, producing hybrids.


To reduce the level of hybridization and save the local population of the park's cutthroat trout, anglers are encouraged to harvest rainbow trout.

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12 Jan. 8 -21, 2016

LOCAL



THE RAM'S HORN



BY DUSTIN SHIPMAN
BSSD SUPERINTENDENT

"The Ram's Horn" is a regular column by Big Sky School District Superintendent Dustin Shipman, offering news and insight from the district.

The New Year is upon us and we've resumed our work after a restful holiday break. As we start a new semester, I'd like to reflect on the importance of time away from the school for everyone in the district, whether it's vacation or even the weekends.

The traditional school year in Montana – and most states – is approximately 180 days. During that time, students are in school five days a week for an average of seven hours daily. They typically work an additional one to two hours at home, so that's a conservative estimate of 1600 hours spent on school-related tasks.


Add extra-curricular pursuits and a student may be engaged in an additional 12 hours of school-related activity per week. From kindergarten through 12th grade, we expect a lot of our kids and teachers, so extended holiday breaks and weekends are necessary for a number of reasons.

Families need time to be families. Throughout the school year we don't have many opportunities to take our kids skiing, go to a movie, or to lounge around all day together. Family time results in healthy kids, and healthy kids tend to have great academic outcomes and create a positive school culture.

Kids also need time to be kids. During the school year, students have limited opportunities to exist in an unstructured environment. Breaks from school allow them to be flexible in how they spend their time to enjoy snow forts, snowball wars, impromptu ski or sled races, and other activities with peers that shape relationships they'll have for the rest of their lives.

Lastly, the teachers and faculty also need time to regroup. Our district is a very busy place and when the students are on a break, there are many things that can be done. Teachers are able to take a deep breath, reflect on what has been done so far and make the necessary adjustments to improve for the coming week or semester.

I hope you had a great holiday season and were able to spend quality time with friends and family doing the things you love. At the Big Sky School District we look forward to an exciting 2016 and beyond!



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Community
Library


bigskylibrary.org

hours.

Sunday 1-5p.m.
Monday 10a.m.-6p.m.
(Toddlers Storytime 10:30 a.m.)
Tuesday 4-8p.m.
Wednesday 4-8p.m.
Closed Thursday-Saturday

Public Computers
available here. All are
welcome.

Located at the north end
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Announcements

Toddler Storytime
Mon. 1/11 & 1/18, 10:30 am
Bring your little ones!



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- One car attached garage

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BEST PRICED! BIG HORN 11

- 1,595 sf 3BR/3B ski-in/ski-out condo
- End unit with extra windows
- Attached single car garage

FURNISHED \$432,000 | MLS 209966



MEADOW VILLAGE - LOTS 23 & 24

- 2 side-by-side .25 acre lots with million dollar views
- Located in the heart of Meadow Village
- Purchase 1 or both & build home on .5 acres

\$168,900 EACH | MLS 188524 & 188525



JUST LISTED - SPANISH PEAKS CLUB #15

- 2,969 +/- sf, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, large den/family room
- Kitchen has a breakfast bar, spacious dining area, & french doors to balcony
- Beautiful finish work & architectural accents throughout

\$625,000 | MLS 209628



SELLER FINANCING

LOST TRAILS - LOT 4

- Extremely private, yet accessible 20 acre tract
- Located halfway between meadow & mtn villages
- Power and phone to forested lot

\$499,500 | MLS 196234



BIG HORN 66

- 3BR/3B 1,595 sf chalet w/ one car garage
- Beautifully upgraded & close to Poma Lift
- Close to mountain shops & restaurants

FURNISHED \$525,000 | MLS 207791



PRIME CANYON COMMERCIAL

- 2 commercial buildings located on 1.027 acres
- Building #1 has 3,230 sq. ft.
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States divvy up Yellowstone-area grizzly hunt

BY MATTHEW BROWN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) – Wildlife officials have divvied up how many grizzly bears can be killed by hunters in the Yellowstone region of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho as the states seek control of a species shielded from hunting for the past 40 years, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The region’s grizzlies have federal protections, but that could change in coming months, turning control over to the states. The AP obtained a draft agreement detailing the states’ plans for the animals.

The deal puts no limits on grizzly bear hunting outside a 19,300-square-mile management zone centered on Yellowstone National Park. Inside the zone, which includes wilderness and forest lands near the park, hunters in Wyoming would get a 58 percent share of the harvest, a reflection that it’s home to the bulk of the region’s bears. Montana would get 34 percent, and Idaho, 8 percent.

The management zone has an estimated minimum 717 grizzly bears. There is no estimate of how many live outside the area, although the number is increasing as they expand into new habitat, biologists say.



NPS PHOTO

Wildlife advocates say the bear population remains too small to withstand much hunting. That’s a particular concern given the large numbers of bears already dying, including during surprise run-ins with hunters and after live-stock attacks that prompt officials to trap and kill problem bears.

In 2015, at least 59 Yellowstone-area grizzlies were believed to have been killed or trapped and removed by government agencies. That’s the most since the animal received protection under the Endangered Species Act in 1975.

Despite the deaths, state officials say the grizzly population has recovered from excessive hunting and trapping that exterminated grizzlies across most of the U.S. in the early 1900s. The officials have increased pressure on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Director Dan Ashe in recent months to revoke the animal’s threatened status.

Directors of the three states’ wildlife agencies told Ashe in a Dec. 4 letter that such a step was long overdue.

“It is critically important that we capitalize on our tremendous progress and momentum ... by proceeding with a long overdue delisting” of bears from the threatened species list, the directors wrote. It was signed by Idaho Fish and Game Director Virgil Moore; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Director Jeff Hagen; and Wyoming Game and Fish Director Scott Talbott.

Wildlife advocates and some bear researchers dispute government claims that the Yellowstone bear population is stable or increasing. A closer look at the trends suggests it’s actually in decline, said David Mattson, a former grizzly researcher with the U.S. Geological Survey.

“All indicators are we have a population that’s in trouble,” Mattson said Jan. 4. “It boggles my mind that people would consider going down this path that could consist of implementing a sport hunt.”

Mattson said he retired in 2013 in part so he could be more vocal on the issue of protecting bears. He helps run a blog called Grizzly Times, which he co-founded with his wife, Montana wildlife activist Louisa Wilcox.

Legal hunting of Yellowstone-area grizzlies last occurred in the 1970s.

At least 58 bears were killed in Montana and Idaho in the five years leading up to a prohibition on hunting in 1975. Historical harvest figures for Idaho were not available.

Any future hunts would be conservative and need approval from wildlife commissioners following a public comment period, said Quentin Kujala, chief of wildlife management for Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks.

The size of each harvest would be on a sliding scale, with the intention of keeping the bear population viable and avoiding the need to reinstate federal protections, Kujala said. More hunting would be possible when the population tops 675 bears, and hunting would be largely barred if the number falls below 600.

“We’re definitely not talking about a large number. We’re not talking hundreds or anywhere near that,” Wyoming Game and Fish spokesman Renny MacKay said.

A decision on whether protections should be lifted is due early this year, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Barring a successful court challenge, it would take approximately a year for such a rule to go into effect.

The pending agreement between the states is not required for federal protections to be lifted, state officials said.

UM j-school ranked eighth in nation

UM JOURNALISM SCHOOL

MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Journalism was recently named among the top 10 in the country.

In a national survey, the Radio Television Digital News Association ranked UM’s j-school the eighth best college journalism program in the nation. The No. 1 theme voters cited in the survey was the program equipping students with real-world experience.

“Being in Missoula, Montana, provides something no one else can,” one survey respondent said. “It’s a mix of people, cultures, the great West, history and beautiful scenery.”

Voters praised the UM School of Journalism for both quality and location. Dean Larry Abramson said he’s thrilled the school has been recognized as one of the top 10 journalism schools in the country.

“The secret is out,” Abramson said. “Journalism students can get a big-city experience in a beautiful place. They can study with great faculty in a state-of-the-art facility,

yet pay an affordable price. We have everything the competition has, except for the traffic.”

Another survey respondent noted the hidden-gem appeal of UM’s journalism program, calling it “the best under-the-radar school in the entire country,” noting UM “has this amazing mix of being a small school with national faculty and being in an incredible location.”

The Radio Television Digital News Association is a professional organization for reporters working in digital formats. RTDNA members include those working in the industry, as well as educators and students. NewsPro, a publication serving those in the news profession, also was part of the survey.

According to the website, the survey was sent to all RTDNA members. More than 1,300 people participated; of those nearly 43 percent were news professionals. Additionally, nearly 28 percent of respondents identified as students, nearly 19 percent reported they were non-news professionals and 10.5 percent said they were educators.

US to consider alternative to Yellowstone dam

BY MATTHEW BROWN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) – U.S. officials will consider an alternative to a dam proposed on the Yellowstone River over worries it could hurt an endangered fish species that dates to the time of dinosaurs, after a judge on Jan. 5 approved a settlement in a lawsuit over the project.

The agreement comes after environmental groups successfully sued to stop the \$59 million dam along the Yellowstone near the Montana-North Dakota border. It was signed by attorneys for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Reclamation.

U.S. District Judge Brian Morris issued an order putting the lawsuit on hold pending a new study of the project.

The low-profile, concrete dam was intended to replace a weir northeast of Glendive that for more than a century has blocked about 125 endangered sturgeon from reaching their upstream spawning grounds. That weir, called the Intake Diversion Dam, is a porous, rock dam that diverts water for an irrigation system serving more than 50,000 acres of cropland in eastern Montana and western North Dakota.

Morris blocked construction of the new dam in September, just as work was set to begin. Attorneys for Defenders of Wildlife and the Natural Resources Defense Council had argued there was no proof a fish bypass channel included as part of the project would work.

“We’re hoping the agencies take a real hard, realistic look at just taking that dam out of the river altogether,” said McCrystie Adams, an attorney for Defenders of Wildlife. “There’s no reason for that dam. You take out the dam, and you fix the problem.”

Representatives of the Army Corps, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Reclamation could not immediately comment on the agreement.

Pallid sturgeon are known for a distinctive, shovel-shaped snout and can live 50 years, reaching 6 feet in length. The population declined sharply during the past century as dams were built along the Missouri River system. They were listed as an endangered species in 1990.

The sturgeon inhabiting the lower Yellowstone have been essentially trapped downstream of

the rock weir since it was built in 1905. At least one female fish managed to swim around the structure during high water last year, but that was considered a rare occurrence.

Three irrigation districts that would benefit from the project joined the case on the side of the government in June. They argued the dam and bypass would help sturgeon and protect the future of the farms served by the water project.

Those irrigators – the Savage Irrigation District, Intake Irrigation District and Lower Yellowstone Project – remain hesitant about removing the weir. It would require the installation of costly pumps and other equipment to keep water flowing to farmers, their attorney, Mark Stermitz, said Jan. 5.

Nevertheless, Stermitz signed onto the agreement between the government and environmentalists. He said he did not want to undermine future discussions about the project by pre-judging the outcome of the new environmental study that’s been ordered.

“We’re not afraid of where the science takes us,” he said. “We felt the government was correct in not considering [removing the weir], but we support the agreement and feel that it should get a fair hearing.”

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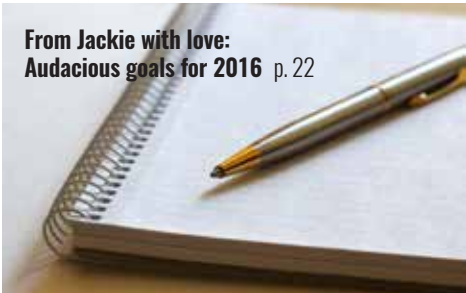
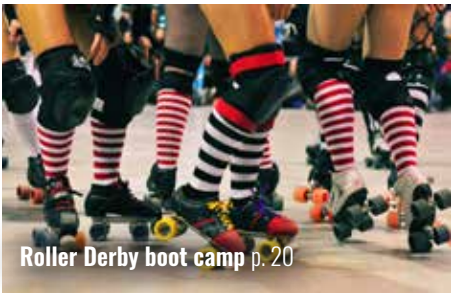
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Session IV	Feb. 5 - 7
Session V	Feb. 26 - 28
Session VI	March 11 - 13

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Section 2:
SPORTS, HEALTH, DINING,
AND ENVIRONMENT



Big Horn Basketball

Lady Big Horns dominate second half for decisive win

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – Shields Valley ran an effective defensive press in the early minutes of Lone Peak High School’s Jan. 2 home game, but it didn’t last long.

The Lady Big Horns broke the Rebels’ press in the second quarter and established strong second-half momentum on their way to a 52-31 victory.

“We worked on press-breaking all week in practice and they executed almost perfectly,” said head coach Nubia Allen, adding that the Rebels, one of the top teams in the district, is known for throwing off opponents by running a tough press.

“[Shields Valley] won districts two years ago and last year they made it to divisional,” Allen said. “This is the first time we beat them at home.”

The win was hard earned and the Lady Big Horns had to fight for every shot opportunity early on. Both teams had low-scoring first quarters, with the Lady Big Horns earning six points to Shields Valley’s seven.



LPHS sophomore center Kuka Holder prepares to sink a free throw. The Lady Big Horns made 17 of 20 free throws attempts in their win against the Shields Valley Rebels. PHOTOS BY AMANDA EGGERT

The pace started to pick up for the Lady Big Horns in the second quarter, with junior guard Bella Butler sinking a 3-pointer and sophomore center KP Hoffman contributing two baskets. LPHS led 17-11 at the close of the first half.

Junior guard Dasha Bough scored two back-to-back 3-pointers early on in the third quarter and the Rebels’ fate was sealed. “That really just deflated the other team,” Allen said. Near the end of the third quarter, LPHS had doubled up Shields Valley, leading 28-14. By then, the Rebels had long ago abandoned their defensive press.

The Lady Big Horns were especially accurate from the free throw line, shooting 85 percent. With 20 free throw opportunities, those points added up quickly, especially with the Rebels making just four of nine free throws.

The Lady Big Horns played a strong game on the other end of the court as well, racking up 14 steals. Junior point guard Luisa Locker claimed eight of them and also came up big on offense, leading both teams with 12 points.

Sophomore center KP Hoffman led LPHS in rebounds with nine and junior forward Bianca Godoy grabbed four offensive boards, converting them into shot opportunities.

“That’s where [Godoy] gets her points,” Allen said. “That’s where she’s been a huge rebounder.”

Despite their strong showing on Jan. 2, Allen’s not expecting a straightforward win when they meet up again Jan. 28. “I’m not planning to play an easy game next time [when] we see them in Shields Valley,” she said.

But first the Lady Big Horns have to face the district-leading and undefeated Twin Bridges Falcons on their turf Saturday, Jan. 9.

LPHS boys basketball defeat Shields Valley by two

BIG SKY – The final seconds of the Big Horns boys basketball game against Shields Valley on Jan. 2 felt familiar to the upperclassmen on both teams, with one key difference: This time the Big Horns came out on top.

With fewer than ten seconds on the clock and the score tied up, Big Horns’ leading scorer, junior guard Eddie Starz, intercepted a pass and drove for a lay-up to secure LPHS’s 52-50 victory.

“We played [Shields Valley] two years ago in districts and we lost a game in almost the exact same fashion with about just as much time left on the clock,” said LPHS Head Coach Al Malinowski. “We certainly know what that feels like.”

Starz’s final play concluded a strong offensive showing during which he scored 20 points. “Eddie Starz, when the game is on the line, is ready to step in [with] that one spectacular play to put us over the top,” Malinowski said.

The Rebels have an ace of their own in junior guard Brock Peterson, who has been starting for Shields Valley since he was a freshman and scored 21 points in the first half.

In the second half, the Big Horns stepped up their defense, holding Peterson to just three more points. He fouled out in the fourth quarter, a decisive blow to the Rebels’ offense. Shields Valley’s second-highest scorer was junior guard Colton Jones, who scored eight points during the tight contest.

“I don’t think either team ever got up by more than five points, if they ever got up by that many,” Malinowski said. “It seems like the last couple of years, every time we play, we have tight games like that.”

Malinowski is impressed by the improvement his players have demonstrated, and is noticing greater team cohesion. “I thought everyone did a really nice job of going in and contributing,” he said. “I really think that [Saturday] was the first time that we consistently had five players on the floor [who] were competing.”

Sophomore guard Liam Germain scored four 3-pointers, just shy of the school record of five, which is shared by Tucker Hensley and Justin McKillop. “I think that’s the beginning of what we’re going to see from [Liam],” Malinowski said.

This win brings the Big Horns’ record to 2-4. “If I put game film side-by-side from our first game, I would think we were totally different people,” Malinowski said. “I still think we have a lot of room to grow. I’m excited that these guys were able to get that win because I think it will be a real confidence booster.”



LPHS freshman point guard Kolya Bough sets up the Big Horns for a shot opportunity in their 52-50 win over Shields Valley. The Big Horns and Rebels kept a packed house on their toes through all four quarters of their Jan. 2 game in Big Sky.



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LPHS Basketball Schedule & Standings

Jan. 8	Away	Gardiner**	G 7:00 B 5:30 JVG 4:00
Jan. 9	Home	Twin Bridges**	G 7:00 B 5:30 JVG 4:00
Jan. 15	Away	@ West Yellowstone**	G 7:00 B 5:30 JVG 4:00
Jan. 16	Away	@ Lima**	G 2:30 B 4:00
Jan. 22	Away	@ Harrison / Willow Creek**	G 7:00 B 5:30
Jan. 23	Home	Sheridan**	G 4:00 B 5:30

G: Girls Varsity
B: Boys Varsity
JVG: Junior Varsity Girls
JVB: Junior Varsity Boys

** District 11/12C basketball games

11/12 C BOYS BASKETBALL STANDINGS

CONFERENCE			OVERALL	
TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	WINS	LOSSES
1. MANHATTAN CHRISTIAN	3	0	5	1
2. TWIN BRIDGES	1	0	3	2
3. LONE PEAK	1	0	2	4
4. WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS	2	1	3	3
5. HARRISON/ WILLOW CREEK	1	1	2	3
6. SHIELDS VALLEY	1	2	2	4
7. ENNIS	0	1	2	3
8. GARDINER	0	1	1	3
9. LIMA	0	1	1	3
10. WEST YELLOWSTONE	0	0	1	3
11. SHERIDAN	0	0	0	4

11/12 C GIRLS BASKETBALL STANDINGS

CONFERENCE			OVERALL	
TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	WINS	LOSSES
1. TWIN BRIDGES	1	0	5	0
2. LONE PEAK	1	0	5	1
3. MANHATTAN CHRISTIAN	3	0	4	2
4. HARRISON/ WILLOW CREEK	2	0	3	2
5. SHIELDS VALLEY	1	2	2	4
6. WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS	1	2	2	4
7. LIMA	0	1	3	1
8. GARDINER	0	2	0	5
9. ENNIS	0	1	2	3
10. WEST YELLOWSTONE	0	0	3	2
11. SHERIDAN	0	0	0	4



EYE ON THE BALL

The rise and fall of Chip Kelly



BY BRANDON NILES
EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

After just three seasons in Philadelphia, the Chip Kelly experiment is over. The Eagles fired their head coach after a season in which the team won seven games in a weak division, the last win coming after Kelly was let go. It was bittersweet for Eagles fans that loved Kelly just two seasons ago, but are now scratching their heads as they survey the team remaining in his wake.

Kelly was hired after seeing success as the University of Oregon head coach. He led Oregon to their first BCS National Championship game in 2011, eventually losing to Auburn. Though it ended in defeat, that season helped put Oregon on the map as a contender in NCAA football.

Viewed as an offensive genius, Kelly brought a fast-paced system to the NFL. In 2013, his first season in Philadelphia, his offense finished second in the league in total yards and the team won 10 games as well as the NFC East Division. The Eagles lost in the first round of the playoffs, but the organization seemed on the rise.

The next year, Kelly’s offense slipped to fifth in yards, but the Eagles won 10 games behind second year quarterback Nick Foles. Philadelphia barely missed the playoffs, as the Dallas Cowboys won the NFC East with a 12-4 record.

Despite the 10 wins in 2014, optimism was diminishing in Philadelphia. The Eagles started the season with a 9-3 record, but lost three of their final four games, including two divisional matchups that sealed their fate and kept them from returning to the postseason.

Following the 2014 season, Kelly made a series of personnel moves that damaged the team. He traded Foles to the St. Louis Rams for quarterback Sam Bradford; he allowed star wide receiver Jeremy Maclin to leave via free agency; and he traded Pro Bowl running back LeSean McCoy to the Buffalo Bills for Kiko Alonso, a linebacker coming off a serious knee injury.

Kelly replaced McCoy with 2014 rushing champion and former Cowboy DeMarco Murray, signing him to a five-year contract worth \$40 million.

The moves did not pan out. Alonso was in and out of the lineup this season, Bradford was inconsistent, and Murray turned out to be a bad fit with his yards per carry plummeting in Kelly’s offense.

Kelly is a good coach, but his personnel decisions led to his demise, and he’ll need to find a team that will give him time to build a roster in his image. He took over a talented Eagles team, spent two years dismantling it, and then was sent packing.

Should a team like the Tennessee Titans or San Francisco 49ers hire Kelly next year, he’ll be working from the bottom up with young rosters that are lacking in significant talent. He should find success in that atmosphere. However, if he ends up with a team like the Miami Dolphins or the New York Giants, he may be given a shorter leash, which might doom him to a repeat performance.

Kelly may or may not remain a head coach in the NFL, but his time in Philadelphia definitely showed the rest of the league that his offensive system can work with the right people in place. However, much like everything else in pro sports, his system needs to adapt to the talent he has. If Kelly cannot adapt, then his next chapter may look eerily similar to his last.

Brandon Niles is a longtime fan of football and scotch, and has been writing about sports for the past decade. He is a fantasy football scout for 4for4 Fantasy Football and is co-host of the 2 Guys Podcast.



Dec 4	@Sheridan**	B5:30/G7:00	Jan 15	@W. Yellowstone**	JVG4:00/B5:30/G7:00	Feb 12	W. Yellowstone**	JVG4:00/G5:30/B7:00
Dec 5	@Roberts	B4:30/G6:00	Jan 16	@Lima**	B2:30/G4:00	Feb 13	Lima** Senior Parent Day	G2:30/B4:00
Dec 12	@Harrison vs. Absorokee	G4:30/B6:00	Jan 22	@Harrison**	G5:30/B7:00	Feb 17-20	@MC – District 11/12C Tourney	
Dec 18	@Ennis**	JVG2:30/B4:00/G5:30	Jan 23	Sheridan**	G2:30/B4:00	Feb 25-27	@Hamilton – Western C Divisional	
Dec 19	Harrison**	B5:30/G7:00	Jan 28	@Shields Valley**	JVG4:00/G5:30/B7:00	March 5-7	@Great Falls - State C Boys' Championship	
Jan 2	Shields Valley**	JVG4:00/B5:30/G7:00	Jan 29	Gardiner**	G5:30/B7:00	Mar 12-14	@Great Falls - State C Girls' Championship	
Jan 8	@Gardiner**	B5:30/G7:00	Feb 4	@Manhattan Christian**	G5:30/B7:00			
Jan 9	Twin Bridges**	JVG4:00/B5:30/G7:00	Feb 6	WSS**	JVG4:00/G5:30/B7:00			

This schedule is subject to change



Roller derby boot camp starts Feb. 1

GALLATIN ROLLER GIRLZ

The Gallatin Roller Girlz, Bozeman’s flat track roller derby league, is recruiting women for league skaters and men and women for referees, non-skating officials and volunteer positions with the league.

Starting Feb. 1, GRG is offering its only “Fresh Meat Boot Camp” for the year. The camp is required for all new skaters and referees wishing to join the league, with the exception of existing contact-rated transfer skaters from other leagues.

The camp is open to men and women 18 years old and up and includes coaching throughout the eight-week program, use of try-before-you-buy gear and skater insurance. Open enrollment runs Feb. 1- 11.

The camp is designed to support new skaters as they learn to derby. Based on a ground-level curriculum, the camp graduates a full class of skaters into contact-level skating with the league.

During the camp, non-contact basic skills will be taught and skaters are then enrolled in Derby 101 – another eight-week program



The Gallatin Roller Girlz during the July 2015 Fresh Meat Boot Camp PHOTOGRAPH BY PATRICK J. DEVINE

directly following the boot camp that teaches the finer skills of the sport including blocking and strategy.

To learn more about the league and FMBC from current players, check out the camp meet and greet on Jan. 24, from 4-6 p.m. at Wild Joe’s Coffee Spot, at 18 West Main Street in Bozeman.

GRG recommends that skaters begin the camp on the orientation evening, Feb. 1 from 7-10 p.m. to get the full benefit of the camp. Show up early and be ready to start practice at 7 p.m. sharp at Bozeman’s Gallatin

County Fairgrounds, Building No. 3. Bring a mouth guard and any gear you may already own.

GRG will maintain open enrollment Feb. 4, 8 and 11 for skaters who cannot make the orientation. Send a private message to GRG’s Facebook page to reserve tryout gear.

Gallatin Roller Girlz are a 501(c)3 federal non-profit recognized with full member status by the Women’s Flat Track Derby Association.

Visit grgderby.com or the Gallatin Roller Girlz’ Facebook page for more information. .

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A worthy adversary



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

In my previous article, I pondered whom would be the chess pieces running a successful restaurant. Logic would dictate that the public, or your guests, would be the opposing side. So who are they?

King – Health inspector: You don’t see them all the time and they don’t move excessively. The king doesn’t contribute much to your strategy in terms of winning the game, but if they’re captured it’s game over. Similarly, when the health inspector shows up at your door, they don’t do much for your success, but if you have major issues or violations, the doors close right then and there. Game over.

Queen – Food critic: Much like the power of the health inspector, it is swift and potentially severe, but critics can also be your greatest assets. Like the queen, food critics move everywhere. They are out dining and writing multiple nights a week. Should they choose to pen a positive critique about the chef or restaurant, it’s good news for all. A poor or scathing review doesn’t mean you’ve lost the game, but there will be days you wish you had.

Bishop/Rook - Regulars: They are local and patronize your business frequently throughout the year. Regulars, just like bishops or rooks on the chessboard, are valuable to your business. They can be a challenge at times, but you appreciate them every time they come in. Not unlike a “whale” in the casino world, if these players are happy they often bring caches of friends, family, and acquaintances. Like their chess piece counterparts, restaurant regulars are predictable in their movements, but offend or disappoint them, and they leave along with everyone in their world.

Knight – Unpredictable guests: They move in an odd, L-shaped pattern, much like the guest who is semi-regular and doesn’t seem to have a pattern to their special requests. They may want a vegetarian meal tonight, but when they visit you a month later they order a steak. A week later, they return on a cleanse and you can’t figure out how to feed them – or why they went out with such dietary restrictions. There’s just no telling which way they are going to move.

Pawn – One-time visitors: These are your random one-time guests and tourists. You value their business and patronage, but you know that no matter their experience, you may never see them again. They make up the bulk of your daily business and come and go, but feed them cold food or give them poor service, and they’ll tweet, post, Instagram, Yelp, and advise the whole world on the car ride home.

John Q. Public is an appreciated, respected, well-informed and intelligent adversary.

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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From Jackie *with love* Audacious goals for 2016



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

Author James Collins, in his 2011 book “Great by Choice,” introduced me to the term Big Hairy Audacious Goal, or BHAG (pronounced BEE-hag) for short. Collins defines a BHAG as “... an audacious 10-to-30-year goal to progress toward an envisioned future.”

In lieu of my 2016 New Year’s resolution, I’d like to share my BHAG with you in hopes that it inspires you to create your own: By 2036, the U.S. will be the healthiest country in the world.

While I was attending New York City’s Institute for Integrative Nutrition in 2012, we were required to come up with a BHAG, and mine was to help put an end to childhood obesity within one generation.

Since then, I’ve researched the problem and been involved with organizations that have the same goal. There are many smart and ambitious people working hard to get our children healthy. In southwest Montana, the

Gallatin Valley Farm to School program is having great success – schools in Bozeman like Irving Elementary, Chief Joseph Middle School and Emily Dickinson Elementary are growing edible gardens on school grounds, and incorporating them into science and art lessons.

So why, with so many talented people investing so much time and energy, are we not seeing a decline in childhood obesity in this country?

My “aha” moment came during a spring 2015 conference in Bozeman that focused on workplace wellness in Montana. Presenters from across the country who are established in this field disagreed on many things, but they all agreed that if a company doesn’t have a culture of health and well-being, it can’t fully thrive.

Culture is like the pulse of the workplace. It’s how things operate on a day-to-day basis and how employees feel after a day’s work – the programs a company offers do not define its culture. Weight-loss challenges, biometric screenings and Fitbit incentives don’t necessarily indicate a healthy culture.

This made me realize that while obesity prevention programs are wonderful, they are weakened because the U.S. doesn’t have

a culture that supports health. Our culture values cheap, fast and convenient food regardless of its nutritional value. It supports spending our days in front of screens and taking pills for whatever ails us, rather than dealing with our stress.

Political and corporate leaders, parents and teachers, healthcare practitioners and concerned citizens need to come together and create a culture that supports health for our children to thrive. Just as importantly, adults need to walk the talk and lead by example. This is just the beginning, but it’s where we start.


So there you have it, my Big Hairy Audacious Goal: a 20-year plan to make the U.S. the healthiest country in the world. It will only happen by setting a great example for our children to follow.

Create your own BHAG, tell your friends about it to stay accountable, and go for it with gusto!

Stay tuned for my next column discussing how we can eat to starve cancer.

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



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DOCTOR'S NOTE

Some ski injuries are complicated



BY DR. JEFF DANIELS
EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Nearly every day during the ski season a patient with an unusual or interesting injury comes through the doors of the Medical Clinic of Big Sky. The busier it is on the mountain, the more likely it is we'll see one of these unusual injuries.

During the last week of December we saw what has to be the worst shoulder injury to ever come into the clinic. A Big Sky visitor had a terrible accident while skiing in some very steep terrain – both of his shoulders were dislocated, and one suffered a complete shattering of the dislocated proximal humerus.

He came in with both shoulders immobilized by swaths of cloth, screaming in pain. Feeling through his ski jacket, I could tell that both shoulders were dislocated. Within a minute, we had an X-ray showing the fracture.

Some dislocated shoulders – about 15 percent – have small associated fractures that don't hinder us from reducing the dislocation. However, in my experience about one in 1,000 shoulder dislocations ends up with a serious fracture that makes reducing the dislocation impossible in the clinic. The chance of damaging nerves and arteries in the shoulder is too great with these complications, and it's imperative that a hospital orthopedist treat this rare type of injury.

So what did we do? The next X-ray identified an uncomplicated dislocation of his left shoulder, which we gently pulled back into place, giving the patient a good deal of pain relief. In that same arm we started an IV, then immobilized the right arm and called an ambulance.

I sent the X-rays to the orthopedist who would be caring for our patient once he arrived in Bozeman, and later found the doctor had a relatively easy time fixing the problem.

Most injuries that come into our mountain clinic don't need the immediate help of an orthopedic surgeon and many injuries heal themselves with immobilization, followed by physical therapy. If surgery is necessary, a period of time between the actual injury and the surgery is the rule, not the exception – surgeons generally get better results once the swelling and bleeding diminishes.

ACL injuries of the knee are unfortunately too common, and many people opt for surgery, which is most effectively performed by a knee specialist several weeks or longer after the incident. Other severe knee injuries, like a tibial plateau fracture, will be given time for the swelling to dissipate before the surgeon goes in to put the fractured knee joint back together.

More common injuries that require immediate surgery include fractured femurs, badly broken and swollen tibia and fibula fractures, and complicated elbow fractures. These all have known complications if surgery is delayed including blood loss or compartment syndrome, when excessive tissue damage from a fracture leads to such pressure build-up that a limb could be lost.

Stabilizing an injury, in order to get someone home safely, is something I try to instill in the medical students and young doctors that work in the Medical Clinic of Big Sky. In fact, the orthopedist in Bozeman who fixed the shoulder dislocation was one of my students in 2002.

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



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Bullock announces bison management plan

BY JESSIE WIESE
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The end of 2015 brought Montana Gov. Steve Bullock’s decision on the contentious issue of bison movement outside of Yellowstone National Park. Bullock’s proposal would allow the animals to roam year round in limited areas to the north and west of the park.

The Interagency Bison Management Plan must first adopt the governor’s proposal before it goes into effect. The IBMP consists of multiple agencies including Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Montana Department of Livestock, the National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service.

The IBMP considers issues such as bison migration and tolerance outside of Yellowstone, as well as population densities within the park. Bison from the herd are annually hazed or slaughtered to keep them from areas where cattle might be grazing due to the risk of brucellosis transmission.

However, the management of other species that carry brucellosis, including elk, are not constrained or managed similarly. Since the 1980s, more than 6,300 bison have been slaughtered and nearly 1,900 killed by hunters, largely in response to fears over the spread of the disease.

“The state’s decision to allow wild bison to inhabit public lands in Montana throughout the year is a bold and important step for their conservation and further recovery in the ecosystem,” said Yellowstone Public Affairs officer Amy Bartlett in a Jan. 5 statement

Under Bullock’s proposal, bison would be allowed to roam from the Gardiner Basin at the northern boundary of the park, to the south entrance of Yankee Jim Canyon, as well as from the west park boundary to the Taylor Fork drainage, Buck Ridge area and Horse Butte.

Seasonal limits on bison numbers will be imposed in each management area, and hazing and slaughter will still be allowed, depending on the size of the herds and their proximity to cattle. On the west side of the park 450 bison will be allowed in fall and winter, 600 in the spring and 250 in the summer.

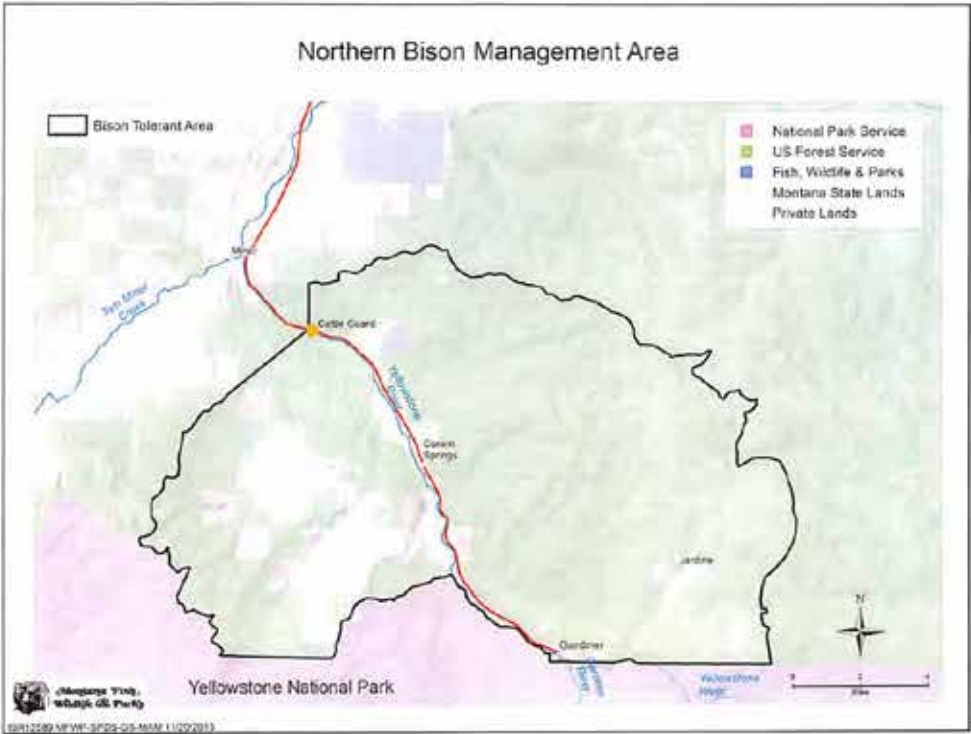
“It’s a thoughtful, measured approach to adaptive management,” Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Regional Supervisor Sam Sheppard.

“This decision is a very modest expansion of the conditions under which bison may remain outside of the park ...” Bullock said in a statement. “I am confident our livestock industry is protected.”

The park currently manages a herd of nearly 5,000 animals, but the IBMP’s 2015-2016 bison operations management plan focuses on population reduction in Yellowstone. Their Dec. 14 memorandum outlines a goal of “decreasing population” without identifying specific density goals for bison within the park.

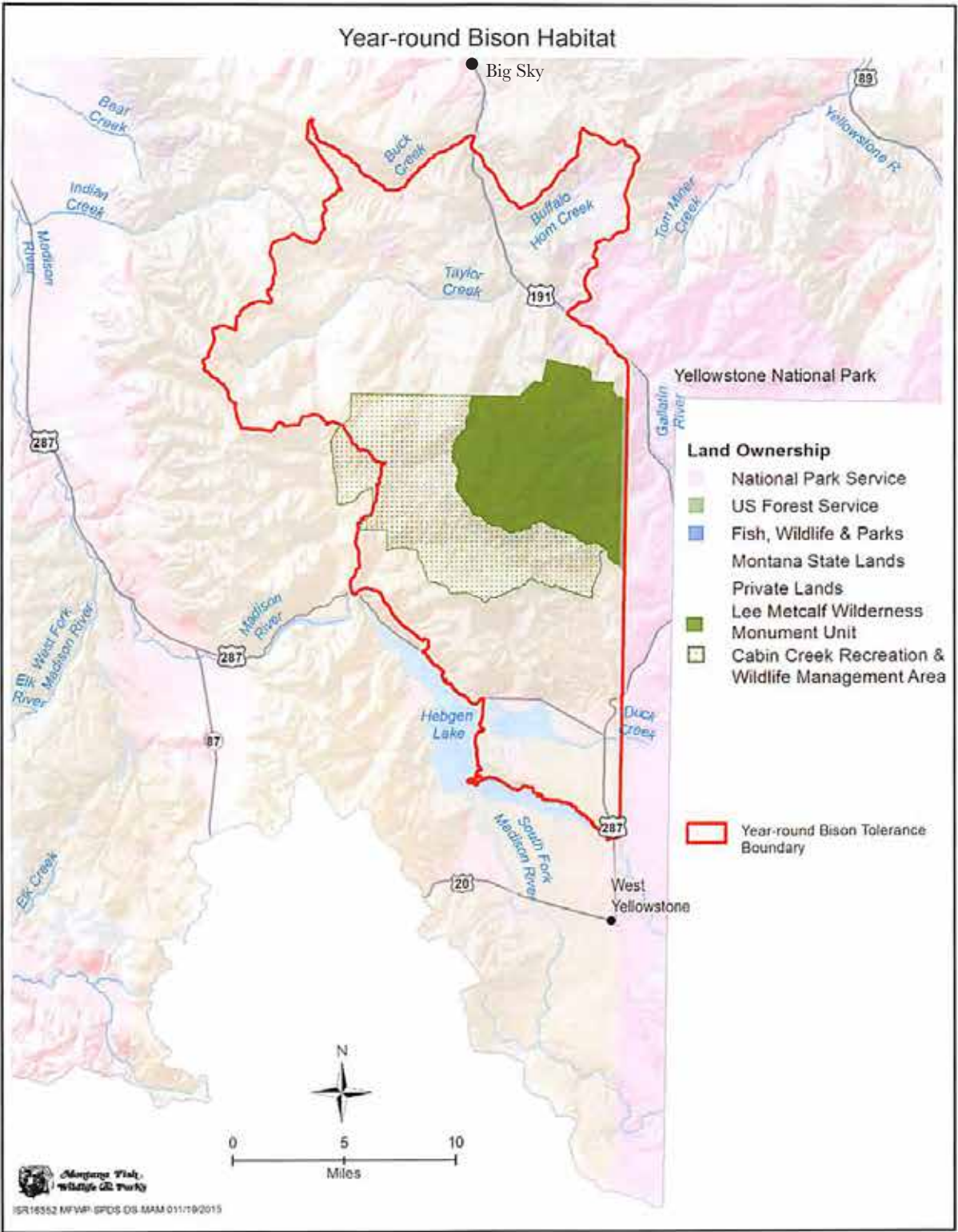
Each winter since 2012 the group has set a goal for removal, attempting to maintain a population closer to 3,000 animals.

“The harvest and suggested harvest for this year was not affected by Gov. Bullock’s decision,” Sheppard said. “Each year the IBMP gets together with YNP and they are given the total numbers of bison and a suggested level of harvest. This year they released the specifics on the number and all agreed that a decreasing population is needed.”



Bartlett said the Park Service is committed to conserve a range of at least 2,500-4,500 Yellowstone bison; greater tolerance for bison on public lands in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem; and less hazing of the animals, especially newborn calves.

One of the most significant changes to the 2015-2016 operations management plan is that bison trapping – previously done as early as January – will not be allowed until after Feb. 15, giving more time for hunting opportunities.





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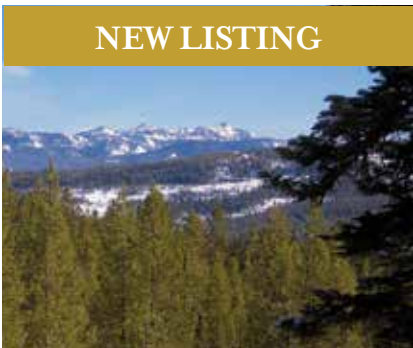
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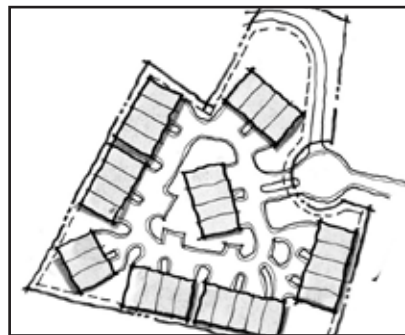


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3 SADDLE RIDGE ROAD L-3

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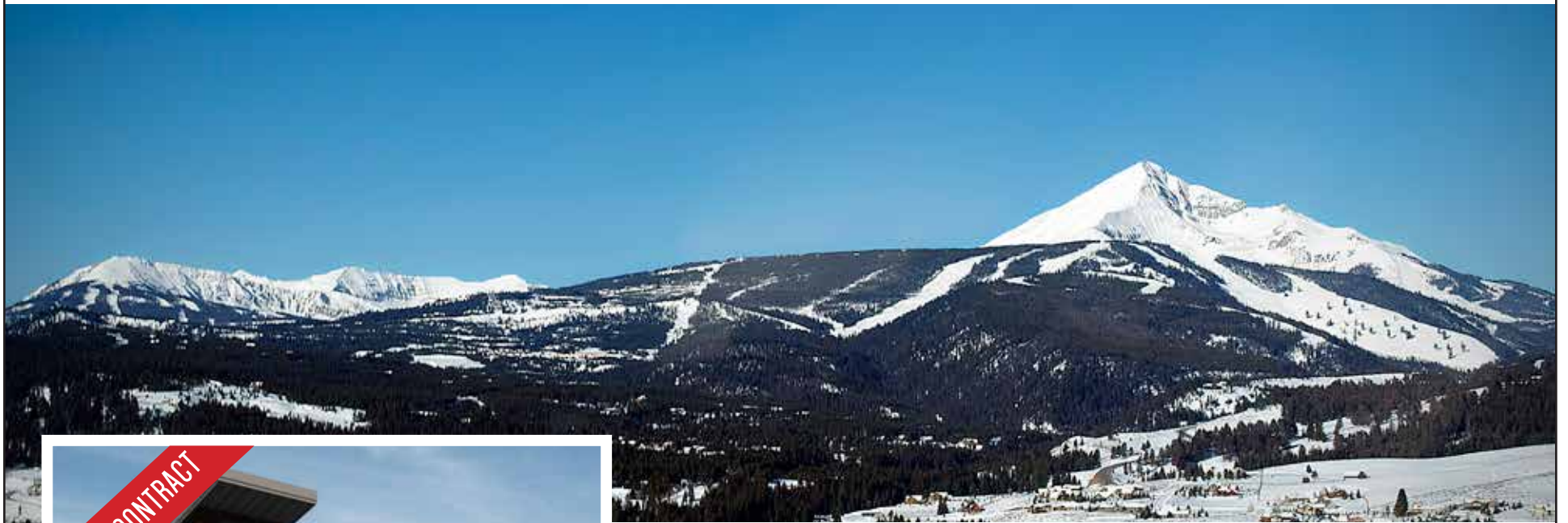
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\$299,000



Spanish Peaks Mountain Club
TBD Eagle View Trail, +/- 1.08 acres
\$875,000

MLS # 208168



This condo is your affordable entry into the Big Sky lifestyle! To be sold partially furnished, this 2 bedroom, 1 and 3/4 bathroom, with bonus loft sleeping area comfortably sleeps 4 and offers close proximity to skiing, mountain biking, shopping, and public transportation.

Hill Condominium #1346

\$207,500

Stuart Butterworth ~ Sales Associate

235 Snowy Mountain Circle Suite 6-2B. Big Sky, MT 59716

Cell: 406.600.2939

Office: 406.586.5868

www.BigSkyRealEstateGuide.com

♦ www.RanchandResortGroup.com



MLS #208168

This ski-in / ski-out, south facing, end unit on green space is 2 doors from the Bear Back lift, has views of Lone Peak, the Spanish Peaks, and Andesite Mountain. Upgrades include tiled entry, granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances, custom breakfast bar, and more. Sold turn key.

Big Horn Condominium #39

\$510,000



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A great opportunity to own your own businesses, The Black Bear Bar and Grill and C&P Grocery Store as well as the commercial property and building in BIG SKY, MT. The building which is approximately 5000+/- sf has a 1700+/- sf, four-bedroom two-bath upstairs apartment. Multiple parking spaces available in front of each of the businesses. On the bus route and next to numerous residential complexes, the combined businesses offer huge opportunity for the savvy investor/owner. **\$830,000**

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Snowmobile Properties



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Buck Ridge Lodge / Gallatin Canyon
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330 Beaver Mountain Trail / Gallatin Canyon
4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms
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Excellent mountain views and recreational access
\$795,000



Lot 3 Windy Pass Trail / Gallatin Canyon
5.63 ACRES
Recreational property with horses allowed
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Section 3:
OUTDOORS
EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Lone Mountain Ranch

One of Montana's best-kept ski secrets

STORY AND PHOTOS BY WES OVERVOLD
EBS STAFF WRITER

The morning of Dec. 28 was picturesque in Big Sky, even by Montana standards. Towering pines were coated with a layer of frost, covering the larger pockets of snow that clung to each bough. Occasionally the clumps came loose and tumbled to the ground, filling the air with a veil of sparkling ice crystals lit by the bright morning sun.

Animal tracks littered the blanket of white along our route through the small meadow. The Nordic ski trail we were exploring at Lone Mountain Ranch proved the perfect choice for the day's objectives: be outdoors, be active, and soak in the surrounding mountain views.

I stood by the side of the trail and listened for a familiar sound that morning: the erratic rhythm of the skier I brought along to enjoy the cross-country ski. It was my younger sister Julie visiting from Georgia.

"Oh Wes, you missed it!" Julie yelled as she rounded the turn and came into view. Thinking she had the special opportunity of seeing a moose or glimpsed a unique piece of a landscape unfamiliar to her, I was happy.

"I totally ate it back there!" Julie said. "You would've been really impressed – like, face first into the snow and everything. This is a blast!"

My sister has that kind of enthusiasm for everything she does, and cross-country skiing for the first time was no exception. She rarely gets to see snow in the South, much less strap on a pair of skis and slide around on it. That day I saw a new spark light an old flame inside her. The physical exertion, the beautiful scenery, and occasional wipeouts in the snow had us feeling like kids again.

LMR incorporates many of the components that make Big Sky such a special place to both live and play. The expansive views and quiet solitude you find on more than 85 kilometers of groomed Nordic trails, combined with the warmth and friendliness of the staff, guests and locals, make LMR one of Montana's best kept secrets.



From wobbly first steps to smooth gliding, the author introduces his younger sister Julie to the sport of Nordic skiing at Lone Mountain Ranch.

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SOLAS MARCH 9

2016 marks the 20th Anniversary of the quintessential Irish-American band, **Solas**. Eleven albums later, with numerous awards to their credit, Solas will mark this milestone with an exciting new recording project and tour, **ALL THESE YEARS**. It is a celebration of a band that, from its inception, captured the musical world's attention and became one of the most influential groups in the history of Irish music.

TICKETS & MORE INFORMATION: BIGSKYARTS.ORG / 995-2742



Montana's winter fly-fishing hangouts



BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

When I first started guiding nearly 20 years ago, winter was time for reflection, tying flies and checking

off the reading list. Things have changed in my world now that I have an 18 month old and a 5 year old. I may be a little crusty these days, but I wouldn't want it any other way.

Back in the spring of my guiding career, winter was my time to travel the world, ski, and master living cheaply so I could "just hang." But in order to hang, a person needs a place to do it. Here are my favorite Montana winter locales for both fishing and skiing. To avoid any disputes the list is alphabetical.

Anaconda. This is a sleeper town nestled at the base of the Pintler Range and a little over half an hour from Discovery Ski Area. The Clark Fork River gets its start 15 minutes from downtown and the winter fishing near Anaconda is consistent for big brown trout. The Big Hole and Beaverhead rivers are also nearby. If you love shrimp cocktail and large cuts of beef with real horseradish, this may be your winter hangout.

Big Sky. Nothing about this town is off the radar, but there are very few places on Earth where you can ski fresh powder in the morning, cast to rising trout in the afternoon, and eat great Pad Thai in the evening. The local trifecta: ski at Big Sky Resort, fish, eat and repeat. Housing isn't cheap here, unless you want to share a place with six dudes and their sheepdogs. But since it's only for the winter, it's totally doable bro!

Bozeman. The world knows of Bozeman's great fishing. The skiing at nearby Bridger Bowl Ski Area and its "ridge" is world class. Bozeman rents are reasonable on a Top Ramen budget and with the fishing nearby, what you save on gas could be spent on a date night once and a while.

Missoula. Your fishing options are grand with both Rock Creek and the Clark Fork accessible within 30 minutes. Add the potential for skwala dry fly fishing in March and spring snowstorms, it's obvious why Missoulians think their town is Eden. Montana Snowbowl is the ski area and while it's no Whitefish Mountain Resort or Big Sky Resort, once you've had a few drinks at Al and Vick's, you'll forget all about those other mountains.

Red Lodge. It's off the radar, but it shouldn't be. Rents here are affordable and the beer is great at the Red Lodge Brewery. As for fishing, if you're willing to drive an hour and a half, the Bighorn is the best winter fishery in all of Montana. Skiing



Cast and carve: Some Montana towns offer winter fly fishing as well as skiing and riding opportunities. Sometimes being left out in the cold is a good thing. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

at Red Lodge Mountain is budget in many ways, and when the snow melts you'll have money left in the piggy bank to chase tarpon in the Caribbean or to buy a shiny new Clackacraft drift boat.

Whitefish. Winter angling here is best suited for ice fishing, but the food and drink options put it on the list. There are also a few streams that are worth visiting, as long as they stay ice-free. Whitefish Mountain Resort receives a lot of snow and the mountain's varied terrain fit the bill as a world-class resort. Despite the lack of winter fly fishing, the bar scene allows you to party like its 1999 after a day on the slopes or in the ice shanty.

The life of a fishing guide is one of envy. If it weren't, then little motivation exists to survive the summer season – being a phantom to family and friends for months or finding ways to remain positive over clients missing hook-sets – the list is endless.

However, I'm a firm believer in karma. For fishing guides, our retaliation against convention comes in winter when we get to dink around for months being the masters of our immediate domain, living with the reality in front of our face and nowhere else.

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

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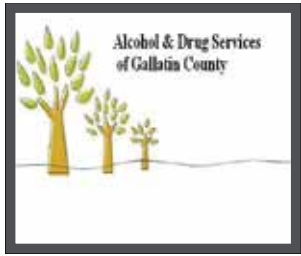
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Ski Tips:

Strong skiing on rocky slopes



BY DAN EGAN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

In big mountain skiing you often have to get through bad snow to find the good snow. Here in Big Sky, there are often rocks above or near the surface of the snow waiting to trip up skiers and snowboarders. This calls for a strategy, and using specific tactics, to ski the slopes effectively. Here are a few ways I break down a run when it appears rocky.

The entrance. If the entrance isn't perfect, simply side step down until you can make turns. Make sure to have a good solid stance on your side step with your shoulders square to the hill, and don't be afraid to use your poles for balance and as braces. Move quickly down the slope because taking too long with a difficult entrance can throw off your mental game for skiing the slope below.

Have a plan. I like to ski rocky areas in sections. I move from snow pod to snow pod with a clear vision in my mind of where I'm going to stop and start. This allows me to link a few turns together with confidence before I stop again.

Speed. Once you have a plan and are through the entrance, move at a steady pace with a focus on two to three turns at a time. You don't want to move too slowly through the rocks, as a bit of speed will help you avoid obstacles, but don't move at a reckless pace.

Power slide. If you can power slide past the obstacles, do it. Execute a good power slide with your feet shoulder width apart, hands and poles facing down the mountain and with your eyes looking down, not across the slope.



Keep your eyes looking down the fall line and concentrate on the snow, not the rocks.
PHOTO BY JOHN ARNOLD/MINDFULMOUNTAINS.COM

Turning. When skiing through rocky areas, keep your skis in the fall line. If you're going to nick rocks it's better to be in a skiing position than with your skis sideways. I like to use hop turns in these situations.

Finding the way. Your eyes are key to navigating through a minefield of rocks. Remember that you go where you look, so look where you want to go. Keep your eyes focused down the fall line, concentrate on the snow and try not to look at the rocks.

Repetition. Skiing the same runs several times has many advantages. The first time you ski a run, you learn where the rocks are and what path to take. The second time you can gain a bit of confidence, and by the third or fourth time you can start to really ski the slope.

More importantly, going back to the same run the next day – or later in the week – you can see how the slope has been changed by skier traffic, as well as new snow and wind. This will give you more and more confidence throughout the season.

Extreme skiing pioneer Dan Egan has appeared in 12 Warren Miller Ski films and countless others. Today he teaches clinics and guides trips at locations around the world including Big Sky, where he'll be teaching March 3-5 and March 10-12. Find more ski tips from Dan Egan at skiclinics.com/education/skitips.



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EVENTS CALENDAR

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FRIDAY, JAN. 8 – THURSDAY, JAN. 21

***If your event falls between Jan. 22 and Feb. 5, please submit it by Thursday, Jan. 13**

Big Sky
FRIDAY, JAN. 8
Gallatin River Grass Project
Ousel & Spur Pizza, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 9
Smash Life Banked Slalom
Big Sky Resort, all day

Smash Life Afterparty fundraiser
Scissorbills, 10 p.m.

NPR's Selected Shorts
WMPAC, 7:30 p.m.

James Salestrom, Jr.
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JAN. 10
Football Sunday
Lone Peak Cinema,
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Smash Life Banked Slalom
Big Sky Resort, all day

All Saints' in Big Sky Worship
Service
Big Sky Chapel, 9:30 am

All Saints' "Connections"
evening service
Big Sky Chapel, 5:15 pm

TUESDAY, Jan. 12
Open Skate
Town Center Ice Rink, 12-5 p.m.

Kids Broomball
Town Center Ice Rink, 5-6 p.m.

Adult Broomball
Town Center Ice Rink, 7-11 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 13
Open Skate
Town Center Ice Rink, 12-11 p.m.

THURSDAY, Jan. 14
Open Skate
Town Center Ice Rink,
12-4:30 p.m.

Kids Clinic
Town Center Ice Rink,
5:30 – 7 p.m.

Adult Drop In Hockey
Town Center Ice Rink, 7-11 p.m.

Tom Marino
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 15
Open Skate
Town Center Ice Rink, 12-11 p.m.

Rocky Mountain Pearls
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 16
Open Skate
Town Center Ice Rink, 12-11 p.m.

Snobar
Big Sky Resort, 5-9 p.m.

SO Percussion
WMPAC, 7:30 p.m.

Satsang
Lone Peak Brewery, 9 p.m.

The Sugar Daddies
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JAN. 17
Football Sunday
Lone Peak Cinema,
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Open Skate
Town Center Ice Rink, 12-6 p.m.

Adult Drop in Hockey
Town Center Ice Rink, 7-11 p.m.

Jim Salestrom
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

All Saints' in Big Sky Worship
Service
Episc. Bishop Brookhart presiding
Big Sky Chapel, 9:30 am

Rev. Miriam Schmidt installed
as Pastor/Priest of All Saints'
Reception follows/all invited
Big Sky Chapel, 2:30 pm

MONDAY, JAN. 18
Open Skate
Town Center Ice Rink,
12-4:40 p.m.

Kids Clinic
Town Center Ice Rink,
5:30-7 p.m.

Open Skate
Town Center Ice Rink, 7-11 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 19
Open Skate
Town Center Ice Rink, 12-5 p.m.

Kids Broomball
Town Center Ice Rink, 5-6 p.m.

Adult Broomball
Town Center Ice Rink, 7-11 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 20
Open Skate
Town Center Ice Rink, 12-11 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 21
Open Skate
Town Center Ice Rink,
12-4:30 p.m.

Kids Clinic
Town Center Ice Rink,
5:30 – 7 p.m.

Adult Drop In Hockey
Town Center Ice Rink, 7-11 p.m.

Business After Hours
Gallatin River Task Force,
5-7 p.m.

Jeff Bellino
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill,
6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 22
Open Skate
Town Center Ice Rink, 12-11 p.m.

Kevin Fabozzi
Ousel and Spur Pizza, 9 p.m.
Rotary Gold Auction
Buck's T-4, 6 p.m.

USGBC Montana: Annual Summit
Big Sky Resort, 7 a.m.

Brian Stumpf
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

Bozeman
FRIDAY, JAN. 8
Burgers & Bingo
Eagles Lodge, 5:30 -7:30 p.m.

Open House
Dharma Center, 7-8:30 p.m.

Shea Stewert
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 9
MSU Basketball vs. Portland
State
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 2 p.m.

Winter Farmers Market
Emerson Culture Center,
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

2nd Saturday Swing Dance
Montana Movement Arts Center,
7:30 p.m.

2015 MtXc Year End awards
C'mon Inn, 6 p.m.

Intro to Pole Fitness
Bozeman Aerial Fitness, 11 a.m.

Bearcat 9000 & Zenitram
Filling Station, 9 p.m.

Community Dual GS series
Bridger Bowl, 12 p.m.

Heather Lingle
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MSU FIS-U Alpine Ski Races
Big Sky Resort, Jan. 9 - 11

SUNDAY, JAN. 10
Apron Challenge
Bridger Bowl, 12 p.m.

Aaron Williams
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Open Mic
Haufbrau, 10:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 11
Pints with Purpose:
IndepENDANCE

Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Open Mic Night
Townsend's Teahouse, 7 p.m.

Mike Comstock
Red Tractor Pizza,
6:30-8:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 12
Library Open House
MSU Library, 3 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13
Open Mic
Haufbrau, 10:30 p.m.

Avalanche Seminar
Gallatin Valley Snowmobile
Association

Back to School Bash
Mixers Saloon, 8 p.m.

Music & Mussels: Fresh Boys
Bridger Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Wine & Food Pairing Dinner
Rockin' TJ Ranch, 7-9 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 14
Karaoke
Eagles Lodge, 8:30 p.m.

Dan Dubuque
Bacchus Pub, 9 p.m.

MSU Women's Basketball vs.
North Dakota
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7 p.m.

Gipsy Moon + Hollowtops
Filling Station, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 15
Banff Mountain Film Festival
World Tour
Wilson Auditorium, 6 p.m.

Here Goes Nothing!
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Bridger Bowl's 61st Birthday
Bridger Bowl, all day

Burgers & Bingo
Eagles Lodge, 5:30 -7:30 p.m.

Chad Ball
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Jake Johannsen
Ellen Theatre, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 16
Banff Mountain Film Festival
World Tour
Wilson Auditorium, 6 p.m.

Sleigh Ride under the Stars
Big Yellow Barn, 5 p.m.

Wesley and the Revolving
406 Brewing Co., 6 p.m.

Winter Farmers Market
Emerson Culture Center,
9 a.m. -12 p.m.

MSU Womens Basketball vs.
Northern Colorado
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 2 p.m.

Sean Eamon
Norris Hot Springs, 7:30 p.m.

Brooklyn Rider
Ellen Theatre, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JAN. 17
Open Mic
Haufbrau, 10:30 p.m.

Zenitra comedy show
Whistle Pig Korean, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 18
Open Mic
Haufbrau, 10:30 p.m.

Improv on the Verge
Verge Theater, 7 p.m.

Pints with Purpose: HRDC Youth
Development
Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Madeline Kelly
Red Tractor Pizza,
6:30-8:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 19
MLK Day Celebration
Emerson Culture Center,
6:30 p.m.

Tours for Tots
Museum of the Rockies,
10-11 a.m.

Avalanche Center Beer Social
Montana Ale Works, 5:30-9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 20
Open Mic
Haufbrau, 10:30 p.m.

Wild and Scenic Film Festival
Emerson Culture Center, 6 p.m.

Million Dollar Quartet
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 21
MSU Basketball vs. Eastern
Washington
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 22
Ferch and Panther Car
Filling Station, 9 p.m.

44th Annual Bobcat Ski Day
Bridger Bowl, all day

Jeff Carroll
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Piano Series II with Robert Henry
Reynold's Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Livingston & Paradise Valley

Saturday, Jan. 9
Potluck & Jam Session
Senior Citizens Center, 1-5 p.m.

Cottonwood Line
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 11
Bluegrass Jam
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 12
Beer for a Cause: Last Free River
Katabatic Brewing, 4-8 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 13
Lang Termes
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 14
SW MT Fly Fishers Tie Class
International Federation of Fly
Fishers Museum,
6:30-8 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 18
Bluegrass Jam
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 19
Beer for a Cause: Livingston PTA
Katabatic Brewing, 4-8 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 20
Ian Thomas
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

West Yellowstone

Friday, Jan. 8
Chess Club
Public Library, 4 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 10
Harriman State Park Free Ski Day
Harriman State Park, all day

Thursday, Jan. 14
Fun Run Sled Dog Races, 9 a.m.

Friday, Jan. 15
Chess Club

Public Library, 4 p.m.
Fun Run Sled Dog Races, 9 a.m.

Annual North American Ice Fishing
Circuit Tournament
Kirkwood Resort & Marina, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 16
Annual North American Ice Fishing
Circuit Tournament
Kirkwood Resort & Marina, 8 a.m.

NAIFC Cabela's Kids Free Ice
Fishing Camp
Kirkwood Resort & Marina, 11 a.m.

Rocky Mountain Winter Fishing Fair
Kirkwood Resort & Marina, 5 p.m.

Kids-N -Snow Weekend
Ice Skating Rink, Pioneer Park,
all day

Sunday, Jan. 17
Annual North American Ice Fishing
Circuit Tournament
Kirkwood Resort & Marina, daylight

Kids-N -Snow Weekend
Ice Skating Rink, Pioneer Park,
all day

Monday, Jan. 18
National Parks Free Fee Day

Friday, Jan. 22
Chess Club
Public Library, 4 p.m.

RECURRING EVENTS

Grizzly & Wolf Discovery
Center, 2 p.m. every Saturday
and Sunday

Snowshoe walk with a
Yellowstone Park Ranger
West Yellowstone Visitor Cen-
ter, 10 a.m. every Saturday
and Sunday

Historic Walking Tour
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FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING-
AUTHOR ROBERT STAFFANSON

When: Fri, January 22, 6:30 – 8:30pm
Where: Bozeman Public Library

The Friends of the Library is please to welcome Robert Staffanson, author of “Witness to Spirit: My Life with Cowboys, Mozart & Indians,” as the guest speaker for the Annual Friends Membership Meeting on Friday, January 22. The evening will begin with a book signing at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room. The author will read passages from his book, answer questions from the audience, and will be joined by fellow author Todd Wilkinson, who penned the introduction.

For more information, contact Erin Mock, Friends Coordinator, at 582-2433.

SMASH LIFE BANKED SLALOM

When: Saturday, Jan. 9 - Sunday, Jan. 10
Where: Big Sky Resort

The 5th Annual Smash Life Banked Slalom is a snowboard race and fundraiser for the A-Rob Plant A Seed Foundation, a non-profit which introduces kids to snowboarding. Most importantly the event is a celebration of the life of Aaron Robinson, aka A-Rob, and the friends that he made through snowboarding. The weekend following the race in Big Sky, another race is held in Alpentel, WA; with the overall men and women winners earning a “golden ticket” to compete in the Mt. Baker Legendary Banked Slalom

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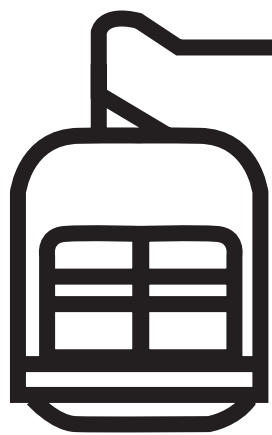
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WORD FROM THE RESORTS

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



BY LYNDSLEY OWENS
BIG SKY RESORT MARKETING DIRECTOR

Here is a new year's resolution for you: ski more days this year than you did last year. The season is in full swing with all of the resort's terrain parks open including three parks that are new for 2015-2016 - The Cache, Maverick and Peacemaker.

Everett's 8800, located atop Andesite Mountain, is open for skiers, riders and fine diners. Fri-

day through Sunday evenings, Everett's offers a luxury dining experience featuring American alpine fare.

Hey Snowboarders! The Boardroom has moved to a new location in the Village Center next to the Burton Shop. Come check it out and find all of this season's new snowboard gear.

January events in Mountain Village include the fifth annual Smash Life Banked Slalom on Jan. 9, and SnoBar on Jan. 16 and 23. During SnoBar, a rock star DJ collaboration - including Chrome, Prez, Party Girl, Downpour! and 5 Star - play music on a dance floor made entirely out of snow for the 21-and-over crowd.

Visit bigskyresort.com/events for more information.



Bridger Bowl Ski Area finished 2015 on a high note, as Christmas Eve skiers were treated to 14 inches of cold-smoke powder before the holiday cold snap. Recent high pressure and temperature inversions made for spring-like skiing on south-facing slopes but colder temps returned the week of Jan. 4.

On Jan. 9 and 16, Bridger is hosting its "Intro to the Ridge Workshop" for advanced skiers

and snowboarders, with guided transceiver practice, a review of ridge-skiing protocols and basic route finding in its famed hike-to terrain.

The Apron Challenge will be held Jan. 10 when competitors hike the Apron then descend the off-piste route through a Giant Slalom Course. Race day registration is from 8:30 to 10 a.m. in the Jim Bridger Lodge.

Bridger Bowl's 61st birthday is Jan. 15 and that day carpoolers with three or more to a vehicle will receive vouchers good for a \$20 lift ticket. Ashley Holland will play music during lunchtime at the Deer Park Chalet and free birthday cake will be served while it lasts. - T.A.

Visit bridgerbowl.com for more information.



BY JENNIE WHITE
GRAND TARGHEE RESORT MARKETING MANAGER

It's a new year and Ullr has been good to Grand Targhee Resort so far this season! The mountain is skiing great and with 100 percent of our terrain open, there is plenty of acreage to explore.

All you fat bikers who are ready to race some of the best singletrack in Wyoming, look no further. Fat Bike Race No. 2 is Jan. 16 and course designer Andy Williams has put an epic twist on this one - it's a night race! The course will wind through Jolly Green Giants and the lower ski trails in the Shoshone area. Each lap is 6 miles and racers can choose between a two- or three-lap race.

If the terrain park is more your style, get ready for the first freeride event on Jan. 16. The first of the three-event series is a rail jam open to all levels.



Lone Mountain Ranch is celebrating National Winter Trails Day on Jan. 9 by offering discounted cross-country ski rentals and mini-lessons in addition to free trails passes. Approximately 100 Nordic ski centers around the U.S. participate in the event, which was designed to get more people on the snow. Winter Trails Day typically draws a crowd to the ranch, with 200-plus participants exploring LMR's trails on cross-country skis or snowshoes.

New to LMR for 2016 is the "Bark-N-Bite" brunch scheduled every Thursday through the winter. Huskies from Yellowstone Dog Sled Adventures will pull participants to the North Fork Cabin, where they'll enjoy a leisurely brunch of bison chili, wild game sausage, cornbread, a charcuterie spread and more.

LMR has teamed up with Rocco Winery for another new offering at the ranch - a sleigh ride wine dinner. Jan. 26, diners will follow a sleigh ride to the North Fork Cabin with a four-course meal of octopus, duck, roasted root vegetables and pineapple sponge cake prepared by executive chef Nick Steen. Each course is paired with a wine from Rocco Winery, so be sure to make reservations early, as the dinner is expected to sell out.

As always, the saloon has live music on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings. - A.E.

Visit lonemountainranch.com for more information.



Registration includes a discounted lift ticket for the day and a raffle ticket for an overall grand prize. A portion of the registration will benefit the Teton Valley Ski Education Foundation.

After a day on the slopes, kick up your heels at the Trap Bar and Grill. January is packed with great live music from Sneaky Pete and The Secret Weapons, Winship and Sneed, Chanman Roots Band and the Kitchen Dwellers. Every Tuesday night, bust out your guitar and vocals at the White Lightning Open Mic Night and stay caught up on all the NFL action as the playoffs begin.

With so much going on and great conditions, you might just have to stay a night or two. We're offering EBS readers 25 percent off lodging when you make a new reservation by Jan. 21. Call for dates and details and be sure to mention the Explore Big Sky lodging special.

Visit grandtarghee.com or call 1-800-TARGHEE for more information.

Arts Council presents winter concert series at WMPAC

ARTS COUNCIL BIG SKY

The Arts Council of Big Sky presents two concerts this winter on Feb. 18 and March 9 at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. Well known for its free Music in the Mountains summer concert series, the winter series will focus on high-quality, critically acclaimed acoustic artists performing in an intimate, theater-style setting.

The first concert is International Guitar Night on Thursday, Feb. 18, when IGN founder Brian Gore will be joined by three of Europe’s finest acoustic guitarists: Gypsy Jazz legend Lulo Reinhardt, contemporary fingerstyle innovator Mike Dawes and multi-genre showman Andre Kregel.

Reinhardt has expanded on the legacy of his granduncle Django with Latin-flavored rhythms and melodies, while Dawes’ lightning-speed and deft tapping and percussion are setting the acoustic guitar world on fire. Kregel is a master of many styles from flamenco to swing to modern ballads and he’s a frequent collaborator with Reinhardt in Germany. The San Francisco Chronicle calls IGN “one of the most important showcases for contemporary finger stylists.”

The second concert features the quintessential Irish-American band Solas, performing on Wednesday, March 9. This year marks the band’s 20th anniversary, and Solas will mark

this milestone with an exciting new recording project and tour, “All These Years.”

Founding members Seamus Egan – on flute, tenor banjo, mandolin, whistles, guitars and bodhran – and Winifred Horan on violins and vocals, form the backbone of the uniquely definable Solas sound. Egan and Horan will be joined by long-time members Eamon McElholm on guitars, keyboards and vocals; Mick McAuley playing button accordion and contributing vocals; as well as the newest member, Moira Smiley on vocals and banjo.

Solas is musically at the top of their game and continues to be the standard bearer not only for great Irish music, but great music in any genre. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to see Solas bring the past, present, and future of the band to the stage, with a program sure to delight audiences with both old favorites and new material.



Solas performs March 9 at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

The Boston Globe calls Solas “the finest Celtic ensemble this country has ever produced,” while the Wall Street Journal notes that the band “has electrified crowds everywhere it has played; it’s an Irish traditional band bearing all the marks of greatness.”

Tickets for both of these shows go on sale Friday, Jan. 8 at warrenmillerpac.org. For more information, call (406) 995-2742 or visit bigskyarts.org.

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12 Sunset Saturdays Begin
19 Smokin’ Aces Championship
24-27 MSI Freeride Series
APRIL
2-3 Subaru Winterfest
9 Shedhorn SkiMo/Whiskey A-Go-Go
16 Pond Skim

COMPLETE INFO at bigskyresort.com/events

Film review: 'Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens'

BY WES OVERVOLD
EBS VIDEOGRAPHER

On Dec. 17, pale blue text appeared on screens of sold-out theaters across the country, followed by John Williams' epic orchestral hit and the familiar introductory scroll of one of the film industry's most successful franchises.

With the debut of "Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens" director J.J. Abrams subjected himself to the scrutiny of a dedicated and faithful fan base hoping he would restore "Star Wars" to its former glory.

Since the 1977 release of "Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope," the franchise has been cemented in American pop culture, despite a bumpy journey at times. Between the poor use of computer-generated imagery and lack of quality writing in Episodes I-III, and some curious alterations in the digitally remastered versions of Episodes IV-VI, fans look to "The Force Awakens" to take them back to the glory days of the original trilogy.

With outlandish theories and astronomical expectations, movie-goers wasted no time finding out for themselves how their beloved space opera was going to continue in part one of the new Star Wars trilogy. "The Force Awakens" set a box office record by earning more than \$248 million during its opening weekend in theaters.

The film met all of this reviewer's expectations, and more.

Abrams masterfully combined the appearance and nostalgia of the original trilogy with the latest advancements in cinematography, sound design and special effects. But he didn't ignore what made the originals so great: hand-made sets, costumes, and physical models of spacecraft – instead of relying heavily on CGI. Every prop, set and character came alive to the point that I truly felt I'd re-entered that "galaxy far, far away."

Throughout the newest installment of the "Star Wars" saga, Abrams weaves in the continuing stories of the memorable original cast, along with lively new characters in their ongoing struggle for balance within the Force.

Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher return in "The Force Awakens" and pass the torch – or should I say lightsaber – to Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, Adam Driver and Oscar Isaac, as they breathe new life in this treasured space epic.

The evil Galactic Empire from Episode VI has since been reorganized into the First Order, with a vast army of upgraded stormtroopers and a lightsaber-wielding commander at its disposal. As this new evil force gains power, the Resistance rallies together to save the galaxy from the First Order's enormous new weapon called the Starkiller Base.

As "The Force Awakens" reignites the battle between the light and dark sides of the Force, our own planet is bracing for the beginning of a new golden age of Star Wars fandom, with a whole new generation falling in love with this timeless story.

So, with a customary Jedi hand wave and mind control, I'll finish with: "You will go see this movie." And you'll enjoy every single moment of it.

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Symphony piano series features Robert Henry

BOZEMAN SYMPHONY

BOZEMAN – The Bozeman Symphony continues its 13th season presenting world-class pianists in recital with the first performance of its 2016 piano series on Friday, Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Nationally acclaimed pianist Robert Henry will be performing on a Steinway model D grand piano at Montana State University’s Reynolds Recital Hall.

Henry is a talented performer with a sound that brings to mind the great pianists of the past, for whom beauty of tone was integral to the structure of the phrase. He has a reputation for delivering stunning performances of the most demanding repertoire and for presenting overlooked masterpieces to the public, from Bach to Babajanian.

Complimenting his prowess of the piano is Henry’s aptitude for nocturnes. He has a special knack for uncovering short, romantic, compositions including one by the Russian composer Alexey Stanchinsky, written in 1907.

Stanchinsky was well known in his day, but died tragically young and was largely forgotten until Henry premiered Stanchinsky’s long forgotten “Nocturne” as part of his 2010 album “Twelve Nocturnes and a Waltz.”

“It is unusual to find a piece that has yet to be recorded. Nevertheless, Alexei Stanchinsky’s forgotten ‘Nocturne’ from 1907 has somehow slipped under the radar for over 100 years,” Henry said about his discovery of the piece. “Perhaps the treacherous difficulty of this piece has scared pianists away ... perhaps the suicide of the 26-year-old Stanchinsky invites an unwelcome element of macabre.”

Whatever the reason for the neglect, it is undeserved, Henry says, as colleagues and professors considered Stanchinsky potentially a greater talent than fellow classmate Rachmaninoff.

During Piano Series II, Henry will perform Franz Liszt’s “Löse, Himmel, meine Seele,” from his latest album as well as complex and challenging numbers by Haydn, Boulanger, Brahms, among others. Consistent with his reputation for premiering pieces by world-renowned composers like Brahms and Stanchinsky, Henry’s programming for Piano Series II is intentional.

Tickets are available at bozemansymphony.org or by calling the Bozeman Symphony Society at (406) 585-9774. Tickets may also be purchased at the Reynolds Recital Hall door starting at 7 p.m. the night of the performance, if they’re still available.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOZEMAN SYMPHONY

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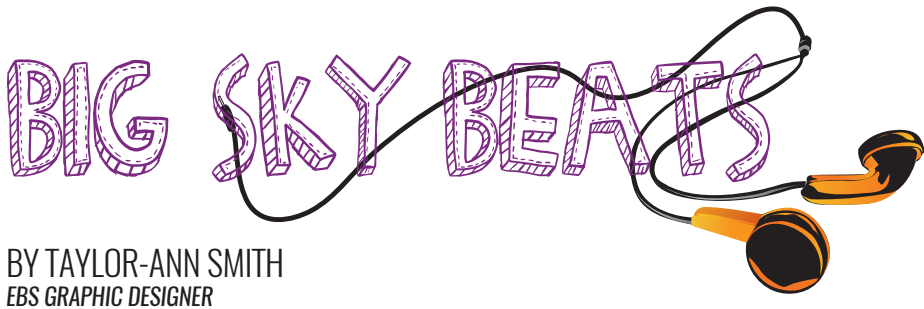
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BY TAYLOR-ANN SMITH
EBS GRAPHIC DESIGNER

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

I’ve recently discovered that I enjoy folk and bluegrass music. Perhaps it’s the cohesive rhythm created by multiple string instruments, or the storytelling lyrics that make me want to sit on a front porch or attend an all-night barn dance.

One of my new favorites is a group called Goodnight, Texas. Avi Vinocur and Patrick Dyer Wolf, the band’s songwriters and frontmen, became friends in San Francisco in 2007. Wolf moved to Chapel Hill, N.C. in 2008 but kept in touch with Vinocur as their mutual fascination with late 19th century Americana sparked a passion to create folk music together.

Wolf and Vinocur named their band after the midway point between San Francisco and Chapel Hill – a town called Goodnight, Texas, population 18. Appropriately, their music evokes a desire to take a cross-country road trip while enjoying the slow pace of America’s small towns.

The playlist below features Goodnight, Texas and other musicians I’ve been picking my air banjo to lately.

1. “A Bank Robber’s Nursery Rhyme,” Goodnight, Texas
2. “Highway 9,” Barnaby Bright
3. “Gun in my Hand,” Dorothy
4. “To Old to Die Young,” Brother Dege
5. “Moving Mountains,” The Brevet
6. “Barton Hallow,” The Civil Wars
7. “Don’t You (Forget About Me),” The Wind and The Wave
8. “Right Time,” Nikki Lane
9. “Secrets,” The O’s
10. “Heart in a Cage,” Chris Thile

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

American Life in Poetry: Column 563

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

The only passage of scripture I know by heart is from Ecclesiastes: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." Here's a poem about the work of just one pair of our hands, by Floyd Skloot, who lives in Oregon. His most recent book is "Approaching Winter."

Handspun
By Floyd Skloot

My wife sits in her swivel chair
ringed by skeins of multicolored yarn
that will become the summer sweater
she has imagined since September.
Her hand rests on the spinning wheel
and her foot pauses on the pedals
as she gazes out into the swollen river.
Light larking between wind and current
will be in this sweater. So will a shade
of red she saw when the sun went down.
When she is at her wheel, time moves
like the tune I almost recognize now
that she begins to hum it, a lulling
melody born from the draft of fiber,
clack of spindle and bobbin, soft
breath as the rhythm takes hold.

American Life in Poetry does not accept unsolicited submissions, and is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2015 by Floyd Skloot, "Handspun," ("Approaching Winter," Louisiana State University Press, 2015). Poem reprinted by permission of Floyd Skloot and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2015 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006

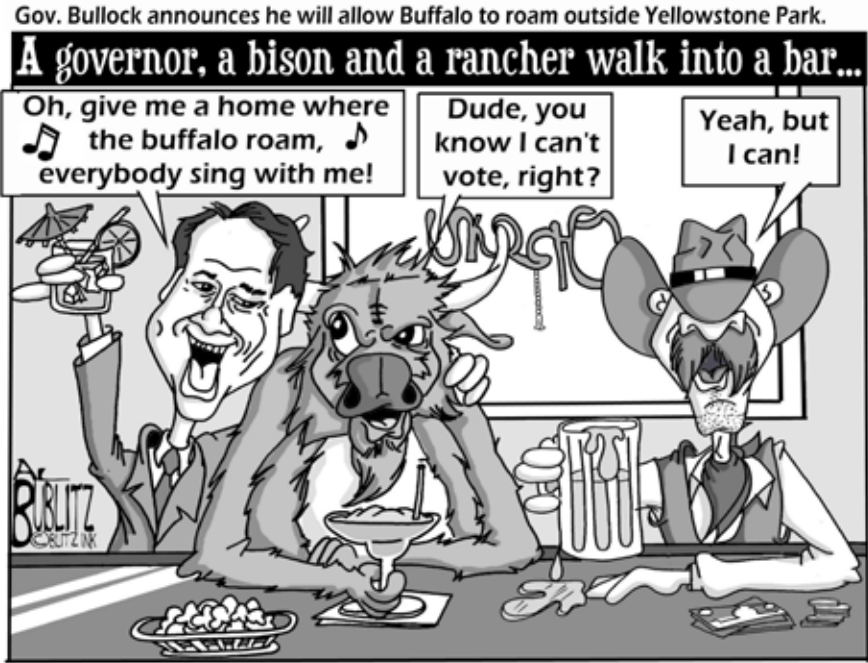
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7		9				8		
	6							
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9				8	7			6
	9		5				3	
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1					4	9		

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DIFFICULTY: ★★★★★



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. Topics include regional history, profiles of local artists and musicians, snow and avalanche education, how-to pieces for traditional or outdoor skills, and science.

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

Bubbling, bottomless kettles

Exploring Yellowstone’s Shoshone Geyser Basin in winter

BY MOLLY LOOMIS
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

It felt like we’d landed on another planet.

The frozen expanse of Shoshone Lake’s 8,050 acres spread out before us, and to the south, the earth exhaled small puffs of smoke in an abstract beat.

The Shoshone Geyser Basin has one of the highest concentrations of geysers in the world – an estimated 110 are scattered over the equivalent of seven city blocks. Its namesake is the largest lake in the Lower 48 inaccessible by road.

As my skis glided over the gentle ground, geysers with names like Soap Kettle, the Black Cauldron and the Impenetrable Spring lured me to their edges. We crept around the auburn, yellow and red dirt exposed by the heat, staring at pools of aquamarine and sinister navy blue. We sat hypnotized by the bubbling kettles of mud and water and breathed in the sulfur smell like a tonic.

Situated atop an ancient active caldera, the Earth’s crust beneath Yellowstone is relatively thin – just 40 miles thick, compared to 90 in most other areas of the world, it’s what allows the thermal activity to occur. Geyser basins such as Old Faithful and Shoshone have developed where rain and water collect and drip down through

the porous ground, all while being warmed by magma.

One pool was a bottomless cauldron; another erupted every five minutes from a calcified tower; and my favorite, Taurus Spring, a perfect, circular pool of sapphire.

Bacteria, algae and minerals cause this watery rainbow of colors. The aquamarine blue is created by minute particles of silica and clay, according to Carl Schreier, author of “A Field Guide to Yellowstone’s Hot Springs and Fumaroles.” A combination of orange-colored bacteria and blue-hued water mix to form the dark void of the Black Cauldron.

In summer, many more people visit the basin, arriving by boat or hiking, but in winter, we had it to ourselves. And this otherworldly scene was one summer visitors wouldn’t likely catch: Snow melting into clouds of billowing fog against a bright blue sky, as if it was transforming from solid to gas right before our eyes.

It’s hard to pull Victor, Idaho-based writer Molly Loomis from her daily powder skiing routine on Teton Pass, but she says it was worth it: You don’t see hiccapping water and bottomless cauldrons every day ... unless you live in Yellowstone.

This story first appeared in the winter 2014 issue of Mountain Outlaw magazine.



The aquamarine blue color in some of Yellowstone’s hot springs is created by minute particles of silica and clay. PHOTO BY ANDY TYSON

Getting There: Take a snow coach from Yellowstone’s West Entrance to Old Faithful. Ski 2.5 miles to the Lone Star Geyser Trailhead, and continue 8.8 miles to Shoshone Geyser Basin.

Permits: Backcountry permits can be reserved or picked up 48 hours in advance in Old Faithful, West Yellowstone and Mammoth. Call ahead.

Map: Trails Illustrated, Yellowstone National Park

More info: nps.gov/yell or (307) 344-2160



BEST OF BIG SKY

2015

2015 WINNERS

BEST OUTDOOR RETAILER - GRIZZLY OUTFITTERS

BEST BUSINESS - LONE PEAK BREWERY

BEST APRES SKI - RIVERHOUSE BAR AND GRILL

BEST BURGER - LONE PEAK BREWERY

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BEST TEACHER - JEREMY HARDER

EVENT OF THE YEAR - BIG SKY PBR

BEST MUSIC VENUE - BIG SKY: TOWN CENTER STAGE
BOZEMAN: FILLING STATION

BEST BARTENDER - GREG "CARNIE" LISK

BEST ARTIST/PHOTOGRAPHER - RYAN TURNER

BEST NONPROFIT - BIG SKY COMMUNITY CORP.

BEST RESTAURANT - LOTUS PAD

COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE YEAR - JEREMY HARDER





OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

BEST OUTDOOR RETAILER: GRIZZLY OUTFITTERS

With a friendly staff embracing a work-hard-play-hard ethos, Grizzly has plenty of outdoor experience and local knowledge to impart to customers. “Our staff absolutely lives and dies by the sports they love,” said Andrew Schreiner, who owns Grizzly with Ken Lancey. “My staff, I feel, is the best in Big Sky.”

Although they’ve developed a reputation for attentive boot fitting and cutting-edge ski tuning, it would be a mistake to overlook Grizzly’s summer offerings like fly fishing gear and mountain bike servicing.
grizzlyoutfitters.com (406) 995-2939

- 2. East Slope Outdoors
- 3. Gallatin Alpine Sports



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

BEST BUSINESS: LONE PEAK BREWERY AND TAPHOUSE

Big Sky’s best business in 2015, as voted on by survey respondents, is also Big Sky’s first brewery. Founded in 2007 by Steve and Vicky Nordahl, Lone Peak Brewery and Taphouse offers entertainment in the upstairs loft as well as an eclectic menu and multiple tap beers brewed on premises.

The key to running a successful business in Big Sky is catering to the variety of clientele that frequent this resort town, according to Steve, a 24-year brewing veteran.

“You have to take care of locals but have to attract the tourists,” he said. “One of the keys to our success is that we get a good crossover support.”
lonepeakbrewery.com (406) 995-3939

- 2. Gallatin Alpine Sports
- 3. Lone Mountain Ranch



BEST APRES SKI: GALLATIN RIVERHOUSE GRILL

Gallatin Riverhouse Grill owners Kyle Wisniewski and Greg “Carnie” Lisk have brought their restaurant from the ashes of Half Moon Saloon to the height of Big Sky barrooms and eateries. Following a long day on the slopes at Big Sky Resort, skiers are turning south on Highway 191 to the Riverhouse seeking the après affair they long for.

“They come here for the views, the menu and the local camaraderie,” says Lisk, who opened the barbecue joint in summer 2013. “It’s awesome.”
gallatinriverhousegrill.com (406) 995-7427

2. Lone Peak Brewery
3. Scissorbills Saloon



BEST BURGER: LONE PEAK BREWERY AND TAPHOUSE

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Lone Peak IPA and those tired ski legs will come back to life.
lonepeakbrewery.com (406) 995-3939

2. Gallatin Riverhouse Grill
3. Corral Bar, Steakhouse and Motel



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

BEST REAL ESTATE AGENCY: L&K REAL ESTATE

Between the two of them, Eric Ladd and Ryan Kulesza have almost three decades of experience selling real estate in Big Sky. Although both have been recognized with top real estate awards, Kulesza says, “There’s not an award in the world that means as much as having local support.”

“As a firm, we are committed to being an integral part of the community,” Ladd said, adding that L&K was able to support 24 charities the past year. lkrealestate.com (406) 995-2404

- 2. Christie’s International Real Estate/Pure West
- 3. ERA



PHOTO BY AUDREY HALL

BEST BUILDER: BIG SKY BUILD

Builders in Big Sky these days are plentiful, to say the least. But when the sawdust settled, voters named Big Sky Build the best of the best. John Seelye founded Big Sky Build in 1997, bringing his knowledge and expertise in building high-end mountain homes with him.

Focusing on top-quality craftsmanship and customer satisfaction, Seelye and his team aim to surpass expectations on any aspect and aren’t shy about their

results. According to Big Sky Build’s mission, “...Our team is simply a cut above the rest.” bigskybuild.com (406) 995-3670


- 2. Haas Builders
- 3. Lone Pine Builders

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OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

BEST ARCHITECT: CENTRE SKY

With challenges ranging from snow and topography to construction budgets, designing structures in Big Sky isn't for the faint of heart, but Centre Sky owner Jamie Daugaard said the opportunity to design unique architecture for unique sites makes it worthwhile.

Centre Sky works hard to translate a client's aesthetic sensibility into its designs. "We really listen to the nouns and verbs clients use and [turn] that into a graphic sense," said Daugaard, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP. centresky.com (406) 995-7572

- 2. Locati Architects
- 3. Pearson Design Group



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OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

BEST BIG SKY BREWERY: BEEHIVE BASIN BREWERY

Casey Folley and Andy Liedberg on July 25 held the grand opening of Beehive Basin Brewery with a pig roast and full pints of their craft beer. Located south of Roxy’s Market in Big Sky Town Center, Beehive edged out Lone Peak Brewery by 5 percentage points in one of the closest Best of Big Sky contests.

Beehive’s tasting room is open everyday from 12-8 p.m. Prost! beehivebasinbrewery.com (406) 995-7444

2. Lone Peak Brewery



PHOTO BY DAN ARMSTRONG

BEST BOZEMAN BREWERY: BOZEMAN BREWING CO.

In Bozeman, college kids, entrepreneurs, investors and ranchers agreed: Bozeman Brewing Company makes the best beer in town. What started with a single flagship brew, called Bozone Select Amber Ale, has now increased to four everyday beers as well as four rotating seasonal brews.

The company’s website promotes its love for what it deems priorities: “...We love Montana almost as much as we love beer.”

Sláinte, BBC! bozemanbrewing.com (406) 585-9142

2. Bridger Brewing

3. 406 Brewing Company



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEREMY HARDER

BEST TEACHER: JEREMY HARDER

Since 2000, each Ophir Elementary fourth grade class has experienced the kind of leadership, kindness and enthusiasm that would have any principal in the nation knocking on one door: that of Jeremy Harder.

Weaving technology into his lessons while also instilling a love of the outdoors in his students, Harder leans on work ethic, cooperation and honesty as pillars of learning. But he says the honor isn't his alone.

“Like a healthy ecosystem, there is no one teacher that makes more of a difference when compared to another,” Harder says. “Without continued support of staff, administration, parents, community and school board I would be unable to explore the awesome things we do in fourth grade. To be recognized makes me truly humble and appreciative of the Big Sky Community.”

2. Tony Coppola
3. Stacey Fancher



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

EVENT OF THE YEAR: BIG SKY PBR

The Big Sky PBR expanded to a three-night event in 2015, with a multi-act concert in the bull-riding arena closing out the festivities on Saturday. Headlined by Robert Earl Keen, the lineup included local bluegrass band Two Bit Franks and a rocking set by New York City’s Jamie McLean Band.

On Thursday and Friday nights, fans were treated to some of the meanest bulls Chad Berger has ever brought to Big Sky. Not a single cowboy was

able to hold on for three rides, and Stetson Lawrence already had the championship locked up when he was bucked in the final round.

The cowboys agree with Big Sky voters, too – they named it PBR Event of the Year for the third year running. Tickets go on sale in June for the 2016 edition. bigskypbr.com (406) 995-2055

2. Music in the Mountains
3. Big Sky Resort Pond Skim



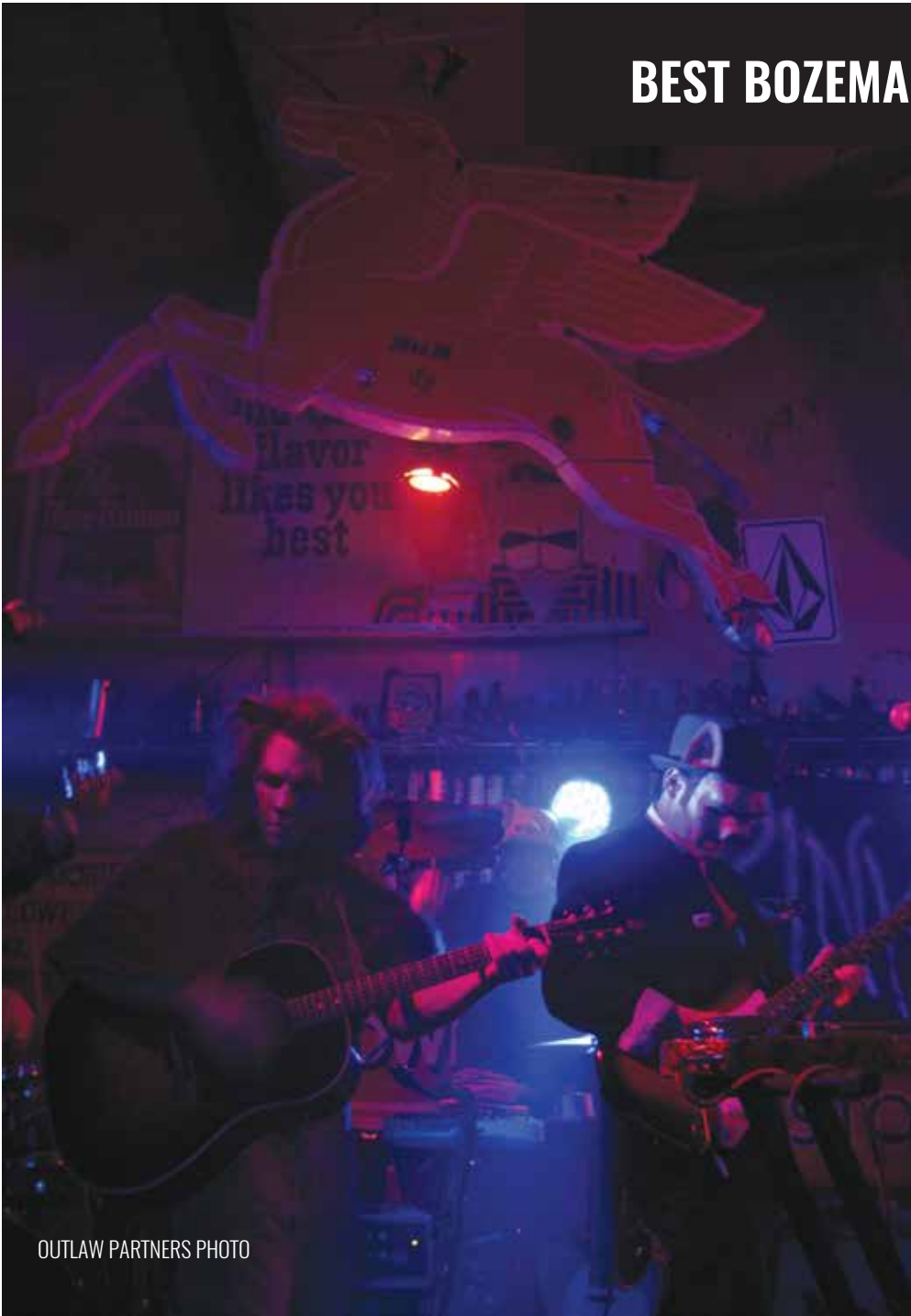
OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

BEST BIG SKY MUSIC VENUE: TOWN CENTER STAGE

Hosting outdoor events throughout the summer, including Shakespeare in the Parks, Big Sky’s Fourth of July concert, and the weekly Music in the Mountains series, Town Center Stage brings this resort community together.

This year the Arts Council of Big Sky will add two more Thursday night shows to its Music in the Mountains schedule, which runs from June 23 to Sept. 1.
bigskytowncenter.com (406) 586-9629

- 2. Gallatin Riverhouse Grill
- 3. Lone Peak Brewery



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

BEST BOZEMAN MUSIC VENUE: THE FILLING STATION

Affectionately known as “The Filler,” this roadhouse on Bozeman’s North Rouse Avenue has hosted quality bands and delighted fans for decades. From up-and-coming acts like Blitzen Trapper to local favorites including Pinky and the Floyd, The Filling Station consistently packs its friendly confines.

With every show presided over by an antique Mobil gas station Pegasus sign, you’re guaranteed to get your musical fill at The Filler.
(406) 587-0585

- 2. Faultline North
- 3. Emerson Cultural Center



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

BEST BARTENDER: GREG ‘CARNIE’ LISK

If you’re looking for more than a cold cocktail in Big Sky – perhaps a south Tex- as quip or a joke at your expense – look no further than the bar at the Gallatin Riverhouse Grill where Greg “Carnie” Lisk swills suds to customers’ delight.

“I love bartending and Kyle loves cooking,” says Lisk, referring to his busi- ness partner Kyle Wisniewski. “What better way to work with your best buddy. I get people a buzz and he feeds ‘em up!”

- 2. Jeremy Harder
- 3. Karen Sebastian



PHOTO BY LOGAN HILL

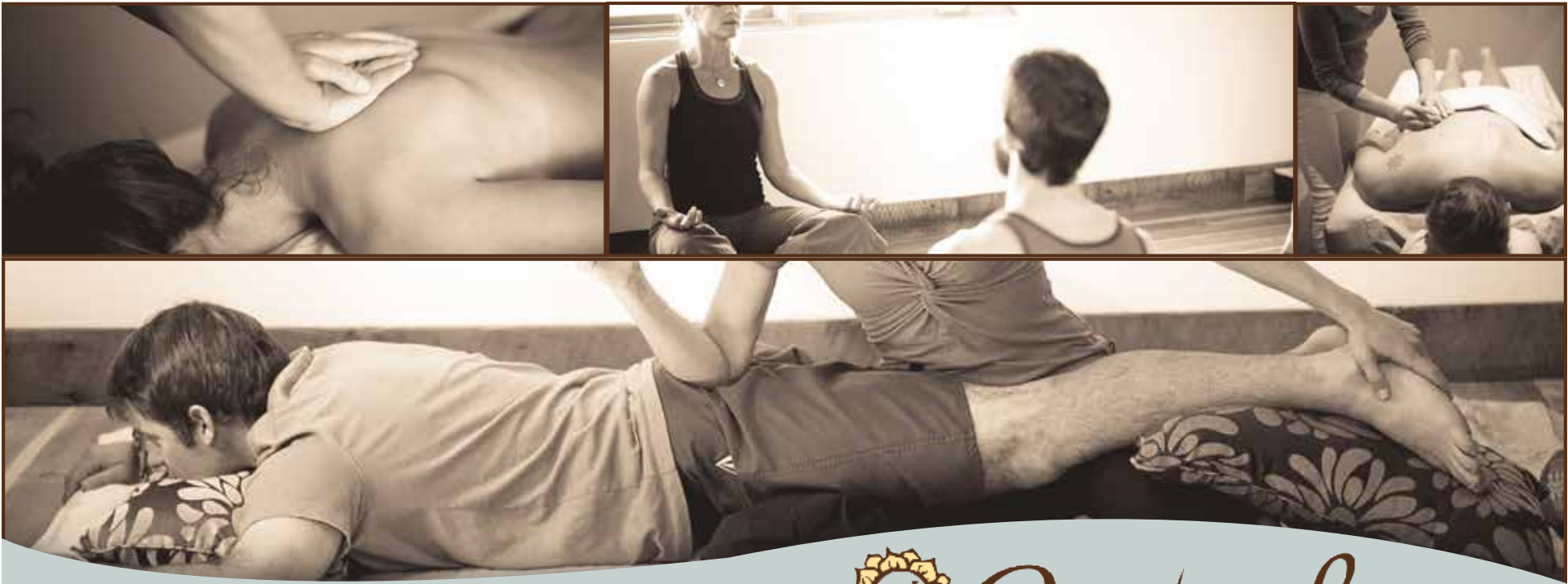
BEST ARTIST/PHOTOGRAPHER: RYAN TURNER

Ryan Turner has lived in Big Sky 15 years and has been shooting photos in the area for nearly two decades. With his wife Angie, Turner sells prints out of his Bighorn Shopping Center gallery next to the Bugaboo Café and his work has been featured in many national publications, including Powder, Ski, Men’s Journal and National Geographic Adventure magazines.

“I think it’s really nice of the community to vote for me [as the best artist],” Turner said. “I feel very appreciated.”

ryanturnerphotography.com (406) 580-5997

- 2. Kene Sperry
- 3. Ryan Day Thompson



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7:00-8:00am
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8:15-9:15am
Pilates
9:30-10:45am
All Levels Yoga
5:30-6:30pm
Barre
6:45-7:45pm
All Levels Adult Ballet

WEDNESDAY

7:30-8:30am
All Levels Yoga
9:00-10:15am
All Levels Yoga
Noon-1:00
All Levels Yoga
4:30-5:30pm
Apres Ski Yoga

THURSDAY

7:00-8:00am
Zumba
8:15-9:15am
Barre
9:30-10:45am
All Levels Yoga
5:30-6:30pm
Pi-Yo

FRIDAY

8:30-9:30am
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10:00-11:30am
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OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

BEST NONPROFIT: BIG SKY COMMUNITY CORPORATION

Maintaining Big Sky’s parks and trails since 1998, Big Sky Community Corp. saw big changes in 2015. The nonprofit hired Ciara Wolfe as new executive director in July then moved its office to a new location in 32 Town Center Avenue next to Rhinestone Cowgirl.

More than 250 community volunteers and nearly 1,000 donors annually

assist BSCC in its recreational resource efforts, and in 2015 as many as 45,000 users took advantage of area parks, trails and programs.
bscmt.org (406) 993-2112

- 2. Women In Action
- 3. Gallatin River Task Force



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

BEST RESTAURANT: LOTUS PAD

Some readers may see this result in the same light as a broken record. Lotus Pad customers and EBS survey respondents see it as the truth.

For five years running, Lotus Pad has taken the honors as best restaurant in Big Sky. To Owner/Chef Alex Hoeksema, her Thai and Asian fusion dishes are the product of stellar support and service.

“My staff worked so hard this time around,” said Hoeksema, who opened the Big Sky restaurant in 2007. “Our business was up 26 percent over last year.”
lotuspadbigsky.com (406) 995-2728

- 2. Olive B’s
- 3. Lone Peak Brewery



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Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



I would have to guess that the biggest reason people avoid fishing in the winter is temperature. But people still ski, snowmobile and recreate in other ways in the winter? If you can stay warm while riding a lift or buzzing across the snow covered hills on a snowmobile you can stay warm while fishing.

Here are some ideas to keep you happy on the river this winter from the ground up:

Don't let cold feet get in the way. Cold feet are the biggest culprit when it comes to calling it an early day. Wear thick socks like Simms ExStream Wading sock. They're super thick and insulating and draw moisture away from your skin. Also, try a thin liner sock or antiperspirant spray to draw moisture away from your feet. Some people will put tow warmers in, but they're often bulky and hard to place just right.

Start warm, stay warm. Overdress for the occasion. You can always shed a layer if you're too warm, but once you get chilled it's going to take a lot of time to get your core temp back up.

Layers are your friend. As with your feet it's a good idea to have next to skin layers that draw moisture away from your body. A side not, most of you now use breathable waders, which are only as breathable as the layers you wear underneath. on top of your next of skin layer thick long underwear work great and the more skin they cover the better off you are. For your outer layer try to stick to breathable materials too, but maybe something that also sheds water like a raincoat. Ski pants can also work well, but tend to be bulky.

Accessorize. Hats, gloves, Buffs, scarves and more. There are a ton of accessories available designed to help keep you warm. Simms ExStream series gloves are some of the best at keeping your hands warm while offering options to maintain dexterity. Buffs aren't just for keeping the sun off your face and neck in the summer. They make a wide variety of fleece and wool products to keep you warm while you play. Hats tend to be extremely personal and way to express your style, but it's important to have a hat that covers well, is wind resistant and a bonus if it sheds water too.

Prepare. Applying Loon Ice Off Paste to the guides of your rods in the comfort of your warm house the night before is highly recommended. This will greatly decrease ice build up on your guides. Applying while the rod is cold is not as effective. While you're at it rig up your rod, so you're not doing it on the side of the river with fingers that could still be warm! Line your clothes, waders and boots up in front of the heater before you put it on.

And don't forget a thermos full of your favorite hot beverage or soup!

Join us for Thursday Night Fly Tying every week held at Gallatin River Guides at 5pm....it's FREE! Call or stop by for details.

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Jan. 9 - National Winter Trails Day at LMR

Jan. 26 - Roco Winery Sleigh Ride Dinner

WEEKLY EVENTS:

Tuesday & Thursdays, Women's Ski Clinic 10 - 12 pm

Every Thursday, Bark n' Bite Dog Sled Brunch

LIVE MUSIC in the Saloon: Every Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat



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8:45AM TRX
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6:15 PM ZUMBA®

WEDNESDAY

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PUMP
8AM PILATES
PROPS
9:15AM BARRE®
6:15PM SPIN

FRIDAY

5:50AM TRX
CIRCUIT
6:55AM BARRE®
8AM YOGALATES
9:15 AM SPIN

TUESDAY

5:50AM SPIN
8:45AM BALLET
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12:15PM ROTATING
5:45PM PIYO®

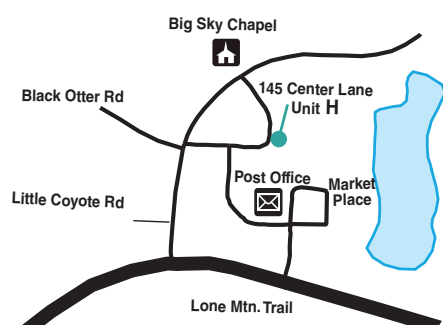
THURSDAY

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7AM SPIN
8:15AM ZUMBA®
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5:45PM BARRE

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COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE YEAR: JEREMY HARDER

Jeremy Harder teaches fourth grade at Ophir Elementary School; helps lead the Big Sky School District’s technology development; is a producer/director of the Big Sky Community Theater; drives a bus for Geyser Whitewater rafting trips in the summer; bartends once a week at Milkie’s Pizza and Pub; and is the star of a Hiball energy drink video.

Harder was also integral in founding the Sons of the American Legion, Post 99 last summer – there are few elements of Big Sky that he doesn’t have an

interest in, and he’s appreciative to be voted 2015’s Community Member of the Year.

“It makes be proud to be part of this community for the past 15 years,” Harder said. “Thank you.”

- 2. Ron Edwards
- 3. Lynne Anderson

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